Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker meets Indian President, Speakers of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec — Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and party paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at Raj Ghat in New Delhi on 5 December morning.

Next, the Speaker and party observed a Lok Sabha session at the Parliament of India and viewed round the parliament.

Myanmar Wushu artists secure two gold, one silver, three bronze

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec — Wushu competitions of the 27th SEA Games continued today as the second day at Wunna Theikhi Indoor Stadium.

Htet Han Kyaw and Thita Aung from Myanmar stood first with 9.65 points in Men’s DUILIAN (2) event, followed by Malaysian with 9.48 points and Singapore with 9.47 points.

Wai Phyo Aung from Myanmar swept gold medal with 9.7 points in Men’s NANQUN contest, Malaysian athlete the silver with 9.68 points and Soe Kyaw of Myanmar third with 9.67 points.

Indonesian athlete secured gold medal with 9.7 points in Men’s GUNSHU contest, Malaysian athlete the silver with 9.67 points and Aung Sithu of Myanmar the third with 9.35 points.

Vietnamese Wushu player bagged gold medal with 9.68 points in Women’s CHAGOGUAN event, Singaporean athlete the silver with 9.60 points and Indonesian athlete the bronze with 9.59 points.

Indonesia stood first with 9.67 points in Women’s TAIJIJIAN completion, followed by Malaysia the second with 9.67 points and Indonesia the third with 9.63 points.

Malaysian athlete took the second gold for her country with 9.67 points in Women’s NANDAO contest and Myanmar’s Eint Mei Mei the silver with 9.67 points and Indonesian athlete the bronze with 9.63 points.

After the morning competitions, Myanmar added two gold medals and one silver to its medal table. The next competitions will be held at 2 pm today.

Byline: Khin Su Su Hlaing; Photo: ALEZ

Myanmar player Eint Mei Mei seen in action of NANDAO event of Wushu in the 27th SEA Games.

Photo: AMS

Byline: Ye Khaung Nyunt and Myat Thanda Maung

Photo: Ye Yin Thway

Thilawa Special Economic Zone, country’s biggest industrial region

The first phase of Thilawa Special Economic Zone, covering 400 hectares of land approximately 20 km southwest of Yangon, has many economic prospects for becoming the biggest industrial region, Mr Kitagawa of Japan-based Mitsubishi Corporation said at its launching ceremony on 30 November.

Thilawa Special Economic Zone is a crucial one out of the government’s prioritized projects. The project is located close to the consumers and has much workforce compared with other Special Economic Zones across the country. Thanks to its strategic location, it can save transportation costs, said Chairman of Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Co., Ltd U Win Aung.

The Investment Law and other necessary laws have been enacted. And each economic zone has a one-stop service centre to assist companies interested in making investment. Japanese entrepreneurs are hesitating to invest in Myanmar even though they have keen interests in it. Dealing with these challenges and the inflow of foreign investments mainly rely on the success of the project, said Mr Yasuhiro Kitagawa, Minister of Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan.

The project implementation might face loads of challenges and difficulties. But Penta-Ocean Construction Co., Ltd will use latest technologies and experienced staff in the project. Mr Yasuji Kakimoto, Director, Senior Managing Officer reaffirmed that the project will meet with success. The first phase (Class A) of Thilawa Special Economic Zone will start in December, 2013 and is expected to be completed by early 2015. Altogether 121 Japanese companies have invested in Myanmar. Trade volume between Myanmar and Japan has tripled this year, compared with the year 2010.

Myanmar Alion

(2-12-2013)

Trs: MT

Photo shows machinery being used in Thilawa Special Economic Zone.
Sites for GSM tower, staff quarters surveyed

Departmental officials conduct survey of land plot for GSM tower and staff quarter in Thantlang.

Cash donated to fund for development of township

Hsipaw, 8 Dec—A ceremony to donate cash to the fund for development of the township was held in conjunction with the talk on cultivation and production of eucalyptus plantations for development of social economy of the rural people at the hall of Township General Administration Department on 4 December.

Myo Zaw, Township Administrator made a speech.

Responsible persons of Great Wall Co explained cultivation of eucalyptus plantations.


Chairman of Township Development Affairs Suportive Committee U Aung Khin and officials accepted the cash donations.

Taking national census explained in Dabayin

Dabayin, 8 Dec—A coordination meeting between the District Deputy Commissioner and the departmental officials at district and township levels was held at the hall of Pakokku District General Administration Department on 2 December.

The meeting focused on security measures, keeping the town clean and pleasant, sanitation along both sides of Pakokku-Yezagyo Road and supply of water for agricultural purpose.

Pakokku, 8 Dec—A coordination meeting between the District Deputy Commissioner and the departmental officials at district and township levels was held at the hall of Pakokku District General Administration Department on 2 December.

They discussed allotment of K 397.5 million on development of Pakokku District in this fiscal year, formation of committee for private sector development, inspection of supervisory committee for construction tasks spending the large amount of money, taking action against illegal fuel stations for prevention against outbreak of fire in the open season, the matters issued by the investigation commission, enforcement of traffic rules and participation of departments through one stop service system.

Departmental officials submitted reports on their respective sectors.

After reviewing the reports, the deputy chairman of Township Development Affairs U Than Daing made a speech.

Adulterated edible oil destroyed in PyinOoLwin

PyinOoLwin, 8 Dec—PyinOoLwin Township Development Affairs Committee and Township Health Department checked the edible oil sold at the Development Market on 5 December and sent the sample of edible oil to the lab of Food and Drug Administration (Nay Pyi Taw). Due to the test answer of the FDA, Medical Superintendent Daw Su Su Dway of PyinOoLwin General Hospital and party and staff of Township DAC Market destroyed adulterated the oil.

Cultivation of sugarcane demonstrated in Kyaukdaga

Kyaungdaga, 8 Dec—Industrial Crops Development Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation held a demonstration on cultivation of quality strain of sugarcane on three acres of model plot near the mile post 104/3 on Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw Expressway in Kyaukdaga Township of Bago Region on 3 December.

The sugarcane strain can produce 60 tons per acre. The demonstration was attended by Township Administrator U Htet Aung Phyo and members of Agricultural Development Committee, Head of District Industrial Crops Development Department Daw Myint Myint Khaing, Head of Township ICDD Daw Toe Toe Than Naing, in-charge of Kyaw Tha Co sugarcane plantation U Thant Zin Maung and farmers.

KYAUNGDA, 8 Dec—Industrial Crops Development Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation held a demonstration on cultivation of quality strain of sugarcane on three acres of model plot near the mile post 104/3 on Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw Expressway in Kyaukdaga Township of Bago Region on 3 December.

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Adulterated edible oil being poured into a pitch for destruction in PyinOoLwin.

Adulterated edible oil being poured into a pitch for destruction in PyinOoLwin.

Fire drill held with participation of local people in Kyondee

Kyondee, 8 Dec—As now has come open season, talks on prevention of fire and fire drills were held in Kawkairek Township of Kayin State.

Recently, a fire drill was performed at Kyondee Development Market of Kawkairek Township.

It was attended by Kayin State Minister for Development Affairs U Than Daing, Kawkairek District Deputy Commissioner U Than Swe, Executive of Township Development Affairs Committee Assistant Director U Kyaw Kyaw Oo, the in-charge of Kyondee Fire Station and members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade and staff of the market participated in the fire drill.

