President says gov’t eyes completion of regional development tasks before end of 2015

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—The government will proceed with political, economic and administrative reforms during the remaining year of its term, while it is endeavoring to accomplish its regional development goals before the end of 2015, President U Thein Sein said Thursday while visiting the Sagaing Region.

The president made the remarks while speaking to local people and government staff from Kalay, Kalewa, Minkin, Tanu and Mawlike districts at the city hall in Kalay, before wrapping up his two-day visit to the northwestern region.

Earlier in the day, the president and his party visited Maha Thakka Parima Upstream Teak Buddha Image on Yaza Gir Hill in Kyigon Village in Kalay and offered food, fruit, flowers, water and lights to a Buddha image.

He then presented a cash donation for the Buddha image to the chairman of the board of trustees, who gave the president a picture of the image.

After viewing round the religious edifices near the Buddha image, the president and his party inspected the construction of New Seikkantha Bridge across Oopoke Creek in Pinlon Ward in Kalay and work to prevent erosion of the banks along the creek. Later, they viewed round the development of the town on their way to Kalay University where Pro-Rector Dr. Tun Tun Chan, faculty members and students welcomed them. At the university, the president and party inspected the construction of a convocation hall and urged the chief minister of the region and officials to oversee the construction tasks to ensure the building is completed on time. The president then engaged in warm conversations with students at the university on the learning environment and their aims in life.

He continued to the city hall and met with local people, telling them Kalay feels like home to him as he discharged military duty there and has fond memories of the place, which has developed year after year.

Indonesia-Myanmar business matching looks for potential businesses, trade partners

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 18 Dec — A delegation comprising representatives from 25 state-owned enterprises in Indonesia held business matching talks with Myanmar partners in Yangon on Thursday.

The Business Matching Indonesia-Myanmar event, which coincides with the 65th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Indonesia, kicked off at the office of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry with opening remarks by its UMFCCI Vice President U Zaw Min Win, Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr. Ito Sumardi, and Mr. Achiran Pandu Djajanto, deputy minister of the Indonesia’s Ministry of State Owned Enterprises.

The purpose of the event is to exchange business information with a view to fostering relationships between potential businesses and trade partners and contributing to towards greater trade volume and investment between the two ASEAN member countries, said U Zaw Min Win.

It is also aimed at exploring collaborative partnerships with each other for ensuring business benefit from ASEAN Economic Community, which is due to start next year, the RUMFCCI vice president added.

Myanmar becomes full member of ASEAN Infrastructure Fund

YANGON, 18 Dec—Myanmar has completed all procedures to become the 11th shareholder of the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund (AIF), joining other Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) country members and Asian Development Bank (ADB).

“Myanmar is pleased to become a full member of the AIF as this is an important step toward further integration into ASEAN and the global economy, as well as helping the country to access funding to invest in infrastructure to support its long-term development,” said U Maung Maung Win, AIF Director for Myanmar.

AIF has so far financed three infrastructure projects for a total of $165 million, including $25 million for the Java-Bali 500kV power transmission project, a $40 million loan for a sanitation project, also in Indonesia, and a $100 million loan for a power grid development project in Viet Nam.

At its meeting today, the AIF Board approved a pipeline of projects for 2015, and discussed the indicative pipeline for 2016-2017, covering the priority sectors of water, transport and energy. Details of individual projects will be announced as loan negotiations draw to a close.

ASEAN country members include Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

ADB is a shareholder in AIF with $150 million equity, and it acts as the overall administrator.

UMFCCI Vice President U Zaw Min Win exchanges gifts with Indonesian Deputy Minister Mr. Achiran Pandu Djajanto who led a business delegation of 25 companies, in the presence of Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr. Ito Sumardi on Thursday. — PHOTO: YE MYINT
Union ministers discuss development of Tamu District

TAMU, 18 Dec—Union Ministers U Soe Thane, U Tin Naing Thein, Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win, U Khin Maung Soe and U Khin Yi met departmental officials from townships of Tamu District and town elders at the town hall in Tamu, border town of Sagaing Region, on 16 December afternoon.

Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein explained future plans for development of the region. Union Ministers U Soe Thane, U Khin Maung Soe and U Khin Yi reviewed the reports of township officials from Tamu District and briefed them on reform processes of the nation. The union ministers viewed round development of Tamu Township and border trade camps between India and Myanmar.—MNA

Japan grants US$121,450 for a school in Ayeyawady Region

YANGON, 18 Dec—On 10th December, 2014, the handover and opening ceremony of Thangong village Basic Education High School took place in Ngaputaw Township, Ayeyawady Region.

In this ceremony, Mr. Kazuhiro YAMAMOTO, Second Secretary of the Embassy of Japan, Daw Khin Saw Ma, Social Minister of Ayeyawady Region, Daw Khin Than Myint, Pyittu Huttaw Representative, U Saw Eh Gay, Regional Huttaw Representative, Deputy Director of Department of Education, District and Township Education Officers, Township Administrator, teachers and students, Committee Chairman and committee members of the construction project and local residents attended.

The Japanese Government, under its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Scheme, has extended the assistance of US$121,450 for a humanitarian assistance program entitled “The Project for Construction of Thangong Village Basic Education High School in Ngaputaw Township, Ayeyawady Region.”

When Cyclone Nargis heavily struck Ngaputaw Township in May 2008, all the school buildings except one were totally destroyed. The Government of Japan under its GGP scheme supported a one-storey RCC building with full furniture. The project will benefit 1,038 students of the school.—GNLM

Health officials focus on emergency health care, natural disaster prevention

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—The Myanmar Health Sector Coordinating Committee-MHSCC held the third coordination meeting at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Thein Thein Htay explained health sector reform—progress towards UHC, raising health care of maternal and children, provision of major medicines project, emergency health care services, and free blood bank services.

Deputy Director-General Dr Yin Thanda Lwin of Health Department discussed essential health service access project of the Ministry of Health with the assistance of World Bank.

Officials discussed control of HIV, TB and malaria diseases, maternal and reproductive health, emergency health care services, prevention of natural disasters, a plan to directly manage the fund of Global Fund by the Ministry of Health, and upgrading health sector with the assistance of JICA and 3MDG. —MNA

Dy ECF Minister meets World Bank official

Deputy Minister Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin meetMs Henrike Brecht, Senior Infrastructure Specialist and Task Team Leader of the World Bank.—MNA

Myotha-Htanzin-Htangwa-Wetlu rural road under construction

NGAZUN, 18 Dec—The government is striving for equitable development of urban and rural areas across the nation. In so doing, the government places emphasis on construction for further economic cooperation between the two countries. Deputy Minister Mr. Achirun Pandu Djalanto who led the Indonesian business delegation, said that today’s business matching will be sure to enhance the mutual understanding of the necessary process in carrying out the actual trading on the ground.

It is envisaged that direct contacts at the business matching will greatly contribute towards trading activities of the two business communities.

Myanmar Becomes Full Member of ASEAN...

ADB, based in Manila, is dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration. Established in 1966, it is owned by 67 members – 48 from the region. In 2013, ADB assistance totaled US$21.0 billion, including cofinancing of US$6.6 billion.—GNLM

Indonesia-Myanmar business... 

He also expressed his view that Indonesia, which ranks the 14th among foreign investors in Myanmar, intends to step up its economic activities in the country, focusing on mining, banking, construction, cement and fertilizer production, transport and textiles.

In his welcoming speech, the Indonesian Ambassador noted that the two governments’ leaders have already agreed to boost bilateral trade, which reached $498.86 million during the period from April 2013 to March 2014, with the goal of reaching US$1 billion in 2016.

Statistics show that Myanmar’s exports, especially agricultural products, to Indonesia stood at $60.04 million while its imports from the fellow ASEAN member were $348.82 million.

