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There was a lull in the action in the massive kitchen located off the beaten path at the 2013 SEA Games’ Athletes Village. The cooks had finished preparing lunch and were catching their breath before turning their attention to high tea and then supper.

“We have to make sure they have a full belly,” Aung Sithu Soe, who is one of the two dozen chefs overseeing a staff of 170 charged with feeding athletes and officials from the 11 countries at the SEA Games, said. “We want to make sure they have enough energy to win a medal.”

“We started with 100 people in the Village and then 200 and now we have 750. There will be 2,400 at one point (between December 11-16) and it will be crazy. We’re catching our breath now.”

A well-fed athlete is a happy athlete, and the kitchen is one—and some would say the most important—of all participating athletes.

“The Athletes Village is shelter from the storm of pressure the athletes feel to win a medal at the SEA Games. It’s also a meeting place for different cultures to mix, and organizers have gone all out to make sure there is something for everyone. There are telecommunication services, mini-markets, a variety of restaurants, a state-of-the-art workout gymnasium, barber shops and beauty salons, souvenir stands and a message

Athletes Village ready to offer food for mind, body and soul

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Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham awards one of winning athletes at the prize presentation ceremony.

Myanmar Wushu athletes play against each other at quarter-final of Wushu Sanshou competition of 27th SEA Games at Wunna Theikdhi Indoor Stadium (A).—MNA

Wushu Sanshou competitions start at Wunna Theikdhi

Wushu event

Myanmar, Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam and Laos took part in the 48 kg, 52 kg and 56 kg events. Chi Leng Lim from Malaysia, Divine Wally and Eyin Phoon of Malaysia as well as Tran of Vietnam bagged first, second and third place, scoring 9.64, 9.62 and 9.60 points respectively.

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At the final match between Myanmar and Cambodia of men’s chinlone competition, Myanmar secured first place, reaching 359 points while Cambodia came second with 291 points. Singaporean and Malaysian team took joint-third place in the competitions.

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Sports Ground (A)
Union Commerce Minister addresses plenary session of 9th WTO Ministerial Conference

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Dec—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint attended plenary session of 9th WTO Ministerial Conference at Nusum Dua Hall in Bali of Indonesia on 5 December. At the session, Minister of Trade and Industry of Rwanda Mr. Francois Kanimba acted as the chair and the trade ministers of WTO member countries made speeches. In his address, the Union minister said that Myanmar joined Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) which is supported by WTO for development of the member countries in April 2013. He pledged that Myanmar will further cooperate with WTO for success of EIF. Myanmar is striving for success of integrated trade system and is hoping for beneficial results for all countries from the conference, he added. He also attended a dinner hosted by Indonesian Trade Minister Mr. Gita Wirjawan at Taman Bhagwan Hotel in Bali.—MNA

Electrification

100 KVA transformer installed in Dabayin

DABAYIN, 7 Dec—The 300 KVA transformer being used in Dabayin was not enough for the power consumption of the local people in Dabayin of Shwebo District in Sagaing Region. Township Electrical Engineer U Myint Naing submitted the report to demand a new transformer for the township. A 100 KVA new transformer was added to the township on 4 December and it launched electrification for power consumption of the dwellers. MMAL-KK (Dabayin)

Fund-raising Activities

Entertainment performed for raising fund of IDPs in Bhamo

BHAMO, 7 Dec—Video and film actors Khin Hlaing and Dein Daung and party performed entertainment at the Manau Ground of Kachin Literature and Culture Committee in Bhamo of Kachin State recently. It was aimed at raising fund for all-round development of three-storey Dhammayon as school for the children at 2nd Mile Aungtha Catholic Church. They performed one more entertainment for the internally displaced persons at the save venue, fetching K 1.8 million. They donated the cash from the entertainment to IDPs at Sirkhongyi relief camp in Minsi Township where 364 IDPS are taking shelters at Sirkhonyi relief camp in Minsi Township and over 5000 IDPS at the relief camp in Manweingyi Village. They donated cash to the funds of the relief camps on 3 December.—MMAL-Hinmeekhon Nan Yi

Rural Development

Rural development tasks oversaw in Mogauing

MOGAUNG, 7 Dec—Head of Kachin State Rural Development Department and the State Engineering Team inspected actual progress of rural roads and bridges construction and supply of water to the local people in 2013-14 fiscal year.

Photos, Wall Magazine, Book Show hails XXVII SEA Games

YANGON, 7 Dec—As a gesture of hailing the XXVII SEA Games, the Photo, Wall Magazine and Book Show was held at Information and Public Relations Department in Thanlyin Township of Yangon South District on 4 December. At the ceremony, the Hluttaw representative, the deputy commissioner of the District General Administration Department and the Region Hluttaw representative formally opened the show. The Chairman of Yangon South District Sasana Nuggaha Association donated five sets of mini book corners, K 65000 for books of two months, the head of District Directorate of Road Transport and the manager of Kanbawza Bank (Thanlyin), one set each of mini book corner and K 13000 each for one month books. The show was held as a gesture of hailing the SEA Games with documentary works of preparations for the games, sports venues and fixtures of games. Plans are underway to stage the shows in Seikkyi-Khanaungto, Twantay, Kayan and Thanlyin townships.—MNA

Thailand’s Prosthesis Foundation donates artificial limb workshop

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Dec—In commemoration of 65th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Thailand, the opening of artificial limb workshop donated by Thailand’s Prosthesis Foundation to National Rehabilitation Hospital under the Ministry of Health took place at the hospital at the corner of Kyaikwaung Pagoda and Mindhamma Streets in Mayangon Township on 3 December, with an address by Union Minister Dr Pe Thet Khin. The Union minister spoke words of thanks for donating artificial limbs and braces and related items by the foundation, expressing his wish for further cementing relations between the two countries.

Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Pissan Suvaranajata and Secretary General Assistant Professor Therdchai Jivacate of the foundation explained the purpose of donation and handed over documents related to the artificial limb workshop. The Union minister and Thai ambassador formally opened the signboard of workshop and viewed making of artificial limbs at the workshop.

Thailand’s Prosthesis Foundation provided 100 sets of machine worth 2.9 million Baht for prosthetic limb technology and Siam Cement Grouprenovated the workshop at a cost of US$ 4700.—MNA

Flags of sponsored companies and hot-air balloons are decorated along Wezayanda Road in Yangon on 5 December as a gesture of hailing the XXVII SEA Games.—MMAL-TIN WIN LAY (KYIMYINDINE)
Moscow, 7 Dec — Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said on Friday he would lead the government as long as he could, denying reported tensions between him and President Vladimir Putin over the designation of tax crime investigative power.

“I love what I’m doing now, this is an interesting job. I’m doing it for as long as I can, until there is a presidential decision to that effect,” Medvedev said in an end-of-year interview with leading television channels.

Noting his job was “not very popular,” the prime minister insisted that he had no contradictions with Putin, saying, “If I and the president are getting along well.”

Local reports earlier said relationship between the two top Russian leaders may have deteriorated as Putin backed the transformation of tax crime investigative power from the tax services to the Investigative Committee.

Medvedev endorsed in 2011, when he was the president, the procedure of opening criminal cases over tax crimes only by the initiative of tax services.

He argued against the legislative change last month, but Putin said later that “If someone does not agree with something, there is another way resign from the Cabinet.”

Medvedev said a compromised version was being discussed, in which authorities could open tax evasion cases without the initiative of tax officers but will have to seek related materials from the Federal Tax Service.

Speaking of the possibility to once again run for the presidency, Medvedev said, “I would like to work more before I make necessary decisions that depend on a certain set of circumstances.”

He went on to say that the government has proven to be quite effective and did not require any drastic changes.

“Our government is an absolutely functional team... On the whole, I think that there should not be any radical changes,” he said.

Commenting on the situation in Ukraine, Medvedev said that country’s problems must be solved only by its leadership and society.

He denied that Russia had pressured Ukraine to suspend the signing of an association agreement with the European Union (EU).

US welcomes Japan’s secrecy law commitment to universal values, freedom of express, freedom of the Press,” Harf said.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s ruling camp pressed ahead with the bill for the law in parliament Friday despite mounting oppositions in the public.

Kyodo News

Manama, 7 Dec — Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel toured a US warship in the Gulf on Friday and declared Washington’s commitment to Middle East security, despite policy differences over Iran and Syria that have angered Gulf allies.

His visit to Bahrain, in which he will speak at the Manama Dialogues security conference, comes at a time of regional unease over President Barack Obama’s policies — ranging from the combatant US response to Syria’s civil war to the six world powers’ interim deal with Iran on its nuclear program.

The ship he toured, the USS Ponce, part of the US Fifth Fleet, is to be equipped in 2014 with a new laser weapon designed to deter aircraft and missiles as well as attacks by swarms of small boats like those used by Iran, on the opposite side of the Gulf.

