NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec — President U Thein Sein and party left here for Yangon before their departure for Japan to attend the ASEAN-Japan Summit to mark the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan ties and Japan-Mekong Summit at 9 am today. They were seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the Union ministers and officials.

At 10.10 pm today, the President and party left for Tokyo via Yangon by the passenger flight of All Nippon Airways (ANA).

Together with the President, Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Thein Nyunt, U Maung Myint and Dr Kau Zaw, Chief Ministers U La John Ngan Sai and U Ohn Myint, Deputy Ministers U Ye Hlut, Dr Maung Maung Huy and Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay, Vice-Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Set Aung and officials also left for Japan on the same flight. —MNA

Myanmar satisfied with one silver, one bronze in third day wrestling events

YANGON, 12 Dec — The wrestling events of the 27th SEA Games continued at Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium (1) in Thingangyun Township this afternoon.

The wrestlers from Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, the Philippines, Indonesia and Singapore took part in third day competitions.

Vietnam bagged gold medal in men’s 60 kg freestyle wrestling contest, Indonesia secured the silver and Cambodia and the Philippines the joint bronze.

The Vietnamese wrestler snatched gold in men’s 55-kg freestyle wrestling event, Indonesian wrestler took the silver and Aung Aung of Myanmar and (See page 8)

Myanmar picks up first gold in shooting event

YANGON, 12 Dec — Myanmar won gold medal in individual shooting contest and silver medal in team shooting contest of 50-M Women’s Rifle Prone event at the 27th SEA Games today.

A total of 18 participants including Thu Thu Kyaw, Aye Aye Thin and Than Than Saw of Myanmar took part in 50-M Women’s Rifle Prone event at International Shooting Range in Dagon Myothit (North) Township this morning. Thu Thu Kyaw seized gold in individual event and Myanmar bagged silver in team event.

Thu Thu Kyaw, an employee of Fire Services Department, was a gold and bronze medalist in SEASA held in Malaysia and Open Championship in Thailand. —MNA

Smiling Gold medalist Thu Thu Kyaw poses with thumb-up sign for her victory in 50-M Women’s Rifle Prone (Individual).—MNA
Detour under construction in Mohnyin Township

MOHNYIN, 12 Dec—As the detour is the town in the area of constructing their farmlands included the construction site in Mohnyin.

up to 10 December, the five miles and two furlongs long and 60 feet wide road has been constructed.

The detour from end to end will be eight miles and two furlongs long. The local people donated their farmlands included in the area of constructing the detour as it is the town.

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Mandalay Region Hluttaw MP donates K 10 million for BEPS in Pyawbwe Tsp

PYAWBWE, 12 Dec—Mandalay Region Hluttaw representative U Tin Oo and family donated K 10 million to the fund for construction of self-reliant Basic Education Post-Primary School in Pawaingyoe Village of Phaungdaw Village of Pyawbwe Township in Mandalay Region recently.

The Region Hluttaw representative said, “As there was no school in Pawaingyoe Village, the local children faced difficulties to attend school in other village. As there were too young, they were very tired. To be free from these difficulties, we donated cash to the fund for construction of the reliant school.”

Next, Township Administrator U Kyaw Aung Hsan, Deputy Township Education Officer U Aung Lwin and town’s elder U Ba Nyunt urged all to join hands in construction of the school.”

Next, the Region Hluttaw MP presented K 10 million for the 100 feet long school building. Phaungdaw Village-tract administrator U Maung Maung and Pawaingyoe Village administrator U Win Bo accepted the donation.

Illegal timber seized in Shwegu Township

SHWEGU, 12 Dec—According to the information that illegal timber pieces were transported along Bhamo-Shwegu-Mandalay strategic road by car, Captain Aung Soe Tun and party of security troop from Udaung Hill microwave of No 56th Infantry Regiment and IP Ngwe Oo of police member, forestre Thaung Min Oo and party of Forest Department of Zinboton area and local authorities searched the truck that stationed near Zinbon Village of Shwegu Township of Kachin State on 5 December.

They found various pieces of ownerless Tamalan sawn timber on board and carried them to Shwegu Township Forest Department.

The seized timber pieces were 152 logs of illegal Tamalan timber weighing 6,992 tons, 50 logs of Tamalan weighing 1,202 tons worth K 2,458,200.

The squad also seized the ownerless 10-wheeled Hino Ranger truck worth K 15 million.

Crime

Kyemon-Shwegu Township Police Force

The seized illegal Tamalan timber pieces and truck were handed over to Shwegu Township Forest Department on 5 December evening.
Ruling bloc OKs FY 2014 tax reform plan, vague on key measure

Tokyo, 12 Dec — Japan’s ruling parties on Thursday adopted tax reform policies for fiscal 2014, putting off a decision on whether to lower the tax rate on daily necessities to cushion the impact of the sales tax hike to 10 percent the following fiscal year. But Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s Liberal Democratic Party and its coalition partner the New Komeito party agreed to increase taxes on company workers and car owners in an effort to restore Japan’s fiscal health, the worst among developed nations.

In the tax reform plan for the next fiscal year starting April, the two parties pledged to reduce taxes on daily necessities such as food “at a time when the (sales) tax rate is at 10 percent.”

The ambiguous expression, reflecting discord between the two parties on the measure, does not make it clear whether the rate will be cut simultaneously with the consumption tax rise in October 2015 or at a later stage. The LDP has been reluctant to introduce the reduced tax rate, which New Komeito has proposed to prevent the sales tax hike from hurting households.

The ruling parties will aim to reach a conclusion on which items to make subject to the reduced tax rate and how to implement it in their tax reform outline for fiscal 2015, which is to be crafted in late December next year.

Under the tax policy guideline for fiscal 2014, the LDP and Komeito also agreed to increase the tax burden on company employees who make more than 12 million yen a year from 2016 and on those earning over 10 million yen from 2017 by trimming tax credits.

The two-stage tax hike on salaryed workers is expected to trigger a public backlash, given that the number of people in Japan who make more than 10 million yen a year is around 1.72 million.—Kyodo News

Blast near US Embassy in Kabul was accident, Afghan officials say

KABUL, 12 Dec — An accidental detonation of explosives stored in an Afghan facility beside the US Embassy in Kabul sparked a brief panic early on Thursday, triggering concerns of an attack, but no immediate reports of casualties.

The blast happened about 10.30 am (1 am ET), and the US embassy’s alarm was heard blaring across the diplomatic area of the Afghan capital immediately afterwards.

But Farid Shamal, a spokesman for Afghanistan’s National Directorate of Security, allayed the worries, saying an electrical fault had accidentally ignited explosives stored in the agency’s main compound in Kabul.

“There was an explosion inside an ammunition and weapons cache we had seized from the insurgency,” he said, adding that no one was injured in the blast.

The explosion came a day after a German convoy attacked a German convoy entering an ISAF facility at the city’s international airport.—Reuters

Thai military chief rebuffs meeting request in blow to protesters

BANGKOK, 12 Dec — The head of Thailand’s armed forces has turned down a request for a meeting in a huge blow to the leader of anti-government protesters who had asked police and military chiefs to choose sides in the crisis amid dwindling public support.