State Minister U Than Daing and officials viewed the fire drill and cordially conversed with shopkeepers at the market. He stressed the need for officials to attend the needs of market families. — Kyemon-Naing, Naing Tun (Kyondee)
Obama defends interim Iran deal, seeks to assure Israel

WASHINGTON, 8 Dec—President Barack Obama on Saturday defended an interim deal with Iran to curb its nuclear programme and, seeking to reassure Israel, pledged to step up sanctions or prepare for a potential military strike if Tehran fails to abide by the pact.

US relations with Israel have been strained by the interim agreement, reached between Iran and major world powers including the United States, which was designed to halt advances in Iran’s nuclear programme and buy time for negotiations on a final settlement.

The United States says the agreement will give the international community time to see if Teheran is serious about curbing its nuclear ambitions, while providing some relief from sanctions that have crippled its economy.

Israel believes any sanctions relief is a dangerous gift to a country that threatens its very existence, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has called the deal reached in Geneva a “historic mistake.” Obama, speaking at forum hosted by Haim Sahab, a major political donor, made a point of referring to Netanyahhu as “my friend Bibi,” while acknowledging they occasionally had “significant tactical disagreements.”

Obama said the interim deal, negotiated with Iran by the United States, China, Russia, Britain, France and Germany, would provide space for a longer-ranging agreement to curb Iran’s nuclear ambitions, which Teheran says are peaceful.

The president said he viewed the likelihood of a satisfactory “end state” as a 50/50 proposition, and repeated that all options remained on the table if Iran did not follow through with its obligations.—Reuters

Japan, US remain apart over contentious TPP issues

SINGAPORE, 8 Dec — Japan and the United States still need to bridge gaps on controversial issues in the ongoing Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade talks.

Venezuelans vote in local polls that test Chavez legacy

CARACAS, 8 Dec—Venezuelans vote in municipal elections on Sunday that are the biggest political test yet for President Nicolas Maduro as he tries to halt an economic slide and preserve the radical socialist legacy of his late mentor Hugo Chavez.

The outcome of the ballots to choose 337 mayors and 2,523 councilors will be seen as a sign of Maduro’s strength, nine months after Chavez died from cancer and he narrowly beat opposition leader Henrique Capriles to win by a narrow margin. Nine months after Chavez died from cancer and he narrowly beat opposition leader Henrique Capriles to win by a narrow margin.

US President Barack Obama (L) speaks with Israeli-American media tycoon HaimSahab about negotiations with Iran in Washington on 7 Dec, 2013.—Reuters

Ukraine opposition seeks million-strong rally in Kiev

KIEV, 8 Dec—Opposition parties plan a million-strong rally in Kiev on Sunday to pile more pressure on Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich as he seeks closer ties with Russia after dumping a trade pact with the European Union. The rally will further heighten tension in the weeks-long standoff between Yanukovich government and its opponents.

The confrontation has raised fears for political stability in Ukraine, a sprawling ex-Soviet republic of 46 million people which borders four EU countries and is economically vulnerable.

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The president said he viewed the likelihood of a satisfactory “end state” as a 50/50 proposition, and repeated that all options remained on the table if Iran did not follow through with its obligations.—Reuters

Bomb attacks across Iraq kill 30, wound nearly 100

BAGHDAD, 8 Dec—Car bombs killed at least 30 people across Iraq on Sunday and wounded nearly a hundred, with attackers mainly targeting busy commercial streets in the capital, police sources said.

The deadliest attack took place in the predominantly Shi'ite Muslim district of Bayaya in Baghdad when a bomb in a parked vehicle detonated near car workshops, killing seven and wounding 14, the sources said.

Violence in Iraq is at the highest level in at least five years and the capital has been targeted almost daily. More than 8,000 have been killed this year, the United Nations says.

Suuni insurgents, mostly with links to al Qaeda, have claimed several large bombings in Iraq this year. The last large set of bombings was on November 23 north of the capital. Since then, there has been a steady flow of smaller attacks.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for Sunday’s bombings but al Qaeda has increased its grip on areas across the country since the escalation of the crisis in neighboring Syria and the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq in 2011.

At least 94 people were wounded in Sunday’s attacks. In one, a car bomb exploded in a busy square in central Baghdad, killing at least five people and wounding 15, police said.

In Raddiswaniya, a pre-dominantly Sunni area in the capital, a roadside bomb killed two people and wounded eight, police said.

There were other attacks in Baghdad’s mainly Shi’ite districts of Amel, Ghadir, Sadr City and Husainiyah.

In Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad, a bomb in a parked car blew up inside a market, killing two people and wounding seven, police said.—Reuters

Venezuela’s President Nicolas Maduro arrives at a meeting with ministers and lawmakers of the National Assembly at Miraflores Palace in Caracas on 4 Dec, 2013.—Reuters
Supreme Court to decide on patent protections for software

STOCKHOLM, 8 Dec — “Trust your intuition, and try new things” are keys to success: Nobel laureate Arieh Warshel.

is essentially his “way of thinking and doing things with intuition and improvisation” that has contributed to his success. “My style of doing things has mostly been the Israeli style of improvisation, trying to guess how to do something and doing it,” said Warshel. In retrospect of his research career to the great design of powerful programs that are used to understand and predict chemical processes, Warshel emphasized that being “rebellious” is helpful in doing science. Classical and quantum physics, both with systematic advantages and disadvantages, have been applied separately to chemistry for decades. It is Warshel, together with his colleagues, who pursued something different, taking the best from both worlds and devised methods that use both classical and quantum physics. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences decided to award the 2013 Nobel Prize in Chemistry to Warshel, Martin Karplus and Michael Levitt, for their joint “development of multiscale models for complex chemical systems”.

“Successful people are those who usually do the opposite of what everyone else is doing,” said Warshel, “because you could be the best in doing what everybody else is doing, but then it would not be new.” Talking about young people who are inspired by his success and who are determined to contribute scientifically to the welfare of human kind, he said being creative, with independent thinking and willingness to take risks are the key to success. “Try to do new things, not to get discouraged when told what you are doing is wrong, just trust your intuition, like the intuition that has guided me so far!” said Warshel. — Xinhua

Group charged in PayPal cyber attack pleads guilty

SAN FRANCISCO, 8 Dec — A group of 13 defendants who had been charged in a cyber attack on PayPal’s website pleaded guilty and admitted to the December 2010 attack over PayPal’s suspension of WikiLeaks accounts.

The pleas took place in a California federal court on Thursday and were announced on Friday by the US Attorney’s Office in San Francisco.

Following the release of a large amount of classified documents by WikiLeaks, PayPal suspended its accounts so that the anti-secrecy website could no longer receive donations. In retribution, the group “Anonymous” coordinated and executed denial-of-service attacks against PayPal.

The group of defendants who pleaded guilty were composed of 11 men and two women. Ten of them pleaded to a felony charge, but will be allowed to change that to a misdemeanor next year if they do not violate terms of their agreement before sentencing, according to the US attorney’s statement. The three other defendants agreed to misdemeanour charges.

A PayPal card sits at a gas station at a Home Depot store in Daly City, California, on 21 Feb, 2012. — Reuters

Apple’s iPhone 5 (top) and Samsung Electronics’ Galaxy S4 are seen in this picture illustration taken in Seoul on 13 May, 2013. — Reuters

Apple spent over $60 million on US lawyers against Samsung

SAN FRANCISCO, 8 Dec — Apple Inc has paid its leading outside law firm approximately $60 million to wage patent litigation against Samsung Electronics Co Ltd in a California federal court, according to Apple legal documents filed late on Thursday. Apple and Samsung are engaged in global litigation over the latter’s intellectual property. The two mobile technology rivals have gone to trial twice in the last two years in a San Jose, California federal court, and juries have awarded Apple a total of roughly $930 million.

In court filings, Apple asked US District Judge Lucy Koh to order Samsung to pay $15.7 million of the total amount Apple has spent in legal fees. “Awards fees to Apple ‘flows quite naturally’ from the jury’s willfulness verdict as well as Samsung’s extensive record of willful, deliberate, and calculated decisions to copy the iPhone, in blatant disregard for Apple’s IP,” Apple’s attorneys said in its filing. Apple could not immediately be reached for comment, and Samsung declined to comment.

In its fee motion, Apple said it has paid the Morris & Foerster law firm approximately $60 million through last month, not counting lawyers who had billed less than $100,000 on the case. Apple received “a significant discount” on Morrison & Foerster’s standard rates, it said, because of its longtime client relationship with the firm. In addition, Apple expected to pay its other main outside law firm, Firms Halale, approximately $2 million in fees for a week-long damages retrial that took place last month. — Reuters
Cuba drops veto at WTO meet, enabling global trade deal

BANGALORE, 8 Dec — AT&T has asked regulators to let it ignore a shareholder request for details of its customer-information-sharing with government agencies, a move that could forestall a heated debate at the telecommunications giant’s annual meeting. The No 2 US mobile operator made the request in a 5 December letter to the US Securities and Exchange Commission in response to shareholder activists pressuring it on the matter. Among them is New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, who is the trustee of the state retirement fund.

DiNapoli and other shareholders of AT&T and its biggest rival Verizon Communications Inc last month sought details on sharing of personal data and communications from customers with government agencies.

The two companies following revelations from former US National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden. The shareholders cited media reports of intelligence agencies’ involvement with the companies and criticism from foreign leaders and others. The activists said the companies could lose credibility with customers and asked them to schedule a vote on a measure calling for the publication of semi-annual reports with details such as how often customer information was shared with US or foreign government agencies, and what type of information was shared.

In its letter, AT&T outlined arguments about why the agency should grant its request to exclude the activists’ measure from the agenda of its 2015 annual meeting. AT&T said the matter relates to “ordinary business operations” and should not be controlled by shareholders, according to the letter obtained by Reuters. The more significant public debate is about government surveillance practices, AT&T said, and noted it and other carriers are obligated to comply with court orders.

AT&T also said it faces at least one lawsuit that contends it violated customer privacy rights by providing information to government agencies. It said any information it were to provide in response to the shareholder request could interfere with its legal strategy. — Reuters

Smoking after cancer diagnosis ups death risk

WASHINGTON, 8 Dec — Men who continued to smoke after being diagnosed with cancer had an increased risk of death compared with those who quit smoking, US researchers said on Friday.

The new research, published in Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention, a journal of the American Association for Cancer Research, showed it is not too late to stop smoking after cancer diagnosis, the researchers said.

They used data from a study investigating the association between lifestyle characteristics and risk of cancer among middle-aged and older men in Shanghai, China. Between 1986 and 1989, over 18,000 men aged 45 to 64 were enrolled in the study.

They determined more than 1,600 participants had developed cancer by 2010. Of these participants, 345 were nonsmokers, 545 quit smoking before their cancer diagnosis, and 747 were smokers at diagnosis. Of the 747 smokers at diagnosis, 214 quit after diagnosis, 197 continued smoking consistently, and the remaining 336 smoked intermittently.

Compared with men who did not smoke after a cancer diagnosis, those who smoked after diagnosis had a 59 percent increase in risk of death from all causes, after adjusting for factors including age, cancer site, and treatment type, the researchers said.

When limited to men who were smokers at diagnosis, those who continued smoking after diagnosis had a 76 percent increase in risk of death from all causes compared with those who quit smoking after a diagnosis, they said. — Xinhua

Director-General Roberto Azevedo shakes hands with Conference Chairman Gita Wirjawan after presenting him with a ceremonial hammer during the closing ceremony of the ninth World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference in Nusa Dua, on the Indonesian resort island of Bali on 7 Dec, 2013. — Reuters

Florida researcher to study high-altitude dust for health risks

ORLANDO, (Florida), 8 Dec — A Florida researcher is preparing to test massive dust storms in the upper atmosphere that roll in from Africa to see whether pathogens raining down on the state could be responsible for plant, animal or human disease. University of Florida microbiologist Andrew Schuerger said his air sampling device mounted directly from the clouds which drop 50 million metric tons of dust a year on US soil.

“It’s plausible that some of our previous notions of how pathogens have moved into or been introduced into an area might be overturned,” Schuerger told Reuters on Friday. The effort will be the most in-depth yet to test the health risks of the dust clouds which cross the Atlantic in summer, according to Schuerger. He said the goals are to identify bacterial, fungal and viral particles, look for viable pathogens not normally found in the state and model the risks. A few previous studies of small samples collected at ground level suggest the presence of Bacillus megaterium, Serratia liquefaciens, and species of Streptomyces and Pseudomonas, all of which are potential plant or human pathogens.

But Schuerger said they never been tested to see if the suspected pathogens cause disease symptoms in susceptible hosts. A full sampling program, in which microbes are collected at altitudes up to the maximum cloud altitude of 25,000 feet, is planned for 2014 when the dust storms hit Florida typically in July, August and September. Test flights of device, the Dust at Altitude Recovery Technology, are underway this week and next at the Kennedy Space Centre in Cape Canaveral, Florida. The idea of health threats from the sky is not far-fetched. — Reuters

The AT&T logo is pictured by its store in Carlsbad, California, on 22 April, 2013. — Reuters

GSK, Theravance asthma drug shows improved lung function in study

BANGALORE, 8 Dec — GlaxoSmithKline and Theravance Inc said on Friday that their combination therapy met the main goal of improving lung function in asthma patients in a late-stage trial.

The therapy consists of the corticosteroid, fluticasone furoate, which reduces inflammation, and a long-acting beta-agonist, called vilanterol, which is designed to open the airways.

The drug, already approved in the US to treat chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), underwent the brand name Breo, proved more effective than fluticasone furoate alone for patients with moderate to severe asthma at the end of a 12-week treatment period.

The drug is inhaled through a palm-sized device called Ellipta. It is approved for both COPD and asthma in Europe, where it is sold as Relvar.

The most common side effects reported in the treatment period included headache, upper respiratory tract infection and influenza.

The drug is one of two new medicines GSK is relying on to reinvent its respiratory business as one of the company’s $8 billion-a-year blockbuster Advair faces the threat of generic competition in the years ahead. — Reuters

This image released by NASA on 4 April, 2011, from its Terra satellite shows a thick wall of dust that blew across the Arabian Peninsula on 25-27 March, 2011, had thinned into an earthen plume that extended across the Arabian Sea by the time the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) on NASA’s Terra satellite captured this image on 30 March. — Reuters

The New Light of Myanmar

Monday, 9 December, 2013

5

BUSINESS & HEALTH
Goh of Singapore vie for the ball with Jantuma of Thailand during the match between the two countries at Zeyar Thiri Indoor Stadium on 8 Dec, 2013. Thailand defeats Singapore 69-59.

