President U Thein Sein attends Japanese king’s tea party

YANGON, 13 Dec—President U Thein Sein together with heads of State/Government from ASEAN who are in Japan to attend the 40th Anniversary ASEAN-Japan commemorative summit and Japan-Mekong Summit, attended a tea party hosted by Japan’s King Akihito and Princess Michiko Shoda, at Imperial Palace this evening.

It was attended by Brunei King Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, Cambodia Prime Minister Heng Samrin, Laotian Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong and wife, Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk’ Sri Haji Mohammad Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Philippine President Benigno Aquino, Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and wife, Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung and wife and officials.

Later, President U Thein Sein and ASEAN leaders attended a dinner hosted by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and wife at PM’s residence and held one-minute silence for disaster victims in Japan and ASEAN region.

The President proceeded to Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo of Japan. Then, he met staff and Myanmar students there and presented gifts to them.

From there, the President went to Imperial Hotel where they stay. Delegation member Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin attended a dinner hosted by Japanese Prime Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida.

Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw also attended a MOU signing ceremony in order to promote economic cooperation between the Myanmar government and JBIC at Imperial Hotel.

Myanmar bag three gold, three silver, nine bronze in wrestling event

YANGON, 13 Dec—Final matches of Wrestling event of the 27th SEA Games took place at Thaw-wunna National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thingangyun, here, this afternoon.

Wrestlers from Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines participated in today’s events.

In both men’s and women’s events, Vietnam secured two gold medals, Indonesia took one gold and one bronze, Thailand seized four silver, Myanmar earned one silver and two bronze and the (See page 9)

Teen Karatekas clinch gold for Myanmar in team Kata event

Three teenage girls, Poe Myar, Swe Swe Aung and Thazin Aye, made a history for Myanmar Karatedo by showing their impressive performance in female team kata event of the 27th SEA Games’ Karatedo competition today. Not expecting too much from the three teenage girls in pursuit of gold through karatedo, 4-1 win against Vietnam is enough for three-member Myanmar female kata team to pick up first gold for Myanmar in Karatedo competition.

Despite a slow start in earlier events of Day’1 SEA Games Karatedo Tournaments at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium (A), Myanmar’s hope for karatedo gold eventually came alive as three teenage girls gave their best in front of a home crowd, bringing home gold in female team kata event.

When four of five referees raised their red flags aloft, the whole stadium made a great big cheer for three Myanmar teenage girls.

In other events, Min Hein Khant of Myanmar was satisfied with silver as he fell to a 5-0 loss defeated by Lin Chee Wei of Malaysian who seized gold in Individual Kata (M) contest. Malaysian and Laotian karatekas shared third place in the event.

In individual Kata (F) contest, Vietnam snatched gold while her Indonesian rival secured silver. Mai Oliver Yim Wah Thaung of Myanmar won bronze together with Laotian counterpart.

Myanmar stood empty-handed in Individual Kumite 68 kg (F) event in which Vietnam took gold after beating Indonesian counterpart who was satisfied with silver. Po Ei Phyu of Myanmar faced defeat in meeting with Malaysian rival who got bronze together with Laotian karateka. But, Myanmar’s Male Kata team bagged one more silver medal from team kata (M) contest.

Vietnam & Indonesia set new records in weightlifting event

YANGON, 13 Dec—Vietnam and Indonesia set new records in weightlifting event of the 27th SEA Games.

Vietnamese weightlifter Tran Thach Kim bagged gold medal putting a new record with 285 Kilo in Men’s 56 Kilo Weightlifting event, followed by Indonesian weightlifter Jadi Setiadi from Indonesia, silver medal and Myanmar weightlifter Pyae Phyu bronze medal. (See page 8)

Myanmar & Indonesia set new records in weightlifting event

(See page 8)

By YM

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein together with heads of State/Government from ASEAN attends 40th Anniversary ASEAN-Japan commemorative summit and Japan-Mekong Summit in Tokyo of Japan.—MNA

By YM

Photo: YM (NLM)
37th Blood Donors Day

Great thanks to

Generosity and respectable characters of yours,
You make the difference between life and death

On behalf of those whose lives have been saved by yours.
National Blood Center
Department of Health
Ministry of Health

Hotel Industry

Ground breaking for construction of second Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon

Yangon, 13 Dec—Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Mayor U Hla Myint and guests recently attended the ground breaking ceremony of Lakeside Shangri-La which is the second of its kind with 350 rooms in Yangon. The Lakeside Shangri-La Hotel is located near Kandawgyi Lake of Yangon. Hong Kong-based Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts Group opened a hotel with 402 rooms in Yangon as of 1996. Lakeside Shangri-La Hotel will have three restaurants, two beverages pubs, meeting room, healthy clubs and swimming pools. The visitors will have easy access to Kandawgyi Natural Park and Yangon Zoological Gardens. It is expected to commission the hotel into service in 2017.

Health Care Services

Nutritious feeds, cash assistance provided to HIV/AIDS patients

Bago, 13 Dec—At the office of Bago Region Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, Bago Region Women’s Affairs Organization and Region MCWSC held the ceremony to mark the World AIDS Day on 10 December morning in Bago. It was attended by Bago Region Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Myint Myint Soe, Patron Daw May Thu and members. At the ceremony, they donated egg, cereal foods and cash assistance K 10,000 each to 30 HIV/AIDS patients. After that, leader of the Bago Region STD/AIDS Control Group Dr Kyaw Nang Win of Bago Region Health Department gave talks on control of HIV/AIDS disease to the patients.

CSC issued to students in Kalaungtaung Village of Ottarathiri Tsp

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 Dec—The ministry concerned is conducting educative talks on nationwide census-taking process-2014. An 8-member team of Ottarathiri Township Health Department gave set top boxes was held at the hall of Ottarathiri Township General Administration Department, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on 10 December morning.

Reminder issued to move buildings from area of ASEAN Highway

Pyaywwe, 13 Dec—As Public Works of Pyaywwe Township designates No 1 ASEAN Highway (AH-1) of Yangon-Mandalay Highway as 300 feet wide one, the buildings in the road areas on both sides are to be moved with the reminder on 2 December. Information has been issued to the owners of the buildings. If they do not move their buildings from the road area, action will be taken against them under the Highways Law of the Ministry of Construction. The ASEAN Highway-1 will include in Pyaywwe Township from mile post 308/2 to 328/7 of Kontha Bridge including Pegen, Hsaungung, Kintar, South Nyaungwwe, North Nyaungwwe, Wetlet, Ywatha, Thayagon, Yindaw-Myoma, Piwerthin, Wayindok, Htandawgyi and Kontha of Pyaywwe Township.

DVB-T2 set top box distributed to people free of charge in Ottarathiri Tsp

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 Dec—Free distribution of DVB-T2 set top boxes was held at the hall of Ottarathiri Township General Administration Department, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on 10 December morning.

Construction

Haka-Matupi road in expansion

Haka, 13 Dec—Free distribution of DVB-T2 set top boxes was held at the hall of Ottarathiri Township General Administration Department, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on 10 December morning.

The people now enjoy the programmes of Myanmar Radio and Television of the Ministry of Information through digital system free of charge.

That is why, the people have provided free of charge.

So far, 962 boxes have been provided free of charge to Elevel families, hospitals, clinics, schools, orphanages, homes for the aged, schools for the disabled, libraries, universities and social organizations.

By phone Kyaw (Nay Pyi Taw)
Japan pledges 69 billion yen in loans to typhoon-hit Philippines

WASHINGTON, 13 Dec—The US House of Representatives passed a key national defence bill Thursday that included an outlay on the contentious programme of transferring Marines to Guam from Okinawa.

The National Defence Authorization Act for fiscal 2014 is also expected to clear the Senate soon as the chairman of the chamber’s Armed Services Committee said on Monday his committee will endorse the act, which outlines a national defence budget in the year through September 2015. The bill for the act includes an $86 million outlay for the transfer of Marines to Guam from the southern Japan prefecture. The move came after the Senate dropped its earlier call for eliminating the budget from the bill in a concession to the House to ensure its early passage.

Senators who are influential in the plan to transfer Marines from Okinawa to Guam had been critical of the government’s budget for the programme, saying there were too many questions about feasibility.

Under the current re-location plan, about 9,000 of the 19,000 Marines stationed in Okinawa are to be transferred out of Japan and of those about 4,000 would be moved to Guam and the remainder to Hawaii and Australia. Japan and the United States agreed to move the US Marines from Okinawa to reduce the burden on the prefecture, which already hosts the bulk of US military facilities in Japan.

WASHINGTON, 13 Dec—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Friday pledged a total of about 69 billion yen in loans to the Philippines to rehabilitate typhoon-hit areas and boost the country’s maritime security.

In a joint Press conference after his meeting with Philippine President Benigno Aquino, Abe also announced additional grant aid worth 6.5 billion yen.

Of the yen loans, post-disaster standby loans amount to 50 billion yen and the remainder is for providing the country with disaster relief activities “be-
Scientists find water plumes shooting off Jupiter moon

SAN FRANCISCO, 13 Dec — New observations from the Hubble Space Telescope show jets of water vapour blowing off the southern pole of Europa, an ice-covered moon of Jupiter that is believed to hold an underground ocean, scientists said on Thursday.

“If confirmed, the discovery could affect scientists’ assessments of whether the moon has the right conditions for life,” planetary scientist Kurt Retherford, with the South-west Research Institute in San Antonio, Texas, told reporters at the American Geophysical Union conference in San Francisco.

“We’ve only seen this at one location right now, so to try to infer that there’s a global effect as a result of this is a little difficult at this time,” Retherford said.

Researchers using the Hubble Space Telescope found 125-mile-high (200-km-high) plumes of water vapour shooting off from Europa’s south polar region in December 2012.

The jets were not seen during Hubble observations of the same region in October 1999 and November 2012. The now-defunct Galileo spacecraft, which made nine passes by Europa in the late 1990s, likewise did not detect any plumes.

Scientists believe the water vapour may be escaping from cracks in Europa’s southern polar ice that open due to gravitational stresses when the moon is farthest from Jupiter.

“When Europa is close to Jupiter, it gets stressed and the poles get squished and the cracks close up. Then, as it moves farther away from Jupiter, it becomes un-squished, the pole moves outward and that’s when the temporary open,” said planetary scientist Francis Nimmo, with the University of California in Santa Cruz.

The plumes also could be the result of frictional heating from rubbing ice blocks or a fortuitously timed comet impact, scientists said.

Similar jets have been detected on Saturn’s moon Enceladus, which because it has 12 times less gravity than Europa, can shoot its plumes much farther into space.

Scientists find it interesting that both Europa and Enceladus, which is being studied by the Saturn-orbiting Cassini spacecraft, are pumping out about the same amount of water vapour, roughly seven tons per second.

“We were really kind of surprised by the number ... and we’re grasping what that means,” Retherford said.

Additional Hubble observations are planned, as well as a review of archived Galileo data taken when Europa was farthest away from Jupiter.

“No that we know where (the plumes) are, that narrows the window that we have in comparison to the passes that we’ve made,” said NASA’s planetary sciences chief, Jim Green.

“I think we’ll have some other great results, or another controversy,” he said.—Reuters

China official says has ‘substantial’ price-fixing evidence against Qualcomm

BEIJING, 13 Dec — China’s top economic planning agency has “substantial evidence” against chipmaker Qualcomm Inc in an antitrust probe, state media on Thursday quoted a senior official at the price regulator as saying.

The official English-language China Daily attributed the comment to Xu Kunlin, head of the National Development and Reform Commission’s (NDRC) anti-price-fixing bureau, in the agency’s first public comment on the case.

“At this point we got no further details,” said Jim Green.

“The Chinese government will be able to share, not with everyone, but just with a specific group,” said Kevin Systrom, Instagram co-founder and chief executive.

Xu’s remarks. Qualcomm, the world’s biggest maker of cellphone chips, said in November that it would cooperate with the NDRC in an antitrust investigation, though it was unaware of any anti-monopoly law violations.

The NDRC has been stepping up its crackdown on anti-monopoly violations over the past several months. It handed down record fines to six milk powder companies, including Mead Johnson Nutrition Co and Danone, in August and has also punished domestic jewelers for antitrust violations. Xu was also quoted as saying the agency would add at least 170 people to its price-fixing enforcement teams as it redoubled efforts to tame anti-competitive behaviour in major industries, including the automotive sector.

Twenty of those employees will join its Beijing office, boosting its size from its current 46 employees, the China Daily said.

The expansion “reflects the country’s determination to deal with price fixing”, the newspaper said.

Xu also called for the merger of his bureau with antitrust divisions at the Ministry of Commerce and the State Administration for Industry and Commerce, two agencies with which it has “overlapping” duties.

Experts have argued that China’s antitrust enforcers are woefully understaffed even as they embrace new-found global clout in regulating monopolistic practices and mergers. —Reuters

Cheap Indian phone brand Micromax aims to go global, high-end

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI, 13 Dec — India’s Micromax, which has become the country’s No 2 smartphone brand just five years after selling its first handset — a $30 made-in-China model — is looking to go upmarket and overseas.

The unlisted company sold 6.8 million phones in the July-September quarter including 2.2 million smartphones, and is on track to surpass $1 billion in sales in the fiscal year ending in March.

With heavy advertising and phones based on Google Inc’s Android software starting at $50 — almost half the price of a comparable Samsung model — Micromax has brought smartphones to the masses in a price-sensitive market where basic handsets still dominate. Among all types of phones, Micromax ranks third in India after Nokia and Samsung Electronics.

The company, which started selling IT software and telecommunications gear, entered the handset market with cheap phones featuring bigger screens, and the capability to use two SIM cards so customers can take advantage of bargains from competing carriers — a feature Nokia was slow to match.

Now Micromax is looking to broaden its market by wooing brand-conscious Indians with more spending power. In October, it rolled out a 19,000-rupee ($310) “phablet” with a 5-inch screen promoted by “Wolverine” star Hugh Jackman — an unusual choice in a country where Bollywood actors and cricket stars are the preferred brand ambassadors.

A China-based public relations official for Qualcomm said the company had no comment on Xu’s remarks. Qualcomm, the world’s biggest maker of cellphone chips, said in November that it would cooperate with the NDRC in an antitrust investigation, though it was unaware of any anti-monopoly law violations.

“Sometimes you want to find alternative technology for the smartphone to limit any disruption on its future business.—Reuters

People sit next to a Qualcomm stand at the Mobile World Congress at Barcelona, on 27 Feb, 2013.—Reuters

Qualcomm said the company had no comment on Xu’s remarks. Qualcomm, the world’s biggest maker of cellphone chips, said in November that it would cooperate with the NDRC in an antitrust investigation, though it was unaware of any anti-monopoly law violations.

Instagram unveils private photo-sharing, messaging

NEW YORK/SAN FRANCISCO, 13 Dec — Photo-sharing service Instagram unveiled a new feature on Thursday that allows users to send images and messages privately, as the Facebook-owned company sought to bolster its appeal among younger consumers who are increasingly using mobile messaging applications.