“History our commitment to our partners in this area speaks for itself and I will assure our partners that we’re not going anywhere,” Hagel told troops aboard the 40-year-old vessel, recently refitted to be a floating base for anti-mine warfare and special operations.

“This region is dangerous, it’s combustible, it’s unstable,” Hagel said. “But having a steady American hand in this region can help our allies and reassure our allies.”

Vietnam, 7 Dec — Iran and six world powers plan expert-level talks next week to work out details of implementing a breakthrough agreement for Teheran to curb its disputed nuclear programme in return for a limited easing of sanctions.

Officials from Iran and the United States, France, Germany, Britain, China and Russia are to meet on 9-10 December in Vienna, where the UN nuclear watchdog agency is based, diplomats said on Friday.

The International Atomic Energy Agency — which will be tasked with verifying that Iran carries out its part of the November 24 interim accord — “will have some involvement” in the meeting, IAEA spokeswoman Gill Tudor said, without elaborating.

Western diplomats said the experts must iron out nitpicky matters of implementation not addressed in Geneva before the deal can be put into practice.

These include how and when the IAEA will conduct its expanded inspections and other technical issues.

The landmark agreement is seen as a first step towards resolving a decades-old dispute over Iran’s nuclear programme that has stirred fears of a new Middle East war.

It was designed to halt Iran’s nuclear advances for a period of six months and buy time for negotiations on a final settlement of the standoff. Diplomats say implementation may start in January after the technical details have been settled.

Reuters

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif smiles as he speaks to the media at the International Conference Centre of Geneva in Geneva on 24 Nov, 2013.— REUTERS
Planned orbit trim for Chang’e-3 canceled

BEIJING, 7 Dec — Chinese lunar probe Chang’e-3 will not perform a planned third trimming of its trajectory along the earth-moon transfer orbit, according to the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense.

The Chang’e-3 mission will mark the first time for China to send a spacecraft to soft-land on the surface of an extraterrestrial body, where it will conduct surveys of the Moon.

According to the administration, the variable thrust engine — completely designed and made by Chinese scientists — can realize continuous variation of thrust power ranging from 1,500 to 7,500 newtons.

If all goes well, the Chang’e-3 mission will be the first for China to send a spacecraft to soft-land on the surface of an extraterrestrial body, where it will conduct surveys of the Moon.

Microsoft leads disruption of largest infected global PC network

SAN FRANCISCO, 7 Dec — Microsoft Corp said on Thursday it had shut down the largest network of compromised personal computers, involving some 2 million machines around the world, since it stepped up direct fraud activity to infected machines.

Law enforcement in many European countries served warrants at the same time, seizing servers expected to contain more evidence about the leaders of the ZeroAccess crime ring, which was devoted to “click fraud.”

Microsoft leads disruption of largest infected global PC network

Such rings use networks of captive machines, known as botnets, in complicated schemes that force them to click on ads without the computer owners’ knowledge.

The coordinated effort marks the eighth time Microsoft has moved against a botnet and a rare instance of it doing serious damage to one that is controlled with a peer-to-peer mechanism, where infected machines give each other instructions instead of relying on a central server that defenders can hunt down and disable. But the ZeroAccess botnet still had a weakness: The code in the infected machines told them to reach out to one of the 18 numeric Internet addresses for details on which ads to click.

Microsoft recently opened a new Cybercrime Centre in Redmond and is using new tools in its efforts. They are helped by a provision in trademark that allows pretrial seizure of suspected counterfeit goods, including websites that, as in the present case, are spreading tainted versions of the Internet Explorer browser.

Mexico watchdog weighs if America Movil, Televisa dominate sector

MEXICO CITY, 7 Dec — Giant Mexican telco America Movil and broadcaster Televisa, the two companies likely to be most affected by the country’s telecoms reform, said on Thursday the regulator has told them it was determining whether they are dominant players in the sector. The notifications are the first step in a process mandated by a telecoms reform passed by Mexico’s Congress earlier this year that gives the new Federal Telecommunications Institute (IFT) powers to clamp down on dominant players and spur competition.

Televisa, the world’s largest producer of Spanish-language content, said in a regulatory filing it was analyzing the news and preparing an official response. America Movil, which controls triple-play telecommunications behemoth controlled by Mexican billion- aire Carlos Slim, later said that it and its subsidiaries, including fixed-line operator Telmex, have also been placed under review by the watchdog and asked to hand over information about the size of the market.

America Movil said it had received a notice “related to the beginning of a process toward the probable determination of being a dominant economic agent in Mexico’s telecommunications market.”

The company had already said it expects to be declared dominant. America Movil shares dropped to $1.12 before the company disclosed the review. Televisa’s shares closed down 2.9 percent, having fallen more than 3 percent earlier on the news.

Televisa and America Movil have been accused of being the dominant players in Mexico’s industry, which is dominated by Televisa and America Movil and the Mexican branch of the U.S.-based Movil Telmex.

Mexico watchdog weighs if America Movil, Televisa dominate sector

Metro

Washington Post

The following is the reproduction of Myanmar Hotels & Tourism Guide 2013. Visit www.tourismguide.com.mm for further information. — Ed

Chin State

Capital
Haka

Population
Over 0.47 million

Languages
Duhlien, Myanmar

Major Industries
Agriculture

How to get there
Car, Bus, Air

Face Tattoo

The ritual of Chin women wearing face tattoos supposedly began as a way of deterring the attention of invaders. When a girl reaches puberty she can choose to tattoo her face or not or how little or how much. It is becoming rare to have full-face tattoos; usually they choose a few lines on the forehead or chin.

Haka

The Chin State capital is about 1,828 metres (6,000 feet) above sea level. The mountains around the capital are famous for their orchards and occasionally new species are found. Temperatures sometimes dip below zero degrees Celsius in the winter seasons.

Reh Lake

This heart-shaped lake in the Chin Hills is near the Indian border. People from Myanmar and India consider it a magical lake because according to legend its waters turn red at about the same time as Christmas.

Shitthaung Temple

Rakhine State

Capital
Sittway

Population
Over 2.9 million

Languages
Rakhu, Myanmar

Major Industries
Agriculture, Fishery

How to get there
Car, Air, Boat

Sittway

After the First Anglo-Burman War of 1826, coastal Sittway was made the capital of Rakhine State rather than the less accessible former royal capital of MraukU. Black Sand Beach

Although not as enticing as a white sand beach, the black sand beach in front of the Sittway Hotel has a moody charm of its own, especially on full moon nights.

Morning Fish Market

This noisy, lively colourful market is on the jetty where trawlers unload their catch and is an experience not to be missed.

Thandwe

This pretty little town is the gateway to Ngapali Beach, which boasts one of the best white-sand beaches in Southeast Asia.

MraukU

MraukU was the last capital of the Rakhine civilisation, which was contemporary to the Pyu. The 2nd century Greek geographer Ptolemy referred to the kingdom as Argyre, and it was later referred to by historians as ‘Anakkan’. Shiththaung Pagoda

The Shiththaung pagoda was built between 1531 and 1553. Images of the donor, King Min Ba Gyi, and his queens are carved on a high corner while minister surround them in kneeling postures. The interior walls are lined with over 1,000 relief slabs showing scenes from the Jataka stories as well as ordinary people in daily life such as dancers, wrestlers and musicians.
**HIV virus returns in two “cured” patients**

WASHINGTON, 7 Dec — Two patients previously thought to be “cured” of HIV after undergoing bone marrow transplants are now seeing the return of the virus in their blood, US doctors said on Friday.

Timothy Henrich, a physician-researcher at the Boston Brigham and Women’s Hospital, said the emergence of the virus demonstrates that HIV reservoirs, latent cells carrying the virus, are “deeper and more persistent” than scientists had realized. “The return of detectable levels of HIV in our patients is disappointing, but scientifically significant,” Henrich said in a statement emailed to Xinhua.

“Through this research, we have discovered that our current standards of probing for HIV may not be sufficient to inform us if long-term HIV remission is possible if antiretroviral therapy is stopped,” he said. The two HIV-positive patients, who do not want to be identified, received bone marrow transplants as part of treatment for Hodgkin’s lymphoma, a cancer of the blood, respectively in 2008 and in 2010. In both patients, HIV became undetectable approximately eight months after transplant, and in the spring of this year they agreed to cease antiretroviral therapy to test whether the transplant had eliminated the virus from their bodies. In July, the researchers announced that the two patients have shown no signs of HIV after they were off antiretroviral therapy for 15 weeks and seven weeks, respectively. But in August, the researchers detected HIV in one of the patients, who then resumed taking medication. The other opted to stay off the medicine for another 32 weeks with no HIV detected, signs of the virus reemerged and the patient also resumed antiretroviral therapy.

