Nay Pyi Taw, 17 Dec—President Thein Sein of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar, on the occasion of the anniversary of the National Day of the State of Qatar, which falls on 18 December 2013.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives JICA’s Chief Advisor

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint met a delegation led by Chief Advisor Dr Hiroshi Shirakawa from Human Development Department under Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), at Amyotha Hluttaw Building here this morning. At the call, both sides have a cordial discussion on human resources development, research development and library development for education and research works. Also present at the call were Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyine, Committee Chairmen U Nay Win Tun, Dr Khin Shwe and U San Tun.—MNA

Phyu Wah Thet crosses the line first in 5000-M women’s race

Nay Pyi Taw, 17 Dec—Phyu Wah Thet crossed the finish line and took gold for Myanmar in the 27th SEA Games’ 5000-M women’s race today. Myanmar runner Phyu Wah Thet left her counterparts in the race without a chance in the Athletics competition of ongoing SEA Games continued at Wunna Theikdi Football Stadium. She powered away from her rivals and grabbed the gold medal of the event in which Indonesian opponent finished second and her fellow countrywoman Khin Mar Se third.

In men’s 5000-M race, Vietnamese runner brought home gold while Thai and Indonesian rivals stood second and third places.—NLM

Gold, silver go to Thai riders in women’s 128 km individual

Nay Pyi Taw, 17 Dec — Women’s 128 km individual cycling race kicked off today at Lenli Bridge, here, this morning with the participation of riders from Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam and Myanmar.

Riders peddled along Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway and sped across the finish line at Nay Pyi Taw Lewe.

Kunlapa Wilalwan of Thailand won the gold medal in 4 hours, 11 minutes and 17 seconds while her fellow countrywoman Maneephan Jutatip finished for the silver medal and Vietnamese rider Nguyen Thi That sped across the finish line for the bronze medal. Myanmar cyclist Naing Kake Khane managed to pedal to eighth in the race.

Spectators cheered riders along the race route. At the awarding ceremony, Myanmar Cycling Federation President U Tha Hway awarded winners and Daw Kyi Khin, wife of the president, presented gifts to medalists.

Victorious Thai riders of the women’s 128 km individual cycling race seen at awarding ceremony today.—KO MYO-SHWE PAUKKAN
Basic Diplomatic Skill course 32/2013 kicks off

Nay Pyi Taw, 17 Dec—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs inaugurated the Basic Diplomatic Skill course (32/2013) at Wunzin Minyaza Hall of the ministry, here, yesterday.

It was attended by the directors-general and officials of the departments under the ministry, retired Myanmar Ambassadors, senior diplomats, professors and instructors as well as trainees.

The 12-week course covers contemporary international affairs, holding and attending international conferences, negotiation skills, international law, international economic relations, international etiquette, diplomatic and official correspondence and communication skills. —MNA

Hostels on university campus alive again

Yangon, 17 Dec—The first year students who are outside municipal area have been allowed to stay at the hostels of universities, degree/colleges and colleges starting from 2013-14 academic year. University of Yangon, Yangon Institute of Education and Sagaing Institute of Education will open its hostels for first year to final students and other universities and colleges are still preparing to give hostels not only to the first year but also to other classes. —MNA

Medical checkup to the patients

Singaing, 17 Dec—A ceremony to donate A scan worth K 6.01 million to 50-bed Eye Special Hospital of Singaing on which eye patients rely was held at the hall of the hospital in Kyaukse District of Mandalay Region on 14 December.

The hospital gives free medical checkup to the patients and medicines free of charge. For the patients who are unaffordable to pay their cost for eye surgical operations, the hospital charged least amount of money added with the expense of the department and wellwishers. In addition, the specialists from the hospital make field trips to the villages and give eye care services to the patients who are unaffordable to bear cost of medical treatment.

To be able to buy the A Scan, U Thaung Nay Oo Dr Daw Hnin Nu Htwe and family in commemoration of the birthday of daughter Ma Thaung Hnin Shweyi donated K 4 million and one water purifier worth K 200,000, U Myint Thein (Myint Myat) family of Keymintun Ward of Kyaukse donated K 1.01 million, staff of the Singaing Eye Special Hospital and eye patients donated K 1 million.

However, the hospital still needs operation microscope and Cassette Instrument Sterilizer to be connected with Phaco MACHINE VISUALS. —MMAL-Tun Tun Naing (Kyaukse)

Truck overturns at 7th-Mile detour of Kawhounng

Kawhounng, 17 Dec—A vehicle overturned at the hill ringroad at 7th-mile detour in Shwepyisoe Village of Kawhounng on 14 December afternoon.

It was owned by Yuzana Oil Palm Co. The vehicle carried fertilizers from Tawwim Jetty. Due to break failure, the vehicle plunged into the 200 feet ravine on right side of the road.

In the incident, driver U Kyaw Min Thein was seriously injured and the conductor not serious. Police Station opened a file of lawsuit over the traffic accident. —MMAL-Kyaw Myint Naing (Loikaw)

MV Seven Sea Voyage arrives at MITT

Yangon, 17 Dec—MV Seven Sea Voyage with 659 tourists arrived at Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa, here, at 3 pm on 15 December. The cruise liner arrived there for the third time. It arrived there from Trincomalee Port of Sri Lanka. The vessel will stop over there for three day, and tourists from the vessel will pay visits to Yangon, Bagan and Bago. In addition, they will visit Kalewa Monastery in Yangon.

The cruise liner is operated from Regents Seven Sea Cruise of US based Prestige Cruise Holdings Inc. Under the supervision of Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and with the assistance of Ministry of Transport, Myanmar Voyages International Tourism Co Ltd arranged the Voy of the cruise liner.

“We will be taste of foreign cruise liners to our country. After enjoying tastes of our country, tourists pay visits to our country severally. If they visit our country and enjoy peace and tranquility here, their visits will contribute to tourism industry development of our country,” said Managing Director U Thein Lin Toe of Myanmar Voyages International Tourism.

A male globetrotter, aged 60 from Washington of the US happily expressed his pleasure for visit to Myanmar and expected better arrangements for their voyage.

While enjoying traditional dances performed by the music troupes at MITT, a US woman said that she was so happy in visiting Myanmar. When they arrived there, weather was fine. As cruise liners arrive Myanmar one after another, two more vessels will pay visits to Myanmar on 27 December. —MMAL-Khin Cho Win

Myittha Multi-purpose Dam Project under implementation

Gangaw, 17 Dec—As Myittha Multi-purpose Dam Project is under implementation near Pyintha Village of Gangaw Township in Gangaw District of Magway Region, the local people enjoy job opportunities. About 5000 labourers from both local people and those from other regions are deployed in construction of main embankment, saddle dyke, temporary embankment, water diversion drain, hydropower infrastructures, spillway, conduit, irrigation facilities, bridge, guest house, mess hall, office, lab, warehouse and staff quarters.

The dam project started in 2002-2003 fiscal year. It will have 700 square miles of watershed area. The dam will store 377600 acres feet to irrigate 12000 acres of farmlands of Gangaw and to generate 40 megawatts yearly. —MMAL-Kye Myint Naing (Loikaw)
WASHINGTON, 17 Dec — The US and Iranian foreign ministers last week discussed the importance of carrying out the 24 November Iran nuclear deal after Washington blacklisted 19 companies, people and vessels for dealing with Tehran, a US official said on Monday.

The US sanctions, imposed under existing US law, drew criticism from Iranian officials and raised questions about the 24 November agreement under which Iran agreed to curb its nuclear programme for six months in exchange for limited sanctions relief.

“They discussed the importance of moving forward” on carrying out the agreement “and of maintaining a constructive atmosphere as the negotiations continue,” the US official said. “The conversation was focused on the way forward.”

Under the 24 November agreement, the United States committed not to impose new sanctions on Iran. US officials said they had not violated the deal in blacklisting the companies, vessels and individuals under existing law and said their commitment under the deal referred to not imposing sanctions under new laws.

The US State Department said it told Iranian negotiators during talks before the 24 November deal that it would enforce existing US sanctions laws and gave Iranian officials a general advance warning about last week’s blacklisting action.

Some Iranian officials, however, argued that the United States had violated the spirit of the deal, which was struck between Iran and six major powers and which is designed to provide time to try to negotiate a comprehensive agreement.

The US State Department official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said US Secretary of State John Kerry had spoken to Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif by telephone as the chief US diplomat flew from Israel to Vietnam.

It was unclear exactly when the conversation took place, but Kerry was due to leave the Middle East late on Friday and to arrive in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on Saturday. The latest US sanctions — known in Washington jargon as “designations” — were imposed on Thursday.

In echo of Bush, Cameron says mission accomplished in Afghanistan

LONDON, 17 Dec — Prime Minister David Cameron said on Monday that British troops could leave Afghanistan next year with a sense of having accomplished their mission, despite worries about the ongoing Taliban insurgency, drug cultivation and human rights abuses.

British media compared his comments to a banner bearing the words “Mission Accomplished” that was strung across the bridge of an American aircraft carrier in 2003 for a speech about the Iraq war by former US president George W. Bush. The message came to be seen by the president’s critics as hubristic, premature and triumphalist — it was followed by another decade of fighting in which tens of thousands of people died across Iraq.

During a pre-Christmas visit to British soldiers in southern Afghanistan, Cameron was asked if they would be able to return home with the message “mission accomplished” after 12 years of fighting. He replied: “Yes, I think they do.”

US chopper crash-lands in eastern Japan city

YOKOHAMA, 17 Dec — A US Navy helicopter crash-landed in a coastal city south of Tokyo on Monday injuring two of its four-man crew, police said.

The MH-60 helicopter landed in an empty landfill site in Miura, Kanagawa Prefecture, just after 3:30 pm, the police said. A residential area lies about 300 meters away from the crash site.

Col Steven Warren, a US Defence Department spokesman, told reporters at the Pentagon that the cause of the accident has been “under investigation.”

According to the local fire department, the co-pilot said the crew attempted an emergency landing after losing control of the helicopter. It landed on its side, breaking off the main rotor blades and damaging the tail.

The accident fuelled concerns among many in Japanese communities hosting US military facilities about the safety of US military aircraft operations.

Kerry, Zarif spoke last week after fresh Iran-related sanctions

THAILAND’S opposition leader and former Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva smiles during a extraordinary general meeting at a hotel in Bangkok on 17 Dec, 2013. REUTERS

There will be no conclusion today as to whether the Democract Party will run,” Abhisit told reporters as the two-day meeting was drawing to an end. “We are tired enough from meeting today on other matters.”

The Democrats must decide by 27 December if they want to register for the vote.—Reuters

Britain’s Prime Minister David Cameron speaks to British soldiers at Camp Bastion, outside Lashkar Gah, in Helmand Province, southern Afghanistan on 16 Dec, 2013.—Reuters

Main Thai opposition party divided over running in election

BANGKOK, 17 Dec — Thailand’s main opposition Democrat Party reappointed former premier Abhisit Vejjajiva as its leader on Tuesday but members could not agree on whether to run in an early election or stick with street protesters who want to reform the political system.

The protesters, backed by the Thai elite and Bangkok’s middle class, want to force through political reforms before the snap election called by Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra. Their aims is to erode the influence of Thaksin Shinawatra’s brother and the power behind her government.

Democrat lawmakers resigned from parliament this month to join the street protests led by Suthep Thaugsuban, a deputy prime minister under Abhisit until 2011. Some agree with his call for reforms to be implemented before another election can be held. But others believe their party, Thailand’s oldest, should respect the democratic process and take part in the election, called for 2 February.

Thailand’s opposition leader and former Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva smiles during a extraordinary general meeting at a hotel in Bangkok on 17 Dec, 2013. REUTERS

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The Democrats must decide by 27 December if they want to register for the vote.— Reuters

Ukraine leader seeks cash at Kremlin, Kiev protest planned

Moscow, 17 Dec — Ukraine’s president could secure loans from Russia on Tuesday when he meets Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin — money that could help fend off economic crisis as anti-government protests continue in Kiev.

Demonstrators demanding that Viktor Yanukovich step down after he spurned a trade and investment deal with the European Union last month plan a new show of force in Ukraine’s capital on Tuesday as the president meets his Russian counterpart.

Caught between Western powers, keen to anchor the nation of 46 million in a friendly embrace on the EU’s borders, and Moscow, which accuses the West of turning its former Soviet territories against it, Ukraine is in the grip of impending financial crisis that could hit fuel supplies this winter. President Putin, who meets Yanukovich at 3 pm (1100 GMT), seems set to agree a loan deal, and possibly offer Ukraine a discount on the Russian natural gas on which its people depend.— Reuters

In photo

Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter shows a US Navy helicopter after crash-landing in an empty lot in Miura, Kanagawa Prefecture, on 16 Dec, 2013. KYODO NEWS

following a helicopter crash at a US military base in Okinawa in August.

The two men suffered serious injuries with one sustaining broken bones, but there were no reports of further injuries in the surrounding area, according to Kanagawa prefectural police.

Kyodo News
New apps predict, provide information about what users want

Google acquires developer of military robots

Churches take to YouTube, Instagram to spread holiday gospel

UK national security adviser to propose tighter rules after Huawei concerns: FT

China eyes collection of lunar samples in 2017

The Google signage is seen at the company’s headquarters in New York on 8 Jan, 2013. — Reuter

A cleaner wipes the glass door of a Huawei office in Wuhan, Hubei province in this 9 October, 2012 file photograph. — Reuters

A visitor tries Apple Inc’s iPad at an electronics store in central Seoul on 18 Jan, 2013. — Reuters

The Google signage is seen at the company’s headquarters in New York on 8 Jan, 2013. — Reuters

The move comes after the success of the Chang’e 3 probe, tasked with the moon sampling mission, is well underway and it is expected to be launched around 2017, a spokesman for the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence said.

“After the success of the Chang’e 3’s mission, the lunar exploration programme will enter the third phase, with the main goal being to achieve unmanned automatic collection of samples and returning them (to the earth),” spokesman Wu Zhijuan told a news conference.

China has yet to announce its moon ambitions beyond the sampling mission, Wu said, when asked if it planned to send astronauts there. He insisted the plans were for peaceful purposes.
BP signs $16 billion tight gas project deal in Oman

BRUSSELS, 17 Dec — Disagreement over how to regulate the booming market for electronic cigarettes is holding up a deal on strict new rules governing tobacco products in the European Union, diplomats said on Monday. In talks aimed at finalizing the legislative proposals by the end of the year, the European Parliament has pushed for a light touch approach to e-cigarettes, which it regards as a less harmful alternative to smoking.

But with a lack of clear evidence on the long-term health impact of e-cigarettes, EU governments have sought more restrictive rules, warning the amounts of nicotine contained in the cigarettes should be limited.

That could threaten the continued growth of a fast-growing market that some analysts say could eclipse the $700 billion a year regular cigarette market within 10 years. Unless negotiators can reach a compromise in two final rounds of talks this week, the row could delay by up to two years the adoption of a wider package of tough new anti-tobacco controls. They include larger health warnings on cigarette packets and a ban on menthol and other tobacco flavorings.

The alternative would be to leave e-cigarettes unregulated at EU-level as at present, leaving each government to devise individually what rules — if any — to apply. “I don’t think we will get a deal on e-cigarettes,” said one EU diplomat close to the talks, who spoke on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to talk to journalists.

The main sticking point is the parliament’s demand that e-cigarettes can be sold with refillable nicotine cartridges, rather than as single-use items as demanded by member states. Several governments, including Britain and Germany, are concerned that at the nicotine concentration of 20 milligrams per milliliter being discussed, one 10 ml refill cartridge would contain more nicotine than a cigarette of 200 cigarettes. “The parliament has said that unless refillable cartridges are allowed, it will veto the package,” said another senior EU official involved in the discussions. “So it is possible that refillable cartridges could block the entire deal.”—Reuters

E-cigarette row could block new EU tobacco rules

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GM to cut S Korean jobs as Chevy pullout looms in Europe

SEOUL, 17 Dec — General Motors Co (GM.N) plans to slash its headcount in South Korea next year as it prepares to withdraw its Chevy brand in Europe, a major export market for South Korea-made cars, said on Tuesday. But Rocha said the automaker does not plan to shed production jobs.

The 6,000 salaried workers who are eligible to apply for the voluntary retirement programme include research and design staff, which amounts to about 2,200.

“This is part of our ongoing efforts to increase operating efficiency,” the spokesman, Park Hae-ho, said, without disclosing a target for the job reductions.

GM said early this month that it will drop the Chevrolet brand in Europe by the end of 2015, opting to focus on its Opel and Vauxhall lines to try to return to profitability there.

The Boeing logo is seen at their headquarters in Chicago, on 24 April, 2013. — Reuters

Boeing announces $10 billion buyback, raises dividend

SEATTLE, 17 Dec — Boeing Co’s (BA.N) board raised the company’s dividend by 50 percent to 43.2 cents per share on Monday and approved $10 billion in new share buyback authority that the company said it would use in the next two to three years.

The share repurchase represents about 10 percent of Boeing’s outstanding stock, ranking it in the middle of buybacks by large US companies, which are on a stock-buying spree this year. Boeing shares rose about 2 percent in extended trading after the news. They closed at $134.72 on the New York Stock Exchange on Monday.

The increases in dividends and share repurchases “reflect sustained, strong operational performance by our businesses, increasing cash flow, and our confidence in the future,” Boeing Chief Executive Jim McNerney said in a statement.

The new repurchase amount adds to about $800 million remaining from the company’s 2007 stock repurchase authorization, and buying will begin in 2014, Boeing said. The quarterly dividend is 73 cents per share, up from 48.5 cents. Boeing is enjoying a surge in revenue and cash as it ramps up commercial jet production, with a target of delivering a record 635 to 645 aircraft this year. Those gains help offset declining US military spending, which is hampering Boeing’s defence businesses.

The Boeing logo is seen at their headquarters in Chicago, on 24 April, 2013. — Reuters

GSK to spend $1 billion to raise stake in Indian unit

MEMBRAI, 17 Dec — GlaxoSmithKline Plc (GSK/UKGSK) has decided to spend roughly $1 billion to raise its stake in its Indian pharmaceutical unit, betting on rising demand in emerging markets as sales in developed economies slow due to a wave of patent expirations.

With the latest India deal, GSK is set to spend close to $2 billion in roughly a year to increase its holdings in two listed Indian companies, its biggest incremental investment in any country in that period.

Emerging markets such as India and Brazil are an important plank of GSK Chief Executive Officer Andrew Witty’s growth strategy, as he grapples with slower uptake of the company’s products in the developed world.

GSK said on Monday it plans to raise its stake in its Indian pharmaceutical unit, GlaxoSmithKline Pharma- ceutical (GLAXNS), up to as much as 75 percent from 50.7 percent through an open offer in a deal worth about $629 million pounds.

In February 2012, GSK lifted its stake in its publicly-listed Indian healthcare subsidiary, GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare Limited (GSKCML), to 72.5 percent from 43.2 percent for $901 million.

“Wathey are trying to indicate that this market can reward them nicely in the future,” said Sarajith Kour Nangra, a sector analyst at Angel Broking. “India’s growing market and GSK cannot afford to lose its hold.”

Western drugmakers like GSK, Pfizer Inc (PFE.N), and AstraZeneca PLC (AZN.L), covet a bigger share of India’s fast-growing $13 billion drugs market, but have been frustrated by a series of decisions on intellectual property and pricing.

India in August revoked a patent granted to GSK for its breast cancer drug Tykerb, a decision that followed a landmark court ruling that national patent laws permitted for incremental innovations that was a blow to global pharmaceutical firms.

Despite the challenges,
The 27th SEA Games

SWEET MEMORY:
The cup displayed at Sports Museum in Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex refresh the memory of football crazies. Myanmar won the cup at 10th Merdaka Anniversary Football Festival in 1967.—NLM

Saw Dar Pot (Right) of Myanmar lends a blow to Natthaphol Aunnuea (Left) of Thailand during 54-kg category of Muay boxing of 27th SEA Games.
PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Runner concentrating on their tracks while overcoming the hurdles.
PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Swe Swe Han in action during the match against Tamolwan of Thailand.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

A men’s double Regu match of Sepak Takraw between Myanmar and Thailand.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

(From Left to Right) Neeranuch Kromdee of Thailand, Zaidatul Husna Zulkifli of Malaysia and Lai Lai Win of Myanmar-run during Women’s 100m Round 1 in Nay Pyi Taw.
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Swe Swe Han in action during the match against Tamolwan of Thailand.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

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(From Left to Right) Neeranuch Kromdee of Thailand, Zaidatul Husna Zulkifli of Malaysia and Lai Lai Win of Myanmar-run during Women’s 100m Round 1 in Nay Pyi Taw.
PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE
27th SEA Games’ table tennis competitions kick off

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—Table tennis men’s and women’s competitions of the 27th SEA Games were launched at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium (C), here, this morning, in the presence of Deputy Minister for Sports U Zaw Min.

At the first-day round robin men’s events, Singapore won over Malaysia, Indonesia beat Cambodia. While Singapore beat Indonesia, Thailand won over Myanmar and Vietnam.

Myanmar table tennis men’s team includes Kyi Than, Thet Ko Ko Latt, Aung Hlut, Nay Aung Win and Htoo Htoo Naing. Myanmar table tennis women’s team comprises Shwe Shwe Han, Aye Myat Thu, Aye Thida Pyone, Sanda Moe and Myint Myint Hlaing.

Both Myanmar men’s and women’s table tennis teams are competing in very tight groups. Aung Kyaw Kyaw (NLM)

Press conference on anti-doping at SEA Games held

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—A press conference on anti-doping for the XXVII SEA Games was held at Social Zone of Golf Camp in Zabuthiri Township today.

Managing Director of South East Asia Regional Anti-Doping Organization Mr Gobinathan Nair of World Anti-Doping Agency and sports medical officer Dr Hla Myo Thant of Ministry of Sports explained the anti-doping rules.

Managing Director Mr Gobinathan Nair explained the purpose of press conference to send messages on anti-narcotic drugs not only to athletes but to students and new generation youths through media.

Kyaw Thura (Nay Pyi Taw)

Laotian Judokas in training ahead of competition

YANGON, 17 Dec—Laotian Judokas who are going to fight for gold in Judo competition at the 27th SEA Games received training at Zeyathiri Indoor Stadium (C) this morning.

Athletes from Laos, one of nine participants to coming Judo competition of ongoing SEA Games, arrived in Myanmar 14 December. Of 16, four Laotian Judokas, two male and female each, will compete in Kata event while the remaining 12 will be in Kumite event.

According to an official of Laotian team, they started their training session at Training Centre II in Lewe on 15 December and yesterday.

“Our Judokas will try their best for reaching medal targets in the competition,” he added.

SEA Games’ Judo competition will kick off tomorrow at Zeyathiri Indoor Stadium (C).

Laotian Judokas are undergoing training at Zeyathiri Indoor Stadium (C).—JULY MOE

Myanmar Women’s hockey team beat Indonesia

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—Myanmar Women’s hockey team beat Indonesia 1-0 at Theinbyu turf hockey pitch, here, this morning.

Myanmar beat Indonesia 1-0 while Singapore won a landslide victory over Cambodia with 16-0 and Malaysia defeated Thailand 6-0. After the match, Malaysia secured 12 points, followed by Singapore 9, Thailand 7, Myanmar 4, Indonesia 3 and Cambodia 0.

The fourth day of Men’s Round-Robin hockey Competition will continue tomorrow. Vietnam will play against Thailand and Singapore with Malaysia.—MNA

Vovinam events on 19 December

PRESS RELEASE

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—Vovinam teams from Indonesia and Vietnam are under training at Zeyathiri Indoor Stadium (A).

Altogether five countries will participate in Vovinam event of the 27th SEA Games. Vovinam event in Myanmar is the second time since the SEA Games has started. All teams are rivals as they have same skills. Training is very intensive even though the event is two-minute long. Indonesian team is under intensive training for securing gold medals, according to an official from Indonesia team.

The event will kick off in Zeyathiri Indoor Stadium (A) on 19 December.—July Moe

YANGON, 17 Dec—The fourth day of Women’s Round-Robin Hockey Competition of the 27th SEA Games took place at Theinbyu turf hockey pitch, here, this morning.

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Press conference on anti-doping for the XXVII SEA Games in progress.—KYAW THURA (NAY PYI TAW)

Two Vovinam fighters are under training at Zeyathiri Indoor Stadium (A).—JULY MOE

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New Light of Myanmar

Distinguish hook from bait

Fishes are unable to distinguish a hook from a bait. As it could not distinguish between illusion and reality, it used to end up in distress. At present, there is a growing trend among perpetrators who lured women into forced marriage or flesh trade for their self-interest while some lured women into sexual assaults.

To lure women, the perpetrators first stroke up a friendship with the former, using a false promise as a trap into which the women to walk straight. Moreover, they also used a string of drugs including Burundanga which makes a woman unconscious when merely inhaling its smell applied on a visiting card or a present given to her. It is alarming to learn that those perpetrators are using the drugs like a movie story in luring women into their sexual pleasure.

Although rules of moral conduct are to be found in every religion, some evil doers are in breach of those noble rules instead of keeping them. Meanwhile, most of young women are found to be under the influence of alien culture, idea, expression and lifestyle since they are copying the imported culture including music, dance and mode of dress. The elimination of alien culture deeply rooted in our society is both an urgent priority and a long-term project which calls for the commitment of all the national people.

As there are many imposters who pretend to be gentleman in order to deceive others, all the young women are to stay away from complete strangers who approach them and to fully equip themselves with a sense of rationality and mindfulness. Furthermore, they should be endowed with a sense of shame or dread of evil while dealing with those they do not know well. And only then, will they be able to distance themselves from falling into the trap of perpetrators.

National-level workshop on REDD+ held

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—A national-level workshop on REDD+ took place at the Ministry of Forestry (Head Office) here this morning, attended by Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun.

The Union Minister said REDD+ stands for countries’ efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and foster conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

Soil utilization and its related works are crucial in climate change mitigation as turning forests into other lands can have impact on climate changes, he added.

In implementing REDD+ works, there are two important tasks: (1) solving the main reasons caused by deforestation and forest degradation, in addition to measurement and inspection of forest carbon; and (2) establishment of Safeguard Information System.

The two-day workshop aims to make those involved know REDD+, to disseminate knowledge on latest development of REDD+ works and help support REDD+ road map, he said.—MNA

Union Information Minister enjoys sports events

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—Union Information Minister U Aung Kyi enjoyed 5000-meter men’s and women’s races and 100-meter men’s race, compound men’s and women’s team archery events at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex and rowing event at Ngalike Dam, here, this morning.

In the morning matches, Myanmar runners Phyu Wah Thet secured gold and Khin Mar Hsyl, bronze in 5000 meter women’s race while Myanmar archery team took bronze in compound women’s team event.—MNA

Visa Exemption for holders of ordinary passports

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—Inspiring by the desire to strengthen the existing friendly relations in all fields and desiring to simplify the procedures and facilitate the travelling of citizens of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Kingdom of Cambodia, U Tin Oo Lwin, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Sieng Burvuth, Ambassador of signing MoU on management of border areas, promotion of relations between the two armed forces, relations of Myanmar armed forces with foreign armed forces and its policies, and border affairs policies of Myanmar.

He also discussed mutual cooperation between the two navies with Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi.

At Rashtrapati Bhavan, the Vice-Senior General and Indian President Shri Pranab Mukherjee exchanged views on bilateral relations between the two governments and the two chiefs of armed forces, history of the two countries and cultural relationships, management of border areas and the matters on political, economic and defence services of the two countries.

The Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife attended a dinner hosted by General Bikram Singh at Army Battle Honours Mess in the evening.—Myanmar

Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win held discussions with Chief of Army Staff of the Indian General Bikram Singh.—MNA
Defence Services taking steps to stand united for democracy

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—“Defence Services is also taking steps to stand united on bringing democracy and prosperity to Myanmar,” said Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in his address at a ceremony to donate cash for upgrading of health and education sectors in Taninthayi Region today.