The new Instagram Direct feature allows users to send a photo or video to a single person or up to 15 people, and to have real-time text conversations.

“Sometimes you want to be able to share, not with everyone, but just with a specific group,” said Kevin Systrom, Instagram co-founder and chief executive.

Instagram claims to have more than 150 million monthly users who have shared 16 billion photos on the service. Until now, the photos could only be shared publicly, allowing them to be seen by anyone using the service.

Facebook Inc, the world’s No 1 Internet social network, bought Instagram for $1 billion in 2012. The new features come as Facebook and Instagram face increasing competition from a new crop of mobile messaging services, including WhatsApp and Snap-chat.—Reuters
Coke to split North American business into two

New York, 13 Dec — Coca-Cola Co (KO.N) said it would divide its North American business into two units, as part of its plan to return to a franchise model instead of owning bottlers.

The company said the division will result in two operating units — Coca-Cola North America and Coca-Cola Refreshments.

The world’s largest soda company said the Coca-Cola North America division will be led by JAM Douglas. He will continue in his role as global chief customer officer.

Paul Mulligan will lead Coca-Cola Refreshments, the bottling division of the business, the company said. He is currently the head of Commercial for Bottling Investments Group (BIG) and Region Director responsible for Japan and Latin America BIG operations. Coke said in April it would return toward a franchise model in the United States, where independent companies will deliver the drinks to local stores. —Reuters

Hospital stays vaccines help reduce US flu cases

Atlanta, 13 Dec — Flu shots reduced the number of US flu cases and hospitalizations last year by an estimated 17 percent, highlighting the need for increasing vaccination rates, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said on Thursday.

Vaccinations prevented more than six million flu cases and hospitalizations with the projected number that would have occurred had there been no vaccinations.

“This is by far the largest number of hospitalizations and other illnesses we’ve seen prevented” since 2005, said CDC Director Thomas Frieden.

Young children and elderly people benefited the most from the flu vaccine, making up more than two-thirds of those who avoided hospital stays, the CDC said.

Fewer than half of US residents ages six months and older were vaccinated for the flu last year. The CDC said an additional 30,000 hospital visits could have been avoided if the vaccination rate had been 70 percent.

The agency could not say how many deaths were prevented by vaccinations. —Reuters

Boeing to move research jobs out of Washington state

New York, 13 Dec — Boeing Co (BA.N) said on Thursday it planned to eliminate up to 1,200 jobs in Washington state and move them to other US locations as it reorganizes research and development functions. The move will reduce Boeing’s reliance on unionized engineers in the Seattle area, and follows other steps Boeing has made to move jobs outside the state this year.

Boeing is also entertaining proposals to place the factory for its newest jetliner, the 777X, outside Washington in part to avoid union conflicts. The $10 billion factory will generate an estimated $20 billion in economic benefits over the years to the winning state, according to one forecast.

On Thursday, Boeing said it would put design and support centres around the country, reducing those jobs in Washington. In search-and-technology centres at five locations around the country, which will add 300 to 400 jobs at each location.

The centres are all in states that have proposed giving Boeing tax breaks or other incentives to attract the factory. —Reuters

Ford to hire 11,000 in US, Asia amid new model push

Detroit, 13 Dec — Ford Motor Co (F.N) said on Thursday that it is adding more than 11,000 new jobs in the United States and Asia in 2014 as it rolls out 23 new vehicles, the biggest launch year in the company’s 110-year history.

The second-largest US automaker will hire more than 5,000 workers in the United States, including 3,300 salaried positions. Ford will hire 6,000 workers in Asia.

The hiring comes as Ford plans to launch 23 new cars and trucks in 2014, 16 of which will be introduced in North America. Among the most critical launches are an all-new Mustang sports car and a radical overhaul of its most profitable vehicle, the F-150 pickup truck.

“We have an unprecedented year of launch es,” Joe Hinrichs, head of Ford’s operations in North and South America, said at a media event in Dearborn, Michigan. “We’ve always said we’re going to keep investing in product and with the number of launches we have next year, this reinforces that.”

The number of global launches planned for next year is more than double that in 2013. Worldwide, Ford is on track to make 6 million cars and trucks, the company said. —Reuters

Cancer deaths rise to 8.2 million, breast cancer sharply up

London, 13 Dec — The global death toll from cancer rose to 8.2 million in 2012 with sharp rises in breast cancer as the disease tightened its grip in developing nations struggling to treat an illness driven by Western lifestyles.

Cancer deaths were up 8 percent from 7.6 million in a previous survey in 2008 and breast cancer killed 522,000 women last year, up 14 percent in the same period, according to the World Health Organization’s International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).

“Breast cancer is also a leading cause of cancer death in the less developed countries of the world,” said David Forman, head of IARC’s Section of Cancer Information, the group that compiles the global cancer data.

He said this was partly because a shift in lifestyles is causing an increase in incidence, and partly because clinical advances to combat the disease are not reaching women living in these regions.”

An estimated 14.1 million people developed cancer in 2012, up from 12.7 million in 2008. And 1.7 million women were newly diagnosed with breast cancer last year, up by more than 20 percent from 2008.

IARC’s report, called GLOBOCAN 2012, gives the most up-to-date estimates for 28 different types of cancer in 184 countries and offers an overview of the global cancer burden.

It found that the most commonly diagnosed cancers worldwide in men and women combined were lung, breast and colorectal cancers. The most common causes of cancer death were lung, liver and stomach cancers.

Projecting forward, IARC experts said they expected “a substantive increase” in cancer cases worldwide, with annual new cases predicted to rise to 19.3 million by 2025 as the global population both grows and ages.

Worldwide trends show that in developing countries going through rapid societal and economic change, the shift towards lifestyles more typical of richer industrialized countries leads to a rising burden of cancers linked to reproduction, diet and hormones.

The IARC report said cancer incidence — the number of new cases each year — has been increasing in most regions of the world, but noted what it said were “huge inequalities” between rich and poor countries.

While rates of new cancer cases are still highest in more developed regions, death rates are relatively much higher in less developed countries because people’s tumors are often not detected and diagnosed early enough due to a lack of screening and access to treatment. —Reuters

Cases of Coca-Cola are shown for sale in Encinitas, California on 10 Oct, 2013. —Reuters

A boy who is a cancer patient rests inside the children’s ward at the Cancer Centre Welfare Home and Research Institute in Kolkata on 16 March, 2012. —Reuters

A nurse prepares to administer an influenza vaccine at Boston Children’s Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts on 10 Jan, 2013. —Reuters

A worker stands in front of an engine on the Boeing 777 at their assembly operations in Everett, Washington, on 18 Oct, 2012. —Reuters

Ford Motor Co unveils its all new 2015 Ford Mustang GT at an event in New York on 5 Dec, 2013. —Reuters

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School boys walk past free shuttles as they move to an indoor stadium to enjoy Sepak Takaraw contests.

**Photo:** Aye Min Soe

Fans line up outside Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw to watch boxing matches of 27th SEA games.

**Photo:** Aye Min Soe

H.R.H Princess Sirivannavari Nariratana of Thailand riding Htate Kwet (42) owned by U Nyan Lynn at the equestrian event of XXVII SEA games on 13-12-2013.—**Photo:** Htein Win

**Photo:** Aye Min Soe

Myanmar’s Kay Zin Htut strikes during the match against Thailand’s team.