“Should point out that we were always very careful to say that we were not claiming that our patients were cured, and that we would only know with long-term follow-up the extent to which their viral reservoirs were reduced by stem cell transplantation,” Daniel Kuritzkes, a professor at Harvard Medical School working at the hospital, said in an email to Xinhua. The researchers said the findings can help scientists better understand how and where the virus persists, and the potential role of the immune system in clearing cells that silently harbor HIV.

“As it turned out, there must have been virus that still persisted in tissues or somewhere that we could not easily sample,” Kuritzkes said, adding that the reoccurring virus might come from such a location. According to the researchers, both patients are currently doing well on antiretroviral therapy. “We have a lot more work to do in terms of analyzing samples we have collected from the patients and hope to make a more complete report...soon,” Kuritzkes said. The researchers first presented the preliminary findings Thursday at an international conference of AIDS researchers in Florida. Henrich told the Boston Globe that they decided to release the results before analyzing all the data, so others in the field could know as soon as possible. “We felt it would be scientifically unfair to not let people know how things are going, especially for potential patients,” Henrich was quoted as saying. —Xinhua

**Volvo Cars posts strong growth in China**

STOCKHOLM, 7 Dec — Volvo Cars’ retail sales in China rocketed by 69.4 percent in November compared to the same month last year, while its global sales was up by 5.8 percent, posted Volvo Car Group on Thursday in a statement. The total global sales of Volvo Cars amounted to 37,945 cars in November, making it the fifth consecutive month with sales growth, according to the statement of the group.

“July was our third month in a row as the number one market in China. The accumulated sales in November this year were 5,995 cars were sold in China, creating a new record as an all-time high sales result for a single month. The European market also contributed the strong growth, boosted by positive developments in several markets such as Spain and Italy while the Netherlands continued to represent the majority of European growth. Furthermore, in the home market Volvo Cars strengthened its leadership in Sweden, reporting significant growth on a declining market, said the statement.

“We have now reported global growth during five consecutive months and we are also showing year-to-date growth versus last year,” said Alan Visser, Senior Vice President Marketing, Sales and Customer Relations at Volvo Cars. Sweden and China are very strong, Europe shows a positive trend and in the US we now have the right tools to get back on track,” Visser added. Volvo Cars’ best-selling model of November in China was Volvo XC60 with 2,673 cars sold, which was also a record.

**UK has a first-class investment environment: Huawei UK CEO**

BRISTOL, 7 Dec — David Cameron, UK Prime Minister concluded a three-day trip to China, in which he hosted a series of meetings to discuss Sino-UK economic and trade conditions. In response, Huawei, a leading global information and communications technology (ICT) provider, has commented on its ongoing commitment to the UK and Europe. The trip, in which Mr Cameron hosted the Annual Prime Minister’s China-UK Meeting together with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, marked a significant step in solidifying trade relations between the UK and China, where Mr Cameron commented that, “the UK will be China’s biggest advocate in the West.”

The delegation comprised more than 130 elite British business representatives, making it the largest ever trade delegation to China, including VICTOR Zhang, CEO of Huawei UK. Mr Zhang said that Huawei has achieved encouraging growth and success in the UK, which in part is attributable to the UK's approach to foreign investment and providing a welcoming trade environment in which Sino-UK economic and trade relations continue to grow and develop. Mr Zhang highlighted the UK as home to an outstanding pool of talent and a hub for world-leading business services. “London is one of the world’s most well-established strategic finance hubs, and one in which Huawei has based its global Finance Risk Control Centre (F RCC),” said Mr Zhang.

“As a renowned and influential design hub, it is also an extremely conducive environment for innovation. In partnership with leading British design institutions, Huawei’s London-based global device design centre will guide design concepts for our flagship smartphones and devices.”

In June 2013, Huawei expanded its existing UK operations with the opening of a new UK headquarters in Reading. —Xinhua
Fans sing the national anthem as Myanmar State Flag hoist after Myanmar men’s Chinlone team wins gold medal at Wunna Theikdhi Indoor Stadium on 7 Dec. 2013. Photo by Aye Min Soe

Myanmar men’s Chinlone players sing the national anthem along with Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and Union Sports Minister U Tint Hsan at Wunna Theikdhi Indoor Stadium on 7 Dec. 2013. Photo by Aye Min Soe

Myanmar rowers do intensive training at Ngalike Dam on 7 Dec. 2013. Photo by Aye Min Soe

Myanmar school children wave miniature flags as they watch final match of Chinlone between Myanmar and Laos at Wunna Theikdhi Indoor Stadium on 7 Dec, 2013. Photo by Aye Min Soe

Nyein Chan Ko participates in Taijiquan event at Wunna Theikdhi Indoor Stadium on 7 Dec. 2013.—Photo by Thura (Toungoo)

Myanmar fans enjoy final match of Chinlone between Myanmar and Laos at Wunna Theikdhi Indoor Stadium on 7 Dec. 2013.—Photo by Aye Min Soe
Athletes Village ready...

(Continued from page 1)

When the population of the village swells to 2,400 in about a week, Aung Sithu Soe knows his staff will be put to the test. The first shift will start work at 3:30 a.m. and the last of the kitchen staff will be done around 10 p.m.

As he looked around the room, Aung Sithu Soe thought about what almost anyone would consider an insurmountable task. “We have to feed 12,000 volunteers for the Opening Ceremony - 12,000 people. It will be crazy busy here then. But so far no complaints.”

And you can rest assured if there are any complaints, action will be promptly taken. “We’re ready,” said Aung Sithu Soe.

Thai, Malaysian sports contingents arrive in Nay Pyi Taw

One of Thai athletes gives answer to interviewers at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.

The remaining sports contingents of other ASEAN countries will arrive in Nay Pyi Taw International Airport soon, said a staff officer of the Ministry of Sports. By Ko Myo Shwe Paukkan

Myanmar canoeing rowers ready to paint rosy picture of their history

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The remaining sports contingents of other ASEAN countries will arrive in Nay Pyi Taw International Airport soon, said a staff officer of the Ministry of Sports. By Ko Myo Shwe Paukkan
Beautiful game, wonderful Myanmar

With first two SEA Games gold medals brought about by national Chinlone teams, Myanmar sports fans are in a conciliatory mood at the start of the biggest regional sporting event. SEA Games heartbeat has quickened as Chinlone success has inspired other athletes and helped boost their morale. The sports festival that returns to Myanmar’s soil after a 44-year wait will be a showcase of youth’s talents. Moreover, it is also a great opportunity to make the world know that Myanmar is wonderful through this beautiful game.

Myanmar is finally ready to host the sports meet in which athletes of the 10-nation bloc and Timor-Leste will partake in 33 sports events and journalists at home and abroad come in flocks to have sports converge. The stories about the SEA Games will dominate regional media coverage. Live television coverage of the games on major sporting events, especially football that can draw the most public attention, will reach every nook and corner not only in the region but also around the world.

So, we all have to know that the world will be watching how our players and fans see the sports. They will judge whether we can act fair and square and how much of warmth and friendliness we can give and good discipline and manners we have both in the pitch and on the seats.

It is impossible to whitewash rivals but it is no doubt to win cheers of encouragement from our own people in each and every competition. A huge cheer is a must to reinforce a belief that the home team wins 60 per cent of all games. Only when we throw a great cheer, that acts as a motivator for better performance, for our national teams, will the home field advantage become real. Here one thing to keep in mind about the games is that we could achieve our SEA Games success only by concluding it in a smarter way, rather than toppling in the medal tally.

Moreover, it is a good time for us to score a good mark that Myanmar is markedly capable of holding the Games prior to the next challenge, ASEAN Summit. So, the onus is on us all to say proudly that “we can do it”, showing the world that it is a beautiful game of wonderful Myanmar.

The New Light of Myanmar interviews IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde

Q: What is the purpose of your visit to Myanmar?
A: In so many ways, all roads lead to Asia. Fifty years ago, the emerging markets and developing economies accounted for about a quarter of world GDP. Today, it is half, and rising rapidly—very likely to two-thirds of global GDP within the next decade. This shift—unprecedented in scale and speed—is being driven by Asia. By some estimates, developing Asia alone will account for half of global GDP by 2050.

I truly believe that the IMF’s role in Myanmar typifies the new Fund. A Fund that engages in long-term, mutually beneficial partnerships with its members. A Fund that helps countries integrate with each other, find the resources to invest in the future of their people that includes all elements of socio-economic. That is the key reason I am here: to cement our partnership and to hear from the Myanmar government and people what the Fund can do to help Myanmar become a vibrant part of New Asia.

Q: Myanmar is now chair of ASEAN, what can regional cooperation do to help Myanmar and regional economic prospects?
A: For Myanmar, regional integration represents a perfect opportunity for growth and poverty reduction. Its geographical position and young, competitive labor force will enable it to take advantage of trade integration by exporting to neighboring countries. Growing financial integration will allow Myanmar’s infant financial sector to benefit from the skills and savings of its neighboring countries to finance the industries and Jessie Aligaga of the Philippines advanced to the semi-finals in men’s 48 kg competition, Phithak Paokratkoh of Thailand and Harba Sibuea from Indonesia went to the semi-finals in men’s 52 kg event and Khamlia Sou Khaphone of Laos, Francisco Soliks of the Philippines, Tom Suepsang of Thailand and Van Cao Hoang of Vietnam proceeded to the semi-finals in men’s 56 kg contest.

