Myanmar, China to cooperate in Kyaukpyu deep sea port project

By Ye Myint

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 Dec—President U Thein Sein held talks with China’s Vice President Mr. Li Yuanchao on Tuesday.

They exchanged views on the China-Myanmar comprehensive strategic relationship, cooperation in the communications sector and the Kyaukpyu deep sea port project, equitable exchange of assistance, effective implementation of mutual agreements, enhanced investment in agriculture and other sectors, infrastructure development, people-to-people exchanges, cooperation in restoring peace and stability in the border area, and exchanges of visits of leaders of the two countries.

Also present at the call were Union Ministers U Winna Maung Lwin, U Kyaw Hsan, U Ohn Myint, U Zeyar Aung, U Win Myint, U Aye Myint Kyu, Dr Kan Zaw and U Than Htay. The Chinese vice president was accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yang Houlan.

Myanmar looks to full coverage of birth registration, comprehensive civil registration system

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

Yangon, 16 Dec—Despite there being techniques to produce cosmetic products with a reduced amount of chemicals, some rural-based social organizations making them to raise funds for their activities are unable to achieve commercial-scale production as they find it difficult to get a key chemical ingredient, sources reported on Tuesday.

The spokeswoman of one such organization, Kyi Kyi Sein of the Aung Foundation, said the chemical ingredient is available only in Yangon and Mandalay where producers in rural areas have to go and buy it at a high price. All producers are unanimous in saying there should be local raw material suppliers.

As part of its social activities, the Aung Foundation has been sharing its methods of manufacturing low-chemical or chemical-free cosmetic products with local organizations from all four corners of the country.

So far, the foundation has trained about 10,000 people throughout the country. The main aim of

President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Bhutan

Nay Pyi Taw, 17 Dec—On the occasion of the National Day of Bhutan, which falls on 17 December 2014, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, King of Bhutan and His Excellency Mr. Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

Participation in 50 MW gas-fired generation project in Myanmar

Yangon, 16 Dec—Mitsui has acquired a 44 percent stake in Myanmar Power Pte Ltd (MPPL), Mitsui & Co., Ltd, MAXpower Asia Group Pte Ltd (MAGPL) and Myanmar Power Pte Ltd (MPPL) have signed a share subscription agreement on mutually agreed upon terms between Mitsui and MAXpower Pte Ltd (MGPL), and the partner company of MPPL and MAGPL.

MGPL focuses on the delivery of distributed power throughout Indonesia and Myanmar. MPPL’s approximate project costs to date are valued at about US$35 million.

MPPL operates, through its subsidiary MAXpower (Thakayta) Co., Ltd, a co-founded and co-developed power plant consisting of 16 General Electric Jenbacher gas engine generator units with capacity totaling 50 MW in Myanmar and sells electricity to Myanmar Electric Power Enterprises (MEPE) under a power purchase agreement with a 30-year term (the Project).

The Project commenced commercial operations in August 2013, and it contributes to the existing national power grid by providing a stable power supply by way of state-of-the-art and highly efficient engines running on environmentally-friendly natural gas. It is supporting the expected further growth of electricity demand in Myanmar, where electricity shortages have hampered economic growth and development.

MGPL, through its Navigat Energy business unit, sells and distributes

Thakayta power plant. (Provided)
Democratic reform needs cooperation of people:
Thura U Shwe Mann

Myanmar, Australia agree to strengthen intergovernmental and military ties

Myanmar looks to full coverage...

(from page 1)

In his speech, Deputy Minister for MOIP U Win Myint highlighted the importance of raising public awareness about birth registration, stressing the need to register all children at birth and calling for mass participation in the process.

The deputy minister underlined the appointment of civil registrars, suggesting that a certain ministry should act as a focal ministry to ensure an effective and efficient civil registration system. Acknowledging the strong coordination of agencies involved in the country’s first birth registration weeks launched in Chin and Mon States and Magway Region in October, Cristina Roccella, UNICEF’s chief of social policy and child rights monitoring, also recommended the appointment of a Civil Registrar General and the legislation on birth and civil registration.

With the launch of birth registration week from 20 to 24 October this year, a total of 123,636 under-5 children in the three pilot areas in the country got registered. According to data, 69,527 in Magway, 27,188 in Chin and 26,921 in Mon received birth certificates enabling them to enjoy civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and have access to basic social services.

The exceptional result came from collaborative efforts of departments concerned, including the Ministry of Health, Immigration and Naturalisation Department, Central Statistical Organization and General Administration Department under the programme that UNICEF promoted, thanks to EU funding. UNICEF pledges to continue working with the government to ensure full coverage with birth certification of all the children born in Myanmar.

According to the UNICEF, it received a total budget of less than US$1 million for two years from the EU for birth registration in Myanmar. —GNLM

Local producers need raw material brokers to fully manufacture low-chemical...

Known writer. Since then, she has offered free-of-charge courses for social enterprises and interested individuals so as to encourage people to use chemical-free products.

Currently, the foundation is conducting capacity-building courses for youth, especially those from rural areas, at its office in Yangon. The courses mainly focus on current affairs and environmental conservation, the sources said.

Chemical-reduced products manufactured by Aung Foundation are being displayed at the fair at River Ayeyawady Gallery in Yangon from 13 to 19 December.

A woman waits for her turn to apply for a birth certificate for her baby at a hospital in Magway. Myanmar launched first birth registration week in October with the aim of enabling unregistered children in three pilot areas to have access to basic social services.

Photo: Khaing Thanda Lynn
Myanmar strives for accountable governance of ASEAN Community and anti-corruption in ASEAN region

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec — A meeting took place at Thingaha Hotel here on Tuesday to discuss an ASEAN framework for collaboration on accountable governance and anti-corruption, with an address by Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

Myanmar, as a rotating chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, is taking initiatives to establish a framework covering responsible management of the ASEAN Community and anti-corruption in the ASEAN region, with the vice president calling for governmental departments and civil society organizations to take into consideration cultural differences and political backgrounds in developing the framework.

He went on to say that challenges are likely to arise in establishing a single economic community, pointing out the need to draw lessons from the world’s economic infrastructure and find ways to overcome challenges posed by corruption as well as new opportunities and technologies.

Developing countries in the ASEAN region like Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, are prone to challenges, according to the vice president.

The goals of the ASEAN Economic Community are hard to realize in the absence of the structure and practices of good governance, he warned.

Myanmar enacted an anticorruption law in 2013, with a commission formed in line with the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, he said.

Despite the government’s attempts to combat corruption as part of its movement for the realization of “good governance and clean government,” Myanmar still finds itself on the list of most corrupt countries published in the Corruption Perceptions Index by Transparency International, he said.

Myanmar is the 45th member to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and the third country from the ASEAN region after Indonesia and the Philippines.

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham stressed that the government and private organizations are working together to ensure “business integrity” as a common goal.

The meeting is scheduled to continue on 16 and 17 December.

MNA

Vice President U Nyan Tun holds talks with Chinese counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec — Myanmar Vice President U Nyan Tun and China’s Vice President Mr Li Yuanchao attended the Myanmar-China meeting at Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

They discussed promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and China, holding the grand ceremonies to mark the 65th Anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 2015, promotion of cultural exchange between the two peoples, raising relations and cooperation between China and ASEAN countries and close cooperation with Myanmar.

Also present at the meeting were deputy ministers U Kyaw Kyaw Win, Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin, U Win Myint, U Than Swe, U Chan Maung and Dr Sai Kyaw Ohn. The Chinese Vice President was accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Yang Houlan.

In the evening, Vice President U Nyan Tun hosted a dinner to the Chinese Vice President and party and delegates from ASEAN countries at MICC-2.

MNA

Union FM sends message of felicitations to Bhutan’s counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec — On the occasion of the National Day of Bhutan, which falls on 17 December 2014, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Rinzing Dorji, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

MNA
Ethnic youths attend vocational courses in Dawei

Victorious athletes from SPEIs win medals, cash awards

People get vaccinated against elephantiasis disease
Shadaw Township to get new bridge across Pun Creek

Shadaw, 16 Dec — A new bridge across Pun Creek is under construction on Loikaw-Punchaung-Shadaw road in Kayah State as of October 2014.

Under the directives of Kayah State’s chief minister U Khin Maung Oo, state superintendent engineer U Khin Maung Phyu of Public Works is supervising construction of the reinforced concrete bridge. The bridge will be 200 feet long and 24 feet wide, flanked by three-foot pedestrian ways on either side. It will be strong enough to support 60-ton loads, an official of construction group told media.