Photo: Aye Min Soe

Ing En Valerie of Singapore takes part in Women’s Taijijian event at Wunna Theikdhi Indoor Stadium on 8 Dec, 2013.

Photo: Aye Min Soe

Myanmar light weight boxer Maung Nge (L) fights with Indonesian boxer Julio Bria (R) during a light weight event of the 27th SEA Games at Wunna Theikdhi Stadium on 8 Dec, 2013.

Photo: Aye Min Soe

Wushu medalists pose for photo after presentation ceremony at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium on 8 Dec, 2013.

Photo: Aye Min Soe

Myanmar Wushu medalists pose for photo at Wunna Theikdhi Indoor Stadium on 8 Dec, 2013.

Photo: Aye Min Soe

School children leave Wunna Theikdhi Stadium after watching Wushu contest of the 27th SEA Games on 8 Dec, 2013.

Photo: Aye Min Soe
Myanmar men’s Chinlone team ready to sweep third gold medal

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec—Men’s Chinlone competitions of the 27th SEA Games took place at Wunna Theikdhi Indoor Stadium, here, this morning and Myanmar Chinlone team advanced to the final. Myanmar and Thai men’s Chinlone teams played as the second match and Myanmar won over Thailand with 183-137 points. Thai men’s Chinlone team also sailed to the final together with Myanmar and the two teams will play the final match at the same venue tomorrow morning.

Myanmar men’s Chinlone team has already secured two gold medals in the primary level and they are preparing to sweep third gold medal.

Yan Naing Soe hopes for gold in Judo

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec—Nine participant countries—Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia, Laos, Cambodia and host Myanmar—compete in Judo event of the 27th SEA Games. U Than Maung (head coach), coaches U Zaw Lwin, U Nyan Soe, U Sithu Zaw and Daw Khin Mu Mu of Myanmar Judo team are training Myanmar Judo athletes who are going to partake in not only fighting but also demonstration events. “Since 1st February, 2012, Myanmar Judo team has been undergoing intensive training. The team is competing in events (-100 kg). The team took joint-training in Japan,” said Yan Naing Soe, Myanmar Judo athlete who won three silvers and one bronze and hopes for gold this time.

He assured that he will secure gold medal in Judo events because this is his farewell game. Judo events will start on 18-21 December.—Three Stars

Marine Police’s patrol boats to be deployed to Ngalike Dam

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec—Marine police of Myanmar Police Force, in its part, will deal with necessary security measures for successful holding of the 27th SEA Games in Myanmar. According to MPF, Marine Police will be stationed at Ngalike Dam where Canoeing, Rowing and Traditional Boat Race will be held. Inflatable patrol boats of Marine Police will be deployed to Ngalike Dam in order to ensure the safety of rowers who will be competing in 500-metre, 1000-metre and 1500-metre boat race.—Zaw Myo Naing

Max Myanmar assists in successfully holding SEA Games

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec—A total of 193 employees including 12 engineers and 19 staff of Max Myanmar Co, are giving service for the score boards, lightings, sound effects, water supplying system, installation of CCTVs, fire alarm system and electronic sectors at Zeyathiri Sports Stadium.—Yamanya

Myanmar Traditional Muay expects five gold medals

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec—Myanmar Traditional Muay event of the 27th SEA Games will be held in Nay Pyi Taw Wunna Theikdhi Sports Complex from 17 to 21 December. Myanmar selected athlete Saw Nga Man (a) Aung Myint Win is going to partake in the Muay event.

He said that traditional “Muay” mainly relies on legs. Three punches get same scores with one kick. Myanmar Muay team expects five or six gold medals. He will compete in the 75-kilo event among the seven kinds of Muay events. Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Myanmar include in the 75-kilo Group. Thailand is the main rival. I expect to secure the goal medal in the event. I will try my best to get the gold medal, he said.—Three Stars

Cyclist U Pyu arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec—As a gesture of honouring the 27th SEA Games, U Pyu aged 87 is going one-man cycling arrived in Nay Pyi Taw. He was a selected sprinter in his young age. To honour the completion of Sittway motor road in 2000, he who is residing in Sittway has started going cycling. Since then, he has been cycling every year.

This is the second time since he went his first cycling crossing ten regions and states. He got this one-man cycling idea while meeting U Ba Toke and Daw Tin Tin Sein, who crossed the world by motorbike in 1953, at the Sittway scout meet in 1956. He will stay in Nay Pyi Taw during the SEA Games period to enjoy sports events there. May Thingyan, Aye Aye Myint, Khin Su Su Hlaing

Simna Living Mall was inaugurated at the corner of Yazthaani Road and Thiri Yadana Road in Ottarathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area as a gesture of hailing the XXVII SEA Games on 6 December.
The way to prosperity

A person who can grab a golden opportunity will get rich. But the important thing here is we should know and see whenever an opportunity comes. In many cases people miss the opportunity as they fail to aware its presence. Opportunity has no doors or portals, and never gives notice in advance. So opportunity is not a thing every one can notice. But people who wait for it and grab it can get the golden opportunity.

But getting an opportunity is not the end goal. We must know how to use it wisely and correctly. People who lack courage and determination may lose opportunity even though they may realize its occurrence.

A forward if uses the lightning opportunity well will make a difference. Here the footballer needs quick decision and fast action to score the goal. But he will lose the opportunity if he fails to do so.

Most opportunities do come, but very quickly and at an unexpected moment. Every time an opportunity comes we must be wise enough to see its emergence, fast enough to grab it, and clever and bold enough to use it well. We could not get much time for pros and cons or weighing from all angles at that moment. But we do not mean hasty and stupid actions. We must be prudent and intelligent; so that we can make a swift and right decision every time Lady Luck smiles on us. And this is one of the best ways to prosperity for every person.

Myanmar chess players ready for SEA Games chess competition with good concentration

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec —Zabuthiri Hotel will host the chess tournaments of 27th SEA Games from 11 to 21 December.

There will be 18 events in three chess tournaments—traditional, ASEAN and international—and 18 gold medals presented to winners of each event.

“Myanmar national team comprising 23 athletes will take part in the chess event. Thailand will be strong rival for Myanmar. Myanmar team was satisfied with only silver and bronze medals in previous events in which chess became medal sports in 2003, 2005 and 2011. Our chess players were given special training, focusing on good concentration and thinking skill for a competitive chess game. We aim to sweep gold medals in this SEA Games,” said President of Myanmar Chess Federation.

He commented on being host country that the regional sporting event will draw attentions of the youth and help promote national sports that has fallen behind in ASEAN.

According to rules of the chess tournament, anyone making noise in the hall where chess competitions are in progress will have to pay a fine of USD 500 and a chess player who failed to silence his phone will have to receive a loss in the game.—Zeyar (Mirror)

Myanmar defeats Indonesia in boxing event of SEA Games

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec—Myanmar boxer Maung Nge won over Indonesian boxer in the first round of 52-Kilo class boxing event of the SEA Games at Nay Pyi Taw Wunna Theikdi Stadium (B) today.

Thailand defeated Singapore in the same class event while Laos lost to Vietnam. Except Brunei, ten countries including Timor-Leste compete in the boxing events of the SEA Games.
A Study on the Life of Venerable Dhammavilasa and His Dhammasat Kyan

Ven. Dhammavilasa was an eminent learned Mon monk who in the middle part of Bagan Period revived Buddhist law-texts throughout Myanmar history. He was more reputed for his Dhammasat Kyan (Treatise on Code of Law) than for his fervent contributions to revitalization of Buddhism. He stood at the forefront of the succession of known compilers of Pali and Myanmar Buddhist law-texts throughout Myanmar history.