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra has called a snap election for February 2 but that has not satisfied the protesters, whose leader, Suthep Thaugsuban, wants an unelected “people’s council” to run the country.

But the number of demonstrators on the streets is falling. On Monday, 160,000 had gathered round Yingluck’s office but the number has dropped to just a few thousand since then.

The politically powerful army has staged or threatened political conflict on and off for the past eight years, including the ousting of Yingluck’s brother, Thaksin Shinawatra, in 2006, but it has said it does not want to get involved this time although it may mediate.

“The chief of the armed services will not meet Mr Suthep today,” deputy army spokesman Werachon Sukondhapatipak told Reuters, implying that the heads of the army, navy and air force would not meet Suthep either.

It was not immediately clear if the police chief would meet Suthep, but this appeared unlikely as the police are traditionally aligned with Thaksin.

The eight-year, on-and-off political conflict centers on Thaksin, a former telecommunications tycoon popular among the rural poor. The protesters view Yingluck as his puppet. Thaksin, who lives in self-imposed exile, courted rural voters to win back-to-back elections in 2001 and 2005 and gained an unassailable mandate that he used to advance the interests of major companies, including his own.

He was convicted in absentia of graft in 2008 but has dismissed the charges politically motivated. His opponents are Thailand’s royalist elite and establishment who feel threatened by his rise.

Trade unions and academics see him as a corrupt rights abuser, while the urban middle class resent what they see as their taxes being used as his political war chest.—Reuters

Pro-sanctions US lawmakers will introduce new Iran bill soon

WASHINGTON, 12 Dec — US senators will introduce legislation to impose new international sanctions on Iran as soon as this week, Senate aides said on Wednesday, despite the Obama administration’s insistence that such a measure would violate the terms of an interim agreement to curb Tehran’s nuclear programme.

Iran’s foreign minister has also said a new sanctions law would kill the agreement. In the interim agreement, Tehran agreed to limit uranium enrichment in return for an easing of international sanctions.

Robert Menendez, the Democratic chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Republican Senator Mark Kirk are finishing legislation that would target Iran’s remaining oil exports and foreign exchange and seek to limit President Barack Obama’s ability to waive sanctions.

However, the measure would impose the new sanctions only if the interim deal has gone nowhere in six months or Iran violates terms of the agreement. Supporters said that would comply with the administration’s request to allow negotiators to pursue a comprehensive diplomatic solution to the Iran nuclear crisis.

But the measure faces an uphill battle to become law. Administration officials have been pushing Congress hard not to go ahead, including a classified briefing for the entire 100-member Senate on Wednesday by Secretary of State John Kerry and Treasury Secretary Jack Lew.

The session seemed to have done little to change lawmakers’ minds. Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, a supporter of the Menendez-Kirk plan, said after the meeting that the sanctions bill should go ahead.—Reuters

Syrian chemical weapons disposal plan to be released next week

UNITED NATIONS, 12 Dec — The plan for the destruction of all Syrian chemical stockpiles outside the country will be released on 17 December, a UN spokesperson said on Wednesday.

“Practicalities are currently being discussed and the final details are being worked out,” UN spokesperson Martin Nesirky said at a daily news briefing here. He said that what must be eliminated are the chemicals stored or prepared by Syria for the production of chemical weapons. “These chemicals are not weapons in the traditional meaning of this word. They can sanctioned as such and they are not weaponized — in other words, they have not been put into munitions.” The final report would reflect that such a chemical Ban Ki-moon, who would first go to UN chief

Xinhua
Cisco loses court challenge to Microsoft’s takeover of Skype

SAN FRANCISCO, 12 Dec — The company that manages a fleet of airplanes owned and leased by Google Inc, executive chairman Eric Schmidt improperly bought fuel from the government at below-market rates, for a savings of up to $5.3 million according to a report released by the NASA Inspector General on Wednesday. The 10-page report said the discounted fuel purchases were the result of a “misunderstanding” between a Defence Department fuel provider and the NASA Ames Research Centre, which manages the California airfield where a Boeing 767, a military-type Alpha Jet and several other aircraft are stored.

The report found that overall, NASA benefited by leasing 70,000 square feet of space to H211, a private company that manages Google’s Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt speaks at the Google Big Tent event at the Grove Hotel, on the outskirts of London on 22 May, 2013. — Reuters

remote options to “remedy” the situation. Google referred all questions to H211 Vice President Ken Ambrose, who said he was reviewing the report, which the company received Wednesday morning.

Wild animals double in Tibetan nature reserve

LHASA, 12 Dec — The populations of wild Tibetan antelopes, donkeys and yaks in a nature reserve in southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region have roughly doubled thanks to effective protection efforts in the past 20 years, showed figures released on Tuesday. The number of Tibetan antelopes in the area has increased to 150,000 from 80,000 when the Qiang-tang Nature Reserve was established in 1993. Wild yaks and Tibetan donkeys have increased to 40,000 and 90,000 respectively, compared with 20,000 and 50,000 at the establishment of the reserve.

Wild animals have also stepped up law enforcement, according to a wildlife protection official with the Tibet Forestry Department.

Facebook to join S&P 500

NEW YORK, 12 Dec — Standard & Poor’s on Wednesday said Facebook Inc will join its S&P 500 stock index after the closing of trading on 20 December, cementing the social media network’s rise into one of the biggest, most powerful US companies.

The decision follows Facebook reporting its fourth straight profitable quarter in October, one of the criteria that S&P uses to determine eligibility for the index.

Facebook shares rose 4.3 percent to $51.51 following S&P’s announcement after regular market hours, fragmenting a little after a company has termed the index and buy shares of companies that enter it.

The Menlo Park, California-based company’s shares had closed Wednesday down 87 cents at $49.38, about 30 percent above their $38 initial offering price in May 2012 and giving it a roughly $121 billion market value, Reuters data show.

Although there is no danger to the crew on board, the ground teams are working to move certain electrical systems over to the second loop and some non-critical systems have been shut down while the teams try to figure out what caused the problem and how to fix it,” NASA said.

The crew was now preparing to begin a normal sleep shift while experts on the ground collected more data and considered what troubleshooting activities might be necessary, NASA added. Three astronauts returned to Earth from the ISS after completing a 168-day mission and bringing the Olympic torch back with them after a historic space walk.—Xinhua

Google executives’ planes saved millions in costs due to error

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Yelling, threatening parents harm teens’ mental health

NEW YORK, 12 Dec — Threatening or screaming at teenagers may put them at higher risk for depression and disruptive behaviors such as rule-breaking, a new study suggests. “The take home point is that the verbal behaviors matter,” Annette Mahoney, who worked on the study, said. She’s a professor of psychology at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. “It can be easy to overlook that, but our study shows that the verbal hostility is really relevant, particularly for mothers who scream and hit, and for fathers who do either one,” Mahoney told Reuters Health. All of the kids in her study had been referred to a community clinic due to mental health or behavioral problems. Their mothers had to be both verbally and physically abusive to increase the kids’ risk for depression and behavior issues. But either kind of behavior alone from a father was sufficient to produce lasting ill effects. The researchers realize that parents can be trapped in a vicious cycle. Verbal abuse “has a cyclical nature to it,” said Mahoney. Kids with behavioral or mental health problems can be tough to handle, she said. Not surprisingly, her team found, adolescents whose parents were also physically violent toward them — hitting, choking, or threatening them with a gun or knife — had an even higher risk for mental illness and behavioral problems. “Parental verbal aggression towards adolescents is just as — if not more — destructive than severe physical aggression, particularly in families seeking mental health services,” said Michelle Leon, also of Bowling Green State University who led the research. For the study, which was published in the journal Child Abuse & Neglect, 239 troubled adolescents between the ages of 11 and 18 filled out surveys that asked if they were hit, called names, or subjected to other forms of physical or verbal violence over the past year. Parents of the youths also participated, reporting their behaviors in the same time frame. Fifty percent of the adolescents said they’d experienced serious physical or verbal aggression, or both, from one or two parents. Having a mother who both screamed and hit increased kids’ risk for mental health problems (such as anxiety, depression, and rule-breaking behaviors) to an even greater extent than having a mother who was verbally violent in only one way. In other words, the effect of a mother’s verbal hostility may be worsened if she also hits her child, Mahoney said. That may be because teens likely feel more traumatized and threatened when physical violence is a real possibility. In contrast, screaming by mothers who had not previously escalated to serious physical aggression did not appear to increase the risk of psychological problems among teens getting counseling in this study, Mahoney told Reuters Health. On the other hand, fathers who were verbally abusive affected the adolescents’ mental health, regardless of whether their threats were accompanied by physical violence. The study’s results may indicate that doctors should be on the lookout for verbal aggression at home, particularly in families with an adolescent who may be having mental health or behavioral problems, the researchers say. Many doctors make it a habit to ask their patients about acts of physical violence. The study should also ask about verbal violence, Mahoney’s team adds. “You have to break the cycle; someone has to crack it open. It doesn’t excuse the parents’ behavior, but (doctors and therapists) have to not be so afraid of asking the question,” she said. — Reuters

E-cigarettes: a burning question for US regulators

NEW YORK, 12 Dec — At the Henley Vaporium, one of a growing number of e-cigarette lounges sprouting up in New York and other US cities, patrons can indulge in their choice of more than 90 flavors of nicotine-infused vapor, ranging from bacon to bubble gum. The lounge, located in Manhattan’s trendy Lower East Side, features plush seating, blaring rock music, and fresh juice and coffee. A sprawling sign on one wall lists all the carcinogens that e-cigarette users avoid by kicking their smoking habits and using the e-devices instead. But the growing popularity of e-cigarettes has not escaped the notice of the industry’s critics, who have stepped up calls for new regulations, including bans on their use in public places, even though the scientific evidence about exposure to their vapors remains inconclusive. Selling for about $30 to $50 each, e-cigarettes are slim, reusable, metal tubes containing nicotine-laced liquids that come in exotic flavors. When users puff on the device, the nicotine is heated and released as a vapour that, unlike cigarette smoke, contains no tar, which causes cancer and other diseases. The product, introduced in China in 2006, has become a worldwide trend at least in part because it may help smokers of regular cigarettes break the habit. “It’s an addiction — not everyone can quit cold turkey,” said Nick Edwards, 34, a Henley employee who says he kicked a 15-year cigarette habit the day he tried his first e-cigarette. “E-cigarettes give you a harm-reduction option.” That’s one reason why the market for e-cigarettes is expected to surge, reaching $2 billion by the end of 2013 and $10 billion by 2017, according to an analyst at Wells Fargo Bank in New York. Herzog said the US market alone could top $1 billion this year. She predicts that by 2017 e-cigarettes sales will overtake sales of regular cigarettes. That estimate does not take into account the impact of potential government regulations on sales. For Edwards, on one hand, he cut his $60 monthly cigarette bill in half when he switched. On top of the cost of the device, the smoking liquids cost around $10 per refill. Despite the perceived benefits, critics worry that the addictive nicotine found in cigarettes could lure more people into smoking and discourage others from quitting altogether. — Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

GM to halt car production in Australia, industry in crisis

SYDNEY/MELBOURNE, 12 Dec — General Motors Co said it would stop making cars in Australia by 2017 due to high costs and a crippling strong currency, fueling fears rival Toyota Motor Corp will follow suit and put the entire local autos industry at risk. The decision reflected a “perfect storm” of negative influence facing the Australian auto industry including the sustained strength of the Australian dollar, high cost of production, and a small, fragmented and highly competitive domestic market. In May, Ford Motor Co said it would shut its two Australian auto plants in October 2016, blaming similar factors. There have been widespread concerns that an exit by GM Holden would be followed by the sole remaining local carmaker, Toyota, threatening around 150 parts and component suppliers and direct employees more than 40,000 people. “You need two manufacturers to get that critical mass,” said influential independent Senator Nick Xenophon. “You lose that critical mass, they fall like dominoes.” — Reuters

New Light of Myanmar
27th SEA Games today

**XXVII SEA Games Photo Gallery**

*Vietnamese women pose for photo outside Wunna Theikdi Stadium.*

*Photo: Aye Min Soe*

*Thet Htet San of Myanmar (Right) lands a blow to Beatriz Suguro of Indonesia during the Women’s Light Fly (45-48 kg) event. Beatriz Sugoro won Thet Htet San on points.*

*Photo: Aye Min Soe*

*Women’s Sepak Takraw match between Myanmar and Malaysia at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium.*

*Photo: Aye Min Soe*

*Fans from Thailand cheers as they enjoy the fighting between Sopida Satthumru of Thailand and Maricris Igam of the Philippines during Women’s Fly (48-51kg) event.*

*Photo: Aye Min Soe*

*Aung Naing of Myanmar plays chess against Uaychat of Thailand during round 1 of ASEAN Chess Individual Standard Men Event.*

*Photo: Aye Min Soe*
27th SEA Games Special

2013 SEA Games swimming event kicks off

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Dec — The 27th SEA Games’ swimming competitions in which the highest numbers of medals will be awarded kicked off at Wunna Theikdi Swimming Pool today.

In Men’s 400 M Individual Medley contest, Kettin Nuttapong of Thailand stood first followed by Quah Zheng Won of Singapore and Navata Matt Louis of the Philippines.

In Women’s 100 M Freestyle contest, Lim Xiang Qi Amanda finished first while Alkhaldi Jasmine of the Philippines second and Srisa Ard Jenjira third. Myanmar swimmers, Kay Zin Win and Ei Ei Thet, stood tenth and eleventh in the contest.

Quarter-finals of badminton ...

(from page 16)

In the women’s double events, Indonesia thrashed Vietnam with 21-15 and 21-11 points, Thailand beat Malaysia with 21-10, 20-22 and 21-14 points, Malaysia won over Myanmar with 21-8 and 21-8 points and Singapore defeated Indonesia with 21-16, 20-22 and 26-24 respectively.

Indonesia won Malaysia with 17-21, 21-10 and 21-11 points, Thailand beat Cambodia with 21-14 and 21-4 points, Malaysia thrashed Vietnam with 21-14 and 21-16 points and Thailand won over Indonesia with 19-21, 24-22 and 21-17 points in mixed doubles events. After the matches, the winning teams went to the semi-finals.

MNA

Basketball tournament continues

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Dec — The basketball tournament continued at Zeyathiri Indoor Stadium (A), here, today.

With regard to the basketball preliminary results, in the men’s event, Cambodia was defeated by Thailand 67-80 and Indonesia lost to Singapore 48-62.

In the women’s event, Myanmar lost to Malaysia 32-95. Myanmar men was also defeated by the Philippines 43-118.

Myo Than (NLM)

Thai and Cambodian players pouring out vigorous efforts in basketball men’s event. Photo: Myo Than (NLM)

Myanmar rowing team bags one more gold, three silver

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Dec — Men’s and women’s rowing events of the 27th SEA Games continued at Ngalike Dam in Nay Pyi Taw today. Myanmar bagged one gold in women’s K-4 contest, secured the silver in men’s C-1 event and earned the bronze in women’s K-2 event. Moreover, Myanmar snatched one silver medal in men’s C-2 event.

Zaw Myo Naing

Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan and Myanmar men’s and women’s rowing teams celebrate victory after securing medals in the 27th SEA Games at Ngalike Dam in Nay Pyi Taw. Photo: Zaw Myo Naing

Sanda Htwe of Myanmar net against Malaysian team during Futsal event of 27th SEA Games at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium on 12 Dec, 2013. Malaysia defeat Myanmar 4-2. Photo: Aye Min Soe

Swimming competition will present 32 gold and it continues at Wunna Theikdi swimming pool until 16 December.

Maung Shwe Yoe

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Maung Shwe Yoe
Distinguish what are important from what are not

Many different things we encounter in our daily life, some sound trivial, some sound important. A trivial thing is sometimes subtle and complex, and calls for more efforts. Such a trivial thing cannot be regarded unimportant. People often get into trouble as they lead an austere and easy-going life, disregarding trifles that unexpectedly erupt in their daily life.

As the luck of future generations hangs in the balance, we need to work harder to remain competitive with others to have the upper hand over them. Lacking of diligence and punctuality has ever been a major hindrance to success and prosperity. There has been a string of lessons for us to draw, some leave us with a smile while some leave us with a cry. Whatever may be, we know this and yet, far too often, time remains important. For example, a delayed arrival of ambulance and fire engines could make a big difference and cause a great deal of loss. So, any mission should be accomplished in time. Delay in the issue of early warning of flesh flood could beget the same fate.

Whatever you do need to have a good understanding of what are important and what are not. Only then, will you be able to hold the keys to a better future for all. There should be a sense of urgency in the minds of those who want to be successful and prosperous in life, for success will kill time immediately. With this, they suffer from feelings of insecurity. And the most important thing is to secure it.

Some have missed the chances as they do not undertake the activities what to be carried out in time immediately. With this, they suffer from feelings of insecurity. And the most important thing is that whatever we do we are to complete it in time, distancing ourselves from acting out of expediency and we should not be busy ourselves with trifles. Materials, electronics and household goods manufactured by Vietnam from 12 to 15 December. — MNA

Myanmar secure gold in debut of chess

The ASEAN chess individual standard men and traditional chess rapid men’s and women’s teams matches will be held tomorrow.—Khunth Thanda Lwin (NLM)

Myanmar satisfied with ...

(From page 1) athlete from the Philippines earned the joint bronze. — MNA

Thai U-23 team leads group (B)

Thai striker No (9) Adisak Krasorn scored the second goal. No (15) Praweenwat introduced the ball with net through penalty at 50th minutes. No (7) Thitphhan Phuegsan of Thai U-23 added fourth goal at 80th minute. Indonesian defender No (3) Andri Ibo equalized only a goal in the stoppage time. Although Myanmar and Thai U-23 have six points in Group (B), Thai team led the group on goal difference. — MNA

New Light of Myanmar
CCTVs installed at Mohnyin Sambuddhe Pagoda

MONYWA, 12 Dec—With the aim of taking security measures for the people and pilgrims, Mohnyin Sambuddhe Pagoda has been installed with CCTVs.

It was aimed at taking security measures not only for the donation boxes but also for the pilgrims, said Sayadaw Ashin Sumana of the monastery in the precinct of the pagoda.

Eight high qualified CCTVs have been installed at the pagoda with the assistance of CityTic CityCo of Yangon.

As the pagoda is a large volume, the installation of power lines was taken a few days. The devices can be used in taking images even in the dark.

The CCTVs were worth K 2 million, said Network Engineer U Aung Thura of the company.

The pagoda was built in 1301 ME during the Second World War. It took 20 years for construction. A total of 582,363 Buddha images kept in the pagoda. The public rest houses are kept open for all in the precinct of the monastery free of charge.

In addition, the monastery opens meditation courses provided by the abbot of the monastery, Kyemon-Ye Htet Naing.

Local Sports

Mandalay Mayor's Cup Mini-marathon 2014

11 Jan

Mandalay, 12 Dec—The Mandalay Mayor’s Mini-marathon 2014 will be held in Mandalay on 22 January 2013.

It will be categorized as men’s and women’s open and men’s and women’s novice classes.

The runners will be launched from the starting point at 6.30 am.

The participants are to run along 26th street, 80th street, 12th street, 66th street, 10th street, 62nd street, 30th street, 82nd street and then finish at Bahtoo Stadium.

Foreigners may join the open class.

Those who reached will be awarded souvenirs.

The athletes are to buy 300 per copy of application at Bahtoo Stadium and Mandalay City Development Committee (Administration Department) from 13 December to 1 January and applications are to be submitted to the Administration Department of MCDC, not later than 3 January 2014.

Earthen road under construction in Kalewa Township for transport, trade, health, education and rural development.

Mandalay Township for transport, trade, health, education and rural development.

Yuzale-Hsegyi inter-village road under construction

Kalewa Township Rural Development Development spends K 247.17 million on construction of the road. Chairman of Kalay District Management Committee U Maung Htoo, Kalewa Township Management Committee Chairman U Tint Naing and officials supervised the construction task.

On completion, the road will benefit over 22000 rural people of 50 villages.

Kalewa, 12 Dec—An inter-village earthen road passing 16 villages from Yuzale to Hsegyi village is being constructed as of 15 November.

The road will be 21 miles long and 18 feet wide.

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Mexico, Dec 12 — Mexico’s lower house of Congress on Wednesday gave general approval to an energy reform that would permit the biggest oil industry opening in 75 years, moving the bill closer to fi-
nal approval after the Sen-
ate signed off on it earlier in the day.

Lawmakers in the lower house voted to bypass committees for energy and constitutional mat-
ters after leftists, who are ruling against the bill in

the world’s No 10 oil pro-
ducer, padlocked doors to
the chamber to prevent a
debate. They then approved
the bill in general, and must
now sign off on the fine
print of the reform in a de-
bate likely to last hours. They
could give the final seal of approval as soon as
Thursday. “Traitors” screamed a banner unfurled by leftists from the podium when congressional leaders
moved the planned session to an auditorium elsewhere in the building.

The impromptu shift of venue meant lawmakers were without their electron-
ic voting system, and had to
pass a microphone around
the auditorium to vote out loud in a rowdy session.

Dozens of leftist law-
makers have lodged objec-
tions against the reform, but
their stalling tactics are
unlikely to derail the bill,
which has the backing of the
ruling Institutional Revolu-
tionary Party (PRI), and the
opposition conservative Na-
tional Action Party (PAN),
who make up the required
majority.

PRI congressman and
energy expert Juan Bueno
said “not even a comma” in
the bill as approved by the Senate would be changed in
the lower house.

The overhaul is
designed to entice private oil
companies to either operate independently in Mexico, or partner with state oil giant
Pemex through production-
and profit-sharing, service
contracts and licenses.

Pemex’s crude produc-
tion has fallen by a quarter
since hitting a peak of 3.4
million barrels per day in 2004, and export volumes have dropped by a third
over the same period.

The upper chamber
approved the bill in a general
vote late on Tuesday with
95 Senators in favour and
28 against, before voting
down reservations raised by
mostly leftist opponents of
the plan on Wednesday in a
marathon overnight session.

As the Senate gave the
bill the green light, sena-
tors from the leftist Party
of the Democratic Revolu-
tion (PRD), which is fighting
to stop the bill, shouted
“Ask the people.” PRI and
PAN senators replied by
punching the air to cries of
“Mexico.”—Reuters

Deadline for Afghan security pact could slip
into January

WASHINGTON, 12 Dec
— The White House would
like Afghan President Ha-
rif to sign a bi-

lateral security agreement
by the end of the year, but
the deadline could slip into
early January, a spokesman
said on Wednesday.

The United States has
insisted that Karzai sign the
pact by the end of the year.

They could permit
the United States to keep troops in Afghanistan beyond the end of 2014 to support Af-
ghan forces and conduct
limited counterterrorism
activities.

“I’m not saying that if they sign it on January 10th, that’s going to be a huge problem?” Probably not,” said Josh Earnest, a deputy spokesman for the White
House.

“The will be a sig-
nificant problem is if there is not quick action taken to get this signed,” Earnest told a news briefing.

The United States says
it gave Afghanistan a year-
end deadline to sign the agreement because it needs time to plan its troop pres-
ence after 2014. Without a deal, Washington says it would have to withdraw its entire force of some 44,500 troops by the end of 2014. Other NATO nations could follow suit.

Afghan elders and political leaders endorsed the pact last month, but Karzai surprised Washington by introducing new conditions for his signature.

The tactics have frus-
trated the Obama admin-
istration, but on Tuesday, James Dobbins, the US special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, told a US Senate hearing that the administration was not on the verge of aban-
donning its effort to extend
time to its troop presence.

“We’re nowhere near a decision that would involve our departing Afghanistan altogether,” Dobbins told the hearing.—Xinhua

Radical rebels storm suburb of
Damascus, killing tens of people

DAMASCUS, 12 Dec — Radical fighters from the al-
Qaeda-linked Nusra Front stormed a suburb of the
Syrian capital of Damascus on Wednesday, killing tens
of civilians, some of whom are state servants, the pro-
government Sham FM ra-
dio reported.

Following their defeat
in three major towns in the
rugged al-Qalamoun region
north of Damascus, the re-
bel storm on Wednesday
the Adra-ummaleh subur-
burb, a couple of days after the army dislodged them

from the town of al-Nabek.

The Sham FM radio said the bodies of tens
of civilians were still scattered on streets in Adra and more
than eight civilians were
slaughtered over sectarian affili-
tions.

“The Nusra militiamen
are famed out on the town’s
streets,” the report said.

adding that thousands of
Adra’s residents have fled
to the nearby Hafir al-Tahta
and al-Qutaifa areas, while
thousands of others have
cowered in their homes
fearing “to be slaughtered”

by the Nusra fighters.

While saying that the radical fighters were
burning the homes of the state
servants in the town, the
radio said the army units
are now besieging the town in a bid to storm it to rid its
residents of the hard-liners.

Al-Qaida-linked groups
such as the Nusra Front
and the Islamic State of
the Iraq and the Levant have
taken advantage of the anti-
government movement in
Syria, emerging as a seri-
ous force among the rebel
groups.—Xinhua

Beirut, Dec 12 — Visiting British Foreign and
Commonwealth Of-
fice Minister for the Mid-
dle East, Hugh Robertson
said on Wednesday that his country granted an
additional humanitarian
aid of 24 million British
pounds to help the Syrian
refugees in Lebanon.

During his two-day
visit to Lebanon, Robert-
son met with Lebanese
President Michel Sulei-
man, Parliament Speaker
Nabih Berri, Prime Min-
ister Designate Tammam
Salam and Army Com-
mander General Jean Qah-
waj.

The new aid is part
of a plan designed by the
British government to pro-
vide 60 million pounds for
the Syrian refugees fled
to other countries, said
a statement released by the
British Embassy to Leba-

n. “My visit to Lebanon comes at a difficult period for the country. I wel-
comed continued efforts
to form a new consensual
government able to move

the country forward. Brit-
in remains fully commit-
ted to Lebanon’s peace,
stability and prosperity,”
Robertson was quoted as saying.

He added “the addi-
tional assistance includes
winter packages contain-
ing warm clothing and
thermal blankets; winter

tents and shelter material;
th eaters, fuel and insulation
kits for displaced families;
and medical care, includ-
ing antenatal support for
expectant mothers.”

Xinhua

Nine children hurt in
Texas school bus collision

HOUSTON, 12 Dec — Nine elementary school
students were injured after their school bus collided
with another bus in the US state of Texas on Wednes-
day, local media reported.

The crash happened
in Athens, a small town in east Texas, Wednesday
afternoon, the website of the Houston Chronicle
reported.

The accident involved
buses containing about 70
Athens elementary school
students. One bus struck
another from behind, leav-

ing at least nine kids hurt,
the report said.

Spokeswoman at East
Texas Medical Centre
Athens, Rebecca Berkley,
told the media all of the
children, ranging in age
from 5 to 10, have been
treated for their injuries and
discharged.

She confirmed nine
students were brought to the
hospital by ambulance with
injuries ranging from frac-
tures to bumps and bruises.

Sixty other children arrived by
bus for precautionary
examination.

It’s not immediately
known what caused the col-
lision. Though the United
States is reputed for its
strict school bus safety
code, such accidents are not
uncommon.—Xinhua

Afghan President Hamid Karzai speaks during
the opening of the Loy Qiraq, in Kabul on 21 Nov, 2013.
Reuters

Afghan President Hamid Karzai speaks during
Reuters
JAPAN, MALAYSIA LEADERS MEET OVER INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Tokyo, 12 Dec — The Japanese and Malaysian Prime Ministers met on Thursday and are expected to confirm bilateral cooperation in developing infrastructure in the Southeast Asian country.

