President U Thein Sein welcomes Laotian President at Presidential Palace

President U Thein Sein welcomes Laotian President at Presidential Palace

Myanmar opens its Pencak Silat campaign with two wins

Myanmar Chinvone athletes achieve victory in 27th SEA Games

Myanmar athlete Ye Kyaw Thu celebrates his win over Vietnamese counterpart, raising both arms aloft at the final match of Day 1 Pencak Silat event of 27th SEA Games.
Ancient Buddha images donated to ancient culture preservation committee

 Toungoo, 9 Dec—About 80 Buddha images were excavated from the removal of ancient Sima Pagoda so as to maintain the ancient Maha Pararekkhama ordination hall in the precinct of Kyaniang Monastery of Ward 18 in Toungoo in Bago Region.

 The Sayadaw of the monastery donated 23 Buddha images from 80 to ancient culture preservation committee in Toungoo on 6 December.

 The images were accepted by town’s elders U Myint Nyo (Amare Eon), U Ye Win (Shiwah Groundnut Oil), Toungoo Ancient Cultural Preservation Committee Vice-Chairman U Maung Mya (Pyae Wa), Secretary Dr Mar Mar Wai and U Maung Maung Kyaw. The images will be kept at the Ketumati Hotel of Toungoo temporarily.

 When the Theinpyi Pagoda is renovated, the Buddha images will be enshrined at the pagoda.

 MMAL-Kyaw Hla (Toungoo)

 Extempore talks on narcotic drugs

 Payay, 9 Dec—Payay District Anti-Narcotics Association organized the Anti-Drug Knowledge Exam and Extempore Talks at high school level at the hall of Basic Education High School No 5 in Payay on 6 December morning.

 The Chairman of the association made a speech. A total of 52 students participated in the contest.

 Chairman of Bago Region (West) Association Police Col Myint Soe (Rtd), Commander of Payay District Police Force Police Lt-Col Nay Win and departmental officials presented prizes to the winners in the extempore talks.

 MMAL-Shwe Win

 Phone Pyay Chan Han, first in US Kids Golf World C’ship

 Yangon, 9 Dec—A Myanmar youth golf team led by Chief Coach U Chan Han of Myanmar Golf Federation took part in the US Kids Golf World Championship Malaysia 2013 at Palm Resort Golf Club in Malaysia from 3 to 5 December.

 The Championship, organized by Europe, the US and Asia, took place in Asia for the second time. Over 335 youth golfers from 22 countries participated in the Championship.

 Eleven Myanmar boys and two girls competed in the championship in different categories.

 Phone Pyay Chan Han secured the first prize in Boys’ aged 13-14 years event, Hlaing Min Htet the second in Boys’ aged 15-18 years, Yazar Aung the fifth in Boys’ aged 12 years, Kaung Myat Kyaw the second in Boys’ aged 9 years and Thin Wai Khang the third in the girls’ aged 11 years.

 These winners will have the opportunity to take part in the US Kids Golf World Championship Europe 2014 and the US Kids Golf World Championship USA 2014.—NLM

 India will deploy 41 BSFs at India-Myanmar border to combat drug smuggling, illegal migration

 India will assign 41 Border Security Force (BSF) along 1643 kilometres long India-Myanmar border line. At the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) held on 28 November, substitution of Assamese rifle battalions with Border Security Force along the border, and it will be implemented this month, said India-based newspapers.

 BSF Director-General Subhash Joshi said, “We will deploy 41 battalions along the border. The plan will be submitted to the Internal Affairs Ministry as soon as possible. After seeking the approval of the Union government, we will implement it.”

 A total of 15 Assamese rifle battalions are taking responsibility of security measures at the northwest area along the border of Myanmar and India.

 However, Assamese battalions emphasize fighting against the armed groups that are willing to secede from the State more than the security of border area. That is why drug trafficking and illegal migration, said security officials of India.

 Therefore, the BSFs will take out the duties from Assamese rifle battalion. That is why, the new battalion will deploy 41000 servicemen at the border lines, said officials of Border Security Force.

 The BSF Director said that he will give advice to set up 12 headquarters under control of Border Security Force Additional Director-General and to buy MI-17 helicopters, according to Indian Express.

 CL Thang Ngar

 Cash assistance provided to athletes of Ministry of Home Affairs

 Naypyitaw, 9 Dec—A ceremony to present cash assistance to athletes of Ministry of Home Affairs to the SEA Games was held at D 5 meeting hall of Wunna Theikdhi Sports Ground, here, 6 December.

 It was attended by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Major-Gen Zaw Win, Police Quartermaster-General Police Brig-Gen Thein Oo, Director-General U Tin Moe of Fire Services Department, Deputy Director-General of General Administration Department U Tin Myint, Deputy Director-General U Myint Han of Bureau of Special Investigation, Deputy Director-General U Myint Soe of Myanmar Correctional Department, sports team members and officials.

 Officials presented K 3,000,000 to 101 members of the sports team.

 MMAL-Ko Ye

 National Sports

 Gangaw facilitated with golf training course

 Gangaw, 9 Dec—the opening ceremony of the golf training course was held in Gangaw of Magway Region, recently.

 Gangaw District Deputy Commissioner U Hla Min Httaw made a speech. Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Aung Kyaw, town’s elders Dr Kyaw Nyein, U Htay Lwin and U Than Tun spoke words of thanks.

 Assistant Director U Khin Zaw of Myittha Dam Multi-purpose Project, Town’s Elders U Myo Pe and U Than Win formally opened the golf training course.

 MMAL-101

 Security Affairs

 A bridge between Bokkan Village and Mulkyan Village near BP 65 of Myanmar-India border.
India's ruling Congress party suffers setback in state elections

NEW DELHI, 9 Dec — India’s ruling Congress party has suffered serious setbacks in key elections in Delhi and three other states held over the past month, according to interim results released on Sunday.

The main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party emerged victorious in Delhi as well as the states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

Congress suffered its greatest setback in Delhi, where it has ruled for the past 15 years. Of the 70 constituencies, the party won only eight seats. The Aam Aadmi Party, or Common Man’s Party, which was launched only last year, won a surprising 27 seats.

“This is a victory of the common man. From today’s election results, we can conclude that people of Delhi have rejected tall political leaders and elected first timers because they represent the common people,” said Aam Aadmi Party chief convenor Arvind Kejriwal.

“This is the first victory of our fight against corruption,” he said.

Accepting defeat, Rahul Gandhi, Congress vice president and scion of the Nehru-Gandhi clan, said the Congress leadership, taking a lesson from the election results, will try to revamp the party.

“We will take a lesson from the Aam Aadmi Party and will try to bring the common man into active politics,” he said.

Congress ruled in Delhi and Rajasthan prior to the elections, while the BJP took the helm in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

The outcome of the Delhi state election is crucial for Congress and the BJP as it may set the trend for voting at the next general election, due in March or April next year.

Afghanistan, Iran plan cooperation pact amid tensions with US

Afgn President Hamid Karzai speaks during a news conference in Kabul on 10 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

KABUL, 9 Dec — Afghan President Hamid Karzai agreed on a cooperation pact with Iran on Sunday, an Afghan official said, while continuing to resist signing a long-term security agreement with the United States.

Karzai struck the deal with Iranian President Hasan Rouhani in Teheran in

Dubai, 9 Dec — UN inspectors visited an Iranian plant on Sunday linked to a planned heavy-water reactor that could yield nuclear bomb fuel, taking up an initial offer by Teheran to open its disputed nuclear programme to greater scrutiny.