In the 29th century age of seven years, his parents committed him to the charge of the village in Bagan and settled down there. The Bagan Sasanavamsa (Chronicle of Bagan Religion) compiled by Ashin Kelasa mentions that when Maung Thant Zin reached the age of five years, his parents committed him to the charge of the presiding Sayadaw of Hlhaing Village Monastery and had him enter the Holy Order as a novice and that his preceptor named him “Sariputta”. The reference continues that he then proceeded to Bagan and learnt mundane and supramundane treatises under the tutelage of the Siwe Kyawya. Sariputta and that when he was aged 20 years, he was ordained as a monk under the same preceptor.

When he came to the age of 20 years, he was ordained as a monk at Patippajeyya Village in Bagan and set- tled down there. The Bagan Sasanavamsa (Chronicle of Bagan Religion) compiled by Ashin Kelasa mentions that when Maung Thant Zin reached the age of five years, his parents committed him to the charge of the presiding Sayadaw of Hlhaing Village Monastery and had him enter the Holy Order as a novice and that his preceptor named him “Sariputta”. The reference continues that he then proceeded to Bagan and learnt mundane and supramundane treatises under the tutelage of the Siwe Kyawya. Sariputta and that when he was aged 20 years, he was ordained as a monk under the same preceptor.

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People participate in mass walk activity of December in Myeik

MYEIK, 8 Dec—The mass walk activity of sports activities of December was held in Myeik on 7 December morning.

The participants started their walks from Myoma Sports Ground in Myeik at 5.30 am and walked along Bogyoke Street, Jetty, Strand Road, Clock Tower and then Bogyoke Street. They took physical exercises at the Myoma Sports Ground.

It was participated by Taninthayi Region Minister for Transport Dr Kyaw Hsan, Region Minister for Forestry Mining U Tin Soe, Deputy Commissioner of Myeik District Lwin Ko Oo and district and township departmental officials, students and sports enthusiasts totalling about 4290. After the mass walk activities, officials of Myeik District Sports and Physical Education Committee presented prizes to the winners in the track and field events at the Myoma Sports Ground in Myeik.

Taninthayi Region Ministers and officials participate in mass walk activities of December in Myeik.

Development of Mongyawng Township inspected

MONGyawng, 8 Dec—Speaker of Shan State Hlutaw U Sai Lon Hsai and Shan State Minister for Development Affairs U Sai Hla Win met members of Mongyawng Township Management Committee, members of Township Development Affairs Committee, Township Development Supportive Committee, departmental officials, town’s elders and local national race people at Bala Min Htin Hall of the town on 5 December afternoon.

The Speaker of the State Hlutaw explained tasks of the Hlutaw and development of the townships in the district.

The State Minister for Development Affairs expressed progress of tasks being undertaken by Township Development Affairs Committee, allotments of works in fiscal years, and future tasks.

Police carry out sanitation at Indaw People’s Hospital

INDAW, 8 Dec—A total of 30 police members led by Commander of Indaw Township Police Force Police Major Ye Myint and Commander of Indaw Police Station Police Captain Myo Nyunt Than carried out sanitation in the compound of Indaw Township People’s Hospital on 7 December morning.

Fire

Fire breaks out in Myitkyina

MYITKYINA, 8 Dec—A fire breakout at Tatkon Ward of Myitkyina Township, Kachin State, at 4 pm on 6 December.

The fire started from the power line of the house of U Zon La, 65, son of U Chain Zon.

Members of Fire Services Department of Myitkyina Township and local people put out the fire with the use of three fire engines from Township Fire Station, one from Rampa Ward and another one from Township Development Affairs Committee at 4.40 pm.

In the incident, the fire engulfed the building worth K 550,000.

Talks on World AIDS Day observed in Yangon

YANGON, 8 Dec—The Consulting Talks in commemoration of the World AIDS Day was held at the Yangon HIV/AIDS Hospital in Latha Township of Yangon on 6 December morning.

It was attended by specialists from the Yangon HIV/AIDS Hospital, responsible persons Yangon Region HIV/AIDS control project, responsible persons of NGOs, nurses, departmental officials and families of the HIV/AIDS patients.

At first, Dr Tin Maung Zaw made an opening address. Assistant Director Dr Kan Oo of NAP explained the purpose of holding the ceremony, HIV/AIDS infection process, treatment of patients with ART medicines and consulting works.

Waterway of Nankalein Creek in Kalay

KALAY, 8 Dec—The approach structures on both sides of Nankalein Bridge collapsed in the erosion of Nankalein Creek in the rainy season.

The bridge is located in Aungningala Ward of Kalay of Kalay District in Sagaing Region. It is stretching on the Asian Highway.

At present, the bridge has been repaired. With the aim of preventing erosion of the creek at the approach structures on its both sides, the waterway of the creek was straightened with the use of heavy machinery.

Chairman of District Management Committee U Maung Htoo and members of Township Management Committee closely supervised the timely completion of the straightening works.
Thai PM offers to hold referendum to end political crisis

BANGKOK, 8 Dec — Thailand’s Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra offered Sunday to hold a national referendum in a bid to defuse a political crisis set off by waves of antigovernment protests.

Yingluck’s proposal, made during a televised address, came as the opposition camp geared up for a “final battle” on Monday by marching to government agencies across the country in a bid to shut down the government.

Yingluck also called for a dialogue with the opposition camp led by former Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban and reiterated that she is ready to step down or call a fresh general election if it would help break the political deadlock.

“All groups, including the protesters, should discuss first and if we cannot reach a conclusion, we should let the majority of people decide by referendum,” Yingluck said.

Suthep has rejected Yingluck’s proposals, calling instead for political reforms through the establishment of a “People’s Council” that would replace elected officials.

The protests started in early November after the lower house of parliament passed an amnesty bill that critics said was designed to benefit former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, Yingluck’s brother. The bill was later voted down in the Senate but antigovernment protests have continued.

Japanese defence minister visits

TAOLOBAN, (Philippines), 8 Dec — Japanese Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera said the work group, Ministry of Transport said Singapore, the city-state’s Speed Rail (HSR) link be for the proposed High postponement requirements made by the two prime ministers of the two countries in February.

The HSR link would facilitate seamless travel between Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, enhance business linkages, and bring the peoples of Malaysia and Singapore closer together,” the ministry added.

The ministerial committee also reviewed the progress made by the transportation work group on the Singapore-Johor Bahru Rapid Transit System link.

The committee also agreed to identify an option for the rapid transit system by the end of next year.

Five coal miners killed in NE India

NEW DELHI, 8 Dec — Five coal miners were crushed to death when the cables of a crane they were riding in fell into a coal pit on Friday in the northeast Indian state of Meghalaya, said police on Saturday.

The incident took place in Meghalaya’s East Jaintia Hills district about 80 km from Shillong, the state capital, police said.

“Five migrant coal miners from Assam died at Bwirar when cables of a crane snapped midway in the coal pit.” M K Dkhar, the district police chief of East Jaintia Hills, told the media.

The tragedy was not reported until Friday evening by villagers. Labour incident in India occurs frequently due to a lack of enough safety measures, running down infrastructure, bad conditions of equipment and machines, and negligence.

