President U Thein Sein calls for formulation of frameworks for maintaining regional peace, stability and security ensuring stepped-up cooperation

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—President U Thein Sein stressed the need for formulation of frameworks for maintaining regional peace and stability and security and ensuring stepped-up cooperation while delivering an address at the Summit to mark the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan ties at the State Guest House in Japan this morning.

Before the ASEAN-Japan Summit, Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe welcomed the President and heads of state/government of ASEAN countries including Thai Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Niwatthumrong Boonsongpaisan and the ASEAN Secretary-General at Main Garden and posed for a documentary photo.

Next, the ASEAN-Japan Summit followed at Hagoromo-no-ma Hall of the State Guest House with addresses of the Japanese Prime Minister and ASEAN leaders.

In his address, President U Thein Sein said he was pleased to see the 40th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan ties based on unity, mutual respect, friendship and understanding. He expressed his belief that the Summit would bring better outcomes for strengthening friendship and cooperation between ASEAN and Japan in future. He called for formulation of frameworks in order to guarantee regional peace and stability and security and step up cooperation. He highlighted nuclear disarmament, fight against transnational crimes, maritime cooperation and human rights matters.

He stressed the need to acknowledge the already-achieved development in implementing ASEAN-Japan Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap 2012-2013 that can pave the way for the success of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, RCEP.

He welcomed the Japanese proposal to establish disaster-resilient ASEAN Community, saying that it is required to be united in dealing with challenges like development divide, income inequality, urban-rural development gap, lack of infrastructure development, energy insufficiency, environmental matters and natural disasters. Asia-Pacific region is prone to natural disasters. He welcomed the proposal of Japan for establishment of ASEAN Community that will have the capacity for formation of the network on control and promotion of cooperation for ASEAN-Japan natural disaster management.

The President pledged Myanmar’s full support to seek nuclear-free Korean peninsula for guaranteeing peace and stability and security in Korean peninsula. He affirmed support for peaceful resolution of South China Sea issue between ASEAN and China through negotiations. He vowed to support Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, its action plan and joint statement which were approved by the Summit. Finally, he expressed thanks for assistance to ongoing SEA Games in Myanmar by Japan and ASEAN countries.

Next, the President together with the Japanese Prime Minister and ASEAN leaders attended a luncheon hosted by Japan-ASEAN economic entities at the Golden Hall of Keidanren Kaikan in Tokyo.

Then, the President attended the closing ceremony of ASEAN-Japan Summit to mark the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan ties.

Aye Chan Naing clinches gold medal in Kumite

Aye Chan Naing won a gold medal in the Karate competition Saturday after judges ended the final match of Male Individual Kumite -75 kg in technical knockout.

The judges decided to stop the Male Individual Kumite - 75 category in technical knockout category as Indonesia’s Christo Mondolu committed four fouls including kicking Aye Chan Naing during a break.

“He (Aye Chan Naing) received a painful kick on left ribs, but he put up with the pain and fought back his rival to win the gold medal,” said Tha Zin Aye, who also won a gold medal in Kata event in previous day.

After judges declared his victory, Aye Chan Naing greeted the home crowd, shedding in tears of happiness and waving the State flag.

Aye Chan Naing had scored 11 points while Christo Mondolu five when judges decided to stop the match. He clinched medals in the test match events.

In the Male Individual Kumite below-67 kg category today, Tin Tun Aung had to saddled for bronze after defeating Md Fdilah Hj Sanif of Malaysia on points.

Myanmar team also won a gold medal in team kata event on Friday.

Basketball competitions continue at Zeyathiri Indoor Stadium (A)

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—Basketball competition of the 27th SEA Games continued at Zeyathiri Indoor Stadium (A), here, today.

Players from Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Myanmar and Singapore took part in it.


Two gold medals will be awarded after the competition. Tomorrow’s events are Thailand Vs Indonesia at noon, the Philippines Vs Myanmar at 2 pm and Myanmar Vs Thailand at 4 pm at the same venue.

Htin Lin Aung (NLM)
Hsipaw Sitagu Eye Hospital gives eye treatment to patients

KENGTUNG, 14 Dec—The training course on collection of illegal cultivation of poppy in Shan State (East) was held at the hall of No. 28 Anti-Drug Squad in Kengtung on 11 December.

It was attended by Deputy Commissioner of Shan State General Administration Department U Tin Maung Swe, Deputy Commander of Shan State Police Force Police Lt-Col Kyaw Tun, departmental officials and trainees.

At first, Deputy Commander of Shan State Police Force Police Lt-Col Kyaw Tun made a speech. The deputy commissioner of the state and Police Li-Col Kyaw Tun of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control made speeches. Representative U Sai Aung Kyaw Win of UNODC explained the purpose of the trainee.

The training course was opened up to 14 December. The lectures on socio-economy, township and village poppy survey works and collection of data will be given to the trainees.

It was attended by 10 trainees from Myanmar Police Force, 10 from General Administration Department and 10 from Settlement and Land Records Department. MMAL-State IPRD

Charity Affairs

Car, cash donated to social association

MMAL, 14 Dec—Philanthropic associations have been formed in wards and villages in Amarapura Township of Mandalay Region.

Daw Khin Myat Moe and family of Mandalay donated one Super Custom car and K1 million to Kayaseiktha Thikha Parahita Social Association of Sarto Village at a ceremony held in Amarapura Township recently. Chairman of the association accepted the donation and presented certificate to the well wisher. Patron of the association Saydaw Bhaddanta Kowda delivered a sermon and shared merits gained.

MMAL-Maung Maung Soe (Myitnty)

Tube-wells sunk in Taungdwingyi

Taungdwingyi, 14 Dec—Under the supervision of Taungdwingyi Township Development Affairs Committee of Magway Region, tube-wells are being sunk in wards of the township in 2013-14 fiscal year.

“This tube-well is two inches diameter and 500 feet deep tube-well. The department spent K3,122,500 on sinking the tube-well as of 5 November. On completion, the well can benefit 6075 people from 914 houses of parts 4 of Ohndaw Ward 2,” said Executive Officer U Tin Maung Than of Township Development Affairs Committee.

“Local people face shortage of water in open season. Under the instruction of Magway Region Government, wells and tanks have been built in other wards and parts of the township. Thanks to this tube-well, the local people will be convenient in supply of water in the open season. On behalf of local people, I thank the authorities, committee and department for sinking the tube-well,” said a local people from Ohndaw Ward 4.

MMAL-Bo Pyae (Taungdwingyi)

Plan to build ICP check point at India-Myanmar border

TAMU, 14 Dec—Indian government is making preparations for construction of an integrated check point (ICP) near Nantphalon Market of Tamu Township, and the project will be completed in March 2015. The check point will be located between Moreh of Manipur State and Nantphalon of Myanmar. As the border line has not been designated exactly, the area of the check point will be controversial.

Myanmar representatives demanded the Indian authorities to stop the project as the place for check point is owned by Myanmar, said an information in Manipur State on 8 December.

Upon the request of Myanmar representatives, the project was suspended by the Indian Government, the project resumed under the leadership of Moreh Sub-division Head of Police (SDPO) Balam. Myanmar representatives requested the Indian government again to stop the project, but Balam refused the request, according to the correspondents of Manipur State.

ICP is located in the territory of India, said Joint Secretary Sambhurk Singh of Internal Affairs Ministry of India, adding that Myanmar has no rights to oppose the project.

A local residing in Nantphalon of Myanmar-India border said that the site for ICP is located in Myanmar territory. As the residents have changed the territory as they like, the border of the two nations became controversial.

CL. Thaug Ngaw

Opening the check point between Moreh and Nantphalon depended on Look East Policy of India government.

At present, 13 check points are stretching their areas along the Myanmar and India border. Each check point must be located on 45,300 acres of land. It was estimated that the Indian government will spend Rupee 136 million.

MMAL-Maung Maung Soe (Myitnty)
**WORLD**

**Student opens fire at Colorado high school, severely wounding classmate**

CENTENNIAL, (Colo.), 14 Dec — A student bent on confronting a teacher opened fire with a shotgun at a Colorado high school on Friday, severely wounding a classmate before tak- ing his own life in a burst of violence possibly fuelled by revenge, law enforcement officials said.

