

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presents prizes to lifelong national literary award winners



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presents lifelong national literary award to Dr Khin Aye (Maung Khin Min-Danuphyu).—MNA



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presents lifelong national literary award to U Myint Kyi (Takatho Myat Soe).—MNA



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presents lifelong national literary award to Sithu U Tin Hlaing (Ledwintha Saw Chit).—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Dec — Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham delivered a speech at the prize presentation ceremony for Lifelong National Literary Award and National Literary Award winners at the

National Theatre in Yangon on Sunday.

Also present at the ceremony were Vice Speaker

of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, union ministers, the chief min-

ister of Yangon Region, deputy ministers, the commander of Yangon Command, officials, prize win-

ners and their families.

In his speech, the vice president said that doyen (See page 3)

Myanmar becomes 171st State Party to BWC

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Dec — H.E. U Thant Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, who is currently in Geneva, Switzerland, participating in the Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (BWC), deposited Myanmar's Instrument of Ratification on the BWC with the representatives of the Depositary States, namely, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, on 1 December 2014.

dom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United of America, as Depositary States, welcomed Myanmar as a new State Party to the Convention. Deputy Minister U Thant Kyaw also took the floor thanking the member states, particularly the Depositary States and the Chair for the announcement and also expressing Myanmar's readiness to work with fellow States Parties to further strengthen the effectiveness of the BWC.

Myanmar has now become the 171st State Party to the BWC with effect from 1 December 2014.

MNA

The wholesale markets target development of undeveloped sector and improvement of price predictability and farmers' incomes.

PHOTO:
AYE MIN SOE

At the forenoon session of the Meeting of States Parties to the BWC on 4 December 2014, Chairman Ambassador Urs Schmid of Switzerland announced that Myanmar had become a State Party to the Convention effective 1 December 2014. Afterwards, the delegations of the Russian Federation, the United King-

Tenders invited to establish fruit & vegetable wholesale market in Yangon

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 7 Dec — Yangon Region Government has invited tenders for a project to establish a wholesale fruit and vegetable market in Yangon, which would be the first of its kind.

Yangon City Development Committee recent announced that the Yangon Region Government will implement the project under the public-private

partnership arrangement and will allow the tender winner to use 85-acres of YCDC-owned land in Danyingon, Insein Township, to establish a modern wholesale market, in return for investing in the project and contributing technical expertise in running and designing the market.

Besides, the winner will have to form it as a public company, selling shares to farmers, traders and other people, according to the announcement.

The investment for the wholesale market is huge and its establishment is aimed not just at making profits, but also at building bridges among farmers, consumers, local traders and exporters, said an official of YCDC.

In the wholesale market, there will be brokerages, a truck terminal and wholesale area, a fruit and vegetable cleaning facility, a building for selling freshwater and dried fish, another one for selling meat and

sea fish, cold storage facilities, retail and wholesale markets for farmers, a fuel refilling station, staff quarters, and public restrooms, according to the announcement.

Local companies are invited to submit their tenders by 3 pm, 1 January, 2015 to YCDC, together with applications for technical and conceptual designs for the project, plans for running the project phase by phase and plans for environmental conservation.

The fruit and vegetable wholesale market in Yangon is a part of plans unveiled by the Union Government in February, 2014 to establish such markets in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay and Muse.

As none currently exist in Myanmar, farmers often face losses from sudden changes in prices due to lack of information and market access, Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan said when the government unveiled the plan.—GNLM



SPSU confers degrees on student monks



MANDALAY, 7 Dec—State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon/Mandalay) under the Department of Promotion and Propaga-

tion of the Sasana held the 20th Sasana Taxila Convocation at the convocation hall of the university on 62nd street in Aungmyeth-

azan Township, Mandalay, on 6 December.

On behalf of the Chief Minister of Mandalay Region, Mandalay Region

Minister for Forestry, Mining and Religious Affairs U Than Soe Myint and on behalf of the Union Minister for Religious Affairs, Director-General U Khaing Aung supplicated on religious affairs.

Hsinmin Monastery Abbot Bhaddanta Obhasabhivamsa, who is chairman of the central management committee of the State Pariyatti Sasana Universities and vice chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, and rector Sayadaw conferred Ph.D degrees on two monks, MA degrees on 25 monks and BA degrees on 88 monks.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Model plot of paddy plantation yields over 100 baskets of paddy

TATKON, 7 Dec—The Thukha Hmwe paddy plantation was harvested on the model plot of a 50-acre plantation in Nyaunglunt Village-tract in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on 6 December.

The model plot yielded 121.12 baskets of paddy per acre.

The harvest ceremony was attended by Tatkon Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Maung Oo and Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myint Shwe.

Meanwhile, Nay Pyi Taw Council member and Township Administrator



U Kan Saw Hlaing met the factory manager of Dahatgon Sugar Mill and

sugarcane growers and discussed arrangements for growing sugarcane to

be supplied to the mill.

Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon Township IPRD)

Tatkon Township inaugurates newly repaved road



TATKON, 7 Dec—The inauguration ceremony of Seintahtay asphalt road was held in Saya San Ward, Tatkon, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on 6 December.

Council member U Myint Swe explained about regional development.

The council mem-

bers and officials cut the ribbon to open the repaved road.

The road is 0.38 mile long and 12 feet wide. The Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee asphalted the road, spending K37.15 million funded by Nay Pyi Taw Council.

Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon Township IPRD)

ChaungU residents join mass walk activities

CHAUNGU, 7 Dec—Mass walk activities were carried out in ChaungU, Sagaing Region, on the morning of 6 December.

Township departmental personnel, members of social organizations, teachers, students and other local people, totalling over 600, participated in

the mass walk activities for the first week of December.

They walked along the route from the Basic Education High School to Aungchantha Village.

Officials served participants with refreshments and traditional snacks.

Ei Ei Soe (ChaungU)



Electricians substitute power lines with new ones in Chanayethazan Tsp



MANDALAY, 7 Dec—In Myanmar Integrated Energy Company, electricians led by Township Electrical Engineer U Aung Kyaw Lin of Chanayethazan Township substituted power lines with new ones at the corner of 60th and 32nd streets and 58th street between 27th and 28th streets on 5 December.

With the assistance of

Myanmar Integrated Energy Company, electricians led by Township Electrical Engineer U Aung Kyaw Lin of Chanayethazan Township substituted power lines with new ones at the corner of 60th and 32nd streets and 58th street between 27th and 28th streets on 5 December.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

NATIONAL

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham . . .

(from page 1)

literati are more astute in their way of thinking than other common people and are the people who honestly view the world as it stands in order to present the truth as they view it.

So they are required to possess an inborn talent to understand things from the worldly and heavenly outlooks, the vice president added.

Then, the vice president pointed out that it is important to strengthen literature for the promotion and preservation of national culture as it has been proved as a truth in history that extinction of a literature leads to the disappearance of the people of that literature.

Afterwards, the vice president urged doyen literati to write literature that promote the cultures and traditions of ethnic national races whose social and economic conditions and

language and culture lag behind others and promote the image of the nation in the new age under the new political system by following the ethic of doyen literati and preserving the tradition of serving the interest of the people and the nation.

Then, the vice president presented lifelong national literary awards to Dr Khin Aye (Maung Khin Min-Danuphyu), Sithu U Tin Hlaing (Ledwintha Saw Chit) and U Myint Kyi (Takatho Myat Soe) and national literary awards for novels to writer Naing Zaw, national literary award for collected short stories to writer Ma Wai (Institute of Economics) and national literary award for collected poems to poet Maung Lwan Nang (Sabaingon).

Afterwards, the vice speaker, union ministers, the chief minister and deputy ministers present-

ed prizes to other national literary award and Sarpay-beikman transcript award winners.

After the prize presentation ceremony, the vice president and party posed for a documentary photo with the award winners and viewed round the books and photos displayed at the ceremony.

On behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Tun Tun Naung presented cash awards of K 1 million each to three lifelong national literary award winners, who also won K 2.5 million each for the award.

National literary award winners won K 1.5 million each and the first, the second and the third Sarpaybeikman transcript award winners won K 700,000, K 500,000 and K 300,000 respectively.

MNA

Thura U Shwe Mann discusses regional development with locals in Daik-U



Thura U Shwe Mann greets cordially with local people in Daik-U.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Dec — Speaker of the Pyidaungsu

Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann met with local people and held discussions on regional development in Daik-U, Bago Region, on Sunday.

Town elders reported to Thura U Shwe Mann on regional development and he fulfilled the requirements.

Then, Thura U Shwe Mann briefed the locals on tasks being carried out at the parliament including

pay raise for government employees, rules and regulations on minimum wages for workers in the private sector, protection and promotion of the interests of peasant farmers and urged the officials to contribute to regional development tasks.

Then, Thura U Shwe Mann and party went to Thirimingalar monastery and donated offertories to the monks. —MNA

RBE trains launched along Strand Road

YANGON, 7 Dec — Myanmar Railways inaugurated a new RBE passenger train line along Strand road in Yangon on Sunday.

The new train line aims to reduce traffic congestion, to transport the public in a short time and to enable foreign tourists to view the scene along the rail line.

The new rail line was formally commissioned by Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung, Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Than Htay and Chief Minister U Myint Swe of Yangon Region near Nanthida Jetty on

Pansodan Road at 7 am.

Two RBE trains with 60 seats each ply along the new line from Pazundaung Yekyaw to Mawtin Htawligwyay. The train fare is K 100 each for eastern and western sections of the rail line.

“The RBE trains will enable the public to enjoy the scene of Yangon along Strand Road and connect Ahlone Township in the west of Yangon and Pazundaung Township in the east of Yangon. Although they cannot reduce the traffic congestion completely,



Newly launched RBE train seen in downtown Yangon.—PHOTO: SAW THEIN WIN

it will be able to ease the traffic jams to some extent,” said General Manager (Lower Myanmar)

U Tun Aung Thin of the Ministry of Rail Transportation.

Saw Thein Win

KBZ boss named Asian banker for 2014



YANGON, 7 Dec — The chairman of the Kanbawza Bank Ltd has been named “Banker of the Year in Asia 2014” by World Finance, a London-based group, at the London Stock Exchange in London, on 1 December, sources said.

U Aung Ko Win, KBZ chairman, accepted the award and expressed words of appreciation.

The World Finance group also presented two awards to the Kanbawza Bank, “Best Commercial Bank in Myanmar 2014”

and “Best Banking Group in Myanmar 2014”.

World Finance said it awarded KBZ Bank for its best services and excellent customer care, adding that the bank boasts good management as a leading banking facility with the highest number of branches across the country.

Kanbawza Bank also contributes to public services, the London-based group said. Last year, the bank won two awards, namely “Best Commercial Bank in Myanmar 2013 and Best Banking Group in Myanmar 2013.—MNA

Officials inspect trial run of traffic lights with Japanese technology which uses centralized traffic control system at a junction in Yangon.

PHOTO: SAW THEIN WIN



YANGON, 7 Dec — Ten traffic lights which have been replaced with Japanese technology traffic control system in Yangon will undergo trials in second week of December, according to the Yangon City Development Committee.

The work on installing

the centralized traffic control system near Inlya Lake and Myagyuntha is scheduled to complete on 8 December, and on completion of it, the ten traffics will be on trial run, said an official of the YCDC.

A memory system of the newly installed traffic lights will collect traffic data, send it to the central control system and run the traffic lights automatically without the help of traffic police, said Mr Satoru Ogawa, CEO of Wako Company.

The new system can ease the traffic congestion if the people follow the signals, he added.

Saw Thein Win



Local students participate in an anti-corruption campaign in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 7 Dec, 2014. The International Anti-corruption Day is observed on 9 December, annually.—XINHUA

6.0 magnitude quake strikes off eastern Indonesia, no potential of tsunami

JAKARTA, 7 Dec — An undersea quake measuring 6.0 Richter scale jolted Maluku, in eastern parts of Indonesia earlier on Sunday, but it is not potential for tsunami, the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said here.

The quake rocked at

05:05 am Jakarta Time Sunday (22:05 GMT) with epicenter at 165 km north-west Maluku Tenggara Barat of Maluku province and with the depth at 133 km under sea bed, an official of the agency told *Xinhua* over phone.

The USGS also re-

ported the quake was at 6.0 magnitude.

Indonesia is prone to quake as it lies on a vulnerable quake-hit zone so called “the Pacific Ring of Fire.” Mid of last month a powerful quake struck the area and trigger a small tsunami.—*Xinhua*

Protesters vow to continue fight to scrap controversial secrecy law

Tokyo, 7 Dec — Protesters against a controversial secrecy law that was enacted exactly a year ago vowed on Saturday to continue their fight to have it scrapped, amid concern the legislation undermines the public’s right to know.