The competitions will continue tomorrow. —MNA

IMF never stopped supporting Myanmar.

The Fund never stopped working with Myanmar. We are a long-term partner and look forward to supporting Myanmar’s bold and exciting economic and political transition. —NLM
Myanmar dominates ...
(from page 1)

Myanmar stood first, scoring 9.64 points in the men’s two-person Duilou event held at Wunna Theikdhi Indoor Stadium, here, followed by Filipino athletes whose score of the event was 9.62 and Thai athletes whose scores of the event were 9.60.

Aung Sithu of Myanmar bagged one gold medal, scoring 9.70 in the men’s Changquan competition of Wushu Taolu event while Indonesian and Vietnamese athlete took home silver and bronze medals, scoring 9.69 and 9.68 respectively.

Sandi Oo of Myanmar picked up first silver medal for home, scoring 9.69 in the women’s Jian event. Two Malaysian Wushu athletes took home the first gold medal and one more bronze from the women’s Nanquan competition of Wushu Taolu event while Vietnam won silver of the event. Myanmar Wushu athletes were narrowly missing out on a medal of this competition.

Winners of men’s and women’s Taijiquan competitions of Wushu Taolu event will emerge after the two-day event. Nyein Chan Ko Ko and Wai Mar Tun

Myanmar, France to cooperate in development of media and film industry

YANGON, 7 Dec—Ministry of Information of Myanmar and Ministry of Culture and Communication of France signed an agreement on mutual cooperation in management of media and film industry at Chatrium Hotel here this afternoon.

It was attended by Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi and Minister for Culture and Communication of France Ms Aure’ Lie FILIPPETTI, France Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Thierry MATHOU and officials.

The French Minister said signing a deal is a crucial step toward the development of Myanmar’s media and film industry. It is a fruitful result coming out from the cooperation project that has started last two years.

Thanks to a series of reforms, Myanmar is currently on the right track towards massive development. Especially, Myanmar people are enjoying the freedom of speech to a greater extent. France is ready to offer technical assistance by France experts for development of printing industries in Myanmar, she added.

Union Minister U Aung Kyi expressed thanks for France’s assistance. A meeting on development of media and film industry was held with the France Ambassador in October last year. Myanmar could overcome and is dealing with enormous difficulties and challenges faced in its democratization process. He welcomed France’s aids for development of film industry. Myanmar would make close cooperation with France in the future, he reaffirmed.

Afterwards, both ministers signed the agreement and exchanged the notes and posed for a documentary photo.

The two-year long deal includes eight articles: exchange and the transfer of technical expertise, training, media law and monitoring system, distribution of programmes, TV channels broadcasting, setting up of film industry, cash assistance for film production and cash assistance from World Cinema Support Fund for joint film production between Myanmar and France.

Under the deal, both sides are to make cooperation for development of media and film industry. Officials replied to the queries raised by the media.

A slight earthquake hit Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Dec—A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.8 Richter Scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar (Andaman Islands, India) about 410 miles southwest of Kaba Aye seismological observatory was recorded at 07 hrs 36 min 39 sec M.S.T today, announced the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.
**M'yeik, 7 Dec—**

Jointly organized by M'yeik Township Immigration and National Registration Department and M'yeik District Information and Public Relations Department, talks on population, households and taking census was held in conjunction with the raising reading habit of people at M'yiing Ward administrative office in M'yeik Township of Taninthai Region, on 5 December afternoon.

Head of Township INRD U Nay Lin explained matters related to taking census and its aims, needs of correct facts and advantages for the people.

Staff Officer Daw Hla Hla Htay of M'yeik District IPRD briefed the attendees on free borrowing of books at the M'yeik District Library, and free WiFi Internet services to readers.

Knowledge on population, households, taking census disseminated

**Regional development tasks discussed in Monghsat Township**

MONGHSAT, 7 Dec—

Speaker of Shan State Hluttaw U Sai Lon together with Pyithu Hluttaw representatives U Soe Naing and U U Tin Nyunt, Shan State Minister for Lahu National Races Affairs U Shwe Hlaing, Shan State Minister for Akha National Races Affairs U Peter Thaung Sein, Shan State Minister for Development Affairs U Win Hsan, Shan State Minister for Development Supportive Committee U Sai Chit Thaung and Chairman of District Management Committee U Khin Maung Ch kep reported on development tasks.

The Speaker and officials attended to the needs. Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Soe Naing made a concluding speech.

Kyemon-Zaw Win Myint

Five suspects arrested in Hlinethaya, Shwepyitha Tsp's

YANGON, 7 Dec—

Five snatchers were arrested in Hlinethaya and Shwepyitha townships on 4 December.

Members of No 3 Security Company of Yangon Region Police Force at 5.20 am on 4 December discharged duty of arresting snatchers. They put suspects Min Min, son of U Po Haung, San Win, son of U Kyaw Than and Kyi Khaing, son of U Than Tun of Ward 20 in Hlinethaya Township, who stepped down from the bus of No 79th line at Tadaphyu Bus Stop on Nyuangdon Street in Hlinethaya Township.

They searched and seized K 11000 from San Win. The suspects confessed that Min Min and Kyi Khaing covered the view of a man on board while San Win snatched money from the man.

Hlinethaya Myoma Police Station opened files of lawsuit against them under the law.

Likewise, the squad members interrogated suspects Tun Tun (a) Shwe Ah, son of U Maung Lwin of Myangtihat Village of Hma wby Township and Than Htwe (a) Kalar, son of U Tin Nyunt of Bawle Village in H snhabin Township who got down from the bus of No 81st line at Hnuchaukpin Village of Shwepyitha Township at 10.50 am the same day.

The police seized K 9000 from Tun Tun (a) Shwe Ah. According to their confessions, they snatched money from a man on board.

Shwepyitha Myoma Police Station opened files of lawsuit against the two under the law.

Kyemon-Soe Win

**Women’s Affairs**

**Membership applications submitted for Prevention of Violence against Women**

YANGON, 7 Dec—

South Okkalapa Township Women’s Affairs Organization of Yangon East District organized the ceremony to submit membership applications to the Prevention of Violence against Women and Anti-Human Trafficking Association at the garment factory in South Okkalapa Township recently.

It was attended by Chairperson of Yangon Region Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Thaung Mya, Chairperson of Yangon East District Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Mo Thu Tint and party, Chairperson of Township WAO Daw Khin Thida and party and female workers from the garment factory.

Chairperson of Region WAO Daw Thaung Mya made a speech.

Township Law Officer writer Kyu Kyu Thin and Police Major Ro Lwin of Region Anti-Human Trafficking Squad gave lectures on prevention of violence against women and anti-human trafficking. Responsible persons presented 500 membership applications to the Chairperson of Region WAO.

Kyemon-Zaw Win Myint

**Crime**

Police expose stimulant tablet traffickers in Myawady

MYAWADY, 7 Dec—

In accord with the instruction of the Commander of Kayin State Police Force, the police arrested a suspect trafficking narcotic drugs on 4th Pyithaya Street in Ward 4 of Myawady on 2 December.

A squad led by SIP Kyaw Soe of Myawady Police Station, acting on tip-off, together with witnesses discharged duty on 4th Pyithaya Street. When a suspect woman arrived there, Police Sgt Mya Mya Wai and police investigated the suspect.

Under interrogation, it was reported that the suspect woman was Daw Mi Nge, 48, daughter of U Tin Nyunt, who sold the tablets at K 2000 each to her house. So, she bought them to be sold at K 3000 per tablet.

A squad of Myawady Myoma Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against her under Sections 15/19(a) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

The police make efforts to arrest the related suspect persons.—Kyemon-Tun Tun Htwe (Hpa-an)
Thai premier cancels attendance at ASEAN-Japan Summit

BANGKOK, 7 Dec — Thai Prime Minis- ter Yingluck Shinawatra has cancelled her plan to visit Tokyo next week for the ASEAN-Japan Sum- mit, as well as other trips planned for December, due to political uncertain- ty at home, a Thai govern- ment spokesman said on Friday.

Teerat Ratanasevi told a Press conference that Yingluck decided against visiting Russia on 8-9 Decem- ber and attending the 12-15 December ASE-AN-Japan Summit because antigovernment rallies in Bangkok are continuing.

He said the Russia visit has been postponed, while Thailand will be represent- ed at the ASEAN-Japan Summit by Deputy Prime Minister and Commerce Minister Niwatthamrong Boonsongpaisan.

