NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—President U Thein Sein met Thai Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra at Dawei Special Economic Zone Project in Nabule area in Yebyu Township of Dawei District in Taninthayi Region this morning.

The President and the Thai PM, accompanied by Vice-President U Nyan Tun, Union ministers, Lt-Gen Tha Naing Win of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Thai ministers and officials arrived at the special economic zone at 10.10 am.

They were welcomed by Myanmar deputy ministers and officials of Italian Thai Company of Thailand.

Chairman of the Dawei SEZ Management Committee Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin briefed on progress of the project.

Thai Transportation Minister Mr Chandchart Sittipom explained agreements at the meetings of the Joint Coordination Committee and six sub-committees, benefits that can be gained from the project and infrastructural development.

The President said that the project is an important one not only for Myanmar and Thailand but also for ASEAN countries. Two leaders vowed to make it a success, he said.

The investment of a third country must be invited in the areas as the two countries could not implement it, he said. He tipped Japan as the interested third country.

President U Thein Sein, Thai Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra and party view scale model of Dawei Special Economic Zone Project and its related areas.—MNA

Then Thai Minister for Energy Mr. Pongsak Ruttapong Paisal presented 20 million baths to Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thein. Afterwards, officials conducted the President, Thai Prime Minister and party looked round the booth of the project where documentary photos on activities for development of health, education, culture, religious, agriculture and livestock breeding sectors in Nabule region, scale models of housing for relocated villagers and Dawei special economic zone and related areas and samples of trees were on display.

Next, the President and the Thai Prime Minister held talks on sooner implementation of the project, availability of communication channels and electricity, conservation of environment, capitals and investments, invitation of investments from third countries and data collection about the project.

Next, the President arrived back Dawei by helicopter.—MNA

Thai Prime Minister arrives in Dawei

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec — A delegation led by Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra of Thailand arrived in Dawei of Taninthayi Region by special flight this morning.

They were welcomed at the Dawei Airport by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko, the Thai Ambassador to Myanmar, the Taninthayi Region Hluttaw speaker, members of region government and officials.—MNA

President U Thein Sein and party hold talks with Thai Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra and party.—MNA

Union Minister U Soe Thein accepts cash donations.—MNA
UNFPA, I&P Ministry launch 2014 Population and Housing Censuses Project


The event was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Immigration and Population, the United Nations agencies, the diplomatic community and donors.

U Khin Yi, Union Minister for Immigration and Population gave the opening statement, and highlighted the strong commitment of the Government of Myanmar to conducting the census in line with international standards by ensuring confidentiality of personal data, active participation of all groups and individuals in the country and adherence to UN Global Standards on Census Taking.

The Minister stated that there are challenges ahead that can only be overcome with the mutual commitment of the government and the international development partners: “Though we have developed a clear roadmap to conduct the census, there is a need for adequate and timely resources to operationalize the roadmap. We need the support of development partners, civil society, public and private sector as well as international organizations.”

The census comes at a critical time for Myanmar, as the country embarks on political and economic reform. Mr. Ashok Nagam, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator noted that the census represents the biggest and the only source of information on the size and distribution of the population in the country.

He said, “the census helps us give a voice to the country’s remarkable ethnic, linguistic, and religious diversity, and plan and deliver services, in particular to the poorest and most vulnerable.”

The preparation of the census was underway since 2012, and the Department of Population has been leading efforts in the areas of making Enumeration Area Maps, designing of census questionnaire, developing communication and publicity plan, and setting up information technology infrastructure.

“The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), based on its long-standing experience, has been tasked to provide technical support, establish monitoring, oversight and quality control mechanisms to ensure adherence to international standards in census taking, and assist the Government in resource mobilization.” said Mr. Mohamed Abdel-Ahad, UNFPA Representative.

Rakhine State Day observed in Thandwe

THANDWE, 17 Dec — Sports competitions in commemoration of the 38th Rakhine State Day were organized at the sports ground in Thandwe on 15 December. Starting from 14 December, tug-of-war, track and field, volleyball and sepak tawar events were held at the sports ground.

New school building for newly-upgraded primary school in Kalay

KALAY, 17 Dec — Aimed at ensuring all schoolchildren to pursue education, for socioeconomic development of the region, the opening of a basic education primary school was held in conjunction with the ceremony to hand over documents related to new school building and the ceremony to account of the new school society.

The township education officer accepted K 100,000 contributed by well-wisher Daw Saw Chit for the education funds at the ceremony.

The section programme was supervised by the MEF president and executives, Phyo Maung (Yangon City Club) who stood first in the list of top scorers, Zin Lin Aung (Lin Sadaung) who won the best player award, Yangon City Club for the fair-play award, fourth-prize winning Lin Sadaung Club, third-prize winning UPT Club, second-prize winning Yangon City Club and first-prize winning ACE Club.

A man hangs himself in his house in Bago

BAGO, 17 Dec — A man who apparently killed himself was found dead in his house on Awayar street in Sector-16 of Kyunthayar Ward in Bago at about 5.30 am on 11 December. Moe Zaw (45 years) had apparently committed suicide by hanging himself at his house.

Photo shows a mass walks organized in Tatkon Township with the participation of departmental staff, students and members of NGOs led by Township Administrator U Aye Lu and Township Sports Officer U Khin Maung Aye on 15 December.— Kyemon

ACE Futsal Club wins championship two times in a row

YANGON, 17 Dec — The final matches of MFF AYA Futsal League 2012 took place at National Indoor-stadium-1 in Thawwunna on 15 December. ACE futsal club held the championship two times in a row.

After the final matches, Phyoe Dhana club won Thazin club 4-0, UPT beat MIC 5-4, the match between Yangon City and Lin Sadaung ended 5-2 and ACE upset Royal Land 11-2.

Next, the prize presentation ceremony followed. President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw and officials presented prizes and cash awards to Pyae Phyo Maung (Yangon City Club) who stood first in the list of top scorers, Zin Lin Aung (Lin Sadaung) who won the best player award, Yangon City Club for the fair-play award, fourth-prize winning Lin Sadaung Club, third-prize winning UPT Club, second-prize winning Yangon City Club and first-prize winning ACE Club.

Star-ranked horses selected for SEA equestrian competition

YANGON, 17 Dec — Under the programme in which Myanmar Equestrian Federation planned to use borrowed horses at home for SEA and international equestrian sports competitions, the ceremony to choose star-ranked horses among borrowed ones was held at the training ground in Htihpu Village of NyaungU Township on 10 December.

Twelve horses were selected to take part in endurance event and 14 horses each for show jumping and dressage events. Plans are underway to collect top-ranked horses at home and order them from abroad. Upon completion of equestrian centre in Nay Pyi Taw, more horses from foreign countries will arrive there.
**ANC opens 53rd National Congress in South Africa**

In delivering his political report, President Jacob Zuma, who is also state president, stressed great achievements made by his party and government since the last ANC national congress.

On 16-20 Dec, 2007, the 52nd ANC National Conference was held in the city of Polokwane in the northeastern Province of Limpopo.

"Here are 4500 ANC delegates, representing thousands of branches with about 1.2 million members across the country," said Zuma. The president pointed out that "South Africa has made phenomenal strides as a nation over the past 18 years in promoting national unity and reconciliation."

"The ANC can run the economy, the ANC will continue to provide strong economic leadership," said the president. The destination we are heading towards is mixed economy, where the state and private enterprises would complement each other in an integrated way to eliminate social poverty and promote the shared economic growth." In talking about the challenges, he said, "We would expand economic growth drivers beyond mining, oil and agriculture, we would do more to achieve true reconciliation. We need to bridge the inequalities, intensify the fight against poverty and crime."

