

## President U Thein Sein leaves for Republic of Korea to attend 25<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec — Myanmar President U Thein Sein left Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday morning for the Republic of Korea to attend the 25<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit in the port city of Busan as the Chair of ASEAN.

The president and his party were seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by vice presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, union ministers and senior military officers.

The delegation includes Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Kyaw Hsan, U Myint Hlaing, U Maung Myint, Dr Kan Zaw and U Ye Htut and Lt-Gen Soe Thein of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army).

Myanmar's president is visiting the Republic of Korea this time at the invitation of its president, Madam Park Geun-hye, who visited Myanmar last month to attend the 25<sup>th</sup>



*President U Thein Sein being seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Vice Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, officials and diplomats.—MNA*

ASEAN Summit and the 9<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit in Nay Pyi Taw. He paid his first goodwill visit to the Northeast Asian country in October 2012 at the invi-

tation of its then President Mr. Lee Myung-bak, who visited Myanmar in May 2012.

ASEAN's the ROK's second largest trade partner and investment destination.

ASEAN-ROK dialogue relations were launched in 1989. Over four million Ko-

reans tour Southeast Asia yearly, but only a quarter of that number of people from

ASEAN countries visit ROK from this region. (See page 3)

### H.E. Park Geun-hye, President of ROK, sends letters to ASEAN countries

YANGON, 10 Dec — On the Occasion of the ASEAN - ROK Commemorative Summit to be held in Busan, the Republic of Korea, President of ROK H.E. Park Geun-hye has sent letters to ASEAN member countries. The letter sent to Myanmar was published in GNLM on 10 December 2014 with the title of "A Shared Vision for the Future of Korea and ASEAN-Partnership for Trust and Happiness-".—GNLM



*H.E. Park Geun-hye President of the Republic of Korea*

### Myanmar National Airlines begins corporatized operation

**By Ye Myint**

YANGON, 10 Dec — The Ministry of Transport on Wednesday announced the corporatization of Myanmar National Airlines, which was recently renamed from Myanma Airways.

The corporatization is intended to facilitate investment in air transportation technologies and services, reinvigorate the country's aviation industry and improve the MNA's aviation hospitality, the ministry said in its press release.

"I'm very pleased to see this 66-year-old airline, operated since independence, moved towards corporatization", said Captain U Than Tun, Managing Director of the MNA.

Over several decades, the airline has established itself as a reputable national airline well known for

service quality and it will strive to continue to be the travelers' choice as number one airline of the country, the managing director added.

In the statement, the ministry said the airline will launch new domestic flights and services as of 15 December, providing an Integrated Airline Management System and an Online Reservation and Ticketing System and Departure Control System as part of

its transformation program for meeting international standards.

Moreover, passengers will be able to visit its new website to use an electronic booking engine and online check-in service will be allowed at Yangon Airport first before launching the new service at Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Heho and NyaungU where it will be available a few weeks later.

According to the press release, the MNA

plans to expand its current fleet with 10 Boeing 737-800NG/Max and six ATR 72-600 airliners.

As a gesture of preserving cultural heritage, the carrier's more than 150-year-old building was renovated recently, the statement said, adding that the newly opened travel centre is providing multiple services including ticketing, payment and travel enquiries to customers.

(See page 2)





## Union I&P Minister supervises issuance of citizenship cards to people



*Union Minister U Khin Yi explains purpose of issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards to local people in Myaungmya Township.—MNA*

## Two privates from KIA (Kachin) and RCSS/SSA return to legal fold



*Private Sai Aung Thein.—MYAWADY*

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec — Private Sai Aung Thein (A-52716), aged 35, of Battalion 23 of the KIA surrendered himself without weapon at a Tatmadaw column at Manwaingyi Village on 8 December morning. Son of U Sein Maung, he is a Shan national who



*Maung Aik Lu.*

MYAWADY lived in Moehauk Village in Moemeik Township and one of 36 people who were forcefully recruited by the KIA while working

at Namsamyan goldmine in July 2010. He said he fled the KIA because of forced recruitment, shortage of food and cash, homesickness, forced labour and torture.

Similarly, on 9 December morning, Mg Aik Lu, 14-year-old boy of RCSS/SSA (Ywetsit), surrendered himself at a Tatmadaw column discharging security duty near Naung Pain Village in Kyaukme Township. Son of U Maung Htay, he was forcefully recruited by the RCSS/SSA in February 2014. The RCSS/SSA is recruiting young locals regardless of sex and ethnic locals are worried as the group is recruiting child soldiers like Mg Aik Lu.

*Myawady*

## Anti-human trafficking task force discuss sub-regional action plan

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec — Myanmar anti-human trafficking task force held a meeting here Tuesday to discuss the action plan to fight against trafficking in persons in Mekong sub-region.

The Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking Task Force Meeting was attend-

ed by Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Zaw Win of Myanmar Police Force, the members of COMMIT task force, UN agencies, NGOs and INGOs.

During his opening speech of the two-day meeting, the Chief of MPF said that the meeting is for the second time and will

review the working process of the task force.

Myanmar was ranked at Tier 2 Watch List three times from 2012 to 2014.

Police Brig-Gen Win Naing Tun, joint-secretary of anti-human trafficking committee, explained the activities of their committee.

*MNA*

## Public announcement for remonstrations

Bamar People's Party headquartered at No. 10, Gawthaka Street, Thayagone Ward, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region, as a political party under the Article 9 of Political Parties Registration Law, submitted applications to change its name as Bamar People's Party and its seal to the Union Election Commission on 27 November 2014.

It is hereby announced in accord with the Political Parties Registration Rules 14 (d) that if there is anyone who want to remonstrate about the name "Bamar People's Party" and its seal, they may remonstrate with the Union Election Commission with firm evidence within seven days from the date of the announcement.

Union Election Commission



*Seal of Bamar People's Party*

## UEC, International IDEA hold workshop on process of political finance

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec — The Union Election Commission and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance jointly conducted a workshop on how money in politics is controlled and regulated at the UEC office in Nay Pyi

Taw on Wednesday.

Mr. Magnus Ohman and Ms. Elin Falfuera of International IDEA shared their international experiences on the funding of political parties and election campaigns, including rules and regulations for finan-

cial disclosure and scrutiny of complaints,

Over a dozen UEC members and officials participated in the workshop and discussed laws, bylaws, rules and regulations relating to political finance.—MNA



*Foreign experts give lectures on control of money in politics at Union Election Commission Office in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA*

## Myanmar National Airlines . . .

*(from page 1)*

MNA is the national flag carrier of Myanmar. Founded in 1948 as Union of Burma Airways, domestic schedule flights were commenced with six De Havilland Dove aircraft flying to 19 destinations. External

flights were operated to Bangkok, Calcutta and Chittagong in 1950. The airline was reformed as a board under the Union of Burma Airways Acts of 1952, according to the international schedule flight extension program. The flights were operated

to Singapore, Kathmandu, Bangkok, Calcutta, Dhaka, Hong Kong and Jakarta until 1993. It was renamed Myanma Airways in 1989, operating flight schedules to 21 destinations. Now, the MNA has the largest domestic network in the country, flying to 26 destinations.

*GNLM*





*President U Thein Sein being welcomed by the Guard of Honour at Gimhae Airbase in the Republic of Korea.—MNA*

## President U Thein Sein leaves for...

(from page 1)

The 25<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit will be held on 11 and 12 December.

President U Thein Sein together with delegation

members arrived at Busan, the Republic of Korea, at 6 pm local time.

The President and party were welcomed at Gimhae Airbase by Vice Minister of Culture Mr Shin

Dong-ik and senior government officers, Myanmar Ambassador to the Republic of Korea U Soe Lwin and wife, the commander of Gimhae Airbase.

The president and party proceeded to Paradise Hotel.

In the evening, the President attended a dinner hosted by honorary consul-general Mr Won Bae Dahn to Myanmar and leaders of business and industrial sectors at Paradise Hotel.

MNA

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker visits Philippines



*Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets Philippine President Mr Benigno Noynoy Aquino III at the Presidential Palace in Manila.—MNA*

MANILA, 10 Dec—At the invitation of Speaker of Lower House of the Philippines Hon Mr. Feliciano Belmonte, Jr, Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann left for the Philippines on Tuesday.

The parliamentarian delegation is composed of chairmen of Hluttaw committees including U Thein Zaw, U Hla Myint Oo and U Soe Naing and Defence Services Representative Brig-Gen Than Htut Thein and officials.

The delegation was

welcomed at the Ninoy Aquino Airport by Vice Speaker Giorgidi Aggabao, Lower House Representative Zenaida Angping, Myanmar Ambassador to the Philippines U Ye Myint Aung and officials.

Thura U Shwe Mann met with President Mr Benigno Noynoy Aquino III at the Presidential Palace in Manila on Wednesday morning. At the meeting, Thura U Shwe Mann praised the typhoon prevention efforts of the Philippines and held discussions on promotion of

relations between the two countries and two parliaments and reforms and the peace process of Myanmar.

During the discussions, the Philippines President explained the people-centred approach of his country, measures for improvement of education, health and employment sectors and peace negotiations of the Philippines.

Then, Thura U Shwe Mann met with Acting Foreign Minister Mrrafaek Seguis at the foreign ministry in Manila on the same day. They held talks on co-

operation and peace talks.

After the meeting, they exchanged gifts and posed for a documentary photo. —MNA

## Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits ancient Pyu city

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited Hanlin, one of the ancient cultural cities of Pyu and now located in Sagaing region, in the afternoon of Wednesday.

During the meeting at the Hanlin Ancient Culture Museum, senior general said that Hanlin is a historic

area with abundant of cultural values for Myanmar.

He also remarked that some of the ornamental wares of Pyu cultures are still of the interest to the people of modern time for the great artistic values of ancient Pyu people.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party then visited the hot spring in Hanlin. In the morning,

commander-in-chief and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla paid obeisance to the pagoda, with the title of Shwe None Toe, where golden holy umbrella is poised.

Together with senior general, the consecration ceremony at the pagoda were attended by Sagaing region's chief minister U Tha Aye and senior military officers.—Myawady



*Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party pose for documentary photo at the entrance of No 17 mound in Hanlin ancient city.—MYAWADY*



*A file photo shows President U Thein Sein cordially greets President of ROK H.E. Park Geun-hye at 25<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in November 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.—MNA*



## Rural youth attend capacity enhancement course

MONYWA, 10 Dec— Sagaing Region Rural Development Department opened the Monywa District rural youth capacity enhancement course in its hall in Monywa on 6 December.