Last year, during then President Suki Lo Bambang Yudhoyono’s visit to Myanmar, Myanmar and Indonesia signed MoUs on cooperation in rice trade, trade in other products and investment.

Palm oil is Indonesia’s main export to Myanmar, which is also planning to import cement from Indonesia, said U Aung Soe, deputy director-general of the Ministry of Commerce.

As the agreement was signed, Myanmar is going to export rice to Indonesia under a deal to supply 500,000 tons during the three-year period, the deputy director-general told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

Expressing his hope for the promotion of trade and investment between the two countries, Deputy Minister Mr. Achirun Pandu Djalanto who led the Indonesian business delegation, said that today’s business matching will be sure to enhance the mutual understanding of the necessary process in carrying out the actual trading on the ground.

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Mr. Kazuhiro YAMAMOTO, Second Secretary of the Embassy of Japan gives commemorative pennant to an official.
Vice President says migrant workers contribute to economic growth of countries of origin and destination

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec — A ceremony to celebrate the International Migrants Day took place at the Myanmar International Convention Centre here on Thursday, with an address by Vice President U Nyan Tun, officials said.

Migrant workers contribute to the economic growth of the countries of origin and destination, with the vice president quoting the United Nations as saying that the UN has designated 18 December as the International Migrants Day since 2000 with the aim of honouring and promoting the rights of migrants themselves and their families as a whole.

He continued that, with a remote as on this special day, discuss ways and adopt action plans to protect the rights of migrant workers.

The number of migrant workers is significantly increasing as a direct consequence of globalization and regional integration, he said, adding that migration is now treated positively not only by countries of origin and destination but by migrants themselves in the belief that it draws benefits to them all.

Regarding risks facing migrant workers, the vice president said that low-skilled workers in particular are faced with challenges such as threats, bullying, violence, discrimination and unequal treatment.

According to the vice president, the UN is pushing for the development of appropriate policies that will guarantee the rights of migrant workers, lessen socio-economic transaction costs, maximize the best benefits from migration.

Speaking of his country’s reform process, Vice President U Nyan Tun said that the government is striving to improve the socio-economic status of the people, reduce poverty and create job opportunities as part of the country’s multi-dimensional policies for comprehensive rural development and poverty reduction.

He pledged Myanmar’s commitment to creating favourable conditions for migration and treating migrants as “important actors” rather than “victims”.

According to the vice president, Myanmar has formed facilities such as the Migrant Resource Centre, the Migrant Workers Reporting Counter and the Complaint Mechanism Centre, with their offices in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA

President says gov’t eyes completion of . . .

(from page 1) farmers to grow double crops and generate more income for farmers as well as for workers who now live from hand to mouth. He encouraged locals to think about what small industries they could run with electricity from the dams.

President U Thein Sein met town elders from Kalay, Kalewa, Mingin, Mawlak and Phaungpyin at the Aungzeya Yeiktha of the local station in Kalay, Sagaing Region, on 17 December.

Town elders submitted development of the townships.

The President fulfilled the requirements of socio-economic, health, education, communication, electrification and transport sectors.

It was also attended by union ministers, Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye, Lt-Gen Myint Soe of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), deputy ministers and departmental heads.

After arriving back in Nay Pyi Taw in the afternoon, the president received a delegation led by former Norwegian Prime Minister and former World Health Organization Director-General Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland.

MNA

Thura U Shwe Mann delivers speech at coordination meetings on important bills

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec — Cooperation between the Union Government and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw serves the interest of the people, Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann said at the coordination meeting on National Planning Bill (2015-2016), the Union Budget Bill (2015) and Union Revenue Bill (2015) held in Zabuthiri Hall of the Hluttaw Building on Thursday morning.

In his speech, Thura U Shwe Mann said that the meeting was of great importance as those bills were last planning, budget and revenue bills to be approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw before the end of its term and they had great impacts on the public interests, playing a decisive role in the accomplishment of the government and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw during their respective terms.

Aftewards, chairmen, vice chairmen, secretaries and members of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, deputy ministers for finance, national planning and economic developments, the deputy auditor-general and the deputy governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar held discussions on the bills.

The meeting concluded with remarks by the speaker.

MNA
Tourist arrivals on increase at Mandalay International Airport

Mandalay, 18 Dec — More than 250 tourists arrived at Mandalay International Airport through the e-visa system from 8 to 13 December.

The Mandalay Region Immigration and National Registration Department started giving e-visa services to tourists on arrival at the airport in the first week of November, saving them the trouble of applying for visas at Myanmar embassies.

“E-visa service is aimed at saving time and cost for tourists. Thanks to the e-visa service, arrival of tourists is increasing month by month,” the director of Mandalay Region Immigration and National Registration Department told media.

He said that on 8 November, the Union Minister for Immigration and Population presented a gift of a painting to a Dutch couple whose arrival in Myanmar coincided with the launch of the e-visa service and asked them about their e-visa application.”

The department issues e-visa replies to the applicants within three days. They must pay a US$50 per application fee.

Tourist arrivals on increase at Mandalay International Airport

Staff join skill test in Taninthayi

Taninthayi, 18 Dec — In accord with the directives of the Department of General Administration under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Taninthayi Township GAD organized the skill test for clerks and staff at its office in the township on 15 December.

Township Administrator U Kyaw Thu supervised the test.

The township department holds the test twice a year to uplift capacity of the staff and workers.

Nanthayi-Htein Win (IPRD)

Dawei district and township get law offices

Dawei, 17 Dec — Dawei District and Township law offices were commissioned into service in Dawei, Taninthayi Region, on 17 December, at a ceremony attended by Chief Minister of the region U Myat Ko.

Region ministers and the Advocate-General of the region U Soe Myint formally opened two offices, located in a one-storey reinforced concrete building.

The chief minister visited the office and unveiled their signboards.

Managing Director U Sonny of F-22 Construction Company handed over construction-related documents to Region Law Officer U Khin Maung Maung.

The regional government allotted K130 million for construction of the two offices in the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Taninthayi Region IPRD

Local authorities make surprise check on battery trading shop

Natogyi, 17 Dec — Authorities inspected the use of restricted chemicals in Natogyi, Mandalay Region, on 12 December.

Myingyan District Deputy Commissioner U Myint Thin Aung, Township Administrator U Kyaw Naing and departmental officials checked storage and sales of sulphuric acid, worksite safety and the bookkeeping system at Lighter battery and plate trading shop of U Aung Myint Soe in Ward 5 in Natogyi.

Officials urged the owner to take care of using the acid and avoid abusing sulphuric acid.

Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)
Children show skills in contest

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec — Children from pre-primary schools under Maternal and Child Welfare Association participated in a child skills contest at the hall of Dekkhina District General Administration Department in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

At the opening ceremony, students performed dances and songs. The children showed off their skills in the contest.


Law books unavailable in rural areas

MOHNYIN, 18 Dec — Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Sai Tin Aung who is a member of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee held a discussion on distribution of laws and bylaws books including the Constitution approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to the people of Mohnyin District Library of Information and Public Relations Department in Mohnyin, Kachin State, on 16 December.

They sought the ways to disseminate knowledge about the laws and bylaws to the people on a wider scale.

People can read the laws and bylaws in the newspapers at public libraries of district and township IPRDs. But books on the laws and bylaws are not sufficiently available in rural areas.—GNLM-001

Authorities, farmers meet on compensation for farmlands

NGAZUN, 18 Dec — The Myingyan District’s deputy commissioner and departmental officials met farmers from villages around Myotha industrial city in Ngazun Township, Mandalay Region, on 16 December.

