President U Thein Sein sends message of condolences to President of the Republic of South Africa

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Dec—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of condolences to His Excellency Mr Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa, on the occasion of the demise of Mr. Nelson Mandela, the late President of the Republic of South Africa on 5 December 2013.—MNA

President U Thein Sein comforts Typhoon-ravaged people of Philippines

President U Thein Sein speaking at the meeting with officials concerned of storm-hit areas at Santa Fe Airport in the Philippines.—MNA

Myanmar gains wealth of experience despite 3-22 loss to Thailand in Water Polo

Despite 3-22 loss to Thailand as expected, Myanmar water polo team is very optimistic about the outcome of the contest they take part for the first time in 44 years at Zeyathiri Swimming Pool today. “We scored three goals against Thai. I am very happy for that because some hoped that we would not score any goal,” said Zin Myo Khet, 38, a player of Myanmar team. All players of Myanmar team have already understood the reason they lost today and satisfied with the outcome resulting from difference of “Age and technique” between Myanmar and Thailand. The weak point of Myanmar team is all players are older than those from Thailand and the technique of Thailand is better than Myanmar, said Win Tun Myat, 38, a player of Myanmar Team which included only two U-30s and the remaining are over 35s. The goal keeper is 45 years old.

Myanmar team is composed with veteran players of the Defence Services as it is very difficult to find fresher players in Myanmar where Water Polo has been disappeared for over four decades. “As you have already witnessed, we are lack of experience in water polo, especially with new rules and playing techniques. And, all players are from Defence Services and they have stayed away from water polo for three years,” said U Thar Zan Hla, the coach of Myanmar team and a veteran water polo player from the Defence Services.

Ministry of Sports decided to participate in the contest. Myanmar’s water polo team went to Singapore for joint training sessions in preparation for the games from August 15 to September 4. Myanmar should produce new generations for the SEA Games in 2015 and should send them to Singapore to receive training with advanced training aids, said Win Tun Myat who also received joint-training in the city state.

By AYE MIN SOE
Ministry of Sports should nurture new generations of water polo and organize contests as many as possible for them. They need to have international experiences in the game to achieve success in the future,” said U Thar Zan Hla.

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Inter-village Bridge under construction on Shwebo-Myitkyina strategic road

Mawlu, 6 Dec—Bridge Construction Group 15 of Public Works under the Ministry of Construction is rebuilding the bridge on Shwebo-Myitkyina strategic road linking Pegon and Nantsiaung villages in Indaw Township of Sagaing Region.

The bridge is located near Pegon Village. The old bridge was rebuilt as a concrete one that can withstand 60-ton loads.

Construction

Myanmar Football Academy turning out outstanding new generation footballers

Mandalay, 6 Dec—The Myanmar Football Academy spends K 7.3 million on training each football trainee for a year at Myanmar Football Academy (Mandalay) without calculating the direct cost of MFF for foreign trip to take training abroad and cost for coaches and food. About K 2.6 million was spent on training of each trainee for the first year and K 2.6 million for the second year, said Principal of the academy U Soe Nyunt in meeting with the news crew.

According to the Gold Project II of FIFA, the Myanmar Football Federation established the football academy on 73rd Street between Thazin and Ngushwewah streets in Chammyathazi Township of Mandalay in 2005-06 fiscal year.

President of FIFA Joseph Blatter and MFF President U Zaw Zaw formally opened the academy on 15 March 2011. At that time, the academy admitted 30 trainees of under 11 years, 30 under 13 years and 30 under 15 years totaling 90. They have been taking training under a Brazilian coach.

In 2013-14 academic year, 82 more trainees are taking training at the academy.—MMAL-Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Shwegu Township gets new Law Office

Shwegu, 6 Dec—The opening ceremony of Shwegu Township Law Office in Bhamo District of Kachin State was held at the new building recently. Kachin State Hluttaw Representative U Po Pa Kywe formally opened the building.

On the occasion, the Advocate-General of Kachin State made a speech. Township Law Officer Daw May Thiri Aung explained matters related to construction of the office.

Legal Affairs

in 2013-14 fiscal year, and the building was constructed by Pinyathu Construction Co.

Wellwisher Daw Sein Kunt donated the land plot for the law office.—MMAL-Township IPRD

National Sports

Myanmar U-23 football team needs to open victorious way

Men’s football tournament of the SEA Games will kick off on 7 December. The group matches of the event will be held in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw. The matches of Group (B) including Myanmar national team will take place at Youth Training Centre in Thawda.

According to the group fixtures, the Group (A) comprises defending champion Malaysia, Indonesia, Laos, Singapore and Brunei. The Group (B) comprises host Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Cambodia. Myanmar will play against Cambodia on 7 December as a debut.

Despite being weakness in football power, it should not underestimate the preparations of Cambodia. It won over Singapore U-23 and played a draw with Thailand in the BIDC Cup of Cambodian till the final whistle.

The debut is the most important one in all matches. Only when, Myanmar could open its victorious way in the opening match, will the followed up matches be better. According to the group fixture, Myanmar needs to secure the full points in the first two matches. If Myanmar secures the higher points in the matches between Cambodia and Timor-Teste, it will overcome the third and fourth matches played the matches against Thailand and Indonesia.

All the group matches are the most importance for Myanmar to be able to cruise into the next level.

To embrace the gold medal, Myanmar must try hard to overcome the challenges for the group matches.

A Myanmar striker seen in controlling the ball at a match.

Agriculture

Monsoon paddy model plot harvested in Phaungpyin Tsp

Phaungpyin, 6 Dec—The model plot of Hsinekari-3 monsoon paddy was harvested in Shwenyaungbin Village of Phaungpyin Township in Sagaing Region on 2 December.

It was attended by Chairman of Township Management Committee Township Administrator, Heads of Township Agriculture Department and the Settlement and Land Records Department and local people.

At the ceremony, 0.1 acre of Hsinekari paddy strain of farmer U Ba Than of Shwenyaungbin Village produced 83 baskets per acre.—MMAL-Township IPRD

Students of Pre-Primary School of No 3 Basic Education Department in Bahan Township of Yangon Region present dances with playback songs at the anniversary celebration of the school on 3 December.—MNA

Shwenyaungbin Village Monsoon paddy model plot harvested in Phaungpyin Tsp

MMAL-Township IPRD

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Japan moving to label nuclear power as “important” in energy plan

Tokyo, 6 Dec — A government panel tasked with drafting a long-term energy plan for Japan is moving to label nuclear power an “important” source of electricity that should continue to be used, industry minister Toshimitsu Motegi told the panel on Friday.

“I understand that discussions by the panel are heading towards labelling nuclear power as an important and basic power source,” the minister told a Press conference, adding he expects the panel to finalize the draft in mid-December to secure Cabinet approval of the content in January.

The panel is seeking to compile a so-called Basic Energy Plan that will be the first of its kind, after the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster put Japan’s energy policy in disarray.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who heads the Liberal Democratic Party that drove Japan’s nuclear power policy prior to the nuclear crisis, has said his government will retrace the nuclear phase-out goal of the previous government led by the Democratic Party of Japan, now the main opposition party.

While some members of the panel have stressed the need to show a target for a future energy mix, Motegi said it is “difficult” to say at the moment how opposition to nuclear power generation should be accounted for by nuclear power, partly because of the difficulty of foreseeing how many reactors may be allowed to restart.

All 50 commercial reactors in Japan are offline and are required to clear a set of safety requirements introduced in July to resume operation. Because of the tough regulations, utilities could also be forced to shut down some reactors permanently.

US Vice President Joe Biden (L) arrives in South Korea on 5 Dec, 2013, for a three-day visit.

South Africa, world mourn ‘giant for justice’ Mandela

JOHANNESBURG, 6 Dec — South African anti-apartheid hero Nelson Mandela died peacefully at home at the age of 95 on Thursday after months fighting a lung infection, leaving his nation and the world in mourning for a man revered as a moral giant.

The former president and Nobel Peace Prize laureate had been frail and ailing for nearly a year with a recurring lung illness that dated back to 27 years he spent in apartheid jails, including the notorious Robben Island penal colony.

President Jacob Zuma’s announcement late on Thursday of the death of a man who was a symbol of struggle against injustice and of racial reconciliation reverberated through South Africa and around the world. It triggered an avalanche of tributes.

“The legend is gone,” said Sindiswa Makana, 21, an attendant at a 24-hour petrol station in Cape Town.

“Africa’s biggest economy still distant from being the “Rainbow Nation” ideal of social peace and shared prosperity that he had proclaimed on his triumphant release from prison in 1990.