District and township officers of the department gave lectures on history of rural areas, poverty alleviation, community-based projects, construction of rural bridges, supply of potable water, electrification, fisheries, livestock breeding and veterinary tasks, and Emerald Green Project.

Altogether 24 trainees from township rural devel-



opment departments attended the three-day course up to 8 December.

*Tun Ko Ko (Yinmabin)*

## Eye specialists give free eye care services to locals in Mahlaing Tsp



MAHLAING, 10 Dec — Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Aye Mauk of Mahlaing Township and U Aung Myat of Mother Trading Co Ltd organized eye care services for the patients at Aye Myitta Hall, south of Mahlaing Township People's Hospital, from 5 to 8 December.

An eye specialist team led by Medical Superintendent Dr Tin Tin Moe of Mandalay Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist Hospital performed free eye surgical operations on the patients.

Patients from 247 villages in Mahlaing, Myingyan, Taungtha and

Kyaukpadaung townships received eye care treatment at the hospital from 7 am to 10 pm daily in the four-day period.

Specialists examined the eyes of over 2,000 patients and performed surgical operations on 205 patients.

The eye specialists put up glasses to over 680 eye patients.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Aye Mauk served the patients and their helpers with dinner daily. He funded over K15 million worth of medicines at the free eye care service.

The Pyithu Hluttaw MP sponsored the free eye care service for over 3,400 eye patients in 2009 for the first time.—GNLM-018

## Departmental personnel check thriving vegetable plantations



NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec — Head of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area Agriculture Department U Tin Oo Kyaing and staff made a field trip to vegetable plantations in Nweyit Village in Tatkon Township on 8 December morning.

The officials checked thriving vegetable plantations and met with local farmers.

They explained about use of quality vegetable species, management of pests and diseases and systematic use of fertilizers and other inputs.

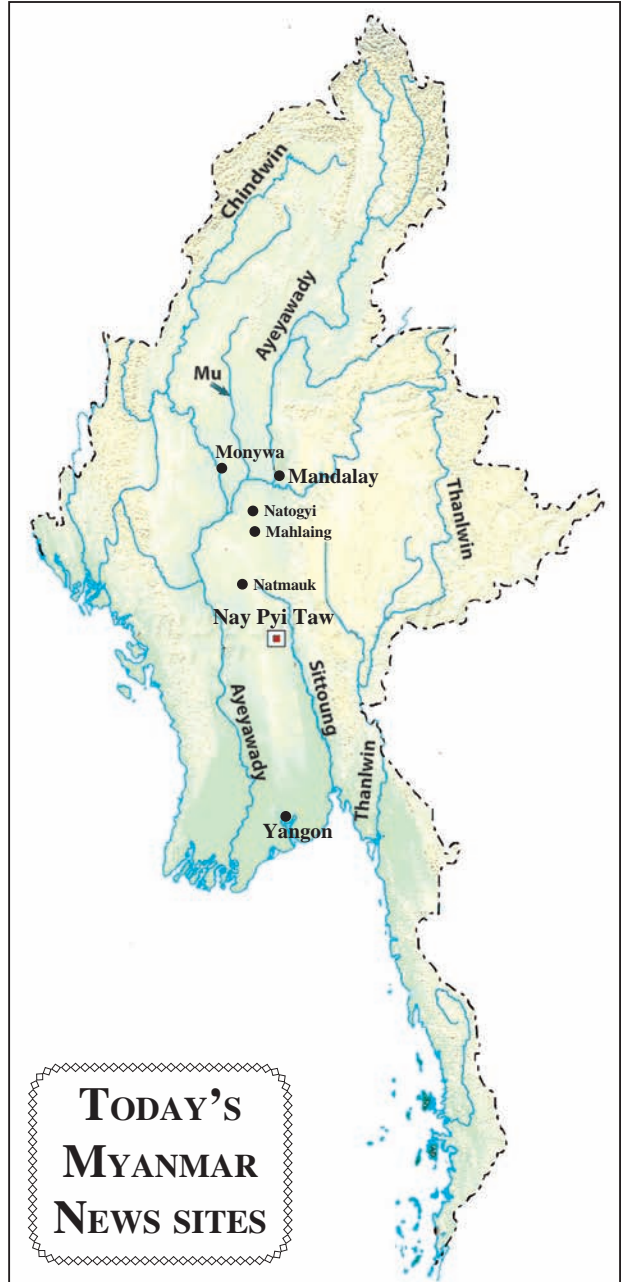
*Ko Pauk (Okkar Myay)*

## Natogyi Township opens Election Sub-commission office

NATOGYI, 10 Dec — Natogyi Township Election Sub-commission Office has been set up with a deputy staff officer and two staff members.

The office was allotted to open at the combined office of Township General Administration Department in Natogyi, Mandalay Region. Township GAD has chosen a land plot in Ward 2 of the township to build the Township Election Sub-commission office.

At present, the sub-commission formed with U Mya Maung (retired banking officer) and 14 members is carrying out electoral tasks, said the deputy staff officer.—*Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)*



## MRCCI elects new executives for 2014-17 fiscal years term



MANDALAY, 10 Dec — A ceremony to elect executives for the 2014-17 fiscal years term of Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry took place at its hall in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay, on 8 December.

The election commission comprising U Aye Hlaing, joint general secretary of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, director U Myo Thu

of Ministry of Commerce, Pyigyidagun Township Region Hluttaw representative U Thein Hla, and retired rector U Po Myint supervised the election of chamber executives.

At the ceremony, attendees elected 16 executives including U Aung Than as chairman and Dr Maung Maung as general secretary for the 2014-17 term.

*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*



LOCAL NEWS

## Workshop on international policing standards kicks off in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 10 Dec — A workshop on international policing standards, jointly conducted by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Myanmar Police Force, was held at a hall of the Mandalay Region Police Force on 66<sup>th</sup> Street in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay, on 9 December.

The deputy commander of the region's police force, Police Col Thet Naing, and Mr John-Erik Jensen of the ICRC delivered the opening speeches and exchanged gifts.

The workshop focused on practice of policing



authority, crowd control, tasks for prevalence of law and order and use of manpower.

Altogether 30 officers from police forces at different levels and security police branches are attending

the workshop from 9 to 11 December.

*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*



## Children join physical skills contest

## Rural area gets repaved road in Pobbathiri Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec — A ceremony to inaugurate the entrance road to Pazunseik Village was held in Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on Wednesday.

Council member U

Than Htay explained the council's efforts to develop Pobbathiri Township.

Director (Engineer) of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Aung Moe reported on the placing of asphalt on the road leading

to the village.

The council member, joined by Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee member U Kyaw Myint and the district's Deputy Commissioner U Tun Zaw, formally opened the

already-paved road and strolled along it.

The one-mile road was upgraded from a gravel road to a paved one to contribute towards development of the village.

*Shwe Kokko*



*An official of Nan Htaik Yadana pre-primary school presents prizes to children in physical skills contest.*

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec — Nan Htaik Yadana pre-primary school under the Social Welfare Department held a physical skills contest at the school on Wednesday, attended by Director of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area Social Welfare Department U Tun Oo and officials.

About 190 children participated in 14 events. Departmental officials awarded the prize winners. School principal Daw Soe Soe Maw explained the contest's purpose of enabling children to develop self confidence.

*Than Naing (Zabuthiri)*



## Departmental officials share knowledge about uneatable foods to students



NATMAUK, 10 Dec — A meeting on consumer protection was held at Basic Education Middle School in Natmauk, Magway Region, on 9 December.

Headmaster U Zaw Win of the school made a speech. U Maung Myaing of Commercial and Consumer Affairs Department disseminated knowledge about uneatable foods, unlicensed foods with chemicals and dyes and lists of goods and meals lacking permission from Food and Drug Administration. It was attended by local authorities, members of auxiliary fire brigade, teachers and students.

*Hla Win (Township IPRD)*



*Under the supervision of Township Fire Services Department, firefighters fill water at water tanks by water bowser in Ward 7, Natmauk Township, Magway Region, on 10 December to take fire prevention measures in urban area.*

**Hla Win (Township IPRD)**





*The high-speed train G85 from east China's Shanghai to Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province, pulls into the Hangzhou East Railway Station in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, on 10 Dec, 2014. The first Shanghai-Guangzhou high-speed train was put into operation on Wednesday.*

XINHUA

## Japan to provide relief aid to typhoon-hit Philippines

TOKYO, 10 Dec — Japan has decided to provide emergency relief supplies worth 22 million yen to the Philippines, where a recent typhoon caused extensive damage, the government said on Wednesday.

The decision came as Typhoon Hagupit has left a number of dead and injured, with 1.7 million fleeing for safety, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroshige Seko said at a Press conference.

"The Japanese government stands ready to provide additional assistance for their recovery from the damage," he said.

The relief aid will be sent through the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Kyodo News

## Cambodia rebuffs report on asylum seekers' arrests, deportation

PHNOM PENH, 10 Dec — Cambodia on Wednesday denied a report that it has arrested and deported a group of 13 Montagnard asylum seekers to Vietnam, saying the report was "untrue, groundless and irresponsible."

"In recent past, there has been an argument that Cambodia has arrested 13 Montagnards and sent them back to Vietnam," Interior Ministry spokesman Gen Khieu Sopheak said in a statement.

"I vehemently deny this untrue information and I see it as an allegation without responsibilities from any individual or civil society."

"I'd like to assure that up to now, we have not received any specific information about the presence or location of the Montagnards (in Cambodia)," he said.

The denial came after a local rights group allegedly said that Cambodia had caught those Montagnard asylum seekers and repatriated them to Vietnam.

In recent weeks, Cambodian media have reported that Cambodian police are seeking in the country's northeast for 13 Vietnamese ethnic minority hill people, known as Montagnards, with a view to deporting them to Vietnam.

Xinhua

## Indonesia's Jokowi grants clemency to jailed human rights activist

JAKARTA, 10 Dec — Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo granted clemency on Tuesday to a human rights activist who has been serving a four-year jail term since May for defending the rights of farmers.

The decision was welcomed by human right activists as it is very rare for the government to release a jailed human right activist.

Jokowi said he was told that Eva Susanti Hanafi Bande, 36, was jailed for encouraging farmers in Luwuk Regency in Central Sulawesi Province to fight against a palm oil company that forcibly took their land.

"With God's will, hopefully, before (Indonesian) Mother's Day, Mrs Eva will have been reunited with her husband and children," Jokowi said in a speech to mark World Human Rights Day in the cultural city of Yogyakarta in central Java.

The Luwuk District Court sentenced Eva to four years in jail in 2010. She was found guilty of inciting farmers to stage a protest against the palm oil company that led to the arson of the company's assets.



*Indonesian President Joko Widodo*

While awaiting an appeal ruling, Eva was arrested but later freed after she went on a hunger strike for a week and was later hospitalized.

In April last year, the Supreme Court rejected her appeal but Eva went into hiding. In May this year, government prosecutors and police found her in Yogyakarta and sent her to prison in Luwuk.

A mother of three, Eva is an activist who has been fighting for the rights of farmers and democracy since 1998.

Eva was also involved in efforts to create peace in the town of Poso, also in Central Sulawesi, where religious conflict between Christians and Muslims claimed about 1,000 lives between 1998 and 2001.

Kyodo News

## Maoist rebels pose 'minimal' risk to Philippine typhoon rescue mission

MANILA, 10 Dec — Philippine rescue teams were struggling on Wednesday to reach upland communities on an eastern island which took the brunt of a typhoon at the weekend amid security fears in an area known as a hotbed of Maoist insurgents.

Typhoon Hagupit destroyed nearly 16,500 houses and damaged more than 33,100 on the island of Samar before making its way slowly across the country. It has since been downgraded to a tropical storm and on Wednesday was headed for southern Vietnam.

The national disaster agency said nine people were killed as the storm churned across the central islands and the southern tip of the main island of Luzon. The Red Cross has confirmed 22 deaths. The health ministry and Red Cross were checking reports that nearly 40 people died.

"We're trying to reach upland villages ... but land-

slides and fallen trees make it difficult," Richard Gordon, head of the Philippine Red Cross, told *Reuters*.

"...We expect casualty figures to increase as we get more information on the ground."

The Red Cross has rented a civilian helicopter to survey upland areas and try to find a place to land, but officials say privately they are worried their communications equipment might be stolen by communist rebels.

New People's Army guerrillas have been fighting the government for 45 years. They have a strong presence in poor rural communities, like Samar, living in bunkers and thatched huts.

Military spokesman Colonel Restituto Padilla said the threat was minimal from a group not known for kidnappings, unlike the Muslim Abu Sayyaf militants operating in the south.

"We know the risks so we escort the people

involved in humanitarian work, especially if there are international aid agencies there. We don't want any untoward incident."

Alexander Pama, executive director of the national Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, said more than two million people were "affected" by

Hagupit and about 1.7 million were evacuated to shelter areas.

About 800,000 jobs and livelihoods were disrupted or lost, according to the International Labour Organization.

The agriculture ministry has estimated farm damage, mostly rice, at 1.3 bil-

lion pesos (\$29.18 million). About 56,000 metric tonnes of rice, corn and other crops were lost.

But the damage was nowhere near that wrought last year by Typhoon Haiyan, which destroyed or damaged more than a million homes and killed, or left missing, more than

7,000 people.

Interior Secretary Manuel Roxas praised the early evacuations.

"The cooperation of our people was very noticeable," Roxas said. "We did not see, for instance, price increases, hoarding and looting of shops and petrol stations."—*Reuters*



*Typhoon Hagupit victims and their motorcycles are transported on a boat next to a damaged bridge in San Julian, Eastern Samar in central Philippines on 10 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS*



## WORLD

## Secrecy law takes effect amid concern about public's right to know

TOKYO, 10 Dec — Japan's controversial secrecy law took effect on Wednesday, imposing stricter penalties on leakers of state secrets, despite concern that the public's right to know will be undermined in the name of protecting national security.

Under the law that cleared the Diet in December 2013, the heads of 19 government ministries and agencies can designate as state secrets information deemed to be sensitive in the areas of diplomacy, defence, counterterrorism and counterespionage.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has said the law will enable Japan to promote exchanges of sensitive information with other countries and forge close ties, as he established the National Security Council to speed up decision-making on diplomacy and defence.

State secrets are defined in 55 categories, such as information about the development of submarines, aircraft, weapons and ammunition. Intelligence and images obtained via radio waves and satellites and provided by foreign governments and international organizations could be withheld from the public.

The initial five-year-designation period for a state secret can be extended for up to 30 years. But state secrets can remain classified for a maximum 60 years if approved by the Cabinet for security reasons.

Civil servants or others who leak the secrets will face up to 10 years in prison, and those who instigate leaks,



*Opponents of the controversial secrecy law demonstrate in front of the prime minister's office in Tokyo on 10 Dec, 2014, against the legislation which took effect the same day, saying the public's right to know will be undermined under the name of protecting national security. The law imposes stricter penalties on leakers of state secrets.—KYODO NEWS*

including journalists, will be subject to a prison term of up to five years. Critics have argued that the definition of such "specially designated secrets" is vague, and thus the government may withhold information at its own discretion.

Their criticism has also been directed at the absence of an independent checking mechanism, as new oversight entities are placed under government control.

To ease such public concerns, the Cabinet approved guidelines on the handling of state secrets, saying that it will keep "the minimum amount of information as secrets for the shortest period of time possible" as the public's right to know should be "greatly respected" in a democratic society. Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroshige Seko said Japan has unified legal rules that will ensure objectivity and transparency in handling state secrets.

"We can exchange sensitive information necessary to protect our country and its people with foreign countries, share and protect it within the government," Seko said at a regular press briefing.

In front of the prime minister's office, hundreds demonstrated that the law be scrapped, saying their right to know is under threat. A recent *Kyodo News* survey covering the 19 government offices showed the number of state secrets will likely be around 460,000.

It has been revealed, meanwhile, that the Cabinet Intelligence and Research Office, which holds jurisdiction over the secrecy law, had warned government offices in 2011 that people who have studied or worked abroad have a higher risk of leaking state secrets.—*Kyodo News*

## Russia ready to build up to 25 nuclear units in India — Putin



*Apart from building new energy units of the NPP "Kudankulam", Russia awaits the decision of the Indian government to allot a site for construction of a new Russian-designed nuclear power plant.—ITAR-TASS*

MOSCOW, 10 Dec — Russia can build up to 25 nuclear units in India, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an interview with India's *PTI* news agency ahead of his visit to New Delhi due on Thursday.

"Apart from building new energy units of the NPP "Kudankulam", we await the decision of the Indian government to allot a site for construction of a new Russian-designed nuclear power plant," the Russian leader said. "Our resources enable us to build up to 25 energy units in India."

"However, even these units may not meet the needs of dynamically developing economy of India," Putin said citing to expert estimates. "This is why we intend to discuss the prospects for further development of our cooperation in the domain of nuclear energy during the upcoming meeting with Indian Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi."

Apart from that, he said, a policy document — Strategic Vision of the Strengthening Russian-Indian Cooperation in the Field of Peaceful Uses of the Atomic Energy — was being prepared for signing. "Alongside with new energy units' construction, it provides for the exchange of

the results of activities in the field of science, technology and innovation," Putin noted.

The Russian president underscored that nuclear cooperation was a pillar of Russia-India strategic partnership. "We concluded two inter-governmental agreements in this field in 2008 and in 2010. The Road Map for the Serial Construction of the Russian designed Nuclear Power Plants in the Republic of India, which was signed in 2010, is currently being implemented," Putin said.

Russian specialists have been building the Kudankulam nuclear power plant in India's southern state of Tamil Nadu since 1998, when the sides signed a general agreement on construction. The project provides for the construction of four energy units with a capacity of 1,000 megawatts each. In 2010, the sides signed a roadmap for the serial construction of up to 14-16 Russian-designed nuclear units in India. In the spring of 2014, Russia and India inked a deal for the construction of Kudankulam's second stage.

By 2017, India plans to build 19 nuclear units with an overall capacity of 17,400 megawatt. Eight of these 19 will be built in partnership with other countries.—*Itar-Tass*

## More NBA stars protest over police violence, hundreds march in California

BERKELEY, (Calif)/ NEW YORK, 10 Dec — More NBA players joined ongoing nationwide protests against police violence on Tuesday night and dozens of demonstrators again briefly blocked a Californian freeway.

The protests erupted last week after a grand jury decided not to charge a white New York police officer over the death in July of Eric Garner, an unarmed

black father of six. The officer, Daniel Pantaleo, had held Garner in a chokehold.

Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant and other players donned T-shirts with the words "I CAN'T BREATHE" — Garner's last words in a widely watched video — while warming up at the Staples Centre for a Tuesday night home game.

Their move came a night after Cleveland Cava-

lier standout LeBron James and others wore similar shirts before a game in the Brooklyn borough of New York. The decision not to charge Pantaleo came roughly a week after a Missouri grand jury had failed to indict white police officer Darren Wilson for fatally shooting black teenager Michael Brown in August in the St Louis suburb of Ferguson.

The two incidents have highlighted strained rela-

tions between police and black Americans and have rekindled a national debate in the United States over race relations.

In Berkeley, California, a left-leaning city with a history of social activism, hundreds of people faced off against a line of officers in riot gear outside police headquarters on Tuesday.

"All these incidents — it's not just one occurrence. And that's why I'm outraged," said protester Marsalis Johnson, 19, a bike mechanic from Berkeley.

"As a young black man I always feel like a target."

Dozens of demonstrators briefly made their way onto State Route 24 in nearby Oakland, snarling traffic before being pushed off by police. California Highway Patrol spokesman Daniel Hill said numerous protesters had been arrested on the freeway, though he gave no number.—*Reuters*



*A protester stands with a sign as he joins a protest to demand justice for the death of Eric Garner, at Grand Central Terminal in the Manhattan borough of New York on 9 Dec, 2014. REUTERS*



## PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 11 December, 2014

## Mountains are crucial to life

By Aung Khin

**T**he UN General Assembly designated 11 December as the International Mountain Day in 2003, with the intentions of creating awareness about the importance of mountains to life, to highlight the opportunities and constraints in mountain development and to build partnerships that will bring positive change to the world's mountains and highlands.

In fact, the mountains and streams are the onsets of all that we need for survival. People who reside in mountain areas can diversify their income by engaging in activities such as tourism, high-value mountain products and handicrafts.

This year, the theme for the International

Mountain Day is 'Mountain Farming' to raise awareness of how family farming in mountain regions is undergoing transformation due to population growth, economic globalization, urbanization and the migration of men and youth to urban areas.

Actually, mountains are sanctuaries for animals and provide for their needs. We have absolute faith in their ensuring the welfare of both our animals and ourselves.

Mountain systems, covering about 27 percent of the world's land surface and directly supporting 22 percent of the world's people, are the water towers of the world, providing for the freshwater needs of more than half of humanity.

The world's mountains cover some of the most spectacular landscapes and support a wide variety of ecosystems, a great diversity of species, and distinctive human communities. Of the 20 plant species that supply 80% of the world's food, six species (maize, potatoes, barley, sorghum, tomatoes, and apples) originated in mountains.

Mountains are crucial to life, but they are vulnerable to a host of natural and anthropogenic threats, including seismic hazards, fire, climate change, land cover change and agricultural intensification, infrastructure development and armed conflicts. These pressures degrade mountain environments and affect the provision of ecosystem services and the livelihoods of people dependent upon them.

Therefore, mountains are our visible treasures and we need to love them with environmental awareness.

## Write for us

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

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

## PROBITY

Kyí Mun

Honesty is the best policy.

- A Proverb

PROBITY means uprightness of character, honesty.

**P** for Principle of Personal Conduct

**R** for Righteousness

**O** for Obeying the Law

**B** for Benevolence

**I** for Integrity

**T** for Truthfulness

**Y** for Yoga

## PRINCIPLE OF PERSONAL CONDUCT

The most common principle of personal conduct is: "Honesty is the best policy". Some other popular principles are: "you reap what you sow"; "Do unto others as you would be done by"; "Sow the wind and reap the whirlwind," (do wrong and, as a result, bring severe punishment upon oneself.)

## RIGHTEOUSNESS

An honest person will never do what is not morally right, if he or she can help it. A person of probity will not hesitate to differentiate between:

- Right & Wrong
- Good & Bad
- True & False
- High & Low
- Noble & Base

He or she will always have the courage to stand for the upright and straightforward beliefs and values.

## OBEYING THE LAW

A person of probity will keep himself or herself within the bounds of the law. He or she will not willingly meddle with law. By abiding by the law, he or she will always live within his or her means, associate with law abiding citizens, and always do the right things, forever being diligent to practice in his or her daily life the following:

- \* To avoid all evil
- \* To do good, and
- \* To purify the mind

## BENEVOLENCE

An honest person is usually liberal, generous and charitable in his or her temperament. His or her mental attitude is always inside-out, and his or her basic inner urge is:

**"Give all to Love, Obey thy heart",** just as Emerson said.

## INTEGRITY

A person's heart and mind of probity is always seamlessly integrated with HONOUR, HONESTY AND A HELPING HAND. Such a person of integrity is always hands-on, minds-on and hearts-on to be of service and value to the family as well as the country. Integrity of character is more valuable than diamond and ruby. In this world, man matters most; and in man, integrity matters most, to a person of probity.

## TRUTHFULNESS

Truthfulness means having the quality of being true. And TRUE means: (1) In accordance or agreement with fact; (2) Loyal, faithful; (3) In accordance with reason or received standards; Genuine; rightly so named; (4) Accurately conforming to type; (5) Accurately fitted or placed.

- The Advanced Learner's Dictionary

## YOGA

YOGA is a Hindu system of meditation and self-control intended to produce mystic experience and the union of the individual soul with the universal spirit. Yogic self-control must be cultivated with probity, humility and spiritual service.

## CONCLUSION

Health, Peace of Mind and Freedom of Living are the core values of human life. Without probity in living, moving and having our being, we cannot enjoy serenity in the depth of our being. According to ancient Indian tradition, there are three modes of living, moving and having our being as follows:

- ❖ The mode of serenity/ Sattva
- ❖ The mode of passion/ Rajas
- ❖ The mode of ignorance/ Tamas

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

## GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (10-12-2014)

**Yangon Gold Price**  
Buying K671,500 per tical: Selling K672,500  
**Mandalay Gold Price**  
Buying K671,500 per tical: Selling K672,500

**FE RATE**  
USD Buying K 1033: Selling K----  
SGD Buying K 785: Selling K795  
Euro Buying K1,265: Selling K1,285

## Union Minister opens new school buildings funded by Indonesian government



Union Minister Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win, Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Maung Maung Ohn and Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia Mr Abdurrahman Mohammad Fachir open new school building.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec—A handover ceremony of four basic education schools funded by the gov-

ernment of the Republic of Indonesia was held in Thaykan and Sanbalay villages in Minbya Township,

Rakhine State, on 8 December.

Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thet

Naing Win, Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Maung Maung Ohn and Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia Mr Abdurrahman Mohammad Fachir formally opened the schools. The Indonesian Ambassador handed over documents related to the schools to the Rakhine State Education Officer.

The Indonesian government funded the cost for construction of buildings at Basic Education Primary Schools in Thaykan and Sanbalay villages in Minbya Township, one building in Mawrawady village in Maungdaw Township and Thabyaygon ward in Buthidaung Township.

The school buildings can be used as shelters during natural disasters like cyclones.—MNA



## People in Aungmyathazan Tsp get new asphalt road

MANDALAY, 10 Dec — As a gesture of hailing Myanmar's 67<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Independence Day, which falls on 4 January 2015, an asphalt road was commissioned into service in Amarahtani ward, Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay, on 9 December.

Officials of the construction committee presented commemorative pennants to Speaker of Mandalay Region Hluttaw

U Win Maung and Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing. They formally opened the already-paved road.

Local people placed asphalt on the 1,600 feet long and 20 feet wide road on a self-reliant basis, substituted old lamp-posts with new ones and installed power lines, costing about K23.5 million.

*Thiha Ko Ko  
(Mandalay)*

## Korean, Myanmar artistes perform entertainments

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec — To mark the 25<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Korea Commemorative Summit, the Embassy of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar arranged the Korea-Myanmar Friendship Culture Event at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

Among the spectators were Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway, the deputy chief of the mission from the ROK Embassy, departmental officials and staff families.

Vocalists and artistes performed the K-Pop cover song and dancing, music



show, Korea and Myanmar fashion show, Korean traditional dances and vocalists Ni Ni Khin Zaw, Sandi My-

int Lwin and Nway Nway Chit Phwe presented songs to the audiences.

MNA

**Artistes perform entertainment at Korea-Myanmar Friendship Culture Event.—MNA**



## Cruise liner M.V. Manerva moors at Bo Aung Kyaw Port

YANGON, 10 Dec — As now is open season, globe-trotters arrive in Myanmar to enjoy scenic beauty and ancient cultural heritages

**Cruise liner M.V. Manerva of Britain-based All Leisure Group Plc Company anchors at Bo Aung Kyaw Port in Yangon.—MNA**

in the country. Under the arrangement of Myanmar Voyages International Tourism Co., Ltd and the supervision of Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and Ministry of Transport, cruise liner M.V. Manerva of Britain-based All Leisure Group Plc Company with 228 tourists from 12 countries and 173 crew members arrived at Bo Aung Kyaw Port in Yangon from Galle Port of Sri Lanka on Wednesday.

The majority of tourists from the vessel are British citizens. They plan to go sightseeing in downtown Yangon and visit Bago, Thanlyin and Kyauktan, an official of Myanmar Voyages International Tourism Co., Ltd told media.

The cruise liner will depart Bo Aung Kyaw Port at 5.30 pm on 12 December for Langkawi Port in Malaysia.

*Khin Cho Win*

## YUE opens master's degree course affiliated with Chiang Mai University

**By Khaing Thanda Lwin**

YANGON, 10 Dec — An agreement on the establishment of a master's degree programme

in economics was signed between Chiang Mai University of Thailand and Yangon University of Economics (YUE) on Wednesday

at the YUE campus here.

The official from Chiang Mai University said the aim of the programme

is to provide world-recognized degrees to Myanmar students and forge closer relations between the both countries through sharing and exchanging advanced technology.

As part of the agreement, 40 students including eight civil servants will get the opportunity to attend the international course, which is scheduled to open at the YUE campus in early January next year.

Scholarships worth a total of 100,000 USD will be awarded to those students by Bangkok Bank Public Company Ltd, which got a green-light to operate banking services in Myanmar, with the contributor saying that the company is planning to open its branch in Yangon in mid-2015.

Khaing Nyein Tha, a participant student said: "I'm happy to get a chance to attend the first ever master's programme in economics in the country and intend to work locally after the programme."

In the past, Myanmar students had to go abroad to get a world-class qualification. But now they can easily get a master's degree in the country.

During the one-and-a-half year programme, participating students will take intensive courses entirely in English. They are required to take 10 courses, six of them compulsory and the rest elective.

Director-General U Zaw Htay of the Department of Higher Education (Lower Myanmar) urged locals to improve their English language skills so as to get the most from the course as the country now has many business opportunities thanks to its economic reforms.

According to the MoU between the two sides, it has been agreed to conduct three master's degree programmes, with the second one to open next December, Dr Thida Kyu of the Economics Department at YUE, said.

GNLM



**Faculty members of YUE and Chiang Mai University, officials from Bangkok Bank Ltd and selected candidates in group photo.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN**



## Kerry urges flexibility in US war powers against Islamic State

WASHINGTON, 10 Dec — Any congressional authorization of US military force against Islamic State should be flexible and not limit the fight to Iraq and Syria, US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Tuesday. The authorization should also not restrict US President Barack Obama in deploying combat troops against the militant group if needed, Kerry told a Senate committee debating the need for an Authorization for the Use of Military Force, or AUMF.

The Obama administration has argued that its current campaign of air strikes against Islamic State is legal, based on authorization passed in the early

2000s for the campaigns against al-Qaeda and associated groups and the Iraq War during the administration of former President George W Bush.

Kerry said, however, the administration supported updating the authorizations to cover the campaign against Islamic State.

“We do not think an AUMF should include a geographic limitation,” Kerry said, “We don’t anticipate conducting operations in countries other than Iraq and Syria, but to the extent that ISIL poses a threat to American interests and personnel in other countries, we would not want an AUMF to constrain our ability to use appropriate

force against ISIL in those locations if necessary.

“In our view, it would be a mistake to advertise to ISIL that there are safe havens for them outside Iraq or Syria,” Kerry added.

While Obama has said the United States would not send US combat troops into the fight against Islamic State, Kerry said any war powers granted by Congress should not “preemptively bind the hands of the commander in chief or our commanders in the field.

“The president has been crystal clear that his policy is that US military forces will not be deployed to conduct ground combat operations against ISIL; that will be the responsi-



*US Secretary of State John Kerry testifies before a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on ‘Authorization for the Use of Military Force Against ISIL’ on Capitol Hill in Washington on 9 Dec, 2014.*

REUTERS

bility of local forces,” Kerry said.

Kerry has cautioned

that while a US-led coalition was starting to inflict damage on Islamic State,

carrying out around 1,050 air strikes in Iraq and Syria, the fight could take years.

He said the administration supported a proposal by Senator Robert Menendez to grant new war powers for a period of three years to avoid an open-ended authorization.

“We support that proposal subject to a provision we should work through together that provides for an extension in the event that circumstances require it, and we think it should be advertised up front,” Kerry added. Kerry said it was important that the new authorization had bipartisan support “that makes clear this is not one party’s fight.”

Reuters

## France’s last hostage returns home celebrating freedom

VILLACOUBLAY, (France), 10 Dec — France’s last hostage abroad returned home on Wednesday after three years in captivity and was welcomed by President Francois Hollande who warned citizens not to travel to high-risk zones.

The release of 50-year-old Serge Lazarevic, who was kidnapped by al-Qaeda’s North African wing AQIM in northern Mali in late 2011, was a boost for Hollande, though questions remained over how he was freed.

A beaming Lazarevic met his family and the president on the tarmac of Villacoublay airport near Paris after getting off a flight from Niger.

“Being a hostage is a bit difficult, it’s not easy. But life is beautiful, to be



*Former hostage Serge Lazarevic (2nd L), his daughter Diane (L), French President Francois Hollande (R) and Clement, the son of Philippe Verdon, another Frenchman kidnapped alongside Lazarevic but was killed by his captors, address the media after his arrival at the Villacoublay military airport, near Paris, on 10 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS*

freed again,” Lazarevic told a waiting group of TV cameras and reporters. “I forgot what freedom is, don’t ever forget.”

“Be careful because

freedom is the most priceless thing.”

Lazarevic was released on Tuesday and Hollande has denied that France any pays ransom.

## Ex-British Guantanamo inmate says CIA ‘torture’ report won’t help

Both Niger and Mali were involved in the release, said officials, but authorities provided no details of the liberation. “Welcome, Serge Lazarevic. We’ve been waiting for you for three years. Three years you’ve suffered,” said Hollande, with the ex-hostage at his side. “You’re back. It’s a joy to welcome you back.”

Hollande mentioned Philippe Verdun, another Frenchman kidnapped alongside Lazarevic who was killed by his captors in northern Mali last year, and warned French citizens to avoid risky zones.

“Make sure you don’t go where you can be kidnapped — we’re in a dangerous world. There are zones where you shouldn’t travel ... we know the risks,” Hollande said.—Reuters

LONDON, 10 Dec — A former British inmate of Guantanamo Bay said CIA “torture” of terrorism suspects, detailed in a US Senate report on Tuesday, had fueled violence and the rise of Islamic State and that cataloging it wouldn’t help.

Moazzam Begg also said the release of the report, which included graphic details of “enhanced interrogation” techniques used by the Central Intelligence Agency, would do nothing to assuage anger about such actions across the Muslim world. “I don’t

think it will be teaching us anything we didn’t already know,” Begg told Reuters. “It doesn’t make anything better.”

He said examples cited in the report of brutality by CIA interrogators at secret prisons around the world “can only produce one result — false evidence, more hatred”.

The Senate report said the CIA used sexual threats, waterboarding and other harsh methods to interrogate terrorism suspects in the years after the 11 September, 2001, attacks on the United States. It concluded the methods were ineffective. US Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell and Senator Saxby Chambliss, the ranking member of the intelligence panel, said in a joint statement they believed the methods used helped capture what they called important terrorists.

Begg was seized in Pakistan in 2002 by Pakistani police and CIA agents and held at Bagram detention center in Afghanistan.

During his detention there, he said he was subjected to the sound of a woman screaming in a next door cell whom he believed to be his wife under torture. Begg said he was told he’d be sent to Syria if he didn’t cooperate, and that he saw two people being punched and kicked to death by US soldiers.—Reuters

## US releases report on CIA torture of suspected terrorists

WASHINGTON, 10 Dec — A US congressional panel released a report on Tuesday on the torture of suspected terrorists by the Central Intelligence Agency, prompting the government and military to tighten security on fears the publication could fuel anti-US sentiment.

Rather than the full report, which was classified and more than 6,000 pages long, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence released a summary with some 500 pages after President Barack Obama demanded disclosure of the information.

Documenting the CIA’s interrogation of detainees following the 11 September, 2001 attacks with the use of forceful methods such as waterboarding, the report said, “The CIA’s use of its enhanced interrogation techniques was not an effective means of acquiring intelligence.”

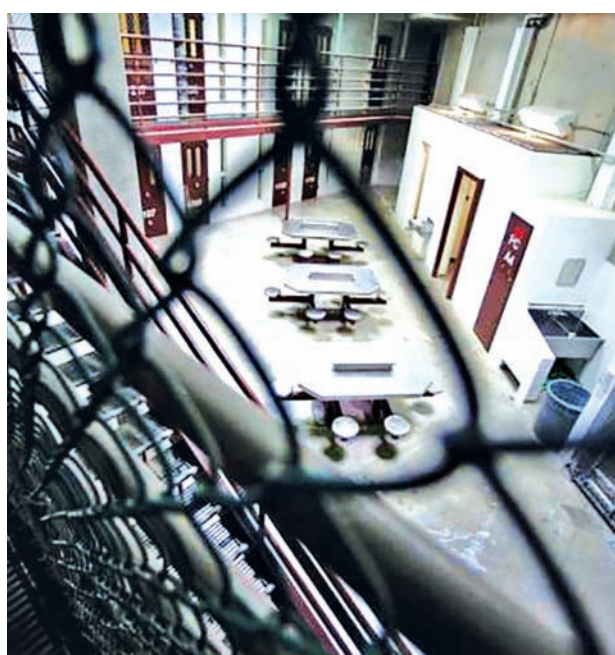
Obama, who banned torture when he took office in 2009, admitted in a statement that some of the actions taken in the post-9/11 years “were contrary to our values.”

“No nation is perfect. But one of the strengths

that makes America exceptional is our willingness to openly confront our past, face our imperfections, make changes and do better,” Obama said. With details about the torture now unveiled by media reports, the public focus will likely shift to possible repercussion including hostile acts against the United States.

Josh Earnest, a White House spokesman, said on Monday the release of the report “could lead to a greater risk that is posed to US facilities and individuals all around the world.”

Kyodo News



*The interior of an unoccupied communal cellblock is seen at Camp VI, a prison used to house detainees at the US Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay on 5 March, 2013. —REUTERS*



# Iraq presses Hagel for more US air strikes, weapons

BAGHDAD, 10 Dec — Iraq's Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi pressed outgoing US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel on Tuesday for more air strikes and weaponry to accelerate what he called the "descent" of Islamic State.

The plea underscored tension in the US-Iraqi relationship, with Baghdad pushing for more aggressive assistance than Washington has provided so far, four months after President Barack Obama launched air strikes against IS in Iraq.

The militant group was "on the descent at the moment", Abadi told Hagel as the two met at the prime minister's offices in Baghdad's fortified Green Zone. "Our forces are very much advancing on the ground. But they need more air power and more ... heavy weaponry. We need that."

Hagel, speaking to

journalists afterwards, said he had held candid talks with Abadi and that delivery of some weapons had already been accelerated.

Obama ordered US troops out of Iraq in 2011 but sent some back this summer to help counter the advance of Islamic State, which has declared a 'caliphate' on territory it has captured in both Iraq and Syria. Last month Obama authorized roughly doubling the number of ground forces to 3,100 as the military expands the reach of its advisers and starts training the army and Kurdish forces.

Iraqi forces had strengthened their positions around Baghdad and blocked Islamic State's move south, Hagel said. They "will be able to intensify offensive operations as the coalition's training effort expands into northern,



Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel meets with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi in Baghdad on 9 Dec, 2014. — REUTERS

western, and central Iraq," he added. Asked about the timing of any Iraqi assault on Mosul, the largest Iraqi city under Islamic State control, Hagel said the two countries were making

preparations together but declined to give details.

A US defence official said Washington believed Iraqi forces were still several months away from trying to recapture Mosul and

that it was not top of Baghdad's action plan.

Iraqi Defence Minister Khaled al-Obeidi on Monday declined to give a timeline for an offensive in Mosul or other regions,

say operations would depend on the situation on the ground. Since their June offensive, Islamic State's Sunni militants have had little success breaking beyond the solidly Sunni Muslim provinces of Anbar in the west and Salahuddin north of Baghdad, as well as the strongly Sunni province of Nineveh, which includes Mosul.

Hagel suggested that success on the battlefield was only part of the answer. The key to progress was an inclusive government in Baghdad that could rally all Iraqis — something he said Abadi was working towards. Since taking office in September, the Shi'ite prime minister has worked to build alliances with Sunni tribes, and reached a deal on oil exports with the semi-autonomous Kurdish region after months of dispute. — Reuters

## Britain and Turkey vow closer cooperation on foreign fighters

ANKARA, 10 Dec — Britain and Turkey will share more information on foreign fighters among the ranks of Islamic State (IS) in Syria and Iraq to try to prevent them posing a threat when they return home, Prime Minister David Cameron said on Tuesday.

After meeting his Turkish counterpart Ahmet Davutoglu in Ankara, Cameron said Britain and Turkey were fighting a "common enemy of extremist terrorism".

"The prime minister (Davutoglu) and I have agreed we should exchange even more information," Cameron told a joint news conference ahead of a meeting with President Tayyip Erdogan.

"We should work hand in glove because the people who are traveling ... to Syria and Iraq are people who threaten us back at home." Britain said last month it was facing its greatest national security threat, in part because of the risk that Britons who return from fighting with IS could launch attacks on home soil.

Many of the about 500 Britons who authorities believe have traveled to the region used Turkey as a transit point and around half that number are thought to have returned to Britain.

Davutoglu defended Turkey against accusations it has been lax in controlling its borders.

"No country in the

world could be more disturbed than Turkey about the terrorism in Syria and Iraq ... Support should be given to Turkey's efforts and Turkey is ready to cooperate," Davutoglu said.

When asked about reports that Turkey handed over two captured British IS militants to Islamic State in October as part of a swap for Turkish hostages, Davutoglu said it would be wrong to make public statements about intelligence operations.

Cameron's focus will be to get the Turkish government and Turkish commercial airlines to do more to identify radicalized Britons flying to or from the region, his spokesman said ahead of the visit.

Reuters



A cargo plane carrying China's humanitarian aid items arrives in Erbil International Airport in the Iraqi Kurdish regional capital of Erbil on 9 Dec, 2014. Two aircraft carrying the China's humanitarian aid items arrived in Erbil, the capital city of Iraqi Kurdish region on Tuesday. — XINHUA

## Qatar emir urges Gulf Arab solidarity amid regional turmoil

DOHA, 10 Dec — Qatar's emir urged Gulf Arab leaders on Tuesday to shake off a damaging rift over Islamist politics and work together to tackle common threats across the region.

The six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman — face chaos in Yemen, Syria and Iraq, political turmoil in Egypt, sectarian tensions and a falling oil price.

"Against these dan-

gers and challenges that surround us on all sides, we cannot be sidetracked by differences over details," the emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, told the annual gathering of GCC heads of state, which he also hosted.

The summit followed months of disputes over Doha's support for Islamist groups, such as the Muslim Brotherhood, with Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain withdrawing their ambassadors from Qatar in March over the issue.

The three states agreed to return their diplomats last month, seeking to patch up a schism among the Arab world's wealthiest countries that has ramifications across the region.

The six GCC states agree broadly on the need to confront militant forces such as Islamic State, with Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain taking part in US-led air strikes on the group. But big differences still remain over foreign policy, particularly regarding Egypt and Iran.

Reuters



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron and Turkey's Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu (R) address the media in Ankara on 9 Dec, 2014. — REUTERS



## Japan weather bureau declares first El Nino in five years

TOKYO, 10 Dec — Japan's weather bureau said on Wednesday that an El Nino weather pattern, which can trigger drought in some parts of the world while causing flooding in others, had emerged during the summer for the first time in five years and was likely to continue into winter. That marks the first

declaration by a major meteorological bureau of the much-feared El Nino phenomenon, which had been widely expected to emerge this year.

El Nino — a warming of sea-surface temperatures in the Pacific — can prompt drought in Southeast Asia and Australia and heavy rains in South America,

hitting production of food such as rice, wheat and sugar.

The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) forecast last month that the possibility of an El Nino pattern forming this winter was higher than the 50 percent it had projected in its previous monthly prediction. But on Wednesday it said that

an El Nino had emerged between June and August, continuing into November.

"We can't tell whether or not El Nino will continue until spring, but we can say that there is a higher chance of it continuing in the winter," said Ikuo Yoshikawa, a JMA forecaster.

The Japanese weather bureau does not classify or predict the size of El Nino, he said. Last week, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology said that climate models suggest El Nino weather conditions would occur over the next three months, although related weather patterns are already being witnessed.

The US weather forecaster also projected last week a 65 percent chance of El Nino conditions during the Northern Hemisphere winter and into spring, up from a 58 percent chance predicted early in November.

Reuters

## Washington Post column warns Japan against rewriting wartime history

WASHINGTON, 10 Dec — *The Washington Post* ran an opinion piece on Tuesday warning Japan against rewriting history, including the issue of women who served at wartime brothels for its military, saying the country has "much to atone for" but "is working hard at forgetting."

In his column titled "Will Japan's habit of rewriting its history affect its future?," opinion writer Richard Cohen wrote Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe "suggests in code-talk that Japan was the victim of World War II." He also said the country's "influential conservative press, with a wink from the government, is determined to whitewash the country's use of sex slaves during the war." "This sort of thing can be catching. Maybe others will forget why they consider Japan a friend," the writer said. The column follows the retraction in August of past articles by *The Asahi Shimbun* newspaper on the so-called "comfort women" following the revelation that one of its original sources provided false accounts claiming women on the South Korean island of Jeju were forced to work in wartime military brothels. Last month, *The Yomiuri Shimbun* issued an apology over the use of "sex slave" in its past articles published by its English newspaper, saying the expression was "inappropriate." "Certain important Japanese figures seem intent on reviving the past by revising it," Cohen wrote. Referring to recent developments on the issue of comfort women, he said, "Increasingly, this historic fact is being denounced as a fiction. Too many witnesses — not to mention victims — insist otherwise." "It is unspeakably ugly to once again deny these women their humanity by saying they were volunteers — prostitutes — and not sex slaves," he said. —*Kyodo News*



A surfer looks at waves as storm clouds move in from the Pacific Ocean at Sydney's Manly Beach on 26 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

## Putin awards explorer for finding legendary sunken Russian battleship

MOSCOW, 10 Dec — Russian President Vladimir Putin awarded Konstantin Bogdanov with Russian Geographical Society's man of the year prize on Tuesday.

Bogdanov was presented with this award "for finding and exploring battleship *Lefort*, as the place and the accurate cause of its wreckage remained unknown for about a century and a half."

Konstantin Bogdanov led and arranged an expedition searching for battleship *Lefort*, chairs an exploring diving club and heads an international underwater

search expedition titled "The bow to ships of the Great Victory [in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945]". On May 4, 2013, within this project explorers have found Russia's Imperial Baltic Fleet battleship *Lefort*, as its wreckage site had been unknown for a century and a half and causes for its sinking had been unclear. The tragedy of the ship and its 826 passengers is ranked ninth on the list of most large-scale peacetime shipwrecks in the humankind history.

The discovery included dozens of submersions to a depth of 70 metres that

made it possible to find causes for the shipwreck and restore the course of those dramatic events. A virtual museum with photo and video materials from the last harbour of the ship was set up on expedition results that gave an opportunity to millions to see the legend.

In 1854, battleship *Lefort* assisted in the defence of Kronshtadt in the Gulf of Finland during the Crimean War, but did not participate in military actions. On 10 September, 1857, *Lefort* with 826 aboard sank in a severe storm in the Gulf of Finland.—*Itar-Tass*



Wreckage of battleship *Lefort*

## Prosecutors summon former Park aide for meddling in South Korean affairs

SEOUL, 10 Dec — South Korean state prosecutors summoned a former close aide to President Park Geun-hye on Wednesday to question him on suspicions he meddled behind the scenes in state affairs.

"The allegations are not true and those who played with fire will be unveiled," Jeong Yun Hoe told reporters before entering the Seoul District Prosecutors' Office.

The 59-year-old Jeong, who was an assistant to Park when she was a member of the conservative party in late 1990s and early 2000s, allegedly colluded with presidential aides to wield influence in the management of state affairs.

He allegedly tried to mastermind a plot to oust presidential chief secretary Kim Ki Choon, who has been denounced for wielding excessive power within the presidential office.

The scandal has created a stir after a local daily cited a presidential secret document in its report last month that

Jeong had convened regular meetings with several senior presidential secretaries early this year and issued instructions into personnel choices.

Park has said the allegations are "groundless rumours" and called for a thorough investigation into the alleged leak of internal memoranda about her former aide.

"Leaking such confidential information is an unimaginable breach of national order under any circumstances," Park said during a senior presidential secretaries meeting earlier this month.

"Reporting without checking basic facts will place the nation into chaos and cause conflict and we should make sure that such rumors do not disturb the country," Park said.

Jeong filed a libel suit against the *Segye Times* last week, which first reported the allegations while the main opposition party filed a criminal complaint against him for interfering in state affairs.—*Kyodo News*



Jeong Yun Hoe (C), a former close aide to South Korean President Park Geun-hye, speaks to reporters on 10 Dec, 2014, after arriving at the Seoul District Prosecutors' Office in the South Korean capital. Jeong was summoned for questioning on suspicion that he meddled behind the scenes in state affairs.

KYODO NEWS



## ADVERTISEMENT &amp; GENERAL

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
MV CHANG HANG JI HAI VOY NO (1402)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CHANG HANG JI HAI VOY NO (1402) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.12.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Phone No: 2301186

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
MV DAI DUONG QUEEN VOY NO ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DAI DUONG QUEEN VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.12.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S G LINK EXPRESS  
PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 2301191/2301178

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (036N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (036N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.12.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S WAN HAI LINES PTE LTD**  
Phone No: 2301185

**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR  
MINISTRY OF ENERGY  
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE  
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)  
(21/2014)**

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-103(14-15)	Telecommunication Equipment (3) Items	US\$
(2)	IFB-104(14-15)	160D-173-74 Type Pumping Units & Spares (5) Sets	US\$
(3)	IFB-105(14-15)	114D-119-86 Type Pumping Units & Spares (12) Sets	US\$
(4)	IFB-106(14-15)	80D-133-54 Type Pumping Units & Spares (8) Sets	US\$
(5)	IFB-107(14-15)	6 1/2" & 7 3/4" Spiral Drill Collars (2) Items	US\$
(6)	IFB-108(14-15)	5" Drill Pipe (1,000) Mtr	US\$
(7)	IFB-109(14-15)	Skid Mounted Water Transfer Pump with Motor (700 GPM x 700 Ft HD) (3) Units	US\$
(8)	IFB-110(14-15)	Skid Mounted Crude Transfer Pump with Motor (200 GPM x 350 Ft HD) (2) Units	US\$
(9)	IFB-111(14-15)	Skid Mounted Crude Transfer Pump with Motor (400 GPM x 400 Ft HD) (2) Units	US\$
(10)	IFB-112(14-15)	Mobile Type Welding Machine (Engine Driven) (400 AMP) (5) Units	US\$
(11)	IFB-113(14-15)	Portable Welding Machine and Accessories (200 AMP) (3) Units	US\$
(12)	IFB-114(14-15)	5 Ton Air Winch (2) Nos	US\$
(13)	IFB-115(14-15)	Rig Alignment Jack (4) Nos	US\$
(14)	IFB-116(14-15)	Choke and Manifold (2) Items	US\$
(15)	IFB-117(14-15)	2 3/8" & 2 7/8" Tubing (2) Items	US\$

Tender Closing Date & Time — 7-1-2015, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise  
Ph.+95 67-411097/411206

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
MV FESCO VOYAGER VOY NO (0002W)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FESCO VOYAGER VOY NO (0002W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.12.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

## UN Secretary General says Russia has huge potential in settling climate change issues

UNITED NATIONS, 10 Dec — UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said Russia has a huge potential for settlement of the problems related to the climate change.

The UN press service reported he had a meeting with Russia's presidential envoy on climate Alexander Bedritsky on the sidelines of the 20th conference of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Lima, Peru.

The secretary general said he hopes Russia will continue its efforts to achieve a universal agreement on cutting emissions in Paris in 2015.

Participants in the conference in Lima are expected to agree on a new document replacing the Kyoto Protocol. The forum features 10,300 delegates representing 196 countries and non-government organizations.

On 3 December, Russia's Minister of Natural Resources Sergey Donskoy while commenting on discussions in Peru's capital city said "countries should themselves outline their obligations" in cutting emissions of the greenhouse gases. The minister said the new agreement's term "should be sufficient for launching the programmes for economic modernization and technical re-equipment, namely for ten years, that is to 2030."

The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which commits its Parties by setting internationally binding emission reduction targets. The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in Kyoto, Japan, on 11 December 1997 and entered into force on 16 February 2005. The detailed rules for the implementation of the Protocol were adopted at COP 7 in Marrakesh, Morocco, in 2001.—Itar-Tass

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## WEATHER REPORT

### SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30

hrs M.S.T. During the past (24) hours, weather have been partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin and Rakhine States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Upper Sagaing and Yangon Regions, Kachin, Kayin and Mon States and about December average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperatures were (3°C) in Loilin and (6°C) each in Namsam, Pinlaung and Hakha.

### FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2014:

Isolated light rain are likely in Taninthayi Region and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in the Eastern Myanmar Areas.



*The train, named "Yixinou" arrives in Madrid Abronigal railway station in Madrid, Spain, on 9 Dec, 2014. Madrid was the final destination on Tuesday for a train which has set the record for the longest train journey in history: 13,052 kilometres between the Chinese city of Yiwu and the Spanish capital.—XINHUA*



# Afghanistan's Bruce Lee "reincarnation" becomes Web hit



Abbas Alizada, who calls himself the Afghan Bruce Lee, poses for a picture in front of Bruce Lee posters after exercising in Kabul on 9 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

KABUL, 10 Dec — From the ruins of a bombed-out palace above Kabul, a young Afghan man bearing a striking resemblance to

kung fu legend Bruce Lee is high-kicking his way to Internet fame, aiming to show another side to his war-weary nation.

Videos and photos of Abbas Alizada, 20, posted on the Facebook page "Bruce Hazara" show him performing back flips and

striking Lee's famous poses. They blazed through Afghanistan's small Internet community this week, part of a publicity burst he hopes will catapult him to broader fame.

"I want to be a champion in my country and a Hollywood star," Alizada said at Kabul's desolate Darulaman palace, where he trains twice a week, swirling nunchakus and sporting a Lee-like bowl haircut.

At a workout at the palace, adorned with photos of thousands of civilian war victims as part of a protest exhibition, Alizada showed off his wiry physique, doing push-ups on his fingertips and sparring with a partner. Two assistants dabbed his brow and fixed his hair for the cameras.

Alizada is from a poor family of 10 children. His parents could not afford the fees at an academy of

Wushu, a Chinese mixed martial art, but the trainer took him under his wing.

Darulaman palace, built in the 1920s by King Amanullah Khan, was damaged by decades of fighting for control of the capital. It is now a ruin pocked by artillery craters and bullet holes, overlooking an as-yet-unfinished national parliament building.

"The destruction here makes me sad, but it also inspires me," said Alizada, who refused to be filmed in one room where the walls were daubed with graffiti reading "death to Americans".

He rejects the name Bruce Hazara given to him by friends in recognition of his ethnic heritage, saying he prefers to be known as the Afghan Bruce Lee in a country riven by tribal divides.

Questions of national

unity are poignant in Afghanistan, where Taliban insurgents are flexing their muscles with near-daily attacks. This year has been the bloodiest of the war, as foreign troops drastically reduce their presence.

Alizada's recent success on the Internet and at a martial arts tournament in Kabul reflects some of the changes in the country since the US led intervention toppled the Taliban after the 11 Sept, 2001 attacks.

Helped by the spread of TV and the Internet, Afghanistan has witnessed a rapid rise in interest in sports under the government that succeeded the hardline Islamists, who had banned television and many sports and martial arts.

"The only news that comes from Afghanistan is about war ... I am happy that my story is a positive one," Alizada said.—Reuters

## Film buying market expands into Sundance premieres section

LOS ANGELES, 10 Dec — As the buyer's market widens into the Sundance Film Festival's premieres section, returning independent filmmakers and controversial documentary subjects will take the spotlight, organizers announced on Monday.

The premieres, showcasing motion pictures outside the festival's categories of competition, will screen new films from Sundance stalwarts like director Noah Baumbach's "Mistress America" starring Greta Gerwig, Joe Swanberg's "Digging for Fire" and the comedy "Don Verdean" from filmmaker Jared Hess, of "Napoleon Dynamite" fame.

"This is their life, working in independent film. It's not the stepping stone to something else," said festival director John Cooper. "They are entertaining and they're edgy as well."

Going into its 31st year, Sundance Film Festival, backed by Robert Redford's Sundance Institute, is the top US gathering of the independent film community and has developed an avid buyer's market. It takes place from 22 January to 1 February, in the ski resort town of Park City, Utah.

From major studios to boutique film distributors, Sundance films have long been snapped up and marketed into Hollywood's

film awards race, with Fox Searchlight most notably spending more than \$10 million in 2006 to buy "Little Miss Sunshine," which went on to both Oscar and box office success.

Earlier this year, Sony Pictures Classics picked up jazz drumming drama "Whiplash" for \$3 million, with its star JK Simmons now a frontrunner for the best supporting actor Oscar.

Cooper said the festival's premieres section in the past generally saw entries from films already with distributors. This year, most of the films are up for sale and likely to draw big interest from buyers.

The festival will also see the premiere of anticipated documentaries exploring hot button topics. Highlights from filmmakers include Oscar-winner Alex

Gibney's "Going Clear: Scientology and the Prison of Belief" and Kirby Dick's "The Hunting Ground," a deep dive into rape on US college campuses.

Much like Dick's previous documentary "The Invisible War" influenced government policy to reduce rape in the armed forces, Cooper said, "The Hunting Ground" could do the same for campus rape, an issue gaining a larger spotlight in the last year.

HBO Films' "Kurt Cobain: Montage of Heck," the first authorized documentary on the late Nirvana frontman, will also have its premiere, along with "Drunk Stoned Brilliant Dead: The Story of the National Lampoon," an insight into the 1970s satirical magazine, and the comedy it brought to film and media.—Reuters



People wait in line in the early morning to buy tickets to films at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah on 18 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

## Royal couple pays respects at New York's 11 September Memorial



Britain's Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, and his wife, Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge with Joe Daniels (R), President & CEO of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum, view the remains of Fire Dept of New York Ladder 3, during their visit of the National September 11 Memorial Museum, in New York, on 9 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 10 Dec — Prince William and his wife, Kate, paid a solemn visit on Tuesday to the National September 11 Memorial and Museum, greeted by a small but resolute crowd of admirers who withstood driving rain and wind for a glimpse of the royal pair.

Kate, the duchess of Cambridge, laid a bouquet of white roses and a handwritten note at one of the two memorial pools marking where the World Trade Centre towers once stood.

Etched along the pools are names of the nearly 3,000 people killed 11 on Sept, 2001, when two hijacked planes destroyed the twin towers.

The note, signed by the couple, read: "In sorrowful memory of those who died

on 11th September, and in admiration of the courage shown to rebuild."

The couple, who are expecting their second child in April, are making their first visit to New York City.

At the memorial, they waved briefly to bystanders before heading inside to tour the museum exhibits of artefacts and photographs from the day of the attacks.

Kate wore a fuchsia Mulberry coat that stood out brightly in the grey of a rainy day but hid her baby bump.

Huddled under an umbrella was Ben Jones of Leeds, England, who said he and his wife had planned a trip to the memorial and were quite surprised to find their country's royals there at the same time.

Reuters



## Uber ordered to cease operations in Thailand, under scrutiny in Vietnam

BANGKOK, 10 Dec — Thailand has ordered US online taxi booking company Uber to cease operations, on the same day taxi apps were banned in the Indian capital New Delhi where an Uber driver is under arrest for suspected rape.

The Southeast Asian nation's Department of Land Transport said drivers picking up fare-paying passengers via Uber's app were neither registered nor insured to drive commercial vehicles, and that Uber's credit-card payment system did not comply with regulations. "They have to stop operations immediately," Director-General Thiraphong Rodprasert told reporters after meeting officials from Uber and rival cab-hailing apps GrabTaxi and EasyTaxi to discuss regulating Internet taxi services. The meeting was arranged before a passenger in New Delhi reported she had been raped by a driver contracted to Uber. The incident brought taxi apps to the attention of Indian authorities, who on



*An illustration picture shows the logo of car-sharing service app Uber on a smartphone next to the picture of an official German taxi sign in Frankfurt, on 15 Sept, 2014. —REUTERS*

Tuesday banned all unregistered Internet taxi firms from operating in the capital. Taxi booking apps have irked drivers at traditional taxi firms across the globe. Consumers are increasingly using the smartphone software to find people willing to drive them, rather than booking a cab by phone.

In Thailand, Uber's app acts as a matchmaker between owners of private vehicles and passengers, and has its own fare structure. GrabTaxi and EasyTaxi

work with traditional taxi firms, using regular meters to calculate fares.

Effective immediately, drivers who use personal vehicles for commercial use could be fined 2,000 baht (\$61), and the transport department is working to implement higher penalties, Thiraphong said.

The Uber representative who attended the meeting declined to comment.

In neighbouring Vietnam, Uber was to discuss means of regulating its ser-

vice with transport ministry officials on Monday, but cancelled the talks citing "important circumstances".

Transport Minister Dinh La Thang called for regulation after public criticism that followed a deputy transport minister calling Uber's operations illegal. Uber told local media it works with transport companies so its drivers were licensed and insured.

Uber also provides passenger insurance, media reported. In Indonesia — Southeast Asia's most populous country — private drivers using apps such as Uber to pick up fare-paying passengers are acting illegally, though the law has never been enforced, said Izzul Waro, an adviser to Jakarta's Transportation Agency.

"Many taxi companies don't have a formal permit to operate from the government.

They operate by themselves. This is usual in Indonesia," Waro said. Uber does not have a permit, he said. —Reuters

## WTA sells 10-year television rights worth 525 million dollars

WASHINGTON, 10 Dec — The WTA announced a 10-year television rights deal worth 525 million dollars with its current broadcast distribution partner, PERFORM, on Tuesday.

The deal will cover 10 seasons from 2017 to 2026, with plans to produce all 2,000 or so singles matches on the women's tennis tour each year.

Under the existing contract with PERFORM running from 2013-16, WTA Chairman and CEO Stacey Allaster said, only about a third of the singles matches at WTA events were produced for broadcast around the world.

Now the tour and PERFORM are forming WTA Media, which will produce all main-draw matches in singles, along with the semifinals and finals in doubles, at every tour event, plus develop content for the web and magazine shows for TV.

Allaster said the new deal includes guaranteed annual TV rights fees of 33 million dollars from PERFORM, nearly double the 17 million dollars per year currently. It also includes what she said was "eight figures" a year in production investment.

The new package adds rights to the WTA's international tournaments; the previous contract covered only higher-level premier events. —Xinhua

## MITV MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(11-12-14 07:00 am~12-12-14 07:00 am) MST

- \* Local News
- \* Rakhine, The Land of Sublime Pagodas
- \* World News
- \* Goldsmith
- \* Local News
- \* Myanmar Music Icon "Ko Nay Win" (Part-II)
- \* World News
- \* A Monk's Robe
- \* Local News
- \* Myanmar Mega Factory (EP-2)
- \* World News
- \* Guiding Star of Song Birds
- \* Local News
- \* Crab Business
- \* World News
- \* Moving Meditation : Aikido
- \* Local News
- \* Myanmar Traditional Toys
- \* World News
- \* Today Myanmar (Seafood Export)
- \* Local News
- \* Myanmar Music Icon "Ko Nay Win" (Part-I)
- \* World News
- \* Fortune Teller: "Yan Moe Aung"
- \* Local News
- \* Myanma Pioneer Female Bodybuilder
- \* World News
- \* Green Grocer
- \* Local News
- \* International Buddhist Academy (Part- II)
- \* World News
- \* In The Studio: Ah Moon

## Man City's Aguero sidelined for up to six weeks



*Sergio Aguero of Manchester City reacts after sustaining an injury during their English Premier League soccer match against Everton at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, on 6 Dec, 2014. — REUTERS*

MANCHESTER, 10 Dec — Manchester City striker Sergio Aguero will be out for up to six weeks with a knee ligament injury, manager Manuel Pellegrini said on the eve of their Champions League clash at AS Roma.

Argentine Aguero, the Premier League's leading scorer with 14 goals, hobbled off after less than five minutes against Everton on Saturday.

"He will be out for four to six weeks," Pellegrini

told a news conference on Tuesday. "It will depend on his recovery. But our team doesn't depend on one player." City can qualify for the last 16 if they win in Rome on Wednesday and CSKA Moscow do not beat Bayern Munich.

Pellegrini's side only have five points from their five Champions League games but can reach the knockout stage behind group winners Bayern Munich if everything goes their way. — Reuters

## Litvak Jewish art gets first global show after almost a century

LONDON, 10 Dec — Scenes from Jerusalem and 1920s Paris are among the rare works showcasing Lithuania's Jewish artists from the last century that are going on show as a collection abroad for the first time.

Lithuania, whose borders before World War 1 included parts of modern Ukraine, Belarus, Poland, Russia and Latvia, was a major heartland of European Jewry, famed for its talmudical academies and bookish Jews known as Litvaks.

Looking to leave their traditional surroundings and soak up the creative atmosphere, many Litvak artists,

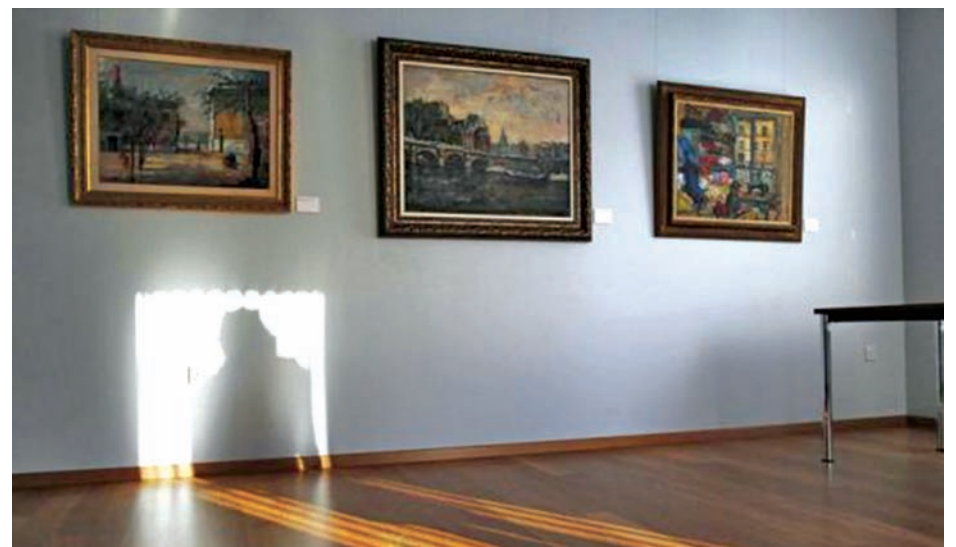
including world-renowned painter Marc Chagall, converged on Paris at that time.

The result was a unique series of works, which became known as the Ecole de Paris, embracing multiple styles including post-impressionism, cubism and futurism. The Litvak artists also fused romantic and melancholic visions of their former Jewish small towns, known as Shtetls, into their work. Visitors in London now have the chance to see some of the paintings from artists including Emmanuel Mane-Katz, Max Band, Pinchus Kremegne and Theo Tobiasse.

The works, being shown at Lithuania's embassy in London, were acquired mainly from private collections and auctions via the Vilnius-based Lewben Art Foundation, which had previously exhibited them in Lithuania.

The exhibition will move to Johannesburg in March and will include works by other artists including Chagall. South Africa became a home for Litvaks fleeing persecution in the 19th and 20th centuries. Other Litvaks emigrated to countries including Britain and the United States.

Reuters



*The artworks "Square in Venice", "Port" and "Tailor" (L-R) by artist Neemiya Arbit Blatas hang in the Embassy of Lithuania in London on 8 Dec, 2014. — REUTERS*





**Real Madrid's Gareth Bale (2nd R) celebrates scoring against Ludogorets during their Champions League Group B soccer match at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on 9 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS**

## Real set Spanish record for consecutive wins of 19

MADRID, 10 Dec — Real Madrid set a Spanish record for consecutive victories in all competitions of 19 when they beat visiting Ludogorets 4-0 in Champions League Group B on Tuesday.

Real surpassed the previous record they jointly held with Barcelona, who won 18 matches in a row between October 2005 and January 2006.

Real, the European champions, last failed to win when they were beaten 2-1 by city rivals Atletico Madrid in a La Liga game in September.

Brazilian side Coritiba hold the overall record for most consecutive wins in all competitions, according to Guinness

World Records.

The South Americans won 24 straight games between February and May 2011 spread between the Paranaense state championship and the Brazilian Cup.

Real's 19 wins have come in La Liga (11), the Champions League (six) and the King's Cup (two).

Barca hold the record for the most La Liga wins in a row of 16 set under Pep Guardiola in the 2010-11 season.

La Liga leaders Real can make it 12 straight victories in Spain's top flight when they play at Almeria on Friday before heading to the Club World Cup in Morocco.—Reuters

## Basel through despite late Gerrard strike for Liverpool

LIVERPOOL, 10 Dec — Liverpool's Champions League challenge ended in a 1-1 draw against FC Basel, who booked their spot in the last 16 on Tuesday after withstanding a late fight-back sparked by a stunning Steven Gerrard free kick.

Gerrard curled the ball into the top corner with eight minutes remaining to cancel out Fabian Frei's rasping first-half drive, but the Premier League side, who had been reduced to 10 men following the second half sending off of Lazar Markovic, could not find the crucial winner.

Barring their late flurry, it was a largely a dismal home performance from Liverpool who finished third in Group B on five points, two adrift of second

place Basel.

Liverpool, whose poor start to the season shows no sign of improving, will now drop into the less demanding Europa League.

Liverpool boss Brendan Rodgers may

have hoped the occasion would spark an improved attacking performance from his struggling side, but within minutes of the kickoff it was very much business as usual as the visitors grabbed the up-

per hand over their nervy hosts. It took only 12 minutes for Basel to craft an early sight of goal as Shkelzen Gashi found a pocket of space on the edge of the area but slashed his shot wide.

That proved to be an unheeded warning as Liverpool retreated further into their shell and Basel grew in confidence before taking the lead in stylish fashion on 25 minutes.

After some crisp and careful passing around the edge of the Liverpool area, the ball was touched back to Frei, who flashed a daisy-cutter across the Anfield turf and into the back of Simon Mignolet's net with the Liverpool keeper rooted to the spot.

Reuters



**FC Basel's Tomas Vaclik (R) challenges Liverpool's Steven Gerrard during their Champions League Group B soccer match at Anfield in Liverpool, northern England on 9 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS**

## Ramsey goal of season contender seals Arsenal win

ISTANBUL, 10 Dec — Arsenal midfielder Aaron Ramsey scored a contender for goal of the season when he blasted home a 30-metre volley to help his team cruise past Galatasaray 4-1 to finish second in Champions League Group D on Tuesday.

The Welsh international scored twice, as did Arsenal's Germany striker Lukas Podolski, whose opener, a brilliantly taken angled left-foot shot after three minutes, set them on the way to an easy win over the already-eliminated hosts.

Arsenal had to win and hope Dortmund lost at home to Anderlecht to finish top of the group but the German side drew, meaning the Londoners needed to have triumphed by six goals.

Dortmund and Arsenal both finished with 13 points but the German side

took top spot with a better goal difference leaving Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger to praise his side's performance on the night.

"Unfortunately it wasn't enough but we finished with 13 points and did a job tonight. We came out strong and that's what I wanted from the players. This group has a good dynamic and they showed that from the start."

Wenger said he wondered what Ramsey was doing when he set himself up for his shot.

"I thought maybe that's not the best of ideas but the way it went in was absolutely unbelievable" he told Sky Sports.

"There's a little bit of frustration that we have finished runners-up, but we knew at halftime we needed to score six goals without conceding.

"We won four games, lost one and had one draw.

Looking back, we can maybe regret that point at home to Anderlecht," he added referring to a match in which Arsenal led 3-0 at home with half-an-hour to play but were pegged back to 3-3 in the last minute.

Arsenal were already assured of a place in the last 16 for the 15th successive season and the outcome at the Turk Telekom Arena was virtually settled inside the first 11 minutes after Podolski and Ramsey both scored their first goals.

Ramsey's great strike for his second goal came after 29 minutes and the scoreline stayed at 3-0 until Wesley Sneijder scored a consolation for the home side with a beautifully struck free-kick after 88 minutes.

Podolski made it 4-1 with the last kick of the game after weaving through the leaky home

defence. Arsenal, who lost 3-2 at Stoke City in the Premier League on Saturday, reigniting demands from their disgruntled fans that the long-serving

Wenger should leave the club, needed a good win in Istanbul and wasted no time in securing it.

Galatasaray, who knew they would finish

bottom, should have cancelled out Podolski's outrageous early strike after six minutes but Hakan Baltas shot wide with the goal gaping.—Reuters



**Arsenal's Aaron Ramsey (L) celebrates his second goal against Galatasaray with team mates during their Champions League Group D soccer match at Ali Sami Yen Spor Kompleksi in Istanbul on 9 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS**