

## Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham looks into hospital renovations in Yangon

YANGON, 29 Dec — Vice President Dr. Sai Mauk Kham inspected renovation works at 500-bed specialist hospital and 1,500-bed general hospital in Yangon Monday.

At the arrival to the specialist hospital, medical superintendent Dr Than Htut explained infrastructure, management, water and electricity supply, treatments and plans for 2015-2016 fiscal year at the hospital.

Deans of medical departments also presented the functioning of respective theatre, followed by suggestion of deputy health minister Dr Win Myint.

Dr. Sai Mauk Kham said: "Government has allocated more budgets for health sector. A long-term plan will be needed to ensure international treatment norms. Medical workers are suggested to collaborate with respective department, with the help of regional departments in some circumstances."

The vice president then looked around upgrading and renovation works at the 1,500-bed Yangon General Hospital.—MNA



*Vice President Dr. Sai Mauk Kham comforts patients at Renal and Kidney ward at 500-bed specialist hospital in Yangon.—MNA*

## Application for car import permits doubles

YANGON, 29 Dec — The number of applications for getting car import permits has doubled as the Ministry of Commerce has asked importers to apply for import licenses prior to shipping from 1st January, 2015, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The ministry's effort is aimed at reducing the storage of vehicles at Thilawa Port, a ministry official said.

Currently, the ministry allows importers to ship in cars to Thilawa Port and to apply for an import license upon arrival

of the vehicles.

The One-Stop Services-OSS, the agency that oversees imports under the Ministry of Commerce, has issued around 700 permits to importers after scrutinizing their applications in accordance with the rules of the ministry.

To be able to cope with the increasing in number of applications, the ministry has reinforced the workforce at the agency, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The government launched a car-swap programme with cars more than 40 years old in 2011.

GNLM



## MRTV to debut new channels in January

NAY PYI TAW, Dec 29 — Myanma Radio and Television will introduce its two new products commencing 1 January 2015, according to the statement of Ministry of Information on Monday.

MRTV News Channel and MRTV Entertainment Channel will come through as the next steps of the state-owned broadcaster with the contribution of a private media in some programmes.

Out of these two channels, MRTV News Channel will present daily news and events, weekly news-related programmes, and information about job opportunities, education, health, telecommunication and infrastructural developments.

MRTV Entertainment Channel will launch enter-

tainment programmes for children and adults, movies, videos and educative programmes. Private media Shwe Than Lwin will feed up two matches of England Premier League per week, together with Champion League and Spanish La-Liga.

On 15 October 2013, MRTV added digital system or DVB T2 to the existing analogue system that covers the whole country. In addition to the main programme, Myanmar International, Ethnic Channel, Hluttaw Channel, Farmer Channel and Reader Channel can be received by DVB T2 Set Top Box.

The first phase of digital broadcasting system has covered Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing and Tatkon on 15 October 2013 for (See page 3)

### INSIDE

**Vice President U Nyan Tun views rehearsal of military columns, departments, social organizations for Independence Day's Grand Military Review ceremony**

PAGE-3

**Union minister meets government employees in Yangon Region**

PAGE-3



## Deputy Speaker meets Leader of Osaka Girl Guides Team and party

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Dec—Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) U Nanda Kyaw Swa received Leader of Osaka Girl Guides Team Ms Yoko Shinke and party of Japan at Pyithu Hluttaw C Hall in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

Also present at the call were Chief of Girl Guides Team Daw Tin Hla Kyi and Vice Chairperson of Myanmar Girl Guides Association (Temporary) Daw Khin Saw Ohnmar.

The deputy speaker extended greetings to My-



anmar and Japanese Girl Guides teams at Zabuthiri Hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw where two Girl Guides teams exchanged views. MNA

**Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa meets Myanmar and Japanese Girl Guides teams.—MNA**

## Union minister views round construction, maintenance of road sections, bridges in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Dec—Engineers and staff are to carry out their tasks dutifully for development of roads and bridges in Rakhine State, Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin told engineers and office staff at Thandwe District Public Works on 27 December.

The union minister and party viewed upgrading of

local roads in Thandwe and placing asphalt concrete on Thandwe-Taungup road.

Deputy Superintending Engineer U Khin Soe of Road Construction Project Special Group-9 reported on construction of Pyay-Taungup road, Taungup-Thandwe road and Taungup-Maei road and an official of Nay La Thitsa Company, Taungup-Thandwe-Ngapali-Lon-

tha-Mazin road.

On 28 December, the union minister met engineers and staff at the hall of Road Construction Project Special Group-8 in An. He also inspected upgrading of Minbu-An road section, construction of the retaining wall at Para Creek Bridge, Padan-Ngaphe-Sedok-tara-Saw road and Panhtein and Inn Bridges.—MNA



Skilled workers and engineers of Road Construction Project Special Group-8 construct road section.—MNA

## Myanmar youths join American Junior WJGS 2014 in US

YANGON, 29 Dec—A Myanmar youth golf delegation led by manager U Chan Han took part in the American Junior WJGS 2014 in World Golf Village Resort in Florida, the Unit-

ed States of America from 19 to 22 December 2014.

Phu Pwint Yati Khaing stood seventh in the girls' event while Phone Pyae Chan Han secured the 11th position and Hein Sithu,

25th position in the boys' event.

Altogether 57 athletes from 22 countries participated in the American Junior WJGS 2014.

GNLM

## Myanmar-China friendship basketball tournament kicks off

YANGON, 29 Dec—Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan delivered an address at the opening ceremony of Myanmar-China friendship basketball tournament to mark the 106th anniversary of Chinese Merchants Association in Myanmar at Aung San Gymnasium, here, on 28 December.

Chinese Ambassador Mr Yang Houlan and Chairman of Chinese Merchants Association of Myanmar U Myint Shwe ex-

tended greetings.

The union minister, the Chinese ambassador and officials opened the tournament.

Six basketball teams from the People's Republic of China, northern Shan State team, youth team of Myanmar Basketball Federation, Yangon Fire Wolf team and Mandalay Fox team, totalling 10 in two groups participated in the tournament.

Enthusiasts may watch the matches at Aung San Gymnasium as of 1 pm daily.—MNA



Union Minister U Tint Hsan, Chinese Ambassador Mr Yang Houlan and Chairman of Chinese Merchants Association of Myanmar U Myint Shwe formally open Myanmar-China friendship basketball tournament.

MNA

## MPT to sell new stamps to mark 67th Anniversary Independence Day



MPT will sell new stamps in commemoration of 67th Anniversary Independence Day.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Dec—In commemoration of the 67th Anniversary Independence Day, Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications under the Ministry of Communications and In-

formation Technology will sell one new stamp worth K200 and two new stamps worth K100 each at region and state post offices at 9.30 am on 4 January 2015.

As a special pro-

gramme, Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay General Post Offices will sell the stamps with seal of date to the buyers on 4 January 2015.

MNA



## NATIONAL

## Vice President U Nyan Tun views rehearsal of military columns, departments, social organizations for Independence Day's Grand Military Review ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Dec — Vice President U Nyan Tun on Monday morning viewed rehearsal and preparations for successfully holding the 67<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Independence Day's Grand Military Review ceremony 2015 at the pandal of the grand military review in Nay Pyi Taw.

Together with Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, union ministers and senior military officers, the vice president heard reports on prepara-

tions for the ceremony, reception, transport, security and information.

He viewed the marching of flag bearers, military bands, parade columns and armoured troops to the ground, saluting the president, inspection of the parade columns, saluting the State flag, paying tribute to the martyrs and fallen Tatmadawmen, two-minute silence, a speech of the president for 67<sup>th</sup> anniversary Independence Day, taking oaths, saluting of military columns and aircrafts of Defence Services (Air).

Flag bearers, military bands and parade

columns of Defence Services (Army), Myanmar Police Force, Immigration and National Registration Department, Customs

Department, Myanmar Scout Youth, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Myanmar Ma-

ternal and Child Welfare Association, Nay Pyi Taw Council, regions and states and artillery and armoured columns totalling 7,028

will participate in the 67<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Independence Day's Grand Military Review ceremony 2015.

MNA



*National races participate in rehearsal for 67<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Independence Day's Grand Military Review ceremony.—MNA*

## Union minister meets government employees in Yangon Region

YANGON, 29 Dec — Reform of the government of Myanmar is recognized and President U Thein Sein who leads the government has been regarded as the symbol of reform by the international community, Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun said at a meeting with over 500 government employees from ministries held at the hall of Yangon Region Government on Monday.

The union minister then said that he thanked the government staff, who contributed to the success of the reform, adding that the government has been carrying out tasks to raise the salaries of government employees as well as other programs to assist the expenditure for education, health and housing of families of government servants.

The union minister

## MRTV to debut new . . . .

(from page 1)

20.08 percent of the country's total population,

The second phase included construction of 22 broadcasting stations in Myitkyina, Loikaw, Hpa-an, Falam, Kennedy (Kalay), Mawlamyine, Sittway, Taunggyi, Kengtung, Lashio, Dawei, Pyay, Toungoo, Nyaunglebin, Bago, Minbu, Popa, Meiktila, Kyaunggon, Hinthada, Patheingyi and

also pointed out that the government raised the salaries of government employees in July 2011, in April 2013 and in April 2014 while additional benefits were provided to government employees in April 2012, saying that the

government is now working out a detail calculation to raise the pay of government employees starting from 2015-16 fiscal year.

Whenever the salary of government employees, who represent only two percent of the population, is raised, commodity prices

go up, the union minister said, adding that it is necessary to sympathize with the majority who will have to bear the brunt of the impact of rising prices of basic food items.

In addition, the government is taking other measures to provide housing and health by setting up a provident fund collected from incomes of government employees, according to the union minister.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Maung Maung Thein, Deputy Minister for Education U Thant Shin, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay and Deputy Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security Daw Win Maw Tun explained the measures being taken by respective ministries for the benefit of government employees.

The meeting concluded with remarks by the union minister.—Moe Thuzar Soe



*Union Minister U Hla Tun highlights plan to raise pay for government employees in 2015-16 fiscal year.—MNA*

Kyaukse, and Tamoeyne are broadcasting on trial of digital system.

Ministry of Information has informed that MRTV News Channel can be watched with the existing analogue system, while programmes of MRTV Entertainment Channel would be viewed by DVB T2 system with receivers of DVB T2 Set Top Box of MRTV or in the market, as well as television sets with DVB T2 tuner.—MNA

Monywa, covering 46.15 percent of population in the country, with overall coverage of 66.23 percent.

In the third phase, digital broadcasting system will be set up at 69 stations, intending to reach additional 23.17 percent of population at the completions.

Out of these stations, the 10 facilities in Bilin, Labutta, Dawei, Minhla, Pauk, An, Gwa, Kutkai,

## Four books chosen for Sayawun Tin Shwe literary awards

YANGON, 29 Dec — A scrutiny committee chose four books for Sayawun Tin Shwe Literary Award in 2014.

Winners for the books are Aye Phyu for her book entitled "Articles on businesses and organizations", Yu Ya (MU-1) for selected short stories, Dr Nilar Thein for "Victories of eye specialists" and Tun Aung Chain for "Flowering Waters; Dipping into Myanmar History". Sayawun Tin Shwe Life-long Achievement Literary Award will go to veteran writer Maung Su San.

Prizes will be awarded to the winners in January 2015. For further information, may dial 01-0536444 and 095117683.—GNLM

## Cleft lip and palate patients may receive free surgical treatment in Dawei

DAWEI, 29 Dec — A 15-member surgical operation team led by Belgian cleft lip and palate surgical specialist Professor Dr Tonnard Patrick will per-

form free surgical operations on cleft lip and palate patients at Sitagu Arojadan Hospital in Dawei, Tanintharyi Region, from 11 to 15 January 2014.

Patients with cleft lip and palate across the country may receive free medical services at the hospital.

Po Shwe Thun  
(Dawei)



## Youths participation in sports grows in Mohnyin



MOHNYIN, 29 Dec — A Sepak Takraw tournament took place in the sports ground of Mohnyin railway yard on 25 December.

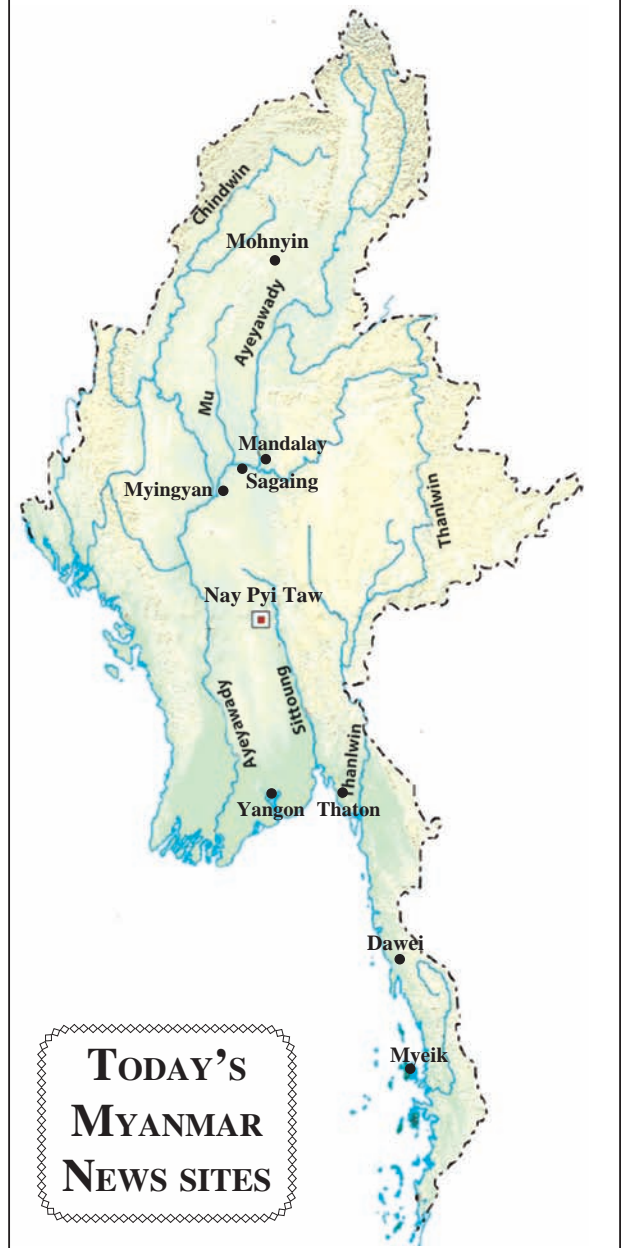
A total of 12 youth teams participated in the tournament.

“Various sports events should be organized on holidays for local youths, aimed at enabling the youths to emphasize sports competitions and to be free from danger of narcotic drugs,” a volunteer from a social organization told media.

After the competitions, Mohnyin Degree College stood first and Myanma Railways, second.

Similar sports meets will be held on 2015 Independence Day and Union Day.

GNLM-001



## Former students pay respects to retired teachers at Dawei BEHS No 3

DAWEI, 29 Dec — No 3 Basic Education High School in Dawei called ABM School in the past held the third ceremony to pay respects to teachers at its hall on 28 December.

Former students Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Myat Ko, member of Union Civil Services Board Dr Kyaw Kyaw Htay and Chairman of the organizing committee U Nyan Win formally opened the ceremony.

Former students paid respects to the retired teachers.

On behalf of teachers, retired ABM teachers U Ban Nyein, U Ba Aye and retired assistant region education officer U Nyan Tun gave words of advice.

At the ceremony, students paid respects to 94 retired teachers. Similar ceremonies took place at



Dawei BEHS Branch and Maungmeshaung Village's BEHS Branch in Dawei Township.

Po Shwe Thun-Dawei

## DRD upgrades gravel road to asphalt one in Myeik Tsp

MYEIK, 29 Dec — Department of Rural Development constructs the Taungpale-Shantaung-Minthan inter-village road and a concrete bridge on it in 2014-15 fiscal year.

Head of Myeik District DRD U Aung Naing Tun and Head of Township Department U Aye Naing

inspected progress of construction tasks on 28 December.

Spending the fund allotted by the department, Yoe Ahman Company is upgrading the two-mile and two-furlong long gravel road to an asphalt facility.

It is a shortest road from Myeik to Maunglaw

Village of Kyunsu Township apart from a waterway section.

Khaing Htoo (Myeik District IPRD)

## Eligible people get citizenship scrutiny cards in Natogyi Township

MYINGYAN, 29 Dec — In implementing Moe Pwint 7 plan, issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards exceeded the target, Head of Natogyi Township Immigration and National Registration Department U Soe Moe told media on 27 December.

Staff of the department delivered cards to 75 people from Phalangon village, 27 people from Moe-gan village and 116 people

from Ywathaaye village.

As staff of the department made trips to the grassroots level for issuance of the cards, local people could save time and money because they did not need to go to urban area to take out the cards.

During the trip, the staff issued the cards to 528 eligible people, exceeding 324 people of 324 targeted amount.—Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)

## MVA holds annual general meeting in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 29 Dec — Myanmar Veterinarians Association held the annual general meeting in conjunction with the livestock breeding exhibition in front of the city hall in Mandalay on 27 December.

Deputy Minister for

Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development Dr Aung Myat Oo, Region Minister for Development Affairs Mayor U Aung Moun, Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Myint Than, Director-General Dr Myint

Than of the ministry and Chairman of MVA Professor Dr Tin Tin Myaing formally opened the ceremony.

Foreign resource persons submitted papers at the paper-reading session.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)





## REGIONAL

## Japan, S Korea, US ink memorandum to share info on N Korea



*Members of civic groups protest over a memorandum of understanding between Japan, South Korea and the United States on sharing and safeguarding sensitive information on defence on 29 Dec, 2014, in front of the South Korean Defence Ministry in Seoul.*

KYODO NEWS

SEOUL, 29 Dec — A memorandum of understanding between Japan, South Korea and the United States on sharing and safeguarding sensitive information on defence such as North Korea's nuclear and missile programmes went into effect

on Monday, South Korea's Defence Ministry said. According to the memorandum of understanding, the Japanese Defence Ministry and the South Korean Defence Ministry will, through the US Department of Defence, share only information each has

authorized with each other.

Japan is hoping to be able to swiftly obtain information on North Korean missile launches that South Korea has gathered.

According to diplomatic sources, the three countries signed the memorandum by Friday.

The memorandum comes after Tokyo and Seoul put off signing a bilateral agreement in 2012 on sharing sensitive defence information due to opposition in South Korea.

Japan and South Korea have each signed with the United States a General Security of Military Information Agreement to facilitate exchanges of sensitive information on military affairs and prevent it from falling into the hands of a third country.

In May, the defence ministers of Japan, South Korea and the United States agreed on the importance of creating a framework for information-sharing.

Kyodo News

## Flood situation in Malaysia's northern states worsens

KUALA LUMPUR, 29 Dec — The flood situation in Malaysia's northern states has worsened with the number of evacuees rising to over 150,000 on Monday morning, according to local government officials.

Nik Omar Nik Abdul Rahman, Kelantan's State Social Welfare Department director, said the flood victims from 36,128 families were housed at 309 relief centers in eight districts with Kota Bharu district still has the highest number of flood evacuees at 44,061.

In the state of Pahang, the number of flood evacuees this morning has risen

to 33,225 from 31,095 on Sunday. In the state of Perak, the number of evacuees has also risen to 7,813 this morning from 7,539 last night. A spokesman for the Perak National Security Council (MKN) said the victims were housed at 54 flood relief centres.

According to reports reaching here, many villagers are stranded without supplies, electricity or cash to buy candles or canned food as roads remain cut off to all land transport in many parts of the flood affected states. According to local reports, at least 10 people were killed and 160,000 homeless in the flood.—Xinhua

## Search resumes for missing Indonesia AirAsia plane

JAKARTA, 29 Dec — Search efforts resumed on Monday morning for a jetliner belonging to the Indonesian affiliate of Malaysian budget carrier AirAsia Bhd that went missing on Sunday over the Java Sea while heading from Surabaya, capital of Indonesia's East Java Province, to Singapore with 162 people aboard.

National Search and Rescue Agency Chief Vice Marshall Bambang Soelistyo told a press conference that the search efforts are mostly focused on the Bangka Belitung Islands and Singkep Island, both off the western coast of Sumatra Island, Straits Karimata, located between Sumatra and Borneo Island, and the western part of Borneo.

A total of 16 vessels, five warships, a mine-sweeping ship and dozens of rigid boats, as well as five planes and two Super Puma helicopters, from various institutions including the military have been dispatched to the area, according to Soelistyo.

Security clearances have also been issued for Singapore and Malaysia to

send their vessels and Hercules planes there, he added.

Flight QZ8501, which took off from Surabaya at 5:36 am Sunday, was declared missing at 7:55 am. The pilot last made contact with air traffic control at 6:12 am and no distress signal was sent.

The Airbus A320-200 was scheduled to arrive in Singapore at 8:30 am local time. Local time in Singapore is one hour ahead of Surabaya local time.

Shortly before communication was lost, the pilot had requested to fly at a higher altitude to avoid bad weather.