“He’s in a better place, but I really hope South Africa realises what he wanted us to be ... we are not even half-way to what he wanted us to be,” local resident Jack Van der Merwe said in the Johannesburg suburb of Melville.

When Zuma made his broadcast, the streets of the capital, Pretoria, and of Johannesburg were hushed, and in bars and nightclubs, music was turned off as people quietly listened.

A somber Zuma told the nation that Mandela “passed on peacefully in the company of his family around 20h50”.

Among the shower of tributes, US President Barack Obama said the world had lost “one of the most influential, courageous and profoundly good human beings that any of us will share time on this earth”.

British Prime Minister David Cameron called Mandela “a hero of our time”. “A great light has gone out in the world,” he said. Praise also came from African leaders. Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan said the death “will create a huge vacuum that will be difficult to fill in our continent”. Ordinary South Africans were in shock.

“It feels like it’s my father who has died. He was such a good man ... He was a role model unlike our leaders of today,” said Annah Khokhaza, 37, a nanny, speaking in Johannesburg.

Outside Mandela’s old house in Vilakazi Street, Soweto, a crowd of people, some with South African flags draped around them, gathered to sing songs in praise of the revered statesman. “Mandela you brought us peace” was one of the songs.

Mexico lower house greenlights electoral reform

MEXICO CITY, 6 Dec — Mexico’s lower house on Thursday gave general approval to an electoral re-form demanded by the opposition, helping pave the way for Congress to focus on an energy bill at the center of President Enrique Pena Nieto’s economic agenda.

Lawmakers voted 469-69 to approve the bill in general, but dozens of points were reserved for further debate that was expected to stretch into the night. The bill, which was approved by the Senate on Wednesday, would be returned to Senators for a final vote if significant changes to the bill are made. Opposition conservatives have maintained their support for backing the energy overhaul conditional on passage of the electoral reform, which would allow lawmakers to serve consecutive terms in office.

Yanukovitch going to Russia, agency says, as Ukraine protesters defy police

Kiev, 6 Dec — Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich was flying to Russia on Friday to meet Vladimir Putin, a news agency reported, seeking aid to shore up a creaking economy while protesters back home, opposed to his U-turn away from Europe, demand his resignation.

Quoting an informed source, Ukraine’s UNIAN agency said Yanukovich would stop off on his return from a visit to China to consult with the Russian president in the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

Neither the Kremlin nor officials in Kiev would confirm immediately on the report of the meeting in Sochi, although the presidential website said Yanukovich had postponed a visit to Malta next week.

If the Sochi meeting is held, the two presidents will talk while several hundred protesters are still massed on Kiev’s Independence Square and others continue occupying City Hall, defying a police threat of a harsh crackdown immediately.

Ukraine needs help with $17 billion in debt repayments and Russian gas bills next year. While in Beijing, Yanukovich announced deals which may bring $8 billion in Chinese investment but these are unlikely to meet the economy’s short-term cash needs.

But if the two leaders meet in Sochi — which will host the Winter Olympics in February — this will lend ammunition to the Ukrainian opposition.

It accuses Yanukovitch, who walked away last month from a trade agreement with the European Union, of betraying the national interest by turning the clock back and forging closer economic ties with Ukraine’s old Soviet master.

Reuters
Cyber experts uncover 2 million stolen passwords to global Web accounts

WASHINGTON, Dec — The growing online usage of ads designed to blend in with the rest of a website’s content, a practice known as “native advertising,” may be illegal in some instances, the Federal Trade Commission warned on Wednesday.

The FTC said that a survey of online publishers found that 73 percent allowed native advertising, the digital descendant of the newspaper “advertorial” and television’s infomercials. “Marketers have … been crossed.—Reuters

SpiderLabs said it has contacted authorities in the Netherlands and asked them to take down the Ponynet server.

An analysis posted on the SpiderLabs blog showed that the most-common password in the set was “123456,” which was used in nearly 16,000 accounts. Other commonly used credentials included “pass-” and “admn,” “123” and “1.”

The company told Reuters on Wednesday that it has reported its findings to the largest of more than 90,000 websites and Internet service providers whose customers’ credentials it had found on the server. The data includes more than 326,000 Facebook Inc accounts, some 60,000 Google Inc accounts, more than 59,000 Yahoo Inc accounts and nearly 22,000 Twitter Inc accounts, according to SpiderLabs. Victims were from the United States, Germany, Singapore and Thailand, among other countries.

Representatives for Facebook and Twitter said the companies have reset the passwords of affected users. A Google spokeswomentold Reuters that Yahoo representatives could not be reached.

US says online ads should be clearly marked, undeceptive

The FTC has already pursued companies using existing authorities if it concluded that the line between unbiased editorial content and advertising had been crossed.—Reuters

An employee tests the fingerprint scanner on the new Apple iPhone 5S at a Verizon store in Orem, Utah on 19 Sept, 2013.—Reuters

Fingerprint sees touch ID going mainstream for smartphones

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Fingerprint Cards is aiming to sell its identity technology to most of the world’s biggest smartphone makers, which are likely to follow Apple in offering touch recognition for mobiles from next year. Apple’s September launch of the iPhone 5S was the first smartphone with a fingerprint identity touch sensor, provided by AuthenTec, part of Apple. Following on from this, Sweden’s Fingerprint hopes to sell its own touch sensors to other big mobile phone makers like Samsung, LG Electronics and Huawei. “I think at least seven or eight will launch a phone with a touch sensor in 2014,” Johan Carlstrom, Fingerprint’s Chief Executive Officer, told Reuters in an interview on Wednesday.

He said Fingerprint Cards hoped to clinch contracts with the majority of those firms after announcing last week new touch fingerprint sensors for Android smartphones and tablets, and the Windows operating system.

Carlstrom said Fingerprint expected Samsung, the world’s biggest maker of smartphones, to launch at least one smartphone — or probably even two — with either a swipe or touch fingerprint sensor next year. “Samsung is well known for having multiple suppliers for most components and our goal is to be selected as one of their sensor suppliers already in 2014,” he said.—Reuters

Google’s mystery barge in San Francisco Bay under investigation

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec — The agency that oversees development in the San Francisco Bay in California has begun a formal investigation into the construction of a secretive Google Inc barge on an island in the bay.

The probe, which began in the past week, will examine what permits are needed to build the barge and whether the owners of the Treasure Island pier where the vessel is moored have the proper permits, said Larry Goldzband, the executive director of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

“We want to make sure that the permits that are used by the owners of the pier actually allowed for construction to happen,” Goldzband told Reuters on Wednesday, referring to what he described as “a preliminary and formal enforcement investigation.”

Google officials informed Goldzband in a recent meeting that they are in the process of making changes to the barge’s design which have been requested by the US Coast Guard.

Jason Tama, a Coast Guard commander, said he could not comment on any specific cases, but noted that it was standard practice for the Coast Guard to inspect new construction to ensure that safety, security and environmental protection regulations are met. Changes to vessels are a common part of the process, he said.Google did not return requests for comment.

The barge, which is made of steel shipping containers stacked four-stories high, has stirred intense speculation about its purpose since its existence was first reported in October. Google, the world’s No 1 Internet search engine, has kept mum on what it intends to use the barge for.

Documents submitted to the Port of San Francisco in August describe an “artistic” technology exhibition space.—Reuters

Kazakhstan to end Proton missions in 2025

ASTANA, 6 Dec — Kazakhstan would gradually reduce Proton carrier rocket launches from Baikonur space port and end them in 2025, an official with the national space agency (Kazcosmos) said on Wednesday. Kazcosmos Deputy Chairman Mirkhek Moldabekov said Kazakhstan had signed an agreement with Russia on the reduction. The Proton family of rockets was developed in the 1960s and first launched in 1965.

The current model, the Proton-M heavy launch vehicle, was designed to deliver satellites and automatic spacecraft to a near-Earth orbit and outer space. It uses toxic hydrazine and nitric oxide and is therefore criticized by environmentalists. The Proton series would eventually be replaced by a new launch vehicle known as the Zenit LV, which was under an upgrade programme which would last until 2018, the official said. But this did not mean the end of Proton launches in 2018, as the Zenit needed to “learn to fly,” he said. According to Moldabekov, Proton is Baikonur space port’s “workhorse,” and the port will be useless if Proton operations shut down. Baikonur is the world’s first and largest operational space facility. It launched the first manned spacecraft and the first satellites in history. It now undertakes all of Russia’s manned space missions, and is leased to Moscow by the Kazakh government until 2050 for an annual fee of 115 million US dollars.—Xinhua
Fertility treatments responsible for high multiple births in US

IVF procedures has been
1971 through 2011, when
multiple births from
only, said a new finding
More than a third of twin

China Mobile signs deal with Apple to offer iPhone

by the world’s largest mo-
Chinese smartphone
phone with 7 million
available.
also on the brain and there-
impact on the body, but
has not only a well-known

One or two hours of sports each day best for teens

The mechanism of
activity is probably not
the results appear quite similar,”
HONG KONG, 6 Dec —
the world’s largest mo-
by the world’s largest mo-

Pfizer to expand clinical
data access to researchers, patients

Global drugmaker Pfizer Inc will broaden access to information from its scores of clinical trials to independent researchers and patients who take part in the studies, the company said on Wednesday. Pfizer, the largest US pharmaceutical company, said it hoped the enhanced access to its data will help spur further scientific and medical research as well as encourage more patients to get involved in clinical trials. “We are impressed by how active patients are individually to manage and understand their disease, and in patient foundations a tremendous, great job is made to contrib-
ute to the advance of care,” Pfizer research chief Mikael Dolsten told reporters at the company’s New York headquarters. “We think this is the right time to support this trend.”

The move comes at a time of increasing pres-
sure on the pharmaceuti-
cal industry to be more transparent with clinical trial information — including safety data and details of failed studies — and to increase access for the scientific community. Europe.

A logo of Tesla Motor Inc is seen on the wheel of its Model S car, on display at the 43rd Tokyo Motor Show on 20 Nov, 2013. — REUTERS

SolarCity to offer Tesla-made batteries to business customers

Los Angeles, 6 Dec —
SolarCity Corp (SCTY.O)

two people familiar with
the carrier’s plans, the news-
paper reported. Officials with Apple and China Mobile declined to comment.

China Mobile is one of the world’s last major car-
riers that does not offer the
iPhone. The company has
trailed behind its smaller ri-
vals in attracting users to its
home-grown 3G standard due to its poorer network
service. At 0200 GMT, China Mobile shares in
Hong Kong were up 1 percent, while smaller rivals
China Unicom was up 1.3 percent and China Telecom
inched up 0.4 percent.

A woman looks at the screen of her mobile phone in front of an Apple logo outside its store in downtown Shanghai on 10 Sept, 2013. — REUTERS

Los Angeles, 6 Dec —
SolarCity Corp (SCTY.O)
on Wednesday said it will begin offering Tesla Motors
Inc-made batteries with its commercial solar systems, allowing businesses to cut what they pay to their local utility by using stored electricity.
The batteries made by
Tesla (TSLA.O), which

can also provide backup power during blackouts, are available to business own-
ers who put up new solar installations with SolarCity and finance them through a lease contract or power pur-
chase agreement.

Similar to its financed
solar systems, the batteries
will be installed at no up-
cost to the customer.

SolarCity will price them at about 20 percent below the local utility’s demand charges. So-called de-
mand charges are calculat-
ed based on the maximum amount of energy used during a customer’s bill-
ing cycle.
The charges are in-
tended to help the utility recover its investments in power generation and transmission equipment.
Solar systems typically do not generate all the power a business needs to operate, so commercial cus-
tomers still receive utility bills for at least a portion of their energy usage.

Two standards will only be available in areas where utility demand charges are high enough that SolarCity can guarantee cost savings. These areas include parts of California, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Reuters

WASHINGTON, 6 Dec —
More than a third of twin
births and more than three-
quarters of triplets or high-
er-order births in the United
States are the result of as-
sisted reproductive tech-
nologies, said a new finding
published on Wednesday.
The researchers from Brown University gathered data on multiple births from 1962 to 1966 before any medical fertility treatments were available, and from 1971 through 2011, when data on in vitro fertilization (IVF) procedures has been

available.

They found that the contribution of fertility treatments over the past 40 years is clear: Between 1971 and 2011, the propor-
tion of US multiple births rose to 3.5 percent from 1.8 percent. Even after adjust-
ing for maternal age, the rate of twin births rose 1.6 times between 1971 and 2009, the researchers said. However, the proportion of triplets or more related to fertility treatments has ac-
tually dropped from a peak of 84 percent in 1998 after

IVF are a direct result of the
fertilization of embryos and intentionally
implanted, non-IVF thera-
pies involve medications
that stimulate ovulation and follicle growth in ways that
cannot be precisely pre-
dicted or controlled, the re-
searchers said.—Xinhua

One or two hours of sports each day best for teens

NEW YORK, 6 Dec —
Playing sports is known to have a positive impact on teenagers, and a new study suggests one to two hours of playing time each day may be optimal for young people’s well-being. Researchers found adoles-
cents tended to be worse off if they played sports for only a couple of hours per week, or if they practiced close to three hours each day or more. “Overtraining has not only a well-known impact on the body, but also on the brain and there-
fore on emotions, thoughts and mood,” Dr Arnaud Merglen said.

“The mechanism of
low activity and very high
activity is probably not
the same, but the results
appear quite similar,” he
told Reuters Health in an
email. Merglen is from the
Hospital for Sick Children
at the University of To-
ronto in Ontario and led
the study, which took place
at the University of Laus-
anne’s School of Medicine
in Switzerland. The US
Centers for Disease Con-
trol and Prevention recom-

mends children up to age
18 get at least one hour of
exercise each day. But
there hasn’t been much
evidence on what’s best for

teensagers when it comes to
sports participation, accord-

ing to Merglen.

He and his colleagues
surveyed 1,245 Swiss adolescents age 16 to 20. They asked participants how much time they spent playing sports each week, among other things. The participants also filled out a short survey on their well-

being. Well-being was
measured on a scale from
0 to 25, with scores be-
low 13 indicating poor
well-being. The research-
ers split young people into
four groups based on their
weekly sports practice: low
(0 - 3.5 hours),
average (3.6 - 10.5 hours),
(high (10.6 - 17.5 hours)
and very high (more than
17.5 hours). About 19 per-
cent of the 348 teens that
practiced the fewest hours
reported not normally feel-

ing cheerful, relaxed and
energized. Similarly, about
18 percent of the 60 teens
that practiced the most had poor well-being.

That compared to about
9 percent of 517 adolescents in the average
weekly sports group that
had poor well-being and
4 percent of 230 young
people in the high (but not
very high) participation group. —Reuters

The Pfizer logo is seen outside their world headquarters in New York on 5 Nov, 2013. — REUTERS

Pfizer research chief
Mikael Dolsten told report-
ers at the company’s New York headquarters. “We think this is the right time to support this trend.”

The move comes at a time of increasing pres-
sure on the pharmaceuti-
cal industry to be more transparent with clinical trial information — includ-
ing safety data and details of failed studies — and to increase access for the scientific community. Eu-

eropean health regulators announced a plan to start publishing clinical trial data submitted by companies seeking new drug approvals from next year, a move op-
posed by some drugmakers. Britain’s GlaxoSmithKline has set up an online sys-
tem to provide researchers with access to anonymous patient-level data about its medicines.

Pfizer has gone a step further by allowing trial patients themselves to access its data.—Reuters

The move comes at a time of increasing pres-
sure on the pharmaceuti-
cal industry to be more transparent with clinical trial information — includ-
ing safety data and details of failed studies — and to increase access for the scientific community. Eu-

Clad in dresses of U Shwe Yoe and Daw Moe, two Myanmar fans dance as they enjoy Chinlone contest between Myanmar and Cambodia at Wunna Theikdhi Indoor Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw on 6 Dec. 2013.

Photo by Aye Min Soe

Holding a miniature flag, a Myanmar damsel, along with other fans, enjoys Chinlone contest between Myanmar and Cambodia at Wunna Theikdhi Indoor Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw on 6 Dec. 2013.—Photo by Aye Min Soe

Myanmar volleyball players take training at Zeyathiri Indoor Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw on 6 Dec. 2013. Volleyball Contest of the 27th SEA Games will take place from 13 to 18 December. Myanmar will participate in the contest along with defending Champion Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia. Myanmar which has a history of winning two bronze medals in the SEA Games in Malaysia has a challenge of shortage of volleyball players in it. “We want to see new generation of players in our future team to achieve success in the game. We hope to clinch to win third prize in the contest”, said Thandar Maung, the coach of Myanmar women’s volleyball team.

Photo by Aye Min Soe


Photo by Thura
Nay Pyi Taw, 6 Dec—Selected golfers from Myanmar Golf Federation are ready to compete in the golf events of the 27th SEA Games, according to coach U Ko Ko Lay.

Myanmar, Thailand, Singapore, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Brunei participate in golf events to be held in Royal Myanmar Golf Course from 15 to 18 December. Thailand and Singapore are likely to be main opponents of Myanmar. Four gold medals will be conferred on the winners at men’s (single and team) and women’s (single and team) events. The Myanmar golfers are Thein Naing Soe, Ye Htet Aung, Myo Win Aung, Maung Maung Oo, May Oo Khaing, Khin Mar Nwe, Yin May Myo, and Aye Aye Aung. Among them, Ye Htet Aung and Thein Naing Soe competed in the 2011 XXVI SEA Games in Indonesia.

The Myanmar team is under regular training and striving for securing gold medals in the upcoming SEA Games, he added.

Ko Myo (Shwe Paukkan)

Myanmar hopes bronze in women volleyball

Myanmar ex-volleyball selection Ma Thandar Maung told our correspondent Khin Yadana during their training session that she hoped bronze for the country.

Over 200 cleaners for sanitation of Wunna Theikdhi Sports Ground

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 Dec—Over 200 cleaners are making cleaning works at 7 am to 6 pm everyday especially the sports venues in Wunna Theikdhi Sports Ground here.

“A cleaner gets K 2500 per day and they are on duty the whole month of December. They have to carry out sanitation tasks, they must discharge security duty,” said an official.—Khin Yadana
Let’s repeat the history

Never has December been so exhilarating to Myanmar people over the past 44 years with Myanmar hosting the XXVII SEA Games for the third time after it hosted the biennial regional sports event twice in 1961 and 1969 respectively. This December is bound to bring wonderful experiences to Myanmar people, most of whom will witness the SEA Games for the first time in their life.

When it comes to sports, what comes first into the mind of Myanmar people is football. Though it is not the official national sport, football has been the most popular sport all the time in Myanmar. It is not a legend that Myanmar was once a regional football giant in Asia and was crowned the champion of Asian Games two times in a row in 1996 and 1970 and five consecutive South East Asian Games in 1965, 67, 69, 71 and 73.

However, this golden era met its end in the mid-1970s and what came next are the lingering dark days. Myanmar’s football had achieved a great leap backward just as the rest of Asia was making tremendous progress. Especially, footballing talents could be hardly turned out after 1990s despite the introduction of Myanmar professional league five years ago in an attempt to improve Myanmar’s football standards.

It is suffice to say that the cessation of the States and Divisions Championships and students’ sports festival had marked the end of the glory days of Myanmar’s football, resulting in a chronic shortage of talented athletes. With football being the absolute favourite of Myanmar people, it is clear that the success of Myanmar’s men football team is a source of much national pride and will make up for all the disappointing results over the past four decades.

Shall we be able to revive our previous glory and fly high the Myanmar national flag again? It all depends on how well Myanmar will be doing in every single match in group stage. Hopefully, Myanmar, with home advantage, will be able to sail to the semi-finals. But at the same time, Myanmar fans, who are dubbed as the 12th player on the pitch, are required to behave well in supporting Myanmar team for throwing objects onto the pitch, are required to behave well in supporting Myanmar team for throwing objects onto the pitch.

Myanmar is playing against Cambodia tonight. Let’s repeat the history starting from this match!

Women’s Forum 2013

Myanmar kicks off

YANGON, 6 Dec— Women’s Forum 2013 Myanmar on “Women in a fast opening society” was held at Chatrium Hotel in Bahan Township, here this morning.

French Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Thierry MATHOU, the founder and chairperson of Women’s Forum and Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Vice-Chairperson of the Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs (MNWCWA) Daw Su Su Hlaing spoke on the occasion.

Next, Chairperson of the National League for Democracy Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Daw Aung San Suu Kyi participated in the discussion.

The forum continues tomorrow.—MNA

President U Thein Sein ...

(from page 1)

had also been provided to the Typhoon ravaged people. Besides, Myanmar medical groups with specialists would come to give medical treatment in the storm-hit areas.

The President continued saying that the Philippines’ medical groups provided medical treatment to Myanmar in 2008 when Myanmar was hit by Storm Nargis and shared the same grief with the Typhoon-ravaged people of the Philippines.

He continued that priority was given to cope with daily necessities such as food of the people in disaster-hit area before carrying out rehabilitation tasks, expressing he believes that Philippine people will overcome the difficulties with their firm spirit. He reiterated that Myanmar people are together with the Philippine people.

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin presented relief supplies for Typhoon Haiyan-hit victims through the officials at Mactan Cebu International Airport.

The Myanmar Government provided 10000 blankets, 10000 T-shirts, 5000 towels and 3000 bottles of Tun Shwe Wah balm for storm victims of the Philippines.

Similarly, Myanmar health care group led by Deputy Director-General of the Health Department Dr Soe Lwin Nyein arrived in Cebu to give health care services with the use of 164 kinds of medicines (1122 kilograms) and its related items of the Ministry of Health and those from the Ministry of Defence.

The President and his entourage arrived in Cebu by air in the afternoon.

They left Mactan Cebu International Airport for home by special flight at 3:40 pm.

They were welcomed back by Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Union ministers, commanders and officials concerned and charge d affaires of the Philippine embassy at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.—MNA

Myanmar Tatmadaw to provide the Philippines with humanitarian assistance

MANILA, 6 Dec— Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win held discussions with Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces General Emmanuel T. Bautista at Manila Hotel yesterday morning.

Providing Typhoon Haiyan ravaged people of the Philippines with medicines and foodstuff by Myanmar Tatmadaw, sending Myanmar emergency medical groups with Myanmar military doctors, bilateral cooperation between the two armed forces and exchange of trainees were discussed.

MNA
President U Thein Sein visits International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines

MANILA, 6 Dec—President U Thein Sein and party visited the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in Los Baños Laguna of the Philippines this evening.

At the hall of IRRI, Dr. Achim Dobermann and Dr. V. Bruce J. Tolenting elaborated the rice researches of the Philippines, quality paddy seeds and rice research of Myanmar and the President and party participated in the discussion.

The Myanmar delegation viewed round the Rice World Museum and preservation of cleaned paddy seeds and researches in Rice Gene Bank.

In the evening, President and party arrived at the residence of Myanmar Ambassador to the Philippines. The President extended greetings and presented gifts to the Myanmar Ambassador, families of the embassy and scholarship students.

The President and party attended a dinner hosted by the Myanmar Ambassador. President U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Chief Operating Officer of Ayala Corporation Mr. Fernando Zobel de Ayala at Manila hotel here at 3 pm LST yesterday.

Also present at the call together with the President were Union Ministers U Winna Maung Lwin, U Soe Maung, U Myint Hlaing, U Zeyar Aung and Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, Deputy Minister U Ye Htut, Myanmar Ambassador to the Philippines U Ye Myint Aung and officials.—MNA

Defence Services must not only ... —Myawady

Military might requires human resources, technology, wealth, spirit and geographical location. He called for strenuous efforts of graduate cadets, playing a role of highly-qualified human resources in the process of modernization.

Of three sectors—agriculture, service and industrial, industrialization is key to economic success of the country. He called on the graduates to apply the knowledge they have acquired in nation-building endeavours as the development of engineering and technology is crucial for industrial development.

He said Defence Services must not only be capable of ensuring internal peace and stability but also of fighting back the unexpected external invasion, standing together with the people.

Now, the nation is experiencing a multi-party democratic system.

Any type of democracy system never accepts armed conflicts and violence. He called for cooperation of all people to build up a peaceful, modern and developed nation after taking lessons of other countries.

He also highlighted that people-centered administration system needs all inclusiveness, transparency, accountability, responsibility, equality, capacity and rule of law. Law-abiding practices and constructive cooperation are of great importance, he added.

Under the Section 20 of the Constitution, the Defence Services is mainly responsible for safeguarding Our Three Main National Causes and the Constitution to safeguard the interests of people. It can be seen that each and every developed country across the globe has the internal peace. Ensuring peace and stability can bring the rule of law to the country and then development tasks can be undertaken in the four corners of the country. He called for time management, self-management and leadership skills.

Afterwards, the Senior general took the salute of cadet battalions and left the parade ground.

After the ceremony, the Senior General encouraged three outstanding cadets and their families at the hall of the Defence Services Technological Academy (DSTA) (Headquarters).

Public announcement for remonstration

1. The Union Pa-O National Organization (UPNO) headquartered at No. 98/1 on Strand Road in Zaypying Ward, Taunggyi Township, Shan State, on 6-12-2013 submitted applications to register as a political party under the Article 5 of Political Parties Registration Law. In its application, it is mentioned that the party will use its name, flag and seal described hereunder.

2. It is hereby announced in accord with Political Parties Registration Rules 14 (d) that if there is anyone who wants to remonstrate about the name, flag and seal of the party, they may remonstrate with the Union Election Commission with firm evidence within seven days from the day of the announcement.

Union Election Commission

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker back from India

NAK PHTAW, 6 Dec—A delegation led by Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint arrived back in Yangon this evening after paying a visit to India at the invitation of the Speakers of Upper House and Lower House of India.

They were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Sein Tin Win, Deputy Speaker U Tin Aung; the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, Hluttaw representatives and officials.—MNA

Correction

Please read the news under the subtitle of “Vice-President Dr Sai Maik Kham receives Brazilian Ambassador” on page 16 of this daily issued on 6-12-2013 is to be attached to the photo on page 16. Error is regretted.

NLM
Tachilek cyclist team arrives in Loilem hailing XXVII SEA Games

Local people cheerfully welcome cyclists from Tachilek Cyclist Team.

Vocational training course concludes in Pauk

Pauk, 6 Dec—The basic domestic science course No 24 and the advanced training course No 20 concluded at Women’s Vocational Training Course (Pauk) in Aungdagun extended ward of Pauk in Pakokku District of Magway Region recently. On the occasion, Township Administrator U Khin Maung Soe made a speech. The ceremony was attended by departmental officials, members of Maternal and Child Welfare Association, the principal of the training school, course instructors and female trainees. A total of 20 trainees attended the basic course and 10 at the advanced course.

Brother stabs sister in quarrel

Meiktila, 6 Dec—According to the information on murder case in Mondai Village, 10 miles west to Meiktila, SFP, SFP, Htan Tun Oo of Ale Village police station and village administrator U Win Lwin inspected the scene. In the incident, brother Min Naing Soe, 23 of Mondai Village quarrelled with his sister Ma Thin Than Mar, 21. The brother stabbed his sister with a knife. Ma Thin Than Mar died on the spot. Ale Village police station opened a file of lawsuit against Min Naing Soe under the law. U Tin Hlaing (Meiktila)

Regional development discussed in Reedkholo

Reedkholo, 6 Dec—A coordination meeting on regional development was held at Sub-Township General Administration Department in Reedkholo Sub-Township of Chin State recently. It was attended by Chin State Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Van Thong, State Advocate-General U Kat Tral, State Minister for Development Affairs U Nein Naing, State Minister for Forestry and Mining U Kyaw Nyein, Deputy Commissioner of Falam District U Soe Tint, members of Sub-Township Committees and townswelders. The Chin State Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding stressed the need to coordinate regional development tasks among the three committees and town’s elders and emphasize conservation of environment.

The meeting approved allotment of 304 land plots for the new town of Reedkholo and designation of 543 acres of forests nearby Reed Lake as the Reed Lake Nursery Protected Forest with the approval of committees and town’s elders to be submitted to the Chin State Government.

Over 400,000 Kayan national races are scattering in Phekong and Pinlaung townships in Shan State (South), Kayah State, Pyinmana Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Yel-U Township, Thandaung and Leiktho townships of Kayin State. MMAL-Maung Maung Hwe (Phekong)

Construction

Leveling and sealing of roads carried out in Pakokku

Pakokku, 6 Dec—Thanks to Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku), Pakokku Township of Magway Region have good access to other regions. People can go to Pauk, Kyaukhtu, Mindat, Matupi, Kanpetlet townships, Pauk, Htilun, Gangaw, Kalay, Haka and others through roads. To be better road transportation, the road conditions are very important.

The heavy rains that hit last year caused damages on the roads. Thus, Myat Noe Thu Co takes responsibility for level and seal of the one mile and two furlongs long road section to Pakokku-Pauk-Myaing Road junction. The construction tasks will be completed in December 2013, said the engineer in-charge of the company.

Kayan national race celebrates 2753 New Year

Phekong, 6 Dec—The New Year festival for 2753 era of Kayan national race took place at the Nattaw Monastery in Phekong on 3 December evening. Bishop Matua U Shwe of Taunggyi Catholic Church, Kayan national race minister U Laurence, member of Kayan Literature and Culture Central Committee U Toe Paul, Pyithu Htuttaw representative U Francisco, Township Administrator U Hin Kyaw and Kayan National Party Chairman U Yu Jin made speeches. At the ceremony, prizes were awarded by Kayan Literature and Culture Committee to Kayan national race youths for their outstanding performance in literature, fine arts and sports. Next, they enjoyed the bonfire.

Over 400,000 Kayan national races are scattering in Phekong and Pinlaung townships in Shan State (South), Kayah State, Pyinmana Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Yel-U Township, Thandaung and Leiktho townships of Kayin State.

Refreshment fed to children under three in Khamaukkyi Sub-Township

Khamaukkyi, 6 Dec—A ceremony to feed refreshments to children under three was held at No 1 Ward administrative office, here, on 3 December.

Under the arrangement of Sub-Township Health Department, members of Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Women’s Affairs Organization, mothers, town’s elders and members of NGO performed weighing the children and inspected vaccination at children. Later, a total of 47 children were fed with refreshment.

Kymon-Khamaukkyi

IPRD

Communications

GSM SIM cards sold for eighth time in Meiktila

Meiktila, 6 Dec—Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications distributed 1700 pieces of GSM SIM cards to Meiktila for the eighth time. Under the supervision of Meiktila Township Administrator U Myo Hlaing, the SIM cards were shared to the local people. Members of Village Development Supportive Committee and town’s elders will sell 1100 cards to 190 villages of 26 village-tracts in Ale Village Station and Shannangle Station. Remaining 600 cards will be distributed to members of the Sangha, staff and security personnel. MMAL-U Tin Hlaing (Meiktila)

Shan State Minister for Kayan National Races speaking at Kayan New Year celebration in Phekong.

HRD

Pauk, 6 Dec—The basic domestic science course No 24 and the advanced training course No 20 concluded at Women’s Vocational Training Course (Pauk) in Aungdagun extended ward of Pauk in Pakokku District of Magway Region recently. On the occasion, Township Administrator U Khin Maung Soe made a speech. The ceremony was attended by departmental officials, members of Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Women’s Affairs Organization, members of NGO performed weighing the children and inspected vaccination at children. Later, a total of 47 children were fed with refreshment. Kymon-Khamaukkyi IPRD
Malaysian PM defends new consumption tax, subsidy cut

KUALA LUMPUR, 6 Dec — Malaysian Prime Min- ister Najib Razak on Thurs- day defended introduction of a new consumption tax and cut of sugar subsidy, saying the decision are es- sential to consolidate public finance and strengthen the national economy.

Speaking at the open- ing ceremony of Ma- lay sia’s ruling United Malays National Organi- zation (UMNO), Najib slammed the opposition for distorting the Goods and Service Tax (GST), which is to be implemented in 2015.

“For your information, GST has been proved to be the best tax system so far, and must be implemented for us to remain compara- tive, he said.

Najib stressed that the necessary goods and servici- es would be exempted from GST, such as rice, sugar, salt and cooking oil.

The introduction of GST is part of the efforts by Najib’s government to tackle the mounting debt pressure. According to an official economic report, the total federal government debt would increase to 54.8 percent of GDP by the end of 2013, inching toward the 55-percent debt ceiling.

The government also decided to raise petrol price, abolish subsidy on sugar and increase the electricity tariff. Najib argued that the gov- ernment is having a subsidy rationalization. On the can- cellation of sugar subsidy, he said one of the aims was to tackle public health prob- lem, as statistics show that 2.6 million Malaysians aged 30 or above suffer from dia- betes.

“In short, all the ef- forts in the rationalization of subsidy are initiatives for fiscal consolidation, which the government must im- plement to strengthen the resilience of the national economy,” he said.

China open to discussing IPR issues with other countries

WASHINGTON, 6 Dec— China is proactive in dis- cussing the intellectual property rights (IPR) issues with other parts of the world with an open attitude, a Chinese official said.

“The Chinese govern- ment has always attached great importance to IPR protection, building an ev- er-improving IPR regime and making remarkable achievements,” Chen Fuli, the IPR commissioner at the China’s Ministry of Commerce, said in Washington, told a China- US IPR workshop held here on Thursday.

He said it was the third time that Chinese govern- ment held such exchange event on IPR overseas, which is aimed at promot- ing a sound atmosphere for global IPR cooperation.

The United States ap- preciates the Chinese govern- ment’s efforts in IPR protection over recent years and hopes Beijing to play a bigger role in that respect, said Mark Cohen, a senior im- mune protection,”said Daniel Duncan, a former political science professor at Mcgraw Hill.

People work at the blast site in southwest Pakistan’s Chaman on 5 Dec, 2013. At least one person was killed and 12 others injured in two blasts in Chaman on Thursday evening, local media reported.

ISLAMABAD, 6 Dec — At least one man was killed and 22 others were injured in two separate blasts that went off in Pakistan’s southwest Chaman district on Thursday night, local media reported.

Urd University TV channel Darya said that the first blast took place in a market area located at Trench road area of Chaman, a main district in the country’s southwest Balochistan Province, leaving one man killed and 17 others injured.

Abdul Wahab, a senior police official said that the bomb was detonated by a remote controlled device and explosive materials were fixed in a motorbike parked in the market.

The injured people were shifted to civil hospi- tal Chaman where at least two of them were in critical condition.

Several shops were destroyed in the blast.

Defence Minister Onodera to pay 2-day visit to Philippines

Tokyo, 6 Dec — Def-ence Minister Roumori On- odera said on Friday he will visit the Philippines for two days from Saturday to in- spect the aid activities of Ja- pan’s Self-Defence Forces on Leyte Island, which was ravaged by Typhoon Hai- yan, and have talks with his Filipino counterpart Vol- taire Gazmin.

“I want to examine what types of assistance will be needed there down the track,” Onodera told a press conference. Around 1,000 SDF personnel are now de- ployed in the Philippines.

During the meeting with Gazmin, the two min- isters are expected to ex- change views on China’s establish- ment of an air de- fence identification zone over the East China Sea and China’s maritime activities.

ADB approves $500m loan to rebuild storm-hit Philippines

MANILA, 6 Dec—The Asian Development Bank board on Friday approved a $500 million emergency loan to help the Philippine government covers imme- diate costs to rehabilitate and rebuild areas of the country that were ravaged by Typhoon Haiyan last month.

“A disaster of this magnitude can push fami- lies further into poverty,” said ADB President Take- hiko Nakao in a statement.

“The speed of assis- tance is critical to ensure that loss of shelter, as- sets or livelihoods is only temporary, and quickly

One killed, 22 injured in SW Pakistan’s blasts

People work at the blast site in southwest Pakistan’s Chaman on 5 Dec, 2013. At least one person was killed and 12 others injured in two blasts in Chaman on Thursday evening, local media reported.

Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko arrive at Tokyo’s Haneda airport on 6 Dec, 2013, returning from their official visit to India marking the 60th anniversary in 2012 of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and India.

Photo taken on 4 Dec, 2013 shows a house damaged in a landslide in Longnan City, northwest China’s Gansu Province. The landslide occurred around 8:30 pm on Wednesday, burying workers’ prefabricated houses in a residential area for workers digging a tunnel for the Lanzhou-Chongqing Railway. As of 14:10 Thursday, 10 people were reported dead, 21 others injured, 3 of whom were in serious condition.

Defence Minister Onodera to pay 2-day visit to Philippines

Tokyo, 6 Dec — De-
**Women’s empowerment requires renewed effort**

**NEW YORK, 6 Dec**

Despite significant progress in the campaign for women’s empowerment, gaps remain in many key areas, a UN gender equality official said on Wednesday, appealing for a renewed effort from all partners to better integrate gender issues into the overall quest for sustainable development.

“It is ... essential to harness the synergy between gender equality, women’s rights and empowerment with sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social, and environmental,” Lakshmi Puri, deputy executive director of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), said as she opened a high-level forum at the UN Headquarters in New York.

The two-day event, organized ahead of next year’s 58th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, is looking at challenges and achievements in meeting the targets for women’s and girls’ progress in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a set of eight anti-poverty targets, including gender equality and the empowerment of women.

“We know that the MDGs have played a critical role in galvanizing attention to gender equality and women’s empowerment — not least thanks to the existence of a stand-alone goal on the promotion of gender equality and women’s empowerment — but also to poverty eradication, education, health, water and sanitation, and the environment,” she said.

While noting that there has been “significant progress” in boosting access to primary education and to water, she said more needed to be done in areas such as maternal mortality, social norms, access to decent work and a participation in decision-making, with stark gaps existing within and between countries.

**In brief**

- Gender equality and economic growth
- Promoting women’s participation in decision-making
- Addressing social norms and economic policies
- Investing in education and healthcare for women
- Strengthening women’s leadership in political and social spheres

**Failure teaches success**

**Nordic countries move toward more pragmatic joint defence**

**Helsinki, 6 Dec**

Nordic countries will seek to develop a more pragmatic, transparent and coordinated defence cooperation, as well as to contribute more capabilities to international engagements in the coming years, said a document released on Wednesday after a ministerial meeting in Helsinki.

The two-day meeting bringing together 12 defence ministers from Nordic and Baltic countries, as well as the Netherlands, Britain, Poland and Germany, adopted the vision which focuses on the balance of political guidance of Nordic defence cooperation by 2020.

“Unpredictability and complexity of the future security environment, combined with economical austerity will affect the Nordic countries individually,” said a joint statement, adding that the nations would seek an enhanced political and military dialogue and create efficient and cost-effective solutions.

By 2020, cross-border exercises will be conducted on a regular basis. Cooperation in air and sea surveillance and exchange of surveillance data of the Nordic region will be enhanced. Possibilities for pooling of capabilities and resources will be actively sought and joint acquisition will be enabled, according to a press release issued by the Finnish defence ministry.

Nordic countries said they would develop rapid deployment capabilities to be used for the NATO Response Force or the EU Battle Groups in a more active manner.

“Even though the Nordic countries have different membership obligations in NATO and in the EU, the Nordic cooperation can strengthen our respective countries’ defence,” said the document.

Moreover, Nordic countries will establish a roster of specialists and military advisors in order to provide advisory support by 2020.
**Springsteen’s handwritten ‘Born to Run’ draft fetches $197,000**

**Los Angeles, 6 Dec —** Rocker Bruce Springsteen’s 1974 handwritten draft of his hit song “Born to Run” has sold for $197,000, auctioneers Sotheby’s said on Thursday. Springsteen’s “Born to Run,” the title song from his 1975 album of the same name, has become an essential American anthem, and the draft, written in the singer’s cursive hand in blue ink, fetched more than double its estimate of $70,000 to $100,000 at a New York sale.

The one notebook page of lyrics shows Springsteen’s creative process for the song. While many of the lyrics on the working draft were not recorded, his famous shout, “Tramps like us, baby, we were born to run,” is included. “This was done in 1974 when he was going through preparing for his third album,” Richard Austin, head of Sotheby’s pop and manuscripts department, told Reuters ahead of the sale. “And there is a story he tells about sitting on the edge of his bed with his guitar and the phrase ‘born to run’ comes into his head.

**US musician Bruce Springsteen performs with the E Street Band during a tour to promote their latest album “Working on a Dream”, at Zorilla stadium in Valladolid on 1 Aug, 2009. **— Reuters

**And what you are actually looking at is the process he goes through to get to the finished song.** — Reuters

**New York, 6 Dec —** Troubled former teenage star Amanda Bynes has left a California facility after court-ordered psychiatric treatment and is recovering at her parents’ home in Los Angeles, People magazine said on Thursday. The 27-year-old actress was receiving psychiatric care at a Malibu facility after she was alleged to have stolen a small fire in the front of a home in Thousand Oaks, a Los Angeles suburb, in July.

“Amada has completed her inpatient rehabilitation and she’s feeling better every day,” lawyer Tamar Arminak said in a statement released to the magazine. “Despite the fact Amanda is no longer in a facility, her outpatient treatment is continuing,” he added. Bynes gained early stardom at the age of 13 when she had her own comedy show on the Nick-eleonid television network. She also had a major role in the movie “What a Girl Wants” but has not appeared in a film since 2010’s “Easy A.” Most recently she has made headlines for her erratic behavior, odd posts on Twitter and her court appearances. She pleaded not guilty and has a court date scheduled for 7 January after she was charged in April 2012 with driving under the influence in West Hollywood. Police said she struck a patrol car and refused a sobriety test. — Reuters

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**George Clooney hasn’t met the right woman**

**London, 6 Dec —** Hollywood hunk George Clooney says he is yet to find the love of his life. The 52-year-old actor reveals he still hasn’t found the right woman, reported Showbizspy. “I haven’t met her yet. When I was a kid, I was in love with Audrey Hepburn,” Clooney says about the role that got Hepburn her Oscar, as a princess pursued by a newspaper reporter played by Gregory Peck, the George Clooney of his day. “I watched Roman Holiday when I was 11, and I thought she was as elegant as anything I’d ever seen. And I fell madly in love with her. I also always loved Grace Kelly. I mean, when she comes out of the water in To Catch a Thief, I thought, That’s the most beautiful woman I’ve ever seen.” he added.

**Los Angeles, 9 July, 2013. — PTI**

**A still from the movie Thor: The Dark World.** — PTI

**Chris Hemsworth’s wife Elsa Pataky played body double for Natalie Portman**

**New York, 6 Dec —** Actress Natalie Portman, who plays Thor’s mortal love interest Jane Foster in the superhero film Thor: The Dark World, has revealed that actor Chris Hemsworth’s wife Elsa Pataky filled in for her during a romantic scene. Pataky, performed end credits scene in a wig when Portman couldn’t make it back to Marvel Studios film in time for reshoots. In the scene, Foster gets a passionate kiss from the superhero at the end of the movie, reported New York Daily News. “It was for reshoots (after the film was finished) and he was working in Hong Kong and I couldn’t get there because I was working on my own film,” Portman said. “And so they put his wife in my wig and costume, that’s why it was so passionate. It was such a perfect solution, wasn’t it,” she added.

**Actress Amanda Bynes arrives for a court hearing at Manhattan Criminal Court in New York on 9 July, 2013. — Reuters**

**US television, Twitter, alive with new version of ‘Sound of Music’**

**New York, 6 Dec —** US television was alive with “The Sound of Music” on Thursday as country singer Carrie Underwood and “True Blood” actor Stephen Moyer starred in a live version of the classic musical about an aspiring nun who falls in love with an Austrian captain.

Filmed on vast movie sets and with lavish costumes but without an audience, the NBC television broadcast harked back to the traditions of the 1950s and 1960s when live musicals were often shown on American television.

Thursday’s three-hour show was based on the 1959 stage version of the Rodgers and Hammerstein show rather than the Oscar-winning 1965 musical starring Julie Andrews, after heavy promotion for weeks, the live broadcast was the No. 2 topic on Twitter on Thursday, behind the death of South African anti-apartheid hero Nelson Mandela. But not everyone found the new version one of their favorite things, with many viewers taking to social media to snipe over the quality of Underwood’s acting and bemoan a lack of atmosphere and chemistry between some of the key characters. “Don’t get me wrong, I love me some Carrie Underwood but I am not digging this version,” tweeted TV viewer Heather Whittford. “Nothing will beat an original, but doing this live on TV is amazing!” countered Lonz on the micro-blogging website. Underwood, 30, who has become one of America’s biggest county stars since winning “American Idol” in 2005, has scant experience as an actress. “I just want to say before the craziness starts...I am truly honored to be in #TheSoundOfMusicLive. This is an exciting/moving moment,” Underwood tweeted before the broadcast from New York got under way.

Moyer, 44, is best known as the star of HBO’s quirky vampire drama “True Blood.” While not known as a singer, he performed in a musical version of “Chicago” at the Hollywood Bowl earlier this year.

**Actress Amanda Bynes: Prefer intimate ceremony to big fat wedding**

**Mumbai, 6 Dec —** Actress Aditi Rao Hydari prefers an intimate marriage ceremony over a big fat wedding.

Seen in films like Rockstar, London Paris New York and Yeh Saali Zindagi, she said: “I love intimate ceremonies where all the loved ones come together and have fun.” “I have seen some of my friends getting married and they had the worst time at their own wedding. But when it is intimate, it is fun and the bride and the groom enjoy the most. That’s what I would want,” she added. Aditi was speaking on the sidelines of the on going Aamby Valley India Bridal Fashion Week here. Is she in a relationship? “No, no I am very much single,” said the actress who was recent-ly seen in Boss starring Akshay Kumar. She will soon be seen in Manish Jha’s new untitled film. — PTI

**Aditi says she is very much single.** — PTI

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**George Clooney says as a child he was in love with Audrey Hepburn.** — PTI

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Bayern Munich's Robben ruled out for six weeks

**BERLIN, 6 Dec —** Dutchman Arjen Robben had been ruled out of action for roughly six weeks owing to a cut in his right knee. The Bavarians announced via a Press release on Thursday. The German giants beat Augsburg 2-0 at the DFB Cup, where Robben got a deep flesh wound in his right knee. Robben suffered the cut following a tackle with Augsburg's custodian Marwin Hitz inside the box. "Arjen Robben has sustained a deep laceration extending into the knee joint. The impact of one of the opposing player’s studs on the thighbone in the right leg has caused extensive haemorrhaging," club doctor Hans-Wilhelm Mueller-Wohlfahrt told the club's official homepage. Wohlfahrt estimated an injury lay off of approximately six weeks to extend Bayern’s long injury list. "Obviously I’m bitterly disappointed. I’ve been in such good form and really looking forward to every game with our team, but now this has happened," Robben stated. Bayern’s director of sport Matthias Sammer added: "Arjen was basically in the form of his life and has recently had a decisive role in so many of our games. Losing him now is a bitter blow." The winger will miss the Bundesliga matches against Bremen and Hamburg. In addition, he will have to stand on the sidelines when his team encounters Manchester City in the UEFA Champions League. The club World Cup on December 18th in Morocco will also take place without the key player.—Xinhua

Yankees welcome aboard McCann, promise more moves

**NEW YORK, 6 Dec —** Seven-time All-Star catcher Brian McCann was introduced to the media at Yankee Stadium on Thursday as the first piece of a major reloading of the New York team that finished tied for third last season. "To say this one of the best days of my life would be an understatement," McCann said after donning a No 34 pinstriped uniform jersey. McCann, 29, batted .266 with 20 home runs and 57 runs batted in over 102 games last season for the Atlanta Braves after missing the first 30 games recovering from right shoulder surgery. The Yankees, winners of a Major League Baseball record 27 World Series titles, failed to reach the post-season last season for only the second time in 19 years with an aged squad beset by injuries and lacking in power. "Brian McCann’s been one of the game’s great catchers," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said. "We’re hoping that he can come over here and continue the type of production on the offensive and defensive side that he’s provided in Atlanta." The deal with McCann, worth a reported $85 million over the first five years, gives the Yanks a much-needed offensive upgrade behind the plate. New York used four catchers last season, who accounted for a major league-low eight home runs from the position, while McCann has struggled together six seasons in a row with 20 or more home runs in the pitcher-friendly Atlanta ballpark. While the catcher figures to be an important improvement, the Yankees vow they have just begun addressing their problems. "This winter we have a lot more needs than I’m used to experiencing," Cashman said. "Some years we’re more active than in other years. We have to be this year. "We added an important piece here but it cannot be the only piece. We have to add more pieces to be able to make some noise." Former Boston Red Sox center fielder Jacoby Ellsbury has been widely reported to have agreed on a seven-year, $153 million free-agent deal to join the Yankees, but Cashman would not confirm it as a done deal yet.

Woods eyes emotional Sherwood farewell

**THOUSAND OAKS, Calif., 6 Dec —** Tiger Woods has prepared for an emotional Sunday when his World Challenge golf tournament, which has raised over $25 million for his foundation, will end a successful run of 14 years in California. Every December, an elite field has assembled at the picturesque Sherwood Country Club, nestled in the foothills of the Santa Monica Mountains, to compete in the Woods-hosted event which will relocate to Florida for next year. "Fourteen years here and it’s been absolutely incredible," world number one Woods told Reuters as he reflected on the tournament’s run in California after the inaugural edition was staged at Grayhawk Golf Club in Scottsdale, Arizona in 1999. The members, the board and all the volunteers have come out over the years through rain and wind, we’ve even had sleet here before, as well as perfect sunshine. "Anytime I had a wedge in my hand, I seemed to be hitting my lines and my yardages, which is certainly key. I putted great. Just a real solid day all around. “I kept the course in front of me, I was aggressive when I needed to be aggressive and I was conservative when I needed to be conservative. But it’s nothing more than a decent start.”—Reuters

Johnson takes early control at Tiger’s event

**US golfer Zach Johnson tees off during the Singles matches for the 2013 Presidents Cup golf tournament at Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio on 6 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS**

**TENNESSEE, 6 Dec —** Zach Johnson, with his renowned wedge game in sparkling order, soared to the top at Muirfield Village golf club with a five-under-par 67 in Thursday’s opening round at the Northwestern Mutual World Challenge. Twice a runner-up in the tournament’s 32 teams will receive $35 million US dollars. World Cup winner’s cheque rises 17%

**COSTA DO SäuPE, 6 Dec —** The 2014 World Cup champions will receive 35 million US dollars in prize money, world football’s governing body FIFA announced on Thursday. The value represents a 17% increase on the cheque handed to Spain for winning the 2010 tournament in South Africa. FIFA will pay the second-placed side 25 million dollars while third will receive 22 million dollars. Each of the tournament’s 32 teams will receive 1.5 million dollars before the tournament begins to help cover their preparation costs. Another 70 million dollars have been set aside for indemnity payments to clubs who will be without their players during the month-long tournament. In addition, FIFA has pledged 100 million US dollars to a legacy fund for the Brazilian government.

**World Cup prize money:**

- Winners - 35 million US dollars
- Second - 25 million dollars
- Third - 22 million dollars
- Fourth - 20 million dollars
- Quarterfinals - 14 million dollars
- Round of 16 - 9 million dollars
- Group phase - 8 million dollars

**Thomas Wood of the US looks at his iPhone after using it to take a picture of playing partner Mark O’Meara on the 10th green, during a practice round for the 2010 Masters golf tournament at the Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia, on 6 April, 2010. REUTERS**

**New York Yankees manager Joe Girardi (right) and new catcher Brian McCann during Press conference at Yankee Stadium.—REUTERS**
Bear suspected of mauling Florida woman trapped and killed

Orlando, 6 Dec — A 200-pound (90 kg) female bear suspected of mauling and seriously injuring a central Florida woman early Monday morning has been shot to death by wildlife officials, who said that the attack and she was hospitalized at the Orlando Regional Medical Centre for what officials described as non-life-threatening injuries. The hospital declined to re-update an leak on Chaffant’s condition Thursday.

Wildlife officials had placed three traps, baited with glazed doughnuts, on a natural bear trail that runs alongside Longwood in the immediate aftermath of Monday’s rare attack.

UN adopts motion calling for nuclear weapon elimination for 20th year in row

NY, 6 Dec — A Japan-led resolution calling for the total elimination of nuclear weapons was overwhelmingly approved on Thursday with 169 countries backing the move at the United Nations, marking the 20th year in a row that such a resolution was adopted.

During the plenary session held in the General Assembly hall only one country, North Korea, officially known as the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, voted against the measure.

The resolution condemned “in the strongest terms” the nuclear test conducted by North Korea in February this year and called on Pyongyang to “abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs.”

Fourteen other countries, including China, Russia, India, Pakistan, and Israel abstained from casting votes. —Kyodo News

No quick fix for Man United problems

London, 6 Dec — Following in Alex Ferguson’s footsteps was never going to be an easy task for David Moyes but few Manchester United fans would have anticipated the English champions slipping 12 points behind the Premier League leaders with only a third of the season gone. Wednesday’s 1-0 home defeat by Everton, United’s fourth of the campaign, exposed all the cracks in the armor of a team who won their 20th league title in May after Ferguson masterfully papered over the cracks in his squad.

It would be unfair to put all the blame on Moyes who is still learning the ropes at Old Trafford after 11 years at Everton where he might have viewed finishing in the Premier League’s top six as success with a much tighter budget and limited squad depth. But the 50-year-old Scot has to take some responsibility for failing to inject fresh blood into a ponderous midfield palpably lacking a playmaker and struggling to protect a shaky defence when Michael Carrick is unavailable.

Former England and Newcastle striker Alan Shearer, now a pundit for the BBC, summed up United’s engine-room frailties after the Everton defeat. “They missed Carrick against Everton and a dominant midfielder who is going to create and score goals,” Shearer said after Moyes cut a forlorn figure trudging down the tunnel. “It was too easy at times for Everton to run at United’s back four.” Recruiting Marouane Fellaini from his former club looks more and more like an ill-judged decision by Moyes, with the towering Belgian resembling a square peg trying to fit into a round hole in United’s normally creative midfield.

The defence, with ageing centre backs Rio Ferdinand and Nemanja Vidic well past their prime, and Van Persie’s early exit due to injury, have been vulnerable too as the alternatives have failed to show that they are adequate long-term replacements. Moyes had a plethora of wingers and strikers to choose from and even with Robin van Persie out injured, 18 SEA Games Songs

S Korea to host FIFA U-20 World Cup in 2017

Seoul, 6 Dec — South Korea was picked to host the FIFA Under-20 World Cup in 2017, the country’s sports ministry said on Friday.

“The Asian country won the right to host the world’s premier youth soccer tournament after a tight competition with Azerbaijan at a vote in Brazil overnight, according to the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism.”

The ministry said Seoul came to accomplish the soccer “grand slam” as it succeeded in hosting four major FIFA competitions including the Confederations Cup in 2001 and the Under-17 World Cup in 2007 as well as the 2002 World Cup, which was jointly hosted with Japan. Some six cities will be picked as the venues after consulting with FIFA, world football’s governing body, the ministry added.

The Under-20 World Cup, first launched in 1977, has been held every two years. New Zealand will host the 2015 tournament. —Xinhua

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Diesel Engine Factory of No (14) Heavy Industry (Thagara) starts its production line

Vice-President U Nyan Tun at Diesel Engine Factory of No (14) Heavy Industry (Thagara) in Thagara Industrial Zone in Yedashe Township of Bago Region.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 Dec — An opening ceremony of Diesel Engine Factory of No (14) Heavy Industry (Thagara) under the Ministry of Industry took place at Thagara industrial zone in Yedashe Township, Bago Region this morning, attended by Vice-President U Nyan Tun.

First, Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint, Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister U Myo Aung and Mr. Liu Jianye, chairman of Shandong Puli Construction & Engineering Co., Ltd formally opened the factory where series of V-type 170 ZC diesel engines equipped with 16 cylinders that rank 2000 to 2200 horsepower will be manufactured up to 100 per year.

After unveiling the signboard of the factory, Vice-President U Nyan Tun posed for a documentary photo together with those present.

Next, the Vice-President observed production of engine parts and finishing goods, assembling of engines, test running and functioning of welding & heat-treatment shop in the factory.

Meanwhile, the Vice-President and the chairman of Shandong Puli Construction & Engineering Co., Ltd exchanged gifts to mark the opening of the factory.

The newly-inaugurated factory was built with the state's contribution of USD 66.853 million. The Ministry of Industry implemented the project in cooperation with Shandong Puli Construction & Engineering Co., Ltd to manufacture diesel engines to be used in vessels and locomotives as import-substitution.

The No (14) Heavy Industry (Thagara) project was implemented in cooperation with Xuji Group Corporation (XJ) Henan of the People's Republic of China and it is producing three types of V-Type 128 ZC series diesel engines equipped with 250 hp six-cylinder, 350 hp 18-cylinder and 800 hp 12-cylinder.

The products of the newly-opened diesel engine factory, as import-substitution, will be in use as generators, locomotives, buses and vessels in the transport sector of the country, thereby contributing towards regional development and more job opportunities in the region.

C-in-C attends graduation dinner of 16th Intake of DSTA

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 Dec — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the graduation dinner of the 16th Intake of the Defence Services Technological Academy at the parade ground of DSTA in PyinOoLwin this evening.

The dinner was also attended by wife of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Commander-in-Chief (Army) Thura Thet Swe and wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Khin Aung Myint and wife, senior military officers of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, commanders, the commandant of DSTA, senior military officers in PyinOoLwin station, foreign military attaches, guests and parents of graduates.

After taking the salute of the graduate companies and inspecting them, the Commander-in-Chief presented awards to outstanding cadets.

In his address, the Senior General stressed the need for acquisition of military might for modernization of the Union Defence Forces. He highlighted that (See page 9)

Sinma Living Mall opened

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 Dec— As a gesture of hailing the 27th SEA Games in Nay Pyi Taw, a ceremony to open Sinma Living Mall of Sinma Furnishings Co., Ltd in Commercial Complex of Ottarathiri Township was held in front of its hall, here, this morning.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Kan Chun, Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee Vice-Mayor U Than Kyaw Htoo and Managing Director of Sinma Furnishings Co., Ltd U Kyaw Kyaw Win cut the ribbon to open the ceremony.

Union Ministers U Thein Nyunt and U Tint San and guests looked round personal goods and foodstuff displayed in Super One Hyper Mark Sale Centre and products of Sinma Furniture, Paint Gallery Art Show of Myanmar famous artists and sale centers, fashions, cosmetic & electronic products and 6D Cinema.

Union Ministers U Thein Nyunt and U Tint San and film star May Than Nu formally opened Perfect Beauty & Spa and the responsible persons, YGN Kyae Oh, Sawasdee (Thai Restaurant) and Royal Classic Restaurant. Union Minister U Thein Nyunt pressed the button to open Western Perkroyal Restaurant and responsible persons cut the ribbon to open it.

Three-storey building Sinma Living Mall in Commercial Complex in Ottarathiri Township is situated at the junction of Thiriyadanar and Zeyahtarni Roads.

The Commercial Complex and Sinma Mall comprise varieties of goods and beverages, cosmetics, clothes, electronics, game station, Myanmar Handicrafts Shop and paint gallery.—MNA

Three days to XXVII SEA Games

Photo shows an entrance to Nay Pyi Taw Athletes’ Village.—PHOTO BY AMS

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