The deputy commissioner explained the purpose of giving compensation for confiscated farmland. The authorities have compensated K2 million per acre to owners of farmland with firm evidence of prior ownership and K500,000 to others lacking such evidence. So far, the 60x80 feet land plots have been given to over 700 farmers.

Local farmers submitted their requirements.

Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

Nanmyo Youth team emerge champion in Yadanabon FC Chairman’s Cup

Mandalay, 18 Dec — Nanmyo Youth team clinched the title of Yadanabon FC Chairman’s Cup men’s open football tournament with a 3-0 win over Sports and Physical Education Institute (Mandalay). The final match took place at Bahtoo Stadium in Mandalay on 17 December.

Officials of Sports and Physical Education Department and departments concerned presented prizes to the winning teams.

On behalf of the Chairman of Yadanabon FC, Vice Chairman U Han Min Tun presented championship trophy and K1 million to Nanmyo Youth Team.

Altogether 27 football teams participated in the football tournament held at Aungmyay Mandalay and Bahtoo stadiums from 11 November to 17 December.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Public Works upgrades Einme-Pantanaw road

EINME, 18 Dec — Public Works personnel of the Ministry of Construction are placing asphalt concrete on a 24-mile long road linking Einme and Pantanaw townships of Ayeyawady Region.

On 17 December, officials of Public Works inspected progress of the road.

Public Works in Einme

Health staff vaccinate people against elephantiasis disease

NYAUNGLEBIN, 18 Dec — The vaccination of elephantiasis disease was held in 61 villages and five wards in Nyaunglebin, Bago Region, on 17 December.

Township level officials made field trips to the villages and provided assistance to the medical teams. Health staff and nurses vaccinated under-5 children and adults at their residences.

Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)

Mandalay Region Minister for Finance Dr Myint Kyu inspected progress of four-storey staff quarter at Mandalay Sub-printing House in Aungmyethazan Township on 17 December.—TIN MAUNG (MANDALAY)
Mekong basin leaders endorse $51 billion in investment projects

BANGKOK, 18 Dec — Leaders from China and five Southeast Asian countries that share the Mekong River basin are expected to endorse a multi-billion dollar investment programme on Saturday to spur economic growth in the region, home to 326 million people.

A draft statement to be issued by Thailand, host of a two-day Greater Mekong Subregion summit that ends Saturday, said the leaders will discuss an investment programme covering 215 projects with an estimated total budget of $51.5 billion.

The projects under the so-called GMS regional investment framework, or RIF, cover a wide range of economic sectors including transport, energy, agriculture, environment, human resource development, tourism, transportation, information and communications technology.

The RIF implementation plan will provide an action plan to help the countries sharing the Mekong basin address many of the challenges in the coming years, according to a draft of the Joint Summit Declaration that the leaders will issue at the end of their fifth summit.

The countries represented at the Greater Mekong Subregion summit are China, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

The leaders attending the summit are also expected to stress the need to provide adequate social safety conditions for the most vulnerable people, especially their basic needs like food security, shelter and health and education.

Decades of rapid economic and population growth have increased the demand for energy, land and water, and pose major environmental challenges to the region. The Greater Mekong Subregion is a natural economic area bound together by the Mekong River.

—Kyodo News

Two die as snow storm hits Japan

TOKYO, 18 Dec — Two people have died and two remain missing after a heavy snow storm hit northern and central parts of Japan from Wednesday night to Thursday.

A 68-year-old man died after falling from a boat hitting a rock early Thursday morning, while a 66-year-old woman died after falling from a train crossing.

No injuries were reported in the two accidents.

—Kyodo News

Cambodia protests Thai soldiers shooting of Cambodian women

PHNOM PENH, 18 Dec — Cambodia has sent a letter of protest against Thai soldiers who shot five Cambodian women, leaving one dead at the scene.

The protest note sent to the Thai government, a copy seen by the media on Thursday, said “The Royal Government of Cambodia strongly protests against the barbarian acts committed by the Thai soldiers, which obviously violate humanitarian principles.”

In the note dated Wednesday, Cambodia also asked the Thai authorities to stop these “atrocious acts against innocent Cambodian people” and “respect the recent agreements” by the leaders of the two countries.

The note said that on 9 December, five Cambodian women — a mother, her two daughters and two other women living in O’smach district in Cambodia’s northwestern province Udoor Meanchea — crossed into Thai territory without knowledge of the borderline to collect wild mushrooms and cassava.

While collecting the products, the 55-year-old mother, Horn Chem, was shot dead by Thai soldiers. Her two daughters and the two other women fled back into Cambodia, it said.

In the note, Cambodia requested the Thai authorities to conduct a thorough investigation into the incident and bring the offenders to justice.

Koy Kuang, a spokesman for Cambodia’s Foreign Ministry, told Kyodo News that since early this year, five Cambodians were shot dead by Thai soldiers, including the latest death.

—Kyodo News

World’s largest capacity container ship holds maiden voyage ceremony in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 18 Dec — CSCL (China Shipping Container Lines Co Ltd) Globe, the world’s largest container vessel, held a grand maiden voyage ceremony in Singapore on Thursday.

The CSCL Globe, which is 400 metres long and 60 metres wide, is the first of the five sister ships built by the Republic of Korea’s Hyundai Heavy Industries for CSCL. The vessel is bigger than four football fields combined and stands 10 storeys high. It is capable of carrying 19,100 containers, making it the largest container vessel in the world.

Building mega ships has become a new trend of shipping lines under the “New Norms” of global economy and shipping industry, it is also an important measure to implement green technology, said Sui Jun, deputy manager of CSCL.

“Compared with ordinary 10,000-TEU container ships, it can save about 20 percent in energy consumption and reduce 30,000 tonnes of carbon emissions.” Sui said.

Sui said that Singapore is one of the important legs of Silk Road at Sea, as well as transshipment hub in Southeast Asia, and CSCL will take this as an opportunity to upgrade the fleet and provide better logistic services to its customers.

CSCL, the global container liner service provider, is affiliated with China Shipping Group, which was founded in 1997 in Shanghai. The group has established over 400 sales outlets in more than 100 countries in the world.

—Xinhua

Japan, 3 ASEAN nations to launch survey of Malacca straits

TOKYO, 18 Dec — Japan and three ASEAN nations surrounding the Straits of Malacca confirmed plans on Thursday to launch a joint waterway survey of the key Southeast Asian sea lane from next year.

Japan and the three members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations — Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore — will map five spots in the straits next year, according to Japanese officials.

Japanese shipping companies will provide funds and technical personnel.

The straits are narrow and prone to sinking and other accidents. The corridor needs mapping on a regular basis to adapt to any topological changes and the locations of obstacles, including sunken ships.

Japan has taken part in similar surveys twice in the past since the 1960s. Its participation in the upcoming survey was decided at a meeting in Malaysia in September. Japan depends on the straits for the import of natural resources from the Middle East, with its ships frequently using the pathway.

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—Kyodo News
Australian police raid properties, not related to siege: authorities

SYDNEY, 18 Dec — Australian police are conducting raids across Sydney, officials said on Thursday, although the operation is not related to a cafe siege this week that resulted in the death of two hostages. Australian Federal Police and New South Wales Police are in the process of raiding properties, a spokeswoman for state enforcement department told Reuters.

While New South Wales Police said details would be provided once the operation was complete, the spokeswoman said the raids were not connected to the Sydney siege on Monday. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported that at least one of the properties raided was targeted during large-scale counter-terrorism raids in September. Police remain on heightened alert following the deadly hostage siege.