Construction of the bridge will cost an estimated K620 million.

Union government, region government allot funds for prevention of landslides

Mandalay, 16 Dec — The Union government will spend over K1.7 billion from the fire and natural disaster prevention fund to prevent landslides in villages along both banks of Ayeyawady River in Mandalay Region in 2014-15 fiscal year.

Mandalay Region government also plans to spend over K677 million from its additional budget, according to the Department of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems.

The fund will be spent on construction of retaining walls, dredging of sandbanks and construction of steel baskets at 22 villages where landslides occur frequently, said an official.

People enjoy artistic works at Mandalay Hill Art Gallery

Mandalay, 16 Dec — A winter commemorative art show took place at Mandalay Hill Art Gallery at the foot of Mandalay Hill on 15 December.

Eleven artists led by veteran artist U Khin Maung San displayed 115 paintings at the gallery.

Artist Ko Kyaw Thihwa said as Mandalay is a cultural city, artists should depict its artistic works.

He said, “All my colleagues whose artworks are displayed in the gallery agreed to hold the art show. Responsible persons of the gallery will negotiate with artists and enthusiasts for sales of paintings ranging from K15,000 to K300,000.”

Enthusiasts viewed round the artworks reflecting significant images of Mandalay.

Eleven paintings of artists were awarded to the lucky draw winners to mark the opening ceremony. The art show is open from 15 to 21 December.

Nanmyo Youth to play against SPEI (Mandalay) in final

Mandalay, 16 Dec — Nanmyo Youth team and Thamudaya Maung team met in the second semifinal of the Yadanabon FC Chair-

man’s Cup men’s open football tournament 2014 at Bahtoo Stadium in Mandalay on 15 December.

Nanmyo Youth team cruised into the final with a 1-0 win over Thamudaya Maung team.

SPEI (Mandalay) also beat Naing Say Thaw team 1-0 in the first semifinal match on 14 December.

On 17 December, Nanmyo Youth will play against SPEI (Mandalay) in the final match.

Sports Ministry donates three air-conditioners to Dagon University

Yangon, 16 Dec — Officials of the Sports Ministry on 15 December donated three air-conditioners to Dagon University, which is conducting a Bachelor of Science (Sports) course during the 2013-14 academic year.

Second-year students are attending the course as of 2 December 2014.

The air-conditioners will be installed at the computer room where students majoring in sports are pursuing computer science.

The donation ceremony was attended by Rector Dr Hla Huy, faculty members, Principal of Sports and Physical Education Institute (Yangon) U Soe Aung and officials.

Myanmar, Thai businessmen discuss economic opportunities in Myanmar

Mandalay, 16 Dec — Members of the Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry held a meeting with entrepreneurs from Thailand’s northern province of Mai Hong Song at the Mandalay Hill Resort in Aungmyethazan Township on 14 December.

Mandalay Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Aung Zan spoke about economic opportunities in the region and prospects of mutual economic cooperation for Thai entrepreneurs. Chairman of Mandalay Region CCI U Aung Than extended greetings.

Economic Department Director Mr Nanrun Su- arom of Mai Hong Song Province introduced Thai entrepreneurs to Myanmar businessmen and discussed economic cooperation.

The discussions focused on trading of food-stuffs, personal goods, textiles, stationery, medicine, construction materials, electronic equipment, marine products, agricultural machinery and crops.

Footballers of Thamudaya Maung and Nanmyo teams controlling football in semifinal.
Gov’t, business heads, labour unions agree on efforts for wage hike

TORONTO, 16 Dec — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s government on Tuesday crafted a joint statement with leaders of business organizations and labour unions, aiming to bolster the economy through wage growth.

At the trilateral meeting, Abe also urged large manufacturers, which have benefited from the yen’s slide, to trade with their subcontracting companies at higher prices than before to allow the effects of his “Abenomics” policy mix to ripple through smaller firms and local economies.

Sadayuki Sakakibara, chairman of leading business lobby the Japan Business Federation, or Keidanren, told reporters after the meeting, “We told them we will make utmost efforts to raise wages, including bonuses and allowances.”

But it is uncertain whether other business leaders will act as requested by Abe, given that the economy shrank for a second straight quarter through September in the wake of the 1 April consumption tax hike, darkening the near-term economic outlook.

Japan’s largest labour union has decided to seek a 2 percent or greater basic pay raise in annual wage talks starting early next year, a higher goal than set for this year.

Fears, however, are growing that weak private spending following the 3-percent-point tax hike to 8 percent, as well as the yen’s depreciation that has increased import costs, have weighed on earnings, particularly at small firms, and made pay hikes a difficult option.

Amid speculation that the interest rate gap between Japan and the United States will broaden, the US dollar has soared to a more than seven year high against the yen.

A falling yen usually supports exports by making Japanese products cheaper abroad and boosts the value of overseas revenues in yen terms, but it drags down the domestic economy by pushing up import prices as Japan depends on imports for more than 90 percent of its energy needs and 60 percent of its food supply.

Last year, the government, business leaders and labour unions compiled a joint statement that prompted many companies to raise pay scales to conclude this year’s spring wage negotiations.

This year, the three shared the view that a virtuous cycle where a recovery in corporate profits would lead to wage growth and consumption expansion is necessary to defeat nearly two decades of deflation.

In the latest joint statement, the government also called on the corporate sector to improve working conditions for non-regular employees and take measures to help empower women in society.

Kyodo News

126 students killed in attack on army school in Pakistan: official media

ISLAMABAD, 16 Dec — Gunmen and suicide bombers linked to Pakistani Taliban militants stormed an army school in northwestern Pakistan on Tuesday, killing more than 100 students and leaving dozens more injured, official media said.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Pervez Khattak was quoted by official Pakistan Television and other media channels as saying that the number of students killed has risen to 126.

The attack occurred at the Army Public School and Intermediate College in Peshawar, a comprehensive education facility from primary school to college.

Umair Kharasani, a spokesman for the militant group Tehreek Taliban Pakistan, claimed responsibility for the attack in telephone calls to local media.

Militants wearing uniforms of paramilitary personnel stormed the school as students were receiving instructions on medical aid in the school hall, a student who was injured in the attack told GEO TV.

Khattak said eight to 10 militants took part in the attack, adding that two attackers were killed and one attacker wearing a suicide-bomb jacket blew himself up.

According to media reports, the suicide bomber killed himself together with the hostages he had taken.

An army spokesman said four attackers were killed. According to GEO TV, the attackers chose students who fled into classrooms.

“We heard firing from different classrooms,” one student told the TV station.

Three huge explosions were reportedly heard inside the school.

Shahram Khan Taraiki, health minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, earlier told reporters that a woman teacher and a security guard were also killed in the attack.

The bodies of the victims were taken to Lady Reading Hospital and a military hospital in Peshawar.

A spokesman for Lady Reading Hospital in Peshawar said children who managed to escape told hospital staff that they had seen “bodies still lying inside the school premises.”

Later in the day, authorities at the military hospital began handing over the bodies of the students to their parents who had thronged the hospital.

A television reporter at the military hospital said the names of the students killed were called out on a loudspeaker for their parents to take possession of the bodies.

The provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has announced three days of official mourning. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif will travel to Peshawar to personally supervise the military operation.

Army Chief Gen Raheel Sharif was flying to Peshawar to take stock of the situation. Defence Ministry spokesman Maj Gen Asim Bajwa said.

Kyodo News

Cambodia ready to join int’l fight against terrorism

PHnom PenH, 16 Dec — Prime Minister Hun Sen said on Tuesday Cambodians stand ready to join the global fight against terrorism.

The premier issued the statement after Australian police killed a gunman who seized hostages at a cafe in Sydney and a rescue operation that also left two hostages dead.

“We join force with our friendly countries in fighting against terrorism,” Hun Sen said.

He condemned the hostage-taking in Sydney.

Kyodo News

India condemns terrorist attack upon school children in Pakistan

NEW DELHI, 16 Dec — India on Tuesday condemned the terrorist attack on innocent school children in Peshawar, in which at least 126 were killed, mostly children.

“We condemn horrific attack on innocent school children in Peshawar,” Syed Akbaruddin, spokesperson of External Affairs Ministry said in a tweet.

Pakistan Taliban terrorists attacked an army-run school in Peshawar on Tuesday, inflicting heavy casualties on the school children and teachers there, said media reports.

A soldier escorts schoolchildren after they were rescued from the Army Public School that is under attack by Taliban gunmen in Peshawar, on 16 Dec, 2014. — REUTERS

JAkarta, 16 Dec — At least 110 foreigners identified as Islamic State militants have been detected in an Indonesian province since 1998 and 2001. Tedjo also confirmed that hundreds of Indonesians, inspired by Islamic State to fight in violence-torn Syria and Iraq, have or are intend to join the extremist group. He did not reveal an exact figure, however. The minister said that intelligence reports revealed that Islamic State is well developed in Poso, adding that President Joko “Jokowi” Widodo quickly acted on the reports by ordering related institutions to take necessary measures to prevent the group from continuing to grow and disturbing the country’s security.

In September, Indonesia’s counterterrorism police unit Detachment 88 arrested four foreign militia suspects, with suspected Islamic State ties while they were on their way to Poso to allegedly join the Mujahidin Indonesia Timor group led by Santoso, who has been linked in the past to Jemaah Islamiyah, a militant group regarded as the Southeast Asia wing of the al-Qaeda terror group.

Kyodo News

Global New Light of Myanmar

Regional
Police storm Sydney cafe to end hostage siege, three dead

SYDNEY, 16 Dec — Heavily armed Australian police stormed a Sydney cafe early on Tuesday morning and freed terrified hostages held there at gunpoint, in a dramatic end to a 16-hour siege in which two captives and the attacker were killed.

Authorities have not publicly identified the gunman, but a police source named him as Man Haron Monis, an Iranian refugee and self-styled sheikh known for sending hate mail to the families of Australian troops killed in Afghanistan. He was charged last year with being an accessory to the murder of his ex-wife but had been free on bail.

During the siege, several videos were posted on social media apparently showing hostages inside the Lindt cafe in Sydney’s central business district making demands on behalf of Monis.

The gunman, whom hostages referred to as “brother”, demanded to talk on behalf of Monis.

The gunman, whom police said was well known to authorities and had a history of extremism and mental instability, said several more hostages would die if they didn’t enter there.

Police are investigating whether the two hostages were killed by the gunman or died in the crossfire, said Andrew Scipione, police commissioner for the state of New South Wales.

With Australia on edge after the siege, police said the Department of Foreign Affairs building in the capital, Canberra, had been evacuated on Tuesday after a suspicious package was found in the canteen.

Few other details were available, and there was no immediate indication of any possible link with events in Sydney.

Around 2 am local time (10:00 am EST on Monday), at least six people believed to have been held captive in the Sydney cafe managed to flee after gunshots were heard coming from inside.

Police then moved in, with heavy gunfire and blasts from stun grenades echoing from the building.

“They made the call because they believed that at that time they didn’t enter there would have been many more lives lost.” Scipione told reporters just before dawn.

Police said a 50-year-old man, believed to be the attacker, was killed. Television pictures showed he appeared to have been armed with a saw-off shotgun.

A man aged 34 and a 38-year-old woman were also killed, police said. The man was the cafe manager, and the woman was a mother and lawyer, Sydney media reported.

At least four were wounded, including a police officer hit in the face with shotgun pellets. Among the wounded was a 75-year-old woman who was shot in the shoulder, police said. Two other pregnant women who were among the hostages were taken to hospital for assessment. All were in stable condition.

Medics tried to resuscitate at least one person after the raid, a雨a witness said. Bomb squad members moved in to search for explosives, but none were found. So far 17 hostages have been accounted for, including at least five who were released or escaped on Monday.

The area around the cafe remained cordoned off with police tape on Tuesday morning.

Office workers stood in long queues outside florist shops, as hundreds of bouquet makers fashioned a makeshift shrine near the cafe, while flags flew at half mast across the country.

PM Abbott and his wife also laid wreaths at the site.

A memorial service, attended by community leaders including Governor-General Peter Cosgrove, was held at St Mary’s Cathedral on Tuesday, barely a block from where the siege unfolded.

Leaders from around the world had expressed their concern over the siege, including Stephen Harper, the prime minister of Canada, which suffered an attack on its parliament by a suspected jihadist sympathizer in October.

Monis was found guilty in 2012 of sending threatening letters to the families of eight Australian soldiers killed in Afghanistan as a protest against Australia’s involvement there. He was also facing more than 40 sexual assault charges.

“He had a long history of violent crime, infatuation with extremism and mental instability,” Abbott told reporters in Canberra. The prime minister did not identify the gunman.

New South Wales Premier Mike Baird declined to comment when asked by a journalist whether it was appropriate for Monis to be free on bail.

A US security official said the US government was being advised by Australia that there was no sign at this stage that the gunman was connected to known terrorist organizations.

Although the gunman was also gathering steam.

Zurich airport re-opens after being partly shut by unspecified threat

ZURICH, 16 Dec — Zurich airport has re-opened after it was partly closed for several hours on Monday evening because of an unspecified threat, authorities said.

The airport shut Check-in 1 and 2 as well as Arrivals 2 and passengers were re-directed to Check-in 3, Zurich’s cantonal police said in a statement. Around a dozen flights were delayed by up to 30 minutes.

The closed-off areas were re-opened shortly before 1:00 am (0000 GMT) after police had determined no dangerous objects were in the area, police said.

Several local media outlets reported authorities had received an anonymous tip about a bomb.

“We are entering a new phase of terrorism that is far more dangerous and more difficult to defeat than al-Qaeda ever was,” said Cornell University law professor Jens David Ohlin, speaking in New York.

Australia, a staunch ally of the United States and its escalating action against Islamic State in Syria and Iraq, has been on high alert for attacks by home-grown militants returning from fighting in the Middle East or their supporters.

News footage showed hostages in the cafe holding up a black and white banner displaying the Shahada, a declaration of faith in Islam. The banner has been popular among Sunni Islamist militant groups such as Islamic State and al-Qaeda.

In September, anti-terrorism police said they had thwarted an imminent threat to behead a random member of the public and, days later, a teenager in the city of Melbourne was shot dead after attacking two anti-terrorism officers with a knife.

The siege cafe is in Martin Place, a pedestrian strip that was revealed as a potential location for the thwarted beheading.

Indian court dismisses marine’s plea to extend stay in Italy

NEW DELHI, 16 Dec — India’s top court on Tuesday dismissed a plea by an Italian marine facing murder charges to stay in his home country for four more months to undergo medical treatment.

Massimiliano Latorre, who suffered a stroke in August, is one of two Italian marines accused over the 2012 shooting of two fishermen mistakenly believed to be pirates, in a case that has soured ties between New Delhi and Rome.

The Supreme Court had allowed Latorre, 47, to return to Italy in September for four months of medical treatment. He sought to double that extension in his latest plea to undergo treatment that includes heart bypass surgery.

“The plea of the accused is dismissed,” Chief Justice of India HL Dattu said.

He also dismissed a separate plea by the second Italian marine accused in the case, Salvatore Girone, to return to Italy for Christmas.

Following international pressure, India dropped a plan to prosecute the marines under a tough new anti- piracy law. Italy says the incident occurred in international waters and that jurisdiction over the marines should lie with Rome.

In April 2012, Rome paid $190,000 to each of the victims’ families as compensation. In return, the families dropped their cases against the marines, but the state’s case has yet to come to trial.—Reuters

Indian sailors Salvatore Girone (R) and Massimiliano Latorre leave the police commissioner office in the southern Indian city of Kochi on 18 Jan, 2013.

ZURICH, 16 Dec — Zurich airport has re-opened after it was partly closed for several hours on Monday evening because of an unspecified threat, authorities said.

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The closed-off areas were re-opened shortly before 1:00 am (0000 GMT) after police had determined no dangerous objects were in the area, police said.

A US security official said the US government was being advised by Australia that there was no sign at this stage that the gunman was connected to known terrorist organizations.

Although the hostage taker was known to the authorities, security experts said preventing attacks by people acting alone was difficult.

“I’m worried in particular about the risk of lone attackers,” US Attorney General Eric Holder said Wednesday.

A police officer stands next to stairs at the closed-off areas at Zurich airport on 15 Dec, 2014.—Reuters

Several local media outlets reported authorities had received an anonymous tip about a bomb.

The police did not give details about the threat and said its investigation was ongoing.—Reuters
Preventing violence against women and children  
By Aung Khin

Home is supposed to be a sanctuary. Sometimes, however, it is the most dangerous place of all. In many societies of various countries, women are assaulted by their spouse or partner, while children are cruelly treated by their parents.

Kids depend on their parents for their whole childhood. Likewise, women in many families are dependent on their spouses or partners as breadwinners, so that they find it hard to leave their relationships despite being victims of abuse.

Domestic violence, which can explode anywhere, anytime and within any economic class, is not only a social menace, but also a costly public health problem. Preventing such violence and healing the wounds of its victims requires workable and practical preventive measures and polices.

Violence against women and children can take the form of threats, verbal abuse, battering, rape, and murder. Child abuse and domestic violence are closely related. Researchers have found that men who batter their wives or partners also frequently abuse their own children or stepchildren. These battered women often cannot protect their children from such mistreatment.

Many women who are the victims of domestic violence live in fear of pain or even death, which makes them feel isolated and lowers their self-esteem. As a result, they tend to blame themselves for being abused. They may suffer depression and anxiety, while some become addicted to drugs or alcohol and attempt suicide.

Some women have developed strategies to endure and to protect themselves and their children from abuse. However, escape is very rare for them without external help.

The future of countries and societies depends on our women and children. They should be spared the traumatic impact of domestic violence. Otherwise, the young victims of abuse may grow up to become abusers themselves as they view the world through the prism of their bitter experiences.

Write for us

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish “Letter to the Editor” that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

ENLIGHTENMENT

Kyi Mun

Enlightenment, here, means Spiritual Enlightenment. And spiritual enlightenment means Transcendental Leap from Spiritual Ignorance to Spiritual Illumination. In other words, enlightenment means Release from the Bondage of the following delusions:

- Greed
- Anger
- Ignorance
- Pride
- Wrong View
- Doubt
- Jealousy
- Slinginess
- Lack of Moral Fear
- Having no sense of Shame
- Having no sense of Clinging to Life

It is synonymous with Delusion (moha). It is the primary root of all evil and suffering in the world, veiling man’s mental eyes and preventing him from seeing the true nature of things. It is the delusion tricking beings by making life appear to him as permanent, happy, substantial and beautiful, and preventing them from seeing that everything in reality is impermanent, liable to suffering, void of I and Mine, and basically impure (s. vipālāsa). Ignorance is defined as ‘not knowing the four Truths, namely, suffering, its origin, its cessation, and the way to its cessation.

As ignorance is the foundation of all life-affirming actions, of all evil and suffering, therefore it stands first in the formula of Dependent Origination (paticca-samuppāda). But for that reason, Ignorance should not be regarded as the causeless root-cause of world. It is the arising of Ignorance. But there is a figurative way in which it can be treated as a root-cause; namely when it is made to serve as a starting point in an exposition of the Round of Existence. As it is said, “No first beginning of Ignorance can be perceived. Bhikkhus, before which Ignorance was not, and after which it came to be. But it can be perceived that Ignorance has its specific condition (idappāca-cayā)”. The same statement is made about the Craving for Existence (bhavatānha; s.tanhā). The latter and Ignorance are called “the outstanding causes of Kamma that lead to unhapp and happy destinies.”

As Ignorance still exists—even in a very refined way—until the attainment of Arahatship, it is counted as the last of the 10 Fetters (samyojana) which bind beings to the cycle of rebirths. As the first two Roots of Evil, greed and hate, are on their part rooted in Ignorance and consequently all unwholesome states of mind are inseparably bound up with it, ignorance (or delusion) is the most obstinate of the 3 Roots of Evil.

It is one of the hindrances called a hindrance (āsava) and Proclivities (anusaya). It is often called a hindrance (nivarana), but does not appear together with the usual list of 5 Hindrances.

* EGOISM (Attadithi)
* ATTACHMENT (Lobha)
* AVERSION (Ill-will / Dosa)

Clinging  means  Holding  on  tightly  to  somebody  or  something. To stick to someone; to stay close to somebody, especially because you need them emotionally.

Clinging to life is the will that persists to hold on to life. (In Pali – it is bhava-tanhā).

The Five Hindrances To Enlightenment

The Five Hindrances (In Pali - Nivarana) to attaining Enlightenment are:

- Sensual Desires
- Ill-Will / Dosa
- Sloth & Torpor
- Distractions of Mind & Regret
- Doubt

Please compare the Five Hindrances with the Five Pain-bearing Obstructions of Enlightenment.

Strategy of Enlightenment

Buddha’s way of getting rid of craving / samudaya is to outgrow immature egocentrism. His Eightfold Path is a tremendous strategy of enlightenment as well as a great psychological document attesting to the fact that life-fulfillment is a process of moving away from the illusory satisfactions of whole-relationships; right view; right aim; right action; right speech; right living; right effort; right mindfulness; right contemplation.

Ref: A dictionary of Buddhist Terms by U Myint Swe

The Mature Mind by H.A. Overstreet

Thinn Wai Khaing wins first prize in US Kids Golf World Championship Malaysia

YANGON, 16 Dec—Thinn Wai Khaing stood first in the girl-12 event and Tun Aung Khaing, fourth, in the boy 15-18 event in the US Kids Golf World Championship Malaysia 2014 at Palm Resort Golf & Country Club, Johor, Malaysia from 9 to 11 December.

Thinn Wai Khaing secured one more medal in the match in which the multi-country team won over Malaysian team.

The two Myanmar girl and boy are allowed to take part in the US Kids Golf World Championship Europe 2015 and the US Kids Golf World Championship USA 2015.—GGLM

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING Group Capital Co.,Ltd.

Thinn Wai Khaing and Tun Aung Khaing seen with awards in US Kids Golf at the airport.
Vice President of PRC visits Gems Museum in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec — Vice President of the People’s Republic of China Mr Li Yuanchao and party arrived at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport on Tuesday morning where Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu and officials welcomed them.

The Vice President and party then visited Gems Museum in Zabuthuri Township.—MNA

Chinese Vice President Mr Li Yuanchao visits Gems Museum in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Prevention committee for recruitment of child soldiers meets

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec — The prevention committee for recruitment of child soldiers met Tuesday, with an address by Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin. Committee members discussed prevention for recruitment of child soldiers.

The prevention committee held a meeting at the Ministry of Defence on Tuesday, with an address by Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin. Committee members discussed prevention for recruitment of child soldiers. The Prevention Implementation Committee chaired by Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin was added with the deputy minister for Information and the deputy minister for Immigration and Population under notification No. 68/2014 issued by the President Office dated 28-10-2014.—MNA

Rakhine athletes take part in traditional wrestling contest

SITTWEY, 16 Dec — In commemoration of the 40th anniversary of Rakhine State day and launching of power grid to the state, the opening ceremony of Rakhine traditional wrestling contest was held at Wingabar sports grounds in Sittwey on 16 December. Athletes from 17 townships participated in the contest.

The chief minister of Rakhine State and officials awarded the winners.

In the golden event, first prize winner will win five ticals of gold and the second, four ticals of gold. The winners in the silvery event will be awarded three ticals of gold for the first prize and two ticals for the second.

Maung Maung Myint Swe and Min Min Zaw

Asian Development Bank grants to provide US$100 million loan to Yoma Strategic Holdings in two phases

YANGON, 16 Dec — Yoma Strategic Holdings signed a loan agreement worth US$100 million with Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Tuesday at Sule Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon.

According to the agreement, ADB will provide US$50 million loans for the first phase in order to develop communication towers, cold storage-related transportation services and various kinds of cars rental services.

Yoma Strategic Holdings said that the company will invest in the sectors of transport and commodity distribution, and other projects through the ADB’s second phase loan.

Khin Cho Win/ Photo:
Zaw Min Latt

Advancing Justice Together: The Supreme Court of the Union announces Judiciary Strategic Plan to upgrade the services of the courts

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec — The Supreme Court of the Union unveiled a three year plan to improve the Myanmar system of justice.

The strategic initiatives of the Three Year Judiciary Strategic Plan (2015-2017) will be a great support for the Policies, Aims and Action Plans laid down by the Supreme Court of the Union for the better performance of the judiciary.

The mission of the strategic plan is to improve Myanmar’s justice system by promoting the core judiciary aims, namely the rule of law and regional peace and tranquility, enhancing reliability and public trust in the judicial system, adjudicating cases fairly and speedily in accordance with law, and upgrading the integrity of the courts.

To achieve this goal, a Supreme Court Planning Team gathered valuable input from judges and court users across the State, analyzed judicial statistics, reviewed expert assessments, and studied international standards and judicial reforms from the Asia Pacific. The resulting document is a blueprint for excellence that details the judiciary’s shared vision for the future.

The following are specific areas identified for improvement:

Protect Public Access; Promote Public Awareness; Enhance Judicial Independence and Accountability; Ensure Equality, Fairness, and Integrity of the Judiciary; and Strengthen Efficiency and Timeliness of Case Processing.

The plan outlines quantifiable 3-year performance targets include 80 percent court user satisfaction and 100 percent calendar clearance rates. Performance will be measured through court user satisfaction surveys conducted on-site at courts and statistical analysis.

Strategic Plan initiatives are prioritized in three categories: strategically critical, high priority, and medium-term. Strategically critical initiatives for immediate implementation include: creation of public information counters in courts to improve accessibility of courts, case management programs to strengthen timeliness and efficiency of case processing, and enhancement of training for judges and court staff to achieve equality, fairness, and integrity. Several pilot courts will serve as a testing ground for new practices and procedures, prior to nationwide implementation.

Execution of the plan will be overseen by a Strategic Plan Implementation Committee within the Supreme Court. The Committee will prepare regular status reports and develop One Year Action Plans on an annual basis. The Judiciary will cooperate with several international partners to implement specific initiatives.

“Advancing Justice Together: Judiciary Strategic Plan (2015-2017)” can be found online at http://www.unionsupremecourt.gov.mm.

Supreme Court of the Union
Nay Pyi Taw

Invitation to donation of documents on grand military review ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec — The Independence Day 2015 flag hoisting ceremony will be held in conjunction with the Grand Military Review ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw on 4 January.

As the grand military review ceremony will be presented on a wider scale through newspapers and TV programmes, people may donate documentary photos, sound files, documentary films and other documents on the ceremonies of grand military review from 1950 to 1962 to Secretary of the Grand Military Review Information and Public Campaign Subcommittee Director-General U Ye Tin, Tel: (067-41252), email: myintkyaw103@gmail.com.

Grand Military Review Information and Public Campaign Subcommittee
Protesters chain themselves to Oakland police station doors

OAKLAND, 16 Dec — Protesters chained themselves to the doors of police headquarters in Oakland, California, on Monday, prompting several arrests, and one demonstrator scaled a flagpole to hang a “Black Lives Matter” banner in front of the building.

Oakland and neighbouring Berkeley have been the site of demonstrations for more than a week over decisions by grand juries not to charge white police officers in the killings of unarmed black men in Ferguson, Missouri and New York City.

Scores of people have been arrested as police in riot gear face off with protesters, some of whom have thrown rocks at the officers and looted businesses.

Most of the confrontations have happened after dark, but more than two dozen demonstrators on Monday morning used PVC tubes, ropes and locks to chain their arms together and block entrances to the Oakland Police Department.

Another group of protesters used similar tactics to chain themselves together to disrupt traffic at two nearby downtown intersections during a heavy downpour.

At police headquarters officers and firefighters used cutting tools to separate the demonstrators chained together at the doors, and several were taken into custody.

Officer Johhna Watson of the Oakland Police Department said 23 people were arrested for offenses including blocking a public building, and obstructing or delaying a police officer.

The protest in California’s Bay Area have been among the most turbulent of a wave of demonstrations across the country over concerns about the policing of black communities.

In protests last week, riot police fired tear gas and pepper spray to disperse crowds of demonstrators that were sometimes hundreds strong.

In New York, police said they were looking for three men and three women suspected of assaulting two officers on the weekend during a large protest on the Brooklyn Bridge.

Police Commissioner Bill Bratton said the pair were beaten by a group after the officers tried to arrest a man for attempting to throw a trash can onto a road below.

The man accused of trying to hurl the garbage can, an English professor at a local university, Eric Linsky, was arrested on Sunday and charged with assaulting the officers, police said.

Combat readiness snap check held in Russia’s westernmost Kaliningrad region

MOSCOW, 16 Dec — A surprise inspection of combat readiness of troops was held from 5 December through 10 December in Russia’s westernmost Kaliningrad region, which is an exclave territory in the southeast of the Baltic Sea littoral area.

Gener al Andrei Kartapolov, the chief of Operations Department at the General Staff of the Armed Forces said on Tuesday. The troops were inspected in line with a decision of President Vladimir Putin, who is the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

“It embraced up to 9,000 people, 642 pieces of weaponry and equipment, including 250 tanks and armoured vehicles, about a hundred artillery munitions and salvo systems, 55 naval ships, and 41 aircraft,” says a report issued by the General Staff. “The inspectors assessed combat readiness of the group of troops of the Western Military District and its capability to ensure security of the Kaliningrad region.”

“The exercise involved the units or missile troops, artillery, mechanized infantry, airborne troops, marine forces, reconnaissance, signal corps, logistics, as well as combat aviation and airlifters and ships of the Baltic Fleet,” the report said.

Over a period of two days, the airlift jets and ships of the Baltic Fleet relocated two a missile brigade and an airborne brigade to the Kaliningrad region.

Units of the missile brigade had Iskander-M missile complexes among the equipment delivered to Kaliningrad.

The units of branches and services of the Armed Forces have returned to the bases of permanent stationing, the report said.

Nine FARC members killed by army raid in Colombian jungle

BOGOTA, 16 Dec — Nine members of leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia guerrillas were killed on Monday in an aerial bomb attack by the Colombian army and in clashes with troops in a southeastern jungle region, President Juan Manuel Santos wrote on Twitter. The operation, which military and police sources said involved the use of planes and helicopters, took place in Meta Province, a vast area believed to have significant oil resources and where the guerrillas maintain a heavy presence.

“Military forces and police in Meta take down nine members of fronts 7 and 27 of the FARC and capture four. Offensive continues. Let’s not drop our guard,” Santos tweeted.

The military is fighting the FARC despite peace talks ongoing between the rebel group and the government in Cuba in the most promising attempt yet to bring an end to 50 years of war which have claimed more than 220,000 lives.

The government has refused the FARC’s repeated demands for a bilateral ceasefire while the talks take place, saying the best way to advance in negotiations is to maintain military pressure on the group whose membership has roughly halved over a decade.

Without a ceasefire, the FARC and its smaller National Liberation Army (ELN) counterpart, continue in turn to attack government troops and oil pipelines which carry the Andean country’s most valuable export to the coast for shipment.

The peace talks have achieved agreement on about half of the agenda, with deals on land reform, political participation and ending the drugs trade which the FARC uses to fund itself.

Victim reparations and disarmament to end the conflict are two tough issues that remain to be thrashed out.

New Zealand to discuss renewing defence cooperation with Fiji

WELLINGTON, 16 Dec — New Zealand Defence Minister Gerry Brownlee left for Fiji on Tuesday to discuss the resumption of defence cooperation and engagement following the end of military rule in the Pacific island nation.

The New Zealand government had agreed to lift the last remaining sanctions against Fiji after the general election on 17 September ended eight years of military government.

Brownlee said in a statement, “This will allow defence to move toward re-building cooperation,” said Brownlee, who was to be accompanied on his visit by Vice Chief of Defence Force Air Vice Marshal Kevin Short.

Brownlee would meet with Fijian Minister of Defence Timoci Natuvu and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ratu Inoke Kubuabola to discuss rebuilding the defence relationship before returning Thursday.

Voreqe Bainimarama, who seized power in a military coup in 2006, was elected Fiji’s prime minister in September with about 60 percent of the vote in the proportional representation system.
Fort DIX, (NJ), 16 Dec — President Barack Obama used a holiday season visit to a US military base on Monday to issue a tough warning to Islamic State militants, saying a US-led coalition will permit no safe haven to the group and will destroy it eventually.

Obama spoke to hundreds of camouflage-wearing troops in a hangar at Fort DIX to thank the US military for its actions around the world. In a display of bipartisan support for the troops, Obama was joined by New Jersey’s Republican Governor Chris Christie, a safe haven. We will date to succeed Obama in 2016.

The US-led coalition in Syria and Iraq has had some successes against the Islamic State group but has yet to force a major rollback back from the territorial gains the extremists made in seizing large swaths of Iraq last summer.

“Make no mistake. Our coalition isn’t just going to degrade this barbaric terrorist organization. We’re going to destroy it,” Obama said.

US Secretary of State John Kerry (L) meets with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at Villa Taverna in Rome on 15 Dec, 2014. — Reuters

So far, gains are being made. Hundreds of vehicles and tanks and more than 1,000 fighting positions have been taken out, he said.

“We are hammering these terrorists,” he said.

They may think that they can chalk up some quick victories, but our reach is long. We do not give up. You threaten America, you will have to find you and like petty tyrants and terrorists before you, the world is going to leave you behind and keep moving on without you, because we will get you,” Obama said.

Obama also said the United States is on track to end its combat mission in Afghanistan at year’s end, leaving behind a force dedicated to training Afghan security forces and carrying out counter-terrorism operations.

Obama last month approved a slight expansion in the US role in the counter-terrorism operations. There are concerns in Afghanistan, however, about increasing Taliban attacks in the capital, Kabul.

Obama, who made ending the war in Afghanistan a priority, said challenges remain there.

“Afghanistan is still a dangerous place,” he said. — Reuters

Spain arrests seven accused of recruiting women for Islamic State

MADRID, 16 Dec — Spanish and Moroccan police have arrested seven people in a ongoing joint sweep on suspected efforts to recruit women to go to Syria and Iraq to support Islamic State insurgents, the Spanish Interior Ministry said on Tuesday.

Spain is among a number of European countries struggling to stop the radicalization of young Muslim citizens and deter them from becoming jihadists in Syria or Iraq, fearing they might return to plot attacks on home soil.

Four women and a man were arrested in Barcelona and the Spanish North African enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla, and two men were detained in the Moroccan town of Frigole, close to Ceuta, as part of the operation, the ministry said in a statement.

It said the seven were accused of forming a network to find, recruit and send women to Syria and Iraq on behalf of Islamic State. A ministry spokeswoman could not say whether any of the affected women were being recruited specifically to fight for the ultra-radical jihadi movement, which has seized large expanses of Iraq and Syria and drawn US-led air strikes.

In the past, some women with European passports had been drawn to the side of Islamic State to join its ranks in the Syrian and Iraqi conflicts or to become wives of militants.

In September, Spanish police arrested nine people suspected of belonging to a militant cell linked to Islamic State in Melilla, on the northern coast of Africa.

Denmark said on Friday it faced a “significant” threat from radicalized Muslim citizens returning home from Syria and Iraq where at least 110 people had gone to fight with jihadist groups like Islamic State. — Reuters

India bans Islamic State, hunts for sympathizers

NEW DELHI, 16 Dec — India on Tuesday declared a ban on Islamic State, days after having detained an engineer for running a popular Twitter account extolling the militant group’s military campaign. India has the world’s third-largest population of Muslims, but they have largely shunned Islamic causes. Police say only four Indians are known to have joined Islamic State, and one has since returned and is in custody.

Until now, India had held off on a ban on Islamic State, because of the group’s lack of activity in the country and worries over the fate of 39 Indian construction workers missing in Iraq this year, who are believed to be held by the group. Officials also had suggested it would be harder to track sympathizers if the group was banned, driving them towards covert activity.

Home Minister Rajnath Singh told parliament the government aimed to limit the activities of the Middle Eastern group which has carved out swathes of territory in Iraq and Syria.

“We had taken cognizance of Islamic State in Iraq and Syria activities in other countries,” he said.

“As a first step we have banned this outfit in India.” Singh said.

On Saturday, police picked up Mehdii Masoor Biswas, a 24-year-old food company executive from the southern tech hub of Bengaluru, saying he was running the pro-Islamic State Twitter handle @ShamiWitness that had been followed by thousands, including hundreds of foreign fighters for the group.

Police were poring over 129,000 tweets he had posted over several years to determine if he was simply a cheerleader for the group or an online recruiter, an inspector said. “It is true the number of Indians in the group or involved in its activities is only a handful,” Singh said.

India, 16 Dec — The British Embassy in Cairo reopened on Tuesday after suspending public services nine days ago for security reasons, the embassy said in a statement.

“I am very grateful for the close co-operation from the Egyptian Government which has made this re-opening possible,” British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said in the statement.

Britain closed its embassy on 7 December, and the Canadian Embassy closed its doors a day later. It has yet to reopen, according to the embassy’s emergency telephone service. — Reuters
Russia to sign strategic partnership agreement with UN food programme

Moscow, 16 Dec — The Russian government and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), the world’s largest humanitarian agency, are due to conclude an agreement on strategic cooperation on Tuesday.

Russian Foreign Ministry’s official spokesman Alexander Lukashevich said on Monday the agreement will cover the period of 2014-2017.

The document will be signed by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and WFP chief Ertharin Cousin at the meeting in Moscow later on Tuesday, during which the sides will also discuss cooperation as part of humanitarian projects.

“During the talks, the sides are to discuss topical issues of cooperation between Russia and this important humanitarian tool of the UN, including the prospects for fulfilling a range of projects, which are carried out with Russia’s donor support,” Lukashevich said.

Russia will provide a total of 218 Kamaz trucks as its contribution to the UN WFP in 2014 and 2015. The first batch of 130 Kamaz trucks is to be handed over at an official ceremony in Moscow on Tuesday.

“The scope of the project is so big that Kamaz may well become regarded as the vehicle of choice of the largest humanitarian organization within the UN system,” Lukashevich said.

Russia has been a major donor of the WFP for more than 10 years. Russia has donated $51.5 million over the past eleven months, what is the country’s largest contribution ever. By the end of the year, Russia’s contribution on the organization is expected to grow to $66.5 million.—Itar-Tass

US Senate approves Vivek Murthy as new surgeon general

Washington, 16 Dec — The US Senate confirmed the long-delayed nomination of Dr Vivek Murthy for surgeon general on Monday, as Democrats pushed to approve some of President Barack Obama’s stalled choices for government posts before Republicans take power in Congress next year.

Obama’s pick for the top US public health job was approved 51-43. Earlier, Murthy barely cleared a procedural hurdle after he drew opposition over his support for stricter gun regulations.

Obama applauded the Senate and said in a statement that Murthy would “help us build on the progress we’ve made combating Ebola, both in our country and at its source.”

The Senate will vote on Tuesday on another contentious nominee, Sarah Saldana. Her nomination to head the Immigration and Customs Enforcement office became bogged down after she said the president’s executive action on immigration was legal.

The Senate scheduled votes on Murthy, Saldana and three other nominees for Monday and Tuesday as part of Majority Leader Harry Reid’s push to get nominations through the Senate before it goes home for the year.

Reid hopes to move about 20 more nominees later this week in a process he started over the weekend, when delaying tactics by conservative Republicans on a government spending bill kept the Senate in session unexpectedly and gave him an opening.

Last year, Democrats infuriated Republicans by changing Senate rules so government nominations can advance to confirmation votes by a simple majority of the 100-member Senate, rather than a 60-vote supermajority.

Still, some nominations have languished. Obama nominated Murthy a year ago, but some Republicans and the National Rifle Association criticized his gun-control views. Senator Ted Cruz, a conservative Republican, called the nomination an “anti-gun activist.”

Murthy, who has been working as an interventional medicine physician in Boston, also advocated the Affordable Care Act, Obama’s signature health initiative, and anathema to most Republicans.

Supporters of Murthy noted more than 100 public health organizations endorsed him, calling him “a well-qualified, forward-thinking, innovative leader with a strong commitment to public health.”

“Does that sound like a political hack when 100 organizations say that about this doctor?” said Senator Dick Durbin, the Senate’s No 2 Democrat.

Two other nominees cleared procedural votes Monday: Daniel Santos to serve on the Defense Nuclear Facilities board, and Frank Rose as assistant secretary of state.

On Tuesday, the Senate will vote on Saldana and Antony Blinken, nominated for the No 2 post in the State Department.

Reuters

S Korean top air carrier to be sanctioned on “nut rage”

Seoul, 16 Dec — Korea Air Lines, South Korea’s top air carrier, will face sanctions on a “nut rage” case.

The airline’s former vice president ordered a 5 December flight from New York to return to the gate in violation of aviation safety law, the country’s transport ministry said on Tuesday.

Cho Hyun-ah, daughter of the airline’s chairman Cho Yang-ho, ordered the flight from New York to Incheon, west of capital Seoul, on 5 December to return to the gate after being served macadamia nuts in a bag, not on a plate. After scolding a purser and a cabin crew who served her nuts, the 40-year-old former vice president ordered the head of the cabin crew off the plane, violating the aviation law that stipulates only captain can decide on whether to return the plane in emergency situations. The airline could face up to 21 days of flight suspension or a 1.44 billion won (1.3 million US dollars) fine for the incident, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport said.

The final sanctions will be concluded after a legal review at an earliest date possible. The sanctions came as the ministry concluded that the airline asked the purser to lie during a probe into the case. Park Chang-jin, the head of the cabin crew, was asked to say Cho didn’t use a violent language and he voluntarily got off the plane, according to local media reports.

Park was quoted by a state-run broadcaster KBS as saying that he and the flight attendant were forced to kneel down before Cho, using an abusive language and yelling at them.

Amid mounting criticisms toward the airline, Chairman Cho offered a public apology for the incident, saying last Friday that it was his fault because he should have raised her better. Hours after the apology, younger Cho appeared at local media after being summoned by the transport ministry’s aviation and railway accident investigation board for questioning. She bowed and apologized for the incident. Cho resigned as the head of in-flight service last week. Amid the unshrinking public anger, Cho stepped down from all executive positions from the airline and other affiliated companies.

The transport ministry said Cho used an outrageous language and yelled at the crew based on testimonies from some crew members and prosecutors who said that the ministry would file a complaint against her with prosecutors within this day if it breaches the aviation safety law.—Xinhua

Doctor Vivek Murthy stands among other bystanders during the first day of legal arguments over the Affordable Care Act outside the Supreme Court in Washington on 26 March, 2012.—REUTERS
TRADMARK CAUTION
Columbia Sportswear Company, a company registered under the laws of Oregon, United States of America, which is located at 14375 NW Science Park Drive, Portland OR 97229, United States of America, is the sole owner of the following trademark:

TURBODOWN
Reg. No. 16660/2014

In respect of Class 25: Jackets and Parkas.

THERMAL COIL
Reg. No. 17175/2014

In respect of Class 20: Pillows; Sleeping bags. In respect of Class 24: Bed blankets; bed sheets; bed skirts; bed throws; blanket throws; blankets for outdoor use; comforters; covers; pillow cases; shams; towels.

In respect of Class 25: Coats; footware; gloves; headwear; jacket liners; jackets; mittens; pants; parkas; scarves; shirts; ski bibs; socks; sweaters; vests.

Columbia Sportswear Company claims the trademark right and other relevant Intellectual Property right for the marks as mentioned above. Columbia Sportswear Company reserves the rights to take legal measures against any infringer who violates its Intellectual Property or other legal rights in accordance with the concerned laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

U Kyi Naing, L.L.B., L.L.M., (H.G.P.)
For Columbia Sportswear Company
Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd.
No. 1606, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar
Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com
Dated:17.12.2014

INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER
(TENDER NO.6(T) MPE/ CONDENSATE (2) / 2014-2015)

1. Open Tender is invited for the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the Conveyance of Yutegan Condensate 0.7 Mbbls (±5%) from Yutegan Marine Terminal Offshore to No.(1) Refinery (Thanlwin). TENDER CLOSING DATE: 15-1-2015 at (12:00) noon.

2. Tender Opening Date: 15-1-2015 at (13:00) hrs.


5. Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing 22-12-2014 on payment of the Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000) per set.

6. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director
Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PHUONG NAM 68 VOY NO (-)
Consignee of cargo carried on MV PHUONG NAM 68 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.12.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (3) 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 G LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301191/ 2301178

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (087N)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (087N) are hereby notified that the vessel will arrive on 17.12.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T (1) in which 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 YANG MING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PHUONG NAM 68 VOY NO (-)
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Phone No: 2301191/ 2301178

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM

Phone No: 2301185

RFPE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY
No.(1) HEAVY INDUSTRIES ENTERPRISE
( INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)

Open Tender is invited for the supply of the following respective item which is necessary for No.(2) Steel Mill Project (PangPeg) on CIF Yangon Port Price in United States Dollar (USD).

(1) Stacker & Reclaimer Machine
(a) Conveyor Length - 1256 meters
(b) Stacker machine capacity - 450 Ton per hour
(c) Reclaimer machine capacity - 150 Ton per hour

Tender Closing Date & Time: 6.1.2015 (12.00PM)

Tender Document Shall be available during office hours commencing from 19th, December, 2014 at the Steel Mills Supervision Department, No. (1) Heavy Industries Enterprise, Building No.(41), Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. Steel Mills Supervision Department Phone +9567-408345

For inquiries to place an advertisement in the GNLM, Please email wallace.tun@gmail.com (+95) (01) 8604532

Advertise with us!

WEATHER BAY INFERENCE: Weather is generally fair in the North Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 17th December, 2014: Weather will be partly cloudy in Ayeawaddy and Tannihthayi Regions, Mon State and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

Russian Knights aerobatics team of six planes to demonstrate stunts in Crimea

Wednesday, 17 December, 2014

MOSCOW, 16 Dec — The Russian Knights aerobatics team has arrived in Crimea to participate in an action designed to promote contract military service / Contract Military Service is Your Choice/. Igor Klimov, an official spokesperson for the Russian Air Force, said that the Russian Knights would perform in a team of six planes instead of five for the first time over the past three years. The Russian Knights landed at Gvardievske airport in Crimea. On 20 December, they will take part in the “Contract Military Service Is Your Choice” action in Sevastopol. Besides, the Swifts aerobatics teams (on five MiG-29 planes); the Golden Eagles aviation group on Mi-28N helicopters as well as two Tu-95 MS strategic bombers; two Mi-8 helicopters; one Ka-52 helicopters; four Su-25 assault planes and four Su-27 fighter jets will also participate in the air show.— Itar-Tass
‘Birdman’ leads Critics’ Choice Movie Awards nominations

Los Angeles, 16 Dec — “Birdman,” the dark existential comedy about the would-be comeback of a has-been actor, scored 13 Critics’ Choice Movie Awards nominations on Monday, continuing its early run as a Hollywood awards season favourite.

The film starring Michael Keaton has already led nominations for January’s Golden Globes and Screen Actors Guild Awards. It earned nods for best picture, best actor (Keaton) and Alejandro G Inarritu was cited for best director, among other nominations. Wes Anderson’s “The Grand Budapest Hotel,” a comedy about a bygone Europe, picked up 11 nods.


Wes Anderson’s “The Grand Budapest Hotel,” a comedy about a bygone Europe, picked up 11 nods.

Other films earning multiple nominations include Christopher Nolan’s space epic “Interstellar” with seven, while “Gone Girl” and “The Imitation Game” each scored six nominations.

Simon Cowell asks One Direction to slow down

London, 16 Dec — Media mogul Simon Cowell has asked boy band One Direction to slow down. Cowell, 55, who helped to put the group together on “The X Factor,” said he fears for the five-piece band, reported Contactmusic. “They can’t carry on doing the amount of stuff they’ve been doing for long because they’ll burn out — it’s a high-risk problem. But they don’t complain about working hard,” he said.

The “Steal My Girl” hitmakers, who will embark on their third world tour next year, are “generous” to their fellow artists. “They still come down to ‘The X Factor’, into song meetings and they will text me with ideas for the contestants. They’re generous to other artists. You don’t see that very often. Most artists couldn’t give a damn about anyone but themselves,” he said.

Selena Gomez signs new recording deal

Los Angeles, 16 Dec — Singer-actress Selena Gomez has announced that she is officially an Interscope artist.

The former Disney star confirmed that she inked a new recording deal with the label with a picture she posted on Instagram. “Guess who’s officially an Interscope artist... #thisiswhatsdreamsaremadeof,” read the caption of a picture of her smiling while signing her new contract in what appears to be a restaurant.

She joins other Interscope artists like Lady Gaga, OneRepublic, Eminem and Lana Del Rey.

Gomez, 22, was previously signed to Hollywood Records, under which she released her previous music and albums including her first solo effort, 2013’s ‘Starry Eyed’. Her last project with the Disney-owned record label is the greatest hits compilation titled “For You” which arrived last month.

The set also features new song “The Heart Wants What It Wants” that has so far peaked at number six on Billboard Hot 100.

‘Early Mona Lisa’ traced to English country home

Geneva, 16 Dec — Researchers into the provenance of a painting dubbed the “Early Mona Lisa” reported on Monday they had identified an English noble who probably bought it in Italy in the late 18th century and a country house where it was found in 1911.

The revelations came as the work went on show for the first time in Singapore in a display about the portrait and Leonardo da Vinci, who a Swiss foundation holding it argue painted it before the version in the Paris Louvre.

OBITUARY

OM
SHRI BINDRABAN BAJORIA
(AGE 89 YEARS)

Shri Bindraban Bajoria (age 89 yrs), eldest Son of Late Shri Pranjal + Late Smt. Anchi Devi, Father of Sushil Kumar + Smt. Premolata, Vinod Kumar + Smt. Sulochana, Smt. Uma + Sitaram, Smt. Urmila + Hari Prasad, Pawan Kumar + Smt. Sushma, Sarwan Kumar + Smt. Meera, Smt. Sarita Devi + Sarwan Kumar Nethewala, Grandfather of 20 Grandchildren and 2 Greatgrand children expired at his residence No. 53, 29th street, Yangon, on Tuesday, the 16th December 2014 at 2:00pm. Cremation was held the same day at Hindu Cemetary “Ye Way” and this is intimated to all our nearest and dearest.

Bereaved Family

Moyes wants more improvement from Sociedad players

SEUL, 16 Dec — David Moyes has seen signs of progress at Real Sociedad since he took over last season wore on. We’re not a lot of players but not a lot of players who could score,” Chung said.

“With teams focusing too much on defence, the league’s popularity has suffered, and we need coaches to try to make the games more fan-friendly.”

MADRID, 16 Dec — David Moyes has seen signs of progress at Real Sociedad since he took over last month but believes there is still a lot of room for improvement.

Moyes was denied victory in his first Basque derby on Sunday when Sociedad let slip an early lead and drew 1-1 at home to Athletic Bilbao in La Liga.

The Scot said he was pleased with his team’s first-half performance but was concerned by a drop in energy levels in the second period.

Bilbao were reduced to 10 men when Aymeric Laporte was sent off in first half but Sociedad were unable to land the decisive blow.

With 15 matches played, they are in 14th place on 14ª place on 14 points with Moyes having presided over one victory, two draws and a 4-0 defeat at Villarreal.

“There are a lot of things we want to improve, not just the physical part and the intensity but also the passing and the control of the game,” Moyes told a news conference after the match at the Anoeta in San Sebastian.

“I think there were some good signs there, especially in the first half,” added the former Manchester United and Everton manager.

“It was certainly an improvement on our performance at Villarreal and I think we have made a step ahead but we haven’t improved enough.

“I think the players are trying really hard to do so. The training has been great and I thought their attitude tonight was very good.

“I expected us to be stronger in the second half so that was a little disappointing.

“But we are in the middle of the season at the moment and we can’t change big things.”

Moyes said he had enjoyed his first experience of the Basque derby and was looking forward to “a lot more”.

He won three of the 24 Premier League derbies he took charge of, drawing seven and losing 14 against Liverpool and Manchester City.

Sociedad’s next outing is a King’s Cup last-32, second leg at home to third-tier Real Oviedo on Wednesday. The first leg at Oviedo, who are top of their group in Spain’s regional Segunda B, ended 0-0.

— Reuters

WSHINGTON, 16 Dec — The world is still heading for the hottest year on record although last month was only the seventh warmest November since 1880, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said on Monday.

The combined average temperature over global land and ocean surfaces during November tied with 2008 as the seventh highest for the month, at 0.65 degrees Celsius above the 20th century average, the NOAA said in its monthly report.

This ends a streak of three consecutive months with a record warm monthly global temperature, but the average temperatures for September-November as well as the first 11 months were still both the highest on record for such periods, it said.

Xinhua

MYANMAR.TV

(17-12-2014, Wednesday)

6:00 am
* Paritta by Hilly
Region Missionary
Sayadaw

6:30 am
* Physical Exercise
7:00 am
* News / Weather Report
7:40 am
* Documentary
8:35 am
* TV Drama Series
9:00 am
* News / International News
10:20 am
* Documentary (Road to Academy 2013) (Part-3 & 4)
10:35 am
* Documentary
11:35 am
* Approaching Science Discovery World
12:00 noon
* News / International News / Weather Report
2:35 pm
* Documentary (Road to Academy 2013) (Part 3 & 4)
3:15 pm
* TV Drama Series
4:25 pm
* Science & Technology
5:00 pm
* News
6:35 pm
* Shwe Yin Khone Than
7:00 pm
* News
7:26 pm
* Teleplay
8:00 pm
* News / International News / Weather Report
8:35 pm
* People Talks
9:00 pm
* News / Weather Report
* Fine Arts-Boson of Dramatic Performance

Wednesday, 17 December, 2014
Pacquiao says money no object in Mayweather showdown

Manny Pacquiao (C) of the Philippines poses on the scales at the Venetian Macao hotel in Macau on 22 Nov, 2014.—Reuters

LONDON, 16 Dec — Manny Pacquiao took up Floyd Mayweather Jr’s shout-out that the boxers finally book a long-awaited clash on 2 May, the Filipino insistently would be no object and that they owed it to the sport to fight each other.

Mayweather, in remarks to Showtime TV last Friday, said Pacquiao was not worthy of a 50-50 split in his proposed showdown, which would likely become the highest grossing pay-per-view bout in history if the match were made.

Eight-division world champion Pacquiao appeared ready to accommodate the undefeated American.

“Mayweather can get the amount he wants. As early as January this year, I challenged him to a charity fight. Until now, he has not agreed to it. So, money is not the issue in our fight,” Pacquiao said on his official website. “This fight is about legacy, this is about making the fans happy and, above all, this is for the good of boxing.”

The two champions, boxing’s top drawing cards, have danced around a possible clash for roughly five years, with disputes over purses and drug-testing preventing a match being made.

“We are ready. Let’s make it happen. 2 May. Mayweather versus Manny Pacquiao. Let’s do it,” the 37-year-old American, who fights at welterweight and light-middleweight, said.

“Belts their familiar verbal sparring, Pacquiao promised he would deliver an exciting fight despite the supreme defensive skills so often displayed by Mayweather (47-0), explained Pacquiao.

“Don’t think they need to alter tournament-play formats. I think that works very well. It’s the grass-roots, definitely not at our level.”

“I feel as though I’ve inspired a lot of kids back home in Northern Ireland to pick up the game and play,” said McIlroy who won the British Open at Hoylake in July and the US PGA Championship in Kentucky in August. “Hopefully I can continue to do that beyond Northern Ireland because it’s a great game. It’s given me a lot and I’ve loved every minute of it and I know if more people pick up the game they’ll love it too.”—Reuters

Everton play Barkley card to trump struggling QPR

LIVERPOOL, 16 Dec — Ross Barkley scored a sublime goal as Everton beat Queens Park Rangers 3-1 at Goodison Park on Monday to subject the travel-weary Londoners to their eighth away defeat in as many Premier League matches this season.

Barkley picked up possession in his own half in the 33rd minute, exchanged passes with Romelu Lukaku before driving at the defence and unleashing an unstoppable left-foot shot into the top corner for his first goal of an injury-plagued season.

Kevin Mirallas double the lead after 44 minutes with a wickedly-deflected free kick. Steven Naismith headed a third goal eight minutes after the break before substitute Bobby Zamora notched a late consolation for Rangers.

Everton’s first league victory since 22 November lifted them above local rivals Liverpool into 10th place on 21 points while QPR, without a point away from home this season, remained 18th, four points above bottom club Leicester City.

In the absence of Gareth Barry, man-of-the-match Barkley was deployed in a deep midfield role alongside the talented Muhamed Besic and the 21-year-old excelled.

At the other end, QPR battled hard and scored a deserved 80th-minute goal when Zamora supplied a simple finish after keeper Tim Krul had parried Jordan Must’s well-struck effort. It sparked a late flurry of activity as Everton substitute Samuel Eto’o blazed a low shot against the post and Barkley’s tantalising cross was just too strong for Aron Gunnarsson. —Reuters

McIlroy wants to speed things up to attract more youngsters

NEW YORK, 16 Dec — Rory McIlroy has urged golf’s rule-makers to quicken the game up at grass-roots level in order to make it more attractive to youngsters.

More people are watching the sport on television these days but fewer are taking to the fairways and the 25-year-old Northern Irishman believes something needs to be done to reverse the trend. “Everything’s so instant now and everyone doesn’t have as much time as they used to so you may be try some way of speeding the game up,” McIlroy told BBC radio. “I think the view is in golf is up but the participation is down.

People enjoy watching the game but gone are the days that you could spend five or six hours on a golf course.”

The four-times major champion says officials at the top of the sport would be willing to make changes if they were of benefit. “I don’t think they’d be against it especially if they wanted to get participation levels up.”

“Rory is always vocal and he is right when he says the game could do with being speeded up,” said Ben Crenshaw, one of the game’s most respected champions. “As it is, to get a round in is such a big chore and it breeds the wrong attitude.”

World number one and defending champion Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland hits a shot on the 17th hole during the fourth and final round of the Australian Open golf tournament at The Australian Golf Club in Sydney on 30 Nov, 2014. Reuters

Everton’s Ross Barkley (C) shoots to score his side’s first goal during their English Premier League soccer match against Queens Park Rangers at Goodison Park in Liverpool, northern England on 15 Dec, 2014.—Reuters