Yingluck had also been scheduled to attend the opening ceremony of Southeast Asian Games in Myanmar on 11 Decem- ber, but has assigned the concerned minister to at- tend instead, according to Teerat.

Kyodo News

Indonesian volcano erupts again

JAKARTA, 7 Dec — Powerful bursts of hot ash and gravel have erupted twice from one of Indonesia’s most active volcano, Mount Sinabung North Sumatra, on Friday, official said here.

The eruptions belch the ash up to 1,500 meters high and the seismic activ- ity of the volcano in Karo district remained high, di- minishing hope for 17,094 trapped people as they are awaiting evacuation.

Indonesia has raised its alert level to 4, the highest on a five-point scale.

Indonesia has been on red alert since the national volcanology agency has raised threat level of the volcano last month and extended evacuation zone to 5 km from 3 km earlier.

Indonesia has issued a warning to international and domestic flights to re- route pathway near Mount. Sinabung since it erupted, with the biggest one on 18 November.

The 2,475-metre high Mount Sinabung first rum- bled back to life in September, but now I am going to study more about him because his poems and works are heart-touching,” said Ramesh Maharjan, a student at the exhibition.

Organized by the Devkota-Lu Xun Academy, the exhibition aims to intro- duce Chinese literature and culture to the Nepali peo- ple, tapping the language barrier. At the exhibition, all the works of Lu Xun have been either translated to Nepali or English. His works have been translated to Nepali by Shan- ta Das Manandhar, who was also honored at the exhibi- tion.

Devkota-Lu Xun Acad- emy is a literary and cultural organization, founded by a group of writer, critics, trans- lators, artists, researchers, media personnel and cultural activists in order to foster li- terary and cultural exchanges between Nepal and China.

The name of the Acad- emy is derived from Laxmi Prasad Devkota and Lu Xun the best known writers from Nepal and China.

Nimi Chapagain, chair- man of the academy, told Xinhua that the sole objective of the academy is to promote the exchange of literature of the two countries and spread it to the masses.

Devkota is famous for his work “Madan Madan” which is based on the life of Nepali workers who had left home to work in Lhasa.

The second Sea Festi- val was co-organized by the Ministry of Tourism in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, the National Olympic Committee of Cambodia, Kap City House and tourism-related business operators.

Exhibition on Chinese modern writer Lu Xun opens in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 7 Dec — In a bid to promote the life and works of famous modern Chinese writer and poet Lu Xun, a two-day exhibition dedicated to him kicked off here on Friday.

The exhibition is drawing a large number of students and admirers of his work. “I never knew Lu Xun until today, but now I am tough bargaining in the area of market access, one of the most controversial fields, with many of the TPP mem- bers piling pressure on the country to remove tariffs on farm products that Tokyo is seeking to protect.

The ministers may hold a Press conference on Tues- day, but most of the sched- ule for the session has not been disclosed and all ne- gotiations will be held be- hind closed doors, fueling criticism that the free trade talks lack transparency.

A negotiation source said earlier that the 12 coun- tries may issue some sort of statement after wrapping up the session, but the details of the agreements may be kept secret for some time to avoid a backlash from vari- ous stakeholders.

If a TPP deal is suc- cessfully concluded, the outcome would be a free trade zone encompassing countries that together account for roughly 40 percent of gross domestic product and one third of all world trade, at a time when China, which is not involved in the TPP talks, is increasing its global presence.

Kyodo News

US Vice President Joe Biden (L) and South Korean President Park Geun Hye shake hands before holding talks at the Blue House in Seoul on 6 Dec, 2013.

Crucial TPP session set to begin Saturday in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 7 Dec — Ministers from the 12 Pacific Rim countries involved in the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade talks will begin a crucial session of negotiations on Saturday afternoon in Singapore, as they make last-minute ef- forts to reach a basic agree- ment by year-end.

The ministers will seek political solutions for con- troversial issues including tariffs, intellectual property rights and reform of state- owned companies at the gathering.

It remains highly un- certain whether all of the remaining problems will be solved during the four days of talks, which are expected to provide the last opportu- nity for the TPP members to achieve their goal of concluding the nearly four years of negotiations by the end of December.

Akira Amari, Japan’s minist- er of charge of TPP negoti- ations, will be absent from the session after an- nouncing on Thursday that he has been diagnosed with tongue cancer. Japan is in- stead sending Yasuhiro Ni- shimura, senior vice minis- ter of the Cabinet Office.

Japan will likely face
Irish lenders required to offer solutions to 75 pct of arrears cases by June

Dublin, 7 Dec — Banks are required to offer sustainable solutions to 75 percent of customers in mortgage arrears by the end of June 2014, Ireland’s Central Bank said on Thursday.

Under new targets set out by the country’s Central Bank, it said it wanted solutions to be offered in at least 35 percent of cases where customers are in arrears of 90 days or more by the same date.

The Central Bank had previously required banks to propose sustainable mortgage solutions for 30 percent of customers in arrears over 90 days by the end of September and last month confirmed that this had been met.

Banks are required to propose sustainable solutions to 50 percent of cases by the end of the year.

The Central Bank said the new target was in line with the EU/IMF bailout programme and was responsible for the arrears.

New York, 7 Dec — Ronnie Smith, the American teacher shot dead by gunmen in Libya, was remembered on Friday by his students and friends at the International School Benghazi, which he attended.

It was not always sunshine and lollipops, but he was so helpful and caring. He was just all around perfect, Ababaker Tahar, 16, one of Smith’s students at the International School Benghazi, told Reuters via Twitter.

He was one of a number of students who took to social media to share their grief for a teacher they described as trying to push them to make Libya a better place.

Smith attended Woods-Tower High School in Warren, Michigan, and earned a master’s degree in chemistry from the University of Texas in 2006. He was a devout Christian who was a member of the Austin Stone Community Church, which aims to have its followers do good works in the places where they live.

“It was not always sunshine and lollipops, but God’s hand was always leading me and He brought me to where I am today,” he had written on his page at the church’s website.

One of his friends, Logan Gentry, told the Los Angeles Times in an email interview that Smith was aware of the heightened violence in Libya but he was not afraid.—Reuters

Severe storm hits southern Sweden

Stockholm, 7 Dec — A severe storm hit southern Sweden on Thursday and has cut transport and power in the region, local media reported.

Power in about 20,000 families in southern Sweden has been cut off by Storm Xaver, called Sven in Sweden, which could be the worst to hit Europe in years.

“We are sorry to say that many families will have to go without electricity for the whole night,” Jakob Holmstrom, communications officer from the local electricity company, was quoted as saying by the Swedish Television SVT.

He added that repairs might not start until Friday morning.

Meanwhile, trains and buses were all suspended in the southern part Skane on Thursday night. The railway and road traffic on the bridge connecting Sweden with Denmark were also blocked, according to media reports.

Residents in the area were suggested to avoid going out unless it was absolutely necessary.—Xinhua

Next stage of World Cup ticket sales starts on Sunday

Costa Do Sauipe, 7 Dec — The next stage of World Cup ticket sales begins on 8 December with all games available except the opening match between hosts Brazil and Croatia in Sao Paulo and the final at the Maracana. The ticketing window open at 1200 CET (1100 GMT) on Sunday and closes at 1200 CET on 30 January 2014, FIFA said on Friday in a statement. Tickets are available at www.FIFA.com/tickets.

Close to 1.1 million tickets were sold in the first sales phase in November, mostly to Brazilians, with Americans, Australians, Argentinians, and the English among the keenest international fans looking for seats at next year’s tournament. With Friday’s draw having decided the groups, supporters can now request tickets for specific matches. Soccer’s world governing body is also selling tickets reserved for each set of fans, with 16 percent of those available going to followers of the two competing teams. Known as PMA tickets they can only be bought by supporters living in the competing countries and must be purchased through a separate national link on FIFA’s ticketing page.

“These PMA tickets will be sold via a special link accessible either from FIFA.com/tickets or from the respective team page in the FIFA World Cup section on FIFA.com,” the governing body said in a statement. “It is important to note that each PMA can decide to only allow their fan club members to get access to these specific supporter tickets. This will be the case for England, for example.”—Reuters

Mega Millions jackpot swells to $297 million

New York, 7 Dec — After two straight weeks with no winner, the Mega Millions on Friday night jackpot topped expectations and jumped to $297 million, with a cash option of $158 million.

The winning numbers from Friday night’s drawing were; 11, 29, 44, 63, 64 and 3. Mega Millions said there was no immediate word on whether a winning ticket was sold.

The largest haul in history was $656 million, won in March 2012 and split between three winning ticket holders in Kansas, Illinois and Maryland.

More recently, an anonymous ticket holder in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, won $189 million on 1 October, according to the lottery’s website, www.megamillions.com.

The increase in prize values is partly because of rule changes that lottery officials instituted in 22 October, aimed at creating bigger and faster-growing jackpots.—Reuter

Photo taken on 17 May, 2012 shows a giant rosewood abacus at an abacus museum in Nantong, east China’s Jiangsu Province. The traditional use of the abacus for calculating in China was newly added to the list of the World’s Intangible Cultural Heritage, announced the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on 4 Dec.—Xinhua

Fireworks explode during the 29th annual Christmas Lights Across Canada Illumination Ceremony on 5 Dec, 2013 at Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Canada. Hundreds of people gathered at Parliament Hill to listen to choir performances, roast marshmallows and watch fireworks during the ceremony.—Xinhua

Image 282x800 to 632x1000

US teacher killed Libya remembered as force for change

New York, 7 Dec — Ronnie Smith, the American teacher shot dead by gunmen in Libya, was remembered on Friday by his students and friends as an inspirational figure making a difference in the troubled North African country.

Smith was gunned down on Thursday as he was exercising in the Libyan city of Benghazi where he worked as a chemistry teacher for the last year and a half, security sources and school officials said. It was not immediately clear who was responsible for the attack.

“He was just always so helpful and caring. He was just all around perfect,” Ababaker Tahar, 16, one of Smith’s students at the International School Benghazi, told Reuters via Twitter. He was one of a number of students who took to social media to share their grief for a teacher they described as trying to push them to make Libya a better place.

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One of his friends, Logan Gentry, told the Los Angeles Times in an email interview that Smith was aware of the heightened violence in Libya but he was not afraid.—Reuters

Image 39x322 to 294x499

Irish legislature required to offer solutions to 75 pct of arrears cases by June

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Banks are required to propose sustainable solutions to 50 percent of cases by the end of the year.

The Central Bank said the new target was in line with the EU/IMF bailout and comes just over a week with the EU/IMF bailout new targets set by the end of September and last month confirmed that this had been met.

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Disney secures rights for future 'Indiana Jones' films

LOS ANGELES, 7 Dec — Walt Disney Co has gained marketing and distribution rights for any future “Indiana Jones” films under an agreement with Paramount Pictures, the studio that released the first four movies in the blockbuster franchise.

Paramount, a unit of Viacom, will retain distribution rights to the original four films, the companies said in a statement on Friday. The “Indiana Jones” movies were produced by Lucasmil, which Disney acquired in 2012.

Disney has not announced plans for a fifth “Indiana Jones” movie, though the new deal could make it easier to move forward on a new installment. Paramount will receive an undisclosed share of the proceeds from any future films.

The series began with 1981 film “Raiders of the Lost Ark” starring Harrison Ford as a hero archaeologist. Ford starred in three later films, most recently “Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull” in 2008. Steven Spielberg directed each of the four movies, which have grossed $1.9 billion worldwide, according to Box Office Mojo.

Guitar used by Bob Dylan to ‘go electric’ sets auction record

Singer Bob Dylan performs during a segment honouring Director Martin Scorsese, recipient of the Music Film Award, at the 17th Annual Critics’ Choice Movie Awards in Los Angeles on 12 Jan, 2012.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 7 Dec — The electric guitar Bob Dylan played at the 1965 Newport Folk Festival, when the acoustic troubadour shocked traditionalists with a set of rock and roll, sold for $965,000 on Friday, a world auction record for a guitar, Christie’s said. The 1964 Fender Stratocaster, along with five song lyrics left on a private airplane by the songwriter and his band in the months after the Rhode Island festival, were part of six lots in a special sale of Dylan material in New York.

“A tremendous amount of international interest was generated at the time of the sale’s announcement, and today’s result justifies the mythic status of this guitar in the annals of music history,” Tom Locky, a specialist at Christie’s, said in a statement. An absentee bidder bought the Fender Stratocaster with a classic sunburst finish, its original case and black leather guitar strap for nearly double its high pre-sale estimate. The previous auction record for the guitar was for Eric Clapton’s Fender Stratocaster, which fetched $595,000 in 2004. Only one of the five lyric sheets sold for $20,000, bringing the auction total to $985,000. That was a handwritten and typed version of 1965’s “I Wanna Be Your Lover.”

Friday’s sale came just a day after rocker Bruce Springsteen’s 1974 handwritten draft for “Born to Run” went for $197,000 in New York. Rolling Stone magazine has cited Dylan’s performance at the Newport festival as one of the most notable events in music history, according to Christie’s. “I did this very crazy thing,” Dylan, who was 24, said at the time. “I didn’t know what was going to happen, but they certainly boomed. I’ll tell you that.” Dylan, one of rock’s most influential songwriters, wrote and sang “Blowin’ in the Wind.” “Like a Rolling Stone,” “Mr. Tambourine Man” and the 2001 Oscar-winning “Things Have Changed.” He also used the guitar in 1965 for recording sessions for the album “Bringing It All Back Home.”

The guitar and lyrics, which were found in the guitar case, were authenticated and put up for sale by the daughter of Vic Quinto, a New Jersey-based commercial pilot who had been hired by Dylan’s manager to fly his artists. Dylan had claimed ownership of the guitar in 2012 and was ruled in a legal dispute with Quinto’s daughter, Dawn Peterson, after she brought it to the attention of the television show public television show “History Detectives,” which authenticated it. Christie's said the ownership dispute had been settled. No details were available.

“Dylan’s representatives were aware of the auction and did not contest it,” a spokesperson for Christie’s said. Dylan, who was greeted by early folk fans with cries of “Judas!” at some of his early electric rock shows in the 1960s, is still generating headlines at 72. He was awarded France’s prestigious Legion d’Honneur award last month in Paris, but is now being investigated there after a Croatian community organization in France filed a legal complaint alleging that comments he made to Rolling Stone magazine last year violated French racial hatred laws. Neither the singer nor Rolling Stone issued any comment on the investigation.—Reuters

Jay Z leads Grammy nominees, Timberlake snubbed in top categories

LOS ANGELES, 7 Dec— Rapper Jay Z led all artists with nine Grammy nominations on Friday, but four comedors Lorde, Kendrick Lamar, and Macklemore & Ryan Lewis edged out industry heavyweights for nods in the top categories of the annual music awards.

Jay Z picked up nominations across nine categories in the pop and rap categories, including best pop duo performance for “Suit & Tie” with Justin Timberlake, and best album for his July release, “Magna Carta...Holy Grail.” But the 44-year-old Brooklyn, New York-born rapper failed to land solo nods in the top Grammy categories for record, song and album of the year, scoring only one as a producer on Lamar’s “Good Kid, M.A.A.D City” record, nominated in the album of the year category.

Lamar’s album will face off against Sara Bareilles’ “The Blessed Unrest,” French electro-dance duo Daft Punk’s “Random Access Memories,” Taylor Swift’s “Red” and Macklemore & Ryan Lewis’ “The Heist” for album of the year. Timberlake, 32, who made a return to the musical spotlight this year after a five-year hiatus with the two-part release of “The 20/20 Experience,” picked up seven nominations across the pop, R&B and rap categories, but also failed to make the top three categories.

The Grammy Awards are the music industry’s top accolades and are voted on by members of the Recording Academy for more than 80 categories spanning all genres. To be eligible for nominations this year, artists had to release their music between 1 October, 2012, and 30 Sept, 2013. The winners will be announced on 26 January at a live televised ceremony in Los Angeles. —Reuters

Don’t want my head chopped off: Uday Chopra on Rani-Aditya’s relationship

MUMBAI, 7 Dec — Actor Uday Chopra has refused to get drawn into the grapevine about the relationship between his elder brother Aditya Chopra and actress Rani Mukherjee and said he would prefer to keep his head intact.

The actress is allegedly in a serious relationship with the filmmaker and is always seen with the Yash Raj family through thick and thin.

On whether she would officially enter the Chopra family, Uday said, “I don’t like to comment on that. I have no intentions of getting my head chopped off.” Even as Rani and Aditya have kept the town guessing about their relationship, actor-politician Shatrughan Sinha had addressed the actress as “Rani Chopra” at an event earlier this year setting the rumour mills abuzz about a secret marriage. The 35-year-old star has been part of films like Mujhse Dosti Karoge, Saathiya, Hum Tum, Veer-Zaara, Bunty Aur Babli, Ta Ra Rum Pum, Laaga Chunari Mein Daag, Thoda Pyaar Thoda Magic, Dil Bole Hadippa which were produced either by Yash Chopra or his son Aditya or both. Rani and Uday shared screen space in Mujhse Dosti Karoge which was her first film with the YRF banner. “I have known Rani since years and I have worked with her in Mujhse Dosti Karoge. I was opposite her in that film. She is a great person. It is great to have her around. She is a family friend and a great support,” Uday said.—PTI

Rani and Uday shared screen space in Mujhse Dosti Karoge.—PTI
**World Cup dream: what the coaches said**

It’s been a long time since Colombia has been in a World Cup and we do our part. We performed well in the qualifiers but that is now in the past. Anything can happen in the group phase so we have to be careful.” — Paulo Bento (Portugal)

“An interesting group,” said Wilmots. “There are no world-class players within our opponents. I’m sure that, if you ask the coaches of Italy and England they will also tell you that they are not overly happy about having to play Uruguay.” — Cesare Prandelli (Italy)

“Two teams with a tough group,” said Mourinho. “We have to study every detail from an individual and collective viewpoint.” — Jose Pekerman (Colombia)

**Lakers’ Bryant to make injury comeback on Sunday**

**THOUSANDS FAK, (California) 7 Dec — Kobe Bryant will make his long-awaited return from injury for the Los Angeles Lakers on Sunday at home to the Toronto Raptors, the shooting guard said on his Facebook account on Friday. The 35-year-old posted a two-minute video link that showed his “No 24” jersey fluttering through sunshine, clouds, wind, rain, snow and lightning, then being torn down the middle before being repaired by a beam of light.