When radar contact lost, the plane was flying between the city of Pontianak in West Kalimantan Province on Borneo, about 1,180 kilometres northwest of Surabaya, and the town of Tanjung Pandan in Bangka-Belitung Islands Province, near Sumatra, about 400 km away.

"If the plane had crashed on land, it would be easier to find than if it had plunged under the water," Soelistyo said.

He said that the plane's last coordinates at the time when it lost contact with air traffic control, however, indicate that it might have crashed into the sea.

"And if it plunged into the sea, it might be at the bottom of the sea," he said.

However, according to the air force officer, if it really crashed into the sea and is resting at the bottom, Indonesia does not have the means to retrieve it.

"That's why, through our foreign minister, we have contacted other countries — the United Kingdom, France and the United States, which have so far offered help — to borrow locators," he said.

As rainy season is under way in Indonesia, another challenge the rescuers are facing now is the weather, which is bad in some areas, particularly at sea.

There were 155 passengers on board, consisting of 138 adults, 16 children and one infant.

By nationality, 149 of the passengers are Indonesian, with the six others being a Singaporean, a Malaysian, a Briton and



*Military and rescue authorities monitor progress in the search for AirAsia Flight QZ8501 in the Mission Control Centre inside the National Search and Rescue Agency in Jakarta on 29 Dec, 2014. —REUTERS*

three South Koreans, the statement said. The plane had an Indonesian captain, a French co-pilot and five cabin crew.

According to the airline, the plane underwent a scheduled maintenance on 16 November and the pilot had a total of 6,100 flying hours and the first officer a total of 2,275 flying hours.

Having also affiliations in the Philippines and Thailand, AirAsia Group is the largest low-cost carrier in Asia in terms of fleet size and the number of passengers carried.

The airline has been named the World's Best Low Cost Airline in the annual World Airline Survey by Skytrax for five consec-

utive years from 2009-2013 and the World's Leading Low Cost Airline at the 2013 World Travel Awards.

AirAsia CEO Tony Fernandes told reporters in Jakarta on Monday that the group has carried 220 million passengers in 13 years and had no fatalities prior to Flight QZ8501.

Kyodo News

## Three gov't soldiers killed in S Philippines

MANILA, 29 Dec — Three government soldiers were killed by alleged leftist rebels in southern Philippines on Monday morning, according to the military. These soldiers, on their way for a holiday break, were killed in an ambush by New People's Army (NPA) militants in Mabini town in Compostela Valley Province on Monday morning, said Vergel Lacambra, public affairs officer of the Army's 10<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

Lacambra said troops from the Army's 71<sup>st</sup> Infantry Battalion — two soldiers and a militiaman — were aboard a motorcycle when they were ambushed by eight rebels at around 9:45 am at Candinuyan village of Mabini town. "(They) were on their way ... for Christmas break when they were mercilessly waylaid and shot at point blank," said Lacambra. The government is observing a unilateral one-month Yuletide truce, starting at midnight on 18 December. Meanwhile, the NPA declared truce on 24, 25, 26 December for Christmas; 31 December for New Year and 15 to 19 January for the visit of Pope Francis. The military withheld the identities of the slain troops because their families are yet to be notified of their death.

The NPA, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, has been waging a guerrilla campaign against the government in the countryside for four decades. Military estimates the NPA strength at more than 4,000 men scattered in more than 60 guerrilla fronts throughout the country.—Xinhua



## Amid hacking tensions, South Korea proposes resuming talks with North

SEOUL, 29 Dec — South Korea proposed on Monday to resume stalled talks with North Korea, an overture that comes amid heightened diplomatic tension after Seoul's key ally the United States blamed the North for a cyberattack on Sony Pictures Entertainment.

North Korea has denied responsibility for the hack against the US-based film studio arm of Japan's Sony Corp, which distributed a comedy film featuring an assassination plot against the North's leader, Kim Jong Un.

Pyongyang subsequently blamed Washington for its own internet outages, and has denied any involvement in recent

system breaches into South Korea's state nuclear power operator.

Seoul's unification minister said the South had sent a letter to Pyongyang seeking negotiations, which it hopes to hold in January and would cover issues including reunions for families separated by the 1950-1953 Korean war and possible co-operation projects.

The North had accepted the letter but had yet to respond, South Korean Unification Minister Ryoo Kihl-jae told a news briefing.

"I don't think we will have any particular agenda, but our position is to discuss everything that South and North have mutual



*South Korea's Unification Minister Ryoo Kihl-jae releases a government statement during a news conference at the unification ministry in Seoul on 26 April, 2013. — REUTERS*

interests in," said Ryoo, noting that 2015 marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Korea's independence from Japan.

A delegation of high-level North Korean

officials made a surprise visit in October to the closing ceremony of the Asian Games hosted by the South, and promised to reopen dialogue be-

tween the two. However, the two sides failed to hold follow-up talks as tension persisted, with the North lashing out at the South over anti-Pyongyang propaganda leaflets sent to the North via balloon by activist groups.

Military officials from North and South Korea met in October to discuss border altercations, including exchanges of fire, but they did not resolve their differences.

South Korea imposed a broad set of sanctions on Pyongyang in 2010 following the sinking of a South Korean corvette that killed 46 sailors.

South Korea blamed the North, while Pyongyang denied it was respon-

sible, and the issue has been an obstacle to re-engagement ever since.

Ryoo said South Korea would explain to the North its inter-Korean co-operation plans, including a peace park at the demilitarized zone, adding that it was seeking a fresh round of reunions for families separated by the Korean War before the Lunar New Year holidays in February.

The two Koreas have remained technically at war for more than six decades as the Korean War ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty. Reunification of the Korean peninsula has been a priority for South Korean President Park Geun-hye.

*Reuters*

## Ex-minister blames Merkel for rise of anti-immigrant groups

BERLIN, 29 Dec — A former cabinet minister and member of Angela Merkel's conservative bloc blamed Germany's chancellor on Sunday for steering a course that has strengthened the eurosceptic AfD party and a new anti-immigrant grass-roots movement.

In rare direct criticism of Merkel, Hans-Peter Friedrich, forced to resign as agriculture minister in February over leaked information, said Merkel made a "disastrous mistake" by wooing center-left voters and ignoring those on the right.

Friedrich said voters who had joined the AfD, which has won seats in three state assemblies in Germany after shifting its focus from euroscepticism to concerns about immigration in the last year, had felt abandoned by the conservative bloc.

"If you had asked me a couple of years ago, I would have said we will clear them out by taking away their issues. But Mrs

Merkel has decided instead to take away issues from the Social Democrats (SPD) and Greens," Friedrich told Der Spiegel.

"This is successful in the short term, as the polls show, but in the long run it is a disastrous mistake which can lead to the division and weakening of the conservative camp," he said. Merkel's deal last year to share power with

the center-left SPD worried some on the right of her party who feared she would move too far left, and Friedrich pointed to SPD initiated policies such as the introduction of a minimum wage.

He also said Merkel was partly responsible for the rise of PEGIDA, or the "Patriotic Europeans against the Islamisation of the West" movement with

its weekly marches in the eastern city of Dresden which have shocked many Germans.

With net immigration in Germany at its highest level in two decades, a poll this month showed that a majority of Germans think Merkel's government is paying too little attention to concerns about immigration and asylum seekers.

"Such opposition

comes about if a not insignificant part of society has the feeling that it is not represented by the federal parties or at least that it no longer has a relevant vote. If the CDU does not recognize that, the CSU must open its eyes for it," he said.

Some other members of Friedrich's Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU), which shares power with Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU) and the SPD, echoed his criticism.

A group of CSU members who have formed the "conservative awakening", initiative declared opposition to Merkel, whose approval ratings are undiminished after nine years in office.

"People feel left alone by the CDU, that is Merkel's fault," the initiative's David Bendels told Handelsblatt Online, saying the AfD and PEGIDA were "home-made problems by Merkel" and that their Bavarian party must not go the same way as the CDU.—Reuters



*German Chancellor Angela Merkel holds a speech during a session at the lower house of parliament Bundestag in Berlin, on 18 Dec, 2014. — REUTERS*

## Iranian general killed by sniper bullet in embattled Iraqi city

DUBAI, 29 Dec — A sniper killed an Iranian Revolutionary Guards commander who was training Iraqi troops and Shi'ite militia fighting Islamic State (IS) militants in the Iraqi city of Samarra, official Iranian media reported on Sunday.

Brigadier General Hamid Taqavi, a veteran of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, was killed by snipers hiding behind a power transformer in Samarra, an embattled city north of Baghdad and home to holy Shi'ite shrines, they said, quoting a Revolutionary

Guards' statement.

Several people with him were wounded in the rain of sniper fire, they said.

"Taqavi became a martyr while fulfilling his duty as a military adviser in the fight against Daesh (IS) revisionist terrorists, a glorious end to a long valu-

able service to advance the cause of (Iran's 1979) Islamic revolution," said the official Defence Ministry site.

It said the general had fought "enemies on various fronts."

Unspecified numbers of Iranian advisors and

combatants are defending holy Shi'ite sites in Iraq and Syria against raids by Sunni Jihadi fighters. Iran sent reinforcements to Iraq to help stave off an advance on Baghdad by IS militants this year at the request of Iraqi government and Shi'ite leaders.—Reuters

## Jet Airways plane catches fire while landing in Kathmandu, all safe

KATHMANDU, 29 Dec — A Boeing 737-800 flying from Mumbai to Kathmandu was hit by a bird and caught fire while landing at Kathmandu airport on Monday afternoon.

But the plane landed safely and all the passengers and crew members are safe, an official said.

The aircraft operated by India's Jet Airways was struck by a bird just minutes before it landed at the airport, said Birendra Shrestha, general manager of Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu.

"The bird got sucked into the plane's left engine causing the fire while the plane was still airborne," Shrestha told *Kyodo News*. "The plane successfully landed and everyone on board is safe."

The fire is under control and the plane has been temporarily grounded. Engineers are looking into the damage caused to the aircraft.

Several planes flying to and from Kathmandu's airport have experienced bird hits in the past. In September 2012, a Dornier turboprop belonging to a local airline crashed minutes after taking off from the airport due to a bird hit and all 19 on board, including 12 foreigners, died in the crash in the Bhaktapur district that neighbours Kathmandu.—Kyodo News



# Tensions with New York City police go beyond racial issues

NEW YORK, 29 Dec — Tensions between New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio and the police are rooted in issues that go beyond racial relations, the police commissioner said on Sunday, a day after the funeral of one of the two officers slain a week ago in their patrol car.

The tensions “involve labour contracts. They involve a lot of history in the city that’s really different from some of what’s going on in the country as a whole,” Bill Bratton said on NBC’s “Meet the Press.”

“You need to understand this isn’t just about policing,” he said. “This is about the continuing poverty rates, the continuing growing disparity between the wealthy and the poor.”

On Saturday, thousands of police officers assembled outside the funeral of Rafael Ramos turned their backs on the mayor’s eulogy in a display of disrespect after what they perceived as the mayor’s lukewarm support.

A wake for Wenjian Liu, who was shot alongside Ramos, will be held on Saturday followed by a funeral at an “undisclosed location” on Sunday, the *New York Daily News* reported. A police spokeswoman said she could not confirm the report.

The man who shot Ramos and Liu had pledged to take revenge on police for the deaths of two black men who died in confrontations with white officers this year.

The deaths triggered



*New York Police Commissioner Bill Bratton arrives with wife Rikki Klieman for the wake for NYPD officer Rafael Ramos at Christ Tabernacle Church in the Queens borough of New York, on 26 Dec, 2014.*  
REUTERS

a wave of demonstrations against police violence in New York and other cities, and de Blasio voiced qualified support for the protests.

But the killing of

Ramos and Liu triggered a backlash. The head of the city’s largest police union, Patrick Lynch, said the mayor had the officers’ blood on his hands.

De Blasio has not tak-

en questions from journalists since last Monday. Wiley Norvell, a spokesman for the mayor, declined to address questions about the tensions directly.

“Our sole focus is unifying this city and honouring the lives of our two police officers,” he said in an email.

Bratton defended the mayor on CBS’s “Face the Nation,” saying the mayor completely supported the police. The commissioner said it was inappropriate for officers to turn their backs on the mayor.

Bratton told NBC the city’s leadership would make an effort to meet with union leaders to ease tensions.

“I think it’s probably a rift that is going to go on for a while longer,” he

said.

On CBS, Bratton said police have investigated more than 50 threats against officers since the deaths of Ramos and Liu.

“Morale in the department at this time is low, there is no getting around that,” he said.

Bratton appeared on the CBS programme with Rudy Giuliani, who was generally unequivocal in his support for police during his two terms as mayor.

De Blasio was partly at fault for the backlash by police, Giuliani said, but he agreed that officers should not have turned their backs when the mayor spoke.

“He created an impression with the police that he was on the side of the protesters,” Giuliani said.—Reuters

## Mexico calls for larger, more diverse UN Security Council



*The United Nations Security Council meets on the crisis in Ukraine, at UN Headquarters in New York, on 13 March, 2014.—REUTERS*

MEXICO CITY, 29 Dec — Mexico on Sunday called for an overhaul of the United Nations Security Council, envisaging more member countries across a wider geographical swathe, as the government steps up efforts to raise its profile on the global stage.

Tasked with maintaining global peace, the UN Security Council meets when war looms and co-operates in efforts to solve international disputes, with measures ranging from sanctions to military action.

The Council has five permanent members — China, France, Russia, Britain and the United States — and 10 temporary members elected by the UN General Assembly for two-year terms.

In a statement, Mexico’s foreign ministry said it wanted the 10 temporary members to grow to 26, with six members coming from Africa, five from Asia, four from Latin America and the Caribbean, five from both Western and Eastern Europe, and

one from small developing nations.

However, Mexico said it was against changing the five permanent members of the Council.

“The final aim of this process would be to have a more representative Council, that is more efficient, more transparent and that would be accountable ... to the UN General Assembly,” the foreign ministry office statement said.

The proposal comes just a few months after Mexico said it was ready to take part in United Nations peace-keeping missions, after years of staying out of the world’s conflicts.

Mexico has traditionally pursued a low-key foreign policy. But since taking office in 2012, Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto has sought to raise Mexico’s international standing.

In his very first speech as president, Peña Nieto said making Mexico “an actor with global responsibility” was one of his key priorities.—Reuters

## Italy says 265 rescued from ferry, more than 200 still stranded

ROME, 29 Dec — Rescue teams working through the night have pulled 265 people off a stricken car ferry which caught fire off the coast of Greece but more than 200 are stranded on board, the Italian navy said on Monday.

Helicopter crews have been slowly airlifting passengers from the upper deck of the Norman Atlantic, which caught fire in the early hours of Sunday and began drifting in rough seas between Greece and Italy.

A medical team and

a flight operator are on the vessel to assist the 213 passengers and crew who remain aboard as the rescue continues, the navy said.

After initial rescue efforts were impeded by bad weather that prevented other ships nearing the multideck ferry, Italian and Greek helicopter crews began the difficult airborne operation on Sunday afternoon.

The operation is being coordinated from the Italian navy’s amphibious transport ship the San Giorgio, while the Norman Atlantic is

towed to the southern Italian port of Brindisi.

One man was confirmed to have died on Sunday and there were four reported injuries. Several passengers have been flown to Galatina in southern Italy. The Italian-flagged Norman Atlantic, chartered by Greek ferry operator Anek Lines, was sailing between Patros in western Greece to Ancona in Italy carrying 478 passengers and crew and more than 200 vehicles when it caught fire.

Reuters



*A rescue helicopter flies over the burning car ferry Norman Atlantic as fire fighting tug boats douse the vessel in south Adriatic sea on 28 Dec, 2014.*  
REUTERS

## Colombian rebel chief in Cuba for peace talks: gov’t

BOGOTA, 29 Dec — A fugitive commander of the rebel Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) is in Cuba for peace talks with the Colombian government, the authorities confirmed

on Sunday.

Joaquin Gomez, commander of FARC’s Southern Bloc and a member of its secretariat, had travelled to Havana to take part in the negotiations, said a press release issued

by the president’s office.

As Gomez is a fugitive wanted by the government, his travel arrangements were made “following all the established protocols” and with the authorization of Colombian President

Juan Manuel Santos,” said the release.

The 67-year-old Gomez, whose real name is Milton de Jesus Tonzel, is considered to be among the country’s biggest drug traffickers. He is

also believed to be behind attacks on oil facilities in the country’s southwestern department of Putumayo. Gomez faces a 34-year prison term after a trial in absentia.

Gomez is also wanted

by the United States. The State Department is offering a reward of up to 2.5 million US dollars for information leading to his arrest, according to the agency’s website.

Xinhua



## PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 30 December, 2014

## Career promotion of workers through education

By Myint Win Thein

Nowadays, people have to learn their entire lives to equip themselves with tools that will help succeed in their careers. As a result, life-long learning has become very popular in every country, especially in developed ones where rapid technological development forces people to modify their skills regularly.

In poor countries, children drop out of

school as their parents cannot afford education for them, and enter the workforce by working in construction sites, factories, shops, restaurants and so on. They often have to change jobs as their employers go out of business. They have to find jobs in other factories, shops, restaurants again, without prospects of career promotion for them.

This is also the case in industrial zones in Myanmar. Most workers there are young girls who missed out on education for various reasons and now work in factories in industrial estates away from their native towns or villages for a meagre income. When their factories close down or they are made redundant, they have to find other jobs that are not better than the previous ones. Sometimes, they cannot find another job and have to take indecent jobs.

They need to be equipped with educational qualifications that will lift their lives out of poverty

through non-formal education that is as useful as formal education. It is advisable that every industrial zone in Myanmar should set up non-formal education centres with a collective fund of industrialists to help promote the lives of workers. In addition, semi-formal education centres that will help younger workers join in formal education should also be established in industrial zones.

## 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.

## MIND

Kyi Mun

\* Mind is the key to Life.  
You can elevate your life  
with your mind; and  
You can degrade your life  
with your mind.

-Bhagavad Gita

\* Mind precedes all mental states.  
Mind is their chief;  
They are all mind-wrought.  
If with an impure mind  
a person speaks or acts,  
suffering follows him like the wheel  
that follows the foot of the ox.

\* Mind precedes all mental states.  
Mind is their chief;  
They are all mind-wrought.  
If with a pure mind  
a person speaks or acts,  
happiness follows him  
like his never-departing shadow.

\* Just as a fletcher straightens  
an arrow shaft,  
even so the discerning man  
straightens his mind –  
so fickle and unsteady,  
so difficult to guard and control.

\* As a fish when pulled out of water  
and cast on land  
throbs and quivers,  
even so is this mind agitated.  
Hence should one abandon  
The realm of Mara.

\* Wonderful, indeed,  
it is to subdue the mind,  
so difficult to subdue, ever swift,  
and seizing whatever it desires.  
A tamed mind brings happiness.

\* Let the discerning man  
guard the mind,  
so difficult to detect and extremely subtle,  
seizing whatever it desires.  
A guarded mind brings happiness.

\* Dwelling in the cave<sup>8</sup> (of the heart),  
the mind, without form,  
wanders far and alone.  
Those who subdue this mind  
are liberated from the bonds of Mara.

\* Wisdom never becomes perfect  
In one whose mind is not steadfast,  
who knows not the Good Teaching  
and whose faith wavers.

\* There is no fear for an awakened one,  
whose mind is not sodden  
(by lust)  
nor afflicted  
(by hate),  
and who has gone beyond  
both merit and demerit.<sup>9</sup>

\* Realizing that this body  
is as fragile as a clay pot,  
and fortifying this mind  
like  
a well-fortified city,  
fight out Mara  
with the sword of wisdom.  
Then, guarding the conquest,  
remain unattached.

\* Ere long, alas!  
This body will lie upon the earth,  
Unheeded and lifeless,  
Like a useless log.

\* Whatever harm an enemy  
may do to an enemy,  
or a hater to a hater,  
an ill directed mind  
inflicts on oneself a greater harm.

\* Neither mother, father,  
nor any other relative  
can do one greater good  
than one's own well-directed mind.

— Dhammapada

**Mind :** (1) Ability to think; the part of  
**means** a person that makes them  
able to be aware of things,  
to think and to feel.

(2) Your ability to think and  
reason; your intelligence;  
the particular way that  
somebody thinks, Syno-  
nym is intellect;

(3) A person who is very intel-  
ligent, Synonym is Brain.

(4) Your thoughts, interests,  
etc. e.g. *Keep your mind on  
your work.*

(5) Your ability to remember  
things, Synonym is Memo-  
ry.

Kindly allow me to elaborate a little more  
on the meaning of Mind as follows:

- **M** for Making things happen and getting things done
- **I** for Instinct, Insight and Intelligence
- **N** for Never give up, Never give in; Stand up to it, Fight it through to victory

- **D** for Daring, Discipline and Dedication

## \* MAKING THINGS HAPPEN ....

It is the mind that makes things happen and gets things done. But it is important for the mind: "To go places and do things; to make things happen and to get things done with :

- ✓ Forecasting & Planning
- ✓ Organizing & Persuading
- ✓ Leading & Directing
- ✓ Controlling & Coordinating

**Mind can :** "Be very resolute, fear no sacrifice and surmount all difficulties to win victory" and mind can: "Have the determination and capability to turn heaven and earth upside down".

## \* INSTINCT, INSIGHT AND INTELLIGENCE

(1) **Instinct :** A natural tendency for people and animals to behave in a particular way using the knowledge and abilities that they were born with rather than thought or training.  
e.g Maternal instinct; Children do not know by instinct the difference between right and wrong.

(2) **Instinct :** A feeling that makes you do something or believe that something is true, even though it is not based on facts or reason. Synonym is **Intuition.**

Sometimes, instinct or intuition proves to be right in deciding some important matter in the face of "a bottleneck, impasse or deadlock".

**Insight :** (1) The ability to see and understand the truth about people or situations.

(2) **Insight** also means an understanding of what something is like:

e.g. *The book gives us fascinating insights into life in Mexico.*

(3) **Insight** also means penetrating wisdom; the power of seeing the big picture and far into the future.

**Intelligence :** The ability to learn, understand and think in a logical way, about things; the abil-

ity to do this well; a person of high/ average/low intelligence. Synonyms are smartness, cleverness, brilliance, brightness.

## \* NEVER GIVE UP, NEVER GIVE IN; STAND UP TO IT, AND FIGHT IT THROUGH TO VICTORY.

The mind can have great courage, audacity, temerity, adventurous spirit, can-do spirit, stamina, staying power, resolute determination, spirit of sacrifice, self-denial, spirit of plain living and hard struggle, sense of diligence and frugality. The mind can have the ultimate determination: "TO BE OR NOT TO BE".

## \* DARING, DISCIPLINE AND DEDICATION

**Daring :** Brave; willing to do dangerous or unusual things; involving danger or taking risks. Synonym is courage.

**Discipline :** (1) The practice of training people to obey rules and orders and punishing them if they do not; the controlled behavior or situation that results from this training.

(2) A method of training your mind or body or of controlling your behavior; and area of activity where this is necessary; eg. *Yoga is a good discipline for learning to relax.*

(3) The ability to control your behavior or the way you live, work, etc.

**Dedication :** The hard work and effort that somebody puts into an activity or purpose because they think it is important. Synonym is commitment.

## CONCLUSION

Mind is a very big subject the depth of which we cannot fathom. In this humble article, I just rely on the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary mostly. In the Bible it is said : "We have left undone those things that we ought to have done". So also in this article, I have left unmentioned those things that I ought to have mentioned."

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



## LOCAL NEWS

# Monastic education middle school gets new school building

SAGAING, 29 Dec — A ceremony to inaugurate new school building entitled 'Weint Sein' was held at Shwethamar monastic middle school in Ywahtaung ward, Sagaing Township, on 28 December.

Well-wisher of the school building owner of Weint Sein jewellery shop Dr Daw Phyu Phyu Swe

explained the purpose of donation.

Mandalay Region Minister for Development

Affairs Mandalay Mayor U Aung Moun, Region Minister for Finance Dr Myint Kyu and wellwisher U Win

Sein formally opened the new building.

The well-wisher spent over K140 million on construction for the 102 feet long and 30 feet wide building. It is a RC two-storey building to admit students of the monastic education.

*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*



## MRCS serves as linkage institution among separated family members



*A Red Cross member as a messenger to send letters to separated families in villages near Indawgyi Lake, 30 miles from Mohnyin, seen on uphill road.*

GNLM-001

MOHNYIN, 29 Dec — The Myanmar Red Cross Society cooperates Red Cross societies in regions and states to help reunite family members who were separated in various disasters and miseries.

Members of Mohnyin Township Red Cross Bri-

gade in Kachin State handed over 22 letters through Restoring Family Links (RFL) programme of MRCS to the families concerned in December 2014, Deputy Commanding Officer U Myint Oo of the Township Red Cross Brigade told media.—GNLM-001



*Firefighters of Township Fire Services Department and Auxiliary Fire Brigade participating in fire drill with the use of fire trucks at Myoma Naychi Market in Myanaung, Ayeyawady Region, on 28 December.*

WIN BO (TOWNSHIP IPRD)

## Dawei Township constructs asphalt concrete road

DAWEI, 29 Dec — Dawei Township Development Affairs Committee emphasizes upgrading of roads, dredging of drains for proper flow of water and construction of concrete roads and bridges large and small in the townships as it is the capital of Taninthayi Region.

Road Construction Project Special Group (16) of Public Works is placing asphalt concrete on a five-mile-and-four-furlong long airport road from Dawei Airport to Kamyawkin Bridge, Azarni Road, Bogyoke Road and Kamyawkin Road.

Over 70 skilled workers led by Deputy Superintending Engineer (Civil) U Khin Maung Than started their works as of 15 November.



The region government will spend K2.25 billion on construction of AC road and general works in 2014-15 fiscal year.

The deputy superintending engineer said, "It is the first-ever asphalt road in the region. The construction task may be completed on 15 March 2015. Depending on the allotted budget, asphalt concrete will be placed

on the Dawei-Yebyu road, Dawei-Maungmagan road and Dawei-Myitta road."

"The road is being upgraded to an asphalt facility. As it is very smooth road, drivers are to take care of their vehicles and the smooth road to be free from traffic accidents," motorcycle taxi driver U Zaw Win told media.

*Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)*

## Mandalay Mayor Cup golf tournament wraps up

MANDALAY, 29 Dec — Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs Mandalay Mayor U Aung Moun presented championship trophy and cash award to Aye Aye Aung with 236 strokes in the 15<sup>th</sup> Mayor Cup golf tournament on 28 December.

The mayor also presented trophies and cash awards to Myint Swe with 213 in the senior professional event and Maung Maung Oo with 282 in the amateur event and trophy and K2 million to Ye Htet Aung with 274 in the professional event.

The joint secretary of Mandalay City Development Committee awarded winners in the photo con-

test. Officials presented most par, most birdie, longest drive, nearest to pin and other awards to the winners.

A total of 26 professional golfers, 24 senior professional golfers, 177 men amateurs and 36 wom-

en amateurs participated in the golf tournament.

*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*





# Hopes dim Egypt to release Australian Al Jazeera journalist soon

SYDNEY, 29 Dec — Hopes are fading for the release of Australian journalist Peter Greste, who has been in jail in Egypt for a year, after Cairo sent mixed signals about his case, Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said on Monday. The Al Jazeera reporter is serving seven to 10 years for crimes that include spreading lies to help a “terrorist organization” — an allusion to the Muslim Brotherhood group which is banned in Egypt.

Bishop last week raised the possibility Greste could be freed before an appeal hearing set



*Al Jazeera journalist Peter Greste of Australia stands in a metal cage during his trial in a court in Cairo on 24 March, 2014. — REUTERS*

for 1 January.

“We had indications Abdel Fattah al-Sisi would exercise his authority regarding a pardon or a clem-

ency plea in advance of the appeal,” Bishop told the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

“Yet, in the meantime, the Egyptian foreign minister has said to me that we have to await the appeal, so there are different messages coming from the Egyptian government,” Bishop said.

Sisi suggested in November he was considering pardoning Greste and two other journalists working for Qatar-based Al Jazeera, who mark their 365<sup>th</sup> day in prison on Monday.

Greste’s brothers, Mike and Andrew Greste,

told reporters in Australia they did not believe their brother would be released before the appeal.

“The Egyptian president has said a few days after he was convicted that he wouldn’t be pardoning Peter until the legal processes have been finalized,” Mike Greste said.

Human rights groups and Western governments have condemned the trial of the journalists and the United Nations questioned Egypt’s judicial independence. The affair has contributed to tension between Egypt and Qatar.

*Reuters*

## Boko Haram militants stage attacks in northern Cameroon

YAOUNDE, 29 Dec — Some 1,000 suspected Boko Haram fighters from Nigeria attacked five towns in northern Cameroon over the weekend and briefly occupied a military camp on Sunday before being removed by the air force, an army spokesman said.

The heavily armed group attacked the military camp in Achigachia near the Nigerian border at around 4 am. Following an intense battle, the army abandoned the camp, Lieutenant Colonel Didier Badjeck told *Reuters* by phone.

“After that, the head of state ordered the air force to carry out strikes. With the bombardment, the fighters were forced to decamp from Achigachia,” Badjeck said.

He could not immediately give the number of casualties from both sides. It is the first time Cameroon has used the air force against Boko Haram.

Islamist Boko Haram, which is fighting to create a caliphate in northern Nigeria, has stepped up attacks on both sides of the border, prompting Cameroon to send thousands of soldiers to the region to stop the militants.

Cameroon state radio CRTV said the militants carried out attacks on five towns over the weekend and at least one Cameroonian soldier was killed.

“The attacks were carried out simultaneously at the localities of Mokolo, Guirvidig, Waza, Amchide and Makari, villages along the frontier with Nigeria,” CRTV radio reported.

Boko Haram has made several incursions in the Far-North Region of Cameroon this year, killing over 40 soldiers and recruiting hundreds from mainly unemployed youths in the area.

Cameroon army said last week it dismantled a training camp for the militants in northern Cameroon, arresting or killing dozens and seizing 84 children who were being trained there.

*Reuters*

# US-led mission in Afghanistan ends combat role; thousands of foreign troops remain

KABUL, 29 Dec — The US-led coalition in Afghanistan formally ended its combat mission on Sunday, more than 13 years after an international alliance ousted the Taliban government for sheltering the planners of the 11 September, 2001 attacks on American cities.

About 13,000 foreign troops, mostly Americans, will remain in the country under a new, two-year mission named “Resolute Support” that will continue the coalition’s training of Afghan security forces.

The Afghan army and police are struggling to fight against Taliban militants who this year killed record numbers of Afghans.

“Today marks an end of an era and the beginning of a new one,” said US General John Campbell, commander of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), at the ceremony marking the end of the mission held at the ISAF headquarters in



*US General John Campbell (C), commander of NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), folds the flag of the ISAF during the change of mission ceremony in Kabul, on 28 Dec, 2014. — REUTERS*



*US soldiers from D Troop of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Regiment load bags into a container in preparation for leaving Afghanistan at forward operating base Gamberi in the Laghman Province on 28 Dec, 2014. — REUTERS*

Kabul.

“We will continue to invest in Afghanistan’s future,” Campbell said at the ceremony, during which he rolled up the coalition’s flag.

Since 2001, nearly 3,500 foreign soldiers have died in the Afghan war, including around 2,200 Americans.

“Now, thanks to the extraordinary sacrifices of our men and women in uniform, our combat mission in Afghanistan is ending, and the longest war in American history is com-

ing to a responsible conclusion,” President Barack Obama said in a statement.

The late al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden had strong relations with the Taliban, who let him and other members of his global militant network hide in Afghanistan.

The Taliban have launched increasingly deadly attacks in the past year.

Nearly 3,200 Afghan civilians were killed in the conflict between the militant group and the army in 2014, and more than 4,600 Afghan army and police died in Taliban attacks.

For Afghanistan’s new president, Ashraf Ghani, keeping government control of territory and preventing security from further deteriorating is a top priority.

ISAF said it had withheld details of Sunday’s ceremony until the last moment for fear the insurgents might attempt an attack with rockets or mortars.—*Reuters*

## French-Japanese couple untraced since leaving for Islamic State area

TOKYO, 29 Dec — A French and Japanese couple in Tokyo who had expressed their desire to go to areas controlled by the Islamic State militant group have been missing since leaving Japan for Turkey in November, sources close to the matter revealed on Monday.

The Algerian French husband and his Japanese wife, both Muslims in their 20s, had told Japanese security authorities they wanted to travel to the region to engage in “humanitarian assistance” and denied they intended to take part in any fighting.

The authorities questioned the couple after obtaining information about their plan.

Although the Japanese government, along with the French Embassy in Tokyo, tried to persuade the couple not to travel to the region, in early November they left Japan from Narita airport and entered Turkey, the sources said.

It is not known, however, whether the couple actually entered Syria, which borders Turkey, as the checkpoints are not functioning properly, they added.

The Japanese government is trying to collect information on their whereabouts.—*Kyodo News*



## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

## China's first 3,000-metre-deep engineering ship put into operation

GUANGZHOU, 29 Dec — China's first multifunctional offshore engineering ship that can operate 3,000 metres under the water was put into operation on Sunday, a major progress of China to proceed into the deepwater.

The "Offshore Oil 286" ship, built with an investment of more than 1 billion yuan (163 million US dollars), belongs to the Offshore Oil Engineering Co Ltd, an affiliate of China National Offshore Oil Corporation, the country's largest offshore oil and gas producer.

The ship, 141 metres long and 29 metres wide, has a maximum loading capacity of 11,228 tons, and can accommodate to 150 crew members. It is equipped with a 400-ton crane to fulfil installing missions under the water.

The ship can undertake hoisting and pipe-laying missions and support underwater robot and diving missions. It can also carry out underwater equipment maintenance work.

The ship was built by the CSSC Huangpu Wenchong Shipbuilding Company Limited.—Xinhua



## Sony says PlayStation still has problems, gradually coming back online

BOSTON / NEW YORK, 29 Dec — Sony Corp's PlayStation Network suffered connection problems for a fourth straight day since hackers attacked the video game network, and the company said on Sunday that service was gradually being restored.

The hacker activist group known as Lizard Squad has claimed responsibility for disrupting both the PlayStation Network and Microsoft Corp's Xbox Live on Christmas Day. Service was restored to Xbox Live on Friday.

"We are currently experiencing widespread network issues that are being addressed," Sony said in a statement on PlayStation's maintenance website.

Hours earlier, Catherine Jensen, vice president of consumer experience at Sony Computer Entertainment America, said on the PlayStation blog that the network was "back on-

line." Some gamers said on Twitter that they were able to access the PlayStation Network on Sunday, but others took to the microblogging site to complain about the continuing outage. It was not clear how many of the 56 million video gamers who use PlayStation still suffered problems.

On Sony's Twitter customer support account, AskPlayStation, a representative wrote, "Network services are gradually coming back online."

Sony has been the victim of some of the most high-profile security breaches in history.

In late November, Sony Pictures' computer system was taken down by hackers protesting the film, "The Interview," which depicted the assassination of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. US President Barack Obama has blamed the North Ko-



Visitors look at Sony Corp's PlayStation 4 game consoles and control pads displayed at a booth during the Tokyo Game Show 2014 in Makuhari, east of Tokyo on 18 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

rean government for the attack.

Lizard Squad has claimed responsibility for attacks on the PlayStation Network in early December and August of this year.

The August attack coincided with a bomb scare in which Lizard

Squad tweeted to American Airlines that it heard explosives were on board a plane carrying an executive with Sony Online Entertainment.

In 2011, hackers stole data belonging to 77 million PlayStation Network users.

Reuters

## Apple makes 'The Interview' movie available on iTunes

NEW YORK, 29 Dec — Apple Inc said its iTunes store is now carrying Sony Corp's "The Interview", the film that angered North Korea and triggered a cyberattack against the studio.

"We're pleased to offer 'The Interview' for rental or purchase on the iTunes Store," Apple spokesman Tom Neumayr said in a statement.

The movie, steeped in gross-out humour depicting

the travails of two journalists who get enlisted to assassinate North Korea leader Kim Jong Un, costs \$14.99 to buy and \$5.99 to rent on iTunes, according to the website.

Apple was one of the later tech companies to sign on to carrying the film via video-on-demand, and waited four days after competitors first released it on their digital video platforms on 24 December.

Sony Pictures released



The Apple logo is pictured at its flagship retail store in San Francisco, California on 27 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

the movie online via Google Inc's YouTube and Google Play, Microsoft Corp's Xbox gaming console and a Sony dedicated website first made the movie available last week after large movie theatre chains refused to screen the comedy following threats of violence from hackers who opposed the film.

The movie was also shown in 331 mostly independent theatres, which

helped generate more than \$1 million in sales on Christmas day.

Until Sony discloses the online revenues, it will be hard to know if the studio will come anywhere near recouping the \$44 million it cost to make the film, plus the \$30 million-\$40 million that some estimate was spent on marketing the film and its stars, Seth Rogen and James Franco.

Reuters

## Gmail blocked in China, Great Firewall suspected



People are silhouetted as they pose with laptops in front of a screen projected with a Google logo, in this picture illustration taken in Zenica on 29 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

BEIJING, 29 Dec — Google Inc's Gmail was blocked in China after months of disruptions to the world's biggest email service, with an anti-censor-

ship advocate suggesting the Great Firewall was to blame.

Large numbers of Gmail web addresses were cut off in China on Friday, said GreatFire.org, a Chi-

na-based freedom of speech advocacy group. Users said the service was still down on Monday.

"I think the government is just trying to further eliminate Google's presence in China and even weaken its market overseas," said a member of GreatFire.org, who uses a pseudonym.

"Imagine if Gmail users might not get through to Chinese clients. Many people outside China might be forced to switch away from Gmail." Google's own Transparency Report, which shows real-time traffic to Google services, displayed a sharp drop-off in traffic to Gmail from China on Friday.

"We've checked and there's nothing wrong on our end," a Singapore-based spokesman for Google said in an email.

Almost all of Google's services have been heavily disrupted in China since June this year, but until last week Gmail users could still access emails downloaded via protocols like IMAP, SMTP and POP3. These had let people communicate using Gmail on apps like the Apple iPhone's Mail and Microsoft Outlook.

China maintains tight control over the internet, nipping in the bud any signs of dissent or challenges to the ruling Communist Party's leadership.

The country is host to the world's most sophisticated internet censorship mechanism, known as the Great Firewall of China. Critics say China has stepped up its disruption of foreign online services like Google over the past year to create an internet cut off from the rest of the world.

The Google disruption began in the run-up to the 25th anniversary of the government's bloody crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators around Beijing's Tiananmen Square on 4 June, 1989.

Gmail's setback could make email communication difficult for companies operating in China which use

Google's Gmail for their corporate email system, said GreatFire.

One popular way for companies and people to get around China's internet censorship is to use a Virtual Private Network (VPN) which allows unhindered access to blocked sites and services.

"It's becoming harder and harder to connect and do work in China when services like Gmail are being blocked," said Zach Smith, a Beijing-based digital products manager at City Weekend magazine. "Using a VPN seems to be the only answer to doing anything these days online in China."

Reuters



## Acknowledgement

**Donor of pagodas, ordination ceremonies, ordination halls, prayer halls, Dhammayons (community centres), transportation facilities, Sangha Hospital, meditation centres, homes for the aged, roads, bridges, vehicles, wells and lakes, and also donor of four prerequisites for 5<sup>th</sup> Sangha Meeting of All Orders**

**U Thein Win (a) Lin Kam Sein**

**Patron of Shwe Than Lwin Co., Ltd.**

**Yogi of Aung Thukha Dhamma Yeiktha (Bago)**

**Aged (76) years**

Family of Shwe Than Lwin Co., are deeply grateful to members of the Sangha, nuns, Yogis, friends, departmental heads, foreign diplomats, officials from associations, organizations and companies, colleagues, relatives and friends home and abroad for paying tribute at the funeral; those who comforted the bereaved family in person and through telephone, e-mail and newspapers; those who donated offertories and wreaths at the funeral; and those who attended the donation ceremony on 27 December of meals, robes and offertories to 118 members of the Sangha and 47 nuns in dedication to the demise of U Thein Win (a) Lin Kam Sein, (Excellent Performance in Social Field-First Class Award winner), Thiha Thudhamma Manijotadhara, Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara, Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara, Patron of Shwe Than Lwin Co., Ltd, Yogi of Aung Thukha Dhamma Yeiktha (Bago), donor of pagodas, ordination ceremonies, ordination halls, prayer halls, dhammayons (community centres), transportation facilities, Sangha Hospital, meditation centres, homes for the aged, roads, bridges, vehicles, wells and lakes, and also donor of four prerequisites for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sangha Meeting of All Orders, who passed away on 21 December, 2014 (Sunday), at No. 2/3/4 on Lower Pazundaung Road in Botataung Township.

**Family of Shwe Than Lwin Company**



ADVERTISEMENT

TRADEMARK CAUTION

**Thai Lee Agriculture Co., Ltd.**, a company incorporated and existing under the laws of Thailand and having its registered office at 2 Narathiwat Rachanakarin 8 Road, Tung-waddorn, Sathorn, Bangkok 10120 Thailand is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademarks:



Reg.No.4/18248/2014  
(8.12.2014)



Reg.No.4/18249/2014  
(5.12.2014)

In respect of "Meat, fish, poultry and game; meat extracts; preserved, frozen, dried and cooked fruits and vegetables; jellies, jams, compotes; eggs; milk and milk products; edible oils and fats" in **Class 29**;

"Coffee, tea, cocoa and artificial coffee; rice; tapioca and sago; flour and preparations made from cereals; bread, pastry and confectionery; ices; sugar, honey, treacle; yeast, baking-powder; salt; mustard; vinegar, sauces (condiments); spices; ice" in **Class 30**; and

"Beer; mineral and aerated waters and other non-alcoholic beverages; fruit beverages and fruit juices; syrups and other preparations for making beverages" in **Class 32**.

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

**U Than Maung, Advocate**

For **Thai Lee Agriculture Co., Ltd.**,  
**C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.**,

#1505-1508-1509, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, 339 Sakura Tower,  
Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon,  
**The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.**

Dated **30 December 2014** utm@kcyangon.com

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV NEW ENERGY VOY NO (11/14)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NEW ENERGY VOY NO (11/14) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.12.2014 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 RK SHIPPING &  
TRADING PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 2301186

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV UBC CHILE VOY NO (67)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV UBC CHILE VOY NO (67) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.12.2014 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 CEMENT SHIPPING CO  
LTD.**

Phone No: 2301186

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (120N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (120N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.12.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S MOL SINGAPORE PTE  
LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV UNI ASSURE VOY NO (380N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV UNI ASSURE VOY NO (380N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.12.2014 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

**Six feared dead after merchant ships collide off Italy**

ROME, 29 Dec — Two people drowned and four were missing at sea and feared dead after two merchant ships collided in rough seas off the Italian coast on Sunday, Italian officials said.

A Turkish ship with 11 crew members sank after the collision with a vessel carrying a Belize flag in poor visibility a mile from

the Italian Adriatic port of Ravenna, a coastguard official said.

The mayor of Ravenna Fabrizio Matteucci said on Italian state television that the dead and missing were all Turkish men from the ship Gokbel which sank after the collision with the Belize-flagged Lady Aziza at around 0800 GMT.

"There are two victims

and four missing," he said, adding that he had received the latest information from the coastguard leading the rescue operation, which was hampered by "prohibitive" sea conditions and fog.

The names of the dead and missing have not been released. Earlier on Sunday the coastguard said one person was dead and two

missing, and they were trying to save four people they had located in the sea.

Five members of the Turkish ship have been rescued and are in good condition and there were no casualties among the crew of the other ship, Matteucci said.—Reuters

**WEATHER  
REPORT**

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2014:** Isolated light rain are likely in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Mon State and weather will be generally fair in Mandalay and Magway Regions, Kachin, Shan and Kayah States and 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 Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach (35) m.p.h. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

**Advertise with us!**

For inquiries to place an advertisement in the GNLM,

Please email  
wallace.tun@gmail.com

(+95) (01) 8604532



## John Hurt to receive knighthood

LONDON, 29 Dec — Veteran British actor John Hurt is set to receive a knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II in 2015, according to a report.

The 'Alien' star will be named on the British monarch's annual New Year Honours list, which will be released on 1 January, 2015, for his services to drama throughout his 50-year stage and screen career, reported *Daily Telegraph*. The 74-year-old

received a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (Cbe) medal in 2004.

According to reports, actress Joan Collins will be made a Dame, along with talk show host and Child-Line charity founder Esther Rantzen. British stars Sheridan Smith and James Order will reportedly be in line for an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (Obe) medal.—PTI



**Veteran British actor John Hurt is set to receive a knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II in 2015.**  
PTI

## When Keira Knightley mistaken for Anne Hathaway

LONDON, 29 Dec — Keira Knightley says she was once mistaken for Anne Hathaway recently in Canada.

The 29-year-old actress said she was approached by a fan at Toronto Airport in Canada who believed she was the 32-year-old 'The Dark Knight Rises' star, reported *Daily Telegraph*.

"At the airport a woman mistook me for Anne Hathaway. Actually I think I have to apologize to Anne Hathaway because the woman (at the airport) thought I was being really rude as Anne Hathaway not giving her a picture as Anne Hathaway but I was really only saying that I promised I wasn't Anne Hathaway — which I am not.

"Actually it's the first Anne Hathaway I have had. Generally I get a lot of

Rachel Weisz and Natalie Portman," Knightley said.

Knightley, who has been in the spotlight since the age of 17, has a healthy appreciation for the more absurd aspects of the celebrity lifestyle.

"Actually it's the first Anne Hathaway I have had. Generally I get a lot of Rachel Weisz and Natalie Portman," she added.

PTI



**Keira Knightley says she was once mistaken for Anne Hathaway recently in Canada.** — PTI

## Michael Imperioli joining 'Hawaii Five-0'

LOS ANGELES, 29 Dec — Former 'Sopranos' star Michael Imperioli is joining the cast of 'Hawaii Five-0'.

Imperioli has been cast in the action drama series as an "ex-New York transplant who's become a surfer/confidential informant" for Steve McGarrett (Alex O'Loughlin), according to executive producer Peter M. Lenkov.

His character Odell

Martin is a reformed ex-con who keeps tabs on the criminal underworld in his

barbershop.

Imperioli, 48, will appear in at least two ep-

isodes of Hawaii Five-0 next year, reported *Entertainment Weekly*.

The actor is the latest name announced as a guest star for the CBS series, with NCIS's Sarah Jane Morris and singer Frankie Valli also slated for appearances.

Imperioli has recently guest starred in 'The Office', 'Rake' and 'Californication'.

PTI



**Former 'Sopranos' star Michael Imperioli is joining the cast of 'Hawaii Five-0'.** — PTI

## 'Hobbit' battles 'Unbroken,' 'Into the Woods' to second box office win

NEW YORK, 29 Dec — The last movie of Peter Jackson's three "Hobbit" films rode to a second consecutive win atop US and Canadian weekend box office charts, selling \$41.4 million worth of tickets to triumph over new releases "Unbroken" and "Into the Woods."

"The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies" grabbed another \$13.1 million from Christmas day screenings for a combined four-day total through Sunday of \$54.5 million and a domestic haul of \$168.5 million since its on 17 December release, according to estimates from tracking firm Rentrak.

Director Angelina Jolie's World War Two

drama "Unbroken" finished second with \$31.7 million after winning the box office duel on Christmas, narrowly edging out another new film, the musical "Into The Woods" which claimed the No 3 spot with \$31 million.

"Unbroken," Jolie's second directorial effort, tells the real-life story of Olympic runner Louis Zamperini's two years as a prisoner of war in Japan.

"None of us ever would have thought a picture like this — an inspirational story about a World War Two hero and Olympian — would have performed at this level," said Nikki Rocco, president for domestic distribution at Universal Pictures,

the Comcast Corp unit that released the film.

"We would have been happy at \$25 million," Rocco said, adding that

the release had capped Universal's most profitable year.

"Into The Woods," the adaptation of Stephen



**Writer, producer and director Peter Jackson poses at the premiere of "The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies" at Dolby theatre in Hollywood, California on 9 Dec, 2014.** — REUTERS

Sondheim's Broadway musical which puts a dark spin on fairy tales, stars Meryl Streep, Emily Blunt and Johnny Depp.

The film, which saw the biggest opening in history for a screen adaptation of a Broadway musical, added \$15.1 million from Christmas day screenings for a four-day total of \$46.1 million, distributor Walt Disney Co said.

"Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb" took fourth place in its second week of release with \$20.6 million, while the musical "Annie" rounded out the top five with \$16.6 million. In a rare feat, box office sales for both films exceeded their opening weekend numbers.

Another new release, "The Gambler," opened in seventh with \$9.3 million, behind "The Hunger Games" \$10 million take. The low-budget film, which stars Mark Wahlberg, is a remake of the 1974 James Caan classic about a professor with a devastating weakness for high-stakes gambling.

The relatively solid box office numbers put Hollywood on track to end the year down just over five percent from 2013's record performance, an improvement over the double-digit falloff that was in place during the summer, according to Rentrak.

Time Warner Inc.'s Warner Bros. released "The Hobbit." — Reuters

## Madonna not dissing Lady Gaga in leaked song, says manager

LOS ANGELES, 29 Dec — Madonna's manager Guy Oseary has denied that the recently leaked song 'Two Steps Behind' is about Lady Gaga or anyone in particular.

More than two dozen songs from Madonna, 56, were prematurely released earlier this month, reported Ace Showbiz.

"That song is not about Gaga or anyone in particular. She has no ill will towards Gaga.

"It's nonsense She was listening to the Tony Bennett duet album last week and appreciating it. The song is an unfinished demo she had no intention of finishing or releasing along with many others," he wrote in response to a fan's question. The song features lyrics like, "You're a copycat, get back/I'm always on your mind," which prompted the Gaga dis speculation.—PTI



Madonna



## Ferrari, McLaren take a hit from Marussia collapse

LONDON, 29 Dec — Ferrari and McLaren stand to lose millions as a result of the collapse of the Marussia Formula One team, the *Sunday Telegraph* newspaper reported.

It said documents from administrators FRP Advisory dated on 18 December showed that Ferrari, Formula One's oldest and most successful team, were owed 16.6 million pounds (\$25.81 million) for engines supplied.

McLaren, who had a technical partnership with Marussia, were owed 7.1 million pounds (\$11.04 million).

The newspaper said Lloyds Development Capital (LDC), the private equity division of taxpayer-owned Lloyds Banking Group, was owed 13.2

million which was secured on all of Marussia's assets, unlike money owed to more than 200 other creditors.

FRP managing partner Geoff Rowley was quoted as saying LDC had priority over other creditors but the estimated payout was unlikely to exceed 1.6 million pounds.

"The secured creditors will suffer a significant shortfall," he said. "(There is) insufficient property to enable a distribution to be made to unsecured creditors."

Marussia ceased trading in early November, with some 200 staff made redundant, and the team missed the last three races of the 2014 season.

Much of the team's kit has been auctioned off al-



*A pit crew of Marussia, which Formula One driver Jules Bianchi of France belongs to, wipes his face as he cleans up the pit after the Japanese F1 Grand Prix at the Suzuka Circuit on 5 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS*

ready but another sale date is scheduled for 21 January, when the three 2014 cars — minus engines — will go under the hammer.

The team scored just two points in five years,

with those coming in Monaco this year thanks to French driver Jules Bianchi, who subsequently suffered severe head injuries in a Japanese Grand Prix crash.—Reuters

## HOLDERS Japan lose fullback Uchida for Asian Cup

TOKYO, 29 Dec — Experienced Japanese fullback Atsuto Uchida has been ruled out of next month's Asian Cup title defence in Australia after failing to recover from a knee injury.

The Schalke defender was replaced by Kashima

Antlers' Naomichi Ueda in the 23-man squad, the Japanese Football Association said on Sunday.

The 26-year-old Uchida has played 72 times for the Blue Samurai, including matches at the World Cup in Brazil earlier this year and the Asian Cup tri-



*Schalke 04's Atsuto Uchida of Japan*

umph in Qatar in 2011.

The holders have been drawn in Group D of the 16-team tournament alongside Jordan, Palestine and 2007 winners Iraq.

They open their campaign on 12 January in Newcastle against outsiders Palestine.—Reuters

## Vietnam's volleyball teams to compete in four int'l tournaments

HO CHI MINH CITY, 29 Dec — Vietnam will send its volleyball teams to compete in four international tournaments in 2015, reported the Vietnam General Department of Sports and Physical

Training on its website on Monday.

Accordingly, the first event will be the Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship held in Chinese Taipei from 12-20 May.

Concurrently, the youth team will take part in the Asian Men's U23 Clubs Volleyball Championship in Myanmar.

Meanwhile, Vietnam's women volleyball players will compete in the

Asian Women's Volleyball Championship held on 12-26 June in China, and the Asian Women's Club Volleyball Championship in Vietnam from 12-20 September.

*Xinhua*

## 5 killed in San Antonio apartment building fire

HOUSTON, 29 Dec — A fire broke out at a senior-living apartment building in the US city of San Antonio on Sunday, killing five people and evacuating dozens more, local media reported.

The blaze erupted Sunday morning at Wedgwood Senior Living Apartments, a 11-story high-rise located in the San Antonio suburb of Castle Hills, according to the *San Antonio Express News*.

Five people were killed in the fire and at least

10 others were hospitalized for injuries.

Their ailments included smoke inhalation, but none were burned and none were in critical condition, officials said.

More than 200 residents were inside the building at the time of the fire.

Many were able to evacuate the building on their own while scores of others, mostly elderly citizens, were carried out by approximately 150 firefighters from seven fire departments on scene.

The evacuated residents were temporarily sheltered at a nearby high school.

Some of them have been picked up by their families while others decamped to hotels. Officials said not all of the residents listed on the building's rent rolls have been accounted for yet.

Investigators said the fire apparently started from the third floor, but it was not immediately clear how it was ignited exactly.

*Xinhua*

## S Korea to conduct first independent missile defence drill

SEOUL, 29 Dec — South Korea plans to conduct its first independent missile defence drill in the first half of next year, *Yonhap* News Agency reported on Monday citing government officials.

"The military authorities are pushing to independently carry out the first 'missile defense exercise of the Korean Peninsula' in the first half of next year," a government official was quoted as saying.

The official said the exercise will be staged to verify the effectiveness and identify any flaws of the Korea Air and Missile Defence (KAMD) and Kill-Chain systems, which the South Korean military has developed as its own missile defence capability.

The missile defence system has been developed to detect and strike missiles, possibly fired from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), at an altitude of less than 40 km. The system involves early warning radar with a range of 500-700 km, interceptor PAC-3 and surface-to-air missile M-SAM capable of intercepting missiles at an altitude of 15 km. The military aims to develop long-range surface-to-air missiles, called L-SAM, by 2020 to intercept missiles at an altitude of about 50 km.

South Korea's next year missile-defense drill would be based on the simulation model developed jointly with the United States. The two countries reportedly have developed the model since 2011, but the simulation results were not unveiled.—Xinhua

## MITV MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(30-12-14 07:00 am~ 31-12-14 07:00 am) MST

- \* Local News
- \* Myanmar Circular Stone Slab
- \* World News
- \* Talented Musicians
- \* Local News
- \* The Legend of An ambulatory Surgeon
- \* World News
- \* School for the Blind
- \* Local News
- \* Lively Group Folk Dance of Kayan Nationals
- \* World News
- \* [Doctor][Painter]
- \* Local News
- \* Five Treasures in the Ancient City of MraukU
- \* World News
- \* In the Studio: Sunee
- \* Local News
- \* Myanmar Sculpture-Work of Art
- \* World News
- \* Myanmar Masterclass: Art Teacher
- \* Local News
- \* The Legend of An ambulatory Surgeon
- \* World News
- \* Sticky Shan Snack
- \* Local News
- \* Glass Noodle Soup
- \* World News
- \* Hip-Hop and Design
- \* Local News
- \* Youth of the Future "Hair Designer"
- \* World News
- \* Entrepreneur "U Than Myint"



*Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (L) meets with Bangladesh's former prime minister and Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson Khaleda Zia in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 28 Dec, 2014.—XINHUA*



# Manchester City blow golden chance to close on Chelsea

LONDON, 29 Dec — Manchester City squandered a gilt-edged opportunity to close the gap on Premier League leaders Chelsea when they let slip a two-goal lead to draw 2-2 at home to struggling Burnley on Sunday.

Chelsea stuttered to a 1-1 draw at Southampton and champions City looked poised to close the gap at the top to one point when they scored twice in the first half against Burnley, but Ashley Barnes lashed in a late equalizer.

Tottenham Hotspur goalkeeper Hugo Lloris inspired his team to a feisty 0-0 draw with third-placed Manchester United and Arsenal climbed to fifth with a 2-1 win at London rivals West Ham United.

Fourth-placed Southampton took a deserved 17<sup>th</sup>-minute lead against Chelsea, Sadio Mane running clear to slot coolly past Thibaut Courtois at St Mary's.

The visitors equalized just before halftime when Eden Hazard brilliantly controlled a fine pass from Cesc Fabregas, cut inside and stroked the ball into the net.

Chelsea poured forward but were frustrated by well-organized Southampton who had midfielder Morgan Schneiderlin sent off after receiving a second yellow card.

Jose Mourinho's team remained three points clear at the top.



Manchester United's Robin van Persie (R) fails to score past Tottenham Hotspur's Hugo Lloris (L) during their English Premier League soccer match at White Hart Lane in London on 28 Dec, 2014.

REUTERS



Manchester City's Fernando (R) challenges Burnley's Ashley Barnes during their English Premier League soccer match at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, northern England on 28 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS



Diego Costa of Chelsea tries to shoot through a crowd of Southampton defenders during their English Premier League soccer match at St Mary's Stadium in Southampton, southern England, on 28 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

were not awarded a penalty when Fabregas went down in the area but was booked for diving.

Manchester City, seeking a 10<sup>th</sup> successive win, eased into a 2-0 lead against Burnley thanks to goals by David Silva and Fernandinho but the visitors got a lifeline when George Boyd tapped in just after the interval.

Barnes struck with a sweet 12-metre strike to level for Burnley whose entire squad cost a fraction of City's injured 35 million-pound (\$54.4 million) striker Sergio Aguero.

"It was a big opportunity to get two more points," City manager Manuel Pellegrini said. "Everybody would think the game was over but I always say it is never over until the last minute.

"The pitch was very heavy. Two games in 48 hours but we were winning 2-0. Once it was 2-2 we didn't have the legs to score."

Spurs survived early United pressure before threatening to end the visitors' eight-match unbeaten run in the closing stages at White Hart Lane.

United, who had won seven of their last eight games, stayed third in the table, 10 points behind Chelsea, and Tottenham are seventh.

"We lost two points. We had the best performance of the season in the first half and could have

scored four or five goals," United manager Louis van Gaal said.

"We were fantastic. But when you don't score goals you cannot win. The second half was a struggle."

The visitors, who named an unchanged starting line-up for the first time in 85 matches, dominated the first half.

Frenchman Lloris made a fine diving save to tip over Ashley Young's fierce curling shot and Juan Mata's deflected free kick crashed against the post.

Arsenal struck twice before halftime through Santi Cazorla's penalty and a neat finish from Danny Welbeck but West Ham hit through Cheikhou Kouyate to set up a tense finale.

Newcastle United recovered from conceding an early goal to beat Everton 3-2 at St James' Park, with Papiss Cisse, Ayoze Perez and Jack Colback scoring for Alan Pardew's side.

Mame Diouf scored twice to lead Stoke City to a 2-0 victory over West Bromwich Albion, managerless Crystal Palace eked out a 0-0 draw at Queens Park Rangers and Aston Villa overcame the sending-off of Fabian Delph to draw 0-0 with Sunderland.

Rock-bottom Leicester City won 1-0 at Hull City, their first victory since September, but they stayed at the foot of the standings, three points behind Burnley, Palace and Hull.

Reuters

## Bayern Leverkusen extend contract with Karim Bellarabi until 2017

BERLIN, 29 Dec — Bayer Leverkusen extended the contract of Karim Bellarabi until June 2017, the club confirmed on Sunday.

The Leverkusen made use of an option in Bellarabi's contract to bind the striker for another two years until June 2017.

"We have activated

an option to extend the contract with Karim Bellarabi until 30 June 2017," Leverkusen announced in an official statement.

Bellarabi returned from a loan spell with Braunschweig to become one of the key players in Leverkusen. The 24-year-old striker made 17 appearances

this season to score eight goals. He played overall 61 Bundesliga games to mark 12 goals.

Bayer Leverkusen sit currently on the 3<sup>rd</sup> place of the Bundesliga standings, 6 points adrift of second placed Wolfsburg and 17 points away from front runners Bayern Munich.

Xinhua

## Former Brazil striker closer to Mexico move

RIO DE JANEIRO, 29 Dec — Former Brazil striker Rafael Sobis arrived in Mexico on Sunday to finalize details of his move to local club Tigres.

The 29-year-old met with Tigres officials in the northern city of Monterrey "to look over his contract",

Tigres said on Twitter.

Sobis was released by Rio de Janeiro giants Fluminense earlier this month after scoring just three goals in Brazil's top flight this year. He is expected to join Tigres on a three-year deal.

The former Real Betis

player signed with Fluminense in 2011 after unhappy spells at Al Jazira and Internacional.

He has been capped eight times by Brazil and was a member of the country's 2008 Olympic team which took the bronze medal in Beijing.—Xinhua

## Machida announces his retirement

NAGANO, 29 Dec — Sochi Olympian Tatsuki Machida said on Sunday he will retire from competition following the completion of the national championships.

The 24-year-old Machida, who finished fourth in the men's competition, was selected to compete at the upcoming world championships by the Japan Skating Federation, but turned down his spot on the team. His spot at the 23-29 March worlds in Shanghai was handed to Takahito Mura, who was fifth in the nationals at Nagano Big Hat.

Machida, who finished fifth at this year's Sochi Games, followed that up with the men's silver medal at the worlds in



Sochi Olympian and world silver medalist Tatsuki Machida announces his retirement from competitive figure skating following the Japan national championships at Nagano Big Hat in the central Japanese city of Nagano on 28 Dec 2014.

KYODO NEWS

Saitama. This season, he won the Skate America

event in the ISU Grand Prix series.—Kyodo News

Editorial Section — (+95) (01) 8604529  
Advertisement & Circulation — (+95) (01) 8604532

gmlmail@gmail.com  
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
www.facebook.com/globalnewlightofmyanmar

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily.