

President U Thein Sein delighted with success, growth of ASEAN-ROK cooperation

BUSAN, 12 Dec—President U Thein Sein attended the 2014 ASEAN-Republic of Korea Commemorative Summit, celebrating 25 years of dialogue relations between the two sides, in the South Korean port city of Busan on Friday.

South Korean President Park Geun-hye presided at the summit, in which discussions focused on a review of ties between her country and ASEAN and matters related to future goals.

In his address to the summit, President U Thein Sein said it is encouraging to witness the success and growth of mutual trust and respect and bilateral cooperation between the ASEAN and South Korea.

This year is special for the host country as it marks the 20th anniversary of its engagement in the ASEAN Regional Forum and the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Cooperation Partnership between ASEAN and the ROK, said the president, who doubles as ASEAN chair.



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo together with leaders of ASEAN countries and President of ROK Park Geun-hye at 2014 ASEAN-Republic of Korea Commemorative Summit in Busan.—MNA

He urged the Southeast Asian bloc and the host country to adhere

to the summit's theme "Building Trust, Bringing Happiness", calling trust an essential requirement for the establishment of peace, happiness, friendly relations and cooperation.

Myanmar's leader reaffirmed his full commitment to the implementation of the 2010 Joint Declaration on ASEAN-ROK Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity and the two sides' 2011-2015 plan of

action, calling for them to step up greater cooperation with a view to carrying out the 2016-2020 plan of action.

He stressed the necessity of ASEAN and South Korea redoubling efforts to further expand two-way trade volume to US\$200 billion by 2020, noting that the Mekong-ROK cooperation framework is central to narrowing down development gaps and enhancing regional connectivity.

The president expressed his satisfaction in collaboration between ASEAN and South Korea in the establishment of the ASEAN Community and the ASEAN Connectivity, urging both sides to strengthen the exchange of education programmes for future generations.

He welcomed ROK's efforts to build trust and initiate peaceful unification on the Korean Peninsula as well as President Park's

Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative in promoting lasting peace on the peninsula and cooperation and trust in Northeast Asia.

In an address to the second section of the meeting, President U Thein Sein, stressed the importance of addressing traditional and non-traditional security challenges, which he said are of concern to all.

(See page 3)

Health insurance set to begin next year with premium rate of K50,000 per unit

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 12 Dec—As of early next year, people in Myanmar will be able to enjoy health coverage which is set K50,000 per unit for a year, said Myanmar Insurance.

Regarding premium and compensation set for the country's first health insurance service, MI said

those interested will be allowed to purchase up to five units and those insured will be eligible for compensation of K15,000 a day for 30 days while receiving treatment or undergoing surgery at hospital during the coverage period of one year.

According to the plan, families of insurance (See page 2)



Photo of a pregnant woman having a thorough examination by a doctor at a local health centre in Myanmar where a health coverage plan is set to come next year.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 12 Dec—The Myanmar office of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) hosted its annual alumni meeting at the Summit Parkview Hotel in Yangon on Friday, bringing together those who have benefited from KOICA project trainings and fellowships to share their experiences and update professional knowledge acquired during their stays in South Korea.

The KOICA Fellowship Program Participants' Alumni Meeting 2014 saw a series presentations about the activities of KOICA,

its World Friends KOICA Volunteers program that dispatches South Koreans to abroad to share expertise, knowledge and experience, and the Myanmar KOICA Club that groups Myanmar citizens who have participated in KOICA-arranged training programs or meetings in South Korea.

The alumni meeting was aimed at providing nearly 80 members of different professions from various ministries with opportunities for networking and sharing knowledge.

The event was also

geared towards enabling KOICA fellows to contribute effectively and actively to Myanmar's socioeconomic development, thereby meeting the aims of KOICA's training and fellowship programs for the country.

It provided an occasion to experience Korean and Myanmar culture, with participants enjoying performances of students from Western Yangon Technological University and KOICA's Myanmar Office.

The agency has been providing educational op-

portunities to Myanmar since 2001, allowing more than 1,700 officials to take part in its various programs including scholarship courses, a KOICA official told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

It offered different fellowship and training programs to 100 Myanmar officials this year, the official added. KOICA was established in 1991 with the aim of sharing South Korea's developmental experiences with developing countries around the world.

GNLM

Honorary doctorate conferred on President U Thein Sein



December 12, 2014

President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with faculty members of Busan University of Foreign Studies after receiving honorary doctorate in political science.—MNA

BUSAN, 12 Dec—A confer honorary doctorate ceremony to be held in political science on

President U Thein Sein was held at the Busan University of Foreign Studies in the Republic of Korea on Friday evening.

At the convocation, Rector Mr Jung Hae Lin explained why the university conferred on the president the doctorate, saying that the president have played a pivotal role in significant reforms and development that have been taking place in Myanmar. In addition, the rector said that the president is also exerting efforts for cease-fire with ethnic nationals and has replaced the military rule with a political culture in which the nation is ruled by the elected. The president is honored as he has devoted his life for development in various sectors, the rector concluded.

Then, the rector and a department head conferred the honorary doctorate on the president.

Then, the president delivered a speech at the convocation, saying that the positive changes taking

place in Myanmar in the last four years contributed to improving the image of the nation in regional and international community. Then, the president expressed his gratitude to the ROK and its people and educational institutions for their uninterrupted support for political, economic and social changes in Myanmar during recent years, requesting more assistance

and further cooperation in the education sector from the university as the international assistance is essential for capacity building and educational development that will help nurture democratic practices in Myanmar.

Afterwards, the president and the rector formally opened the U Thein Sein Hall built at the university in honour of the president.

Then, the president warmly greeted the rector, officials and students studying Myanmar language at the university.

In the evening, the president, together with union ministers and officials, attended the dinner hosted by the chairman of Daewoo International Company at the Westin Chosun Hotel.

MNA



President U Thein Sein (L) and Rector Mr Jung Hae Lin of Busan University of Foreign Studies formally open U Thein Sein Hall at the university.—MNA

UEC Chairman meets former chairman of Nepal Election Commission



UEC Chairman U Tin Aye receives former chairman of Nepal Election Commission.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec—Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye held talks with the former chairman of Nepal Election Commission and party at his office in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

The Chairman of UEC explained that the com-

mission manages voter list and voter education for the 2015 general elections. The commission cooperates with political parties, social organizations and media for holding the free and fair election in a transparent manner. The commission will invite international

and internal observers to the elections.

The former chairman of the Nepal Election Commission shared his experiences in voter education for the elections in Nepal and invitation to observations.

MNA

Health insurance set to begin next

(from page 1)

holders who died in hospital can receive K1 million in compensation, but compensation of K15,000 given for the number of days that patients spent in hospital will be deducted from compensation of K1 million paid to families of the

deceased. Before enrolling in the healthcare coverage, buyers must reveal to the insurers information about their health.

Myanmar Insurance, the state-owned insurer founded in 1952, is now operating 41 types of insurance, enabling Myan-

mar people to get benefits from its various services. Following credit guarantee insurance that MI launched last July, health insurance will be its second new product before the launch of planned weather index insurance as its third new service.

GNLM

Media to register for news coverage of 67th Anniversary Independence Day and Grand Military Review

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec—Media persons wishing to cover news on the 67th Anniversary Independence Day and Grand Military Review (Nay Pyi Taw) may register at <http://moimm.info/moimrf4jan2015/> at the left side bar of Webportal www.moi.gov.mm of the Ministry of Information.

The applicants can register in both Myanmar and English languages. My-

anmar language registration must use Myanmar 3 font with name, other name, date of birth, CSC number, education, race/religion, occupation, address, date of place, father's name, spouse's name and CSC number, telephone number and e-mail address attached to a passport under 2MB size.

Registrations are to be applied not later than 20 December. Further information, may dial 067-412187.—MNA

Tourists from 43 countries to take tourist visa on arrival to India through online

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec—Tourists from 43 countries including Myanmar can take Tourist Visa on Arrival (TVOA) to India through electronic travel authorization scheme, according to the press release of the Indian Embassy in Yangon on Friday.

The dedicated user friendly website <http://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html> has been launched for this purpose which details the procedure

including the complete list of 43 countries whose citizens may avail of this service.

The tourists from 43 countries including Myanmar can apply for tourist visa twice a year, each visit not exceeding 30 days, visa duration non-extendable except in the event of medical emergencies which shall be granted within 72 hours through email. The purpose of visit to India may range from tourism,

casual business visit, short term medical treatment, and to meet friends and relatives. The applicant is expected to take a print out of the email and can travel to India through 9 designated international airports Bangalore, Chennai, Cochin, Delhi, Goa, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai and Thiruvananthapuram. The scheme entails capture of biometric data of the visitors on arrival at the airports.—Moe Thuzar Soe

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein delighted with success, growth of ASEAN-ROK...

(from page 1)

The president requested South Korea to render technical assistance to ASEAN's management on natural disaster preparedness and humanitarian aid, calling for closer co-operation in combating terrorism, which he said has come to threaten global stability and security.

The presidents of Myanmar and South Korea gave a joint press conference and responded to queries on ASEAN-ROK relations and outcomes and agreements of the summit.

MNA

Myanmar People's Forum 2014 begins

YANGON, 12 Dec—With the aim of establishing a strong milestone community composed of diverse civil society organizations across the country, the Myanmar People's Forum 2014 was held at the Diamond Jubilee Hall of Yangon University on Friday morning.

President U Thein Sein's message at the forum was read out by Union Minister at the President Office U Aung Min.

Discussions at this year's forum focused on assessment of political changes and challenges, the outcomes of last year's forum and the role of civil society organizations.

The forum continues until 14 December and its recommendations will be submitted to the government.

Anybody can participate in the forum.

Khin Cho Win

Plans under way to return grabbed land to owners in Taninthayi



Vice President U Nyan Tun inspects jetty of Kyunsu Township in Taninthayi Region.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec—The Central Committee for Land Use Management is taking measures to press departments and organizations to give back grabbed land plots remaining idle and hand over them to original landlords, Vice President U Nyan Tun told

a meeting in Dawei on 11 December.

He urged the committee to tighten its supervision and avoid unnecessary delay in returning the plots the right owners, citing the support and cooperation of locals as success.

Efforts are to be made

to ensure a free flow of information and win public trust in the committee's undertakings, he said.

Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko and Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint briefed the vice president on

how the local committee is dealing with land ownership complaints as well as on the laws, rules and regulations on land use.

After the meeting, Vice President U Nyan Tun went to a Myanmar-Thailand border trade

camp in Htikhi, where he heard briefings and gave instructions.

In the evening, the vice president went on inspection tours of Kyunsu town and Kattalu village in and oversaw regional development tasks.

MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends graduation ceremony of DSTA

inspected their regiment before presenting prizes to outstanding graduates including Cadet Aung Zin Oo, who won the best cadet award.

The senior general said in a speech that Myanmar citizens are exerting all-out efforts to catch up with other countries in the development of science and technology. He urged the cadets to constantly study modern technologies to build a modern army and to produce and maintain weapons, war planes and warships locally without relying on other countries by conducting research and development tasks.

He also urged them to be careful of media attacks and cyber warfare as the former causes loss of trust

in its victims and the latter leads to chaos in government mechanisms and unexpected losses.

In conclusion, the senior general urged the cadets to apply what they have learned not only for the defence services but also for the nation. After a graduation parade, he met with three outstanding cadets and their parents and praised them for their efforts. He then viewed round the Science and Technology Exhibition 2014 of the DSTA.

In the evening, the senior general and his wife, along with the officers and their wives, attended a graduation dinner and greeted the cadets warmly one by one. They then enjoyed dinner with the cadets and their families.—Myawady



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents Best Cadet Award to Cadet Aung Zin Oo.—MYAWADY

Information Ministry, Asia Foundation organize talks

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec—Talks on Myanmar 2014: civic knowledge and values in changing society jointly organized by the Ministry

Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway speaking at the talks jointly organized by Information Ministry and Asia Foundation.—MNA

of Information and the Asia Foundation was held at the Hotel Max in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

Present at the talks were Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway, Dr Tin Shwe, officials from the Hluttaw and the resident representative and officials from the Asia Foundation.

The deputy minister

explained the survey on knowledge and values of citizens in changing Myanmar society and the resident representative and a senior program officer from the Asia Foundation briefed the participants on the methods used in the survey. Over 3,000 people across the country participated in the survey.

Tun Win Naing



Myanmar, China launch border trade fair 2014 in Muse



MUSE, 12 Dec — The 14th Myanmar-China Border Trade Fair 2014 was launched at 105th-Mile Trade Zone in Muse, northern Shan State, on 11 December.

It was attended by Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Sai Kyaw Ohn, members of the Shan State cabinet, the commander

of North-East Command, the Chinese consul-general from Mandalay, vice governor of Yunnan Province Mr Gao Shuxun and officials.

After the opening ceremony, senior officers of both sides visited the booths at the trade fair. Myanmar displays its products at 92 booths and China has goods on display at 115 booths.

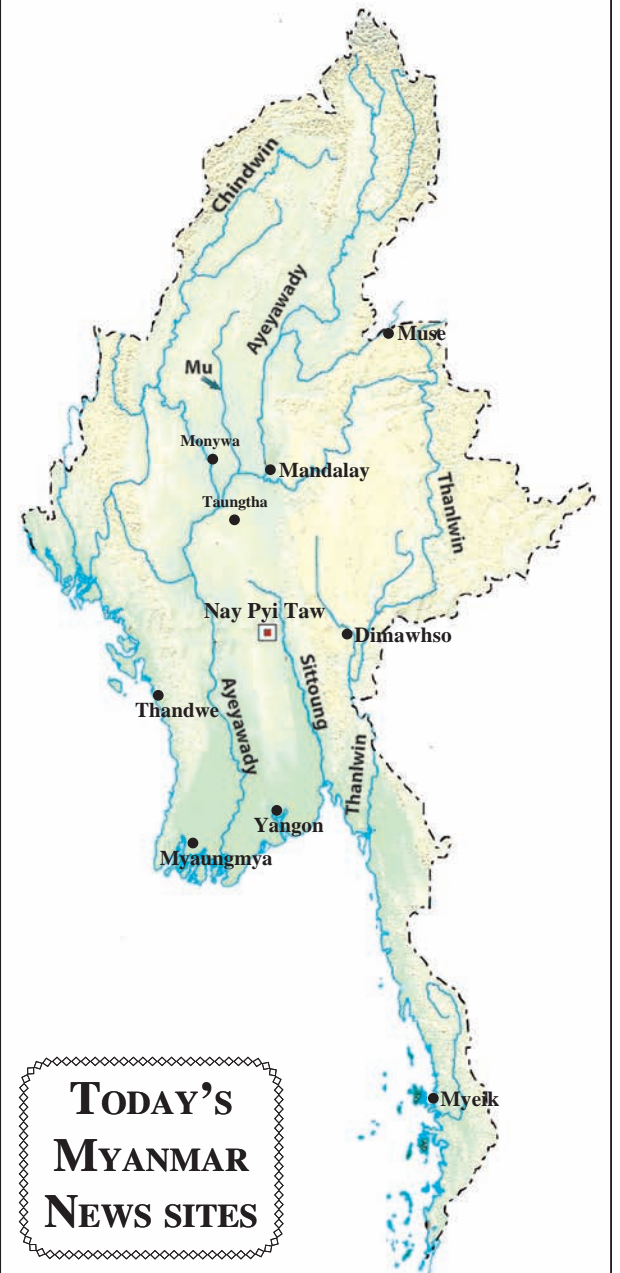
The trade fair will be

held up to 13 December.

According to the agreement, Myanmar and China hold the border trade fairs 14 times alternatively, aimed at boosting trade between the two countries.

Myanmar-China trade reached US\$7 billion in 2013-14 fiscal year, including US\$3.8 billion of border trade.

Aye Mya (Mandalay)



**TODAY'S
MYANMAR
NEWS SITES**

Cooperation needs in prevention of measles, German measles

THANDWE, 12 Dec — A coordination meeting on vaccination of measles and German measles was held at the hall of General Administration Department in Thandwe Township, Rakhine State, on 11 December.

At the meeting, Township Administrator U Than Zaw Han urged departmental personnel to cooperate

with health staff in reducing outbreak of measles and German measles.

Deputy Head of District Health Department Dr Khin Naing Tun stressed the need to give vaccinations to prevent the two diseases and invited participation of departmental staff.

*Yan Nyein
(Thandwe IPRD)*

Township WAO lectures on preventing gender discrimination



NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec — An educative talk on prevention of violence against women and gender discrimination was held at the hall of No 12 Basic Education High School in Ottarathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on 10 December.

Ottara District Women's Affairs Organization chairwoman Daw Kyi Kyi

Yin and member Daw Mi Mi Khaing explained to the students about the important role that women play in society, as well as about prevention of violence against women and all forms of gender discrimination.

The talk was attended more than 170 teachers, students and locals.

Shwe Ye Yint

Aungpinle power station supplies electricity to three townships in Mandalay District

MANDALAY, 12 Dec — With the aim of boosting supply of electricity for the increasing population of townships in Mandalay District, a new transformer was installed at Aungpinle Main Power Station as of 20 November, 2014

The 132/33/11 KV (30) MVA transformer, which supplies electricity to Chanmyathazi, Aungmyethazan and Patheingyi townships, replaces a 132/33 KV (3x5) MVA one installed there 12 years ago.

Electricians of Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise who carried out the



installation work subsequently linked up power lines, enabling the power

station to supply 11 megawatts of electricity to the three townships, compared

with only 5 MW before.

Ministry of Electric Power

Dimawhso Township opens village library

DIMAWHSO, 12 Dec — Htawara Alin self-reliant library was put into service in Saungdu village in Dimawhso Township, Kayah State, on 10 December.

Kayah State Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Poe Rei Yan Aung and State Minister for Development Af-

fairs U Aung Naing Oo spoke on the occasion. Officials donated books and publications to the library.

The chairman of the village library committee accepted K100,000 donated by Kayah State government, K20,000 by Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Bo Rei and K30,000 by Head of Township Rural

Development Department U Myo Naing.

The village library committee explained construction of the building.

Myanmar Libraries Foundation and local people funded K2.7 million for construction of the library building.

Dimawhso Township IPRD

LOCAL NEWS

Proposal submitted on participation of region Hluttaw MPs, ethnic affairs ministers in six-party talks



MONYWA, 12 Dec — The 11th regular session of Sagaing Region Hluttaw was held at its office in Monywa, the capital of Sagaing Region, on 9 December.

Chin Ethnic Affairs

Minister of the region U Nothan Kap submitted an emergency proposal, citing the need for an appropriate number of region Hluttaw representatives and ethnic affairs ministers to participate in the six-party talks

that will focus on amendment of the 2008 constitution.

He said that as constitutional amendment is very important in current political arena, participation of region Hluttaw representatives and ethnic affairs ministers will ensure good discussions take place.

The region Hluttaw approved the bill on Sagaing Region Photo, Painting and Sculpture Shows and put the reformation of Hluttaw affairs committees and the report of region auditor-general on record.

Sagaing Region IPRD



Village BEMS to get new building

TAUNGTHA, 12 Dec — Myingyan District's deputy commissioner U Myint Thin Aung and members of district construction scruti-

ny committee inspected progress of new school building at Basic Education Middle School in Nanmyint Village, Taungtha Township, Mandalay Region, on 9 December.

The Ministry of Education provided K46.8 million in funding for construction of school building to provide new classrooms for students.

The building will have three 90 feet by 30 feet classrooms. We Are Able construction company is constructing the school building.

Officials of the scrutiny committee instructed responsible persons of the company to use quality goods in construction of the building.—Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

Myanmar, Chinese officials focus on cooperation in border trade

MUSE, 12 Dec—The 10th Meeting of the Myanmar-China Joint Border Trade Cooperating and Coordinating Committee took place at a hall of the Muse-Namkham Border Trade Merchants Association in Muse on 11 December.

It was attended by Director-General U Nyunt Aung of Border Trade and Consumer Affairs Department, officials of the Trade Promotion Department and Chinese officials.

Both sides sought ways to tackle difficulties relating to border trade, including



export of quality products, full documents for goods,

trade promotion, and management, administration

and monetary affairs.

Aye Mya (Mandalay)

MLF donates K1 million to construction of village library in Myeik Tsp

MYEIK, 12 Dec — A ceremony to open a library building was held in Thityawa Village, Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region, on 10 December.

Vice Chairman of Myanmar Libraries Foundation U Nyunt Swe and executive U Nyo Min explained fund allotment of

the foundation to build libraries across the country. Head of Region Information and Public Relations Department Daw Ni Ni Cho discussed durability of libraries. Member of the foundation writer Daw Thet Thet Swe explained advantages of reading to the people.

Foundation executive U Nyo Min presented K1 million for construction of the library to a local. Well-wishers donated K2 million to Staff Officer Daw Kyin Kyin Than of the District IPRD.

The library will be a 24-feet-long and 16-feet-wide one-storey building.—Myeik District IPRD



Thingangyun Township gets new transformer for power supply

THINGANGYUN, 12 Dec — Officials and electricians from Thingangyun Township Electrical Engineer Office under Yangon Electricity Supply Board installed a 315 KVA transformer on

Yenatha Street in the township on 10 December.

They also substituted a section of 6.6 KV power line with an insulated aluminium cable cover section to ensure safety in power supply.

Officials of the Yangon East District electrical engineer office inspected installation of the transformer.

Hmwe Hmwe (Thingangyun)

Residents of Myaungmya Township to participate in sports meet

MYAUNGMYA, 12 Dec — A plan is under way to organize the Mya Ayeyaya Sports Meet with 17 events in Myaungmya, Ayeyawady Region, from 27 to 29 December 2014, aimed at turning out outstanding athletes

from the township.

Under the arrangement of Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan, men's football will take place at Myoma football ground and Kwelwe football ground and other sports events such as Sepak

Takraw, weightlifting, badminton, Karatedo and tennis at Naungyoe Gymnasium 1, 2, and 3, Basketball Ground of No 6 Basic Education High School and Myaungmya golf club, Director of Sports and Physical Education Department

U Moe Zaw Htut told media.

Troupes of basic education students and trainees from Myaungmya Education College and the band are training as of 11 December to be able to present dances and songs at the opening ceremony of the sports meet.

Aung Min (IPRD)

Japan PM Abe's base aims to restore past religious, patriotic values

TOKYO, 12 Dec — As Prime Minister Shinzo Abe promises voters a bright future for Japan's economy, key parts of his conservative base want him to steer the nation back towards a traditional ethos mixing Shinto myth, patriotism and pride in an ancient imperial line.

Proponents say such changes are needed to revive important aspects of Japanese culture eradicated by the US Occupation after World War Two and to counter modern materialism.

Critics say they mirror the Shinto ideology which mobilised the masses to fight the war in the name of a divine emperor. The legacy of that war still haunts ties with China and South Korea nearly 70 years after its end.

A predicted landslide win by Abe's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in a general election on Sunday, called as a referendum on his economic growth policies, and prospects Abe may become a rare long-term Japanese leader have given his ardent supporters their best chance in decades of achieving their goals.

"We really have trust in him," said Yutaka Yuzawa,

director of the Shinto Association of Spiritual Leadership (SAS), the political arm of the Association of Shinto Shrines. The group, which counts Abe as a member, is one of a network of overlapping organizations sharing a similar agenda.

"The prime minister's views are extremely close to our way of thinking," Yuzawa told *Reuters* in an interview.

Among the key elements of the SAS agenda are calls to rewrite Japan's US-drafted, post-war constitution, not only to alter its pacifist Article 9 but to blur the separation of religion and state. Education reform to better nurture "love of country" among youth is another top priority.

"After the war, there was an atmosphere that considered all aspects of the pre-war era bad," Yuzawa said. "Policies were adopted weakening the relationship between the imperial household and the people ... and the most fundamental elements of Japanese history were not taught in the schools."

Similar concerns drive other organizations such as

Nippon Kaigi (Japan Conference), a broader lobby group for which Abe serves as a "supreme adviser".

Experts see parallels between these groups and the US Tea Party movement, with its calls to restore lost American values.

"Nippon Kaigi and the Shinto Association basically believe the Occupation period brought about ... the forced removal of Shinto traditions from public space and public institutions," said University of Auckland professor Mark Mullins.

"For them, this was authentic Japanese identity ... and to be an independent and authentic Japan again those things need to be restored."

Abe has long been close to such groups but they have increased their reach since his first 2006-2007 term as leader.

Membership data show 301 members of parliament, mostly from the LDP, are affiliated with the SAS, including 222 in the 480-seat lower house before the election. A Nippon Kaigi caucus had 295 members, including some opposition MPs.

Members of the groups are central to Abe's

administration.

Nippon Kaigi supporters accounted for 84 percent of Abe's cabinet after it was rejigged in September and almost all ministers were affiliated with the SAS. Eighty-four percent also belonged to a separate caucus promoting visits to Yasukuni Shrine, seen by critics as a symbol of Japan's past militarism.

Abe's December 2013 visit to Yasukuni sparked outrage in Beijing and Seoul. Far less attention was paid to what some see as his equally symbolic participation in October that year in a ceremony at Ise Shrine, the holiest of Japan's Shinto institutions.

The ritual is held every 20 years, when Ise Shrine is rebuilt and sacred objects representing the emperor's mythical Sun Goddess ancestress are transferred to the new shrine.

Abe became only the second premier to take part in the centuries-old ritual, and the first since World War Two. "Without anyone blinking an eye ... it became a state rite," said John Breen, a professor at the International Research Centre for



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who is also leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), speaks to voters during a campaign for the 14 December lower house election, in Tokyo, on 7 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

Japanese Studies in Kyoto, commenting on Abe's participation.

The lobby groups are also active at the grassroots.

On 1 October, they launched the "People's Council to Write a Beautiful Constitution" to boost support for revising the charter in 2016.

Amending the constitution faces big hurdles even if the LDP succeeds in winning two-thirds of both chambers, since a majority of voters must then approve changes in a referendum.

But other parts of the conservative agenda are

moving ahead, such as making "moral education" part of the official school curriculum with government-approved textbooks, a change slated to take effect in 2018.

That follows a revision to a law on education during Abe's first term to make nurturing "love of country" a goal.

"Things related to patriotic education are getting pushed through and institutionalized so they are shaping the next generation, whether parents know or think about it or not," the University of Auckland's Mullins said.—*Reuters*

Police to deploy mini drones in Indian capital to protect women

NEW DELHI, 12 Dec — Indian police will deploy mini drones fitted with night vision cameras to patrol the streets of the national capital to make the city safer for women, local media reported on Friday.

After the rape of a 27-year-old finance company executive by an Uber cab driver was reported last week, the police has decided to patrol dark stretches and crime prone areas with the help of drones which will be fitted with night vision thermal imaging cameras, said *Press Trust of India*. The project will be launched in north district area of the city by next month, said the report. "With this project, North Delhi will become the first district with complete camera surveillance in Delhi. This would be achieved with the combined range of CCTVs and drones," the report quoted a senior police official as saying. Every drone will fly at 200 metres high and will cover an area of three to four kilometres, said the report.—*Xinhua*



The 18th escort taskforce of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) and the guided missile destroyer "Sterlite" of the US Navy conduct a China-US joint maritime anti-piracy drill in the waters of the Gulf of Aden on 11 Dec, 2014.—XINHUA

S Korean team to visit Fukushima to review fisheries import ban

TOKYO, 12 Dec — A South Korean research team will visit Fukushima and other locations in Japan next week as Seoul reviews its import ban on marine products imposed in the wake of the 2011 nuclear crisis, the Japanese government said on Friday.

During a five-day visit

from Monday, the team including radiation and consumer affairs experts will visit the disaster-hit Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant and wholesale markets in Fukushima and Chiba prefectures, according to the farm ministry. In September 2013, South Korea expanded its import restriction to

include all fisheries products from eight prefectures in northeastern and eastern Japan including Fukushima and Chiba near Tokyo, amid concern over leakage of contaminated water at the stricken plant. Japan hopes the visit will help South Korea lift the ban at an early date, Deputy Chief Cabinet

Secretary Hiroshige Seko said at a Press conference.

The team will also meet with officials of plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co to hear about the decommissioning work of the plant and measures to deal with radioactive water at the complex, the ministry said.

"We have strongly urged South Korea to lift the restriction at an early date on various occasions. We have high hopes that South Korea, through this visit to Japan, will deepen its understanding of the issue and the abolition of the ban will be realized soon," Seko said.—*Kyodo News*

Central government supports Hong Kong government's action to clear occupy sites

BEIJING, 12 Dec — China's central government on Friday said it supported the Hong Kong government and police's decision to disperse and clear the Occupy protest sites.

The central government "fully agrees and firmly supports" the Hong Kong government and police's decisions to stop these illegal activities, thereby maintaining social order and safeguarding the rule of law, said a statement from the State Council Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office. Hong Kong authorities cleared occupy sites in Admiralty on Thursday and traffic in front of the government headquarters was

moving again before midnight. Protestors for the Occupy Central movement had erected a traffic blockade in downtown Hong Kong, seriously undermining Hong Kong's social order, economy, democratic progress and rule of law, the statement said.

"We have noticed that the clearance operation was well received and welcomed by the residents of Hong Kong," the statement said. The statement reiterated that the central government will continue implementing the policies of "one country, two systems" and the Basic Law as well as supporting Hong Kong's democratic progress.—*Xinhua*

WORLD

Pacific free trade negotiators may reconvene in January

WASHINGTON, 12 Dec — Negotiators from 12 countries seeking a Pacific free trade pact may meet again in January in the United States or Australia following their ongoing meeting in Washington, negotiation sources said on Thursday.

The negotiators for the Trans Pacific Partnership initiative are likely to release a plan for future meetings toward an early signing of the deal after they wrap up the current session on Friday, the sources said.

But the trade officials, including chief TPP negotiators, are expected

to refrain from going into detail about the next ministerial meeting, where the United States, Japan and 10 other countries will try to reach a broad agreement to the initiative, they added.

Akira Amari, Japanese TPP minister, said earlier this week the TPP countries may hold the next ministerial meeting in early 2015 if the current chief negotiators' meeting make major progress in contentious sectors such as market access.

A US trade magazine reported on Thursday the envisioned next round of talks by chief TPP negotiators and other officials will take place from 26 January to

1 February at an undecided location in the United States.

The other 10 countries are Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam.

Darci Vetter, chief agricultural negotiator of the Office of US Trade Representative, told an event in Washington that negotiations on tariffs on farm produce have entered a final stage and achieved progress.

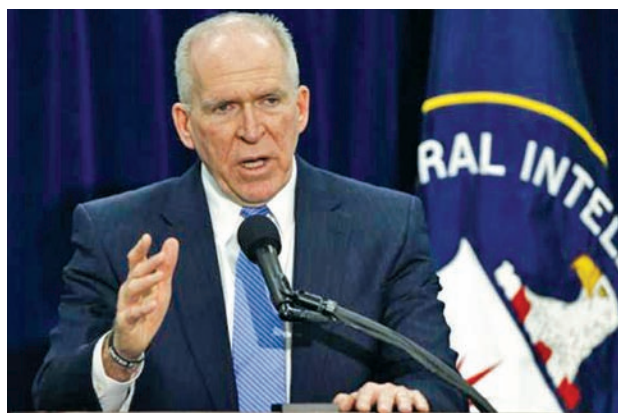
US President Barack Obama told a meeting on Thursday with exporters, "I'm much more optimistic about us being able

to close out an agreement with our TPP partners than I was last year."

"I think the odds of us being able to get a strong agreement are significantly higher than 50-50," Obama told the event at the White House.

The TPP countries have given up striking a deal by the end of this year with many of them believing a bilateral accord between Japan and the United States, the largest economies in the framework, is widely seen as vital to accelerate the whole process.

Kyodo News



Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) John Brennan talks to the press during a rare news conference at CIA Headquarters in Virginia on 11 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 12 Dec — Some officers of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) used brutal techniques on terrorist suspects and there was no proof of

CIA chief admits use of brutal interrogation techniques on detainees

useful information yielded from the interrogation, chief of the US spy agency said on Thursday.

John Brennan, in a rare televised Press conference held at the CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia, acknowledged "unauthorized" and "abhorrent" practices by some officers, saying it was "unknowable" whether the so-called enhanced interrogation techniques produced key intelli-

gence. "We fell short when it came to holding some officers accountable for their mistakes," he said, adding that the use of coercive methods has a strong prospect for resulting in false information because "if somebody is being subjected to a course of techniques, they say something to have those techniques stopped".

"And so there have been a lot of studies done over the years about the value of different types of interrogation methods and whether or not coercive methods can lead to useful information that couldn't otherwise be obtained," the CIA chief noted.

But Brennan asserted the CIA "did a lot of things right" in a time when there were no easy answers, saying CIA officers were acting under Bush administration guidance that harsh techniques were legal.

The CIA was brought

to sharper focus following the release Tuesday of a Senate Intelligence Committee report, in which details were offered about the agency's brutal interrogation methods over the years after the 11 Sept, 2001 terrorist attacks on the US mainland.

Among the methods were waterboarding, sexual threats and sleep deprivation, though the report found the techniques largely ineffective and poorly managed.

The revelations have sparked outrage and demands for justice around the world. Juan Mendez, the UN's Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, said the use of torture when interrogating prisoners captured in the US "war on terror" has damaged the country's moral high ground and set back the global fight

against the condemnable practice.

"The example set by the United States on the use of torture has been a big drawback in the fight against such practice in many other countries throughout the world," he said.

"We have lost a little bit of the moral high ground," Mendez added. "But it can be regained and it should be regained." He said the torture programmes had made the matter of terrorism worse and provided "a breeding ground for more terrorism".

"As a nation that has publicly affirmed its belief that respect for truth advances respect for the rule of law, and as a nation that frequently calls for transparency and accountability in other countries, the United States must rise to meet the standards it has set both for itself and for others," Mendez said.—Xinhua

IAEA to get more money for Iran nuclear deal monitoring

VIENNA, 12 Dec — Several states pledged on Thursday to back a UN nuclear agency request for 4.6 million euros (£3.62 million) as soon as possible to pay for its monitoring of an extended, interim nuclear deal between Iran and world powers.

The support voiced at a meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) highlighted the political importance of efforts to end a 12-year dispute over Iran's nuclear programme, also for countries not directly involved in the diplomacy.

Norway pledged 1 million euros — more than a fifth of the total — and the Netherlands promised 100,000 euros, diplomats who attended the closed-door session in Vienna said.

The United States and Britain, which are engaged in negotiations with Iran, said they would help. "We would like to announce our intent to make an additional extra-budgetary contribution," US Ambassador

Laura Kennedy said.

Iran and the United States, France, Germany, Britain, China and Russia failed last month to meet a self-imposed deadline to resolve the standoff, extending the talks seven more months.

Iran and the powers will meet in Geneva on 17 December to narrow the remaining gaps, Iranian deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said on Thursday.

"There will be bilateral talks with Americans and others starting on Monday" Araqchi told the semi-official *Fars* news agency.

IAEA inspectors are checking that Iran meets its commitments under a preliminary deal to halt its most sensitive nuclear work in exchange for some easing of sanctions.

IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano told its 35-nation governing board about the need for new voluntary budget contributions, in addition to requests totalling 6.5 million euros in January and July.

"I invite member states which are in a position to do

so to make the necessary funding available as soon as possible in order to ensure smooth continuation of our activities," he said.

The European Union said it was "prepared to consider sympathetically the resource needs" of the IAEA.

Iran's refusal to scale back uranium enrichment has drawn international sanctions.

Iranian Ambassador Reza Najafi said negotiations had made good progress and a "lasting solution is closer than ever."

IAEA inspectors visit Iran's enrichment facilities of Natanz and Fordow daily, versus about once a week before the November 2013 agreement. The agency has also procured specialised equipment for its analytical work.

Amano said the IAEA's workload had greatly increased and that many staff "working on this matter will give up their Christmas and New Year holidays this year."

Reuters



Students of the University of Kirkuk, dressed in the uniforms of Kurdish security forces, known as Peshmerga, gather to celebrate the Peshmerga Day in the city of Kirkuk, northern Iraq on 11 Dec, 2014.—XINHUA

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 13 December, 2014

The chicken or the egg

By Myint Win Thein

When commodities prices rise in a country, those who are hardest hit are the poor including lower-level government and private sector employees and the unemployed. As a result, governments are forced to consider increasing salaries and wages and creating job opportunities for the jobless. When the wages and salaries are raised, commodities prices go up again. It is this cycle of price rise and pay increase that some countries in the world cannot emancipate themselves

from. This is the problem of the chicken and the egg. What comes first, the chicken or the egg? Which comes first, increased prices or the pay rise?

However, it is clear that prices are always increasing whether the minimum wage or salaries of government and private sector workers are raised or not. Prices may rise due to the inflow of foreign investment, development projects, inflation, land speculation, smuggling, import or export businesses and so on. For example, property and rental prices in some cities in some countries skyrocket due to surges in foreign investment. As a result, the urban poor there have to move away from city centres but they still have to pay more for their accommodation as property rental prices rise. Their usual food items become expensive as crops, meat and fish are exported to other countries. Peasant farmers who have traditional-

ly tilled the land have to find alternative avenues of livelihood due to imported food items. To make a long story short, they cannot afford the cost of living and their living standards fall dramatically. Clearly they are the people hardest hit by rising prices, whether prices rise because of higher income or not. It is high time for the chicken-and-egg causality dilemma to be solved for such countries.

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.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

In recent weeks there have been some articles in the GNLM regarding the traffic woes which the city of Yangon has been going through since some time. All the suggestions and remedies described are quite realistic and the relevant authorities and departments should take note of them. Some of those can be implemented right away and some more may be planned to be implemented in the long term.

I wish to add some more aspects on the subject, which are mainly concerned with the six downtown townships. As everybody knows these are the most congested townships both traffic-wise and people-wise because thousands of people from outlying townships come to these townships daily for their work. Therefore these six townships are almost always crowded with buses, cars, tri-shaws, push-carts as well as hawkers, roadside food stalls etc.

Several years ago, wholesalers of food provisions, construction items, cement, roofing sheets, sanitary & building materials as well as printing works, paper and stationery wholesalers, discarded-item dealers, district cargo-sending gates etc were shifted from these six townships to the outlying areas of

Sawbwa-gyigone, South Dagon and Bayintnaung etc. However later on, many of them have shifted back to the six downtown townships and now one can again find all of the above in the downtown townships. As these ventures and businesses require big trucks to upload and download their wares, these central Yangon townships are always crowded with big and small trucks and even containers in the narrow streets and lanes. This very much aggravates traffic and parking situations resulting in traffic jams all the time.

I would like to suggest YCDC and other authorities concerned to ban the wholesalers from running the business in these narrow and residential streets and quarters and permanently shift them to the outlying areas which were specially designated for these businesses. Additionally, containers and trucks (big or small) should also be made not allowed in the said townships. These two measures are inter-related and if even one of the either is implemented the other will go away on its own.

At a time when there is much talk as well as concrete steps of maintaining the heritage buildings in Yangon, which are mostly concentrated in these six townships, the above measures will certainly be very helpful.

The tourists who will be visiting to see heritage buildings will be much free to roam around with less crowded roads and streets.

These central Yangon townships should be restricted only to the businesses like shopping centres, business and corporate offices, gold and jewellery shops, mobile phone shops, money changers, clothing and foot-wears, airline offices, retail stores, cafeterias and decent restaurants, clinics and pharmacies etc. This will greatly relieve the downtown of not only the traffic clogging but also the garbage and big piles of cartons, barrels and big packages lying all around on the pavements and inside streets and the trucks loading and discharging them.

When these wholesalers and big businesses are not there, there will obviously be less hawkers and roadside food and tea stalls as there will be less crowd of people around, which again will result in less garbage. Fewer people coming to downtown mean less traffic there. The result will be a downtown area which is much cleaner, less crowded with less air pollution and less noise pollution and thus much more pleasant and tourist-friendly like the down-towns of most foreign cities.

San Lynn

Weights and Measures

Win Sein

Different countries have different weights and measures. The exact weights and measures used in a country is important, it must conform to the official standard laid down by that country, because it reflects the honesty and integrity of the people of that country.

To avoid unnecessary argument regarding weights and measures of a country, an official standard of weights and measures is to be kept at an authoritative office for reference. Also every country needs to have a system of control for the exactness of all the weights and measures. To do this, a special committee of esteemed persons as members of that committee formed for overseeing, or random inspecting from time to time or if controversy arises at any time on the matter of weights and measures, action should be taken instantly.

Myanmar has had her official weights and measures since the days of the Myanmar kings, for weights, such as yway, yway gyi, petha, mutha, and for length, such as htwa, mite, taung etc. In Oct 2013, in order to simplify calculation, Myanmar has adopted the use of metric system, but due to the people have been facing the difficulty of switching from the customary standard to the metric one thereby the usage has not been material-

ized later on.

We often heard some foreign importers complaining about being short-changed by weight from the imports. An actual case has happened during the time that Myanmar was called as Burma, a shipment of exported raw rubber blocks, not only short in weight but also had foreign objects like old wooden slipper piece got embedded in some of the blocks. This incident has disturbed the good business relation between the importers and exporters, it was time consuming and costly to finally resolve the heated problem.

No business can be conducted unless each person is sure that the other person is being fair and honest. To have fair and honest trade, it definitely will need an accurate weights and measures. The need for a single worldwide measurement system is becoming more important, because there is more trade between countries year after year. Most of the world uses the Metric System, whereas the United States uses the

customary system, and it is the only major industrialized country that does not require the Metric System.

To prevent worldwide misunderstanding in relation to weights and measures, it is necessary to rely on destination where standard is kept for all nations of the world can look to, is the international prototype kilogram kept in a building near Paris, France. All standards in the world must match to this kilogram including the United States standard in Washington D.C.

As Myanmar has already opened up its economy for foreign investors to come and invest in Myanmar, and the direct investments from foreign countries have been increased in tremendous amount lately. In addition Myanmar has been named as the world's most generous country recently. We hope all these hard earned good deeds shall not be short-changed by any Myanmar exporter's mis-conduct of shipping merchandises in quantity as well as quality in the future.

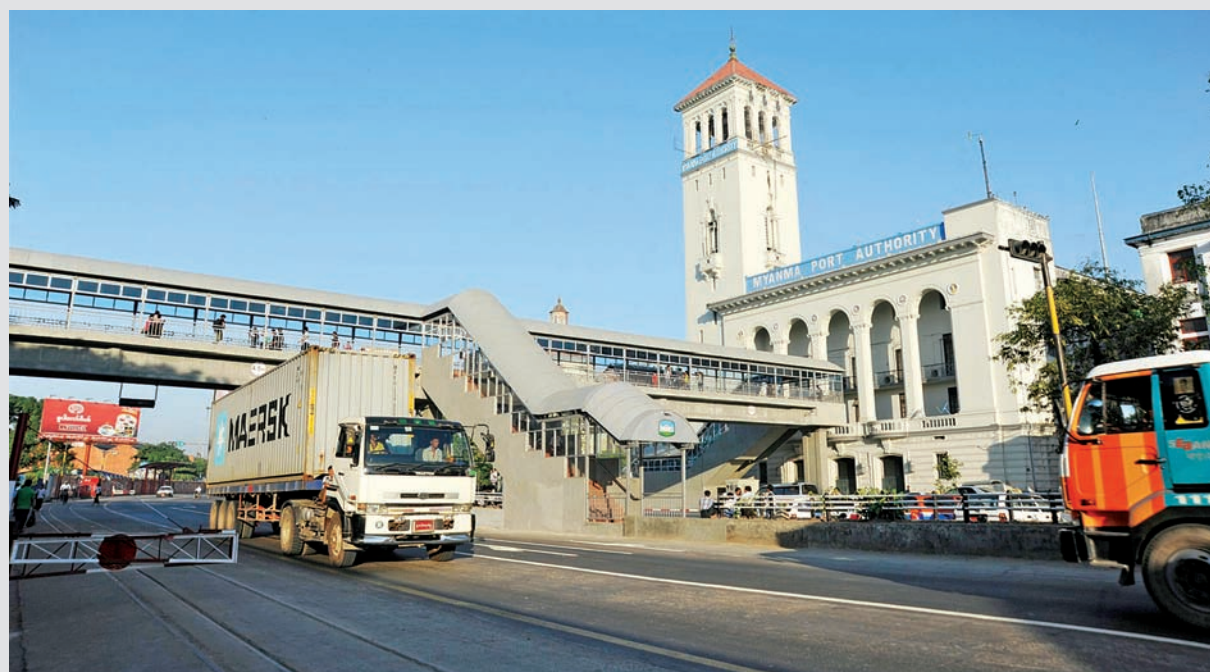
U Win Sein
Former Companies Assistant Registrar
The Ministry of Trade

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

Yangon Gold Price
Buying K667,600 per tical: Selling K668,600
Mandalay Gold Price
Buying K667,500 per tical: Selling K668,500

FE RATE
USD Buying K 1033: Selling K----
SGD Buying K 787: Selling K797
Euro Buying K1,275: Selling K1,300

NATIONAL



An overpass linking Pansodan street and Nanthida Jetty was commissioned into service in Yangon on 12 December. The overpass is 211 feet long with 10.5 feet wide pedestrian way and 19.75 feet of clearance. The construction started on 30 April 2014 to ease traffic congestion in downtown Yangon.—SAW THEIN WIN

Public announcement for remonstrations

Modern People's Party headquartered at No. 102, Building 79/80, Aungthukha Street, Hantha Yeikmon Housing, Ward 5, Kamayut Township, Yangon Region, as a political party under the Article 9 of Political Parties Registration Law, has submitted an application to change its flag to the Union Election Commission.

It is hereby announced in accord with the Political Parties Registration Rules 14 (d) that if there is anyone who want to remonstrate the flag of the party, they may remonstrate with the Union Election Commission with firm evidence within seven days from the date of the announcement.

Union Election Commission



Flag of Modern People's Party

EU launches European Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec — the European Union (EU) has officially launched the European Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar - EuroChamber Myanmar on Friday.

The launch event has been hosted by the Ambassador of the European Union HE Roland Kobia and brought together top level institutional and private sector representatives. Participants included HE Prof. Aung Tun Thet, President's Economic Advisor, U Set Aung, Vice Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, Dr Maung Maung Lay, Vice President UMCCI - and business executives from many European and Myanmar companies.

The EuroChamber will be set up by a consortium led by the French Myanmar Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FMCCI) along with Eurochambres - the European umbrella organization of Chambers of Commerce - as well as Chambers from Belgium, France, Italy and Hungary. Other key EU business representatives in Myanmar and the UMCCI support this project. The EU supports the startup of the EuroChamber with a grant of 2.7 million euros.

Ambassador Kobia stressed the importance of good business relationships in the EU-Myanmar partnership. He said that

"businesses need a stable and peaceful environment to prosper. And in turn, if they prosper, they can make a huge contribution to social and economic development." He said: "the EuroChamber's aim is to reinforce links between Myanmar businesses and their European counterparts. The European Chamber of Commerce has the unique ability to draw from a wide range of business experience across Europe."

The President of French Myanmar Chamber

of Commerce and Industry (FMCCI) Julien Esch said that "The launch of the European Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar is a fantastic opportunity to increase ties between Myanmar and Europe. Myanmar and Europe benefit indeed from large complementarities, which would certainly bring jobs creation and increase exports."

The organizational structure of the EuroChamber will be finalized in the next few weeks.

GNLM

Myanmar delegation attends workshop on Distribution Policy for Myanmar



Vice Chairman U Myo Min Aung of Myanmar Retailers Association and party seen at the airport.

YANGON, 12 Dec — At the invitation of the Overseas Human Resources and Industry Development

Association (HIDA), Vice Chairman U Myo Min Aung of Myanmar Retailers Association and party attended the workshop on Distribution Policy for Myanmar at Tokyo Kenshu Center in Japan from 3 to 10 December and observed retailing industries in Tokyo.

The association was formed in October 2012, and it has organized about 200 members so far, said general secretary U Thurein Nyein.—Aung Thura

Israeli experts share expertise in beekeeping project in Shan State

YANGON, 12 Dec — As part of the continuation of the Beekeeping Project which has been started in cooperation with Department of Apiculture, Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, Embassy of Israel, Yangon and TAG International Development since 2012, two more advance training courses in Beekeeping were organized in Aungban, Kalaw Township, Shan state as of 8 December.

With the continued financial support from Livelihood and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT), TAG International Development and Embassy of Israel brought the two advance courses in beekeeping to

Shan State: "Advance Beekeeping Course" (8-12 December 2014) and "Artificial Insemination of Queen Bees Course" (8-12 December 2014) especially designed for the government

officers from Department of Apiculture and private beekeepers from different states and regions in Myanmar. Nearly 50 participants attended the said courses conducted by 3 Israeli ex-

perts Dr Boris A Yakobson, Mr Yeshayahu Stern and Ms Anna Barenboim. The aim of this project is to create a potential source of income for farmers who do not own land so that it can contribute much to poverty alleviation.

The opening ceremony held in the Cooperative Association Hall in Aung

Ban was honoured by the presence of Daniel Zonshine, Ambassador of Israel, Yangon, U Wai Lin Maung, Deputy Director General of Apiculture, Department of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary, township officers from LBVD, Shan State and guests from Danu and Pa-O ethnic associations in Shan State.—GNLM



US congressional staffers stage walkout in latest police protests

WASHINGTON/ OAKLAND, 12 Dec — Dozens of US congressional staff staged a walkout on Thursday to protest decisions by grand juries not to charge white police officers in the killings of unarmed black men in Ferguson, Missouri, and New York City.

The staffers, including members of the Congressional Black Associates group, held a prayer service on the steps of the US Capitol and raised their hands in a reference to the “Hands up, don’t shoot” chants that have become a feature of protests around the nation.

The action was the latest in a series of demonstrations over concerns about the policing of black communities. Some have turned violent, including this week’s protests in northern California.

Oakland and neighbouring Berkeley, California, have seen nightly demonstrations all week



African-American Congressional staffers and representatives stage a walk out with a ‘Hands Up, Don’t Shoot’ pose on the steps of the House of Representatives at the US Capitol to protest the deaths of Michael Brown and Eric Garner, in Washington on 11 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

in response to decisions by two grand juries not to charge white police officers in the killings of Michael Brown in Ferguson and

Eric Garner in New York.

On Wednesday night, about 150 protesters, fewer than on previous evenings, left the campus of

University of California, Berkeley, and demonstrated without incident before marching south into Oakland, authorities said.

By that point, the protesters had dwindled to about 50 people, some of whom broke windows at a T-Mobile store and a Chase bank branch, according to the city of Oakland. Looting was reported in an area of small businesses at a downtown intersection, the city said.

At one point, a *Reuters* photographer witnessed a man who demonstrators said was an undercover police officer and who had been marching with them, pointing a pistol at protesters after he and another man were attacked.

Within a minute or two, about 20 uniformed Oakland police officers arrived and detained one of the protesters.

Chief Avery Browne, commander of the California Highway Patrol’s Golden Gate Division, said two plainclothes CHP detectives were surrounded by up to 50 demonstrators

who ignored orders to back off, despite one of the officers first taking out his baton and identifying himself as police.

“We are extremely cognizant and very sensitive to the display of a gun. It’s very upsetting. It’s very disturbing to individuals who are attempting to peacefully protest, and we recognize that,” Browne told reporters by telephone.

But he said the detective involved told him he had been in fear for his and his partner’s lives. “No one has provided any evidence that the officers were inappropriate in what they did,” Browne said.

On previous evenings this week in the Bay Area, riot police have fired tear gas and pepper spray to disperse crowds of demonstrators that have at times been hundreds strong, some of whom have thrown stones at the officers.

Reuters

Police investigate gunfire attack on Israeli Embassy in Athens

ATHENS, 12 Dec — Greek counter terrorism police were investigating a pre-dawn drive-by gunfire attack on the Israeli Embassy in Athens on Friday, which caused no casualties.

Two unidentified motorcycle-riding gunmen approached the embassy compound and opened fire on it with an AK47 automatic rifle before managing to flee the scene.

According to police sources, investigators were already examining closed circuit security cameras of the embassy and nearby buildings.

Political, police, judicial and financial establishments have been targets of attack by Greek terrorist groups in recent years.

The residence of the German ambassador in Athens came under a

similar attack in December 2013, which caused no injuries but only property damage.

Local guerilla group “Popular Fighters” had claimed responsibility for that attack as well as a hit with the same modus operandi at the headquarters of the ruling conservative party New Democracy in January 2013. No casualties or property damage were reported.—*Xinhua*

Two more MH17 crash victims identified

THE HAGUE, 12 Dec — Two more victims of the Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 crash in eastern Ukraine have been identified, raising the total number of identified victims to 294, the Dutch Ministry of Security and Justice announced on Thursday. The flight crashed on 17 July over Ukraine airspace, killing 298 passengers on board, of whom 196 were Dutch citizens. Four victims remain unidentified and all of them were Dutch.

All identifications of the victims have been car-

ried out in Hilversum, a city in the province of North Holland, by the National Forensic Investigation Team (LTFO) based on tooth status, fingerprints or DNA. Information about the remaining four unidentified victims might be available on the body parts currently present in Hilversum, but according to the Dutch Ministry of Security and Justice, it is also possible that the remains of those missing passengers are not yet recovered from the crash site. On 28 November, a Dutch military transport

aircraft arrived at Eindhoven Air Base, the home base of the Royal Netherlands Air Force’s transport aircraft, from Kharkiv, carrying six coffins with human remains of the victims. Kharkiv is Ukraine’s second largest city in the northeast part of the country, where the remains of many crash victims were gathered. That could be the last transport, at least for this year, with winter and snow coming up in eastern Ukraine and the recovery mission being finished for now.—*Xinhua*

Russian gas flows to Ukraine stable — Ukrtransgaz



An employee of Ukrtransgaz is seen at the gas pumping station at Ukrainian settlement of Orlovka, about 280 km (174 miles) west of the Black Sea port of Odessa, on 13 Jan, 2009.—REUTERS

KIEV, 12 Dec — Russian natural gas flows to Ukraine have been stable

since 9 December, when Gazprom resumed supplies after a six-month gap caused

by a price dispute and unpaid debts, Ukraine’s gas transport monopoly said on Thursday.

“The supplies are stable and Ukraine received 42.8 million cubic metres of Russian gas on 9 December,” Ukrtransgaz spokesman Maxim Belyavsky said.

Ukraine, hit by hard frosts and a lack of fuel to produce enough power to cover domestic needs, transferred \$378 million (£240.7 million) to the Russian gas supplier for 1 billion cubic metres (bcm) of gas in December to replenish its limited reserves.

Ukrtransgaz data showed that the volume of gas in underground gas

storage sites had fallen by around 23 percent since the start of the heating season to 12.95 bcm as of 9 December. Ukrtransgaz said this week it planned to receive up to 43.5 million cubic metres of Russian gas every day during December.

Ukraine has said a gas agreement with Russia, reached in October, allows Kiev to buy up to 5 bcm of gas in the period between October and March.

According to the deal, Ukraine must pay for future supplies in advance and also must pay off \$3.1 billion in previous debts by the end of this year. The first payment of \$1.45 billion was transferred last month.—*Reuters*

Military plane crashes in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, 12 Dec — A Sri Lanka Air Force plane crashed in the Athurugiriya area just outside capital Colombo on Friday morning, killing at least four people, the police said.

The Air Force *Antonov* 32 aircraft lost contact with the ground and went missing from radar shortly after taking off from Katunayake airport.

The plane with five people on board was on its way to the Sri Lankan domestic airport in Ratmalana.

It crashed at a rubber

estate in Athurugiriya after hitting the roof of at least one house.

Residents said that there was thick fog over the area where the plane crashed.

The Air Force said that the pilot had reported difficulty in locating the landing strip before it crashed.

Police spokesman SSP Ajith Rohana said that four people were confirmed dead and another who was badly injured had been admitted to a hospital.

Xinhua

Syria's southern rebels take step towards unity



Rebel fighters rest near the frontline in al-Brej district of Aleppo on 10 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

BEIRUT/AMMAN, 12 Dec — Rebels in southern Syria say they have taken a step towards unity that may attract more support from their Western and Arab backers, forging a joint defence pact to help shield them from government forces and Islamic State.

The south is the last major stronghold of the mainstream opposition to President Bashar al-Assad following the expansion of Islamic State in the east and north and gains by the al-Qaeda-affiliated Nusra Front in the northwest.

A short drive from Damascus, the southern front remains a risk for Assad as he shores up his control over key areas of central Syria.

Insurgent groups including both mainstream rebels and Nusra have made slow but steady gains in the south against government forces, analysts who track the conflict say. As the United States seeks partners on the ground for the campaign against Islamic State, the southern rebels are trying to address long-standing criticisms of the so-called moderate opposition by getting better organized.

"We are moving in steps. The joint defence agreement is part of the complete plan for uniting the southern front," said Bashar al-Zoubi, head of the Yarmouk Army — one of the biggest rebel groups in the south. He spoke to

Reuters via the internet.

The agreement dated 6 December and signed by 17 rebel leaders was seen by Reuters. It follows an agreement among the southern groups on a transition plan for Syria.

With the war about to enter its fourth year, analysts say rivalries among a plethora non-jihadist groups have been one of their major weaknesses. The Turkey-based Syrian political opposition has little or no sway over the armed groups.

Rebels in the north last week unveiled a separate initiative grouping mainstream factions with hardline Islamists including Ahrar al-Sham — a group

US Secretary of State John Kerry has equated with Islamic State. That makes partnering with it a complicated prospect for Assad's Western opponents.

The separate initiatives underscore the divergent paths of the war. The southern rebels believe resolving the conflict in the south is easier than resolving it in the north, where the jihadists are dominant.

They advocate an approach that would see the war in the south resolved first. Their transition plan safeguards state bodies and guarantees the rights of religious minorities who worry the alternative to Assad is al-Qaeda.

Rebels in the south have already received what they describe as small amounts of military and financial support from Western and Arab states. It has been channelled via Jordan, a US ally that is determined to protect its Syrian frontier from jihadists.

The main Arab backers of the southern groups are Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Qatar, which has funnelled aid to Islamists in the north, has been kept out.

President Barack Obama praised Jordan's support for the "moderate" Syrian opposition during a 5 December meeting with King Abdullah, an apparent reference to the southern rebels.—Reuters

UK deputy PM says open to inquiry over spies' role in torture

LONDON, 12 Dec — Britain's Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg said on Thursday he would support an inquiry into whether British spies were complicit in CIA torture of terrorism suspects, if other investigations failed to uncover the truth.

Clegg said that while he was sure British intelligence agents were not involved with torture now, allegations that spies had known about the mistreatment of detainees by US authorities and others had to be fully examined. "I, like everybody else, want the truth out there," he told LBC radio. "Torture cannot, will not, and is not being used under any circumstances by British agencies or indeed on our behalf." According to a US Senate report published on Tuesday, the CIA misled the White House and public about its harsh interrogation of detainees after the 11 September attacks and acted more brutally and pervasively than it had acknowledged.

Britain's foreign and domestic security services, known as MI6 and MI5, have for years been accused of colluding in the ill-treatment of suspected militants. A spokeswoman from the office of Prime Minister David Cameron on Thursday said that British intelligence officials had asked for parts of the summary in the Senate report to be redacted.

However she added that these requests were made out of concern for national security and were not meant to cover up any embarrassment arising out of allegations into the UK's involvement.



Britain's Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg

The heads of MI5 and MI6 have repeatedly said they would never use torture to gain information, and ministers have also denied knowledge of sending suspects to face torture abroad.

However, an inquiry headed by retired senior judge Peter Gibson, set up by Cameron, concluded last year that British spies had known about the US mistreatment of suspects. His findings are being further examined by parliament's Intelligence and Security Committee. "Once the police investigations are done, once this report from the Intelligence and Security Committee is done, we should keep an open mind .. about moving to a full judicial inquiry if there are any outstanding questions," Clegg said. Clegg, leader of the Liberal Democrats, the junior member of the coalition government, said the "explosive" Senate report had shown torture had not kept the West safer and was detrimental to efforts in stopping recruits to Islamic State. Cameron said this week the use of torture "was always wrong," but appeared to dismiss the need for a new inquiry, telling reporters that the issue "has been dealt with from the British perspective."

Reuters

German killed in Kabul attack on play condemning suicide bombings

KABUL, 12 Dec — A teenaged bomber on Thursday targeted a Kabul auditorium packed with people watching a drama condemning suicide attacks and being staged at a French cultural centre, killing a German man and wounding 16 people, officials and a witness said.

The suicide blast was the second to strike the Afghan capital in a day, after six Afghan soldiers perished when their bus was hit on the outskirts of the city as they rode into work.

The violence, part of a nationwide campaign by Islamist Taliban insurgents to strike at military and civilian targets, came less than three weeks before the year-end deadline for most foreign combat soldiers to withdraw from the country.

General Ayoub Salangi, head of the Interior

Ministry while the cabinet is being finalized, said the suspected theatre bomber appeared to have been about 17 years old and detonated his explosives at the venue during an early evening performance.

"I heard a deafening explosion ... There were Afghans, foreigners, young girls and young boys watching the show," Sher Ahmad, an Afghan rights activist who was at the performance, told Reuters.

He said the blast came during a performance of a new play called "Heartbeat: Silence After the Explosion", a condemnation of suicide attacks.

"Pieces of flesh were plastered on the wall. There were children and women crying for help. Some were running out, some were just screaming."

Taliban spokesman



An Afghan National Army soldier (ANA) walks past the site of a suicide attack in Kabul, on 11 Dec, 2014.

REUTERS

Zabihullah Mujahid said the bomber targeted the event because it was staged "to insult Islamic values and spread propaganda about our jihad operations, especially on suicide attacks".

Amid confusion immediately following the blast, one person could be heard saying "It's all part of the show" in a video

posted on YouTube purporting to be of the attack.

Early police reports said the bomber attacked the French-run Lycée Estéqlal, one of Kabul's oldest and most highly respected high schools, but Ahmad said the performance was at the French Cultural Centre located in the same compound.

Reuters

Saudi Arabia arrests three IS supporters for shooting Danish citizen

RIYADH, 12 Dec — Saudi Arabia said it detained three Islamic State (IS) supporters for shooting a Danish national in Riyadh late last month, Saudi Press Agency reported on Thursday. Saudi police announced on 22 November that a Danish resident sustained gunshot wound while driving. The Interior ministry said in a statement that the three suspects are Saudis, who are tasked respectively with shooting, driving and filming.

"Security forces have seized the weapon used in the incident, which was a

Glock pistol, as well as the vehicle and statements from the detainees," the ministry said.

"Preliminary investigations indicated that the suspects carried out the attacks in support of the terrorist group IS," the ministry said, adding that the three were trained for the operation two weeks prior to the attack.

Earlier this month, Saudi security authorities were reported to be examining a purported video, in which the self-proclaimed IS outfit showed the shooting of the Danish national by its alleged supporters. —Xinhua

Indonesia English daily's top editor faces blasphemy probe over cartoon

JAKARTA, 12 Dec— Indonesian police on Thursday declared the editor-in-chief of a prominent English-language daily newspaper a suspect in a blasphemy case over the publication of a caricature purporting to criticize violence inflicted in Iraq by a jihadist group known as the Islamic State.

Jakarta Police Spokesman Rikwanto told reporters that *The Jakarta Post* Chief Editor Meidyatama Suryodiningrat, 47, was named a suspect, citing witness testimonies and evidence, for his responsibility over all products of the *Post*.

The chief editor issued a statement late Thursday, saying the newspaper did not commit a

criminal act as accused, while a journalists' group said the case threatens the country's press freedom. The caricature published by the *Post* on 3 July depicted a flag emblazoned with the Arabic phrases "La ilaha Illallah," meaning "there is none worthy of worship except Allah," and "Al-lah, Mohamed and Apostle" on a pirate skull.

The police spokesman said they will summon and question Suryodiningrat next week as a suspect. The journalist faces five years in prison for blasphemy against a religion under the Criminal Code.

The police were alerted to the case by a Muslim group, called Jakarta Preachers' Corps,

after the *Post* issued an apology about the internationally syndicated cartoon and a retraction from its website and print edition.

The editor said, "What we produced was a journalistic piece that criticized the ISIS movement, which has carried out violence in the name of religion," using the acronym of the extremist group, also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

"It means that the ISIS caricature was not blasphemous," he said. "We all know that ISIS is an organization that is banned in Indonesia and across almost the entire world."

The *Post* has received a statement from the country's Press Council that said the case

only concerns the code of ethics in journalism and is not a criminal matter, according to Suryodiningrat.

"However, we respect the ongoing process and we will follow it in accordance with the prevailing regulations," he said.

The Jakarta-based Alliance of Independent Journalists, or AJI, slammed the declaration of Suryodiningrat as suspect.

"We urge the police not to use the Criminal Code to deal with journalistic cases, but the Press Law to solve disputes related to news reports and press products," the press organization said.

The case, according to AJI, will be a "serious threat" for

press freedom.

Although infrequent, some chief editors of Indonesian media have been sent to jail in the past, mostly for issuing publications containing blasphemy against religion or pornography.

Four years ago, Playboy Indonesia Chief Editor Erwin Ardana was sentenced to two years in prison for publishing "soft pornography."

In 1990, veteran journalist Arswendo Atmowiloto was sentenced to four and a half years after the tabloid *Monitor*, where he was the editor-in-chief, released its popularity survey, which ranked Prophet Mohamed 11th just below Arswendo himself.

Kyodo News

Pakistani Taleban accuse Nobel laureate Malala of blasphemy

ISLAMABAD, 12 Dec — The Pakistani Taleban have accused Pakistani teenage education campaigner Malala Yousafzai, co-winner of this year's Nobel Peace Prize, of blasphemy and ridiculing Islam.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, Muhammad Khurasani, spokesman of the militant group, described Malala as a weapon used by Western civilization and her Nobel Peace Prize as a bid to sharpen this weapon.

The statement, issued from

an undisclosed site, was received by Pakistani media on Thursday.

The statement accused Malala of committing blasphemy in her book "I am Malala" by defending the Anglo-Indian author Salman Rushdie and the Qadiani sect, which has been declared a non-Muslim in Pakistan.

It said that a Muslim society cannot accept blasphemy and ridicule of Islam.

It further said that if the West continued to use Malala in its war on Islam, it should be wary of the

day when the Taleban kills every Malala indulging in blasphemy in every nook and corner in Pakistan.

Malala received the Noble Peace Prize on Wednesday in a ceremony in Oslo but her honor was not celebrated in Pakistan except by a small crowd of her relatives, friends and human right activists in her home town in Swat.

She is the second Pakistani to receive this award after Abdul Salam.—*Kyodo News*

Aging expert forms research group on muscle loss



Hidenori Arai, a professor at Kyoto University

TOKYO, 12 Dec — An expert on aging has launched a new research group focusing on loss of muscle strength among elderly people in Japan's rapidly graying society. Hidenori Arai, 55, a professor at Kyoto University's Faculty of Medicine, in February formed the Japanese Study Group on Sarcopenia and Frailty to establish ways to enable elderly people to live long healthy lives without nursing care. Sarcopenia is muscle loss associated with aging, a major contributor to frailty in the elderly, and increases the risk of falling and hospitalization.

"I want people to know that symptoms can be alleviated if they receive appropriate instructions on dietary habits and exercise," Arai

said. The group's first conference was held at the University of Tokyo in October, bringing together more than 400 experts from various fields including geriatricians, orthopedic surgeons, nurses, physical therapists, pharmacists, dietitians, and nursing care managers. It was more than twice the number expected.

"If we combine wisdom from experts in each field, we can produce more successful results," Arai said. "We hope to establish treatment that prevents elderly people from requiring care, as well as appropriate nursing care."

Arai developed an interest in sarcopenia and frailty when he became acquainted with rehabilitation specialists at Kyoto University and geriatrics researchers working in other Asian countries.

He said he believes "research in one particular field can inspire progress in another." Arai says he is worried about eating habits of young women, many of whom seem to have a strong desire to lose weight. "Muscle mass in women is declining and the risk of their suffering from sarcopenia in the future could increase," he said.—*Kyodo News*

Three gov't soldiers killed in E Ukraine despite cease-fire

KIEV, 12 Dec — At least three government soldiers were killed in eastern Ukraine over the past 24 hours despite a declared cease-fire, a military spokesman said on Thursday.

Besides the deaths, eight other Ukrainian servicemen were injured, according to Andrei Lysenko, spokesman for the National Security and Defence Council.

Although independence-seeking insurgents have carried out several attacks against government forces, the intensity of their offensive has reduced after the cease-fire was enforced,

Lysenko said.

He added that Ukraine will continue upholding the truce with rebels in an attempt to prevent widespread bloodshed.

The confronting sides in eastern Ukraine announced their consent to the cease-fire Tuesday morning to start the so-called "day of silence," prescribed in the peace agreement signed on 5 September in the Belarusian capital of Minsk.

Over the past day, there were no reports of civilian or rebel casualties.

Xinhua

Palestine mission to launch campaign in Japan for recognition

TOKYO, 12 Dec— The Palestinian general mission to Japan said on Friday it will launch a signature collection drive in January to urge the Japanese parliament to pass a resolution calling on the government to recognize Palestine as a state.

The mission will aim to collect a million signatures, receiving cooperation from nongovernmental organizations.

Since November, the parliaments of Britain, France and Spain have adopted resolutions calling on their governments to

endorse Palestinian statehood following Sweden, which recognized it on 30 October.

More than 130 of the 193 member states of the United Nations have recognized Palestinian statehood.

Kyodo News



Photo taken on 11 Dec, 2014 shows burning bales of straw by European dairy farmers in front of the European Commission headquarters during a protest against low selling prices in Brussels, capital of Belgium. — XINHUA

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (042W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (042W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.12.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ORINET OVERSEAS
CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (064N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (064N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.12.2014 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 INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

37 Nicaraguan fishermen
missing in Caribbean waters

MANAGUA, 12 Dec — At least 37 fishermen remain missing in Caribbean waters off Nicaragua after their boat capsized on Tuesday, a naval official said on Thursday.

The head of the Nicaraguan Army's Naval Force in the northern Caribbean, Lieutenant Lenin Amador, said 13 of the 50 fishermen aboard the ship managed to swim ashore and were rescued. The survivors came ashore near the coastal city of Bilwi, but the rest have yet to be located by naval search and

rescue operations launched early on Thursday.

Most of the crew aboard the boat, called White War Wing, which reportedly sank 80 km east of Bilwi, were lobster and shrimp fishermen, officials said. Nicaraguan government spokesperson and First Lady Rosario Murillo told reporters the government has issued an alert to other ship traffic in the area where the navy is carrying out its search efforts.

Murillo also expressed solidarity with the families of the fishermen.—Xinhua

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 10th 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

WEATHER REPORT

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 13th December, 2014: Weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin and Rakhine States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Strong easterly winds with moderate to rough sea are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Motama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach (35) m.p.h. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar water.

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Workers install decorations on a giant Christmas tree in Sao Paulo city, Brazil, on 11 Dec, 2014.

XINHUA

36 charged in Brazil's Petrobras corruption scandal

RIO DE JANEIRO, 12 Dec — Brazilian federal prosecutors announced on Thursday they have formally charged 36 people linked to a corruption and money laundering scheme at state oil and gas giant Petrobras. Twenty three of the 36 are connected to construction firms that defrauded the company with the help of Petrobras directors who received kickbacks.

In mid-November, scores of suspects were arrested following a months-long investigation by the Federal Police, aided by a former Petrobras director who named names in ex-

change for a more lenient sentence. Six construction companies — Camargo Correa, Engevix, Galvao Engenharia, Mendes Junior, OAS and UTC — were involved in the scheme. The defendants are accused of money laundering and embezzlement, among other crimes, and face up to 25 years in prison if convicted. Prosecutors expect to recover 1.18 billion reais (447 million US dollars) that was funneled from Petrobras into private accounts. Petrobras stocks have taken a hit in recent days due to the scandal.—Xinhua

New Zealand
souvenir
company fined
for ripping off
Asian tourist

WELLINGTON, 12 Dec — An Auckland souvenir company and its boss have been fined more than a quarter of 1 million dollars for ripping off Chinese and South Korean tour groups with fake products, New Zealand's Commerce Commission said on Friday. Wild Nature NZ Ltd was fined 243,444 NZ dollars (189,598 US dollars) and its director Sung Ho (Stanley) Park was fined 25,000 NZ dollars (19,470 US dollars) at the Auckland District Court after admitting more than 30 charges of making false representations about expensive alpaca and merino wool products for sale to tourists from the Chinese mainland and China's Taiwan and South Korea.

They were the last of eight souvenir companies and seven directors to be sentenced after the Commerce Commission launched an investigation in 2011 with the support of Police, Customs, Immigration Service and the Wildlife Enforcement Group.

Fines imposed by the court across all prosecutions now totaled 1.15 million NZ dollars (895,639 US dollars), said a statement from the commission.

Tourists in organized tour groups were ferried to Wild Nature's premises, where they were sold "New Zealand made" Alpaca rugs that actually came from Peru. Wild Nature created and displayed certificates claiming the rugs had the approval of professional entities that did not exist.

Xinhua

Skyscraper fire kills three in downtown Dallas

HOUSTON, 12 Dec — A Thursday morning at fire broke out at an underground parking garage of a 50-story skyscraper in the US city of Dallas on Thursday, killing three people and forcing the evacuation of thousands of office workers, local media reported.

The fire erupted on

Thursday morning at Thanksgiving Tower's parking garage in downtown Dallas, according to the *Dallas Morning News*. The fire, believed to be caused by an electrical failure or a car fire, prompted the evacuation of around 2,800 people from the building. Local TV

footage showed swarms of office workers streaming out of the high-rise and smoke billowing out of the driveway that leads to the underground garage.

When firefighters rushed to the location of the fire, they found three construction workers dead at the

basement of the skyscraper. The victims were working in the thermal storage tank that is part of the heating, ventilating and air conditioning unit beneath the building. Three other people were sent to hospitals for treatment. Their conditions were believed to be fair. The fire,

which also temporarily shut down several streets around the building, was extinguished within an hour. It is not immediately clear how exactly the fire started. The 32-year-old skyscraper is reportedly in the midst of an 18-million-US-dollar renovation.—Xinhua

‘Birdman’ tests new heights with seven Golden Globe nods

BEVERLY HILLS, 12 Dec — Surreal show business satire “Birdman,” a darling of critics for its innovative storytelling, led the Golden Globe Awards film nominations on Thursday, with its seven nods making it a front-runner early in the Hollywood awards season.

More than two months before the Academy Awards, the nominations from the Hollywood Foreign Press Association suggest it could be a battle of “Birdman” against “Boyhood,” which earned five nominations and also pushed cinematic boundaries.

But at the Golden Globes on 11 January, the two will compete in different categories: “Birdman” for best comedy or musical



(L-R) Miss Golden Globe Greer Grammer, Kate Beckinsale, Jeremy Piven, Paula Patton, and Peter Krause pose at the nomination announcements for the 72nd annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, California on 11 Dec, 2014.

REUTERS

film and “Boyhood” in the more coveted best drama race. The coming-of-age movie filmed over 12 years with the same actors could be challenged by World War Two biopic “The Imitation Game,” which also

received five nominations.

Fox Searchlight Pictures’ “Birdman” was directed by Mexican filmmaker Alejandro G Inarritu and stars Michael Keaton as a washed-up superhero actor trying to make a

comeback on Broadway. It consists of what appears to be one seamless take through the cramped confines of a Broadway theatre and serves up an acerbic commentary on celebrity.

“Although at times it

felt we were flying without a net in this crazy film experiment, this has brought enormous joy to me,” Inarritu said of the film’s seven nominations, including best director for him.

The big omission was World War Two drama “Unbroken.” The film, Angelina Jolie’s second as director, got no nominations.

But Martin Luther King Jr biopic “Selma” landed four nods, including best director for Ava DuVernay, the first black woman to be nominated in that Golden Globe category. The film, which will likely resonate amid the current debate about race relations in America, also received nominations for best drama and best actor for David Oyelowo as

King. DuVernay said it was “a really, really beautiful morning” and that her highest hope had been that Oyelowo get recognition.

“For him to be in the centre of this film, to hold it down so beautifully and to be recognized for that. Really, if I think about it too much, I will start to cry,” she told Reuters from Toronto, where the two are promoting “Selma.” Other films that fortified their Oscar chances on Thursday were Wes Anderson’s quirky period caper, “The Grand Budapest Hotel”; David Fincher’s adaptation of bestselling thriller novel “Gone Girl”; and “The Theory of Everything,” the story of physicist Stephen Hawking and his first wife, Jane.—Reuters

I’ve many unreleased songs of Oasis: Noel Gallagher



LONDON, 12 Dec — Noel Gallagher has revealed that he has “albums worth” of unheard Oasis songs. The former guitarist and chief songwriter said he’s never entered the recording studio with less than 30 songs, reported *Digital Spy*.

“I’ve had a stockpile of songs since 1993. I’ve never written for a specific project, I’ve never been in the studio with less than 30 songs.

I’ve just recorded an album, but I’ve still got another 30 songs,” Gallagher said. Gallagher explained that he wrote at a faster rate than the band released records.

“Instead of writing 15 or 16 songs for a cycle of where (Oasis) were at, we were using five, but I was still writing 15, 20 songs, so there’s loads of stuff left over from those days. Albums and albums worth of material. Because you move so fast as a writer, and you can only really do ten songs on an album at a time, lots get left behind.”

The rock band split in 2009.—PTI

Asha Bhosle receives Lifetime Achievement Award at DIFF

DUBAI, 12 Dec — Noted Indian playback singer Asha Bhosle was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 11th Dubai International Film Festival (DIFF).

The 81-year-old ‘Piya Tu Ab Toh Aja’ hitmaker was presented with the prestigious award for her decades of dedication to Indian cinema last night during the opening ceremony of the festival.

After receiving the award, Bhosle treated the audience to an impromptu performance of her most

memorable renditions. “Receiving DIFF award from Sheikh Mansour Bin Mohammed Al Maktoum,” Bhosle tweeted.

The octogenarian singer has recorded more than 12,000 songs and is known for her versatility as a singer be it folk songs, Indian classical music, pop songs, ghazals and bhajans.

Acclaimed Egyptian actor Nour El-Sherif was also presented with the DIFF Lifetime Achievement Award for his work on over 100 films, in a career spanning nearly five



Asha Bhosle was presented with the prestigious award for her decades of dedication to Indian cinema.—PTI

decades. El-Sherif and Bhosle joined previous winners including Martin Sheen, Omar Sharif, Faten Hamamah, Adel Imam, Jameel Rateb, Sabah, Morgan Freeman, Sean Penn, Amitabh Bachchan, Shah

Rukh Khan, Daoud Abdel Sayed, Youssef Chahine, Rachid Bouchareb, Yash Chopra, Subhash Ghai among others.

The eight day film festival will come to an end on 17 December.—PTI

TV Golden Globes exalt cable, online comedy over broadcast sitcom

LOS ANGELES, 12 Dec — Newly minted comedy on cable television and online streaming platforms beat the broadcast stalwarts to win favour with the Hollywood Foreign Press Association for its Golden Globe nominations on Thursday.

Premium cable network HBO’s raunchy female coming-of-age series “Girls” was the only returning contender for best television comedy or musical, which left out previous broadcast network category staples such as ABC sitcom “Modern Family” and CBS’s nerd comedy “The Big Bang Theory.”

Netflix Inc’s second season of women’s prison comedy “Orange Is the New Black” landed a nod, alongside HBO’s new tech satire “Silicon Valley”;

Hispanic comedy “Jane the Virgin” from The CW, jointly owned by CBS and Warner Bros, and the only broadcast network show in the race; and Amazon Instant Video’s transgender show, “Transparent.”

This is Amazon Studios’ first crack into major awards as it ramps up its original programming to compete with the likes of Netflix in online video streaming.

“Transparent,” about the patriarch of a family who comes out as a transgender woman to his family, also picked up a best comedy/musical TV actor nod for lead star Jeffrey Tambor.

“The field of television is going through such an incredible transformation,” said Theo Kingma,

president of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, crediting Netflix and Amazon for “changing the landscape.” Tambor will be up against Louis CK for FX Networks’ “Louie,” Ricky Gervais for Netflix’s “Derek,” William H Macy for Showtime’s “Shameless” and Don Cheadle for Showtime’s “House of Lies.” “Jane the Virgin,” about a young religious Hispanic woman who is accidentally artificially inseminated during a medical checkup, landed a best comedy/musical TV actress nod for lead star Gina Rodriguez, the only newcomer in the category.

Rodriguez will contend with returning nominees Lena Dunham for “Girls,” Taylor Schilling for “Orange Is the New Black,”

Edie Falco for “Nurse Jackie” and Julia Louis-Dreyfus for “Veep.”

Last year’s best comedy series winner, Fox’s “Brooklyn Nine-Nine,” failed to make the cut this year. This year’s winners will be revealed at a tele-

vised awards ceremony on 11 January. FX’s “Fargo,” which follows small-town men who become entangled in a murder plot, led the television race with five nods, including best mini-series or TV motion picture. The only comedy in the cate-

gory, “Fargo” will be up against Starz’s abduction drama “The Missing and HBO’s AIDS movie “The Normal Heart,” dark family chronicle “Olive Kitteridge” and gritty crime mini-series “True Detective.”

Reuters



Creator Jenji Kohan (C) poses with Netflix VP of Original Content Cindy Holland (2nd R) and cast members (from L-R) Jason Biggs, Laverne Cox, Uzo Aduba, Natasha Lyonne and Taylor Schilling at a For Your Consideration panel for “Orange Is the New Black” at the Directors Guild of America in Los Angeles, California on 4 Aug, 2014.

REUTERS

Snooker-China's Ding becomes first Asian world number one

LONDON, 12 Dec — China's Ding Junhui has become the first Asian player to reach the top of the world snooker rankings.

The 27-year-old, who won five titles in the 2013-14 season, is the 11th world number one since the rankings started in 1976.

Ding joined an illustrious group of players to achieve the top ranking including seven-times world champion Stephen Hendry, Ray Reardon, Steve Davis and Ronnie O'Sullivan.

"It's a great achievement," World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association chairman Barry Hearn said.

"The goal for him is out there now. Can he win the World Championship and bring the crown back to China. The fact is, he's not world number one by luck, he has got there on performance."

Ding, Australian Neil Robertson and Canadian Cliff Thorburn, are the only non-British players to top the rankings.—Reuters



China's Ding Junhui plays a shot during his match against Mark Williams of Wales in the final of the 2010 World Snooker China Open in Beijing on 4 April, 2010. — REUTERS

Cambodia marks 3rd Sea Festival in southern Koh Kong Province

PHNOM PENH, 12 Dec — The 3rd edition of Sea Festival kicked off on Friday in southern Cambodia's Koh Kong Province with an aim to attract more tourists to coastal areas.

In a message to celebrate the festival, Prime Minister Hun Sen said the three-day event was to promote the potential of the country's coastline after it was registered as a member of the Club of the Most Beautiful Bays in the world in 2011. "The development of eco-tourism at coastal

areas is essential to preserve the sustainability of environment and to ensure the protection of natural resources," he said in the message.

The premier said the celebrations clearly reflected the country's peace, political stability, good public order and development in all fields.

According to a Press release from the Ministry of Tourism, during the three-day festival, visitors will enjoy a variety of entertainments and sports.

"There will be live concert, cultural performances, fireworks, food and beverage fair, beach and water sports and aero show," the Press release said.

Kaing Sothea, deputy chief of the promotion and marketing department at the National Olympic Committee, said on Friday that the annual festival is expected to welcome tens of thousands of local and foreign visitors.

He said some 13 kinds of sports will be featured at the event, including tra-

ditional wrestling, bokator martial arts, boxing, cycling, boat race, Cambodian chess, air sports, beach volleyball, jet skiing and open water swimming.

Cambodia's coastline stretches 450 km over four southern provinces of Preah Sihanouk, Kampot, Kep and Koh Kong.

The Ministry of Tourism said the coastal areas greeted some 500,000 domestic and foreign visitors last year and is projected to receive up to 2 million by 2020.—Xinhua

Australian photographer breaks world record with 6.5 mln USD picture

SYDNEY, 12 Dec — Australian photographer Peter Lik this week created a new world record by selling one of his pictures for 6.5 million US dollars, local press reported on Friday.

Named Phantom, the black and white picture

shows a shaft of light cutting through a Arizona landscape and is reportedly the most expensive photograph ever sold, the ABC website said.

The identity of the buyer wasn't disclosed, but his lawyer, Joshua Roth of Los Angeles, vouched for him in

a Press release.

"In 2014, Peter shattered all world records by selling the most expensive photograph in history," his website said. "To accompany this sale, Peter's images Illusion and Eternal Moods were also acquired for 2.4

million US dollars and 1.1 million US dollars, respectively."

"Along with his sale of One for 1 million US dollars in 2010, Peter now holds four spots out of the top 20 most expensive photographs ever sold."—Xinhua

Tottenham fined for Europa League pitch invasions



A steward falls over as he tries to catch a spectator that had run onto the pitch during the Europa League soccer match between Tottenham Hotspur and Partizan Belgrade at White Hart Lane in London on 27 Nov, 2014. —REUTERS

LONDON, 12 Dec — Tottenham Hotspur have been fined 15,000 euros (11,834

pounds) by UEFA after their Europa League game against Partizan Belgrade last month

was suspended for several minutes following three separate pitch invasions, the governing body said on Thursday.

Ukrainian referee Yevhen Aranovskiy took the players off the field after 38 minutes of the Group C game on 24 November. Police arrested the three pitch invaders who appeared to be wearing identical branded T-shirts, bearing the logo of a headphone manufacturer, which later on Twitter condemned what had happened.

A video posted online showed three men talking about invading the pitch ahead of the match.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(13-12-2014, Saturday)

6:00 am

* Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

7:00 am

* News / Weather Report

7:40 am

* Hyper Sports

8:00 am

* News / International News

8:35 am

* TV Drama Series

9:45 am

* Documentary

10:00 am

* News

10:20 am

* Current Affairs

11:40 am

* Game for Children

12:00 noon

* News / International News / Weather Report

12:30 pm

* Round up of The Week's TV Local News

2:30 pm

* Business News

3:15 pm

* Teleplay

4:30 pm

* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) —Second Year (Myanmar)

5:15 pm

* Golden Music of Old Stars

5:30 pm

* Road to Academy 2013 (Part 1 & 2)

17:15 pm

* Teleplay

8:00 pm

* News / International News / Weather Report

8:35 pm

* Documentary

9:00 pm

* News

* Business News

* Myanmar Series

MITV

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(13-12-14 07:00 am~ 14-12-14 07:00 am) MST

* Local News

* The Sacred Hair

Relics Hailing

Pagodas

* World News

* Porcelain and Glass

* Local News

* Unique & Motivating

Chap Char Kut

Festival

* World News

* Traditional Snacks

* Local News

* Those Who Never

Give Up

* World News

* The Storytellers

* Local News

* Myanmar Masterclass

"Caricature"

* World News

* Talented Musicians

* Local News

* Enchanting Rakhine

Land

* World News

* Will you feed the

pigeons

* Local News

* The Great Po Sein

* World News

* Dengue Fever

* Local News

* Taking an Oath for

Life

* World News

* Sagaing: Pe Kwe

Kone Nat Festival

* Local News

* Myanmar Alternative

Medicine (Noni)

* World News

* In the Studio: Ki Ma



An archaeologist works in a grave at the excavating spot of ancient relics of the Han Dynasty (202 BC-220 AD), in Wenxian County, central China's Henan Province, on 11 Dec, 2014.—XINHUA

South American Cup 2014 final: River Plate beats Atletico



River Plate's players celebrate with the trophy after the second leg of the South American Cup 2014 final match against Atletico Nacional in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina, on 10 Dec, 2014.—XINHUA

Leicester's Schmeichel ruled out for up to six weeks

LONDON, 12 Dec — Leicester City goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel will be out of action for up to six weeks due to a foot injury, his manager Nigel Pearson said on Thursday.

"Unfortunately Kasper Schmeichel will be having an operation on a broken metatarsal," Pearson told reporters.

"The optimistic view is four-six weeks out." The loss of Schmeichel, son of former Manchester United keeper Peter, is another blow for Leicester who have slipped to the bottom of the Premier League table going into Saturday's home game against champions Manchester City. "We've been in a difficult run for



Kasper Schmeichel reacts during their Euro 2016 Group I qualifying soccer match against Serbia in Belgrade on 14 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

a while, so we certainly won't be dwelling on that against Manchester City," Pearson said. "We have to look at each game in terms of what we know we are

capable of. I'm asking the players, to a man, to give themselves the best chance of winning the game. We need to get our performance right."—Reuters

Okaka key to Sampdoria's Serie A ambitions

MILAN, 12 Dec — Sampdoria coach Sinisa Mihajlovic is confident he can now rely on Stefano Okaka to help his team, who visit Serie A leaders Juventus on Sunday, clinch a European spot for next season.

Sampdoria, fourth in the standings after 14 games, trail Juve by 10 points but sit only a point behind third-placed Genoa, who host second-placed AS Roma on Sunday.

Against Juventus, who will be without Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini, Sampdoria's main weapon should be 25-year-old forward Okaka.

Mihajlovic believes the Nigerian-born player is now ready to deliver after being loaned to six different clubs since starting his professional career in 2005 at Roma. "He wasted six or seven years of his career," Mihajlovic was quoted as saying in Italian media. "Now he has cleaned up

his act and can become one of the best centre forwards in Italy." Okaka has shown promise, scoring on his Italy debut in a 1-0 friendly win against Albania last month. Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri is expected to revert to a four-man defence after lining up a three-man rearguard in a goalless draw against Fiorentina last weekend.

Juventus qualified for the Champions League knockout phase on Tuesday with a goalless draw

against Atletico Madrid.

In the other top-of-the-table clash, Genoa will be looking to follow up their 1-0 win over AC Milan when they host Roma, who were knocked out of the Champions League following a 2-0 loss to Manchester City on Wednesday.

Genoa are trying to qualify for European competition for the first time since the 2009-10 season, when they were eliminated in the group stage of the

Europa League.

Bottom club Parma, who won the competition — then called the UEFA Cup — in 1999, are gearing up for their match against 18th-placed Cagliari amid media reports that the club could change ownership soon. Parma, who have five points and are eight points from the safety zone, were docked one point on Tuesday for breaking the Italian Football Federation's (FIGC) financial regulations.—Reuters



Sampdoria's Stefano Okaka celebrates after scoring against AC Milan during their Italian Serie A soccer match at Luigi Ferraris Stadium in Genoa on 8 Nov, 2014. REUTERS

Monchengladbach beat FC Zurich 3-0 to top Group A in UEFA Europa League



Borussia Monchengladbach's players celebrate after defeating FC Zurich in their Europa League group A soccer match in Moenchengladbach on 11 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

BERLIN, 12 Dec — Monchengladbach clinched the first place in Group A by beating FC Zurich 3-0 on home soil in UEFA Europa League's last round of the group stages on Thursday.

Borussia Monchengladbach secured the top spot in Group A and their berth in the round of the last 32 as they cruised to a 3-0 over hapless FC Zurich thanks to the brace by Sweden international Branimir Hrgota in front of 44,323 spectators at the Borussia-Park.

Zurich will have to focus on domestic matters as second placed Villarreal joins the "Foals" in Europa League's last 32.

Despite being a must-win encounter for the visitors from Switzerland it were the hosts who broke the deadlock, after a bunch of golden opportunities, when Patrick

Herrmann capitalized on Branimir Hrgota's deflected square-pass into the box by rounding Zurich goalkeeper David da Costa to slot home into the open goal with 30 minutes into the game.

Monchengladbach continued with their dominant performance after the restart as Hrgota got his name on the scoreboards when he doubled the advantage from very close range, following a one-two with Raffael inside the box at the 59th minute.

The hosts were not done with the scoring, particularly Hrgota had an ace in the hole as he wrapped up his second goal of the evening by collecting Granit Xhaka's free-kick into the box to beat onrushing goalie Costa with a lob five minutes later.

Xinhua

Parma confirms sale but not buyer

MILAN, 12 Dec — Serie A bottom team Parma have been sold although the new owner will only be confirmed next week, the club said on Thursday.

"Parma FC announce that today an agreement was reached to sell the majority shares of controlling party Eventi Sportivi SpA, which will be handed over to the new buyers... on 16 December," the club said in a statement.

On Sunday, club director Piero Leonardi said the club was on the verge of being sold to a Russian-Cypriot conglomerate.

Current president Tommaso Ghirardi took over at Parma in January 2007, only to see the 'Ducali' relegated to Serie B for the first time in 18 years the following season.

Parma returned to the top flight in 2008/09 and

finished an impressive sixth last season under former Italy player and coach Roberto Donadoni, although they were barred from taking part in the Europe League because of overdue payments.

On Tuesday, they were deducted one point for breaking financial regulations. An Italian Football Federation (FIGC) tribunal also banned Ghirardi and Leonardi for two

months, as well as fining them 5,000 euros (\$6,200) each.

Parma have lost 12 out of 14 league games this season and have only five points after the deduction.

Parma's heyday was in the 1990s when they won the UEFA Cup twice, the European Cup Winners' Cup once and the Coppa Italia twice as well as finishing runners-up in Serie A.—Reuters