

President U Thein Sein to attend 5th Greater Mekong Sub-region Summit

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will pay a visit to Thailand in the near future to attend the 5th Greater Mekong Sub-region Summit to be held in Bangkok at the invitation of H.E. General Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand.

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Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham receives Co-Founder of Kellogg Innovation Network (KIN)

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec — Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham held talks with Professor Mr Robert C Wolcott, Co-Founder of Kellogg Innovation Network (KIN) and party of the U.S. at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday morning.

They discussed participation of the KIN in reform processes and economic sector of Myanmar, improvement of small- and medium-scale industries, and development of human resources.

Also present at the call were Deputy Ministers U Tin Oo Lwin, Dr Pwint Hsan and Daw Lei Lei Thein and officials.

MNA



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham poses documentary photo together with Professor Mr Robert C Wolcott, Co-Founder of Kellogg Innovation Network (KIN).—MNA

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Ceremony to mark 40th Anniversary Rakhine State Day and distribution of electricity in Rakhine State

SITTWAY, 15 Dec — The ceremony to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Rakhine State Day and distribution of electricity in Rakhine State from

the national grid was held at Waithali Sports Grounds in Sittway on Monday evening.

Present were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Thet Na-

ing Win, U Soe Thane, U Tin Naing Thein, U Khin Maung Soe and U Khin Yi, Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Maung Maung Ohn, Commander of Western

Command Maj-Gen Aung Lin Dwe, representative of Rakhine State Hluttaw, officials, NGOs and INGOs, and locals.

At the ceremony, the

banner which said "Rakhine State is lighted" was opened with firework display before representatives of the public in townships in the state on parade saluted the chief minister, and then the messages of the president and the speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw were read out by Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win and the speaker of the Rakhine State Hluttaw respectively.

In his speech at the ceremony, the chief minister said that the dream of the Rakhine people to light the state from the national grid has realized on the 40th Anniversary of the Rakhine State Day, adding that Rakhine State Government has been increasing spending in billions of kyats for regional development tasks such as education, health, communication, rural development, construction of roads, bridges and buildings

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Information for media to attend 67th Anniversary Independence Day, Grand Military Review ceremonies

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec — The Myanma Alinn and the Kyemon dailies have recently presented a registration process for those wishing to cover the news on the 67th Anniversary Independence Day ceremony and the Grand Military Review ceremony. They must register at <http://moimm.info/moimrf4jan2015/> website of the Ministry of Information.

The media need to register at the website, not later than 20-12-2014. The ministry cannot accept the overdue registrations because it has many tasks to make media accreditation cards and other matters.

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Sports and cultural troupes at the ceremony to mark 40th Anniversary of the Rakhine State Day in Waithali Sports Grounds in Sittway, Rakhine State.—MNA

Urbanites join mass walk activity in Myingyan

MYINGYAN, 15 Dec — Departmental personnel, students and local people participated in a traditional mass walk activity in December in Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region, on 13 December.

They started walking along Yangon-Bagan-NyaungU road from the clock tower in downtown Myingyan to No 1 Basic Education High School.

They engaged in physical exercises in the compound of the school.

Zaw Min Naing
(Myingyan)

Three asphalt streets ready for use in Ottarathiri Township

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec — A ceremony was held Monday to open three newly asphalted streets in Ottarathiri Township on Monday.

Sittoung Street and Sagawah Streets are 4,300 feet long and 12 feet wide each, while the entrance street to Yazadani Thamanaykyaw monastery is 1,500 feet long and 12 feet wide.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Phone Zaw Han, who formally opened the streets along with officials, explained the council's efforts to develop Ottarathiri Township, while Director (Engineer) of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Aung Moe reported on construction of asphalt streets in the township.



The local authorities upgraded three earthen streets to the asphalt ones for smooth transport of local people.

Township IPRD

Electricians carry out electric safety for people

NYAUNGLEBIN, 15 Dec — Electricians and skilled workers led by Nyaunglebin Township electrical engineer U Kyaw Zeya undertook tasks of electric safety and power supply at full capacity in Nyaungla-bin Township, Bago Region.

On 14 December, they

cleaned up the sub-power station, clearing branches away from power lines and replacing old lamp-posts with new ones.

They also removed roadside huts under power lined to ensure people's safety.

Nay Lin
(Nyaunglebin)



Former students to pay respects to former faculty members

MANDALAY, 15 Dec — Alumni of Mandalay Regional College met in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay, to plan a ceremony to pay respects to over 200 former faculty members who taught them during the 1976 to 1981 years.

The meeting, attended by former students from various departments of the college, was held at the hall of the Mandalay Region

Chambers of Commerce and Industry on 14 December afternoon.

Chairman of the organizing committee U Kyaw Min explained preparations for holding the ceremony at the Dhammayon of Mandalay University on 3 January, 2015, which will be followed in the evening by a party with the faculty members at Yunnan Temple on 80th street in the township.

Responsible persons of subcommittees also reported on the progress of preparations.

Thiha Ko Ko
(Mandalay)



Former students discuss preparations for holding ceremony to pay respects to former faculty members of Mandalay Regional College.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker delivers speech at farmers' affairs public conference

PATHEIN, 15 Dec— Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann delivered a speech at the farmers' affair public conference of over 5,000 peasant farmers from Pathein, Hinthada, Maubin and Labutta Districts in Ayeyawady Region held in Pathein on Monday.

Also present were Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region U Thein Aung and members of region government, representatives of the region parliament and local peasant farmers.

In his speech, Thura U Shwe Mann said that as about 74 percent of the population of the region is farmers who not only grow crops but also breed fish and produce salt, the farmers' affairs public conference was held in Pathein in the first place.

The law to protect and promote the interests of the

farmers has been enacted and the law will enable farmers to gain access to more loans at longer term for repayment and supports, Thura U Shwe Mann added.

In conclusion, Thura U Shwe Mann said that the conference will lead to positive results and urged the participants to engage in active, positive and honest discussions in a transparent manner.

Then, the chief minister made a speech and participants put forward motions for promotion of farmers' interest and agriculture, settlement of farmland disputes and bring about stability, the rule of law and development in the region with the strength of farmers.

After the discussions, the president of the conference announced the decisions and future tasks laid down by the conference.

Thura U Shwe Mann



Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann visits booth of quality seeds of crops at Land Utilization Booth in Pathein.—MNA

made the concluding remarks at the conference, urging the implementation of them with the coordina-

tion with the government.

On Sunday and Monday, Thura U Shwe Mann paid homage to abbots in

Pathein and inspected the garment factory of Dong Long Pathein Garment Co Ltd in the industrial zone

in Pathein before leaving for Yangon on Monday evening.

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Flying Display demonstrated at 67th Anniversary of Air Force Day

Senior General

Min Aung

Hlaing views

demonstration

of pilots at

Hypobaric

Chamber at

the ceremony

to mark 67th

Anniversary of

Air Force Day.

MYAWADY

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec— The 67th Anniversary of Air Force was held at

the Central Command and Airbase at the central Myanmar town Meiktila Mon-

day, with the demonstration of attack helicopters and fighter jets in the Fly-

ing Display performance.

The ceremony was attended by Command-in-

Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

The event was attended by chief commanders of army, navy and air forces, as well as senior military officers.

Helicopters illustrated flying skills of combats, namely Trail formation, Composite Formation and Arrow Head.

Then fighter jet pilots also demonstrated aerial performances, namely, Rolling Blend In, Half Lazy 8, Loop R/W Parallel, Loop R/W Cross, Trail Fly Past with fuming yellow, green and red smokes, and Heart Loop & Cupid.

After that, a total of 67 birds were released to commemorate the 67th Anniversary of Air Force Day.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing also opened the Hypobaric Chamber at the Aero-medical Centre at the Meiktila Air Base, saying the crucial role of these training equipment sets for the pilots.

Hypobaric chamber can be used during aerospace or high terrestrial altitude research or training to simulate the effects of high altitude on the human body, especially hypoxia (low oxygen) and hypobaria (low ambient air pressure). Some chambers also control for temperature and relative humidity. A total of 10 persons— 10 trainees and two inside observers— can take part in each training session with this chamber.

Myawady

UEC meets political parties for electoral procedures

YANGON, 15 Dec— The Union Election Commission and political parties met here Monday to discuss preparations for the 2015 General Election.

The meeting focused on a drawing common ethical code for political

parties, general equality in fielding candidates for the election and compiling lists of eligible voters.

The commission chairman, U Tin Aye, vowed to conduct the general election in a free, fair and transparent manner.

He also urged all political parties to draw up common and practical ethical codes, as in democratic countries, in line with existing laws.

The chairman then noted the importance of gender equality, suggesting

there should be more women candidates with good qualifications running in the election.

UEC has targeted the completion of compiling lists of eligible voters by July 2015 with the help of social organizations and

political parties.

The meeting was attended by the representatives of 59 political parties, members of International Foundation for Electoral Systems and staff from Swiss embassy in Myanmar.

At the meeting, the

foreign experts explained about codes of conduct for political parties and candidates.

Dr Daw Myint Kyi, member of UEC, also discussed general equality, followed by an explanation on the activities of compiling lists of voters.—MNA

International Relations Department marks 30th anniversary celebration



MANDALAY, 15 Dec — A ceremony to mark the 30th anniversary of Mandalay University's International Relations Department was held at the

university's Dhammayon on 14 December.

It was attended by retired professors and faculty members who participated in the establishment of

the department, first and second year students and faculty members from IR departments of universities in Upper Myanmar region.

Former students paid

respects to former faculty members.

Retired professor Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt recounted teaching of international relations to students at Yangon and Mandalay universities in 1984.

At present, youths are interested in international relations and political science subjects. Mandalay and Yangon universities have offering courses leading to a post-graduate diploma in international relations since 2012.

A post-graduate political science diploma course was conducted at Mandalay University in 2014 for the first time. Hluttaw representatives, members of political parties and enthusiasts are attending the nine-month course.

Thiha Ko Ko
(Mandalay)

Chin State Chief Minister welcomes fresh medical officers

HAKA, 15 Dec — With the aim of improving healthcare services for national brethren in Chin State, the state government has appointed new medical officers to be assigned duties in townships of the state.

The fresh doctors called on chief minister of the state U Hong Ngai at his office in Haka on 12 December.

The chief minister expressed his hope that the newly appointed medical officers are to contribute to healthcare services for the people, while he stressed the need for them to abide by ethics of civil servants, rules and regulations.



The chief minister and the speaker of state Hluttaw presented prizes

to outstanding trainees in the basic officer training course No. 45 conducted at

the Upper Myanmar Central Institute of Civil Service.—Chin State IPRD

Township authorities discuss development of Myawady Township



MYAWADY, 15 Dec—A implementation of regional coordination meeting on development projects took

place at the hall of Myawady District General Administration Department, Kayin State, on 11 December.

District's deputy commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo and departmental officials focused on allotment of budget to the district in the 2014-15 fiscal year, the formation of eight committees to alleviate poverty of the people in line with the guidance of President U Thein Sein, taxation, land

utilization, and consumer protection.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)



Local women attend vocational courses in Myeik

MYEIK, 15 Dec — The Vocational Training School for the Women under the Education and Training Department of the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development opened advanced tailoring course No. 39 and the basic domestic science course No. 68 in Myeik, Taninthay Region, on Monday.

Myeik District's deputy commissioner U Aung Kyaw Tun explained the purpose of training courses to uplift the living standards of local women.

Departmental officials viewed teaching materials and equipment of

the courses.

A total of 60 female trainees are attending the courses to be conducted for 14 weeks each.

The training school in Myeik opened 81 courses in the time of the previous government to turn out 2,160 trainees. Under the present government, it has turned out 814 trainees in 27 courses.

Among the graduated trainees, 1,643 women successfully run their businesses, applying what they learned from the training courses.

Khaing Htoo
(Myeik District IPRD)



REGIONAL

All members of Abe's Cabinet to retain jobs

TOKYO, 15 Dec — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe plans to retain all members of his Cabinet, a Liberal Democratic Party lawmaker said on Monday, a day after the party's victory in the House of Representatives election.

Major LDP executives such as Secretary General Sadakazu Tanigaki will also remain in their posts, according to the lawmaker. The LDP and its junior coalition partner, the Komeito party, retained a two-thirds majority in the powerful lower house.

Abe agreed with Komeito leader Natsuo Yamaguchi on the main policy measures, including a soon-to-be-compiled economic stimulus package, when they met on Monday.

The ruling coalition is considering introducing a lower tax rate on daily necessities in fiscal 2017. The government plans to raise the consumption tax rate to 10 percent in April that year from the current 8 percent, having earlier postponed the increase by 18 months.

During a special parlia-

mentary session beginning 24 December, Abe is also expected to be re-elected as Japan's 97th prime minister. Meanwhile, the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan is now in talks on choosing a successor to its leader Banri Kaieda, who lost his seat in Sunday's general election.

Kaieda announced his resignation at a press conference on Monday. Goshi Hosono, a former secretary general of the party, is among potential candidates for the top post.

Kyodo News



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) shakes hands with Komeito leader Natsuo Yamaguchi in Tokyo on 15 Dec, 2014, after their ruling coalition retained a two-thirds majority in the lower house. During their meeting, they signed a policy agreement, which includes the promotion of "Abenomics."—KYODO NEWS

First dead dolphin spotted after massive spill on world's largest mangrove forest river



A bird is trapped in oil on the Shela River after an oil-tanker capsized near Sundarbans mangrove forest in Bangladesh, on 14 Dec, 2014. An Irrawaddy dolphin's body has been discovered floating in the Shela River five days after a massive spill on the world's largest mangrove forest river.—XINHUA

DHAKA, 15 Dec — An Irrawaddy dolphin's body has been discovered floating in the Shela River five days after a massive spill on the world's largest man-

grove forest river.

Syed Zakir Hossain, a photojournalist of leading local newspaper *Dhaka Tribune*, located the first dead body of the dolphin in the Harintana-Tambulbunia channel of the Shela River flowing through the Sundarbans forest on Saturday.

Quoting Hossain, *Dhaka Tribune Sunday* filed a report in this connection and published an exclusive photo of the body of the floating dolphin.

It said reports of sightings of corpses of other wild animals were already coming in on Friday, but this is the first confirmed sighting of dolphin remains.

Since the Shela River is a sanctuary for two types of dolphins, a major concern after a tanker capsized and went down with over 350,000 liters of oil was the well-being of these sensitive and rare marine creatures.

Environmentalists have expressed grave concerns over the incident, saying that the plants and aquatic resources of Sundarbans would suffer a big blow due to the oil spill in a vast area.

The oil spill poses a serious threat to all the aquatic creatures including the dolphins in that part of the river as the amount of oxygen in the water is likely to decrease, they added.

Oil tanker Southern Star 7, carrying 357,664 liters of furnace oil, sank in the river after being hit by a cargo vessel on Tuesday. The body of the tanker's captain was recovered earlier in the day.

Xinhua

Modi congratulates Abe on election victory

NEW DELHI, 15 Dec — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday congratulated his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe on his victory in Sunday's general election.

Modi conveyed his wishes via tweets posted in the morning.

"Congratulations @AbeShinzo on your victory in the elections. Japan will scale newer heights of progress under your able leadership. I look forward to continuing to work closely with @AbeShinzo to strengthen the relations between India and Japan," Modi said.

Abe's election victory was given prime coverage in Monday's Indian newspapers.

The *Times of India*, a leading English-language daily, carried the front-page headline "Landslide in Japan: supermajority for Abe in lower house." Another newspaper, *The Hindu*, also carried a report on its front page titled "Abe reelected Japan premier."—Kyodo News

Philippines calls one-month ceasefire with Maoists for Xmas, Pope

MANILA, 15 Dec — Philippine President Benigno Aquino has suspended army operations against Maoist guerrillas for a month to mark Christmas and a visit by Pope Francis, the head of the military said on Monday.

The unilateral ceasefire will start at midnight on 18 December and end at midnight on 19 January, the day the Pope, the head of the more than 1.2 billion Roman Catholic world-wide, is scheduled to leave the Philippines, General Gregorio Catapang said.

"The declaration of the suspension of military offensive against the New People's Army will highlight the government's sincerity to pursue peace," Catapang said in a statement.

It will be the longest Christmas truce in three decades.

The communist rebels have been fighting to overthrow the government for 45 years. The conflict has killed more than 40,000 people and stunted growth in resource-rich rural areas.

The 4,000-member guerrilla force, largely based in mining areas on the southern island of Mindanao, is expected to declare a shorter truce over Christmas and the New Year.—Reuters

Philippines files murder charges against US Marine

MANILA, 15 Dec — Philippine prosecutors on Monday filed murder charges against a US marine over the death of a transgender Filipino outside a former US Navy base, in a case that could test the close security ties between the two allies.

A transgender Filipino was found dead on 11 October in a hotel toilet in Olonapo City, northwest of Manila. Private First Class Joseph Scott Pemberton was named a suspect. He is detained at a US facility at the main Philippine army base in Manila.

"We filed a murder case," said Emilie Fe delos Santos, head of the public prosecutor's team, adding that she believed there was a strong case, after having reviewed the evidence.

"It's a capital offense so there will be no bail. There was aggravated treachery, abuse of superior strength and cruelty." The crime has added to pressure on the government of President Benigno Aquino to renegotiate the US-Philippine Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), testing security ties as the two allies face grow-

ing tension in the South China Sea. Manila and Washington signed the enhanced defence cooperation pact in April, allowing US forces a greater and sustained presence in the Philippines for maritime security and disaster and humanitarian operations. Nine American warships canceled port visits in October and November, after Pemberton's arrest.

The trial court in Olonapo City handling the case is expected to issue an arrest warrant within the week, as well as an order to put Pemberton in jail.—Reuters



Participants compete in mud race for charity in southern Thai city, on 14 Dec, 2014.—XINHUA

Hostages held in Sydney cafe, forced to hold Islamic flag in window



Hands are pressed up against the window of the Lindt cafe, where hostages are being held, in this still image taken from video from Australia's Seven Network on 15 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

SYDNEY, 15 Dec — Australian police locked down the center of the country's biggest city on Monday after an armed assailant walked into a downtown Sydney cafe, took hostages and forced them to display an Islamic flag, igniting fears of a jihadist attack.

Police said they knew of one armed assailant involved in the incident at the Lindt chocolate cafe in the heart of Sydney's financial district, but there could be more.

Police, including heavily armed paramilitary officers, cordoned off several blocks around the cafe as negotiators tried to defuse one of the biggest security scares in Australia for decades. Snipers and a SWAT team could be seen taking up positions around the cafe and police helicopters flew overhead.

At least five hostages have escaped since the mid-morning siege began. It was not clear how many

more hostages remained in the cafe but it was not as high as the 30-40 that had been reported earlier, police said.

Prime Minister Tony Abbott, who has warned of militant plans to strike Australian targets, said there were indications the hostage situation at the cafe was politically motivated.

"This is a very disturbing incident. I can understand the concerns and anxieties of the Australian people," Abbott told reporters in Canberra, without providing any information on the siege.

Australia, a staunch ally of the United States and its escalating action against the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq, is on high alert for attacks by homegrown militants returning from fighting in the Middle East.

"We have moved to a footing that would be consistent with a terrorist event," Andrew Scipione, police commissioner for the



A police officer runs across Martin Place near Lindt cafe, where hostages are being held, in central Sydney on 15 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

state of New South Wales, told reporters in Sydney.

The cafe was directly opposite a commercial television studio and footage earlier showed several people inside the cafe standing with their hands pressed against the windows.

Pictures showed a black and white flag similar to those used by Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria being held up by what appeared to be a staff member and another woman. Local media reports said the flag was the Shahada, a general expression of faith in Islam, a translation of which is: "There is no god but Allah; Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah."

The incident forced the evacuation of nearby buildings in Sydney's central business district and sent shockwaves around a country where many people have started to turn their attention to the approaching Christmas festive season following earlier security scares.

In September, Australian anti-terrorism police said they had thwarted an imminent threat to behead a random member of the public and days later, a teenager in Melbourne was shot dead after attacking two anti-terrorism officers with a knife.

Dozens of heavily armed police surrounded the cafe in Martin Place after the siege began around 9:45 am local time. The area is home to the Reserve Bank of Australia, commercial banks and close to the New South Wales state parliament.

"I walked up to the door and then everyone was sitting down and the door's locked which is pretty weird because it's never locked and there was one guy walking around with a hat and a beard," a man who identified himself as Bruno, a worker at the cafe, told the Australian Broadcasting Corp, referring to the suspected assailant. He said he then turned away.



A hostage runs towards a police officer outside Lindt cafe, where other hostages are being held, in Martin Place in central Sydney on 15 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

Several hours into the siege, police led about two dozen people out of a building opposite the cafe and through the cordon. Others were evacuated from the building above the cafe by ladder, television pictures showed.

Earlier, Lindt Australia Chief Executive Steve Loane told Sky Business there were about 10 staff working at the cafe and "probably 30 customers" although he said that figure was an estimate.

The Reserve Bank of Australia said staff had been locked down inside the building, and were all safe and accounted for.

The nearby US consulate was also evacuated, according to an embassy spokeswoman, along with the Sydney Opera House. Tourists were being let back into the world-famous venue by early afternoon.

Major banks closed their offices in the central business district and people were told to avoid the area.

Shops in a four block radius were shut, leaving large parts of the CBD all but deserted by mid-afternoon.

Traders in currency markets said the hostage news may have contributed to a dip in the Australian dollar, which was already under pressure from global risk aversion as oil prices fell anew.

Ray Hadley, a popular radio jockey, said he had been contacted by a hostage and could hear the suspected gunman issuing orders in the background. Police declined to comment on Hadley's claim.

Concerns about an attack in Australia by radical Islamists have been growing for more than a year, with the security agency raising its national terrorism public alert to "high" in September. That month, a spokesman for the Islamic State urged supporters in Western nations, including Australia, to attack civilians or military personnel at home.—Reuters

Australia PM says unknown if hostage situation politically motivated



Australia's Prime Minister Tony Abbott (C)

SYDNEY, 15 Dec — Australian Prime Minister

ter Tony Abbott said on Monday it was unclear if the siege at a Sydney cafe, where hostages are being held, was politically motivated.

"We don't yet know if this is politically motivated, although there are some indications that it might be," Abbott told reporters in Canberra.

"This is a very disturbing incident. I can understand the concerns and anxieties of the Australia people," Abbott said, without providing any information on the unfolding siege.

Reuters

Canada, China to sign deal on return of fugitives' seized assets

BEIJING, 15 Dec — Canada is set to sign a deal with China to return ill-gotten assets seized from those suspected of economic crimes, the official *China Daily* reported on Monday, as Beijing works to track down corrupt officials who have fled overseas.

The world's second-largest economy has vowed to pursue a "fox hunt" for corrupt officials and business executives, and their assets, beyond its borders.

But western countries have balked at signing extradition deals with China, partly out of concern about the integrity of its judicial system and treatment of

prisoners.

The pact will cover "the return of property related to people who would have fled to Canada and would have been involved in corrupt activities", Canada's ambassador to China, Guy Saint-Jacques, told the *China Daily* in an interview.

A spokesman for Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird promised to provide a comment on Monday.

China has extradition pacts with 39 countries but not the United States or Canada, which are among the two most popular destinations for suspected economic fugitives, according to the Foreign Ministry.

Rights groups say

torture is widely used by Chinese authorities and the death penalty is common in corruption cases.

China's Foreign Ministry has said it is considering suing people suspected of financial crimes who have fled abroad.

Lai Changxing, once China's most-wanted fugitive, fled to Canada with his family in 1999, seeking refugee status after what he called politically motivated accusations of having run a multi-billion-dollar smuggling operation.

After a Canadian court rejected his refugee bid, dismissing concerns he could be tortured or executed if sent home, Lai was deport-

ed in 2011 and was jailed for life the next year.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has vowed to go after high-ranking "tigers" as well as lowly "flies" in his campaign against corruption.

The Washington-based Global Financial Integrity Group estimates that \$1.08 trillion (£687.2 billion) flowed out of China illegally from 2002 to 2011.

China this month asked the US to help it track down more than 100 people suspected of corruption. At least 428 Chinese suspects were captured abroad by the end of October under the "fox hunt" campaign, state media reported.—Reuters

Russia to help Ukrainians despite anti-Russian rhetoric — Russian PM



Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev.—ITAR-TASS

Moscow, 15 Dec — The Ukrainian authorities failed to work out the plan for their country's development better than anti-Russian rhetoric, however Moscow will not yield to provocations, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said. In his article titled "Russia and Ukraine: Life by New Rules" published by Nezavisimaya Gazeta daily on Monday, Medvedev wrote that Russia, would on the contrary continue supporting people in the neighbouring country considering the fact

that the most difficult times for the Ukrainian economy are yet to come. "We in Russia are concerned with these events in Ukraine as with our own pain, help even those, who accept our support with a smirk and continue living under the motto 'Ukraine is not Russia,'" Medvedev said. "I sincerely regret that representatives of the Ukrainian elite failed to neither propose nor implement any other strategic programme for the country's development."

"No matter what insin-

uations are addressed at us, we have no right to yield to provocations and have no right to forget that on the other side of the border live people close to us in spirit, culture, mentality, people whose fate will be always important to us," he said.

The prime minister said that only within one year Ukraine plunged into the split of society, slump in economy, outburst of radicalism "including sincere flaunting of Nazi symbols," as well as into combat actions "on their own land against their own compatriots."

"Only one year passed but only memories were now left from the close to us country, with which we were friends, conducted trade and where we traveled to spend vacations and visit relatives," Medvedev said.

Ukraine has been in deep crisis since the end of last year, when then-President Viktor Yanukovich suspended the signing of an association agreement with the European Union to study the deal more thoroughly.

The move triggered mass riots that eventually led to a coup in February 2014.

The coup that brought chaos to Ukraine prompted the Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol with a special status to refuse to recognize the legitimacy of coup-imposed authorities, hold a referendum and secede from Ukraine to reunify with Russia in mid-March after some 60 years as part of Ukraine. After that, mass protests erupted in Ukraine's southeast, where local residents, apparently inspired by Crimea's example, did not recognize the coup-imposed authorities either, formed militias and started fighting for their rights.

Kiev's military operation designed to regain control over the breakaway Donetsk and Luhansk regions in Ukraine's southeast on the border with Russia, which call themselves the Donetsk and Luhansk People's republics, has left thousands of people dead, brought destruction and forced hundreds of thousands to flee.—*Itar-Tass*

Author of interrogation memo says CIA maybe went too far



The lobby of the CIA Headquarters Building in McLean, Virginia, on 14 Aug. 2008. —REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 15 Dec — As former Vice President Dick Cheney argued on Sunday that the CIA's aggressive interrogation of terrorism suspects did not amount to torture, the man who provided the legal rationale for the programme said that in some cases it had perhaps gone too far.

Former Justice Department lawyer John Yoo said the sleep deprivation, rectal feeding and other harsh treatment outlined in a US Senate report last week could violate anti-torture laws.

"If these things happened as they're described in the report ... they were not supposed to be done. And the people who did those are at risk legally because they were acting outside their orders," Yoo said on CNN's "Fareed Zakaria GPS".

As Deputy Assistant US Attorney General in the Office of Legal Counsel in 2002, Yoo co-wrote a memo that was used as the legal sanction for what the CIA called its programme of enhanced interrogation techniques after the 11 September attacks.

The memo said only prolonged mental harm or serious physical injury, such as organ failure, violated the Geneva Convention's ban on torture. Aggressive interrogation methods like waterboarding fell short of that mark.

Yoo's comments on Sunday contrasted with those of Cheney and former national security of-

ficials who invoke his memo to argue that the harsh treatment of detainees was legal. "They specifically authorized and okayed what we did," Cheney said on NBC's "Meet the Press". "No one tortured anyone else," former CIA counterterrorism head Jose Rodriguez said on "Fox News Sunday".

The Senate Intelligence Committee's review of 6.3 million pages of CIA documents, released on Tuesday, found that some captives were deprived of sleep for more than a week, at times with their hands shackled above their heads, while others were abused sexually.

"Looking at it now, I think of course you can do these things cumulatively or too much that it would cross the line of the anti-torture statute," Yoo said on the C-SPAN television network.

He questioned whether the report's findings were reliable, given it was produced only by Democrats who had a political incentive to cherry-pick the worst examples. The report concluded the CIA misled the White House and the public about the program and failed to disrupt a single plot. Those findings have been disputed by former CIA officials. Cheney said he was not concerned that the torture program ensnared victims of mistaken identity, and said he had no regrets. "I'd do it again in a minute," he said.—*Reuters*

Denmark to claim slice of continental shelf in Arctic Ocean

COPENHAGEN, 15 Dec — Denmark will claim on Monday ownership of around 900,000 square kilometres of the continental shelf in the Arctic Ocean by filing documents to United Nations.

"The submission of our claim to the continental shelf north of Greenland is a historic and important milestone for the Kingdom of Denmark," minister of foreign affairs Martin Lidegaard said in a statement.

Denmark, along with Canada, Norway, Russia and the United States — is eager to control as much Arctic territory as it can. The region contains 30 percent of the world's undiscovered natural gas and 15 percent of its oil, according to the US Geological Survey.

The government said the project aims to define the outer limits of Denmark's continental shelf and thereby the Kingdom of Denmark. The area is as large as France and Germany put together and



Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs Martin Lidegaard (L) speaks next to Director General of the Global Green Growth Institute Yvo de Boer at the Global Green Growth Forum in Copenhagen, on 21 Oct, 2014.

REUTERS

20 times bigger than Denmark itself.

States are entitled to a continental shelf extending 200 nautical miles from their coast. Claims beyond that must be supported by scientific and technical data.

Against this background, experts have collected and processed data since 2002 from the area north of Greenland for the submission to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.

Denmark acknowledges that Norway's continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles overlaps the Danish claim. It may also overlap with claims by Canada, Russia and the United States.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 16 December, 2014

No side can go it alone

By Myint Win Thein

Most people in Myanmar traditionally stay away from politics although they unknowingly participate in national causes which can be termed as body politics. As they do not want to accept that they are political animals, they never try to study the political science of what is taking place around them, let alone learning various laws and the mechanisms of the three pillars of the state, namely the administrative, legislative and judiciary branches.

They therefore have little knowledge about laws and the mechanisms of the three pillars of the state, as was also the case during the reigns of previous successive governments. Those governments decided everything they thought was good for the public and monopolized ownership of those decisions. Their decisions were aloof and the people simply had to work just for their living without being required to work for the nation. As a result, whatever these governments did failed and the image of the country was damaged. Obviously, they were not able to lead the country into prosperity.

However, the people are now required to possess sound knowledge about laws and the three pillars of the state in the democratic transition. Only then will they be able to influence the decisions of the three state pillars and amend laws that hinder the prosperity of the country.

The failures of previous successive governments show that ownership of decisions of the state must also be shared with the people. If a decision is owned both by the state and the people, it enables both parties to work together towards successful implementation. Not only must members of the general public involve themselves in politics, the government must pave way for them to participate in the affairs of the state as no side can go it alone.

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Save water, don't waste!

By Khin Maung Myint

The dry season had already set in and its effects are starting to be felt. The water levels in the rivers, streams, creeks, lakes, pools, ponds and reservoirs are beginning to gradually recede. Not very long, some may even dry up as the dry season progressed. The effects of the scarcity of water would be more noticeable in the dry zones, where they received very low amount of rainfalls. However, the people living in areas where there are abundance of water supply would not realize the hardships of those who do not have easy access to water. As I had been to such dry and draught stricken places, I knew their problems full well and learned to value the water.

In fact, water is not only the source of life for every living being, but also a necessity for trees and plants. If there is no water there would be no life, whatsoever, on earth. So we should conserve the water as much as possible. It is one of nature's gifts and is the main conservator of the nature as well.

We should not waste water, as it is the most precious thing for our survival. Some people dwelling in urban areas of Yangon, where there are no severe water shortages, may not understand the hardships of the water shortage problems. Only those living in the outlying or sub-urban areas know and are suffering from these problems. We are lucky to belong to the group, who do not have to suffer very much from

those problems. We should be considerate to those who had to suffer, so we should not waste water and make every effort to conserve it.

Many of us are not aware of the fact that the majority of our population do not have access to clean water. In some places only stagnant water from ponds and pools are available for consumption. Some fortunate ones will have access to water from streams, creeks and rivers where there are running water, which can be deemed as clean. However, as they are not properly treated, they too are not hygienic. In the dry zones, to get an earthen potful of water would take hours of patient waiting under the scorching sun to collect, during the dry seasons. When the rivers, streams, creeks, pools and ponds had dried up people have to scrape the sand beds to make small pits and scoop what-

ever little water that seeped out with coconut shells and fill their pots. The water thus collected has a murky colour, but that was quite good enough for drinking, for those poor people.

Keeping those in mind, we, who are blessed with easy access to tap water or running water supplied right to our homes, should have consideration for those who are not as fortunate as we are. We should not waste the precious water. There are many who are not being responsible or dutiful citizens. Every morning before dawn, I used to run the water pump to fill the overhead tank. I always stay close to the switch so that I can switch off the pump the moment I hear the water overflowing. On many occasions I noticed the sounds of water overflowing from nearby houses, which could go on for quite a long time. As it was still dark I could not know

from which houses they were and that fact made me frustrated, because I was unable to report to the authority as I cannot pinpoint the houses that were wasting water. The persons who were operating the pumps must have fallen asleep or just not paying attention. This revealed their disregard to others and their ignorance of the preciousness of water. They should be penalized.

Other examples of water wastage are the unrepaired leaking underground water supply pipes and faulty faucets in homes and at public places. It is not rare to see water seeping out of the ground by the roadsides along the route I used to take for my morning walks. Some may remain the same way for months on end, without anyone bothering to repair them. Also, many may

have seen water being wasted due to faulty faucets or valves at public places like the offices, schools, monasteries, cinemas, train stations, bus terminals, public toilets etc; left unrepaired.

With the devastating climate change threatening the balance of the ecosystems, we should be more concerned about water conservation. It is not only our life line, but also the survival of the whole world including fauna and flora, depends on water. In my opinion it is high time that the people of Myanmar are more concerned with the conservation of water and each and everyone should observe their civic duties and get involved in the process of water conservation by not wasting it.

Looking forward to a civic duty minded society.

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

Myanmar Provident Fund (MPF) to grant life of service personnel

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec — The Myanmar Provident Fund (MPF) system is to be implemented for granting livelihoods of the servants of government and private companies after their retirement, Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun told the MPF implementation committee meeting at the government office in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

Deputy Ministers U Tin Oo Lwin, U Thant Shin, Dr Thein Thein Htay and Daw Win Maw Tun and Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo discussed expertise for Myanmar

Provident Fund (MPF), implementation of free education system, health care services and health insurances, social security and legal affairs.

Officials of Union Civil Services Board, Central Bank of Myanmar, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Construction took part in the discussions on cooperation of departments in MPF system.

In conclusion, the Union Minister stressed the need to enact the Myanmar Provident Fund Law, grant the government service personnel and private companies' staff to get own

housing after retirement, to uplift education, health and social security, ensure social security of the nation and provide assistance for financial and monetary policies of the State.—MNA

Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun highlights implementation of Myanmar Provident Fund (MPF) system for granting livelihoods of government service personnel and company employees.

MNA



NATIONAL

Union LFRD minister opens rural development training course

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec — Union Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Ohn Myint opened a training course for a rural development programme in Insein, Yangon, in the first week of this month.

The union minister said his ministry is acting as a focal institution for rural development programmes, working together with partner groups, INGOs and NGOs.

He also said that the training course is aimed at helping the country graduate from the Least Developed Countries, improve per capita income, enhance socioeconomic development and boost agricultural and livestock production.



Union Minister U Ohn Myint speaking at opening of rural development programme course.—MNA

The course will cover such things as selecting livestock model villages, forming breeders' organizations, implementing

livestock business by using banking services and organizing fund management committees.

The minister then vis-

ited the fishery department and urged the staff to closely monitor the livelihoods of rural people and support relief assistance when they experience disasters.

MNA

Asphalt road, Paunglaung Bridge under construction in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec — Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin inspected construction of conduits and culverts, and placing of asphalt on Muntegwin-Kyitaung-Khawma-Nay Pyi Taw road in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

on 14 December.

At the briefing hall, Deputy Superintending Engineer U Maung Maung Nyunt reported to the union minister on implementation of the 480-foot long Paunglaung Bridge project.

The union minister viewed progress of approach structures on both sides of the bridge, piers and bored piles at the bridge construction project in Dekkhina District of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.—MNA

BIDV sponsors SEA Caravan Programme

YANGON, 15 Dec — Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Myanmar Tourism Federation, YCDC, Vietnam Tourism Authority, Myanmar and Vietnamese travel companies participated in the Road Show Introduction to Vietnam Tourism in Yangon on 11 December while the South East Asia Caravan

Programme was launched from 4 to 16 December, travelling from Vietnam to Laos, Thailand, Myanmar and Cambodia.

Bank for Investment and Development of Vietnam (BIDV) sponsored the Caravan Programme and Road Show.

The programme's main activities include sur-

vey tourist attractions on the East-West Economic Corridor. The survey team visited the popular tourism sites for each country to design attract tours.

BIDV has the capacity and willingness to support tourism and hotel businesses in CLMV countries, sources said.

GNLM

Information Ministry says official spellings required in renewing publication licenses

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec — Publishers seeking to renew licenses for their publications must not use names or spellings in their applications that contravene the Adaptation of Expression Law, according to a statement of the Ministry of Information.

The statement comes after the Irrawaddy Publishing Group on Dec. 2 applied to extend the li-

cences of two of its publications: The Irrawaddy, an English-language news magazine, and the Myanmar-language Irrawaddy Weekly Journal.

It said the names and spelling used in the applications for license extensions of these two publications do not meet with the Adaptation of Expression Law adopted under the State Law and Order Res-

toration Council in 1989.

Therefore, the ministry has informed to Chiang Mai-based publisher to use the existing Myanmar name, Ayeyawady, or some other official word that is in accordance with law for names of journal and magazines, although the media can continue to use its present spelling, Irrawaddy, for its trademark and logo in its publications.—MNA

Ponnagyun power station, centre of electrification to townships in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec — Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe viewed round the control room and the switch yard at Sittway power station, Rakhine State, on 14 December and gave instructions on maintenance of machinery at the power station for its durability.

The union minister

also visited Ponnagyun main power station in the afternoon. The union minister pointed out that Ponnagyun 230 KV main power station plays an important role in supplying electricity to MraukU, Kyauktaw, Ponnagyun and Sittway townships and northern part of Rakhine State, emphasis is to be placed on maintenance of the power station.

He instructed officials to supply electricity to the major cities and other townships on priority.

At Kyauktaw power station, the union minister inspected progress of a switch yard and supply of electricity at the control room.

MNA

Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe visits control room of a main power station on his inspection tour of Rakhine State.

MNA



Artistes practise songs and music entertainments

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Dec — The 67th Anniversary Independence Day and the Grand Military Review ceremonies will be held in Nay Pyi Taw on 4 January 2015.

Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu,

who is also chairman of the invitation, reception and entertainment subcommittee for the ceremony, Director-General U Yan Naing Oo of Fine Arts Department and officials viewed participation of artistes in

preparations on songs and music presentation.

Artistes from Fine Arts Department will present songs and music in commemoration of the grand ceremonies.

MNA

Ceremony to mark 40th

(from page 1)

and availability of clean drinking water while the Ministry of Border Affairs is engaging in regional development tasks.

He added that job opportunities will be created for locals as they will be able to work in Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone.

In conclusion, he urged the local people to

join hand with the government for sustainable and peaceful development.

Afterwards, Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe explained the measures taken for electricity supply in the entire Rakhine State.

Later, the chief minister presented prizes for most development town and village to winners,

outstanding government employees and staff of the Ministry of Electric Power in the state before paying respects to Grandma Daw Kya Zan who is 108 years old.

Electrification for Rakhine State was carried out with the use of generators as of 1948. In the time of new government, the state is being supplied electricity through power grid.

MNA



Photo taken on 14 Dec, 2014 shows a damaged vehicle remains after a clash between teachers of the State Coordinator of Education Workers of Guerrero and agents of the Federal Police in Chilpancingo, Guerrero state, Mexico. At least nine people were injured during the clash.—XINHUA

Saudi Arabian security man shot dead in Riyadh

DUBAI, 15 Dec — A gunman holding three labourers hostage in the Saudi capital Riyadh shot dead a member of the security forces when police tried to free the captives, police said on Monday. The gunman was later arrested and the three labourers were freed, a police statement on Sunday's incident said. There was no immediate word on the man's identity or his motivation.

"An unknown man carrying an automatic weapon

took three labourers hostage near al-Hamoud mosque ... and threatened to shoot passersby," state news agency SPA quoted a Riyadh police spokesman as saying in a statement. "When police surrounded him and asked him to drop his weapon he opened fire heavily," the statement said. The security forces member was killed in an exchange of fire and two people, including a civilian, were wounded, he said.

The attacker was wounded and arrested, the

police spokesman said.

Saudi officials have said this year they are concerned about a rise in domestic Islamist militancy due to conflicts in Iraq and Syria. The government has decreed tough penalties for terrorist crimes. Earlier on Sunday, police reported that an unidentified attacker killed a member of Saudi Arabia's security forces near a village where unrest among the country's Shi'ite Muslim minority has been focused.—Reuters

Blast wounds 7 in northern Afghanistan

PUL-E-KHUMRI, 15 Dec — Seven people, including four civilians, were injured as a blast rocked Dahnai Ghor district in the northern Baghlan Province with Pul-e-Khumri as its capital 160 km north of Kabul on Monday, a local official said.

"The terrorists planted

explosive device on a motorbike and detonated it by remote control next to the office of district governor in Dahnai Ghor district at noon time, injuring seven people, including four civilians," District Governor Khanzada Mazlomyar told Xinhua. Deputy to district

police chief is also among the injured in the blast, he added. The official blamed the attack on Taliban militants. However, the armed outfit fighting the government and largely relying on roadside and suicide bombings is yet to claim responsibility.—Xinhua

About 300 Chinese said fighting alongside Islamic State in Middle East

BEIJING, 15 Dec — About 300 Chinese people are fighting alongside the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, a Chinese state-run newspaper said on Monday, a rare tally that is likely to fuel worry in China that militants pose a threat to security.

China has expressed concern about the rise of Islamic State in the Middle East, nervous about the effect it could have on its Xinjiang region. But it has also shown no sign of wanting to join US efforts to use military force against the group.

Chinese members of the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) are travelling to Syria via Turkey to join the Islamic State, also



Smoke raises behind an Islamic State flag after Iraqi security forces and Shi'ite fighters took control of Saadiya in Diyala Province from Islamist State militants, on 24 Nov, 2014. — REUTERS

known as IS, the *Global Times*, a tabloid run by Chi-

na's ruling Communist Party's official newspaper, the

People's Daily, said. "According to information from

various sources, including security officers from Iraq's Kurdish region, Syria and Lebanon, around 300 Chinese extremists are fighting with IS in Iraq and Syria," the *Global Times* reported.

Chinese officials blame the ETIM for carrying out attacks in Xinjiang, home to the Muslim Uighur people. But the government has been vague about how many people from China are fighting in the Middle East.

In July, China's envoy to the Middle East, Wu Sike, cited media reports when he said about 100 Chinese citizens, most of them from the ETIM, were in the Middle East fighting or being trained.

China says ETIM militants are also holed up along the ungoverned Afghan-Pakistani border and want to create a separate state in Xinjiang, though many foreign experts doubt the group's cohesiveness.

Instead, human rights advocates argue that economic marginalization of Uighurs and curbs on their culture and religion are main causes of ethnic violence in Xinjiang that has killed hundreds of people in the past two years.

China has criticized the Turkish government for offering shelter to Uighur refugees who have fled China through southeast Asia and said such a channel creates security risks.—Reuters

Syrian army recaptures territory north of Aleppo in fierce fighting

BEIRUT, 15 Dec — Syria's army seized an area north of Aleppo on Sunday and killed insurgents as fierce battles raged over the strategic territory, a group monitoring the war and state media reported.

Syria's second city is at the heart of clashes between pro-government forces and a range of insurgents, including al-Qaeda's Syria wing, Islamist brigades and Western-backed rebels.

The United Nations Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura is seeking a local ceasefire in Aleppo to allow badly-needed humanitarian assistance into the divided northern city.

Insurgent-held districts have been flattened by Syrian air force bombardments, including bar-

rel bombs — crude explosive devices packed with shrapnel and nails.

Pro-government forces captured an area east of al-Malah farms outside Aleppo and is now aiming to secure parts in the west and cut off insurgent supply lines into the city, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

It said 34 fighters from Islamist groups including al-Qaeda's Nusra Front were killed when Syria's army attacked their positions with backup from local and foreign militias. It added that there were also battles south and east of the city.

Syria's state news agency said the army was tightening its "grip on terrorists in Aleppo after new

advances."

It said pro-government forces had captured all of the al-Malah area as well as areas south and west of Handarat town in the countryside and reported that a "huge number" of enemy fighters had been killed.

Western diplomats have voiced concerns about the ceasefire plan, saying it could be used by the government to take full control of the city and force rebels to surrender, as it did through a previous initiative in the central city of Homs, and then direct its forces elsewhere. The UN's de Mistura has defended the plan, saying that opposition forces backed the idea and has warned the fall of the city could create an additional 400,000 refugees. — Reuters



A locally made shell is launched by rebel fighters towards forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad at the frontline in al-Breij district of Aleppo on 10 Dec, 2014. — REUTERS

Volvo to launch online car sales in marketing shift

PARIS, 15 Dec — Volvo Car Corp said it will start selling vehicles online as it rolls out new models to compete with German luxury rivals such as BMW.

The Swedish carmaker, controlled by China's Geely [GEELY.UL], will gradually introduce web sales and spend more on digital advertising, it said as it outlined changes to its global marketing strategy on Monday.

"The plan is to have all our car lines in all our markets offered digitally," Volvo sales chief Alain Visser said in an interview. Few manufacturers have tried selling directly online. A notable exception is Tesla, whose electric car sales have



Workers assemble parts of a Volvo car at an assembly line of the new Volvo automobile manufacturing plant in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, on 5 June, 2013.

REUTERS

cut out traditional dealers, leading to conflict and effective exclusion from parts of the United States.

But Volvo has assured its 2,000 global dealerships, half of which are in Europe,

that it has no such plans. "If you say the word e-commerce, initially dealers get nervous," Visser said. "We don't see a car distribution network without dealers in the foreseeable future," he

said, adding that vehicles sold online "will still pass through the dealer network" for delivery. Volvo raised its 2014 sales goal in August as it launched a revamped XC90 crossover, the first ve-

hicle developed under Zhejiang Geely Holding Group ownership.

With its flagship SUV and other models to follow, Volvo is ratcheting up the gadgetry and glitz to woo Chinese customers without losing sight of core attributes including safety and uncluttered Scandinavian design.

The Swedish carmaker plans to withdraw from all but one motor show per year in each of three regions — Europe, North America and Asia — and stage its own global event instead. Volvo also said it would not follow rivals into city-centre boutique dealerships of the kind increasingly used by BMW, Mercedes-Benz and Audi

(VOWG_p.DE). "We're a different brand with limited financial means," Visser said. "We don't believe in building these big palaces."

Some 80 percent of Volvo customers already shop online for other goods, the sales chief added, and research suggests many will do the same for cars in future. But some analysts such as Stuart Pearson of Exane BNP Paribas remain sceptical, citing weak orders from experimental online sales of the BMW's i8 hybrid sports car. "BMW has tried it in Germany, but they really haven't had a huge amount of volume," Pearson said. "People still want to go into dealers."—Reuters

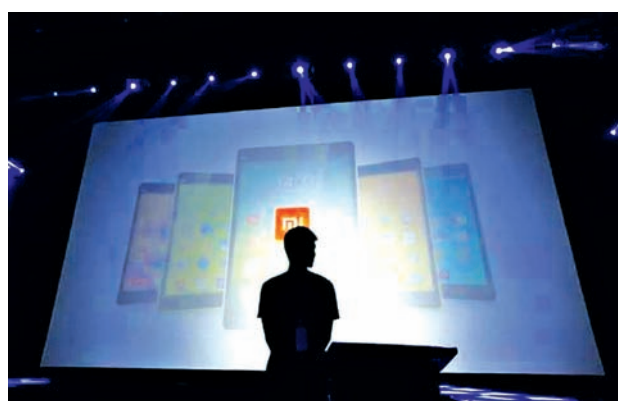
Xiaomi's India smartphone ban exposes wider patent risk

MUMBAI/BEIJING, 15 DEC — The court order that banned Chinese mobile maker Xiaomi from selling its phones in India has halted its breakneck expansion into the world's fastest growing major smartphone market and could be just the start of a string of patent challenges.

Xiaomi Technology [XTC.UL] only started selling in India in July and quickly became the country's fastest growing smartphone brand; with minimal marketing, it is already outselling even low-cost smartphones running Google's Android One.

Hugo Barra, the former Google executive now leading Xiaomi's international operations, told Reuters in November how rapidly the country had taken to his brand.

All it took was a single Facebook post to draw dozens of superfans to a



A security guard stands in front of a screen showing Xiaomi mobile phones ahead of the launching ceremony of Xiaomi Phone 4, in Beijing, on 22 July, 2014.—REUTERS

California Pizza Kitchen in Mumbai to meet him, he said.

"It was far more than we expected. The community has really, really embraced us," he said.

And then came Wednesday's court order to stop selling, after a patent infringement case was filed by telecom equipment maker Ericsson. The ban

will last until at least 5 February, when the Delhi court hears the case again.

But that is unlikely to be the end of the young company's battle over intellectual property (IP) rights.

Sources close to Xiaomi say its leadership has privately acknowledged for years its vulnerability to patent entangle-

ments. The higher risks of IP litigation in Western markets even played a role in shaping Xiaomi's strategy of expanding in India and Southeast Asia, the sources said.

Xiaomi said in a statement that "it isn't easy" to build up a patent portfolio as a start-up company, but it aims to have filed 8,000 applications by 2016.

On its home turf, Xiaomi has already been dogged by IP controversies with other Chinese firms, mostly over content rights for its streaming TV service.

As its smartphone business, already number one in China, continues to grow, however, industry analysts expect greater pressure at home, particularly since two of its fiercest handset rivals, Huawei and ZTE Corp, are among the top telecom patent holders in China.—Reuters

China's glaciers shrink by 18 pct in half century

BEIJING, 15 Dec — China's glaciers have retreated by about 7,600 square km, an 18 percent retreat since the 1950s, Chinese scientists have found. A survey using remote sensing data between 2006 and 2010 showed China had 48,571 glaciers covering 51,840 square km in the west region, according to the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), which released its second catalog of the country's glaciers on Saturday.

An average of 243.7 square km of glacial ice had disappeared every year over the past half century, according to the survey by the CAS Cold and Arid Regions Research Institute. The worst shrink was detected on the Altai Mountains located in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and the Gangdise Mountain in the Tibet Autonomous Region, with retreat hitting 37.2 percent and 32.7 percent respectively over the past five decades. Major glaciers on the Qinghai-Tibet plateau, especially the east part of Gangdise as well as the southern and western Himalayas were melting at the most rapid pace, with areas shrinking by 2.2 percent every year, according to the survey. —Xinhua



China resolves to promote low carbon urban development: top climate negotiator

LIMA, 15 Dec — China has been striving to take a new road of urbanization featured by intensive land use, smart city, and green and low carbon development, China's top climate negotiator said in Lima, Peru, on Wednesday. "As our country enters into the middle and later stage of industrialization, urbanization will become the main areas of future growth of carbon emissions and energy resources," said Xie Zhenhua, vice chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), who heads the Chinese delegation at the China Pavilion during the UN Climate Change Conference in Lima, capital of Peru.

At a side event of UN climate talks, Xie emphasized the importance of Chinese cities to meet the country's national goal of peaking emissions around 2030. The Chinese official said it is "quite realistic" for China to set a goal around 2030. China has 36 low carbon pilot cities and 55 pilot industrial parks, which aim to explore how sustainable design can be

better for people and the economy.

Acknowledging that previous economic growth had come at the expense of environmental destruction, Xie said China was aiming for more efficient and high quality development. "We have more to come," Xie promised, referring to the national plan each country is expected to produce in the first half of next year, adding that "acting on climate change is not something imposed by others; it is something we want to do ourselves." But he called for international cooperation "to achieve the win-win result for low carbon development" and also encouraged Chinese enterprises to join this process to push forward green and low carbon development in urban areas.

Xie was joined by Al Gore, former US vice president and now chairman of the Climate Reality Project, who spoke highly of China's efforts. "The historic handshake between China and the US has had an electrifying impact on the

world's efforts to find a deal on climate change," said Gore. In describing his hopes, Gore quoted three poets from China, Spain and the US respectively. He cited words of Chinese poet Lu Xun that "hope is a path on the mountainside. At first there is no path. But then there are people passing that way. And there is a path." Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director, urged the US and China to help bridge the gulf between rich and poor countries in the talks.

Andrew Steer, President of World Resources Institute, said there are 275,000 people a day moving to cities worldwide. Developing these cities' sustainability has big gains for quality of life and economic growth as well as keeping emissions down, he said. The activities in China Pavilion, which kicked off on 5 December, will present 17 events including forums and press conferences featuring China's efforts and achievements in addressing the climate change.

Xinhua

Russia arms sales grow as sales by largest arms producers fall

STOCKHOLM, 15 Dec — The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) states a growth in sales of Russian arms against a decline in sales by the largest arms producing companies, the SIPRI Top 100.

Under the annual report made public on Monday, last year the sales of arms and military services by the largest arms-producing companies totaled \$402 billion.

This list included 10 Russian companies, one company more than in 2012. According to



Last year arms sales by Russian-based companies increased by 20%, to \$32 billion.
ITAR-TASS

experts, last year sales by Russian-based companies increased by 20%, to \$32 billion.

The report said the Russian company with the largest increase in sales last year was Tactical Missiles Corporation, with a growth of 118%. It was followed by Almaz-Antei (34%) and United Aircraft Corporation (20%), the report said.

SIPRI experts say such an impressive growth in sales of Russian producers comes due to uninterrupted investment of the Russian government in military-industrial sector to bring it on

the par with US and Western European producers.

“The share of global arms sales for companies outside North America and Western Europe has been increasing since 2005,” says Aude Fleurant, Director of SIPRI’s Arms and Military Expenditure Program.

“For 2013, at 15.5 % of Top 100 arms sales, this share is at its highest point in the history of the SIPRI Top 100, which does not include China-based companies due to a lack of reliable data,” he said.

Itar-Tass

India to boost women taxi drivers, spurred by Uber rape claim

NEW DELHI, 15 Dec — The alleged rape of a woman passenger by an Uber taxi driver once again spotlights the risks of India’s transport system, which fails to keep women safe. One solution: Taxis driven by women for women.

Last year, the southern state of Kerala launched ‘She Taxis’, a fleet of 40 pink taxis run by women, and fitted with wireless tracking gear and panic buttons linked to call centers.

Now the service has become a model for Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government to replicate nationwide, its chief executive says. “The Delhi incident shows the need for ‘She Taxis’ all over the country,” PTM Sunish told Reuters.

‘She Taxis’ has ferried 24,000 people on about 10,000 trips since November 2013. Demand so far exceeds supply that as many as half of callers have to be turned away, Sunish said.

“I feel secure and the family is satisfied,” said Aswathy Sreekumar, 25, a technology worker who has used the service for seven months, after finishing work at midnight.

“Otherwise, I keep getting calls from my parents.” Rising sex crimes have prompted Indian states and small firms to launch taxi services run by women. The trend grew after December 2012 protests over the rape of a young woman on a moving bus in the capital, New Delhi, and her subsequent death.

Tougher laws and promises of better policing have proved ineffectual. India’s public transport is the fourth most dangerous in the world for women, and nighttime safety ranks second worst, a recent poll showed.

Women commuters face sexual harassment and public transport is seen as risky.

“The Uber incident reinforces that you are safer when a taxi is driven by a woman. People would be keener now,” said social activist Susieben Shah, who started Priyadarshini Taxi Service in 2010 in Mumbai. Now it aims to expand to New Delhi and the southern tech hub of Bengaluru.

Another company, Sakha Cabs, with 14 taxis in the capital, plans to expand in nearby western Jaipur and in eastern Kolkata.

Still, expansion is slow. Reluctant investors fear the tiny number of women drivers will brake future expansion, and India’s male-dominated social structure will deter aspirant drivers.

After the Uber incident India is stepping up support for such training, an official of the Ministry of Women & Child Development told Reuters. But critics say better security is the answer.

“Government always resorts to knee-jerk reactions,” said Ranjana Kumari, director of the Center for Social Research. “Failure in law and order implementation cannot be compensated by such measures.—Reuters

S Korea president’s brother summoned over document leakage

SEOUL, 15 Dec — State prosecutors on Monday summoned President Park Geun Hye’s younger brother, Park Ji Man, to question him about allegations he was involved in the leakage of secret presidential documents and also whether he is in a power struggle with the president’s former confidant.

The 56-year-old Park, head of a business firm, was called into the Seoul Central District Prosecutors’ Office as a witness.

President Park called the allegations “groundless rumours” and ordered prosecutors to launch a thor-

ough investigation into the scandal. Questioning of the president’s younger brother follows questioning of former and incumbent presidential secretaries.

Meanwhile, a policeman who formerly worked at the presidential office and was involved in the leakage, was found dead on Saturday in an apparent suicide.

The allegations involving her former aide and younger brother have dealt a serious setback to President Park, who is less than halfway through her five-year term.

The scandal, dubbed

“memogate,” created a stir after the *Segye Times*, a vernacular daily, cited a presidential secret document in its report last month that the president’s former confidant, Jeong Yun Hoe, had convened regular meetings with several senior presidential secretaries early this year and issued instructions on personnel choices.

Local reports said the documents were filed by presidential aides close to the president’s younger brother and were published by the daily to hurt Jeong.

Prosecutors questioned the 59-year-old Jeong last Wednesday in relation to

allegations he has colluded with presidential aides to wield influence in the management of state affairs.

Jeong, who was an assistant to Park when she was a member of the Grand National Party, now the Saenuri Party, in late 1990s and early 2000s, flatly denied all the allegations.

Jeong filed a libel suit against the *Segye Times*, which first reported the allegations, while the main opposition New Politics Alliance for Democracy filed a criminal complaint against him for interfering in state affairs.

Kyodo News

Gov’t, businessmen to join efforts in fighting shadow economy

BELGRADE, 15 Dec — Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic and a number of Serbian government ministers have met with members of the National Alliance for Local Economic Development (NALED) to discuss ways to fight the shadow economy.

During the meeting on Saturday, Vucic pointed out that the government had taken all measures to stop the shadow economy and urged the officials present to help in the implementation of those measures and the promotion of the fight against the shadow economy.

The prime minister told the businessmen at the meeting that there would be no new taxes imposed on businesses in the coming year, according to a release from the government’s media relations office.

“We are ready to help the government in the fight against the shadow economy, which takes away 30 percent of GDP every day, causing daily losses of



eight million euros to the state budget,” said Ramon Weidinger, chairman of the Fair Competition Alliance and general manager at Coca-Cola Hellenic Serbia.

Representatives of the Alliance put forward a set of 13 measures they claim would help reduce unfair competition that acts against legal economy, NALED has said in a release.

To strengthen the institutional capacity in those efforts, they proposed to set up an inter-ministerial working group to combat the shadow economy, who should develop and implement a national programme

to reduce the volume of illegal business.

They also proposed to put a number of government officials in charge of coordinating all activities in the fight against the shadow economy, who should report directly to the prime minister. They called for establishing a balanced system of concessions and penalties to help bring the shadow economy over into legal channels.

To that end, they proposed to prepare a White List of companies to grant concessions to, which they say would be a strong signal to everyone that legal busi-

ness is profitable.

They also put forward measures aimed at including citizens in efforts aimed at combating the grey zone and raising the tax morale.

The businessmen proposed launching a national campaign via public services to ensure public support for government measures in this area. In addition, they suggested launching a national lottery where citizens could compete for valuable prizes by way of collecting fiscal receipts. Besides Prime Minister Vucic, the meeting with the Alliance for Fair Competition was also attended by Deputy Prime Ministers Kori Udovicki and Rasim Ljajic, Finance Minister Dusan Vujovic, Economy Minister Zeljko Sertic, Labor Minister Aleksandar Vulin, Acting Director of the Tax Administration Marko Marinkovic, Police Director Milorad Veljovic, and officials of the Ministry of Justice and the Customs Administration.

Tanjung

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WEATHER REPORT

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 16th December, 2014: Isolated light rain are likely in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State, weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady Regions, Rakhine and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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**Paris climate summit faces tougher job
after modest Lima deal**

LIMA, 15 Dec — A Paris summit in 2015 will face a tougher task to agree a UN deal to slow climate change after the hopes of many that cooperation between Washington and Beijing would be a magic key to end global gridlock dissolved in chaotic preparatory talks in Lima.

At best, Paris may be a chance to reform a sprawling system of annual UN talks — more than 11,000 delegates attended the two-week talks in a tent city in Lima — and find ways to boost long-term action to stem rising greenhouse gas emissions.

After a frantic conclusion two days into overtime on Sunday, about 190 governments agreed only to some modest building blocks of a Paris accord despite high expectations for a positive outcome after the China and the United States, the world's top two emitters, last month agreed jointly to limit emissions.

But the political momentum of the deal gave way to the familiar divisions and “red lines” that routinely bog down talks, especially on the question of how to differentiate the responsibilities of rich and poor countries.

“The US-China announcement hinted at a fundamental shift putting developed and developing



Delegates rest during a break of the plenary session at the UN Climate Change Conference COP 20 in Lima on 13 Dec, 2014. —REUTERS

countries on a more equal footing. It's no surprise that in Lima a lot of developing countries pushed back,” said Elliot Diringer of the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions.

The United Nations says it is already clear that promises for emissions curbs at a Paris summit in December 2015 will be too weak to get on track for a UN goal of limiting global warming to 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 F) above pre-industrial times. “We will have a lot of work to do,” French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said of the task ahead for Paris.

Still, 2015 holds out a hope of reform for the UN system to rein in greenhouse gases blamed for causing heat waves, floods, droughts and rising sea levels. Paris could mark a shift

away from two decades of climate diplomacy toward a more technocratic system that would allow national pledges for action to limit warming to be compared and toughened in coming years. Yvo de Boer, a former UN climate chief, said one problem was that UN negotiators lacked authority. “If the leaders of the Group of 20 got together and said ‘let's get this done’ the whole thing would be over in 30 minutes,” he told Reuters. De Boer, who heads the Global Green Growth Institute, which helps developing nations, noted that annual climate talks have ballooned since 1,000 delegates attended a first meeting in 1994.

“Paris could be an opportunity to change that, if it identifies the cornerstones of the work that needs to be

done. It could make it into a technical process and not a political process,” he said.

So far, however, the signs even of that are not good.

Texts agreed in Lima will oblige governments to provide only vague plans for limiting greenhouse gas emissions — the cornerstone of a Paris deal — after China objected to a European Union drive for detailed accounts.

The outcome of the Lima talks, which attracted delegates ranging from OPEC oil ministers to vegans dressed as chickens, means that a Paris deal is likely to be a mere patchwork of national offers for curbing emissions.

Adding pressure, this year is set to be the warmest, or among the very hottest, on record, according to the UN weather agency.

Some long-time UN climate talk observers said the weak outcome from Lima proves that the UN multilateral process is not the best for climate action. Businesses and cities are among those taking action.

“While negotiators had difficulty in reaching agreement in Lima even on a modest set of outcomes, the UN is no longer the only show in town,” said Nathaniel Keohane of the Environmental Defence Fund.

Reuters

**Two jailed
for killing
endangered
donkey in
Tibet**

LHASA, 15 Dec — Two men received jail sentences after being convicted of killing a Kiang, a highly endangered Tibetan wild donkey in southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region.

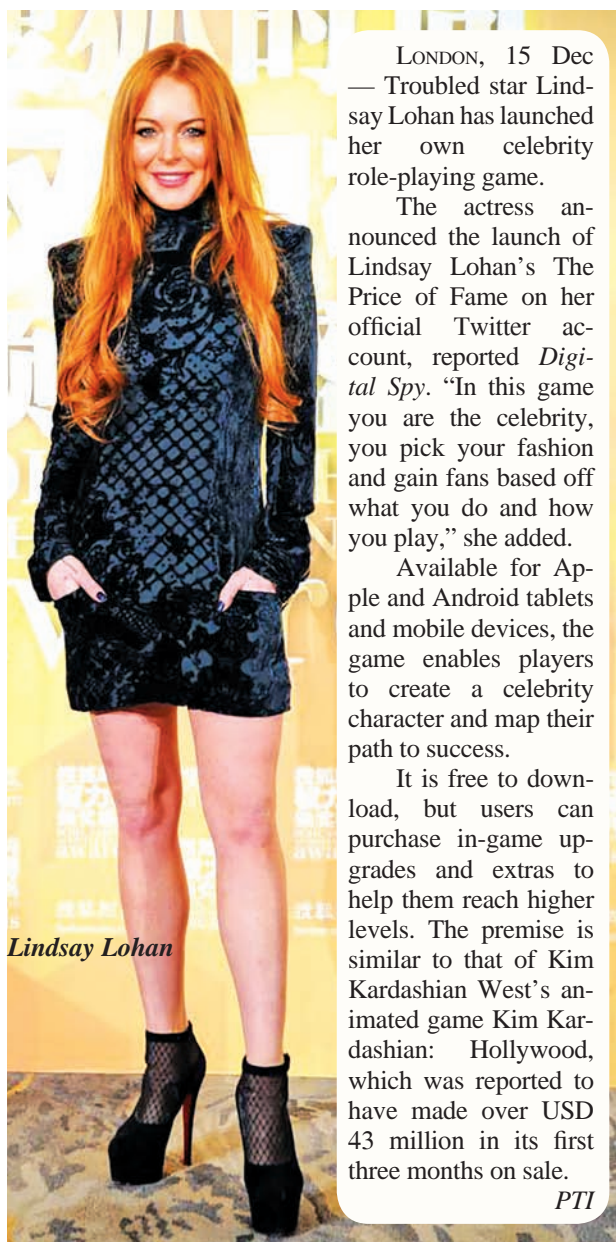
On Monday, the people's court in Zanda County sentenced Chen Haisheng to three years and six months in jail and his accomplice Li Ming one year in jail. Chen and Li were fined 80,000 yuan (13,082 U.S. dollars) and 20,000 yuan respectively.

The two chased and hit the animal in a vehicle on 9 August. After it collapsed, Chen killed it with a knife, disemboweled it and took the body to their workplace to cook for their co-workers. The two work for an electricity company from northwest China's Shaanxi Province.

Chen then shared a photo showing him posed with the body of the wild ass via messaging app WeChat. The picture ignited public outrage and the two were arrested two days later.

Tibet is home to scores of rare and endangered species, including black-necked cranes, Tibetan antelope, Tibetan wild ass, yaks and snow cocks.—Xinhua

Lindsay Lohan launches animated mobile game



Lindsay Lohan

LONDON, 15 Dec — Troubled star Lindsay Lohan has launched her own celebrity role-playing game.

The actress announced the launch of Lindsay Lohan's The Price of Fame on her official Twitter account, reported *Digital Spy*. "In this game you are the celebrity, you pick your fashion and gain fans based off what you do and how you play," she added.

Available for Apple and Android tablets and mobile devices, the game enables players to create a celebrity character and map their path to success.

It is free to download, but users can purchase in-game upgrades and extras to help them reach higher levels. The premise is similar to that of Kim Kardashian West's animated game *Kim Kardashian: Hollywood*, which was reported to have made over USD 43 million in its first three months on sale.

PTI

LONDON, 15 Dec — A 22-year-old South African woman, Rolene Strauss, won the Miss World 2014 beauty pageant in London on Sunday, the organizers said in a statement.

Hungary's Edina Kulcsár came second and Elizabeth Safrit, representing the United States, came third. This year's pageant, the 64th, was marred by tragedy after a Honduran beauty queen was found shot dead in a suspected crime of passion days before she was due to take part. The pageant's 124 contestants travelled to the Oxford Union society earlier this month to discuss whether such competitions still had a place in modern society. British media reported that some students from Oxford University were disappointed that the event failed to generate a lively debate on the subject.—Reuters

South African woman wins Miss World beauty pageant in London



Rolene Strauss of South Africa (C) is crowned Miss World 2014 by Miss World 2013, Megan Young of the Philippines (C rear), as Elizabeth Safrit of the US (R) and Edina Kulczar of Hungary (L) who placed third and second respectively, look on at the ExCel Centre in east London, on 14 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

'Blade Runner 2' is best script Harrison Ford ever read



Ridley Scott, says Harrison Ford is absolutely on board for the film.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 15 Dec — Ridley Scott, who directed the 1982 sci-fi classic 'Blade Runner', says Harrison Ford is absolutely on board for the film. Ford, 72, will reprise his role of Rick Deckard for the sequel, said the *Hollywood Reporter*.

"I sent him this (script), and he said it's the best thing he's ever read. It's very relevant to what happened in

the first one," Scott said. The 'Exodus' director added that he is currently unsure whether he would helm *Blade Runner*'s sequel. Scott also discussed his plans for a 'Prometheus' sequel, saying that the 2012 film's follow-up would center on the relationship between Elizabeth Shaw (Noomi Rapace) and David (Michael Fassbender).—PTI

Andrew Garfield may be replaced for future Spider-Man film

LOS ANGELES, 15 Dec — Actor Andrew Garfield may reportedly not feature in the Spider-Man movie franchise.

Sony leaked emails reveal more details about the planned 'Spider-Man' and 'Captain America' crossover, but it doesn't include Garfield, reported *Ace Showbiz*. 31-year-old Garfield's performance as the web slinger was praised by fans, but he may have upset the wrong person.

His strong remarks that seemed to blame the studio for the box office

failure of 'The Amazing Spider-Man 2', was reportedly one of factors of him being fired from the franchise.

Moreover, his absence with less than an hour of notice at a Sony corporate dinner in July, in which he was supposed to meet Sony CEO Kaz Hirai and other Sony executives, "was seen as an affront and slight by the company's Tokyo bosses."

Latino Review confirmed the possibility of Garfield being replaced in the next Spider-Man

movie, but noted that such thing would only happen if Marvel and Sony agreed to a deal to share the rights to Spider-Man at a 60/40 split. The deal itself could be jump-started if Sony Pictures continues to stumble in their handling of the Spider-Man franchise.

Marvel also allegedly planned to shift the focus of the Spider-Man reboot to make it a Spider-Man romance movie. Thus, new movies under this deal would begin with Peter Parker already leading a dual life.—PTI

Actor Andrew Garfield may reportedly not feature in the Spider-Man movie franchise. PTI



Kim Kardashian, Kanye West spend USD 10,000 a month on daughter's styling?



The couple's 17-month-old daughter has her own two-person styling team.—PTI

LONDON, 15 Dec — Reality TV star Kim Kardashian and her rapper husband Kanye West reportedly spend USD 10,000 a month on beautician and designers for their daughter North.

The couple's 17-month-old daughter has her own two-person styling team, a hairdresser and a tailor to take care of her clothes and hair, reports *Contactmusic*.

"North has a tailor who makes clothes for her, such as mini versions of her mum's designer outfits so she can match Kim. The tailor will often customise clothes too, by embellishing jackets with her name picked out in Swarovski crystals she even has 'NW' stitched into all her shoes," a source said.

Kardashian, 34, apparently also spends for her daughter's massages with

organic oil, manicure-pedicures and a hair dresser to ensure that her hair is done well. "Her hairdresser is also in charge of accessorising and works alongside her stylist to ensure that her hair goes with the look," added the source.

The couple has arranged 2,000 sq ft wardrobe in its house with Italian marble floors and a beauty parlour for their daughter.—PTI

GENERAL

Barca fullback Alves sidelined by hamstring strain

BARCELONA, 15 Dec — Barcelona fullback Dani Alves is unavailable for Tuesday's King's Cup last-32, second leg match at home to third-tier Huesca after picking up a hamstring strain in Saturday's 0-0 La Liga draw at Getafe.

Brazil international Alves is also a doubt for Barca's La Liga match at home to Cordoba on Saturday, their final outing before the two-week winter break, Barca said on their website (www.fcbarcelona.es) on Sunday.

Luis Enrique's side should have little trouble securing their place in the last 16 of the Cup as they lead 4-0 from the first leg at Huesca. They would play Elche or Real Valladolid

Valencia's Rodrigo Moreno (front) and Barcelona's Dani Alves fight for the ball during their Spanish first division soccer match at the Mestalla stadium in Valencia, on 30 Nov, 2014.

REUTERS



for a place in the quarter-finals.

Barca's stumble at

Getafe meant they lost ground on leaders Real Madrid and are four points

behind their arch rivals in second after 15 matches.

Reuters

Chalmers wins Australian PGA after seven-hole playoff



Greg Chalmers of Australia

NEW YORK, 15 Dec — Greg Chalmers won the Australian PGA Championship on Sunday after a dramatic three-way playoff with Adam Scott and Wade Ormsby. Chalmers clinched the title for the second time in his career when he safely parred the seventh extra hole and Scott three-putted for bogey after the trio had finished the fourth round tied at 11-under-par. Replaying the par-4 18th hole over and

over again, Ormsby missed a four-foot birdie putt on the second playoff hole that would have won him the championship. Ormsby was then eliminated from the playoff on the third extra hole when Scott and Chalmers both made birdies and he missed with his third shot, a chip from just off the green.

Scott and Chalmers then proceeded to par the 430 meters (470 yards) hole three more times before Scott

three-putted from less than 30 feet to hand the 41-year-old Chalmers his 10th professional title. Scott and Ormsby had started the final day in a three-way tie for the lead with Scott Strange and both shot final rounds of 71 to join the left-handed Chalmers at the top of the leaderboard after he closed with a brilliant eight-under-par 64.

Chalmers made eight birdies in a flawless round that featured two monster putts in excess of 50 feet. The 2011 Australian PGA champion hit 16 greens in regulation and took only 26 putts for the round.

Scott, defending the title he won last year at the Royal Pines Resort on Queensland's Gold Coast near where he was raised, found himself trailing Chalmers by a shot with four holes to play in regulation. The 2013 Masters champion drew level when he birdied the par-5

15th. The 34-year-old played the par-5s in 15-under for the tournament but struggled with the flat stick.

He missed long birdie putts on the 16th and 17th holes and finished level with Chalmers and Ormsby, who won his first professional title in India last year. Scott and Ormsby played together as juniors and remain good friends with Ormsby staying at Scott's Gold Coast home during the tournament.

Ormsby sank a long birdie putt on the 18th to get into the playoff but blew his chance to win when he lipped out after hitting his approach from a fairway bunker to within four feet of the pin. New Zealand's Michael Hendry closed with a 71 to finish fourth at nine-under, one stroke ahead of American Scott Stallings (71) and two clear of Boo Weekly (74) of the United States.—Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(16-12-2014, Tuesday)

6:00 am

* Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

6:30 am

* Physical Exercise

7:00 am

* News / Weather Report

7:50 am

* Documentary

8:35 am

* TV Drama Series

9:45 am

* Business News

10:20 am

* Documentary (Road to Academy 2013) (Part-1 & 2)

10:35 am

* Documentary (Angkor Wat, Cambodia)

11:25 am

* Traditional Boxing

12:00 noon

* News/ International News / Weather Report

2:20 pm

* Talk On Old Film

3:15 pm

* TV Drama Series

4:45 pm

* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures)

5:00 pm

* News

6:35 pm

* Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than

7:00 pm

* News

7:20 pm

* Teleplay

8:00 pm

* News International News / Weather Report

8:35 pm

* Current Affairs

9:00 pm

* News

* Mono Classical Songs

* TV Drama Series

MITV MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(16-12-14 07:00 am~ 17-12-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Strong And Stylish Pakokku Slippers
- * World News
- * Colonial Buildings and a New Yangon
- * Local News
- * Taung Byone Nat Festival (Ep-II)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Railways City Circular Train
- * Local News
- * Beautiful Mon Choral Dance
- * World News
- * A Girl Guide
- * Local News
- * Food Trip-(EP-7)
- * World News
- * In The Studio "Six Thu"
- * 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

Brazil mascots named after 'Girl from Ipanema' composers

SAO PAULO, 15 Dec — The mascots for the Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be named 'Tom' and 'Vinicius' after the singer-songwriters who wrote 'The Girl from Ipanema', organizers said on Sunday.

The names won 44 percent of votes in an on-line poll and were revealed on Brazilian TV show Fantastico.

The Olympic mascot will be named after Antonio Carlos Jobim, who was

known more commonly as 'Tom'. The Paralympic mascot is named after Vinicius de Moraes. The pair were instrumental in the development of bossa nova music and wrote dozens of songs together, most famously the tale of a young girl who passed their bar each day as she walked to Ipanema beach. The announcement came 600 days before the start of the games, the first ever to be held in South America.—Reuters



The mascots of the Rio 2016 Olympic (R) and Paralympic Games are pictured during a visit at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro on 4 Dec, 2014.

REUTERS

De Gea stars in United's sixth successive win

LONDON, 15 Dec — The difference in fortunes since Liverpool won 3-0 away to Manchester United in March was illustrated when Louis Van Gaal's team reversed that scoreline on Sunday.

Nine months ago the Merseysiders were challenging strongly for the Premier League title and United, having their worst season for many years, would shortly sack manager David Moyes.

After a slow start to the campaign United appear to have been revitalised by Van Gaal and goals from Wayne Rooney, Juan Mata and Robin van Persie sealed a sixth consecutive league win to keep them in third place.

Liverpool are languishing in mid-table, dropping to 10th after Tottenham Hotspur climbed above them with a 2-1 victory at Swansea City in the day's other fixture.

That said, it was a flattering margin for United, with many observers making United's keeper David De Gea man of the match.

The Spaniard pulled off a succession of important saves, mainly from Raheem Sterling in the first half and substitute Mario Balotelli in the second.

It was a typically feisty contest between the old rivals, ending with seven yellow cards, four to United before half-time.

Other statistics showed Liverpool had more shots and corners as well as plenty of possession but crucially they could not convert their chances, and made mistakes in conceding each goal.

Liverpool could claim luck was against them, with the second goal clearly offside but as manager Brendan Rodgers admitted they contributed to their own downfall.

"We created enough chances to win but we made



Manchester United goalkeeper David De Gea (R) makes a save from Liverpool's Raheem Sterling during their English Premier League soccer match at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England on 14 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

defensive mistakes, which is what cost us," he told Sky Sports.

"I thought we did enough to win the game. But you can't concede the goals we did."

For the first one in the 13th minute, Joe Allen allowed Antonio Valencia to push the ball through his legs and had no cover be-

hind him as the Ecuadorean played a square pass for Rooney to beat goalkeeper Brad Jones with ease.

Australian Jones was brought in as replacement for Simon Mignolet to start his first Premier League game since March 2013, but he was beaten again five minutes before half-time.

As Ashley Young cut

back to cross, Mata was not offside but he was by the time Van Persie flicked the ball on.

Rodgers sent on Balotelli for Adam Lallana at the interval and Liverpool continued to see plenty of the ball.

Sterling should have scored five minutes into the second half after latching onto Jonny Evans's weak back pass but, one-on-one with De Gea, he allowed the keeper to deny him.

The young England international did better midway through the second half in setting up Balotelli, but De Gea pushed the Italian's shot onto the crossbar.

United's third goal stemmed from a classic counter-attack but was still helped by bad defending.

Mata sent Rooney away and Dejan Lovren should have cleared his cross. Off-balance, he skewed it straight to Mata, whose perfect pass was

drilled in by Van Persie for a seventh league goal of the season.

There was still time for De Gea to make two more quality saves from Balotelli.

Van Gaal said that his goalkeeper "had a big influence" but was also critical of United for the number of chances they allowed the opposition. "We have to improve that," he told reporters. "We are winning now — six matches in a row is fantastic — but we still have to improve our playing style."

Tottenham's 2-1 away to Swansea moved them into seventh position, two places above the Welsh club.

Harry Kane headed Spurs in front in the fourth minute, Wilfried Bony equalised early in the second half with his eighth goal in the last 10 games but Christian Eriksen scored the winner just before the end.

Reuters

United's Rojo injured, Liverpool's Jones to stay in goal

LONDON, 15 Dec — Manchester United do not know when Argentine defender Marcos Rojo will be available again after he missed the 3-0 win over Liverpool on Sunday, manager Louis van Gaal said.

Van Gaal told reporters the 24-year-old, signed from Sporting Lisbon in the close-season, was injured in training on Saturday, which meant Phil Jones was brought in despite only just being back from injury.

The manager declined to go into detail, saying



Shunsuke Nakamura

only: "I don't think it's healthy but I'm not a doctor."

United were already without injured defenders Rafael, Chris Smalling and Luke Shaw, which meant fielding a three-man backline of Jones, Jonny Evans and midfielder Michael Carrick.

Meanwhile Liverpool's Australian goalkeeper Brad Jones, brought in for a first league appearance since March 2013, will stay in the side in place of the out-of-form Simon Mignolet.

Manager Brendan Rodgers told reporters the change was for "an indefinite period", adding that Jones will play in the Capital One Cup quarter-final away to Bournemouth on Wednesday.

Reuters

Defeat 'epitomises' Liverpool's season — Rodgers

LONDON, 15 Dec — Liverpool's toothless 3-0 defeat against arch-rivals Manchester United on Sunday epitomised their season, according to manager Brendan Rodgers who is still searching for the "solutions" to their problems.

For long periods at Old Trafford Liverpool dictated possession but failed to convert numerous chances against an inspired David De Gea.

United on the other hand were clinical and unerring when given the chance and ruefully exposed their wounded rivals who are languishing in mid-table.

Wayne Rooney fired home a 12th minute opener before Juan Mata doubled the lead, albeit from an offside position, with a header five minutes before half-time.

Robin van Persie capitalised on a miscued Dejan Lovren clearance to add a third in the 71st minute to seal United's sixth successive league win.

Last season's runners-up Liverpool have now lost seven Premier League games this campaign and trail leaders Chelsea by 18 points after 16 games.

Their 21 points represents their lowest return at this stage of a season since the 1964-65 campaign.

"I thought we had done enough to win the game, it epitomised our season really. I'll keep searching for the solutions," Rodgers told Sky Sports.

"It's been difficult this year but that's the way it works. It's clear we haven't scored or created enough goals."

Liverpool's regression this season has been almost as dramatic as their progression last season.

Their inadequacies are glaringly obvious.

They lack a commanding goalkeeper, a defensive leader and are bereft of a forward capable of providing the goals of the departed Luis Suarez or the injured Daniel Sturridge.



Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers

On Sunday Rodgers opted not to play a recognized striker and instead tasked 20-year-old Raheem Sterling with shouldering their attacking burden.

Sterling is undoubtedly an exciting talent but against arguably the Premier League's best goalkeeper in De Gea he was thwarted numerous times and failed to prove he is capable of filling the void.

"Today, we created opportunities which we haven't been doing," Rodgers added. "We also made de-

fensive mistakes and that cost us today. We've just got to keep working. We came here last season and it was the reverse scoreline.

"Today we were the better side in the first half but you can't concede the goals we did."

Rodgers said he "does not feel any additional pressure" after the defeat but faces a testing League Cup tie away at Championship (second tier) leaders Bournemouth on Wednesday before the visit of Arsenal next weekend.—Reuters

Nakamura given hero's welcome on return to Celtic

LONDON, 15 Dec — Former Japan international Shunsuke Nakamura was given a hero's welcome on Sunday as he visited his old club Celtic.

Home fans at Celtic

Park treated Nakamura to a rousing reception at half-time as he took in the Scottish Premier League club's game against St Mirren.

"I have been able to

watch a game in an incredible atmosphere," said the 36-year-old Nakamura.

"It reminded me of how happy I was playing in an atmosphere like

this."

Nakamura is considered a Celtic legend after he endeared himself to the fans during his time at the Glasgow club from 2005-2009.

He played a pivotal role in the club winning three league titles, the Scottish Cup once and the Scottish League Cup twice.

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