**Photo:** Aye Min Soe

Vietnam’s men’s Futsal team net first goal during the match against Laos.

**Photo:** Aye Min Soe

Indonesia’s Konells Kwangu lands a blow to Laos’ Bounpone Lasav during the flyweight category of 27th SEA games.

**Photo:** Aye Min Soe

**Photos:**

- Myanmar’s Kay Zin Htut strikes during the match against Thailand’s team.
- Vietnam’s men’s Futsal team net first goal during the match against Laos.
- Fans line up outside Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw to watch boxing matches of 27th SEA games.
- H.R.H Princess Sirivannavari Nariratana of Thailand riding Htate Kwet (42) owned by U Nyan Lynn at the equestrian event of XXVII SEA games on 13-12-2013.
Patrons of MWSF donate cash for athletes of Hockey, Kampo

**NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec**—Patron of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation Daw Tin Latt Min presented K 1.5 million to the selected Kampo athletes at the head office of Myanmar Kampo Federation in Kyaukasan Sports Ground in Yangon at 8:30 am today.

Patron of MWSF Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Daw Le Le Thein also presented cash to the selected Kampo athletes in Yangon at 11 am.

Also present on the occasion were Patrons of MWSF Daw Khin Thet Htay and Daw Khin Aye Nwe, Joint-treasurer Dr Daw Aye Aye Khang Myo int and executives.—MNA

Archery, Karatedo, billiard and snooker events kick off

**NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec**—Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan kicked off Archery, Karatedo, billiard and snooker events of the 27th SEA Games at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex, here, this morning and presented gifts to the athletes.

It was attended by Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Htike, President of Myanmar Archery Federation Dr Phyo Ko Ko Tint Hsan, the Vice-President of World Archery Federation, the President of South-East Asian Archery Federation, President of Myanmar Billiard and Snooker Federation U Tin Maung Win and officials.

Myanmar male player secured one silver medal and Myanmar female player got bronze medal in the morning Karatedo matches.—MNA

27th SEA Games Basketball tournament goes on

**NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec**—The 27th SEA Games Basketball tournament continued at Zeyathiri Indoor Stadium (A), here, today.

In men’s basketball match, Malaysia beat Indonesia with 81-48 scores.

In men’s basketball match, Singapore won over Cambodia with 99-43 scores while the Philippines triumphed Thailand 100-68 and Malaysia beat Myanmar with 69-42.

Aung Kyaw Kyaw (NLM)

 élèves

Semifinal matches of badminton event continue

**NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec**—The semifinals of badminton event of the 27th SEA Games took place at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium (C), here, this morning.

Badminton players from Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore participated in the competition. Five gold medals will be awarded to the winners in five categories of badminton sports. Indonesia won over Thailand with 21-11, 18-21 and 21-19 points and Thailand beat Malaysia with 21-15 and 21-17 points in mixed doubles event.

Thailand lost to Indonesia with 21-17, 20-22 and 20-22 points and defeated Vietnam with 21-7 and 21-8 points in women’s singles contest. Indonesia beat Vietnam with 13-21, 21-12 and 22-20 points and lost to Thailand with 21-17, 11-21 and 12-21 points in men’s singles competition.

Indonesia sank Thailand with 21-7 and 21-11 points and Malaysia defeated Singapore with 23-21, 17-21 and 21-17 points in women’s doubles event. Indonesia beat Malaysia with 21-16 and 21-15 points in the first match and 21-17 and 21-18 points in the second match in men’s doubles competition and advanced to the final that will be held tomorrow.—MNA

Aung Kyaw Kyaw (NLM)

27th SEA Games today

**NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR**

27th SEA Games today

Volleyball tourney kicks off

The women’s volleyball match between Myanmar and Malaysia in progress at Zeyathiri Indoor Stadium (B).—Photo: AKK (NLM)

Union Minister U Tint Hsan kicks off billiard and snooker events of the 27th SEA Games at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex.—MNA

Photo shows Thai King’s grand-daughter H.R.H Princess Sirivannavari Nariratana who took part in Equestrian event of the 27th SEA Games.

27th SEA Games Basketball tournament goes on

Indonesia plays against Malaysia in women’s basketball match at Zeyathiri Indoor Stadium (A). Photo: AKK (NLM)

Photo: Ko Myo Shwe Paukkan

Photo: Aung Kyaw Kyaw (NLM)

Photo: AKK (NLM)
**PERSPECTIVES**

**NATIONAL**

**President U Thein Sein arrives in Tokyo of Japan**

**President U Thein Sein arrives at Narita International Airport in Tokyo of Japan.—MNA**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 13 Dec—President U Thein Sein visited Japan on the first state visit to Myanmar in May this year for the Myanmar-Japan Summit and Japan-Mekong Summit yesterday. President U Thein Sein was welcomed at the Airport by Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Khin Maung Tin, Chairman of Myanmar-Japan Association U Saw Hla Min and officials. Later, they proceeded to Imperial Hotel where they will stay. Japan and the ASEAN established informal dialogue relations in 1973 and dialogue partner relations in 1977. This year is 40th Anniversary. President U Thein Sein attended Myanmar-Japan Summit and Myanmar-Japan Summit in April of 2012. During his visit, three memoranda of understanding were signed, namely MoU on Japanese government’s assistance to Myanmar government for human resources development fellowship program, MoU on cooperation in main project development of Thilawa Special Economic Zone, and MoU on Japan’s assistance in preventive measures against natural disaster for rehabilitation of mangrove forest in Ayeyawady delta. His visit could further cement mutual relations and amiety between the two countries. Japanese Prime Minister Mr Shinzo Abe paid a three-day state visit to Myanmar by a Japanese leader in 36 years.—MNA**

**Union Sports Minister attends prize awarding of chess event**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 13 Dec—Chairman of Leading Committee for holding 27th SEA Games Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan enjoyed men’s and women’s Petanque competitions at Wunna Theikdi Stadium and presented K 500,000 to former selected marathon man Mee Tong Naw yesterday. He then enjoyed women’s 100m freestyle and men’s 200m butterfly swimming contests together with the Vietnamese sports minister and the president of National Olympic Committee of Thailand at Wunna Theikdi swimming pool. Afterwards, he attended the prize awarding of traditional chess rapid competition together with Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye and Union Auditor-General U Thein Htaik at Zabuthiri Hotel. He presented first prize to Win Zaw Tun from Myanmar and the second and third to Thai chess players.**

**Vietnam & Indonesia set ...**

(from page 1)

Indonesian weightlifter Eko Yuli Irawan set new record with 304 breaking the old record set in the 27th SEA Games with 302, followed by Vietnam, silver medal and Myanmar, bronze medal in the final match of today Weightlifting Men’s 62 Kilo event.

Indonesian weightlifter snatched gold medal, Thai weightlifter, silver medal and Vietnamese weightlifter, bronze medal in Women’s 48 Kilo Weightlifting event. Host Myanmar, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam took part in the weightlifting events in the 27th SEA Games. Weightlifting events in Thienbyu Gymnasium will continue till 16 December in conjunction with prize awarding ceremony.—MNA

**Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan presents gifts to participant sports teams at the ceremony.—MNA**
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker sends message on commemoration of Diamond Jubilee 1300 ME Chauk Oilfield Uprising

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Dec—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann sent a message to the ceremony to mark the Diamond Jubilee 1300 ME Chauk Oilfield Uprising which falls on 9th Waxing of Nadaw, 1375 ME.