The congress is scheduled to end on Thursday.

Top on the agenda of the national conference will be the election of new ANC leadership, including the new president. Some delegates told Xinhua that the new president would possibly be elected between President Zuma and Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe, who is also state deputy president.

**One person injured in blast in Kenyan capital**

NAIROBI, 17 Dec—One person was injured Sunday evening in a blast at a mosque in the Kenyan capital Nairobi, local police reported.

Regional police commander Moses Ombati said the explosion rocked the Kenyan capital.

"I am rushing to the scene to find more details," he added. The attack is the third witnessed at Eastleigh in 10 days.—Xinhua

**300 radical fighters infiltrate Palestinian refugee camp, battling local committees**

In infiltrating the Palestinian camp of Yarmouk in the Syrian capital Damascus and clashed with local committees there, causing human losses, great chaos and huge displacement movement, local media said.

Al-Nusra, an offshoot of al-Qaeda in Iraq, has been beefing up the presence in the surrounding areas of the camp over the past days in a bid to storm it, the local Aajil news network said, adding that intense clashes are going on in the camp.

The local committees in the camp are controlled by the Palestinian Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command (PFLP-GC) led by Ahmad Jibril, who is a staunch supporter of the Syrian administration of President Bashar al-Assad.

**Two police stations targeted in Libya’s Benghaz**

BENGHAZI, 17 Dec—Two police stations were targeted in what appeared to be simultaneous attacks in the eastern Libyan City of Benghazi on Monday, a police source said, a day after four policemen were killed when a compound was attacked.

An explosive device was thrown at an empty car parked in front of Gharyounes police station in eastern Benghazi early on Monday, the source said. A loud explosion was heard in the area, according to a Reuters reporter nearby.

An explosive device was also thrown in front of another police station in the east of the city, damaging a front wall.

"The attacks appear to be simultaneous. There are no injuries," the source said.

The anti-Gaddafi uprising started last year in Benghaz, but Libya’s second city is now a hot spot for violence, with arms readily available and state security forces struggling to assert their authority.

On Sunday, unknown assailants fired a rocket-propelled grenade at a Benghaz police compound, which houses patrol cars, damaging an office and killing one policeman. A gun battle followed and three of the police reinforcements who arrived at the scene were killed, a police spokesman said.—Reuters

**Sanitation workers remove snow from a sidewalk in the Chaoyang District of Changchun, capital of northeast China’s Jilin Province, on 16 Dec. 2012. Changchun’s sanitation workers have been busy clearing snows as the city witnesses a series of snowfalls this winter. Xinhua**

**Opposition’s Capriles holds seat in Venezuela state elections**

CARACAS, 17 Dec—Venezuelan opposition leader Henrique Capriles held his governorship post in state elections on Sunday, leaving him well placed to challenge the government, should President Hugo Chavez’s cancer necessitate a new presidential vote.

The ANCP is currently in an alliance with the South African Communist Party and the Congress of South African Trade Unions in ruling the country.

The conference was attended by more than 4500 delegates in the nine provinces across the country, with the theme of Unity in Action towards Social-Economic Freedom.

**Obama congratulates Japan’s Abe on election victory**

WASHINGTON, 17 Dec—US President Barack Obama on Sunday extended his congratulations to Shinzo Abe, a former Japanese Prime Minister, on his party’s victory in the parliamentary elections, saying he looks forward to “working closely” with the next Japanese government.

“I congratulate Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) President Shinzo Abe on his party’s success in the elections in Japan today,” the president said in a statement.
Ten Commandments join Isaac Newton’s notes online

LONDON, 17 Dec—A copy of The Ten Commandments dating back two millennia and the earliest written Gaelic are just two of a number of incredibly rare manuscripts now freely available online to the world as part of a Cambridge University digital project.

The Nash Papyrus—one of the oldest known manuscripts containing text from the Hebrew Bible—has become one of the latest treasures of humanity to join Isaac Newton’s notebooks, the Nuremberg Chronicle and other rare texts as part of the Cambridge Digital Library, the university said on Wednesday.

“Cambridge University Library preserves works of great importance to faith traditions and communities around the world,” University Librarian Anne Jarvis said in a statement.

“Because of their age and delicacy these manuscripts are seldom able to be viewed—and when they are displayed, we can only show one or two pages.”

Before the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Nash Papyrus, was by far the oldest manuscript containing text from the Hebrew Bible and like most fragile historical documents, only available to select academics for scrutiny.

The university’s digital library is making 25,000 new images, including an ancient copy of the New Testament, available on its website (cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk), which has already attracted tens of millions of hits since the project was launched in December 2011.

The latest release also includes important texts from Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism.

In addition to religious texts, internet users can also view the 10th century Book of Deer, which is widely believed to be the oldest surviving Scottish manuscript and contains the earliest known examples of written Gaelic.

“Now... anyone with a connection to the Internet can select a work of interest, turn to any page of the manuscript, and explore it in extraordinary detail,” Jarvis said. The technical infrastructure required to get these texts to web was in part funded by a $2.4 million gift from the Polonsky Foundation in June 2010.

Walmart selling Apple’s iPhone 5 at big discount

SAN FRANCISCO, 17 Dec—Walmart Stores Inc said on Friday that it began selling Apple Inc’s flagship iPhone 5 smartphone at a big discount in thousands of its stores.

Walmart said it is selling the 16 GB iPhone 4S for $47, and the 16 GB iPad with Retina display and WiFi at discounts.

The offers will be available for 30 days in about 3,000 of Walmart’s stores, which were not identified. They are not available online, according to the retailer.

Apple has focused on high-priced, premium gadgets for many years and has strictly enforced its prices with retailers and other distributors. However, a Walmart spokeswoman said on Friday that the discounts were arranged with Apple.

“We worked together with them on this,” the spokeswoman, Sarah Spencer, said. “They are a great partner.”

Amazon wins EU e-book pricing battle with Apple

BRUSSELS, 17 Dec—European Union regulators ended an antitrust probe into e-book prices on Thursday, accepting an offer by Apple and four publishers to ease pricing restrictions on Amazon and other retailers.

The decision hands online retailer Amazon a victory in its attempt to sell e-books cheaper than rivals in a fast-growing market publishers hope will boost revenue and customer numbers. Reuters first reported in November that the Commission was accepting the settlement offer.

The European Commission said Thursday the concessions from Apple and the publishers soothed concerns that their pricing deals curbed competition.

“The commitments proposed by Apple and the four publishers will restore normal competitive conditions in this new and fast-moving market, to the benefit of the buyers and readers of e-books,” EU Competition Commissioner Joaquin Almunia said.

Apple and the publishers offered to let retailers set prices or discounts for a period of two years, and also to suspend “most-favored nation” contracts for five years.

Such clauses bar publishers Simon & Schuster, News Corp. unit HarperCollins, Lagardere SCA’s Hachette Livre and Verlagsgruppe Georg von Holtzbrinck, the owner of German company Macmillan, from making deals with rival retailers to sell e-books more cheaply than Apple.

Wal-Mart is pricing the iPad starting at $399, down from $499. Beginning December 17 the retailer said it will throw in a $30 iTunes card. Wal-Mart is selling the 16 GB iPhone 4S for $47, versus an original price of $899.97, it said.

Apple did not respond to a request for comment.

Wal-Mart’s cooperation with Apple is a contrast to its relationship with Amazon. com Inc, the world’s largest Internet retailer.