Indian opposition BJP leads in 3 states in early vote counting

NEW DELHI, 8 Dec — India’s opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is leading in official vote counting for the legislative elections in the capital Delhi, as well as the states of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, while running shoulder-to-shoulder with the Congress in the state of Chhattisgarh, said local TV reports on Sunday.

“We two parties have agreed to move ahead through mutual understanding and consensus to fully the political responsibility,” the agreement signed by top leaders of two parties reads.

The two parties are engaged on dispute over the term of President Ram Baran Yadav who was elected in 2008.

NC, which is known as centrist party, emerged as the largest party, want the continuation of president, while CPN-UML which emerged as second largest party want to elect a new president.

The two parties decided to hold talks with UCPN (Maoist), which emerged as the third largest party from the constituent assembly election but demands to form a probe panel, saying that there have been irregularities in the polls.

The two parties are preparing to form a coalition government which is expected to provide a new constitution within a year.

Singapore, Malaysia to form joint work group for KL-Singapore high speed rail link

SINGAPORE, 8 Dec — Singapore and Malaysia agreed to form a joint work group to discuss and jointly recommend requirements for the proposed High Speed Rail (HSR) link between Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, the city-state’s Ministry of Transport said on Saturday. The ministry said the work group, formed under the purview of the Joint Ministerial Committee for Iskandar Malaysia, will submit its recommendations to both Governments for the next phase of the HSR.”

The agreement was reached after the committee held a meeting on Friday at the Horizon Hills Golf and Country Club at Nusajaya in Malaysia.

The transport ministry said that the work group is a follow-up to the joint announcement on the HSR link made by the two prime ministers of the two countries in February.

The HSR link would facilitate seamless travel between Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, enhance business linkages, and bring the peoples of Malaysia and Singapore closer together,” the ministry added.

The ministerial committee also reviewed the progress made by the transportation work group on the Singapore-Johor Bahru Rapid Transit System link.

The committee also agreed to identify an option for the rapid transit system by the end of next year.

Japanese research whaling ship the Yushin Maru leaves Shimonoseki port in Yamaguchi Prefecture on 7 Dec, 2013. Two Japanese whaling ships and a surveillance ship left the port the same day to join the mother vessel Nisshin Maru and hunt up to 935 Antarctic minke whales and up to 50 fin whales through March.—Kyodo News

Kyodo News
Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra speaks in an interview with Japanese media at a police facility in Bangkok on 30 Nov, 2013. Kyodo News

Regional

New Light of Myanmar

Regional

The International Dialogue on the Chinese Dream convenes from 7 to 8 December in Shanghai, drawing up to one hundred scholars from home and abroad. Xinhua

Japan defence minister visits

SDF relief team in Philippines

The SDF has acquired various types of knowledge in the Great East Japan Earthquake. This deployment is a key test to make use of it,” Onodera told senior SDF officers.

During a visit to an area where the SDF is helping to control epidemics, Onodera told reporters, “The damage causes me heartache. The government will consider the shape of medium- to long-term assistance.”

Earlier in the day, Onodera exchanged views with Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, who was also visiting the Philippines, about China’s recently established air defence identification zone over the East China Sea, Japanese officials said.—Kyodo News

Xinhua

Indian opposition BJP leads in 3 states in early vote counting

The two parties are

Nepal’s two largest parties sign consensual deal

KATHMANDU, 8 Dec — The Nepali Congress(NC) and CPN-UML, which emerged as first and second largest party of Nepal, have agreed to move ahead in unison.

The two parties signed a deal on Saturday evening, agreeing to move ahead through a consensus and cooperation.

“We two parties have agreed to move ahead through mutual understanding and consensus to fully the political responsibility,” the agreement signed by top leaders of two parties reads.

The two parties are engaged on dispute over the term of President Ram Baran Yadav who was elected in 2008.

NC, which is known as centrist party, emerged as the largest party, want the continuation of president, while CPN-UML which emerged as second largest party want to elect a new president.

The two parties decided to hold talks with UCPN (Maoist), which emerged as the third largest party from the constituent assembly election but demands to form a probe panel, saying that there have been irregularities in the polls.

The two parties are preparing to form a coalition government which is expected to provide a new constitution within a year.

Xinhua

Xinhua

Xinhua

Xinhua
**Many Russian pilots use fake flight certificates**

Moscow, 8 Dec — Many Russian commercial pilots obtained flight certificates without undergoing proper training or formal examinations, the Investigative Committee (IC) said on Friday.

“We have all grounds to believe that many pilots, first of all in the small airlines, have received forged certificates as they, in effect, have not undergone sufficient training,” committee spokesman Vladimir Markin told reporters.

The IC has opened a criminal case and searched the head office of aviation security watchdog Rosaviatsia, which supervises aviation training centers responsible for issuing flight certificates for new pilots, following last month’s crash of a Boeing-737 passenger jet at the airport of Kazan, capital of the Tatarstan republic.

Fifty people, including six crew members, were killed in the crash on 17 November.

Markin said the IC had also been searching flight training centers across the country, adding the captain of the crashed Boeing had obtained his certificate through one of these centers.

The IC was doubt-ful about how thoroughly Rosaviatsia conducted inspections of pilots’ flight certificates, he said. Russia’s commercial aviation sector has been growing rapidly over the last decade, which has created a shortage of experienced pilots.

The Russian government has said only about 200 pilots graduate from training centers in the country every year, whereas the industry needs more than 1,000 new pilots annually.

**Venezuela, Gambia to strengthen energy, agriculture, education ties**

**The Hague, 8 Dec** — A combination of spring tide and a northeasterly storm has raised the water level in Dutch coast province Zeeland to the highest level since the devastating 1953 North Sea Flood, local media reported on Friday.

The water level near the southwestern harbor city of Vlissingen reached 3.99 meters above sea level at 4 am on Friday, while the Oosterschelde storm defense in Zeeland, one of the construction projects created after the flood, was closed on Thursday for the first time in six years.

So far, no dangerous situations or severe damage is apparent, although some dunes along the coast have been affected and the fire department took over 4,000 calls on storm damage. Traffic has been affected and train travel in the north has been shut down. On Thursday, Schiphol airport canceled 50 scheduled flights to Europe due to the storm.

Zeeland consists of a number of islands with large parts below sea level. On 1 Feb, 1953, the water level in Zeeland rose to 4.55 meters above sea level. Large areas in the Netherlands were flooded and 1,836 people were killed, with the majority of fatalities in Zeeland.

On Friday, the northern parts of the Netherlands are expected to still suffer from the storm, but the wind will not be as strong. The water level is also expected to drop.

**Water level in Dutch province highest since 1953 flood**

**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR**

**MINISTRY OF ENERGY**

**MYANMA Oil AND GAS ENTERPRISE**

(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)

(15/2013)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sr.No</th>
<th>Tender No</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>(1)</td>
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- Tender Closing Date & Time 6-1-2014, 16:30 Hrs

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 9th December, 2013 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph: +95 67-411097/411206

**The Hague, 8 Dec** — A combination of spring tide and a northeasterly storm has raised the water in Dutch coast province Zeeland to the highest level since the devastating 1953 North Sea Flood, local media reported on Friday.

“We will consolidate our cooperation and this will go from strength to strength,” the ambassador said.
Jennifer Lopez wants her last name restored after divorce

**Los Angeles, 8 Dec** — Singer Jennifer Lopez, who is still finalising her divorce from ex-husband Marc Anthony, has asked to drop his surname in order to legally restore her last name to Lopez.

Even though the former couple parted ways in 2011 and Anthony filed divorce papers last year, Lopez, 44, only filed a response recently, reported People magazine.

Lopez has asked for joint legal and physical custody of their 3-year-old twins, Max and Emme and seeks to terminate the court’s ability to award spousal support to Anthony, 45. The singer earlier this year admitted that “her whole world fell apart” when her seven-year marriage to Anthony ended.

But now she has moved on with dancer and choreographer Casper Smart. — **PTI**

Sonakshi Sinha thanks the audience for appreciating R... Rajkumar

**Mumbai, 8 Dec** — Actress Sonakshi Sinha has thanked the audience for appreciating her latest release R... Rajkumar, and says she is dancing with joy. “Your appreciation and pyaar have us dancing with joy. Thank YOU guys for all the love,” she tweeted.

The high on action movie released on Friday, 6 December. On Friday, Sonakshi watched the first half of the movie at Chandan Cinema in Mumbai. “Just watched first half of R... Rajkumar in Chandan ka stall. The claps, the hoots, the whistles...this is what we live for! Yeh hota hai AUDIENCE ka review bouss,” she posted. — **PTI**

Kajol: I support Tanisha in Bigg Boss because she is my sister

**New Delhi, 8 Dec** — Actress Kajol says she completely supports her sister Tanisha Mukherjee, who is currently participating in Bigg Boss, despite the reality TV show putting inmates in an “unnatural situation” and “bringing out the worst” in them. Tani- sha, 35, has been grabbing eyeballs with her increasing closeness to co-participant Armaan Kohli on the show.

Kajol says Bigg Boss compels to get the worst reaction out of everyone. — **PTI**

Jennifer Lawrence to take a break from acting

**London, 8 Dec** — Actress Jennifer Lawrence is planning to take a short break from acting to focus on her personal life.

The Hunger Games star, whose career is in full swing after winning an Oscar for Silver Linings Playbook, said she is craving to spend a little time away from the spotlight, reported Contactmusic.

“I’ve built my career. I need to build my human life. I need to get a house and connect to the people around me and not work for a little while” said Lawrence.

She will next be seen in four films, including X-Men: Days of Future Past and The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 1.

The actress has been dating on-and-off boyfriend Nicholas Hoult since 2011. — **PTI**

Beyonce pays tribute to Paul Walker during concert

**Los Angeles, 8 Dec** — Pop star Beyonce Knowles paid tribute to Fast and Furious actor Paul Walker, who was killed in a car crash last week, during a concert.

The 32-year-old singer, who is on her Mrs Carter tour dedicated a song to the actor during a concert at Los Angeles’ Staples Center recently, reported MTV news.

“I dedicate this song to Paul Walker,” Beyonce told the crowd which included stars Khloe Kardashian, Zoe Saldana and Kelly Osbourne.

She then delivered a touching song of late singer Whitney Houston’s I Will Always Love You before singing her own hit, Halo. Fans took to Twitter to praise the singer. — **PTI**

Sonakshi Sinha: In a still from R... Rajkumar.

**Beyonce sang late singer Whitney Houston’s I Will Always Love You and her own song Halo.** — **PTI**
United and Chelsea beaten as Liverpool go second

Ham United at Anfield and Manchester City slipped one place to fourth after being held 1-1 at Southampton. Tottenhous Hotspur rekindled their challenge by winning 2-1 at Sunderland while leaders Arsenal, who still have a four-point lead at the top, entertain Everton at The Emirates on Sunday. Arsenel Wenger’s side have 34 points ahead of Liverpool and Chelsea on 30, Manchester City (29), Tottenhous and Tottenhous (27) and Newcastle (26). Sunderland stay bottom with eight points. Norwich City won 2-0 at West Bromwich Albion while Crystal Palace picked up their second successive victory under new manager Tony Pulis with a 2-0 home win over Cardiff City.—Reuters

Japan’s Asada wins women’s gold medal in ISU GP Finals

Tokyo, 8 Dec — Japanese Mao Asada on Saturday won the gold medal of women’s figure skating in the International Skating Union Grand Prix Final, marking her second straight ISU Grand Prix Final championship and the fourth of her career.

With a 3.98-point lead after short program on Thursday, Asada gained 131.66 points in the free skating and held 204.02 points in total to claim the champion. Russian skater Julia Lipnitskaia won silver with 192.07 points after starting the day fourth while US Ashley Wagner took the bronze with 187.61 points.—Xinhua

Napoli in six-goal thriller, Balotelli saves Milan

Rome, 8 Dec — Two goals in three minutes from Napoli’s Goran Pandev were not enough to secure victory as his side threw away a two-goal lead to draw 3-3 at home to Udinese in an end-to-end Serie A thriller on Saturday.

In the day’s other game, a stunning late free kick by Mario Balotelli, his second goal of the match, helped AC Milan snatch a 2-2 draw at Livorno. Rafael Benitez’s Napoli still third with 32 points from 15 games, two points behind AS Roma and eight adrift of leaders Juventus, who beat Bologna 2-0 on Friday and look an even better bet for their third consecutive league title.

“We have to improve,” said Benitez. “We scored two goals and had control of the game before making a mistake at a corner. “We’re the ones who have to improve and stop making mistakes. If we manage to score as many goals as we did tonight we need to be better at the back.”

Pandev tapped in the opening goal in the 38th minute after showing delicate control. He quickly made it 2-0 when Gonzalo Higuain charged to the byline and pulled the ball back for the Macedonian forward, who spun well before guiding in his sixth league goal of the season. Napoli defender Frederico Fernandez let Udinese back into the game with an embarrassing own goal seconds before halftime when he clipped in a tame Thomas Heurtta header.

Bruno Fernandes then deservedly drew Udinese level with a dipping shot that confused Napoli keeper Rafael with 21 minutes left. Napoli went back in front seconds later when Blerrin Dzemali tapped in the rebound following a curling effort from Higuain, but Udinese refused to give up and equalised with 10 minutes to go when Dusan Basta scored after a goalmouth scramble. The visitors then almost snatched victory when Brazilian Maicon backpassed through on goal, only for Christian Maggio to thwart him with a superb sliding tackle.—Reuters

Barclays Premier League Standings

<table>
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Woods two ahead after testing day at Sherwood

THOUSAND OAKS, (California), 8 Dec — Tiger Woods stayed on track for his sixth victory of the year as he maintained a two-shot lead after a brutally difficult day for scoring at the Northwestern Mutual World Challenge on Saturday.

The American world number one ground out a level-par 72 in blustery winds with several tough pin positions at Sherwood Country Club to end the third round of the tournament which he hosts at 11-under 205.

In glorious late afternoon sunshine after a rainy start to the day, Woods rolled in a 12-foot birdie putt at the par-four last to retain control of an event he has won a record five times.

“It was a tough day,” Woods, who frequently backed off shots as the breezes shifted, told reporters after offsetting four birdies with four bogeys.

“The wind was all over the place. It was really tough to pull clubs and the greens were softer. They were still pretty quick, and unless you got (the ball) above the hole, there are some really difficult pins out there.