The message said 1300 ME Oilfield Uprising broke out on 9th Waxing of Na-daw, 1300 ME. December 11 is 75 years to mark the day on which oilfield workers made bold move to defy suppression for their rights they deserve. They walked a 400-mile march from Chauk oilfield to Yangon, overcoming many difficulties and obstacles with nationalist fervor. Their diligence, courage and high spirit gave the British government a shock and unified effort of workers, peasants and students was very proud of. Now, the Diamond Jubilee celebration in honour of those who defied the suppression can be witnessed.

In a bid to march towards a peaceful, modern and developed nation, it also needs to have transparency, accountability and responsibility and practice multi-party democracy system and market-oriented economic system.

From this occasion onward, I would like to urge all the people to participate in an effort for serving the interests of people, the State and the Union.—MNA

Inter-personal communication handbook introduced

Aung Kyaw Kyaw (NLM)

Myanmar snatches one gold, two silver

Myanmar bag three gold, three silver

Myanmar wrestler secures silver in 50m pistol men’s individual event

Hockey tourney commences

Women’s football tournament continues
Modern traffic lights installed in downtown Yangon to ease traffic congestions

Yangon, 13 Dec—The traffic light installed with Japanese technological devices is being used in downtown Yangon for reducing traffic congestions.

Agriculture

Maintenance of dam help cultivate paddy

Yamethin, 13 Dec—Farmers of Pyawbwe Township in Yamethin District cultivate paddy with the use of irrigation facilities from Chaungmagyi, Thaphangyayong, Kyaukse, Yindaw, Netkar, Wunzin, Minthagyoi, Yeogyi and Khaka dams in the township.

Sway Creek that originates from the western hill of the township contributes to local people and it flows into Samon Creek and Minhla Lake of Thazi Township with its fork tributaries.

Khaka Diversion Weir

Field trip made to Central Dry Zone Project

Kyaukse, 13 Dec—A delegation led by Chief Project officer Mr. Takahashi Shingo of JICA and Head of Mandalay Region Fisheries Department U Myo Aung and Head of Kyaukse District Fisheries Department U Thet Oo made a field trip to TadaU Township of Kyaukse District on 11 December morning so as to implement the Small-scale Aquaculture Extension for the turn but now we give priority to the vehicles from the straight way. It is the best. In the past, the traffic lights were installed the lights on the one side. New device has two sides on east and west for the vehicles. That is why the traffic congestion remarkably down there,” he recounted his experience.

The traffic light was provided by JICA. After assessing the functions of the traffic light, similar devices will be installed in other parts of Yangon so as to recline the traffic congestions.

Kyemon-Zaw Gyi (Panita): Photo: Thita Zaw

Environmental Conservation

Preparations made at parks, Zoos for XXVII SEA Games

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 Dec—Under the leadership of Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, the Environmental Conservation Committee has held the educative works to the people for growing of trees and forestation works.

Moreover, the local people are delighted at activities of the Irrigation Department that improved the diversion by dredging sand and silt. The department dredged the canals and diversion weir. In addition, the department dredged Magyibin (1), Magyibin (2) Dams and Zigon Diversion Weir. Thanks to improvement of the staff of Irrigation, over 3000 acres of farmlands from Thazi, Hinthada, Thegan, Lunjin, Kyauktaing, Aungtha, Phettaw, Yongon and Zigon villages can be put under paddy as of this monsoon.

In 2013-14 fiscal year, we prioritize the cars from Pyay Road. In the past, remarkably decline on traffic points. Thus, the number of vehicles at the traffic light, similar devices will be installed. After assessing the functions of the project in Bago Region, Ayeyawady Region, and the head of Region Fisheries Department explained implementation of the project in Bago Region, Ayeyawady Region and Kayin State and advantages of the project.

Next, the documentary video were presented to those present. They replied to queries raised by local people.

Official of JICA meets with local people on their trip of observation in Kyaukse District.

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 Dec—Preparations are being made at Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Gardens, Sarari Park, Planetarian and Yangon Zoological Gardens for enabling the SEA Games-bound visitors to enjoy relaxation there.

Inaddition, preparations were being made at Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Gardens, Sarari Park, Planetarian and Yangon Zoological Gardens for enabling the SEA Games-bound visitors to enjoy relaxation there.

Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Garden and Safari Park are decorated with SEA Games flags, ASEAN countries’s flags, mascots, the words of welcome, banners, flying banners and landscaping with shapes of animals. Moreover, weeding, sanitation and painting works are being carried at the parks.

Promotion of Livelihood of Rural Communities in Central Dry Zone Project to be jointly conducted by Fisheries Department and JICA.

At Pyukan Village, the staff of the zoos repaired three dodges, erected educative placards for taking care of animals, putting out of signboards in disciplines of the zoological gardens, carried out enrichment plans, installed the benches and natural baths made of logs for lions and tigers.

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All the tasks were completed on 27 November. At Yangon Zoological Gardens, the public restroom, animal cages, cultivation of flowery plants and sanitation, painting at buildings and mowing the lawns were completed on 30 November.

Kyemon-Forestry

Landscapes seen with mascots of XXVII SEA Games at Yangon Zoo.

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Japan agrees to expand currency swap deals with 2 ASEAN nations

TOKYO, 13 Dec—Japan has agreed to boost its respective currency swap deals with Indonesia and the Philippines, while maintaining such an arrangement with Singapore, as part of a strategy to help stabilize financial markets in Asia, the Finance Ministry said on Friday.

As the countries represent three of the larger economies in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, expansion of the currency deals is expected to strengthen their emergency response abilities in the case of a regional financial crisis, the Japanese ministry said.

Japan will raise its $12.0 billion currency swap facility with Indonesia to $22.76 billion and double its $6.0 billion swap line with the Philippines to $12.0 billion, while maintaining its $3.0 billion swap deal with Singapore, the ministry said.

“The world’s third-biggest economy also agreed with Indonesia and the Philippines to introduce a new scheme to prevent a crisis, such as a lack of market liquidity, it added.

“Currency stabilization (in the three countries) would contribute to Japan’s national interests,” Finance Minister Taro Aso said at a press conference earlier in the day.

The agreements came as leaders of Japan and the ASEAN member nations will gather for a summit in Tokyo from Friday.

Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has been making efforts to forge closer ties with the fast-growing Southeast Asia region as part of efforts to revive the country’s economy and keep in check China, which has become increasingly assertive in the East China and South China seas.

Abe has visited all 10 ASEAN nations mainly in poor rural areas.—Kyodo News

Left-wing rebels kidnap seven villagers in E India

NEW DELHI, 13 Dec—Seven people, mostly tribals, were kidnapped by armed left-wing rebels from two villages in the eastern Indian state of Orissa on Thursday, said police.

The kidnapping took place at Kalimelia of Orissa’s Malkangiri District. All the kidnapped are believed to be village officials or their relatives.

The rebels also had kidnapped three people on 4 December. One of them escaped the next day, while the other two were released on 7 December. The rebels, also known as Maoists or Naxalites, are active in Orissa and commit attacks, kidnapping and murders from time to time against government officials, villagers and policemen.

Leaders focus on food, energy security, peace at EAS

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 13 Dec — The 8th East Asia Summit (EAS) opened here on Thursday to focus on food and energy security and cooperation in maintaining global peace.

The forum drew together leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as well as the bloc’s eight dialogue partners including China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia, New Zealand, Russia and the United States.

Indonesia proposes binding framework for Indo-Pacific cooperation

Tokyo, 13 Dec—Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono urged regional powers to start talks for the proposed treaty, which is aimed at strengthening the building blocks for cooperation in peace, security and prosperity in the region covering the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

“Indonesia is confident that the present development in our region offers opportunities for building durable and strategic partnerships,” he said.

He was “encouraged” by the moderate stance taken by Iran on its nuclear weapons program and noted that ASEAN was looking forward to more positive engagement.

“Also we congratulate President Obama for attempting to move forward with issues in the Middle East. We are also pleased with the progress that has taken place between ASEAN and China on the South China Sea issue,” he noted.

Warehouse collapse kills at least eight

SHIJIAZHUANG, 13 Dec—At least eight people were killed and another two remain trapped after an agricultural product warehouse under construction collapsed on Thursday in north China’s Hebei Province, authorities said on Friday.

Rescuers pulled nine people from the debris, with eight of them confirmed dead, according to a written statement issued by the government of Zunhua City.

The injured person who was rescued was rushed to a hospital for treatment, and the patient’s condition is not currently known.

The privately built warehouse collapsed at 3:40 pm on Thursday when 11 villagers were helping to pour concrete in the warehouse at the Yehushan Village of the city’s Xingwang Town.

Rescue work is under way, and the cause of the accident is being investigated.—Xinhua

Singapore overall unemployment rate at 1.8 pct in September

SINGAPORE, 13 Dec—Singapore’s seasonally adjusted overall unemployment rate was 1.8 per cent in September, lower from 2.1 per cent in June, amid the turn in the overall market, the city-state’s Ministry of Manpower said on Friday.

Meanwhile, the unemployment rate also decreased over the quarter from 2.9 per cent to 2.6 per cent for residents, and for Singapore citizens, the rate went down from 3.1 per cent to 2.8 per cent.

There were more job vacancies, rising by 5.9 per cent over the quarter, after declining 5.1 per cent in June.—Kyodo News

JAPAN DEFENCE MINISTRY OFFICIAL DECIDED ON FRIDAY

Kyodo News
New Zealand police break up Nigerian-led international drug ring

Wellington, 13 Dec — New Zealand Police said on Friday they had broken up a Nigerian drug-smuggling ring after seizing methamphetamine valued at 7.7 million NZ dollars (2.22 million US dollars).

A 68-year-old New Zealand man carrying two bags containing 26.5 kg of drugs was stopped at Auckland Airport after he had been duped by an Internet scam, according to the police’s Organized and Financial Crime Agency of New Zealand (OFCANZ).

The man flew to Papua New Guinea in early November, telling his New Zealand relatives he was going to receive a large amount of cash, and later Port Moresby five days later with the methamphetamine concealed inside two bags he had been given.

Detective Senior Sergeant Lloyd Schmid said the drugs, with a street value of 1.5 million NZ dollars, were discovered by Customs officers who probed the man on his return. A five-week joint OFCANZ and Customs investigation identified two importers of methamphetamine totaling more than 1.2 kg and valued at 1.2 million NZ dollars.

“The methamphetamine had been sent to New Zealand through the international mail system from the Philippines and Cambodia,” Schmid said in a statement.

On 5 December, detectives raided eight premises in Auckland and the lower North Island town of Woodville, arresting 10 people who were facing charges of importing Class A controlled drugs and possession of Class A controlled drugs, police said.

Schmid said the leaders of the drug ring were Nigerian expatriates based in Auckland and Woodville.—Xinhua

Australian commonwealth states agree to cut green tape for projects

Canberra, 13 Dec — The states and territories of Australia on Friday signed deals with the commonwealth to streamline the environmental approving process for major projects, a decision slammed by the Greens and environmental groups.

Prime Minister Tony Abbott signed the agreements with the state premiers and chief ministers in Canberra at the end of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting, Abbott’s first, on Friday.

COAG agreed to deregulate would remain a key goal, with all states, including Labor administrations, resolving to put in place the Coalition’s plan to streamline environment approvals with so-called “one-stop-shops” at state level.

Under agreements in place, the states will do all environmental assessment work on major projects.

The states of New South Wales and Queensland have gone further, agreeing to sign bilateral agreements to assess and approve projects.

The decision was attacked by the Greens and some environmental groups, which claimed it will sacrifice the country’s natural environment. “States and territories have all made dodgy deals with Tony Abbott today to slash federal environment protection,” said Senator Larissa Waters, Australian Greens environment spokeswoman. “These deals pave the way for Tony Abbott to abolish a 30-year-old federal safeguard for our most precious natural places and wildlife,” she said.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV EI SHUN VOY NO (-)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV EI SHUN VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.L.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 ECL (S’PORE) PTE LTD
Phone No: 256924/256914

New Zealand bride pleads guilty in husband’s cliff death

Missonula, (Montana), 13 Dec — A Montana bride who was accused of pushing her new husband to his death from a cliff in Glacier National Park pleaded guilty to second-degree murder on Thursday in an 11-hour deal with prosecutors that will spare her from a mandatory sentence of life in prison.

Jordan Graham, 22, reached the deal just as closing arguments had been due to begin in her federal murder trial in Missoula over the 7 July death of her husband.

Missoula (Montana), 13 Dec — A Montana bride who was accused of pushing her new husband to his death from a cliff in Glacier National Park pleaded guilty to second-degree murder on Thursday in an 11-hour deal with prosecutors that will spare her from a mandatory sentence of life in prison.

Jordan Graham, 22, reached the deal just as closing arguments had been due to begin in her federal murder trial in Missoula over the 7 July death of her husband.

I told him to let go and I pushed his hand off, said Graham. “I pushed his hand off and just pushed away,” US District Judge Donald Molloy asked her if, after that, she knew Johnson had fallen over the cliff, and Graham responded that she did. Before accepting the plea, the judge warned Graham that by pleading guilty she was “possibly looking at spending the balance” of her life in prison. She responded that she understood the consequences.

A second-degree murder conviction may be punishable by life in prison, it can also result in a lesser sentence of about 20 years behind bars, with possible adjustments for accepting responsibility and other factors.

While a second-degree murder conviction may be punishable by life in prison, it can also result in a lesser sentence of about 20 years behind bars, with possible adjustments for accepting responsibility and other factors.

Federal prosecutors contended that Graham deliberately shoved her husband off a rock ledge while the couple was hiking a steep trail at Glacier and then lied to investigators and tried to cover up the crime.

Graham’s attorneys had said the death was an accident that happened during a marital dispute in which Johnson grabbed his wife’s arm and jacket and she pulled away even as she pushed him.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGKACHAI VOY NO (124)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGKACHAI VOY NO (124) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.12.2013 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 WONGSAMUT OCEAN SHIPPING CO LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PAC AQUALA VOY NO (900)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV PAC AQUALA VOY NO (900) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.L.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 ORIENT OVERSEAS CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376979

Jordon Graham (C), accompanied by members of her legal team, walks away from US District Court in Missoula, Montana on 11 Dec, 2013.—Reuters

Ante Jelec (M), Commander of Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), participates in a ceremony to mark the completion of a training course for high-ranking officers in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, on 12 Dec, 2013. The ceremony marks the completion of Command Staff of Armed Forces of BiH Course Class 13-1 conducted in the best local army academies.—Xinhua

Xinhua
Josh Brolin: Freida Pinto is incredible

LOS ANGELES, 13 Dec — Freida Pinto’s rise to global fame is “courageous”, says Hollywood actor Josh Brolin, who starred with the Indian beauty in Woody Allen’s You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger.

“She’s incredible. I have a tremendous amount of respect for anyone who comes out of a bad picture situation. I think that takes a lot of courage and she worked really hard. But she’s doing extremely well. She is very courageous,” Brolin said of Freida in a statement.