The increased transparency is the result of a thaw in relations between Iran and the West that culminated in a deal struck last month under which Teheran is to curb its nuclear programme in return for some easing of sanctions.

It was the first time in more than two years that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) had been allowed to go to the Arak heavy water production plant, which is designed to supply a re-reactor under construction nearby. Iran’s heavy water work is a big concern for the West because it could be used in the process of making a nuclear bomb. Teheran says its programme is for peaceful purposes.

Two inspectors arrived in Teheran on Saturday and met experts from Iran’s own atomic energy agency before travelling to Arak in the evening, Iran’s ISNA news agency reported.

“The inspection is under way and will be finished this afternoon, and they (the inspectors) will return to Teheran,” said Behrouz Kamalvandi, spokesman for the Iranian atomic energy agency. “The inspectors will go back to Vienna tonight.”—Reuters

51 killed, 191 wounded in violent attacks in Iraq

Baghdad, 9 Dec — A total of 51 people were killed and 191 others wounded in violent attacks across Iraq on Sunday, mostly in the capital Baghdad, police said.

Five people were killed and 18 others injured when a car bomb exploded Sunday evening in the Aalam neighbourhood of southwestern Baghdad, a police source told Xinhua.

Three people were killed and 16 others wounded when a car bomb went off in a popular market in the Jumala area in eastern Baghdad, the source said, adding that one civilian was killed and five others were injured when another car bomb exploded in the Talibya area of eastern Baghdad.

Earlier in the day, a total of 13 bombing attacks predominately ripped through Shiite districts in Baghdad, killing at least 38 people and wounding some 146 others.

In Iraq’s eastern province of Diyala, a civilian was killed and six were wounded in a car bomb explosion near a restaurant in the town of Jaddad al-Shat, some 30 km northwest of the provincial capital city of Baquba, which is about 65 km northeast of Baghdad, a provincial police source said.

Near Baquba, gunmen shot dead Ahmad al-Khafaji, head of the provincial office of the leading Shiite party of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq (ISCI), headed by Shiite cleric Ammar al-Hakim, the source said.

Also in Diyala, two more people were shot dead by gunmen in two incidents near Baquba during the day, the source added.

No group has so far claimed responsibility for the deadly attacks, but the al-Qaeda front in Iraq, in most cases, was responsible for suicide bombings in the country.

Sunday’s attacks came amid escalation of sectarian tension between the Sunni and Shiite communities, which has been at its highest level since the US troops pulled out of the country at the end of 2011.

Thai PM calls snap election, protesters press on

Bangkok, 9 Dec — Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra dissolved parliament on Monday and called a snap election, but anti-government protest leaders pressed ahead with mass demonstrations in Bangkok seeking to install an unelected body to run the country, Police estimated that about 150,000 protesters were converging on Yingluck’s office at Government House, extending a rally that had descended into violence before passing late last week out of respect for the king’s birthday.

Blowing whistles, they said they would oust Yingluck and eradicate the influence of her self-exiled brother, former Prime Min-ister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Declaring they were unable to work with Yingluck, the main opposition Democrat Party resigned en masse from parliament on Sunday, raising the question of whether it would boycott the election, driving Thailand deeper into crisis. Voting could go ahead without the Demo- crats but it would not end the deadlock if they staged a boycott, said Pavin Chachavalpongpun of Kyoto University’s Centre for Southeast Asian Stud- ies.—Reuters

Chief of India’s ruling Congress party Sonia Gandhi (R) speaks as her son, lawmaker Rahul Gandhi, watches during a news conference in New Delhi on 8 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

A general view of the Arak heavy-water project, 190 km (120 miles) southwest of Teheran on 15 Jan, 2011.—REUTERS

UN inspectors visit Iranian site linked to nuclear programme

A general view of the Arak heavy-water project, 190 km (120 miles) southwest of Teheran on 15 Jan, 2011.—REUTERS

A general view of the Arak heavy-water project, 190 km (120 miles) southwest of Teheran on 15 Jan, 2011.—REUTERS

Photo: Afghan President Hamid Karzai speaks during a news conference in Kabul on 10 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

Photo: Afghanistan, Iran plan cooperation pact amid tensions with US

Photo: Afghanistan, Iran plan cooperation pact amid tensions with US
**Samsung Galaxy Win Pro quad-core smartphone listed on official China site**

SEOUL, 9 Dec — The South Korean handset maker seems all-set to launch another mid-range quad-core smartphone, the Samsung Galaxy Win Pro.

The successor to Samsung Galaxy Win I8550, which was launched in India as the Galaxy Grand Quattro, is listed on Samsung Mobiles’ China portal. So far, there has been no official announcement by the company, and availability and price remain unknown, though most specifications are featured on the listing.

The Samsung Galaxy Win Pro is a dual-SIM (WCDMA+GSM) smartphone that runs on Android 4.2.2 Jelly Bean. It is powered by a 1.2GHz quad-core processor, but the memory and storage capacity are not mentioned by the company.

The Galaxy Win Pro flaunts higher resolution but smaller 4.5-inch qHD (540x960) display, compared to its predecessor, which had a 4.7-inch WVGA (480x800) display.

Apart from a VGA front-facing camera, the smartphone boasts of a 5-megapixel AF rear camera with LED flash with shooting modes like panorama shooting, continuous shooting etc, the camera can also record sound while shooting photos.

The battery power has been slightly improved with a bump up to 2100mAh from 2000mAh on the Galaxy Grand Quattro. Other specifications of the Galaxy Win Pro include full-HD video playback capabilities, apart from Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 3G, GPS and Micro-USB connectivity.

Recently Samsung had announced the successor to the Samsung Galaxy Grand 2, which runs on Android 4.3 Jelly Bean out-of-the-box. The Galaxy Grand 2 is a dual-SIM device with support for GSM+GSM. It features a 5.2-inch HD TFT display with a resolution of 720x1280 pixels. The Galaxy Grand 2 is powered by a 1.2GHz quad-core processor alongside 1.5GB of RAM. It sports an 8-megapixel autofocus rear camera accompanied by an LED flash. It also houses a 1.9-megapixel front-facing camera. It comes with 8GB inbuilt storage, which is further expandable up to 64GB via microSD card.

**Small steps to Mars are a big leap for Indian companies**

NEW DELHI, 9 Dec — Indian companies that built most of the parts for the country’s recently launched Mars mission are using their low-cost, high-tech expertise in frugal space engineering to carve out a niche as suppliers to consumers,” said Steve King, Chief Executive of Zenith. “Combined with continued rise of young, dynamic markets, this will spur healthy and sustained growth in global adspend over the next three years,” Zenith predicts mobile technology will contribute 36 percent of the extra ad spend between 2013 and 2016.—Reuters

The successor to Samsung Galaxy Win I8550, which was launched in India as the Galaxy Grand Quattro, is listed on Samsung Mobiles’ China portal.—PTI

The venture has a price tag of just 4.5 billion rupees ($72 million), roughly one-tenth the cost of Maven, NASA’s latest Mars mission. Two-thirds of the parts for the Indian probe and rocket were made by domestic firms like Larsen & Toubro, the country’s largest engineering firm, Godrej & Boyce, and state plane-maker Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. While such companies have a long way to go before they can attract big business in the commercial space sector, years of work on home-grown space projects are helping them carve out a niche as suppliers of precision parts for related sectors like defence, aeronautics and nuclear energy.—Reuters

**China’s Haier Electronics hit year high on Alibaba logistics deal**

HONG KONG, 9 Dec — Chinese appliance maker Haier Electronics Group Co Ltd agreed to team up with e-commerce giant Alibaba Group to further develop its logistics business, in a move that sent Haier Electronic’s stock to a 1-year high.

The joint venture, announced through a stock exchange filing, includes several parts, for a total deal value of HK$2.25 billion ($283 million). Haier’s shares soared 20 percent to HK$22.35 in early morning trading, the highest since February 2000, outpacing a 0.7 percent gain in the benchmark Hang Seng Index. The company’s stock is up 95 percent on the year to date.

Haier Electronics is muscling in on their distributors and expanding into logistics and e-commerce in a bid to win the fierce battle for margins in the world’s biggest home appliance market. The company’s largest shareholder is KKR-backed Qingdao Haier Co Ltd, which owns a 47.9 percent stake. The agreement also comes amid a flurry of deals by fast growing Alibaba, which has bought into several companies recently and is preparing what could be a roughly $15 billion IPO.

As part of the deal, Alibaba will hold a 9.9 percent stake in the joint venture with Hong Kong-listed Haier Electronics, which manufactures and sells washing machines and water heaters.—Reuters

**China uncovers early Buddhist architecture**

TAITUAN, 9 Dec — Archaeologists in north China’s Shanxi Province have discovered a 1,400-year-old temple where a collection of statues of the Buddha were once stored. The shrine, enclosed by walls carved with Buddha niches, is part of the Tongzi Temple complex secluded on a mountain near the city of Taiyuan, capital of Shanxi.

The structure was built in 556 during the Northern Qi Dynasty (550–557), a booming period for Buddhism, according to researchers with the Institute of Archaeology of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (IA CASS). “The structure is the only one of its kind ever found in China and it sheds light on early Buddhist carvings,” said Li Yuqun, researcher with the IA CASS and lead archaeologist on the excavation.

Though destroyed in war in 1117, the temple has yielded up a batch of well-preserved statues. One of its walls was carved with a Buddha figure over 20 meters in height. It was unrecognizable after so many years but archaeologists unearthed some remnants that suggest its original looks. —Xinhua
China to probe use of foreign currency in trade finance

Beijing, 9 Dec — Chinese regulators will clamp down on banks’ and companies’ use of foreign currency for trade finance by ensuring that trade deals are authentic and by monitoring for unusual cross-border cash flows, state media reported. The report starting to change. Big Pharma is focusing a lot more of these days on drugs for rare diseases like Parkhill’s — and the sky-high prices they can command — and some are also eying the potential of addressing related muscle problems behind a range of more common diseases. Sporadic Inclusion Body Myositis (sIBM) is the most common muscle-wasting disease in the over 50s, yet its exact cause remains unknown and there are no approved drugs to treat it. Although sIBM affects no more than 71 people per million, Swiss drugmaker Novartis is developing a treatment that stimulates muscle growth in sufferers. It is betting that the drug, known as gimategib or BYM338 and developed with German biotech company MorphoSys, might help combat muscle loss associated with conditions like idiopathic inflammatory myopathy, a chronic lung disease that afflicts millions of people. It could even be beneficial for patients recovering from injury or an operation, and the druggmaker is currently conducting a Phase II trial for hip fracture recovery. Novartis is not the only pharmaceutical firm working on muscle-building treatments. But it is heading the field in sIBM with BYM338, which was granted breakthrough therapy status from US health regulators in August and is entering late-stage trials. It expects to file for approval in 2016. — Reuters

Methods may slightly reduce sitting time at work

New York, 9 Dec — Three different strategies to reduce the amount of time people spend sitting at work seemed effective, in a new study. But in jobs without flexible schedules, they only reduced sitting time by about eight minutes a day. “We were surprised by how difficult it was to reduce sedentary time and that no one approach seemed better than the other approaches,” Leon Staker said. He worked on the study at Curtin University in Perth, Australia. “The new findings will help combat obesity and heart disease. Hitting the gym outside work hours doesn’t seem better than the other

Supreme Court justice denies stay in airline merger

In their appeal to the Supreme Court, plaintiffs led by California resident Carolyn Fjord warned that “irreparable injury” could be caused to the domestic airline industry if the deal goes ahead as planned. They fear the merger will drive air travel prices up and that service down and make planes more crowded. The merger is expected to be consummated before the opening of US securities markets on Monday. A federal judge on Friday rejected the previous attempt by the group to stop the merger. If one high court justice denies a stay request, the same application can be made to another justice but such moves are rarely successful. Usually, if a request is made to a second justice it will be referred to the full court. — Reuters

China yuan hits new high against USD on Monday

Beijing, 9 Dec — The Chinese currency Renminbi, or yuan, strengthened 102 basis points to a record high of 6.115 against the US dollar on Monday, according to the China Foreign Exchange Trading System. In China’s foreign exchange spot market, the yuan is allowed to rise or fall by 1 percent from the central parity rate each trading day. The central parity rate of the yuan against the US dollar is based on a weighted average of prices before the opening of the spot market each business day. Xinhua

China yuan hits new high against USD on Monday

A man looks at the Pudong financial district of Shanghai on 20 Nov, 2013. — Reuters

FDA approves Gilead’s $1,000-a-day hepatitis C pill

New York, 9 Dec — US regulators on Friday approved Gilead Sciences Inc’s Sovaldi as a potentially easier cure for chronic infection with the liver-depressing hepatitis C virus. The once-a-day pill is the first approved to treat certain types of hepatitis C infection without the need for interferon, an injected drug that can cause severe flu-like symptoms. Hepatitis C, which is often undiagnosed, affects about 3.2 million Americans, killing more than 15,000 each year, mostly from illnesses such as cirrhosis and liver cancer. Most patients will be treated with the $1,000-a-day drug for 12 weeks, resulting in a total list price of $84,000, according to Gilead spokeswoman Cara Miller. “Today marks a landmark advance in the treatment of hepatitis C, opening up new opportunities to stop the spread of this virus and the ravages of this disease,” Dr John Ward, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s division of viral hepatitis, said in a statement. Last year, the CDC recommended that all baby boomers, born from 1945 to 1965, be tested for the virus. Introduction of blood and organ screening in the 1990s has dramatically lowered infection rates for younger generations. Gilead said Sovaldi, also known as sofosbuvir, can be used in combination with ribavirin, an older antiviral pill, for patients with genotypes 2 and 3 infections, which account for about 28 percent of US patients infected with the virus. — Reuters

Novartis aims to show strength with muscle wasting drug

Basel, 9 Dec — Fifteen years ago Ian Parkhill was diagnosed with a rare muscle-wasting disease that gradually robbed him of the strength in his thighs. Now, he struggles to walk. The wasting muscle in his arms will soon hinder his ability to pull himself out of a chair, he fears, and simple tasks such as holding a pen are increasingly difficult as the dexterity in his fingers declines. “The only sort of grip I have is between the thumb and the palm,” said 81-year-old Parkhill, a former electrical engineer, who lives in Droitwich, England. “If I put a pencil on a flat surface, I can’t pick it up. I’ve got to use both hands.” Parkhill’s rare condition has, to date, gained little attention from drugmakers — but that is changing. Bristol-Myers Squibb has started a phase two study to test the effectiveness of an oral drug to treat Sporadic Inclusion Body Myositis (sIBM) which is the most common muscle-wasting disease, affecting over 50s, with the potential to affect millions of people. It could even be beneficial for patients recovering from injury or an operation, and the drugmaker is currently conducting a Phase II trial for hip fracture recovery. Novartis is not the only pharmaceutical firm working on muscle-building treatments. But it is heading the field in sIBM with BYM338, which was granted breakthrough therapy status from US health regulators in August and is entering late-stage trials. It expects to file for approval in 2016. — Reuters

Shareholders queue to enter the St Jakob Halle for Swiss drug maker Novartis annual general meeting in Basel on 22 Feb, 2013. — Reuters
The Opening Ceremony on 11 December, 2013

Wai Phyo Aung shows his three gold medals as he is hugged by his mother at Wunna Theikdi Stadium.