The student entered Arapahoe High School in a Denver suburb around mid- day brandishing the gun. He asked fellow students about the location of the teacher, then shot a 15-year-old girl who was nearby, said Ara- pahoe County Sheriff Gray- son Robinson.

The targeted teacher immediately fled the school and was not injured, while the gunman was later found inside a classroom, dead of an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound, Robinson said. The incident was over in 14 minutes. “I believe the shooter knew that deputy sheriffs were immediately about to engage him, and I believe that shooter took his life because he knew that he had been found,” the sheriff told a news conference.

He later named the gunman as 18-year-old Karl Pierson, who was enrolled at the school. The rampage in the Denver suburb of Centennial took place just 8 miles from the scene of one of the deadliest school massacres in U.S. history, Columbine High School, where two students gunned down 13 classmates and staff before killing them- selves in 1999. Robinson said there was no sign the incident was related to the anniversary on Saturday of last year’s shooting at an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut, in which a gunman massacred 20 children and six adults before killing himself.

Holly Schaefer, an 18-year-old senior at Ara- pahoe High School, said she was in mathematics class when she and fellow students heard a loud bang. That was followed shortly by another bang and “then we knew definitely it was a gunshot.” — Reuters

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**Thai protesters outline reform aims, military neutral for now**

It has declined to get involved in the present crisis and Thanasak Pat- maporn, spokesman for the army’s coach of the armed forces, maintained that neutrality when he opened the forum, which was open to the pub- lic.

“We live under rules and reason. For sure, we protect the lives and assets of people. It’s not them- selves about their work, cracking down on riots and things like that,” he said.

To have peace and prosperity, we must solve these problems properly, sustainably, and not let the same old cycle return,” — Protest leader Surpet Thaugsuban told Thanasak that the military had inter- vened in similar situations in the past. “If you take a decision and choose sides, this matter will be over. If you decide quickly, the people will praise you and you will be a hero,” he said. — Reuters

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**UN peacekeepers find arsenal of weapons left by Congo M23 rebels**

UNITED NATIONS, 14 Dec — UN peacekeepers found an arsenal of weap- ons, including heavy calib- er arms and enough ammu- nation to last a year, at the site of the last stand by M23 rebels in eastern Democrat- ic Republic of Congo, UN peacekeeping chief Herve Ladsous said on Friday.

Congoese troops and the UN peacekeeping mis- sion — which includes a unique Intervention Bri- gade mandated to eliminate armed groups — last month defeated M23, which signed a peace deal with the Congo government on Thursday.

The Tutsi-led M23 rebel group ended its 20-month rebellion, the most serious in Congo in the last decade, after Congoese soldiers and UN peacekeepers, known as MONUSCO, captured its last hilltop stronghold in Chan- zu, near the Rwandan border. “I flew over the hill of Chan- zu, which was the last battle
effectively between FARDC (Congolese troops), helped by MONUSCO, and M23,” Ladsous told reporters.

“It’s amazing the quan- tity that were seized there, hundreds of tonnes really of all sorts of stuff including about a year’s worth of am- munition supplies,” he said.

Ladsous said a UN Group of Experts, who monitor compliance with sanctions and an arms embargo on Democratic Republic of Congo, was investigating the origin of the weapons, adding: “I’m sure it will make interest- ing reading.” The UN ex- perts, who report to the UN Security Council’s Congo sanctions committee, have repeatedly accused neigh- boring Rwanda of backing the rebellion by M23 in eastern Congo, a claim the Rwandan government has fiercely rejected. — Reuters

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**Japan conveys to UN its interest in joining Syria peace conference**

NEW YORK, 14 Dec — Ambassador Motohide Yo- shikawa, conveying Japan’s interest in participating in the Syria peace conference in Geneva in January to UN Secretary General Ban Ki- moon in their meeting held on Friday, Yoshikawa told reporters. The Japanese ambassador to the United Nations said Tokyo’s wish to join the meeting, dubbed Geneva II, has already been communicated to Ban as well as to Lakhdar Bra- him, the special envoy to Syria of the United Nations and the Arab League. The latest move by Yoshikawa is intended to reiterate its call...

The United States, Russia and the United Nations are working together to draw up a list of participants for the confer- ence, a source who requested the hope representatives from the Syrian government, reb- el groups and concerned countries will sit down to- gether and talk. Ban said he would take note of Japan’s wish to participate, accord- ing to Yoshikawa.

“Expectations are grow- ing about what Japan can do, given that Japan has never administered colonies in the Middle East,” Yoshikawa said. “Another important benefit (of having Japan as a participant) is Tokyo’s very good relations with Iran,” a country close to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s government, he said.

Kyodo News

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**Car bomb destroys only bank operating in northern Mali town**

BAMAKO, 14 Dec — A car bomb destroyed the only operating bank in the northern Malian town of Kidal on Saturday, two witnesses said.

“A vehicle in front of the bank is in flames after the explosion. There is a huge amount of bank smoke in the sky hanging over the town,” Kidal resident Ibrahim Maliga said. — Reuters

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**Police officers remove a damaged police pick-up truck near the Government House in Bangkok 14 Dec, 2013.**

BANGKOK, 14 Dec— Leaders of the protest movement trying to over- throw Thailand’s govern- ment outlined their aims at an armed forces seminar on Saturday but military leaders de- nied to take sides or say if a February election should take place.

Prime Minister Ying- luek Shinhaweta called a snap election on Monday, when 160,000 people be-
sieged her office. She re- mains caretaker prime min- ister but the protesters want her to go, with political reforms pushed through be- fore any election.

The army has staged or attempted 18 coups in the past 80-years - including one against Yingluck’s brother, Thaksin Shinhaweta, when he was premier in 2006 - and it can make or break any attempt to force her out.

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**Car bomb renders only bank operating in northern Mali town**

WASHINGTON, 14 Dec — US federal officials said on Friday they had arrested a man for alleged car bomb plot against the airport at Wichita, the US state of Kansas.

Terry L. Loewen, 58, of Wichita, was arrested Friday morning at the Wichita Mid-Continent regional airport and has been charged in a federal court, the federal offi- cials said at a press con- ference held in Wichita.

Investigators said the man attempted to enter the airport parking area and deliver a vehicle loaded with what he believed were high explosives.

According to the criminal complaint filed against Loewen in US District Court in Wichita, he was charged with one count of attempting to “use a weapon of mass destruction against peo- ple and property within the United States,” one count of maliciously attempting to damage property by means of an explosive and one count of know- ingly attempting to “pro- vide material support and resources” to designated foreign terrorist group al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.

If convicted, Loewen would face a maximum penalty of life in federal prison.

Loewen was arrested as part of an FBI under- cover investigation, and the device used by him was in fact “inert and at no time posed a danger to the public,” the US Jus- tice Department said in a statement.

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**Student opens fire at Colorado high school, severely wounding classmate**
Lawsuit accuses IBM of hiding China risks amid NSA spy scandal

An IBM Central Processor Unit (CPU) is seen on a Hard Disk Drive (HDD) controller in Kiev, on 5 March, 2012. REUTERS

NEW YORK, 14 Dec—IBM Corp has been sued by a shareholder who accused it of not disclosing to investors that it was a victim of a significant cyber attack.

The lawsuit, which was filed in the US District Court for the Southern District of New York, claims that IBM delayed disclosing the attack to investors because it wanted to avoid a public relations crisis.

IBM has not yet commented on the lawsuit.

The company said in a statement that it was aware of the lawsuit and would review it.

In the lawsuit, the plaintiff, a shareholder of IBM, alleges that the company failed to disclose to investors that it had been hacked by Chinese hackers.

The lawsuit claims that IBM knew about the hack since 2013, but waited until 2016 to disclose it.

IBM’s share price fell 6.4% on Thursday after the news of the lawsuit was revealed.

