

## President says gov't eyes completion of regional development tasks before end of 2015

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—The government will proceed with political, economic and administrative reforms during the remaining year of its term, while it is endeavoring to accomplish its regional development goals before the end of 2015, President U Thein Sein said Thursday while visiting the Sagaing Region.

The president made the remarks while speaking to local people and government staff from Kalay, Kalewa, Minkin, Tamu and Mawlike districts at the city hall in Kalay, before wrapping up his two-day visit to the northwestern region.

Earlier in the day, the president and his party visited Maha Thakka Parima Upstream Teak Buddha Image on Yaza Giri Hill in Kyigon Village in Kalay and offered food, fruit, flowers, water and lights to a Buddha image.

He then presented a cash donation for the Buddha image to the chairman of the board of trustees, who gave the president a



President U Thein Sein cordially meets students and officials at Kalay University, Sagaing Region.—MNA

picture of the image.

After viewing round the religious edifices near the Buddha image, the president and his party inspected the construction of New Seikkantha Bridge across Oopoke Creek in Pinlon Ward in Kalay and work to prevent erosion of

the banks along the creek.

Later, they viewed round the development of the town on their way to Kalay University where Pro-Rector Dr Tun Tun Chan, faculty members and students welcomed them.

At the university, the president and party in-

spected the construction of a convocation hall and urged the chief minister of the region and officials to oversee the construction tasks to ensure the building is completed on time. The president then engaged in warm conversations with students at the university on

the learning environment and their aims in life.

He continued to the city hall and met with local people, telling them Kalay feels like home to him as he discharged military duty there and has fond memories of the place, which has developed year after year.

The president noted that the Sagaing Region's most urgent need is electricity, which will be supplied from Myittha Multi-purpose Dam and Yazagyo Multi-purpose Dam via the national grid, thereby enabling (See page 3)

## Indonesia-Myanmar business matching looks for potential businesses, trade partners

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 18 Dec — A delegation comprising representatives from 25 state-owned enterprises in Indonesia held business matching talks with Myanmar partners in Yangon on Thursday.

The Business Matching Indonesia-Myanmar event, which coincides with the 65th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Indonesia, kicked off at the office of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry with opening remarks by its UMFCFI Vice President U Zaw Min Win, Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr. Ito Sumardi, and Mr. Achiran Pandu Djajanto, deputy minister of the Indonesia's Ministry of State Owned Enterprises.

The purpose of the event is to exchange business information with a view to fostering relationships between potential businesses and trade partners and contributing to-

wards greater trade volume and investment between the two ASEAN member countries, said U Zaw Min Win.

It is also aimed at exploring collaborative partnerships with each other

for ensuring business benefit from ASEAN Economic Community, which is due to start next year, the RUMFCCI vice president added.

(See page 2)



UMFCFI Vice President U Zaw Min Win exchanges gifts with Indonesian Deputy Minister Mr. Achiran Pandu Djajanto who led a business delegation of 25 companies, in the presence of Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr. Ito Sumardi on Thursday. — PHOTO: YE MYINT

## Myanmar becomes full member of ASEAN Infrastructure Fund

YANGON, 18 Dec— Myanmar has completed all procedures to become the 11<sup>th</sup> shareholder of the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund (AIF), joining other Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) country members and Asian Development Bank (ADB).

"Myanmar is pleased to become a full member of the AIF as this is an important step toward further integration into ASEAN and the global economy, as well as helping the country to access funding to invest in infrastructure to support its long-term development," AIF Director for Myanmar.

AIF has so far financed three infrastructure projects for a total of \$165 million, including \$25 million for the Java-Bali 500kV power transmission project, a \$40

million loan for a sanitation project, also in Indonesia, and a \$100 million loan for a power grid development project in Viet Nam.

At its meeting today, the AIF Board approved a pipeline of projects for 2015, and discussed the indicative pipeline for 2016–2017, covering the priority sectors of water, transport and energy. Details of individual projects will be announced as loan negotiations draw to a close.

ASEAN country members include Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

ADB is a shareholder in AIF with \$150 million equity, and it acts as the overall administrator (See page 2)



## Union ministers discuss development of Tamu District

TAMU, 18 Dec—Union Ministers U Soe Thane, U Tin Naing Thein, Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win, U Khin Maung Soe and U Khin Yi met departmental officials from townships of Tamu District and townsenders at the town hall in Tamu, border town of Sagaing Region, on 16 December afternoon.

Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein explained future plans for development of the region. Union Min-

isters Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win, U Khin Maung Soe and U Khin Yi discussed prospects of regional development.

Union Minister U Soe Thane reviewed the reports of township officials from Tamu District and briefed them on reform processes of the nation. The union ministers viewed round development of Tamu Township and border trade camps between India and Myanmar.—MNA

## Health officials focus on emergency health care, natural disaster prevention

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—The Myanmar Health Sector Coordinating Committee-MHSCC held the third coordination meeting at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Thein Thein Htay explained health sector reform—progress towards UHC, raising health care of maternal and children, provision of major medicines project, emergency health care services, and free blood bank services.

Deputy Director-General Dr Yin Thanda Lwin of Health Department discussed essential health service access project of the Ministry of Health with the assistance of World Bank.

Officials discussed control of HIV, TB and malaria diseases, maternal and reproductive health, emergency health care services, prevention of natural disasters, a plan to di-

rectly manage the fund of Global Fund by the Ministry of Health, and upgrading health sector with the assistance of JICA and 3MDG.

MNA

## Dy ECF Minister meets World Bank official



**Deputy Minister Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin meet Ms Henrike Brecht, Senior Infrastructure Specialist and Task Team Leader of the World Bank.**—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—Deputy Minister Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin and Ms Henrike Brecht, Senior Infrastructure Specialist and Task Team Leader of the World Bank discussed cooperation of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry in disaster risk reduction being undertaken by World Bank at

the ministry on Thursday.

They also highlighted establishment of mangrove forests along the coasts, challenges of establishing the community-owned mangrove forests, test process of aquaforestry system, efforts for maintenance of watershed areas, cooperation with international organizations to

conserve Inlay Lake, test of water quality at Bago and Sittoung rivers, research development and capacity building, sectorwise cooperation for policy and work plans on climate change, and matters related to vulnerability assessment for Myanmar climate change alliance programme.

MNA

## Myotha-Htanzin-Htangwa-Wetlu rural road under construction

NGAZUN, 18 Dec—The government is striving for equitable development of urban and rural areas across the nation. In so doing, the government places emphasis on construction

and upgrading of roads.

Department of Rural Development allotted K1,163.34 million for construction of Myotha-Htanzin-Htangwa-Wetlu rural road in Ngazun Township, Mandalay Region.

Myingyan District's

deputy commissioner U Myint Thin Aung and officials inspected construction of the road section.

The road will be 20 miles long and 12 feet wide.

Zaw Min Naing  
(Myingyan)

## Japan grants US\$121,450 for a school in Ayeyawady Region

YANGON, 18 Dec—On 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2014, the handover and opening ceremony of the Thingangone village Basic Education High School took place in Ngaputaw Township, Ayeyawady Region.

In this ceremony, Mr. Kazuhiro YAMAMOTO, Second Secretary of the Embassy of Japan, Daw Khin Saw Mu, Social Minister of Ayeyawady Region, Daw Khin Than Myint, Pyittu Hluttaw Representative, U Saw Eh Gay, Regional Hluttaw Representative, Deputy Director of Department of Education, District and Township Education Officers, Township Administrator, teachers and students, Committee Chairman and committee members of the construction project and local residents attended.

The Japanese Government, under its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects

(GGP) Scheme, has extended the assistance of US\$121,450 for a humanitarian assistance program entitled “The Project for Construction of Thingangone Village Basic Education High School in Ngaputaw Township, Ayeyawady Region.”

When Cyclone Nargis

heavily struck Ngaputaw Township in May 2008, all the school buildings except one were totally destroyed. The Government of Japan under its GGP scheme supported a one storey RCC building with full furniture. The project will benefit 1,038 students of the school.—GNLM



**Mr. Kazuhiro YAMAMOTO, Second Secretary of the Embassy of Japan gives commemorative pennant to an official.**

## Indonesia-Myanmar business...

(from page 1)

He also expressed his view that Indonesia, which ranks the 14th among foreign investors in Myanmar, intends to step up its economic activities in the country, focusing on mining, banking, construction, cement and fertilizer production, transport and textiles.

In his welcoming speech, the Indonesian Ambassador noted that the two governments' leaders have already agreed to boost bilateral trade, which reached

\$498.86 million during the period from April 2013 to March 2014, with the goal of reaching US\$1 billion in 2016.

Statistics show that Myanmar's exports, especially agricultural products, to Indonesia stood at \$60.04 million while its imports from the fellow ASEAN member were \$438.82 million.

Last year, during then Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's visit to Myanmar, Myanmar and Indonesia signed

MoUs on cooperation in rice, trade in other products and investment.

Palm oil is Indonesia's main export to Myanmar, which is also planning to import cement from Indonesia, said U Aung Soe, deputy director-general of the Ministry of Commerce.

As the agreement was signed, Myanmar is going to export rice to Indonesia under a deal to supply 500,000 tons during the three-year period, the deputy director-general told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

Expressing his hope

for further economic cooperation between the two countries, Deputy Minister Mr. Achiran Pandu Djajanto who led the Indonesian business delegation, said that today's business matching will be sure to enhance the mutual understanding of the necessary process in carrying out the actual trading on the ground.

It is envisaged that direct contacts at the business matching will greatly contribute towards trading activities of the two business communities.

GNLM

## Myanmar Becomes Full Member of ASEAN...

(from page 1)

ADB, based in Manila, is dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration. Established in 1966, it is owned by 67 members – 48 from the region. In 2013, ADB assistance totaled \$21.0 billion, including cofinancing of \$6.6 billion.—GNLM





**President U Thein Sein cordially greets former Norwegian Prime Minister and former World Health Organization Director-General Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland.**—MNA

## Vice President says migrant workers contribute to economic growth of countries of origin and destination

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec — A ceremony to celebrate the International Migrants Day took place at the Myanmar International Convention Centre here on Thursday, with an address by Vice President U Nyan Tun, officials said.

Migrant workers contribute to the economic growth of the countries of origin and destination, with the vice president quoting the United Nations as saying that the UN has designated 18 December as the International Migrants Day since 2000 with the aim of honouring and promoting the rights of migrants themselves and their families as a whole.

He continued that world nations, on this special day, discuss ways and adopt action plans to protect the rights of migrant workers.

The number of migrant workers is significantly increasing as a direct consequence of globalization and regional integration, he said, adding that migration is now treated positively not only by countries of origin and destination but by migrants themselves in the belief that it draws benefits to them all.

Regarding risks facing migrant works, the vice president said that low-skilled workers in particular are faced with challenges such as threats, bullying, violence, discrimination and unequal treatment.

According to the vice president, the UN is pushing for the development of appropriate policies that will guarantee the rights of migrant workers, lessen socio-economic transaction costs, maximize the best benefits from migration.

Speaking of his coun-

try's reform process, Vice President U Nyan Tun said that the government is striving to improve the socio-economic status of the people, reduce poverty and create job opportunities as part of the country's multi-dimensional policies for comprehensive rural development and poverty reduction.

He pledged Myanmar's commitment to creating favourable conditions for migration and treating migrants as "important actors" rather than "victims".

According to the vice president, Myanmar has formed facilities such as the Migrant Resource Centre, the Migrant Workers Reporting Counter and the Complaint Mechanism Centre, with their offices in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA

## President says gov't eyes completion of...

(from page 1)

farmers to grow double crops and generate more income for farmers as well as for workers who now live from hand to mouth. He encouraged locals to think about what small industries they could run with electricity from the dams.

President U Thein Sein met townsenders from Kalay, Kalewa, Mingin, Mawlaik and Phaungpyin at the Aungzeya Yeiktha of the local station in Kalay, Sagaing Region, on 17 December.

Townsenders submitted development of the townships.

The President fulfilled the requirements of socio-economic, health, education, communication, electrification and transport sectors.

It was also attended by union ministers, Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye, Lt-Gen Myint Soe of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), deputy ministers and departmental heads.

After arriving back in Nay Pyi Taw in the af-

ternoon, the president received a delegation led by former Norwegian Prime Minister and former World Health Organization Director-General Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland at the Presidential Palace.

At the meeting, which was also participated in by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Wai Lwin, U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Aung Min, U Ohn Myint, U Khin Yi and Dr Than Aung and officials, discussions focused on implementation of the peace process, holding of political dialogue, strengthening of democratic practices and forging of sustainable peace across the country.—MNA



**Vice President U Nyan Tun views documentary photos and machinery in issuing documents to migrant workers displayed at MICC in commemoration of International Migrants Day ceremony.**

MNA

## Thura U Shwe Mann delivers speech at coordination meetings on important bills

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec — Cooperation between the Union Government and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw serves the interest of the people, Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann said at the coordination meeting on National

Planning Bill (2015-2016), the Union Budget Bill (2015) and Union Revenue Bill (2015) held in Zabuthiri Hall of the Hluttaw Building on Thursday morning.

In his speech, Thura U Shwe Mann said that the meeting was of great

importance as those bills were last planning, budget and revenue bills to be approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw before the end of its term and they had great impacts on the public interests, playing a decisive role in the accomplishment

of the government and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw during their respective terms.

Afterwards, chairmen, vice chairmen, secretaries and members of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, deputy ministers for finance, national planning and eco-

nomic developments, the deputy auditor-general and the deputy governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar held discussions on the bills.

The meeting concluded with remarks by the speaker.—MNA



## Tourist arrivals on increase at Mandalay International Airport

MANDALAY, 18 Dec — More than 250 tourists arrived at Mandalay International Airport through the e-visa system from 8 to 13 December.

The Mandalay Region Immigration and National Registration Department started giving e-visa services to tourists on arrival at the airport in the first week of November, saving them the trouble of applying for visas at Myanmar embassies.

“E-visa service is aimed at saving time and cost for tourists. Thanks to the e-visa service, arrival of tourists is increasing month by month,” the director of Mandalay Region Immigration and National Registration



Department told media.

He said that on 8 November, the Union Minister for Immigration and Population presented a gift of a painting to a Dutch couple

whose arrival in Myanmar coincided with the launch of the e-visa service and asked them about their e-visa application,”

The department issues

e-visa replies to the applicants within three days. They must pay a US\$50 per application fee.

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

## Staff join skill test in Taninthayi

TANINTHAYI, 18 Dec — In accord with the directives of the Department of General Administration under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Taninthayi Township GAD organized the skill test for clerks and staff at its office in the township on 15 December.

Township Administrator U Kyaw Thu supervised the test.

The township department holds the test twice a year to uplift capacity of the staff and workers.

*Nanthayi-Htein Win (IPRD)*



## Dawei district and township get law offices



DAWEI, 17 Dec — Dawei District and Township law offices were commissioned into service in Dawei, Taninthayi Region, on 17 December, at a ceremony attended by Chief Minister of the region U Myat Ko.

Region ministers and the Advocate-General of the region U Soe Myint formally opened two offices, located in a one-storey reinforced concrete building.

The chief minister visited the office and unveiled

their signboards.

Managing Director U Sonny of F-22 Construction Company handed over construction-related documents to Region Law Officer U Khin Maung Maung.

The regional govern-

ment allotted K130 million for construction of the two offices in the 2014-15 fiscal year.

*Taninthayi Region IPRD*

## Local authorities make surprise check on battery trading shop

NATOGYI, 17 Dec — Authorities inspected the use of restricted chemicals in Natogyi, Mandalay Region, on 12 December.

Myingyan District Deputy Commissioner U Myint Thin Aung, Township Administrator U Kyaw Naing and departmental officials checked storage and sales of sul-

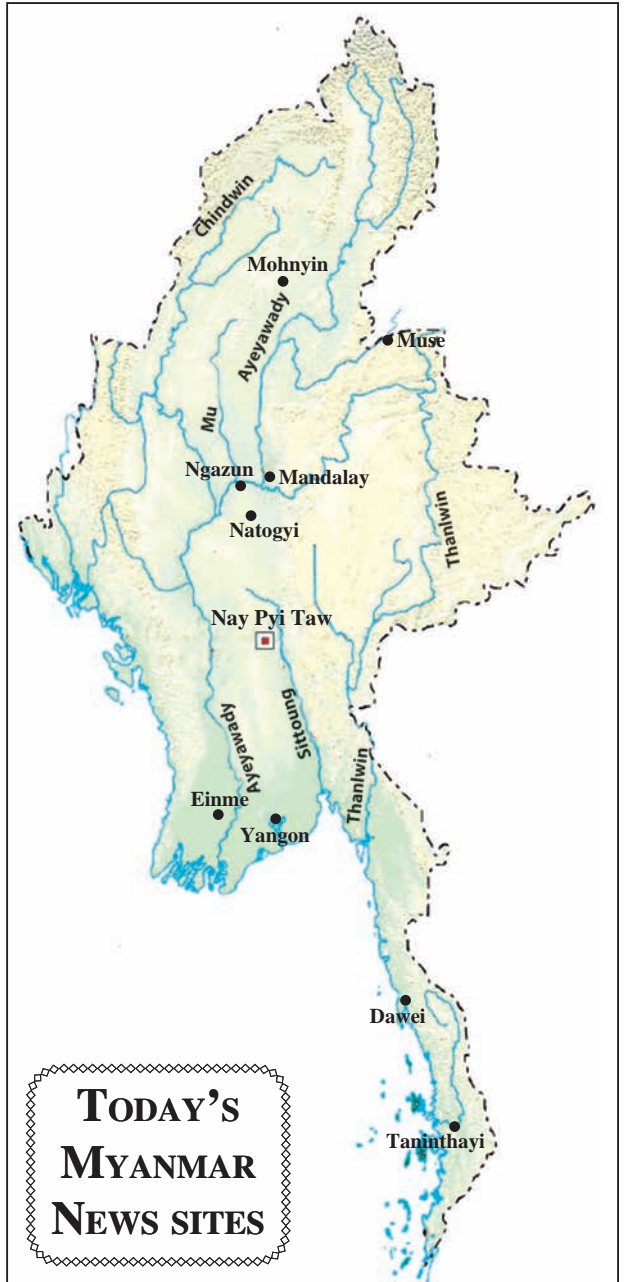
phuric acid, worksite safety and the bookkeeping system at Lighter battery and plate trading shop of U Aung Myint Soe in Ward 5 in Natogyi.

Officials urged the owner to take care of using the acid and avoid abusing sulphuric acid.

*Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)*



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## LOCAL NEWS

## Children show skills in contest



NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec — Children from pre-primary schools under Maternal and Child Welfare Association participated in a child skills contest at the hall of Dekkhina District General Administration De-

partment in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

At the opening ceremony, students performed dances and songs. The children showed off their skills in the contest.

Chairperson of Nay Pyi

Taw Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Aye Aye San and Chairperson Daw Thida Kyaing of Dekkhina District Association presented gifts and soya milk to the children.—*Shwe Kokko*

## Law books unavailable in rural areas

MOHNYIN, 18 Dec — Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Sai Tin Aung who is a member of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee held a discussion on distribution of laws and bylaws books including the Constitution approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to the people with staff of Mohnyin District Library of Information and Public Relations Department in Mohnyin, Kachin State, on 16 December.

They sought the ways to disseminate knowledge about the laws and bylaws



to the people on a wider scale.

People can read the laws and bylaws in the newspapers at public li-

braries of district and township IPRDs. But books on the laws and bylaws are not sufficiently available in rural areas.—*GNLM-001*

## Authorities, farmers meet on compensation for farmlands

NGAZUN, 18 Dec — The Myingyan District's deputy commissioner and departmental officials met farmers from villages around Myotha industrial city in Ngazun Township, Mandalay Region, on 16 December.

The deputy commissioner explained the purpose of giving compensation for confiscated farmland. The authorities have compensated K2 million per acre to owners of farmland with firm evidence of prior ownership and K500,000 to oth-



ers lacking such evidence. So far, the 60x80 feet land plots have been given to over 700 farmers.

Local farmers submitted their requirements.

Zaw Min Naing  
(Myingyan)

## Nanmyo Youth team emerge champion in Yadanabon FC Chairman's Cup



MANDALAY, 18 Dec — Nanmyo Youth team clinched the title of Yadanabon FC Chairman's Cup men's open football tournament with a 3-0 win over Sports and Physical Education Institute

(Mandalay).

The final match took place at Bahtoo Stadium in Mandalay on 17 December.

Officials of Sports and Physical Education Department and departments

concerned presented prizes to the winning teams.

On behalf of the Chairman of Yadanabon FC, Vice Chairman U Han Min Tun presented championship trophy and K1 million to Nanmyo Youth Team.

Altogether 27 football teams participated in the football tournament held at Aungmyay Mandalay and Bahtoo stadiums from 11 November to 17 December.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Mandalay Region Minister for Finance Dr Myint Kyu inspected progress of four-storey staff quarter at Mandalay Sub-printing House in Aungmyethazan Township on 17 December.—*TIN MAUNG (MANDALAY)*

## Public Works upgrades Einme-Pantanaw road

EINME, 18 Dec — Public Works personnel of the Ministry of Construction are placing asphalt concrete on a 24-mile long road linking Einme and Pantanaw townships of Ayeyawady Region.

On 17 December, officials of Public Works inspected progress of the road.

Public Works in Einme

Township is constructing the one-mile and six-furlong long road section while those of Pantanaw Township are placing AC on the remaining road section.

The road is a main artery for transport of commodities and local people from Labutta, Myaungmya, Einme and Yangon.

Township IPRD

## Health staff vaccinate people against elephantiasis disease

NYAUNGLEBIN, 18 Dec — The vaccination of elephantiasis disease was held in 61 villages and five wards in Nyaunglebin, Bago Region, on 17 December.

Township level officials made field trips to the villages and provided

assistance to the medical teams. Health staff and nurses vaccinated under-5 children and adults at their residences.

Township Administrator U Thein Zaw Kan and officials viewed the vaccination process.

Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)



## Mekong basin leaders to endorse \$51 billion in investment projects

BANGKOK, 18 Dec — Leaders from China and five Southeast Asian countries that share the Mekong River basin are expected to endorse a multi-billion dollar investment programme on Saturday to spur economic growth in the region, home to 326 million people.

A draft statement to be issued by Thailand, host of a two-day Greater Mekong Subregion summit that ends Saturday, said the leaders will discuss an investment programme covering 215 projects with an estimated total budget of \$51.5 billion.

The projects under the so-called GMS regional

investment framework, or RIF, cover a wide range of economic sectors including transport, energy, agriculture, environment, human resource development, tourism, transportation, information and communications technology.

The RIF implementation plan will provide an action plan to help the countries sharing the Mekong basin address many of the challenges in the coming years, according to a draft of the Joint Summit Declaration that the leaders will issue at the end of their fifth summit.

The countries represented at the Greater Mekong Subregion summit are

China, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

The leaders attending the summit are also expected to stress the need to provide adequate social safety conditions for the most vulnerable people, especially their basic needs like food security, shelter, health and education.

Decades of rapid economic and population growth have increased the demand for energy, land and water, and pose major environmental challenges to the region. The Greater Mekong Subregion is a natural economic area bound together by the Mekong River.—*Kyodo News*



Artists from Myanmar perform during the China-ASEAN Cultural Exchange Year 2014 Closing Ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, on 16 Dec, 2014. The China-ASEAN Cultural Exchange Year 2014 ceremonially closed in Myanmar's capital of Nay Pyi Taw Tuesday night.—XINHUA

## Two die as snow storm hits Japan

TOKYO, 18 Dec — Two people have died and two remain missing after a heavy snow storm hit northern and central parts of Japan from Wednesday night to Thursday.

A 68-year-old man died after falling from a garage roof while clearing snow Wednesday night in Tokaichi, Niigata Prefecture. In Semboku, Akita Prefecture, a 66-year-old woman died after falling

into a side ditch while removing snow Thursday morning.

Meanwhile, two of 25 Chinese crew members of a fishing boat went missing around the Oki Islands, Shimane Prefecture, after the boat hit a rock early Thursday morning while seeking shelter from a storm.

In Aichi Prefecture, more than 15 people were injured as more than 130

traffic accidents occurred due to heavy snow.

In Nagano Prefecture early Thursday morning, a train collided with a car stranded at a crossing, forcing about 85 people to stay on the train until after dawn. In Hokkaido Prefecture, an empty train also hit a car stalled at a crossing.

No injuries were reported in the two accidents.—*Kyodo News*



Local residents work to remove snow on a street during a snow storm on 18 Dec, 2014, in Kitami in Japan's northernmost prefecture of Hokkaido. Two people have died and two remain missing so far after a heavy snow storm hit northern and central parts of Japan through on 18 December.—KYODO NEWS

## Japan, 3 ASEAN nations to launch survey of Malacca straits

TOKYO, 18 Dec — Japan and three ASEAN nations surrounding the Straits of Malacca confirmed plans on Thursday to launch a joint waterway survey of the key Southeast Asian sea lane from next year.

Japan and the three members of the Association

of Southeast Asian Nations — Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore — will map five spots in the straits next year that require utmost urgency, according to Japanese officials.

Japanese shipping companies will provide funds and technical person-

nel. The straits are narrow and prone to sinking and other accidents. The corridor needs mapping on a regular basis to ascertain any typological changes and the locations of obstacles, including sunken ships.

Japan has taken part in similar surveys twice in

## Cambodia protests Thai soldiers shooting of Cambodian women

PHNOM PENH, 18 Dec — Cambodia has sent a letter of protest against Thai soldiers who shot five Cambodian women, leaving one dead at the scene.

The protest note sent to the Thai government, a copy seen by the media on Thursday, said "The Royal Government of Cambodia strongly protests against the barbarian acts committed by the Thai soldiers, which obviously violate humanitarian principles."

In the note dated Wednesday, Cambodia also asked the Thai authorities

to stop these "atrocious acts against innocent Cambodian people" and "respect the recent agreements" by the leaders of the two countries.

The note said that on 9 December, five Cambodian women — a mother, her two daughters and two other women living in O'smach district in Cambodia's northwestern province Uddor Meanche — crossed into Thai territory without knowledge of the borderline to collect wild mushrooms and cassava.

While collecting the products, the 55-year old

mother, Horn Chem, was shot dead by Thai soldiers. Her two daughters and the two other women fled back into Cambodia, it said.

In the note, Cambodia requested the Thai authorities to conduct a thorough investigation into the incident and bring the offenders to justice.

Koy Kuong, a spokesman for Cambodia's Foreign Ministry, told *Kyodo News* that since early this year, five Cambodians were shot dead by Thai soldiers, including the latest death.

—*Kyodo News*

## World's largest capacity container ship holds maiden voyage ceremony in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 18 Dec — CSCL (China Shipping Container Lines Co Ltd) Globe, the world's largest container vessel, held a grand maiden voyage ceremony in Singapore on Thursday.

The CSCL Globe, which is 400 metres long and 60 metres wide, is the

first of the five sister ships built by the Republic of Korea's Hyundai Heavy Industries for CSCL. The vessel is bigger than four football fields combined and stands 10 storeys high. It is capable of carrying 19,100 containers, making it the largest container vessel in the world.

Building mega ships has become a new trending of shipping lines under the "New Norms" of global economy and shipping industry, it is also an important measure to implement green technology, said Sui Jun, deputy manager of CSCL.

"Compared with ordinary 10,000-TEU container

ships, it can save about 20 percent in energy consumption and reduce 30,000 tonnes of carbon emissions," Sui said.

Sui said that Singapore is one of the important legs of Silk Road at Sea, as well as transshipment hub in Southeast Asia, and CSCL will take this as an opportunity to upgrade the fleet and provide better logistic services to its customers.

CSCL, the global container liner service provider, is affiliated with China Shipping Group, which was founded in 1997 in Shanghai. The group has established over 400 sales outlets in more than 100 countries in the world.—*Xinhua*



## WORLD

## Australian police raid properties, not related to siege: authorities



*Customers dine at the Lindt cafe on Sydney's George Street, on 18 Dec, 2014, which opened its doors for the first time on Thursday following a siege at Lindt's nearby Martin Place outlet.*

REUTERS

SYDNEY, 18 Dec — Australian police are conducting raids across Sydney, officials said on Thursday, though the operation is not related to a cafe siege this week that resulted in the death of two hostages. Australian Federal Police and New South Wales Police are in the process of raiding properties, a spokeswoman for state enforcement department told *Reuters*.

While New South Wales Police said details would be provided once the operation was complete, the spokeswoman said the raids were not connected to the Sydney siege on Monday. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported that at least one of the properties raided was targeted during large-scale counter-terrorism raids in September.

Police remain on heightened alert following the deadly hostage siege.

Three people were killed, including hostage-taker Man Haron Monis, when police stormed the cafe early on Tuesday to free hostages held at gunpoint for 16 hours. Police are investigating whether the two captives were killed by Monis or died in cross-fire. —*Reuters*

## 1<sup>st</sup> commercial hydrogen station in Tokyo, surrounding region opens

TOKYO, 18 Dec — The first commercial hydrogen fuel station in Tokyo and its surrounding region opened in the capital's Nerima Ward on Thursday, a move aimed at promoting the use of environmentally friendly, hydrogen-powered vehicles. The launch of the charging station by Tokyo Gas Co came just days after Toyota Motor Corp started selling its "Mirai" fuel-cell vehicle, which runs on electricity generated through a chemical reaction between hydrogen fuel and oxygen in the air.

At an opening ceremony, Tokyo Gas Vice President Yutaka Kunigo said that as the government is working to promote hydrogen energy, the utility intends to cooperate with it in building hydrogen fuel stations.

The utility plans to set the price of hydrogen fuel before Toyota's Mirai be-

gins being delivered to its owners, initially aiming to price the fuel at around the same level as gasoline.

Other gas utilities are also working to open hydrogen charging stations, with Iwatani Corp having opened two stations, including one in Amagasaki, Hyogo Pre-

fecture, in western Japan. JX Nippon Oil & Energy Corp has said it plans to launch a hydrogen station in Ebina, Kanagawa Prefecture, by the end of this year, with plans to increase the number of such stations to 40 by March 2016.

*Kyodo News*



*Tokyo Gas Vice President Yutaka Kunigo (far R) fills a fuel-cell vehicle on 18 Dec, 2014, at the hydrogen fuel station in the Japanese capital during a ceremony to commemorate the launch of the first commercial charging station in Tokyo and its surrounding region.*

KYODO NEWS

## South Korea balks as US picks Japan, Australia to service F-35s in Asia

WASHINGTON/SEOUL, 18 Dec — South Korea said on Thursday it will not send its F-35 fleet to Japan for heavy airframe maintenance, one of the two Asian hubs chosen by the United States to service the Lockheed Martin Corp stealth fighter.

Instead, it is likely to fly the jets to Australia for maintenance, about eight times further away than Japan and well beyond their operating range. The three nations, all key US allies, are the only countries in the region to have ordered the F-35s. The F-35 programme has been lauded as an example of the United States and its allies working together to bolster interoperability, but in Asia the maintenance plan is bringing traditional rivalry between Seoul and Tokyo to the fore.

The three-star air force general who runs the F-35 programme for the United States, Chris Bogdan, told reporters on Wednesday that Japan would handle heavy maintenance for the jets in the northern Pacific from early 2018, with Australia to handle maintenance in the southern Pacific.

"There will never be a case where our fighter jets will be taken to Japan for maintenance," said an official at South Korea's arms



*A Lockheed Martin F-35B Lightning II joint strike fighter flies toward its new home at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida in this US Air Force picture taken on 11 Jan, 2011. —REUTERS*

procurement agency, the Defence Acquisition Programme Administration.

"South Korea has the right to decide where to conduct maintenance for its F-35 jets, and it will decide whenever the need arises."

The plan at the moment is for the 40 F-35s to be acquired by South Korea to be serviced in Australia, an Australian defence ministry source told *Reuters* on condition he wasn't identified.

South Korea will receive the first of the stealth planes in 2018.

A source familiar with the F-35 programme said

South Korea could, at a later stage, negotiate with Washington on the possibility of handling the heavy maintenance of its own F-35 jets.

Such a deal would require a significant investment by Seoul, including specialized equipment used to test the jets' stealth.

However, barring unforeseen circumstances, the new jets would not require much heavy maintenance until five years after their delivery, said the source, who was not authorized to speak publicly. Heavy maintenance involves repairs that get into the struc-

ture of the airplanes.

"At the moment the regional hub in Japan will deal with the 42 Japanese F-35s, we will discuss with the Pentagon what others will be handled in Japan," Katsuyuki Komatsu, the Deputy Director of the Aircraft Division at Japan's Ministry of Defence said at a briefing in Tokyo.

That discussion, he said would cover the F-35s to be operated by South Korea and those to be flown by the US from bases in North East Asia.

Bogdan said the F-35 programme office would re-examine the mainte-

nance assignments every two to three years, providing opportunities for other countries with F-35s to benefit from a market valued at billions of dollars in coming years.

The \$399 billion weapons programme, has already produced 120 jets with the US and foreign militaries gearing up to start operating the jets around the world in coming years.

In Japan, the airframe maintenance decision benefits Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, which is already slated to run the final assembly and checkout plant being built in Japan at a cost of 63.9 billion yen.

## Indonesian president says no clemency against drug dealer

JAKARTA, 18 Dec — Indonesian President Joko Widodo on Thursday stressed that he would not give clemency to any drug dealers who have been in a raw for death penalty as the country has been on emergency against the danger of drug.

Joko Widodo, better known as Jokowi, said that he had already rejected dozens of petitions for exemption submitted by drug dealers who have been sentenced to death penalty by courts.

"I stress that there will

be no clemency for drug cases," he said at Bidakara building, adding "this country has been in an emergency situation against the danger of drug."

In Australia, the airframe maintenance work could be done by Britain's BAE Systems, although the Australian government could opt to compete the work, the source said.

"Australian defence industry stands to win well in excess of \$1.5 billion in JSF-related production and support work over the life of the programme," Australian Defence Minister David Johnston said in a statement. —*Reuters*

For this year, six people are set to be executed on death penalty for drug cases in Indonesia. Jokowi said that he already asked the attorney general office, police and other related institution to strengthen efforts to enforce anti-drug law.

Indonesian anti-narcotic agency has targeted Indonesia to be free from drug next year. —*Xinhua*



## PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 19 December, 2014

## Why not try the benefit of the doubt?

By Kyaw Thura

The year 2015 will no doubt be a historic occasion for Myanmar. The reason is that the country will be conducting general elections in the fourth quarter of the year, with curiosity sweeping the country. The people have become curious as to what changes the elections will bring about and what that year will have in store for them.

Looking back on the events of the year 2014,

one can easily detect that this year has witnessed two major endeavours. One is national reconciliation and the other is peace talks between the government and the ethnic armed groups. Despite leaving no stone unturned, both sides have not accomplished much. It is therefore necessary for them to start to think in a logical way and put aside their individual egos.

Clearly it takes time to build a functional, high-performing team to mend the relationships that have long been strained. It is however not that complicated. The key is to keep it simple and keep working on the establishment of mutual trust.

Once trust is restored, all stakeholders engaged in national reconciliation and peace talks will as a general rule be willing to admit weaknesses and mistakes, ask for help and accept questions about their areas of responsibility and accountability. It is better to give one another the

benefit of the doubt before jumping to a negative conclusion.

In other words, all stakeholders should come to sense that now is the time for all of them to openly confront their pasts, face their imperfections, make changes and do better while seeking some common ground for their shares of contributions to peace, human rights and all-round development of the country.

## 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.*

## Love is a many-splendoured thing, but ...

By Myo Myint

There are so many words and phrases related to love in the English language and their meanings differ slightly from one another based on degree of passion, age of person and duration. The word "love" is defined by the Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary (CALD) as "to like another adult very much and be romantically and sexually attracted to them, or to have strong feelings of liking a friend or person in your family". Some examples of words related to love and their meanings found in the third edition of CALD are adoration (very strong love or worship for someone), besotted (completely in love with someone and always thinking of them), crush (a strong but temporary liking for someone), infatuation (strong but not usually lasting feelings of love or attraction), puppy-love (romantic feeling which a young person feels for someone else and which usually disappears as the young person gets older), romance (a close, usually short relationship of love between two persons), and worship (to love, respect or admire someone or something very much often without noticing their bad qualities). So also, there are numerous poetic descriptions of love which I will not attempt to discuss here, as my interest is more on the effect love has on a person than on aesthetic matters.

There is a Myanmar saying that when in love and when heavy-eyed, one loses one's sense of shame. Indeed, it is a very apt description, because when one is in love with someone, the person loses all inhibitions when in pursuit of the object of his/her love. So also, love inspires people to do great things. Love inspires people to make great sacrifices, even giving up one's life. Love for someone can make one forget everyone, even one's dearest and nearest relatives, like one's parents. Love can affect one's mind and make one go crazy, since being in love floods one system with mood altering chemicals as pointed out by Dr Helen Fisher and quoted by Molly Triffin, and Holly Eagleson in their article Why love can make you crazy. Love can make one a slave, if one is a meek and mild person, and if one is unfortunate enough to fall in love with a domineering person. Love can cause great pain, if unrequited. Love can cause one to do unimaginable cruel things, if rejected. Love can also make one's life unbearable, if deceived. Hence, it will be noted that love has many sides to it, both positive as well as negative.

Just as no one can escape death, so also few can escape the entrapments of love with all its passions, tenderness, hopes, fears, yearnings, fulfillments, disappointments, uncertainties, and complications. However, due to the multi-dimensional aspect of

love, a certain degree of maturity is demanded of a person before venturing into it.

This article has been generated by a shocking local news item of an eighth standard boy entering the classroom of an eighth standard girl and stabbing her with a knife because she had slapped him two days ago for giving her a love letter. It is fortunate that the girl didn't die, and that it is a rare occurrence in Myanmar schools, but it seems to be a repeat of another similar event some months ago, when a young woman was apparently stabbed to death by a young man for having declined his love.

Some may regard it as an exaggeration to say that the current environment is encouraging even the very young to participate in the game of love, but a closer look will reveal that it is not so. In some families, it has become common to joke about their young children in primary school having sweethearts and exchanging presents on Valentine's Day. In addition, with TVs becoming a property many Myanmar families own, and as homes are so much saturated with daily doses of foreign and local drama film series in which love between young people figures a lot, our young children are over-exposed to the theme of falling in and out of love and their related behaviours. I am particularly saddened by a scene in a local short film shown on a local TV channel, of a group of ten

or eleven year old pre-teen boys behaving like love-struck young adults while watching girls of their age acting like models on stage. It is surprising that such a film is permitted to be shown on TV, and more surprising that no parent has been heard to protest about it. Another bad example for young children is the uncontrolled passion being shown by those in love in public sight on roads, buses, trains and public places including pagoda precincts, which is against the Myanmar nature and culture. This also begs the question whether the love in the current age is being driven more by need to satisfy the senses, or by love of the whole person. So also there is too much emphasis on love in pop songs and excessive portrayal of it in VCDs of the songs. Moreover, increasing ownership of cellular phones among young teenagers, has given them free access to indecent sites from all over the world.

Should parents and teachers be overly concerned by this growing trend in increasing interest of the very young in matters beyond their age? Indeed they should, for many important reasons. The main reason is that it distracts youngsters from their studies and has an adverse effect on their academic performance which can lead to repeated failures in their studies, affecting their prospects in life. It can also sometimes lead to playing truant from school to go to shopping centres, cinemas,

parks and day clubs. It can cause obsession with one's looks and clothes from a young age. The excessive concentration on just one person from an early age may also retard building effective social relationships with peers as well as family. Such acts as the demand for large amounts of pocket money by children to lavish presents on their sweethearts and deceiving parents on their whereabouts can lead to conflicts with parents and cause worry and unhappiness in the family. Lastly, imitating the behaviour of adults too early in life, means loss of opportunity to enjoy the carefree life of the young for the child concerned. Hence, it is vital that parents and family should not encourage such behaviours in their children. At the same time, parents should spend more time with their children and provide them the attention and love all children want. Parents also need to ensure that their children have as many friends as possible to develop social skills, but they need to be of the right type, to ensure that they are not exposed to wrong ideas. Moreover, parents should also provide opportunities

for their children to enjoy their leisure, at least during their weekends, and take them to places of interest, such as zoos and museums, and do informal learning, instead of forcing them to attend extra classes seven days a week. Furthermore, children should be exposed to religious teachings of a level commensurate with their age, so that they grow up to be persons equipped with both moral strength and religious beliefs. Parents themselves should serve as good models for their children in all matters, as they are the first teachers in life and continue to be the guiding light throughout their lives. Hence, it is essential that parents keep their children fully occupied with the right balance between work - acquiring knowledge and skills for all-round development including social skills and training to be physically and mentally healthy persons, and play - allowing children to enjoy the carefree life of a young person, so that they will not be distracted by matters not of concern to their age group.

On the part of schools, it is the responsibility of the heads and teachers not only

(See page 9)

## GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (18-12-2014)

## Yangon Gold Price

Buying K666,600 per tical: Selling K667,600

## Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K666,600 per tical: Selling K667,600

## FE RATE

USD Buying K ----: Selling K----

SGD Buying K 785: Selling K795

Euro Buying K1,280: Selling K1,300



## NATIONAL

## NPED Ministry conducts post-graduate courses for capacity enhancement of staff

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec — The Graduate School of Administration and Development (GSAD) opened a post-graduate diploma in public policy and administration (PG Dip PPA), a post-graduate diploma in development planning (PG Dip Dev Pln) and a post-graduate diploma in

development practice (PG Dip Dev Pract) in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw made a speech.

The courses are aimed at enhancing the capacity of government workers in public administration and

human resources development.

Emeritus professors of foreign universities, experts, union ministers and deputy ministers will give lectures to the trainees.

A total of 117 staff from 22 ministries and five organizations are attending the courses.—MNA

## Union ECF Minister meets FAO resident representative, official of Four PAWS International



**Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun holds talks with Dr Amir Khalil of Four PAWS International of Australia.**

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun held talks with Resident Representative Ms Bui Thi Lan of FAO at his office in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday to discuss forest management tasks with the assistance of Global Environment Facilities (GEF), prevention of forest fire and air pollution.

They also discussed reducing losses of local people in climate change

for their residence in forests and environs, survey on fish and coral reefs and marine resources, drawing the land utilization policy, experiences, challenges and future cooperation among other countries in land management.

The union minister received Dr Amir Khalil of Four PAWS International of Australia at his ministry focusing their discussions on the establishment of wildlife sanctuaries including elephant sanctuaries,

medical treatment of elephant diseases, cooperation of international organizations with the government in health care for elephants, prospects for establishment of elephant sanctuaries for tourist attraction, experiences of neighbouring countries, establishment of wildlife sanctuaries in Australia, Germany, Bulgaria and South Africa by Four PAWS International and plans to cooperate with the government for staff capacity building.—MNA

## Love is a many-splendoured...

(from page 8)

to provide knowledge and make learning interesting, but also to instill discipline and social skills. In addition, as students spend a lot of their waking hours in school, they also need to keep students occupied with, and interested in healthy activities like sports and games. They also need to provide the time, opportunities and facilities like libraries and music and agri-

cultural associations to pursue their hobbies and interests. School children need good models and teachers should guide them to have the right role models. In addition, schools should hold educative talks on social and health matters provided by specialists.

On the part of the government, and the local community, apart from extending more assistance to the education sector, they need

to also develop sports and recreation facilities for young people. Every ward should have a football field, a playground and a park for children to play, so that they can escape from the dreary and cramped conditions of apartments and high rise buildings they have to live in. More facilities such as natural and historical museums, art galleries, botanical gardens and animal sanctuaries should also be set up in easily accessible places to give opportunity for young



**Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw speaking at opening ceremony of post-graduate diploma in public policy and administration.—MNA**

## MPF and CSOs jointly train communication skills and conflict prevention

YANGON, 18 Dec—“This joint workshop is a milestone for reform of the Myanmar Police Force. For the first time ever police officers and civil society actors were sitting together and jointly discussed how to set up a liaison mechanism for regular meetings, consultations and conflict prevention,” explains EU Ambassador Roland Kobia with on the EU training that took place in Patheingyi

end of November. “The EU strongly supports the set up of liaison mechanisms between the MPF and civil society organizations which will serve to avoid violent conflicts and support the right of the people to demonstrate peacefully for their interests and needs.”

The EU workshop trained 12 police officers and 13 civil society actors from Ayeyawady region in communication, nego-

tiation and liaison skills. Based on realistic scenarios the participants jointly trained conflict analysis and resolution tools. Special attention was paid to the role of the General Administration Department (GAD) in dealing in land-grabbing cases. The relationship with the administration at regional and township levels can be quite challenging to MPF Liaison Officers.

GNLM



**Myanmar police officers in training of communication skill course.**

CREDIT TO EUD

people to learn and enjoy themselves at the same time.

Lastly, it is time to take strong action against those misbehaving in public to protect the morals of current and future generations, and our valued cultural norms. It is also important that pop stars acknowledge the fact that people of all ages, including the very young ones watch their videos and listen to their songs. They need to serve as good role models for young people and they need to behave in a

decent manner, which certainly will not affect the adoration that their fans have for them, their freedom to be creative, or the expression of their talents. Other celebrities should also be aware of their important responsibilities, as some stars say they are not bothered about what people think. Such attitude of those who earn their living with the support of young people is to say the least, wrong. They have to care, because, unfortunately, whether they

like it or not (they probably do), they serve as models for young people regarding their clothes, behaviours and attitudes.

In order to solve many of the problems that parents and teachers face in raising children, including for them to not fall in love too early in life, parents, teachers, and stakeholders should meet regularly and discuss ways and means to counter the harmful influences that young people face these days from many sources.



# US, Cuba restore ties after 50 years



**Cuba's President Raul Castro speaks to the nation via public television in Havana on 17 Dec, 2014.**  
REUTERS

HAVANA/WASHINGTON, 18 Dec — The United States and Cuba agreed on Wednesday to restore diplomatic ties that Washington severed more than 50 years ago, and President Barack Obama called for an end to the long economic embargo against its old Cold War enemy.

After 18 months of secret talks, Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro agreed in a phone call on Tuesday on a breakthrough prisoner exchange, the opening of embassies in each other's countries, and an easing of some restrictions on commerce.

The two leaders made the announcement in simultaneous televised speeches. The Vatican and Canada facilitated the deal.

Obama's call for an end to the economic embargo drew resistance from Republicans who will control both houses of Congress from January and who oppose normal relations with the Communist-run island.

Obama said he was ending what he called a rigid and outdated policy of isolating Cuba that had failed to achieve change on the island.

His administration's policy shift includes an opening to more commerce in some areas, allowing use of US credit and debit cards, increasing the amount of money that can be sent to Cubans and allowing export of telecom-

munications devices and services.

Travel restrictions that make it hard for most Americans to visit will be eased, but the door will not yet be open for broad US tourism on the Caribbean island.

Obama's announcement also will not end the US trade embargo that has been in force for more than 50 years. That is codified in legislation and needs congressional approval. Obama said he would seek that approval but likely faces a struggle.

But sanctions experts said Obama had leeway to use executive his powers to ease the embargo even in the face of congressional objections.

"There is a lot of breadth to authorize things more broadly than they've been authorized, provided that the broad (legislative) contours are adhered to," said Peter Kucik, a former Treasury Department official who worked on Cuban sanctions.

Obama said the opening was made possible by Havana's release of American Alan Gross, 65, who had been imprisoned in Cuba for five years.

Gross' case had been a major obstacle to improving relations. Cuba also released an intelligence agent who spied for the United States and was held for nearly 20 years, and the United States in return freed three Cuban intelligence agents held in the United States.

Cuba and the United States have been ideological foes since soon after the 1959 revolution that brought President Raul Castro's older brother, Fidel Castro, to power. Washington broke diplomatic relations with Havana in 1961 as Cuba steered a leftist course that turned it into a close ally of

the former Soviet Union on the island, which lies just 90 miles (140 km) south of Florida.

The hostilities were punctuated by crises over spies, refugees and the Cuban missile crisis of October 1962 that brought the world to the brink of nuclear war. After the demise of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War,



**US President Barack Obama announces a shift in policy toward Cuba while delivering an address to the nation from the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington on 17 Dec, 2014.** — REUTERS

Washington was increasingly alone in its efforts to squeeze Cuba. Raul Castro, who took over from Fidel Castro when his brother retired in 2008, has maintained a one-party political system.

Obama said Cuba still needed to enact economic reforms and uphold human rights among other changes but that it was time for a new approach.

Americans are largely open to establishing diplomatic relations with Cuba, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll of more than 31,000 adults conducted between July and October. About one-fifth of those surveyed said they opposed such a move, while 43 percent said the United States should restore relations with Cuba and around 37 percent said they were unsure.

Critics said Cuba should not be rewarded, having yet to change, and

the path to completely normal ties is strewn with obstacles, in particular lifting the embargo that the White House said Obama would like to see dismantled by the time he leaves office in 2017.

Although a growing number of US lawmakers favour more normal ties, those lawmakers are still mostly Democrats, and after big midterm election gains in November, Republicans will control both houses of Congress in the new year.

Senator Marco Rubio, a Cuban-American Republican, said he was committed to doing all he could to "unravel" the plan. Senators John McCain and Lindsey Graham, both set to hold senior foreign policy positions, said the policy shift reflected "America and the values it stands for in retreat and decline."

Former Secretary of State and potential 2016 Democratic presidential contender Hillary Clinton backed Obama's move, saying: "Our decades-long policy of isolation has only strengthened the Castro regime's grip on power."

Whatever the criticism at home, Obama's move was made with the political liberty of a president who, midway through his second term, no longer has to face the electorate.

News of the changes rippled fast through the 1.5 million-strong Cuban-American community in the United States. It was hailed by some who are eager to see closer ties with the island and condemned by others.

Older Cubans who left the island soon after the revolution have remained opposed to ties with either Castro brother in power. Younger Cubans, who left more recently or were born in the United States, have shown more interest in

warmer relations.

"It's amazing," said Hugo Cancio, who arrived in Miami in the 1980 Mariel boatlift and runs a magazine with offices in Miami and Havana. "This is a new beginning, a dream come true for the 11.2 million Cubans in Cuba, and I think it will provoke a change of mentality here too in this community."

In Havana, stunned Cubans celebrated the news, although some were sceptical the long years of animosity really would end. In one student demonstration on a busy Havana street corner, about 100 people shut off traffic while motorists honked their horns. Neighbours peered out from their balconies, joining in the cheers.

"I have waited for this day since I can remember," said taxi driver Jorge Raymond, wiping away tears.

Obama's move was also praised by Latin American leaders, who have urged Washington for years to drop its economic embargo against Havana.

Obama said the Gross case had stalled his ambitions to try to reset relations with Havana, calling it a "major obstacle." Pope

Francis, the first Latin American pontiff, played an active role in pressing for his release from Cuba, where a sizable part of the population is Roman Catholic. Cuba arrested Gross on 3 December, 2009, and sentenced him to 15 years in prison for importing banned technology and trying to establish clandestine Internet service for Cuban Jews. Gross had been working as a subcontractor for the US Agency for International Development. Gross' lawyer and family have described him as mentally vanquished, gaunt, hobbling and missing five teeth. Speaking to reporters after arriving in the United States, Gross thanked Obama for all he had done to secure his release and said he did not blame the Cuban people for his ordeal.

The three Cuban intelligence agents, jailed since 1998, are Gerardo Hernandez, 49, Antonio Guerrero, 56, and Ramon Labañino, 51. Two others had been released before on completing their sentences — Rene Gonzalez, 58, and Fernando Gonzalez, 51. The three arrived in Cuba on Wednesday, Castro



**Cuban President Raul Castro (C) poses with (L-R) Fernando Gonzalez, Ramon Labanino, Gerardo Hernandez, Antonio Guerrero and Rene Gonzalez, after three Cuban intelligence agents Labanino, Hernandez and Guerrero arrived in Havana in this 17 Dec, 2014.** — REUTERS

## Western sanctions may last for decades — Russian minister tells newspaper

MOSCOW, 18 Dec — Western sanctions over Russia's role in the Ukraine crisis are likely to last "for a very long time", possibly decades, Economy Minister Alexei Ulyukayev told *Vedomosti* newspaper.

"When a US law is passed it is very hard to change it afterwards — looks like it will be in place for decades," Ulyukayev said in an interview published on Thursday. Russia's economy is heading for recession, dragged lower by sanctions imposed by the West over Ukraine and weak oil prices, a cornerstone of state revenues. The rouble has lost more than 45 percent against the dollar since the start of the year. Ulyukayev said a lack of structural reform of the economy had partly set Russia up for "the perfect storm". He added that if there were no sanctions, no falling oil prices and if "we had not done some foolish things" which he did not elaborate on, the Russian economy could show annual growth of between 2.5 and 3 percent.

He added that sanctions may become tougher next year with the situation on the oil markets worsening further.

"The situation is so hard to predict that we cannot be prepared for its changes in the future ... How should we behave then? Write one more stress-scenario in addition to (the oil price at) \$60 (per barrel)? Let's do it for \$40, \$20 and \$10," he said ironically. — Reuters

## S Korea welcomes US-Cuba agreement to start talks on own relations

SEOUL, 18 Dec — South Korea said on Thursday it welcomes an agreement between the United States and Cuba to start talks on diplomatic relations.

"We welcome the agreement on normalizing relations (between the US and Cuba) as an important progress," Foreign Ministry spokesman Noh Kwang Il said during a press briefing. He added that the agreement "is also expected to make a positive effect on South Korea's move to restore relations with Cuba." "We hope efforts (by the US and Cuba) toward normalizing relations advance smoothly," he said. — Kyodo News



# Iraq Kurds launch Sinjar offensive after coalition air strikes

ARBIL, (Iraq) 18 Dec — Kurdish forces launched an operation to retake the town of Sinjar in northwest Iraq on Wednesday after coalition planes pounded Islamic State positions overnight, Kurdish officials said.

The peshmerga fighters made gains against IS throughout the day, the officials said, driving the militants out of at least eight sub-districts in the Zumar area, east of Sinjar.

If the peshmerga succeeded in recapturing the town, it would open up a corridor to Sinjar mountain, where hundreds of minority Yazidis have been besieged by IS militants since August.

It would also be a symbolic victory for the Kurds, whose reputation as fearsome warriors was bruised after Islamic State



Members of the Kurdish security forces take part in an intensive security deployment in Jalawla, Diyala Province on 1 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

overpowered the peshmerga in Sinjar and killed or captured hundreds of Yazidis.

“At 8:00 this morning the ground offensive

began to liberate Sinjar town,” said one official in the Kurdish region’s Security Council, adding that coalition planes had bombed the area for sever-

al hours beforehand.

“There’s evidence that a lot of IS fighters abandoned their weapons and fled the area.”

Several other Kurdish

security officials gave similar accounts.

US President Barack Obama cited the duty to prevent an impending massacre of Yazidis by Islamic State militants as one of the main reasons for authorising the first air strikes in Iraq this summer.

Since then, Kurdish peshmerga forces have regained most of the ground they lost to Islamic State in northern Iraq, but Sinjar’s awkward geography, out on a limb to the west, has made it difficult to penetrate.

The road through Sinjar is an important supply route for Islamic State militants between Mosul and neighbouring Syria.

Kurdistan’s security council said in a statement information from the front line suggested more than 80 militants had been

killed in the offensive so far. The number of casualties among the peshmerga was not known.

“Morale remains high as the Peshmerga continue to make advances against ISIS,” the statement read.

In London, the Kurdistan Regional Government’s top diplomat told *Reuters* Kurdish armed forces had been co-ordinating with Iraqi Shi’ite militias in the fight against Islamic State.

“In certain areas, especially in Diyala Province where there are other forces on the ground, there has been some co-ordination, but I don’t hide it and there has been some tension as well,” said Falah Mustafa Bakir, head of the KRG’s department of foreign relations.

*Reuters*

## Canada PM says Parliament attacker may not have been lone wolf



Canada’s Prime Minister Stephen Harper speaks during Question Period in the House of Commons on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on 19 Nov, 2014. REUTERS

OTTAWA, 18 Dec — The man who killed a Canadian soldier and then stormed the Parliament in October may not have been acting alone, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said on Wednesday.

Michael Zehaf-Bibeau, a Canadian citizen who wanted to

travel to Syria, was shot dead after a gunfight in the halls of Parliament.

“People say he was a lone wolf. It’s true he was a single attacker, but it is not necessarily the case that it was only one guy,” Harper said in an interview with the French-language TVA network.

Zehaf-Bibeau struck two days after Martin Rouleau, a Muslim convert, ran down two Canadian soldiers in Quebec, killing one. Rouleau was shot dead by police.

“It is possible there were other people around these men,” Harper said.

He did not elaborate except to say that investigations were continuing.

In the case of Rouleau, he was known to police for his jihadist views, like dozens of others in

Canada, Harper said, but police were not able to arrest them or conduct the necessary surveillance, “and we have to address these difficulties.”

Law enforcement authorities around the world are increasingly worried about the risk of “lone wolf”-style militant attacks.

While such attackers may cause less mayhem than those backed by militant groups, they are also more difficult to track.

The self-styled sheikh behind a siege at a Sydney, Australia, cafe this week, was considered a lone wolf, according to a criminal defence lawyer who had represented him. Man Haron Monis was killed after police stormed the cafe to end the hostage drama.—*Reuters*

## Suicide bomber kills one on outskirts of Afghan capital

KABUL, 18 Dec — One policeman was killed and two were injured on the outskirts of the Afghan capital on Thursday, in a blast caused by a suicide bomber attempting to enter

Kabul in a vehicle laden with explosives, an interior ministry spokesman said.

“A patrol was sent around 7 am to 7:30 am to look for the suicide car bomber, but unfortunately

ly the bomber was able to detonate his explosives,” spokesman Sediq Sediqqi told *Reuters* by telephone.

The attack took place in a village just beyond the airport, he said.—*Reuters*



Afghan security forces inspect at the site of a suicide attack in Kabul on 18 Dec, 2014. — REUTERS

## Kuwait says accepts Iraq request on Gulf war reparations

KUWAIT CITY, 18 Dec — Kuwait said it accepted an Iraqi request related to reparations imposed by the UN Security Council over its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, state news agency KUNA said on Thursday, ahead of discussions in Geneva on the request.

A UN official said on Wednesday that Iraq, its

economy battered by declining oil prices and war with Islamist militants, has requested a one-year deferral of a \$4.6 billion (£2.9 billion) reparations payment for destroying Kuwait’s oil facilities during its 1990-91 occupation.

Asked about reports that Iraq had asked to de-

fer payment of the last tranche of its reparations to Kuwait, Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Khaled al-Jarallah was quoted as saying: “The brothers in Iraq have presented the request formally and unilaterally and Kuwait has accepted and responded to this request.”

*Reuters*



A general view of Kuwait City on 10 Nov, 2012. —REUTERS



## ADVERTISEMENT &amp; GENERAL

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV UNI ASSURE VOY NO (379N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV UNI ASSURE VOY NO (379N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.12.2014 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 EVERGREEN SHIPPING  
LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV CRESTED EAGLE VOY NO (001)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CRESTED EAGLE VOY NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.12.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING  
CO LTD.**

Phone No: 2301186

### Ministry of Construction Public Works

#### (Invitation For Open Tender)

1. Open tender applying prequalification method is invited by Public Works, Ministry of Construction, Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for upgrading projects with the part of proceeds of the Regional Development Project for Poverty Reduction under JICA ODA Loan, Japan.

Sr.	Name of Work	Type of Work
1.	Thayet-Minhla Road (Magway Region) (13 miles)	Bituminous Road
2.	DaikU-Sittaung Road (Bago Region) (21 miles 2 furlongs)	Bituminous Road
3.	Monywa-Ayataw-Shwe Bo Road (Sagaing Region) (7 miles)	Bituminous Road
4.	Mandalay-Phottaw-Mogok Road (Mandalay Region) (8 miles)	Bituminous Road
5.	Yangon-KyaukPhyu Road (Rakhine State) (19 miles 4 furlongs + 6 bridges)	Bituminous Road

- Distribution period - (22.12.2014) to (29.12.2014)
- Last Submission Date - 12:00 noon on 22.1.2015
- Opening date of Tender - 13:00 hours on 10.2.2015
- Tender Documents can be purchased with fifty thousand kyats (50000 Ks.) at the following address and for the detail information, please contact the office within office hours.

**Tender Selection Committee, Public Works  
Road Department Office No.(11), Nay Pyi Taw  
Tel: 067-407468, 407578, 407603, 407583, 407380**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (061W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (061W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.12.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S HANJIN SHIPPING  
LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

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In respect of "pharmaceuticals, pharmaceutical preparations, pharmaceutical drugs and medicines, oral intestinal lavage preparation" in International Class 5.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

**U Than Maung, Advocate  
For Ajinomoto Co., Inc.,  
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,  
#1505-1508-1509, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sakura Tower, Yangon,  
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.  
Dated 19 December 2014 utm@kcyangon.com**

#### TRADEMARK CAUTION

Nissan Jidosha Kabushiki Kaisha (also trading as Nissan Motor Co., Ltd), a company incorporated in Japan and having its registered office at No.2, Takara-cho, Kanagawa-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa-ken, Japan is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:

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Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

**U Than Maung, Advocate  
For Nissan Jidosha Kabushiki Kaisha  
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,  
#1505-1508-1509, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sakura Tower, Yangon,  
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.  
Dated 19 December 2014 utm@kcyangon.com**

### WEATHER REPORT

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is partly cloudy in the North Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2014:** Isolated light rain are likely in Mandalay Region, Kachin and Shan States, weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV BANGSRIMUANG VOY NO (127)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSRIMUANG VOY NO (127) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.12.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN  
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Phone No: 2301186

#### INDUSTRIAL DESIGN CAUTIONARY NOTICE

Sony Computer Entertainment Inc., a company incorporated in Japan and having its registered office at 2-6-21, Minami-Aoyama, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-0062, Japan, is the owner and proprietor of the following Industrial Design (in 8 different figures) with respect to the product of "Controller for Arithmetic and Control Unit" of which Myanmar Registration No. is 4/7220/2006:

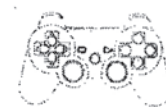


Figure 1 (Front)



Figure 2 (Rear)



Figure 3 (Left side)



Figure 4 (Right side)



Figure 5 (Top plan)



Figure 6 (Bottom plan)



Figure 7 (Top plan perspective)



Figure 8 (Bottom plan perspective)

Fraudulent or unauthorised use, or actual or implied imitation of the said Industrial Design shall be dealt with according to law.

**U Than Maung, Advocate  
For Sony Computer Entertainment Inc.,  
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd  
1505-1508-1509, Sakura Tower, Yangon,  
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.  
Dated 19 December 2014 utm@kcyangon.com**

### Prime Minister Li: New USD 3 billion fund for CEEC

BELGRADE, 18 Dec — China's Prime Minister Li Keqiang has said in Belgrade that China will establish a new investment fund worth USD 3 billion that will be available to the Central and Eastern European countries (CEEC).

The fund will be used in new ways, through public-private partnerships and leasing, he said at the Economic Forum held as part of the China-16 CEEC Summit. Some USD 1.7 billion remain from the previous credit line, which is still available to the CEEC, and China will try to reduce the cost of those loans, he noted. China has the resources

needed for investments and this part of Europe has a growing need for infrastructure development, he pointed out. Li hopes Chinese investors will be able to set up factories in Serbia that will produce the material needed for the development of infrastructure, which will create new jobs.

If the CEEC use their potential, the global economy will overcome its problems, he remarked.

A China-CEEC business council will be formed and it will be a new step and a new stage in cooperation between the two sides, he said.

Tanjung

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### INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER (TENDER NO.6(T) MPE/ CONDENSATE (2) / 2014-2015)

- Open Tender is invited for the Myanmar 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).
- Tender Closing Date : **15-1-2015** at (12:00) noon.
- Tender Opening Date : **15-1-2015** at (13:00) hrs.
- Delivery Time : 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016
- Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing **22-12-2014** on payment of the Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000) per set.
- Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director  
Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise

### THE 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).

(1) Stacker & Reclaimer Machine	(1) Lot
(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 (13:00 PM)

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

## Global population living six years longer than in 1990

LONDON, 18 Dec — Global life expectancy has risen by more than six years since 1990 thanks to falling death rates from cancer and heart disease in rich countries and better survival in poor countries from diarrhoea, tuberculosis and malaria.

In an analysis from the 2013 Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study, health researchers said, however, that while life expectancy is rising almost everywhere in the world, one notable exception is southern sub-Saharan Africa, where deaths from HIV/AIDS have erased some five years of life expectancy since 1990.

"The progress we are seeing against a variety of illnesses and injuries is good — even remarkable — but we can and must do even better," said Christopher Murray, a professor of global health at the University of Washington in the United States, who led the study. It was published in *The Lancet* medical journal.

Murray said a huge increase in collective action and funding given to potentially deadly infectious diseases such as diarrhoea, measles, tuberculosis, HIV and malaria has had a real impact, reducing death rates and extending life expectancy. —Reuters

### 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, Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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

## United States halts shale gas drilling in New York State

NEW YORK, 18 Dec — The United States gives up shale gas drilling because of risks for health and environment. The project is closed in the state of New York.

Gov Andrew Cuomo's administration will move to prohibit fracking in the state, citing unresolved health issues and dubious economic benefits of the widely used gas-drilling technique, *Associated Press* reported on Wednesday.

Environmental Commissioner Joe Martens said on Wednesday that he recommends a ban, and Cuomo said he would defer to Martens and Acting Health Commissioner Howard Zucker in making the decision.

Zucker and Martens summarized the findings of their environmental and health reviews. They concluded that shale gas development using high-volume hydraulic fracturing carried unacceptable risks that

haven't been sufficiently studied.

Martens said the Department of Environmental Conservation will put out a final environmental impact statement early next year, and after that he'll issue an order prohibiting fracking.

The gas drilling boom in the Marcellus Shale, a rock formation underlying southern New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia, was made possible by fracking, or high-volume hydraulic fracturing, which releases gas from rock by injecting wells with

chemically treated water at high pressure.

The drilling technique has generated tens of billions of dollars and reduced energy bills and fuel imports in the region. But it's also brought concerns and sparked protests, over air and water pollution, earthquakes, property devaluation, heavy truck traffic and health impacts.

New York has had a ban on shale gas development since the environmental review began in 2008.

Itar-Tass

## FBI, Los Angeles police recover 9 stolen paintings worth \$10 million

LOS ANGELES, 18 Dec — Federal agents and police in Los Angeles have recovered nine paintings worth millions of dollars that were stolen from the home of an elderly couple six years ago, including works by Marc Chagall and Diego Rivera, and FBI spokeswoman said on Wednesday.

The paintings were recovered in an FBI sting op-

eration in which a suspect identified as Paul Espinoza, 45, was arrested as he tried to sell the stolen artwork to undercover agents, FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller said.

Espinoza was charged by Los Angeles County prosecutors with possession of stolen property, Eimiller said, adding that the police and FBI investigation of the

art theft was continuing and that additional suspects were being sought.

She said authorities also are looking for three additional paintings stolen from the couple's home in the Encino neighbourhood of Los Angeles in August 2008, a daylight art heist that ranks among the biggest in the city's history.

Reuters





## ‘Game of Thrones’ unveils new teaser for season 5



The short video was sent out via Twitter or text message to those who have signed up on [threeeyedraven.com](http://threeeyedraven.com).

LOS ANGELES, 18 Dec — ‘Game of Thrones’ is not returning until 2015, but HBO has teased fans with a mysterious promo for the upcoming season 5. The latest snippet released by the network offers a quick look at scenes from the next installment.

There’s a blurry shot of Sansa Stark, a glimpse of Tyrion Lannister, his sister Cersei behind a window, a three-eyed raven, someone rowing a boat and a book being shut, reported Variety. The short video was sent out via Twitter or text message to those who

have signed up on [threeeyedraven.com](http://threeeyedraven.com). The video can only be viewed once and if one tries to take a screen-shot, it will shut down. But one fan managed to record the teaser and uploaded it on Youtube.

The previously released teaser features Arya stabbing a man with Needle and hints at where Arya will end up in the upcoming installment. It shows black and white doors believed to be representing The House of Black and White. ‘Game of Thrones’ season 5 is expected to premiere in spring 2015.—PTI

## I learnt to fire gun for new film: Katie Holmes

LONDON, 18 Dec — Actress Katie Holmes says she had to learn how to shoot a gun for ‘Miss Meadows’. The 35-year-old actress enjoyed playing the titular character in her latest movie, which tells the story of a teacher who moonlights as a vigilante, partly because she got to handle a powerful weapon, reported Contactmusic.

“Miss Meadows is a new character for me because she’s kind of funny — a substitute teacher who turns into a vigilante when she sees a child being harmed. She was fun to play — plus, I learned how to shoot a gun,” she said.

Holmes, who has



Katie Holmes: Miss Meadows is a new character for me because she’s kind of funny.—PTI

eight-year-old daughter Suri Cruise with ex-husband Tom Cruise, said she is pleased to be back on the big screen after a few years off. “Work ebbs and flows but I have been fortunate

recently to have more projects come my way. And because my child is growing up, I have a bit more time to focus on my work — and I’m excited about it.

PTI

## Older women dating younger men is no big deal: Jennifer Lopez

LONDON, 18 Dec — Lopez may have dated younger men in the past, the singer-actress said she doesn’t like being labelled as a cougar.

The 45-year-old songstress, who broke up with toyboy lover Casper Smart in June, recently opened up about being romantically involved with men many years younger than her, and admitted it is “no big deal”, reported Contactmusic.

“All the old cliches about women need to be undone. Enough already. We’re in the other position now. We are desirable older, we can date younger guys and it’s not this big taboo.

“Men have been doing this for years, and it’s no big deal. Enough with the cliches about women. We can date younger guys ... It’s no big deal,” she said.

The Grammy winner, whose exes include Ben Affleck and Sean ‘Diddy’ Combs, dealt with the emotional pain of each breakup head-on to avoid making similar mistakes in later relationships.—PTI



## Third ‘Night at the Museum’ film marks Robin Williams’ final appearance

NEW YORK, 18 Dec — For the third installment of the lucrative “Night at the Museum” series, the filmmakers wanted to make a film about saying goodbye.

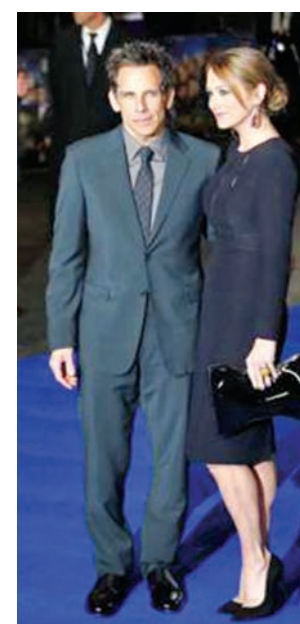
As fate would have it, the sequel, entitled “Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb” would be comic legend Robin Williams’ final appearance before the cameras, as well as the penultimate film featuring veteran nonagenarian actor Mickey Rooney, both of whom died in 2014.

The credits for “Secret of the Tomb,” which opens in US theatres on Friday, read “In loving memory of Mickey Rooney,” and “For Robin Williams — the magic never ends.” In the latest installment, the plot of which might best be distilled as “Night at the British Museum”, Stiller, his teenage son and the museum’s come-to-life characters must travel to London to save the decaying magical tablet that animates the natural history museum’s exhibits each night.

Back for a third go-round in the series, which has so far generated nearly

\$1 billion at the worldwide box office, are Ben Stiller as the night security guard, Owen Wilson and Steve Coogan as the diminutive cowboy Jedediah and Roman Centurian Octavius, museum head Ricky Gervais, and Williams as US President Teddy Roosevelt.

Reuters



Actor Ben Stiller and wife Christine Taylor arrive for the European premiere of “Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb” at Leicester Square in London in this file photo taken on 15 Dec, 2014.

REUTERS

## Imagine Dragons announces new album ‘Smoke + Mirrors’

LOS ANGELES, 18 Dec — Imagine Dragons’ new album, which was written and produced by the band along with Alex Da Kid in their self-built home studio, will be released on 17 February 2015. The Las Vegas rock band announced that they would release their sophomore effort, ‘Smoke + Mirrors’, reported Ace Showbiz.

The album, serving as the follow-up to 2012’s Grammy-winning ‘Night Visions’, was written and produced by the Las Vegas band with the help from Alex Da Kid in their self-built home studio. It will feature 13 new tracks including lead single ‘I Bet My Life’ and the

newly-released ‘Gold’. Both songs are available for free download for fans who pre-order the album on iTunes now.

‘Gold’ is one of the last songs written for this album. I came home from tour with my head spinning and decided to run away for

a bit to the west coast and reflect/write about the last couple years. If you listen closely to the sample of me whistling into my laptop by the ocean, you can hear a wave that crashed while I was recording it. “I loved the take because it seemed to crash perfectly in time. It takes me back to that spot every time I hear the song,” frontman Dan Reynolds said.

Based on the tracks that precede it, ‘Smoke + Mirrors’ will likely sound different from Imagine Dragons’ previous releases. Four new songs are added to the album’s deluxe edition that will be released exclusively through Target.

PTI



The Las Vegas rock band announced that they would release their sophomore effort, ‘Smoke + Mirrors’.—PTI



## GENERAL

### Asleep in Jesus Mahn Aung Than Tin (Mahn Sadaw) Aged 79 years

Second son of headmaster (U Mahn Wilson Tun-Gah Sein Kywe) of Room 18, Building 209, Yan Naing Street, Ward 4, Yankin Township, Yangon, younger brother of (Mahn Sein Than-Gah Kyin Hone), elder brother of Daw Than Than-(U Thein Aung) of North Dagon Township and (Mahn Myint Pe-Gah Sann Kyi), beloved father of Friedo Nwe Nwe Aung-Tommy Tin Maung, Zin May Aung, Patricia Aye Aye Thwe-Ricky Myint Lwin, grandfather of Rosalyn Tsee, Matthias Tsee, Damiral, Dominie, Aye Chan Paing and Aye Thada Chan, beloved husband of Daw Dolly Yee Yee Thein, Mahn Aung Than Tin fell asleep in Jesus on 16-12-2014 (Tuesday). The funeral will be held at All Christian Churches' Cemetery (Yayway) at 3 p.m. on 20-12-2014 (Saturday) for entombment.

(Buses will leave the residence at No 406 on 10<sup>th</sup> Nweni Street, Ward E, North Okkalapa Township, at 2.30 p.m.)

**Bereaved Family**

## Vietnam suspends fruit imports from Australia over fruit fly concerns

HANOI, 18 Dec — Vietnam has decided to suspend imports of fruits from Australia for concerns over fruit fly, according to the Department of Plant Protection under Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on Wednesday.

Nguyen Xuan Hong, director of the department, said imports of all 38 kinds of Australian fruits will be suspended from 1 January, 2015 to prevent fruit fly infestation as Australia is facing outbreaks of fruit fly which attack and damage fruits and vegetables.

Vietnam has sent an announcement to the Australian side in accordance with international regulations, said Hong.

He said quarantine work will be strengthened for fruit shipments on the way to Vietnam. The imports will be resumed when no fruit fly outbreak is reported in Australia and if the country's fruits meet quarantine requirements of Vietnam, reported the website of the Vietnamese government on Wednesday.

According to statistics by the Department of Plant Protection, in the first 10 months of 2014, Vietnam imported some 2,000 tons of fruits from Australia, mainly apples, pears, grapes and cherries.—Xinhua

tauld Gallery in London.

"When you consider some of the still lifes and landscapes that have come to auction in the last 15 years this certainly ranks up there," Vincze said. Christie's had announced previously that its February sale would consist in part of the collection of an unnamed "European collector" that includes works by Modigliani, Miro, Magritte, Delvaux, Picasso, Moore, Fontana and others.

Reuters



Christie's staff members pose for a photograph with "Vue sur L'Estaque et Le Chateau d'If" by Paul Cezanne in London on 17 Dec, 2014.

REUTERS

## 'Shimmering' Cezanne to heat up art auction, Christie's says

LONDON, 18 Dec — A "shimmering" Paul Cezanne painting of the Mediterranean with a castle in the background is expected to attract the big-money buyers at a February auction that includes works by Modigliani, Giacometti and Picasso, Christie's said on Wednesday.

The Cezanne work, "Vue sur L'Estaque et Le Chateau d'If", which he painted in 1883-85 from an apartment overlooking Marseille harbour, will be auctioned on 4 February.

"This is a spectacular image, it's got the heat of the south of France, it's got the shimmering quality of Cezanne," Jay Vincze, head of Impressionist and Modern art at Christie's London, said.

The canvas comes from the collection of the late British industrialist Samuel Courtauld and is estimated at 8-12 million pounds, Christie's said, adding that the work is on display at its London showroom through 23 De-

cember. With Cezanne's "The Card Players" generally ranked as the most expensive painting ever sold, with an unconfirmed but widely reported price of \$250 million (£159.83 million), the landscape is certain to spark huge interest, Vincze said.

"There's a lot of demand out there for the best of the best," he said, noting that the market had greatly expanded beyond the traditional buyers in Europe and the United States.

Much of the demand seen in auction rooms has been from Asian buyers, eager to snap up works by masters such as Cezanne, Van Gogh or Monet.

The Cezanne should have strong appeal because it is rare for one of the works that he painted in his Estaque apartment to come to market.

This one has the added value of provenance from the collection assembled by Courtauld, most of whose other works by Cezanne form the core of the Cour-

### MYANMAR TV

(19-12-2014, Friday)

- 6:00 am
- \* Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:20 am
- \* Physical Exercise
- 7:00 am
- \* News / Weather Report
- 7:45 am
- \* Documentary
- 8:35 am
- \* TV Drama Series
- 9:00 am
- \* News/ International News
- 10:20 am
- \* Documentary (Road to Academy 2013) (Part-1 & 2)
- 11:40 am
- \* Myanmar Series
- 12:00 noon
- \* News/ International News / Weather Report
- 12:30 pm
- \* Myanmar Movies
- 2:45 pm
- \* Musical Programme
- 3:40 pm
- \* Pyi Thu Ni Ti
- 4:15 pm
- \* Socio Economic Scenes
- 4:40 pm
- \* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) Second Year (Myanmar)
- 5:15 pm
- \* TV Drama Series
- 6:30 pm
- \* Amazing World
- 7:00 pm
- \* News
- 7:15 pm
- \* Teleplay
- 8:00 pm
- \* News International News / Weather Report
- 8:35 pm
- \* People Talks
- 9:00 pm
- \* News
- 9:30 pm
- \* Socio Economic Scenes

### MITV MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(19-12-14 07:00 am~  
20-12-14 07:00 am) MST

- \* Local News
- \* Discovering Tribes (MUUN) EPISODE-1
- \* World News
- \* Chef Life : Cho Wut Yee
- \* Local News
- \* Taung Byone Nat Festival (Ep-V)
- \* World News
- \* Independent Filmmaker
- \* Local News
- \* Rakhine Traditional Wedding Ceremony
- \* World News
- \* Amazing May Phoo Han
- \* Local News
- \* Herbal Medicine By Thurein
- \* World News
- \* A Nun's Creation in Fruit Carving
- \* Local News
- \* A Real Dream of Accidental Gift
- \* World News
- \* Crocodile Keeper
- \* Local News
- \* Taung Byone Nat Festival (Ep-IV)
- \* World News
- \* Dhamma School
- \* Local News
- \* Myanmar Maga Factory - (Ep-3)
- \* World News
- \* A Person with Faith
- \* Local News
- \* A Diary of a Fisherman
- \* World News
- \* In the Studio: Aw Thada

## Lava creeps within mile of Hawaii shopping centre

PAHOA, (Hawaii), 18 Dec — A stream of molten lava from an erupting volcano on Hawaii's Big Island crept to within a mile of the only grocery store and gas station in the village of Pahoa on Wednesday as it neared a highway link with the rest of the island.

The Hawaii County Civil Defence Agency reported on Wednesday that lava from the Kilauea Volcano's 27 June eruption continued to move in an east-northeast direction, following the path of steepest descent through rough terrain and thick undergrowth. Scientists from the US

Geological Survey said the flow measured about 250 feet (76 m) across and had advanced about 220 yards (200 m) in 24 hours, putting its leading edge 0.9 mile (1.5 km) from a small commercial plaza at the junction of Pahoa Village Road and the main highway.

Authorities said the lava was likely to reach the intersection sometime next week. An earlier branch of the lava flow stalled just feet from a recycling transfer station.

The latest flow has been advancing at an average rate of roughly 330 yards a day since early November.

While the lava poses no immediate threat to homes, it is headed directly at the Pahoa Marketplace housing a grocery store, gasoline station, medical clinic and several small shops and restaurants. Civil Defence Chief Darryl Oliveira said county officials were working closely with the merchants to prepare for a possible evacuation.

The service station has begun emptying its gasoline tanks and replacing the fuel with water and fire-retardant foam, Oliveira said, and Malama Market has announced plans to close on Thursday.—Reuters



Lava flow from the Kilauea volcano is pictured having crossed Cemetery Road, while lava upslope creeps towards the village of Pahoa on Hawaii's Big Island on 8 Dec, 2014. —REUTERS



# Manchester City primed to pounce on leaders Chelsea

LONDON, 18 Dec — Rejuvenated Manchester City can pile the pressure on Premier League leaders Chelsea for the first time this season if they beat struggling visitors Crystal Palace on Saturday.

With Chelsea not playing at Stoke City until Monday, a City victory at the Etihad Stadium against a Palace side who have failed to win their last four Premier League matches would put the champions level on 39 points with Jose Mourinho's men.

Having trailed leaders Chelsea by eight points at one stage this season, City have won their last five league matches, with Frank Lampard's strike enough to give Manuel Pellegrini's side a 1-0 victory at bottom club Leicester City last weekend.

However, City will be



*Manchester City's players warm up during a training session at the Manchester City Football Academy in Manchester, northern England on 9 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS*

without a recognized forward against 16<sup>th</sup>-placed Palace as Sergio Aguero, Stevan Jovetic and Edin Dzeko all have knocks,

while captain and key central defender Vincent Kompany limped off at Leicester with a hamstring injury.

Despite a lack of at-

tacking options, Pellegrini is confident his injury-hit squad can find the perfect striking remedy within their ranks against Neil War-

nock's Palace.

"We'll work this week with the players that can play in that position," Pellegrini told reporters. "At the moment we are trying to recover all the players because we have no strikers."

"David Silva, Samir Nasri and the rest of the midfielders can all score so we must see during the week which is the best way to play in the future until we recover our strikers."

Chelsea, who beat visiting Hull City 2-0 last weekend, have no striking woes but, after allowing their healthy advantage over City to be cut, midfielder Cesc Fabregas has called on his team mates to keep improving in their quest for the title.

"You can always get better," the Spaniard told the club's website (www.chelseafc.com). "We know

that and we are trying to improve in training by doing what the manager tells us to do."

"Everyone is very focused and everyone is very professional. Now the next two or three weeks are really important in our season and we have to be up for it."

Third-placed Manchester United, buoyed by a 3-0 demolition of arch-rivals Liverpool at Old Trafford last weekend, travel to Aston Villa on Saturday when fourth-placed West Ham United host basement side Leicester. On Sunday, Newcastle United fans will give Sunderland a hostile reception in the Tyne-Wear derby at St James' Park, before floundering Liverpool, perhaps lifted by their 3-1 Capital One Cup win at Bournemouth in midweek, host sixth-placed Arsenal.

Reuters

## Liverpool getting back to their best, says Rodgers

BOURNEMOUTH, 18 Dec — Liverpool are showing signs of reproducing their scintillating form of last season after a 3-1 win at Bournemouth in the League Cup quarter-finals on Wednesday, manager Brendan Rodgers said. Having struggled to recapture the form that propelled them to second place in the

Premier League last season, Rodgers' side set up a semi-final against league leaders Chelsea with an impressive performance. Two goals from Raheem Sterling either side of a Lazar Markovic strike gave Liverpool victory against in-form Championship (second-tier) leaders Bournemouth. It was

an encouraging display for the Anfield boss, whose team have endured an early Champions League exit and are 11<sup>th</sup> in the league having accrued their lowest ever points tally in the Premier League after 16 games.

"We're starting to see signs of getting back to where we were," Rodgers told a news conference.

"We know there is a way to go but this was a tough game coming here so for us to come and dominate like we did, and score the goals that we did, was very pleasing." Bournemouth came into the game on a 12-match unbeaten run and have exceeded all expectations this season, topping their league to become contenders for promotion to the Premier League. The south-coast club knocked out West Bromwich Albion in the previous round and some had predicted a shock against a Liverpool side who were beaten 3-0

at bitter rivals Manchester United on Sunday. "It was an outstanding performance. Even though the result wasn't ideal at Old Trafford I'd seen moments in our game that was good and we created a lot of chances," Rodgers said. "I think slowly we're getting there. There are a lot of new players adapting. I'm looking to find solutions to make us more creative, because we haven't been that. I thought tonight was more like what we produced (last season)." Liverpool, who last won the League Cup in 2012, are aiming to win the trophy for the ninth time and Rodgers is relishing the prospect of facing Chelsea, who have only been beaten once in all competitions this season. "If you're going to win the tournament, and that is our objective, you have to beat the best teams," he said.

"It's over two legs and we'll really relish that opportunity."—Reuters



*Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers watches play during their English Premier League soccer match against Manchester United at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England on 14 Dec, 2014.*

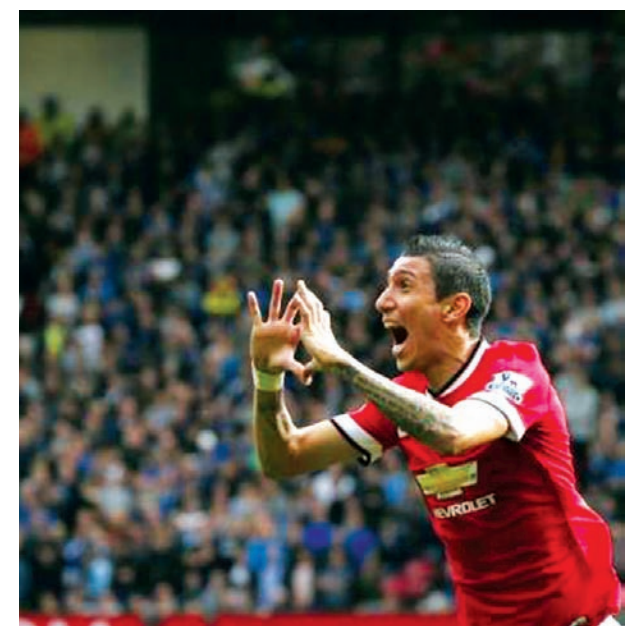
REUTERS

## James Rodriguez comes back Real Madrid for Club World Cup final

MARRAKECH, (Morocco), 18 Dec — James Rodriguez, the Colombian World Cup star, has recovered from a calf injury and is back for Real Madrid ahead of Saturday's Club World Cup final. Carlo Ancelotti, Real's Italian coach, said on Monday that he was counting on Rodriguez, would be ready for Saturday's final. The 23-year-old Rodriguez received global fame during the 2014 World Cup, with 6 goals and 2 assists in 5 matches. After the World Cup, he joined Madrid for 80 million Euros (100 million dollars) from AS Monaco. Madrid will take on either Auckland City of New Zealand or San Lorenzo of Argentina in the final.—Xinhua



## Di Maria wins Argentina's player of the year award



*Manchester United's Angel Di Maria celebrates after scoring a goal against Everton during their English Premier League soccer match at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England on 5 Oct, 2014.*

REUTERS

BUENOS AIRES, 18 Dec — Manchester United's Angel Di Maria has been voted Argentina's foreign-based player of the year by the country's sports journalists.

The winger won the Olimpia de Plata (Silver Olimpia award) at a ceremony on Tuesday, where striker Lucas Pratto of Velez Sarsfield won the equivalent for best player in the Argentine league.

Di Maria helped former club Real Madrid win their 10<sup>th</sup> European Cup in

May and Argentina reach the World Cup final, which he missed through injury, in Brazil in July.

Velez, announcing Pratto's award on their website (www.velezsarsfield.com.ar) on Wednesday, said the striker was on the verge of joining Brazil's Atletico Mineiro pending a medical.

Media reports have said Velez will receive \$5 million for Pratto, a high fee for a transfer between South American clubs.

Reuters