Freida, who was a model in Mumbai, bagged a key role in Danny Boyle’s Slumdog Millionaire, which won multiple Academy Awards. There has been no looking back for Freida since then as she is spotted at key red carpet events and even bagged plum international projects like Miral and Rise of the Planet of the Apes.

Brolin’s latest movie Oldboy, a Hollywood remake of the cult South Korean thriller Oldboy, is set for release in India on Friday. The film follows the story of an advertising agent who is locked in a hotel room for 20 years without knowing his captor’s motives. When he is finally released, he finds himself still trapped in a web of conspiracy and violence.

PTI

Rebecca Hall to debut on 1920s Broadway play ‘Machinal’

NEW YORK, 13 Dec — When actress Rebecca Hall first read “Machinal,” the 1920s play in which she will make her Broadway debut early next year, her reaction was so strong she felt her throat tightening.

Hall’s response, and the fact that it was being directed by Briton Lyndsey Turner, convinced the British actress she had to play the young murderess in the drama that hasn’t been staged on Broadway in 85 years.

“I don’t think I’ve ever had a more physical response to a piece of writing,” said Hall, the star of films such as Woody Allen’s 2008 romance “Vicky, Cristina, Barcelona” and this year’s Disney-Marvel blockbuster superhero sequel “Iron Man 3.” “I think it is extraordinarily powerful. I think it was way ahead of its time,” she added of the play.

Reuters

‘12 Years a Slave,’ ‘American Hustle’ take lead for Golden Globes

BEVERLY HILLS, 13 Dec — Slavery drama “12 Years a Slave” and 1970s con-artist caper “American Hustle” led the Golden Globe Awards nominations announced on Thursday with seven nods each, fortifying their frontrunner positions in a crowded field ahead of the Oscars. In the coveted best drama category, “12 Years a Slave” will compete against Somali piracy nail-biter “Captain Phillips,” space thriller “Gravity,” adoption drama “Philomena,” and race-car rivalry “Rush.”

“American Hustle” was nominated for best actor for Bradley Cooper, best supporting actress for Jennifer Lawrence, best director for David O. Russell, and best screenplay written by director for David O. Russell.

Cast member Chiwetel Ejiofor (R) poses with actress Jacqueline Bisset at a special screening of "12 Years a Slave" at the Directors Guild of America in Los Angeles, California 14 October, 2013.—REUTERS

Adam Sandler named most overpaid actor

LOS ANGELES, 13 Dec—Adam Sandler has topped Forbes magazine’s 2013 list of the most overpaid actors. A string of recent failures has landed the comedian at the top of the list, yet he is among the few actors who can still demand a paycheck above $15 million.

The top 10 list is based on the last three projects of each actor. It has been put together using data gathered by Forbes’ Celebrity 100 research and Box Office Mojo to calculate how much, on average, each star’s last three films earned at the box office per dollar of pay, said the website of the magazine.

Two of Sandler’s off- offenders are Jack & Jill in which he played both halves of a brother-sister twin set, and That’s My Boy, in which the 47-year-old played the father of Andy Samberg, 35.

The former film grossed $150 million, but it took an estimated $80 million to make.

That’s My Boy didn’t fare well either. With an estimated budget of $70 million, the film brought in only $57 million at the box office worldwide.

To compile the list, Forbes looked at the last three movies each actor starred in over the three years to 1 June. Looking at pay, movie budgets and expenses, a return on investment number for each star was calculated and then an average of those numbers gave an idea of overall return.

Close behind Sandler in second place is Katherine Heigl. For every dollar she was paid, Heigl returned an average of $3.50. Reese Witherspoon ranks third with an average $3.90 return for every $1 she gets paid. Actor Kevin James has made his debut on the list and occupies the fifth place.

PTI

Angelina Jolie, Brad Pitt planning four wedding ceremonies?

LONDON, 13 Dec — Celebrity couple Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt are reportedly planning to get hitched at four different places.

Jolie, 38, and Pitt, who got engaged in April 2012, are parents to six kids, Maddox, Pax, Zahara, Shiloh, Knox, and Vivienne, re- ported Daily Star. “They are having the first party at Ayers Rock in Australia to tie in with Brad’s 50th birthday on 18 December. Angelina wants an aboriginal-style ceremony at sunrise,” a source said. “After that, Wedding No 3 will be on a beach in the Bahamas. And finally a glitzy reception will be held at the couple’s south of France home next May to coincide with the Cannes Film Festival,” the source added.—PTI

Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt

Adam Sandler was last seen in That’s My Boy.—PTI
Formula One to award pole position trophy

LONDON, 13 Dec — Formula One will award a pole position trophy next year to the driver who qualifies fastest the most times during the season, the governing International Automobile Federation (FIA) announced on Thursday.

The 2014 sporting regulations, posted on the FIA website, said that in the event of a tie the holder of the most second places would win, with a further countback until a winner emerges. “If this procedure fails to produce a result, the FIA will nominate the winner according to such criteria as it thinks fit,” the regulations stated. Red Bull’s quadruple world champion Sebastian Vettel would have won the award in four of the last five seasons.

The FIA also wrote a penalty points system into the regulations, which will see drivers handed a race ban if they accumulate 12 points in a year. “Penalty points will remain on a driver’s Super License for a period of 12 months after which they will be respectively removed on the 12-month anniversary of their imposition,” the FIA said.

Driver numbers, to be chosen by the competitors and kept for the duration of their Formula One careers, will have to be clearly visible on helmets and the front of cars.—Reuters

Liverpool’s injured captain Gerrard out for a month

Liverpool’s Steven Gerrard wipes his face during their English Premier League soccer match against West Ham United at Anfield in Liverpool, northern England on 7 Dec, 2013.—Reuters

Liverpool’s Steven Gerrard will be sidelined for at least four weeks with the hamstring injury he picked up last weekend, manager Brendan Rodgers said on Thursday.

Gerrard suffered the problem during Liverpool’s 1-0 win over West Ham United in the Premier League on Saturday and had to be replaced after 56 minutes at Anfield. “Steven is, as reported, probably going to be (out for) up to about four weeks or so,” Rodgers told the Merseyside club’s website (www.liverpoolfc.com). “So he’ll go through an extensive treatment programme over the next numbers of weeks and hopefully we can get him back that little bit sooner.

“But certainly at this stage, it was a four to six-week injury and we’ll see how we look with that.” Rodgers had better news on Gerrard’s fellow England midfielder Jordan Henderson, who suffered an ankle injury from a tackle by West Ham skipper Kevin Nolan. Nolan was sent off for the challenge. “Jordan trained so he’s fine,” said Rodgers. “It was just precautionary the last few days. It was a bad challenge that was made on him, but thankfully he’s okay.”

Second-placed Liverpool, who are five points behind Premier League leaders Arsenal, visit Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday. Spurs are sixth but can join Liverpool on 30 points with a win. Reuters

Ronaldo beats Messi for World Soccer magazine award

Real Madrid’s Cristiano Ronaldo reacts as he attends a news conference to discuss the draw for the 2014 World Cup at the Valdebebas training grounds, outside Madrid, on 8 Dec, 2013.—Reuters

Ronaldo beats Messi for World Soccer magazine’s player of the year award.

Barcelona strike sponsorship deal with Intel

Barcelona’s Neymar celebrates after scoring a goal against Celtic during their Champions League soccer match at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on 11 Dec, 2013.—Reuters

Barcelona have agreed a sponsorship deal with Intel under which the chipmaker’s logo will be printed on the inside of players’ shirts, the Spanish champions announced on Thursday.

The idea behind the unusual positioning of the “Intel Inside” logo is that it will be revealed when a player lifts his shirt to celebrate scoring a goal, Barca officials told a news conference in the Catalan capital.

Players including Lionel Messi, Neymar and Andres Iniesta would be under no obligation to display the logo, which will be added to the shirts for the first time in Saturday’s La Liga match at home to Villarreal, Manel Arroyo, a club director responsible for media and sponsorship, said.

Arroyo declined to reveal how much the deal — which runs for four and a half years and includes an option for an extension — was worth, saying it was “confidential”.

Spanish media and Forbes magazine, without identifying the source of their information, reported Intel would pay Barca $25 million.

As part of their first foray into soccer sponsorship, Intel will also provide technology to players and coaching staff as well as the recruits at Barca’s academy, officials said.

US coach Klinsmann to stay for four more years

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New York, 13 Dec — United States head coach Juergen Klinsmann, facing a tough World Cup challenge at next year’s finals in Brazil, has agreed a four-year contract extension through 2018, the US Soccer Federation said on Thursday.

As part of the deal the former Germany international and World Cup winner becomes technical director for US Soccer.

“I am very fortunate to continue the work we started more than two and a half years ago,” Klinsmann said in a statement on the federation’s official website (www.ussoccer.com). “It’s exciting to see the progress we have made, and we continue to make improvements on all fronts.”

The US have been drawn in a difficult Group G at the 2014 World Cup along with Klinsmann’s native Germany, who he took to the 2006 semi-finals as manager, Portugal and Ghana.

Klinsmann has enjoyed a successful year by guiding the US to a fifth Gold Cup title, winning all of their six matches in the tournament, before securing a World Cup place and he has now been given a broader canvas on which to develop the game.

“The role of technical director is a huge challenge and also a huge opportunity as we look to keep connecting the dots to the youth national teams, coaching education, the Development Academy and the grassroots efforts in this country,” he said.

US Soccer president Sunil Gulati added: “One of the reasons hired Juergen our head coach advance the program and we” initial stages opening on the also off the fious areas.

“In the past he has built a dation from the down to the and we want to build upon that. The US World Cup c 16 June again the Estadio Di Natal before f gal in Manaus and Germany four days late World Cup c this month, Kli
Sao Paulo announce China youth programme

RIO DE JANEIRO, 13 Dec — Brazil club Sao Paulo will launch the youth development programme with Chinese side Shandong Luneng as part of a deal to promote their image in Asia.

The four-year agreement includes an exchange initiative allowing the Chinese Super League’s best youngsters to train in Brazil, Sao Paulo said on their official website. Sao Paulo will in turn explore commercial opportunities in China and gain access to a new player market.

The programme, to be led by former Sao Paulo first-team manager Sergio Batresi, will begin early next year.

Batresi will be based at Shandong Luneng’s headquarters in the eastern Chinese city of Jinan alongside Sinclair Dantas de Freitas Garcia (physical trainer), Luis Henrique Orlando (goalkeeping coach) and Bruno Happy (physiotherapist).

The group will take charge of Shandong Luneng’s under-20 side and coordinate the club’s entire youth programme.

Farrah Fawcett memorabilia fetch almost $200,000 in auction

DALLAS, 13 Dec — Actress and pin-up girl Farrah Fawcett was the star of an auction of celebrity memorabilia in Dallas on Thursday as a shiny red swimsuit she wore for a magazine shoot and 64 other personal items brought in nearly $200,000.

Sharing top billing with Fawcett was Gene Kelly and the water-soaked suit he wore in the 1952 movie musical “Singin’ in the Rain” as he danced in a deluge. The gray-wool suit went for $106,250 in the auction, Heritage Auctions said.

The suit belonged to a retired postal worker in California, who bought it at an MGM Studio auction for $10 in 1970. It was bought at auction by Planet Hollywood, operator of restaurants worldwide and a hotel-casino in Las Vegas.

The intense competition for Farrah’s items in this auction speaks to how popular she continues to be with collectors,” said Margaret Barrett, director of entertainment and music auctions for Heritage. Fawcett died of cancer in 2009 at age 62.

Meanwhile, a portrait of Fawcett painted by Andy Warhol that could be worth millions of dollars is at the center of a civil trial in Los Angeles over its ownership.

UEFA wants uniform European action against match-fixing

LONDON, 13 Dec — UEFA wants consistent sanctions against match-fixing across Europe and has drafted an 11-point plan to help make that happen, general secretary Gianni Infantino said on Thursday.

“For UEFA, the fight against match-fixing is a top priority but it is important that all over Europe there is as uniform an approach as possible against it,” he told reporters after a meeting of UEFA’s executive committee in Bilbao, Spain.

It was important for European soccer’s governing body to have concrete and effective policies to fight any possible match-fixing when there would be harsh sanctions, he added.

The draft plan will be sent to all 54 European FAs calling on them to agree consistent proposals to put before the UEFA Congress in Astana, Kazakhstan in March for approval.

“It cannot be that in one country you have one sanction and another one in a different country for the same offence which goes straight into the soul of football,” Infantino said.

“We also want to strengthen the effective partnership between sports bodies and state authorities which is crucial in the fight against match-fixing.”

*UEFA has excluded from its competitions this year two teams from Turkey and one from Ukraine because of matches which were fixed at national level not European level.

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**Vice-President U Nyan Tun attends awarding ceremony of canoeing, kayak event**

NAVMYAN, 13 Dec—Patron of the Leading Committee for Organizing the 27th SEA Games Vice-President U Nyan Tun today attended the awarding ceremony of Canoeing and Kayak events before he looked round the Athletes’ villages’ social zone. At the awarding ceremony, the Vice-President and Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan awarded Myanmar rowers who stood first, Thailand, second, and Singapore, third in Women’s K 4 event. They then posed for documentary photos with the victorious teams.

**Registration and measurement of yachts in Ngwehsaung**

NGWEHSANG, 13 Dec—Experts did registration and measurement of yachts for the yachting event of the SEA Games on 12 and 13 December. Measurement is carried out in accord with international standards. The yachts should be same sizes and quality,” said an official from the Yachting Organizing Committee.

**Myanmar’s four boxers advance to gold medal match**

Myanmar’s four boxers advance to the gold medal match against Thailand boxer on Thursday. Maung Nge won Philipino Rey Saludar on points. In the flyweight category, Wai Lin Aung defeated Truong Dinh Ho of Vietnam on points.

**Myanmar snatches one gold, two silver, two bronze in Pencak Silat events**

NAVMYAN, 13 Dec—Chairman of Accommodation, Food and Tourism Committee Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung delivered an opening address at foodstuffs donation ceremony for the 27th SEA Games athletes by Organization to promote Japanese Restaurants (Abord-JRO) at Athletes Village Social Zone here this morning.

**Union Hotels and Tourism Minister attends foodstuffs donation ceremony**

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**Union Minister U Htay Aung presents certificate of honour to Mr Kazutaka Kato.**

NAVMYAN, 13 Dec—Pencak Silat events of the 27th SEA Games continued at Zeyarthiri Indoor Stadium (c), here, today. At today’s fighting events, Vietnam beat Indonesia 5-0 while Singapore won over Malaysia 5-0 in the class F/Male event (70-75 kg). In the class G/Male event (75-70 kg category), Myanmar triumphed Thailand 4-1 while Vietnam (See page 9)

**Medal Tally**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Gold</th>
<th>Silver</th>
<th>Bronze</th>
<th>Total</th>
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**New Light of Myanmar**

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