Sea-level rise fast by natural standards

Science & Technology

An IBM Central Processor Unit (CPU) is seen on a Hard Disk Drive (HDD) controller in Kiev, on 5 March, 2012. REUTERS

CANNES, 14 Dec—The sea-level rise since the Industrial Revolution has been fast by natural standards and may reach 80 cm above 2100 and 2.5 m by 2200 even without development of unexpected processes, according to a new research.

The Australian National University said in a press release that a team from the university and the National Oceanography Center, Southampton, studied several million years of rates of sea-level rise to work out the background pattern of natural sea-level rise.

“Sea-level rise is likely to rise 9 meters or more as the climate system adjusts to today’s greenhouse effect, but the timescale for this rise was unclear, ” lead author Professor Eelco Rohling of the ANU Research School of Earth Sciences explained.

“The pattern we determined illustrates how fast sea-level might change if only normal, natural processes were at work. “Put simply, we considered what nature has done before, and therefore could do again.”

The background pattern, which Rohling stressed is not to be confused with a model-based prediction, was compared with historical tide-gauge measurements and satellite observations taken since the Industrial Revolution. The research team looked at the speed of the observed changes and whether they were within the natural, normal range of sea-level changes according to their pattern.

Historical observations show a rising sea-level from about 1800 AD. Around 2000 AD, sea-level was rising by about 3 nm per year.

“For the first time, we can see that this modern sea-level rise is quite fast by natural standards: based on our natural background pattern, only about half the observed sea-level rise would be expected,” said Rohling.

“Although fast, the observed rise still seems to be just within the natural range.”

“While we remain within normal range, our current understanding of ice-mass loss is adequate. If we move beyond the natural range our understanding falls short. We then won’t be able to predict how fast or severe future sea-level changes will be.”

Twitter users revolt over changes to abusive behavior policy

SAN FRANCISCO, 14 Dec—Twitter Inc encountered a user revolt for the first time as it tweaked its “block” function, Chief Executive Dick Costolo said on Twitter Thursday evening that the new feature was widely requested by victims of abuse.

But many were not convinced. Within hours, the service was flooded with angry users, including many who did not understand the nuances of the new policy and hundreds had signed an online petition to reverse the change.

“Just ignore them & they’ll stop” is a dangerous thing to say to bullied kids & a dangerous thing to say to stalked/harassed Twitter users,” wrote @red3blog, another user. —Reuters

KAYAH & KAYIN STATES

Taung-kei Pagoda

Kayah State

Loikaw

Capital

Population

Languages

Major Industries

How to get there

Traditions and Culture

Loikaw

The Kayah State capital is surrounded by scenic mountain ranges, lakes and waterfalls, which locals believe are the home of the half-human, half-bird creatu, the Keinara, which is the State symbol. Loikaw is an attractive town and in the suburbs are large wooden houses set in lush, green compounds.

Taung-kei Pagoda

Literally meaning Split Mountain Pagoda, this ruggedly beautiful rocky hill rising straight out of the surrounding plain is split in two, with pagodas on each.
Four objectives of 66th Anniversary Independence Day

- All the national people to live together in the Union forever in weal or woe;
- All the national people to strive 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.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects development of Cocogyun

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 Dec — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing accompanied by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Thura Thea Thet Swe, senior military officers of the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army) and Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hsan Oo visited Cocogyun yesterday.

Before departure for Cocogyun, the Commander-in-Chief and party were welcomed by the Guard of Honour of Aung Zeya frigate at No (3) Jetty. Next, the Senior General and party left for Cocogyun.

On his arrival at Cocogyun, the Senior General and party inspected development of Cocogyun in a motorcade and oversaw upgrading of airfield.

In meeting with servicemen at the hall of naval base, the Senior General heard reports and left necessary instructions.

Next, the Commander-in-Chief and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla met with families of officers and other ranks and presented cash assistance, foodstuffs, vegetables and notebooks for families, members of people’s militia unit, war veterans and maternal and child welfare association.

Then, Admiral Thura Thet Swe and Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo handed over sports gear to responsible persons.

Afterwards, the Commander-in-Chief and party cordially greeted those present. — MNA

EITI Seminar kicks off

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 Dec — A seminar on Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) was held at the Ministry of Mines, here yesterday afternoon with an opening remark by Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung. It was attended by Deputy Minister U Than Tun Aung and Leader of EITI Office in Myanmar Dr Zaw Oo, responsible persons from Myanmar Entrepreneurs Association, Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association and Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association, the directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the Ministry and guests.

The Union Minister in his speech said that making strenuous efforts to be a member of EITI is to effectively use the profits in a transparent manner for the interest of the people in exploiting natural resources as well as to be in conformity with democratic nation building endeavours.

Leader of MDRI U Min Zarni explained facts about EITI and MSG. The deputy minister made concluding remarks and took documentary photo with those present. — MNA

Grand Caravan planes start journey

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 Dec — Grand Caravan planes launched journey on Channmyathazi-Loikaw-Champhyathazi route on 12 December. The planes bought by Myanmar Airways are based on their journey at Champhyathazi Airport. The locals are satisfied with the first ever flight schedule. As soon as it landed on the Loikaw, the local greeted it with melodious songs. Kayah State Chief Minister U Khin Maung Oo and government state ministers viewed it.

It costs K 49,000 each from Mandalay Channmyathazi-Loikaw with seating capacity of 11. Moreover, it will fly to Magway, Kyaukhtu and Namhsam.
The New Light of Myanmar

XXVII SEA GAMES SPECIAL

27th SEA Games

Tin Tun Aung (Right) fights with Md Fdilah Hj Sanif (Left) of Brunei during Kumite -67 event of 27th SEA Games.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Archers in action at Recurve event of archery competition of XXVII SEA Games.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Fans buy souvenirs at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

A fan at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

XXVII SEA GAMES PHOTO GALLERY

Fans arrive at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Fans dance to the accompaniment of traditional orchestra as they celebrate victory of Myanmar boxer Nwe Ni Oo in the Women’s Feather category of 27th SEA Games.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE
Bodybuilding event kicks off in Yangon

**Nay Pi Taw**, 14 Dec—The opening ceremony of bodybuilding event (55, 60 and 70 kilo), the UEC chairman and officials presented prizes to the winners of the matches.

Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye congratulates first prize winner in bodybuilding event.—MNA

Boxer Nwe Ni Oo clinches gold in Women’s Feather Category

*By Aye Min Soe*

Nwe Ni Oo gave her first gold medal to Myanmar by defeating her counterpart Nesthy Petecio of the Philippines on points (38-38, 39-37, 39-37) in the Women’s Feather (54-57) kg category on Saturday.

“I don’t know how to express my feeling when the referee declares my victory. The only thing I can say now is I am very very happy,” the 19-year old boxer says as she sheds in tears of happiness.

In the first round, she was influenced by the Filipino boxer, but she could win scores with her counter punches in the second and third rounds, said her assistant-coach.

She was very worried and excited to fight in the final match before the home crowd including her family, Nwe Ni Oo said.

She got strength when the crowd roared her name in support of her during the fighting

She took two years to start her first fighting in the feather weight division of the 27th SEA Games.

Kyu Kyu Hlaing lost in her final bouts against Ha Thi Linh of Vietnam in the Women’s Light Welter (60-64 kg) division and had to settle for the silver medal.

**Myanmar bag four...**

(16)

The Union Ministers also attended the awarding ceremony of chess event at Zabuthiri Hotel.

Both men’s and women’s traditional rapid chess events, Myanmar won one gold and one silver while Thailand secured one gold and one bronze, Indonesia one silver and Malaysia one bronze.

**Myanmar Women Sepak Takraw beats Laos in regu event**

*By Aye Min Soe*

Men’s and Women’s Regu preliminary events of Sepak Takraw events of 27th SEA Games kicked off today in Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium (B).

Men’s Regu event is divided into two groups, Group (A) comprises Malaysia, Cambodia and Laos and Group (B), Thailand, Vietnam and Myanmar. Cambodian team did not compete in the event. In group (A), Malaysia top the table after defeating Laos while Thailand stood first, followed by Myanmar (second) and Vietnam (third) in the group (B). Myanmar won over Vietnam 2-nil and lost to Thailand 0-2 in today’s preliminary events.