The meeting between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his Malaysian counterpart Najib Razak came ahead of a summit between Japan and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations starting on Friday in Tokyo.

Japan is hoping its bullet train technologies will be chosen for a high-speed railway system to link Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. Tokyo is facing competition from China over the project, which is scheduled to be completed in 2020.

Abe and Najib, when they met in July in Malaysia, agreed to cooperate in other development areas including waterworks, sewage systems and medicine as well as rapid train systems.

At the talks in Tokyo, the leaders are also expected to exchange views on some ASEAN members and China in the South China Sea, as well as over the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade talks, which involve both Japan and Malaysia. ASEAN groups Lao PDR, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Kyodo News

NEW LAO-THAI BRIDGE STRENGTHENS RELATIONSHIPS, ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

VIENTIANE, 12 Dec — A new bridge connecting Laos and Thailand over the Mekong River is open for business on Wednesday, signalling the completion of work along one of the Greater Mekong Subregion’s (GMS) most important economic corridors.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Lao Deputy Prime Minister Somsavat Lengsavad and Thai Caretaker Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra emphasized the importance of the bridge’s construction as representative of the good relationship between Laos, Thailand and China.

“The bridge is also a symbol of political cooperation of three governments to promote the good development partner of the three countries as well as between China and ASEAN,” said Lengsavad. Also attending the inauguration ceremony were Lao Vice President Bounnhang Vorachith, Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn and the Chinese Ambassador to Laos, among other senior officials from Laos and Thailand.

The opening of the bridge coincides with a meeting of ministers here in Lao capital Vientiane for the 19th Ministerial Conference of the GMS Economic Co-operation Programme. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), which provides financing and secretariat services for GMS, conducted the feasibility study for the bridge project in 2005.

“The bridge is the missing link along the North South Economic Corridor, which is the main land route for trade between Yunnan Province in People’s Republic of China (PRC) and Thailand, as well as being a gateway for connectivity between PRC and ASEAN countries,” said ADB Vice President Stephen Groff.

With all of the infrastructure in place, the potential for this corridor to become a driver of regional trade, tourism and investment can be realized.”

The 480-meter long bridge replaces a system of ferryboats that were used previously. It links Chiang Khong District of Chiang Rai province on the Thai side with Houay Xai capital of Boukoro Province on the Laotian side. Land traffic will now be able to move much more easily across the 1000-kilometre route connecting Kunming in China and Chiang Rai in Thailand.

Xinhua

Pakistan’s longest serving chief justice retires

ISLAMABAD, 12 Dec — Pakistan’s longest serving chief justice of the Supreme Court, Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, retired on Wednesday.

He delivered verdicts in many important cases and had disqualified a sitting prime minister and challenged the country’s power-drivers and the civilian leadership in some cases. Serving and retired judges, lawyers, members of the civil society and political leaders lauded the role of Chaudhry as laying foundation for an independent judiciary in the country.

Chief Justice of Pakistan Chaudhry has strong muscles. He said the decisions taken by the Supreme Court during the tenure of Iftikhar Chaudhry as chief justice will always be remembered. Addressing the reference, Attorney General Muneer A. Malik said that the period of Iftikhar Chaudhry as chief justice was a historic one, adding the chief justice worked for maintaining prestige of the judiciary and rule of law.

Xinhua

FREIGHT TRAIN DERAILED IN S KOREA, NO INJURY REPORTED

SEOUL, 12 Dec — A freight train was derailed due to the estimated mechanical fracturing, local media reported on Thursday.

The train, which was carrying bunker oil, was derailed at around 0:50 am on Thursday near Uiseong in North Gyeongsang Province, some 330 km southeast of Seoul.

It was heading for Maenggung Station, around 240 km east of Seoul, from Ulsan in South Gyeongsang Province about 410 km southeast of Seoul.

Among the combined 19 passenger cars, the 12th car alone was derailed due to the estimated damage of the wheel, the transportation ministry said, noting that investigators were looking into causes of the derailment in more detail.

No injury was reported, and the train was expected to be operated normally from around 10 am.

Xinhua

GMS MINISTERS ENDORSE DECAdE-LONG REGIONAL INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK

VIENNITANE, 12 Dec — Ministers from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, China, Thailand and Vietnam have endorsed the Regional Investment Framework (RIF) as a guideline for the next decade of regional Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) investment at the 19th GMS Ministerial Conference here on Wednesday.

The 19th GMS Ministerial Conference, which ran from 10 to 11 December, included ministers from the six GMS member countries, as well as vice-president of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) along with development partners from across the globe. The RIF will translate the strategic decisions of the GMS Strategic Framework into a pipeline of projects covering the GMS Programme from 2013 to 2022. Formed from extensive regional consultation, the RIF has a projected potential value of more than 50 billion US dollars during its nine-year scope.

A joint ministerial statement declared that the GMS Programme was more relevant within the region and the global economy than ever. “We also agree that the RIF is the strategic blueprint that will guide our way forward. Moreover we are better aware of and better prepared for the challenges that we will face along the way,” the document concluded.

Xinhua
**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (056)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (056) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.12.2013 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 MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (363)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (363) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.12.2013 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 MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S EVER GREEN SHIPPING LINE**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV DELPHINUS VOY NO (341)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DELPHINUS VOY NO (341) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S FORTUNE SHIPPING & AGENCY PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MVORA BHUM VOY NO (355)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (355) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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Ph: 0973150632
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(For, Donnern Songiat & Boonma, Attorneys at Law, Thailand)

Dated: 13 December, 2013

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(For, Donnern Songiat & Boonma, Attorneys at Law, Thailand)

Dated: 13 December, 2013

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**A little learning is a dangerous thing**
Madonna ranks No 1 as music’s top earning woman

NEW YORK, Dec—With earnings of $125 million (£76,317,235.48), pop singer Madonna is the highest-paid woman in music, easily surpassing Lady Gaga and country-pop singer Taylor Swift, Forbes said on Wednesday.

Her income for the 12-month period used by the magazine also made her the highest-earning celebrity overall for 2012.

Much of Madonna’s earnings from June 2012 to June 2013 were from her worldwide MDNA Tour, which pulled in $305 million. But the 55-year-old singer, who jumped from ninth place in 2012, also made money with merchandising sales, her fragrance and from her Material Girl clothing line.

She is “music’s top earner of any genre or gender and the highest-paid celebrity of any stripe,” according to Forbes.

Lady Gaga, with $80 million, jumped from No 4 to No 2 this year, despite her Born This Way Ball tour being cut short due to an injury. Gaga, 27, released her album “ARTPOP” after the cut-off date for Forbes’ annual earnings calculations.

Swift, 23, dropped from second place in 2012 to third this year. Her $55 million in earnings came from sales of her latest album “Red” as well as endorsement deals, records sales and touring.

Forbes compiled the list after estimating pre-tax income based on record sales, concert tickets, touring it mater. The magazine also made her the highest-earning celebrity overall for 2012.