Three people were killed, including hostage-taker Man Haron Monis, when police stormed the cafe early on Tuesday to free hostages held at gunpoint for 16 hours. Police are investigating whether the two captives were killed by Monis or died in crossfire. — Reuters

1st commercial hydrogen station in Tokyo, surrounding region opens

South Korea balks as US picks Japan, Australia to service F-35s in Asia

WASHINGTON/SEOUL, 18 Dec — South Korea said on Thursday it will not send its F-35s to Japan for heavy airframe maintenance, one of the two Asian hubs chosen by the United States to service the Lockheed Martin Corp stealth fighter.

Instead, it is likely to fly the jets to Australia for maintenance, about eight times further away than Japan and well beyond their operating range. The three nations, all key US allies, are the only countries in the region to have ordered the F-35s. The F-35 program has been lauded as an example of the United States and its allies working together to bolster interoperability, but in Asia the maintenance plan is bringing traditional rivalry between Seoul and Tokyo to the fore.

The three-star air force general who runs the F-35 programme for the United States, Chris Bogdan, told reporters on Wednesday that Japan would handle heavy maintenance for the jets in the northern Pacific from early 2018, with Australia to handle maintenance in the southern Pacific.

"There will never be a case where our fighter jets will be taken to Japan for maintenance," said an official at South Korea's arms procurement agency, the Defence Acquisition Programme Administration. "South Korea has the right to decide where to conduct maintenance for its F-35 jets, and it will decide whenever the need arises."

The plan at the moment is for the 40 F-35s to be acquired by South Korea to be serviced in Australia, an Australian defence ministry source told Reuters on condition he wasn't identified.

South Korea said it would receive the first of the stealth planes in 2018. A source familiar with the F-35 program said South Korea could, at a later stage, negotiate with Washington on the possibility of handling the heavy maintenance of its own F-35 jets.

Such a deal would require a significant investment by Seoul, including specialized equipment used to test the jets' stealth. However, barring unforeseen circumstances, the new jets would not require much heavy maintenance until five years after their delivery, said the source, who was not authorized to speak publicly. Heavy maintenance involves re-pairs that get into the structure of the airplanes.

"At the moment the regional hub in Japan will deal with the 42 Japanese F-35s, we will discuss with the Pentagon what others will benefit from a market valued at billions of dollars in coming years."

The $39 billion weapons programme has already produced 120 jets with the US and foreign militaries gearing up to start operating the jets around the world in coming years.

In Japan, the airframe maintenance decision benefits Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, which is already slated to run the final assembly and checkout plant being built in Japan at a cost of 63.9 billion yen. Future engine work in Japan would be done by IHI Corp, which is already building engine components for Japan's F-35 jets, according to a source familiar with the programme.

In Australia, the airframe maintenance work could be done by Britain's BAE Systems, although the Australian government could opt to compete the work, the source said.

"Australian defence industry stands to win well in excess of $1.5 billion in JSF-related production and support work over the life of the programme," Australian Defence Minister David Johnston said in a statement. — Reuters

Indonesian president says no clemency against drug dealer

Jakarta, 18 Dec — Indonesian President Joko Widodo on Thursday stressed that he would not give clemency to any drug dealers who have been in a raw for death penalty as the country has been on emergency against the danger of drugs.

For this year, six people are set to be executed on death penalty for drug cases in Indonesia. Jokowi said that he already asked the attorney general office, police and other related institution to strengthen efforts to enforce anti-drug law.

Indonesian anti-narcotic agency has targeted Indonesia to be free from drug next year. — Xinhua
Love is a many-splendoured thing, but ...

By Myo Myint

There are so many words and phrases related to love in the English language and their meanings differ slightly from one another based on degree of passion, age of person and duration. The word “love” is defined by the Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary (CALD) as “to like another adult very much and be romantically and sexually attracted to them, or to have strong feelings of liking a friend or person in your family”. Some examples of words related to love and their meanings found in the third edition of CALD are adoration (very strong love or worship for someone), besotted (completely in love with someone and always thinking of them), crush (a strong but temporary liking for someone), infatuation (strong but not usually lasting feelings of love or attraction), puppy-love (romantic feeling which a young person feels for someone else and which usually disappears as the young person gets older), romance (a close, usually short relationship of love between two persons), and worship (to love, respect or admire someone or something very much often without noticing their bad qualities). So also, there are numerous poetic descriptions of love which I will not attempt to discuss here, as my interest is more on the effect love has on a person than on aesthetic matters.

There is a Myanmar saying that when in love and when heavy-eyed, one loses one’s sense of shame. Indeed, it is a very apt description, because when one is in love with someone, the person loses all inhibitions when in pursuit of the object of his/her love. So also, love inspires people to do great things. Love inspires people to make great sacrifices, even giving up one’s life. Love for someone can make one forget even the person’s dearest and nearest relatives, like one’s parents. Love can affect one’s mind and make one go crazy, since being in love floods one system with mood altering chemicals as pointed out by Dr Helen Fisher and quoted by Molly Triffin, and Holly Eagleson in their article Why love can make one a slave, if one is a meek person or by love of the whole person. Indeed, it is unfortunate enough to me that the girl didn’t die, and that it is a rare occurrence in Myanmar schools, but it seems to be a repeat of another similar event some months ago, when a young woman was apparently stabbed to death by a young man for having rejected his love.

Some may regard it as an exaggeration to say that the current environment is encouraging even the very young to participate in the game of love, but a closer look will reveal that it is not so. In some families, it has become common to joke about their young children in primary school having sweethearts and ex-boyfriends on Valentine’s Day. In addition, with TV’s becoming an important medium in Myanmar, many Myanmar families own, and as homes are so small that they are crowded with daily doses of foreign and local drama film series in which love between young people figures a lot, our young children are over-exposed to the fiction of falling in and out of love and their related behaviours. I am particularly saddened by a scene in a local short film shown on a local TV channel, of a group of ten or eleven year old pre-teen boys behaving like love-starved young people while watching girls of their age acting like models on stage. It is surprising that such a film is permitted to be shown on TV, and more surprising that no parent has been heard to protest about it. Another bad example for young children is the uncontrolled passion being shown by those in love in public sight on roads, buses, trains and public places including pagoda precincts, which is against the Myanmar nature and culture. This also begs the question whether the love in the current age is being driven more by need to satisfy the senses, or by love of the whole person. So also there is too much emphasis on love in pop songs and excessive portrayal of it in VCDs of the songs. Moreover, increasing ownership of cellular phones among young teenagers, has given them free access to indecent sites from all over the world.

Should parents and teachers be overly concerned by this growing trend in increasing interest of the very young in matters beyond their age? Indeed, they should, for many important reasons. The main reason is that it restricts youngsters from their studies and has an adverse effect on their academic knowledge and skills for all-round development including social skills and training to be physically and mentally healthy persons, and play - allowing children to enjoy the carefree life of a young person, so that they will not be distracted by matters not of concern to their age group. On the part of schools, it is the responsibility of the heads and teachers not only... (See page 9)
NPED Ministry conducts post-graduate courses for capacity enhancement of staff

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—The Graduate School of Administration and Development (GSAD) opened a post-graduate diploma in public policy and administration (PG Dip PPA), a post-graduate diploma in development planning (PG Dip Dev Pln) and a post-graduate diploma in human resources development.

Unions representational Ms Bu Thi Lan of FAO at his office in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday to discuss forest management tasks with the assistance of Global Environment Facilities (GEF), prevention of forest fire and air pollution.

They also discussed reducing losses of local people in climate change for their residence in forests and environs, survey on fish and coral reefs and marine resources, drawing the land utilization policy, experiences, challenges and future cooperation among other countries in land management.

The union minister received Dr Amir Khalil of Four PAWS International of Australia at his ministry focusing their discussions on the establishment of wildlife sanctuaries including elephant sanctuaries, medical treatment of elephant diseases, cooperation of international organizations with the government in health care for elephants, prospects for establishment of elephant sanctuaries for tourist attraction, experiences of neighbouring countries, establishment of wildlife sanctuaries in Australia, Germany, Bulgaria and South Africa by Four PAWS International and plans to cooperate with the government for staff capacity building.—MNA

Union ECF Minister meets FAO resident representative, official of Four PAWS International

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun held talks with Resident Representative Ms Bu Thi Lan of FAO at his office in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday to discuss forest management tasks with the assistance of Global Environment Facilities (GEF), prevention of forest fire and air pollution.

They also discussed reducing losses of local people in climate change for their residence in forests and environs, survey on fish and coral reefs and marine resources, drawing the land utilization policy, experiences, challenges and future cooperation among other countries in land management.

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Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun holds talks with Dr Amir Khalil of Four PAWS International of Australia.

N/A

MPF and CSOs jointly train communication skills and conflict prevention

YANGON, 18 Dec—“This joint workshop is a milestone for reform of the Myanmar Police Force. For the first time ever police officers and civil society actors were sitting together and jointly discussed how to set up a liaison mechanism for regular meetings, consultations and conflict prevention,” explains EU Ambassador Roland Kobia, who was present.

The workshop trained 12 police officers and 23 civil society activists from Ayeyawady region in communication, negotiation and liaison skills. Based on realistic scenarios, participants jointly trained conflict analysis and resolution tools. Special attention was paid to the role of the General Administration Department (GAD) in dealing with land-grabbing cases. The relationship with the administration at regional and township levels can be quite challenging to MPF Liaison Officers.—MNA

Myanmar police officers in training of communication skill course.

Credit To EUD

Love is a many-splendoured...

(from page 8) to provide knowledge and make learning interesting, but also to instill discipline and social skills. In addition, as students spend a lot of their waking hours in school, they also need to keep students occupied with, and interested in, healthy activities like sports and games. They also need to provide the time, opportunities and facilities like libraries and music and agri-cultural associations to pursue their hobbies and interests. School children need good models and teachers should guide them to have the right role models. In addition, schools should hold educative talks on social and health matters provided by specialists.

On the part of the government, and the local community, apart from extending more assistance to the education sector, they need to also develop sports and recreation facilities for young people. Every ward should have a football field, a playground and a park for children to play, so that they can escape from the dreary and cramped conditions of apartments and high rise buildings they have to live in. More facilities such as natural and historical museums, art galleries, botanical gardens and animal sanctuaries should also be set up in easily accessible places to give opportunity for young people to learn and enjoy themselves at the same time.

Lastly, it is time to take strong action against those misbehaving in public to protect the morals of current and future generations, and our valued cultural norms. It is also important that pop stars acknowledge the fact that people of all ages, including the very young ones are only watching their videos and love to hear them. They need to serve as good role models for young people and they need to behave in a decent manner, which certainly will not affect the adoration that their fans have for them, their freedom to be creative, or the expression of their talents. Other celebrities should also be aware of their important responsibilities, as some stars say they are not bothered about what people think. Such attitude of those who earn their living with the support of young people is to say the least, wrong. They have to care, because, unfortunately, whether they like it or not (they probably do), they serve as models for young people regarding their clothes, behaviours and attitudes.

In order to solve many of the problems that parents and teachers face in raising children, including for them to not fall in love too early in life, parents, teachers, and stakeholders should meet regularly and discuss ways and means to counter the harmful influences that young people face these days from many sources.
US Cuba restore ties after 50 years

Washington was increasingly in its efforts to squeeze Cuba, Raul Castro, who took over from Fidel Castro when his brother retired in 2008, has maintained a one-party political system.

Obama said Cuba still needed to enact economic reforms and uphold human rights among other changes but that it was time for a new approach.

Americans are largely open to establishing diplomatic relations with Cuba, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll of more than 31,000 adults conducted between July and October. About one-third of those surveyed said they opposed such a move, while 43 percent said the United States should restore relations with Cuba and around 37 percent said they were unsure.

Whatever the criticism at home, Obama’s move was made with the political backing of a president that has “a lot of sympathizers,” said Pope Francis, the first Latin American pontiff, played an active role in pressing for his release from Cuba, where a sizable part of the population is Roman Catholic. Cuba released him on 3 December, 2009, and sentenced him to 15 years in prison for importing banned technology and trying to establish clandestine Internet service for Cuban Jews. Gross had been working as a subcontractor for the US Agency for International Development.

The three Cuban intelligence agents, jailed since 1998, are Gerardo Hernandez, 49, Antonio Guerrero, 56, and Ramon Labanino, 51. Two others had been released before completing their sentences — Rene Gonzalez, 58, and Fernando Gonzalez, 51. The three arrived in Cuba on Wednesday, Castro

Western sanctions may last for decades

Russian minister tells newspaper

MOSCOW, 18 Dec — Western sanctions over Russia’s role in the Ukraine crisis are likely to last “for a very long time”, possibly decades, Economy Minister Alexei Ulyukayev told Vedomosti newspaper.

“While it is very hard to change it afterwards — looks like it will be in place for decades,” Ulyukayev said in an interview published on Thursday. Russia’s economy is heading for recession, dragged lower by sanctions imposed by the West over Ukraine and weak oil prices, a cornerstone of state revenues. The rouble has lost more than 45 percent against the dollar since the start of the year. Ulyukayev said a lack of structural reform of the economy had partly set Russia up for “the perfect storm”. He added that if there were no sanctions, “if we had done some foolish things” which he did not elaborate on, the Russian economy could show annual growth of between 2.5 and 3 percent.

He added that sanctions may become tougher next year with the situation on the oil markets worsening further.

“The situation is so hard to predict that we cannot be prepared for its changes in the future ... How should we behave then? Write one more stress-scenario in addition to (the oil price at) $60 (per barrel)? Let’s do it for $40, $20 and $10,” he said ironically. —Reuters

Cuba’s President Raoul Castro speaks to the nation via public television in Havana on 17 Dec, 2014. —REUTERS

US President Barack Obama announces a shift in policy toward Cuba while delivering an address from the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington on 17 Dec, 2014. —REUTERS

S Korea welcomes US-Cuba agreement to start talks on own relations

SEOUL, 18 Dec — South Korea said on Thursday it welcomes an agreement between the United States and Cuba to start talks on diplomatic relations.

“We welcome the agreement on normalizing relations (between the US and Cuba) as an important progress,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Noh Kwang II said during a press briefing. He added that the agreement “is also expected to make a positive effect on South Korea’s move to restore relations with Cuba”. “We hope efforts (by the US and Cuba) toward normalizing relations advance smoothly,” he said. —Kyodo News
Iraq Kurds launch Sinjar offensive after coalition air strikes

KABUL, (Iraq) 18 Dec — Kurdish forces launched an operation to retake the town of Sinjar in northwest Iraq on Wednesday after coalition planes pounded Islamic State positions overnight, Kurdish officials said.

The peshmerga fighters made gains against IS throughout the day, the officials said, driving the militants out of at least eight sub-districts in the Zumar area, east of Sinjar.

If the peshmerga succeeded in recapturing the town, it would open up a corridor to Sinjar mountain, where hundreds of minority Yazidis have been besieged by IS militants since August.

It would also be a symbolic victory for the Kurds, whose reputation as fearsome warriors was bruised after Islamic State militants overpowered the peshmerga in Sinjar and killed or captured hundreds of Yazidis.

“At 8:00 this morning the ground offensive began to liberate Sinjar town,” said one official in the Kurdish region’s Security Council, adding that coalition planes had bombed the area for several hours beforehand.

“There’s evidence that a lot of IS fighters abandoned their weapons and fled the area.”

Several other Kurdish security officials gave similar accounts.

US President Barack Obama cited the duty to prevent an impending massacre of Yazidis by Islamic State militants as one of the main reasons for authorising the first air strikes in Iraq this summer.

Since then, Kurdish peshmerga forces have regained most of the ground that was lost to Islamic State in northern Iraq, but Sinjar’s awkward geography, out on a limb to the west, has made it difficult to penetrate.

The road through Sinjar is an important supply route for Islamic State militants between Mosul and neighbouring Syria.

Kurdistan’s security council said in a statement information from the front line suggested more than 80 militants had been killed in the offensive so far. The number of casualties among the peshmerga was not known.

“Morale remains high as the Peshmerga continue to make advances against ISIS,” the statement read.

In London, the Kurdistan Regional Government’s top diplomat told Reuters Kurdish armed forces had been co-ordinating with Iraqi Shi’ite militias in the fight against Islamic State.

“In certain areas, especially in Diyala Province where there are other forces on the ground, there has been some co-ordination, but I don’t hide it and there has been some tension as well,” said Falah Mustafa Bakir, head of the KRG’s department of foreign relations.

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Canada PM says Parliament attacker may not have been lone wolf

Canada’s Prime Minister Stephen Harper speaks during Question Period in the House of Commons on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on 19 Nov, 2014. — Reuters

OTTAWA, 18 Dec — The man who killed a Canadian soldier and then stormed the Parliament in Ottawa on Tuesday may not have been acting alone, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said on Wednesday.

Michael Zehaf-Bibeau, a Canadian citizen who wanted to travel to Syria, was shot dead after a gunfight in the halls of Parliament.

“People say he was a lone wolf. It’s true he was a single attacker, but it is not necessarily the case that it was only one guy,” Harper said in an interview with the French-language TVA network.

Zehaf-Bibeau struck two days after Martin Rouleau, a Muslim convert, ran down two Canadian soldiers in Quebec, killing one. Rouleau was shot dead by police.

“It is possible there were other people around these men,” Harper said. He did not elaborate except to say that investigations were continuing.

In the case of Rouleau, he was known to police for his jihadist views, like dozens of others in Canada, Harper said, but police were not able to arrest them or conduct the necessary surveillance, “and we have to address these difficulties.”

Law enforcement authorities around the world are increasingly worried about the risk of “lone wolf”-style militant attacks.

While such attackers may cause less mayhem than those backed by militant groups, they are also more difficult to track.

The self-styled sheikh behind a siege at a Sydney, Australia, cafe this week, was considered a lone wolf, according to a criminal defence lawyer who had represented him. Man Haron Monis was killed after police stormed the cafe to end the hostage drama.— Reuters

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Suicide bomber kills one on outskirts of Afghan capital

KABUL, 18 Dec — One policeman was killed and two were injured on the outskirts of the Afghan capital on Thursday, in a blast caused by a suicide bomber attempting to enter Kabul in a vehicle laden with explosives, an interior ministry spokesman said.

“A patrol was sent around 7 am to 7:30 am to look for the suicide car bomber, but unfortunately the bomber was able to detonate his explosives,” spokesman Sediq Seddiqi told Reuters by telephone.

The attack took place in a village just beyond the airport, he said.— Reuters

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Kuwait says accepts Iraq request on Gulf war reparations

KUWAIT CITY, 18 Dec — Kuwait said it accepted an Iraqi request related to reparations imposed by the UN Security Council over its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, state news agency KUNA said on Thursday, ahead of discussions in Geneva on the request.

A UN official said on Wednesday that Iraq, its economy battered by declining oil prices and war with Islamist militants, has requested a one-year deferral of a $4.6 billion (£2.9 billion) reparations payment for destroying Kuwait’s oil facilities during its 1990-91 occupation.

Asked about reports that Iraq had asked to defer payment of the last tranche of its reparations to Kuwait, Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Khaled al-Jarallah was quoted as saying: “The brothers in Iraq have presented the request formally and unilaterally and Kuwait has accepted and responded to this request.”

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A general view of Kuwait City on 10 Nov, 2012. — Reuters
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV UNI ASSURE VOY NO (379N)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV UNI ASSURE VOY NO (379N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.12.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CRESTED EAGLE VOY NO (001)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV CRESTED EAGLE VOY NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.12.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301186

Ministry of Construction
Public Works
(Invitation For Open Tender)
1. Open tender applying precondition method is invited by Public Works, Ministry of Construction, Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for upgrading projects with the part of proceeds of the Regional Development Project for Poverty Reduction under JICA ODA Loan, Japan.

Sr. No. | Name of Work | Type of Work |
--- | --- | --- |
1. | Thayet-Minhlia Road (Magway Region) (13 miles) | Bituminous Road |
2. | Dako-U-Sittang Road (Bagu Region) (21 miles 2 fullrings) | Bituminous Road |
3. | Monywa-Ayaw-Shwe Bo Road (Sagang Region) (7 miles) | Bituminous Road |
4. | Mandalay-Myatlw-Sogoke Road (Mandalay Region) (8 miles) | Bituminous Road |
5. | Yangon-KyaukPye Road (Rahhine State) (19 miles | Bituminous Road |
4 fullrings + 6 bridges) |
7. | Last Submission Date of Tender Documents | 12:00 noon on 22.1.2015 |
8. | Opening date of Tender Documents | 13:00 hours on 10.2.2015 |
9. | Tender Documents can be purchased with fifty thousand kyats (50000 Ks.) at the following address and for the detail information, please contact the office within office hours |

Tender Selection Committee, Public Works Road Department Office No.(11), Nay Pyi Taw
Tel: 067-407468, 407578, 407663, 407583, 407380

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (061W)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (061W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.12.2014 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 HANJIN SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANGSRIMUANG VOY NO (127)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSRIMUANG VOY NO (127) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.12.2014 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 WONGSAMUOT OCEAN SHIPPING CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301186

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy in the North Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 19th December, 2014: Isolated light rain are likely in Manda- lay Region, Kachin and Shan States, weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).
STATE OF THE SEA: Strong easterly winds with moderate to rough sea are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Motama, off and along Mott-tanihnu Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach (35 mph). Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.
**INVOICE 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 Yetagun Condensate 0.7 Mbls (±5%) from Yetagun Marine Terminal Offshore to No.1 Refinery (Thanlyin).
2. Tender Closing Date: 15-1-2015 at (12:00) noon.
3. 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 from 17 December, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

**This Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Energy**

**Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (22/2014)**

Open takers are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars.:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No.</th>
<th>Tender No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Remark</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>IFB-118(14-15)</td>
<td>Geological Instruments for Applied Research</td>
<td>USD</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Centre, Geology Workstation &amp; Mud Logging Unit (1) Lot</td>
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<tr>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>IFB-119(14-15)</td>
<td>Retest Factory for CNG Type-1</td>
<td>USD</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(150 Cylinder / Day) (1) Unit</td>
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<td>(3)</td>
<td>IFB-120(14-15)</td>
<td>CNG Compressor Driven Motor with Complete Package (2) Units</td>
<td>USD</td>
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<td>(4)</td>
<td>IFB-121(14-15)</td>
<td>CNG Compressor Driven Electric Motor with Complete Package &amp; Accessories (1) Unit</td>
<td>USD</td>
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<td>(5)</td>
<td>IFB-122(14-15)</td>
<td>Cummins Engine with Gear Box (1) Set</td>
<td>USD</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Remark**
- Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 15th December, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
- Managing Director
  - Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise

**FBI, Los Angeles police recover 9 stolen paintings worth $10 million**

Los Angeles, 18 Dec — Federal agents and police in Los Angeles have recovered nine paintings worth millions of dollars that were stolen from the home of an elderly couple six years ago, including works by Marc Chagall and Diego Rivera, and FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller said on Wednesday.

The paintings were recovered in an FBI sting operation in which a suspect identified as Paul Espinoza, 45, was arrested as he tried to sell the stolen artwork to undercover agents, FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller said.

Espinoza was charged by Los Angeles County prosecutors with possession of stolen property, Eimiller said, adding that the police and FBI investigation of the art theft was continuing and that additional suspects were being sought.

She said authorities are also looking for three additional paintings stolen from the couple’s home in the Encino neighborhood of Los Angeles in August 2008, a daylight art heist that ranks among the biggest in the city’s history.

**Global population living six years longer than in 1990**

London, 18 Dec — Global life expectancy has risen by more than six years since 1990 thanks to falling death rates from cancer and heart disease in rich countries and better survival in poor countries from diarrhoea, tuberculosis and malaria.

In an analysis from the 2013 Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study, health researchers said, however, that while life expectancy is rising almost everywhere in the world, one notable exception is southern sub-Saharan Africa, where deaths from HIV/AIDS have eased some five years of life expectancy since 1990.

“The progress we are seeing against a variety of illnesses and injuries is good — even remarkable — but we can and must do even better,” said Christopher Murray, a professor of global health at the University of Washington in the United States, who led the study. It was published in The Lancet medical journal.

Murray said a huge increase in collective action and funding given to potentially deadly infectious diseases such as diarrhoea, measles, tuberculosis, HIV and malaria has had a real impact, reducing death rates and extending life expectancy.—Reuters

**United States halts shale gas drilling in New York State**

New York, 18 Dec — The United States gives up shale gas drilling because of risks for health and environment. The project is closed in the state of New York.

Gov Andrew Cuomo’s administration will move to prohibit fracking in the state, citing unresolved health issues and dubious economic benefits of the widely used gas-drilling technique, Associated Press reported on Wednesday.

Environmental Commissioner Joe Martens said on Wednesday that he recommends a ban, and Cuomo said he would defer to Martens and Acting Health Commissioner Howard Zucker in making the decision.

Zucker and Martens summarized the findings of their environmental and health reviews. They concluded that shale gas development using high-volume hydraulic fracturing carried unacceptable risks that haven’t been sufficiently studied.

Martens said the Department of Environmental Conservation will put out a final environmental impact statement early next year, and after that he’ll issue an order prohibiting fracking.

The drilling technique has generated tens of billions of dollars and reduced energy bills and fuel imports in the region. But it’s also brought concerns and sparked protests, over air and water pollution, earthquakes, property devaluation, heavy truck traffic and health impacts.

New York has had a ban on shale gas development since the environmental review began in 2008.

| Friday, 19 December, 2014 | 13 | Retuers | New York has had a ban on shale gas development since the environmental review began in 2008. | }"
Imagine Dragons announces new album ‘Smoke + Mirrors’

LOS ANGELES, 18 Dec — Imagine Dragons’ new album, which was written and produced by the band along with Alex Da Kid in their self-built home studio, will be released on 17 February 2015. The Las Vegas rock band announced that they would release their sophomore effort, ‘Smoke + Mirrors’, reported Ace Showbiz.

The album, serving as the follow-up to 2012’s Grammy-winning ‘Night Visions’, was written and produced by the Las Vegas band with the help from Alex Da Kid in their self-built home studio. It will feature 13 new tracks including lead single ‘1 Bet My Life’ and the newly-released ‘Gold’. Both songs are available for free download for fans who pre-order the album on iTunes now.

‘Gold’ is one of the last songs written for this album. I came home from tour with my head spinning and decided to run away for a bit to the west coast and reflect/write about the last couple years. If you listen closely to the sample of me whistling into my laptop by the ocean, you can hear a wave that crashed while I was recording it. “I loved the take because it seemed to crash perfectly in time. It takes me back to that spot every time I hear the song,” frontman Dan Reynolds said.

Based on the tracks that precede it, ‘Smoke + Mirrors’ will likely sound different from Imagine Dragons’ previous releases. Four new songs are added to the album’s deluxe edition that will be released exclusively through Target.

London, 18 Dec — Actress Katie Holmes says she had to learn how to shoot a gun for ‘Miss Meadows’. The 35-year-old actress enjoyed playing the titular character in her latest movie, which tells the story of a teacher who moonlights as a vigilante, partly because she got to handle a powerful weapon, reported Contactmusic.

“Miss Meadows is a new character for me because she’s kind of funny — a substitute teacher who turns into a vigilante when she sees a child being harmed. She was fun to play — plus, I learned how to shoot a gun,” she said.

Homes, who has recently to shoot a gun,” she said.

The short video was sent out via Twitter or text message to those who have signed up on threeeyedraven.com. The video can only be viewed once and if one tries to take a screen-shot, it will shut down. But one fan managed to record the teaser and upload it on Youtube.

The previously released teaser features Arya stabbing a man with Needle and hints at where Arya will end up in the upcoming installment. It shows black and white doors believed to be representing ‘Game of Thrones’ season 5 is expected to premiere in spring 2015.—PTI

Third ‘Night at the Museum’ film marks Robin Williams’ final appearance

NEW YORK, 18 Dec — For the third installment of the lucrative “Night at the Museum” series, the filmmakers wanted to make a film about saying goodbye.

As fate would have it, the sequel, entitled “Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb” would be comic legend Robin Williams’ final appearance before the cameras, as well as the penultimate film featuring veteran nonagenarian actor Mickey Rooney, both of whom died in 2014.

The credits for “Secret of the Tomb,” which opens in US theatres on Friday, read “In loving memory of Mickey Rooney,” and “For Robin Williams — the magic never ends.” In the latest installment, the plot of which might best be titled as “Night at the British Museum”, Stiller, his teenage son and the museum’s come-to-life characters must travel to London to save the decaying magical tablet that animates the natural history museum’s exhibits each night.

Back for a third go-round in the series, which has so far generated nearly $1 billion at the worldwide box office, are Ben Stiller as the night security guard, Owen Wilson and Steve Coogan as the diminutive cowboy Jedediah and Roman Centurion Octavius, museum head Ricky Gervais, and Williams as US President Teddy Roosevelt.


Reuters
Vietnam suspends fruit imports from Australia over fruit fly concerns

HANOI, 18 Dec — Vietnam has decided to suspend imports of fruits from Australia for concerns over fruit fly, according to the Department of Plant Protection under Vietnam’s Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on Wednesday.

Nguyen Xuan Hong, director of the department, said, imports of all 38 kinds of Australian fruits will be suspended from 1 January, 2015 to prevent fruit fly infestation as Australia is facing outbreaks of fruit fly which attack and damage fruits and vegetables.

Vietnam has sent an announcement to the Australian side in accordance with international regulations, said Hong.

He said quarantine work will be strengthened for fruit shipments on the way to Vietnam. The imports will be resumed when no fruit fly outbreak is reported in Australia and if the country’s fruits meet quarantine requirements of Vietnam, reported the website of the Vietnamese government on Wednesday.

According to statistics by the Department of Plant Protection, in the first 10 months of 2014, Vietnam imported some 2,000 tons of fruits from Australia, mainly apples, pears, grapes and cherries.—Xinhua

The Hawaiian lava flowing from the Kilauea volcano is pictured here. It is expected to make a big push towards the Pahoa area on Hawaii’s Big Island, according to U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) data.

**Lava creeps within mile of Hawaii shopping centre**

PAHOA, (Hawaii), 18 Dec — A stream of molten lava from an erupting volcano on Hawaii’s Big Island crept to within a mile of the only grocery store and gas station in the village of Pahoa on Wednesday as it neared a highway link with the rest of the island.

The Hawi County Civil Defence Agency reported on Wednesday that lava from the Kilauea Volcano’s 27 June eruption continued to move in an east-northeast direction, following the path of steepest descent through rough terrain and thick undergrowth.

Scientists from the US Geological Survey said the flow measured about 250 feet (76 m) across and had advanced about 220 yards (200 m) in 24 hours, putting its leading edge 0.9 mile (1.5 km) from a small commercial plaza at the junction of Pahoa Village Road and the main highway.

Authorities said the lava was likely to reach the intersection sometime next week. An earlier branch of the lava flow stalled just feet from a recycling transfer station.

The latest flow has been advancing at an average rate of roughly 330 yards a day since early November.

While the lava poses no immediate threat to homes, it is headed directly at the Pahoa Marketplace housing a grocery store, gasoline station, medical clinic and several small shops and restaurants. Civil Defence Chief Darryl Oliveira said county officials were working closely with merchants to prepare for a possible evacuation.

The service station has begun emptying its gasoline tanks and replacing the fuel with water and fire-retardant foam, Oliveira said, and Malama Market has announced plans to close on Thursday.—Reuters

**‘Shimmering’ Cezanne to heat up art auction, Christie’s says**

LONDON, 18 Dec — A “shimmering” Paul Cezanne painting of the Mediterranean in the back of a London showroom is expected to attract the big-money buyers at a February auction that includes works by Modigliani, Giacometti and Picasso, Christie’s said on Wednesday.

The Cezanne work, “Vue sur L’Estaque et Le Cimetière (Yayway)” at 3 p.m. on 20-12-2014 (Saturday) for entombment.

The canvas comes of a collection assembled by the late British industrialist Fontana and others.

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Christie’s staff members pose for a photograph with “Vue sur L’Estaque et Le Château d’If” by Paul Cezanne in London on 17 Dec. 2014. Reuters

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The canvas comes of a collection assembled by the late British industrialist Fontana and others.
Manchester City primed to pounce on leaders Chelsea

London, 18 Dec — Rejuvenated Manchester City can pile the pressure on Premier League leaders Chelsea for the first time this season if they beat struggling visitors Crystal Palace on Saturday.

With Chelsea not playing at Stoke City until Monday, a City victory at the Etihad Stadium against a Palace side who have failed to win their last four Premier League matches would put the champions level on 39 points with Jose Mourinho’s men.

Having trailed leaders Chelsea by eight points at one stage this season, City have won their last five league matches, with Frank Lampard’s strike enough to give Manuel Pellegrini’s side a 1-0 victory at bottom club Leicester City last weekend.

However, City will be without a recognized forward against 16th-placed Palace as Sergio Aguero, Stevan Jovetic and Edin Dzeko all have knocks, while captain and key central defender Vincent Kompany limped off at Leicester with a hamstring injury.

Despite a lack of attacking options, Pellegrini is confident his injury-hit squad can find the perfect striking remedy within their ranks against Neil Warnock’s Palace.

“We’ll work this week with the players that can play in that position,” Pellegrini told reporters. “At the moment we are trying to recover all the players because we have no strikers. “David Silva, Samir Nasri and the rest of the midfielders can all score so we must see during the week which is the best way to play the future until we recover our strikers.”

Chelsea, who beat visiting Hull City 2-0 last weekend, have no striking worries but, after allowing their healthy advantage over City to be cut, midfielders Cesc Fabregas has called on his team mates to keep improving in their quest for the title.

“You can always get better,” the Spaniard told the club’s website (www.chelseafc.com). “We know that and we are trying to improve in training by doing what the manager tells us to do.”

Third-placed Manchester United, buoyed by a 3-0 demolition of arch-rivals Everton at Old Trafford last weekend, travel to Aston Villa on Saturday when fourth-placed West Ham United host basement side Leicester on Sunday. On Sunday, Newcastle United fans will give Sunderland a hostile reception in the Tyne-Wear derby at St James’ Park, before floundering Liverpool, perhaps lifted by their 3-1 Capital One Cup win at Bournemouth in midweek, host sixth-placed Arsenal.

Liverpool getting back to their best, says Rodgers

Bournemouth, 18 Dec — Liverpool are showing signs of reproducing their scintillating form of last season after a 3-1 win at Bournemouth in the League Cup quarter-finals on Wednesday, manager Brendan Rodgers said.

Having struggled to recapture the form that propelled them to second place in the Premier League last season, Rodgers’ side set up a semi-final against league leaders Chelsea with an impressive performance. Two goals from Raheem Sterling either side of a Lazar Markovic strike gave Liverpool victory against in-form Championship (second-tier) leaders Bournemouth.

It was an encouraging display for the Anfield boss, whose team have endured an early Champions League exit and are 11th in the league having accrued their lowest ever points tally in the Premier League after 16 games.

“We’re starting to see signs of getting back to where we were,” Rodgers told a news conference.

“We know there is a way to go but this was a tough game coming here so far for us to come and dominate like we did, and score the goals that we did, was very pleasing.” Bournemouth came into the game on a 12-match unbeaten run and have exceeded all expectations this season, topping their league to become contenders for promotion to the Premier League. The south-coast club knocked out West Bromwich Albion in the previous round and some had predicted a shock against a Liverpool side who were beaten 3-0 at bitter rivals Manchester United on Sunday. “It was an outstanding performance. Even though the result wasn’t ideal at Old Trafford I’d seen moments in our game that was good and we created a lot of chances,” Rodgers said. “I think slowly we’re getting there. There are a lot of new players adapting. I’m looking to find solutions to make us more creative, because we haven’t been that. I thought tonight was more like what we produced (last season),”

Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers watches play during their English Premier League soccer match against Manchester United at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England on 14 Dec, 2014. —Reuters

James Rodriguez comes back Real Madrid for Club World Cup final

Buenos Aires, (Morocco), 18 Dec — James Rodriguez, the Colombian World Cup star, has recovered from a calf injury and is back for Real Madrid ahead of Saturday’s Club World Cup final. Carlo Ancelotti, Real’s Italian coach, said on Monday that he was counting on Rodriguez, who would be ready for Saturday’s final. The 23-year-old Rodriguez received global fame during the 2014 World Cup, with 6 goals and 2 assists in 5 matches. After the World Cup, he joined Madrid for 80 million Euros (100 million dollars) from AS Monaco. Madrid will take on either Auckland City of New Zealand or San Lorenzo of Argentina in the final. —Xinhua

Buenos Aires, 18 Dec — Manchester United’s Angel Di Maria has been voted Argentina’s footballer of the year by the country’s sports journalists.

The winger won the Olimpia de Plata (Silver Olimpia award) at a ceremony on Tuesday, where striker Lucas Pratto of Velez Sarsfield won the equivalent for best player in the Argentine league.

Di Maria helped former club Real Madrid win their 10th European Cup in May and Argentina reach the World Cup final, which he missed through injury, in Brazil in July.

“My challenge to Di Maria is to maintain the level he is at now. He is a professional. Now the next step is to be available for the team,” Sports Journalists Association president and sports journalist Pablo Ortega said.

The 23-year-old who has become a popular figure in the country after impressive displays for Argentina last year, had a difficult first season at Old Trafford because of a lack of match fitness, which is something Ortega stressed.

“We’ll work this week with the players that can play in that position,” Pellegrini told reporters. “At the moment we are trying to recover all the players because we have no strikers. “David Silva, Samir Nasri and the rest of the midfielders can all score so we must see during the week which is the best way to play the future until we recover our strikers.”

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Manchester United’s Angel Di Maria celebrates after scoring a goal against Everton during their English Premier League soccer match at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England on 5 Oct, 2014. —Reuters

Di Maria wins Argentina’s player of the year award

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