

President U Thein Sein to pay visit to ROK, attend 25th ASEAN-Korea Commemorative Summit

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Dec — At the invitation of Madam Park Geun-hye, President of the Republic of Korea, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will pay a visit to the Republic of Korea as the Chair of ASEAN in the near future to attend the 25th ASEAN-Korea Commemorative Summit to be held in Busan, the Republic of Korea.—MNA

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham inspects renovation works at Yangon General Hospital

YANGON, 6 Dec— Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham inspected the construction of five-storey extended building at the Yangon General Hospital Saturday.

The construction at the new building has completed 90 percent, and is expected to house patients in January.

The Vice President then looked into a large-scaled renovation of the main building, which is scheduled to complete the first phase in April and the second phase in November.

He also visited the emergency ward and operation theatre.

Medical superintendent Dr Hla Myint explained construction and



renovation works to the vice president and party.

The Deputy Minister for Electric Power also explained the plan of more electricity supply to some major hospitals in Yangon.

MNA

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visits patient wards at Yangon General Hospital.—MNA

Environmentalists urge government to adopt policy on peatland management

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 6 Dec—The Environment Rural Development and Participatory Forestry has urged the government to adopt a national policy on peatland management, stressing the importance of reinforcing rule of law and raising public awareness of environmental conservation schemes.

The role of peatland in climate change was discussed at a talk on the topic of 'human and environment' on Saturday, with experts suggesting that educative programmes should be conducted for locals in the future as the country has higher numbers of people with little or no of knowledge about the preservation of natural resources.

Peat is a soft black or brown substance formed from decaying plants just under the surface of the ground, especially in cool wet areas. Peatlands consist of more than 65 % of organic matters and 95 % of water. Myanmar is one of the peatlands-rich countries and

ranked four with 122,800 hectares of peatlands in South East Asia.

The government recognizes the importance of systematically conserving and using forest genetic resources for long-term benefits and for the country's economic development.

The Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, as well as environment protection agencies, are carrying out various action plans to sustain natural resources, protect ecosystem and reduce environmental impacts.

Myanmar, one of the resource-rich countries in South East Asia, has 38% of mixed deciduous forests and 25% of temperate evergreen forests. It has a population of more than 5 million people, the majority of whom depend on forest products, particularly for fuelwood, posts and poles.

Forests cover 31% of the world's land surface, which is just over 4 billion hectares.—GNLM

Japan-Myanmar Pwe Taw kicks off with food, activities and stage performances

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 6 Dec— The first-ever Japan-Myanmar Pwe Taw opened Saturday, with hundreds of people thronging to enjoy the food and activities on offer at the Japan-style festival being held at Shwe Htut Tin ground in Yangon.

Celebrating the 60th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Myanmar and Japan, the Embassy of Japan in Myanmar organized the two-day event with the aim of letting Myanmar people enjoy a taste of Japan at the wide variety of food vendors offering Japanese traditional confections and also activities including a gold-fish scooping game.

Hordes of festival-goers descended on the fair-ground on the opening day, leading to long lines forming at food vendors while booths of Japanese firms displaying their products

were packed with visitors.

Other attractions include a karaoke contest where young people are very much welcomed and

the NHK World booth which is showing off the latest Kawaii trends from Tokyo including so-called fake desserts, while Domo,

the official mascot of Japan's public broadcaster, is on hand for snapshots with visitors.

(See page 2)



Families enjoy the food and activities on offer at the inaugural Japan Myanmar Pwe Taw, which opened on Saturday at Shwe Htut Tin Ground in Yangon.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

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Union Minister visits Hepatitis-B vaccine factory

YANGON, 6 Dec — Staff are to change mindset in discharging their duties, Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint said at a meeting with personnel of Hepatitis B vaccine factory in Hlegu Township, Yangon, on Saturday.

He noted that the staff members are to take responsibility and accountability in their respective sectors. He stressed the need to take child dose production licence from

Food and Drug Administration and urged them to minimize loss and waste in production and to reduce production cost in manufacturing the drugs meeting set standards.

He viewed round production process of the factory and installation of machinery.

Officials of the factory reported on production of vaccines in financial years and production process.

MNA

Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint inspects production of Hepatitis B vaccine.

MNA



Japan Myanmar Pwe Taw kicks off...

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The nights at the festival will come alive with a series of stage performances by Tao, a Japanese drumming ensemble, Myanmar singers including Sai Sai

Kham Leng and Ni Ni Khin Zaw, as well as a Kawaii fashion show. The Japanese Embassy in Myanmar organized the festival in Myanmar to serve as a bridge to promote people to people

connectivity between the two countries in cooperation with NHK, Japan International Broadcasting Inc., Myanmar National Television and Japanese companies in Myanmar.—GNLM



A volunteer collects garbage to prevent water pollution in Kandawgyi Lake in Yangon as part of environmental conservation.

PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

Union Minister acknowledges women can help with nation building



Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane speaking at second-day session of Women's Forum Myanmar 2014.—MNA

YANGON, 6 Dec — A woman of great efficiency is capable of raising a happy family and contributing to society and national de-

velopment as well, said U Soe Thane, Union Minister at President Office, at Women's Forum Myanmar here on Saturday, sources said.

Despite more and more women holding higher positions in government and parliament, there still exist limitations on female participation in education, economy,

health care and information in some parts of the world, he confessed, acknowledging women's capacity to be key to economic growth.

Ms Jacqueline Franjou, CEO of Women's Forum, pointed out the need for women to play a more important role in Myanmar and the ASEAN region, citing that their efficiency

can help the economy and society grow.

Women's Forum is designed to facilitate and increase the contribution of women to community, promote equal opportunities for women in all aspects of life and encourage debates on issues of public welfare, especially those affecting their lives.

Myat Thanda Maung

Wellwishers donate cash and books to Myanmar Libraries Foundation

YANGON, 6 Dec — A ceremony to donate cash and books to libraries of Myanmar Libraries Foundation was held at the hall of the Printing and Publishing Enterprise under the Ministry of Information on Saturday.

A total of 41 wellwishers donated K25.91 million and 46 wellwishers, books, magazines and journals worth K500,000 to the foundation.

Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway accepted cash donations and Chairman of MLF U Maung Maung, copies of books, journals and magazines.

The foundation has donated K6.48 million to the fund for development



Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway accepts cash donation from wellwisher for Myanmar Libraries Foundation.—MNA

of mini book corners and K74.6 million to the self-reliant village libraries.

So far, the foundation

has established over 6,000 libraries in the rural areas, spending the fund donated by the people.—MNA

Exams for Presidential Scholarship Programme held in six major cities

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Dec — Examinations for the applications of Presidential Scholarship were held on Saturday at 10 exam centres in six major cities. The examinations took place Yangon, Mandalay, Mawlamyine, Magway, Monywa and Taunggyi.

The programme is the first in Myanmar, and is intended to send outstanding students to foreign universities with full scholarship.

There are two categories in this programme, with the applicants of 657 in pre-graduate, and for post-graduate courses, 1,874 master degree students and 2,376 doc-

toral students, totaling 4,880.

The exam was based on the Aptis Test of the British Council, and it was a computerized English skill test.

Out of the 1,380 valid candidates for the exam, a total of 62.83 percent (876 students) sat the exam and 37.17 percent (513 persons) were absentees. The Aptis Test is quite similar to the IELTS, and is cost US\$55 for each candidate.

The British Council supported \$23 each and the government gave \$32 each for the exam.—MNA

NATIONAL

Vice-Senior General Soe Win back from Malaysia

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Dec — Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win visited International Convention Centre, Malaysia, on Friday.

He proceeded to Kuala Lumpur International Airport in the afternoon and he was seen off at the airport by Assistant Chief of Staff (Army) Major General Dato' Pahlawan Zu-

Ikifli Mansor of Malaysian Armed Forces and wife, senior military officers of the Malaysian Army Commander-in-Chief Office.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win arrived back in Yangon at 3 pm. He was welcomed back by Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Tun Tun Naung and senior military officers.

Myawady



Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife at Kuala Lumpur International Airport with Malaysian senior military officer.—MYAWADY

Labour Department, ILO sign contract for statistical services for labour

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Dec— The Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security is giving priority to job opportunities, employment at home and abroad, enhancement of capacity of employees, survey of labour statistics and research and worksite safety, Union Minister U Aye Myint said at the signing ceremony of the contract for statistical services for Myanmar Labour Force, Child Labour and School-to-Work Transition Survey

between the ministry and International Labour Organization-ILO signed a at the ministry on 5 December in Nay Pyi Taw.

Moreover, he said that the government is placing emphasis on skills and job opportunities for young men and women. He added that the Labour Department will conduct the labour statistics with the assistance of the Immigration and National Registration Department and ILO in October 2015.

The Director-General of the Labour Department and ILO Liaison Officer to Myanmar Mr Steve Marshall signed the contract.

ILO will provide monetary and technical assistance to Labour Department, Central Statistical Organization and Population Department in conducting the labour statistics, compilation of questions, conducting the training course for collection data and analysis for facts and figures.—MNA



Union Minister U Aye Myint addresses signing ceremony of the contract for statistical services for Myanmar Labour Force, Child Labour and School-to-Work Transition Survey.—MNA

US Ambassador's visit to the Shae Thot 2000th Village ceremony

Kyaw The-ein (MNA)

YANGON, 6 Dec— United States Ambassador to Myanmar Derek Mitchell and U Aung Kyaw Min, the Minister for Social Affairs, Magway Region Government, on 2 December visited NatkanU, Yenangyoung Township, in Myanmar's Magway Region, to commemorate the 2,000th village to partner in the USAID-supported

Shae Thot program. Shae Thot provides integrated development solutions in Myanmar's Dry Zone and Kayah State. Ambassador Derek Mitchell offered words of appreciation and congratulated community leaders and the residents of NatkanU.

During the visit, the ambassador and other guests observed pro-

gram activities in the village, including a baby-weighing and nutrition day event, a health education session, mobile clinic operations, water infrastructure training, and revolving livestock and seek bank systems. He also spoke with leaders of the Village Development Committee, a democratically elected local association that manages the program activities.

Myanmar, Japan focus on cooperation in map production



Union Minister U Win Tun holds talks with Vice Minister Mr Kisaburo Ishii of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Dec— Production of precise map based on Global Positioning System (GPS) and Continuously Operating Reference Station (CPRS) was discussed between Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun and Vice Minister Mr Kisaburo Ishii of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and

Tourism of Japan at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 December.

They also focused on utilization of maps, present map production in Myanmar, boundary measurement, erecting of border posts, efforts to draw the land utilization policy and law by forming the National Land Resources Management Central

Committee, arrangement for One Map Myanmar programme in Myanmar, capacity enhancement for remote sensing-RS, geographic information system-GIS.

They also discussed enhancement of map production, land utilization and capacity enhancement between the two countries.—MNA



Myanmar loses to Chongburi U-12 of Thailand in quarterfinal



KUALA LUMPUR, 6 Dec — Myanmar U-12 youth team cruised into the quarterfinal of the Supermakh Cup international football tournament organized by Malaysian Football Association on 6 December.

Myanmar youth team trounced Korean U-12 team with a 8-2 result on

the artificial pitch of Malaysian Sports Council in Padang, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 5 December morning.

In the afternoon, Myanmar youth team played against Indonesian team in the second match and won over its opponent with a 6-0 victory.

On 6 December morning, Myanmar youth showed off its excellent skills with a 4-1 win over host Malaysian U-12 team. So, Myanmar secured three wins in the group matches with nine points. The opponent teams praised Myanmar youth players for their wonderful football

skills in the matches.

In the quarterfinal, Myanmar lost to Chongburi U-12 team of Thailand 2-3 on 6 December.

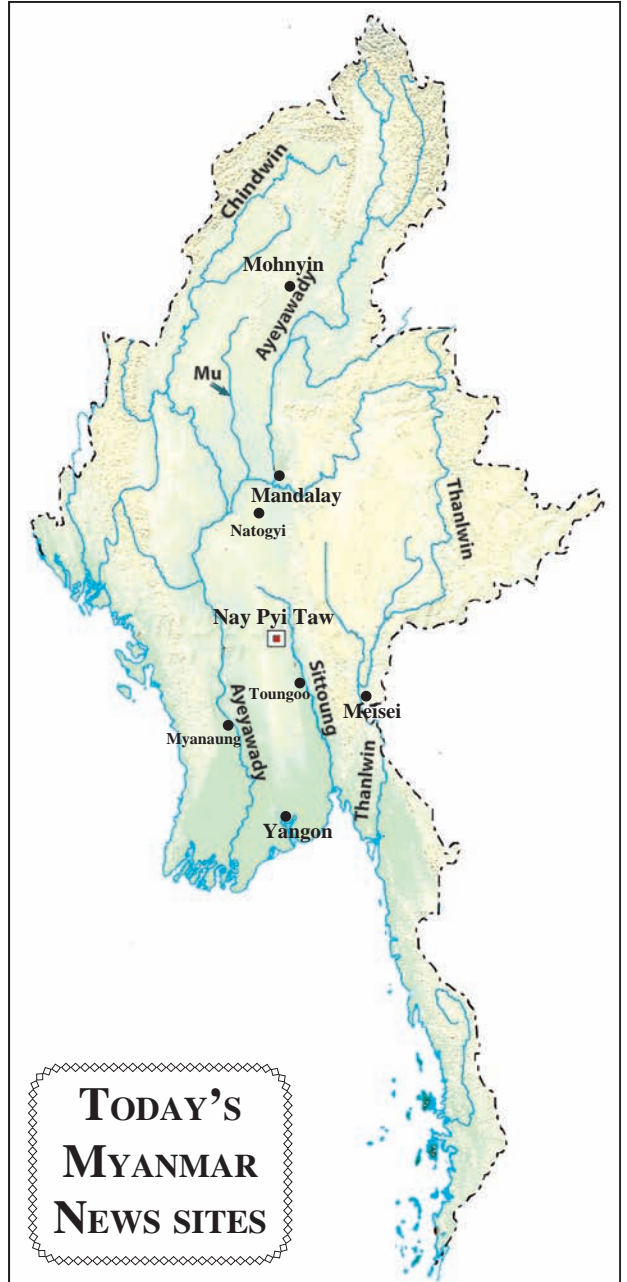
MFF

Two-storey monastery under construction in Meisei Township

MEISEI, 6 Dec—A ceremony to drive stakes for construction of a two-storey monastery was held in the precinct of Zetawun Monastery in Meiseinan Village, Meisei Township, Kayah State, on 5 December.

The deputy commissioner of the district and the township administrator participated in the stake driving ceremony.

Unity Friends Company takes responsibility for construction of the building.—Township IPRD



Rural people get health care services in Zabuthiri Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Dec — With the aim of declining the mortality rate, health personnel vaccinated children under 1.5 years and pregnant woman in Letpankhahla, Taukhtein, Tegyigon, Shadaw and Gonmin-in villages in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Friday.

Midwife Daw San San Myint of Shadaw rural health branch gave vaccines to the children and expectant mothers.

“We are very convenient for vaccination of the health staff in our villages. Thanks to their efforts, we

can take care of personal hygiene,” said a pregnant woman.

Likewise, midwife Daw Khin San Tint of

Pyankapyay rural health branch gave monthly vaccination to the children and pregnant women.

Thant Maung



Natogyi-Myohta asphalt road to contribute to regional development

NATOGYI, 6 Dec — A plan is underway to place asphalt along the 20 miles long road section from Natogyi and Myohta in Mandalay Region during the five-month period.

At present, DNPP Company commenced its tasks to place asphalt on the road starting from Myohta, said an official of Natogyi Township Rural Development

Department.

The road passes along a 16-mile section in Natogyi Township and five-mile section in Ngazun Township. Thanks to the arrangements of the Rural Development Department, the road will be an asphalt facility to be used all the year round. Upon completion, the road linking Myingyan and Mandalay will be 45 miles long.

The Natogyi-Myohta road will contribute much to development of over 30 villages in both townships.

As part of efforts to develop the region, an 11-KV power line has been installed between Natogyi and Myohta. As a result, the local people from over 20 villages consume electricity round the clock.

Htay Myint Maung

Globetrotters enjoy panoramic sunset views in Bagan

MANDALAY, 6 Dec—Bagan-NyaungU is one of the famous tourist desti-

nations in Myanmar. The region attracts not only the globetrotters but local

travellers to pay visits to ancient pagodas in the cultural region.

Number of globetrotters is on the increase to enjoy the sunset scene in Ba-

gan ancient cultural region.

The tourists on the platforms of ancient pa-

godas in Bagan area enjoy the panoramic views at the Tantkyi mountain range on the fore ground with sunset time.

Boatmen earn the increased income in giving transport services to the globetrotters to Bagan NyaungU region from various places.

Some of tourists chartered the boats to go to the sandbanks for enjoy the scenic views around Ayeyawady River in the sunset time.

Aye Mya (Mandalay)



LOCAL NEWS

Toungoo Education College marks International Volunteer Day



TOUNGGO, 6 Dec —The International Volunteer Day was observed at the hall of Toungoo Education College in Toungoo in Bago Region on 5 December.

Principal Daw Kyu Kyu explained facts about the Voluntary Service Overseas-VOS and presented certificates of honour, flower baskets and gifts to volunteers.

Two foreign experts made speeches on the occasion, and a faculty member spoke words of thanks.

It was attended by faculty members and trainees totalling over 360.

Toungoo Township IPRD

Thai expert gives training on skin care in Mandalay



MANDALAY, 6 Dec —The Chetawan Health Center of Thailand organized the Skin Care Technological Course at Thuza Beauty Salon on 72nd street between 29th and 30th streets in Chanayethazan

Township, Mandalay, on 3 December.

Principal of Chetawan Health Center Mrs Saris Tang Trongchit explained Spa cosmetic products produced from the organic fruits and advancement of

skin care technology.

Daw Thuza from Thuza Beauty Salon demonstrated Spa skin care with the use of cosmetics produced from the organic fruits and plants.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

People join mass walk activities of December

MYANAUNG, 6 Dec —The mass walk activities and sports event of December were held in Myanaung, Ayeyawady Region, on Saturday.

Departmental personnel, local people, teachers and students totalling over 300 participated in the mass walk activities of December participated in the walking and took physical exercise at the People's Square. The sports events will be held at the township gymnasium every Saturday in December.—*Win Bo (Township IPRD)*



Mobile team seizes illegal sawn timber in Tachilek

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Dec —Tachilek mobile team, acting on a tip-off, searched five dump trucks driving from Mongphyat, Shan State, on 23 November.

They seized 20.44

tons of Tamalan timber on board the trucks.

Officials handed over timbers to Customs Department and Forest Department and filed lawsuit against owner and drivers

of illegal sawn timber and trucks U Kya Har, U Ya Oo, U Myo Aung, U Naing Lin Tun, U Kaw Tar and U Ko Ko Lat at Tachilek Myoma police station on 23 November.—*Mobile team*

Enthusiasts join Regional and Institutional Development Conference in Mandalay



MANDALAY, 6 Dec —With the assistance of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (Myanmar Branch), the Innovative Institute Political Leadership organized the Regional and Institutional Development Conference at Hotel Mandalay on 78th street in Mahaangmye Township, Mandalay, on 4 and 5 December.

It was attended by Mandalay Region Hluttaw representatives, representatives from political parties and members of social organizations.

U Myo Zaw Aung of Innovative Institute Polit-

ical Leadership explained progress of political, economic and social fields in Myanmar in the time of the new government. He briefed them on the purpose of workshop with the participation of regional authorities, political parties, businessmen, civil organizations and people.

Innovative Institute Political Leadership has conducted the workshop at Kandawgyi Hotel in Yangon in the early 2014 for the first time. The workshop in Mandalay was the second time of its kind.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Indonesia sinks three Vietnamese illegal fishing boats

JAKARTA, 6 Dec — The Indonesian government sank three Vietnamese fishing boats on Friday, a day earlier than scheduled, for conducting illegal fishing in the country's territorial waters, media reports said.

A Navy warship detained the ships and their crew members on Sunday in Anambas waters in Riau Islands Province, bordering the South China Sea, after spotting them catching fish in the waters.

"Those ships had no legal fishing documents," Rear Adm Widodo, commander of the Navy's Western Fleet, was quoted as saying by the media when witnessing the sinking. The private television network Metro TV showed three naval and Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries vessels shooting the ships with machine guns, setting them ablaze and sinking them.

"The execution took place in the waters, which has 45-to-60-metre depth, and

the ships were shot at from a 200-metre distance," Widodo said.

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 showed small vessels surrounding a larger ship around the Natuna Islands bordering the South China Sea conducting open-sea transshipment of goods. The ships, she said, appeared to be Indonesian due to flying the Indonesian flag and bearing Indonesian names, but it turned out all of their operators were foreign.

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

Kyodo News



Thai people light candles and sing anthems during the celebration of Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 87th birthday in Bangkok, Thailand on 5 Dec, 2014. Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej on Friday cancelled a pre-scheduled public audience on his doctors' advice, which, however, did not damp people's enthusiasm to celebrate his 87th birthday.—XINHUA

Typhoon Hagupit triggers massive evacuation in Philippines

MANILA, 6 Dec — More than half a million people in the Philippines have fled from a powerful typhoon in one of the world's biggest peacetime evacuations as the storm churns towards central provinces that still bear the scars of a super typhoon 13 months ago.

Typhoon Hagupit was approaching eastern coasts on Saturday, with its eye 230 km (143 miles) east northeast of Borongan, in Eastern Samar Province, the weather bureau PAGASA said.

The storm was downgraded to a notch below super typhoon category but could still unleash huge destruction with torrential rain and potentially disastrous storm surges of up to 4.5 metres (15 feet).

With winds of up to 195 kph (121 mph) near the centre and gusts of up

to 215 kph (133 mph), the storm was moving slowly at 10 kph (6 mph) and was expected to hit Eastern or Northern Samar Province early on Sunday.

More than 616,000 residents of low-lying villages and landslide-prone areas have fled to schools, civic centres, town halls, gyms and churches, the na-

tional disaster agency said.

"We call on residents to voluntarily evacuate because the forecast is there will be a storm surge," Sofronio Dacillo, head of the



People take shelter inside a evacuation centre after evacuating from their homes due to super-typhoon Hagupit in Surigao city, southern Philippines on 5 Dec, 2014.

REUTERS

disaster agency in the island province of Biliran in the central Philippines, said on national radio.

Residents of Eastern Samar said rain was falling and their power was fluctuating on Saturday morning.

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva said 200,000 people had been evacuated in the central island province of Cebu alone.

"Typhoon Hagupit is triggering one of the largest evacuations we have ever seen in peacetime," said spokesman Denis McClean.

Philippine Airlines and Cebu Pacific cancelled nearly 100 flights to central and southern Philippines on Saturday.

The eastern islands of Samar and Leyte, worst-hit by 250 kph (155 mph) winds and storm surges brought by Typhoon Haiyan in November last year, could be in the firing line again. "I am afraid and scared," said Teresita Aban, a 58-year-old house-

wife from Sta Rita, in Samar Province, wiping away tears and trembling as she spoke. "We're prepared but still fearful, we haven't finished repairing our house, it still has tarpaulin patches and here comes another storm." Haiyan, one of the strongest typhoons ever to make landfall left more than 7,000 dead or missing and more than 4 million homeless or with damaged houses.

About 25,000 people in Eastern Samar and Leyte still live in tents, shelters and bunkhouses more than a year after Haiyan.

About 10 million residents of the Bicol and Eastern Visayas regions of the central Philippines are at risk of flooding, storm surges and strong winds as Hagupit hits land. AccuWeather Global Weather Centre said more than 30 million people would feel the impact of the typhoon across the Philippines.

The weather bureau said 47 provinces were at risk of strong wind and rains.—*Reuters*

Vietnam's wages lag behind many neighbouring countries: ILO

HANOI, 6 Dec — Despite the overall positive developments, wages in Vietnam still lag behind many neighbouring countries, said the International Labour Organization (ILO) on Friday in Vietnam's capital Hanoi.

Between 2011 and 2013, Vietnam recorded an overall increase of 13.67 percent in average real wages, which was driven partly by substantial increases in minimum wages, ILO said in a Press release on the launching of the Global Wage Report 2014-2015 released in Hanoi on Friday.

Among the countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), average monthly wages in 2012 of Vietnam (3.8 million Vietnamese dong or 181 US dollars) was placed only ahead of Laos (119 US

dollars), Cambodia (121 US dollars) and Indonesia (174 US dollars). By comparison, Vietnam's average monthly wage was about half of Thailand's 357 US dollars, less than one third of Malaysia's 609 US dollars and one twentieth of Singapore's 3,547 US dollars, according to the report.

"These large wage differences between ASEAN countries reflect substantial differences in a number of factors including labour productivity. As countries adopt new technologies, invest in infrastructure, encour-

age structural reforms and improve the skills of their workforce, they lay the foundations for enterprises to become more efficient, and to move into higher value-added activities," said Gyorgy Sziraczki, ILO director in Vietnam.

Although wage workers now account for 34.8 percent of the total employed people in Vietnam, much lower than the world's average of over 50 percent, this share is projected to grow rapidly in the coming decades, said ILO.—*Xinhua*

India supplies water to crisis-hit Male

NEW DELHI, 6 Dec — India sent five aircraft containing 200 tons of potable water to Male, the Maldives capital, Friday even as the island country is facing acute drinking water shortage following a major fire at the water treatment plant the previous day.

"The five Indian aircraft carrying 200 tons of potable water will be flying to Maldives today, and the same number of aircraft will fly tomorrow carrying the same quantity of water," Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman Syed Akbaruddin said.

"Subsequently, arrangements have also been made to send two Indian ships which have reverse osmosis plants on them, and can produce 40 tons of water everyday," he said. He said External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj got a late night call on Thursday from Male about the crisis.—*Kyodo News*

German state elects reform communist leader in historic shift

BERLIN, 6 Dec — The reform communist Left party took power in a German state on Friday for the first time since reunification, ending a quarter century of conservative rule in Thuringia and raising the chance of a left-wing threat to Angela Merkel in the next federal vote.

The Left, which traces its roots to the Socialist Unity Party (SED) that once ruled East Germany and built the Berlin Wall, will run the state south-west of Berlin with the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) and Greens in a three-way coalition.

Thuringia voted in September in state elections which produced a close result, leading to protracted negotiations involving four parties. Eventually the three left-leaning parties

agreed on a coalition and on Friday the state assembly elected the Left party's Bodo Ramelow, a 58-year-old trade unionist from West Germany, as premier of Thuringia.

It is the first time these three parties have ruled together in one of Germany's 16 states. If they succeed in Thuringia, they could decide to band together in the next national election in 2017 in an attempt to knock the chancellor's conservatives from power.

The centre-left SPD, which rules with Merkel in a right-left federal "grand coalition", has long refused to cooperate with the Left at the national level, largely because of the party's foreign policy views, which include opposition to NATO.

Merkel, who had warned against a Left-led



Bodo Ramelow of the Left party (Die Linke) reacts as it is announced he is to become the new Thuringia state premier, in parliament in Erfurt on 5 Dec, 2014.

REUTERS

government in Thuringia, declined to comment on the result when asked at a news conference in Berlin, saying only that her party would respect it.

Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel, the national leader of the SPD leader and a likely candidate for chancellor in 2017, denounced a rising national "hysteria" over Thuringia. "It's nonsense" to think Ramelow wants to restore East German communism, he said.

Ramelow, who is often seen with his pet terrier Attila, was confirmed in a second round vote in the assembly in the state capital of Erfurt, after falling just shy of a majority in the drama-filled first round.

"We need reconciliation instead of division," he said in an emotional speech to the 91-seat assembly. Ramelow is an unabashed backer of socialism and campaigned for September's election with a bright red bust of Karl Marx at his side.

But he told the deputies of his long struggle to convince a friend who was a political prisoner in East Germany that the Left party was not the SED. Of the SED's 2.3 million party members there are only about 16,000 in the Left.

The shadow of the Cold War has hung over the vote 25 years after communism in East Germany collapsed. Merkel's conservatives had said a victory of the pro-Russia, anti-NATO Left party was an insult to the victims of communism.

Merkel, raised in East Germany, warned the SPD against letting itself be used "to carry Karl Marx into the state government". An SPD and Left alliance represents the biggest threat to her winning a fourth term in 2017, if she runs again.

Reuters

Protests against police violence flare for third night in New York

NEW YORK, 6 Dec — Protesters in New York and other cities rallied for a third night on Friday denouncing the use of deadly force by police against minorities, even as prosecutors said they would consider charges against an officer in the fatal shooting of a unarmed black man in November.

The slaying of Akai Gurley, 28, gunned down in a dimly lit stairwell in the New York borough of Brooklyn, was the latest in a string of lethal police actions feeding US public outrage over what many perceive as racially based violence by law enforcement.

This week's wave of angry but largely peaceful protests began on Wednesday when a New York grand jury declined to bring charges against white officer Daniel Pantaleo in the chokehold death of Eric Garner, a black 43-year-old father of six.

Garner, who had no weapon, was being arrested on suspicion of selling cigarettes illegally. A videotape of his confrontation with police on Staten Island in July showed Pantaleo's arm across Garner's neck as he is subdued by four officers, then Garner was pinned face down to the pavement as he repeatedly gasps, "I can't breathe" — a phrase protesters have adopted as a rallying cry.

The decision sparing Pantaleo from prosecution was announced nine days after a Missouri grand jury chose not to indict a white policeman for the shooting death in August of an unarmed black teenager in the St Louis suburb of Ferguson, spurring two nights of arson and unrest there.

Then on Thursday in Phoenix, Arizona, another unarmed black man was shot dead by a white police officer during a scuffle, leading to protests in that city.

"The government has created a monster and the monster is now loose," said Soraya Soi Free, 45, a

nurse from the Bronx who has been protesting in New York.

After two nights that saw thousands of demonstrators pouring into the streets and blocking traffic in Manhattan, the turnout on Friday saw only hundreds as a cold, steady rain fell.

But in a surprising departure from previous nights, more than 100 people stormed into an Apple Store to stage a brief "die-in," sprawling on the floor as shoppers and employees watched. They left without incident after about five minutes.

Similar demonstra-

tions were staged at Macy's flagship department store in Herald Square and at Grand Central Terminal, one of the city's two main rail stations. As they did at the Apple store, police stood by but allowed the protesters to briefly occupy both locations.

Some Manhattan retailers have curtailed their hours in response to the recent unrest, including Best Buy Co Inc and Target Corp.

Meanwhile, nearly 100 people, including local civic leaders, huddled under umbrellas near the site of Garner's death for a candlelight vigil on Staten Island.

Reuters



The Lower Manhattan skyline, including One World Trade Centre, is seen in the background as protesters, demanding justice for Eric Garner, enter Brooklyn off the Brooklyn Bridge in New York on 4 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

Japan, US to release initiative on 70th anniversary of postwar relations

WASHINGTON, 6 Dec — Influential people from Japan and the United States started work on Friday on releasing an initiative next year that will feature a variety of visions to enhance bilateral ties on the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.

The 24 participants in the meeting in Washington from political, business and academic circles will reconvene in Tokyo in May and announce an initiative called Pacific Vision 21, according to Yasuo Fukuda, former Japanese prime minister, who co-chairs the meeting.

"We'll be having (more) discussions so a variety of people including those from the young generation can be actively involved in Japan-US relations and play a role in the Pacific region," Fukuda told a press conference.

The members will seek to come up with a new framework for bilateral ties with an eye on the year of 2045, the centennial of the start of the postwar relationship, Fukuda said.

The other Japanese co-chair is Fujio Mitarai, former chairman of the Japan

Business Federation, the country's largest business lobby, and chairman of Canon Inc.

Thomas Daschle, a former majority leader of the US Senate, and Dennis Hastert, former speaker of the US House of Representatives, serve as co-chairs of the US side.

The other members included Fujio Cho, honorary chairman of Toyota Motor Corp, Thomas Schieffer, former US ambassador to Japan, and Charles Holliday, chairman emeritus of Bank of America NA.

Meanwhile Fukuda said he discussed the importance of an early signing of the US-led Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement in meetings with Penny Pritzker, commerce secretary, on Thursday and Michael Froman, US trade representative, on Friday.

The United States, Japan and 10 other countries negotiating for the TPP have been struggling to reach an agreement due partly to differences between Japan and the United States over market access for agricultural products and autos.

Kyodo News

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 7 December, 2014

Time to change our approach to change

By Kyaw Thura

When it comes to change, not all institutions can accomplish their transformational efforts in part because they fail to take a consistent, holistic and effective approach to changing themselves first.

It is found that successful organizations that are particularly adroit at constant change have three characteristics in common, according to Dr John Kotter, a renowned leadership and

change management guru.

