

## All national races coming together to turn Myanmar into a peaceful, modern and prosperous democracy, are a matter of utmost importance

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec — *The following is unofficial translation of the message sent by President Agga Maha Thayay Sithu, Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Thein Sein on the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rakhine State Day.*

### Esteemed national people in Rakhine State,

I am honoured to extend my warmest greetings to all the brethren residing in Rakhine State on this auspicious occasion of the 40th anniversary of Rakhine State Day, which falls on 15 December.

It was on 15 December 1975 that the Rakhine State People's Council held a referendum on the approval of the State Constitution of 1974, which designated Rakhine as a state. Rakhine State has since celebrated its birthday without missing a single year.

Rakhine boasts the Rakhine mountain ranges stretching from the north to the south, the Bay of Bengal, the pleasant Ngapali beach, the Kyaukpyu deep-sea port and the fertile terrain in the north, all of which are rich in aboveground and underground natural resources. Mrauk-U, a medieval town and archaeological site, is regarded as a repository of invaluable cultural heritage.

In Rakhine State, the government has done everything in its capacity to develop human resources by opening universities, colleges, technical high schools

and basic education schools, and to provide proper health care by opening hospitals and clinics. In addition, steps are being taken to develop the region's electricity grid in a bid to light every part of Rakhine State. Transport facilities, such as highways, internal roads and railroads are being extended to ensure better links with other states and regions. Natural resources, human resources, the Kyaukpyu special economic zone project, the Ponnagyun industrial zone project and the Kaladan River Basin development project all show great promise of infrastructural development in the region.

The violence that broke out between the two communities in Rakhine State has now remained stable. It is therefore imperative that the people of Rakhine State, while maintaining the stability that has been achieved, should work in tandem with both the union government and the regional government for the all-round development of the region.

All national races coming together to turn the Republic of the Union of Myanmar into a peaceful, modern and

prosperous democracy, are a matter of the utmost importance. In doing so, all national people of the Rakhine State are urged to join hands in unity and amity.

**The violence that broke out between the two communities in Rakhine State has now remained stable. It is therefore imperative that the people of Rakhine State, while maintaining the stability that has been achieved, should work in tandem with both the union government and the regional government for the all-round development of the region.**

## Myanmar attempts to find new markets for its handicrafts and hand-woven textiles

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 14 Dec — "Made in Myanmar 2", the second art exhibition of traditional textile and crafts, has been launched at the River Ayeyawady Gallery here on Saturday, with the aim of introducing the arts of Myanmar to foreigners and encouraging the development of social enterprises in the country.

The event is being organized by Sunflowers Group from 13 to 19 December in partnership with 13 producers of traditional handicrafts and hand-woven textiles.

High quality products

of the arts made from waste materials are on sale at fair prices at the exhibition, where visitors can view how textiles are woven in a traditional way, the River Ayeyawady Gallery told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

An American visitor stated that she found all handmade crafts on display

enchancing, especially textiles made from lotus, and described the exhibition as a 'wonderful event'.

According to event organizers, lotus textiles are rarer and more expensive than silk ones.

The Sunflowers Group said that it has plans to organize similar exhibitions on a large scale every year, adding that the group aims to expand the market for traditional hand-woven textiles in cooperation with local weaving schools.

Currently, the group has established trade links with four weaving schools in the country in a bid to improve the quality of Myanmar traditional handicrafts.

Japan and America are major importers of Myanmar traditional handicrafts, according to the Sunflowers Group.

The River Ayeyawady Gallery noted that the traditional textile industry generated more profits this year than last year, expecting to witness a further boom in the future.

GNLM

## MFF donates 1,000 footballs to Shan State

TAUNGGYI, 14 Dec — President U Zaw Zaw of Myanmar Football Federation presented 1,000 footballs to Shan State Minister for Finance U Khun Thein Maung on behalf of the Shan State government and Shan State Education Officer U Chit Swe on behalf

of basic education schools at KBZ sports ground in Taunggyi on 13 December.

While in Taunggyi, the MFF president met departmental officials, veteran footballers and townselders and discussed development of football sports in Shan State.—MFF



*President U Zaw Zaw of Myanmar Football Federation hands over footballs to an official for development of the game in Shan State.—MFF*



*Tourists are enchanted by the sights of handmade textiles on display at the art exhibition "Made in Myanmar 2", which takes place at River Ayeyawady Gallery on 35<sup>th</sup> Street (Middle) in Yangon.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN*

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## LOCAL NEWS

## Horizon School organizes Streetball Tournament in Mandalay



MANDALAY, 14 Dec— The awarding of 10<sup>th</sup> Horizon Streetball Tournament 2014 was held at the basketball hall of Horizon School in Chanayethazan Township on 13 December.

Altogether 40 teams from basic education schools participated in the tournament. Warriors team stood first, Sports and Physical Education Institute (Mandalay) (B) team, second and SPEI (C), third in the men's U-16 event. In the women's U-16 event, A, B and C teams of SPEI (Man-

dalay) secured the first, second and third prizes. In the men's open event, Fox team won the first prize, Streak team the second and Future Kids team the third.

Ma Yadana Oo of SPEI (Mandalay) (B) and Kyaw Zin Myo of Streak team secured the best player awards.

Officials of Sports and Physical Education Department, SPEI (Mandalay) and the principal of Horizon School awarded the winners.

*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*

## Kyemon, Myanmar Alinn dailies to publish Mandalay's pages in 2015

MANDALAY, 14 Dec — A ceremony to introduce special pages of Myanmar Alinn and Kyemon dailies was held at the hall of Township Information and Public Relations Department in Aungmyethazan, Mandalay, on 11 December.

Managing Director U Kyaw Soe of News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information and Chief Editor U Aung Naing Oo of Myanmar Alinn Daily explained publi-



cation of pages on Mandalay news as of 6 December

and future tasks.

Deputy Chief Editor

U Nyunt Zaw of Mandalay Sub-Printing House also explained topics to be inserted into the pages for Mandalay news and plans to give honorarium to journalists.

Writers and journalists from Mandalay participated in discussions.

Four pages for Mandalay news will be published in both dailies every Wednesday and Saturday in 2015. In the future, Mandalay's pages will be extended to 16 for daily publication.

*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

## Tourist arrival in Mandalay in 2014 higher than 2013 tourism season

MANDALAY, 14 Dec— Arrival of tourists in Mandalay rose to 61,086 in November 2014, exceeding 3,575 than 47,511 in November 2013.

In 2014 tourism season from September to November, the number of tourists scored 132,667 in Manda-

lay, exceeding over 30,000 tourists than the amount of last year.

A total of 109,195 tourists visited Mandalay last year's tourism period from September to November, according to the statistics from Mandalay Region Immigration and National

Registration Department.

Most of the tourists visit Mandalay by bicycle. Using bicycles, they have more opportunities to visit various parts of the ancient city, said a couple of Australian.

"We can visit the destination by car but miss the

chances to enjoy scenes and sites along the route. Now, we can visit various sites along the route by bicycle, minimizing travel cost. We do not need to be afraid of traffic accidents. Actually, Mandalarians give priority to tourists on the traffic ways," an Australian tourist told media.

*Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)*



## MASS WALK ACTIVITIES



### Myawady dwellers join mass walk activity

MYAWADY, 14 Dec— The mass walk activity for the second week of December was held in Myawady, Kayin State, on 13 December morning.

District and township level officials, members of social organizations and people, totalling over 1,500 participated in the mass walk activity. They started walking along Bayintnaung Road

from the office of Township General Administration Department to the People's Sports Ground where they took physical exercises.

Hsan Myo Ajung Company served participants of the mass walk activity with traditional foods and organized the lucky draw programme for the participants.

*Thuzar (Myawady)*



*Departmental personnel and people participate in mass walk activity of December in Mandalay on 13 December.—TIN MAUNG (MANDALAY)*



*People, teachers and students join mass walk activities in second week of December in Myanaung, Ayeyawady Region, on 13 December.—WIN BO (MYANAUNG IPRD)*

## Region Minister views round production of factories, industries in Mandalay Industrial Zone

MANDALAY, 14 Dec — Mandalay Region Minister for Electric Power and Industry U Kyaw Myint together with departmental officials visited factories and industries in Mandalay Industrial Zone on 12 December.

The region minister observed production of factories and industries, purchase of raw materials, manufacturing of goods,

payment of overtime charges for workers, social security, welfare tasks, tax payment, participation in social tasks, measures of fire prevention and worksite safety.

Officials of factories and industries reported on maintenance of roads in the industrial zone, and supply of power at full capacity. The minister fulfilled the requirements.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*



## NATIONAL

## Better public-private partnership critical for success of national economic goals

YANGON, 14 Dec — A special task force responsible for promotion of trade and economy had a meeting with private organizations at the Ministry of Commerce here on Sunday, with an address by U Tin Naing Thein, Union Minister at the President Office, sources said.

In his speech, the union minister stressed the need to continue cooperation and coordination

between the government and private organizations for the development of the private sector, urging departmental officials to ask the special task force for advice on dealing with complex issues.

U Win Myint, Union Minister for Commerce, told the meeting that his ministry is reviewing rules and regulations necessary for the smooth conduct of bilateral trade between

partner countries, noting that the country's economic goals will yield fruitful results only through better public-private partnership.

The assigned responsibility of the special task force is to ensure that the accelerated measures of Myanmar's Third Wave Reform are on a par with rules and regulations of the international community.

MNA



Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein speaking at the meeting on promotion of trade and economy.—MNA

## Union A&I Minister views round thriving plantations in Nay Pyi Taw



### Union I&P minister views issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards to students

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec — Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi viewed issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards to students at Basic Education High School No 1 in Myaungmya, Ayeyawady Region, recently.

The union minister, wife and family donated one set of computer and sports equipment and officials,

one set of Sky Net receiver to the school. At Myaungmya BEHS No 6, the union minister explained issuance of the cards to the eligible citizens across the nation in implementation of the Moe Pwint Plan (7) and salient points of the cards.

Officials presented the cards for students to representatives from basic education schools.—MNA

### Remnant Kokang insurgents ambush Tatmadaw columns

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec — Remnant Kokang insurgent groups launched an ambush on and sieged the Tatmadaw camp and the military column carrying out security duty in Namkyum, Wawchon, Monsi and Mongpawlay, 10 miles north of Kunlong on 10 December afternoon.

The Tatmadaw troops were reinforced by other Tatmadaw columns and people's militias near the area and were able to penetrate the siege and withdraw properly to Namkyun Operation

Camp on 12 December.

During the siege, a total of 7 members of the Tatmadaw sacrificed their lives for the nation and 20 others were injured.

The remnant Kokang insurgent group launched unprovoked attacks on Tatmadaw camps and columns while the government is implementing the peace process and the Tatmadaw is determined to effectively counter the attacks in cooperation with the local people to protect the lives and property of them.—Myawady

*Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing inspects construction of cold storage for fruits.*

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec — Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing and song composers of Myanmar Music Association (central) discussed scrutiny of songs for the song contest in honour of farmers at the 900-organic vegetable farm

in Ottarathiri Township on Sunday morning.

They viewed thriving vegetable and seasonal crops plantations. The union minister presented fruits from the plantations to musicians.

The union minister viewed progress of Vegetables and Fruit Modern Cold Storage project and gave instructions on timely completion of the project to be able to store quality seeds.

He met staff of Industrial Crops Development Department from regions and states at Shwedaung-8 long staple cotton farm and instructed them to try hard to develop the agriculture sector.

At Soil Complex Micro Organism Test Field, the union minister viewed thriving research plantations being jointly cultivated by Korean agriculturists.—MNA

## Japanese Ambassador hosts reception to mark 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of establishment of Japan-Myanmar ties

YANGON, 14 Dec — Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu on Saturday attended a reception to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of Japan-Myanmar relations at the resident of Japanese

Ambassador on Natmauk Street here.

On the occasion, the Union minister wished strengthening the existing relations between Japan and Myanmar. The Japanese Ambassador recognized efforts of Myanmar

government during the tenure of ASEAN chairmanship.

AUN J Classic Orchestra, an eight-member Japanese group, entertained the audience with traditional music.

Ohnma Thant

## SWRR provides financial assistance to philanthropic organizations in Shan State



Union Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin presents cash to fund of social organizations.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec — The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement provided financial

assistance to philanthropic organizations of seven districts in Shan State on 11 December, sources said.