Preceded by the inscription: “Seasons of Legend. Lakers announce Kobe’s return”, the video segment ended by flashing the words: “The Legend Continues….” — Reuters

**CSKA Moscow’s head coach Ettore Messina reacts during their Euroleague Basketball Final Four third place game against Barcelona at the O2 Arena in London on 12 May, 2013.** — Reuters

Elsewhere, Istanbul rivals Galatasaray sealed a Top 16 berth with a 78-70 home win over Unicaja Malaga. Panathinaikos, who have also lifted Europe’s premier club trophy six times, joined Galatasaray in the second group stage with a 79-63 victory over Lietuvos Rytas Vilnius. Having lost to Fenerbahce by 26 points in the reverse fixture, CSKA came out looking for revenge and were superior long-range artillery as the visitors nelled 12 three-pointers while the Russian giants managed only half as many.

“We are where we should have been one month ago but if we keep working hard hopefully we will hit top form some time soon,” CSKA coach Ettore Messina told www.euroleague.net after seeing his team suffer a third defeat. Messina’s counter-part Zeljko Obradovic said: “This is still the beginning of the tournament. The Top 16 is ahead and anything can happen. I asked my players to forget the first encounter with CSKA and showed character.”

Panathinaikos came out on top in their dogfight against Red Star thanks to a blistering first-half performance from guard Ramel Curry who finished with a ball that hits somebody and got at least 16 points while forward James Gist added 15. Labo-rut Kuca cruised to their third successive win on the back of 17 points by La-mont Hamilton and 12 from Fernando San Emeterio while former NBA journey- man Carlos Arroyo carried Galatasaray with 22 points and five assists. — Reuters

**Fenerbahce sink CSKA as trio of teams reach Top 16**

CSKA Moscow’s head coach Ettore Messina reacts during their Euroleague Basketball Final Four third place game against Barcelona at the O2 Arena in London on 12 May, 2013. — Reuters

**Belgrade, 7 Dec — Fenerbahce stretched their record in the Euroleague’s preliminary group stage to 7-1 with a 78-74 victory at six-times champions CSKA Moscow on Friday.**

Elsewhere, Istanbul rivals Galatasaray sealed a Top 16 berth with a 78-70 home win over Unicaja Malaga. Panathinaikos, who have also lifted Europe’s premier club trophy six times, joined Galatasaray in the second group stage with a 79-63 victory over Lietuvos Rytas Vilnius. Having lost to Fenerbahce by 26 points in the reverse fixture, CSKA came out looking for revenge and were superior long-range artillery as the visitors nelled 12 three-pointers while the Russian giants managed only half as many.

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**Mourinho not sure about Oscar nomination for Chelsea**

LONDON, 7 Dec — Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho is unsure whether to stick with the attacking trio he lauded after the midweek win at Sunderland or recall his number one playmaker Oscar for Saturday’s tricky Premier League game at Stoke City. Eden Hazard stole the show in the 4-3 victory at Sunderland on Sunday, scoring twice and setting up a goal for Frank Lampard, while Mourinho also spoke glowingly about the contributions of the Belgium’s attacking partners Juan Mata and Willian.

Brazilian Oscar missed the trip after limping off with an ankle injury during Sunday’s 3-1 triumph at home to Southampton but is now ready to return for second-placed Chelsea who are four points adrift of leaders Arsenal. “Oscar is much better and I have to decide whether to play him or not,” Mourinho told a news conference on Friday. The Portuguese is again newly reappointed Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho poses for photographers during a news conference at Stamford Bridge stadium in London on 10 June, 2013. — Reuters

without knee-injury victim David Luiz. Fit-again Samuel Eto’o could take over from Fernando Torres in attack while out-of-favour England left back Ashley Cole may come back in place of Czeslaw Piszczek. “David Luiz is out, I don’t know when I’ll have him back,” said Mourinho.

“Eto’o is fine and back with the group. Tomorow or Wednesday Ashley will play,” added the Chelsea manager referring to the home Champions League game against Steaua Bucha-restd in midweek. “We’ve been analyzing the three goals at Sunderland and we couldn’t find the real mistake. We could find the rebound, the second ball, the ball that hits somebody and goes in the direction of the opponent.” — Reuters

**New Light of Myanmar**

Sunday, 8 December, 2013

SPORTS

14 New Light of Myanmar

7 Dec — Reuters

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Eden Hazard stole the show

League game at Stoke City.

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Joachim Loew (Ger-

man):

Robben and (Robin)

Van Persie.

“J

“In our preparations, we

have to get used to the

humidity and high tempera-

tures. I have already been
to Fortaleza and Recife, where we will

conditions difficult to acclimatize to. We will have to adapt our

preparations.” — Alejandro Sabella (Arg-

tentina)

“It is positive that we didn’t get the Group of Death and we will be playing in

favourite locations like Rio de Janeiro, Porto Alegre and Belo Hor-

zonte. Now I have to start doing my homework and study the rivals. From now on we have to study every detail from an individual and collective viewpoint.” — Jose Pekerman (Colombia)

“I really respect Japan, Cote d’Ivoire and Greece. It’s been a long time since Colombia has been in a World Cup. We will get our part. We performed well in the qualifiers but that is now in the past. Anything can happen in the group phase so we have to be careful.” — Paulo Bento (Portugal)

“It’s an even group, but for me the favourites to top finish are Germany because of their potential and their history. Ghana and the USA are also very organized teams with good individual players with European experience. Our goal is to get through to the round of 16.” — Sebastian Bauza (Uru-

guay, president of football federation)

“That’s obvious that we have a tough group and I don’t think anybody would envy us for the rivals we will be up against. But I’m sure that if you ask the coaches of Italy and England they will also tell you that they are not overly happy about having to play Uruguay.” — Cesare Prandelli (Italy)

“Our target is to win every match we can. If we had drawn three not very good teams everybody would have thought we were favourites, but with me at least we know that Uruguay will have to suffer. We remember the match against England in the (2012) Euros. We played a fantastic match but England is now a different team, a more technical team. In any case, England is the most fascinating match you can imagine in a town like Manaus.” — Ottmar Hitzfeld (Swit-

zerland)

“It’s an interesting group with high level teams that have different styles. France is a very tough opponent but all the teams pose a threat. Now we have to make the most of the time we have to prepare for the conditions that we’re going to face.” — Louis van Gaal (Neder-

lands)

“We have to play the world champion, we have to play Australia who we have never beaten and Chile was 3-0 up recently against Colombia before it ended 3-3, so that is not a weak team. The opponents are tough, but for the playing conditions it is not too bad.” — Luiz Felipe Scolari (Brazil)

“We can’t worry too far ahead past the group stage. If you start thinking about the second round you forget about the teams in the first round, which are important. We have to worry about these teams first.” — Marc Wilmots (Bel-

gium)

“It’s an interesting group,” said Wilmots. “There are no world-class players within our opponents. I’m not saying it will be an easy group, but our first objective is to reach the round of 16 is still the same.” — Roy Hodgson (England)

“We played a fantastic match but England is now a different team, a more technical team. In any case, England’s Italy is the most fascinating match you can imagine in a town like Manaus.” — Ottmar Hitzfeld (Switzerland)
In rainy Washington, Obama lights national Christmas tree

WASHINGTON, 7 Dec —

Braving rain and cold, President Barack Obama and his family ventured across the street from the White House on Friday to preside over the lighting of the US national Christmas tree.

Obama, his wife, daughters Malia (L) and Sasha and First Lady Michelle Obama, after lighting the National Christmas Tree on the Ellipse in Washington on 6 Dec, 2013.—Xinhua

The venue hosting these elite opponents Germany, on Friday they will face as trying for United States Brazil next year may be documented serious human rights abuses committed by the Dozo during their security activities. Farhan Haq, the acting UN deputy spokesman, told reporters here: “According to the investigations, at least 228 people were killed and 164 others injured by bullets, machetes and knives, and 162 people were arbitrarily arrested and illegally detained by Dozo,” Haq said at a daily news briefing here. “In addition, 274 cases of looting, arson and extortion committed by the Dozo have been verified and confirmed.”

Navi Pillay, UN high commissioner for human rights, said the impunity enjoyed by the Dozo was “unacceptable” and “must be stopped.” She also stressed that the authorities had a duty to seriously investigate the human rights abuses and deploy security forces throughout the country to prevent people from using the Dozo for security reasons.—Xinhua

US President Barack Obama applauds as he is joined by daughters Malia (L) and Sasha and First Lady Michelle Obama, after lighting the National Christmas Tree on the Ellipse in Washington on 6 Dec, 2013.—Xinhua

US fans at 2014 World Cup to see a lot of Brazil — from the air

SAO PAULO, 7 Dec —

The World Cup finals in Brazil next year may be as trying for US soccer fans as it is for their team. US players learned on Friday they will face elite opponents Germany, Ghana and Portugal at the start of the tournament. The other bad news for fans? The venues hosting these matches mean long, expensive flights through some of the vast country’s most overcrowded airports.

Far-flung games from the northeastern coast to the Amazon rainforest may force the US team to fly about 9,000 miles in three round-trip flights between the matches and their training facility in Sao Paulo. US coach Jurgen Klinsmann said the itinerary they are stuck with is “the worst of the worst.” Fans will also book some serious mileage if they want to catch the team’s first three games. American demand for early ticket sales was the highest of any country outside Brazil, according to FIFA. Brazil’s outsized airports and restrictions on foreign airlines will only magnify the cost and inconvenience of air travel — the only reasonable option given the distances and the dilapidated roads available.

Two domestic flights between the first three US matches could alone cost $1,000 or more, if travelers snap up the deals that websites offer on Friday. But prices are already climbing. Between Friday morning and afternoon, when it was revealed that highly ranked Germany would play back-to-back in Fortaleza and Recife, the cost of flying between those matches shot upward. Airlines raised prices as much as 30 percent for the cheapest tickets, and over 50 percent for the most popular flight times. Fans face the choice of paying the Dozo for security reasons.—Sinhu

MYANMAR TV

(34.12.2013, Sunday)

1:00 pm
1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
2:25 am
2. Physical Exercises
3:35 am
3. Documentary
6:50 am
4. SEA Games Songs
7:00 am
5. News/Weather Report
7:30 am
6. Talks Show
8:00 am
8:30 am
8. Amazing World
9:00 am
9. Teleplay (SEA Games)
9:30 am
10. Documentary (SEA Games)
9:35 am
11. SEA Games Songs
10:00 am
12. CHINLONE (Thailand & Myanmar) (Preliminary) (Men)
11:00 am
13. Gitadagale
11:50 am
14. SEA Games Songs
12:00 pm
1:00 pm
16. Go For Gold (Basketball)
1:30 pm
17. Documentary (SEA Games)
1:35 pm
18. Road To 27th SEA Games (Weight Lifting)
2:40 pm
19. Documentary (SEA Games)
2:00 pm
20. Sport News/Basketball (Myanmar & Indonesia) (Preliminary) (Women)
3:00 pm
21. Teleplay
3:30 pm
22. SEA Games Songs
3:40 pm
23. Go For Gold (Boxing)
4:00 pm
24. Sport News/Basketball (Cambodia & Myanmar) (Preliminary) (Men)
5:00 pm
25. Sing & Enjoy
6:00 pm
6:30 pm
27. Talks Show
6:45 pm
28. 27th SEA Games Football (Live) (Singapore & Laos) (Men)
7:00 pm
30. Hit Songs Stars
31. Tamayetnar Takwetsar
10:00 pm
32. Talks Show
33. New Melody

The scarcity of affordable flights is a legacy of the Amazonian capital of Manaus, there is only one direct, eight-hour flight per day, run by Gol Linhas Aereas. Rivals’ flights take over 10 hours with at least one layover. The city sits on the far eastern tip of Brazil — closer to Africa than North America — and trav-

el from New York through Sao Paulo or Rio de Janeiro will take 15 hours or more.

From there to the face-off with Portugal, in the Amazonian capital of Manaus, there is only one direct, eight-hour flight per day, run by Gol Linhas Aereas. Rivals’ flights take over 10 hours with at least one layover. The players will decide if that is the end of the road for travel-weary US fans.—Reuters

Aerial view of Cuiaba Airport in extensive renovations on 18 Nov, 2013.—Reuters

Sunday, 8 December, 2013

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Amytha Hluttaw Speaker attends
9th tri-Pitakat recitation ceremony in India

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Dec—A 24-member Myanmar delegation led by Amytha Hluttaw Speaker U. Nyan Tun attended an opening ceremony of the 9th tri-Pitakat recitation at Mahabodhi Temple in Bodh Gaya, India, on 2 December and presented offerings.

The delegation led by the Amytha Hluttaw Speaker paid a goodwill visit to the Republic of India from 2 to 6 December at the invitation of Rajya Sabha Speaker Shri Mohd Hamid Ansari and Lok Sabha Speaker Smt. Meira Kumar. The ceremony was also attended by members of the Sangha from Myanmar, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, China and Nepal led by Organizing Committee Chairman Presiding Sayadaw of Bodh Gaya Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Buddhajotiokadhaja Bhaddanta Naninda, member Sayadawus of the committee, Shan national races, monks of IBTC member countries and laypersons. —See page 8— MNA

SEA Games to showcase Myanmar, ASEAN cultures

YANGON, 7 Dec—The 27th SEA Games opening and closing ceremonies will showcase Myanmar traditional culture and ASEAN countries’ culture on a grand scale, according to Director-General U Yan Naing Oo of Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture.

The showcase includes three sectors—fine arts by the Ministry of Culture, Director Zin Yaw Maung Maung’s script and photo display and technical assistance by China Art and Entertainment Group (CAEG). Altogether 8,000 students across the country are ready to hold a grand scale event for the upcoming SEA Games. —Sagawah

Myanmar rout Cambodia 3-0; Thailand beat Timor-Leste 3-1

Myanmar U-23 football player Zaw Min Tun celebrates victory after scoring goal for Myanmar team. —MNA

YANGON, 7 Dec—Thai U-23 Football team beat Myanmar 3-1 at their opening match of Group B men’s football event of the 27th SEA Games at Thaw Wunna Stadium here this evening.

No (2) Thitiphan and No (10) Pokklaw from Thai U-23 scored twice at four minutes and thirty three minutes for their team in the first half. Although Timor’s No (8) Atit Daosawang from Thai U-23 added one more goal for his team at 50th minute to lead the group.

Timor U-23’s Brazilian coach Emerson substituted some players in the second half and No (23) Jose Carlos equalized only a goal for his team at 67th minute. Myanmar’s Zaw Min Tun scored the opening goal at the 16th minute and strikers Kyaw Ko Ko added second and third goals at 34th in the first half and at the first minute of the second half. —MNA

Myanmar women’s Chinlone teams add two gold medals to tally

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Dec—Myanmar men’s and women’s Chinlone teams plus two gold medals in Chinlone events today.

Myanmar women’s Chinlone team won the first prize after defeating Laos with 289-204 points while the third prize went to Cambodia and the joint third prize, to Malaysia.

In addition, Myanmar men’s Chinlone team secured first prize after defeating Cambodia with 359-291 points while Malaysia won bronze prize and Singapore, joint bronze prize. —MNA

Untimely rainfall warning

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Dec—According to the observations at (09:30) hrs MST today, under the influence of depression over South west Bay of Bengal, rain or thundershowers will be isolated to scattered in Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Shan and Rakhine States during the next (3) days commencing noon today, said Meteorology and Hydrology Department. —MNA

Vice-President U Nyan Tun poses for documentary photo together with Ms. Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and party. —MNA

Vice-President U Nyan Tun receives Managing Director of IMF

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Dec—Vice-President U Nyan Tun received a delegation led by Ms. Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of International Monetary Fund (IMF) at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here yesterday.

Present on the occasion together with the Vice-President were Deputy Ministers U Thant Kyaw and Dr Maung Maung Thein, Vice-Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Set Aung and officials.

At the call, they cordially discussed assistance of IMF in reform process of banking system and financial sector and monetary policy in Myanmar and further cooperation in developing financial reform process of Myanmar in a short time. —MNA

Medal Tally

Country | Gold | Silver | Bronze
---|---|---|---
Myanmar | 6 | 1 | 0
Thailand | 2 | 2 | 1
Vietnam | 1 | 1 | 1
Malaysia | 1 | 0 | 8
Cambodia | 0 | 2 | 2
Laos | 0 | 2 | 2
Indonesia | 0 | 1 | 0
Philippines | 0 | 1 | 0
Singapore | 0 | 0 | 1
Brunei | 0 | 0 | 0
Timor-Leste | 0 | 0 | 0

Myanmar rout Cambodia 3-0; Thailand beat Timor-Leste 3-1