Kansas City win Cup final after penalty shootout

KANSAS CITY, 8 Dec — Sporting Kansas City won their second MLS Cup title in dramatic fashion on Saturday, coming from a goal down before beating Real Salt Lake 7-6 in a pulsating penalty shootout following a 1-1 tie after extra time.

Aurelien Collin, who scored Sporting’s equaliser in the second half, broke the deadlock in sudden-death with a thunderous shot inside the right post to beat Real goalkeeper Nick Rimando.

Lovel Palmer, aiming to extend the sudden-death shootout, hit the crossbar to send the home crowd into rapturous celebration on a freezing night at Sporting Park in Kansas City.

Salt Lake opened the scoring in the 52nd minute after Kyle Beckerman found Alvaro Saborio with a pinpoint pass and the Costa Rican chested the ball down before beating Kansas City goalkeeper Jimmy Nielsen with a powerful low shot.

Leading 1-0 in the shoot-out, previously hoisting the giant silver cup in 2000, levelled in the 76th minute when Collin headed the ball inside the far post after a corner kick from Graham Zusi.
US backs peaceful end to Thailand’s political turmoil

BANGKOK, 8 Dec — The United States believes peace talks are the best means to resolve the political conflicts in Thailand, US Ambassador Kristie Kenney said on Friday.

She made the remarks after a meeting between Samuel Locklear, chief of the US Pacific Command, and Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra at Government House.

The ambassador said the US is keeping close watch on the political situation in Thailand and would likely see the crisis solved through peaceful means.

Locklear told Yingluck that the US will maintain good relationship and cooperation with Thailand, its “oldest ally” in Southeast Asia.

Meanwhile, Thai military Supreme Command Thanasak Patimprakorn said Friday that he and the commanders of the armed forces jointly assess the political situation on a daily basis.

Thanasak supported the “people’s forum” proposed by Yingluck, saying that it would be a good opportunity for all parties to join hands to help move the country forward.—Xinhua

Chinese weightlifter wins
IWG Grand Prix in Azerbaijan

BAKU, 8 Dec — Chinese weightlifter Wang Shuai captured the overall crown in the women’s 58kg category on the final day of the 2013 IWG Grand Prix International Baku Cup on Saturday.

Wang, who had never before registered an international competition result, vied against Romanian Loredana Elena Toma, who was the first winner of the day: with 96kg she took the snatch gold medal.

In clean and jerk, Wang managed to lift 118kg for a winning total of 212kg, beating Toma to the silver on 211kg, and Ukraine’s Yuliya Kalina took the bronze medals.

Some 70 athletes from 23 countries participated in the IWG Grand Prix & 2nd Baku International Cup that started on December.—Xinhua

China sets up 440 Confucius institutes

BEIJING, 8 Dec — China has established 440 Confucius institutes in 120 countries and regions amid efforts to promote the Chinese language and culture around the world, according to the Confucius Institute Headquarters.

Confucius institutes, named after the ancient Chinese philosopher Confucius, serve as non-profit public institutions to help foreigners better understand China through language teaching and culture introduction in universities overseas.

There are also 646 Confucius Classrooms operational at middle and primary schools, according to the headquarters.

About 850,000 students have registered in these institutions and more than 20,000 cultural activities have been held since the first institute was established in 2004.

With the influence of these institutions, the world is seeing renewed enthusiasm for the Chinese language. Seven countries including Britain, Sweden and Ireland issued government orders to include Chinese teaching into the national education programme in 2012, bringing the figure of such countries to more than 40. —Xinhua

Floods in Libya leave six dead, 400 houses damaged

TRIPOLI, 8 Dec — Heavy rain killed six people and caused material damage to 400 houses in the Libyan western city of Zawiya on Saturday.

In a statement obtained by Xinhua, Zawiya Social Affairs Committee’s head Imad Faitouri said that Zawiya, 50 km west of the capital Tripoli, suffered heavy rain on Friday overnight until Saturday early morning, followed by partial flooding in several areas of the city.

The floods left six citizens dead and damaged 400 houses in Anjarafat area, he added.

The death toll of the recent heavy rain in Libya went up to 10 dead.

In the first week of December, Libya witnessed the heaviest rain in 40 years. —Xinhua

AC Milan’s Mario Balotelli celebrates scoring against Livorno during their Italian Serie A soccer match in Livorno, Italy, on 7 Dec, 2013. The match ended with a 2-2 draw. —Xinhua

**MYANMAR TV**

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Stake driven for anti-snake venom manufacturing plant

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec—
A stake-driving ceremony for construction of anti-snake venom manufacturing plant was held at Pharmacetics Factory No. 1 (Yangon) in Insein Township, today.

Union Minister U Maung Myint and officials drove stakes at the designated places.

On the occasion, the Union Minister stressed the need to produce anti-snake venom through GMP methods for interest of the nation in the future.

The anti-snake venom manufacturing plant is aimed at satisfying the domestic demand and manufacturing the vaccine made of freeze dryer system in line with WHO standards and norms. The plasma from the horse farm (Hmawby) will be sent to the plant by coal storage van.—MNA

Women’s Forum-2013 concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec—
Women’s Forum-2013 on “Women in a fast-opening society” concluded yesterday at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon.

On the occasion, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin gave a concluding speech.

Thai King’s grandchild arrives in Nay Pyi Taw to take part in equestrian event

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec—
Princess Sirivanavari Nariratana, a grandchild of Thai King, arrived at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport at 1 pm today to take part in the equestrian event of the 27th SEA Games.

She was welcomed at the airport by Chairman of Myanmar Sports Victory Committee Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Htaik and officials and Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Pisam Suvanajata.

The princess will compete in individual dressage competition of the equestrian event.—MNA

Vietnamese U-23 thrash Brunei 7-0;
Singapore held 1-1 draw with Laos

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec—
Vietnamese and Brunei U-23 teams played the first match of Group (A) of the men’s football event of the 27th SEA Games at 4 pm today at Zeyathiri Stadium. Vietnamese youths thrashed Brunei U-23 7-0 at the opening match to lead the group.

Vietnamese U-23 team controlled the match with much ball possession and took an easy win over the rival. Vietnamese players scored the opener at the beginning of the first half, the second goal at 25th minutes and the third at 43rd minutes. In the second half, the Vietnamese players added another goals at 52nd, 65th, 68th and 81st minutes.

The second match between Singapore and Laos ended at a 1-1 draw.

Union Commerce Minister holds talks with ITC Executive Director

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec—
Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint held discussions with Executive Director Ms. Arancha Gonzalez of Geneva-based International Trade Center (ITC), a subsidiary organization of World Trade Organization (WTO), in Bali, Indonesia on 6 December.

During the discussion, the Union minister thanked ITC for providing Myanmar with technical assistance at the time when the country is formulating a national export strategy. He continued that ITC’s assistance to Myanmar is needed to boost export of rice, bean, marine products, clothes and rubber.

Ms. Arancha Gonzalez said that priority will be given to providing assistance to Myanmar. She continued that Myanmar should contact ITC after expressing its interest on prioritized sectors to relevant countries. She expressed her belief that benefits would be brought to Myanmar through the national export strategy. In addition, she pledged to come to Myanmar to discuss promotion of Myanmar’s trade sector.—MNA

One day to XXVII SEA Games

Medal Tally

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Myanmar players defending attacks of Cambodian players in basketball event of XXVII SEA Games. Cambodia beat Myanmar 75-60.—PHOTO AMS

(News on page 9)