President U Thein Sein, wife host dinner in honour of Heads of Government, high-ranking representatives from GMS countries

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win hosted a dinner in honour of Heads of Government and high-ranking representatives from GMS countries, who would attend the 4th GMS Summit, at Banquet Hall of Myanmar International Convention Centre at 7 pm today.

Present at the dinner together with the President and wife were Heads of Government of GMS Prime Minister of Cambodia Samdech Hun Sen, State Councilor of the People’s Republic of China Mr Dai Bingguo, Prime Minister of the People’s Democratic Republic of Laos Mr Thongsing Thammavong, Prime Minister of Thailand Mrs Yingluck Shinawatra and Prime Minister of Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Nguyen Tan Dung and wife, GMS ministers and other ministers and senior officials of GMS countries, entrepreneurs, officials of Asia Development Bank and guests.

First, the President cordially greeted the Heads of Government of GMS countries individually at the entrance to the MICC and had a documentary photo taken.

Next, dinner was hosted to the Heads of Government and high-ranking officials. At the dinner, artistes of the Ministry of Information and Ministry of Culture performed songs and Myanmar traditional dances.

MNA
PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 20 December, 2011

GMS Summit with fruitful results

The 4th GMS Summit to be held from 19 to 20 December commenced today in Nay Pyi Taw, the capital of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. It is the summit that is being hosted by Myanmar in the time of the new government. The participants are Heads of Government of GMS countries namely Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, ministers from GMS countries, high-ranking officials, economic entrepreneurs and officials from Asia Development Bank.

Today’s summit is a preliminary task for Myanmar before holding BIMSTEC Summit in 2012, the XXVII SEA Games in 2013 and ASEAN summits and meetings in 2014.

The summit is indeed a comprehensive one of international standard as it includes GMS Business and Investment Conference, the 4th GMS Summit Joint Statement and MoU signing ceremony as well as press briefings with local and foreign media over the summit.

It is a great pleasure for Myanmar to welcome the participants of the summit in accord with her traditional culture and customs.

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar met the leaders of China and Cambodia who are currently here to attend the summit. During the meetings, they cordially discussed the success in developing Sino-Myanmar relationship into comprehensive strategic partnership, bilateral cooperation in various sectors, internal politics, external relations and developments in Myanmar.

Moreover, at the GMS Business and Investment Conference, economic representatives and entrepreneurs from six GMS countries and local business people totalling 250 discussed smooth commodity flow in the Mekong region, loan guarantees for development of small- and medium-scale enterprises and economic and investment improvement.

Thanks to the GMS Summit that Myanmar is holding as a host, Myanmar and GMS countries will be able to further strengthen their unity and cooperation with more economic and investment opportunities.

Insurgent group exchanges arms for peace in Southern Command

NA Pyi Taw, 19 Dec—Realizing parental attitude and goodwill of the State and the Tatmadaw, insurgent groups have been exchanging arms for peace in a bid to take part in regional development activities and create peaceful environment for the people. In the region of Southern Command on 16 December, 27 members headed by Kaw Gay Tun with the rank of Captain of Central KNLA exchanged arms for peace, bringing along with them one pistol, one 22 revolver, eight AK-47s, 11 M16s, with ammunition of 5000 bullets of M 16, 40 x 40 mm grenades, one pistol bullet, 13 revolver ammunition, one pistol magazine, nine cartridges, one set of whistle, one Kenwood walky-talky, 14 feet long Kachin sword along with scabbard were seized from the body. Likewise, an armed insurgent group led by Captain of Central KNLA, Gay Tun with the rank of 27 members headed by him is a corporal, named Madi (headquarter) in Kaba-Aye, near him. The officials concerned have repaired damaged rail roads and sleepers and normal transportation has resumed.

Ministry of Religious Affairs opens Basic English Course No.3 for officers

YANGON, 19 Dec—“Ministry of Religious Affairs has to deal with Buddhism and other religious affairs at home and abroad and so staff from the Ministry needs to be proficient in English, the most widely-used language across the world,” said Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Dr Maung Maung Htay, at the opening of Basic English Proficiency Course No.3 for officers, at the Ministry (headquarters) in Kaba-Aye Hill here this morning.

A total of 59 trainees are attending the four-week course.

Documents seized from Corporal Mudi Hla Aung of KIA Regiment No. 11 found dead 20 feet away from the east side of railway near the blast.——MNA

Five blasts occur between Htopu Station and Hsahmaw Station in Moguung Tsp

NA Pyi Taw, 19 Dec—A series of blasts occurred between Htopu Station and Hsahmaw Station in Moguung Township, Mohonin District, Kachin State, at 1:30 pm yesterday.

The five blasts destroyed four front railroad joints, one back railroad joint and concrete sleepers between Mile Post No. 678/11 and 678/14.

A man dressed in KIA uniform with left arm cut and left thigh cut was found dead 20 feet away from the incident. According to the documents from that man, he is a corporal, named Mudi Hla Aung from KIA Regiment 11. Two M-22 magazines, nine cartridges, three Einaga grenades, one set of whistle, one Kenwood walky-talky, 14 feet long Kachin sword along with scabbard were seized from the body. Likewise, an armed insurgent group led by Corporal Mudi Hla Aung of KIA Regiment No. 11 found dead 20 feet away from the east side of railway near the blast.—MNA

Agreement signed on construction of healthcare facilities along Myanmar-China oil and gas pipelines

NA Pyi Taw, 19 Dec—An agreement was signed on construction of hospital and healthcare centres along the pipelines of Myanmar-China oil and gas pipeline project being undertaken by Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and China National Petroleum Corporation at the Ministry of Energy here yesterday evening.

The signing ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay, Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thein Khin, deputy ministers, officials, Chairman Mr Zhang Jialin of SouthEast Asia Pipeline Co of CNPC and responsible people. Union Minister U Than Htay delivered an opening speech and Union Minister Dr Pe Thein Khin expressed thanks for the donation. Mr. Zhang Jialin explained the purpose of constructing hospitals and clinics for the health ministry. CNPC donated US$6 million under the aid programme of health and education in Rakhine State, Magway Region, Mandalay Region and Shan State along the oil and gas pipelines. Today’s donation was for construction of 18 healthcare centres and one 48-bed hospital. US$ 1 million from crude oil pipeline project and US$ 1 million from gas pipeline project will also be donated annually.

Agreement signing ceremony for construction of hospitals and clinics in progress.—MNA

Damaged railway joint seen between milepost Nos 678/11 and 678/14 due to a series of blast between Htopu and Hsahmaw stations.—MNA
Gunmen kill three policemen in northern Nigeria

KANO, 19 Dec—Nigeria’s police in northern Kano State on Sunday said three officers were killed by gunmen suspected to be Boko Haram members in Kano metropolis.

State Commissioner of Police Ibrahim Idris told reporters on Sunday that the command succeeded in arresting four suspects of a syndicate. According to him, at least four suspected members of Boko Haram were gunned down during the combat operation, while the command lost three men.

The commissioner also displayed seven rifles, including four AK 47, and 1,125 ammunition and nine magazines impounded in a series of raid in some hideouts in the city.

Other items recovered from the suspects include 19 bags of iron scraps for making bomb, 20 bags of substance of ammonium chemicals, two already constructed bombs, four AK 47, and 1,125 ammunition and nine magazines while the command lost three men.

Boko Haram were gunned down during the combat operation, to be Boko Haram members in Kano metropolis.

Two suicide bombers killed in premature explosions in Afghanistan

KABUL, 19 Dec—Two would-be suicide bombers died as their explosive devices went off prematurely in Farah province, 695 km west of Afghan capital Kabul on Monday, the Interior Ministry said in a press release issued here.

“Two suicide bombers who were attempting to target public interests and kill innocent people in the bazaar of Dilaran district died as their suicide vests exploded prematurely at 08:50 am local time today before reaching the target,” the press release added.

There were no casualties in the blast except the bombers, it stressed.

Taliban militants who often organize suicide bombings have yet to make comment.—Xinhua

Iran strengthens national fleet with 25 planes

TEHERAN, 19 Dec—Iran has enhanced its national fleet with 25 passenger planes since June and plans to purchase 20 more in future, the Tehran Times has reported.

The country has bought 25 new planes for domestic airlines, said the Iranian Minister of Roads and Urban Development Ali Nikzad. Russia has proposed to sell the planes to Iran.

The 550 prisoners were taken by buses heading for Palestinian territories. 509 of the prisoners were from the West Bank under the rule of the Palestinian Authority, while 41 are from the Gaza Strip governed by Hamas.

Earlier, gendarmerie units encircled four caves and called on PKK militants to surrender. So far, no militants have surrendered to the security units.

It is believed that some 50 PKK militants are currently hiding in the caves in the area.

The Turkish Armed Forces units will destroy the caves if the militants fail to surrender. According to him, at least four suspected members of Boko Haram were gunned down during the combat operation, while the command lost three men.

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Gold to drop in Q1, far from retesting record high

New York, 19 Dec—Gold prices will fall below $1,500 an ounce over the next three months and are unlikely to retест September’s all-time highs until later 2012 at the earliest, according to a Reuters poll of 20 hedge fund managers, economists and traders. The bleak forecast, coming after gold has lost 11 percent of its value so far this month, is likely to fuel fears that bullion is close to ending its more than decade long bull run and entering a bear market. Almost half of respondents predicted bullion will fall to $1,400 an ounce in the first quarter next year, with three economists saying they expect prices as low as $1,300 an ounce. Selling was fuelled by a scramble by hedge funds for cash to meet client redemptions at the end of a difficult year and for cash by European banks seeking to raise capital. “What is surprising is that in an environment where headline risk news is bigger than ever, gold has actually fallen from its highs,” said Christoph Eibl, CEO and founding partner of the Swiss commodity hedge fund Tiberius. “We believe that, in 2012, all metals gold will be the worst performing,” Eibl said.

US economy to suffer triple dip in 2012

New York, 19 Dec—As the recession deepens in the US economy at the beginning of the year still weighs on Americans, a renowned Wall Street economist warned of a triple dip ahead. Ethan Harris, co-head of Global Economics Research at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, said that despite the recent pick-up in growth, the US economy is going to slow down once again over the course of 2012.

“Each year since the recession, we’ve had the economy pick up for a while, then fade, and each time there has been some kind of shock that comes along and derails the economy,” Harris said in an exclusive interview with Xinhua. He expected that this shock will be a combination of events in Europe and fiscal problems in the United States.

“So even though the US economy is now in one of those better phases of recovery and the data has been quite solid in recent months, the shocks ahead are significant and we do expect for the third year in a row, a period of weakness in the economy,” said the economist. The first shock to the US economy in the next year, according to Harris, is the ongoing European debt crisis. Noting that a European recession in the first half of next year is almost inevitable, he made a baseline forecast of “a 50 percent chance for Europe to dip into mild recession and a 40 percent risk for the region to suffer a major recession.”—Xinhua

AT&T, T-Mobile asset sales talk goes cold

New York, 19 Dec—Talks over potential asset sales as part of AT&T Inc’s efforts to get approval of its $39 billion purchase of T-Mobile USA have gone cold, according to The Wall Street Journal on Sunday.

A view shows the AT&T store sign in Broomfield, Colorado April 26, 2011. —Reuters

Vietnam’s cement market to face difficulties in 2012

Hanoi, 19 Dec—Vietnam’s cement market will remain sluggish in 2012 because of continuing difficulties in production and business this year, reported the Vietnam News Agency on Monday quoting experts from the Vietnam Cement Association (VCA) as saying. The VCA estimated that the domestic market would need 55-56.5 million tons of cement and 4-4.5 million tons of clinker and cement for export next year. Meanwhile the industry will still experience many difficulties in production and business because of high input costs related to electricity and coal prices. Tran Du Lich, a member of the National Assembly’s Economic Committee, said that next year, the building material market would continue its slow growth due to the frozen property market, tightening credit policies and cuts in public construction project investment. The loosening policy on credit would have little effect on the building material market, Lich said. The domestic cement market has retained large stocks with a capacity hitting 60 million tons on a demand of 50 million this year. Nguyen Tran Nam, deputy minister of construction, said that production costs had been driven up, increasing the retail price of cement, and the industry is in need of modern technology to increase production and lower operational and logistical costs.

Tran Van Huy, chairman of the Vietnam Building Materials Association, said that the government and ministries should limit licensing wasteful cement factories with a small capacity of between 350,000-600,000 tons per year, and the Vietnam Cement Industry Corporation should link with joint ventures to manage demand and supply on a monthly basis.—Xinhua

Music eases pain for children in Toronto hospital

Toronto, 19 Dec—It’s the time of year when a song can lighten a dull day — but in one Toronto hospital, music is helping take the pain away.

Red-haired little Gabby St. John sits transfixed as Heather Cadogan and Ashley Williams sing ‘Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star’ at her bedside.

To the mother of the 9-month-old girl being treated in Toronto East General Hospital for a painful infection, the blissful moment is a revelation.
protected forests, the
for the exploration of
ease licensing procedures
will sign a memorandum of
and the Forestry Ministry
80 metres.
Lakes National Park,
horizontal visibility in Blue
found over six visits that
such as those in the
southeastern Pacific near

Jakarta, 19 Dec—Indonesia’s Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry and the Forestry Ministry will sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to ease licensing procedures for the exploration of geothermal energy in protected forests, the Jakarta Post reported here on Monday.

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Jero Wacik said that he and Forestry Minister Zulkifli Hasan would sign the MoU on Monday to help resolve licensing problems. The MoU would remove licensing problems for the exploration of geothermal energy in 28 locations in protected forests, Jero said over the weekend.

Many exporters have expressed their interest in developing geothermal energy resources in the country, but are unable to obtain licenses because most of the geothermal reserves are located in protected forests. According to the forestry law, only under ground mining operations

Indonesia to ease licensing for geothermal exploration

Halifax, 19 Dec—Ships illegally dumping oil off Canada’s coasts are having a harder time getting away with the crime because of a relatively new process used by government scientists.

Chemists at Environment Canada in New Brunswick have standardized the process that connects oil collected from the ocean to the ships that could be carried out in forest conservation areas. Many geothermal reserves in the protected forests have been left unapped due to mining restrictions. “If there is no understanding on the issues between the forestry minister and the energy and natural resources minister, then we face potential bottle necks. This is what we both want to solve. Our MoU will become the guideline for future geothermal projects,” Jero said.—Xinhua

Scientists trace chemical fingerprint of ocean polluters

World’s clearest freshwater lake believed found in New Zealand

Cambodia has 14 million subscribers of mobile phone services

SAMSUNG

Samsung files new claims against Apple in Germany

United Nations

There are about 14 million subscribers of mobile phone services in Cambodia, or 98 percent of the country’s 14.3 million people.

Currently, Cambodia has 8 million mobile phone subscribers. Cam GSM (Mobitel), Mfone, Hello, Axia Company Limited, CADCOMMS (Q6), Metfone (Viettel), GT-Tell (Excelf), Sotelco (Beeline), and Smart Mobile. So Khun thanked Cambodia for supporting Vietnamese firms investing in Cambodia and promised to encourage more investors to Cambodia to expand operations and investment ties between the two neighbors. He also pledged to continue supporting

Cook said. He said officers have prosecuted about half a dozen ships the past two years using chemical fingerprinting as evidence. And while Cook serves as a watchman of Atlantic waters, he said Environment Canada’s Vanessa does the same surveillance in the Pacific.

Chemical fingerprinting isn’t a new idea, said Cook. In fact, the process has been in development for more than 20 years, but Cook and his team helped refine and standardize the process that can be used in collaboration with police and wildlife enforcement procedures to successfully prosecute polluters.—Internex

Meanwhile, Nguyen Bac Son thanked Cambodia for supporting Vietnamese firms investing in Cambodia and promised to encourage more investors to Cambodia to expand operations and investment ties between the two neighbors. He also pledged to continue supporting

In this undated photo, Lewis Crew, 75, receives help from a member of a voter assistance team while voting on a ballot in Beaverton, Ore. Voters in five Oregonian counties are filling out and returning their mail ballots for a Nov 8, 2011, special primary election to replace former Congressman David Wu, who resigned following a sex scandal. (AP Photo)
**Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission meets**

YANGON, 19 Dec—Meeting of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission took place at meeting hall of the Commission in Yangon (branch) in Yuzana Tower, Bahan Township here this morning, attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann.

It was also attended by Chairman of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission and Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa and Chairman of the Commission, secretary and members and delegates, commission members and guests.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker delivered an opening speech at the meeting. After that, Commission members reported on legal affairs that should be prioritized.

Later on, Pyithu Hluttaw Projects and Financial Development Committee Chairman U Soe Tha, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Economic and Trade Development Committee U Maung Maung Thein, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Transport, Communication and Construction Committee U Thein Hsw, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery Development Committee U Soe Naing, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Investment and Industrial Development Committee U Hay Myint, secretaries and members from respective committees submitted the reports on undertakings of commission.

The meeting came to an end after the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker gave concluding remarks. At the meeting, lawyer U Mya Thein donated legal books through the Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker.

**Cambodian delegation arrives Nay Pyi Taw**

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—A delegation led by Prime Minister of Cambodia Samdech Hun Sen arrived at Nay Pyi Taw Airport this morning by special flight to attend the 4th GMS Summit, to be hosted by Myanmar.

The Cambodian delegation comprising 10 ministers and 27 delegates, was welcomed at the airport by Union Minister for Transport U Nyau Tun Aung, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Myo Myint, Deputy Minister for Transport U Win Shein and officials, Cambodian ambassador to Myanmar Mr Sieng Bunvuth, the Guard of Honour, national races dance troupe.

**Laotian PM comes to capital to attend 4th GMS Summit**

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—The Laotian delegation led by Prime Minister of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic Mr Thongsing Thammavong arrived here to attend the 4th GMS Summit hosted by Myanmar this afternoon.

They were welcomed at the airport by Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing and wife, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Myo Myint, Deputy Minister for Transport U Win Shein, Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu and wife and officials, Laotian ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chhuong Phuang, the Guard of Honour and national races dance troupe.

**Vietnamese delegation arrives Nay Pyi Taw**

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—A delegation led by Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Nguyen Tan Dung and wife arrived at Mandalay International Airport by special flight this morning to pay an official visit to Myanmar and to attend the 4th GMS Summit, to be hosted by Myanmar.

The Vietnamese delegation comprising six ministers, 11 deputy ministers and 74 delegates, were welcomed at the airport by Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint and wife and ministers.

The Chief Minister paid a call on the Vietnamese Prime Minister at Sedona Hotel, and hosted a lunch to the Vietnamese Prime Minister and wife.

In the afternoon, the Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung and wife and party being welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing and officials.—MNA

**Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen being welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Union Minister for Transport U Nyau Tun Aung and officials.—MNA**

**Laotian Prime Minister Mr Thongsing Thammavong and party being welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Union Minister for Science and Technology U Aye Myint and officials.—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—The Laotian delegation led by Prime Minister of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic Mr Thongsing Thammavong arrived here to attend the 4th GMS Summit hosted by Myanmar this afternoon.

They were welcomed by Union Minister for Science and Technology U Aye Myint, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Myo Myint, Deputy Minister for Transport U Win Shein and personnel, Laotian ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nihath Sayarah, Guard of Honour, drum troupe and national races dance troupe at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport. The delegation comprises one minister, three deputy ministers and 24 other members.—MNA
NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—The Myanmar delegation led by Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo held a discussion with the Chinese delegation led by State Councilor of the People’s Republic of China Mr Dai Bingguo at the meeting hall of the Credentials Hall of the Presidential House here at 3.45 pm today.

Present together with the Vice-President were Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun, Union Minister for Electric Power No (1) U Zaw Min, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Thaung Lwin, Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung, Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Thaung Lwin, Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan and Myanmar Ambassador to China U Tin Oo. Present together with the PRC State Councilor were Minister of Finance Xie Xuren, Chairman of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Ma Biao, Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Junhua, deputy ministers and senior officials.

Both parties cordially discussed matters related to continued promotion of cooperation in mutual interests, cooperation in border region peace and development and cooperation with countries concerned in the security along Mekong River.

Next, the Vice-President expressed his thanks to China for its assistance to be rendered to Myanmar for the XXVII SEA Games-2013 and the ASEAN chairmanship in 2014. He said that Myanmar accepted the invitation of China for President U Thein Sein to attend the 9th China-ASEAN Trade Fair and Economic and Investment Summit to be held in Nanning of China in 2012 as country of honour.

Final Meeting of Task Force for 4th GMS Summit held

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—the Final Meeting of the Task Force for the 4th GMS Summit took place at Delegates Listening Room (1) of Myanmar International Convention Centre (MICC) here today.

The high-ranking officials of the GMS countries, namely Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam—and representatives of ADB attended the meeting.

Director-General Daw Myat Myat Soe of Foreign Economic Relations Department of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, and Joint-Chairman Director Mr Arjun Goswame of ADB made introductory speeches.

The officials present at the meeting held discussion on final preparations for 4th GMS Summit—matters to be reported to leaders, facts to be discussed at the summit and transportation.

Thai King’s granddaughter wraps up Myanmar tour

YANGON, 19 Dec—Granddaughter of Thai King Princess Bajrakitiyabha and party returned from Yangon by special flight this evening. They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Director-General U Maung Maung of Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, officials and Charge d’Affaire at Mr Kallayana Vipattipumipratth of Thai Embassy and embassy staff.—MNA

Union Hotels and Tourism Minister receives Arab businessmen

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—Engineer Mr Saeed Saaif Al Gharair of Al Gharair Group L.L.C of United Arab Emirates and party called on Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Tin Oo at the latter’s office here this morning.

The guests enquired about and discussed investment in Myanmar’s hospitality industry and donation of dredging equipment for cleaning of Inlay Lake. Also present at the call were Managing-Director U Hla Htay and officials of the ministry.

MNA
Chinese delegation arrives in Nay Pyi Taw to attend GMS Summit

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec — The Chinese delegation led by State Councillor Mr Dai Bingguo arrived at 12:35 pm to attend the 4th GMS Summit hosted by Myanmar. The Chinese delegation welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Myo Myint and personnel, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Junhua, national races dance troupe and drum troupe. The delegation comprises one minister, seven deputy ministers and 31 other members. — MNA

Thai Prime Minister arrives Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec — A Thai delegation led by Prime Minister of Thailand Mrs Yingluck Shinawatra arrived at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport here this evening by special flight to attend the 4th GMS Summit, to be hosted by Myanmar. They were welcomed at the Airport by Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tin Hsan, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Myo Myint, Deputy Minister for Transport U Win Shein, officials, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Apirath Vienravi, the Guard of Honour, national races dance troupe. Mrs Yingluck Shinawatra was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Mr Kittiratt Na-Ranong, five ministers, six deputy ministers and 37 delegates. — MNA

Myanmar, WFP to cooperate in supply to needy people and farmers

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec — Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay received Country Director and Representative Mr Carlos Veloso of WFP at the ministry here today. They discussed more supply to the people in need of foods and farmers who threw away poppy cultivation due to natural disaster, exchanging views on projects between Myanmar and WFP. — MNA

GMS Business and Investment Conference in progress at Myanmar International Convention Centre. — MNA
President U Thein Sein and Wife Daw Khin Khin Win together with Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr. Nguyen Tan Dung and spouse pose for documentary photo.

President U Thein Sein greets Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen at the dinner.

President U Thein Sein and Thai Prime Minister Mrs. Yingluck Shinawatra pose for documentary photo at the dinner.

President U Thein Sein, wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Heads of Government of GMS member countries, and artistes from Ministry of Information and Ministry of Culture pose for documentary photo.

President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win host dinner to Heads of Government of GMS member countries and high-level representatives at MICC Banquet Hall.

Artistes of the Ministry of Information and Ministry of Culture entertain with songs and Myanmar traditional dances during the dinner.
Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Chinese State Councilor open Nay Pyi Taw International Airport

Nay Pyi Taw, 19 Dec—Nay Pyi Taw International Airport built on 7 April 2009 in Myanmar’s new capital Nay Pyi Taw was successfully inaugurated today.

The airport was constructed with the aim of contributing to national economy through civil aviation sector by making use of every inch of Myanmar’s air territory, enabling of any kinds of aircraft from international airlines to land, lodge and cross over Myanmar’s territory, providing fuel-filling service for aircrafts, catering for passengers and mechanical failures repairing service, swift air transportation of international commodities, smoothly dealing with increased number of foreign tourists following the promotion of economic, social and diplomatic relations and smooth transportation to regions and states with Nay Pyi Taw as the base and speedy functioning of administrative matters.

The opening ceremony of Nay Pyi Taw International Airport was held at the airport at 1.15 pm today, attended by Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham and Chinese State Councilor Mr Dai Bingguo.

Also present on the occasion were Union Ministers, the Attorney-General of the Union, deputy ministers, members of Chinese delegation attending the GMS Summit, departmental heads, personnel of Asia World Co, engineers and staff who participated in Nay Pyi Taw International Airport Construction Project, departmental staff, members of social organizations, students and guests.

The Vice-President and the Chinese State Councilor unveiled the bronze inscription of the airport and sprinkled scented water on it.

Of the international airports in Myanmar, the building of Yangon International Airport covers 423,216 square feet, Mandalay International Airport 467,618 square feet, and newly-opened Nay Pyi Taw International Airport 660,347 square feet.

The Vice-President, the Chinese State Councilor, Union ministers, the Attorney-General of the Union and Chinese delegation members posed for documentary photo in front of the stone plaque.

After the opening ceremony, they looked round the outbound departure/arrival lounge, domestic departure/arrival lounge, Business VIP Hall, transit and check-in counters.

The Nay Pyi Taw International Airport has 1200x200 ft runway, 1200x900 ft concrete apron, and two 350x150 ft taxiways. The runway is 26 feet in thickness and can withstand 873,000 pounds. The airport includes VIP Hall measuring 195x130 ft, and the passenger building 96x60 ft. The airport can handle two million domestic visitors and three million foreign visitors, totaling five million visitors a year. With ten passenger loading bridges, it can deal with landing of from 50000 to 65000 planes per year.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham sprinkles scented water on bronze inscription of Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.—MNA

Chinese State Councilor Mr Dai Bingguo sprinkles scented water on bronze inscription of Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.—MNA

Photo shows Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.—MNA
**News Album**

**Diamond ring put in Salvation Army kettle**

A mystery woman put a $2,000 diamond and sapphire ring, plus $50 for good measure, in a Salvation Army kettle in Miami, a spokeswoman for the charity said.

Salvation Army Capt Linda Payton told Miami’s WTVJ-TV her office got a call from the anonymous woman about 1 pm Friday.

“She said that she had just left something in the kettle in front of Kmart and that it was something special,” Payton said.

So off to Kmart, Payton went, and she brought the kettle back to the office.

“Inside the kettle was, wrapped in a rubber band, a $50 bill and inside the $50 bill was a note, and inside the note was a ring,” Payton said.

The note said: “They need more than I. Do good! A Friend.”

The ring, which features two diamonds ad a sapphire, was immediately appraised at $2,000, Payton said.

Last Christmas holiday season, someone deposited a gold nugget in a Miami kettle with a note expressing a similar sentiment. The nugget sold for $4,000 at auction. “It’s just wonderful for the community, we’re just the conduit, they’re the ones who will receive it,” Payton said.

**‘Sherlock Holmes’ dominates box office**

LOS ANGELES, 19 Dec—“Sherlock Holmes: A Game Of Shadows” with Robert Downey Jr debuted at No 1 at the box office this weekend with more than $40 million in gross US receipts.

“Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked” and “Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol” opened at No 2 and No 3 with $23.5 million and $13 million, respectively.

The three new films pushed the ensemble cast “New Year’s Eve” from No 1 to No 4 for the weekend at $7.4 million.

“The Sitter,” with Jonah Hill, fell one spot to No 5 with $4.4 million. All studio estimates of gross US box office receipts are via Box Office Mojo.

“The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1,” dropped to No 6 with $4.3 million, “Young Adult” starring Charlize Theron was No 7 with $3.7 million, “Hugo” No 8 with $3.6 million, and “Arthur Christmas” was No 9 with $3.6 million.

“The Muppets” rounded out the Top 10 with $3.5 million.

**Scarlett Johansson dating British Rocker?**

LONDON, 19 Dec—Actress Scarlett Johansson is reportedly dating British musician Dan White. The 26-year-old met the guitarist when she was shooting in London recently and friends say the pair are smitten and determined to make their long-distance relationship work.

“They met in London recently. Scarlett was shooting the film ‘Under The Skin’ in the UK and they were introduced at a club night in town,” contactmusic.com quoted a source as saying. “They got on like a house on fire and Scarlett was into his band’s music. There was an instant connection. They’ve been seeing each other for a good few weeks. Dan’s proper happy about it — and what guy wouldn’t be? He already thinks the world of Scarlett. Dan thinks she’s an amazing girl,” the source added.

**Tom Cruise wants to perform death-defying stunts at 70**

LONDON, 19 Dec—Hollywood hunk Tom Cruise has revealed his plans to continue performing death-defying stunts when he turns 70. The 49-year-old made the confession at the premiere of Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol. “I want to still do them in 20 years’ time,” the Daily Star quoted him as saying.

“We’ll see what my body can and can’t take. ‘I love movies. I don’t know how to do anything halfway in my life. I’m full on and I want to entertain the audience, so I train for it. ‘Even for Last Samurai I trained for a year for five hours a day so it felt authentic in the movie. ‘It’s exciting for me to learn new things and it’s challenging. I hope that audiences are entertained by it. ‘I do whatever it takes to make it work,” he added.

His latest flick, which sees him climb up the tallest building in the world in Dubai, will hit cinemas on Boxing Day.

**Arctic Monkeys’ drummer learning guitar**

London, 19 Dec—British rockers Arctic Monkeys’ drummer Matt Helders is learning to play the guitar as he wants to master a new instrument.

The 25-year-old is taking some time off from touring and recording over the festive period, and is planning to devote some time to learning a new instrument. “I need to learn the guitar too, I may do that over Christmas,” he said.

**Thieves steal from suspected shoplifters**

Two people were cited for allegedly shoplifting in Ogden, Utah, in turn discovered just minutes later they were victims of theft, police said.

Korin Vanhouven, 47 and Eldon Alexander, 36, were stopped shortly after leaving a WinnCo by a police officer who suspected they left without paying for cotton swabs, makeup and batteries, the Ogden Standard-Examiner reported Friday.

The officer cited them for shoplifting.

When the pair returned to Alexander’s pickup truck in the store’s parking lot, they noticed someone had entered the unlocked truck and stole a stereo amplifier, a drum machine and cigarettes.

Police Lt Tony Fox said he had never seen anything like it in his entire career.

The items the two were suspected of shoplifting were worth $26, while the worth of their stolen possessions was about $60. Fox estimated. Police were investigating.

**Woman: Date stole my car**

A Florida woman says she was at a movie with a friend when he excused himself to go get something from the concession stand. The Pasco County Sheriff’s Office said the Zephyrhills woman, whose name was not released, and Michael Pratt, 27, of New Port Richey were taking in a movie last week when Pratt asked for her car keys, saying he wanted to retrieve something from the rental, a 2012 Ford Focus, the St Petersburg Times reported.

He left the theater and never came back. So the woman called him. “I stole your car,” Pratt said before hanging up.

**Bradley Cooper was a ladies’ man even in high school**

WASHINGTON, 19 Dec—Bradley Cooper has revealed that he used to try and date every girl in high school. The Hollywood heartthrob says he was never part of any group when he was growing up and just used from one gang to another as it helped him romance as many girls as possible.

“I was like most kids. You’re trying to figure out who you want to be, who you are pretending to be, who you are, I was very open,” he said.

And just in case you’re wondering, a clue to Cooper’s淹没是 that over Christmas.

**Armoured vehicle for Jay-Z’s unborn child**

LONDON, 19 Dec—Rapper Jay-Z is planning to buy an armoured vehicle to protect his unborn baby.

The 42-year-old’s wife Beyoncé Knowles is pregnant with the couple’s first child and Jay-Z is so determined to keep the child safe that he asked actor Tom Cruise for advice on the safest mode of transport for the family. "Jay is looking at acting roles that require him to travel in armoured vehicles like Tom’s and wants to make sure they are bullet-proof and 100 percent safe. He won’t be taking any risks that’s for sure,” contactmusic.com quoted a source as saying.
Beach Boys to reunite for 50th anniversary

NEW YORK, 19 Dec — US band The Beach Boys have announced plans to reunite for their 50th anniversary next year. The five-piece, which includes founding members Brian Wilson, Mike Love and Al Jardine will embark upon a 50-date world tour and record a new album. Jardine said they will appear at the Grammy Awards on 12 February and "do something really exciting".

The band, whose hits include Good Vibrations, will stage their first gig in New Orleans on 27 April. The surviving original Beach Boys will be joined by Bruce Johnston and David Marks, who have been associated with the group for decades. Wilson said: "This anniversary is special to me because I miss the boys, and it will be a thrill for me to make a new record and be on stage with them again."

Love added: "Music has been the unifying and harmonising fact of life in our family since childhood. It has been a huge blessing that we have been able to share with the world."

Internet

In Manitoba, Canada, the town of Churchill has built a ‘polar bear prison’ to cope with a spate of the animals coming to the town looking for food. Here natural resource officer Bob Windsor poses with a trapped bear. — Internet

Chinese scientists finish sequencing Genghis Khan descendant’s genome

Hohhot, 19 Dec — Scientists said on Sunday that they have finished sequencing the genome of a direct descendant of Genghis Khan. Zhou Huanmin, project leader and head of the biological research lab at the Inner Mongolia Agricultural University, said Sunday that this was the first individual genome sequencing of a Mongolian.

The blood donator was a male only identified as one of Genghis Khan’s 34th-generation offspring from the Sunit Tribe, which is based in the Xilingol league (prefecture) in Inner Mongolia. Zhou said the research team will continue to sequence the genomes of another 199 ethnic Mongolians and build a database consisting of Mongolian genetic code.

Zhou said the results of the genome mapping are important for the detection of ethnicity-specific genome inheritances and the evolutionary features of Mongolians, and will also contribute to medical research linked to the control of certain diseases. There are about 10 million ethnic Mongolians living around the world, mainly in China’s Inner Mongolia and Xinjiang Uyghur autonomous regions and Qinghai province, as well as the Republic of Mongolia and Russia. — Xinhua

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CMB LILIANE VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CMB LILIANE VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.12.2011 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.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS CMB LILIANE
CO LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DIBENA WIN VOY NO (147)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DIBENA WIN VOY NO (147) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.12.2011 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.

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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS PHILSAWAT SHIPPING
CO LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CHILE

Chilean Mexican artist creates concerts with his fingers and an iPad

SANTIAGO, 19 Dec — A 10-month-old girl who was surgically separated from her conjoined twin died Sunday after suffering from complications related to a congenital heart defect.

The girl, identified as Maria Paz and her twin sister, Maria Valentina, was born in March with a single heart and other shared organs. After receiving preliminary treatment in Santiago, she was sent to Mexico for further specialized care.

The girl’s surgery was conducted in Mexico City by a team of specialists from the University of Guadalajara. However, the post-operative period was marked by complications, including difficulties in the girl’s heart function.

Officials from the University of Guadalajara said in a statement that the surgery had been successful in separating the twins, but a heart defect had been discovered that required further treatment.

Unfortunately, the condition of the girl, who was named Maria Paz, deteriorated rapidly after the surgery. She passed away Sunday morning, the university said.

The separation surgery, which took place in September, had been considered a significant medical achievement. The twins were born with a condition known as “complete thoracic conjoined twins,” which occurs in only about 100 cases worldwide.

At the time of the surgery, doctors had expressed cautious optimism about the prospects for Maria Paz’s recovery, noting that the surgery was a difficult but potentially life-saving procedure.

The death of Maria Paz and her twin sister, Maria Valentina, has sparked an outpouring of grief and solidarity among the Chilean medical community and the public. A crowdfunding campaign has been launched to help cover the medical expenses for Maria Valentina’s ongoing treatment.

The campaign, which is being coordinated by a group of Chilean doctors and medical professionals, has already raised a significant amount of money.

In a statement released by the campaign organizers, they emphasized the importance of continuing to provide medical care for Maria Valentina and other children facing similar challenges.

“Maria Valentina is not alone,” the statement said. “We are committed to supporting her and other children who are in need of specialized care.”
**Ranieri: win is good but too many mistakes**

Rome, 19 Dec.—Inter head coach Claudio Ranieri praised his side improved form and conceded they made too many mistakes in their 1-0 win at Cesena on Sunday. The Nerazzurri scraped with Andrea Ranocchia’s glancing header, but they escaped numerous dangers. “We got so many passes wrong, as I had never seen the team make so many mistakes. Evidently the synthetic turf caught us by surprise,” Ranieri was quoted by football-italia.net as saying.

“Are these difficult games and ones where you have to suffer. It’s tough to win at Cesena, so we are very happy with the result. “Let us not bother with the performance and just take the three points. Cesena were pressing us as all over the field.” At the start of the season we conceded too many goals, but now we all work hard when out of possession,

**Enrique ecstatic about Roma’s win over Napoli**

Rome, 19 Dec.—Luis Enrique claimed he was living his happiest day as Roma head coach after his side beat Napoli 3-1 on Sunday.

“This is my happiest day on the Roma bench,” the under-fire Spaniard was quoted by football-italia.net as saying. “It was a completely crazy game, though.

“We were lucky and worked hard, but frankly any result could have come out at the end.”

“Today my team welcomed modern football, because if you play against Napoli with a line-up that isn’t both offensive and defensive together, then you’re dead. The players have to sacrifice themselves.

“It seemed a long way away from Enrique’s possession football, as most of the goals came on the counter. I hope to learn Italian soon and become more Italian in football terms, though I’ll never give up on attacking football.

“Everyone knows we play ball to feet and with that style there is always the chance to run into space, but I still think the best way of defending is to keep possession in the opposition area,” he said.

**Galliani says Milan’s offer for Tevez rejected**

Rome, 19 Dec.—Milan’s offer for Carlos Tevez has been rejected by Manchester City, the Serie A giant’s vice-president Adriano Galliani confirmed on Sunday.

Tevez has agreed personal terms with Milan, but City do not want to release him on loan with an option to buy at the end of the season.

“Milan are only looking for a striker on the transfer market after Antonio Cassano’s health problem,” Galliani said.

“At the moment Manchester City have rejected our offer for Tevez.

**Silva goal seals City win over Arsenal**

LONDON, 19 Dec.—David Silva scored the winning goal as Manchester City beat Arsenal in a thrilling Barclays Premier League encounter to go back to the top of the table. Silva scored from a close-range rebound after Mario Balotelli’s shot had been parried, while Sergio Aguero fired just wide and Pablo Zabaleta hit the post for City.

But Arsenal had chances through Robin van Persie, who had a goal disallowed and shot straight at Joe Hart from a good position, while Thomas Vermaelen twice went close in the dying stages. City had briefly slipped to second place in the table when Manchester United beat QPR earlier on Sunday, but the win at the Emirates Stadium sees Roberto Mancini’s side restore their two-point cushion at the top.—Internet

David Silva’s winner for Manchester City came eight minutes after half-time

**Barcelona beats Santos 4-0 to win Club World Cup**

YOKOHAMA, 19 Dec.—Lionel Messi scored twice and Barcelona beat Brazil’s Santos 4-0 in Sunday to win their second Club World Cup in three years.

Messi, Xavi and Cesc Fabregas scored in the first half as the European champions won its 13th trophy under coach Pep Guardiola, solidifying its stature as the best club team in the world.

“The reason for our success is the effort of the players,” Guardiola said.

**Liverpool too strong for Villa**

LONDON, 19 Dec.—Craig Bellamy scored one goal and created the other as Liverpool ran out easy winners away to a below-par Aston Villa side.

Bellamy scored from close range after 10 minutes and then sent over a corner that Martin Skrtel headed in shortly after.

Liverpool striker Luis Suarez was twice denied by the woodwork and the Reds always looked the more likely side to add to the scoring.

**Lee Westwood triumphs by seven shots at the Thailand Open**

BANGKOK, 19 Dec.—Lee Westwood ended 2011 on a high with a seven-shot win over Charl Schwartzel at the Thailand Golf Championship. The 38-year-old Englishman fired a closing 69 to end 22 under and move above Northern Ireland’s Rory McIlroy into second in the world rankings.

Westwood made a stunning start to the Asian Tour event and was a record 18 under par after 36 holes.

“Tve amazed myself really, he said. “It’s been staggering. It’s probably the best I’ve ever played.”

The World golf began the day only four shots clear of South African Schwartzel, who led by 11 at halfway after following up a stunning 12-under-par 60 in his first round with a 64 in his second.—Internet

**Pavlyuchenko earns Tottenham victory**

LONDON, 19 Dec.—Substitute Roman Pavlyuchenko scored the only goal as Tottenham moved up third and handed a first defeat to new Sunderland manager Martin O’Neill. Russian forward Pavlyuchenko, who came off the bench after Aaron Lennon was taken off with a hamstring problem, broke the deadlock when he finished following Rafael van der Vaart’s pass.

Luka Modric should have added a second for the home side and Nicklas Bendtner had a late chance to equalise, but the one goal proved enough for Tottenham to seal a sixth League win at home this season.

**International Sports**

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Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

Weather forecast for 20th December, 2011

Sonam Kapoor: Make-over queen!

Mumbai, 19 Dec—Okay, now even Francois, my hawwaah is getting into action. He says his friend from Delhi, who is also a hawwaah at some high profile residence, has got a make-over done from a store. So? The point is that the Delhiwala cook is getting excited because he got it done by Sonam Kapoor who was in the capital for that purpose. She went to this designer store for some promotional work and ended up giving a lot of boys and girls makeover tips and some like this bawarchi got ‘super-lucky’ because she personally did the makeover.

Of course this girl, who has made herself over from the capital for that purpose, is also a bawarchi at some restaurant. He says his friend from Delhi, who is also a bawarchi at some restaurant in the capital, excited because he got it done by Sonam Kapoor who was in the capital for that purpose. She went to this designer store for some promotional work and ended up giving a lot of boys and girls makeover tips and some like this bawarchi got ‘super-lucky’ because she personally did the makeover.

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Sonam Kapoor.—INTERNET

DAW TIN OO @ DAW TIN TIN OO
(Donor of Pagoda & Rahan)
aged (78) years

Daughter of UMaung Yone + Daw Aye Nyo, wife of U Kyaw Shwe, residing at No(521) Zeyar 17th Street, Ward (10), South Okkalapa Township, YangonRegion, mother of UMaung Maung On + Daw Nwe Nwe Win, U Than H. Daw Yee Yee Htay (UFL-Russia), U Maung Maung Myint (MEAP-Singapore) + Daw Ma Mo Chu, UMaung Maung Lwin + Daw Kyi Thar & grandmother of (6) grand children expired on(18-12-2011) Sunday at (2:05) pm and funeral service will take place at Yaw Way Cemetery on (20-12-2011) Tuesday at (2:00) pm. Transport will leave residence at (1:00) pm.

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received Prime Minister of Cambodia Samdech Hun Sen at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential House here this morning. Also present at the call were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein, Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein, Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tin Hsan, Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan, Myanmar Ambassador to Cambodia U Cho Tun Aung and departmental heads. The Cambodian Prime Minister was accompanied by Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Sieng Bunvuth. They frankly discussed matters related to bilateral relations, promoting sector-wise cooperation and developments in Myanmar’s political affairs.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received Mr Dai Bingguo, State Councilor of the People’s Republic of China, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential House here at 2 pm today. Also present at the call together with the President were Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein, Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htay, Union Minister for Electric Power No (1) U Zaw Min, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Thant Aung, Myanmar Ambassador to the PRC U Tin Oo and departmental heads. The PRC State Councilor was accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Junhua. Both sides discussed success in promotion of Sino-Myanmar relations into comprehensive strategic partnership in the bilateral relationship, mutual cooperation in various sectors and situations of internal politics and external relations.—MNA

President Office U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein, Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tin Hsan, Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan, Myanmar Ambassador to Cambodia U Cho Tun Aung and departmental heads. The Cambodian Prime Minister was accompanied by Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Sieng Bunvuth. They frankly discussed matters related to bilateral relations, promoting sector-wise cooperation and developments in Myanmar’s political affairs.—MNA

President U Thein Sein meets Cambodian PM

LOCAL SPORTS

Weekly mass walk held in Shwebo

Shwebo, 19 Dec—The weekly mass walk in sports month of December was held in Shwebo Township on 3 December. Departmental personnel led by Township Administrator U Thet Lwin Tun, local people, teachers and students, totaling over 5,000 participated in the mass walk.

Pyay Township opens football tournament

Pyay, 19 Dec—The Pyay Township Administrator’s Cup Football Tournament kicked off at Mingala Shwepyi sports ground in Pyay on 1 December afternoon. First, the township administrator made a speech, and the commander of township police force explained the rules of the tournament. The opening ceremony of the tournament was also attended by footballers, coaches and managers of 13 contending teams and guests.—Township IPRD

Prizes presented to winners in gymnastic contest

YANGON, 19 Dec—Winners were awarded for the Yangon Region Inter-Basic Education School Gymnastic Contest, organized by Myanmar Gymnastics Federation, at Theinbyu Gymnasium in Mingala Taungnyunt Township on 15 December. Cash award K 100,000 and championship trophy each were presented to Kamayut BEPS No. 2 in primary level boys’ event and Bahan BEPS No. 1 in the girls’ event. Vice-President U Thein Han and U Wai Lin Aung of MGF gave K 100,000 and championship trophy each to Ahlon BEHS No.4 in middle school level girls’ event and Dagon BEHS No. 2 in the boys’ event.—MNA