Women’s Regu teams are Myanmar, Laos, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam.

In women’s Regu preliminaries, Myanmar bagged one gold and one silver while Malaysia secured two-nil and lost to Thailand and Vietnam.

**Myanmar bag four...**

Cowboy Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium (B). The opening ceremony of chess event took place at Theinbyu turf yesterday.

The semi-final event for men’s teams will go on tomorrow.

Photo: HLA (NLM)

**Men’s & Women’s Volleyball events go on**

*By Aye Min Soe*

The final match of Men’s Volleyball and the semifinal match of Women’s will be held on 20 December. The awarding ceremony of Men’s and Women’s Volleyball competition will take place on 21 December.

Photo: HLA (NLM)

Myanmar volleyball women team plays against Vietnam women team at Zeyathiri Indoor Stadium-B.

Myanmar women Sepak Takraw team plays against Laos in regu event.

Photo: HLA (NLM)

**Women’s Hockey competitions continue for second day**

*Yangon, 14 Dec—The second day match of Women’s Hockey competitions took place at Theinbyu turf Hockey Pitch, here, this morning.

Malaysia won a landslide victory over Cambodia with 36-0. Thai beat Indonesia with 3-0 in the morning match. Singapore sank Myanmar with 2-0 in the final match of Women’s event.

**Football Results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Timor Leste</td>
<td>0-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>1-1</td>
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<td>Thailand</td>
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Photo: MNA
Environmental Education

Understanding the environmental problems of the contemporary world is indispensable for the very survival of humankind. It is because the human race is facing monumental challenges in the form of growing population, grinding poverty, frequently recurring disasters and diminishing natural resources on which all mankind exclusively rely. So, a tool we need to make our mother earth a better place to live is to heighten public awareness of environmental education.

Environmental Education (EE) is a lifelong education to react quickly to environmental threats in a positive way. We can gain this education for environmental awareness through an understanding of the environment and our complex relationship with it. It has developed a responsive to challenges in our rapidly changing world. It is focused to prepare the individual for life and the provision of skills and attributes necessary for playing a productive role towards improving life and protecting the environment with due regard for ethical values.

When and where do we start the environmental education? The answer is to teach it in primary schools from now on. We were not in a state of preparedness and no quick response to cyclonic storm Nargis badly we had experienced in 2007 warned us about the lack of environment and associated challenges lead to their adulthood. Children who were taught in childhood to their adulthood. They will carry the aspect of environmental conservation a duty they were taught to cherish the environment and to have awareness about the environment and associated challenges lead to their adulthood.

Zalun is a quaint town in Ayeyawady Region lying on the west bank of the mighty Ayeyawady River of Myanmar. It is just like any other minor towns with agriculture, trading and fishing, populations of moderate size living a peaceful life! But its location at the junction of land and water routes makes it easily accessible and commercially strategic. Hence trade in local products has brought prosperity and progress of a certain degree to the locals who do not lag behind time too much.

But what makes the town Zalun well-known at home and attractive to foreigners is the alloyed thickly gilt and bejeweled Buddha statue that returned from abroad. It is commonly called “Zalun Pyi ta pyan phaya” [The Buddha that returned to its home-land at Zalun].

Enshrined in a grand spacious and sumptuous temple which by itself is Myanmar traditional architectural and visual artistic wonder, the legend and its history of the admira- bly sublime Buddha statue arouse your curiosity awe, wonder and finally devotion.

Historical background covers ancient Rakhine, and Myanmar history as well as British colonial period. To begin with, one ancient Rakhine Raja by the name of Sanda Suripsa of Dannahwaddy Kingdom invited living Lord Gotama Buddha to his domains for dhamma duta [preaching his dhamma]. The Buddha with his disciple follower monks left his Jetavana Va-hara in Savathi, India and on the full moon day of Kasone [May], Tuesday 1 pm arrived in Dannahwaddy. The king and his people were welcome to the Buddha who preached for some days his dhamma to the king and his people who embraced his teaching. Whole cast of success was about to leave for other places for preaching mis- son, the king and the peo-

ple requested the Buddha to leave his representation for them to adore and wor- ship.

The Buddha agreed to casting an alloy Bud- dha statue. The king and his people collected pyinla lots of gold, silver, and other kinds of metals namely gold, silver, bronze, lead and zinc] “whereupon” so the legend says “Sakka deva, the Thunder god and his carpenter god Vithaky-one appeared to supervise the casting of the statue on the summit of Sri Makuta mountain to the north east of Dannahwaddy kingdom.

The king and his household in two directions brought a greater amount of gold than other four metals. Sixty-five heavy loads of gold and other metals were carried by royal white elephant.

Thus six cubits and one foot statue so that the statue is fully. “The living Gotama Buddha, and the entire country was sheltered in a gold spired temple for daily wor- ship of royal family. Success-ior kings, Bagyidaw, his son, Kabin, his nephew King Bagan and King Mindon and King Mindon’s brother and crown prince Kanaung kept the statue in their palace temples for daily worship.

In ME 1214 [1852 A.D] during the second Anglo-Myanmar war in the reign of King Bagan, King Bagan casted and enshrined it in a temporary palace temple as it was sheltered in a gold spired temple for daily worship of royal family. Success-ior kings, Bagyidaw, his son, Kabin, his nephew King Bagan and King Mindon and King Mindon’s brother and crown prince Kanaung kept the statue in their palace temples for daily worship.

In the war, the British defeated Myanmar and they occupied Lower Myanmar from Pyay and Toungoo southward. British command- er Sir John Stubb con- tinued the battle Tactics of objects including sacred statues.

In ME 1214 [1852 A.D] he took away to Bombay, India, on bound the ship “Shwe Chain” Man Aung Myin statue along with other objects like bells and bronze wars. These confis- cated metallic objects were stored in warehouses to melt them down for making coins or cannon balls. It is said that when Man Aung Myin statue was put on high degree fire for melting with four melting machines it did not melt. All attempts failed.

Her Imperial Majesty Queen Victoria, after as- suming the imperial title of the Empress of British India, made a royal tour. She arrived in New Delhi. A grand darbar was

Cartoon Thabyay

Right! The statement also warns that lung cancer is the deadliest killer and the main cause is smoking or tobacco!
President U Thein Sein attends 5th Mekong-Japan Summit

NAH PI TAW, 14 Dec—President U Thein Sein attended the 5th Mekong-Japan Summit at State Guest House in Japan this evening.

First, President U Thein Sein, Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen, Laotian President Mr. Thongsing Thammavong, Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung and Thai Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Niwatthumrong Boonsongpaisan posed for a documentary photo together with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at Sairan-no-ma Hall of the State Guest House.

The 5th Mekong-Japan Summit followed at the same venue. The Japanese Prime Minister extended greetings and Cambodian PM, Laotian PM, President U Thein Sein, Vietnamese PM and Thai Deputy PM delivered addresses.

In his speech, the President said that he was pleased to meet again with the counterparts from Me-kong region countries and Japan and have a chance to exchange views on develop-ment of Mekong region at the summit. He attached importance to creating al-ternative development and opportunities for nar-rowing development gap between urban and rural ar-eas. The President pointed out that development gap between Mekong region and other ASEAN counTRIES can be narrowed by implementing the projects in cooperation with Japan. As Mekong region counTRIES are agro-based counTRIES, road transportation sector is important for shar-marking and distribution of agricultural produce. The President expressed his hope of continuing support of Japan for achieving suc-cess of those aims.

Economic, social and reciprocal relations between the peoples of Mekong region countries will be further cemented by implementing east-west economic corridor and southern economic corridor in the region, he said. There should be to choose ways with least environmental impact in making invest-ment for economic develop-ment in the region and it is important to place em-phasis on green economy and green development, he added. Expertise, technol-ogy and human resources development assistance from Japan are of impor-tance for Mekong region counTRIES. Adding Myanmar would fully cooperate to implement Mekong-Japan cooperation program suc-cessfully. He reaffirmed that 7th Mekong-Japan Foreign Ministers’ Meeting will be held in Myanmar in May in conjunction with 47th ASEAN Foreign Min-isters’ Meeting. In the evening, the

President together with heads of ASEAN countries attended a dinner in com-memoration of 40th Anniver-sary of ASEAN-Japan Summit hosted by the Japa-nese Prime Minister and wife at Fuji-no-ma Hall of Imperial Hotel.—MNA

New Light of Myanmar
NATIONAL

Sunday, 15 December, 2013

Home returned Buddha ...