Photo: Aye Min Soe

Men’s Chinlone team of Myanmar celebrates victory after winning the gold medal at Wunna Theikdi Stadium.

Photo: Aye Min Soe

Women’s Chinlone players of Myanmar wave hands to fans at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium.

Photo: Aye Min Soe

Tassamalee Thongjan of Thailand lands a blow to Nesthey Petegio of the Philippines during Women’s Feather (54-57) kg bout at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium. Nesthey Petegio won on points over Tassamalee Thongjan.

Photo: Aye Min Soe

School children wait outside the stadium for boxing event of Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium to watch fisticuffs.

Photo: Aye Min Soe
Myanmar grabs two gold, one silver, one bronze on first day of wrestling event

Vietnam stood first at the final match of Men’s Greco-55 kg followed by the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand which won joint bronze in wrestling men’s Greco-roman 55 kg contest. In the men’s greco-roman 60 kg contest, gold medal went to Thailand while Myanmar was satisfied with silver and Vietnam and Laos took joint bronze medal.

Myint Zin won Myanmar’s first men’s greco-roman 120 kg contest while Cambodia bagged silver and Laos bronze.

At the prize presentation ceremony, Union Minister U Tint Hsan presented gifts to athletes from Thailand while silver went to Laos and bronze to Cambodia in the wrestling women’s freestyle-67 kg contest.

Myanmar Pencak Silat national team.

Myint Zin celebrates his victory after winning gold medal in wrestling event in 27th SEA Games.

Tin made a speech.

Federation Chairman U Soe and new generation boxers.

quarters, selected boxers military command head-

Taw Council Area today.

Peace for Youth boxer club set up

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Dec—Companies of host Myanmar welcomed athletes of participating countries that will take part in the XXVII SEA Games at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.

Officials, media personnel and M 150 soft drink companies presented gifts to athletes from Thailand Malaysia who arrived at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by PG 1721 flight at 1.40 pm and posed for documentary photo together with foreign athletes.

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Peace for Youth Peace boxer club in Uyinsu Ward Peace for Youth boxer club set up

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Dec—As a gesture of honouring XXVII SEA Games, the Peace for Youth boxer club was set up in Uyinsu Ward of Pyimmana in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area today.

It was attended by officials of Myanmar Boxing Federation, coaches of the military command headquarters, selected boxers and new generation boxers.

Nay Pyi Taw Boxing Federation Chairman U Soe Tin made a speech.

Former Mandalay Region selected boxers U Zaw Min Aung, U Kyaw Lwin, U Zaw Win Aung, U Ko Lay and coaches of the military command headquarters gave lectures on boxing event.

Wai Phyo Aung bags three gold in three events

Wai Phyo Aung has bagged three gold in three contests in Wushu, becoming undoubtedly the crowd favourite in Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium today.

“My heart is nearly shed in tears with happiness,” says Wai Phyo Aung after winning his third gold medal in Nan Dao event of Wushu, including today’s medal.

Myanmar opens its Pencak Silat campaign with...

(from page 1) event that will present 15 gold—10 in fighting and five in demonstration, giving our best in each and every category,” vouched Myanmar Pencak Silat squad leader Ye Thiha, expressing his view that new pencak silat powerhouse Vietnam will be a main rival for Myanmar’s gold rush in 27th SEA Games’ Pencak Silat. Vietnam won 6 gold medals at the 26th SEA Games in Indonesia and eight gold, nine silver and three bronze medals at the 15th Pencak Silat World Championship in Thailand.

“I believe our athletes are in confidence of reaching medal targets as much as we can at the Games because it is held in our country,” said an official of Myanmar Pencak Silat national team.

Myanmar brought home only three bronze medals in Pencak Silat at the 2011 Indonesia SEA Games in which host Indonesia captured nine gold, five bronzes and two bronze while Vietnam stood second in the medal table with six gold, seven silvers and five bronzes in Indonesia.

By Aye Min Soe

All fans in the stadium was infected with his achievement and took to the floor roaring: “Myanmar, Myanmar, we, Myanmar wins.”

He was also honoured by Union Minister for Livestock, Fishery and Rural Development U Ohn Myint an OMEGA watch and by Union Sports Minister U Tint Hsan with K 4 million before he left the floor.

Wai Phyo Aung, 23, started Wushu at the age of around 9.

“I will do my best in my last event to win gold,” Wai Phyo Aung said in a confident mood.

So far, Myanmar has won five gold, two silver and five bronze in Wushu, wins and one loss in its three matches for Day 1.

Pencak Silat, regarded as Indonesia’s indigenous martial art, was initially introduced at the 1987 SEA Games in Jakarta.

Myanmar, we, Myanmar wins.”

Myanmar Pencak Silat national team.

Union Minister for Livestock, Fishery and Rural Development U Ohn Myint.
New Light of Myanmar

**NATIONAL**

Laotian goodwill delegation arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

Former Laotian President Mr Choummaly SAYASONE and wife being welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin and wife Daw Lin Lin Tin.—MNA

**Fourth International Conference on Science and Engineering at Sedona Hotel**

**Yangon, 9 Dec.—** The fourth International Conference on Science and Engineering was held at Sedona Hotel, here, this morning. On the occasion, Rector Dr Aye Myint of Yangon Technological University delivered an address citing that science and technological sector is a main core for economic development and ensuring higher socio-economic status of the country and that the Ministry of Science and Technology is striving for human resources development, implementing infrastructures and conducting more scientific and technological researches. Professors and experts from Universities of various countries shared knowledge on their respective topics. Local and foreign resource persons read out their papers at the conference that runs up till tomorrow.—MNA

**Announcement of gathering points and bus departure times for the guests to attend opening and closing of 27th SEA Games**

1. The opening ceremony of the 27th SEA Games will be held on 11-12-2013 and the closing ceremony on 22-12-2013 on a grand scale.
2. Special buses from the following gathering points will be arranged to reach the designated places in Wunna Theikdhi Stadium safely and rapidly in time and prevent traffic congestion along the road.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gathering point</th>
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<tr>
<td>Group (1)</td>
<td>VIP-3(World/Asia/ASEAN/ NOC Chairmen/ Technical Delegates/Medical guests</td>
<td>Thingaha Hotel</td>
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<td>Zabuthiri BEHS No (10)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group (7)</td>
<td>Tickets for internal</td>
<td>Near Nay Pyi Taw/Thabyegon</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group (8)</td>
<td>Tickets for foreign</td>
<td>Near Zabuthiri BEHS No (11)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Myanmar Chinlone athletes...**

After the event, Union Minister for Sports U Tin Hsan greeted victorious Myanmar Chinlone teams. Deputy Minister U Thaung Htike today presented K 100,000 awarded by Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association to each of Chinlone athletes.—Aye Aye Myint

**MMF to refund Myanmar vs Indonesia tickets**

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Dec—There was a change to a match schedule of Group (A) of the 27th SEA Games women’s football tournament as Indonesia officially informed that its women’s football was unable to take part in the tournament due to various reasons. According to the match schedule which was redrawn by Asia Football Federation for the Group (A) consisting Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia and host Myanmar, there will be one match in one day and every game will start at 4 pm. So, the match between Myanmar and the Philippines will be held at 4 pm on 10 December, the match between the Philippines and Vietnam on 13 December and the match between Vietnam and Myanmar on 15 December. Myanmar Football Federation will refund the payment received from the ticket holders of the SEA Games women’s football match between Myanmar and Indonesia starting from 9 am on 11 December at Myanmar Football Academy in Mandalay. Moreover, the ticket holders will be allowed free admission to Philippines-Vietnam match on 13 December. The federation released a statement apologizing to football fans for the change of match schedule and called on them to continue their support for Myanmar women’s football team that will strive for victory in every match to appease frustrated fans.—MNA

MNA

**Remark**

1. After the ceremony, the fans are requested to come back to the car parking.
2. Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee arranged transportation for those from (Group 7) gathering point who bought the local tickets near Nay Pyi Taw/Thabyegon/Maw Kham Nw on with a fare of K 500 and those from Group (8) gathering point near BEHS (11) with a fare of K 200.
3. So, the guests are informed the transportation programme from above-mentioned gathering points to Wunna Theikdhi Stadium.

Leading Committee for holding 27th SEA Games
Region development tasks discussed in Mongton Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Dec—Union Ministers U Hla Tun, Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win and deputy ministers arrived at Namhsan of Shan State via Lashio this morning.

The Union ministers and party looked into the construction of Border Areas National Races Youth Development Training School in Namhsan and landslide in the back of Namhsan Township People’s Hospital where they encouraged hospitalized patients and provided cash assistance to them. Shan State government donated K 1 million for the People’s Hospital.

Later, Union Minister U Hla Tun delivered speech in meeting with local people in Namhsan Township of Shan State.—MNA

Union Minister U Hla Tun delivers speech in meeting with local people in Namhsan Township of Shan State.—MNA

Development Affairs Committee gave advice on regional development. Later, Union Minister U Hla Tun and responsible persons presented gifts to local people and cordially greeted them.

By MNA (Yangon)

Indonesian women to compete in Futsal but not ready to participate in football

MYANMAR, defending champion Vietnam and Thailand will meet in big matches in women’s football event in Mandalay. Trs: MT

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**Kyi Soe Tun Library put into service in Shwebo Tsp**

Kyi Soe Tun Library in the compound of Basic Education Primary School in Padaung Village of Shwebo Township on 7 December. The library was donated by Film Director Academy Kyi Soe Tun-Daw. He and his family donated books to the library.

**Pamphlets on traffic rules distributed in Kalay**

Traffic rules enforcement, the first week of November. The device was imported from Thailand. The installation of the traffic lights and score boards cost K 7.488 million, said member of Township Development Supportive Committee U Aye Cho. After the educative period, action will be taken against the traffic rules offenders under the traffic law, said Commander of District Police Force Police Lt-Col Thein Win.

**Myeik Township cycling festival hails XXVII SEA Games**

**Myeik, 9 Dec—**As a gesture of hailing the XXVII SEA Games, all the people of Myeik Township of Taninthayi Region participated in the township cycling festival on 8 December.

At first, Myeik District Deputy Commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo gave instructions on prevention against traffic accidents in the festival. The participants from the festival including the Deputy Commissioner of the district, departmental officials, members of social organizations, Myeik District Sports and Physical Education Department, local people, members of the organizing committee, students and others started their cycling festival from Pyithaya Road in Myothit Ward 7 and passed along Kanbaukyo Road, Karani Road, Bogyoke Road, Kanpya Myeni Road, Airport Road, Padaukpin Road, Baho Road, Dawsiu fire station road and Strand Road and then finished at Pyithaya Road gathering point.

The Japan bicycle sales centre in Myeik sponsored over 350 bicycles to be used in the festival free of charge. Myeik Future Development Co Ltd, Zinyaw Min Purified Drinking Water, Shwenandaw Confectionery, Aung Myinmo Ice Factory and Blue Mountain presented caps, shirts and foods to the participants of the festival, said Chairman of the organizing committee Ko Po Kyaw Thein. Several films and TV dramas are being held in Myeik, he said.

**Local people young and old participate in the whole township cycling festival in Myeik hailing XXVII SEA Games.**

**Town Hall uplifting prestige of Kalay Township**

Town Hall of Township General Administration Department or the gymnasium. Now, the town hall will give seats to the people at more rallies.

**Bee-keeping industries moved to sunflower plantations on Kalay-Gangaw Road**

The beekeeping works from various regions of the nation were moved to sunflower plantations on Kalay-Gangaw Road Section as of mid-November.

Hive boxes were kept in Kalay from February to May. In June, they were moved to Kani Township of Monywa District and then to sunflower plantations of Gangaw Township, said bee-keeping entrepreneurs.

At present, honey is sold at K 1700 per viss. The domestic honey is exported to Japan via Yangon and Mandalay. Eight to 12 sheets of honeycombs are kept in the beehives. If the entrepreneur wants thick honey, they have to keep about 10 sheets of honeycombs. If they want thin honey, about seven sheets of honeycombs must be kept in the beehives. Each bottle of honey can be sold at K 2000. If there areas are plenty of flower, the beekeeping business is cost effective, said a beekeeping entrepreneurs from Thayawady Village.
SINGAPORE, 9 Dec — A crowd of around 400 people set fire to vehicles and clashed with police in the Indian district of Singapore late on Sunday after a man was hit and killed by a bus, the first major riot in the city-state for more than 40 years.

Police said they had arrested 27 suspects after the riot, which started after a private bus hit and killed a 33-year-old Indian national in the Little India area.

The riot is likely to fuel concerns about discontent among low-paid foreign workers. Last year, Singapore saw its biggest outbreak of labour unrest in years when around 170 bus drivers from mainland China went on strike illegally.

Several videos posted online showed a crowd of people smashing the windscreen of the bus while the victim remained trapped under the vehicle.

Police said the 27 arrested were of South Asian origin and that they expected to make more arrests in coming days. About 300 officers were sent on foot to streets to quell the riot.

A statement by the Civil Defence Force (CDF), which oversees ambulances and fire fighting, said rescuers trying to remove the body had “projectiles” thrown at them when they arrived on the scene.

Footage showed police cars being flipped over and several vehicles on fire. The CDF said an ambulance, three police cars and a motorbike were burnt.

Riot policemen watch burning vehicles during a riot in Singapore's Little India district, late on 8 Dec, 2013. — Reuters

China, Thailand hold antiterrorism training

BANGKOK, 9 Dec — Chinese and Thai special forces will hold joint antiterrorism training from 8 to 21 December in Thailand, the Chinese Defence Ministry said in a statement.

The drill, code-named “Strike 2013”, is the fourth time for armies of the two countries to hold such antiterror training since 2007. The drill is aimed to deepen pragmatic cooperation and increase mutual trust and friendship between the two militaries, the statement said.

The two armies will also explore new ways of joint implementation of antiterror action through the training, according to the statement.

Abe to meet Press on Monday amid protests over secrecy law

TOKYO, 9 Dec — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will hold a Press conference on Monday to deliver a message to the public on Japan’s controversial secrecy law, which was enacted last week amid strong opposition, a government source said.

Abe will meet with the press at 6 pm at his office.

The law, rammed through the Diet by Abe’s ruling coalition toward the end of a 55-day extraordinary session, creates categories of “special secrets” for sensitive information on diplomacy and national security and toughens penalties for those who leak them.

The Diet session ended on Sunday.

Abe will explain at the Press conference the significance of the legislation and his views on it, the source said.

The coalition led by Abe’s Liberal Democratic Party enacted the law on Friday despite disputes with the opposition camp on some of its elements.

Critics say the law could undermine people’s constitutional right to know as well as freedom of the Press.—Kyodo News

S Korea closely monitors DPRK situation after expulsion of Jang Song-thaek

SEOUL, 9 Dec — South Korea’s Unification Ministry said on Monday that Seoul was more closely monitoring the situation in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) after news that DPRK leader Kim Jong Un ousted his uncle-in-law Jang Song-thaek.

Ministry spokesman Kim Eui-Do told a routine press briefing that Jang’s purge was formally confirmed through the DPRK’s official news agency, noting that Seoul was closely monitoring situations in the DPRK’s inner circle and external relations, with several possibilities in mind.

The DPRK’s official news agency KCNA reported early on Monday that Jang was removed from all posts and expelled from the Workers’ Party of Korea (WPK) for “anti-Party and counterrevolutionary crimes.”

The KCNA news came after the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee held an enlarged meeting on Sunday.

Jang, who was married to DPRK leader Kim’s biological aunt, was vice chairman of the National Defense Commission and secretary of the WPK ad- ministration department.

Last Tuesday, South Korea’s spy agency claimed the ouster of Jang, saying that Jang had not been seen after two of his close aides were executed in late November. South Korean Defense Minister Kim Kwan- jin had on Monday told a routine press briefing that some work has been under way within the DPRK to rearrange power structure, saying that Pyongyang was strengthening its military capabilities across the nation under these circumstances.—Xinhua

Japan logs 1st current account deficit in 9 months

TOKYO, 9 Dec — Japan’s current account balance logged a deficit for the first time in nine months in October, as a surge in fuel imports more than offset increases in exports and direct investment income, government data showed on Monday.

The deficit in the balance, one of the widest gauges of international trade, stood at 127.9 billion yen in the reporting month, the Finance Ministry said in a preliminary report. In September, the country recorded a surplus of 587.3 billion yen.

The goods trade balance registered a deficit of 1,091.9 billion yen in October, the largest for the reporting month since 1985, when comparable data became available, as imports grew 28.2 percent from a year earlier to 6,925.1 billion yen, due to rising imports of crude oil and liquefied natural gas.

Exports expanded 17.9 percent to 5,833.2 billion yen, mainly due to increased exports of automobiles, but the rise was not enough to offset the deficit.

The income account, which reflects how much Japan earns from its foreign investments, rose 9.1 percent to 1,361.5 billion yen for the second straight month of increase, due partly to effects of a weakening yen.

During the same month, the Japanese curren- cy dropped against the US dollar by 23.9 percent on year on an average basis and the euro by 30.2 percent, according to the ministry.

A weaker yen usually boosts the competitiveness of Japanese exporters and increases the value of overseas revenue in yen terms, while pushing up import costs.

Despite reporting the first red ink in nine months in October, some analysts said the move is likely to be temporary, as the country’s income account is projected to continue rising to offset trade deficits.

Kyodo News
**Claims Day Notice**

**MV Ninos Voy No (1008)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV Ninos Voy No (1008) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

**Shipping Agency Department**

**Myanmar Port Authority**

Agent for: MS China Shipping (Malaysia) Agency SDN BHD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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**Claims Day Notice**

**MV Uni Assure Voy No (045)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV Uni Assure Voy No (045) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

**Shipping Agency Department**

**Myanmar Port Authority**

Agent for: MS Ever Green Shipping Line

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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**Claims Day Notice**

**MV Kota Restu Voy No (355)**

Consigenees of cargo carried on MV Kota Restu Voy No (355) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

**Shipping Agency Department**

**Myanmar Port Authority**

Agent for: MS Advance Container Lines

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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**Claims Day Notice**

**MV Phuong Nam 68 Voy No (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV Phuong Nam 68 Voy No (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(1) where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

**Shipping Agency Department**

**Myanmar Port Authority**

Agent for: MS G Link Express Co Ltd

Phone No: 256924/256914

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**Claims Day Notice**

**MV Gunkul-1 Voy No (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV Gunkul-1 Voy No (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(7) where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

**Shipping Agency Department**

**Myanmar Port Authority**

Agent for: MS Kulnatee Co Ltd

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

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**Claims Day Notice**

**Myanmar 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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr No</th>
<th>Tender No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Remark</th>
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<tr>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>IFB-120(2013-2014)</td>
<td>4 1/4” &amp; 3 1/2” Square Kelly with Bushing</td>
<td>(3) Items</td>
<td>US$</td>
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<td>(2)</td>
<td>IFB-121(2013-2014)</td>
<td>(5) Ton Air Winch for EMSCO, Oil Well, D3T2SR-1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>(4) Nos</td>
<td>US$</td>
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<td>(3)</td>
<td>IFB-122(2013-2014)</td>
<td>Submersible Pump (440 IGPM, 450 Ft Head, 75 KW (100 HP), 400 V</td>
<td>(1) Lot</td>
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<td>(4)</td>
<td>IFB -123(2013-2014)</td>
<td>Derrick Shaker Unit Flow Line Mud Cleaner FLC - 504</td>
<td>(2) Sets</td>
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<td>(8)</td>
<td>IFB-127(2013-2014)</td>
<td>Tubing and Casing Swab Cups</td>
<td>(4) Items</td>
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<td>(9)</td>
<td>IFB-128(2013-2014)</td>
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<td>(10)</td>
<td>IFB-129(2013-2014)</td>
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<td>IFB-132(2013-2014)</td>
<td>2&quot;, 3&quot; Flow Line Pipes</td>
<td>(2) Items</td>
<td>US$</td>
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<tr>
<td>(14)</td>
<td>IFB-133(2013-2014)</td>
<td>Sucker Rod Elevator</td>
<td>(5) Items</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 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, Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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

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**People participate in a march on the last day of World Royal Heritage Festival in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 8 Dec, 2013. — XIHRA**

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**New Light of Myanmar**

**AdvertiSement & General**

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**The Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

**Ministry of Energy**

**Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise**

(Invitation for Open Tender)

(15/2013)
When fractured leg became a problem for Sonu Sood

Mumbai, 9 Dec — Actor Sonu Sood, who is part of the latest Bollywood release R... Rajkumar, says he suffered a fractured leg before the shooting of the film began and that became a hurdle for him in performing the action scenes.

“Sonu says the action sequences in R... Rajkumar are exemplary.” — PTI

Miley Cyrus’ Wrecking Ball named Most Watched Video of 2013

Los Angeles, 9 Dec — The music video for songstress Miley Cyrus’ Wrecking Ball topped the list of Vevo’s most-viewed music video of 2013. The Terry Richardson-directed visuals has so far been viewed over 371 million times and is the fastest video to pass 100 million views in the site’s history, reported Ace Showbiz. Released back in September, the raunchy clip features the former Disney princess going nude while swinging on the top of a wrecking ball.

It garnered 19.3 million views during its first day on the site, immediately breaking the previous record set by One Direction’s Best Song Ever. The 21-year-old singer’s equally provocative We Can’t Stop becomes the second most-viewed clip on the site, raking in more than 310 million views. Will.I.am and Britney Spears’ Scream & Shout surprisingly enters the list at number 3, earning more views than Rihanna’s Diamonds, Katy Perry’s Roar and Pink’s Just Give Me a Reason. — PTI

Donate Blood
**Champions League set for some much-needed drama**

**BERNE, 9 Dec —** The Champions League is set for some much-needed drama this week with the conclusion of a group stage which has been all too predictable and produced an embarrassing procession of one-sided matches. Eight places in the round of 16 are still up for grabs, with much of the attention focused on Group F where Napoli, Borussia Dortmund and Arsenal are battling for two spots.

With Juventus and AC Milan each needing a point to qualify against tricky opponents, Italy could end up with all three of their teams in the last 16, or none at all. Benfica’s chances of reaching the last 16 are also still in play with a chance of going through. Manchester United, Real Madrid, Paris St Germain, Bayern Munich, Manchester City, Chelsea, Atletico Madrid and Barcelona have safely qualified and can use the games to give their lesser-used players a run out. So far, four games in the group stage have been won by five-goal margins, six games won by four goals and 13 matches have ended with a difference of three goals. Despite the group stage’s predictable nature, this season has at last proved more competitive than last term when 13 of the 16 knockout stage places had been booked before the final round of group matches.

As expected, Group A has turned out to be far too tough. Leaders Arsenal (12 points) travel to Napoli (9) needing a draw, or a defeat by less than three goals, while Borussia Dortmund (9), will go through if they beat pointless Olympique Marseille away, regardless of how many fans turned Should Napoli and Dortmund both win, they will finish level with Arsenal on 12 points and the qualifiers will be decided by the results between the three teams. Group E will also have a dramatic finish when habitual over-achievers Basel (8 points) visit spectacularly inconsistent Schalke (7) needing a point to join Chelsea in the last 16. Despite their dismal domestic form, seven-times champions AC Milan (8) should get the point they need at home to Ajax Amsterdam (7) and follow Barcelona through from Group H. “The Dutch have achieved great results and have good technique and we must take all the necessary precautions,” said Milan’s unflappable coach Massimiliano Allegri whose future is the source of constant speculation. “We have to score a goal, we cannot think of playing for the 0-0.” — Reuters

**Arsenal’s Jack Wilshere scores a goal against Olympique Marseille during their Champions League soccer match at the Emirates stadium in London on 26 Nov, 2013. — Reuters**

**Rejuvenated Miller back on World Cup podium**

**BEAVER CREEK, (Colorado), 9 Dec —** Leaner and keener, Bode Miller made it back on a World Cup podium after an 18-months break from skiing on Sunday and called his spectacular recovery a “redemption”. The once Maverick poster boy of American skiing, now a married man and father of two, displayed his exceptional natural talent once again to finish second in a men’s giant slalom 1.32 seconds behind compatriot Ted Ligety in Beaver Creek.

While Ligety’s victory, his fourth consecutively today, Ligety said. The crowd discovered quite a different Miller in the finish area. Fitter after losing 12 kilograms over the summer, the usually indifferent champion raised his fist after crossing the line, a sign that the result meant a lot to him. And it did, especially in front of his wife, beach volleyball player and model Morgan Beck, who now travels with him and his daughter on the World Cup circuit. “It’s so funny to be sandwiched behind our two young guys,” said Miller, who finished half a second ahead of Austrian overall World Cup holder Marcel Hirscher. — Reuters

**Few surprises in Spanish Copa del Rey**

**MADRID, 9 Dec —** Real Madrid were involved in one of the few minor upsets which took place in the last 32 of the Copa del Rey knockout competition in Spain over the past three days.

The last 32 sees the sides from the BBVA Primera Liga enter the hat for the competition with those playing in Europe drawn to play the lowest ranked sides remaining in the tournament in a tie which is played on a home and away basis with the first leg played in the ground of the smaller club.

Real Madrid faced third tier side Olimpic de Xativa and despite fielding a strong team were only able to draw 0-0, although they are overwhelming favorites to qualify with ease in the return leg. Real Sociedad also suffered a similar upset, although they too will expect to qualify after a 1-1 draw away to Algeciras. Elsewhere FC Barcelona won 4-1 in Cartagena, while Atletico Madrid cruised home 4-0 past San Andreu to leave their second legs matches virtually meaningless. Betis won 2-1 at Leida, while Sevilla won 1-0 away to racing Santander with a goal scored by former Racing player, Jairo.

There were minor surprises in Huelva, where the second division high-flyers defeated Levante 1-0, a result diluted by the fact that less than 1,000 fans turned up to watch the game, while Girona drew at home to Primera Liga, Getafe in another match played in front of largely empty stands.

There was more excitement in Villarreal - Elche, which ended 2-2, while Celta and Athletic Club Bilbao produced an exciting match which Celta won 1-0 thanks to a goal from striker Santi Mina, who was celebrating his 18th birthday.

**Arsenal frustrated by Deulofeu’s late equaliser**

**LONDON, 9 Dec —** Gerard Deulofeu’s late goal earned Everton a deserved 1-1 draw at Premier League leaders Arsenal after Mesut Ozil’s strike seemed set to seal three points for the home side in a sizzling clash at The Emirates on Sunday. An absorbing contest burst into life in the closing stages as Ozil swept Arsenal in front from close range in the 80th minute, only for substitute Deulofeu to fire a powerful shot past Wojciech Szczesny four minutes later.

Olivier Giroud almost snatched victory in stoppage-time for the hosts when his 30-metre thunderbolt thumped against the woodwork, although that would have been harsh on Everton, who won at what Manchester United on Wednesday.

With a treacherous-looking fixture list looming, Arsenal lead the table with 35 points, five clear of Liverpool and one of the top five to win this weekend. Chelsea also have 30 points with Everton, beaten only once in the league this season, fifth on 28. — Reuters

**Everton’s Gerard Deulofeu (L) celebrates scoring during their English Premier League soccer match against Arsenal at The Emirates in London, on 8 Dec, 2013. — Reuters**
Johnson steals Tiger’s thunder with Sherwood win

Four suspected pirates arrested in Nigeria

China bans wild animals from official dinner tables

Storm in northeastern Brazil kills eight

People line up for free frozen turkeys at a local store

Steed, (California), 9 Dec — Tournament host Tiger Woods was denied a sixth win of the year in sensational fashion when he lost the Northwestern Mutual World Challenge in a playoff with Zach Johnson at Sherwood Country Club on Sunday. Johnson, who had twice finished second to fellow American Woods at this elite limited-field event, sealed victory with a rock-solid par at the 18th, the first extra hole, where Woods lipped out with a five-footer to bogey.

The duo had finished regulation amid high drama and sharp swings of fortune on 13-under 275, Woods parring the last for a two-under 70 and Johnson, who came from four strokes behind with four birdies in the last eight holes, closing with a 68. “It was a bit too much drama at the end there,” a beaming Johnson told reporters after earning the winner’s cheque for $1 million.

“I feel very fortunate and somewhat lucky to be sitting here as a champion.” Tied for the lead at 13 under, Johnson appeared to have the title firmly in his grasp in regulation when five-time champion Woods, from the left rough at the 18th, dumped his approach into a greenside bunker.

However Johnson, perfectly positioned in the fairway, stunningly found wood with his second, took a penalty drop and then holed out from 58 yards in the fairway for a par four as the galleries erupted in deafening celebration. “It was just a bad swing and I got caught up in the moment,” Johnson said of his poor approach from the 18th fairway. “That was the worst shot I hit all day... probably the worst I hit all week.”

“Certainly the next shot was a little too dramatic for me, but I was very lucky to hit that one in.” Woods did well to get up and down from the bunker to take the tournament into a playoff, but was unable to repeat the feat from a similar position in the same bunker on the first extra hole.

“I hit another really good bunker shot and didn’t have as good a lie the second time around,” world number one Woods said of the first extra hole. “It came out great.”

The putt (for par), I’ve been blocking them all day, and then with that little left-to-righter, I didn’t block that one.”

“Pretty impressive what he did,” Woods said of Johnson’s form down the stretch. “Including that last shot on 18 in regulation, he really hit it well coming in with three good approach shots.”

Bloba Watson, the 2012 Masters champion, closed with a 70 to share third place at nine under with fellow American Matt Kuchar, who piled eight birdies, a bogey and a double in a 67. Defending champion Graeme McDowell of Northern Ireland, who also triumphed here in 2010, signed off with a 69 to finish alone in sixth at five under.—Reuters

LAGOS, 9 Dec — The Nigerian Navy on Sunday said four pirates suspected to be behind the breach of maritime security in the West African nation’s waters have been arrested in southern Rivers State.

The suspects were arrested by the Nigerian Navy ship Burutu on routine patrol, spokespeople said on Sunday.

“The Nigerian Navy patrol also impounded three cutlasses, four knives and pumping machines from the suspects, adding that three hammers, cell phones, eye glasses and an undisclosed amount of money were also recovered.

The suspects were arrested while operating in two wooden boats at about 1-20 pm local time at anchorage off Bonny Fairway buoy.”

BEIJING, 9 Dec — China’s central authorities on Sunday published a regulation that explicitly ruled out dishes containing shark fins, bird nests and wild animal products in official reception dinners.

The document, issued by the general offices of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and the State Council, detailed regulations on the use of public funding on receptions by local authorities to receive visiting Party or governmental officials.

Shark fins, bird nests and products of rare wild animals are popular materials in luxury dinners in China.

Officials on business tours should arrange their own meals according to relevant expenditure standards and the local hosts are allowed to provide only one reception dinner if needed, the regulation said.

The regulation said cigarettes and up-market liquors are not allowed to be served at official dinners and such receptions should not be held in private clubs or upscale places.

It is also prohibited to organize conference and activities at tourist attractions or commercial entertainment venues and government funds should not be used to cover officials’ personal recreational visits, according to the documents.

Moreover, officials below a provincial level should not live in suite rooms on their business trips, it said.

Photo shows a cafe shop at Galou district of Fuzhou in Fujian province. The location of the cafe is a former workshop which produced parts of film projection equipment and after 1985 it’s no longer in use.—Xinhua

RIO DE JANEIRO, 9 Dec — At least eight people died and eight others were missing in a storm in Brazil’s northeastern state of Bahia, local civil defence office said on Sunday. The dead were one boy, six women and one person that has yet to be identified, according to local media.

The storm, that struck Bahia’s Lajedoinho municipality on Saturday, destroyed at least 70 houses and caused relocation of more than 100 people.

People line up for free frozen turkeys at a local store Honest Ed’s during the 26th pre-Christmas turkey giveaway event in Toronto, Canada, on 8 Dec, 2013. Hundreds People around the city lined up to get 1,500 free frozen turkeys and fruit cakes in this annual event on Sunday.—Xinhua

China bans wild animals from official dinner tables

Photo shows a cafe shop at Galou district of Fuzhou in Fujian province. The location of the cafe is a former workshop which produced parts of film projection equipment and after 1985 it’s no longer in use.—Xinhua

MYANMAR TV
(10-12-2013, Tuesday)

11:00 am
6. News/Internal News
8:00 am
3. Business News
9:45 am
9. Speakatkarw (Myanmar & Brunei) (Preliminary) (Men)
10:30 am
10. Speakatkarw (Myanmar & Singapore) (Preliminary) (Men)
11:00 am
11. Sport News
12:00 pm
12. News/International News

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Four suspected pirates arrested in Nigeria

Johnson steals Tiger’s thunder with Sherwood win

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Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Dec—Work Coordination Meeting 8/2013 of Central Committee for Implementation of Peace and Stability and Development of Rakhine State took place at the meeting hall of the President’s Office, here, this afternoon, with an address by Central Committee Chairman Vice-President Dr Sai Maung Khamb. At the meeting, the Vice-President said that the meeting’s purpose is to discuss latest situations of Rakhine State and ongoing work processes of the committee for peace and development of Rakhine State. It needs to report work progress on the message relating to the meeting between the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker and Rakhine families, he said. He continued that OIC held discussions with civil societies during the visit to Myanmar and bided to provide humanitarian assistance. He affirmed to form Rakhine State Conflict Research Center with the researchers and disclosed to discuss the situations of the two communities.

Then, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wun-maung Myint, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin and the deputy ministers reported on committee-wise work progress.

Central Committee Secretary Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Ohn clarified matters on holding a discussion to seek ways for peaceful coexistence in the state by Rakhine State Conflict Investigation Commission. Afterwards, Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin explained measures to be carried out for formation of border police force in Rakhine State. Next, Secretary of Rakhine State Conflict Investigation Commission Dr Kyaw Yin Hlaing gave suggestions on the discussion between the two communities and the deputy ministers reported on provision of health care services in Rakhine State by the Health Ministry in cooperation with international organizations and news broadcasting.

In his concluding speech, the Vice-President said that thanks to the efforts made by the central committee and work committees, Myanmar could maintain its good image in the international arena concerning Rakhine conflict. He underlined that it needs to emphasize security measures, urging the officials to explain the Rakhine national races in carrying out health care services for the refugees. He highlighted to release the news on Rakhine State in real time and pledged to provide necessary assistance, saying international community recognized Myanmar’s endeavours on Rakhine conflict.—MNA

By Alan Adams

Goalkeeper Nigel Sin Chao Tay is a medical doctor in Singapore who works the night shift and then doubles as the goalkeeper for the men’s water polo team during the day, often going from the operating room to the practice pool. He turned in a brilliant performance in an 8-5 triumph over Indonesia to all but clinch the gold medal for the regional powerhouse team that is two-time defending SEA Games champion.

Singapore would have to lose to Myanmar in its final game of the competition, and the chances of that happening are nil. Myanmar is making a return to water polo after a 44-year SEA Games absence and the difference between the two programs is much more than a couple of lengths of the pool. “They are the gold medalists,” said Indonesia coach Calvin Legawa. “They are the best team, Singapore deserves to win.” Singapore coach Sai Meng Lee didn’t bat an eye when asked about the importance of his doctor/goalkeeper.

“He was our best player today,” he said. “I don’t know where we would be without him.”

The Singapore-Indonesia match was fast-paced from the opening whistle and the players kept up a hectic pace. Indonesia stayed within striking range for most of the game and for a while it looked like an upset was a possibility. The closest they got to beating the two-time defending champs came with just over six minutes left in the final period after Ridjkie Mulia scored his fourth goal of the game for Indonesia to narrow the gap to 6-5. He skipped the ball off the water and the goalie never had chance.

Zhi Zhi Loh put Singapore ahead 7-5 shortly after (See page 9)