Garth Brooks box set keeps Britney Spears at bay in Billboard 200

LOS ANGELES, Dec — Country singer Garth Brooks stormed to the top of the weekly US Billboard 200 album chart to claim top spot on Wednesday, ahead of a new debut from Britney Spears.

Brooks’ boxed set, “Blame It All On My Roots,” climbed from No 3 to No 1 with second week sales of 146,000 copies according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan. The box set contains six CDs and two DVDs and was released as an exclusive set at retailer Walmart over the US Thanksgiving holiday weekend at a discounted price.

In comparison, Spears’ latest album “Britney Jean” notched opening week sales of only 107,000 and came in at No 4, her lowest album debut in a career spanning more than a decade and below industry projections of 115,000 to 120,000.

Weinstein brothers sue Time Warner over ‘Hobbit’ films

NEW YORK, Dec — Movie producers Bob and Harvey Weinstein have sued Time Warner Inc for at least $75 million over its decision to divide the screen adaptation of JRR Tolkien’s book “The Hobbit” into three parts, and refusing to pay them for the second and third films.

In a complaint filed on Tuesday in New York State Supreme Court in Manhattan, the Weinstein brothers and Miramax LLC said executives at Warner Brothers and its New Line Cinema unit chose to split “The Hobbit” as a pretext to deprive them of 5 percent of the gross receipts from the last two films. The Weinstens said they had in 1998 sold New Line the movie rights to “The Hobbit” and Tolkien’s trilogy “The Lord of the Rings,” after having spent more than $10 million to adapt them.

They said New Line had agreed to make payments for the “first motion picture,” but not “remakes,” based on the books.

“The case is about greed and ingratitude,” said the Weinstens and Miramax, which the brothers founded. “Warner takes this position solely to deprive plaintiffs of their right to share in the revenues from two of the three filmed instalments of “The Hobbit.””

Warner Brothers countered that the Weinstens simply made a business mistake when they sold the film rights to New Line.

Paul McGuire, a Warner Brothers spokesman, said the studio filed for arbitration on 26 November with JAMS Inc, a New York firm known as Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services, to resolve the dispute.

“This is about one of the great blunders in movie history,” McGuire said. “Fifteen years ago Miramax, run by the Weinstein brothers, sold its rights in ‘The Hobbit’ to New Line. No amount of trying to rewrite history can change that fact.”

Weinstein brothers sue Time Warner over ‘Hobbit’ films

‘Saving Mr Banks’ rescues the complex mind behind ‘Mary Poppins’

BURBANK, (Calif), Dec — In the leafy, idyllic setting that is the Disney Studios lot, author PL Travers made life hell for writers and composers and Walt Disney himself in a movie that portrays her as a withering, brick wall, toxic nightmare of a woman.

It is not quite the de-meanour one would expect from the creator of one of the most beloved of children’s books, “Mary Poppins.” But Travers was so worried that Disney and his dream factory would ruin her story of the magical, flying British nanny that she subverted the magical, flying British nanny that she subverted making that lies beneath artistic creation. She cringed at the thought of animation and songwriters might have revealed the most about her personality and the suffering that lies beneath artistic creation. She cringed at the thought of animation and dancing penguins and even the songs themselves.

“You can hear in the juddering...the distress in it, of course,” said Thompson, mimicked Travers’ clipped British accent and tone of disdain. “One of the most revealing things was that, overtly, she was here to cooperate. Covertly, she was here to sabotage, and that was a wonderful thing to play with.”—Reuters
Arsenal face another tough trip to Manchester

London, Dec 12 — Arsenal’s lunchtime game at Manchester City on Saturday could be a defining one for their Premier League title hopes, even if Arsene Wenger has greeted that idea with a typically Gallic shrug.

The Gunners have a comfortable cushion over second-placed Liverpool, who travel in the opposite direction on Sunday for a clash in North London with sixth-placed Tottenham Hotspur (1600 GMT), and Chelsea.

The Premier League footballing world has been waiting for the result of the Thursday morning north London derby for several weeks and Wenger has avoided the obvious.

“We are five points ahead, and overall, the Premier League is a marathon,” said Wenger, speaking before his side progressed to the knockout stages of the Champions League despite a 2-0 defeat to Napoli on Wednesday that left them facing a potentially tricky last-16 clash.

“We will be in the race no matter what happens,” City, who surged back from 2-0 down to beat European champions Bayern Munich 3-2 in Germany in their final Champions League group game, are fourth and six points behind Wenger’s men.

Despite their position, Arsenal will be the underdogs against a side who remain unbeaten at home in the league this season and see no reason why they cannot at least match Manchester United’s 1-0 win over the north Londoners last month.

With the disappointing results we have had away from home, it’s important that we try to go through the season winning every single home game,” City’s England midfielder James Milner, who scored the winner on Tuesday, said.

“That won’t be easy, but the way we are playing we can do that.”

Neither of City’s top two league goal scorers played in Munich with Sergio Aguero, the second most prolific scorer in the Premier League after Liverpool’s Luis Suarez, rested and Yaya Toure suspended.

FIA seeks interest from would-be Formula One teams

London, Dec 12 — Formula One’s governing body sought expressions of interest on Wednesday from would-be new teams that could enter the sport from 2015 or 2016.

The International Automobile Federation (FIA) posed a note on its website (www.fia.com) announcing “a new selection process to identify a candidate team to participate at a competitive level”.

“The overall long-term interests of the championship will determine which candidates are selected,” it added.

Formula One last admitted new constructors in 2010, when Spanish-based Hispania, Virgin Racing and Malaysian-owned Lotus Racing expanded a depleted grid to 12 teams following the departure of manufacturers Honda, Toyota and BMW.

Hispania later became HRT and folded at the end of 2012, while Virgin became Marussia and Lotus Racing are now competing as Caterham.— Reuters

Three Ajax fans stabbed during fighting before Milan game

Milan, Dec 12 — Three Ajax Amsterdam supporters were stabbed in Milan on Wednesday during fighting before the Champions League match against AC Milan and one is seriously hurt, Italian police said.

The supporter in the worst condition was knifed in the stomach and the others were wounded in the buttock and leg, a police spokesman said.

“The one with the stomach wound is clearly the most serious but as far as I understand it’s not life threatening,” he said.

All three were taken to Milan’s San Carlo hospital, while a local street salesman also suffered a minor knife wound in the scuffles but was not hospitalised.

Three Ajax supporters were arrested in a separate incident for trying to rob a street kiosk.

Dortmund leave it late, Milan limp into last 16

London, Dec 12 — Last season’s runners-up Borussia Dortmund were spared a Champions League exit when a dramatic late goal from Kevin Grosskreutz sent the Germans into the last 16 on Wednesday.

Dortmund, who beat Olympique Marseille 2-1, Arsenal and Napoli all finished on 12 points with the Bundesliga team topping Group F and the Italians proving the odd side out on head-to-head superiority despite a 2-0 victory over the English Premier League leaders.

AC Milan will be Italy’s only representatives in the knockout stage as Galatasaray, Zenit St Petersburg and Schalke 04 secured the remaining last 16 places in Monday’s draw which will feature four representatives each from the Premier League and Bundesliga.

Barcelona, who should have Lionel Messi back from injury when the competition resumes in February, signed off from the 2013 season in style with Brazil striker Neymar scoring a hat-trick, his first Champions League goals, in a 6-1 romp over Celtic at the Nou Camp.

Jose Mourinho can also look forward to the draw as Group E winners Chelsea went through the motions in overcoming Steaua Bucharest 1-0 at Stamford Bridge.

Napoli, who did not drop into the Europa League, are only the second team to be eliminated from the group phase with 12 points from six games after Paris St Germain in 1997-98.

In contrast, Russia’s Zenit finished runners-up in Group G by becoming the first team to qualify for the knockout stages with six points.

Injury-hit Dortmund were just minutes away from a tripdoor into Europe’s second-tier competition when Grosskreutz found the back of the net with a deflected shot three minutes from time against 10-man Marseille.— Reuters

Decisive Galatasaray goal crowns difficult year for Sneijder

Istanbul, Dec 12 — Wesley Sneijder ended a year of contrasting fortunes by scoring the winning goal against Juventus on Wednesday that propelled Galatasaray into the Champions League knockout stages.

Six months ago Sneijder’s career was at a crossroads after he was stripped of the captaincy of the Dutch national team, then left out of the side because of a lack of fitness. His 85th-minute goal is a payback for Galatasaray who paid a reported 10 million euros ($13.8 million) for the Inter Milan midfielder in January.

Sneijder admitted recently that the Turkish champions had yet to see the best of him. The 29-year-old’s winner in the snow-delayed Group B tie allowed Galatasaray to progress to the knockout phase at the expense of the Italian champions.

“That goal is very important for me but even more important for the club,” said Sneijder, who arrived to a great reception at Ajax Amsterdam before moving to Real Madrid. “It’s great, we fought really hard and deserved to win.”

In his first 15 games at Galatasaray, where he arrived to a great reception from supporters, Sneijder was substituted 12 times. He scored only three goals and delivered just one assist last season after his move from Inter, where he had fallen out of favour after refusing to take a pay cut.

Wesley Sneijder of Galatasaray reacts during their Champions League soccer match against Juventus in Istanbul on 11 Dec, 2013.— Reuters
Neymar hits hat-trick as Barcelona crush Celtic

Barcelona, 12 Dec—Neymar finally showed the goalscoring touch he has been threatening with a hat-trick as Barcelona shrugged off their recent dip in form with a 6-1 win over Celtic at the Nou Camp on Wednesday to seal top spot in Champions League Group H.

Gerard Pique stabbed home with seven minutes on the clock and, with Celtic stretched at the back, Pedro and Neymar both finished clinically before half-time. Neymar had never scored before in Europe but got two more after the break, with Adam Matthews unable to stop the Brazilian’s third from going over the line. Cristian Tello completed Barça’s scoring with another deflected shot.

Celtic grabbed a consolation goal through Giorgios Samaras two minutes from time.

Barcelona finished top of the section with 13 points, four ahead of second-placed Milan and five ahead of Ajax, who drew 0-0 at the San Siro.

Barça’s 20-match unbeaten start to the season was ended at Ajax in their previous European match, and it was followed by defeat in La Liga by Athletic Bilbao. But Gerardo Martino’s side, still without the injured Lionel Messi, responded with a fine attacking display against the Scottish champions.

For Celtic it is the end of a poor run in Europe. They have lost all their away games, and at home, where they are normally strong, they managed only one win, over Ajax.

Youngster Sergi Roberto was the surprise face in the Barcelona lineup with Andres Iniesta, carrying a knock, left on the bench. Scott Brown returned for the visitors after serving his ban for his red card for a foul on Neymar when the sides met in Glasgow.

The visitors gave Roberto the perfect opportunity to find his feet as they left large holes in the centre of midfield for the home side to carve openings. Xavi sent a deep ball to Neymar at the far post that was just too high for the Brazilian before two minutes had passed.

Pique was getting forward well and he was on hand to get the opening goal as he knocked the ball in from close range after a deflected shot from Alexis Sanchez was saved by the keeper.—Reuters

A worker of Mount Hermon Ski Resort crashes snow in the Golan Heights, on 11 Dec, 2013. It was stormy in most of Israel and snow in the Golan Heights on Wednesday, and it snowed periodically in the northern Golan Heights, with temperatures dropping further to around 0 degree Centigrade.—Xinhua

Myanmar TV

(11-12-2013, Friday)

6:00 am
1. Parita By Venerable Mingon Sayadaw

6:20 am
2. Physical Exercises

7:00 am

7:30 am
4. Talks Show

8:00 am
5. News/International News

8:30 am
6. CANOEING

9:00 pm
7. Billard & Snooker + Karatedo (Opening Ceremony)

10:00 pm
8. Sports News/ Sepakthakraw (Myanmar & Thailand) (Preliminary) (Men & Women)

12:00 am

12:30 pm
10. Clever

1:00 pm
11. Myanmar Series

1:15 pm
12. Hyper Soapris

1:30 pm
13. SEA Games Songs

2:00 pm
14. Sports News/Pencai Silat (Final)

3:30 pm
15. Talks Show

4:00 pm
16. Karatedo (Awarding Ceremony)/27th SEA Games Football (Live)

5:45 pm
17. SEA Games Songs

6:00 pm

6:30 pm
19. Talks Show

6:45 pm
20. 27th SEA Games Football (Final)

8:40 pm

9:00 pm
22. Hyper Sports

9:30 pm
23. Talks Show

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Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Indonesian Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Sebastianus Sumarsono and party.—MNA

Bonak 16

the competitions. Vietnam participated in Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Cambodia participated in the competitions. Vietnam

Badminton reaches quarter-finals

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Dec—The quarter-finals of badminton event of the 27th SEA Games took place at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium (C) here today. Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Laos, Singapore and Cambodia participated in the competitions. Vietnam

Myanmar Encak Silat team sails to final

Mr. Nu Tu Nyunt (NLM)

In the women’s singles’ events, Thailand

Six female boxers secure points for quarterfinals

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Dec—Women’s boxing semi-final events of the XXVII SEA Games took place at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium, here, this morning. The boxers from Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Laos and Vietnam took part in today’s matches.

At today’s matches, the Philippines won over Laos in women’s light-flyweight (48-51 kg); Thailand, over the Philippines in women’s flyweight (48-51 kg); Thailand, over the Philippines in women’s Bantam weight (51-54 kg); and Indonesia, over Laos in women’s Bantam weight (51-54 kg); according to a source. —Khaung Thanda Lwin (NLM)

Four objectives of 66th Independence Day

- All the national people to live together in the Union forever in weal or woe;
- All the national people to strive together for non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty;
- All the national people to participate in efforts for ceasing armed conflicts and gaining genuine peace;
- All the national people to work hard in building a developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation

Myanmar youngest player Ma Yati Wint

War who participates in international rapid chess event. KTL

Medal Tally

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