He continued that Defence Services, in its part, is also taking part in the government’s drive for democratic goal. Health care mobile teams of Defence Services provided medical treatment to local people in Kayah, Chin and Rakhine State and Mandalay Region. Based on Dawei, Myeik and Bokpyin Townships in Taninthayi Region, the mobile teams will perform health care services from now on, he added.

Next, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo and Vice Quartermaster-General Maj-Gen Min Naing handed over bags of cement and K 50 million to responsible persons. Wellwishers also made cash donation at the ceremony.


Next, the Senior General and wife and party visited the Home for the Aged in Dawei and paid respect the older persons.

During his visit to Dawei, the Senior General attended a ceremony for successful completion of offering gold foils to Shwe Taungsar Pagoda held in conjunction with a consecration ceremony. The Senior General and wife presented cash donations for renovation of historic Arakanhat Prayer Hall and offered provisions to members of Sangha and nuns.

Next, the Commander-in-Chief, Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko and a patron of the board of trustees of the pagoda formally opened the museum of the Pagoda. —Myawady

U Paw Lwin Sein presents Credentials to Grand Duke of Luxembourg

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—U Paw Lwin Sein, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, presented his Credentials to His Excellency, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Luxembourg on 11 December 2013 in Luxembourg City.—MNA

Vietnam tops SEA Games’ shooting event

YANGON, 17 Dec — Vietnamese shooters dominated the medal table of shooting event at the 27th SEA Games with 36 medals—12 gold, 12 silver and 12 bronze.

Up to now, Vietnam has seized seven gold medals while Thailand won two and host Myanmar, Malaysia and Singapore one each.

Host Myanmar has seized one gold, two silver and one bronze at the competition. Singapore picked up its first shooting gold medal in the individual event in which Malaysia stood second and Vietnam third. The awarding ceremony took place in the evening.—MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Notification No. 38/2013
15th Waxing of Nadaw, 1375 ME
(17th December, 2013)

Lisu National Development Party (L.N.D.P) allowed to register as political party

The Union Election Commission announced today that Lisu National Development Party headquartered at No. 1587, Yanpu Ward, Myitkyina Township, Kachin State, has been allowed to register as a political party as of 17th December, 2013 in accord with Section 9 of Political Parties Registration Law. The registration number of the party is 69.

By order,
(Tin Tun)
Secretary
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Notification No. 39/2013
15th Waxing of Nadaw, 1375 ME
(17th December, 2013)

Dawei Nationalities Party allowed to register as political party

The Union Election Commission announced today that the Dawei Nationalities Party headquartered at No. 87, central street, Konwindat Ward, Dawei Township, Taninthayi Region (temporarily) has been allowed to register as a political party as of 17th December, 2013 in accord with Section 9 of Political Parties Registration Law. The registration number of the party is 70.

By order,
(Tin Tun)
Secretary
Union Election Commission
Muay athletes punch and kick their way to glory and adulation

By Kerstin Winter

In 2011, yesterday’s first bout was the only women’s matchup on the day, Vietnam’s ThucQuyen Bui taking on Thailand’s Sarinthalangsawa. Vietnamese coach NgocVu Dao said before the match, “Thailand is of course traditionally the strongest nation in Muay Thai, but the sport is very popular in Vietnam and our own boxing style does not differ much from the Thai style, so we have a strong chance.” His protege was on the attack the second bell rang and never relented until the bell ending Round 3 rang.

The Vietnamese fighter, fired up and on by her teammates, punched the ring, handed out serious kicks to her opponent’s head and dominated every round.

Jangwang, who could only defend most of the match, fell to the fists of the home crowd, several times and spent much of the fight on the ropes.

The referee often busied himself separating the fighters, Thai coach DhanaskChootap said of his charges, “The Vietnamese boxers were very strong and we have to accept that, but for her level of experience Sarintha fought well.”

Phillip Delamir (PHI), from the same province as Filipino boxing superstar Manny Pacquiao, beat Malaysian opponent Muhammad Fikri with a technical knockout in the second round.

“I have fought Muhammad before and knew I would win, but I didn’t expect a knockout,” he said with a huge smile.

The 23-year old said that muay is extremely popular in the Philippines, He started the sport when he was ten.

But Delamir could barely hear as the crowd packing the venue to the last seat, erupted in a thundering welcome for the first of the Myanmar boxers of the day.

Before the match, Myanmar coach Saw Adi said, “It is the first time for a Muay Thai competition to take place in Myanmar. We have only been training in this sport for one year, so I do expect them to make mistakes."

He added the biggest challenge is that his team is not yet settled in the sport, and that they need to use their legs more.

“But they have fast, strong fists, so I am confident we will do well,” he said, adding he had traveled across the country to recruit the best young boxing talent.

Myanmar does not yet have muay clubs, so Saw Adi and his crew scouted at traditional boxing competitions in local markets and got some boys through word of mouth.

Among those he found was Saw Dar Pot, an ethnic Karen, who took on clear favorite NathapholAunmae from Thailand.

The Karen have a strong boxing tradition, so that’s where we went scouting,” he said about the third biggest ethnic group in Myanmar who traditionally live in an area bordering Thailand.

To the ear-piercing shouts of supporters dressed in Karen garb, Saw Dar Pot found his form in the third round and was declared winner of the match even though his Thai opponent clearly dominated the first two rounds.

Nathaphol was so sure of his win he jubilantly raised his arms after the match, only to see his opponent’s arm raised by the referee, to the strong displeasure of his Thai teammates.

“The decision was fair, because (Saw Dar Pot) had some strong kicks to the chest just before the end, and it’s always important to finish the last round strong.” said Manuel Del Rosario, deputy chief of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

A former world champion and multiple gold medalist in taekwondo, Del Rosario said, “When I was competing it happened to me too. I felt I was losing due to unfair judging…(but) the hosts often win.”

Saw William Hoo Ge (MYA), showed more aggression in his first round, sending Malaysia’s Ain Bin Kamarrudin to the floor with a spectacular kick to the head, and was still going strong in Round 2, but he lost to the Malaysian who surprised with a great third round. But the home crowd was reconciled when a determined Soe Lin Oo (MYA) entered the ring for the last fight of the day.

Minutes earlier he had been lying on the floor of the Myanmar team room, bowing deeply to his coaches and then Aung, president of the SEA Games organizing committee, and receiving their encouragement.

Soe then took down MohAmirul Bin Ariffin (MAS), beating him in all three rounds with some extreme leg action and punching him across the ring in the last seconds to the ecstatic screams of the home crowd.

“I concentrated some kicks to the stomach with lots of speed. He’s a good fighter but was not hard to defeat,” Soe Lin Oo said.
**LOCAL NEWS**

**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 together for non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty;
- All the national people to participate in efforts for cease armed conflicts and gaining genuine peace;
- All the national people to work hard in building a developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

**Literary talks, book show held in Lashio**

LASHIO, 17 Dec—The literary talks and book show was held in Lashio of Shan State (North) on 14 and 15 December. From 10 am to 3 pm, the book stalls were opened there and the literary talks from 3 pm to 6 pm. Chairman of Lashio Township Writers Association writer Kaung Nyunt Wai (Yezaygo) made a speech. Officials presented certificates to wellwishers. Writer Lin Thaik Nyunt (Myanmar Land) gave talks under the title of successful country, successful people on 14 December. Next, writer Juu gave literary talks on 15 December.—Kyemon-Zaw Lwin (Lashio)

**Progress of rural road construction inspected in Mohnyin**

MOHNYIN, 17 Dec—Sekton-Aungchantha-Helon rural road is being repaved with asphalt in Mohnyin Township of Kachin State in 2013-2014 fiscal year. Mohnyin Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Kyaw Soe Lay, Amyotha Hluttaw representatives U Tin Aung and U Pe Thaung, the Executive Officer of Township Development Affairs Committee and Assistant Engineer U En Khan Aung inspected the progress of work. Junior Engineer U Myant Aung explained repaving of the road and plan for construction of 20 feet long, 13 feet wide and six feet high Aungchantha Concrete Bridge. The Township DAC spent K 17.5 million on 2000 feet long asphalt repaved road and K 1.6 million on 245 feet long Helon Village Road. Kyemon-K Htai Naw (Phakant)

**Environmental Conservation**

Migratory birds at Inlay Lake Wildlife Sanctuary

NYAUNGSHWE, 17 Dec—Inlay Lake, one of the ASEAN Heritage Parks, has been blessed with fresh water low-lying ecosystem and is home to various biodiversity. Various species of migratory birds arrive at the lake sanctuary together with domestic birds from November to March yearly. U Yan Naing Oo of Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture-Daw Shwe Sin and family donated the cost for construction of the bridge under the aegis of the Sayadaw. The bridge will be 40 feet long and 13 feet wide. It will have 18 feet high clearance. The facility is of reinforced concrete. It is estimated that the construction cost will be over K 50 million. Furthermore, Phyuwda Creek Bridge linking Chaungyary and Thabyethar Villages will be built at the same time. It will be 20 feet long and 13 feet wide RC facility. It will have 10 feet high clearance. The bridge will be built at a cost of K 15 million. Under the aegis of the Sayadaw, the local people of three villages maintained the inter-village earthen road. Both bridges will be built within one month for development of the local people. Aye Than

**Stake driven for rural bridge in Tatkong Tsp**

NAW PYI TAW, 17 Dec—A ceremony to drive stakes for construction of Nawin Creek Bridge was held at the construction site between Kyetthunkhin Village and Chaungyary Village in Tatkon Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 15 December morning. Weikza Hill missionary Sayadaw Ashin Nanasidhi of Kalaw in Shan State (South) drove stake and sprinkled scented water on it. Director-General U Yan Naing Oo of Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture-Daw Shwe Sin and family donated the cost for construction of the bridge under the aegis of the Sayadaw. The bridge will be 40 feet long and 13 feet wide. It will have 18 feet high clearance. The facility is of reinforced concrete. It is estimated that the construction cost will be over K 50 million. Furthermore, Phyuwda Creek Bridge linking Chaungyary and Thabyethar Villages will be built at the same time. It will be 20 feet long and 13 feet wide RC facility. It will have 10 feet high clearance. The bridge will be built at a cost of K 15 million. Under the aegis of the Sayadaw, the local people of three villages maintained the inter-village earthen road. Both bridges will be built within one month for development of the local people. Aye Than

**Underground fibre cable to be laid in Kachin State for better communication system**

MYIKYINA, 17 Dec—Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications has installed 1.6 million of cellular, CDMA-450 MHz, and WCDMA mobile phones in Kachin State in implementing the communication system as of 22 December 2004. Of them, installation of some mobile phones, fibre line and microwave links cannot be used conveniently due to the fact that the phone lines are being hired from fire potic cabenl and microwave links of Defence Services and that of E-1 line. So the phone users cannot enjoy smooth and convenient communications.

Thus, Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications extends its fibre networks, while Nexus Network Co Ltd extends its fibre networks, while Nexus Network Co Ltd is laying the underground fibre cable line along Shwebo-Mykyinya route. Kachin State Minister for Transport U Kaman Du Naw, together with Kachin State Manager U Aung Phyo Myat of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications, departmental officials and technicians of the company on 12 December morning inspected digging of the line for the fibre cables, digging of the routes for the cable at railroad and motor road with the use of machinery, laying of steel pipeline for the cable at bridges, construction of man holes indowntown and stockpiles of fibre and related equipment in Moguang where the cable route will be laid from Nantsiaung to Mykyinya. They attended the needed. The length of cable line will be 209 miles from Nantsiaung to Mykyinya. It will be the main network with regard to Kachin State communication facility. It is expected to complete construction tasks in the third week of March 2014. Upon completion, the local people will have easier access to communications and linkage of Internet in th state. Kyemon-Kayin State IPRD

**National Sports**

Mass walk activity of December continues for second week

MYIKYINA, 17 Dec—Kachin State mass walk activity of December was held for the second week on 14 December morning. Chief Justice U Tu Ja and wife of Kachin State High Court, Kachin State ministers and their wives, departmental officials, staff, teachers and students of basic education schools, trainees of Education College and Nursing Training School and local people totalling over 10,000 participated in the mass walk activity. They started walk from the Myoma clock tower and returned to People’s Sports Ground walking along Thakin Nge Pte, Aung Street, and Yongyi Streets. At the sports ground, they took physical exercises. Later, students of Education College Practising Middle School and trainees of Kachin State Myanmar martial arts training school demonstrated their skills on basic Myanmar martial arts.—Kyemon-Kachin State IPRD

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New Light of Myanmar
ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL
The Centre for Human Resource Development (Yangon University of Foreign Languages) will open evening courses on Chinese, English, French, (Translation and Interpretation), German, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Thai and Myanmar as a foreign language. Commencement date of course: 30-12-2013 Commencement date for submission of applications: 24-12-2013 Closing date for applications: 27-12-2013 (For English language the day on which the targeted number of applicants is reached)
Documents required:
1. Application
2. Certificate of Matriculation (or) Marks Certificate (in English)
3. Degree Certificate (Both Original and copy are required)
4. Student’s Affairs Section, YUFL Phone: 514372 (Ext-*809)

Application must be submitted in person.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (002)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV PANJA BHUM VOY No (002) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.12.2013 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 INTERASIA LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MALTE RAMBOY VOY NO (1354)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV MALTE RAMBOY VOY NO (1354) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC - TRANSPORT SPORE PTE LTD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

New York State attracts 8.8 mln more visitors in 2013
New York, 17 Dec — New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo released on Monday an end of the year progress report on the state’s tourism initiatives, which shows the number of visitors to New York will increase by 8.8 million this year, a 4.2-percent rise over 2012. By the end of the year, the total number of visitors is projected to be 218.8 million, said the report.

Since December 2012, Leisure & Hospitality employment is expected to add 24,800 jobs for a total of 818,700 jobs by the end of 2013, a 3.1 percent increase. In 2013, New York’s hotels will sell 43 million rooms with associated 8.3 billion dollars hotel room revenue. As of October 2013, hotel occupancy rate in the state is 73.7 percent, which is almost 10 percent higher than the national rate.

“This year my administration made it a priority to showcase the Empire State as the go-to destination for visitors from around the world,” Cuomo said. “These figures underscore the significant role the tourism industry plays in New York’s economy, and if we will continue our work to make sure that thrive.”

This year, Cuomo kicked off the state’s tourism efforts by hosting the Tourism Summit in Albany, where he announced 60 million dollars in tourism funding — the highest level of such funding in decades. The year 2013 also saw the launch of the Governor’s Path Through History campaign, an initiative that supports tourism and economic development by highlighting significant historic sites, locations and events throughout New York. To promote tourism industry, the New York State also launched several advertising and marketing campaigns which featured 6,400 ad posters in platforms, trains, subways and buses, video advertising at more than 100 subway entrances in New York City.—Xinhua

Netherlands not to send military troops to CAR
The Hague, 17 Dec — The Netherlands will not send military troops to the Central African Republic (CAR), the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs Frans Timmermans said prior to a meeting with his European Union colleagues in Brussels on Monday. The Netherlands might support the French peacekeeping mission in the CAR with transportation, “but there is nothing concrete yet,” he told reporters.

“We cannot send troops. That is too much for us to do right now,” he said. In the coming two years, the Netherlands will send around 400 military troops to the Mali. France is asking for more help from its European partners to bolster its peacekeeping mission in the Central African Republic. It has deployed 1,600 troops to the African country to prevent escalating bloodshed between Muslim and Christian rebels that left hundreds of people dead and forced thousands others to flee the capital.—Xinhua
Country music legend Ray Price dies at 87 — family spokesman

TEXAS, 17 Dec— Country singer Ray Price, a pioneer of Texas honky-tonk music who later applied his rich baritone to lushly arranged ballads for pop crossovers, died on Monday at his home in Mount Pleasant, Texas, at the age of 87, a family spokesman and a funeral home said.

The announcement of Price’s death came a day after a family member erroneously announced the singer, who had long fought pancreatic cancer, had died.

Price’s career spanned seven decades, during which he helped launch those of Willie Nelson, Roger Miller, Johnny Bush, Hank Cochran and Johnny Paycheck, who were members of his Cherokee Cowboys band and wrote songs for him that became classics.

Price’s own career was given a boost by the legendary Hank Williams, who helped get him on the Grand Ole Opry. After Williams’ death, Price was his heir apparent to the raw, pared-down, honky-tonk sound.

In the 1950s, Price developed a style that broke country tradition by using drums to back a fairly slow but driving 4/4 bass-line that became known as the “Ray Price Beat.”

That beat fuelled his ground-breaking “Crazy Arms,” which was No 1 for 20 weeks and on the country charts for 45, and other hits that made him a major star and helped country music survive the rockabilly onslaught led by Elvis Presley.

In the 1960s, Price started experimenting with other styles, making a major break from traditional country with his lushly produced 1967 version of “Danny Boy” that showcased his huge voice and emotional range, and tapped into the pop market. With its full orchestration and slick production, the style that came to be known as “countrypolitan” alienated Price’s hard-core country fans even as it contributed to other tuxedo-clad crooners with a rural twang.

But his melancholy 1970 version of Kris Kristofferson’s “For the Good Times” managed to bridge the gulf and it topped the country charts while reaching No. 11 on the pop charts.

Price’s later career saw him navigating among various musical styles, although not with the consistent commercial success he reached in the 1950s and early 1960s. In 2007 he recorded an album with Nelson and Merle Haggard and was still performing in 2013.—Reuters

No Indiana Jones sequel in the pipeline for at least two years

LONDON, 17 Dec — Disney Studios chairman Alan Horn has said that Indiana Jones will not receive a new installment for at least another two or three years.

Horn said the studio is yet to finalise plans for what the fifth installment in the Lucasfilm franchise will be about, reported Digital Spy. “We haven’t done anything, we don’t have a story, we need a story,” Horn said.

He added that it did not make sense for Disney to move ahead on the project until it had finalised its purchase of the marketing and distribution rights to the franchise from Paramount Pictures. That deal was completed earlier in December.

Horn also revealed that the script for Star Wars Harrison Ford as George Lucas in Indiana Jones: Raiders Of The Lost Ark.

Episode VII is yet to be delivered and is expected in January. He added that the Star Wars franchise, which Disney acquired alongside Indiana Jones in its 2012 Lucasfilm purchase, is planned to release a new film every year.

The Indiana Jones franchise returned in 2008 with Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull after a 19-year hiatus.
Nadal and Williams raise the bar sky high

LONDON, 17 Dec — A year in which a British man won Wimbledon, Roger Federer’s star began to fade and doping reared its ugly head was defined by the dominance of two players — Rafa Nadal and Serena Williams.

Between them they won half of the grand slam singles titles on offer, triumphed at 21 tournaments in total, collected more than 150 match wins and $25 million in prize money. Not bad considering both have battled back from potentially career-ending injuries.

Written off by some when his knee problems returned with a vengeance in June 2012, Nadal launched a comeback in Chile in February that was nothing short of extraordinary. Playing like a man on mission Nadal won 10 titles, including the French Open and US Open, and reclaimed the world No 1 ranking for the first time in more than two years.

The Mallorcan was expected to dominate again on clay, which he did, culminating in an eighth Roland Garros title when he beat countryman David Ferrer. But he reached new heights on the hard courts that had proved his Achilles heel.

After beating arch-rival Novak Djokovic on his way to the Rogers Cup in Toronto, Nadal claimed the Cincinnati crown before taking New York by storm, winning the US Open for the second time with victory over Djokovic.

The only blip in a season of 75 match wins and 14 finals from 17 tournaments was at a wildly unpredictable Wimbledon where he lost in round one to Belgium’s Steve Darcis.

Nadal’s defeat came in a first week that included Wipeout Wednesday, when seven-times champion Federer was spanked by 116th-ranked UkrainianWARNING: A web page contains an account of a sexual assault. Read with caution.

Deulofeu to miss a few weeks, says Everton

LONDON, 17 Dec — Everton striker Gerard Deulofeu will miss the Premier League high flyers’ festive fixture after being ruled out for several weeks with a hamstring injury, the Merseysiders said.

Deulofeu was making just his second start of the campaign against Fulham after being rewarded for a brilliant equalising goal off the bench in the 1-1 draw at Arsenal the previous week, his second strike of the campaign.

“And he is not expected to play a first team game again until the new year,” Everton said in a statement on Sunday, resulting in the sack for Villas-Boas with his expensively-assembled Tour (at the BMW Championship) and Swede Henrik Stenson ended a brilliant year as the first man to land both the European Tour’s Race To Dubai title and FedExCup playoff honours in the United States.

World number one Woods failed to add to his major tally of 14, despite being in the mix at both the Masters and British Open, but he triumphed a season-high five times on the PGA Tour before being voted Player of the Year for a record 11th time.

Rory McIlroy, his heir apparent as the game’s leading player, ended a turbulent 2013 campaign on and off the course with victory at the Australian Open, and will now aim to build on that as he attempts to regain his brilliant 2012 form.

Scott, Tiger and company serve up tasty 2013

LOS ANGELES, 17 Dec — Like an enticing chocolate box offering an exquisite array of pralines, trifles, fudge and liqueurs, global golf gave its fans just about everything they might have wanted during a riveting and unpredictable 2013.

The quality and variety of golfing ‘confectionary’ was exceptional and, with Tiger Woods’s remarkable dominance in the late 1990s and early 2000s now a fading memory, confirmed that the sport’s strength in depth has never been better.

At Scott, Woods-good time, says Redknapp

LONDON, 17 Dec — Andre Villas-Boas deserved more time to work with and develop the Tottenham Hotspur squad, Harry Redknapp said on the day his successor was fired as manager.

Three heavy defeats in two months, the most recent a 5-0 mauling by Liverpool at White Hart Lane on Sunday, resulted in the sack for Villas-Boas with his expensively-assembled team lying a disappointing seventh in the Premier League table.

Spurs were also thrashed 6-0 at Manchester City three weeks ago and suffered the embarrassment of a 3-0 home defeat by struggling West Ham United in October but Redknapp felt it was too early to fess up to his country’s first league title when both have battled back from the dominance in the late 1990s and early 2000s now a fading memory, confirmed that the sport’s strength in depth has never been better.

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LONDON, 17 Dec — Andre Villas-Boas deserved more time to work with and develop the Tottenham Hotspur squad, Harry Redknapp said on the day his successor was fired as manager.

Three heavy defeats in two months, the most recent a 5-0 mauling by Liverpool at White Hart Lane on Sunday, resulted in the sack for Villas-Boas with his expensively-assembled team lying a disappointing seventh in the Premier League table.

Spurs were also thrashed 6-0 at Manchester City three weeks ago and suffered the embarrassment of a 3-0 home defeat by struggling West Ham United in October but Redknapp felt it was too early to fess up to his country’s first league title when both have battled back from the dominance in the late 1990s and early 2000s now a fading memory, confirmed that the sport’s strength in depth has never been better.
Two convicts in Delhi gangrape case claim police complaint illegal

NEW DELHI, 17 Dec—

In a new twist to a 23-year-old medical student’s gangrape case in the Indian capital exactly a year back, two of the four convicts on death row Monday claimed before the Delhi High Court that the police complaint against them was illegal as it was lodged on the basis of a story cooked up by the victim’s boyfriend instead of by herself.

The medical student was brutally and fatally gangraped by six men on a moving bus in the national capital on 16 Dec last year. Four of the accused were convicted by a fast-track court and given death penalty while the main accused committed suicide in his prison cell during the trial and the sixth accused, being a juvenile at the time of the incident, was sent to three years in a reforms facility.

One year on, two of the death row convicts — Mukesh and Pawan Kumar Gupta — alleged at the Delhi High Court, through their defence lawyer ML Sharma, that the police booked them on the basis of the “false statement” by the victim’s boyfriend who had been accompanying her at the time of the incident. They claimed that girl did not give any statement on deathbed as claimed by the prosecution.

The High Court is currently hearing the confirmation of death sentence to the four as per the Indian Constitution, though the convicts can subsequently appeal against the order before the Supreme Court and finally file a mercy petition before Indian President Pranab Mukherjee.

Meanwhile, women’s groups and citizens Monday morning held vigils in the Indian capital in memory of the victim nicknamed Nirbhaya (fearless) by the media.

Israel allows more truckloads of goods into Gaza

GAZA, 16 Dec —

Israel doubled working hours on its lone commercial crossing point with the Gaza Strip to 12, a Palestinian official said on Monday.

Nazmi Mhana, a Palestinian economist, said Israel agreed to a request by the West Bank-based Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to increase the hours of Kerem Shalom crossing in southeast Gaza.

He said this extension aims to allow more truckloads of goods and fuel to enter Gaza on a daily basis.

Last month, Israel allowed 4,350 truckloads into Gaza. The figure constitutes only 25 percent of the number of truckloads that were entering before Israel imposed a blockade on the coastal enclave in 2007, according to a report from the Palestinian ministry of economy.

The blockade was meant to isolate Hamas, the Islamic movement that has been controlling Gaza for more than six years.

Israel’s approval came following an indirect agreement between Hamas and the PNA to ship fuel to Gaza’s only power plant.

Qatar intervened and paid for the industrial diesel, ending a bitter round of finger-pointing between the Palestinian rivals. Hamas said that it can’t afford to buy Israeli fuel due to the high tax the PNA imposes.

Roma slip five behind Juve after 2-2 draw at Milan

ROME, 17 Dec — Sulley Muntari salvaged a point for AC Milan with a second-half equaliser in a 2-2 draw at the San Siro on Monday that saw visiting Roma slip five points behind Serie A leaders Juventus.

The return of Francesco Totti after two months out was not enough for Rudi Garcia’s still unbeaten Roma, who are on 38 points and three clear of third-placed Napoli.

Massimiliano Allegri’s Milan are 10th on 19 points.

Roma twice allowed Milan to hit the counter-attack and come back from a goal down, only to settle for good in the 77th minute after taking Mario Balotelli’s pass and firing home at the near post.

Mattia Destro had put Roma 1-0 up with his second goal in as many games in the 13th minute.

Cristian Zapata then equalised against the run of play in the 29th when he met Muntari’s flick on from a corner with a clumsy header onto his knee and past Morgan De Sanctis.

Kevin Strootman restored Roma’s advantage from the penalty spot five minutes after the break when Gervinho was floored by Milan goalkeeper Ga- briel.

“Usually when you have lots of goalscoring opportunities you win, but it’s a point at Milan, it’s not a bad thing,” Garcia told reporters.

“But when you go in front twice you need to be better in defence. We made some mistakes but I’m happy with how we played, we looked good out there.”

“We know that the only (Italian) team that qualified from the Champions League group stage was Milan and you don’t do that with a bad team, you do it with a good team.”

While Roma dropped precious points, they will be looking to the clash at Juventus right after the mid-season break on 5 January (1945 GMT) to apply pressure on their title rivals, providing Atalanta do not spring any surprises next weekend.

The goal was tapped in the opener when delightful play from Adem Lajjic and Strootman saw the Dutch midfielder slide an unmissable chance to the attacker.

With Roma looking to kill off the match in the second half, and Totti coming on for Destro, Milan hit back and could even have snatched the victory had Balotelli not dithered and dragged a weak shot wide in added-time while in a promising position.
Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham felicitates Heir Apparent of State of Qatar

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Heir Apparent of the State of Qatar, on the occasion of the anniversary of the National Day of the State of Qatar, which falls on 18 December 2013.—MNA

Myanmar welcomes participants to Kempo competition of 2013 SEA Games

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—U Winna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr Khalid bin Mohammed Al-Attiyah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, on the occasion of the anniversary of the National Day of the State of Qatar, which falls on 18 December 2013.—MNA

Union FM felicitates Qatari counterpart

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Myanmar Kempo team poses for celebrating photo as they secure gold medal in Men’s Team Embu at Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium-1.—MNA

Medal Tally

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