With the law that will toughen penalties on leakers of state secrets set to take effect on Wednesday, about 1,600 people gathered in Tokyo’s Hibiya Park and later marched in the Ginza district, while around 700 demonstrators took to the streets of Nagoya.

Lawyer Yuichi Kaido, an organizer of the Tokyo rally, said civic groups must remain vigilant as the secrecy law enters into force to ensure activities continue to be monitored at military bases and nuclear power plants in Japan.

“We will not cower and will keep fighting for the abolition of the law,” Kaido said.

The law provides for imprisonment of up to 10 years for leaking information related to defence, foreign policy, counterespionage and counterterrorism that is deemed to cause considerable damage to Japan’s national security.

Shinji Suzuki, a 22-year-old university student who joined the protest, said he is worried that only a small number of young people took part. “I’d like to tell my friends what I experienced at an occasion like this and continue the opposition movement,” he said.

In Nagoya, Takahiko Ido, 68, said he will not give up on seeking the repeal of the legislation. “We should not make society dark by allowing the suppression of people’s right to know and freedom of speech,” he said.

Mami Nonogaki, 53, said the secrecy law should be discussed as a major issue in the upcoming 14

December House of Representatives election.

In Hiroshima, lawyer Hajime Kawaguchi told a rally that when he requested the disclosure of information related to the Self-Defence Forces’ activities, only documents with sections blacked out were released.

“When the law takes effect, even these documents cannot be released, making it impossible for us to verify” the SDF’s activities, he said. “It will be a dangerous situation because irresponsible decisions can be made with regard to SDF dispatches overseas.” In Fukuoka, lawyer Akiko Maruyama pointed out that Japanese embassies could limit the disclosure of information concerning public safety in conflict areas, citing diplomatic confidentiality. “The overseas activities (of Japanese civic groups) may be scaled down,” she said.

Kyodo News

Eight killed in illegal drug-related attack in S Philippines

DAVAO CITY, (Philippines) 7 Dec— Eight people were killed in an attack linked to illegal drugs activities in a southern Philippine city early on Sunday, authorities said.

Four balaclava-clad gunmen stormed a house in a community in Saray village, Iligan City in Mindanao’s Lanao del Norte before daybreak and started shooting, said Gervacio Balmaceda Jr, deputy police chief of the city.

Balmaceda said the male victims were killed at the scene, suffering gunshot wounds to the head and body.

Authorities suspected the killings may have been triggered by a drug deal that went awry and that investigations were now being conducted, Balmaceda said.

Gangland-style killings, mostly carried out by motorcycle-riding assailants are common in many parts of the Philippines where illegal drug dealings and other criminal activities are rampant.—*Xinhua*

Typhoon howls through Philippines, more than 1 million flee

MANILA, 7 Dec — A powerful typhoon tore through the central Philippines on Sunday, bringing howling winds that toppled trees and power poles and cut off communications in areas where thousands were killed by a massive storm just over a year ago.

More than 1 million people had fled to shelters away from coastal areas and landslide-prone villages by the time Typhoon Hagupit made landfall on Saturday night, in what a UN agency said was one of the world’s biggest peacetime evacuations.

Hagupit, which days earlier had reached category 5 “super typhoon” strength as it churned across the Pacific Ocean, further weakened on Sunday to category 2 as it made a second landfall at Cataingan town in the south of Masbate island.

“We are now experiencing very strong winds and heavy rains,” Wilton Co, mayor of Cataingan town, told a radio interview. “I asked everyone to stay indoors and move inland to higher ground, hoping that we will have zero casualties.”

The typhoon was mov-

ing west northwest at 15 kph (9 mph), with sustained winds of 140 kph (86 mph) and gusts of up to 170 kph (105 mph), the Philippine weather bureau PAGASA said. It was expected to pass around 120 km south of the capital Manila by early Monday morning.

Power was cut across most of the eastern island of Samar and nearby Leyte Province, including Tacloban City, considered ground zero of the devastating super typhoon Haiyan last year.

“I can’t penetrate the areas, I can’t go north or south because of fallen trees and power lines. Many areas are flooded,” Ben Evardone, congressman for Eastern Samar, said from his base in the provincial capital Borongan.

Local radio reported at least four people were killed in Eastern Samar and Iloilo, but that could not be confirmed by officials. The Philippine Red Cross said it was also verifying the reports.

Alexander Pama, head of the disaster agency, said major roads in parts of Samar and Leyte islands and the south of the main island

Luzon were not passable due to debris, and some areas were also flooded.

General Gregorio Catapang, head of the military, said nearly 2,000 soldiers were clearing the roads and two airports on Samar to bring in food trucks and aircraft loaded with emergency supplies.

“There were areas that experienced storm surges,” said Science and Technology Secretary Mario Montejó, adding the agency was verifying the exact height

of the waves.

The weather bureau said Hagupit — which means “lash” in Filipino — was maintaining the projected path that would take it through Masbate, Romblon and Mindoro islands in the archipelago’s central belt, slightly north of areas devastated by super typhoon Haiyan last year.

Residents of low-lying villages and landslide-prone areas had been evacuated to schools, civic centres, town halls, gyms

and churches, the national disaster agency said.

Alfred Romnualdez, mayor of Tacloban, said although more than 48,000 had fled to shelters, damage to the city appeared to have been minor.

“Thank God, the typhoon spared us and we have no reported casualties,” Romnualdez told *Reuters*. “By the end of the day we expect the people to return to their homes from shelter areas.”

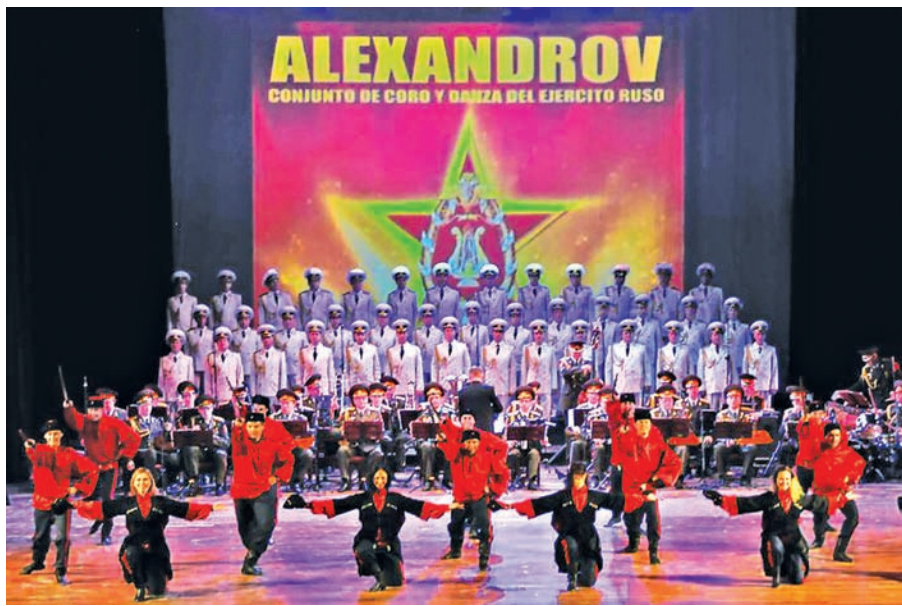
Reuters



Waves, brought by Typhoon Hagupit, hit the concrete barrier along the Boulevard Seaport in Surigao City, southern Philippines on 6 Dec, 2014.

REUTERS

WORLD



Members of the Song and Dance Academic Ensemble Alexandrov of Russia's Army perform during a show at the Avellaneda Hall of the National Theater in Havana, capital of Cuba, on 6 Dec, 2014. —XINHUA

Biden sees 'less than even' chance of nuclear deal with Iran

WASHINGTON, 7 Dec — US Vice President Joe Biden said on Saturday there was a "less than even shot" of a nuclear deal with Iran but that it was still worth pursuing.

Biden, speaking at a forum on the Middle East at the Brookings Institution think tank, rejected calls for more sanctions against Teheran over its nuclear programme because "this is not the time to risk a breakdown when we still have a chance for a breakthrough."

Biden said the sanctions imposed by the United States and allies were work-



US Vice President Joe Biden

ing by slowing Iran's economy, as well as its nuclear programme.

"It's frozen the programme, it's given us a shot for a peaceful solution," he

said. "I tell you, I think it's a less than even shot but it's a shot, nonetheless."

Biden said that while the United States and Israel have tactical disagreements, Washington remained fully dedicated to Israel's security. "We will not let Iran acquire a nuclear weapon - period," he said. "End of discussion. Not on our watch."

Last month Iran said it would not make excessive concessions on its nuclear programme, which Teheran says is for energy-creation purposes, as part of a 12-year dispute.—Reuters

Protests slow in New York after funeral for slain black man

NEW YORK, 7 Dec — Mourners in New York held a funeral on a rain-soaked Saturday for a black man shot dead by a white patrol officer in a dimly lit stairwell, but streets were mostly quiet after three nights of demonstrations against police violence.

The shooting of Akai Gurley, 28, at a public housing project last month was the latest in a series of killings that have outraged protesters who see a pattern of excessive force being used by law enforcement against African-Americans.

Decisions by grand juries to return no indictments against officers involved in the incidents have rekindled a national debate over race relations in the United States.

The district attorney in the New York City borough of Brooklyn said on Friday a grand jury would consider charges against Peter Liang, the officer who shot Gurley. Police have said Liang may have accidentally discharged his gun.

In Brooklyn, mourners

gathered at Baptist church to remember Gurley, the father of a 2-year-old girl. Afterwards about 75 people gathered for a vigil and brief march in his memory.

Clinton Jordan, a 40-year-old security administrator, was born and raised in the Louis H Pink housing project, where Gurley was shot. He said residents of the project, felt a mixture of anger and resignation after the shooting.

"You know in this neighbourhood you've seen a lot of police brutality to the point where we're just fed up," he said.

Elsewhere in New York, demonstrations were even more restrained than on Friday, when arrests fell to 20 from 200 on Thursday night.

"Seems to be the weather - it's not really making it easy for them," said a police officer in Times Square. He said he saw about 200 people march through the area, one of New York's busiest shopping zones, during the afternoon.

A dozen protesters lay down again on the floor in New York's Grand Central Terminal in one of the now-familiar "die-ins" featured in the wave of protests this week. Tourists and commuters stopped to watch the silent protest and snap pictures before going on their way.

"The fact that people are mobilizing is a great thing," said Amine Lazreg, a 24-year-old from Montreal said while sitting in a coffee shop in Times Square. "This type of protest is for social justice — I don't know anyone who would go against that."

Protesters and police

alike have showed restraint and no major violence has flared.

The demonstrations began on Wednesday after a grand jury decided to bring no charges against Daniel Pantaleo, a New York City police officer, in the July death of Eric Garner, a 43-year-old father of

six.

That decision 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, spurring two nights of violence and arson in a St Louis suburb.

Protests have erupted across the country. On Saturday, hundreds of people in Hartford, Connecticut, marched for nearly two miles in the pouring rain to a rally at a city park.

"I'm angry and I'm scared," said Rev Henry Brown, founder of Mothers United Against Violence, which helped organized the rally. "This new wave of police brutality must stop today."

In California, marches are set for Berkeley and San Francisco, and protesters plan to rally at a tree-lighting ceremony in Alameda.

Protests are scheduled for Sunday for New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Miami and Minneapolis, among dozens of other cities.—Reuters



Protesters are taken into custody along FDR Drive, as thousands of demonstrators took to the streets demanding justice for the death of Eric Garner, in Manhattan, New York on 5 Dec, 2014. —REUTERS

Washington Post reporter in Teheran charged

WASHINGTON, 7 Dec — A reporter for the Washington Post in Iran who has been detained for over four months was charged on Saturday, the newspaper reported, quoting a source familiar with the case.

It said the nature of the charges leveled at a daylong proceeding in a Teheran courtroom was not immediately clear.

Jason Rezaian, an Iranian-American who holds dual citizenship, had been the Washington Post's bureau chief in Teheran since 2012, the paper said on its website.

"We are dismayed and outraged by reports that Jason Rezaian, The Post's correspondent in Iran, has now been charged with unspecified crimes," Washington Post Executive Edi-

tor Martin Baron said in a statement.

Rezaian was arrested on 22 July. Iranian authorities had said earlier this week they were extending his detention while the investigation against him continued, the paper said.