Union Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin attended the opening of a training course on social

protection and disaster risk reduction for voluntary youths in Lashio.

Speaking on the occasion, the union minister said that financial support is part of the efforts to undertake measures for poverty reduction and rural development and stop the country from being classified as least developed countries. She quoted the president as saying that the opening of such courses amounts to making investment in youths.

The union minister, local authorities and departmental officials provided K86.7 million for philanthropic organizations, nursery schools, primary schools and homes for the aged.—MNA



## Region officials view progress of library renovation



MANDALAY, 14 Dec — The speaker of Mandalay Region Hluttaw and Mandalay Region Minister Hlaing inspected renovation of Alinyaung Library in East Amarahtani Village in Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Region, recently.

On 12 December, the speaker donated K500,000 and the region minister, K3 million to the library's fund. They also donated sprayers for prevention of dengue hemorrhagic fever to ward authorities.

The library officials invite well-wishers to donate cash to the fund, dialing 09-2011470 of U Thein Aung, 09-402602914 of U Myint Thein and 09-33118519 of U Ko Ko Gyi.

Thiha Ko Ko  
(Mandalay)

## Youth Development School accepts donations from Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec — Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee provides rice, edible oil, gram and salt to Sama Hill Youth Development School in Lewe Township monthly.

The 32<sup>nd</sup> donation to the school took place at Aungzabu Hall of the

school. Officials of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, families of staff and well-wishers donated foods to the school.

As of May 2012, the committee donates 50 bags of rice, 48 kilos of edible oil, 80 kilos of gram and 48 kilos of salt to the

school monthly. So far, the committee has provided foods and edible oil worth over K30 million for 32 times.

The school is located on Sama Hill, four miles from Thawutti Town of Lewe Township. The school is looking after over

400 orphans from regions and states. The committee has donated uniforms for students, accommodation, school building, kitchen, furniture and stationery worth K226.463 million to the school.

NPT Development  
Committee

## Nay Pyi Taw Council member oversees development tasks in Zabuthiri Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec — Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Myo Nyunt together with local authorities and departmental officials inspected reclamation of modern farmland being

jointly undertaken by Korea International Cooperation Agency-KOICA and Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation on 244.53 acres of farmland of 97 farmers in Yegyigon Village, Za-

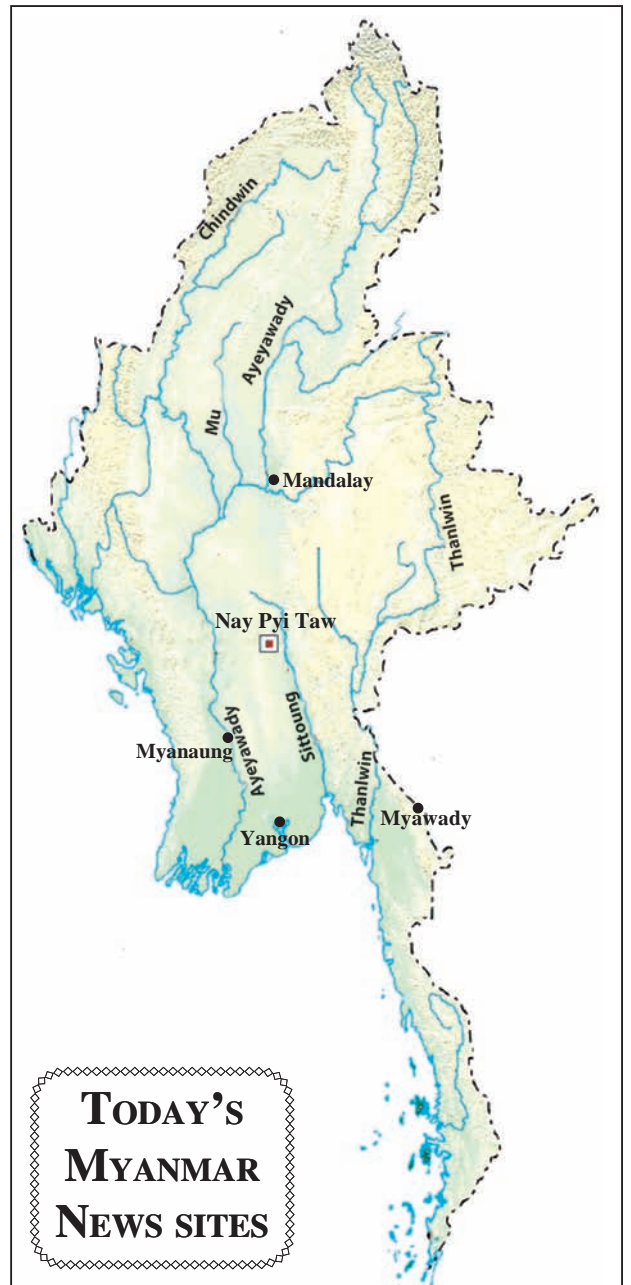
buthiri Township, on 13 December.

The council member explained improvement of farmlands of locals for uplift of their living standard.

In Alyinlo Village, the

council viewed keeping ancient Buddha images in the village Dhammayon, preparation for installation of a transformer for village electrification and placing of asphalt on the village road.

He also inspected progress of library in Letpankhahla village funded by the government and gave instructions on timely completion of construction tasks.—Shwe Kokko



## Basic education students get citizenship scrutiny cards in Myawady



MYAWADY, 14 Dec — The issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards took place in Myitta Linmyaing Village, Myawady Township, Kayin State, sharing border with Thailand, on 13 December.

Head of Kayin State Immigration and National Registration Department U Win Zaw Aung ex-

plained process of issuing the cards and gave them to students.

At the ceremony, District's deputy commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo, Head of District INRD U Aung Win Thein and officials presented cards to 147 basic education students.

Thuzar  
(Myawady Town)





## REGIONAL

## Indian PM urges people to end “dynastic rule” in the region

SRINAGAR, (Indian-controlled Kashmir), 14 Dec — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday addressed an election rally in Indian-controlled Kashmir, urging people to vote for Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) and put an end to “dynastic rule” in the region.

Modi addressed the rally in Kathua, about 332 km south of Srinagar city, the summer capital of Indian-controlled Kashmir.

Modi, senior leader of the right-wing Hindu nationalist BJP, launched an attack on India’s Congress party and the region’s two main parties ruling National Conference and the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

“Non BJP governments are responsible for the situation in Jammu and Kashmir (Indian-controlled Kashmir) where people are still deprived of the basic amenities,” Modi told the rally. “If you punish them once, they will realize their mis-

takes.”

The prime minister said people should put an end to the dynastic rule for it was against the values of democracy.

“Are there no more sons and daughters? Will only one father-son and father-daughter run the governments here? Do you have to always remain in their tangle?” Modi said. “Don’t look at those father-son, father-daughter duos. Look at your own sons and daughters. Herein lies your benefit.”

Modi led BJP to a landslide victory in India’s general elections this year and decimated Congress party after two successive terms.

Under Modi’s leadership, BJP won local elections in Haryana and Maharashtra.

Indian-controlled Kashmir is a Muslim majority region. Though there are some regional parties that usually have main role in government making, this year BJP

is aiming at winning 44 plus seats in the 87-strong assembly (lawmaking body).

Modi said his party will pursue development in Indian-controlled Kashmir and rid the region of corruption if voted to power.

Authorities had made adequate security measures in the town ahead of this high-profile visit.

Heavy security contingents were deployed in and around the town to ward off any eventuality.

Militants challenging New Delhi’s rule in the restive region are fighting guerrilla war with Indian troops since 1989. The gunfight between the two sides takes place intermittently.

Separatist groups and militants opposing New Delhi’s rule in the region reject Indian elections and have urged people to boycott the exercise, and stay away from polls.

The voters ignored the boycott call from sep-



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi

aratist and militant groups and turned out in thousands to exercise their franchise.

The first two phases recorded a huge turnout of over 70 per cent across the region, while the third phase recorded over 58 per cent.

The five-phase staggered polls for local elections in the restive region began on 25 November and would end on 20 December.

Reuters

## Thai academic predicts general election in mid-2016

BANGKOK, 14 Dec — Thailand might not have a new general election until mid-2016, given the likelihood of a referendum to be held after the drafting of a permanent constitution is completed, a renowned Thai academic said on Sunday. The possible referendum on the new constitution, which is expected to take shape by mid-2015, could take least three months. Then, the reviewing of issues that arise during the referendum and modification of the draft charter would require three or four more months, Pornchai Trakulwanont, vice rector for administration of Thammasat University, told *Xinhua*. Thailand might have a new permanent constitution in place by the end of 2015, Pornchai said, adding that it would then take about another four months to prepare a general election.

For the new constitution to have “legitimacy from the people,” it is necessary to hold a referendum and the approval rate

should stand at 70 percent or more, Pornchai said.

The academic also voiced opposition against a much-debated proposal of having the prime minister and cabinet members directly elected rather than picked from among elected legislators as in the past.

“It would be very dangerous, if you split the House of Representatives from the administration. You cannot expect any other source of power to balance the administrative body,” he added.

Previously, if the government grew too powerful, the House of the parliament could do something about it, but once direct election is adopted for future heads of the government, they could “claim legitimacy to do whatever they want to do because they are elected by the people,” he said.

The proposal, endorsed by the Political Reform Committee under the National Reform Council, is yet to be considered by the Constitution Drafting Committee.—*Xinhua*

## Indonesia rescuers use earth-movers in landslide rescue as toll rises to 24

JAKARTA, 14 Dec — Indonesian rescuers on Sunday used heavy-lifting equipment for the first time to clear roads leading to the site of a landslide that destroyed a village and killed at least 24 people, officials said, with scores still missing.

Police, soldiers and volunteers had used their bare hands and makeshift tools to search for survivors and clear the area on Saturday after the disaster struck on Friday night.

Hundreds have been evacuated from around Jembrung village in the Banjarnegara district of central Java, about 450 km (280 miles) from the capital, Jakarta, where media pictures showed a flood of mud and

water cascading down a wooded mountainside.

Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman for the National Disaster Mitigation Agency, said 24 people had been killed, 84 were missing and 577 people from the surrounding areas had been taken to temporary shelters. There were 2,000 rescuers involved in the operation on Sunday, he said.

“We hope we can operate all of the heavy equipment today,” Nugroho told *Reuters*. “We could not operate the equipment soon after the landslide. We had to be very careful about the stability of the ground.”

President Joko Widodo was headed for the site where he said he would assess

whether more heavy-lifting equipment was needed.

“We’re going to the field to understand the situation,” Widodo, who was sworn in as president in October, told reporters.

“Aid is not a problem, what is most important is the speed of the evacuation.” Mudslides are common in Indonesia during the monsoon season, which usually runs from October until April.

Despite a history of similar disasters in the area, there was no heavy equipment specifically set aside for Banjarnegara, Nugroho said. There had been a fatal landslide in 2007 but people still chose to live there, he said.—*Reuters*



Rescue workers stand near houses buried in the mud after a landslide hit the village of Sampang in Banjarnegara on 13 Dec, 2014, in this photo taken by Antara Foto.

REUTERS

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Silk Road to benefit ASEAN

HONG KONG, 14 Dec — The Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) will benefit a lot from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Silk Road, experts said here on Saturday.

The maritime silk road, which was proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping last year, runs through the Strait of Malacca to India, the Middle East and East Asia, Abdul Majit Ah-

mad Khan, president of the Malaysia-China Friendship Association, said at the first ASEAN Development Forum that maritime cooperation between ASEAN and China constitute a vital linkage in connectivity between the two. “China’s proposal to build a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Silk Road could be a potential boost and catalyst for infrastructure development in the ASEAN region.

It fits into ASEAN’s own integration and connectivity strategies,” he said. Sumet Ongkittikul, research director for Transportation and Logistics Policy of the Thailand Development Research Institute, said regional trade has been growing rapidly in Asia, especially after the ASEAN Free Trade Area was established in 1992. Bilateral trade between ASEAN and China grew five

folds from 78 billion US Dollars in 2003 to 443.6 billion dollars in 2013. Regional connectivity will become stronger with the fast-developing transport network and several commendable proposals initiated by China such as the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Silk Road, he added. Sun Xiaoying, researcher of the Southeast Asia Research Institute of Guangxi Academy of Social Scienc-

es, said how the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Silk Road will benefit grassroots people in countries along the road calls for the wisdom of the policy makers and the ability of scholars to do in-depth research. The forum, hosted by *Xinhua* News Agency Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau, had discussions on four major topics: building common destiny with strategic mutual trust, deepening eco-

nomics and trade cooperation with upgraded China-ASEAN free trade area, enhancing connectivity with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Silk Road and working toward an ASEAN community with practical cooperation.

Government officials, experts and business leaders from the 10 ASEAN countries, China’s mainland and China’s Hong Kong attended the forum.—*Xinhua*



## Over 13 million cast early votes in lower house poll, up 9%



*Voters walk to a polling station to cast their ballots in the general election amid snow in the city of Oshu in the northern Japan prefecture of Iwate on 14 Dec, 2014. A total of 1,191 candidates are vying for the 475 seats in the House of Representatives — 295 for single-seat districts and 180 for proportional representation districts.*

KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 14 Dec — More than 13 million people cast early votes ahead of Sunday's House of Representatives election, up 9.25 percent from the previous lower house contest in 2012, the internal affairs ministry said.

The total of 13,151,796 early voters for single-seat constituencies accounts for 12.62 percent of all eligible voters in Japan, said the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

The figure is the second-largest on record only after that of the lower house election in August 2009. The number of those who cast early ballots at that time was 13,984,085, which is the highest figure for any lower or upper house election and represented 13.40 percent of all registered voters.

The ministry does not compile the results of early votes for proportional representation districts.

Sunday's House of Representatives election is the eighth since the current early balloting system was introduced in December 2003 for those who cannot turn up at polling stations on the day of voting due to work or other commitments.

The ministry also said the latest number of eligible voters totaled 104,249,188, correcting the figure it announced before the start of campaigning.

Kyodo News

## Computer fault identified as UK flight chaos abates

LONDON, 14 Dec — A system failure affecting air traffic control workstations was to blame for disruption to thousands of passengers coming in and out of Britain's biggest airports, officials said, as services returned to normal on Saturday. A small number of flights remain delayed or canceled at London's Heathrow Airport, which calls itself the world's busiest international airport, according to its website.

Air traffic officials said Friday's system failure oc-

curred during a switchover of air controllers' workstations, which are put into operation or placed on standby as demand varies. "In this instance a transition between the two states caused a failure in the system which has not been seen before," National Air Traffic Service said in a statement.

"The failure meant that the controllers were unable to access all of the data regarding individual flight plans which significantly increases their workload," NATS said, adding that traf-

fic was then reduced. British Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin had on Friday demanded a full explanation for the glitch that forced authorities to limit access to British airspace at one of the busiest times of year. He will appear before lawmakers on Monday as a parliamentary committee begins an investigation into the disruption. The disruption was the second such incident in just over a year to hit NATS's hub at Swanwick in southern England, one of two main centers.—Reuters



*An aircraft taxis next to the control tower at Heathrow airport in London, on 12 Dec, 2014. —REUTERS*

## American in North Korea denounces US, seeks Venezuela asylum

SEOUL, 14 Dec — A US citizen who illegally entered North Korea delivered a lengthy denunciation of US domestic and foreign policy on Sunday and said he was seeking political asylum in Venezuela, the North's official media said.

The man identified himself as Arturo Pierre Martinez, 29, from El Paso, Texas, in video footage of a press conference released by the North's KCNA news agency and said he had taken "a risky journey to reach the (North) so that I could pass along some very valuable and disturbing information".

Martinez spoke of human rights violations committed by the US government and its attempt at forcing imperialist influence and domination on other countries, KCNA said in an article released with the footage.

Reclusive and impoverished North Korea is under international sanctions for its nuclear and missile programmes. It regularly threatens war on democratic South Korea and the South's major ally, the United States.

Martinez's mother told



*A US citizen speaks during a news conference in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang on 14 Dec, 2014. —REUTERS*

CNN her son was mentally unstable and has bipolar disorder, and had previously tried to enter North Korea from the South by swimming across a river. He was captured and sent back to the United States where he was committed to a psychiatric hospital in California, she said according to CNN.

"He is very smart and

he got the court to let him out and instead of coming home to us, he bought a ticket and left for China," the television news channel quoted Patricia Eugenia Martinez as saying.

In September, South Korean media reported that a man in his late 20s had been arrested by South Korean marines for swimming in a river that flows towards

North Korea. The man had been trying to go to the North to meet its leader, local media reported at the time.

Martinez said in the KCNA article that he had been staying in a nice hotel and was being treated well by the North Korean government and that he would seek political asylum in Venezuela. Martinez said

he chose to come to North Korea to talk about US policy because it has successfully defied US influence by maintaining a "very powerful military".

It was not immediately clear how Martinez entered North Korea. CNN cited a North Korean statement as saying Martinez entered the country two days after US intelligence chief

James Clapper arrived in Pyongyang to negotiate the release of detained Americans Matthew Miller and Kenneth Bae.

Miller and Bae had both been serving hard labour sentences in North Korea for breaking local laws, but were released in November during Clapper's visit. A third detained US citizen, Jeffrey Fowle, was released in October.

"(I am) extremely grateful for having been pardoned from the punishments given to violators of these laws, and for the most generous reception I have received," CNN reported Martinez as saying in a statement at the news conference.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has railed against the US Senate for passing a bill that would impose sanctions on government officials found to have violated protesters' rights during demonstrations earlier this year.

Critics of Maduro say he blasts the United States to distract Venezuelans from the cash-strapped country's ballooning economic crisis.

Reuters



## WORLD

WASHINGTON / NEW YORK, 14 Dec — Thousands of demonstrators marched in Washington, New York and Boston on Saturday to protest killings of unarmed black men by police officers.

Organizers said the marches were among the largest in the recent wave of protests against the killings of black males by police in Ferguson, Missouri, New York, Cleveland and elsewhere.

The protests were mainly peaceful, although police in Boston said they arrested 23 people who tried to block a highway.

One person was arrested in New York after two officers were assaulted by protesters, prompting a condemnation from Mayor Bill de Blasio who said the alleged assault marked “an ugly and unacceptable departure from the demonstrations thus far.” “Those who reject peaceful protest and provoke violence can expect immediate arrest and prosecution,” warned de Blasio, who has been sharply criticized by the police union for not supporting the department.

Police in Oakland, California, ordered hundreds of demonstrators to disperse on Saturday night after a grocery store was looted. Decisions by grand juries to return no indictments against the officers involved in the deaths of Michael Brown in Missouri and Eric Garner in New York have put police treatment of minorities back on the national agenda.

“We’re going to keep the light on Mike Brown ... on all of the victims. The only way you make roaches run is to keep the light on,” said civil rights leader the Rev Al Sharpton, whose National Action Network organized the Washington rally. Sharpton urged Congress to pass legislation that would allow federal prosecutors to take over cases involving police violence.

Protesters from around the country gathered at Freedom Plaza, a few blocks from the White House, then marched down Pennsylvania Avenue to rally near the white-domed US Capitol.

Marchers, who included many parents with children, chanted “No justice, no peace, no racist police” and “Hands up, don’t shoot.” Protesters carried signs that said “All men are created equal” and “Black lives matter.”

The Washington protest included relatives of Eric Garner and Akai Gurley, killed by New York police; Trayvon Martin, slain by a Florida neighbourhood watchman in 2012; Brown and others.

“What a sea of people,” said Brown’s mother, Lesley McSpadden. “If they don’t see this and make a change, I don’t know what we’re going to do.”

In Missouri, a prosecutor on Saturday made public documents related to the probe into Brown’s killing, saying his office had inadvertently held them back.

Protesters gathered in a one-block section of Pennsylvania Avenue and nearby public space,

## Marchers in Washington, New York, Boston protest police killings



*Demonstrators fill Pennsylvania Avenue as they march towards the US Capitol building during the national Justice For All march against police violence in Washington on 13 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS*

although organizers estimated the crowd at 40,000 to 50,000 people. A police spokesman declined to provide a crowd estimate, citing department policy, and said there had been no arrests.

After the rally, some protesters marched through downtown Washington, briefly closing some streets, police said.

In Boston, a march with hundreds of protesters passed by at the Suffolk County jail near an entrance to Interstate 93. Inmates cheered and banged on cell windows as protesters passed.

Protesters tried to push through police lines near the highway entrance. Massachusetts State

Police said 23 people were arrested for disorderly conduct.

The New York march drew a mostly young, ethnically diverse crowd that was loud and peaceful and headed north up Manhattan’s Fifth Avenue from Washington Square Park.

Protesters chanted “How do you spell racist? NYPD” and some taunted police guarding the march route. At the end of the march, protesters raised their hands in mock surrender outside police headquarters in lower Manhattan.

Observers estimated the march size at 20,000 to 30,000 protesters. Police gave no estimate and reported no arrests.

“The culture in America is embedded in slavery, in the courts and the politics, and the culture has to change,” said marcher Kayode Leonard, 33, from Manhattan.

In Berkeley, California, scene of ongoing protests, body-sized cardboard effigies of lynching victims were seen hanging by nooses on Saturday at the University of California, Berkeley.

Spokeswoman Claire Holmes said all were taken down. “It has been unclear to us whether this was racially motivated or part of the protests,” said Holmes, adding there were no suspects.—Reuters

## Ryabkov says palestinian-Israeli situation demands emergency settlement



*US Secretary of State, John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister, Sergei Lavrov. ITAR-TASS*

Moscow, 14 Dec — Palestinian-Israeli situation demand emergency settlement and that is why the meeting between the Russian Foreign Minister, Sergei Lavrov, and the US Secretary of State, John Kerry, that is due to take place in Rome on Sunday was coordinated literally within hours, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov told TASS on Saturday.

“We think the situation is quite alarming again,” he said. “The surge of violence that took away hundreds of human lives

this summer became a tragic reminder of the fact one should care for peace settlement all the time and intensively.”

“Russia has never rejected fruitful participation in appropriate efforts,” he said. “We bear a due share of responsibility for furnishing the parties to that conflict with an acceptable solution.”

“I’ll refrain from surmising about the kind of agreements and decisions that can be reached in Rome,” Ryabkov said when the reporter asked him about it. “Still there

is a feeling of urgency and that’s why the meeting was coordinated literally over several hours.”

Lavrov and Kerry discussed Palestinian-Israeli settlement in a telephone conversation on Friday. They stressed the importance of “coordinated measures for facilitation of an earliest possible resumption of peace talks that would rely on the commonly accepted norms of law.”

Sunday’s meeting in Rome between Lavrov and Kerry will be the fourteenth one this year.—Itar-Tass

## Turkish police raid media outlets close to Gulen, detain some people

ISTANBUL, 14 Dec — Turkish police raided a television station and a newspaper close to US-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen on Sunday, detaining some people, media reports said, two days after President Tayyip Erdogan signalled a fresh campaign against Gulen’s supporters.

Police launched simultaneous operations at various addresses in Istanbul and provinces across Turkey, detaining people including a top executive of a television channel close to Gulen, state broadcaster TRT Haber reported.

Gulen and Erdogan are bitter rivals.

Media reports said arrest warrants were issued for 32 people.

“The free press cannot be silenced,” a crowd chanted at the Istanbul offices of newspaper *Zaman* as editor Ekrem Dumanli



*Fethullah Gulen*

made a speech to them broadcast live on television, defiantly calling on police to detain him.

The raids come a year after the emergence of corruption investigations targeting Erdogan’s inner circle, which he said were a plot to topple him orchestrated by a “parallel structure” of supporters of Gulen. The cleric, a former

ally of Erdogan, denies the charge.

The investigation, which became public with police raids on 17 December last year, led to the resignation of three ministers and prompted Erdogan to purge the state apparatus, reassigning thousands of police and hundreds of judges and prosecutors.

Reuters



## PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 15 December, 2014

## Laws are to protect every citizen

By Myint Win Thein

Every country has its own laws to protect all its citizens including farmers, workers, children, women, the disabled and the elderly and so on. Even soldiers who are the strongest in society and capable of not just defending themselves but also warding off dangers to other vulnerable groups such as children, women, the disabled and the elderly are even

protected by laws.

If there are no such laws or they cannot be enforced, everyone is exposed to abuses by other stronger groups in their societies. Children and women are abused and the disabled and the elderly are neglected by the society in which they live. The disabled and the elderly are left to beg for their lives on streets. Children are recruited at battlefields while women are sexually abused there. Now, these incidents are not restricted to battlefields as women are sexually harassed at ever-increasing illegal karaoke lounges, massage parlours and so on in largest cities while children are used as child labourers at cafes, restaurants and shops in urban areas. Are these just what their fates have in store for them?

However, every citizen is entitled to the same rights and protection of law regardless of sex, age and ability. Such laws should be enacted or en-

forced as soon as possible but laws protecting women in the sex trade, karaoke lounges and massage parlours were repeatedly rejected by legislatures on cultural grounds. It is also evident that protecting the weak is also our cultural tradition, which we should preserve by legally protecting them.

## 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.

## STRUGGLE

Kyí Mun

- Struggle means** :
- (1) To try very hard to do something when it is difficult or when there are a lot of problems.
  - (2) To move somewhere or do something with difficulty.
  - (3) To fight against somebody or something in order to prevent a situation or result.
  - (4) To fight somebody or to get away from them.
  - (5) To compete or argue with somebody, especially in order to get something.

-Oxford Dictionary

Now, let's analyze the word, struggle, and get a wider meaning of it, as follows:

- **S** for **Strategy**
- **T** for **Tactics**
- **R** for **Resources**
- **U** for **Unique Capabilities**
- **G** for **Goal**
- **G** for **Going All-out to Achieve the Goal**
- **L** for **Learning the Lessons to Attain Ultimate Victory**
- **E** for **Endurance**

## \* STRATEGY

- (1) A plan that is intended to achieve a particular purpose.  
eg. the government's economic strategy.
- (2) The process of planning something or putting a plan into operation in a skilful way.  
e.g. Marketing Strategy.
- (3) The skill of planning the movements of armies in a battle or war; an example of doing this : Military Strategy.

-Oxford Dictionary

Originally, Strategy is derived from the Greek word, **STRATEGOS** OR **STRATEGIA** which means **The Art of the General** or **GENERALSHIP**.

## Generalship

- \* **Strategy means** : "The practical adaptation of the means placed at a general's disposal to the attainment of the object in view". (-Moltke)
- \* **Strategy** : "The art of distributing and applying military means to fulfill the ends of policy."

-Liddle Hart

In business, STRATEGY answers the problem :

- What business are we in ?
- Where are we now ?
- Where do we want to be ?
- How can we get there ?

- Which is the best way ?

According to Michael Porter,

"Strategy is about competitive position, about differentiating yourself in the eyes of the customer, about adding value through a mix of activities different from those used by competitors."

According to Benjamin Trego and John Zimmerman, Strategy means : "The Framework which guides those choices that determine the nature and direction of an organization."

Strategy, according to Tracy and Wireman, means : "The following **Three Value Disciplines** are the driving force of strategy :

- Operational Excellence
- Customer Intimacy
- Product Leadership

## \* TACTICS

TACTICS is the art of fighting battles. Tactics is the CONDUCT of battle (Strategy covers the operations leading up to battle.) The main tactical objectives are : To attack with superior force at the point of attack; to attack a weak or vulnerable point; and to effect surprise. Surprise aims at confusion, demoralization and disorganization. It is an attack aimed at the MIND AND MORALE.

## \* RESOURCES

The main resources are :

- \* Human Resources
- \* Financial Resources
- \* Technological Resources
- \* Material & Machinery Resources
- \* Information Resources

## \* UNIQUE CAPABILITIES

- Unique means** :
- (1) Being the only one of its kind.
  - (2) Very special or unusual.
  - (3) Belonging to or connected with one particular person, place or thing.

- Capability means** :
- (1) The ability or qualities necessary to do something.
  - (2) The power or weapons that a country has for war or military action. e.g. Nuclear capability.

## \* GOAL

Goal means something that you hope to achieve. Goal can be interpreted as objective, aim and object or target. Goal is also connected with a particular PURPOSE. The purpose can have short-term targets, medium-term objectives and long-term goal.

## \* GOING ALL-OUT TO ACHIEVE VICTORY

In a really hard struggle, you have got to : "Go all-out, aim high; give all you have got; give every bit of yourself, hold nothing back". - (Norman Vincent Peale). You must : "be strong inside, permit no defeat and FIGHT ALL YOU CAN". You have got to dare to burn the bridges or to sink the

boats/barges.

## \* LEARNING THE LESSONS TO ATTAIN ULTIMATE VICTORY

- Learn means** :
- (1) To gain knowledge or skills by studying, from experience, from being taught, etc.
  - (2) To become aware of something by hearing about it from somebody also.
  - (3) To gradually change your attitudes about something so that you behave in a different way. Learning your lesson means to learn what to do or not to do in the future because you have had many experiences in the past.

-Oxford Dictionary

## \* ENDURANCE

- Endurance means** :
- (1) The ability to continue doing something painful or difficult for a long period of time without complaining.

## \* CONCLUSION

Life is a struggle. Struggle in one form or another is inevitable. So I would like to remind myself and others to : "Be bold and mighty forces will come to your aid;" and "Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed," in the struggle of life. Another self-reminder is to diligently follow: "Plain living and hard struggle", and "Simple living and high thinking".

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

## Firefighters, shop family members join fire drill

NGWEHSAUNG, 14 Dec — As an activity of fire prevention, a fire drill was organized at Myoma market in Ngwehsaung, Patheingyi Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 12 December.

Under the supervision of Township Administrator U Nay Aung Naing, firefighters of auxiliary fire brigades and families of the market attended the ceremony.

Executive Officer U Hlaing Win Han of Ngwehsaung Town Development Affairs Committee explained the use of fire extinguishers and fire safety to the attendees.

Members of auxiliary fire brigade, staff of Township DAC and shop family members participated in fire drill.

Myo Min Thein (IPRD)



## ARTICLE

# Jumping the Queue

By Khin Maung Myint

During our younger days we were accustomed to the queuing system. Queuing is to wait in line to get something done or served for you, in turn. The person at the front will be served first and then the next in line will get his chance. It is a very orderly and systematic procedure, which also helps to get things done quickly. Imagine all the people crowding and scrambling for a place at the front to get served first. These sort of undisciplined behaviours are undesirable and at the same time they even hinder the process, whatever that may be. Its only natural that people want to get what they came for as fast as possible, but it is not proper to scramble, push, elbow and sometimes fight their way to the front.

However, over the years this queuing system started to deteriorate gradually and became worse at a time when almost everything was rationed. Those were the desperate times when most people became undisciplined and their attitudes toward others changed. I do not think I would seem to be too pessimistic if I say “the law of the jungle” or “the survival of the fittest” mentality had set in. In the beginning when the rationing of commodities started everyone

abided by the rules, but as the goods get scarce and the black markets began to thrive, jobless people and low income family members turned to black marketing. The morals and manners started to decline and that was when the unruly behaviours started to invade the mind sets of most people. Everyone was vying to get hold of whatever that was on sale before the stocks were sold out. I could not bear to blame those poor people, as they are hungry they would resort to anything. However, I am trying to analyze how our people came to lose regards for the queuing system.

In those desperate times, it was not rare to see people jumping or cutting in the queues, sometimes resulting in scuffles or heated arguments. In some cases they went out of control and it would need the police to intervene. Such scenes were common, especially at the cinemas and at the commodity shops where scarce items such as cigarettes, milk powder tins and even toilet soaps and bar soaps etc, were sold. There were similar incidents at soccer stadiums, railway and steamer service ticketing counters, as the black marketing took root in every field of businesses. Later some destitute persons queue up not to purchase anything, but to

sell their places in the queue to those who really needed. The situations reached a certain plane where the mentality of the “survival of the fittest” prevailed. That was also the time when our national character, and the morals and manners of the people ebbed.

Now as our country has started on our journey of development, all the qualities that contribute to that effort need nurturing and enhancement. One of those qualities that needs priority is the discipline of the people. So we should start with the most basic and simplest thing, such as the queuing. It would also enhance the image of the country and our people can, again, take pride of being citizens of a disciplined nation. There are many places where proper queuing is necessary, but I will cite only the three most important places that need to be addressed.

**The Bus Stop.** The first place concerned all walks of life and hopes everyone will agree, is the bus stop. I must say there are no queues at the bus stops at present as far as I can observe. The commuters would scramble — pushing and elbowing their way to get onto a bus, whenever one came along. As there are no regular schedule or timetables of the different bus lines displayed at the stops, like elsewhere in the world, people are not sure when the next one will come, so naturally there are scrambling at the bus stops. If only the authorities can regulate the bus schedules

to suit the requirements of the commuters and the bus drivers strictly comply with the timetables, the queuing system could be introduced and maintained easily.

**The Shopping Center.** Many of you may have experienced someone ignoring the queue and went straight to the cashier to get his or her purchases settled ahead of those in the queue. If there was no one to object, they would get through. Though such incidents may be rare, they are very irritating and undesirable. The worst incident I encountered was the time when a security personnel at a shopping center approached the cashier from the exit side, to get some items cashed out. He was doing a favour for a customer who I assumed was his acquaintance. As I was at the head of the queue at that moment, I deemed it my duty to object and I did so accordingly. I told the cashier not to oblige him, but my objection fell on deaf ears. I reported the matter to the in charge on that floor, but he neither said he would look into the matter nor apologize for the conduct of his staffs, but gave me a surprised look as though I was an alien from outer space. Though angry and frustrated, I left before I lose my anger, which would put me in an embarrassing situation.

**The Bank.** At almost all the banks I had been to, I had observed customers crowding at the counters and vying to get the notice of the staff to attend them.

On one occasion, though I arrived early at the counter, as I cannot attract the attention of the staff, I was not served first. That was very embarrassing. From what I had observed at banks in foreign countries, there are dispensing machines placed immediately inside the bank that dispense token slips. The customers took one token each from the machines as they entered and sat down at the seats available and waited for their turn, with dignity. There are digital displays above each counter and when a counter is free, a number would be displayed above that counter and the customer holding that token number would approach it to be served. This is a decent or dignified form of queuing, without unnecessary line of people shuffling along as the queue progressed. These procedures can be seen at the airline ticketing offices and hospital dispensaries too.

Some people used to boast that we Myanmar are civilized and cultured, however, in my view the above mentioned behaviours are contradictory to their claims. Cultured and civilized people should have decency and dignity and act accordingly. As we are living in the global village that the world has become today, we need to change our mind sets and get ourselves in stride with, and be part of that village society. It may take time to achieve that sta-

tus, but we should start right now to educate and train our people to be disciplined and hence be worthy citizens of a cultured and civilized nation, if we wished to be recognized as such.

Lately, I had been mentioning the civic duty in some of my articles. However, I presume there are only a few, who are my contemporaries and those of a generation later, know what that meant. During my schooling days, we were taught the civic duties and, in some schools, morals and manners starting from the kindergarten. These subjects were intended to make us disciplined, well behaved, laws abiding and dutiful citizens. The civic duties can be generally defined as the obligations for the citizens to fulfill, in return for the privileges and rights accorded to them by the state. The morals and manners taught us to be well behaved and to be dutiful and responsible persons. In fact both the subjects have the same objectives—to breed good citizens. So I would like to urge the educators to consider introducing either one or both of these subjects in the primary and middle school syllabuses as extra curriculum subjects. I am sure they would greatly assist in revitalizing the national character and also in the nation building process.

**Looking forward to a well behaved and disciplined society**

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

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Housing and Living Exhibition 2014 attracts city dwellers



Visitors view round 2<sup>nd</sup> Housing and Living Exhibition 2014.—KYEMON

YANGON, 14 Dec —The 2<sup>nd</sup> Housing and Living Exhibition 2014 was opened at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road in

Dagon Township on 13 December.

Yangon Region Planning and Economic Minister U Than Myint, Managing

Director U Thura Aung of Aung Myin Pyae Son Construction Company and Director U Aung Aung of Dagon Exhibitions Ltd formally opened the exhibition.

A total of 70 companies showcase household decorations, electronics and electrical equipment, construction materials, cosmetics and personal goods, textile and fashion equipment, sanitation and kitchen equipment, automobile and related parts, small-scale machinery and parts, floor equipment, and modern furniture at 120 booths.

The exhibition lasts up to 16 December and is open from 9 am to 5 pm daily.

Kyemon

## Temporary Myanmar Scout Committee chairman presents medals to scouts

YANGON, 14 Dec — Scouts from No 3 Basic Education High School took oaths at their school in Shwepyitha Township, Yangon Region, on 13 December, attended by members of Temporary Myanmar

Scout Committee U Tha Sein, U Tin Maung Latt and U Aye Kyaing.

Thiha Scout U Aye Kyaw explained formation of scouts and activities and handed over the scouts to Chairman of the committee

U Tin Nyo.

The scouts took oaths on the occasion. The chairman decorated the scouts with medals.

Headmaster U Myat Wai Toe of Shwepyitha BEHS No 3 presented the scout flag to the scout squad.

After the ceremony, Chairman U Tin Nyo and party viewed the camping demonstration of scouts.

U Latt



**Temporary Myanmar Scout Committee Chairman U Tin Nyo decorates medal on scouts.**

U LATT



# UK to send hundreds of troops to Iraq

LONDON, 14 Dec — Britain will send hundreds of troops to train Iraqi and Kurdish forces in Iraq, Defence Secretary Michael Fallon told *The Daily Telegraph* newspaper on Saturday, in a bid to step up the battle against Islamic State fighters.

US President Barack Obama has already authorised the deployment of over 3,000 troops to the country and the top US commander guiding the coalition effort said earlier this week that allies would send about 1,500 additional troops.

Fallon said troops in the “very low hundreds”

would be sent next month.

He said that following air strikes by US-led forces including Britain, Islamic State had changed its methods, moving away from use of large formations in open space.

“They are increasingly tucked away in towns and villages. That means they have got to be rooted out by ground troops.”

“This has to be done by an own-grown army, not by western groups.”

On Saturday, Islamic State fighters killed at least 19 policemen in a town in Western Iraq, as the group continues to seize territory



Members of the Iraqi security forces carry their weapons during an intensive security deployment on the outskirts of Baiji, north of Baghdad, on 8 Dec, 2014. —REUTERS

in the region, despite aerial strikes.

Fallon told the newspaper that the exact number of Britons to be sent had not been finalized but that one of four teams would provide training in a Kurdish area and the remaining three in locations nearer to Baghdad.

“A key skill we are going to be helping with is counter-IED (improvised explosive devices), particularly vehicle explosive devices which the Iraqi army hasn’t come across for some time,” Fallon was quoted as saying.

Reuters

## Islamic State storms town in western Iraq, kills 19 police

BAGHDAD, 14 Dec — Islamic State fighters stormed a town in Iraq’s western Anbar Province on Saturday, killing at least 19 policemen and trapping others inside their headquarters, in the latest attack in the desert region where it controls large amounts of territory, officials said.

Islamic State seized the town of al-Wafa, 45 km (27 miles) west of Anbar’s capital Ramadi on Saturday after starting its assault early on Friday.

With the capture of al-Wafa, Islamic State now controls three major towns to the west of Ramadi, including Hit and Kubaisa. Islamic State and government forces have been

bogged down in a months-long battle for Ramadi.

Al-Wafa fell in a surprise attack that drew fresh attention to the Iraqi government’s struggle to arm Sunni tribes in western Iraq who are fighting Islamic State.

“Police forces have been fighting Islamic State fighters since Friday, but lack of ammunition forced it to retreat and losing the town. I’m frustrated because we were left alone without support,” said Hussain Kassar, the town’s mayor. Police forces backed by few members of government-paid Sunni tribal fighters tried to prevent the militants from crossing the sand barrier

surrounding the town, but were overwhelmed when sleeper cells from inside open fired on them, the mayor and a police officer said. Police forces and the pro-government Sunni fighters were forced to retreat to a nearby police-brigade headquarters bordering their town.

“We are trapped inside the police 18<sup>th</sup> brigade. Islamic State managed to surround us today. If no government forces were sent to help us then we will be exterminated,” the mayor, who was with the police forces that withdrew from al-Wafa, said by telephone.

Elsewhere in western Anbar, Islamic State militants executed at least

21 Sunni tribal fighters on Friday after capturing them near al-Baghdadi town on Wednesday, local officials and tribesmen said on Saturday. Islamic State has besieged al-Baghdadi, also to the west of Ramadi, since October. All the bodies had bullet wounds to the head and chest and were dumped inside an orchard near the Islamic-State controlled town of Kubaisa. The radical Sunni Muslim militants have captured swathes of western and northern Iraq, including the north’s biggest city, Mosul, in June. They now hold large territory from western Anbar and Nineveh provinces that extends across the border into Syria.—Reuters

## Al-Qaeda senior leader killed in Libya

ALGIERS, 14 Dec — An al-Qaeda senior member in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) was killed in Libya by troops of Gen. Khalifa Haftar, an Algerian security source told *Xinhua* on Saturday.

Djilali Mansour, alias Abu Younes, was killed with five other al-Qaeda-linked militants, including two Algerians, in an area near Benghazi, the source said on condition of anonymity.

The source specified that Abu Younes is originated from Algeria’s western province of Sidi Belabes. He was wanted by the Algerian justice since he joined the fiefs of the dismantled Islamic Armed Group (GIA) in 1996.

Abu Younes became later a senior member at the consultation council of the AQIM.

His presence in Libya was probably a sign of his split from AQIM to join Islamic state (IS) linked group of the Caliphate Soldiers, the source said, adding that he went to Libya not to fight, but rather to acquire arms and make contacts with local armed groups.

He was probably killed on 2 December during bombardment by troops of General Haftar. His dead body was discovered near the city of Benghazi, and then identified according to the documents he was carrying with him, the source said.—Xinhua

## Dozens killed in Afghan fighting as foreign troops head home

KABUL, 14 Dec — The Afghan Taliban killed a Supreme Court official, a dozen mine clearers and several national and foreign soldiers but also suffered heavy losses from intensifying violence ahead of the withdrawal of most international troops in the next two weeks.

In Kabul on Saturday, a bomb ripped through a bus carrying soldiers in Kabul, killing at least seven of them, mangling the vehicle and sending a column of black smoke over the capital.

“A suicide bomber on foot detonated his explosives at the door of a bus carrying army soldiers,” said Hashmat Stanekzai, a spokesman for Kabul police chief.



Afghan security forces inspect at the site of a suicide attack in Kabul on 13 Dec, 2014. — REUTERS

Earlier gunmen shot dead senior Supreme Court

official Atiqullah Raoufi as he left his home in the city.

The Taliban, ousted from power by US-backed

Afghan forces in 2001, claimed responsibility, but did not say why it had killed him. The hardline Islamist insurgents run their own courts in parts of the country and consider the official judiciary to be corrupt.

Heavily fortified Kabul has seen multiple attacks in recent weeks, including several on army buses and a suicide bomb that killed a German citizen in a French cultural centre during a performance of a play that denounced suicide attacks.

Fatalities and injuries among Afghan security forces and civilians peaked this year to the highest point since the US-led war began in 2001, as foreign forces rapidly withdrew most of their troops from the interior of mountainous nation.

About 5,000 Afghan police and soldiers have been killed, and more than 1,500 civilians were killed in the first half of the year. A rump of about 13,000 foreign soldiers will remain in Afghanistan next year, down from a peak of more than 130,000.

Fighting has extended long beyond the traditional summer season, with the Afghan government also inflicting heavy casualties on the Taliban. The army and police say they killed more than 50 militants nationwide in the past 48 hours.

The Taliban have been fighting a guerrilla war ever since their 5-year regime was toppled. They now have a strong presence in most of the provinces surrounding Kabul.—Reuters



## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

## Apple pacts in Canada may have raised prices — court filing

OTTAWA / TORONTO, 14 Dec — Canadian consumers may have ended up paying higher prices for cellphones and wireless services because of contracts between Apple Inc's Canadian unit and domestic carriers, the Canadian Competition Bureau said in a court filing this week.

The iPhone has given Apple extraordinary bargaining power with mobile carriers around the world, and the Canadian watchdog wants to know if it used that leverage to force domestic operators to sell rival devices at a higher price than they otherwise would have.

The Competition Bureau is seeking details on volume commitment, minimum order quantities, and any special treatment that Apple may have sought from the carriers,

the filing showed.

"Of course it is natural for them to want to push in that regard, and let's see if they pushed too hard," said Colin Gillis, a technology analyst at BGC Partners in New York.

The affidavit filed on Tuesday by Vincent Millette, who is heading the Competition Bureau's investigation, and obtained by *Reuters* on Friday listed several ways the agreements with the phone companies may have prevented or lessened competition.

It formed part of the agency's filings with the Federal Court on Tuesday seeking documents from Apple as part of an investigation into possible anti-competitive behavior by the company. The bureau said on Thursday it had not reached a con-

clusion of wrongdoing at this time.

Millette affirmed that the Apple Canada contracts may have:

- discouraged wireless carriers from reducing the price of other handsets, or offering other enhancements

- discouraged them from offering other handsets

- encouraged them to maintain or boost the price of wireless services for competing handsets

- dampened upstream competition between handset suppliers.

"The contractual obligations (with the carriers) may therefore increase the price Canadian consumers have paid, are paying or will pay for handset devices and wireless services," he said in his affidavit.

The Competition Bureau is looking for documents as far back as July 2008, when the iPhone first was introduced in Canada.

The agency informed Apple in April that it was investigating the contracts with the phone companies. Apple has provided some records already, and wireless carriers have sent over 2,500 records in response to requests from the bureau made between June and August.

An Apple spokeswoman was not available to comment.

*Reuters*

## Sony 'spooked' over possibility of more attacks — US government source

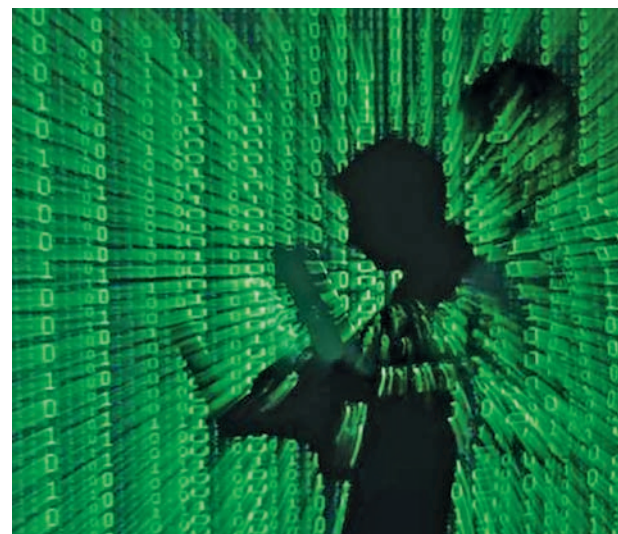
WASHINGTON, 14 Dec — Sony Pictures Entertainment representatives have advised US authorities they are deeply concerned the studio might fall victim to more cyberattacks after it releases the film "The Interview" on 25 December, a US national security source said on Friday.

"They are spooked," said the official, who was not authorized to publicly comment on government discussions with the Sony Corp unit, which is still rebuilding some computer systems as it seeks to repair its public image after a devastating two-pronged attack was revealed last month.

Sony Pictures spokeswoman Jean Guerin declined comment on the US official's remark ahead of the Christmas Day release of "The Interview" in the United States and Canada.

People familiar with probes by both the US government and Sony have previously told *Reuters* that Pyongyang is the primary suspect. They believe the attack was retribution for backing of "The Interview," a comedy about a CIA assassination attempt on North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

A second US government official told *Reuters* the National Security Di-



*An illustration picture shows a projection of binary code on a man holding a laptop computer, in an office in Warsaw on 24 June, 2013.—REUTERS*

vision of the Department of Justice is involved in the hacking probe, which is a signal that the authorities are actively investigating whether "state actors" could be behind the attack.

To be sure, US officials say that while North Korea is a leading suspect, they are continuing to investigate the case and have reached no final conclusion.

John Carlin, assistant attorney general for the National Security Division, said on Tuesday at an event sponsored by online subscription service Bloomberg Government, that Sony was closely cooperating with the Justice

Department investigation.

"It has our full attention and we'll continue to work, cooperatively and in partnership, with Sony," he said.

Hackers infected the studio's network with software that wiped hard drives of Windows computers, preventing them from booting up.

They also stole vast quantities of data, then leaked sensitive documents on the Internet. Those documents included private emails in which executives made irreverent comments about celebrities and US President Barack Obama, prompting the studio to issue public apologies.— *Reuters*



*A general view of an Apple store in the Manhattan borough of New York on 7 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS*

## Feathered friends: researchers unveil bird 'family tree'

WASHINGTON, 14 Dec — Scientists have unveiled the most comprehensive bird 'family tree' ever devised, using genetic data from 48 species to trace how modern bird lineages arose and flourished after the mass extinction that killed off the dinosaurs.

The work by researchers from 20 countries helps clarify the evolutionary relationships of modern bird groups and reveals the genetic underpinning of traits such as singing, toothlessness, colourful feathers and colour vision.

The scientists decoded the genomes, an organism's genetic material, of 45 bird species and analyzed those of three others previously sequenced. The

list covered nearly all living bird groups.

The species included penguins, falcons, eagles, woodpeckers, owls, vultures, pelicans, crows, hornbills, cormorants, hummingbirds, pigeons, ducks, chickens, turkeys, ostriches, finches, loons, flamingos, swifts, and even the White-throated Tinamou.

"We have produced a well-resolved bird family tree and provided a clear picture of how the modern birds originated and evolved," said geneticist Guojie Zhang of the BGI genome research center in Shenzhen, China and the University of Copenhagen.

Scientists think birds evolved from small, feath-



*Flamingos are seen in a nature reserve park in Panyu district south of Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, in this 30 Nov, 2014 file photo.—REUTERS*

ered dinosaurs. The earliest known bird, Archaeopteryx, lived 150 million years ago.

The researchers said most bird lineages from the age of dinosaurs disap-

peared during the mass extinction roughly 65 million years ago thought to have resulted from an asteroid striking Earth.

"Birds are dinosaurs. They're the one lineage

of dinosaurs that made it through the mass extinction," University of Florida biology professor Ed Braun said.

The analysis focused on a group called Neoaves that includes nearly all of today's 10,000-plus bird species. Its evolutionary explosion spanned 10 to 15 million years following the mass extinction, which opened numerous ecological niches previously occupied by other dinosaurs and flying reptiles called pterosaurs.

This "big bang" diversification of species gave rise to 95 percent of today's birds, Duke University Medical School neurobiologist Erich Jarvis said.

The large flightless

birds like the ostrich were confirmed as the family tree's oldest branch. The scientists said the chicken genome is probably the closest of any species to the ancestor of birds.

The research found singing evolved independently in songbirds, parrots and hummingbirds and showed that the set of about 50 genes involved in birdsong is similar to those involved in human speech.

Crocodiles were found to be birds' closest living relatives, with a common ancestor 240 million years ago.

The research was published on Thursday in the journal *Science* and other publications.

*Reuters*



# Korean Air chief steward in nut row says insulted, forced to kneel



*Cho Hyun-ah, also known as Heather Cho, daughter of chairman of Korean Air Lines, Cho Yang-ho, bows in front of the media outside the offices of the Aviation and Railway Accident Investigation Board of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, in Seoul on 12 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS*

SEOUL, 14 Dec — The head of cabin crew who was kicked off a Korean Air Lines (003490.KS) flight after a company executive raged over the way she was served macadamia nuts said he was insulted and forced to kneel down to apologize to the executive.

In a case that sparked public outrage and ridicule over her treatment of flight crew, Heather Cho, the daughter of the airline's chairman and head of in-flight service, reprimanded the cabin crew chief and one of his flight attendants who brought nuts to her in a bag, not a dish.

"In a situation where she said 'Make contacts right now to stop the plane. I won't let the plane go', I dared not object to her, the owner's daughter," Park Chang-jin, the chief steward, told state-run TV network KBS late on Fri-

day, ending days of silence.

The pilot brought the plane back to its gate at New York's John F Kennedy International Airport for the cabin crew chief to be expelled. The flight arrived in Incheon, near Seoul, 11 minutes late. Cho is the eldest daughter of the company chairman Cho Yang-ho. Two siblings are also executives at the airline.

Park said that Cho swore at him, jabbed the back of his hand with a file case several times, and pointed her finger at him while he kneeled. The incident that was first reported on Monday has stoked both mirth and anger in South Korea, whose economy is dominated by powerful family-run conglomerates known as chaebol.

Cho has been stripped of all titles at the airline and its affiliates, and faces investigation by

the government and prosecutors to determine whether she breached aviation laws.

Cho bowed and offered a public apology before being questioned by the transport ministry in Seoul on Friday. Speaking to reporters hours after being questioned, Cho declined to respond to the cabin crew chief's account of the incident.

"I have no idea... I have never heard of it," Cho told reporters, slightly shaking her head.

The chief steward said that, after the incident was first reported, he was visited several times at home by the airline's officials, who tried to persuade him to lie to authorities by saying that Cho had not sworn and that he had left the plane voluntarily.

Korean Air Lines declined to comment.—Reuters

## US fails to pass spending legislation necessary for IMF reforms

WASHINGTON, 14 Dec — The US Congress on Saturday passed spending legislation that does not include funding necessary for International Monetary Fund reforms aimed mainly at giving emerging economies greater voting rights at the institution.

The move is certain to make it more difficult for the IMF's Quota and Governance Reform plan to be implemented by the deadline set at the end of this year, possibly sparking criticism of the United States from IMF member countries.

The spending legislation includes funding for US govern-

ment agencies through September next year. Future debate on the IMF reform plan may take place without the United States.

To carry out the reforms, the Congress of the United States — the largest stakeholder in the Washington-based institution with 17 percent of voting rights — needs to shift \$63 billion from an IMF special crisis fund to a general account.

Some Republican lawmakers, however, have opposed the budget change, arguing it would effectively ask the world's biggest economy to spend more despite budgetary constraints.

"I have expressed my disappointment to the US authorities and hope that they continue to work toward speedy ratification," IMF head Christine Lagarde said in a statement on Friday.

Managing Director Lagarde said the IMF will discuss "alternative options for advancing quota and governance reforms" during an Executive Board meeting in January.

The IMF earlier this year urged the United States "to ratify these reforms at the earliest opportunity."

But it is uncertain how IMF members can move ahead with

the reforms without the United States. In 2010, the IMF member economies agreed on a set of reforms to shift 6 percent of voting rights to developing economies — such as China, Brazil and India — through redistribution of quotas and the number of board members, given the growing clout of these nations in the global economy.

The agreement of the US government is indispensable to achieve the reforms because the IMF needs to secure more than 85 percent of the total voting rights among its member economies.

*Kyodo News*

## Russia, Germany to talk role of youth public organisations in broader ties

SOCHI, 14 Dec — The Petersburg Dialogue youth forum will open with a legal debate on international law and challenges of the twenty-first century in Russia's Black Sea resort city of Sochi on Sunday.

The forum which will be held on 14 to 17 December will focus on the role of young people from Russia and Germany in building trust in an epoch of transformations, the Russian secretariat of the forum told TASS.

Politicians, scientists, cultural personalities and media people from Germany and Russia will participate in round-table meetings and discussions. Deputy chairman of German-Russian public forum board Wilfried Bergmann is expected to deliver a speech at the forum from Germany, professor of the faculty of international relations at St Petersburg State University Stanislav Tkachenko and dean of the faculty of international journalism at Moscow State University of International Relations Yaroslav Skvortsov will lay out Russia's position on the issues of international law.

On 15 December, a meeting will be held with former German minister and member of the coordinating committee of the Petersburg Dialogue forum Manfred Stolpe and chairman of the German-Russian forum presidium Matthias Platzeck. The forum programme also includes meetings of workgroups on science and education as well as media.

*Itar-Tass*

## Let nature play a role in climate adaptation, experts urge

LIMA, 14 Dec — When the rainy season comes and floods the fields, poor families in northwest Bangladesh once cut trees to survive or went hungry.

Now, however, they are raising fish in the floodplains — a change that has helped protect the region's forests and improved their own resilience to more extreme weather.

Such "ecosystem-based adaptation", which protects both communities and the environment, will be vital to helping a growing world population survive climate change impacts without destroying the natural world, experts said at the UN climate talks in Lima.

It "holds a promising potential," said Virgilio Viana, chief executive of the Brazil-based Amazonas Sustainable Foundation.

Such adaptation is cost-effective, he said, and can be implemented with local people, rather than relying on engineering solutions that sometimes can damage ecosystems, he said.

"For example, instead of using heavy construction material and machinery to tackle land erosion or landslides, ecosystem-based adap-

tation techniques such as increasing vegetation cover and planting (more) trees can help address these problems with local communities' involvement and at lower cost," he explained.

Kit Vaughn, environment and climate change director for CARE International, said many governments consider dams the only means of effectively managing floodwater. But forests and wetlands, lakes and riverside floodplains can also act as natural sponges, he said.

They absorb large amounts of water and slowly and safely release it downstream later, or into groundwater, he said.

Saleemul Huq, an advisor at the Lima talks for the Least Developed Countries group, representing nearly 50 of the world's poorest countries, said the northwest Bangladesh communities who have begun farming fish in the wet season to raise their incomes are also benefitting from better-protected floodplain forests.

The riverside forests absorb large amounts of water in flood periods, helping protect livestock and families who might otherwise find

themselves underwater, he said.

Such systems have "great potential for replication and up-scaling in developing countries, like Pakistan's Indus river floodplains," Huq said.

Heavy rains in the main river basins and upstream catchments of India, along with rainfall in northwest and northeastern Bangladesh, now frequently trigger flooding in low-lying and heavily populated areas of Bangladesh during the July to September monsoon sea-

son.

Bangladesh considers flooding a grave issue in many districts in the northwest part of the country, where many communities are classified as "extremely poor."

Xianfu Lu, an adaptation expert with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, said ecosystem-based adaptation should be used in other developing countries in Africa and Asia where floods are a worsening problem.

*Reuters*



*A couple sits under a banyan tree during sunset in Dhaka on 23 March, 2009.—REUTERS*



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1. Open Tender is invited for the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the Conveyance of Yetagun Condensate 0.7 Mbbls ( $\pm 5\%$ ) from Yetagun Marine Terminal Offshore to No.(1) Refinery (Thanlyin).
2. Tender Closing Date : **15-1-2015** at (12:00) noon.
3. Tender Opening Date : **15-1-2015** at (13:00) hrs.
4. Delivery Time : 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016
5. Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing **22-12-2014** on payment of the Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000) per set.
6. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director  
Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise

### WEATHER REPORT

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2014:** Isolated light rain are likely in Taninthayi Region, weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin, Chin, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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### Centre for Human Resource Development (Yangon University of Foreign Languages) Invitation for Application to Foreign Language Courses

The Centre for Human Resource Development (Yangon University of Foreign Languages) will open evening courses on Chinese, English, French, French (Translation and Interpretation), German, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Thai and Myanmar as a foreign language.

Commencement date of course	: 29-12-2014
Commencement date for submission of applications	: 23-12-2014
Closing date for applications	: 26-12-2014
	: (For English language the day on which the targeted number of applicants is reached)
Application to be submitted to	: Yangon University of Foreign Languages
Days on which classes held	: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays
Time	: 5:20 — 7:00 p.m.
Documents required	: Certificate of Matriculation (or) Marks Certificate (or) Degree Certificate (Both Original and copy are required)
Enquiry	: Student's Affairs Section, YUFL Phone : 514372 (Ext -*809)

Application must be submitted in person.

## Geminid meteor shower to be seen over Moscow if clouds disperse

Moscow, 14 Dec — Overnight to Sunday Moscow residents can watch one of the most spectacular meteor showers in the Earth's northern hemisphere — the Geminids when nearly 120 shooting stars an hour will be visible in the sky.

Rosgidromet weathermen forecasted that over the coming night the sky will be partially covered with clouds and there will not be rain or snow. At the moments when clouds will disperse, a row of small particles can be seen left by a trail of 3200 Phaeton asteroid.

Geminids were named after the constellation Gemini, in which the radiant of the flow is located, and the meteor shower lights up the sky on 4 to 17 December.



*This meteor shower are likely to display lots of bright meteors, with some of them crossing the whole sky.*

ITAR-TASS

Gemini can be seen over the whole night in December. The peak of the Geminid meteor shower falls on 14 December. Thus, the best time to begin watching the meteors will be on Sunday night when the moon

rises after midnight and is at the third quarter phase.

The Geminids are likely to display lots of bright meteors, with some of them crossing the whole sky.

In dark countryside locations the Geminids will

be most magnificent while in cities smoke or even smog and city lights will allow the viewers to see only the brightest shooting stars, falling with a speed of 35km/s.

Itar-Tass

## UN talks agree building blocks for new-style climate deal in 2015

LIMA, 14 Dec — About 190 nations agreed on Sunday the building blocks of a new-style global deal due in 2015 to combat climate change amid warnings that far tougher action will be needed to limit rising world temperatures.

Under the Lima deal, governments will submit national plans for reining in greenhouse gas emissions by an informal deadline of 31 March, 2015 to form the basis of a global agreement due at a summit in Paris in a year's time.

The texts, breaking deadlock among weary delegates almost two days into overtime after two weeks of talks, appeased developing countries led by China



Delegates listen as COP 20 President and Peru's Environment Minister Manuel Pulgar Vidal makes an announcement during a plenary session of the UN Climate Change Conference COP 20 in Lima on 12 Dec, 2014. — REUTERS

and India, concerned that previous drafts imposed too heavy a burden on emerging economies compared to the rich.

"We've got what we wanted," said Indian Environment Minister Prakash Javedekar, who said the text preserved the notion enshrined in a 1992 climate convention that the rich have to lead the way in making cuts in greenhouse gas emissions.

It also satisfied rich nations led by the United States who say it is time for fast-growing emerging economies to rein in fast-rising emissions. China is now the biggest greenhouse gas emitter ahead of the United States,

the EU and India. "This is a good document to pave the way to Paris," EU Climate Action and Energy Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete told *Reuters* at the end of two weeks of talks about limiting more floods, desertification, heat waves and rising sea levels.

Some environmental groups, however, said the deal, reached at a tent city on a military base in Lima, was far too weak. "We went from weak to weaker to weakest," Samantha Smith of the WWF conservation group said of successive drafts at the Lima talks. "This leaves a huge amount for governments and everyone else to do in the next 12 months." — *Reuters*



## Hackers vs James Bond: 'SPECTRE' script stolen in Sony attack



Actors **Lea Seydoux**, **Daniel Craig** and **Monica Bellucci** (L-R) pose on stage during an event to mark the start of production for the new James Bond film "Spectre", at Pinewood Studios in Iver Heath, southern England on 4 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 14 Dec — Early villains have emerged in the next James Bond film "SPECTRE": hackers who stole a version of the screenplay as part of a devastating cyberattack on Sony Pictures.

Producers of the James Bond films said they learned on Saturday morning that an early version of

the "SPECTRE" script was among material stolen and made public by hackers who infiltrated computers at the Sony studio.

"Eon Productions is concerned that third parties who have received the stolen screenplay may seek to publish it or its contents," Eon said in a statement, while warning that the

script is protected by UK copyright laws.

"SPECTRE," starring Daniel Craig as 007, is set for release on 6 November, 2015. Filming began this month after producer Barbara Broccoli and director Sam Mendes unveiled the title, cast and new car, but little about the plot.

"I was so excited to

tell this story but to explain why, I would have to tell you the plot and I can't do that," said Mendes at the presentation in England, a reminder of Sony's might in the movie world.

The Bond franchise is one of the most lucrative for Sony Pictures and the last instalment "Skyfall" brought in \$1.1 billion (699.97 million pounds) worldwide, more than any other Bond film.

A Sony spokesman said news reports that the cyberattack forced the studio to stop production on films, including "SPECTRE," were wrong.

"Productions are still moving forward," Robert Lawson told *Reuters*.

Hackers launched an attack on the Sony Corp. entertainment arm on 24 November, disabling the computer network and stealing and leaking a trove of sensitive information in the most severe cyberattack on a company on US soil. The identity of the hackers has yet to be determined.—PTI

## Jennifer Aniston humbled by Golden Globes nomination

LOS ANGELES, 14 Dec — Actress Jennifer Aniston has admitted that she is humbled by her Golden Globes nomination for 'Cake'.

The 45-year-old actress made the shortlist for Best Actress in a Motion Picture — Drama alongside Felicity Jones (*The Theory of Everything*), Julianne Moore (*Still Alice*), Rosamund Pike (*Gone Girl*) and Reese Witherspoon (*Wild*), reported *Entertainment Weekly*.

"I'm just humbled. It's just all happening so

fast and so beautifully. The Globes are a big fun party, and it's so fun to celebrate with your peers," Aniston said. Aniston, who plays a woman who becomes obsessed by the suicide of a member of her chronic pain support group, added of her character: "We were focused on portraying her as honestly and truthfully as it possibly could be told. Making it bulletproof."

"And for me, as an actor, it was such a great exercise in my craft — being able to sort of mine a character and unearth her."—PTI



Jennifer Aniston

## Pawel Pawlikowski's 'Ida' sweeps European Film Awards

RIGA, 14 Dec — Polish director Pawel Pawlikowski's "Ida", a drama about a young novice nun who discovers her parents were Jewish and perished in the Holocaust, dominated the European Film Awards on Saturday, winning five prizes, including best film, best director and people's choice.

"Ida" also won the Special Presentations award at 2013 Toronto film



European director and screenwriter **Pawel Pawlikowski** and screenwriter **Rebecca Lenkiewicz** pose with their trophies for best movie "Ida" after the European film award ceremony in Riga on 13 Dec, 2014. REUTERS

festival. It has been nominated for the best foreign language film at the 72<sup>nd</sup> Golden Globe Awards and for the foreign-language Academy Award.

Pawlikowski is best known for the British films "Last Resort" and "My Summer of Love", both of which won BAFTAs.

"It was fantastic night for us and also it has been a great year for Poland. We won in volleyball, we

beat Germany in football, first time in 80 years, and tonight — crowning glory," Pawlikowski said as he received the award for the best film.

The annual awards, held this year in the Latvian capital of Riga, also honoured the British director Steve McQueen, who got an award for European achievement in world cinema. With only three feature films — "Hunger", "Shame"

and the most recent "12 Years A Slave", which won an Oscar earlier this year as Best Picture, McQueen has become legendary, said director Wim Wenders, who presented the award.

The French film director Agnès Varda was given a lifetime achievement award.

The awards were voted on by more than 3,000 members of the European Film Academy.—Reuters

## Beyonce to have biggest selling celebrity fragrance of 2014

LONDON, 14 Dec — Singer Beyonce's 'Rise' perfume is expected to sell over 750,000 units in the UK, which will net her 1.5 million pounds, becoming the biggest selling celebrity fragrance of the year. Boy band One Direction's new perfume, 'That Moment', is second on the list, with retailer escentual.com, expecting the band's fans to buy approximately 450,000 units, reported Contactmusic.

The 'Steal My Girl' hitmakers' 'You & I' perfume is fifth on the list and will also see them bag another 240,000 units, giving them a combined total of 1.34 million pounds.

Cheryl Fernandez-Versini, Nicki Minaj and Katy Perry's perfumes also made the top six of the best-selling list with Rihanna, Victoria Beckham, Taylor Swift and Lady Gaga making the top 10.

"It's been a very strong year for celebrity fragrances and it's all about the pop stars. Their perfume sales have put them up there with the big players in the market — the designer fragrances — and Beyonce is the ninth top selling fragrance of all categories which is remarkable," Fragrance expert Rakesh Aggarwal of online beauty retailer escentual.com said.—PTI



Beyonce



## Good weekend for Wenger loyalists as Arsenal dazzle

LONDON, 14 Dec — From the perspective of the overwhelming pro-Wenger majority Arsenal's dazzling 4-1 victory over Newcastle United in the Premier League on Saturday was emphatic proof of their mantra "In Arsene We Trust".

Everywhere you looked at a chilly Emirates Stadium, whether at the artistry of Alexis Sanchez, the magnetic ball control of Santi Cazorla or the old-fashioned striking prowess of Olivier Giroud, there was something to marvel at. Giroud scored twice, as did Cazorla on his 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, and the Gunners could have had plenty more against an obliging Newcastle side unrecognisable from that which inflicted a first defeat of the season on league leaders Chelsea last weekend. In Arsenal's last home game before Christmas, their Chile forward Sanchez provided several party pieces that would have been toasted in the local hostelrys on the Holloway

Road. His precision cross for Giroud's 15<sup>th</sup> minute opener simply begged the big Frenchman to power a header past Newcastle's third-choice goalkeeper, 21-year-old Jak Alnwick who was making only his second competitive appearance for the club. The striker's threaded pass to Cazorla for the second goal was that of a man who sees the game with a clarity few possess.

In between there was an outrageous dummy in midfield and a lobbed pass to Danny Welbeck that golfer Phil Mickelson would have been proud of — ruined only by Welbeck volleying wide. Diehard Arsenal fan Brian Harris, who has seen the good times ebb and flow in nearly 70 years of supporting the north London club, was no doubt joining in the chant of "Only One Arsene Wenger" with five minutes remaining.

He was at Stoke City the previous week when Arsenal showed their other, flimsy



*Arsenal's Santi Cazorla celebrates his goal after scoring a penalty during their English Premier League football match against Newcastle United at the Emirates Stadium in London on 13 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS*

side, going 3-0 down before rallying to lose 3-2 — a defeat that led to anti-Wenger banners being displayed and the long-serving Frenchman verbally abused after the game. "Who is there to take his place?" Harris said as he walked towards the magnificent stadium now virtually paid for courtesy of Wenger guiding his side into the lucrative Champions League year after year since taking over in 1996. "The trouble is a lot of the younger fans have only been used to a lot of success. I went 19 years before I saw us lift a trophy...

that's the difference. They don't have any patience.

"It will come again but you have to put up with it."

Yet despite the feelgood factor sweeping the stadium, there were still a few telltale signs of the soft centre that explains why Arsenal are sixth, 13 points behind Chelsea, and all but out of the title race before Christmas.

Newcastle's Ayoze Perez scored the most basic of goals after 63 minutes, finding space to glance in a header, and for 10 minutes Arsenal's nerves were a little frayed.—Reuters

### MYANMAR TV

(15-12-2014, Monday)

6:00 am

\* Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

6:35 am

\* Nice & Sweet Songs

7:00 am

\* News / Weather Report

7:20 am

\* People Talks

8:35 am

\* Documentary (ASEAN)

9:30 am

\* Teleplay

10:20 am

\* Documentary (Road to Academy 2013 Part - 5 & 6 )

10:40 am

\* Weekly Entertainment News

11:15 am

\* Song Variety

12:00 noon

\* News/ International News / Weather Report

12:30 pm

\* Myanmar Movies

3:15 pm

\* Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)

4:30 pm

\* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) —First Year (Home Economic)

5:15 pm

\* TV Drama Series

6:40 pm

\* Traditional Boxing

7:20 pm

\* Teleplay

8:00 pm

\* News/ International News / Weather Report

8:35 pm

\* People Talks

9:00 pm

\* News International News / Weather Report Socio Economic Scenes

### MITV

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(15-12-14 07:00 am~ 16-12-14 07:00 am) MST

- \* Local News
- \* The Sphinx of Egypt And The Manousiha of Myanmar
- \* World News
- \* Sticky Shan Snack
- \* Local News
- \* Taung Byone Nat Festival (Ep-I)
- \* World News
- \* School for the Blind
- \* Local News
- \* Taste of Myanmar (Thin Egg Noodle Soup)
- \* World News
- \* Inspiration
- \* Local News
- \* Youth Film Maker(Sai Aung Tun)
- \* World News
- \* Snake Dancer
- \* Local News
- \* Today Myanmar "Gold letter"
- \* World News
- \* Wholesale Fish
- \* Local News
- \* A Novitation Ceremony in a Rural Township
- \* World News
- \* Culture Shows: Theatrical Art
- \* Local News
- \* To The Land of Countless Temples
- \* World News
- \* Trishaw Man
- \* Local News
- \* Kayah Style
- \* World News
- \* In The Studio: Lann Sa (Part- II)

## Elton John opens stand in his honour at Watford



*Sir Elton John performs at the Elton John AIDS Foundation's 13<sup>th</sup> annual An Enduring Vision Benefit in New York on 28 Oct, 2014. — REUTERS*

LONDON, 14 Dec — Pop music great Elton John opened a new stand named after him at English Cham-

pionship club Watford's Vicarage Road ground on Saturday, describing it as "one of the greatest days of my life". The 67-year-old singer-songwriter, who had two spells as club chairman and is now life president, addressed fans before second tier Watford's home clash against Wigan Athletic on Saturday. "It's in my blood, it's in my soul, it's a huge part of my life," John, whose many hits include Rocket Man, I'm Still Standing and Candle in the Wind, said in the match-day programme that featured a 10-

page spread on his time at the club. With partner David Furnish and sons Elijah and Zachary watching, the emotional musician told supporters: "Thank you very, very much — this is one of the greatest days of my life."—Reuters

"When I was six years old I used to come and stand over there," he added, pointing to what used to be the cinder bank in the south-west corner of the ground.

"I never thought I'd ever have a stand named after me. I never thought I'd sit in a stand!"

John first took over as Watford chairman in 1976 and, apart from seeing the club promoted to the top flight, his greatest moment came when they reached the 1984 FA Cup final, losing to Everton on a day remembered for his tears in the Royal Box.

"Let's continue to have success. Let's get to the Premiership. Look at this ground! Can you believe it?!" he said as he signed off to an ovation from the crowd. Watford won the match 2-1 to move up to sixth in the table.—Reuters

## Barca held to goalless stalemate at rainy Getafe

MADRID, 14 Dec — Barcelona lost ground on title rivals Real Madrid with an uninspired performance in a 0-0 draw at rain-lashed Getafe on Saturday that left them four points behind the La Liga leaders.

Real jetted off to the Club World Cup in Morocco after a 4-1 win at Almeria on Friday extended their Spanish record winning streak to 20 matches in all competitions.

They have 39 points from 15 matches and will top the table over the two-week Christmas break for a 34th time.

Second-placed Barca, missing injured Brazil captain

Neymar from their forward line, needed a win to trim the gap back to two points but struggled against some gritty Getafe defending at the Coliseum in the Madrid suburbs.

Neymar's partner in attack Lionel Messi was unable to convert the few chances that came his way and add to his 13 La Liga goals this season, although he came close when he curled a 52nd-minute free kick against the bar.

The Argentina captain has hit the frame of the goal eight times in Spain's top flight this term, twice as many as the next most frequent, Real's Karim Benzema.

Luis Suarez had another



*Barcelona's Lionel Messi (L) controls the ball during their Spanish first division soccer match against Getafe at Coliseum Alfonso Perez stadium in Getafe, near Madrid, on 13 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS*

frustrating night and has still not opened his account in La Liga in seven appearances

since his ban for biting an opponent at the World Cup expired at the end of October.

Goalkeeper Claudio Bravo had little to do apart from leaping superbly to his left to palm a shot from Getafe forward Angel Lafita around the post in the 33rd minute. "There is a long way to go still but it's a step backwards," Barca playmaker Xavi told Spanish television. "It was the kind of game we usually cope with but if we don't break the deadlock things get tricky," added the former Spain midfielder.

"We have a lot of good goalscorers up front but today the ball didn't want to go in."

Real have won the La Liga title nine of the last 11 times they have led going into

the New Year.

Champions Atletico Madrid, sitting in third, can draw level with Barca on 35 points with a home win over Villarreal on Sunday.

Valencia, in fifth, ended a run of two defeats and two draws when they beat Rayo Vallecano 3-0 at the Mestalla despite having midfielder Andre Gomes sent off with around 20 minutes left when he earned a second booking.

Victory for the club recently taken over by Singapore billionaire Peter Lim closed the gap with fourth-placed Sevilla, who host Eibar on Sunday, to one point.

Reuters



# Ruthless Chelsea and Man City march on

LONDON, 14 Dec — Chelsea and Manchester City tightened their stranglehold on the Premier League title race on Saturday, recording victories over struggling clubs to stretch further clear of their increasingly forlorn pursuers.

Normal service was resumed at Stamford Bridge as Chelsea maintained their three-point lead over City at the top with goals from Eden Hazard and Diego Costa sinking 10-man Hull City 2-0.

Champions City maintained their ever more convincing chase, sealing their fifth successive league win at bottom club Leicester City 1-0 courtesy of a 40th-minute goal from the evergreen Frank Lampard.

City's delight, though, was tempered by the likelihood of another spell on the sidelines for captain Vincent Kompany who, on his return after a three-game absence with a hamstring problem, limped off again with the same trouble.

Fourth-placed West Ham's progress was checked by a 1-1 draw at Sunderland and Southampton

lost 1-0 to an Ashley Barnes goal at Burnley.

That left the chasing pack, headed by third-placed Manchester United and West Ham, 11 points behind Chelsea and eight adrift of the champions.

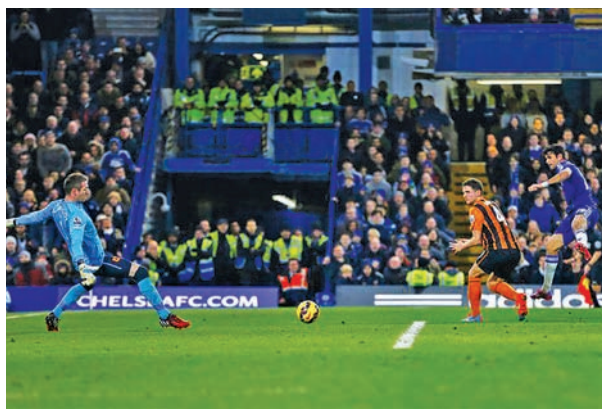
It also put pressure on Louis van Gaal's United before their match against Liverpool on Sunday.

Arsenal host Newcastle United in Saturday's late kickoff.

Chelsea, smarting about their first defeat of the season at Newcastle last weekend, responded with a performance which satisfied manager Jose Mourinho. "It was not a special performance," said the 'Special One'. "It was just a good enough performance."

Much more had been expected when Hazard headed home Oscar's seventh minute cross but Chelsea were initially sloppy and Steve Bruce ended up unhappy that Chelsea defender Gary Cahill, already on a yellow card, was not sent off after what the Hull manager felt was a blatant dive.

Only after Tom Huddlestone was dismissed for



Chelsea's Diego Costa (R) shoots past Hull City goalkeeper Allan McGregor (L) to score during their English Premier League soccer match at Stamford Bridge in London on 13 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

a nasty second half stamp on Filipe Luis did Chelsea seal the deal, Costa scoring his 12th goal of the season from a Hazard assist after 68 minutes to make it eight home wins out of eight.

Manchester City boss Manuel Pellegrini, already without his injured totem Sergio Aguero, was forced to hand a start to Spaniard Jose Pozo, the 18-year-old striker being hailed as the 'Mini Messi', after Edin Dzeko pulled up injured in the warm-up.

The youngster, however, found it hard going against Leicester's committed defenders and it

was left to the remarkable Lampard to make the breakthrough.

The midfielder timed his run into the box with predictable efficacy to sidefoot the ball home simply after fine work from Samir Nasri.

The 36-year-old's latest crucial intervention will not have escaped his old disciples at Chelsea as Lampard's 175th goal took him to fourth equal on the all-time list of Premier League scorers, an astonishing achievement for a midfielder.

West Ham manager Sam Allardyce was left



Manchester City goalkeeper Joe Hart dives to save a ball during their English Premier League soccer match against Leicester City at the King Power Stadium in Leicester, central England on 13 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

raging by the award of a 22nd-minute penalty to Sunderland, after Adam Johnson had tumbled rather too easily for his liking. He was even angrier when Jordi Gomez converted.

"It was not a penalty and it is as simple as that," Allardyce told the BBC. "It was given by the assistant referee and he got it horribly wrong."

Even though Stewart Downing equalised seven minutes later, the Hammers missed their chance to win when Andy Carroll shot wide in the dying seconds.

After a tremendous

start to the season, Southampton's woes continued with a fourth consecutive defeat. They paid the price after Tom Heaton saved Dusan Tadic's penalty on the hour and Burnley jumped out of the bottom three with Barnes's winner.

Crystal Palace's James McArthur and Stoke's Peter Crouch swapped early goals in the space of two minutes in a 1-1 while West Brom's Craig Gardner scored a 72nd-minute winner against his old club Aston Villa, who had Kieran Richardson sent off.

Reuters

## Kiyotake shines as Hannover, Bremen share 3-3 thriller



Hiroshi Kiyotake

BREMEN, GERMANY, 14 Dec — Hiroshi Kiyotake scored one goal and set up another but Hannover had to make do with a share of the spoils in a 3-3 draw with Werder Bremen in the Bundesliga on Saturday.

Lars Stindl gave Hannover an early lead before Zlatko Junuzovic's free-kick leveled proceedings at the break.

Melvyn Lorenzen netted after the restart but Kiyotake brilliantly teed up Joselu to make it 2-2 and the Japanese midfielder put visiting Hannover 3-2 up with

his third goal of the season, his delivery evading everyone en route to the bottom corner.

An excellent late finish from Davie Selke, however, secured Bremen a vital point.

Hiroki Sakai put in a full shift for Hannover, while Kiyotake was substituted in the late stages.

Elsewhere, Atsuto Uchida had an assist but Schalke went down 2-1 at home to Cologne. Cologne's Yuya Osako and Kazuki Nagasawa were left off the bench.—Kyodo News

## Robben scores twice as Bayern roll past Augsburg 4-0

BERLIN, 14 Dec — Bayern Munich steamrolled Augsburg 4-0 with four goals in 13 minutes on Saturday to increase their lead to 10 points at the top of the Bundesliga and secure top spot for the winter break later this month.

Winger Arjen Robben scored twice as Bayern, undefeated in the league this season, outlasted Augsburg, who managed to keep pace for almost an hour before running out of steam.

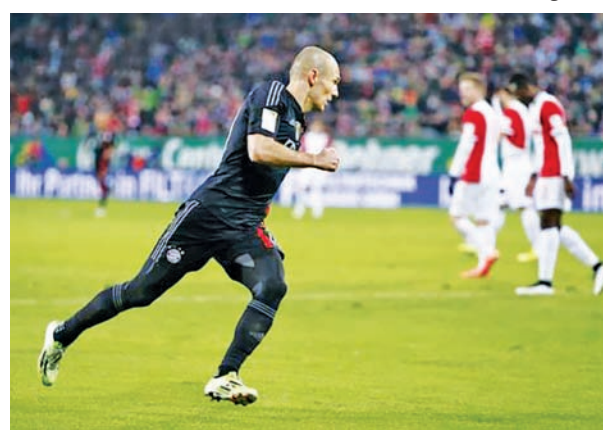
"It is not always easy after a Champions League game but we did it very well today," said Bayern coach Pep Guardiola, whose team beat CSKA Moscow in midweek.

The Spaniard played down clinching the unofficial autumn championship which means they are top until the season resumes in January.

"Autumn champion only means we have won many games. But it means nothing more than that," said Guardiola.

Defender Mehdi Benatia headed in his first Bundesliga goal in the 58th after Bayern completely dominated the Bavarian clash but wasted chance after chance.

Earlier, Franck Ribery fired wide with only Alex Manninger to beat and the goalkeeper also denied Robben.



Bayern Munich's Arjen Robben celebrates a goal during the German Bundesliga first division soccer match against Augsburg in Augsburg on 13 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

But the Dutchman, in sensational form throughout 2014, curled in a trademark left-foot shot off the post in

the 59th to sink Augsburg, who snapped Bayern's unbeaten run last season.

Robert Lewandowski slotted in his seventh goal of the campaign in the 68th and Robben grabbed his eighth with a clever low shot from the edge of the box as the hosts suffered their first loss in five games

with two left to play until the winter break.

VfL Wolfsburg, in second on 29, meet Paderborn on Sunday while Augsburg stay third on 24.

Last season's runners-up Borussia Dortmund continued their erratic season, losing 1-0 at Hertha Berlin to drop back down into the relegation playoff spot in 16th.

Former Dortmund striker Julian Schieber shook off two defenders to slot in five minutes before the break as Dortmund suffered their ninth loss in 15 matches.

Fellow Champions League club Schalke 04 suffered a similar fate, slumping to a 2-1 loss against visitors Cologne to drop to sixth on 23.

Werder Bremen's talented Davie Selke scored in the 88th minute to rescue a point in their 3-3 draw against Hannover 96. They join Dortmund and Freiburg on 14 points.

Reuters