(from page 8) held, all Maharajas of India ceremonially paid her homage and swore oath of allegiance to Her Imperial Majesty. Many precious gifts were presented to her, including the world famous Co-hinor Diamond which its owner Maha raja was persuaded or forced to do so.

Now an unbelief-able story happened. Queen Victoria suddenly caught a serious headache keeping her awake for many nights. Many royal physicians did their best either to cure it or to give relief but failed. One night, she had a dream in which she was told that of Man Aung Myin Bud-dha statue now kept in the storehouse in Bombay was returned to the place of origin, her sufferings shall disappear immediately. When she woke up, she de-cided to carry out what she was told in her dream. The following day, at her com-mand, the Buddha statue of her dream was discovered in the storehouse waiting to be melted again. She was unhappy to see such act of sacrilege and vandalizing of sacred objects of other religions. Immediately she ordered the return of Man Aung Myin statue to its homeland. Soon after that order was given, it is said, her headache miraculously disappeared.

In ME 1219 (1857 A.D.) Man Aung Myin statue was brought back to Myanmar. But the con-voyers passed past Zalun, and at Hinthada which they mistakenly thought to be Zalun, they left the statue on a sand bar near Hintha-da. When monks and peo-ple of Hinthada discovered a sublime Buddha statue on the sand bar, they were excited and overjoyed and named it Pawdaw Pyan Paya (the Buddha just appeared) and carried it to Nga Myet Hna Pavilion in Hinthada. Buddhist population from all directions came to pay respect to it.

When the District Commissioner of Zalun came to his counterpart in Hinthada on official busi-ness, he visited “Pawdaw Pyan Paya”, To Zalun he found that the statue was Man Aung Myin statue of Zalun taken to Bombay by the British. He informed Sayadaw monk U Hpyu who with his followers ar-rived with 12 big boats. Monk U Hpyu examined the statue in detail including inscription on it and he was assured that it was Man Aung Myin of Zalun. U Hpyu went to District Commiss-ioner of Hinthada and told all about that matter.

District Commission-ers of Zalun and Hinthada arranged a meeting be-tween head monk Sayad-aws of both towns to decide the matter. Thus Sayadaw monk U Hpyu of Zalun and Sayadaw monk Kyikan of Hinthada met with public around them. Monk Kyikan was senior to U Hpyu in age and ordained age.

Kyikan Sayadaw asked Monk U Hpyu to give evi-dence to prove that the statue belonged to Zalun. Monk U Hpyu replied he saw inscriptions on its body were strong evidenc-es.

Kyikan Sayadaw asked Monk U Hpyu if he could recite those inscriptions. Without much also U Hpyu recited them by heart every line of the inscrip-tions.

Next he was asked to give the meanings of in-scriptions that were in Pali. As Kyikan Sayadaw found all correct he gave the verdict that the statue belonged to Zalun. The whole meet-ing was satisfied with the verdict.

But the people of Hinthada were reluctant to past with the statue. So the DCs of Hinthada and Zalun made a new solution. The statue was put on a craft and let the people of both sides pull it and let the win-ning side have the statue. With two head monks and the two District Commissio-ners on their respective boats pulled the craft with the statue to the directions of their towns. On the Zalun side were only 12 boats but on the Hinthada side were 38 boats. But the craft with the statue went to the Zalun side. Hinthada side pro-tested on the ground that as Zalun was downstream, it was the current that made it win. So they changed the direction and tried again. This time also it was Zalun that got the craft with the statue. Finally, the statue was returned to Zalun.

A grand welcome cer-eemony was held for days at Zalun to receive their stat-ue. Since then the statue ac-quired a new name “Zalun Pyitaw Pyan Paya” (Home returned Buddha Statue at Zalun). Its original name “Man Aung Myin” was changed to many names— Nan U Paya, Su Taung Pyi Paya, Min Tat Min Paya. The statue’s residence also changed. When it was re-turned from Hinthada, it was housed in U Thaing’s Tawya Gu Temple for 3 years. Later in 1223 ME (1861 AD) it was moved to a new gold mosaic tem-ple where it resided for 25 years. Then in 1248 ME (1886 AD) it got a new grand residence at a very big temple with pavilions built under the supervision of Sayadaw U Hpyu. Again in 1280 ME (1918 AD) af-ter 32 years of residence in that temple it was again moved to Bo Pona Kone jetty for 10 years, next to Ta-pya Tazaung for 4 years. Major cause for these movings was the erosion of the River Ayeyawady along the water fronts of Zalun.

Finally in 1283 ME (1921 AD) in Kasone (May) the Statue was moved to the present brick Temple do-nated by U Shwe Kone and Daw Min Thwe of Kanyin Kwin Village. Since 1317 ME (1955 AD) many ren-ovations and decoration were added by generous Buddhist devotees. The statue was adorned with gem studded solid gold regalia. Many solid gold paraphernalia such as rice bowl, water goblets, water cups, gold fans etc were donated to the statue. More Dhamma teaching halls and rest houses for pilgrims ap-peared in its spacious pre-cincts. The entire big tem-ple looks like a big palace adorned with best works of ten visual arts and brightly lit by chandelias of can-dles.

Zalun Pyitaw Pyan Paya to-day is not only one of the most attractive pil-grimage but also of foreign tourists’ attraction. River-ine cruises like the Road to Mandalay, Orchanda, Pan- and other being globe- trotters to Zalun only to see, adore and marvel at the sublime statue and grand temple.

Through the Zalun jetty and a mile long road to the Temple are yet to be improved very much, for-eign visitors keep on arrive-ing there, taking home what they see, observe learn, experience and document photographs they take to share with their people in their countries. ********

ARTICLE
Football tournament marks 66th Anniversary Independence Day

Footballers tassling the football in tournament in commemoration of 66th Anniversary Independence Day.

Members of WAO and MCWA attending flower arrangement course.

Magway, 14 Dec—Magway Region Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and Women’s Affairs Organization jointly conducted the flower arrangement course.

On 13 December, the opening ceremony of the course took place at the office of Magway Township MCWA.

Patron of Magway Region MCWSC and WAO Daw San San Myint made a speech.

It was also attended by 60 trainees from district and township MCWAs in the region. They attended the course from 14 to 15 December.

Kyemon-Tin Tun Oo

Mobile Team checks ships in Myeik

Myint explained the plan to take census across the nation from 30 March to 10 April 204.

Photographer-2 U Thant Zin of Township IPRD explained the purpose of taking census and raising the reading habit.

It was attended by village administrator U Aung Zaw Than and local people totalling 60.

Kyemon-Palaw Township IPRD

Rural development tasks inspected in Kalay

Kalay, 14 Dec—Chairman of Kalay District Management Committee U Maung Htoo and assistant directors of District Irrigation Department, heads of District Agriculture Department and Settlement and Land Records Department, the chairman of Township Management Committee and members of Township Development Affairs Committee inspected the site for construction of Large Kyunchauk Bridge and Small Kyunchauk Bridge on Kalay-Tinthar Road on 12 December.

They met local people at the station hospital in Tinthar Village and explained administration, transport, health, education, agriculture and rural development tasks.

Township Administrator U Aye Nang also discussed prevalence of law and order and tranquillity, elimination of narcotic drugs and fire prevention.

The chairman also viewed the sites for construction of four RC bridges on the inter-village roads. The Department for Progress of Border Areas and National Races allotted the fund for construction of six RC bridge.

Kyemon-Joe Net

Local News

Myeik, 14 Dec—As a gesture of hailing the 66th Anniversary Independence Day, the seventh Thanthayar Aye Cup Football Tournament was held at the sports ground in Shanchaung Ward of Myeik on 12 December.

Talks on taking census 2014 held in Palaw

Palaw, 14 Dec—Palaw Township Immigration and National Registration Department and Township Information and Public Relations Department jointly organized the talks on taking census process at the village administrative office in Toh Village of Palaw Township in Taninthayi Region on 11 December.

Staff Officer of the Township INRD U Aye Myint explained the plan to take census across the nation from 30 March to 10 April 204.

They also checked Lin Po Po Aung-3 ship with 250 tons of fish and holding of EL-ED.

Myeik District IPRD

Myeik, 14 Dec—Magway Region Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and Women’s Affairs Organization jointly conducted the flower arrangement course.

Men and women of the committee attended the function.

It was attended by 60 trainees from district and township MCWAs in the region. They attended the course from 14 to 15 December.

Kyemon-Tin Tun Oo

Myeik, 14 Dec—The mobile team of Border Trade Camp (Myeik) of Commercial and Consumer Affairs Department checked ships being operated for importation and exportation at check point of Myeik FOB camp on 12 December.

Ecological Survey

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Kyemon-Joe Net

Flower arrangement course kicks off

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Patron of Magway Region MCWSC and WAO Daw San San Myint made a speech.

It was also attended by 60 trainees from district and township MCWAs in the region. They attended the course from 14 to 15 December.

Kyemon-Tin Tun Oo

Five Myanmar people, two Bangladeshi children handed over

Magway, 14 Dec—Deputy Director U Saw Nang of Maungtaw District Immigration and National Registration Department and party held a flag meeting with Commanding Officer Lt-Col Khali Hassan of No 17 Cox’s Bazaar Border Guard and party at the camp in Bangladesh on 10 December.

Deputy director accepted five Myanmar citizens released from Cox’s Bazaar Jail and handed over two Bangladeshi children placed under care at Maungtaw Police Station.

They held a meeting on further cementing border relations. —Kyemon-Maungtaw District IPRD
Japan, ASEAN vow to cooperate in ensuring freedom of overflight

TOKYO, 14 Dec — Leaders of Japan and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on Saturday vowed to increase cooperation in ensuring “the freedom of overflight,” in an implicit reference to China’s newly declared air defense identification zone in the East China Sea.

The leaders “agreed to enhance cooperation in ensuring the freedom of overflight and civil aviation safety in accordance with the universally recognized principles of international law...and the relevant standards and recommended practices by the International Civil Aviation Organization,” according to a joint statement issued after a summit in Tokyo, without singling out a specific country. Alluding to the South China Sea issue, the leaders of Japan and the 10-member ASEAN underscored the importance of resolving maritime disputes “by peaceful means,” according to the statement.

The ASEAN leaders meanwhile welcomed Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s policy of making Japan a proactive contributor to peace, saying they “looked forward to Japan’s efforts in contributing constructively to peace, stability and development in the region,” it said.—Kyodo News

Japanese businesses see Southeast Asia as key to their growth

TOKYO, 14 Dec — Japanese business leaders on Saturday emphasized the importance of Southeast Asian markets for the growth of Japanese companies during a meeting with leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

“Japan’s economic circles will continue to deepen economic exchanges with ASEAN,” Hironosuke Yoneyuka, chairman of the Japan Business Federation, known as Keidanren, said at the luncheon meeting.

“Japan wants to contribute to sustainable growth in the ASEAN region,” he added.

Akio Mimura, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said, “ASEAN is Japan’s biggest investment destination. Our relations with ASEAN are indispensable for Japan’s economic revitalization.”

The amount of Japanese direct investment in the 10-member ASEAN surged 55.4 percent in the first half of 2013 from the same period last year to a record high of $10.2 billion, according to a report released in August by the Japan External Trade Organization.

One of the leaders of the ASEAN meeting with leaders of the Japan External Trade Organization.

The amount is more than double Japan’s direct investment in China.

Brunei’s Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, making a brief address on behalf of ASEAN, asked Japanese businesses to continue to invest in the region, saying their technological skills are highly recognized around the world.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who headed the luncheon hosted by Keidanren and the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the ASEAN region, said, “The rise of ASEAN is an accumulation of people’s enormous efforts.”

Guidance launched to assist foreign investment in Laos

VIENTIANE, 14 Dec — The European Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Laos (ECCIL) launched a guide to make Laos a more attractive destination for foreign investors.

The Investment Guide and corresponding website aims to give investors a comprehensive overview of the Lao business environment and will help investors to understand the country’s regulatory framework.

The guide will act as a practical tool for parties interested in starting a business in the country showcasing the dynamically developing economy, politically stable environment and unique geostategic position.

According to German Ambassador to Laos, Robert von Rimscha, economic growth in Laos will mean poverty reduction for millions of Lao citizens.

The German government has helped ECCIL to compile the guide in order to promote a more diversified Lao economy necessary for future growth.

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Russian modernizing Arctic airports, port facilities, says official

Moscow, 14 Dec — Russia has been modernizing several Arctic airports and port facilities on Novaya Zemlya archipelago, a senior Russian military official said on Friday.

"To protect our strategic interests, further development of the airfield network and port infrastructure (in the Arctic) has been envisaged," chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces Col Gen Valery Gerasimov told a meeting with 90 foreign military attaches.

Gerasimov noted that Russia’s military activities in its Arctic sector has been conducted in strict accordance with international treaties.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday ordered the Defence Ministry to take every step necessary to protect Russia’s security and national interests in the Arctic region.

Russia, Canada, Denmark, the United States and Norway observe a 370-km exclusive economic zone in the northern seas. These countries reserve the right to demand expansion of their exclusive zone for additional 200 nautical miles.—Xinhua
**ENTERTAINMENT**

### Bruno Mars is Billboard’s 2013 Artist of the Year

**Los Angeles, 14 Dec—** Singer Bruno Mars was named Billboard’s 2013 Artist of the Year by the industry trade magazine on Friday.

Batch of 59 rare Beatles songs to be released for sale

**Los Angeles, 14 Dec—** Rare recordings of 59 songs by the Beatles will go on sale for the first time on Tuesday when Apple Records makes them available for download.

Apple, a label founded by the Beatles in 1968, said it would release a series of tracks from the early 1960s that were previously only available as bootleg recordings.

Among the songs to be released on iTunes are versions of “She Loves You,” “A Taste of Honey” and “There’s a Place,” as well as outtakes, demos and live performances recorded for BBC radio.

A spokeswoman for Apple Records declined to explain the timing of the release or comment on speculation that it was aimed at extending copyright over the music.

In 2011, the European Union ruled that copyright over sound recordings should be extended from 50 to 70 years from next year, but only for recordings released before the 50-year term had expired.

The bulk of the Beatles tracks available for download from Tuesday were recorded for the BBC in 1963 but not released.

Others have already capitalized on the changes to EU legislation to maintain control over their back catalogues.

The legislation has been dubbed “Cliff’s law” in Britain for the additional royalties it would provide for veteran rocker Cliff Richard, whose songs had been starting to fall out of copyright.

In late December last year, Sony Music released a compilation of Bob Dylan recordings from 1962 and 1963, giving away the material for the move with a frank subtitle: “The Copyright Extension Collection, Vol 1.” —Reuters

**Los Angeles, 14 Dec—** US pop singer Beyoncé surprised fans and critics with the release of her fifth solo studio album on Friday, which features 14 new songs and 17 videos and caused a stir on Twitter, capturing a year in which the singer made a carefully choreographed return to music.

The 32-year-old Grammy-winning performer said she wanted to release the music in a new way, in order to connect more directly with her fans.

After she announced the album, it was immediately available worldwide exclusively on iTunes, skipping the advance publicity, critics’ reviews and other marketing strategies that usually precede the release of a major musical artist’s new work.

Music trade publication Billboard, citing sources, said the album sold 80,000 copies within three hours of its iTunes release early on Friday.

“There’s so much that gets between the music, the artist and the fans,” Beyoncé said in a statement. “I felt like I didn’t want anybody to give the message when my record is coming out.”

The move to release the album without fanfare was designed to get fans hear the music first and form their own opinions, something that Billboard editorial director Bill Werde said was rarely seen among music’s top performers.

“Being able to listen to an album without any sense of what to expect, and to experience the music and videos in an unspoiled sort of way, it was fantastic,” Werde said.

“What it does show in the age of the Internet is that artists can have a really strong direct relationship with core fans and present art to them in the way they want to,” he added. —Reuters

**Los Angeles, 14 Dec—** Television favourites of seasons past such as “Mad Men” and “Homeland” lost out to new, edgy shows like “Masters of Sex” and “House of Cards” in the Golden Globes nominations announced on Thursday, as voters seek out TV’s next big thing.

In the category of best TV dramas, Netflix’s political thriller “House of Cards” and Showtime’s racy sex history series “Masters of Sex” will take on AMC’s gritty drug drama “Breaking Bad.” PBS’ British period series “Downton Abbey” and CBS’ law and corruption yarn “The Good Wife.”

Showtime’s domestic terror drama “Homeland,” which won Golden Globes for best TV drama for the past two years, failed to garner a single nomination on Thursday. Other past favourites such as AMC’s advertisting drama “Mad Men” and HBO’s epic fantasy “Game of Thrones” were also pushed aside for new shows.

“It’s the job of the people in the industry to try and prepare people for the next generation of shows, and make sure something strong is on the upwards escalator, so I welcome the new shows in the category,” “Downton Abbey” creator Julian Fellowes said in an interview.

Past comedy favourites including NBC shows “The Office” and “30 Rock,” both of which concluded this year, also failed to win any nods on Thursday. In this year’s nominations for best comedy/musical TV series, new Fox cop comedy “Brooklyn Nine-Nine” will compete against CBS’ “The Big Bang Theory,” ABC’s “Modern Family,” HBO’s “Girls” and NBC’s “Parks and Recreation.”

The Golden Globes, voted for by the members of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, are one of Hollywood’s top honours for film and television, and winners will be announced at a televised ceremony in Beverly Hills on January 12.

Online streaming platform Netflix bared in this year with its first foray into original programming: “House of Cards” snagged four nominations, while female prison drama “Orange is the New Black” and comedy “Arrested Development” picked up a nomination each.

A surprise entry into the mix was premium cable channel Starz, which had two shows vying for nominations in two categories, landing a network record of six nominations. —Reuters
Blow for Man United as Van Persie ruled out for a month

London, 14 Dec — Robin van Persie will play no part in Manchester United’s busy holiday programme after being ruled out for a month with a thigh injury, manager David Moyes said on Friday.

With United trying to claw back the damage of a poor first third of the Premier League season, starting at Aston Villa on Sunday, the Dutchman’s absence is a big blow, especially as they have not won in the Premier League without him.

“Robin van Persie is out for a month. He picked up a thigh strain in taking a corner kick which led to the goal (against Shakhtar Donetsk on Tuesday),” Moyes told a news conference.

Van Persie, who has scored seven goals in 11 Premier League matches this season, only returned from a groin injury in last weekend’s 1-0 home defeat by Newcastle United, a result that left them in ninth place, 13 points behind leaders Arsenal.

City came from two goals down to beat European champions Bayern Munich 3-2 but finished second in Group D behind the German team. Pellegrini’s side could have topped the group, and avoided the big guns in the draw for the knockout stage, had they scored one goal more, but the manager was unaware.

He told reporters in the aftermath that he had not brought on striker Sergio Aguero in the second half because he thought they needed two more goals.

“Before the match we had to win,” Pellegrini told reporters on Friday. “We knew we had to score one more goal than them when they played here.

“When they scored, I knew it was not enough because of goal average but when they scored second I didn’t think about scoring five. I tried to think more about the game because we were losing 2-0. I recognise my mistake but I don’t have a guilty conscience.”

City host Premier League pacemakers Arsenal on Saturday with their title credentials in need of a boost after an inconsistent start to the campaign left them in fourth place, six points off the lead. The match pitches the Premier League’s best home team against the country’s best travellers with City winning all seven matches at their Etihad Stadium and Arsenal winning six out of eight away.—Reuters

Pellegrini admits Bayern blunder but not feeling guilty

London, 14 Dec — Manchester City manager Manuel Pellegrini said he made a mistake by not realising his team were one goal away from topping their Champions League group, but does not feel guilty about his mathematical blunder.

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Suárez confounds critics and rewards patient fans

London, 14 Dec — Liverpool’s Luis Suárez celebrates after scoring during their English Premier League soccer match against West Ham United at Anfield in Liverpool, northern England on 7 Dec, 2013.—Reuters

Liverpool's Luis Suarez celebrates after scoring during their English Premier League soccer match against West Ham United at Anfield in Liverpool, northern England on 7 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

Suárez confounds critics and rewards patient fans

London, 14 Dec — Liverpool’s hopes of grabbing a first victory at Tottenham Hotspur in five years, like their chances of finishing in the top four or mounting an unlikely title challenge, rest squarely on the shoulders of Luis Suárez.

Since returning from a 10-game ban, the Uruguay-an has showcased all of the good and none of the bad or ugly sides of his game, confounding his critics in the process and rewarding fans who stood by him when he tested their patience.

If goals alone were the benchmark of a player’s impact then Suarez’s 15 strikes in 10 games would make him the Premier League’s most potent force. His goalscoring ratio is unsurpassed in any of Europe’s big leagues.

Yet it is his added ability to conjure moments of individual brilliance and single-handedly pick apart the opposition that make him an indispensable presence in Brendan Rodgers’ Liverpool team.

“I stop and think ‘wow’ every day in training,” defender Kolo Toure said of his team mate on the club website (www.liverpoolfc.com). “He scores unbelievable goals all the time in training so we shouldn’t really be surprised by what we see him do in matches.”

The ‘wow’ factor has been reproduced regularly in recent weeks. Four goals against Norwich City and two more against West Ham United in his last two games had Rodgers drooling that he would not swap Suárez for any player in the world.

His performances are all the more notable given the way he finished the last campaign and sulked his way through the pre-season.—Reuters

Peralta, Morgan selected CONCACAF Players of the Year

New York, 14 Dec — Mexico’s Oribe Peralta and Alex Morgan of the United States were named winners of the inaugural CONCACAF Male and Female Player of the Year awards on Friday.

In a vote of national team coaches/captains, media and fans, Santos Laguna’s Peralta won the honour ahead of US internationals Landon Donovan and Clint Dempsey. On the women’s side, Morgan edged US teammate Abby Wambach in the most closely contested vote on a ballot that decided six different awards.

In the other categories, Tim Howard (Everton & United States) was named as Goalkeeper of the Year, Jaeger Kniksmann (United States) as Coach of the Year, Mexico’s Marco Antonio Rodríguez as Referee of the Year and Mexican Raul Jiménez’s brilliant strike against Panama in October as Goal of the Year.

“Congratulations to all our winners and nominees who have made particularly special contributions to a fantastic year of football in the region,” Jeffrey Webb, president of CONCACAF (The Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football), said in a statement.

“These awards have generated a fantastic level of enthusiasm across the CONCACAF football community. We had almost 60,000 fans vote and witnessed an impressive level of participation from the media, as well as captains and coaches.”

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Sutil swaps Sauber seats with Hulkenberg

London, 14 Dec — German Adrian Sutil will drive for Sauber next season, the Formula One team said on Friday, replacing Nico Hulkenberg who moved in the opposite direction to Force India last week.

“I am very happy we found common ground,” the 30-year-old Sutil was quoted as saying on the Sauber website (www.sauberF1team.com), adding he had “known for a while” where he wanted to drive but negotiations took a bit longer than planned.

No details of the agreement were revealed.