Rezaian's family has hired an attorney, but the lawyer has not been allowed to visit him, it added.—Reuters

India will not support sanctions against Russia

NEW DELHI, 7 Dec — India will not support sanctions against Russia by Western countries over the on-going Ukraine crisis, local media reported on Sunday.

Ahead of Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to the country next week, the Indian government said it cannot be party to any sanction against Russia, reported local daily *The*

Times of India.

The Russian president will visit India on 10 and 11 December for the 15th Annual India-Russia Summit, during which he would hold bilateral talks with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Ajay Bisaria, joint secretary of the Eurasia Division under the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, described India-Russia ties as "special and privileged

strategic partnership."

He said both countries "have similarity in views on important global issues, including on the threats of terrorism, particularly in Russia and the neighbourhood and on the need to defuse Cold War-like tensions that are increasingly manifesting themselves in global relations."

"India has said clearly that it cannot be party to any economic sanctions against Russia," he said at a news briefing last Friday, quoted by the paper.—Xinhua

Putin, Hollande hope Ukraine ceasefire will soon take hold

Moscow, 7 Dec — French President Francois Hollande said after an impromptu visit to Russia for crisis talks with Vladimir Putin on Saturday that a ceasefire could take hold in eastern Ukraine in the next few days.

The Russian president, who met Hollande during his stopover at a Moscow airport after a trip to Kazakhstan, said he also hoped agreement would be reached soon to shore up a shaky truce reached for east Ukraine on 5 September.



Russian President Vladimir Putin (R) approaches to shake hands with his French counterpart Francois Hollande during a meeting at Moscow's Vnukovo airport, on 6 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

ber.

Hollande's unexpected visit underlined the West's concern about the conflict between government forces and pro-Russian separatists, and about Putin's increasingly hostile anti-Western rhetoric as he defies calls to do more to end the crisis.

Hollande, the first head of a leading Western power to meet Putin in Russia since Moscow annexed the Crimea peninsula in March, urged all parties to respect the 5

September truce deal.

"The ceasefire that will be proclaimed tomorrow or the day after must be completely respected," Hollande said in comments broadcast on French television after the talks at Vnukovo airport, southwest of Moscow, without giving details.

"France's role is to search for solutions and prevent problems from degenerating," he added. "I wanted today, alongside President Putin, to send a message of de-escalation.

Today that message is possible."

Putin, who looked nervous before he greeted Hollande with a handshake, said they had held detailed discussions on ending the violence in which more than 4,300 people have been killed in mainly Russian-speaking eastern Ukraine since April.

"I very much hope that in the nearest future a final decision on ceasing fire will be taken," Putin told reporters.—Reuters

Merkel says France and Italy must do more on reforms

BERLIN, 7 Dec — German Chancellor Angela Merkel said in a newspaper interview on Sunday that both France and Italy needed to do more on the reform front to ensure that their 2015 budgets respected European Union fiscal rules.

Last month, the European Commission postponed until March a decision on whether the budgets of both countries conformed with EU rules, while making clear that France was at risk of "non-compliance".

Unless further steps are taken by the new deadline, the Commission could fine France for falling short



German Chancellor Angela Merkel addresses a joint news conference with Ethiopia's Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn at the Chancellery in Berlin on 3 Dec, 2014. REUTERS

of its deficit-cutting obligations and put Italy under a disciplinary process because of its debt levels.

cause of its debt levels.

Merkel, in an interview with German daily Die Welt, said giving France and Italy more time to finalise their reform plans was defensible.

But she then added: "The Commission has made clear that what has been put on the table so far is insufficient. I would agree with this."

Last year, the Commission won new powers to assess draft national budgets to ensure they are in line with EU agreements.

But insisting that countries introduce additional reforms remains politically sensitive.

French Finance Minister Michel Sapin said last

week during a visit to Berlin that France would do what was necessary to meet its EU obligations but that boosting growth had to be the top priority.

A day later, he announced that France was aiming to cut its deficit to 4.1 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2015, compared to a previous goal of 4.3 percent, thanks to extra savings.

France initially pledged to bring its deficit down to the EU limit of 3 percent by 2013 but has now acknowledged that it won't reach that threshold until 2017.

Reuters



Afghan policewomen stand in line during their training at a police training centre in Herat Province in western Afghanistan, on 3 Dec, 2014. XINHUA

EU to seek more Turkish help in Islamic State fight

BRUSSELS, 7 Dec — State and urge it not to undermine EU sanctions on Russia on a visit this week intended to give new impetus to often fraught EU-Turkish relations.

EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini, Enlargement Commissioner Johannes Hahn and Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Christos Stylianides will travel to Turkey on Monday and Tuesday in one of the highest-profile EU visits in years. "The visit ... is a strong indication of the strategic importance of the EU-Turkey relationship and our desire to step up engagement," Mogherini said in a statement. Turkey has been negotiating to join the EU since 2005, but political obstacles, notably over the divided island of Cyprus, and resistance to Turkish membership from some EU countries, have slowed progress and relations have often been difficult.

But now top EU officials hope a new president and prime minister in Turkey and a new European Commission in Brussels mark a fresh start that will pave the way for regular high-level talks to discuss



European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini addresses a news conference after meeting NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg (unseen) at the European External Action Service (EEAS) building in Brussels on 4 Nov, 2014. REUTERS

common strategic interests.

The visit comes a week after Russian President Vladimir Putin's trip to Turkey, during which Moscow announced it was scrapping the South Stream gas pipeline project and named Turkey as its preferred partner for an alternative pipeline. EU officials want to talk about the need for closer cooperation in the fight against Islamic State militants and other militant groups and efforts to cut off their funding and halt the flow of foreign fighters.

Reuters

Lebanese block roads to demand release of soldiers



Residents burn tyres as they block Qalamoun international highway in Tripoli on 6 Dec, 2014. REUTERS

BEIRUT, 7 Dec — Families of Lebanese soldiers held by militants blocked roads in Beirut and highways between major cities on Saturday, pressing the government to do more to free them.

More than two dozen members of the Lebanese security forces are being held by Sunni Islamists. One leading Sunni mili-

tant, Abu Ali al-Shishani, has pledged to attack Lebanese women and children and end talks to free the soldiers, after his wife was detained by authorities.

The threat, delivered in a video distributed on jihadist websites, was published on Friday hours before the group said it had killed one of the Lebanese soldiers it holds.

Lebanese authorities earlier this week said they had detained a wife of Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. The wife of Shishani has also been arrested.

Officials say Shishani is a fighter in the Nusra Front, al-Qaeda's official Syrian wing. But in the video he praises Baghdadi, whose Islamic State splintered off from al-Qaeda. Islamic State and Nusra have both clashed and worked closely with each other at different times.

The women were apparently viewed by some Lebanese security elements as a possible bargaining chip with the militants to gain the release of the captive soldiers.

Sitting in front of a black flag with two militants by his side, Shishani said Shi'ite Muslim women and children and families of Lebanese soldiers were

now legitimate targets.

"My wife, Ola Mithqal al Oqaily ... was taken two days ago from Tripoli, the city that is called the city of Islam and Muslims," Shishani said.

"If my wife is not released soon, do not dare to dream about the release of the soldiers without negotiations.

"All your wives, children and men are legitimate targets now," he said, using the phrase "slaves of (late Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah) Khomeini" to refer to Shi'ites.

Many Sunni Syrian rebels and hardline Lebanese Sunni Islamists accuse Lebanon's army of working with the Lebanese Shi'ite movement Hezbollah which has sent fighters to aid Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, a member of the Shi'ite-derived Alawite minority.

Reuters

US to keep more troops in Afghanistan as violence spikes

KABUL, 7 Dec — The United States will keep up to 1,000 more soldiers than previously planned in Afghanistan into next year, outgoing US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel said on Saturday, in a recognition of the still formidable challenge from Taliban insurgents.

Hagel, confirming a change in the US draw-down schedule first reported by *Reuters* in November, said the additional forces were needed because delays in signing security pacts had impacted plans to raise troops from other countries. However, he also said that a particularly violent surge of Taliban attacks in Kabul in the last two weeks was a reminder of the continued need for a foreign presence.



US Secretary of Defence Chuck Hagel (L) speaks during a joint news conference with Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani in Kabul on 6 Dec, 2014. —REUTERS

"The recent wave of Taliban attacks has made it clear that the international community must not wa-

ver in its support for a stable, secure and prosperous Afghanistan," said Hagel, who arrived in Kabul un-

announced on Saturday morning. The NATO-led combat mission in Afghanistan officially ends in two

weeks with a sharp reduction in western forces, but troops that stay behind will still provide "combat enabler" support to Afghan soldiers, Hagel said.

The United States will also maintain a mission to fight al-Qaeda in the country, he added.

"We have not forgotten what brought America to Afghanistan over a decade ago," Hagel said at a joint press conference with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani.

"And we will take appropriate measures against Taliban members who directly threaten US and coalition forces in Afghanistan or provide direct support to al-Qaeda."

Gen John Campbell, the commander of international forces in Afghan-

istan, said last week the ongoing US role would include limited air support to Afghan soldiers.

Hagel, who resigned last week under pressure, said US forces could fall only to 10,800 troops, rather than 9,800 as originally planned. The additional troops could stay until the first few months of 2015.

"But the president's authorization will not change our troops' missions, or the long-term timeline for our draw-down," Hagel said on his last trip to the country as Pentagon chief.

He appeared confident that the United States would secure support from NATO allies in the next few weeks that would allow US force levels to drop back to 9,800.—*Reuters*

American, South African hostages die in rescue attempt in Yemen

SANAA/ADEN, 7 Dec — US special forces stormed a walled compound in a remote Yemeni village early on Saturday in an attempt to free Western hostages held by an al-Qaeda unit, but an American journalist and a South African teacher were killed by their captors, officials said.

US Secretary of State John Kerry and a Yemeni intelligence official said Luke Somers, 33, and South African Pierre Korkie, 56, were shot by their kidnappers shortly after the raid began in the arid Wadi Abadan district of Shabwa, a province long seen as one of al-Qaeda's most formidable strongholds.

It was the second US attempt to free Somers in 10 days and Kerry said it had been approved because of information that Somers' life was in imminent dan-



A man, who identified himself as Luke Somers, speaks in this still image taken from video purportedly published by Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). —REUTERS

ger. "It was our assessment that that clock would run out on Saturday," one US official said. However, the Gift of the Givers relief group, which was trying to secure Korkie's release, said it had negotiated for the teacher to be freed and had expected that to happen on Sunday and for him to be returned to his family.

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) is seen by Washington as one of al-Qaeda's most dangerous branches. The United States has worked with Yemen's government and via drone strikes to attack its leaders in southern and eastern Yemen.

"The callous disregard for Luke's life is more proof of the depths of AQAP's depravity, and further reason why the world must never cease in seeking to defeat their evil ideology," President Barack Obama said in a statement.

Obama said he had authorized the operation and said the United States would "spare no effort to use all of its military, intelligence and diplomatic capabilities to bring Americans home safely, wherever they are located."

Reuters

Five police killed in checkpoint attack in S Afghanistan

LASHKAR GAH, (Afghanistan), 7 Dec — Some five Afghan policemen and one militant were killed after Taliban militants attacked a security checkpoint in Afghanistan's southern Helmand Province overnight, police said on Sunday.

"An unknown number of militants stormed a police checkpoint in Trikh Nawar locality of Marja district at around midnight. The exchange of fire left five police and one militant named Mohammad Shaffiq killed," district police chief Meher Dil told *Xinhua*.

Several militants were also wounded following the gun battle in the province, 555 km south of Kabul. Helmand is notorious for poppy growing and is a known Taliban hotbed. The Taliban has intensified attacks over the past couple of months as NATO and US forces are withdrawing from the country. The war-torn country is due to take over the responsibility for its own security from NATO-led troops by the end of year.

Xinhua

Clashes erupt in Athens after protest to mark 2008 police killing

ATHENS, 7 Dec — Rampaging protesters threw petrol bombs at police and set bank ATMs, cars and shops on fire in central Athens on Saturday, the anniversary of the police killing of a teenager six years ago.

Riot police used tear-gas and water cannon to beat back protesters in the bohemian Exarchia neighbourhood, where about 200 black-clad youths hurled stones and Molotov cocktails at them. A cloud of smoke billowed into the sky from the clashes.

At least two shops were set on fire, and dozens of others damaged. Police said they detained nearly 100 demonstrators.

The clashes erupted after about 6,000 protesters

marched to commemorate the 2008 police shooting of Alexandros Grigoropoulos, an anniversary that normally draws thousands of anti-establishment protesters.

This year's protest was in solidarity with a jailed self-proclaimed anarchist who witnessed the death of Grigoropoulos and who is now on hunger strike demanding he be allowed to attend university classes.

Nikos Romanos, 21, was sentenced to prison for robbery in October and began his hunger strike on 10 November. He is in critical condition in hospital.

The protests come at a sensitive time for the government, which is negotiating to make an early exit from an unpopular European Union and Inter-

national Monetary Fund bailout programme that has meant years of austerity for Greeks.

At a shrine at the spot where Grigoropoulos was shot dead, mourners left roses and notes.

"I'm leaving this red flower, red like your blood spilled on the pavement," read one note. A banner was unfurled reading "When the state murders, resistance is demanded."

The government had appealed for calm in the days leading up to the protest and submitted an amendment to parliament allowing prisoners to follow university courses via distance learning. But Romanos has insisted on attending classes in person.—*Reuters*



Masked youths take part in an anniversary rally marking the shooting of a 15-year-old student by a policeman in 2008, in Athens on 6 Dec, 2014. —REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 8 December, 2014

Agriculture has potential to spur growth and reduce poverty

By Kyaw Thura

Myanmar is an agricultural country, with 70% of its population living in rural areas, most of whom are farmers depending on farming for food, income and jobs.

With the government having promised to bring down the country's poverty index to 16% in 2015, the best way to help lift farmers out of the vicious cycle of poverty is to improve agricultural performance.

It is generally accepted that agricultural development can drive economic growth as it can raise in-

comes, improve food security and boost shared prosperity. Globally, the agricultural sector is still regarded as indispensable in this age for economic growth and feeding a population that is expected to hit 9 billion by 2050.

For farmers to enjoy greater yields and profits, soil health is of utmost importance. Agriculturalists have advocated that healthy soils provide a variety of vital ecosystem services such as nutrient cycling, water regulation, flood prevention, and habitats for biodiversity. In other words, healthy soil is fundamental to food security, ecosystems and life.

It should be noted that overuse and cultivation of unsuitable land can trigger poor soil conditions, thereby depleting soil resources, causing land degradation and accelerating soil erosion. All of these problems can lead to increases in greenhouse gas emission. According to a Climate-Smart Agriculture report, soil erosion releases nearly 1.2 gigatons of carbon into the atmosphere each year.

Although good agricultural practices can generate

private and public benefits, farmers find it difficult to afford the expenditure involved in land management practices and technologies.

Without the intensive and extensive support by the government, farmers will not be able to adopt improved agricultural practices that can sustain the use of soil resources. With this end in view, the government should commit itself to boosting agriculture and agriculture-related investment.

In fact, helping farmers amounts to saving the soil and sustaining life.

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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.

The Noise Pollution Control

When we first moved into the present house after my retirement, we were not yet familiar with the neighbourhood. All throughout my thirty five year's career as a government employee, we had stayed at the residences provided by the respective departments. Most of the places we had lived were secluded or separated from the residential areas. The place we moved in was located in a congested residential area, so we had expected the hustles and bustles, and had prepared ourselves to be oblivious to the activities around us. We knew right from the beginning that we would have to change our life styles completely to survive the new way of life in a crowded neighbourhood. I do not mean to demean the people on the block, but was just trying to describe the dilemma we were faced, as we were accustomed to living in disciplined, regulated and above all tranquil departmental housing estates.

The taste of the new neighbourhood was felt from day one. During the day, as we were busy getting our meager belongings in place, we were so engrossed in our work, and were totally oblivious to the activities around us. Though I noticed the commotions in the neighbourhood, I could not pay much attention as my mind was focused on getting our meager belongings settled. However, in the late evening after everything was settled--exhaustion, relief and hunger set in. So I called it a day and took a quick bath. That was when everything came into perspective. The blare of a loudspeaker, advertising the available items, from a mobile vending cart was at full blast. The volume was so loud that the loose glass window panes vibrated.. Then while having dinner, a shrill voice of a woman pierced through the yet unfamiliar eerie noises around us. When listened carefully, I came to realize it was a fish monger hawking the different kinds of fish at reduced prices. The time was nearly 9 PM, so it must be the left overs from a nearby street market that she wanted to get rid off, before going home.

Right after dinner, I went straight to bed. In no time I must have fallen asleep, only to be rudely jerked awake by a loud hoarse voice. At first, I was dazed and disoriented and could not understand what was going on and felt a bit terrified. There was another loud similar shouting. Then only my senses regrouped and my mind was refocused and realized it was another hawker, a tofu seller. I checked the time and found it was nearly midnight. I wonder, who on earth would be eating tofu at this unearthly hours. That tofu vendor came regularly and almost punctually every night.

I tried to go back to sleep again and as I slumbered, another distracting and disturbing noise broke the silence of the night again. The incessant howling and barking of the stray dogs engulfed the whole block as the pack moved around, which was evident from the fact that their noises were not stationary. I did not know how

By Khin Maung Myint

long that went on as I was too exhausted and fell asleep again only to be aroused from sleep again. It was only 3 AM and I was hearing the sounds of diesel engines raising and people talking loudly over the loud noises of the engines. Only after about half an hour I heard the sound of two large buses rolling out of a narrow street, which was only a few feet from my bedroom window. This time I was afraid to attempt sleeping again, not knowing what would come next. As it was still very early I just lied down in bed and started to meditate in the lying posture. I was able to immerse myself in the peace and tranquility provided by meditation for a while, but was interrupted by the shrilly voice of a steamed peas seller. The time was nearly 5 AM and was time to rise from bed.

Then a piercing chanting in a foreign language was heard from some distance away, but still quite loud as it was coming from a loudspeaker. This became a regular routine every morning. Around 6 AM, another loudly amplified voice was heard. This time as it was in Myanmar, I understood straight away from their announcement that it was a group from a certain township outside Yangon, soliciting donations to feed the monks and nuns residing at their monastery. Similar groups could reach up to five or six in number on any given day. These groups are the most disturbing because they would talk nonstop, but were unintelligible due to the high volume of their amplifiers, which made their words either crackling or blurring with vibrations. Also there are impatient drivers who could not understand or tolerate the traffic jams inside the side streets, where the cars belonging to the residents lined both sides of a two lane street, blasting away their horns. There was not a single moment of peace and tranquility around the clock.

Noise pollution

I can go on listing the various sounds in my neighbourhood without an end, but I hope I had depicted quite a vivid scenario. The noises are not only disturbing, but they are also hazardous to the health and well being of humans as well as animals All these noises contribute to the noise pollutions, which are gaining awareness in many countries because of the adverse health effects they could inflict. According to the Wikipedia, out door noise pollution or noise disturbance is caused by machineries, transportation system-- motor vehicles, planes and trains. The indoor noise pollution is caused by machineries, building activities, music performances from within. I could not find most of the disturbing noises I had mentioned anywhere, but in my opinion some of them are more damaging than the ones listed in the Wikipedia. They are, I think, peculiar only to our country because I have not heard such concentration of disturbing noises in other large cites in

most countries I had been to.

What are the effects of noise pollutions?

I will mention the effects of noise pollution on humans. For reading convenience I will list them as follows:-

Health Effect

1. Impairment of hearing.
2. In extreme cases, permanent loss of hearing.
3. Hypertension.
4. Anxiety and stress reactions and in extreme cases fright.
5. Cardiovascular disease.

Psychological Effect

1. Headache
2. Irritability and nervousness.
3. Feeling of fatigue resulting in decrease of work efficiency.

These effects may not sound very troubling, however in the long run, the consequences can be very serious.

How to control noise pollution

So how can we prevent or control the effects of noise pollutions?

Start with your homes.

1. Soundproof your home by padding the walls with sound absorbing materials and carpeting the floors. If you cannot afford to do the whole house at least the bed rooms should be done.
2. Keep machineries that generate noises away from bed rooms and living spaces.
3. Learn to meditate. Meditation can help you deal with noise and distress .
4. Use ear plugs to block out loud noises.
5. Stay away from noisy places, go somewhere peaceful and tranquil once in a while.

Deal with noises you cannot control

1. Industrial facilities should be located far from residential areas.
2. Restrict the unnecessary use of horns. Ban loud horns.
3. Ban motor cars and motor cycles with noisy exhaust pipes .
4. Regulate the use of loudspeaker and loudhailer.
5. Regulate the noise levels by prescribing the maximum decibel range.
6. Plant more trees as they absorb sound.
7. Educate the populace to abide by the regulations of noise control.
8. People should observe their civic duties and have considerations for others.

In conclusion, I would like to request the writers and especially the environmentalists among them, to educate the people through their popular talk shows.

Looking forward to a noise pollution free environment.

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

ARTICLE

Building social skills

Social skills are generally regarded as skills and behaviours that facilitate interaction, and maintenance of relationships with others. Regarding social behavior, Myanmar elders advise young people to be careful about their speech and actions, as it is easy to earn the dislike of people, but difficult to gain their goodwill. The growth in economic activities, travel, the movement of people from one region to another in search of better education, training, and job opportunities, the upsurge in demand for quality human resources, rapid urbanization, together with improved transportation and communication services have led to dramatic increase in mobility and interaction among people within a nation as well as among those from different nations. Due to the diverse nature of people who are interacting with each other and the varied nature of the setting of interaction, it is all the more important to have good social skills not only to achieve one's goals in individual situations, but also to gain long-term success in life.

What are the factors governing good social skills? There are many factors to be discussed, but five have been selected as they can be regarded to form the basis of the social skills.

The most important among social skills is communication skills, as all interactions involve

the conveying of some form of information. Communication skills are the abilities to express what we want to say, in a way that is comprehensible to the listener. Therefore, to facilitate communication, we need to speak in a well-organized and clear way. Moreover, we need to use polite language to ensure that what we say and how we say something do not upset people. Polite language not only means using polite expressions, but also minimizing the use of direct criticisms and disagreements and maximizing the use of praise and agreements as much as possible. If it is necessary to express something disagreeable, then, it is usually expressed in an indirect way. In addition, social skills also include the ability to make small talk when we meet people on social occasions, being aware of the degree of formality of the situation and using the style suited to it, giving turns to others to speak, desisting from interruptions, avoiding topics that are not suitable for the situation or the listener, giving attention to what others say, using the appropriate tone, having a pleasant expression, avoiding inappropriate body language such as making rude gestures, etc.

The second factor influencing one's social skills is the positive and negative social attitudes one has. Tolerance of differences, awareness of and respect for the culture and traditions of others, awareness of the needs of others, being respectful to those who deserve it, not look-

by **Myo Myint**

ing down on those less fortunate, not being arrogant, not being self-centred, being fair, being patient, having the ability to forgive, having self-esteem, being aware of one's weakness and failings, being conscious of the strengths of others, valuing the contribution of others, having the desire to make friends are some of the positive attitudes that contribute to promoting effective social skills and building good relations with others.

The third factor that contributes to development of good social skills is good manners, which is polite ways of treating other people and behaving in public in accordance with cultural norms. Good manners also include assisting others, including doing small acts like giving priority to others, being affable to everyone, being the first to greet people and initiate interaction, having table manners, observing social etiquette, sharing what you have with others, waiting for your turn, being conscious of the needs of people near you, not showing annoyance, expressing appreciation for any help given, etc.

The fourth factor that is related to building effective social skills is emotional control. It is the ability to manage extreme feelings. Strong negative feelings such as anger, animosity, greed, strong passion, envy, hatred, frustration, bitterness, low self-esteem, desire to humiliate others, tendency to be argumentative, etc. tend

to hinder the development of social skills. It takes much time and practice to keep strong emotions in check, but it is worth the effort as it improves both social skills and relationships.

The fifth factor that contributes to the promotion of social skills is taking care of one's personal appearance. The style and colour of one's clothes and hair, and for women and some men, the use of certain kinds of jewellery, makeup, lipstick, perfume, etc. can be used to subtly express information about the personality and preferences of a person. In a conservative society like Myanmar, dressing according to one's age, and dressing in accordance with the occasion are given preference over personal liking. Even in more liberal societies, observance of dress code is regarded as a necessity, even in the matter of dining out in a high class restaurant, not to say attending a formal event. It needs to be noted that wrong signals may sent by dressing in the wrong style. For example, dressing very casually on a very formal occasion may be regarded as deliberately showing disrespect, or displaying one's ignorance of etiquette.

It must also be pointed out that having good social skills does not merely mean being submissive and being nice to everyone the whole time. It also means having the skills to deal with uncomfortable situations such as conflicts, disagreements, unwanted attention, being forced to do what one does not wish to do, and emerging from such situations without loss of face for

both sides. Hence, good social skills also mean that one has such capacities as the ability to make one's views heard and noted, the ability to resist peer pressure, the ability to manage conflicts in a firm but polite way, the ability to negotiate, so that one gets what one wants, etc.

How are social skills cultivated? Social skills are usually passed on from one generation to the next in a family. But for the majority, they usually learn through self-study, through imitation, and through trial and error. Unfortunately, if young people adopt the wrong approach, as some are doing, it can have disastrous consequences on their life, since sometimes, social mistakes made can be irreparable and can be very costly to the person concerned. Hence, for our youths to be imbued with these very important life skills that are crucial for their success, they need to be systematically imparted social skills, from the kindergarten right up to the day a student graduate from university, as so much needs to be learnt and so much time is required for training, physically as well as mentally, regarding social skills.

In this age, education is being expected to deliver more than the development of expertise in a subject. Education is also expected to promote other skills that will lead to success in life, including social skills which can be developed at schools and universities systematically, as being done in some advanced countries. In doing so, firstly, recognition must be given that young people need training in social skills. Secondly, a syl-

labus must be drawn to teach the skills systematically. Thirdly, teachers need to be trained to have the right attitude, mastery over the field and the method. Fourthly, every opportunity must be used to impart these skills across the curriculum. Fifthly, the involvement of parents and the community is needed in imparting and sustaining the skills and finally, students with outstanding social skills need to be rewarded, as incentive to all students.

It will be noted that social skills are skills that are important throughout one's lifetime, because in this age of social as well as people mobility, diversity is the norm rather than the exception. From the time one starts interacting with one's parents as a baby until one's last breathe in a hospital, good social skills are very much in demand, as they promote affection, connectivity, understanding, forgiveness, tolerance, good relationships, and social harmony and relieve tension, prevent conflicts, and encourage settlement of disagreements amicably. Hence, the development of social skills is not just important for individuals, but also important for the workplace and societies as well as the world community. It is also to be remembered that in order to possess lasting social skills, it is crucial not just to change one's outer self, but also one's inner self by ridding oneself of one's flaws and developing into a more caring, likeable and socially apt person.

Locals speak of KIA's acts



NAY PYI TAW, 7 Dec — The Kachin Independence Army (KIA), an ethnic armed group, is reported to be planting mines in the environs of villages and plantations.

Some people who managed to escape from a forced recruitment said that they faced torture, racial discrim-

Daw Ar Nyi (aged-60) treated at hospital after being injured on 28-11-2014 by landmine laid by KIA (Kachin).—MYAWADY

ination, long detention and killings. According to them, the mobilization of new members includes young people including women, who were molested.

Families of the victims, as well as locals, are now living in constant fear.

Locals said that 782 men and 36 women were conscripted, with 535 remaining to escape.

According to reports, KIA's mine attacks from October 2013 to November 2014 left 10 people dead, injuring 37. —Myawady

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (7-12-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K658,400 per tical: Selling K659,400

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K658,400 per tical: Selling K659,400

FE RATE

USD Buying K 1033: Selling K----

SGD Buying K 783: Selling K793

Euro Buying K1,260: Selling K1,285

Sharp to sell US solar unit to Canadian Solar

TOKYO, 7 Dec — Japan's Sharp Corp (6753.T) is set to sell its US-based solar energy development unit Recurrent Energy to Canadian Solar Inc (CSIQ.O) for about 30 billion yen (\$247 million), the *Nikkei business* daily said on Sunday.

Sharp aims to reach a basic agreement with the Canadian firm by the end of the month and complete the sale by spring, the report said, without citing sources. The Japanese firm could not be

immediately reached for comment.

Sharp paid \$305 million in cash in 2010 to acquire Recurrent Energy. Selling the company now would help Sharp to raise capital as it struggles to raise its equity ratio to a healthy level.

This year, Sharp shut down its UK solar plant and also pulled out of a venture with Italian energy firm Enel SpA (ENEL.MI) to make solar panels and generate solar power.

Reuters



A pedestrian walks past a logo of Sharp Corp at a train station in Tokyo on 3 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

At home and cured of Ebola, Cuban doctor vows return to Africa

HAVANA / GENEVA, 7 Dec — A Cuban doctor who contracted Ebola in Sierra Leone and was cured after experimental treatment in a Swiss hospital vowed on Saturday to return to West Africa and continue treating patients.

"I will finish what I started. I am returning to Sierra Leone," Felix Baez, 43, told reporters at Havana's Jose Marti airport shortly after landing, the official website Cubadebate reported.

It was not immediately clear if Cuban health officials would allow Baez to go back to Africa.

Cuba has won international praise for its contribution to fight the worst outbreak of Ebola on record, which has killed more than 6,000 people. Some 200 doctors and nurses are on standby for an Ebola assignment in West Africa, in addition to the 256 already sent to Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea.

Health Minister Roberto Morales and other ministry officials were at the airport to greet Baez, who wore a blue T-shirt

emblazoned with the logo of Geneva University Hospitals, where he spent 16 days being treated in isolation.

Baez was quickly reunited with his wife and eldest son, who is studying medicine.

"There was celebration and happiness, hugs and kisses," said Jorge Perez, the director of Havana's leading tropical diseases hospital, who travelled with Baez from Geneva.

Soon after arriving in Geneva on 20 November, Baez received the Canadian experimental treatment ZMab, a precursor to the Ebola drug ZMapp, which has been used to treat US patients.

"Two days afterwards he was already much better," Geneva's chief medical officer, Jacques-André Romand, told *Reuters*, adding that the same drug had been sent to Rome to treat an Italian doctor battling the virus.

Romand added that at no time during Baez's treatment was there any risk of transmission to the local population.



Felix Baez, a member of the International Contingent Brigade "Henry Reeve", who was infected with Ebola in Sierra Leone, speaks during a news conference in Havana on 6 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

A hospital spokeswoman said Baez received both ZMab and the untested flu drug favipiravir, made by Japan's Fujifilm (4901.T), which the World Health Organization (WHO) has included on a list of potential Ebola treatments.

Out of 138 healthcare workers who have caught

the disease in Sierra Leone, 106 have died, a much higher fatality rate than among health workers in neighbouring Guinea and Liberia, WHO data published on Wednesday showed.

Two more doctors died in Sierra Leone on Friday, a government and hospital source said.—Reuters

HSH Nordbank confident its state aid meets EU rules

FRANKFURT, 7 Dec — German landesbank HSH Nordbank [HSH.UL], one of the world's top maritime lenders, is confident the European Commission will decide that the bailout of the lender complied with its state aid rules, its chief financial officer told a German paper.

"I believe we have a good chance to pass the proceedings. We have proven in the past years that we are making headway in compensating for aid that we have received," Stefan Ermisch told *Boersen-Zeitung* in an interview published on Saturday.

In June 2013 the European Commission temporarily approved a total of 10 billion euros (7.88 billion pounds) in state aid to the landesbank from its majority shareholders. A final decision is expected in the first quarter of 2015.

Germany's landesbanks, which belong to state governments and whose main purpose is to support their regional economy, lost billions of euros on risky investments in the financial crisis and some of them required state-funded bailouts.

The European Commission requires banks that receive state aid at least to undergo substantial restructuring, shrink

their balance sheets and spin off some activities to avoid distorting competition with healthy lenders.

HSH, which is 85-percent owned by the German regional states of Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein, has to pay several hundred million euros annually for the state guarantees. It has been hard hit by a long slump in the shipping industry.

Ermisch said that the

bank was fully on track to achieve 8-9 million euros in new business this year, adding it aimed for new business with corporate customers of 2.5-3 billion euros in both 2015 and 2016.

He also said the bank would yet again book high risk provisions for its shipping business when it presents nine-month results on 12 December.

Reuters



The HSH Nordbank is pictured in downtown Hamburg, on 25 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

UN peacekeepers released from Ebola quarantine in Mali

BAMAKO, 7 Dec — Around 20 United Nations peacekeepers placed under quarantine in Mali after they were potentially exposed to Ebola more than three weeks ago have been released, the country's UN mission said on Saturday.

The soldiers were being treated at a clinic in the capital Bamako for injuries sustained while serving the mission, known as MINUSMA, in the north of the country when a nurse working at the facility died of Ebola.

"Having all been placed under observation, the MINUSMA soldiers under quarantine have not presented symptoms of illness. They've therefore left the establishment," the mission said in a statement.

While the mission has not released the nationality

of the soldiers, UN sources have said they are from Chad.

Mali registered eight cases of Ebola — seven of them confirmed and one probable — after the virus spread from neighbouring Guinea, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita said last week that the West African nation no longer had any confirmed cases of the disease after the last patient known to be suffering from the virus was cured.

The worst Ebola epidemic on record has killed nearly 6,200 people, mainly in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea, since it was confirmed in the region earlier this year, according to the latest WHO data.

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

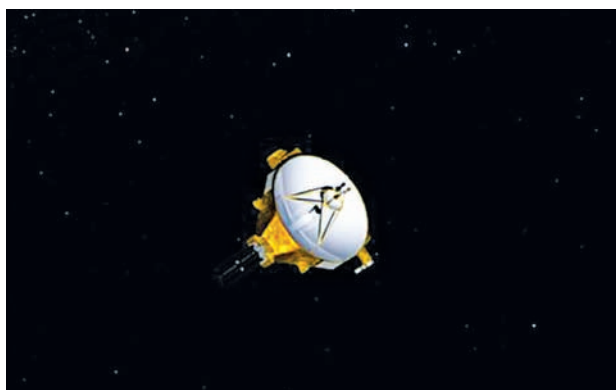
Pluto-bound spacecraft ends hibernation to start mission

CAPE CANAVERAL, 7 Dec — After nine years and a journey of 3 billion miles (4.8 billion km), NASA's New Horizons robotic probe awoke from hibernation on Saturday to begin an unprecedented mission to study the icy dwarf planet Pluto and sibling worlds in its Kuiper Belt home.

A pre-set alarm clock roused New Horizons from its electronic slumber at 3 pm EST, though ground control teams didn't receive confirmation until just after 9:30 pm.

New Horizons is now so far away that radio signals travelling at the speed of light take four hours and 25 minutes to reach Earth.

The scientific observation of Pluto, its entourage of moons and other bodies in the solar system's frozen backyard begins on 15 January, programme managers said. The closest approach



An artist's impression of NASA's New Horizons spacecraft, currently en route to Pluto, is shown in this hand-out image provided by NASA/JHUAPL. — REUTERS

is expected on 14 July.

Pluto lies in the Kuiper Belt, a region of icy mini-planets orbiting the sun beyond Neptune that are believed to be leftover remains from the formation of the solar system some 4.6 billion years ago. It is the last unexplored region of the solar system.

"It's hard to underestimate the evolution that's

taking place in our view of the architecture and content of our solar system as a result of the discovery ... of the Kuiper Belt," lead researcher Alan Stern said.

Since its discovery in 1930, Pluto has been a mystery. Scientists struggled to explain why a planet with a radius of just 740 miles (1,190 km) — about half the width of the Unit-

ed States — could come to exist beyond the giant worlds of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. "We wondered why Pluto was a misfit," Stern said.

In 1992, astronomers discovered that Pluto, located about 40 times farther away from the sun than Earth, was not alone in the far reaches of the solar system, prompting the International Astronomical Union to reconsider its definition of "planet."

In 2006, with New Horizons already on its way, Pluto was stripped of its title as the ninth planet in the solar system and became a dwarf planet, of which more than 1,000 have since been discovered in the Kuiper Belt. With New Horizons approaching Pluto's doorstep, scientists are eager for their first close-up look at this unexplored domain. — Reuters

Vietnam detains blogger for anti-state articles

HANOI, 7 Dec — A Vietnamese blogger was detained for posting anti-state articles, as Hanoi steps up a crackdown on dissent that has been condemned by rights groups and Western governments.

Writer Nguyen Quang Lap was detained after police searched his house on Saturday morning and printed several stories from his blog, said Ho Thi Hong, Lap's wife.

"The articles are written by others, and they said some are against the state," Hong said.

Lap's blog could not be accessed as it requires an invitation. The case follows a sharp increase in arrests and prison terms for government critics in the past few years that has alarmed the United States, a former enemy that is struggling to build a case for deeper trade ties with a country steadfast in its intolerance of dissent.

Lap's detention is the second in the past week. Last Saturday the Police Ministry said blogger Hong Le Tho was detained for posting "bad content" about the state.

In October, Vietnam released jailed blogger Nguyen Van Hai, who staged a hunger strike to protest treatment of political prisoners. The popularity of political blogs has grown with increasing Internet usage in the country and simmering discontent over the Communist government's handling of a stale economy and rampant graft.

The Internet has been used as one of only a few channels for dissent in a country where protests are rare and the media is tightly controlled by the state. — Reuters

Sony investigator says cyber attack 'unparalleled' crime

LOS ANGELES/BOSTON, 7 Dec — Forensics experts hired by Sony Corp (6758.T) to investigate the massive cyber attack at its Hollywood studio said the breach was unprecedented, well-planned and carried out by an "organized group," according to an email obtained by Reuters on Saturday.

Kevin Mandia, the top executive at FireEye Inc's (FEYE.O) Mandiant forensics unit, made the comments in an email to Michael Lynton, chief executive of Sony Pictures Entertainment (SPE).

They are among the first comments about the investigation to be made public, yet they do not discuss what people most want to know: The extent of the damage to the studio's net-

work or who was behind the campaign, the most destructive cyber attack reported to date against a company on US soil.

The destructive attack knocked much of Sony's network off line with malware that wipes drives of PCs, making them unable to operate.

It is expensive to repair them because each drive needs to be manually replaced or re-imaged.

People close to the investigation have told Reuters that North Korea is a principal suspect, yet a North Korean diplomat has denied that his nation is involved.

Lynton forwarded a message from Mandia to employees.

Mandia, whose firm has probed some of the

biggest cyber attacks to date, said in his email that "The scope of this attack differs from any we have responded to in the past, as its purpose was to both destroy property and release confidential information to the public."

He added that "The bottom line is that this was an unparalleled and well planned crime, carried out by an organized group, for which neither SPE nor other companies could have been fully prepared."

FBI spokesman Joshua Campbell said the agency concurred with Mandiant's analysis the attack went undetected by standard anti virus software, but declined to discuss progress in the agency's investigation.

Reuters

New NASA spaceship nails debut test flight

CAPE CANAVERAL, 7 Dec — A US spaceship designed to one day fly astronauts to Mars made a near-bullseye splashdown in the Pacific Ocean on Friday, wrapping up a flawless, unmanned debut test flight around Earth.

"It's hard to have a better day than today," NASA's Orion capsule program manager Mark Geyer told reporters after landing.

The cone-shaped capsule blasted off aboard a Delta 4 Heavy rocket, the biggest in the US fleet, just after dawn from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. Three hours later, it reached peak altitude of 3,604 miles (5,800 km) above the planet, a prelude to the most challenging part of the flight, a 20,000-mph (32,000 km/h) dive back to Earth. Orion survived a searing plunge through the atmosphere, heating up to 4,000 degree Fahrenheit (2,200 degree Celsius) — twice as hot as molten lava — and experiencing gravitational forces eight times stronger than Earth's.

Over the next few minutes, a total of 11 parachutes deployed to slow Orion's descent, including three gigantic main chutes that guided the spaceship to a 20-mph (32 km/h) splashdown 630 miles (1,014 km) southwest of San Diego, California, at 11:29 am EST (11:29 EST). Details of the spaceship's performance, especially how it



The Orion spacecraft floats in the Pacific Ocean after splashdown in this 5 Dec, 2014 NASA handout still image from video. — REUTERS

weathered surges of radiation as it passed through the lower Van Allen radiation belt, will come after data recorded by more than 1,200 onboard sensors is retrieved and analyzed. "I'm sure we're going to find some very interesting things," Geyer said.

The point of the flight, which cost NASA about \$375 million, was to verify that Orion's 16.5-foot (5-meter) diameter heat shield, parachutes, avionics and other equipment would work as designed prior to astronauts flying aboard. NASA has been developing Orion, along with a new heavy-lift rocket, for more than eight years. The design of the rocket has changed, leaving Orion sole survivor of the canceled Constellation lunar exploration programme to become the centerpiece of a new human space initiative intended to fly crews to Mars. NASA

has spent more than \$9 billion developing Orion, which will make a second test flight, also without crew, in about four years.

A third mission, expected around 2021, will include two astronauts on a flight that will send the capsule high around the moon. Since the end of the Apollo moon programme in 1972, astronauts have flown only a few hundred miles above Earth. "We've... finally done something for the first time for our generation. It's a good day," said Mike Hawes, Orion programme manager with NASA prime contractor Lockheed Martin.

Orion's debut flight originally had been slated for Thursday but a problem with the rocket, built and flown by United Launch Alliance, a partnership of Lockheed and Boeing Co, delayed the launch one day. — Reuters



An entrance gate to Sony Pictures Entertainment at the Sony Pictures lot is pictured in Culver City, California on 14 April, 2013. — REUTERS

Nikolic: They will urge us to recognize Kosovo to join EU



Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic .— TANJUG

BELGRADE, 7 Dec — Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic stated on Saturday that he knows for certain

that Serbia will be faced with a choice: either Kosovo or Europe, adding that the country has to be pre-

pared for this.

“Brussels will confront us with the recognition of Kosovo and we have to be ready for this. We have to reach a national consensus on this issue as soon as possible and it is time I had a word with Prime Minister (Aleksandar) Vucic on this,” Nikolic said in an interview for Belgrade daily *Vecernje novosti*.

After a recent meeting with newly-appointed EU Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn, Nikolic started to warn that

Serbia will be faced with such a challenge, reads the daily.

“No one from the EU has refuted Han’s statements. And that means that the Commissioner was not only speaking his own mind. He was obviously voicing an official position,” Nikolic said.

Asked if he would head a country which would give up Kosovo for the sake of the EU membership, Nikolic said he would not be a part of the government that recognized the independence of Kosovo and Metohija and

the one “which would reflect on whether we would get more euros if we give it away.”

Asked whether he believes that the government would follow him in this case, Nikolic said that the government does not have to follow him.

“It would act in line with its Constitution, interests and opinion of the citizens of Serbia, honor, morality ... I have no doubt that the government would take the same position in this case,” the president said, adding that he sees no one among the prominent

figures in the Serbian politics who would give up on Kosovo-Metohija.

Asked why he decided to be the first Serbian official to talk about this, Nikolic said that he can see that no one besides him has voiced their stance on the issue, adding that this condition has not been mentioned in the negotiations.

“We should not bury our heads in the sand like an ostrich and fail to see the lion that eats us from above,” said the Serbian president.

Tanjug

Nobel Week kicks off in Stockholm

STOCKHOLM, 7 Dec — The 2014 Nobel laureates are taking part in a series of events ahead of the official awards ceremony. On the first day of Nobel Week, 10 out of 13 laureates attended a chair-signing event, news agency TT reported.

It is a 100-year-old tradition and the signed chairs are used in the cafe of the Nobel Museum, located in Stockholm’s Old Town.

Peace Prize laureates Kailash Satyarthi of India and Malala Yousafzai of Pakistan, as well as one of the three physics laureates, Isamu Akasaki of Japan,

were not present at the chair-signing.

The winner of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, Eric Betzig, signed his chair with the words “work hard and find your passion,” while John O’Keefe — one of three recipients of the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine — wrote that he is “still searching for his path.”

The Nobel Week events include several press conferences, dinners and seminars. The laureates will also give lectures on a subject related to the topic of their prizes. The Nobel

Lectures are free of charge and open to the public. In addition, there is the traditional classical music concert in the Stockholm Concert Hall held in honour of the laureates, who will also make individual visits to the Nobel Foundation in the coming week.

The Nobel Banquet is to be held at the Stockholm City Hall on 10 December. It is followed by a banquet at the Royal Palace the following day.

The 2014 Nobel Week takes place between 6 December and 13 December.

Xinhua

US Marine’s involvement suspected in hit-and-run in Okinawa

NAHA, 7 Dec — A US Marine is suspected of involvement in a hit-and-run incident that seriously injured a 67-year-old man in Okinawa Prefecture on Thursday, prefectural government sources said on Saturday.

The suspicion was conveyed to the prefecture through the Japanese Foreign Ministry, which received information from the US side, the sources said, adding that US military police may be con-

ducting a hearing on the soldier.

According to a local fire department, the man was found collapsed on a road in the city of Okinawa at around 5 am Thursday. Although he was taken to a hospital, he remains unconscious as his head was hit hard. An overturned minibus was found near the site, and Okinawa police believe the Marine’s car may have collided with the man’s minibus.

Kyodo News

Nigeria detains Russian cargo plane with military shipment to Chad

KANO, (Nigeria) 7 Dec — Nigeria detained a Russian cargo plane and its French-speaking crew on Saturday after it made an unauthorized landing in the northern city of Kano with military hardware bound for neighbouring Chad, a security source said.

An air force spokesman confirmed the plane had been detained but gave no further details.

The plane had been travelling from Bangui, the capital of Central African Republic, to the Chadian capital N’Djamena but was forced to make an emergency landing in Kano because N’Djamena airport was closed, the security source said. He said after the five crew members were detained, inspectors found two helicopters, a bullet-proof jeep and boxes of what were suspected to be military hardware.

The Russian embassy in Abuja did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

It was not clear what the shipment was for. Chadian fighters have been involved in Central African Republic’s conflict since Muslim Seleka rebels seized the southern capital Bangui in 2013.

Mysterious arms shipments have caused controversy in Nigeria before. A Nigerian court sentenced an alleged member of Iran’s Revolutionary Guard and a Nigerian accomplice to five years in prison in May last year over an illegal shipment of mortars and rockets seized in the main port of Lagos in 2010.—Reuters

China sends fresh water to Maldives

BEIJING, 7 Dec — The Chinese government has given financial aid and flown 20 tons of drinking water to the Maldives on the request of its government, as a fire crippled a key desalination plant in the capital Male.

Water supplies to Male have been cut off since Thursday. A Chinese navy ship which is on duty in the Indonesian Ocean is heading there with its own desalination facilities, and is due to arrive on Monday.

Maldives’ President Abdulla Ymeen has ordered the closure of government offices on Sunday and Monday as engineers struggled to repair the water purification facility.

Xinhua

S-500 system to be supplied to Armed Forces after 2015



Victor Gumenny said the advanced systems may solve the tasks of air-space defence and may fight hypersonic weapons.—ITAR-TASS

Moscow, 7 Dec — Modern missile system S-500 will be supplied to the Armed Forces in 2016

already, Chief of the Russian Air Defence Major General Victor Gumenny said in an interview with

the Echo of Moscow radio station on Saturday.

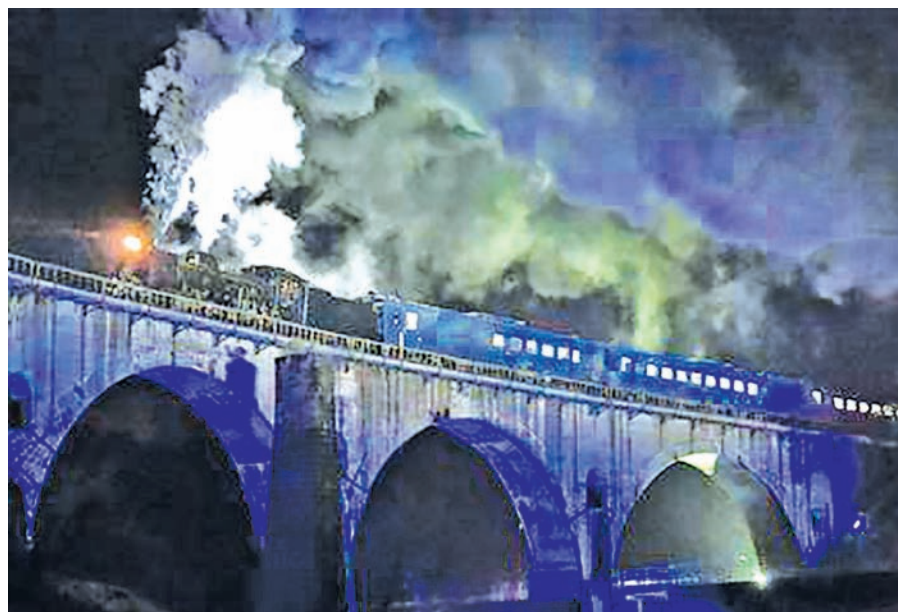
He said the advanced systems may solve the

tasks of air-space defence and may fight hypersonic weapons.

Itar-Tass

GENERAL

Steam locomotive in Iwate



A steam locomotive, pulling a JR Kamaishi Line train, runs on an illuminated bridge in Tono, Iwate Prefecture, on the night of 6 Dec, 2014, recreating the world of "Night on the Galactic Railroad," a fairy story written by Kenji Miyazawa and modeled on the railroad. East Japan Railway Co has been using the steam locomotive in its services since April to boost tourism in the prefecture devastated by the March 2011 tsunami.—KYODO NEWS

Two killed, 5 injured in expressway accident in Miyagi

SENDAI, 7 Dec — Two people were killed and five injured in an expressway accident in the northeastern prefecture of Miyagi on Saturday night, police and fire department officials

said.

The crash occurred on the Tohoku Expressway in Osaki City around 9:35 pm when a truck collided with two cars that had stopped on a lane in the highway,

they said.

The two men killed in the accident were occupants of one of the two cars. The expressway was partially closed through early Sunday.—Kyodo News

Ex-AUM member Takahashi “still brainwashed”: psychologist

Tokyo, 7 Dec — Former AUM Shinrikyo member Katsuya Takahashi, who is set to go on trial next month, is still under the influence of brainwashing by the doomsday cult, a social psychologist who has met him at a detention centre told *Kyodo News* recently.

“He is still influenced by the (cult’s) doctrine and looked like a believer,” said Kimiaki Nishida, professor at Rissho University. “The fear of a cult lies in being unable to be free of brainwashing even though he has led a social life for a long time” after departing from the group.

It is the first time since his arrest in June 2012 after being on the run for around 17 years that the condition of 56-year-old Takahashi has been revealed. The former AUM member has been charged with murder over the cult’s deadly sarin nerve gas attack on the Tokyo subway system in 1995, which killed 13

people and left more than 6,000 people ill.

Nishida met Takahashi in October at the Tokyo detention centre following a request from his lawyers. Takahashi’s appearance has not changed since the time of his arrest, the professor said.

Citing the need to maintain confidentiality, Nishida declined to reveal the details of his exchanges with Takahashi. But he pointed to a cult practice as possibly still exerting a strong influence on Takahashi.

Members were urged to intensely concentrate on AUM founder Shoko Asahara, 59, whose real name is Chizuo Matsumoto, and not to communicate with others in order to overcome difficulties that could undermine their belief in the cult. Asahara is now on death row for masterminding the 1995 sarin gas attack and other heinous crimes.

Nishida has also met

many other former cult members including death row inmate Yoshihiro Inoue, 44, and Makoto Hirata, 49, who was sentenced by the Tokyo District Court to nine years in prison for his involvement in three crimes in 1995. Hirata turned himself in to Tokyo police in 2011 after nearly 17 years on the run.

Nishida’s assessments of some of the former AUM members were admitted as court evidence.

Takahashi, unlike Inoue and Hirata, has not abandoned the cult’s doctrine after deepening exchanges with investigators, Nishida said.

Shortly before his arrest, Takahashi had several pictures of Asahara and audio tapes of the cult founder’s preaching stashed in a bag.

The Tokyo District Court will commence the lay judge trial of Takahashi on 16 January, with a ruling expected as early as April.—Kyodo News

Two dead in Tokushima as heavy snow hits central, western Japan

TOKYO, 7 Dec — Two people were confirmed dead on Saturday as heavy snow fell in parts of central and western Japan, with the weather agency warning of more snowfall in wide areas of the country through Sunday.

On the western main island of Shikoku, two men were confirmed dead after being found collapsed on snow-covered ground on Saturday morning near the peak of Mt Kotsu in Tokushima Prefecture. They had abandoned their vehicle after it became trapped in snow, according to local

police. As of 10 pm on Saturday, snowfall exceeded 114 centimetres in Sukayu in Aomori Prefecture, 102 cm in Kuzuryu in Fukui Prefecture and 99 cm in Shirakawa in Gifu Prefecture, as cold air blanketed a large part of Japan’s main island of Honshu, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. In Tokushima, about 360 people were cut off as roads were blocked by fallen trees and rocks due to heavy snow. The Ground Self-Defence Force was later mobilized to remove the snow.

In Hyogo Prefecture,

western Japan, a vehicle slid into a river and the driver was found unconscious. The car is believed to have skidded due to snow.

In central Japan, snow stranded about 10 vehicles on an expressway in Gifu Prefecture, causing the road to be closed for three hours.

At least 44 domestic flights were cancelled due to snow, affecting around 2,600 people.

Snowfall of up to 60 cm is expected through Sunday evening in a wide area of Honshu facing the Sea of Japan, the weather agency said.—Kyodo News



Photo taken on 6 Dec, 2014, shows an area in the city of Niigata on the Sea of Japan coast where snowfall exceeded 30 centimeters.—KYODO NEWS

Yunnan quake kills one, injures at least 22

BEIJING, 7 Dec — Yunnan province has been struck by two earthquakes on Saturday. So far, one person is dead and at least 22 people are injured. Provincial authorities say the fatality is a nine-year-old boy.

The second magnitude-5.9 tremor struck at 6.20 P-M Saturday in Jinggu County, Pu’er City. About 16 hours earlier, a magnitude-5.8 quake jolted

the county.

The Ministry of Civil Affairs says, 14,000 people had been affected by the two quakes as of 10:00 pm. 36 houses had been toppled and more than 3,400 damaged. Many residents rushed outside when the second quake struck. Yunnan province has initiated an emergency plan. So far, five rescue teams have been dispatched.

Xinhua

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WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 8th December, 2014: Isolated light rain are likely in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Regions, Kachin, 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: Continuation of isolated light rain in the Southern Myanmar Areas.

Miss Vietnam 2014 shines on southern Phu Quoc Island



Miss Vietnam 2014 Nguyen Cao Ky Duyen

HO CHI MINH CITY, 7 Dec — The Miss Vietnam 2014 finale was wrapped up on Saturday night on Phu Quoc Island in Vietnam's southern Kien Giang Province, with the crown being awarded to 18-year-old Nguyen Cao Ky Duyen from northern Nam Dinh Province.

Duyen, 1.73-metre tall and with sizes

86-63-93, won over other 37 contestants in the final round, shining in the crown together with a cash prize of 300 million VND (roughly 15,000 US dollars).

Meanwhile, the first runner-up Nguyen Tran Huyen My from capital Hanoi, and the second runner-up Nguyen Lam Diem Trang from southern Vinh Long Province, were awarded cash prizes of 150 million VND (7,500 US dollars) and 100 million VND (5,000 US dollars), respectively.

Besides, the organizers awarded titles such as Miss Talent, Miss Beach, Miss Ao Dai (Vietnamese traditional dress), Miss Beautiful Face, Miss Perfect Skin, Miss Beautiful Hair, Miss Fashion and Most Voted Miss, each getting a cash prize worth 30 million VND (1,500 US dollars).

Miss Vietnam 2014, the 14th edition of the national-level beauty contest held so far in the country, was co-organized by local Tien Phong (Vanguard) Newspaper and Kien Giang Province People's Committee. According to organizers, the final night was convened on Phu Quoc Island aimed at putting the name of the island, dubbed Vietnam's tourism haven, on the map of local and international pageants.

Besides artistic performances by Vietnam's most famous singers, highlight of the night was the performance by celebrated American pop star Kelly Clarkson, who won the first season of the much-loved singing reality show "American Idol" in 2002.

Xinhua

Reese Witherspoon to receive Palm Springs Film Festival award

LOS ANGELES, 7 Dec — Actress Reese Witherspoon is to receive the Palm Springs International Film Festival (PSIFF) Chairman's Award. The 38-year-old actress is being recognized for her role as Cheryl Strayed in 'Wild' — an adaptation of Strayed's memoir about hiking 1,100 miles up the Pacific Crest Trail following the death of her mother, reported Ace Showbiz.

PSIFF chairman Harold Matzner said: "Witherspoon delivers one of her finest performances in Wild. She brilliantly brings to life the true story of Cheryl Strayed, adding yet another iconic performance to her impressive 20-year span of characters."

Previous winners of the award include Ben Affleck, Tom Hanks, Dustin Hoffman and Nicole Kidman. It was recently announced Witherspoon will be joining Kidman in a TV adaptation of 'Big Little Lies'. The Palm Springs International Film Festival will be held between 2-12 January, 2015.

PTI



Reese Witherspoon



Ryan Reynolds

Ryan Reynolds hints at 'Deadpool' return

LOS ANGELES, 7 Dec — Actor Ryan Reynolds has hinted that he will be starring in the upcoming 'Deadpool' movie. 20th Century Fox announced earlier this year that an X-Men spin-off movie based around mercenary Deadpool will hit cinemas in 2016. Reynolds, 38, previously played Deadpool's alter-ego Wade Wilson in 'X-Men Origins: Wolverine', and rumours

have swirled for several years that he will play the character again in a spin-off, reported Deadline.

The actor fuelled those rumours even further by sharing an image of Deadpool's iconic red-and-black mask on Twitter "Uh... It's Chimichanga Time," Reynolds tweeted in a reference to Deadpool's catchphrase. Producer Simon Kinberg recently hinted that

'Deadpool' will be a "massive" part of the X-Men franchise moving forward. Wade Wilson first appeared in Marvel Comics in 1991 as a villainous mercenary, and has since transitioned into being one of the most popular anti-heroes for the publisher. 'Deadpool' will release in cinemas on 12 February, 2016 in the US and in the UK.—PTI

Aamir Khan to request Narendra Modi to watch 'PK'



Aamir Khan

PATNA, 7 Dec — Bollywood star Aamir Khan today said he would request Prime Minister Narendra Modi to watch his upcoming film 'PK'. The 49-year-old actor, who will be seen mouthing Bhojpuri dialogues in the movie, said, "We could have chosen any language in the film but I suggested the main character in the film should speak Bhojpuri lan-

guage which will add colour to the movie.

"Though it is well known that the Prime Minister is always busy in work. It would be interesting if Modi watches the film," said Aamir, who was here to promote the film.

The actor said he worked for more than four months on Bhojpuri under guidance of Shanti Bhusan, who hails from Bihar. "The original script of the movie was in Khari boli but I suggested Bhojpuri which was ultimately chosen," he said.

Aamir recalled that thespian Dilip Kumar had spoken Bhojpuri in the famous film 'Ganga Jamuna'.

"My love for Bhojpuri could have been inspired by it," he said.—PTI

I am single so no one gets hurt: Taylor Swift

LOS ANGELES, 7 Dec — Country singer Taylor Swift, who gained infamy for making songs out of her break-ups, says she is single so that no one gets hurt. The 24-year-old singer says she decided to stay single intentionally, reported Billboard.

"I don't have anyone whose feelings are on the line except for me," Swift said in an interview. "If I was in love with someone right now, I don't know how I would handle everyone else weighing in on our stories, because when you're in a relationship there are a lot of secrets and a lot of sacred moments that you don't want

to divulge."

Swift lasted dated One Direction's Harry Styles till January 2013. Her other former romances include Conor Kennedy, Jake Gyllenhaal, John Mayer, and Taylor Lautner.

"I am 24, perfectly happy being alone. One of the reasons I'm perfectly happy being alone is that no one gets hurt this way. Like, have not gone on a date. People are going to feel sorry for me when you write that. But it's true." There are rumours that Swift has found romance with singer Matthew Healy but the singer is yet to confirm or deny.

PTI



Taylor Swift

Liverpool cannot rely on Gerrard, says Rodgers

LONDON, 7 Dec — Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers has told his players they cannot always rely on Steven Gerrard for inspiration after a decision to rest the Reds captain backfired in a dismal 0-0 draw with Sunderland on Saturday.

The debate surrounding Gerrard's role in the side is likely to rumble on after Rodgers left the midfielder on the bench for the first 67 minutes at Anfield.

Having inspired Liverpool to a 3-1 victory over Leicester City in midweek, the 34-year-old's absence coincided with one of Liverpool's least impressive attacking performances of a disappointing campaign.

"I can't have any complaints from the players," Rodgers told the BBC. "They're giving me everything and we can't solely rely on Steven. It can't (always) be up to him."

In consigning his captain to the bench, the Liverpool boss perhaps had one eye on Tuesday's crucial Champions League clash at home to Basel. Rodgers has spoken at length about needing to manage Gerrard, so he is fresh for the biggest occasions.

He was in no mood to criticise Gerrard's team mates, however, after Saturday's draw ensured they had taken seven points from the last nine, a marked improvement after they lost three straight league games in November. "I thought the players gave everything and in the second half we looked like we could make breakthrough," Rodgers added.

"Sunderland proved this year that they are a hard team to beat. I can't fault the players. They needed a wee bit of luck and it didn't come.

"If you can't win it's



Sunderland's Liam Bridcutt looks on as Liverpool's Steven Gerrard controls the ball during their English Premier League soccer match at Anfield in Liverpool, on 6 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

important you don't lose. We've taken seven points from nine this week which is a good return for us."

Liverpool, who have looked short of firepower in the absence of long-term absentee Daniel Sturridge, are ninth in the Premier League with 21 points from

15 games.

They are entering a crucial period of the campaign, with Tuesday's winner-takes-all match against Basel, preceding league games against Manchester United and Arsenal and a League Cup quarter-final at Bournemouth.—Reuters

Roddick made honorary member of Wimbledon, says Henman



Andy Roddick of the US

LONDON, 7 Dec — Andy Roddick has been made an honorary member of the All England Club, according to former British number one Tim Henman.

The American, three

times a runner-up at the grand slam tournament, visited the grasscourt club on Friday for "a spot of tea" with Henman while in London competing at the Statoil Masters event at the Royal

Albert Hall.

"I was able to take him to Wimbledon a couple of days ago because he's being made an honorary member, which he was so excited about, having been a three-time finalist," Henman said in an interview with the Tennis Podcast.

Honorary membership of the elite club usually requires a Wimbledon title, but Henman said former world number one Roddick, who quit in 2012 aged 30 deserved the accolade.

"If you win the tournament you become a member automatically but I think with his impact in that event and his rapport with

the British crowd it was felt that it would be a really nice gesture," Henman added.

"He was given a few gifts, one of them being a club tie, which is completely useless because he doesn't know how to tie a tie!"

Roddick, runner-up in 2004, 2005 and 2009, is making his first appearance on the seniors tour this week and on Saturday reached the final when he beat 2002 Wimbledon semi-finalist Xavier Malisse 6-4, 6-2.

He will play fellow debutant Fernando Gonzalez at the Royal Albert Hall after he overcame Henman 6-4, 2-6, 10-6.—Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(8-12-2014, Monday)

6:00 am

* Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:30 am

* Physical Exercise

7:00 am

* News / Weather Report

7:20 am

* People Talks

8:00 am

* News / International News

8:30 am

* Documentary (ASEAN)

9:00 am

* News / International News

10:20 am

* Weekly Entertainment News

11:35 am

* Tasty Trip (Twantay)

12:00 noon

* News / International News / Weather Report

12:25 pm

* Myanmar Movies

2:30 pm

* Documentary (Traffic)

3:15 pm

* Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)

4:30 pm

* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) —Third Years (Zoology)

5:15 pm

* TV Drama Series

6:20 pm

* Traditional Boxing

7:20 pm

* Teleplay

8:00 pm

* News / International News / Weather Report

9:00 pm

* News / International News / Weather Report

* Socio Economic Scenes

* Talk On Old Film

MITV

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(8-12-14 07:00 am~

9 -12-14 07:00 am) MST

* Local News

* Myanmar Traditional Identity (Episode-1)

The Culture of

Pennant Pillar

* World News

* Myanmar Traditional Art Bronze Casting

* Local News

* U Kyaw Thu:

From Artist to

Philanthropist (Part-I)

* World News

* Myanmar Puppet

* Local News

* Taste of Myanmar (Shan Style Clay Pot)

* World News

* The Photographer (Portiature) "Aung Kyaw Moe"

* Local News

* Youth of the Future:

(Vocalist, L-Jar Ngaing)

* World News

* In The Studio

"Zaw Lin Oo"

* 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

Vonn back on top of the world at Lake Louise

LAKE LOUISE, 7 Dec — It only took two races after a year's injury break for Lindsey Vonn to return to the top.

The most successful active skier, forced out of action for 349 days after a shin fracture and two knee operations, clinched her 60th World Cup victory in the downhill at her favorite piste of Lake Louise on Saturday.

"I fought so hard to be back where I am, at the top of the podium. It means the world to me, it's just unbelievable", she said. "It's like a dream day."

Eighth on Friday for her return to the circuit, Vonn

led the first-ever clean sweep of World Cup podium places for the US Ski Team, beating compatriots Stacey Cook and Julia Mancuso by 0.49 and 0.57 seconds respectively.

It was the American's 15th win in the Alberta resort sometimes dubbed Lake Lindsey and her 30th downhill laurels.

Vonn's last World Cup victory was on 21 Jan. , 2013 in a giant slalom in Maribor and she is now only two wins short of the all-time record of 62 held by Austria's Annemarie Moser-Proell.

"I never felt sidelined,



Lindsey Vonn of the USA competes during the women's downhill in the FIS alpine skiing World Cup at Lake Louise Ski Resort, Alberta, Canada, on 6 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

I was supported by my friends, my family and my team. I always knew I could do it. I had confidence in myself," Vonn said.

In the men's Super-G in Beaver Creek, Austria's Hannes Reichelt stopped Norway's Kjetil Jansrud from becoming the first skier to win all four speed events in the North-American phase of the season.

Crowned on the Birds of Prey in 2006 and 2008, Reichelt made it three victories in 1:12.78 with a 0.52 seconds lead over Jansrud, winner of Friday's downhill.

Leading the overall

World Cup by a huge 191 points over Italian Dominik Paris and 216 over big globe holder Marcel Hirscher, who failed to finish his first Super-G of the season, the Norwegian also won both events in Lake Louise last weekend. For Reichelt, it was a great return to form after back surgery only days after a sensational home win in the Kitzbuehel downhill last season. The 34-year-old consequently missed the Sochi Olympics.

"Everything stopped after Kitzbuehel last season," Reichelt said. "I wanted this so bad." —Reuters

City close gap as Chelsea suffer first defeat



Yaya Toure of Manchester City is challenged by Tony Hibbert of Everton during their English Premier League soccer match against Everton at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester on 6 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS



Stoke City's Jonathan Walters (L) shoots and scores his goal against Arsenal during their English Premier League soccer match in Stoke, northern England on 6 Dec, 2014. —REUTERS



Arsenal's Santi Cazorla (L) scores from the penalty spot past Stoke City goalkeeper Asmir Begovic (unseen) during their English Premier League soccer match in Stoke, northern England on 6 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

LONDON, 7 Dec — Chelsea's unbeaten start to the season ended with a dramatic 2-1 defeat at Newcastle United on Saturday when Papiss Cisse struck twice to stun the Premier League leaders at St James' Park.

Champions Manchester City took full advantage of Chelsea's surprise reverse to cut the gap at the top to three points as Yaya Toure's penalty earned a 1-0 home victory over Everton.

Arsenal's hopes of a third successive win were dashed by a 3-2 defeat at Stoke City, where they trailed 3-0 at halftime. Liverpool were held to a 0-0 home draw by Sunderland, one of three goalless stalemates on Saturday.

Undefeated in 23 matches in all competitions since April's Champions League semi-final against Atletico Madrid, Chelsea proved far from invincible as 10-man Newcastle survived a late barrage to prevent the Londoners creating a club record unbeaten run.

Few could deny Newcastle a deserved win that lifted them to seventh in the table although visiting manager Jose Mourinho said his side were unfortunate.

The hosts lost goalkeeper Rob Elliot

to injury at halftime, replaced by young rookie debutant Jak Alnwick, and had to man the barricades with only 10 men when Steven Taylor was dismissed after getting a second yellow card nine minutes from the end.

Substitute Cisse, who replaced Remy Cabella after the break, put Newcastle in front after 57 minutes following a slip by Gary Cahill and struck again on the break 21 minutes later, seconds after Eden Hazard was denied an equaliser by the woodwork.

Didier Drogba's majestic header halved the deficit late on but Newcastle survived six minutes of stoppage time and Chelsea's 14-match unbeaten start to the league season, which had drawn comparisons with the Arsenal 'Invincibles' of 2003-04, was over.

"We were unlucky," said Mourinho who criticized Newcastle's fans and ball boys for wasting time by not returning the ball when it went out of play.

"The best team lost, the team that tried to win lost, but that's football," he told a news conference.

"What's important is that it's the kind of defeat which is easy to accept. I don't

like to lose when the referee isn't good... which wasn't the case today."

Three points

Chelsea now have 36 points from 15 matches, with Manchester City on 33. Southampton have 26 and play their game in hand against fourth-placed Manchester United (25) on Monday.

West Ham United (24) can climb from fifth to third if they beat Swansea City at Upton Park on Sunday.

Manchester City lost 14-goal leading marksman Sergio Aguero because of a left knee injury inside the first five minutes at the Etihad but still had too much for Everton who only came to life late on.

The winning goal was slightly fortuitous as Phil Jagielka's 24th-minute challenge on James Milner was deemed illegal by the referee despite no protests from the City midfielder.

Toure calmly stroked the penalty past keeper Tim Howard and that proved enough to secure three points for the home side who face a vital Champions League clash at AS Roma in midweek.

"It would have been very easy to slip up after seeing the (Chelsea) result and not do our job," said Milner.

"We've played a lot better lately but we need to win these kind of games if we are going to win the title."

Arsenal fell behind to a Peter Crouch goal after 19 seconds at Stoke before Bojan and Jon Walters made it 3-0 by halftime.

Santi Cazorla's penalty and a goal from Aaron Ramsey gave Arsenal hope after the break but the damage was already done for the visitors who had Calum Chambers sent off with 12 minutes to go.

"Once we were 3-0 down we had a mountain to climb. We did climb and we were a bit unlucky," manager Arsene Wenger said.

Skipper Steven Gerrard was left on the bench by manager Brendan Rodgers as Liverpool laboured to a 0-0 draw at Anfield against Sunderland.

He joined the fray after 67 minutes but could not stir the attack into life as Liverpool remained in mid-table.

Queens Park Rangers beat Burnley 2-0 to climb out of the relegation zone. Tottenham Hotspur drew 0-0 with Crystal Palace, as did Hull City with fellow strugglers West Bromwich Albion.

Reuters

More records as Ronaldo's 23rd treble cheers Real



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo tries to score past Celta Vigo's goalkeeper Sergio Alvarez (L) during their Spanish First Division soccer match at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on 6 Dec, 2014. REUTERS

BARCELONA, 7 Dec — Cristiano Ronaldo grabbed a record 23rd La Liga hat-trick to guide leaders Real Madrid to a 3-0 victory over Celta Vigo at the Bernabeu on Saturday.

It also helped the European champions extend their club record winning

streak to 18 matches in all competitions and equal the record run of victories set by Barcelona between October 2005 and January 2006.

Elsewhere, a ferocious drive by Jose Maria Gimenez set Atletico Madrid on the way to a 2-0 triumph at Elche that lifted them into

second place. With his latest treble he overtook greats Alfredo Di Stefano of Real Madrid and Athletic Bilbao's Telmo Zarra and he has three more hat-tricks than his present day rival Lionel Messi at Barcelona.

"The statistics he is producing are madness,"

team mate Sergio Ramos told reporters.

"To be honest it is a privilege to play at Real Madrid with a player like him. You have to invent words to define him. He is beating all the records and is possibly in the best form of his career."

Ronaldo, the inspiration behind Real's blistering form this season, struck the opening goal from the penalty spot nine minutes before the break after he was felled by Jonny Castro.

While Real constantly looked to push forward, they also found it tough against a well-organized Celta.

There was no stopping Ronaldo though as he blasted a volley from the centre of the penalty area after 65 minutes to make it 2-0 before adding a third goal from close range nine minutes from the end.—Reuters

Cambodian wins Angkor Wat int'l half marathon

SIEM REAP, (Cambodia), 7 Dec — A Cambodian won the Angkor Wat International Half Marathon for the first time on Sunday.

Ma Viro, 27, finished the 21-kilometre test in 1 hour, 16 minutes and 10 seconds to win the 19th running of the race in the environs of the ancient Angkor Wat Temple complex.

Singaporean Vivian Tang took the women's title in 1:28:05.

Cambodian Minister of Tourism Thong Khon said nearly 8,000 runners from 78 countries entered 3 km, 10 km or 21 km events.

In 1996, only 654 runners from 14 countries entered. The Angkor Wat International Half Marathon was first introduced by Yuko Arimori, the first Japanese woman to win a marathon medal at the Olympics.

Arimori, now a goodwill ambassador for the UN Population Fund, has taken part in every international half marathon in Cambodia to contribute to fund-raising for landmine victims and the poor.

"It is truly a pleasure to be able to meet again in the marking of 19 years. I would love to share the pleasure to be here with all of you," she said on Sunday.—Kyodo News