In September, Wal-Mart said it would stop selling Amazon’s Kindle eReaders and tablets, placing a bet that consumers would be more interested in Apple’s gadgets. This spring, Target Corp stopped selling Kindle devices.—Reuters

Scientific & Technology

IAEA, Fukushima agree to cooperate on decontamination, waste control

KORIHAMA, (Japan), 17 Dec—The International Atomic Energy Agency agreed with the Fukushima prefectural government on Saturday to work closely on decontamination and radiation monitoring work in the aftermath of the nuclear power plant crisis last year.

Several projects are planned under their agreement, including the dispatch of IAEA missions to provide technical advice on the process of cleaning contaminated land around the crippled Fukushima Daiichi complex and of managing the waste generated by decontamination, Japanese government officials said.

The IAEA will also work together with Fukushima Medical University to assist it in implementing health management surveys and to organize events to enhance public awareness of radiological effects on human health and post-traumatic stress disorders in the Fukushima population.

Kyodo News

Science

International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Yukiya Amano (L) and Fukushima Gov Yuhei Sato shake hands in Koriyama, Fukushima Prefecture, on 15 Dec, 2012, after signing an agreement to work closely on decontamination and radiation monitoring work in the aftermath of the 2011 nuclear power plant crisis in Fukushima.—Kyodo News

The Apple logo hangs in a glass enclosure above the 5th floor at its store on Thanksgiving day in North Bergen, New Jersey. Reuters
India to sell phone airwaves worth 200 billion rupees

UN Secretary General’s Message on International Migrants Day

18 December, 2012

Every moment, around the world, people leave their countries in search of a safer or better life. Globally, more than 214 million people are on the move. Many face difficult conditions only to face even greater struggles, including human rights violations, poverty and discrimination. But these migrants have more than fear and uncertainty; they also possess hopes, courage and the resolve to build a better life. With the right support, they can contribute to society.

Migration is a global issue that is rightly attracting more and more global attention. Next year, the United Nations General Assembly will hold its second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, giving Member States and their partners a chance to discuss practical measures to facilitate labour mobility, foster sustainable development and protect the rights of migrants, especially women and girls.

Attention to the rights of migrants is especially important at this time of global economic and financial distress. As budgets tighten, we are seeing austerity measures that discriminate against migrant workers, xenophobic rhetoric that encourages violence against irregular migrants, and proposed immigration laws that allow the police to profile migrants with impunity. During economic downturns, it is worth remembering that whole sectors of the economy depend on migrant workers and migrant entrepreneurs help to create jobs.

When migration policies are developed without attention to vulnerability, marginalization and discrimination, millions of migrants become cheap, disposable labour, the scapegoats for failed economic and social policies, and even casualties in an ill-defined war against “illegal migration”.

As human mobility becomes more complex, and the journeys taken by many migrants more perilous, it becomes all the more urgent to forge national policy responses that address migration based on human rights principles.

In the lead-up to the High-level Dialogue, I hope that Member States will approach human rights as a central issue in migration governance, at the national level, I encourage them to take such measures as decriminalizing irregular migration, setting up effective alternatives to immigration detention, and ensuring that the functions of public service providers such as police or teachers are kept strictly separate from those of the immigration authorities. I also hope participants will duly consider the issue of migration in the context of the post-2015 global development agenda.

On the International Migrants Day, I call on States to ratify and implement all instruments on this issue. And I encourage all people to help foster a principled, practical and creative discussion on how we can ensure the protection of the rights of all migrants, wherever they are and whatever their status.

UNICEF/Yangon

India can confront market tension without ECB aid

MONETARY TRANSACTIONS (OMT), or bond-buying scheme, is a tool created to face deep financial difficulties, said Visco in the interview.

“Italy suffered from such deep problems at the end of last year but it reacted and was able not only to maintain market access, but also to reduce tensions,” Visco said.

ROME’s 10-year borrowing costs soared to a euro lifetime high of nearly 8 percent in November 2011. At that time the country was under strong pressure to ask for international aid, but a new technocrat government headed by Mario Monti was able to reassure markets through an austerity programme.

Italian government reforms and the build up of effective euro zone financial backstops — the European Stability Mechanism and the ECB’s OMT — helped Rome reduce market pressure to bearable levels, according to the central banker.

“Now the situation is characterized by lower tension, while the (ECB’s bond-buying scheme) was created to face really acute situations in which borrowing costs are pushed well above what is justified by a country’s economic fundamentals,” Visco said.

Italy’s debt costs have fallen sharply compared with the peak of the crisis, Visco said.

Some analysts suggested last week Rome should ask for the ECB’s support after Monti’s recent decision to leave office early ruffled financial markets.

Bank of Italy Governor Ignazio Visco attends a news conference as part of Group of Twenty (G20) leading economies’ finance ministers and central bankers in Mexico City on 26 Feb, 2012.

Reuters
Syrian VP says neither side can win war

BEIRUT, 17 Dec—Syrian Vice President Farooq al-Sharaa has told a Lebanese newspaper that neither the forces of President Bashar al-Assad nor rebels can win the war in Syria. Sharaa, a Sunni Muslim in a power structure dominated by Assad’s Alawite minority, has rarely appeared in public since the revolt erupted in March 2011.

The newspaper, al-Akhbar, released only limited excerpts on Sunday from the interview appearing in Monday’s edition, and it was far from clear that Sharaa’s comments represented the view of the government.

But he is still the most prominent figure to say in public that the crackdown will not win. The paper, which generally takes a pro-Assad line, said Sharaa had been speaking in Damascus.

In the first phase of the 21-month-old civil war, which has claimed at least 40,000 lives, Damascus was distant from the fighting. Rebels have now brought the war to the capital, without succeeding in delivering a fatal blow to the government.

But nor has Assad found the military muscle to oust his opponents from the city.

In Paris, Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius of France, one of the major powers most insistent that Assad has lost his legitimacy, told FR Radio: “I think the end is nearing for Bashar al-Assad.”

On the ground, rebels said they were launching an operation to seize the central province of Hama to try to link northern rural areas of Syria under their control to the centre. Qassem Saadeddine, a member of the newly established rebel military command, said fighters had been ordered to surround and attack checkpoints across the province. He said forces loyal to Assad had been given 48 hours to surrender or be killed.

Residents visit a bookstore during the 6th Night of the Libraries event, in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina, on 15 Dec, 2012. During the event, the city’s most emblematic bars and libraries are open to the public, offering many cultural activities.—XINHUA

Kenyan police step up security in Mombasa after arresting Al-Shabaab suspects

MOMBASA, 17 Dec—Kenyan police beefed up security in the coastal city of Mombasa and its environs on Sunday after four terror suspects were arrested for planning an imminent terrorism attack.

Regional deputy police commander Robert Kitur said the four are trained Al-Shabaab members who had sneaked into the country from Somalia.

“The four suspects, Adoti Wanjohi Waigango, Hamadi Ali, Oril Simiyu and Maingi are on terror radar by intelligence sources, Hamadi Ali, a de facto leader of Al-Shabaab in Kenya, is the most sought target by security agencies for many years,” Kitur said.

Mombasa, the country’s second largest city and a major tourist spot is one of several cities targeted by a series of grenade attacks and ambushes by foreigners in recent months.

The East African nation’s coastal towns are the backbone of the country’s thriving tourism industry, which has been hit by the fear of terror attacks and the kidnapping of foreigners by Somali pirates from resorts near the border with Somalia. The authorities have particularly warned against the laxity in the screening of cars for explosives at all shopping malls and any business or social gatherings with at least 10 people at any given moment that these might be vulnerable to attacks.

According to intelligence sources, Hamadi Ali, a de facto leader of Al-Shabaab in Kenya, is the most sought target by security agencies for many years.

“From 16 Dec—In Mombasa on Sunday, the detectives had information that the four were part of a wider network planning attacks in Kenya’s second city of Mombasa. “Our officers are operating on highly placed intelligence reports of impending terror attacks in Mombasa and we have arrested suspects,” said Kitur.

The officers recovered a Ceska pistol from the suspects.

Iranian FM says Patriot missiles deployment in region “provocative”

TEHRAN, 17 Dec—Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi said here on Sunday that the deployment of NATO’s Patriot missiles in the region is “provocative,” the semi-official ISNA news agency reported.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a conference, Salehi said that, for sure, the deployment of NATO’s Patriot missiles is not instrumental to the security and stability in the region, according to the report. It is believed here that stationing these missiles in Turkey is “provocative” not “deterrent,” Salehi was quoted as saying. Around 600 foreign troops are expected to accompany six Patriot missile systems to be deployed in Turkey to reinforce the NATO member country’s air defence and to calm its fears coming under a possible missile attack from neighbouring Syria.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of Iran’s Armed Forces Major General Hassan Firouzabadi was quoted by semi-official Fars news agency Sunday that the deployment of NATO’s Patriot missiles in the region “can pave way for world war.”—Xinhua

New Zealand tightens rules for employers of foreign fishing crews

WELLINGTON, 17 Dec—Strict new rules came into force on Monday for all fishing boat operators that employ foreign crews in New Zealand waters as the government seeks to stop abuse of foreign workers.

The new rules resulted from a ministerial inquiry into foreign charter vessel (FCVs), which recommended in March that the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) should strengthen monitoring and enforcement arrangements. Immigration Minister Nathan Guy said Monday the changes would mean better protection for employees and closer monitoring of employers.

“Importantly, each crew member must now have an individual bank account available so that wage payments can be made directly to them in New Zealand,” Guy said in a statement.

“Foreign fishing crew are now subject to standard immigration labour tests, rather than the employer demonstrating no suitable New Zealand workers were available from the Deep Sea Fishing Crew Employment Register, and employers of seven or more foreign crew must first obtain approval in principle.

New Zealand foreign vessel charter parties are required to guarantee crew wages and government costs, such as deportation, while manning agents must only be paid by the employer recruiting crew, and not by a crew member seeking a job.”—Xinhua

China pledges steady development of Confucius Institutes

BEIJING, 17 Dec—The Chinese government will actively support the steady development of Confucius Institutes, according to state councilor Liu Yandong Sunday.

The international promotion of Chinese language had enabled foreigners to better understand the Chinese culture and the contemporary China, Liu said in her speech at the opening ceremony of the seventh conference of Confucius Institutes running from 16 to 18 Dec.

It also contributed to the communication and friendship between peoples and cultures between civilizations, said Liu, also president the Confucius Institute Headquarters council.

Liu encouraged Confucius Institutes to expand the coverage of their operation from major cities to other regions and from colleges to communities.

The Confucius Institute and Confucius Classrooms, both named after the ancient Chinese philosopher Confucius, serve as non-profit public institutions aiming to promote Chinese language and culture in foreign countries.

Currently, 400 Confucius Institutes and over 500 Confucius Classrooms are in operation globally, which received about 655,000 registered students in 108 countries and regions this year, according to figures from the organization’s headquarters.

Xinhua

A taxi drives past the Flinders Street Station in Melbourne, Australia, on 16 Dec, 2012. Christmas Decorations are installed across the city of Melbourne to celebrate the upcoming Christmas Festival.—Xinhua
**Yangon, 17 Dec—** Recently, Labutta, Kyomnang, Bogale, Mawlamyine, Dedaye, Kyaiakt, Pyapon and Myaungnya townships of Ayeyawady Region sent over 300,000 eggs to Annmawad jetty of Yangon by ship.

On 11 December, double Dekker Taungha carried 45000 eggs from Labutta to Yangon. Likewise, the triple dekker from Kyomnang transported 50000 eggs to Yangon on 12 December, said eggs merchant U Khin Zaw of Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation.

**Over 300,000 eggs daily flow into Yangon City from Ayeyawady Region**

Eggs are transported with the use of 300-egg-capacity baskets in breeding. “We transported eggs to Bago, and then Kyaiaktiyo due to Buddha Pujaniya for consumption of visitors at regular prices. In Yangon, we regularly send eggs to South and North Dagon Myothit townships, Hlinethaya and Thanyin. Livestock breeders supply eggs to us so the price of eggs will not rise much,” explained egg merchant U Khin Zaw. —Myanma Alinn

**Agricultural courses to be conducted in 2012-13**

**Yangon, 17 Dec—** Agriculturists conduct basic agricultural training to enthusiasts at the hall of Myaypadatha Agricultural Educative Zone in Bahan Township for enabling the trainees to grow crops on a manageable to commercial scale.

The grafting course will be conducted from 18 to 21 December, vegetable cultivation course from 26 to 28 December, herbal plant growing course from 1 to 3 January 2013, and Bowery plant growing course from 8 to 10 January and systematic pesticide usage course from 15 to 17 January.

The trainings will be provided from 9am to 12noon daily. For further information, any person may dial 549730. The candidate is to pay K 4000 for all costs. The trainees not need to pay entrance fee of the Myaypadatha Park.

“We will train the trainees practically and theoretically. After the course, practical works are to be done at the farms. It is sure that the trainees will have knowledge of agriculture to some extent. Enthusiasts should attend the agricultural courses,” said an agriculturist.

*Myanma Alinn*

**Stake driven for Home for the Aged in Dawei**

**Dawei, 17 Dec—** A ceremony to drive stake for construction of Home for the Aged was held in Nyaungyan Ward of Dawei on 12 December.

The Chairman of DDPC Co explained the purpose of building the home for the aged.

At the auspicious time, Chief Minister of Tanintharyi Region U Myat Ko and officials drove stakes at the designated places.

The home for the aged will be located on 80 feet by 90 feet area, and it will be one-storey reinforced concrete floor building.

After that, the Chairman of DDPC Co donated K 10 million, Myint Myat Kyaw CoChairman K 10 million and the local people K 20 million to the fund of the home.

—*Myanma Alinn*

**Timely cultivation of cold season crops discussed**

**Kyauktan, 17 Dec—** Head of Yangon South District Agriculture Department U Kyaw Kyaw, Head of Township Agriculture Department U Hay Maung and staff held a discussion on completion of harvesting monsoon paddys in Kyauktan Township, cultivation of green gram, and tasks to protect crops from untimely rains at the office in Kyauktan on 10 December.

Furthermore, the officials talked about cultivation of cold season crops before 20 December, new techniques of growing green grams, and digging of drains around the farmlands for protection against untimely rains.

—*Myanma Alinn*

**Meinmahla Island Sanctuary conserving mangrove forest, biodiversities**

Meinmahla Island is located in an area of 33779 acres between Bogale and Kadonkany rivers in Bogale Township of Ayeyawady Region.

The island is covered with mangrove forests and 70 species of medicinal plants in addition to 36 species of reptiles, 51 species of fishes, nine species of crabs, 12 species of prawns, 117 species of birds and 35 species of butterflies.

With the aim of reproducing species of crocodiles which are endangered species there, small crocodiles with lack of fitness were collected from their nets in the sanctuary from 1997 to 2005, and then the crocodiles were nurtured at Kyauktaw and Thaungchaung camps. After that, the crocodiles were released into the sanctuary. Since 2006, small crocodiles from their nets have been let to enter the river naturally without collection. During the period from 1997 to 2010, a total of 157 crocodiles were released into the sanctuary.

The Branch successfully sustains development of ecosystem at the sanctuary. In addition, the local people do not settle on the land and not run businesses of fish and prawn ponds and charcoal industry there. Thanks to creation of better ecosystem on the island, the sanctuary accommodates plenty of biodiversities and thriving mangrove forests.

In consequence, the good ecosystem attracts beach birds, a lot of bird species from forests, migratory birds, reptiles, mammals, fish, prawn and crab species.

At Kyauktaw Camp, visitors can observe crocodiles at the natural crocodiles breeding farm. At night, they may watch crocodile, wild cat, bird and other reptile species with the use of search lights.

The visitors wishing to visit Kadonkany Island and Gayetgyi Island, seven miles to Meinmahla Island may take permission of the in-charge of the turtle care camp of the Fisheries Department. After that, they may observe turtles in laying eggs and giving birth of small turtles. As such, the Forest Department designates the island as an eco-tourism camp. During 2010-2011, five Frenchs, eight Switzerland, two Germans and one Japanese visited Meinmahla Island.

—MNA

**Dawei, 17 Dec—** A ceremony to drive stake for construction of Home for the Aged was held in Nyaungyan Ward of Dawei on 12 December.

The Chairman of DDPC Co explained the purpose of building the home for the aged.

At the auspicious time, Chief Minister of Tanintharyi Region U Myat Ko and officials drove stakes at the designated places.

The home for the aged will be located on 80 feet by 90 feet area, and it will be one-storey reinforced concrete floor building.

After that, the Chairman of DDPC Co donated K 10 million, Myint Myat Kyaw CoChairman K 10 million and the local people K 20 million to the fund of the home.

—*Myanma Alinn*

**Athletes under training hope for achievements in coming SEA Games**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 17 Dec—** Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Htaik viewed training of athletes at the training camp of shooting range, here, on 11 December morning after giving necessary instructions for sports training.

On arrival at the Training Centre-1, the chairman of the local shooting federation, asked athletes under training to work hard and make achievements in coming SEA Games.

—*Myanma Alinn*
Faithful servants

Nowadays, all the three State-run dailies are gradually and in some cases significantly changing in form and substance appearing in a new look and style with a larger number of interesting stories, and their goal is the public service media that cares more about reader satisfaction while serving as a bridge between the government and the people.

In consequence, they are becoming more people friendly featuring sections, news, articles or novels in sequences that attract the readers of different ages through greater news and artistic values.

These newspapers now have press codes of ethics and press codes of conducts adopted by the independent Press Council. These codes of ethics and codes of conducts are the principle guidelines the three newspapers are strictly observing in gathering, compiling, editing and presenting news and other stories. Apart from these codes of ethics and codes of conducts, they will have their own community standards.

As these dailies are the bridges between the government and the people, they are also concentrating on the things the government would like to inform the people. So, they are the portals providing the people with health, educational and other important information released by the government. And in the same vein, they are the platform where the voices of the people can be heard and the desires of the people are conveyed to the government.

Our environment will be constantly changing and developing together with the democratic reforms taking shape in the country in various sectors. As public service media or PSMs, the three newspapers will keep on changing in form and substance appearing in a new look and style with a larger number of interesting stories, and their goal is the public service media that cares more about reader satisfaction while serving as a bridge between the government and the people.

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No Pain, No Gain.

It’s lovely to see foreigners in Myanmar costumes.

They like it because it is new to them as we like theirs. Hee... Hee!

President U Thein Sein meets Thai Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received Prime Minister of Thailand Ms Yingluck Shinawatra in Dawei of Taninthayi Region at 8:30 am today.

At the meeting, both sides cordially exchanged views on promotion of trade between the two countries, cooperation in Dawei Special Economic Zone Construction, railway and motorway construction, Myanmar workers’ issues in Thailand and launching of Mawtaung-Phayaphonehsu border trade camp.

Present at the meeting together with the President were Vice-President U Nyan Tun, Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thein, U Tin Naing Thein, U Khin Maung Soe, U Aye Myint, U Kyaw Lwin, Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko and departmental heads.

Thai Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra and party were accompanied by the Thai ambassador to Myanmar.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw National Races Affairs Committee Chairman meets Vice-President of Ethnic Council of the National Assembly of Vietnam

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—Chairman of National Races Affairs Committee of Amyotha Hluttaw U Hsai Paung Nat received a Vietnamese delegation led by Mr. Giang A Chu, Vice-President of Ethnic Council of the National Assembly of Vietnam at the meeting hall of Amyotha Hluttaw Committee Building (18), here, at 3:30 pm today.

Also present at the call were Secretary of the National Races Affairs Committee of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khet Hein Nan and committee members, and officials concerned from the Hluttaw Office. The Vietnamese delegation was accompanied by Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Chu Cong Phung.

The meeting focused on enhancing of cooperation between the two parliaments, having an exchange on traditional cultures of the two countries including promoting bilateral cooperation in carrying out national races affairs. MNA
NPED Union Minister attends 18th Ministerial Conference of GMS

**NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec**—A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw attended the 18th Ministerial Conference of the Greater Mekong Sub-region Economic Cooperation Programme at Nanning of the People’s Republic of China on 12 December.

The Union Minister addressed the opening ceremony. At the ministerial meeting, GMS ministers held comprehensive discussions on work progress on formulation of regional investment framework regarding Mekong sub-region, Strategic Framework, cooperation matters and follow-up tasks. The meeting was attended by ministers of GMS countries, national coordinators, high-ranking officials, ADB Vice-President and officials.

**Waterbody-based Fisheries Management course launched**

**NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec**—The Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and South East Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) jointly conducted Myanmar Coastal Region Waterbody-based Fisheries Management course at the meeting hall of the Fisheries Department (Yangon) on Bayintnaung Road in Insein Township, this morning.

On the occasion, Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Khin Maung Aye explained the purposes of the course; enrichment of technical know-how, planning and implementation tasks for fisheries management, and polishing the skills of the heads of the Fisheries Department.

**ASEAN Summit Preparation Training for junior level conducted**

**NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec**—The Opening Ceremony of ASEAN Summit Preparation Training for Junior Level was held at Zabu Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw at 9:00 am today.

At the ceremony, U Aung Lynn, Director-General of the ASEAN Affairs Department delivered the opening remarks. The ASEAN Summit Preparation Training for Junior Level will be conducted from 17 to 21 December in Nay Pyi Taw.

The duration of the training course will be one week.—**MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker holds talks with Vice-President of Ethnic Council of National Assembly of SRV

**Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa receives Mr Giang A Chu, Vice-President of Ethnic Council of the National Assembly and party of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.**—**MNA**

Sagaya University project, upgrading of Shwebo-Myitkyina Road inspected

**NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec**—Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tin on 15 December morning inspected paving of concrete on Nay Pyi Taw-Taunggyi-Chaukhang (Kyweshin-Pantin section) and road extension along Yangon-Mandalay Expressway.

Inter-school band troupe contest opened

**NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec**—Education Ministry’s inter-school band troupe contest kicked off today at Nay Pyi Taw No (7) Transit Centre this morning.

Deputy Education Minister U Aye Kyu said in his opening speech that the contest is aimed at boosting friendship among the schoolchildren and exchanging traditional customs of each region.

The second contest is being participated by teams representing each region and state and this will be followed by the inter-school sports competition at Nay Pyi Taw Paunglaung Sports Ground here on 22 December.—**MNA**
Four oil tankers set on fire in northern Afghanistan

PUL-E-KHUMRI, 17 Dec — Four oil tankers were mysteriously caught fire and turned to ashes in Khinjir district of Baghlan province 150 km north of Kabul Saturday night, a local official said on Sunday. Habibullah, the police chief of Khinjir district, blamed the carelessness of drivers for the incident.

“The drivers were cooking next to an oil tanker. Suddenly it sparked flame and destroyed three oil tankers around,” Habibullah told newsmen at the site of the event. Some shops nearby were also damaged, he added. Xinhua

Smokes rise from burned oil tankers in Baghlan Province in the north of Afghanistan on 16 Dec, 2012. Xinhua

Boehner opens door to tax hikes, shifts US fiscal cliff talks

WASHINGTON, 17 Dec— US House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner’s offer to accept a tax rate increase for the wealthiest Americans knocks down a key Republican roadblock to a deal resolving the year-end “fiscal cliff.”

The question now boils down to what President Barack Obama offers in return. Such major questions, still unanswered so close to the end of the year, suggest, however, that no spending and tax agreement is imminent.

A source familiar with the Obama-Boehner talks confirmed that Boehner proposed extending low tax rates for everyone who has less than $1 million in net annual income, meaning tax rates would rise on all above that line.

Under current law, the 35 percent top tax rate is scheduled to expire on 1 January, and would automatically go to 39.6 percent. Boehner’s proposal would allow that rate to rise as scheduled at a threshold of $1 million — putting it back to where it was during the Clinton administration.

The White House has not accepted the proposal and the source could not confirm any additional talks were held on Sunday between Obama and Boehner.

With just over two weeks before the fiscal cliff’s $600 billion in automatic tax hikes and spending cuts are triggered, threatening a new recession, there is little time to craft a comprehensive deal that will satisfy both Democrats and Republicans.

Until the latest Republican offer, made on Friday, Boehner had insisted on extending all of the Bush era’s lower tax rates, resisting Obama’s demand to let the marginal rates rise on income above $250,000. A rising chorus of business executives also had urged Republicans to agree to this.

Some lawmakers and congressional aides had predicted that Republicans, once serious negotiations began, might try to raise the $250,000 threshold, say to $500,000 or $1 million. They also speculated that Republicans, if forced into a tax rate hike on the upper-income groups, might seek a smaller increase, say to around 37 percent.

Although the White House had not accepted Boehner’s gambit, it could push negotiations away from entrenched, ideological positions. — Reuters

Gun control movement tries to shed election losing reputation

NEW YORK, 17 Dec— Even before the Latest shooting on Friday at a Connecticut elementary school, gun control advocates were making a furious push to convince US lawmakers that their long-ignored issue was a political winner.

Their argument was that support for restrictive new laws is not a career-ender for politicians and that they might even benefit at the polls by opposing the pro-gun rights National Rifle Association.

Gun control groups are attempting to turn upside-down the politics of guns after nearly two decades in which the pro-gun rights lobby has effectively blocked any major new gun restrictions. A ban on certain semiautomatic rifles known as assault weapons was allowed to expire in 2004.

The success or failure could determine whether national legislation materializes after the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, that left 26 dead, including 20 children between the ages of 6 and 7.

At the centre of the issue is New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, a gun control supporter who used his personal fortune to help defeat a little-known California Democrat who supported gun rights. Representative Joe Baca lost his reelection bid on 6 November after Bloomberg spent $3.3 million on the race.

The NRA’s political arm spent $100,000 or more in each of at least seven races for the US Senate, but its preferred candidate won in only one of them — Republican Jeff Flake prevailed in Arizona. — Reuters

Four oil tankers set on fire in northern Afghanistan

Libya, France seek to boost naval cooperation

TRIPOLI, 17 Dec — Libya and France decided on Sunday to further boost naval cooperation between the two countries, a Libyan navy official told Xinhua.

The announcement was made when Hassan Ali Bouchnak, Libyan navy’s chief of staff, met with a visiting French frigate, said the source, adding that the two navies began cooperation in December 2011.

The Libyan-Italian agreement on military cooperation was signed on 16 December.

Nigerian actress kidnapped for ransom

OWERRI, 17 Dec — A Nigerian actress cum government official identified as Nkiru Sylvanus was on Sunday afternoon kidnapped by unknown gunmen in the southeastern state of Imo and a ransom of 100 million naira (approximately 634,316 US dollars) has been demanded, a security source said.

The kidnappers have started contacting people close to the actress and a ransom of 100 million naira has been demanded, a security source said on condition of anonymity.

The source said local police authorities had been contacted to rescues the victim and fish out her abductors.

Photo taken on 16 Dec, 2012 shows a piece of sculpture of Juan Ripolles, a well-known Spanish painter and sculptor, at his exhibition “Universe Ripolles” in the Jiangsu Provincial Art Museum in Nanjing, capital of east China’s Jiangsu Province. A total of 86 artworks of Juan Ripolles were displayed at the exhibition, which kicked off on 16 Dec. Xinhua

Xinhua

Xinhua

Libya, France seek to boost naval cooperation

The kidnappers had made more than 100 appearances in different Nigerian movies. Apart from acting, she was appointed last year as the special adviser on public affairs to the governor of Imo State, Rochas Okorocha. She still holds the position till date.

The actress’ abduction occurred exactly a week after the Rifle of Boko Haram, mother of Nigerian Minister of Finance Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala was kidnapped.
Singapore, EU conclude free trade talks

Singapore and the European Union of free trade agreement talks on Sunday, Singapore’s Ministry of Trade and Industry said.

The EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA) will be signed after the completion of domestic processes including translations and verifications, it added.

Singapore is the first country in Southeast Asia to conclude free trade talks with the EU.

Under the agreement, Singapore will grant immediate duty-free access for all imports from the EU, while the EU will eliminate tariffs on all imports from Singapore over a period of five years, with eighty percent of the tariff lines to be cover after the agreement comes into effect.

Singapore exporters of electronics, pharmaceuticals, chemicals and processed food products will especially benefit from the removal of the tariffs, the Ministry of Trade and Industry said.

The agreement sees the two sides making extensive commitments guaranteeing access to both others’ services markets, too. The commitments cover sectors such as environmental services, computer and related services, professional and business services, financial services, and maritime transport services. Both sides will also remove some non-tariff measures, improving access for exporters of pharmaceuticals and electronics.

Singapore’s Minister for Trade and Industry Lim Heng Kiang said, “Once the agreement enters into force, Singapore is confident that the EUSFTA will further enhance our bilateral economic relations, and pave the way for a region-to-region trade deal between the EU and ASEAN.”

EUSFTA Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht said Singapore is a dynamic market and a vital hub for doing business across Southeast Asia.

“This agreement is key to unlocking the gateway to the region and can be a catalyst for growth for EU exporters,” he said.

“After our agreement with South Korea, sealing this deal with Singapore clearly puts the EU on the table,” he said.

The deal with Singapore “clearly puts the EU on the table,” he said.

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANG KA CHAI VOY NO (116)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANG KA CHAI VOY NO (116) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN SHIPPING CO LTD.
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ASIAN LEADER VOY NO (25)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV ASIAN LEADER VOY NO (25) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L 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: NYK LINE
Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANG SRIMUANG VOY NO (112)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANG SRIMUANG VOY NO (112) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.12.2012 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.
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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV GUNKUL-1 VOY NO (-)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV GUNKUL-1 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(5) 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.
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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: KULNATEE CO LTD.
Phone No: 256924/256914

Italian Defence Minister hopes India’s Supreme Court soon to settle marines murder case

NEW DELHI, 17 Dec— Visiting Italian Defence Minister Giam Paolo di Paolo Sunday said that he hoped that India’s Supreme Court will soon resolve the “murder” case involving two Italian marines. The two Italian marines, Latore Massimiliano and Salvatore Gironi, facing murder charges in India for allegedly killing two Indian fishermen by firing from on board an Italian cargo vessel, are currently in the southern state of Kerala after being released on bail by a court. The duo were arrested in February and slapped with murder charges though they claimed that they mistook the victims as pirates.

“I came here to meet the two Italian marines. They are in active duty. It is my responsibility to come here.”—Xinhua
**New Light of Myanmar**

**Advertising & Entertainment**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (675)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (675) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

**CLAims Day**

**MV PULAU CEBU VOY NO (52)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PULAU CEBU VOY NO (52) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 256098/378316/376797

**Jennifer Lawrence happy about not playing Bella Swan in Twilight**

**London, 17 Dec—**

Jennifer Lawrence is glad she wasn’t cast as Bella Swan in the Twilight films.

The 22-year-old actress auditioned for the lead female role in the vampire franchise, but is glad she wasn’t picked for it because she’s not sure she could cope with the paparazzi attention Kristen Stewart receives.

Asked if she was relieved she didn’t get the part, she told The Guardian newspaper: “Oh yeah, for sure.

“I remember when the first movie came out, seeing Kristen Stewart on the red carpet and getting papped wherever she went. For me, and I’m assuming for her, it was just another audition. Then it turned into this whole other thing.”

**Bradley Cooper’s hair trouble**

**London, 17 Dec—**

Actor Bradley Cooper is so sensitive about his receding hairline that he has apparently told his hairstylist keep a lid on rumours about his luscious locks.

“He brought in a special stylist while he films The Hangover Part III and is paying bucks for her to sign a confidentiality clause,” showbizspy.com quoted a source as saying.

“He comes from a long line of bald guys and has used Propecia for year. Brad’s thrown himself into work and is desperate for an Oscar nod in February, but he’s paranoid about going bald. He thinks it could kill his leading-man status.

“He’s been getting cutting-edge hair-loss treatment and taking a battery of natural supplements—and he’s only washing his hair every three days, with expensive organic shampoos,” the source added.”

**Amanda Bynes settles hit and run cases**

**Los Angeles, 17 Dec—**

The troubled former actress was due in court on 17 December to face charges relating to two separate incidents — where she allegedly ran into a car and fled in the scene — in April and August, but they were formally dismissed earlier this week.

A source told RadarOnline: “Amanda Bynes was able to reach a civil compromise in both of her hit-and-run cases. “The two separate victims agreed to dismiss the charges after a financial settlement was reached with both... There really is no need to pursue legal charges because damage to their respective vehicles was paid for. “Her lawyer Richard Hutton advanced the case and went in early to avoid the media.”

This will come as a relief for the ‘Easy A’ star as if she had been convicted on both counts, she could have faced up to 12 months in jail.

Along with her legal troubles, Amanda, 26, was involved in two bizarre episodes in September, locking herself in a store changing room for nearly two hours and refusing to come out and stripping off during a gym class and friends say her parents don’t know what to do as Amanda has cut contact with everyone.

The insider explained: “Amanda shut them out and isn’t speaking to them. She is doing everything on her own. She has no direction.

“Amanda is out of control. She won’t accept help from anybody. She’s completely lost.”

**Naomi Watts embraces her dark sides**

**Los Angeles, 17 Dec—**

Naomi plays a Indian Ocean tsunami survivor in new movie “The Impossible”. Something that’s messy.” Naomi plays a Indian Ocean tsunami survivor in new movie “The Impossible” and is the latest in a long line of acclaimed movies she has worked on. But the Hollyw o o d’s star’s life hasn’t always been so good, and she lived through a traumatic childhood which saw her was 14 Naomi and her family moved to Australia, before she left to make it as an actress in Los Angeles and she admits she was close to giving up on her dream.

She said: “Something like that leaves a lifelong mark, there’s no question about it. It’s got demons and I’m someone who’s been accused of presenting myself as a lighter, happy-go-lucky person. And there’s possibly some untruth in that.”

When she

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“Amanda is out of control. She won’t accept help from anybody. She’s completely lost.”
**Juventus extend lead with one-sided win**

**Milan, 17 Dec—**Juventus extended their lead at the top of Serie A with an embarrassingly easy win over Atalanta, who trailed by three goals and were reduced to 10 men after barely more than half an hour on Sunday. Andrea Pirlo’s goal from a curling, dipping free kick was the highlight of Juve’s 3-0 win as the titleholders went seven points clear of second-placed Inter Milan. Mirko Vucinic set Juve on their way in the second minute and Claudio Marchisio scored the third as Juventus moved on to 41 points after their 13th win in 17 league games.

**Borussia Dortmund beat Hoffenheim to end year in third**

**Berlin, 17 Dec—**Champions Borussia Dortmund beat Hoffenheim 3-1 on Sunday to move back into the top three heading into the Bundesliga’s winter break. Dortmund’s Mario Goetze opened the scoring for the visitors when he superbly drilled in through the legs of defender Andreas Beck and past keeper Koen Casteels to score his 10th league goal in the 66th minute. “It was important to go into the break with the three points,” Dortmund defender Mats Hummels told reporters. “We have wasted eight or 10 points so far this season and that is frustrating. We have to improve in the second half of the season to reach our goals,” said the Germany international. Dortmund, who host Hanover 96 in the German Cup round of 16 on Wednesday, move up to third on 30 points, 12 behind leaders Bayern Munich and three behind second-placed Bayer Leverkusen, who beat Hamburg 3-0 on Saturday. Hoffenheim’s sixth straight league defeat left them in the relegation playoff spot, seven points behind 15th placed VfL Wolfsburg.

**La Liga practically impossible now, says Mourinho**

**Madrid, 17 Dec—**Jose Mourinho wrote off Real Madrid’s chances of overthrowing Barcelona to retain their La Liga title after being held to a surprise 2-2 draw at home by struggling Espanyol’s Juan Albin (2nd R) celebrates his goal after scoring during their Spanish First Division soccer match against Real Madrid at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in Madrid on 16 Dec 2012.—Reuters

Unbeaten leaders Barca have won every league game except for the 2-2 draw at home to Real back in October.

Real’s surprise 2-1 defeat at Celta Vigo in a King’s Cup last-16 first leg in midweek has led to renewed speculation that Mourinho will not see out his contract at the Bernabeu which runs until 2016.

“It’s great to get this win before I head off for a holiday,” added the 2011 GP2 champion. The annual event pits winners and champions from various motorsport series against each other over several rounds in identical machinery.—Reuters

**Mourinho gestures during their Spanish First Division soccer match against Espanyol at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in Madrid on 16 Dec, 2012. Reuters**

**Chelsea stunned by Corinthians in Club World Cup final**

**Yokohama, 17 Dec—**Chelsea stunned by Corinthians a 69th-minute winner as South American champions Corinthians stunned Chelse to win soccer’s Club World Cup on Sunday. Corinthians, who won the first Club World Cup in 2000, caught Chelsea cold when Perú striker Guerrero headed home from close range after Danielo’s shot looped up off defender Gary Cahill’s boot.

Paulo Guerrero (C) of Brazil’s Corinthians celebrates after scoring a goal, past Ashley Cole and David Luiz (R) of Britain’s Chelsea, during the FIFA Club World Cup final soccer match in Yokohama, south of Tokyo on 16 Dec, 2012.—Reuters

**Grosjean wins Race of Champions**

**Bangkok, 17 Dec—**French Formula One driver Romain Grosjean, whose future with the Lotus team is yet to be confirmed, beat Sebastian Vettel and Michael Schumacher on his way to winning the Race of Champions event in Bangkok on Sunday.

Dubbed a ‘first lap nutcase’ by Australian Mark Webber after he caused a number of collisions this year, including one in Belgium that got him banned for a race, Grosjean showed a steadier side to his talents.

After beating Red Bull’s triple champion Vettel in the quarter-finals and seven-times F1 champion Schumacher in the semi-finals, Grosjean went on to defeat Denmark’s eight-times La Mans 24 Hours winner Tom Kristensen in the best-of-three race final at the Rajamangala Stadium.

“It’s been a tough end to the Formula One season but I finally got back on the podium yesterday and now this,” Grosjean, who lost the team final to the German pair on Saturday, said on the event website.

“It’s great to get this win before I head off for a holiday,” added the 2011 GP2 champion.

Driver Romain Grosjean (L) from Team France who won the Race of Champions (BOC) holds his trophy next to Tom Kristensen from Team All Stars, who came in second place, during the awards ceremony at the Rajamangala National Stadium in Bangkok on 16 Dec, 2012. Reuters
First stadium for Brazil’s 2014 World Cup opens

FORTALEZA, 17 Dec—The Castelao Arena in the northeastern Brazilian city of Fortaleza became the first stadium to be inaugurated for the 2014 World Cup finals on Sunday. Along with the Mineirao in Belo Horizonte, to be opened on 21 December, they are the only stadiums to meet the December 2012 deadline set originally for next year’s Confederations Cup, a World Cup finals dress rehearsal.

President Dilma Rousseff attended the opening ceremony at the Castelao, which has been completely refurbished at a cost of 518.6 million Brazilian reals ($249.18 million) with a capacity for 67,000.

She said inauguration of the first stadium for the 2014 tournament and Corinthians’ northeastern venues, Castelao, which will host six World Cup matches including one of Brazil’s in the first round, a second-round game and a quarter-final. It will also host three Confederations Cup matches including Brazil’s group stage meeting with Mexico on 19 June, the stadium’s debut in an official FIFA tournament.

FIFA extended the deadline for the other Confederations Cup venues, Brasilia, Recife, Rio de Janeiro and Salvador, until March while the remaining World Cup stadiums will be completed sometime during 2013. “This is a very special day for us at FIFA because it marks the two great events that will take place in Brazil in the coming years, the Confederations Cup and the World Cup,” FIFA president Sepp Blatter said in a message recorded in Tokyo where he was attending the Club World Cup final and shown at the Castelao.

Tottenham beat Swansea 1-0 to go fourth

LONDON, 17 Dec—Belgium international Jan Vertonghen broke the deadlock to send Tottenham Hotspur back into the top four of the Premier League with a 1-0 home win against Swansea City on Sunday. The former Ajax defender scored in the 75th minute at White Hart Lane with a beautifully-struck right-footed shot after a Kyle Walker free kick from the right was nodded on by the Swansea defence.

Spurs leapfrogged Everton to take fourth place, level on 29 points with third-placed Chelsea who have a game in hand after losing the Club World Cup final in Japan 1-0 to Brazil’s Corinthians on Sunday. Manchester United, who beat Sunderland 3-1 at Old Trafford on Saturday, have 42 points and are six clear of Manchester City at the top of the table.

Spurs, without the injured Gareth Bale but with England midfielder Scott Parker returning as a late substitute for his first appearance of the season after Achilles surgery, enjoyed most of the possession but were frustrated by allowing Swansea’s side to prove solid in defence and dangerous on the break.

“We had many opportunities, so many opportunities to put the match to bed earlier,” said manager Andre Villas-Boas. “We were very solid today... it would have been extremely unfair if we hadn’t got the win today.”

Walker had Tottenham’s best chance of the goalless first half in the 40th minute when he blasted the ball at goalkeeper Gerhard Tremmel from 25 metres.

Tremmel had barely time to react as his hand, with the ball ricocheting off his shoulder without Spurs being able to capitalise. “We were so close,” Vertonghen said.

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Schools to serve as a place for nurturing law-abiding citizens

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec — President U Thein Sein accompanied by Vice-President U Nyan Tun, Union ministers and Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko and Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win of Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office and officials visited Dawei University yesterday.

After observing research papers, ancient artifacts of Pyu Age, theses and textbooks, the President stressed the need to apply theses in real world and urged faculty members to teach their students to be proficient in their subjects, calling for lifelong learning.

Schools are to serve as a place for nurturing law-abiding citizens, he said. The quality of the education could be measured by effectiveness, efficiency, relevance and impact, the President said. The President and party then met faculty members at the convocation of the Dawei University.

The President briefed on the trends the country is following and urged the faculty members to fulfill their duties for promotion of education standards.

The President attended to the needs in coordination with the Union ministers, the region government and the rector.

President U Thein Sein views subject-wise theses and reference books displayed at Dawei University.

Funerals begin for Newtown victims as schools confront tragedy

NEWTOWN, 17 Dec — The small Connecticut town shattered by an act President Barack Obama called “unconscionable evil,” holds on Monday the first two of 20 funerals for schoolchildren mass-sacred in their classrooms last week.

Meanwhile, schools across the country will reopen their doors to confused and scared children full of questions about why the Newtown, Connecticut, shooting happened - and whether they are safe from the very same danger.

Obama, addressing an interfaith vigil in Newtown on Sunday night, spoke forcefully on the country’s failings in protecting its children and demanded changes in response to the mass shootings of the last few months.

“We can’t tolerate this anymore. These tragedies must end. And to end them, we must change,” he said, adding that he would bring together law enforcement, teachers, mental health professionals and others to study how to best stop the violence.

But before those changes, the families of the victims will grieve. Noah Pozner and Jack Pinto will be laid to rest Monday afternoon. Noah, 6 years old just last month, was the youngest victim. Reports describe him as “inquisitive” and as particularly mature for his age. The family’s rabbi has said he encouraged Noah’s mother to focus on her other four children amid the grief.—Reuters

Egyptian opposition calls for nationwide demonstration over violations in referendum

CAIRO, 17 Dec — Egypt’s main opposition bloc, the National Salvation Front, called on Sunday night for a nationwide demonstration over the alleged violations spotted during the first round of the constitutional referendum.

The opposition bloc said in a statement the National Salvation Front, led by liberal and leftist politicians, including former diplomat Mohamed El-Baradei and ex-Arab League chief Amr Moussa, called all Egyptians to protest in Tahrir Square and other squares on Tuesday.

Hailing millions of Egyptians who lined up outside polling stations on Saturday to cast their votes, the National Salvation Front said they will ask the Higher Elections Commission to answer inquiries about violations that happened during the first phase of the constitutional referendum, official news agency MENA reported.

Meanwhile, unofficial results of the first stage of Egypt’s constitution referendum show that 56.5 percent of voters said “yes” for the constitution.

The opposition bloc said they will ask the Higher Elections Commission to answer inquiries about violations that happened during the first phase of the constitutional referendum, official news agency MENA reported.

Meanwhile, unofficial results of the first stage of Egypt’s constitution referendum show that 56.5 percent of voters said “yes” for the constitution. The final official result is to be announced after the second round due on 22 December.

Relations with China important for Japan: Abe

TOKYO, 17 Dec—Shinzo Abe, leader of Japan’s Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), said on Monday that relations with China is one of the most important foreign relations of Japan.

Abe made the remark at the first official press conference of LDP’s headquarters after his party won by a landslide in Sunday’s general election, adding tensions between China and Japan have scratched Japan’s national interests.

Abe said he will intensify communication with China so as to improve the current relations with China.