“After six good years driving for Force India, with a lot of highlights, it’s now time to embark on a new challenge. I am determined to do my part in order to have a successful future together with the Sauber F1 team,” Sauber team principal Monisha Kaltenborn said Sutil had been a long-term target for the team.
Asleep in Jesus
Daw Nyo Nyo (Ellen)
Age: 82 yrs
Daughter of U Boe Aung and Daw Pan Yin, lived in No.669, Thiri St. Panegon, Insein Tsp. Yangoon and beloved mother of U Aung Moe Oo (Chief Officer – JSM Shipping Co., Ltd) + Daw Nyo Nyo (Ellen) + Daw Myan San (Nant Lilly). Daw Nyo Nyo (Ellen) has slept in Jesus at 12 noon on Friday (13.12.2013). So, funeral ceremony will be held at Yayway Cemetery at 11:00 AM on Sunday (15.12.2013).
Note: Ferry Bus will take off at 9:30 AM

From Tokyo banker to J League mascot

Hiroshima, 14 Dec—Kaoru Koyano’s unlikely career arc has taken him from dark-suited investment banker to plum-purple professional sports mascot. In between, he was called in to fix the balance sheet of the hottest team in Japanese football, Sanfrecce Hiroshima.

When Sanfrecce sealed their second straight J League title earlier this month, with a 3-0 win over Kashima Antlers, Koyano took the field to hold up the banner for fans alongside fist-pumping players, the culmination of an unlikely year of reinvention.

“When I was an investment banker, my focus was to make things happen. I focused on how to win a deal and tried to control as many things as possible,” the 50-year-old told Reuters.

“Now certain important things are out of my control — the weather and the game result. So now I would say I am better at accepting things.”

After a career at Credit Suisse Group AG, Citigroup and Nomura Research Institute, ardent amateur football fan Koyano was hired as Hiroshima’s general manager in January for his financial acumen.

His predecessor resigned at the end of 2012 after a string of losses for investors, including Osaka-based home appliance retailer Edion Corp.

At the time, Hiroshima had just won the J League championship but its losses off the field threatened to undermine its success. As of this year, any team sustaining losses for three straight years, or those with liabilities exceeding three straight years, or those team sustaining losses for three straight years, or those with liabilities exceeding

President of the professional soccer club Sanfrecce Hiroshima, Kaoru Koyano, poses with a mascot key ring named “Koyanotan” which features himself in front of a replica of the J League winner’s trophy at the Japan Football Museum in Tokyo on 11 Dec, 2013. — Reuters

Israel to transfer water pumps to Gaza to fight flooding

Gaza, 14 Dec—Israel decided to transfer water pumps to Gaza to fight heavy flooding. Israeli coordinator of government activities in the Palestinian territories Gen Eitan Dangoit was quoted as saying on Friday.

Israel News website reported that the pumps will soon be transferred to the Palestinian coastal enclave, through the commercial crossing of Kerem Shalom between Israel and southern Gaza.

There is no direct coordination between Gaza and Israel, however, Israel decided to transfer the water pumps upon the request of the United Nations, said the report.

Miss Universe runner-up Chibana named Japan’s 1st WFP Ambassador

Tokyo, 14 Dec—Kurara Chibana, a model who was the runner-up in the Miss Universe 2006 beauty pageant, is pictured in Tokyo on 13 Dec, after she was named as the first Japanese ambassador for the World Food Programme.

Chibana, 31, became a celebrity partner of the WFP in 2007 and has since visited disaster-hit countries such as Zambia and the Philippines, as well as the Tohoku region of northeastern Japan devastated by a major earthquake and tsunami in 2011. At a ceremony held in Tokyo, Chibana said a WFP programme to offer meals at schools in areas of poverty encourages children to receive education. “I’d like many people to know about this activity,” she said.

Elisabeth Rasmussen, assistant executive director of the Rome-based UN body, said at the ceremony she is glad that Chibana, who has supported the WFP, assumed the post of ambassador. — Kyodo News

Karura Chibana (L), a model who was runner-up in the Miss Universe 2006 beauty pageant, is pictured in Tokyo on 13 Dec, after she was named as the first Japanese ambassador for the World Food Programme. At right to Elisabeth Rasmussen, assistant executive director of the Rome-based UN body.— Kyodo News

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Palestinian civil defence help people to travel on a boat after their house was flooded with rainwater after a heavy rain in Gaza City on 13 Dec, 2013.

Xinhua

Xinhua
**Vice-President U Nyan Tun, wife attend 2013 ASEAN Sports Year Entertainment**

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—Vice-President U Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint enjoyed the entertainment to mark the 2013 ASEAN Sports Year at Myanmar International Convention Center (MICC), here, yesterday.

Also present on the occasion were Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye, Union ministers and their wives, deputy ministers, ambassadors and diplomats of foreign missions in Myanmar, departmental heads, entertainment troupes, sportspersons and artists from ASEAN countries, students and guests.

Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu made an address on the further promotion of cooperation in amity among ASEAN countries, better relations in ASEAN community to be established in 2015 and further cementing relations among ASEAN countries.

Artists in traditional costumes of ASEAN countries sang the song under the title of Sports Year. ASEAN traditional dances and songs were followed by the artists from ASEAN countries. Host Myanmar also performed the traditional dances and songs, winning the applause of the audiences from ASEAN member countries. Altogether ASEAN countries' artists sang the song “Sports Year” with the dances. The Vice-President and wife and the Union ministers presented gifts to the entertainers and they altogether posed for documentary photos.

Later, the Vice-President cordially greeted the attendees.—MNA

**Vietnam tops shooting event’s medal-table**

Cambodian and Vietnamese shooting teams snatched two gold medals in today’s events.

Men’s 10-metre air pistol (team) and Women’s 10-metre air pistol contests were top the table in which Thailand and Malaysia are ranked second and third places. Myanmar stands fourth place with one gold, two silver and one bronze.

Vietnamese shooting team snatched two gold medals in today’s events. Men’s 10-metre air pistol event is scheduled tomorrow. A total of 15 participants from Malaysia, Vietnam, Singapore, Thailand and Myanmar will take part in the tomorrow’s event.

**Myanmar bag four gold, three silver, two bronze in Petanque, Karatedo, Pencak Silat, Chess events**

The Union Minister and party awarded K 4.4 million to gold medalist Ma Chaw Ei Thu in Petanque women’s singles event. Myanmar awarded gold, Vietnam silver and Malaysia bronze together with Indonesian counterpart in Karatedo women’s team event. Union Minister U Khin Yi presented K 700,000 to the winner Myanmar team.

In Pencak Silat events, Indonesia secured three gold while Myanmar took one gold, two silver and two bronze, Malaysia one gold, Vietnam two silver, Thailand silver one and one bronze and Singapore and Brunei one bronze.

Shwetaung Development Co., awarded K 10 million to first winners, K 5 million to second winners and K 3 million to third winners.

(See page 7)

**Medal Tally**

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<th>Country</th>
<th>Gold</th>
<th>Silver</th>
<th>Bronze</th>
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(See page 5)

**As many as 300 local journalists, 100 each from broadcasters, int’l press to have access to SEA Games closing ceremony**

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—Information team of the Ministry of Information organized a press conference today. Officials cornered made clarifications on matters related to coverage of the 27th SEA Games closing ceremony, free distribution of DVB-

**Baliis shooting**

**Gold medalist Vietnamese shooter.**

YANGON, 14 Dec—Vietnam still dominated the medal-table of the shooting event at the 27th SEA Games, grabbing four gold medals till Day 4 of the event concluded today.

**Beatrice Suguro (Left) of Indonesia and Josie Gabuco (Right) of the Philippines exchange blows during Women’s Light Fly (45-48 kg) category of 27th SEA Games at Wunna Theikdi Stadium. PHOTO AYE MIN SOE**

**Japanese pair wins chess title at SEA Games**

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—Union Minister for Information and Forestry U Win Tun and Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi enjoyed the matches of Petanque and Karatedo events of the 27th SEA Games at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex, here, yesterday.

In Petanque men’s doubles event, Thailand secured gold, Cambodia silver and Laos bronze together with Vietnamese counterpart while Myanmar seized gold, Cambodia silver and Thailand bronze together with Vietnamese counterpart in women’s singles event.

Beatrice Suguro of Indonesia and Josie Gabuco of Vietnam won the title of the two sports.

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