These organizations closely follow the process, allow the process to flex itself to their specific contexts and measure their efforts in terms of results. The leaders of these organizations will never hesitate to remove obstacles to change by transforming systems, structures and policies that do not align with their vision.

Good leaders contemplating change know that people matter most. They are willing to embrace change and are aligned with the direction of change. They accept the supposition that change starts at the top. Once they succeed in motivating their subordinates to feel the need to change, they are positioned for success. It is therefore necessary for them to deliver core messages through multiple channels regularly and inspirationally in a bid to create essential elements needed to drive change.

It must here be noted that no change pro-

gramme goes according to plan. Naturally, change is unsettling and can have very real effects on people, especially those at top levels of an organization. The most effective way to manage change is to continuously evaluate its impact and adopt the next wave of transformation.

At a time when rapid change has become a phenomenon of the 21st century, institutions that swim against the tide will not last.

Write for us

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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.

SCG committed to enhancing the quality of all communities where it operates

By Kyaw The-ein (MNA)

SCG, ASEAN's leading business conglomerate, awarded educational assistance to 100 high school students in Yangon as part of the third edition of the SCG Sharing the Dream program in Myanmar. The program is part of SCG's commitment to enhance the quality of all communities where it operates. SCG has recognized students who have shown gratitude towards their families, proactively contributed to their communities and exhibited good academic records.

Each student received funding of K 210,000 (approximately US\$220), which will help cover school fees and supplies for an academic year. This is an increase from the K 200,000 amount awarded to each scholar last year. The scholarship awards were handed out by Her Excellency Daw

San San Nwe, Finance and Revenue Minister, Yangon Region Government, Mr. Chainarong Keratiyutwong, Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission, Royal Thai Embassy, Mr. Aree Chavalitcheewingul, Vice-President – Regional Business, SCG Cement-Building Materials and U Aung Myin Htun, President of Myanmar Business Executives Association (MBE).

"In line with the government's Higher Education Policy and to promote the development of highly qualified human resource in Myanmar, we recognise the efforts from SCG to support the academic growth of our students and help them to press on to get a place in university. I would like to express my appreciation towards SCG, the Royal Thai Embassy, teachers and parties involved who have

made the SCG Sharing the Dream 2014 program possible. I hope this project will be continued for many years to come and that many more students will get to achieve their dreams with the support of SCG," said Her Excellency Daw San San Nwe.

"At SCG, we believe that education is the key for sustainable growth and development, especially for ASEAN. SCG believes in the value of every child's dreams and would like to help them come true. Over the past two years, we have seen SCG Sharing the Dream scholars in Myanmar go on to achieve academic success and we are proud that we have contributed to their development. On behalf of SCG, I would like to congratulate our new batch of young scholars. I believe they deserve a bright future and hope that they will pursue higher education and use their talents to support their

families and communities", said Mr. Aree Chavalitcheewingul during the ceremony.

Said Mr. Chainarong Keratiyutwong, Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission, Royal Thai Embassy, "I am particularly delighted that SCG has continued this scholarship program over the past years. For me, education is not only a basic human right, but I believe it is one of the greatest gifts anyone could be given, as education can offer many opportunities for a better future. These Myanmar students may lack the necessary resources to pursue their education and realize their "dreams" but they fully possess commitment and personal determination for a better future and to become good citizens of the nation."

"I'm delighted to receive this SCG Sharing the Dream scholarship which will go a long way towards helping to cover costs for my

academic needs. My dream is to get a place in the Myanmar Maritime University and I will do my best to achieve that", said Zin Ko Naing, a 11th Grade student of No (2) BEHS Shwe Pyi Thar in Yangon who was awarded a scholarship today.

For this year's edition of SCG Sharing the Dream, SCG has once again awarded 200 scholarships in total to 100 students in Yangon Division (Hlaing Tharyar, Shwe Pyi Thar, North Dagon, South Dagon, Mingalardon, Hmawby, Khun Chan Kone, Twantay, Seikgyi Kanaungto and Kawmhu Townships) and another 100 students in Mon State (Mawlamyaing, Kyike Mayaw, Mudone, Paung and Chaung Sone Townships).

SCG also awarded six students from Yangon who received scholarships in 2013 and went on to achieve excellence in the following academic year with additional grants totaling K 1.45 million in recognition of their academic achieve-

ments. Following the ceremony and a lunch hosted by SCG, the scholars were also involved in team-building activities in the afternoon to help them develop soft-side skills which will benefit their studies and living in the future.

SCG Sharing the Dream is SCG's ASEAN sustainable development initiative and it has granted scholarships to more than 5,000 students in ASEAN countries, including Myanmar, Indonesia, Laos, Vietnam, Philippines, and Thailand. With its vision to become an ASEAN sustainable business leader and a role model of good corporate management and Sustainable Development (SD), SCG pursues this program on an annual basis and will develop other programs that create a better quality of life for the Myanmar community. At a time when Myanmar is embarking on educational reforms we firmly believe that such educational assistance will contribute a great deal towards the nation and its people.

RESPONSIBILITY

Kyi Mun

"Ours is the responsibility to make it a larger and closer knit family".

- Richardson Wright

"We are all too prone to enjoy privileges and only look sideways at responsibilities."

- William Bright

Responsibility means: (1) A duty to deal with or take care of somebody or something, so that you may be blamed if something goes wrong;
(2) Blame for something bad that happened;
(3) A duty to help or take care of somebody because of your job, position, etc.

- Oxford Dictionary

Now, Let's joyfully explore the wider meaning of responsibility as follows:

R for Reason for being; (Raison d'être)

E for Etiquette

S for Sense of duty

P for Proactive

O for Objective

N for Never giving up

S for Sincerity

I for Initiative

B for Beyond the call of duty

I for Inspiration

L for Learning bias

I for Integrity

T for Trust and Trustworthiness

Y for Yearning for results

REASON for BEING

Reason for being means Raison d'être which is to be translated as: "the most important reason for somebody/something's existence. So, reason for being a parent is to take care of the offspring for their growth and will-be-

ing. Reason for being a student is to learn and to pass the examinations. Reason for being a doctor of medicine is to look after the patient's health. Reason for being in business (the primary reason) is to satisfy the needs of the customers. And so on. Everyone is responsible to satisfactorily carry out one's reason for being or raison d'être.

ETIQUETTE

Etiquette means the formal rules of correct or polite behavior in society or among members of a particular profession, e.g. medical/ legal etiquette. It is necessary for us to take responsibility to be civilized and cultured in our interpersonal relationships.

SENSE OF DUTY

The Dictionary meaning of DUTY is (1): What one is obliged to do (by morality, law, conscience, etc.); the inner voice urging one to behave in a certain way; (2) Moral obligation. So, a responsible person should have a strong sense of duty with commitment, accountability and transparency.

(See page 9)

MOGE, oil companies sign production sharing contract for M-8 Mottama offshore block



Union Minister for Energy U Zeyar Aung attends signing ceremony of M-8 Mottama offshore area between MOGE and oil companies.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Dec — Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy and Berlanga Myanmar Pte Ltd that registered in Singapore and

A-1 Mining Co Ltd of Myanmar signed a production sharing contract for M-8 Mottama offshore area at Parkroyal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 December.

Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission Union Minister for Energy U Zeyar Aung delivered a speech.

MOGE Managing Director U Myo Myint Oo, Mr Johannes Hans Braakman of Berlanga Myanmar Pte Ltd and Chairman of A-1 Mining Co Ltd U Yan Win signed the contract.

MOGE got US\$15 million for signature bonus and US\$500,000 for data fee. They will spend US\$153 million on one-year feasibility study and six-year exploration.

MNA

Myanmar, Japan discuss land utilization, technological assistance

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Dec — Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin received Vice Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Kisaburo Ishii and party at the ministry, here, on Friday. They discussed civil projects and land utilization, urban development and matters related to the technological assistance for Myanmar.—MNA



MWEA executive Daw Sanda Tun, members Daw Thida Naing, Dr The Myat Soe and Daw Pan Ei Phyu seen at Yangon International Airport on 5 December before departure for Cambodia to attend Youhs and Women in ASEAN-Korea SME Industries in Siem Reap, Cambodia from 5 to 6 December.—MWEA

RESPONSIBILITY...

(from page 8)

PROACTIVE

To be proactive is: To control a situation by making things happen, rather than waiting for things to happen and then reacting to them. Also being proactive means to be in charge of one's life or one's job or one's relationships. A responsible person has the duty to take charge, to take initiative and to take responsibility for the consequences.

OBJECTIVE

Objective means goal, purpose, target, object aimed at. A definite objective is a clear-cut goal, or the unambiguous aim of a policy. In certain cases, an objective can be termed as policy objective or strategic aim. Whenever there is a definite objective, which is the primary pillar, the two other pillars must be in place which are resources and strategy. It means an objective must be achieved with a particular strategy based on the available resources. Please see the following illustration:



“The three elements of a purpose”

NEVER GIVING UP

In taking a responsibility, one has got to do every single thing that is essential to be done. A responsible person will leave no stone unturned in the discharge of one's duties. He or she will relentlessly try to have what it takes to make things happen and to get things done. He or she will never give up, never give in; he or she will always stand up to the challenges; and he or she will fight through to victory.

SINCERITY

Sincerity means: (1) (Of feelings, behavior) genuine; not pretended. (2) (Of person) Straightforward; not in the habit of expressing feelings that are pretended; (3) The quality of being honest.

- Oxford Dictionary

A person who assumes responsibility for his action usually has sincerity. A responsible person is honest in whatever he or she does. A sincere person is not arrogant, greedy, complacent, inconsistent or myopic.

INITIATIVE

Initiative means: (1) First or introductory step or move, without an order or suggestion from others; (2) Capacity to see what needs to be done and enterprise enough to do it.

- Oxford Dictionary

A responsible person usually has the habit of taking initiative in doing something. It is said that a successful person must have at least two kinds of personal quality such as initiative and resourcefulness.

BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY

A responsible person has the habit of doing beyond the call of duty. Such a person usually has the habit of going the extra mile. A person of responsibility is usually resolute; he or she does not fear to make personal sacrifices, and he or she dares to surmount all difficulties to win victory. Such a person usually follows the motto of “More pains, more gains.”

INSPIRATION

Inspiration means: (1) Influences arousing creative activity in literature, music, art, etc. ; (2) Person or thing that inspires; (3) Good thought or idea that comes to the mind; (4) Putting uplifting thoughts, feelings or aims into;

- Oxford Dictionary

A person of responsibility usually is a self-motivated person. He or she has some high principles, passionate beliefs, core values; mission, etc.

LEARNING BIAS

To LEARN is: (1) To gain knowledge of or skill in, by study, practice, or being taught; (2) To be told or informed.

- Oxford Dictionary

A responsible person usually is dynamic, not static in his or her mental make-up. A person of responsibility usually wants to move upwards; he or she never sticks to the

status quo. He or she wants to improve and advance. So, a responsible person is usually committed to learning earnestly in his or her stride.

INTEGRITY

Integrity means: (1) The quality of being honest and upright in character; (2) State or condition of being complete.

A person who has the good habit of assuming responsibility usually has strong sense of integrity. He or she does not dilly-dally, waver, or hesitate. A responsible person's enduring emphasis is on making things happen and getting things done and on adding value to work as well as to life. He or she is dedicated to creating wealth and beauty with a good conscience. He or she is never self-centered and self-serving.

TRUST AND TRUSTWORTHINESS

Trust means: (1) Confidence, strong belief, in the goodness, strength, reliability of something or somebody; (2) Responsibility. Trustworthiness means one who is worthy or justified to be trusted.

A responsible person usually has trust in other people and is himself or herself trustworthy. To be trustworthy, one must have CHARACTER AND COMPETENCE. A trustworthy character has integrity and good, plausible intent or motive; and a trustworthy, competent person must be able to show capability and to deliver results.

YEARNING FOR RESULTS

A really responsible person must live and move and have his or her being to be of value to himself or herself as well as others. A person of responsibility should be able to prove to be capable, productive, and of a willing disposition. To be responsible is to be committed to getting the anticipated results. A responsible person can deliver the following (4) kinds of results:

- ❖ Basic Results: A Steak is a Steak is a Steak;
- ❖ Expected Results: A Tender Steak;
- ❖ Desired Results: A Warm, tender Steak; and
- ❖ Surprising Results: A Sizzling Steak

CONCLUSION

Responsibility should be willingly assumed and brilliantly executed for:

- Win-Win Outcomes (for you & me)
- Win-Win-Win-Win Outcomes (for Customers, Employees, Shareholders, and the entire National Economy.)

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING Group Capital Co.,Ltd.

Angry families of MH17 crash victims seek UN investigation

AMSTERDAM, 6 Dec — Relatives of MH17 crash victims, angered by what they see as Dutch mishandling of inquiries into the disaster, want a special UN envoy to launch an international investigation.

A letter sent to Prime Minister Mark Rutte on Friday, a copy of which was seen by *Reuters*, said Dutch officials had failed to build a case. They asked that inquiries by the Safety Board and prosecution service be handed over to the United Nations.

Rutte should “request the UN to appoint a special envoy to take over,” said the letter written by Van der Goen Attorneys.

Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 was downed on 17 July over eastern Ukraine, killing all 298 passengers and crew, two-thirds of them Dutch. Ex-



Unidentified relatives and friends of the victims of Malaysian Airlines MH17 attend a national memorial at the RAI convention centre in Amsterdam on 10 Nov, 2014. —REUTERS

perts say the most likely cause was a ground-to-air missile fired from territory held by separatists.

The Dutch launched

the largest criminal investigation in their history after the crash. This week, trucks are carrying pieces of the plane home, but

much of the wreckage still lies in Ukrainian fields.

Dutch investigators, leading a case involving 11 countries, have not con-

cluded how the plane was shot down or identified suspects.

The Netherlands “has completely botched” the fact-finding investigation and the legal framework of the case, said the letter, sent on behalf of 20 relatives from Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands and the United States.

Dutch prosecutors have been unable to access the crash site, in a war zone disputed by Ukrainian troops and Russian-backed rebels, or not met international requirements to secure evidence, the letter said.

“Nobody knows who is doing what,” said Bob van der Goen, a spokesman for the law firm. “There is no coordination, there is no leadership whatsoever (by) Holland.”

Rutte said on Friday

the Dutch teams were returning to the Netherlands. “We have done everything we could. In view of the safety situation and the weather, we cannot do anything more right now,” he said.

An international inquiry is the only way to identify who shot down the plane and ensure they are brought to court, the letter said. Van der Goen has represented relatives of victims of a 1992 El Al jetliner crash in Amsterdam, a 2010 Afriqiyah Airways crash in the Libyan capital Tripoli and the 1977 Pan Am-KLM crash in the Canary Islands that left 583 people dead. Relatives of the Pan Am-KLM crash victims received more than \$100,000 each, the highest ever settlement at the time.

Reuters

Four stabbed on train in Michigan, suspect in custody — police



A man is seen in custody aboard an Amtrak train following a stabbing incident in Niles, Michigan on 5 Dec, 2014. —REUTERS

NILES, (Michigan) 6 Dec — Police took a suspect into custody in Michigan on Friday after four people were stabbed aboard an Amtrak train in the town of Niles, a police dispatcher said.

None of the victims had been killed in the attack, a dispatcher for the Niles Police Department said. Police could not immediately describe the conditions of the victims, nor give any further details on the incident or suspect. Niles, a town of about 12,000 people, is about 10 miles (16 km) north of South Bend, Indiana.

Amtrak said the incident took place on Train 364, the Blue Water service, which runs daily between Chicago and Port Huron, Michigan, while the train was at the station in Niles.

The company gave no details of the incident, but said in a statement a person was in custody and that the Amtrak Police Department is assisting in the investigation.

The *Chicago Sun Times* newspaper quoted a Twitter user who said four people were stabbed in the next carriage along from him, and who uploaded a photograph of a man in a grey jacket lying in handcuffs on the floor of the train. “Crazy world we live in. Some man just stabbed 4 people one car away from me on the train,” said the user, @Chris_Maynard. Amtrak said the train had been travelling to Port Huron at the time of the incident, and it said the company is working to arrange alternate transport for 172 passengers.

Reuters

Lima climate talks split on role of adaptation, finance in new deal

LIMA, 6 Dec — Negotiators at UN climate talks in Lima are divided over whether governments should include finance and adaptation commitments in the national offers of action they are due to put forward early next year as the building blocks of a new global climate change deal.

Some developing countries, including the poorest ones, want adaptation efforts to be part of their contributions, arguing it will help determine their needs for funding and technical aid. The cost of adapting to climate change in developing nations is likely to be at least two to three times higher than previous estimates of \$70-100 billion a year by 2050, even with ambitious cuts in planet-warming emissions, according to a new report from the United Nations Environment Programme. But the European Union and Japan said on Friday they want national offers to be focused only on mitigation — actions to reduce planet-warming emissions.

Elina Bardram, the European Commission’s top climate negotiator, told journalists the EU sees the process for national contributions as designed specifically with mitigation in mind, and it shouldn’t stretch to adaptation and climate finance. With the new global deal not expected to enter into force until 2020,



People walk at the venue of the UN Climate Change Conference COP 20 in Lima on 4 Dec, 2014. — REUTERS

countries would struggle to plan their spending on climate finance or adaptation so far ahead of time, she added. “We cannot possibly make forward commitments on something that is going to happen from the national budgets in seven years’ time,” she said.

But that “doesn’t mean that we are not open to including some processes that would provide our partners with reassurances that these elements (of adaptation and finance) are absolutely core to the 2015 agreement”, she said. The EU is interested in the idea of including a global goal for adaptation in the main accord to be agreed in Paris in a year’s time, Bardram added.

“We definitely see that gaining traction — particularly as adaptation is a challenge that concerns all countries. Europe is also suffering a lot from the adverse effects of climate

change,” she said. Brazil, on the other hand, wants countries to be able to put adaptation and finance in their national contributions.

But it does not support a wider adaptation goal, arguing that adaptation is local, and therefore very difficult to measure.

Tania Guillén of Nicaragua’s Centro Humboldt, a sustainable development group, said that if adaptation is not included in the draft text expected to come out of the Lima talks, efforts to build a Paris deal could fail. “Most of the (developing) countries are asking for adaptation to be a crucial part of the agreement — one of the big elements, not only mitigation — so if we don’t include adaptation, there won’t be political will,” she said. But even among developing countries, there are differing opinions on whether any commitments on adaptation made in the

2015 deal should be legally binding. Small island states, for example, believe they should be voluntary.

Some worry that insisting on legal backing for adaptation could work against binding commitments on mitigation. Peru’s environment minister Manuel Pulgar-Vidal, who is presiding over the climate talks in Lima, said “political parity” is needed between mitigation and adaptation in the negotiations.

He told Thomson Reuters Foundation on Friday the talks should deliver, as expected, a “Lima draft text” for governments to work on next year, as well as “upfront information” about what countries should include in their national offers. “We just have one more week, but this is a process in which we should not lose optimism — I am very optimistic that we can do it,” he said. —Reuters

WORLD

US-led forces conduct 20 air strikes against Islamic State

WASHINGTON, 6 Dec — The United States and partner nations have conducted 20 air strikes against Islamic State targets in Syria and Iraq since Wednesday, the US Central Command said on Friday.

Five of six air strikes by US military forces in Syria targeted the contested city of Kobani near the border with Turkey, Centcom

said in a statement. Those destroyed six Islamic State fighting positions and a heavy weapon, it said.

In Iraq, US and partner nations conducted 14 air strikes, mostly targeting areas in the oil-producing north of the country controlled by Islamic State.

Four air strikes near al-Qaim destroyed checkpoints, armoured vehicles,

bunkers, fortifications and a tactical unit, the US military said. Others were directed at Islamic militants targets near Kirkuk, Samarra, Tal Afar and Falluja.

Two air strikes near Mosul destroyed 11 bunkers, nine heavy weapons, a vehicle and hit two Islamic State units, Centcom said.

Reuters



An explosion following an air strike is seen in western Kobani neighbourhood, on 23 Nov, 2014. — REUTERS

Syria says repels Islamic State attack on air base



Islamic State fighters stand along a street in the countryside of the Syrian Kurdish town of Kobani, after taking control of the area on 7 Oct, 2014.

REUTERS

BEIRUT, 6 Dec — A Syrian military source said on Saturday that government forces had repelled an attack by Islamic State militants on an air base in the eastern province of Deir al-Zor, one of the last remaining government stronghold in eastern Syria.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Islamic State fighters broke into the Deir al-Zor air base at dawn on Saturday but were forced to retreat. It said 119 fighters on both sides were killed.

A Syrian security

source, when asked about the breach, said: “The terrorists have been unable to control the air base.”

The al-Qaeda offshoot Islamic State has been gradually consolidating control of the oil-producing Deir al-Zor province this year. President Bashar al-Assad’s forces have held on to the local military air base and parts of the provincial capital.

The Observatory said 51 of Assad’s forces and 68 members of Islamic State had been killed in the three-day offensive.—Reuters

Up to 50,000 displaced Iraqi families left without aid despite access

LONDON, 6 Dec — Up to 50,000 displaced Iraqi families in the Kirkuk area are being neglected by international aid groups despite sheltering in areas accessible to humanitarian organizations, medical charity Medecins Sans Frontiers (MSF) said on Friday.

Only a handful of local organizations are providing essential items including food, hygiene kits and blankets, but the aid is sporadic and does not cover

even the basic needs of the uprooted families, said MSF.

“So far the majority of the funds and attention of the international community (have) focused on Iraqi Kurdistan,” Fabio Forgiione, MSF’s head of mission in Iraq, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

“Having worked in Kirkuk now for years and having increased our activities in the last few months, we do see the possibility

for other international organizations to intervene.”

More than two million people have been displaced by an Islamic State offensive in Iraq this year and almost half of them have sought refuge in Kurdistan.

The remaining displaced Iraqis, especially in the Kirkuk region, have been neglected, said Forgiione.

“We do see large gaps in most of the fields of humanitarian assistance,” he

said.

Many people who are staying in unfinished buildings, disused farms or schools are suffering illnesses caused in part by limited access to basics such as water, sanitation and food.

Local authorities have started relocating some families to a new camp for refugees, but without basic services like water and sanitation, the camp is far from finished, said Forgiione.—Reuters

Suicide bombers kill up to seven in Somali town

MOGADISHU, 6 Dec — Suicide bombers attacked a restaurant in the town of Baidoa northwest of the Somali capital on Friday, killing up to seven people and wounding dozens of others, a police officer and a doctor said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility

but the Islamist group al-Shabaab, which wants to impose its strict interpretation of Islam on Somalia, often carries out such attacks. Friday evening is a busy time when many Somalis go out. “First a suicide bomber blew himself up at the entrance of the restaurant and then a

suicide car bomb followed when people converged to help,” Captain Nur Osman, a police officer, told Reuters by telephone. He said the death toll was at least five. Dr Abdullahi Ali, manager at Baidoa hospital, said the hospital had received seven dead with 34 others wounded in the two

blasts. Al-Shabaab rebels have been losing major Somali strongholds because of a military offensive by African Union and Somali troops this year, but have continued to stage hit-and-run bombings and shootings in Mogadishu and elsewhere in Somalia.

Reuters

US training of Syrian rebels still months away — coalition chief



Rebel fighters prepare to launch a Grad long distance shell towards forces loyal to Syria’s president Bashar Al-Assad located in the city of Jableh at the Syrian coast, from Jabal al-Akrad area in Syria’s northwestern Latakia Province on 4 Dec, 2014.

REUTERS

COPENHAGEN, 6 Dec — Western plans to train and equip non-jihadi rebels in Syria will not start until at least late February, a leading opposition figure said on Friday, depriving them of support they need to counter both rival insurgents and Syrian government forces.

The relatively moderate rebels loosely grouped under the “Free Syrian Army” label are struggling to hold their ground against much more militant groups such as Islamic State and the al-Qaeda-affiliated Nusra Front and against government forces. A US-led coalition is bombing Islamic State, which has

seized swathes of territory in Syria and Iraq. The West is also opposed to President Bashar al-Assad, though he has defied their demands to quit since Syria’s civil war erupted in 2011. Hadi al-Bahra, head of the Turkey-based Syrian opposition National Coalition, said the United States and its allies needed to find ways of increasing help to the moderate rebels.

“The issue is that the developing policies and procedures of putting this programme into operation take a very long time,” he said after meeting Denmark’s foreign minister in Copenhagen. “It is expected

to start by the end of February or end of March, which is a very long time to leave the Free Syrian Army at (its) current level of assistance”.

Syrian rebels say vetted groups have already received a small amount of US military support through a CIA-run programme.

The training programme is at the core of US President Barack Obama’s strategy in Syria, a multi-year plan to field local forces to halt and eventually roll back Islamic State fighters, while keeping American troops off the battlefield.

Reuters

Obama promises more aid, loan guarantees to Jordan

WASHINGTON, 6 Dec — President Barack Obama said on Friday that the United States and its allies are making slow but steady progress in the fight against Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria, and he pledged new aid to Jordan to grapple with Syrian refugees.

Obama and Jordan's King Abdullah made a show of solidarity against Islamic State, holding Oval Office talks that covered the gamut from Iran's nuclear programme to tensions between Israel and the Palestinians.

"We recognize that it's a long-term and extremely complex challenge, but it's one that we feel optimistic we'll be able to succeed at," Obama said of the Islamic State battle, with Abdullah seated at his side.

Beyond the military challenge, the two leaders



US President Barack Obama shakes hands with King Abdullah of Jordan in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, on 5 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

discussed some of Abdullah's ideas about organizing within Islam in a way to allow peaceful Muslims to over time "isolate and ultimately eradicate this strain" of the religion that has swept the region, Obama said.

Abdullah has absorbed into his country some 1.5 million refugees from Syria's civil war. To continue to deal with the challenge, Obama pledged \$1 billion in aid and a new loan guarantee to help Jordan.

Abdullah, in an interview on CBS' "This Morning" that aired on Friday, described the fight against Islamic State as akin to a third world war.

"We have to stand up

and say, 'This is the line that is drawn in the sand,'" he said. "It's clearly a fight between good and evil."

The White House talks also covered international efforts to persuade Iran to give up its nuclear programme, which Teheran denies is aimed at developing an atomic weapon. A deal eluded negotiators late last month, but the effort continues.

Obama said it was unclear whether Teheran would seize its chance for a deal in nuclear talks with western powers.

"I briefed His Majesty about our negotiations with Iran, and indicated to him that we would prefer no deal to a bad deal, but that we continue to hold out the possibility that we can eliminate the risk of Iran obtaining a nuclear weapon," Obama told reporters.

Reuters

JSDF plane heads for W Africa with 20,000 sets of protective gear

NAGOYA, 6 Dec — A Japan Air Self-Defence Force transport plane carrying 20,000 sets of anti-Ebola protective gear left for West Africa on Saturday.

The KC-767 aerial refueling plane took off from the ASDF's Komaki Air Base in Aichi Prefecture, central Japan, and is due to arrive Monday morning in Ghana's capital of Accra, which is serving as headquarters for the United Nations' mission against the Ebola outbreak.

This marks the first time an SDF plane has been sent abroad in the global fight against the deadly virus. Upon the plane's arrival, staff from Japan's Foreign Ministry and the Japan International Cooperation Agency will help hand the gear over to the mission.

The supplies are the first batch of the 700,000 sets of protective gear pledged by the Japanese government last month. The countries that have been hardest hit by the epidemic are Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Kyodo News

South Africans celebrate Mandela, rue broken promises

PRETORIA, 6 Dec — South Africa marked the first anniversary of former President Nelson Mandela's death on Friday with tributes to his struggle against white-minority rule and sober reflections on the country's failure to capitalise on the freedom he fought for.

Veterans of the anti-apartheid struggle lay wreaths at the foot of a towering statue of Mandela in Pretoria, where crowds earlier sang "Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika" (God Bless Africa), the evocative national anthem adopted after apartheid ended in 1994.

Across the country, crowds gathered to ring bells, sound sirens and blare vuvuzelas for 3 minutes and 7 seconds, before observing 3 minutes of silence, in a 6 minute and 7 second tribute to reflect Mandela's 67 years in public service.

But it was also a time to reflect on the disappointing pace of change since 1994 and vent frustration at President Jacob Zuma and his ruling African National Congress (ANC) party.

"This moment should call upon us to pause and to reflect on the life of South Africa's greatest son," said Acting President Cyril Ramaphosa, standing in for Zuma who is visiting China.

Ephraim Mabena, 55, a veteran of the anti-apartheid armed unit Mandela helped found, called him an inspiration and a legend, adding: "The sad part is that he is no longer with us."

South Africa's first black president, who spent 27 years in apartheid prisons before emerging to preach forgiveness and reconciliation, died last year aged 95 from a lung infection.

Twenty years after he swept the ANC to power, pledging to ensure universal access to quality education, jobs and houses, very little of the optimism that engulfed the country remains.

"Mandela was in a different struggle. The current leaders are in their own self-serving struggle," said student Paballo Nalane, 23, in a crowd at Nelson Mandela Square in Johannesburg.

A quarter of the working population - and 60 percent of the youth - is without a job. Society remains starkly unequal, fuelling crime and social unrest, and confidence in Zuma's leadership is at an all-time low.

"The eulogies will reveal that subliminally there is a continuing search for another Mandela," the *Business Day* newspaper wrote in an editorial.

Some found their own ways to remember Mandela, from celebrity cricket matches to art exhibitions. Tattoo parlours say they

have seen an uptick in business from clients wanting Mandela's image permanently inked on their skin.

Reuters



Graca Machel (bottom 3rd L), widow of former South African President Nelson Mandela, gives a speech before laying wreaths during the official commemoration ceremony marking his first death anniversary at the world's largest Mandela statue at the Union Buildings in Pretoria on 5 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

US lower house OKs A-bomb project park plan

WASHINGTON, 6 Dec — The US House of Representatives has endorsed a plan to designate facilities and land related to the country's secret atomic bomb programme during World War II as a national park.

The plan for a Manhattan Project National Historical Park was part of the National Defence Authorization Act, which the lower house passed on Thursday.

The move may displease survivors of the nuclear attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Japanese cities had asked the US government to reconsider the park plan in letters they sent to Washington in 2011 after the mayors learned about

the proposed move. The envisioned park will comprise facilities and land in Oak Ridge in Tennessee, Los Alamos in New Mexico and Hanford in Washington State.

The purpose of the plan is to "preserve and protect for the benefit of present and future generations the nationally significant historic resources associated with the Manhattan Project," according to the bill.

The Los Alamos complex was the centre of scientific efforts to develop an atomic bomb during the war. Enriched uranium that was used for the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima was produced in Oak Ridge and plutonium that was

used for the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki was produced in Hanford.

The United States dropped the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945. Casualties by the end of the year are estimated at 140,000 in Hiroshima and 74,000 in Nagasaki. The lower house voted down a similar bill on the Manhattan Project National Historical Park Act in September 2012 after it failed to muster the required two-thirds vote. US government officials have denied the plan represents any intention to glorify the development of atomic bombs.

Kyodo News

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

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

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1025) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.12.2014 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.

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AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING LINES**
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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1448)**

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT**
Phone No: 2301185

Five injured in southwest China earthquake

JINGGU, 6 Dec — Five people were injured after a 5.8-magnitude earthquake struck southwest China's Yunnan Province early Saturday morning, local authorities confirmed.

The tremor struck at 2:43 am at Jinggu County, Pu'er City. The epicenter was monitored at 23.3 degrees north latitude and 100.5 degrees east lon-

gitude. The quake hit at a depth of 9 kilometres, according to China Earthquake Networks Centre.

Zhang Jianguo, of Yunnan Disaster Prevention Research Institute, believed the quake a strong aftershock of an earlier one on 7 October that killed one person and injured more than 300. Epicenters of the two quakes were 10

kilometres apart. "After the previous quake, people at the zone were evacuated," he said, adding that the aftershock would not result in heavy casualties. *Xinhua* reporters felt strong shake on the 12th floor of a hotel in Jianggu. The tremor lasted for less than one minute. But it didn't cause apparent panic among the population.—*Xinhua*

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 7th December, 2014: Isolated light rain are likely in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Regions, Kayin and Mon States, weather will be partly cloudy 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 Lower Myanmar Areas.

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Swiss man overpowers rebel guard, escapes in Philippines

MANILA, 6 Dec — A Swiss wildlife photographer escaped from Islamist rebels in the Philippines on Saturday, killing one of them with a machete as he made a break for freedom during a clash between the insurgents and government troops, a Philippine officer said.

Rebels of the Abu Sayyaf group kidnapped Lorenzo Vinciguerra, 49, in the southern Philippines more than two years ago.

Vinciguerra made a grab for his guard's machete during a clash



Dutchman Elwold Horn (L), 52, and Swiss national Lorenzo Vinciguerra, 47 are seen in this undated handout photo released by Tawi-Tawi Police Provincial Command.—REUTERS

between troops and the rebels, Colonel Allan Arrojado, commander of the army's Joint Task Group on the island of Sulu, told reporters by mobile phone text message.

The Swiss man was wounded on his left cheek as he wrestled for the machete, finally getting hold of it and slashing the guard on the neck, Arrojado said.

"He dashed while other bandits were shooting at him," Arrojado said.

Vinciguerra was being held with Dutch na-

tional Elwold Horn, 52, and shouted at him to run but the Dutch man had been "very sick and very weak" and unable to escape, Arrojado said, adding there was no word on Horn's whereabouts.

Arrojado said Vinciguerra was in good condition but was not available for comment.

The military said five militants were killed and seven wounded in the firefight.

The two European wildlife photographers were taken captive in

Tawi-Tawi Province as they were sailing on a bird-watching trip in February 2012.

The Abu Sayyaf is holding several other foreign and Filipino hostages.

The military launched an offensive against the Abu Sayyaf in October after the rebels released two German nationals they seized in April.

The Abu Sayyaf are the most notorious of several rebels factions in south of Philippines.

Reuters

Trapped workers rescued from tunnel in east China

FUZHOU, 6 Dec — The 21 workers trapped in a collapsed tunnel in east China's Fujian Province for more than a day were rescued on Saturday morning, said local authorities.

Rescuers began pulling them out at 11:32 am. At a local hospital, their condition was described as fine. A 30 metre expressway tunnel was being expanded to accommodate the expressway linking Xiamen City in Fujian and Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province in Longyan City, when

it collapsed at about 0:30 am Friday.

Among the 21 workers buried inside, 16 were from central China's Hubei province, including three who arrived only a week ago. Jin Min led them to work in the project.

"When I finished my shift on Thursday evening and left at 9 pm, there was nothing unusual in the tunnel," Jin recalled.

He was awakened at midnight by a noise. "The window was shaking and people were shouting out-

side," he said. "I knew something bad had happened." About 500 or 600 rescuers arrived and Jin heard the trapped workers knocking on a pipe at 3:30 pm to confirm that the vent was working properly. Two hours later, he heard their voices. The trapped workers also managed to send out a piece of red cloth to tell the outside that they were safe. "I had been worried about them. How should I tell their families," Jin said. "Now I feel relieved."—*Xinhua*



Paratrooper Mike Johnston and his families are seen emotional after returning from Afghanistan at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, the United States, on 5 Dec, 2014. XINHUA

Snowden film 'CitizenFour' wins top documentary award



Director Laura Poitras of the best feature award nominee "Citizenfour" poses at the International Documentary Association's 2014 IDA Documentary Awards in Los Angeles on 5 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 6 Dec — "CitizenFour," filmmaker Laura Poitras's documentary about National Security Agency whistleblower Edward Snowden, was given the top award for best

feature by the International Documentary Association on Friday. The IDA award for "CitizenFour" follows the film's best documentary win at the New York Film Critics Circle Awards

this week. It was also nominated for an Independent Spirit Award last month and is among 15 films advancing in the Oscars best documentary race.

"CitizenFour" gives a fly-on-the-wall account of Snowden's tense days in a Hong Kong hotel and encounters with journalists as newspapers published details of NSA programmes that gathered data from the Internet activities and phone records of millions of Americans and dozens of world leaders.

US filmmaker Poitras shared a Pulitzer Prize this year for her role in publicizing the Snowden documents. She was awarded IDA's Courage Under Fire award last year for her "conspicuous bravery in

the pursuit of truth."

The IDA, a 30-year-old non-profit organization that aims to support documentary films and culture, also bestowed honours on veteran actor-filmmaker and Sundance Institute founder Robert Redford, who was given the career achievement award.

Cable network Showtime's "Time of Death" was named best limited series, while best short documentary went to HBO Films' "Tashi and the Monk," about a Buddhist monk and his 5-year-old charge Tashi. Last year's IDA best feature winner, Jehane Noujaim's "The Square," was nominated for an Oscar this year, losing out to "20 Feet From Stardom."—Reuters

Papon contributes Rs 17 lakh to Assam CM's Relief Fund



GUWAHATI, 6 Dec — Popular singer Angaraag Mahanta, better known as Papon, has contributed Rs 17 lakh to Assam Chief Minister's Relief Fund for flood affected people.

The fund for the flood affected people of the state has been raised through a musical concert held in New Delhi on 19 October last, Papon said while handing over the cheque to Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi here last night.

The concert has been conceptualised by Bollywood music composer Vishal Dadlani and Papon, the 'Happy Ending' and 'Special 26' playback singer to name a few, with support from popular artistes Arijit Singh, Harshdeep Kaur, Neeti Mohan and Shilpa Rao from the entertainment industry. It evoked tremendous response from the public. Gogoi appreciated the initiative of Papon and others for the noble cause.—PTI

Frustrating to prove yourself everytime in showbiz: Rose Byrne

LONDON, 6 Dec — Bridesmaids' actress Rose Byrne sometimes thinks about quitting acting because she finds it frustrating having to prove herself time and again. Byrne, 35, said she turned her back on show business because she does not think she would find anything else she enjoyed as much, reported Contactmusic.

"I've always felt the need to prove (myself) again and again, and that can take its toll. On a frustrating day, it's like, 'Ugh, I want to do something else,' but I know essentially it's what I love to do the most, even when there are times that it's hard," she said.

The 'Damages' star thinks acting is more of a



Rose Byrne: I've always felt the need to prove (myself) again and again, and that can take its toll.—PTI

beauty pageant for women these days and she feels men are still offered better roles. "(Glenn Close and I) talk about how (acting) is a completely different game now. There wasn't as much scrutiny and it wasn't such a beauty pageant before.

"It's hard, especially in this business and especially for women. I hate to

be a broken record about it, but if I compared my career to my male contemporaries, I feel like they get a lot more opportunities to play lead roles and have a potential story in something, whereas women's roles as the wife or the mother are limited. It's a harder thing for women to navigate," she said.—PTI

Sam Smith, Beyonce, Pharrell lead Grammys with six nods each

LOS ANGELES, 6 Dec — British soul-pop artist Sam Smith, R&B star Beyonce and singer-producer Pharrell Williams led artists with six Grammy nominations each, including nods for the top prize of Album of the Year, the Recording Academy said on Friday.

Smith's "In the Lonely Hour," Beyonce's self-titled album and Pharrell's "Girl" joined rocker Beck's "Morning Phase" and British singer Ed Sheeran's "X" in the Album of the Year category, announced during the CBS broadcast of "A Very Grammy Christmas" concert late Friday.

Smith, 22, picked up nods in the three top Grammy categories including Record of the Year and Song of the Year for his song "Stay with Me." He follows in the heels of fellow Brit-

ish soul-pop singer Adele, who won all six of her Grammy nominations in 2013 including the top three awards.

Smith is a contender for the coveted Best New Artist, alongside Australian rapper Iggy Azalea, British pop-rockers Bastille, country singer Brandy Clark and California sister trio Haim.

Record of the Year nominees include Taylor Swift's "Shake It Off," Meghan Trainor's "All About That Bass," Iggy Azalea and Charli XCX's "Fancy" and Sia's "Chandelier."

Song of the Year also includes Swift's "Shake It Off," Trainor's "All About That Bass" and Sia's "Chandelier," alongside Hozier's "Take Me to the Church."

Pharrell, 41, earned Grammy nominations for his own album "Girl" and



Pop star Taylor Swift (L) and British soul-pop artist Sam Smith perform during the 42nd American Music Awards in Los Angeles, California in this combination photo from 23 Nov, 2014 file photos.—REUTERS



his production work on Sheeran's "X" and Beyonce's self-titled record.

Beyonce, 33, became the most-nominated artist

in Grammy history with 52 nominations. Her self-titled album, released without fanfare last December, is one of this year's big-

gest-selling records with 2 million US copies sold.

Swift's "1989" album, which has sold more than 2 million US copies since

October, did not land any nominations, but its song "Shake It Off" picked up three nods.

The soundtrack from Disney's Oscar-winning film "Frozen," the year's top-selling album with more than 3.5 million US copies sold, scored nominations in the categories for music written for visual media.

The Recording Academy comprises music industry professionals who select Grammy contenders from music released between 1 Oct, 2013 and 30 Sept, 2014.

In an effort to draw younger viewers to the annual Grammys ceremony in Los Angeles on 8 Feb, 2015, the Recording Academy chose to announce the nominees in 82 of its 83 categories throughout Friday morning on its Twitter feed.

Reuters

GENERAL

In Memoriam

In commemoration of the memory of my late father Dr. San Baw (29/6/1922-7/12/1984), orthopedic surgeon, pioneer of ivory hip prosthesis earning him the name as ivory prince among his friends and colleagues and developer of on new technique for treating infantile pseudoarthrosis of the tibia (disease found among children of having extra shin bones) known informally as San Baw's technique, who passed away thirty years ago on 7 December 1984 and in memory of my late mother Professor Dr. Myint Myint Khin, (15/12/1923-19/6/2014) physician, retired professor of medicine and author of many educated books both in Myanmar and English of the 6-month anniversary of her passing away on 19/12/2014.

From their loving son,
Dr. Myint Zan
Professor of Law
Faculty of Law
Multimedia University,
Malacca, Malaysia.

US declines to upgrade protections for grizzly bears in Idaho, Montana



A grizzly bear roams through the Hayden Valley in Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, on 18 May, 2014. — REUTERS

SALMON, (Idaho) 6 Dec — Federal wildlife managers on Friday declined to upgrade protections for a population of grizzly bears in the remote reaches of Idaho and northwest Montana that numbers fewer than 50, and which conservationists say are going extinct.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service said the out-sized, hump-shouldered bears that roam the Cabinet Mountains and Yaak River drainage in the Northern Rockies are likely to reach a recovery goal of 100 without changing their status to endangered from threatened

under the federal Endangered Species Act.

The finding comes after the Montana-based Alliance for the Wild Rockies sued in April to force federal wildlife managers to tighten restrictions on logging, road construction and other human activity on public land that make up the bears' habitat.

The Fish and Wildlife Service had for years determined that classifying the bears as endangered was warranted, but other imperiled animals took precedence.

The agency last year

published a report showing that the grizzlies that range across the so-called Cabinet-Yaak ecosystem were declining at an annual rate of about 0.8 percent and that the percentage of bears unlawfully or accidentally killed each year by humans tripled by 1999-2012 compared with 1982-1998.

Yet, in a decision published in Friday's Federal Register, the Fish and Wildlife Service said the population's status has been improving for the past several years. "The population trend has now changed from declining to stable," the agency wrote.

Mike Garrity, head of Alliance for the Wild Rockies, contended the population is doomed to extinction.

"The federal government has written off these grizzlies but we won't let them disappear on our watch," said Garrity, who on Friday notified the Obama administration that the group would sue over violations of the Endangered Species Act.

Reuters

Equal pay for women many World Cups away, says FIFA



FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke addresses a news conference after a meeting of the FIFA executive committee in Zurich on 26 Sept, 2014.

REUTERS

OTTAWA, 6 Dec — Women should not expect to be paid the same as men for many World Cups to come, said FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke on Friday, adding that any comparisons between the two tournaments was not worth debating. Valcke, who will conduct the 2015 women's World Cup draw on Saturday, noted that women will see prize money jump from the \$10 million at the last World Cup in Germany to \$15 million next year in Canada but it will be a long, long time before there will be the same type of pay parity that women enjoy at the tennis grand slams.

"The comparison between the prize money of the men's World Cup in Brazil to the women's World Cup in Canada, that's not even a question I will answer because it is nonsense," Valcke said at a news conference "We played 30th (men's) World Cup in 2014 and we are playing the seventh women's World Cup so things can grow step-by-step. "We are still another 23 World Cups before potentially women should receive the same amount as men.—Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(7-12-2014, Sunday)

6:00 am

* Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:15 am

* Physical Exercise

7:00 am

* News / Weather Report

7:20 am

* MRTV's Youth Programme

8:00 am

* News / International News

8:30 am

* Amazing World

9:30 am

* Documentary (ASEAN)

10:00 am

* News

12:00 noon

* News/ International News / Weather Report

12:30 pm

* Round up of The Week's International News

12:45 pm

* Myanmar Movie

3:15 pm

* Mono Classical Song

4:15 pm

* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) —Second Years (Mathematics)

5:15 pm

* Sing & Enjoy

6:35 pm

* Pyi Thu Ni Ti

7:20 pm

* Weekly Entertainment News

8:00 pm

* News/ International News / Weather Report

8:35 pm

* Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)

9:00 pm

* News

* Tamyethnar

* Takwetsar

* Tasty Trip

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MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(7-12-14 07:00 am~

8 -12-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Today Myanmar "New Comer: Swensen's (Ice Cream)"
- * World News
- * Parents' Day
- * Local News
- * The Writer "Chit Oo Nyo" (Part-II)
- * World News
- * Kay Tu Mar Lar "The Decision"
- * Local News
- * To The Land of Countless Temples — Bagan Trip (Episode-1)
- * World News
- * Next Weekend
- * Local News
- * Traditional Costumes: Trend of Kachin Dress
- * World News
- * In the Studio : Pyi Soe (or) Hay Thin
- * Local News
- * The Architectural Heritage
- * World News
- * Traffic Police
- * Local News
- * One Heritage...One Festival
- * World News
- * Sagaing: Youth Leader
- * Local News
- * Aung Thamar Di Gold Shop
- * World News
- * Thread Charm "A Kayin Threading Ceremony"
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Performance Art
- * World News
- * In the Studio "Na Di Htike"

Only 60 years of farming left if soil degradation continues

ROME, 6 Dec — Generating three centimetres of top soil takes 1,000 years, and if current rates of degradation continue all of the world's top soil could be gone within 60 years, a senior UN official said on Friday.

About a third of the world's soil has already been degraded, Maria-Helena Semedo of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) told a forum marking World Soil Day.

The causes of soil destruction include chemical-heavy farming techniques, deforestation which increases erosion, and global

warming. The earth under our feet is too often ignored by policymakers, experts said. "Soils are the basis of life," said Semedo, FAO's deputy director general of natural resources. "Ninety five percent of our food comes from the soil."

Unless new approaches are adopted, the global amount of arable and productive land per person in 2050 will be only a quarter of the level in 1960, the FAO reported, due to growing populations and soil degradation.

Soils play a key role in absorbing carbon and filter-

ing water, the FAO reported. Soil destruction creates a vicious cycle, in which less carbon is stored, the world gets hotter, and the land is further degraded.

"We are losing 30 soccer fields of soil every minute, mostly due to intensive farming," Volkert Engelsman, an activist with the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements told the forum at the FAO's headquarters in Rome. "Organic (farming) may not be the only solution but it's the single best (option) I can think of."—Reuters



Carmen (R), a volunteer at San Juan de Dios Hospital, weighs a baby in Caracas, Venezuela, on 4 Dec, 2014. The International Volunteer Day is celebrated on 5 Dec, annually. — XINHUA

Rooney and Van Persie may heap more misery on Southampton

LONDON, 6 Dec — Southampton will be hoping Manchester United manager Louis van Gaal does not pair Wayne Rooney and Robin van Persie together in attack for Monday night's Premier League fixture at St Mary's.

Van Gaal said on Friday that Rooney would return from the knee injury that ruled him out of Wednesday's 2-1 home win over Stoke City.

The United captain

and Dutchman Van Persie have enjoyed a lot of success against Southampton in the past and may team up again, although Van Gaal can also call upon fit-again Colombia forward Radamel Falcao.

Rooney has struck five goals in as many starts for United against the south-coast club and Van Persie has also scored five against them including a hat-trick at St Mary's two years ago.

Third-placed Southampton have lost their last

two games, against Manchester City and Arsenal, but Van Gaal believes they can wind up in the Champions League qualifying positions at the end of the season.

"They have a very good squad," the Dutchman told a news conference on Friday.

"I think they are able to finish in the first four but that's also because I believe in the manager, in Ronald Koeman. I believe the cohesion there is good."

The pair were involved in a high-profile bustup when they were at Ajax Amsterdam a decade ago.

"My relationship with Ronald Koeman doesn't have to be described, that's private," said Van Gaal.

"We play against Southampton and we should talk about the team rather than the coach. After the game we can reflect on the relationship."

United, one point behind Southampton in fourth spot, will be without Argentina winger Angel Di Maria because of a hamstring injury.—Reuters



Manchester United's Juan Mata (L) celebrates his goal with teammates Robin van Persie (C) and Wayne Rooney during their English Premier League soccer match against Crystal Palace at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England, on 8 Nov, 2014.

REUTERS

Galaxy seek record fifth MLS title in Donovan's send-off

CARSON, 6 Dec — The LA Galaxy hope to give Landon Donovan a fairytale finish to a storied career when they shoot for a record fifth MLS title in Sunday's championship game versus the New England Revolution.

The league's all-time top scorer announced in August that will retire at the end of this season, putting added focus on the playoffs with each tie potentially his last.

The Galaxy beat Real Salt Lake and Seattle Sounders to reach their ninth MLS Cup and their better regular season record means they will host the final in what is sure to be an emotional day for the 32-year-old Donovan.

But Galaxy's Irish international forward Robbie Keane, named the league's most valuable player this week, believes there is no risk of distraction.

"If anyone deserves to go out on a high, it's certainly Landon because of all that he's done for this league and the US national team, but it's not going into our thinking," said the

former Tottenham striker.

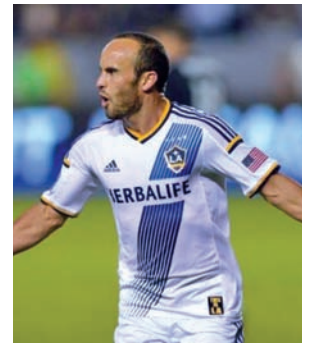
"(His retirement) is something that has been going on for years and it hasn't affected us since ... I just hope that since it's his last game that he'll put forth his best performance and do as well as he can."

The Galaxy and DC United have both won four titles while the Revolution have lost each of their four previous trips to the championship game, including losses to LA in 2002 and 2005.

Donovan and Keane were both on target in a 3-1 win over Houston Dynamo in the championship game in 2012 while the former grabbed the winner in the 2011 final versus Houston.

But while well aware of the threat presented by Keane and Donovan, Revolution coach Jay Heaps, who featured in all of his club's MLS Cup losses as a player, says his team can't over-focus on big-name opponents.

"If you focus on individuals then someone else is going to beat you," said Heaps. "It has to be a group defending a group."



Los Angeles Galaxy forward Landon Donovan (10) reacts after scoring his third goal for a hat trick against the Real Salt Lake during the second half at StubHub Centre on 9 Nov, 2014.

REUTERS

New England certainly present plenty of threats of their own as German-born US international Jermaine Jones is a dominant presence in midfield while Lee Nguyen provides a creative spark.

In attack, Revolution forward Charlie Davies, whose career nearly ended after a horrific car crash in 2009, has four goals in four playoff games and is a predator in the penalty area.

Reuters

Rio 2016 Games progress being made despite delays

MONACO, 6 Dec — Preparations for the Rio de Janeiro 2016 Summer Olympics are progressing well, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said on Friday, with organizers making up for lost time 20 months ahead of the Games.

The city has been running behind schedule since being awarded the event in 2009 as the first-ever South American hosts.

Earlier this year the IOC urged Rio to speed up, vice-president John Coates calling preparations the worst he had experienced.

"The general feeling is progress is continuing to be made," said IOC spokesman Mark Adams after organizers made a presentation to his Executive Board on Friday.

"We are in that same phase as we were in London (2012), as we are in all Games. With less than two years to go it's all



The Olympic Flag flies in front of "Christ the Redeemer" statue during a blessing ceremony in Rio de Janeiro on 19 Aug, 2012.—REUTERS

about delivery now."

Construction delays have plagued the build-up with the IOC repeatedly calling for improved collaboration between the various levels of government and organizers.

Work on the Deodoro

Olympic Park started late and there have also been problems with the golf course due to its environmental impact, although the issue was settled last month with a court judge giving the green light for work to continue, accord-

ing to Games chief Carlos Nuzman.

"This issue is now finished and grass planting will be completed by the end of the year," Nuzman told reporters.

"We are on track now. We still have some issues but we are within the time frame," added Nuzman who is also an IOC member.

There have been delays in completing the International Broadcast Centre (IBC) and organizers are also struggling with water pollution at the sailing venue but it will not affect test events, said Adams.

"As for the sporting venues all the test events will happen on schedule," he added. "For the IBC there is a project review next week where that will be discussed."

Nuzman played down the IBC delays, saying the building was almost complete.

Reuters

Pele says he has recovered, thanks fans in video

SAO PAULO, 6 Dec — Brazilian football great Pele said he was in good health in a video recorded at the Sao Paulo hospital where he has been treated for a urinary tract infection.

In the video, released on Friday, Pele smiled and strummed a guitar with family members by his side before assuring fans that he had recovered.

"I know everybody worried about my health, but I'm OK," he said in English, extending an invitation to fans around the world to visit the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

"We're going to participate in the Games together," he said.

er," he said.

The three-time World Cup champion has been in the hospital for nearly two weeks and alarmed many when he was moved into a wing used for more intensive care. In the hospital's most recent update, doctors said on Thursday that his health was improving and they had removed a catheter used for dialysis.

The 74-year-old Pele, born Edson Arantes do Nascimento, has suffered a series of health problems in the past decade that, among other things, have led to emergency eye surgery for a detached retina and a hip replacement.—Reuters



General view of Albert Einstein Hospital where Brazilian soccer legend Pele is in the intensive care unit in Sao Paulo on 28 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS