

## Myanmar, China to cooperate in Kyaukpyu deep sea port project



*President U Thein Sein holds talks with China's Vice President Mr. Li Yuanchao.*  
MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec — President U Thein Sein received a delegation led by China's Vice President Mr. Li Yuanchao at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

They exchanged views on the China-Myanmar

comprehensive strategic relationship, cooperation in the communications sector and the Kyaukpyu deep sea port project, equitable exchange of assistance, effective implementation of mutual agreements, enhanced investment in agriculture and other sectors,

infrastructure development, people-to-people exchanges, cooperation in restoring peace and stability in the border area, and exchanges of visits of leaders of the two countries.

Also present at the call were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U

Kyaw Hsan, U Ohn Myint, U Zeyar Aung, U Win Myint, U Aye Myint Kyu, Dr Kan Zaw and U Than Htay. The Chinese vice president was accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yang Houlan.

MNA

## Myanmar looks to full coverage of birth registration, comprehensive civil registration system

**By Ye Myint**

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec — The second forum on birth registration in Myanmar took place in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday, enabling delegates to learn from each other by sharing successes and challenges encountered

in 2014 and forge a common commitment to move forward in 2015.

The Ministry of Immigration and Population organized the forum in cooperation with parties concerned including the United Nations Children's

Fund (UNICEF) and the European Union, which have contributed technical and financial support to birth registration system strengthening and capacity building to ensure that all children get registered in Myanmar.

With series of pres-

entations by the attendees and wide consultation among them, the forum was identified steps towards ensuring nationwide coverage of birth registration and achieving civil registration and vital statistics.

(See page 2)

## Local producers need raw material brokers to fully manufacture low-chemical cosmetics on commercial scale

**By Khaing Thanda Lwin**

YANGON, 16 Dec — Despite there being techniques to produce cosmetic products with a reduced amount of chemicals, some rural-based social organizations making them to raise funds for their activities are unable to achieve commercial-scale production as they find it difficult to get a key chemical ingredient, sources reported on Tuesday.

The spokeswoman of one such organization, Kyi Kyi Sein of the Aung Foundation, said the chemical ingredient is available only in Yangon and Mandalay

where producers in rural areas have to go and buy it at a high price. All producers are unanimous in saying there should be local raw material suppliers.

As part of its social activities, the Aung Foundation has been sharing its methods of manufacturing low-chemical or chemical-free cosmetic products with local organizations from all four corners of the country.

So far, the foundation has trained about 10,000 people throughout the country. The main aim of (See page 2)

## President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Bhutan

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec — On the occasion of the National Day of Bhutan, which falls on 17 December 2014, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, King of Bhutan and His Excellency Mr Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

MNA

## Participation in 50 MW gas-fired generation project in Myanmar

YANGON, 16 Dec — Mitsui has acquired a 44 percent stake in Myanmar Power Pte Ltd (MPPL). Mitsui & Co., Ltd, MAXpower Asia Group Pte Ltd (MAGPL) and Myanmar Power Pte Ltd (MPPL) have signed a share subscription agreement on mutually agreed upon terms between Mitsui and MAXpower Group Pte Ltd (MGPL), and the partner company of MPPL and MAGPL.

MGPL focuses on the delivery of distributed power throughout Indonesia and Myanmar. MPPL's approximate project costs to date are valued at about US\$35 million.

MPPL operates, through its subsidiary MAXpower (Thakayta) Co., a gas-fired generation plant consisting of 16 General Electric Jenbacher gas

engine generator units with capacity totaling 50 MW in Myanmar and sells electricity to Myanmar Electric Power Enterprises (MEPE) under a power purchase agreement with a 30-year term (the Project).

The project commenced commercial operation in August 2013, and it contributes to the existing national power grid by providing a stable power supply by way of the state-of-the-art and highly efficient engines running on environmentally-friendly natural gas. It is supporting the expected further growth of electricity demand in Myanmar, where electricity shortages have hampered economic growth and development.

MGPL, through its Navigat Energy business unit, sells and distributes (See page 2)



*Thakayta power plant. —(PROVIDED)*



YANGON, 16 Dec—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann said that democratization process would be completed only when people join hands with the government and Hluttaw, while meeting with the local farmers in Ayeyawady region Monday to discuss about land utilization and rural devel-

## Democratic reform needs cooperation of people: Thura U Shwe Mann

opment programmes.

The forum was held at Patheingyi, capital of Ayeyawady region, with attendance of more than 5,000 farmers from the districts of Patheingyi, Hinthada, Maubin, Pyaw, Myaung-

mya and Labutta.

This was the first forum on the affairs of farmers during the term of present government.

Thura U Shwe Mann said, "The meeting is more informative and meaning-

ful than expected ever before. The regional government has helped establish garment factories for livelihood of residents. With an increase in population, there will be a shortage of land areas for the next gen-

eration of farmers. Therefore, these industrial jobs could help provide employment opportunities for the locals."

The forum emphasized on agricultural loans, protection of farmers' rights,

their livelihoods and law enforcement for the farmers.

About 74 percent of the people in the Ayeyawady region are engaged in agriculture to secure their livelihood.—MNA

## Myanmar, Australia agree to strengthen intergovernmental and military ties

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing has told Australian Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Bronte Moules he believes they will be able to further improve ties between the two countries, sources said.

The Australian ambassador paid a courtesy call on the senior general at Bayint Naung Hall here Tuesday and held discussions with him that focused on security, peace, training, and developments in Myanmar.

The senior general thanked Australia for its support of Myanmar's political reform, pledging better military cooperation



**Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Australian Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Bronte Moules.—MYAWADY**

between the two countries' armed forces to safeguard regional security, especially in Asia. The two

armed forces are reportedly deepening mutual cooperation on non-military issues.

Myanmar established diplomatic relations with Australia in 1953.

Myawady

## Myanmar looks to full coverage...

(from page 1)

In his speech, Deputy Minister for MOIP U Win Myint highlighted the importance of raising public awareness about birth registration, stressing the need to register all children at birth and calling for mass participation in the process.

The deputy minister underlined the appointment of civil registrars, suggesting that a certain ministry should act as a focal ministry to ensure an

effective and efficient civil registration system.

Acknowledging the strong coordination of agencies involved in the country's first birth registration weeks launched in Chin and Mon States and Magway Region in October, Cristina Roccella, UNICEF's chief of social policy and child rights monitoring, also recommended the appointment of a Civil Registrar General and the legislation on birth and civil registration.

With the launch of birth registration week from 20 to 24 October this year, a total of 123,636 under-5 children in the three pilot areas in the country got registered. According to data, 69,527 in Magway, 27,188 in Chin and 26,921 in Mon received birth certificates enabling them to enjoy civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and have access to basic social services.

The exceptional result came from collaborative efforts of departments concerned, including the

Health Department, Immigration and National Registration Department, Central Statistical Organization and General Administration Department under the programme that UNICEF promoted, thanks to EU funding. UNICEF pledges to continue working with the government to ensure full coverage with birth certification of all the children born in Myanmar. According to the UNICEF, it received a total budget of less than US\$1 million for two years from the EU for birth registration in Myanmar.—GNLM



**A woman waits for her turn to apply for a birth certificate for her baby at a hospital in Magway. Myanmar launched first birth registration week in October with the aim of enabling unregistered children in three pilot areas to have access to basic social services. PHOTO PROVIDED**

## Participation in 50 MW gas-fired generation...

(from page 1)

GE Jenbacher gas engines, parts and services in Indonesia, Myanmar, Singapore and Thailand and, through MAXpower, develops its own distributed power in Indonesia and Myanmar. MGPL owns, operates and has under construction, power plants with capacity of approximately 450 MW.

Mitsui will pursue new power business opportunities in Myanmar which is one of the priority countries for the company by

leveraging its participation in the project. The Project strengthens the partnership between MGPL and Mitsui, and the companies intend to co-develop new distributed power business not only in Myanmar but in other countries in South East Asia that anticipate rapid growth in electricity demand.

The gas-fired generation plant is located in Thakayta, Yangon Region.

GNLM

## Local producers need raw material brokers to fully manufacture low-chemical...

(from page 1)

the activities is to encourage the emergence of multi-producers and SMEs rather than the production of multi-products.

Kyi Kyi Sein added that there is an urgent need for wider knowledge dissemination about the danger of inorganic products, which sometimes contain toxic chemical ingredients, as many people do not understand the risk.

The Aung Foundation was established in 2008 by Than Myint Aung, a well-

known writer. Since then, she has offered free-of-charge courses for social enterprises and interested individuals so as to encourage people to use chemical-free products.

Currently, the foundation is conducting capacity-building courses for youth, especially those from rural areas, at its office in Yangon. The courses mainly focus on current affairs and environmental conservation, the sources said.

GNLM

**Chemical-reduced products manufactured by Aung Foundation are being displayed at the fair at River Ayeyawady Gallery in Yangon from 13 to 19 December.**

PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN





NATIONAL

## Myanmar strives for accountable governance of ASEAN Community and anti-corruption in ASEAN region

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec — A meeting took place at Thingaha Hotel here on Tuesday to discuss an ASEAN framework for collaboration on accountable governance and anti-corruption, with an address by Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

Myanmar, as a rotating chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, is taking initiatives to establish a framework covering responsible management of the ASEAN Community and anticorruption in the ASEAN region, with the vice president calling for governmental departments and civil society organizations to take into consideration cultural differences

and political backgrounds in developing the framework.

He went on to say that challenges are likely to arise in establishing a single economic community, pointing out the need to draw lessons from the world's economic infrastructure and find ways to overcome challenges posed by corruption as well as new opportunities and technologies.

Developing countries in the ASEAN region like Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, are prone to challenges, according to the vice president.

The goals of the ASEAN Economic Community are hard to realize in the

absence of the structure and practices of good governance, he warned.

Myanmar enacted an anticorruption law in 2013, with a commission formed in line with the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, he said.

Despite the government's attempts to combat corruption as part of its movement for the realization of "good governance and clean government," Myanmar still finds itself on the list of most corrupt countries published in the Corruption Perceptions Index by Transparency International, he said.

Myanmar is the 45<sup>th</sup> member to the Extractive Industries Transparency In-

*President  
U Thein Sein  
cordially  
greeted  
Chinese Vice  
President  
Mr. Li  
Yuanchao at  
Presidential  
Palace.  
(News on  
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MNA*



*Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham with delegates of ASEAN countries at Regional meeting on an ASEAN Framework for collaboration on accountable governance and anti-corruption.—MNA*

## Vice President U Nyan Tun holds talks with Chinese counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec — Myanmar Vice President U Nyan Tun and China's Vice President Mr Li Yuanchao attended the Myanmar-China meeting at Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

They discussed promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and China, holding the grand ceremonies to mark the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 2015, promotion of cultural exchange between the two peoples, raising relations and cooperation between China and ASEAN countries and close cooperation with Myanmar.

Also present at the meeting were deputy ministers U Kyaw Kyaw Win, Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin, U Win Myint, U Than Swe, U Chan Maung and Dr Sai Kyaw Ohn. The Chinese Vice President was accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Yang Houlan.

In the evening, Vice President U Nyan Tun hosted a dinner to the Chinese Vice President and party and delegates from ASEAN countries at MICC-2.

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*Vice President  
U Nyan Tun holds  
discussions with  
Chinese Vice  
President Mr Li  
Yuanchao.  
MNA*

## Union FM sends message of felicitation to Bhutan's counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec — On the occasion of the National Day of Bhutan, which falls on 17 December 2014, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Rinzin Dorji, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

MNA



## Ethnic youths attend vocational courses in Dawei



DAWEI, 16 Dec — An industrial training school for youths of border regions was commissioned into service in conjunction with the opening of basic mechanic course No. 1/2014 in Dawei, Taninthayi Region, on 15 December.

The region's Chief Minister U Myat Ko explained development tasks

and endeavours for the peacemaking process in the region.

Ethnic youths in the region will have the opportunity to attend the 24-week basic mechanic course and a 16-week carpenter, masonry and steel fixing course.

The Department of Education and Training under the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development funded construction of lecture halls and workshops, land preparations, and dredging of drains in 2013-14 fiscal year.

*Taninthayi Region IPRD*

## Victorious athletes from SPEIs win medals, cash awards



MANDALAY, 16 Dec — A ceremony to honour victorious athletes in the Sports and Physical Education Institutes (Yangon, Mandalay and Mawlamyine) sports meet was held at the mess hall of SPEI (Mandalay) on 15 December.

Principal U Myo Myint Aung of the institute accepted cash donations from donors. The principal, Head of Mandalay Region SPED Deputy Director U Wai Zin, Principal of Myanmar Foot-

ball Academy U Soe Nyunt and officials presented medals and cash awards to outstanding athletes.

*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*

## People get vaccinated against elephantiasis disease

MYANAUNG, 16 Dec — Health officials and members of civic organizations vaccinated villagers against elephantiasis in Myanaung Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 15 December, while explaining to them about efforts to eradicate the disease.

The health staff gave the vaccine to the people except for children under

2, pregnant women and chronic disease sufferers. They will continue the vaccination campaign in wards and villages up to 24 December, according to the Township Health Department.

The Health Department plans to provide the vaccinations for five successive years.

*Win Bo (Myanaung IPRD)*

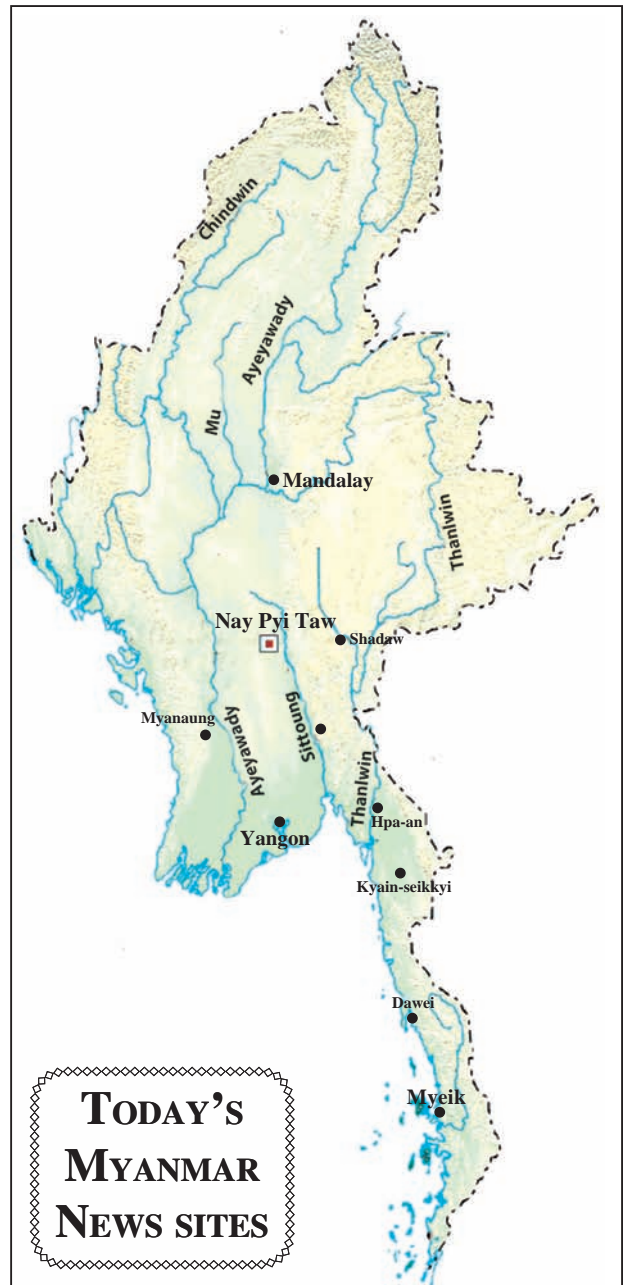


## Rural Development Department funds construction of rural road, bridges

KYAIN-SEIKKYI, 16 Dec — The Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development is implementing eight tasks of rural development and poverty alleviation in the nation.

The Department of Rural Development funded K662.415 million in construction of a rural road, 14 bridges and 14 concrete conduits in Kyain-Seikkay Township, Kayin State.

Head of Kayin State department U Nay Oo and township level officials viewed round progress of the rural road and instructed officials to emphasize construction of roads and bridges that meet set standards.—*Township IPRD*



## Two roads under construction in Hpa-an Tsp for rural development

HPA-AN, 16 Dec — Head of Kayin State Department of Rural Development and officials inspected construction of roads and bridges in Hpa-an Township, the capital of Kayin State, on Tuesday.

The department allotted K296.16 million

for construction of Mebaung-Naungpalein road and Hlakamyin-Hlinepon road in the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Upon completion, the two roads will contribute to development of 11 villages.

*Township IPRD*



## LOCAL NEWS

## Shadaw Township to get new bridge across Pun Creek

SHADAW, 16 Dec — A new bridge across Pun Creek is under construction on Loi-kaw-Punchaung-Shadaw road in Kayah State as of October 2014.

Under the directives of Kayah State's chief minister U Khin Maung Oo, state superintending engineer U Khin Maung Phyu of Public Works is supervising construction of the reinforced concrete bridge. The bridge will be 200 feet long and 24 feet wide, flanked by three-foot pedestrian ways on either side. It will be strong enough to support 60-ton loads, an official of construction group told media. Construction of the bridge will cost an estimated K620 million.

Shadaw Township  
IPRD



## Union government, region government allot funds for prevention of landslides

MANDALAY, 16 Dec —The Union government will spend over K1.7 billion from the fire and natural disaster prevention fund to prevent landslides in villages along both banks of Ayeyawady River in Mandalay Region in 2014-15 fiscal year.

Mandalay Region government also plans to spend

over K677 million from its additional budget, according to the Department of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems.

The fund will be spent on construction of retaining walls, dredging of sandbanks and construction of steel baskets at 22 villages where landslides occur frequently, said an official.

The funds of both from the union government and region government will be spent on prevention of landslides in Singu, Madaya, Amarapura, Myingyan, Ngazun, Meiktila, Taungtha, Singaing and Nyaung-U townships in Mandalay Region.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)



## Nanmyo Youth to play against SPEI (Mandalay) in final

MANDALAY, 16 Dec — Nanmyo Youth team and Thamudaya Maung team met in the second semifinal of the Yadanabon FC Chair-

man's Cup men's open football tournament 2014 at Bahtoo Stadium in Mandalay on 15 December.

Nanmyo Youth team

cruised into the final with a 1-0 win over Thamudaya Maung team.

SPEI (Mandalay) also beat Naing Say Thaw team 1-0 in the first semifinal match on 14 December.

On 17 December, Nanmyo Youth will play against SPEI (Mandalay) in the final match.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Footballers of  
Thamudaya Maung  
and Nanmyo teams  
controlling football in  
semifinal.

## Sports Ministry donates three air-conditioners to Dagon University

YANGON, 16 Dec — Officials of the Sports Ministry on 15 December donated three air-conditioners to Dagon University, which is conducting a Bachelor of Science (Sports) course during the 2013-14 academic year.

Second-year students are attending the course as of 2 December 2014.

The air-conditioners will be installed at the computer room where students majoring in sports are pursuing computer science.

The donation ceremony was attended by Rector Dr Hla Htay, faculty members, Principal of Sports and Physical Education Institute (Yangon) U Soe Aung and officials.

Aung Thura

## People enjoy artistic works at Mandalay Hill Art Gallery

MANDALAY, 16 Dec — A winter commemorative art show took place at Mandalay Hill Art Gallery at the foot of Mandalay Hill on 15 December.

Eleven artists led by veteran artist U Khin Maung San displayed 115 paintings at the gallery.

Artist Ko Kyaw Thiha said as Mandalay is a cultural city, artists should depict its artistic works.

He said, "All my colleagues whose artworks are displayed in the gallery agreed to hold the art

show. Responsible persons of the gallery will negotiate with artists and enthusiasts for sales of paintings ranging from K15,000 to K300,000."

Enthusiasts viewed round the artworks reflecting significant images of Mandalay.

Eleven paintings of artists were awarded to the lucky draw winners to mark the opening ceremony. The art show is open from 15 to 21 December.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

## Myanmar, Thai businessmen discuss economic opportunities in Myanmar

MANDALAY, 16 Dec —Members of the Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry held a meeting with entrepreneurs from Thailand's northern province of Mai Hong Song at the Mandalay Hill Resort in Aungmyethazan Township on 14 December.

Mandalay Region Minister for Planning and

Economic U Aung Zan spoke about economic opportunities in the region and prospects of mutual economic cooperation for Thai entrepreneurs. Chairman of Mandalay Region CCI U Aung Than extended greetings.

Economic Department Director Mr Nanrun Suarom of Mai Hong Song Province introduced Thai

entrepreneurs to Myanmar businessmen and discussed economic cooperation.

The discussions focused on trading of foodstuffs, personal goods, textiles, stationery, medicine, construction materials, electronic equipment, marine products, agricultural machinery and crops.

Maung Pyi Thu  
(Mandalay)





## Gov't, business heads, labour unions agree on efforts for wage

TOKYO, 16 Dec — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government on Tuesday crafted a joint statement with leaders of business organizations and labour unions, aiming to bolster the economy through wage growth.

At the trilateral meeting, Abe also urged large manufacturers, which have benefited from the yen's slide, to trade with their subcontracting companies at higher prices than before to allow the effects of his "Abenomics" policy mix to ripple through smaller firms and local economies.

Sadayuki Sakakibara, chairman of leading business lobby the Japan Business Federation, or Keidan-

ren, told reporters after the meeting, "We told them we will make utmost efforts to raise wages, including bonuses and allowances."

But it is uncertain whether other business leaders will act as requested by Abe, given that the economy shrank for a second straight quarter through September in the wake of the 1 April consumption tax hike, darkening the near-term economic outlook.

Japan's largest labour union has decided to seek a 2 percent or greater basic pay raise in annual wage talks starting early next year, a higher goal than set for this year.

Fears, however, are

growing that weak private spending following the 3-percentage-point tax hike to 8 percent, as well as the yen's depreciation that has increased import costs, have weighed on earnings, particularly at small firms, and made pay hikes a difficult option.

Amid speculation that the interest rate gap between Japan and the United States will broaden, the US dollar has soared to a more than seven year high against the yen.

A falling yen usually supports exports by making Japanese products cheaper abroad and boosts the value of overseas revenues in yen terms, but it drags down the domestic

economy by pushing up import prices as Japan depends on imports for more than 90 percent of its energy needs and 60 percent of its food supply.

Last year, the government, business leaders and labour unions compiled a joint statement that prompted many companies to raise pay scales to conclude this year's spring wage negotiations.

This year, the three shared the view that a virtuous cycle where a recovery in corporate profits would lead to wage growth and consumption expansion is necessary to defeat nearly two decades of deflation.

In the latest joint state-



*Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (far R) and his Cabinet members meet with leaders of business and labour circles on 16 Dec, 2014, in Tokyo. They agreed it is important to boost corporate earnings to bail the nation out of deflation so they can achieve wage hikes and expansion in consumption.—KYODO NEWS*

ment, the government also called on the corporate sector to improve working conditions for non-reg-

ular employees and take measures to help empower women in society.

*Kyodo News*

## 126 students killed in attack on army school in Pakistan: official media

ISLAMABAD, 16 Dec — Gunmen and suicide bombers linked to Pakistan Taliban militants stormed an army school in northwestern Pakistan on Tuesday, killing more than 100 students and leaving dozens more injured, official media said.

Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Chief Minister Perviz Khattak was quoted by official Pakistan Television and other media channels as saying that the number of students killed has risen to 126.

The attack occurred at the Army Public School and Intermediate College in Peshawar, a comprehensive education facility from primary school to college.

Umar Kharasani, a spokesman for the militant group Tehreek Taleban

Pakistan, claimed responsibility for the attack in telephone calls to local media.

Militants wearing uniforms of paramilitary personnel stormed the school as students were receiving instructions on medical aid in the school hall, a student who was injured in the attack told GEO TV.

Khattak said eight to 10 militants took part in the attack, adding that two attackers were killed and one attacker wearing a suicide-bomb jacket blew himself up.

According to media reports, the suicide bomber killed himself together with the hostages he had taken.

An army spokesman said four attackers were killed. According to GEO TV, the attackers chased

students who fled into classrooms.

"We heard firing from different classrooms," one student told the TV station.

Three huge explosions were reportedly heard inside the school.

Shahram Khan Taraki, health minister of Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Province, earlier told reporters that a woman teacher and a security guard were also killed in the attack.

The bodies of the victims were taken to Lady Reading Hospital and a military hospital in Peshawar.

A spokesman for Lady Reading Hospital in Peshawar said children who managed to escape told hospital staff that they had seen "bodies still lying inside the school premises."

Later in the day, au-

thorities at the military hospital began handing over the bodies of the students to their parents who had thronged the hospital.

A television reporter at the military hospital said the names of the students killed were called out on a loudspeaker for their parents to take possession of the bodies.

The provincial government of Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa has announced three days of official mourning. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif will travel to Peshawar to personally supervise the military operation.

Army Chief Gen Raheel Sharif was flying to Peshawar to take stock of the situation, Defence Ministry spokesman Major Gen Asim Bajwa said.

*Kyodo News*

## 110 foreign IS militants detected in Indonesia's Poso

JAKARTA, 16 Dec — At least 110 foreigners identified as Islamic State militants have been detected in an Indonesian province once torn apart by sectarian conflict between Muslims and Christian, a Cabinet minister said on Tuesday.

"This is very worrying. Local governments have asked for (the central government's) help in dealing with the militants," state news agency Antara quoted Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs Tedjo Edhy Purdijatno as saying. He was referring to Poso Regency in Central Sulawesi Province, where religious conflict between Christians and Muslims claimed about 1,000 lives between 1998 and 2001. Tedjo also confirmed that hundreds of Indonesians, inspired by Islamic State to fight in violence-torn Syria and Iraq,

have or intend to join the extremist group. He did not reveal an exact figure, however. The minister said that intelligence reports revealed that Islamic State is well developed in Poso, adding that President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo quickly acted on the reports by ordering related institutions to take necessary measures to prevent the group from continuing to grow and disturbing the country's security.

In September, Indonesia's counterterrorism police unit Detachment 88 arrested four foreign militants with suspected Islamic State ties while they were on their way to Poso to allegedly join the Mujahidin Indonesia Timur group led by Santoso, who has been linked in the past to Jemaah Islamiyah, a militant group regarded as the Southeast Asia wing of the al-Qaeda terror group.—*Kyodo News*



*A soldier escorts schoolchildren after they were rescued from the Army Public School that is under attack by Taliban gunmen in Peshawar, on 16 Dec, 2014. —REUTERS*

## Cambodia ready to join int'l fight against terrorism

PHNOM PENH, 16 Dec — Prime Minister Hun Sen said on Tuesday Cambodia stands ready to join the global fight against terrorism. The premier issued the

statement after Australian police killed a gunman who seized hostages at a cafe in Sydney in a firefight that also left two hostages dead. "We join force with

our friendly countries in fighting against terrorism," Hun Sen said.

He condemned the hostage-taking in Sydney.

*Kyodo News*

## India condemns terrorist attack upon school children in Pakistan

NEW DELHI, 16 Dec — India on Tuesday condemned the terrorist attack on innocent school children in Peshawar, in which at least 126 were killed, mostly children.

"We condemn horrific attack on innocent school children in Peshawar," Syed Akbaruddin, spokesperson of External Affairs Ministry said in a tweet.

Pakistan Taliban

terrorists attacked an army-run school in Peshawar on Tuesday, inflicting heavy casualties on the school children and teachers there, said media reports.—*Xinhua*



# Police storm Sydney cafe to end hostage siege, three dead

SYDNEY, 16 Dec — Heavily armed Australian police stormed a Sydney cafe early on Tuesday morning and freed terrified hostages held there at gunpoint, in a dramatic end to a 16-hour siege in which two captives and the attacker were killed.

Authorities have not publicly identified the gunman, but a police source named him as Man Haron Monis, an Iranian refugee and self-styled sheikh known for sending hate mail to the families of Australian troops killed in Afghanistan. He was charged last year with being an accessory to the murder of his ex-wife but had been free on bail.

During the siege, several videos were posted on social media apparently showing hostages inside the Lindt cafe in Sydney's central business district making demands on behalf of Monis.

The gunman, whom hostages referred to as "brother", demanded to talk to Prime Minister Tony Abbott, the delivery of an Islamic State flag, and that media broadcast that Australia was under attack by Islamic State.

Abbott said the gunman was well known to authorities and had a history of extremism and mental instability.

Police are investigating whether the two hostages were killed by the gunman



*Hostages run past a police officer (C) near Lindt Cafe, at Martin Place in central Sydney on 16 Dec, 2014. REUTERS*

or died in the crossfire, said Andrew Scipione, police commissioner for the state of New South Wales.

With Australia on edge after the siege, police said the Department of Foreign Affairs building in the capital, Canberra, had been evacuated on Tuesday after a suspicious package was found in the canteen.

Few other details were available, and there was no immediate indication of any possible link with events in Sydney.

Around 2 am local time (10:00 am EST on Monday), at least six people believed to have been held captive in the Sydney cafe managed to flee after gunshots were heard coming from inside.

Police then moved in, with heavy gunfire and blasts from stun grenades echoing from the building.

"They made the call because they believed at that time if they didn't enter there

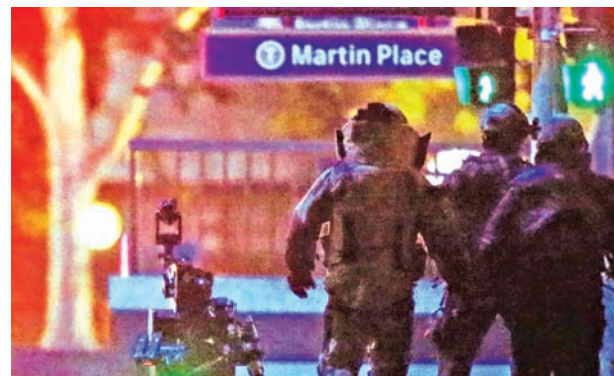
would have been many more lives lost," Scipione told reporters just before dawn.

Police said a 50-year-old man, believed to be the attacker, was killed. Television pictures showed he appeared to have been armed with a sawn-off shotgun.

A man aged 34 and a 38-year-old woman were also killed, police said. The man was the cafe manager, and the woman was a mother and lawyer, Sydney media reported.

At least four were wounded, including a policeman hit in the face with shotgun pellets. Among the wounded was a 75-year-old woman who was shot in the shoulder, police said. Two other pregnant women who were among the hostages were taken to hospital for assessment. All were in stable condition.

Medics tried to resuscitate at least one person after the raid, a Reuters witness



*Police officers wearing armoured suits walk with a robot towards Lindt Cafe in Martin Place in central Sydney on 16 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS*

said. Bomb squad members moved in to search for explosives, but none were found. So far 17 hostages have been accounted for, including at least five who were released or escaped on Monday.

The area around the cafe remained cordoned off with police tape on Tuesday morning.

Office workers stood in long queues outside florist shops, as hundreds of bouquets formed a makeshift shrine near the cafe, while flags flew at half mast across the country.

PM Abbott and his wife also laid wreaths at the site.

A memorial service, attended by community leaders including Governor-General Peter Cosgrove, was held at St Mary's Cathedral on Tuesday, barely a block from where the siege unfolded. Leaders from around the world had expressed their concern over the siege, including Stephen Harper, the prime minister of Canada, which suffered an attack on its parliament by a suspected jihadist sym-

pathizer in October.

Monis was found guilty in 2012 of sending threatening letters to the families of eight Australian soldiers killed in Afghanistan as a protest against Australia's involvement there. He was also facing more than 40 sexual assault charges.

"He had a long history of violent crime, infatuation with extremism and mental instability," Abbott told reporters in Canberra. The prime minister did not identify the gunman.

New South Wales Premier Mike Baird declined to comment when asked by a journalist whether it was appropriate for Monis to be free on bail.

A US security official said the US government was being advised by Australia that there was no sign at this stage that the gunman was connected to known terrorist organizations.

Although the hostage taker was known to the authorities, security experts said preventing attacks by people acting alone was difficult.

"We are entering a new phase of terrorism that is far more dangerous and more difficult to defeat than al-Qaeda ever was," said Cornell University law professor Jens David Ohlin, speaking in New York.

Australia, a staunch ally of the United States and its escalating action against Islamic State in Syria and Iraq, has been on high alert for attacks by home-grown militants returning from fighting in the Middle East or their supporters.

News footage showed hostages in the cafe holding up a black and white banner displaying the Shahada, a declaration of faith in Islam. The banner has been popular among Sunni Islamist militant groups such as Islamic State and al-Qaeda.

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

The siege cafe is in Martin Place, a pedestrian strip that was revealed as a potential location for the thwarted beheading.

Muslim leaders urged calm. The Australian National Imams Council condemned "this criminal act unequivocally" in a joint statement with the Grand Mufti of Australia.

A social media movement showing solidarity with Australian Muslims was also gathering steam.

Reuters

## Indian court dismisses marine's plea to extend stay in Italy

NEW DELHI, 16 Dec — India's top court on Tuesday dismissed a plea by an Italian marine facing murder charges to stay in his home country for four more months to undergo medical treatment.

Massimiliano Lattore, who suffered a stroke in August, is one of two Italian marines accused over the

2012 shooting of two fishermen mistakenly believed to be pirates, in a case that has soured ties between New Delhi and Rome.

The Supreme Court had allowed Lattore, 47, to return to Italy in September for four months of medical treatment. He sought to double that extension in his latest plea to undergo treat-

ment that includes heart bypass surgery.

"The plea of the accused is dismissed," Chief Justice of India HL Dattu said.

He also dismissed a separate plea by the second Italian marine accused in the case, Salvatore Girone, to return to Italy for Christmas.

Following international pressure, India dropped a plan to prosecute the marines under a tough new anti-piracy law. Italy says the incident occurred in international waters and that jurisdiction over the marines should lie with Rome.

In April 2012, Rome paid \$190,000 to each of the victims' families as compensation. In return, the families dropped their cases against the marines, but the state's case has yet to come to trial.—Reuters



*Italian sailors Salvatore Girone (R) and Massimiliano Lattore leave the police commissioner office in the southern Indian city of Kochi on 18 Jan, 2013. REUTERS*

## Zurich airport re-opens after being partly shut by unspecified threat

ZURICH, 16 Dec — Zurich airport has re-opened after it was partly closed for several hours on Monday evening because of an unspecified threat, authorities said.

The airport shut Check-in 1 and 2 as well as Arrivals 2 and passengers were re-directed to Check-in 3, Zurich's cantonal police said in a statement. Around a dozen flights were delayed by up to 30 minutes.

The closed-off areas were re-opened shortly before 1:00 am (0000 GMT) after police had determined no dangerous objects were in the area, police said.



*A police officer stands next to stairs at the closed entrance for check-in one and two at Zurich airport in Kloten on 15 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS*

Several local media outlets reported authorities had received an anonymous tip about a bomb.

The police did not give details about the threat and said its investigation was ongoing.—Reuters



## PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 17 December, 2014

## Preventing violence against women and children

By Aung Khin

Home is supposed to be a sanctuary. Sometimes, however, it is the most dangerous place of all. In many societies of various countries, women are assaulted by their spouse or partner, while children are cruelly treated by their parents.

Kids depend on their parents for their whole childhood. Likewise, women in many families are dependent on their spouses or partners as breadwinners, so that they find it hard to leave their relationships despite being victims

of abuse.

Domestic violence, which can explode anywhere, anytime and within any economic class, is not only a social menace, but also a costly public health problem. Preventing such violence and healing the wounds of its victims requires workable and practical preventive measures and policies.

Violence against women and children can take the form of threats, verbal abuse, battering, rape, and murder. Child abuse and domestic violence are closely related. Researchers have found that men who batter their wives or partners also frequently abuse their own children or stepchildren. These battered women often cannot protect their children from such mistreatment.

Many women who are the victims of domestic violence live in fear of pain or even death, which makes them feel isolated and lowers their self-esteem. As a result, they tend to blame themselves for being abused. They may suffer depression and anxiety, while some become addicted to drugs

or alcohol and attempt suicide.

Some women have developed strategies to endure and to protect themselves and their children from abuse. However, escape is very rare for them without external help.

The future of countries and societies depends on our women and children. They should be spared the traumatic impact of domestic violence. Otherwise, the young victims of abuse may grow up to become abusers themselves as they view the world through the prism of their bitter experiences.

## Write for us

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

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

## ENLIGHTENMENT

Kyí Mun

Enlightenment, here, means Spiritual Enlightenment. And spiritual enlightenment means Transcendental Leap from Spiritual Ignorance to Spiritual Illumination. In other words, enlightenment means Release from the Bondage of the following defilements:

- |                                       |       |             |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-------------|
| • Greed                               | ..... | Lobha/ Rāga |
| • Anger                               | ..... | Dosa        |
| • Ignorance                           | ..... | Moha        |
| • Pride                               | ..... | Māna        |
| • Wrong View                          | ..... | Dhitthi     |
| • Doubt                               | ..... | Vicikicchā  |
| • Jealousy                            | ..... | Issā        |
| • Stinginess                          | ..... | Micchariya  |
| • Lack of Moral Fear to do evil       | ..... | Ahirika     |
| • Having no sense of Shame to do evil | ..... | Anottappa   |

Synonyms of Enlightenment are : Deliverance, Salvation, Unconditioned State of Mind, Unfettered State of mind. (In Pali : it is Vimutti).

According to the traditional theory and practice of YOGA, there are Five Pain-bearing Obstructions of Enlightenment, as listed below:

- |                    |      |                              |
|--------------------|------|------------------------------|
| • Ignorance        | .... | Avijjā / Moha                |
| • Egoism           | .... | Attadhitthi / Sakkāyadhitthi |
| • Attachment       | .... | Lobha / Yāga                 |
| • Aversion         | .... | Ill-will / Dosa              |
| • Clinging to Life | .... | Bhava-tanhā                  |

## \* IGNORANCE (Avijjā)

It is synonymous with Delusion (moha). It is the primary root of all evil and suffering in the world, veiling man's mental eyes and preventing him from seeing the true nature of things. It is the delusion tricking beings by making life appear to him as permanent, happy, substantial and beautiful, and preventing them from seeing that everything in reality is impermanent, liable to suffering, void of I and Mine, and basically impure (s. vipallāsa). Ignorance is defined as 'not knowing the four Truths, namely, suffering, its origin, its cessation, and the way to its cessation.

As ignorance is the foundation of all life-affirming actions, of all evil and suffering, therefore it stands first in the formula of Dependent Origination (paticca-samuppāda). But for that reason, Ignorance should not be regarded as the causeless root-cause of world .... It is not causeless. For a cause of it is stated thus 'With the arising of cankers (āsava) there is the arising of ignorance'. But there is a figurative way in which it can be treated as a root-cause; namely when it is made to serve as a starting point in an exposition of the Round of Existence .... As it is said, "No first beginning of Ignorance can be perceived, Bhikkhus, before which Ignorance was not, and after which it came to be. But it can be perceived that Ignorance has its specific condition (idapacc-

cayā)". The same statement is made about the Craving for Existence (bhavatanhā;s.tanhā). The latter and Ignorance are called "the outstanding causes of Kamma that lead to unhappy and happy destinies."

As Ignorance still exists—though in a very refined way—until the attainment of Arahatsip, it is counted as the last of the 10 Fetters (samyojana) which bind beings to the cycle of rebirths. As the first two Roots of Evil, greed and hate, are on their part rooted in Ignorance and consequently all unwholesome states of mind are inseparably bound up with it, ignorance (or delusion) is the most obstinate of the 3 Roots of Evil.

Ignorance is one of the Cankers (āsava) and Proclivities (anusaya). It is often called a hindrance (nivarana), but does not appear together with the usual list of 5 Hindrances.

\* **EGOISM** : Ego-belief; Personality-belief; Soul-belief; Self-belief.

\* **ATTACHMENT** : (1) Greed which is a strong desire for more wealth,

possessions, power, etc. than a person needs.

(2) A strong desire for more food and drink when you are no longer hungry or thirsty. Synonyms are Craving, hankering, clinging, longing, lust. (In Pali, it is Lobha, Tanhā).

\* **AVERSION** : Ill-will which is a strong feeling of not liking somebody or something; bad or unkind feelings towards somebody. (In Pali, it is Dosa, Koda, Vy-

āpāda).

\* **CLING TO LIFE** : (Bhava-tanha) Clinging means Holding on tightly to somebody or something. To stick to something; to stay close to somebody, especially because you need them emotionally. Clinging to life is the will that persists to hold on to life. (In Pali – it is bhava tanhā).

## The Five Hindrances To Enlightenment

The Five Hindrances (In Pali : Nivarana) to attaining Enlightenment are :

- |                                 |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ● Sensual Desires               | ● Kāmacchanda Nivarana      |
| ● Ill-Will / Dosa               | ● Vyāpāda Nivarana          |
| ● Sloth & Torpor                | ● Thina-Middha Nivarana     |
| ● Distractions of Mind & Regret | ● Uddicca-Kukkucca Nivarana |
| ● Doubt                         | ● Vicikicchā Nivarana       |

Please compare the Five Hindrances with the Five Pain-bearing Obstructions of Enlightenment.

## Strategy of Enlightenment

Buddha's way of getting rid of craving / samudaya is to outgrow immature egocentricity. His Eightfold Path is a tremendous strategy of enlightenment as well as a great psychological document attesting to the fact that life-fulfillment is a process of moving away from the illusory satisfactions of ego-absorption toward the genuine satisfactions of whole-relationships: right view; right aim; right action; right speech; right living; right effort; right mindfulness; right contemplation.

Ref : A dictionary of Buddhist Terms by U Myint Swe  
The Mature Mind by H.A. Overstreet

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



## Thinn Wai Khaing wins first prize in US Kids Golf World Championship Malaysia

YANGON, 16 Dec—Thinn Wai Khaing stood first in the girl-12 event and Tun Aung Khaing, fourth in the boy 15-18 event in the US Kids Golf World Championship Malaysia 2014 at Palm Resort Golf

& Country Club, Johor, Malaysia from 9 to 11 December.

Thinn Wai Khaing secured one more medal in the match in which the multi-country team won over Malaysian team.

The two Myanmar girl and boy are allowed to take part in the US Kids Golf World Championship Europe 2015 and the US Kids Golf World Championship USA 2015.—GNLM

Thinn Wai Khaing and Tun Aung Khaing seen with awards in US Kids Golf at the airport.



## Vice President of PRC visits Gems Museum in Nay Pyi Taw



NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec — Vice President of the People's Republic of China Mr Li Yuanchao and party arrived at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport on Tuesday morning where Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu and officials welcomed them.

The Vice President and party then visited Gems Museum in Zabuthiri Township.—MNA

**Chinese Vice President Mr Li Yuanchao visits Gems Museum in Nay Pyi Taw.**—MNA

## Advancing Justice Together: The Supreme Court of the Union announces Judiciary Strategic Plan to upgrade the services of the courts

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec — The Supreme Court of the Union unveiled a three year plan to improve the Myanmar system of justice.

The strategic initiatives of the Three Year Judiciary Strategic Plan (2015-2017) will be a great support for the Policies, Aims and Action Plans laid down by the Supreme Court of the Union for the better performance of the judiciary.

The mission of the strategic plan is to improve Myanmar's justice system by promoting the core judiciary aims, namely the rule of law and regional peace and tranquility, enhancing reliability and public trust in the judicial system, adjudicating cases fairly and speedily in accordance with law, and upgrading the integrity of the courts.

To achieve that goal, a Supreme Court Planning Team gathered valuable input from judges and court users across the State, analyzed judicial statistics, reviewed expert assessments, and studied international standards and judicial reforms from the Asia Pacific. The resulting document is a blueprint for excellence that details the judiciary's shared vision for the future.

The following are specific areas identified for improvement: Protect Public Access; Promote Public Awareness; Enhance Judicial Independence and Accountability; Ensure Equality, Fairness, and Integrity of the Judiciary; and Strengthen Efficiency and Timeliness of Case Processing.

The plan outlines quantifiable 3-year performance targets include 80 percent court user satisfaction and 100 percent calendar clearance rates. Performance will be measured through court user satisfaction surveys conducted on-site at courts and statistical analysis.

Strategic Plan initiatives are prioritized in three categories: strategically critical, high priority, and medium-term. Strategically critical initiatives for immediate implementation include: creation of public information counters in courts to improve accessibility of courts, case management programs to strengthen timeliness and efficiency of case processing, and enhancement of training for judges and court staff to achieve equality, fairness, and integrity. Several pilot courts will serve as a testing ground for new practices and procedures, prior to nationwide implementation.

Execution of the plan will be overseen by a Strategic Plan Implementation Committee within the Supreme Court. The Committee will prepare regular status reports and develop One Year Action Plans on an annual basis. The Judiciary will cooperate with several international partners to implement specific initiatives.

"Advancing Justice Together: Judiciary Strategic Plan (2015-2017)" can be found online at <http://www.unionsupremecourt.gov.mm>.

Supreme Court of the Union  
Nay Pyi Taw

## Invitation to donation of documents on grand military review ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec — The Independence Day 2015 flag hoisting ceremony will be held in conjunction with the Grand Military Review ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw on 4 January.

As the grand military review ceremony will be presented on a wider scale through newspapers and TV programmes, people may donate documentary photos, sound files, documentary

films and other documents on the ceremonies of grand military review from 1950 to 1962 to Secretary of the Grand Military Review Information and Public Campaign Subcommittee Director-General U Ye Tint, Tel: 067-412242, email: myintk-yaw103@gmail.com.

**Grand Military Review Information and Public Campaign Subcommittee**

## Prevention committee for recruitment of child soldiers meets

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec — The government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the United Nations the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (UN-CTFMR) signed a Plan of Action of

the prevention committee for recruitment of child soldiers at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 June 2012.

The prevention committee held a meeting at the Ministry of Defence on

Tuesday, with an address by Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin.

Committee members discussed prevention for recruitment of child soldiers.

The 11-member committee chaired by Union

Minister Lt-Gen Wai Lwin was added with the deputy minister for Information and the deputy minister for Immigration and Population under notification No. 68/2014 issued by the President Office dated 28-10-2014.—MNA

## Opening of Art Gallery marks closing ceremony of ASEAN-China Cultural Exchange

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec — The Art Gallery was opened in commemoration of the closing of ASEAN-China Cultural Exchange 2014, at Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu, Vice Minister of Culture

of China Mr Ding Wei and ASEAN Deputy Secretary-General Mr AKP Mochtan formally opened the gallery and visited there.

In the afternoon, the union minister hosted a luncheon to the Chinese vice minister and party. The Chinese guests visited Defence Services Museum.—MNA

## Rakhine athletes take part in traditional wrestling contest

SITTWAY, 16 Dec — In commemoration of the 40th anniversary of Rakhine State day and launching of power grid to the state, the opening ceremony of Rakhine traditional wrestling contest was held at Wingabar sports grounds in Sittway on 16 December.

Athletes from 17 townships participated in the contest.

The chief minister of Rakhine State and officials awarded the winners.

In the golden event, first prize winner will win five ticals of gold and the second, four ticals of gold.

The winners in the silver event will be awarded three ticals of gold for the first prize and two ticals for the second.

*Maung Maung Myint  
Swe and Min Min Zaw*

## Asian Development Bank grants to provide US\$100 million loan to Yoma Strategic Holdings in two phases

YANGON, 16 Dec — Yoma Strategic Holdings signed a loan agreement worth US\$100 million with Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Tuesday at Sule Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon.

According to the agreement, ADB will provide US\$50 million loans for the first phase in order to develop communication towers, cold storage-related transportation services and various kinds of cars rental services.

Yoma Strategic Holdings said that the company will invest in the sectors of transport and commodity distribution, and other projects through the ADB's second phase loan.

*Khin Cho Win/ Photo:  
Zaw Min Latt*





## Protesters chain themselves to Oakland police station doors

OAKLAND, 16 Dec — Protesters chained themselves to the doors of police headquarters in Oakland, California, on Monday, prompting several arrests, and one demonstrator scaled a flagpole to hang a “Black Lives Matter” banner in front of the building.

Oakland and neighbouring Berkeley have been the site of demonstrations for more than a week over decisions by grand juries not to charge white police officers in the killings of unarmed black men in Ferguson, Missouri and New York City.

Scores of people have been arrested as police in riot gear face off with protesters, some of whom have thrown rocks at the officers and looted businesses.

Most of the confrontations have happened after dark, but more than two dozen demonstrators

on Monday morning used PVC tubes, ropes and locks to chain their arms together and block entrances to the Oakland Police Department.

Another group of protesters used similar tactics to chain themselves together to disrupt traffic at two nearby downtown intersections during a heavy downpour.

At police headquarters, officers and firefighters used cutting tools to separate the demonstrators chained together at the doors, and several were taken into custody.

Officer Johnna Watson of the Oakland Police Department said 25 people were arrested for offenses including blocking a public building, and obstructing or delaying a police officer.

The protester who climbed the flagpole stayed up there for several hours,



**Demonstrators sit along a street as others block doors to the Oakland Police Department to protest against killings of unarmed black men by police officers in Oakland, California on 15 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS**



**Demonstrators are detained after blocking doors to the Oakland Police Department to protest against killings of unarmed black men by police officers in Oakland, California on 15 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS**

Watson added, but eventually climbed down.

Two BART commuter rail stations in the area were briefly closed because of civil disturbances, officials said.

The protests in California's Bay Area have been among the most turbulent of a wave of demon-

strations across the country over concerns about the policing of black communities.

In protests last week, riot police fired tear gas and pepper spray to disperse crowds of demonstrators that were sometimes hundreds strong.

In New York, police

said they were looking for three men and three women suspected of assaulting two officers on the weekend during a large protest on the Brooklyn Bridge.

Police Commissioner Bill Bratton said the pair were beaten by a group after the officers tried to arrest a man for attempting

to throw a trash can onto a road below.

The man accused of trying to hurl the garbage can, an English professor at a local university, Eric Linsker, was arrested on Sunday and charged with assaulting the officers, police said.

Reuters

## Combat readiness snap check held in Russia's westernmost Kaliningrad region

MOSCOW, 16 Dec — A surprise inspection of combat readiness of troops was held from 5 December through 10 December in Russia's westernmost Kaliningrad region, which is an exclave territory in the southeast of the Baltic Sea littoral area, General Andrei Kartapolov, the chief of Operations Department at the General Staff of the Armed Forces said on Tuesday. The troops were inspected in line with a decision of President Vladimir Putin, who is the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

“It embraced up to

9,000 people, 642 pieces of weaponry and equipment, including 250 tanks and armoured vehicles, about a hundred artillery mounts and salvo systems, 55 naval ships, and 41 aircraft,” says a report issued by the General Staff. “The inspectors assessed combat readiness of the group of troops of the Western Military District and its capability to ensure security of the Kaliningrad region.”

“The exercise involved the units or missile troops, artillery, mechanized infantry, airborne troops, marine forces, reconnaissance, signal corps,

logistics, as well as combat aircraft and airlifters and ships of the Baltic Fleet,” the report said.

Over a period of two days, the airlift jets and ships of the Baltic Fleet relocated two a missile brigade and an airborne brigade to the Kaliningrad region. Units of the missile brigade had Iskander-M missile complexes among the equipment delivered to Kaliningrad.

The units of branches and services of the Armed Forces have returned to the bases of permanent stationing, the report said.

Itar-Tass



**Iskander-M missile complexes.—ITAR-TASS**

## Nine FARC members killed by army raid in Colombian jungle

BOGOTA, 16 Dec — Nine members of leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia guerrillas were killed on Monday in an aerial bomb attack by the Colombian army and in clashes with troops in a southeastern jungle region, President Juan Manuel Santos wrote on Twitter. The operation, which military and police sources said involved the use of planes and helicopters, took place in Meta Province, a vast area believed to have significant oil resources and where the guerrillas maintain a heavy presence.

“Military forces and police in Meta take down

nine members of fronts 7 and 27 of the FARC and capture four. Offensive continues. Let's not drop our guard,” Santos tweeted.

The military is fighting the FARC despite peace talks ongoing between the rebel group and the government in Cuba in the most promising attempt yet to bring an end to 50 years of war which have claimed more than 220,000 lives.

The government has refused the FARC's repeated demands for a bilateral ceasefire while the talks take place, saying the best way to advance in negotiations is to maintain military pressure on the group whose membership has

roughly halved over a decade.

Without a ceasefire, the FARC and its smaller National Liberation Army (ELN) counterpart, continue in turn to attack government troops and oil pipelines which carry the Andean country's most valuable export to the coast for shipment. The peace talks have achieved agreement on about half of the agenda, with deals on land reform, political participation and ending the drugs trade which the FARC uses to fund itself. Victim reparations and disarmament to end the conflict are two tough issues that remain to be thrashed out.—Reuters

## New Zealand to discuss renewing defence cooperation with Fiji

WELLINGTON, 16 Dec — New Zealand Defence Minister Gerry Brownlee left for Fiji on Tuesday to discuss the resumption of defence cooperation and engagement following the end of military rule in the Pacific island nation.

The New Zealand government had agreed to lift the last remaining sanctions against Fiji after the general election on 17 Sep-

tember ended eight years of military government, Brownlee said in a statement.

“This will allow defence to move toward rebuilding cooperation,” said Brownlee, who was to be accompanied on his visit by Vice Chief of Defence Force Air Vice Marshal Kevin Short.

Brownlee would meet with Fijian Minister of De-

fence Timoci Natuva and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ratu Inoke Kubuabola to discuss rebuilding the defence relationship before returning Thursday.

Voreqe Bainimarama, who seized power in a military coup in 2006, was elected Fiji's prime minister in September with about 60 percent of the vote in the proportional representation system.—Xinhua



# Obama vows no safe haven for Islamic State

FORT DIX, (NJ), 16 Dec — President Barack Obama used a holiday season visit to a US military base on Monday to issue a tough warning to Islamic State militants, saying a US-led coalition will permit no safe haven to the group and will destroy it eventually.

Obama spoke to hundreds of camouflage-wearing troops in a hangar at Fort Dix to thank the US military for its actions around the world. In a display of bipartisan support for the troops, Obama was joined by New Jersey's Republican Governor Chris Christie, a potential candidate to succeed Obama in 2016.

The US-led coalition in Syria and Iraq has had some successes against the



*A member of the Iraqi security forces walks past a destroyed vehicle belonging to Islamic State militants during an intensive security deployment on the outskirts of Samarra on 14 Dec, 2014. — REUTERS*

Islamic State group but has yet to force a major roll-

back from the territorial gains the extremists made in seizing large swathes of Iraq last summer.

“Make no mistake. Our coalition isn’t just going to degrade this barbaric terrorist organization. We’re going to destroy it,” Obama said.

Obama said gains are being made. Hundreds of vehicles and tanks and more than 1,000 fighting positions have been taken out, he said.

“We are hammering these terrorists,” he said.

“They may think that they can chalk up some quick victories, but our reach is long. We do not give up. You threaten America, you will have no safe haven. We will find you and like petty tyrants and terrorists before you, the world is going to leave you behind and keep moving on without you,

because we will get you,” Obama said.

Obama also said the United States is on track to end its combat mission in Afghanistan at year’s end, leaving behind a force dedicated to training Afghan security forces and carrying out counter-terrorism operations.

Obama last month approved a slight expansion in the US role in the counter-terrorism operations. There are concerns in Afghanistan, however, about increasing Taliban attacks in the capital, Kabul.

Obama, who made ending the war in Afghanistan a priority, said challenges remain there.

“Afghanistan is still a dangerous place,” he said.—Reuters

## Israel seeks US block of Palestinian statehood drive



*US Secretary of State John Kerry (L) meets with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at Villa Taverna in Rome on 15 Dec, 2014. — REUTERS*

ROME, 16 Dec — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday sought assurances from US Secretary of State John Kerry that Washington would block efforts by Palestinians and Europeans on Palestinian statehood.

“Our expectation is that the United States will stand by its position for the past 47 years that a solution to the conflict will be achieved through negotiations, and I do not see a reason for this policy to change,” Netanyahu told reporters after a meeting in Rome that lasted some three hours.

Before the meeting, Israel put the United States on notice that it expected Washington to exercise its UN Security Council veto

against any resolutions setting a time frame.

Netanyahu declined to comment on whether he was given an assurance by Kerry that the United States would exercise its veto. A source with knowledge of the talks who spoke on condition of anonymity said the Israeli leader had indeed asked for such an assurance.

A senior State Department official said Washington had made clear in discussions that it would oppose certain moves.

“We’ve made clear throughout these discussions with all of our interlocutors that there are certain things we could never support. (I’m) not going to outline those publicly,” the official said.

Reuters

## Spain arrests seven accused of recruiting women for Islamic State

MADRID, 16 Dec — Spanish and Moroccan police have arrested seven people in a ongoing joint swoop on suspected efforts to recruit women to go to Syria and Iraq to support Islamic State insurgents, the Spanish Interior Ministry said on Tuesday.

Spain is among a number of European countries struggling to stop the radicalization of young Muslim citizens and deter them from becoming jihadists in Syria

or Iraq, fearing they might return to plot attacks on home soil.

Four women and a man were arrested in Barcelona and the Spanish North African enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla, and two men were detained in the Moroccan town of Fnideq, close to Ceuta, as part of the operation, the ministry said in a statement.

It said the seven were accused of forming a network to find, recruit and send

women to Syria and Iraq on behalf of Islamic State. A ministry spokeswoman could not say whether any of the affected women were being recruited specifically to fight for the ultra-radical jihadist movement, which has seized large expanses of Iraq and Syria and drawn US-led air strikes.

In the past, some women with European passports have been drawn to the side of Islamic State to join its ranks in the Syrian and Iraqi

conflicts or to become wives of militants.

In September, Spanish police arrested nine people suspected of belonging to a militant cell linked to Islamic State in Melilla, on the northern coast of Africa.

Denmark said on Friday it faced a “significant” threat from radicalized Muslim citizens returning home from Syria and Iraq where at least 110 people had gone to fight with jihadist groups like Islamic State.—Reuters

## India bans Islamic State, hunts for sympathizers

NEW DELHI, 16 Dec — India on Tuesday declared a ban on Islamic State, days after having detained an engineer for running a popular Twitter account extolling the militant group’s military campaign. India has the world’s third-largest population of Muslims, but they have largely shunned Islamist causes. Police say only four Indians are known to have joined Islamic State, and one has since returned and is in custody.

Until now, India had held off on a ban on Islamic State, because of the group’s lack of activity in the country and worries over the fate of 39 Indian

construction workers missing in Iraq this year, who are believed to be held by the group. Officials had also suggested it would be harder to track sympathizers if the group was banned, driving them towards covert activity.

Home Minister Rajnath Singh told parliament the government aimed to limit the activities of the Middle Eastern group which has carved out swathes of territory in Iraq and Syria.

“We had taken cognizance of Islamic State in Iraq and Syria activities in other countries,” he said. “As a first step we have banned this outfit in India.”

On Saturday, police picked up Mehdi Masoor Biswas, a 24-year-old food company executive from the southern tech hub of Bengaluru, saying he was running the pro-Islamic State Twitter handle @ShamiWitness that had 17,800 followers, including hundreds of foreign fighters for the group.

Police were poring over 129,000 tweets he had posted over several years to determine if he was simply a cheerleader for the group or an online recruiter, an officer said. “It is true the number of Indians in the group or involved in its activities is only a handful,” Singh said.



*Rajnath Singh*

“But I want to make clear we are taking this seriously.”

A ban on the group makes it easier for police to prosecute suspects, an aide said. Officials had feared a ban on Islamic State could endanger the lives of 39 men believed to be held by the group since June. There has been no word yet on the fate of the workers.

Reuters

## British Embassy in Cairo reopens after nine-day hiatus

CAIRO, 16 Dec — The British Embassy in Cairo reopened on Tuesday after suspending public services nine days ago for security reasons, the embassy said in a statement.

“I am very grateful for the close co-operation from the Egyptian Government which has made this re-opening possible,” British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said in the statement.

Britain closed its embassy to the public on 7 December, and the Canadian Embassy closed its doors a day later. It has yet to reopen, according to the embassy’s emergency telephone service.—Reuters





Combo photo taken on 15 Dec, 2014 shows a giant Christmas tree on the lake of Rodrigo de Freitas in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 15 Dec, 2014. The giant tree, which is 85 metres tall and installed with about 3.1 million micro LED bulbs, is lit every year before Christmas. The theme of the tree this year is "A Christmas of Light".—XINHUA

## Russia to sign strategic partnership agreement with UN food programme

MOSCOW, 16 Dec — The Russian government and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), the world's largest humanitarian agency, are due to conclude an agreement on strategic cooperation on Tuesday.

Russian Foreign Ministry's official spokesman Alexander Lukashevich said on Monday the agreement will cover the period of 2014-2017.

The document will be

inked by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and WFP chief Ertharin Cousin at the meeting in Moscow later on day, during which the sides will also discuss cooperation as part of humanitarian projects.

"During the talks, the sides are to discuss topical issues of cooperation between Russia and this important humanitarian tool of the UN, including the prospects for fulfilling

a range of projects, which are carried out with Russia's donor support," Lukashevich said.

Russia will provide a total of 218 Kamaz trucks as its contribution to the UN WFP in 2014 and 2015. The first batch of 130 Kamaz trucks is to be handed over at an official ceremony in Moscow on Tuesday.

"The scope of the project is so big that Kamaz may well become regarded

as the vehicle of choice of the largest humanitarian organization within the UN system," Lukashevich said.

Russia has been a major donor of the WFP for more than 10 years. Russia has donated \$51.5 million over the past eleven months, what is the country's largest contribution ever. By the end of the year, Russia's contribution on the organization is expected to grow to \$66.5 million.—*Itar-Tass*

## S Korean top air carrier to be sanctioned on "nut rage"

SEOUL, 16 Dec — Korean Air Lines, South Korea's top air carrier, will face sanctions on a "nut rage" case.

The airline's former vice president ordered a 5 December flight in New York to return to the gate in violation of aviation safety law, the country's transport ministry said on Tuesday.

Cho Hyun-ah, daughter of the airline's chairman Cho Yang-ho, ordered the flight from New York to Incheon, west of capital Seoul, on 5 December to return to the gate after being served macadamia nuts in a bag, not on a plate. After scolding a purser and a cabin crew who served her nuts, the 40-year-old former vice president ordered the head of the cabin crew off the plane, violating the aviation law that stipulates only captain can decide on whether to return the plane in emergency situations. The airline could face up to 21 days of flight suspension or a 1.44 billion won (1.3 million US dollars) fine for the incident, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport said. The final sanctions will be concluded after a legal review at an earliest date possible.

The sanctions came as the ministry concluded that the airline asked the purser to lie during a probe into the case. Park Chang-jin, the head of the cabin crew, was

asked to say Cho didn't use a violent language and he voluntarily got off the plane, according to local media reports.

Park was quoted by a state-run broadcaster KBS as saying that he and the flight attendant were forced to kneel down before Cho, using an abusive language and yelling at them.

Amid mounting criticism toward the airline, Chairman Cho offered a public apology for the incident, saying last Friday that it was his fault because he should have raised her better. Hours after the apology, younger Cho appeared at local media after being summoned by the transport ministry's aviation and railway accident investigation board for questioning. She bowed and apologized for the incident. Cho resigned as the head of in-flight service last week. Amid the unshrinking public anger, Cho stepped down from all executive positions from the airline and other affiliated companies.

The transport ministry said Cho used an outrageous language and yelled at the crew based on testimonies from some crew members and passengers, noting that the ministry would file a complaint against her with prosecutors within this day if it breaches the aviation safety law.—*Xinhua*

## US Senate approves Vivek Murthy as new surgeon general

WASHINGTON, 16 Dec — The US Senate confirmed the long-delayed nomination of Dr Vivek Murthy for surgeon general on Monday, as Democrats pushed to approve some of President Barack Obama's stalled choices for government posts before Republicans take power in Congress next year.

Obama's pick for the top US public health job was approved 51-43. Earlier, Murthy barely cleared a procedural hurdle after he drew opposition over his support for stricter gun regulations.

Obama applauded the Senate and said in a statement that Murthy would "help us build on the progress we've made combating Ebola, both in our country and at its source."

The Senate will vote on Tuesday on another con-

tentious nominee, Sarah Saldana. Her nomination to head the Immigration and Customs Enforcement office became bogged down after she said the president's executive action on immigration was legal.

The Senate scheduled votes on Murthy, Saldana and three other nominees for Monday and Tuesday as part of Majority Leader Harry Reid's push to get nominations through the Senate before it goes home for the year.

Reid hopes to move about 20 more nominees later this week in a process he started over the weekend, when delaying tactics by conservative Republicans on a government spending bill kept the Senate in session unexpectedly and gave him an opening.

Last year, Democrats infuriated Republicans by

changing Senate rules so government nominations can advance to confirmation votes by a simple majority of the 100-member Senate, rather than a 60-vote supermajority.

Still, some nomina-

tions have languished. Obama nominated Murthy a year ago, but some Republicans and the National Rifle Association criticized his gun-control views. Senator Ted Cruz, a conservative Republican,

called Murthy an "anti-gun activist."

Murthy, who has been working as an internal medicine physician in Boston, also advocated the Affordable Care Act, Obama's signature health ini-

tiative and anathema to most Republicans.

Supporters of Murthy noted more than 100 public health organizations endorsed him, calling him a "well qualified, forward-thinking, innovative leader with a strong commitment to public health."

"Does that sound like a political hack when 100 organizations say that about this doctor?" said Senator Dick Durbin, the Senate's No 2 Democrat.

Two other nominees cleared procedural votes Monday: Daniel Santos to serve on the Defense Nuclear Facilities board, and Frank Rose as assistant secretary of state.

On Tuesday, the Senate will vote on Saldana and Antony Blinken, nominated for the No 2 post in the State Department.

Reuters



Doctor Vivek Murthy stands among other bystanders during the first day of legal arguments over the Affordable Care Act outside the Supreme Court in Washington on 26 March, 2012.—REUTERS



## ADVERTISEMENT &amp; GENERAL

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Reg. No. 17175/2014

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U Kyi Naing, LL.B., LL.M., (H.G.P.)

For **Columbia Sportswear Company**

**Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd.** No. 1608, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar

Email address: [myanmar@tilleke.com](mailto:myanmar@tilleke.com)

Dated: 17.12.2014

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE****MV PHUONG NAM 69 VOY NO ( - )**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHUONG NAM 69 VOY NO ( - ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.12.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (3) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301191/ 2301178

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
**MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO ( 087N )**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO ( 087N ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.12.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

**INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER**

(TENDER NO.6(T) MPE/ CONDENSATE  
(2) / 2014-2015)

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

Managing Director  
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
**MV PHUONG NAM 68 VOY NO ( - )**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHUONG NAM 68 VOY NO ( - ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.12.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (4) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301191/ 2301178

**TFIE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR****MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY**

**No.(1) HEAVY INDUSTRIES ENTERPRISE  
( INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER )**

Open Tender is invited for the supply of the following respective item which is necessary for No.(2) Steel Mill Project (PangPet) on CIF Yangon Port Price in United States Dollar (USD).

<b>(1) Stacker &amp; Reclaimer Machine</b>	<b>(1) Lot</b>
(a) Conveyor Length	- 1256 meters
(b) Stacker machine capacity	- 450 Ton per hour
(c) Reclaimer machine capacity	- 150 Ton per hour
Tender Closing Date & Time	- 6 .1. 2015 (13 :00PM)

Tender Document Shall be available during office hours commencing from 19<sup>th</sup>, December, 2014 at the Steel Mills Supervision Department, No.( 1 ) Heavy Industries Enterprise, Building No.(41), Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Steel Mills Supervision Department  
Ph +9567-408345

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
**MV MOROTAI VOY NO ( YF 252R )**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO ( YF 252R ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.12.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM**

Phone No: 2301185

**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR****MINISTRY OF ENERGY**

**MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE  
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)**

(22/2014)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-118(14-15)	Geological Instruments for Applied Research Centre, Geology Workstation & Mud Logging Unit (1) Lot	US\$
(2)	IFB-119(14-15)	Retest Factory for CNG Type.1 (150 Cylinder / Day) (1) Unit	US\$
(3)	IFB-120(14-15)	CNG Compressor Driven Motor with Complete Package (2) Units	US\$
(4)	IFB-121(14-15)	CNG Compressor Driven Electric Motor with Complete Package & Accessories (1) Unit	US\$
(5)	IFB-122(14-15)	Cummins Engine with Gear Box (1) Set	US\$

Tender Closing Date & Time : 14-1-2015, 16:30 Hr  
Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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

**Russian Knights  
aerobatics team of six  
planes to demonstrate  
stunts in Crimea**

Moscow, 16 Dec —

The Russian Knights aerobatics team has arrived in Crimea to participate in an action designed to promote contract military service / Contract Military Service is Your Choice/. Igor Klimov, an official spokesperson for the Russian Air Force, said that the Russian Knights would perform in a team of six planes instead of five for the first time over the past three years. The Russian Knights landed at Gvardeiskoye airfield in Crimea. On 20 December, they will take part in the "Contract Military Service Is Your Choice" action in Sevastopol. Besides, the Swifts aerobatics teams (on five *MiG-29* planes); the Golden Eagles aviation group on *Mi-28N* helicopters as well as two *Tu-95 MS* strategic bombers, two *Mi-8* helicopters; one *Ka-52* helicopter; four *Su-25* assault planes and four *Su-27* fighter jets will also participate in the air show.—*Itar-Tass*

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**WEATHER  
REPORT**

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is generally fair in the North Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.  
**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2014:** Weather will be partly cloudy in Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Mon State and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.



## ‘Birdman’ leads Critics’ Choice Movie Awards nominations

LOS ANGELES, 16 Dec — “Birdman,” the dark existential comedy about the would-be comeback of a has-been actor, scored 13 Critics’ Choice Movie Awards nominations on Monday, continuing its early run as a Hollywood awards season favourite.

The film starring Michael Keaton has already led nominations for January’s Golden Globes and Screen Actors Guild Awards. It earned nods for best picture, best actor (Keaton) and Alejandro G Inarritu was cited for best director, among other nominations. Wes Anderson’s “The Grand Budapest Hotel,” a comedy about a by-gone Europe, picked up 11 nominations, while Richard Linklater’s coming-of-age tale “Boyhood” earned eight nods. The 20<sup>th</sup> iteration of the awards, which are voted on by nearly 300 members of the Broadcast Film Critics Association, will be given in



Director Alejandro Inarritu (3rd R) poses with actors Amy Ryan (L), Edward Norton (2nd L), Emma Stone (3rd L), Michael Keaton (2nd R) and Andrea Riseborough (R) during the photo call for the movie “Birdman or (The unexpected virtue of ignorance)” at the 71<sup>st</sup> Venice Film Festival in this on 27 Aug, 2014 file photo.—REUTERS

a televised ceremony in Los Angeles on 15 January. The 10 nominees for best picture include “Birdman,” “Boyhood,” “The Grand Budapest Hotel,” thriller “Gone Girl,” World War Two code-cracking drama “The

Imitation Game,” crime thriller “Nightcrawler,” civil rights historical drama “Selma,” Stephen Hawking biopic “The Theory of Everything,” prisoner of war drama “Unbroken” and jazz drama “Whiplash.”

Other films earning multiple nominations include Christopher Nolan’s space epic “Interstellar” with seven, while “Gone Girl” and “The Imitation Game” each scored six nominations.—Reuters

## Simon Cowell asks One Direction to slow down



Simon Cowell

LONDON, 16 Dec — Media mogul Simon Cowell has asked boy band One Direction to slow down.

Cowell, 55, who helped to put the group together on ‘The X Factor’, said he fears for the five-piece boy band, reported Contactmusic. “They can’t carry on doing the amount

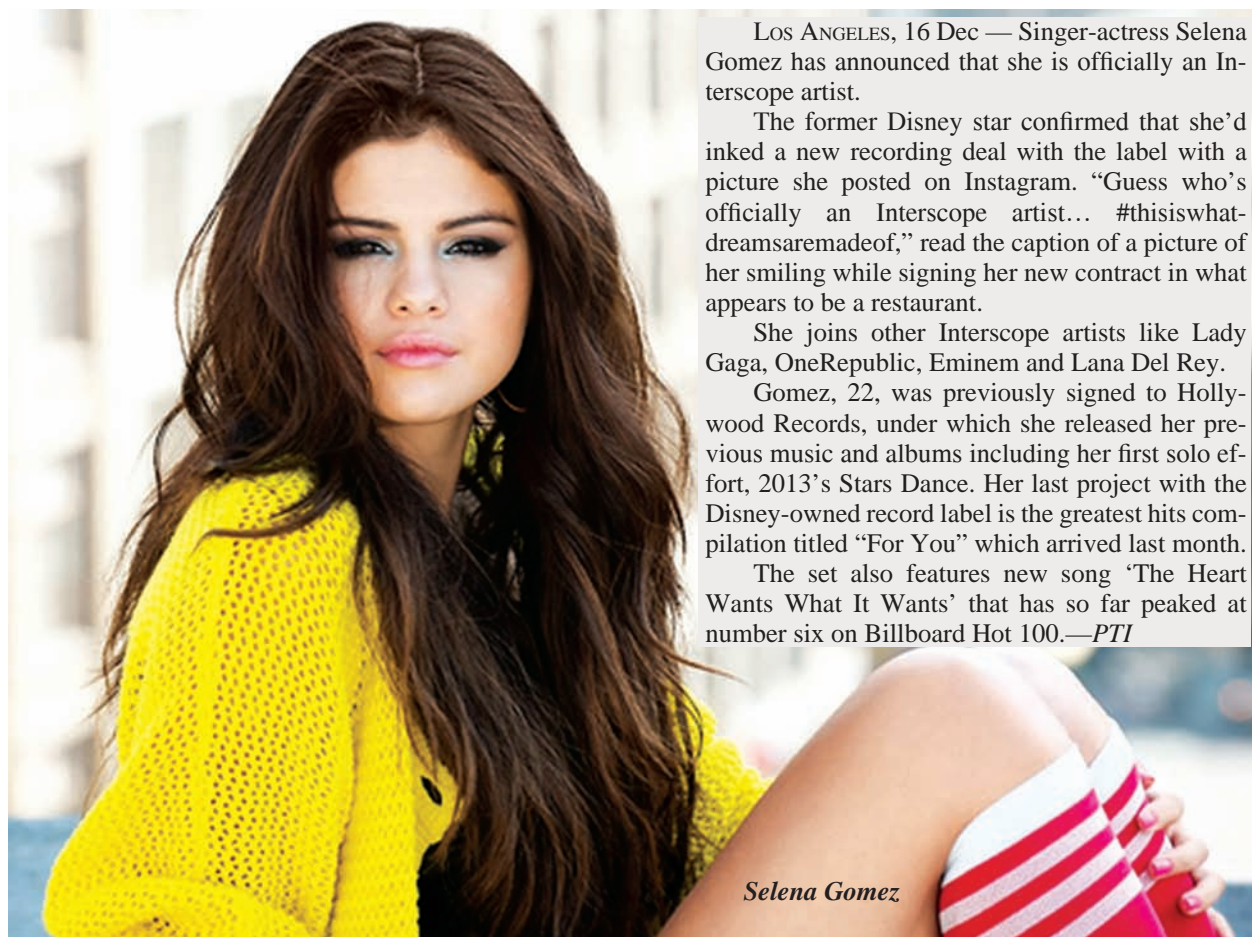
of stuff they’ve been doing for long because they’ll burn out — it’s a high-class problem. But they don’t complain about working hard,” he said.

The ‘Steal My Girl’ hitmakers, who will embark on their third world tour next year, are “generous” to their fellow artists.

“They still come down to ‘The X Factor’, into song meetings and they will text me with ideas for the contestants. They’re generous to other artists. You don’t see that very often. Most artists couldn’t give a damn about anyone but themselves!,” he said.

PTI

## Selena Gomez signs new recording deal



Selena Gomez

LOS ANGELES, 16 Dec — Singer-actress Selena Gomez has announced that she is officially an Interscope artist.

The former Disney star confirmed that she’d inked a new recording deal with the label with a picture she posted on Instagram. “Guess who’s officially an Interscope artist... #thisiswhatdreamsaremadeof,” read the caption of a picture of her smiling while signing her new contract in what appears to be a restaurant.

She joins other Interscope artists like Lady Gaga, OneRepublic, Eminem and Lana Del Rey.

Gomez, 22, was previously signed to Hollywood Records, under which she released her previous music and albums including her first solo effort, 2013’s Stars Dance. Her last project with the Disney-owned record label is the greatest hits compilation titled “For You” which arrived last month.

The set also features new song ‘The Heart Wants What It Wants’ that has so far peaked at number six on Billboard Hot 100.—PTI

## ‘Early Mona Lisa’ traced to English country home

GENEVA, 16 Dec — Researchers into the provenance of a painting dubbed the “Early Mona Lisa” reported on Monday they had identified an English noble who probably bought it in Italy in the late 18th century and a country house where it was found in 1911.

The revelations came as the work went on show for the first time in Singapore in a display about the portrait and Leonardo da Vinci, who a Swiss foundation holding it argue painted it before the version in the Paris Louvre.

“We feel these latest discoveries and new scientific analysis just carried

do, a Florentine merchant’s wife who is the subject of the masterpiece in the Louvre which entered the collection of the French royal family after Leonardo died in France in 1519.

The “earlier” version, mention of whose existence appears in several accounts from the early 16th century, came to light in modern times when British art dealer and collector Hugh Blaker found it in 1911 in a country house in southwest England.

Blaker, who owned the painting for many years and made several unsuccessful efforts to have it authenticated, never iden-



Movers prepare to hang Leonardo da Vinci’s ‘Early Mona Lisa’ painting ahead of its exhibition at The Arts House in Singapore in this file picture taken on 12 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

out leave little doubt that it is Leonardo’s work,” said David Feldman, a Geneva-based auctioneer and vice-president of the Zurich “Mona Lisa Foundation”. “The vast majority of experts now either agree with us or accept that there is a strong case for our thesis,” he said.

The painting shows a younger Lisa del Giacon-

tified the house or the then owners, although his diaries of the key years have gone missing.

In a communication passed to Reuters, a team of researchers say they have traced a work titled “La Joconde” loaned to an art exhibition in the town of Yeovil in 1856 and sold to a silver dealer two years later.—Reuters

## Harry Styles’ to cut out alcohol

LONDON, 16 Dec — One Direction star Harry Styles has revealed that he is going on a health kick this Christmas.

The 20-year-old singer, who will embark on the band’s third world tour next year alongside his bandmates: Liam Payne, Louis Tomlinson, Zayn Malik and Niall Horan, said he’ll be cutting out alcohol, reported Contactmusic.

“I’m on the wagon for fitness reasons. I work out really hard and the quickest way to see results is to cut out the booze — especially wine and beer,” he said.

The ‘Steal My Girl’ hitmaker joked that it was the worst time to give up



Harry Styles

drinking. “If anything, I usually have a vodka tonic but I’m totally dry for Christmas. It’s the worst timing because everyone’s partying but I’m testing myself. Ice-cream is off limits too — I love it so much,” he added.—PTI



OBITUARY  
OMSHRI BINDRABAN BAJORIA  
(AGE 89 YEARS)

Shri Bindraban Bajoria (age 89 Yrs), eldest Son of Late Shri Prajamal + Late Smt. Anchi Devi, Father of Sushil Kumar + Smt. Premlata, Vinod Kumar + Smt. Sulochana, Smt. Uma + Sitaram, Smt. Urmila + Hari Prasad, Pawan Kumar + Smt. Sushma, Sarwan Kumar + Smt. Meera, Smt. Sarita Devi + Sarwan Kumar Nethwewala, Grandfather of 20 Grandchildren and 2 Greatgrand children expired at his residence No. 53, 29th street, Yangon, on Tuesday, the 16th December 2014 at 2:00am, Cremation was held the same day at Hindu Cemetery "Ye Way" and this is intimated to all our nearest and dearest.

Bereaved Family

Earth on track for hottest year  
despite 7<sup>th</sup> warmest November

WASHINGTON, 16 Dec — The world is still heading for the hottest year on record although last month was only the seventh warmest November since 1880, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said on Monday.

The combined average temperature over global land and ocean surfaces during November tied with 2008 as the seventh highest

for the month, at 0.65 degrees Celsius above the 20<sup>th</sup> century average, the NOAA said in its monthly report.

This ends a streak of three consecutive months with a record warm monthly global temperature, but the average temperatures for September-November as well as the first 11 months were still both the highest on record for such periods, it said.

Xinhua

Moyes wants more improvement  
from Sociedad players

MADRID, 16 Dec — David Moyes has seen signs of progress at Real Sociedad since he took over last month but believes there is still a lot of room for improvement.

Moyes was denied victory in his first Basque derby on Sunday when Sociedad let slip an early lead and drew 1-1 at home to Athletic Bilbao in La Liga.

The Scot said he was pleased with his team's first-half performance but was concerned by a drop in energy levels in the second period.

Bilbao were reduced to 10 men when Aymeric Laporte was sent off 10 minutes from time but Sociedad were unable to land a killer blow.

With 15 matches played, they are in 14<sup>th</sup> place on 14 points with Moyes having presided over one victory, two draws and a 4-0 defeat at Villarreal.

"There are a lot of things we want to improve, not just the physical part and the intensity but also the passing and the control of the game," Moyes told a news conference after the match at the Anoeta in San Sebastian.

"I think there were some good signs there, especially in the first half," added the former Manchester United and Everton manager.

"It was certainly an improvement on our performance at Villarreal and I think we have made a step ahead but we haven't improved enough.

"I think the players are trying really, really hard to do so. The training has been great and I thought their attitude tonight was very good.

"I expected us to be stronger in the second half so that was a little disappointing.

"But we are in the mid-



David Moyes

dle of the season at the moment and we can't change big things."

Moyes said he had enjoyed his first experience of the Basque derby and was looking forward to "a lot more".

He won three of the 24 Premier League derbies he took charge of, drawing

seven and losing 14 against Liverpool and Manchester City.

Sociedad's next outing is a King's Cup last-32, second leg at home to third-tier Real Oviedo on Wednesday. The first leg at Oviedo, who are top of their group in Spain's regional Segunda B, ended 0-0. —Reuters

## MYANMAR TV

(17-12-2014, Wednesday)

6:00 am

\* Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

6:30 am

\* Physical Exercise

7:00 am

\* News / Weather Report

7:40 am

\* Documentary

8:35 am

\* TV Drama Series

9:00 am

\* News / International News

10:20 am

\* Documentary (Road to Academy 2013) (Part-3 & 4)

10:35 am

\* Documentary

11:35 am

\* Approaching Science Discovery World

12:00 noon

\* News / International News / Weather Report

2:35 pm

\* Documentary (Road to Academy 2013) (Part - 3 & 4)

3:15 pm

\* TV Drama Series

4:25 pm

\* Science & Technology

5:00 pm

\* News

6:35 pm

\* Shwe Yin Khone Than

7:00 pm

\* News

7:20 pm

\* Teleplay

8:00 pm

\* News International News / Weather Report

8:35 pm

\* People Talks

9:00 pm

\* News / Weather Report  
\* Fine Arts-Boson of Dramatic Performance

## MITV

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(17-12-14 07:00 am~  
18-12-14 07:00 am) MST

- \* Local News
- \* Myanmar Toys... for your eye-catching
- \* World News
- \* Today Myanmar "ASEAN Traditional Food"
- \* Local News
- \* Taung Byone Nat Festival (Ep-III)
- \* World News
- \* Great Minds of Myanmar
- \* Local News
- \* Youth Film Maker "Lwin Ko Ko Oo"
- \* World News
- \* [Doctor][Painter]
- \* Local News
- \* Sitagu International Buddhist Academy
- \* World News
- \* Tea Leaves
- \* 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"

## S Korean football boss wants to see more goals

SEOUL, 16 Dec — The head of South Korean football (KFA) has told the country's top clubs they



need to start scoring more goals if they want to attract bigger crowds.

Although there has been a slight increase in attendances at Korea's top-flight competition, the K-League attracted average crowds of less than 8,000 people per match last season. KFA president Chung Mong-gyu said the problem would be fixed if teams started throwing caution to the wind and attacking more. "Next year, I hope the teams can entertain fans with an aggressive brand of football," Chung told Yonhap news agency on Monday. "The KFA will offer

necessary support to make that happen."

There has been a steady decline in recent years in the number of goals in K-League matches, with just 2.22 per game in 2014.

Even the best teams have struggled to find the net with FC Seoul, who finished third in the championship, scoring just 42 goals from 38 matches.

Seoul were also involved in a defensive AFC Champions League quarter-final with Pohang Steelers in August, eventually edging their K-League

rivals 3-0 in a penalty shootout after two dour goalless draws.

Chung said his views were shared by Uli Stielike, the men's national team, telling Yonhap the German thought the league was too focussed on defence.

"Stielike also said he saw some talented defenders but not a lot of players who could score," Chung said.

"With teams focusing too much on defence, the league's popularity has suffered, and we need coaches to try to make the

games more fan-friendly."

Choi Kang-hee, head coach of Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors, the current K-League champions, said he would encourage his players to attack more next season.

"We all should have been playing more aggressive football before Mr. Chung brought it up," Choi said.

"We all talked about attacking early in the season but it became more difficult to do so as the season wore on. We're going to try to change that next year." —Reuters



# McIlroy wants to speed things up to attract more youngsters

LONDON, 16 Dec — World number one Rory McIlroy has urged golf's rule-makers to quicken the game up at grass-roots level in order to make it more attractive to youngsters.

More people are watching the sport on television these days but fewer are taking to the fairways and the 25-year-old Northern Irishman believes something needs to be done to reverse the trend. "Everything's so instant now and everyone doesn't have as much time as they used to so you may be try some way of speeding the game up," McIlroy told BBC radio. "The viewership in golf is up but the participation is down.

People enjoy watching the game but gone are the days that you could spend five or six hours on a golf course." The four-times major champion says officials at the top of the sport would be willing to make changes if they were of benefit. "I don't think they'd be against it especially if they wanted to get participation levels up,"

**World number one and defending champion Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland hits a shot on the 17<sup>th</sup> hole during the fourth and final round of the Australian Open golf tournament at The Australian Golf Club in Sydney on 30 Nov, 2014.**  
REUTERS



explained McIlroy.

"I don't think they need to alter tournament-play formats, I think that works very well. It's the grass-roots, definitely not at our level.

"I feel as though I've inspired a lot of kids back home in Northern Ireland to pick up the game and play," said McIlroy who won the British Open at Hoylake in July and the US PGA Championship in Kentucky in August. "Hopefully I can continue to do that beyond Northern Ireland because it's a great game. It's given me a lot and I've loved every minute of it and I know if more people pick up the game they'll love it too."—Reuters

## Pacquiao says money no object in Mayweather showdown



**Manny Pacquiao (C) of the Philippines poses on the scales at the Venetian Macao hotel in Macau on 22 Nov, 2014.** —REUTERS

NEW YORK, 16 Dec — Manny Pacquiao took up Floyd Mayweather Jr's shout-out that the boxers finally book a long-awaited clash on 2 May, the Filipino insisting money was no object and that they owed it to the sport to fight each other.

Mayweather, in remarks to Showtime TV last Friday, said Pacquiao was not worthy of a 50-50 split in his proposed showdown, which would likely become the highest grossing pay-per-view bout in history if the match were made.

Eight-division world champion Pacquiao appeared ready to accommodate the undefeated American.

"Mayweather can get the amount he wants. As early as January this year, I challenged him to a charity fight. Until now, he has not agreed to it. So, money is

not the issue in our fight," Pacquiao said on his official website. "This fight is about legacy, this is about making the fans happy and, above all, this is for the good of boxing."

The two champions, boxing's top drawing cards, have danced around a possible clash for roughly five years, with disputes over purses and drug-testing preventing a match being made.

"We are ready. Let's make it happen. 2 May. Mayweather versus Manny Pacquiao. Let's do it," the 37-year-old American, who fights at welterweight and light-middleweight, said.

As befits their familiar verbal sparring, Pacquiao promised he would deliver an exciting fight despite the supreme defensive skills so often displayed by Mayweather (47-0).

"He has reached a dead end. He has nowhere to run but to fight me," Pacquiao (57-5-2) said. "I will try my best to make this a thrilling and entertaining fight.

Reuters

## Everton play Barkley card to trump struggling QPR

LIVERPOOL, 16 Dec — Ross Barkley scored a sublime goal as Everton beat Queens Park Rangers 3-1 at Goodison Park on Monday to subject the travel-weary Londoners to their eighth away defeat in as many Premier League matches this season.

Barkley picked up possession in his own half in the 33rd minute, exchanged passes with Romelu Lukaku before driving at the defence and unleashing an unstoppable left-foot shot into the top corner for his first goal of an injury-plagued season.

Kevin Mirallas doubled the lead after 44 minutes with a wickedly-deflected free kick. Steven Naismith headed a third goal eight minutes after the break before substitute Bobby Zamora notched a late consolation for

Rangers.

Everton's first league victory since 22 November lifted them above local rivals Liverpool into 10<sup>th</sup> place on 21 points while QPR, without a point away from home this season, remained 18th, four points above bottom club Leicester City.

In the absence of Gareth Barry, man-of-the-match Barkley was deployed in a deep midfield role alongside the tenacious Muhamed Besic and the 21-year-old excelled.

"Wherever I am on the pitch I try to affect the game," England international Barkley told Sky Sports television.

"Anywhere on the pitch I'll enjoy playing but to get the three points and three goals against a QPR side who played well was great."

Barkley's brilliant goal injected life into a stuttering Everton performance against the visitors who had been on the front foot for much of the opening half hour.

Mirallas' free kick and Naismith's deflected header, after a series of avoidable defensive errors, added a slightly flattering gloss to the home team's display.

QPR battled hard and scored a deserved 80th-minute goal when Zamora supplied a simple finish after keeper Tim Howard had parried Jordan Mutch's well-struck effort. It sparked a late flurry of activity as Everton substitute Samuel Eto'o blazed a low shot against the post and Barkley's tantalising cross was just too strong for Arouna Kone.—Reuters



**Everton's Ross Barkley (C) shoots to score his side's first goal during their English Premier League soccer match against Queens Park Rangers at Goodison Park in Liverpool, northern England on 15 Dec, 2014.**—REUTERS