

Investment from third country to be invited for Dawei Special Economic Zone

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec— President U Thein Sein met Thai Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra at Dawei Special Economic Zone Project in Nabule area in Yebyu Township of Dawei District in Taninthayi Region this morning.

The President and the Thai PM, accompanied by Vice-President U Nyan Tun, Union ministers, Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Thai ministers and officials arrived at the special economic zone at 10.10 am.

They were welcomed by Myanmar deputy ministers and officials of Italian Thai Company of Thailand.

Chairman of the Dawei SEZ Management Committee Deputy Minister

for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin briefed on progress of the project.

Thai Transportation Minister Mr Chandchart Sittipomt explained agreements at the meetings of the Joint Coordination Committee and six sub-committees, benefits that can be gained from the project and infrastructural development.

The President said that the project is an important one not only for Myanmar and Thailand but also for ASEAN countries. Two leaders vowed to make it a success, he said.

The investment of a third country must be invited in the areas as the two countries could not implement it, he said. He tipped Japan as the



President U Thein Sein, Thai Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra and party view scale model of Dawei Special Economic Zone Project and its related areas.—MNA



President U Thein Sein and party hold talks with Thai Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra and party.—MNA

Thai Prime Minister arrives in Dawei

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec — A delegation led by Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra of Thailand arrived in Dawei of Taninthayi Region by special flight this morning.

They were welcomed at the Dawei Airport by Union

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko, the Thai Ambassador to Myanmar, the Taninthayi Region Hluttaw speaker, members of region government and officials.—MNA

interested third country.

The Thai PM thanked the management committee for the successful cooperation in a short period of time. She also pledged to cooperate closely with Myanmar to implement the project more effectively. She earmarked Dawei Deep-Sea Port and Map Ta Put Port as the important transportation channels of the region while

stressing the need to invite the third country.

Next, Thai Prime Minister presented stationery and office furniture for Leshang Basic Education High School (Branch) in Nabule region of Yebyu Township and medicines for village health centre of Nabule region to responsible persons.

Then Thai Minister for Energy Mr. Pongsak Ruttapong Paisal presented 20 million baths to Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thein. Afterwards, officials conducted the President, Thai Prime Minister and party looked round the booth of the project where documentary photos on activities for development of health, education, culture, religious, agriculture and livestock breeding sectors in Nabule region, scale models of housing for relocated villagers and

Dawei special economic zone and related areas and samples of trees were on display.

Next, the President and the Thai Prime Minister held talks on sooner implementation of the project, availability of communication channels and electricity, conservation of environment, capitals and investments, invitation of investments from third countries and data collection about the project.

Next, the President arrived back Dawei by helicopter.—MNA



Union Minister U Soe Thein accepts cash donations.—MNA

UNFPA, I&P Ministry launch 2014 Population and Housing Census Project

YANGON, 17 Dec—The Ministry of Immigration and Population (MoIP) jointly with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) launched the 2014 Population and Housing Census Project Document—a roadmap for the preparation and implementation of census operations across the country on 14 December.

The event was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Immigration and Population, the United Nations agencies, the diplomatic community and donors.

U Khin Yi, Union Minister for Immigration and Population gave the opening statement, and highlighted

the strong commitment of the Government of Myanmar to conducting the census in line with international standards by ensuring confidentiality of personal data, active participation of all groups and individuals in the country and adherence to UN Global Standards on Census Taking.

The Minister stated that there are challenges ahead that can only be overcome with the mutual commitment of the government and the international development partners: "Though we have developed a clear road map to conduct the census, there is a need for adequate and timely resources to operationalize the road map. We need the

support of development partners, civil society, public and private sector as well as international organizations."

The census comes at a critical time for Myanmar, as the country embarks on political and economic reform. Mr. Ashok Nigam, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator noted that the census represents the biggest and the only source of information on the size and distribution of the population in the country.

He said, "the census helps us give a voice to the country's remarkable ethnic, linguistic, and religious diversity, and



plan and deliver services, in particular to the poorest and most vulnerable."

The preparation of the census was underway since 2012, and the Department of Population has been leading efforts in the areas of making Enumeration Area Maps, designing of census

questionnaire, developing communication and publicity plan, and setting up information technology infrastructure.

"The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), based on its long-standing experience, has been tasked to provide technical support,

establish monitoring, oversight and quality control mechanisms to ensure adherence to international standards in census taking, and assist the Government in resource mobilization," said Mr. Mohamed Abdel-Ahad, UNFPA Representative.

NLM

Rakhine State Day observed in Thandwe

THANDWE, 17 Dec — Sports competitions in commemoration of the 38th Rakhine State Day were organized at the sports ground in Thandwe on 15

December.

Starting from 14 December, tug-of-war, track and field, volleyball and sepak taraw events were held at the sports ground. — Kyemon

New school building for newly-upgraded primary school in Kalay

KALAY, 17 Dec—Aimed at ensuring all school children to pursue education, for socioeconomic development of the region, the opening of basic education primary school was held in conjunction with the ceremony to hand over a new school building to the primary school at Sangyoung ward of Thazi village-tract in Kalay Township of Sagaing Region on 14 December.

The district deputy commissioner, the district education officer and a local formally unveiled the signboard of the school. In his address, the district education

officer said that compulsory education system was being implemented for human resources development, and a constant learning was introduced to Myanmar society.

Next, a local gave an account of the new school building, and the ceremony to hand over documents related to new school building followed.

The township education officer accepted K 100,000 contributed by wellwisher Daw Saw Chit for the education funds at the ceremony.

Kyemon

Photo shows a mass walks organized in Tatkon Township with the participation of departmental staff, students and members of NGOs led by Township Administrator U Aye Lu and Township Sports Officer U Khin Maung Aye on 15 December.— KYEMON



ACE Futsal Club wins championship two times in a row

YANGON, 17 Dec—The final matches of MFF AYA Futsal League 2012 took place at National Indoor-stadium-1 in Thuwunna on 15 December. ACE futsal club held the championship two times in a row.

After the final matches, Phyto Dhana club won Thazin club 4-0, UPT beat MIC 5-4,

the match between Yangon City and Lin Sadaung ended 5-2 and ACE upset Royal Land 11-2.

Next, the prize presentation ceremony followed. President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw and officials presented prizes and cash awards to Pyae

Phyo Maung (Yangon City Club) who stood first in the list of top scorers, Zin Lin Aung (Lin Sadaung) who won the best player award, Yangon City Club for the fair-play award, fourth-prize winning Lin Sadaung Club, third-prize winning UPT Club, second-prize winning Yangon City Club and first-

prize-winning ACE Club.

Yangon City won the Championship two times in a row with forty points, followed by Yangon City with 30 points, UPT with 27 points and Lin Sadaung with 23 points in the completion where eight futsal clubs took part in.

Kyemon



Star-ranked horses selected for SEA equestrian competition

YANGON, 17 Dec — Under the programme in which Myanmar Equestrian Federation planned to use borrowed horses at home for SEA and international equestrian sports competitions, the ceremony to choose star-ranked horses among borrowed ones was held at the training ground in Htipu Village of Nyaung U Township on 10 December.

Twelve horses were selected to take part in endurance event and 14 horses each for show jumping and dressage events. Plans are underway to collect top-ranked horses at home and order them from abroad. Upon completion of equestrian centre in Nay Pyi Taw, more horses from foreign countries will arrive there.

The section programme was supervised by the MEF president and executives,

members of equine vet commission, French coach Mr. Thierry Bleu.—Kyemon



A man hangs himself in his house in Bago

BAGO, 17 Dec — A man who apparently killed himself was found dead in his house on Awaiyar street in Sector-16 of Kyunthayar Ward in Bago at about 5.30 am on 11 December.

Moe Zaw (45 years) had apparently committed suicide by hanging himself at his house.

Police Station No (3) on Bago has opened a file against the case of his death.

Kyemon

WORLD

Obama congratulates Japan's Abe on election victory

WASHINGTON, 17 Dec—US President Barack Obama on Sunday extended his congratulations to Shinzo Abe, a former Japanese Prime Minister, on his party's victory in the parliamentary elections, saying he looks forward to "working closely" with the next Japanese government.

"I congratulate Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) President Shinzo Abe on his party's success in the elections in Japan today," the president said in a statement.

"The US-Japan alliance serves as the cornerstone of peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific and I look forward to working closely with the next government and the people of Japan on a range of important bilateral, regional and global issues," Obama added.

The LDP and its ally, the New Komeito Party, had altogether secured 260 seats in the 480-seat House of Representatives as the vote counting was continuing, with the LDP alone having

garnered 236 seats. Abe is expected to return to the premiership if there are no unforeseen incidents during a special session of the Diet, Japan's congress, reportedly to be held on 26 December at the earliest to select the country's new leader.

Obama reached out as well to Yoshihiko Noda, the outgoing prime minister, saying "I also extend my appreciation to Prime Minister Noda for his many contributions to US-Japan relations."—Xinhua

Sanitation workers remove snow from a sidewalk in the Chaoyang District of Changchun, capital of northeast China's Jilin Province, on 16 Dec, 2012. Changchun's sanitation workers have been busy clearing snows as the city witnessed a series of snowfalls this winter.
XINHUA



Opposition's Capriles holds seat in Venezuela state elections

Miranda state Governor and candidate for re-election Henrique Capriles (C) greets supporters before casting his vote during regional election in Caracas on 16 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS



CARACAS, 17 Dec—Venezuelan opposition leader Henrique Capriles held his governorship post in state elections on Sunday, leaving him well placed to challenge the government, should President Hugo Chavez's cancer necessitate a new presidential vote.

But the ruling Socialist Party's candidates had a strong showing elsewhere around the South American nation, taking 18 out of 21 governorship results announced by the election board, compared with the opposition's three.

Reuters

BLOEMFONTEIN, 17 Dec—The South African ruling African National Congress (ANC) 53rd National Congress kicked off in the nation's judicial capital of Bloemfontein on Sunday morning.

The ANC is currently in an alliance with the South African Communist Party and the Congress of South African Trade Unions in ruling the country.

The conference was attended by more than 4500 delegates in the nine provinces across the country, with the theme of "Unity in Action towards Social-Economic Freedom".

People look at arms exhibition at Shivaji park in Mumbai, India, on 15 Dec, 2012. A troop of Indian Defence Ministry held a military drill and arms exhibition here to raise the public awareness of Indian army and military affairs on Saturday.—XINHUA

In delivering his political report, President Jacob Zuma, who is also state president, stressed great achievements made by his party and government since the last ANC national congress.

On 16-20 Dec, 2007, the 52nd ANC National Conference was held in the city of Polokwane in the northeastern Province of Limpopo.

"Here are 4500 ANC delegates, representing thousands of branches with about over 1.2 million members across the country," said Zuma.

The president pointed

out that "South Africa has made phenomenal strides as a nation over the past 18 years in promoting national unity and reconciliation."

"The ANC can run the economy, the ANC will continue to provide strong economic leadership," said the president. "The destination we are heading towards is a mixed economy, where the state and private enterprises would complement each other in an integrated way to eliminate social poverty and promote the shared economic growth." In talking about the challenges, he said, "We would expand economic

growth drivers beyond mining, oil and agriculture, we would do more to achieve true reconciliation. We need to bridge the inequalities, intensify the fight against poverty and crime." The congress is scheduled to end on Thursday.

Top on the agenda of the national conference will be the election of new ANC leadership, including the new president. Some delegates told Xinhua that the new president would possibly be elected between President Zuma and Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe, who is also state deputy president.

Xinhua

300 radical fighters infiltrate Palestinian refugee camp, battling local committees

DAMASCUS, 17 Dec—More than 300 fighters from the radical al-Nusra Front on Sunday morning infiltrated the Palestinian camp of Yarmouk in the Syrian capital Damascus and clashed with local committees there, causing human losses, great chaos and huge displacement

movement, local media said.

Al-Nusra, an offshoot of al-Qaeda in Iraq, has been beefing up the presence in the surrounding areas of the camp over the past days in a bid to storm it, the local *Ajel* news network said, adding that intense clashes are going on in the camp.

The local committees in the camp are controlled by the Palestinian Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command (PFLP-GC) led by Ahmad Jibril, who is a staunch supporter of the Syrian administration of President Bashar al-Assad.

Xinhua

Afghan refugees receive winter assistance items during UNHCR distribution in Nangarhar province of eastern Afghanistan on 16 Dec, 2012. Hundreds of refugees received winter assistance items which were distributed by United Nations High commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on Sunday.—XINHUA



Two police stations targeted in Libya's Benghazi

BENGHAZI, 17 Dec—Two police stations were targeted in what appeared to be simultaneous attacks in the eastern Libyan City of Benghazi on Monday, a police source said, a day after four policemen were killed when a compound was attacked.

An explosive device was thrown at an empty car parked in front of Gharyounes police station in western Benghazi early on Monday, the source said. A loud explosion was heard in the area, according to a Reuters reporter nearby.

An explosive device was also thrown in front of another police station in the east of the city, damaging a front wall.

"The attacks appear to be simultaneous. There are no injuries," the source said.

The anti-Gaddafi uprising started last year in Benghazi but Libya's second city is now a hot spot for violence, with arms readily available and state security forces struggling to assert their authority.

On Sunday, unknown assailants fired a rocket-propelled grenade at a Benghazi police compound, which houses patrol cars, damaging an office and killing one policeman. A gun battle followed and three of the police reinforcements who arrived at the scene were killed, a police spokesman said.—Reuters

One person injured in blast in Kenyan capital

NAIROBI, 17 Dec—One person was injured Sunday evening in a blast at a mosque in the Kenyan capital Nairobi, local police reported.

Regional police commander Moses Ombati said the explosion rocked Nairobi's Eastleigh residential estates largely inhabited by Kenyans of Somali origin, apparently targeting worshippers who were leaving a mosque after evening prayers.

"The grenades were thrown from a speeding vehicle and had targeted worshippers who were leaving the mosque after evening prayers, but it rolled several times and exploded some metres outside the mosque, injuring one person," Ombati said by telephone.

"I am rushing to the scene to find more details," he added. The attack is the third witnessed at Eastleigh in 10 days.—Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



IAEA, Fukushima agree to cooperate on decontamination, waste control

Science

A high-level international conference on nuclear safety starts in Japan's northeastern prefecture of Fukushima on 15 Dec, 2012. The three-day event is organized by the Japanese government and the International Atomic Energy Agency.
KYODO NEWS

KORIYAMA, (Japan), 17 Dec—The International Atomic Energy Agency agreed with the Fukushima prefectural government on Saturday to work closely on decontamination and radiation monitoring work in the aftermath of the nuclear power plant crisis last year.

Several projects are planned under their agreement, including the dispatch of IAEA missions to provide technical advice on the process of cleaning contaminated land around the crippled Fukushima Daiichi complex and of managing the waste generated by decontamination, Japanese government officials said.

The IAEA will also work together with Fukushima Medical University to assist it in implementing health management surveys and to organize events to

enhance public awareness of radiological effects on human health and post-

traumatic stress disorders in the Fukushima population.
Kyodo News



International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Yukiya Amano (L) and Fukushima Gov Yuhei Sato shake hands in Koriyama, Fukushima Prefecture, on 15 Dec, 2012, after signing an agreement to work closely on decontamination and radiation monitoring work in the aftermath of the 2011 nuclear power plant crisis in Fukushima.—KYODO NEWS

Ten Commandments join Isaac Newton's notes online

LONDON, 17 Dec—A copy of The Ten Commandments dating back two millennia and the earliest written Gaelic are just two of a number of incredibly rare manuscripts now freely available online to the world as part of a Cambridge University digital project.

The Nash Papyrus — one of the oldest known manuscripts containing text from the Hebrew Bible — has become one of the latest treasures of humanity to join Isaac Newton's notebooks, the Nuremberg Chronicle and other rare texts as part of the Cambridge Digital Library, the university said on Wednesday.

"Cambridge University Library preserves works of great importance to faith traditions and communities around the world," University Librarian Anne Jarvis said in a statement.

"Because of their age and delicacy these manuscripts are seldom able to be viewed—and when they are displayed, we can only show one or two pages."

Before the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls,

the Nash Papyrus, was by far the oldest manuscript containing text from the Hebrew Bible and like most fragile historical documents, only available to select academics for scrutiny.

The university's digital library is making 25,000 new images, including an ancient copy of the New Testament, available on its website (cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/), which has already attracted tens of millions of hits since the project was launched in December 2011.

The latest release also includes important texts from Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism.

In addition to religious texts, internet users can also view the 10th century Book of Deer, which is widely believed to be the oldest surviving Scottish manuscript and contains the earliest known examples of written Gaelic.

"Now... anyone with a connection to the Internet can select a work of interest, turn to any page of the manuscript, and explore it in extraordinary detail,"

Jarvis said.

The technical infrastructure required to get these texts to web was in part funded by a 1.5 million pound (\$2.4 million) gift from the Polonsky Foundation in June 2010.

Reuters

Wal-Mart selling Apple's iPhone 5 at big discount

Tech



A view shows the Walmart logo at an opened Walmart store on Thanksgiving day in North Bergen, New Jersey on 22 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 17 Dec—Wal-Mart Stores Inc said on Friday that it began selling Apple Inc's flagship iPhone 5 smartphone at a big discount in thousands of its stores.

Wal-Mart said it is

selling the 16 GB Apple iPhone 5 for \$127, versus an original price of \$189.97. The price is valid with a two-year contract from wireless carriers Verizon, Sprint and AT&T, the retailer added.

Wal-Mart said it is also

selling the 16 GB iPhone 4S and the 16 GB iPad with Retina display and WiFi at discounts.

The offers will be available for 30 days in about 3,000 of Wal-Mart's stores, which were not identified. They are not available online, according to the retailer.

Apple has focused on high-priced, premium gadgets for many years and has strictly enforced its prices with retailers and other distributors. However, a Wal-Mart spokeswoman said on Friday that the discounts were arranged with Apple.

"We worked together with them on this," the spokeswoman, Sarah Spencer, said. "They are a great partner."

Wal-Mart is pricing the iPad starting at \$399, down from \$499. Beginning December 17 the retailer said it will throw in a \$30 iTunes card. Wal-Mart is selling the 16 GB iPhone 4S for \$47, versus an original price of \$89.97, it said.

Apple did not respond to a request for comment.

Wal-Mart's cooperation with Apple is a contrast to its relationship with Amazon.com Inc, the world's largest Internet retailer.

In September, Wal-Mart said it would stop selling Amazon's Kindle eReaders and tablets, placing a bet that consumers would be more interested in Apple's gadgets. This spring, Target Corp stopped selling Kindle devices.—Reuters

Amazon wins EU e-book pricing battle with Apple

BRUSSELS, 17 Dec—European Union regulators ended an antitrust probe into e-book prices on Thursday, accepting an offer by Apple and four publishers to ease pricing restrictions on Amazon and other retailers.

The decision hands online retailer Amazon a victory in its attempt to sell e-books cheaper than rivals in a fast-growing market publishers hope will boost revenue and customer numbers. Reuters first reported in November that the Commission was accepting the settlement offer.

The European Commission said on Thursday

the concessions from Apple and the publishers soothed concerns that their pricing deals curbed competition.

"The commitments proposed by Apple and the four publishers will restore normal competitive conditions in this new and fast-moving market, to the benefit of the buyers and readers of e-books," EU Competition Commissioner Joaquin Almunia said.

Apple and the publishers offered to let retailers set prices or discounts for a period of two years, and also to suspend "most-favored nation" contracts for five years.

Such clauses bar

publishers Simon & Schuster, News Corp. unit HarperCollins, Lagardere SCA's Hachette Livre and Verlagsgruppe Georg von Holtzbrinck, the owner

of German company Macmillan, from making deals with rival retailers to sell e-books more cheaply than Apple.

Reuters



A man takes a picture of a giant 'Kuratas' robot at an exhibition in Tokyo, on 28 Nov, 2012.

The four-metre-high, limited edition, made-to-order robot is controlled through a pilot in its cockpit, or via a smartphone.

REUTERS



The Apple logo hangs in a glass enclosure above the 5th Ave Apple Store in New York, on 20 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH



Sun rises over the telecommunication towers in New Delhi on 22 Dec, 2007.—REUTERS

NEW DELHI, 17 Dec—The value of telecom airwaves to be put on auction in India in this fiscal year

India to sell phone airwaves worth 200 billion rupees

ending March will be worth about 200 billion rupees at the current reserve price, R Chandrashekhar, telecoms department secretary, said on Friday.

India is betting on the revenue from phone airwaves auctions and stake sales in state-run companies to plug its widening fiscal deficit. The government raised less than a quarter of its 400 billion rupee target in last month's auction.

Business

The government aims to conduct the next auction during the current fiscal year. It also plans to sell 900 megahertz band airwaves in a separate but simultaneous auction.

In the last month's auction, the government managed to get bids for parts of the airwaves it had put on block.

Reuters

Head of GM's Opel says talks with PSA on track

VIENNA, 17 Dec—Talks between General Motors' (GM.N) Opel unit and France's PSA Peugeot Citroen (PEUP.PA) on joint vehicle development are on track, while there are no plans at this stage to build cars together, Opel's interim chief executive told a newspaper.

"The quality of the talks is really very good. And the operational and technical advantages are so great that we will surely will be able to wrap up soon the negotiations on joint vehicle development," Thomas Sedran told WirtschaftsWoche.

The plan is to come up with four new model series by 2016/2017: a successor to the Opel Zafira family

van, two compact cars and a successor to the mid-sized Opel Insignia and Citroen C5. GM and Peugeot unveiled an initial alliance agreement in February with the goal of saving at least \$2 billion annually within five years, evenly split between the partners.

GM paid 320 million euros (\$419 million) for a 7 percent stake in Peugeot as part of the original deal.

People close to the situation told Reuters last month that the partners had halted talks on an even deeper tie-up amid misgivings about the French carmaker's worsening finances and government-backed bailout.

Opel aims to boost

business in Russia and Turkey by capitalizing on its German brand, Sedran also told Germany's WirtschaftsWoche.

It was working on a plan

to boost Opel sales in China from 5,000 units a year now. "You can only be successful in China if you produce there. Plants in Europe aren't much help."—Reuters



The logo of the Opel carmaker is seen at a showroom in central Berlin, on 3 June, 2010.—REUTERS

HK airport cargo throughput up 9.3 pct in November

HONG KONG, 17 Dec—Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) saw a monthly record high for cargo traffic in November, during which the cargo throughput rose 9.3 percent over the same period last year to 374,000 tonnes, Airport Authority Hong Kong announced Sunday.

Passenger traffic and flight movements also saw year-on-year growth of 5.5 percent and 6.6 percent respectively, with 4.6 million passengers and 29,710 flight movements handled, the

authority said. Over the first 11 months of this year, passenger traffic climbed 4.8 percent to 51.5 million while cargo volume grew by 1.7 percent to 3.7 million tonnes. Flight movements rose to 320,860, up 5.4 percent compared with the same period last year.

The growth in passenger traffic was driven mainly by Hong Kong resident travel, which saw a 12 percent rise over the same month last year. Passenger traffic to and from Southeast Asia and Chinese mainland performed

particularly well.

Growth in November cargo throughput was primarily due to 11 percent year-on-year growth in exports. During the month, cargo throughput to and from North America and Southeast Asia outperformed other key regions.

"We are pleased to see very healthy growth in all traffic figures, especially the sustained rebound of cargo volume for four consecutive months despite a consistently challenging global economic environment," said Stanley

Hui Hon-chung, chief executive officer of Airport Authority Hong Kong. "We remain cautiously optimistic about the potential for cargo throughput, and we foresee this positive trend continuing at HKIA," Hui said.

To cater for the seasonal surge in demand for the coming Christmas and New Year holidays, a total of 250 extra passenger flights will be added by the airlines. Popular destinations include Taipei, Seoul and Southeast Asia.—Xinhua

Italy can confront market tension without ECB aid

MILAN, 17 Dec—Italy can confront current financial market tension without asking for the activation of the European Central Bank's bond-buying scheme, Bank of Italy Governor Ignazio Visco told daily La Stampa on Sunday.

While a deep recession and political uncertainty will weigh on the country in coming months, the central banker said he believes Italy has overcome the worst phase of the debt crisis.

The ECB's Outright

Monetary Transactions (OMT), or bond-buying scheme, is a tool created to face deep financial difficulties, said Visco in the interview.

"Italy suffered from such deep problems at the end of last year but it reacted and was able not only to maintain market access, but also to reduce tensions," Visco said.

Rome's 10-year borrowing costs soared to a euro lifetime high of nearly 8 percent in November 2011. At that time the country was under strong pressure

to ask for international aid, but a new technocrat government headed by Mario Monti was able to reassure markets through an austerity programme.

Italian government reforms and the build up of effective euro zone financial backstops — the European Stability Mechanism and the ECB's OMT — helped Rome reduce market pressure to bearable levels, according to the central banker.

"Now the situation is characterized by lower tension, while the (ECB's

bond-buying scheme) was created to face really acute situations in which borrowing costs are pushed well above what is justified by a country's economic fundamentals," Visco said.

Italy's debt costs have fallen sharply compared with the peak of the crisis, Visco said.

Some analysts suggested last week Rome should ask for the ECB's support after Monti's recent decision to leave office early rattled financial markets.

Reuters

UN Secretary General's Message on International Migrants Day

18 December, 2012

Every moment, around the world, people leave their countries in search of a safer or better life. Globally, more than 214 million people are on the move. Many flee difficult conditions only to face even greater struggles, including human rights violations, poverty and discrimination. But these migrants have more than fear and uncertainty; they also possess hopes, courage and the resolve to build a better life. With the right support, they can contribute to society's progress.

Migration is a global issue that is rightly attracting more and more global attention. Next year, the United Nations General Assembly will hold its second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, giving Member States and their partners a chance to discuss practical measures to facilitate labour mobility, foster sustainable development and protect the rights of migrants, especially women and girls.

Attention to the rights of migrants is especially important at this time of global economic and financial distress. As budgets tighten, we are seeing austerity measures that discriminate against migrant workers, xenophobic rhetoric that encourages violence against irregular migrants, and proposed immigration laws that allow the police to profile migrants with impunity. During economic downturns, it is worth remembering that whole sectors of the economy depend on migrant workers and migrant entrepreneurs help to create jobs.

When migration policies are developed without attention to vulnerability, marginalization and discrimination, millions of migrants become cheap, disposable labour, the scapegoats for failed economic and social policies, and even casualties in an ill-defined war against "illegal migration".

As human mobility becomes more complex, and the journeys taken by many migrants more perilous, it becomes all the more urgent to forge national policy responses that address migration based on human rights principles.

In the lead-up to the High-level Dialogue, I hope that Member States will approach human rights as a central issue in migration governance, at the national level, I encourage them to take such measures as decriminalizing irregular migration, setting up effective alternatives to immigration detention, and ensuring that the functions of public service providers such as nurses or teachers are kept strictly separate from those of the immigration authorities. I also hope participants will duly consider the issue of migration in the context of the post-2015 global development agenda.

On this International Migrants Day, I call on States to ratify and implement all instruments on this issue. And I encourage all people to help foster a principled, practical and creative discussion on how we can ensure the protection of the rights of all migrants, wherever they are and whatever their status.

UNIC/Yangon



Bank of Italy Governor Ignazio Visco attends a news conference as part of Group of Twenty (G20) leading economies' finance ministers and central bankers in Mexico City on 26 Feb, 2012.

REUTERS

WORLD

Syrian VP says neither side can win war

BEIRUT, 17 Dec—Syrian Vice President Farouq al-Sharaa has told a Lebanese newspaper that neither the forces of President Bashar al-Assad nor rebels can win the war in Syria. Sharaa, a Sunni Muslim in a power structure dominated by Assad's Alawite minority, has rarely appeared in public since the revolt erupted in March 2011.

The newspaper, *al-Akhbar*, released only limited excerpts on Sunday from the interview appearing in Monday's edition, and it was far from clear that Sharaa's comments represented the view of the government.

But he is still the most prominent figure to say in public that the crackdown will not win. The paper, which generally takes a pro-Assad line, said Sharaa had been speaking in Damascus.

In the first phase of the 21-month-old civil war, which has claimed at least 40,000 lives, Damascus was distant from the fighting.

Rebels have now brought the war to the capital, without succeeding in delivering a fatal blow to the government.

But nor has Assad found the military muscle to oust his opponents from the city.

In Paris, Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius of France, one

of the major powers most insistent that Assad has lost his legitimacy, told RFI radio: "I think the end is nearing for Bashar al-Assad."

On the ground, rebels said they were launching an operation to seize the central Province of Hama to try to link northern rural areas of Syria under their control to the centre. Qassem Saadeddine, a member of the newly established rebel military command, said fighters had been ordered to surround and attack checkpoints across the province. He said forces loyal to Assad had been given 48 hours to surrender or be killed.

Reuters



Wan Gang, vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and chairman of the China Zhi Gong Party, delivers a congratulatory speech on behalf of China's non-Communist political parties and the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce at the opening ceremony of the 10th National Congress of the China National Democratic Construction Association (CNDCA) in Beijing, capital of China, on 16 Dec, 2012. —XINHUA

Iranian FM says Patriot missiles deployment in region "provocative"

TEHERAN, 17 Dec—Iranian Foreign Minister Ali-Akbar Salehi said here on Sunday that the deployment of NATO's Patriot missiles in the region is "provocative," the semi-official *ISNA* news agency reported.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a conference, Salehi said that, for sure, the deployment of NATO's Patriot missiles is not

instrumental to the security and stability in the region, according to the report.

It is believed here that stationing these missiles in Turkey is "provocative" not "detering," Salehi was quoted as saying. Around 600 foreign troops are expected to accompany six Patriot missile systems to be deployed in Turkey to reinforce the NATO member country's air defence

and to calm its fears coming under a possible missile attack from neighbouring Syria.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces Major General Hassan Firouzabadi was quoted by semi-official *Fars* news agency Sunday that the deployment of NATO's Patriot missiles in the region "can pave way for world war." —Xinhua

New Zealand tightens rules for employers of foreign fishing crews

WELLINGTON, 17 Dec—Strict new rules came into force on Monday for all fishing boat operators that employ foreign crews in New Zealand waters as the government seeks to stop abuse of foreign workers.

The new rules resulted from a ministerial inquiry into foreign chartered vessels (FCVs), which recommended in March that the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) should strengthen monitoring and enforcement arrangements.

Immigration Minister

Nathan Guy said Monday the changes would mean better protection for employees and closer monitoring of employers.

"Importantly, each crew member must now have an individual bank account available so that wage payments can be made directly to them in New Zealand," Guy said in a statement.

Foreign fishing crew are now subject to standard immigration labour tests, rather than the employer demonstrating no suitable

New Zealand workers were available from the Deep Sea Fishing Crew Employment Register, and employers of seven or more foreign crew must first obtain approval in principle.

New Zealand foreign vessel charter parties are required to guarantee crew wages and government costs, such as deportation, while manning agents must only be paid by the employer recruiting crew, and not by a crew member seeking a job.

Xinhua



A taxi drives past the Flinders Street Station in Melbourne, Australia, on 16 Dec, 2012. Christmas Decorations are installed across the city of Melbourne to celebrate the upcoming Christmas Festival. —XINHUA

China pledges steady development of Confucius Institutes

BEIJING, 17 Dec—The Chinese government will actively support the steady development of Confucius Institutes, according to state councillor Liu Yandong Sunday.

The international promotion of Chinese language had enabled foreigners to better understand the Chinese culture and the contemporary China, Liu said in her speech at the opening ceremony of the seventh conference of Confucius Institutes running from 16 to 18 Dec.

It also contributed to the communication and friendship between peoples and exchanges between civilizations, said Liu, also president the Confucius Institute Headquarters council.

Liu encouraged Confucius Institutes to expand the coverage of their operation from major cities to other regions and from colleges to communities.

The Confucius Institute and Confucius Classrooms, both named after the ancient Chinese philosopher Confucius, serve as non-profit public institutions aiming to promote Chinese language and culture in foreign countries.

Currently, 400 Confucius Institutes and over 500 Confucius Classrooms are in operation globally, which received about 655,000 registered students in 108 countries and regions this year, according to figures from the organization's headquarters.

Xinhua



Residents visit a bookstore during the 6th Night of the Libraries event, in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina, on 15 Dec, 2012. During the event, the city's most emblematic bars and libraries are open to the public, offering many cultural activities. —XINHUA

Kenyan police step up security in Mombasa after arresting Al-Shabaab suspects

MOMBASA, 17 Dec—Kenyan police beefed up security in the coastal city of Mombasa and its environs on Sunday after four terror suspects were arrested for planning an imminent terrorist attack.

Regional deputy police commander Robert Kitur said the four are trained Al-Shabaab members who had sneaked into the country from Somalia.

"The four suspects, Adoti Wanjohi Waiganjo, Hamadi Ali, Oril Simiyu and Maingi are on terror radar by both local and international security agencies" Kitur said on Sunday.

Mombasa, the country's second largest city and a major tourist spot is one of various cities targeted by a series of grenade attacks and abduction of foreigners in recent months.

The East African nation's coastal towns are the backbone of the country's thriving tourism industry, which has been hit by the fear of terror attacks and the kidnapping of foreigners by

Somali pirates from resorts near the border with Somalia.

The authorities have particularly warned against the laxity in the screening of cars for explosives at all shopping malls and any business or social gatherings with at least 10 people at any given moment that these might be vulnerable to attacks.

According to intelligence sources, Hamadi Ali, a de facto leader of Al-Shabaab in Kenya, is the most sought target by security agencies for many years.

Kitur said the detectives had information that the four were part of a wide terrorism network planning attacks in Kenya's second city of Mombasa.

"Our officers are operating on highly placed intelligence reports of impending terror attacks in Mombasa and we have arrested suspects", said Kitur. The officers recovered a Ceska pistol from the suspects.

Xinhua

LOCAL NEWS

YANGON, 17 Dec—Recently, Labutta, Kyonmange, Bogale, Mawlamyinegyun, Dedaye, Kyaiklat, Pyapon and Myaungmya townships of Ayeyawady Region sent over 300,000 eggs to Lanmadaw jetty of Yangon by ship.

On 11 December, double Dekker Taungtha carried 45000 eggs from Labutta to Yangon. Likewise, the triple dekker from Kyonmange transported 50000 eggs to Yangon on 12 December, said eggs merchant U Khin Zaw of Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation.

Over 300,000 eggs daily flow into Yangon City from Ayeyawady Region

Eggs are transported with the use of 300-egg-capacity baskets in trading.

“We transported eggs to Bago, and then Kyaikhtyoe due to Buddha Pujaniya for consumption of visitors at regular prices. In Yangon, we regularly send eggs to South and North Dagon Myothit townships, Hlinethaya and Thanlyin. Livestock breeders supply eggs to us so the price of eggs will not rise much,” explained egg merchant U Khin Zaw.—*Myanma Alinn*



Stake driven for Home for the Aged in Dawei

DAWEI, 17 Dec—A ceremony to drive stake for construction of Home for the Aged was held in Nyaungyan Ward of Dawei on 12 December.

The Chairman of DDPC Co explained the purpose of building the home for the aged.

At the auspicious time, Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Myat Ko and officials drove stakes at the

designated places.

The home for the aged will be located on 80 feet by 90 feet area, and it will be one-storey reinforced concrete floor building.

After that, the Chairman of DDPC Co donated K 10 million, Myint Myat Kyaw Co Chairman K 10 million and the local people K 20 million to the fund of the home.

—*Myanma Alinn*

Timely cultivation of cold season crops discussed

KYAUKTAN, 17 Dec—Head of Yangon South District Agriculture Department U Kyaw Kyaw, Head of Township Agriculture Department U Htay Maung and staff held a discussions on completion of

harvesting monsoon paddy in Kyauktan Township, cultivation of green gram, and tasks to protect crops from untimely rains at the office in Kyauktan on 10 December.

Furthermore, the officials

Athletes under training hope for achievements in coming SEA Games

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—Deputy Minister for Sports U Thuang Htaik viewed training of athletes at the training camp of shooting range, here, on 11 December morning after giving necessary instructions for sports training.

On arrival at the Training Centre-1, the

deputy minister instructed officials and athletes to do their best in training and



Meinmahla Island Sanctuary conserving mangrove forest, biodiversities

crabs, 12 species of prawns, 117 species of birds and 35 species of butterflies.

With the aim of reproducing species of crocodiles which are endangered species there, small crocodiles with lack of fitness were collected from their nets in the sanctuary from 1997 to 2005, and then the crocodiles were nurtured at Kyaukhtauk and Thauangaung camps. After that, the crocodiles were released into the sanctuary. Since 2006,

small crocodiles from their nets have been let to enter the river naturally without collection. During the period from 1997 to 2010, a total of 157 crocodiles were released into the sanctuary.

The Branch successfully sustains development of ecosystem at the sanctuary. In addition, the local people do not settle on the land and not run businesses of fish and prawn ponds and charcoal industry there. Thanks to creation of better ecosystem on the island, the

Agricultural courses to be conducted in 2012-13

YANGON, 17 Dec—Agriculturalists conduct basic agricultural training to enthusiasts at the hall of Myepadetha Agricultural Educative Zone in Bahan Township for enabling the trainees to grow crops on a manageable to on commercial scale.

The grafting course will be conducted from 18 to 21 December, vegetable cultivation course from 26 to 28 December, herbal plant growing course from 1 to 3 January 2013, flowery plant growing course from 8 to 10 January and systematic pesticide usage course from

15 to 17 January.

The trainings will be provided from 9am to 12noon daily. For further information, any person may dial 549730. The candidate is to pay K 4000 for all costs. The trainees not need to pay entrance fee of the Myepadetha Park.

“We will train the trainees practically and theoretically. After the course, practical works are to be done at the farms. It is sure that the trainees will have knowledge of agriculture to some extent. Enthusiasts should attend the agricultural courses,” said an agriculturalist.

—*Myanma Alinn*

looked into practices of athletes in the hoop Takraw and Sepak Takraw events.

Later, the deputy minister made one more inspection tour of the

training camp where players were under training in the Futsal and tennis events and gave words of encouragement.

—*Myanma Alinn*



NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—The Environment and Wildlife Conservation Branch of the Forest Department under the Ministry of Environmental Conservation is discharging duty as conservation of ecosystem of mangrove forest and biodiversities at Meinmahla Island Sanctuary.

Meinmahla Island is located in an area of 33779 acres between Bogale and Kadonkani rivers in Bogale Township of Ayeyawady Region.

The island is covered with mangrove forests and 70 species of medicinal plants in addition to 36 species of reptiles, 51 species of fishes, nine species of

with the use of search lights. The visitors wishing to visit Kadonlay Island and Gayetgyi Island, seven miles to Meinmahla Island may take permission of the in-charge of the turtle care camp of the Fisheries Department. After that, they may observe turtles in laying eggs and giving birth of small turtles. As such, the Forest Department designates the island as an eco-tourism camp. During 2010-2011, five Frenchs, eight Switzerland, two Germans and one Japanese visited Meinmahla Island.

—*MNA*



PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 18 December, 2012

Faithful servants

Nowadays, all the three State-run dailies are gradually and in some cases significantly changing in form and substance appearing in a new look and style with a larger number of interesting stories, and their goal is the public service media that cares more about reader satisfaction while serving as a bridge between the government and the people.

In consequence, they are becoming more people friendly featuring sections, news, articles or novels in sequences that attract the readers of different ages through greater news and artistic values.

These newspapers now have press codes of ethics and press codes of conducts adopted by the independent Press Council. These codes of ethics and codes of conducts are the principle guidelines the three newspapers are strictly observing in gathering, compiling, editing and presenting news and other stories. Apart from these codes of ethics and codes of conducts, they will have their own community standards.

As these dailies are the bridges between the government and the people, they are also concentrating on the things the government would like to inform the people. So, they are the portals providing the people with health, educational and other important information released by the government. And in the same vein, they are the platform where the voices of the people can be heard and the desires of the people are conveyed to the government.

Our environment will be constantly changing and developing together with the democratic reforms taking shape in the country in various sectors. As public service media or PSMs, the three newspapers will keep on changing in form and substance in accordance with the ongoing democratic reforms, strictly observing their codes of ethics, codes of conducts and community standards in the interest of the State and the people.

No Pain, No Gain.



Cartoon Win Myint Aung

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein pays homage to Shin Mokhti, Lawkamarazein pagodas in Dawei



NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—Accompanied by Vice-President U Nyan Tun, Union ministers, Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko, Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win of the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army), Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Htay and officials, President U Thein Sein paid homage to Shin Mokhti Pagoda in

Dawei yesterday evening.

Next, the President donated cash to the fund of the pagoda and signed the visitors' book.

At Lawkamarazein Pagoda, the President and party offered flowers, water and lights to the Buddha Image. He then made cash donations.

The Pagoda Board of Trustees presented a picture of the pagoda as a Dhamma



gift to the President. Later, the President signed the visitors' book.

MNA

President U Thein Sein pays homage to Shin Mokhti Pagoda in Dawei.—MNA

President U Thein Sein meets Thai Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec— President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received Prime Minister of Thailand Ms Yingluck Shinawatra in Dawei of Taninthayi Region at 8:30 am today.

At the meeting, both sides cordially exchanged views on promotion of trade between the two countries, cooperation in Dawei Special Economic Zone Construction, railway

and motorway construction, Myanmar workers' issues in Thailand and launching of Mawtaung-Phayathonehsu border trade camp.

Present at the meeting together with the President were Vice-President U Nyan Tun, Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thein, U Tin Naing Thein, U Khin Maung Soe, U Aye Myint, U Kyaw Lwin, Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko and departmental heads.

Thai Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra and party were accompanied by the Thai ambassador to Myanmar.—MNA



President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw National Races Affairs Committee Chairman meets Vice-President of Ethnic Council of the National Assembly of Vietnam

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—Chairman of National Races Affairs Committee of Amyotha Hluttaw U Hsai Paung Nat received a Vietnamese delegation led by Mr. Giang A Chu, Vice-President of Ethnic Council of the National Assembly of Vietnam at the meeting hall of Amyotha Hluttaw Committee Building (18),

here, at 3:30 pm today.

Also present at the call were Secretary of the National Races Affairs Committee of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khet Htein Nan and committee members, and officials concerned from the Hluttaw Office. The Vietnamese delegation was accompanied by Vietnamese Ambassador

to Myanmar Mr. Chu Cong Phung.

The meeting focused on enhancing of cooperation between the two parliaments, having an exchange on traditional cultures of the two countries including promoting bilateral cooperation in carrying out national races affairs.

MNA

NATIONAL

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker receives Vietnamese guests



NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec— Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received a delegation led by Vice-President of Ethnic Council of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Giang A Chu at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall at 2:30 pm today.

Together with the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker were Deputy

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein, Amyotha Hluttaw National Races Affairs Committee Chairman U Hsai Paung Nat, Secretary U Khet Htein Nan and committee members and officials from the Hluttaw Office. The Vietnamese delegation was accompanied by Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chu Cong Phung.

At the meeting, they frankly exchanged views on progress of existing friendship between Myanmar and Vietnam, promotion of mutual cooperation between the two parliaments and joint cooperation in tourism industry.

MNA

Speaker of Pyidaungsu and Amyotha Hluttaws U Khin Aung Myint receives Vice-President of Ethnic Council of National Assembly of SRV Mr Giang A Chu and party.—MNA

NPED Union Minister attends 18th Ministerial Conference of GMS

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec — A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw attended the 18th Ministerial Conference of the Greater Mekong Sub-region Economic Cooperation Programme at Nanning of the People's Republic of China on 12 December.

The Union Minister addressed the opening ceremony. At the

ministerial meeting, GMS ministers held comprehensive discussions on work progress on formulation of regional investment framework regarding Mekong sub-region Strategic Framework, cooperation matters and follow-up tasks. The meeting was attended by ministers of GMS countries, national coordinators, high-ranking officials, ADB Vice-President and officials.

MNA

Waterbody-based Fisheries Management course launched

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec— The Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and South East Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) jointly conducted Myanmar Coastal Region Waterbody-based Fisheries Management course at the meeting hall of the Fisheries Department (Yangon) on Bayintnaung Road in Insein Township, this morning.

On the occasion, Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U

Khin Maung Aye explained the purposes of the course; enrichment of technical know-how, planning and implementation tasks for fisheries management, and polishing the skills of the heads of the Fisheries Department.

Deputy General Secretary Mr. Kenji Matsumoto of SEAFDEC Training Development extended greetings.

The course with a total of 49 trainees will last till 21 December.

MNA

ASEAN Summit Preparation Training for junior level conducted

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec— The Opening Ceremony of ASEAN Summit Preparation Training for Junior level, jointly conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the United

Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) was held at Zabu Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw at 9:00 am today.

At the ceremony, U Aung Lynn, Director-General of the ASEAN Affairs Department delivered

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker holds talks with Vice-President of Ethnic Council of National Assembly of SRV



Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa receives Mr Giang A Chu, Vice-President of Ethnic Council of the National Assembly and party of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec— Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa received a delegation led by Mr Giang A Chu, Vice-President of Ethnic Council of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, at I-1 Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Affairs, here, this morning.

Both sides had a cordial discussion on experiences of two parliaments, legislature, measures on national races affairs and enhancing of mutual relations between the two parliaments. Also

the opening remarks.

The ASEAN Summit Preparation Training for Junior Level will be conducted from 17 to 21 December in Nay Pyi Taw.

The duration of the training course will be one week.—MNA

present at the call were Chairman of Public Account Committee U Thurein Zaw, Chairman of International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo, members of Legal

Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission U Than Tun and Daw Than Yi, Director of Pyithu Hluttaw Office Daw Nant Aye Aye Kyi and officials

from Hluttaw Office.

The Vice-President of Ethnic Council of the National Assembly of SRV was accompanied by responsible persons.—MNA

Sagaing University project, upgrading of Shwebo-Myitkyina Road inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec— Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint on 15 December morning inspected paving of concrete on Nay Pyi Taw-Taungnyo-Chaungnat (Kyweshin-Pantin section) and road extension along Yangon-Mandalay Expressway,

maintenance of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) and implementation of Sagaing University Project.

Then the deputy minister looked into upgrading of Sagaing-Shwebo, Shwebo-Myitkyina Roads and tarring of roads.

The deputy minister also supervised construction of Hwleiseik Bridge at mile post 50/1 and tar paving works at mile post 48/3 and mile post 48/5 being undertaken by Special Project Group (2) of Public Works.

MNA

Inter-school band troupe contest opened

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec— Education Ministry's inter-school band troupe contest kicked off today at Nay Pyi Taw No (7) Transit Centre this morning.

Deputy Education Minister U Aye Kyu said

in his opening speech that the contest is aimed at boosting friendship among the schoolchildren and exchanging traditional customs of each region.

The second contest is being participated by

teams representing each region and state and this will be followed by the inter-school sports competition at Nay Pyi Taw Paunglaung Sports Ground here on 22 December.

MNA

Four oil tankers set on fire in northern Afghan province

PUL-E-KHUMRI, 17 Dec — Four oil tankers were mysteriously caught fire and turned to ashes in Khinjan district of Baghlan province 150 km north of Kabul Saturday night, a local official said on Sunday.

Habibullah, the police chief of Khinjan district, blamed the carelessness of drivers for the incident.

“The drivers were cooking next to an oil tanker. Suddenly it sparked flame and destroyed three oil tankers around,” Habibullah told newsmen at the site of

the event.

Some shops nearby were

also damaged, he added.

Xinhua



Smokes rise from burned oil tankers in Baghlan Province in the north of Afghanistan on 16 Dec, 2012.

XINHUA

Gun control movement tries to shed election losing reputation

NEW YORK, 17 Dec— Even before the mass shooting on Friday at a Connecticut elementary school, gun control advocates were making a furious push to convince US lawmakers that their long-ignored issue was a political winner.

Their argument was that support for restrictive new laws is not a career-ender for politicians and that they might even benefit at the polls by opposing the pro-gun rights National Rifle Association.

Gun control groups are attempting to turn upside-down the politics of guns after nearly two decades in which the pro-gun rights lobby has effectively blocked any major new gun restrictions. A ban on certain semiautomatic rifles

known as assault weapons was allowed to expire in 2004.

Their success or failure could determine whether national legislation materializes after the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, that left 26 dead, including 20 children between the ages of 6 and 7.

At the centre of the issue is New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, a gun control supporter who used his personal fortune to help defeat a little-known California Democrat who supported gun rights. Representative Joe Baca lost his reelection bid on 6 November after Bloomberg spent \$3.3 million on the race.

“The side for reasonable gun laws has to make

politicians who oppose them cringe in terror about their reelection prospects,” said Jim Kessler, senior vice president for policy at Third Way, a Democratic group that looks for middle ground on gun control and other issues.

“The NRA has done that pretty well,” Kessler said, “And the other side needs to do that, too. That’s the fight they’re in.” The 6 November elections brought more encouraging results to gun control advocates.

The NRA’s political arm spent \$100,000 or more in each of at least seven races for the US Senate, but its preferred candidate won in only one of them - Republican Jeff Flake prevailed in Arizona.—Reuters

Boehner opens door to tax hikes, shifts US fiscal cliff talks

WASHINGTON, 17 Dec— US House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner’s offer to accept a tax rate increase for the wealthiest Americans knocks down a key Republican road block to a deal resolving the year-end “fiscal cliff.”

The question now boils down to what President Barack Obama offers in return. Such major questions, still unanswered so close to the end of the year suggest, however, that no spending and tax agreement is imminent.

A source familiar with the Obama-Boehner talks confirmed that Boehner proposed extending low tax rates for everyone who has less than \$1 million in net annual income, meaning tax rates would rise on all above that line.

Under current law, the 35 percent top tax rate is scheduled to expire on 1 January, and would automatically go to 39.6 percent. Boehner’s proposal

would allow that rate to rise as scheduled at a threshold of \$1 million — putting it back to where it was during the Clinton administration.

The White House has not accepted the proposal and the source could not confirm any additional talks were held on Sunday between Obama and Boehner.

With just over two weeks before the fiscal cliff’s \$600 billion in automatic tax hikes and spending cuts are triggered, threatening a new recession, there is little time to craft a comprehensive deal that will satisfy both Democrats and Republicans. Until the latest Republican offer, made on Friday, Boehner had insisted on extending all of the Bush era’s lower tax rates, resisting Obama’s demand to let the marginal rates rise on income above \$250,000. A rising chorus of business executives also had urged Republicans to agree to this.

Some lawmakers and congressional aides had



US House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) listens to a question while speaking with reporters in the Capitol in Washington on 13 Dec, 2012.

REUTERS

predicted that Republicans, once serious negotiations began, might try to raise the \$250,000 threshold, say to \$500,000 or \$1 million. They also speculated that Republicans, if forced into a tax rate hike on the upper-income groups, might seek a smaller increase, say to around 37 percent.

Although the White House has not accepted Boehner’s gambit, it could push negotiations away from entrenched, ideological positions.—Reuters



Kuwaiti Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Thekra al-Rashidi speaks at the opening of the 14th session of National Assembly (Parliament) in Kuwait City, Kuwait, on 16 Dec, 2012.

XINHUA

Palestinian envoy hopes to strengthen ties with Angola

LUANDA, 17 Dec— Palestinian Ambassador to Luanda Najah Al Rhman said here on Sunday that Palestinian authorities hoped to strengthen cooperation with Angola given their “excellent and traditional” relations.

The Palestinian envoy told Angola’s official news agency *Angop* that ties between Palestine and Angola were based on friendship and solidarity, which dated back to the time of national liberation struggle in Angola. Palestine opened its diplomatic office in Luanda a few years after the African country became independent, the envoy said.

The ambassador said stressed reciprocal interests and mutual advantages in regard to the ascension of Palestine to the category of observer at the United Nations. He said Palestinian authorities will hold contacts with Angola to find ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation, adding that the new UN position on Palestine made it more viable to broaden the relationship. Al Rhman said Palestine has enough experience and capacity to be one of the contributors to the development of Angola, which enjoys great potentials in terms of natural resources.—Xinhua



Photo taken on 16 Dec, 2012 shows a piece of sculpture of Juan Ripolles, a well-known Spanish painter and sculptor, at his exhibition “Universe Ripolles” in the Jiangsu Provincial Art Museum in Nanjing, capital of east China’s Jiangsu Province. A total of 86 artworks of Juan Ripolles were displayed at the exhibition, which kicked off on Tuesday.

XINHUA

Libya, France seek to boost naval cooperation

TRIPOLI, 17 Dec— Libya and France decided on Sunday to further boost naval cooperation between the two countries, a Libyan navy official told *Xinhua*.

The announcement was made when Hassan Ali Boushnak, Libyan navy’s chief of staff, met with a visiting French frigate, said the source, adding that the

two sides agreed to further boost military cooperation in the fields of training, equipment and technology.

Boushnak said the visit of the French frigate, which will stay in the Libyan capital of Tripoli until 17 Dec, aims at strengthening maritime ties between Libya and France, adding that the two navies began cooperation in

November 2011.

In December 2011, France said it was ready to offer military training to Libya and is looking into ways to boost cooperation between the two countries.

A number of Libyan military officers and non-commissioned officers will participate in military courses in France.—Xinhua

Nigerian actress kidnapped for ransom

OWERRI, 17 Dec — A Nigerian actress cum government official identified as Nkiru Sylvanus was on Sunday afternoon kidnapped by unknown gunmen in the southeastern state of Imo and a ransom has been demanded by her abductors, according to security sources.

Commissioner for information in Imo State Chinadu Offor confirmed the abduction to reporters, but declined to speak further on the demands of the

kidnappers. Security sources in the state told a *Xinhua* reporter that the actress was kidnapped by gunmen at about 2:30 pm local time.

“The kidnappers have started contacting people close to the actress and a ransom of 100 million naira (approximately 634,316 US dollars) has been demanded,” a security said on condition of anonymity.

The source said local police authorities had been contacted to rescue the victim and fish out her abductors.

The kidnapped actress had made more than 100 appearances in different Nigerian movies. Apart from acting, she was appointed last year as the special adviser on public affairs to the governor of Imo State, Rochas Okorocha. She still holds the position till date.

The actress’ abduction occurred exactly a week after 82-year-old Kamene Okonjo, mother of Nigerian Minister of Finance Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala was kidnapped.

Xinhua

REGIONAL

LDP wins Japan's general election by a landslide

TOKYO, 17 Dec—Japan's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) won by a landslide in Sunday's House of Representatives election as it solo secured 294 seats in the election.

The LDP's key ally, the New Komeito Party, got 31 seats, helping the two-party coalition gain 325 seats in the lower house.

The president of the LDP, ex-Prime Minister Shinzo Abe who is expected to reclaim the premiership soon, said his party's victory

is due to failure of the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), which is ruling the country over the past three years.

"People thought they should put an end to the government of the DPJ. Therefore, people have to say no to the DPJ government," Abe said in a Press conference.

He said Japanese people are watching closely to see if the LDP can really respond to their expectations. "So we should try to live up to the

expectations," Abe added.

Candidates of the LDP celebrated on Sunday for their return to power with "banzai" shouting in many campaign offices across the country.

As for the top priority of the LDP, Abe said his party will combat the country's long-lasting deflation. "It is our campaign pledge."

"Economy is in a very dangerous situation and it comes a declining year on year. We need to change the situation," Abe said, adding his party will bring economic recovery back to Japan.

Abe also said he needs a new central banker who would agree with the LDP's introducing of inflation target after current central banker Masaaki Shirakawa stepped down in April so as to curb the country's chronic deflation.

In order to revise the country's pacifist constitution, Abe said it needs two thirds support both in the lower house and the upper house. Therefore, the LDP will seek cooperation with the Japan Restoration

Party in the direction.

Although the DPJ lost the election, it still remains the largest party in the upper house. Abe said his party will also work to gain understanding of other parties in the upper house.

Meanwhile, the LDP and its ally agreed to form a coalition government as they have won the majority of seats in the election. The two parties said they will hold consultations after the election so as to coordinate their policies prior to the launch of the coalition.

Abe ruled out the possibility of cooperating with the DPJ in the new government, saying if the LDP cooperates with DPJ, it will be a betrayal of the people. However, he said the two parties may cooperate in certain fields such as taxation and social security reform.

On foreign policies, Abe said his party does not intend to heighten tension with China and it will seek to improve the bilateral relations with China as soon as possible.

Xinhua



Photo taken on 16 Dec, 2012 shows the fog-enveloped Houma Railway Station in Houma City of Linfen, north China's Shanxi Province. A heavy fog hit Shanxi on Sunday.—XINHUA

Seven killed, nine injured in road mishap in northern India

NEW DELHI, 17 Dec—At least seven people were killed and nine others injured in a major road mishap in the northern Indian state of Haryana on Sunday, a senior police official said.

"The mishap happened when the vehicle in which the victims were travelling collided head-on with a truck coming from the opposite direction near Dhakal village. Both the drivers of the vehicles failed to apprehend due to low visibility because of dense

fog in the region," he said, on condition of anonymity.

While seven people, including two women, died on the spot, the injured have been admitted to a local hospital, the official said.

A probe has been ordered into the incident, he added.

Fog is common in northern India, particularly during the winter months of December and January, and is blamed for a number of road mishaps in the country.

Xinhua



Japan's main opposition Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) leader and former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is applauded as he arrives at the LDP headquarters in Tokyo on 16 Dec, 2012.—XINHUA

Singapore, EU conclude free trade talks

SINGAPORE, 17 Dec—Singapore and the European Union (EU) concluded their free trade agreement talks on Sunday, Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry said.

The EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA) will be signed after the completion of domestic processes including translations and verifications, it added.

Singapore is the first country in Southeast Asia to conclude free trade talks with the EU.

Under the agreement, Singapore will grant immediate duty-free access for all imports from the EU, while the EU will eliminate tariffs on all imports from Singapore over a period of five years, with eighty percent of the tariff lines to be covered after the agreement comes into effect.

Singapore exporters of electronics, pharmaceuticals, chemicals and processed food products will especially benefit from the removal of the tariffs, the Ministry of Trade and Industry said.

The agreement sees the two sides making extensive commitments guaranteeing access to each others' services markets, too. The

commitments cover sectors such as environmental services, computer and related services, professional and business services, financial services and maritime transport services.

Both sides will also remove some non-tariff measures, improving access for exporters of pharmaceuticals and electronics.

Singapore's Minister for Trade and Industry Lim Hng Kiang said, "Once the agreement enters into force, Singapore is confident that the EUSFTA will further enhance our bilateral economic relations, and pave the way for a region-to-region trade deal between the EU and ASEAN."

EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht said Singapore is a dynamic market and a vital hub for doing business across Southeast Asia.

"This agreement is key to unlocking the gateway to the region and can be a catalyst for growth for EU exporters," he said.

"After our agreement with South Korea, sealing this deal with Singapore clearly puts the EU on the map in Asia. But we do not intend to stop here—I hope it will open the doors for FTAs

with other countries in the ASEAN region," he added.

The free trade talks between Singapore and the EU started in March 2010.

Bilateral trade between Singapore and the EU grew by 7 percent year on year to 106 billion Singapore dollars (86.9 billion US dollars) in 2011, making the EU Singapore's second largest trading partner, after Malaysia. Singapore was the EU's 13th largest trading partner globally and the 5th largest in Asia.

Xinhua

Substandard industrial gas, hydropower emissions units banned from New Zealand trading scheme

WELLINGTON, 17 Dec—The New Zealand government announced on Monday it is banning some international emissions units from the country's budding emissions trading scheme (ETS) because of concerns over their "environmental integrity."

Climate Change Minister Tim Groser said the government was banning international units generated from industrial gas destruction projects and large hydropower projects that did

not meet World Commission on Dams guidelines.

"This change is about ensuring the environmental integrity of the New Zealand emissions trading scheme is maintained," Groser said in a statement. "Australia and the European Union have already announced their intention to restrict these units from their emissions trading schemes. Banning these units now strengthens the integrity of the ETS and therefore our ability to advance discussions on linking with other

major domestic emissions trading schemes."

The ban was not expected to significantly reduce the supply of units in the period up to 2015 and was therefore expected to have no impact on the carbon price.

Emitters who had already committed to purchase such units in forward contracts would be able to use them for surrender obligations until June 2014, providing contracts were entered into prior to Monday.

Xinhua

Building collapse kills one, another remains buried



NINGBO, 17 Dec—One has been confirmed dead and

Photo taken on 16 Dec, 2012 shows a collapsed residential building in Ningbo, east China's Zhejiang Province. XINHUA

another remained buried after a residential building in east

China's Zhejiang Province collapsed on Sunday, sources with a local hospital and firefighters said.

The accident happened in Jiangdong District of Ningbo City around noon, when a six-storey building collapsed after residents in the building found cracks and reported the situation to the community, according to local residents and municipal firefighters.

A woman was pulled out of the debris around 4:50 pm but died later in a local hospital after rescue efforts failed, sources with the hospital said.

Rescuers are trying to retrieve another woman found still alive. Rescuers said their efforts had been hampered as the woman, who was living on the second floor, was buried somewhere deep in the debris.

It was believed that only two people were buried in the debris as community workers had persuaded others in the building to move out after receiving reports of cracks in the building early Sunday morning. The building was constructed in 1989, housing 18 families. An investigation into the accident is under way.—Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANG KA CHAI VOY NO (116)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANG KA CHAI VOY NO (116) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ASIAN LEADER VOY NO (25)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ASIAN LEADER VOY NO (25) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L 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: NYK LINE

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANG SRIMUANG VOY NO (112)

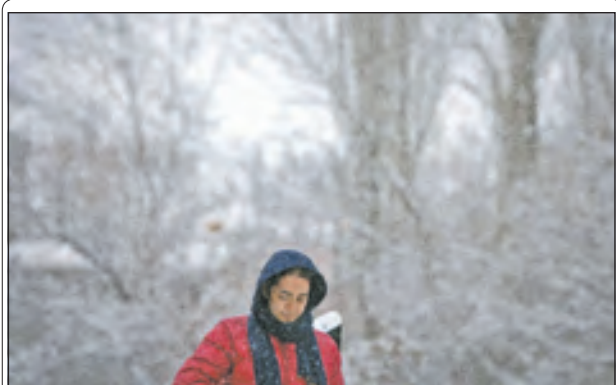
Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANG SRIMUANG VOY NO (112) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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.

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

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921



An Iranian woman walks in snowing weather in Tehran, capital of Iran, on 16 Dec, 2012.

XINHUA

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION

Announcement of Prequalified Firms for Mandalay International Airport Project

1. The Prequalification Evaluation Committee formed by the Ministry of Transport has evaluated the prequalification documents submitted by sixteen applicants for the Mandalay International Airport Project and has selected the best qualified seven firms based on (a) financial strength (b) experience record (c) qualified personnel and (d) equipment resources.

2. Accordingly, the Department of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Transport hereby announce the following list of firms which are prequalified to submit tenders for the Mandalay International Airport Project.

No.	Reg No.	Main Company	Consortium	Country
1	001	Mitsubishi-Jalux in association with SPA (Japan)	Mitsubishi Corporation	Japan
			JALUX Inc.	Japan
			SPA Project Management Ltd.	Myanmar
2	002	Munich Urban Frontier Aung Myanmar Essar (Germany)	FLUGHAFEN MUNCHEN GMBH	Germany
			Urban Strategic Pte., Ltd.	Singapore
			Frontier Investment and Development Advisors Pte., Ltd.	Singapore
			Aung Myanmar Technology Company Limited.	Myanmar
			Essar Projects (India) Ltd.	India
3	004	ITNL International Pte., Ltd. (Singapore)	ITNL International Pte., Ltd.	Singapore
			IL&FS Transportation Networks Limited.	India
			Dublin Airport Authority	Ireland
			Htoo Construction Group Co., Ltd.	Myanmar
4	005	China Harbour Engineering Co., Ltd. (China)	China Harbour Engineering Co., Ltd.	China
			Asia World Co., Ltd.	Myanmar
5	009	AVIC International Holdings Corporation (China)	AVIC International Holdings Corporation	China
			YUNNAN Airport Group Co., Ltd.	China
			Shwe Than Lwin Co., Ltd.	Myanmar
6	011	VINCI Airport (France)	VINCI	France
			Mahibbah Engineering(M) BHD	Malaysia
			Shwe Taung Development Co., Ltd.	Myanmar
7	020	Bouygues Batiment International (France)	Bouygues Batiment International	France
			First Pacific Company Ltd.	Hong Kong
			First Myanmar Investment Co., Ltd.	Myanmar
			Yoma Strategic Holdings Ltd.	Singapore

Note: The list is in order of the registration number of the firms at the time of purchase of prequalification documents from the Department of Civil Aviation.

3. The Department of Civil Aviation will inform in writing to each of the firms in the above list the date and terms and conditions for purchase of the tender documents.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GUNKUL-1 VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GUNKUL-1 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(5) 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: KULNATEE CO. LTD.

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV OSSIAN VOY NO (12027)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OSSIAN VOY NO (12027) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.12.2012 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: T.S LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Italian Defence Minister hopes India's Supreme Court soon to settle marines murder case

NEW DELHI, 17 Dec—Visiting Italian Defence Minister Giam Paolo di Paolo Sunday said that he hoped that India's Supreme Court will soon resolve the "murder" case involving two

Italian marines.

The two Italian marines, Latore Massimiliano and Salvatore Gironi, facing murder charges in India for allegedly killing two Indian fishermen by firing from on

board an Italian cargo vessel, are currently in the southern state of Kerala after being released on bail by a court. The duo were arrested in February and slapped with murder charges though they

claimed that they mistook the victims as pirates.

"I came here to meet the two Italian marines. They are in active duty. It is my responsibility to come here.—Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & ENTERTAINMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (675)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (675) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.12.2012 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PULAU CEBU VOY NO (52)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PULAU CEBU VOY NO (52) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.12.2012 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 EASTERN CAR LINER
S'PORE PTE LTD.

Phone No: 256924/256914



Actress
Jennifer
Lawrence

Jennifer Lawrence happy about not playing Bella Swan in Twilight

LONDON, 17 Dec—Jennifer Lawrence is glad she wasn't cast as Bella Swan in the Twilight films.

The 22-year-old actress auditioned for the lead female role in the vampire franchise, but is glad she wasn't picked for it because she's not sure she could cope with the paparazzi attention Kristen Stewart receives.

Asked if she was relieved she didn't get the part, she told The Guardian newspaper: "Oh yeah, for sure."

"I remember when the first movie came out, seeing Kristen Stewart on the red carpet and getting papped wherever she went. For me, and I'm assuming for her, it was just another audition. Then it turned into this whole other thing."

Jennifer now has her own fame-inducing role as heroine Katniss Everdeen in The Hunger Games franchise—which is also adapted from a series of young adult novels.

The young starlet was unsure about starring in the blockbuster films after earning critical acclaim for her roles in smaller movies.

She said: "I was worried it would be overwhelming and that no one would be able to see me as any other character. But I really cared about the movie. I'm proud of The Hunger Games as I am of any of the other films I've done."

Jennifer received a Golden Globe nomination on Thursday (13.12.12) for her performance as Tiffany Maxwell in Silver Linings Playbook.—PTI

Bradley Cooper's hair trouble

LONDON, 17 Dec—Actor Bradley Cooper is so sensitive about his receding hairline that he has apparently told his hairstylist keep a lid on rumours about his luscious locks.

"He brought in a special stylist while he films The Hangover Part III and is paying boucoup bucks for her to sign a confidentiality clause," showbizspy.com quoted a source as saying.

"He comes from a long line of bald guys

and has used Propecia for year. Brad's thrown himself into work and is desperate for an Oscar nod in February, but he's paranoid about going bald. He thinks it could kill his leading-man status.

"He's been getting a cutting-edge hair-loss treatment and taking a battery of natural supplements—and he's only washing his hair every three days, with expensive organic shampoos," the source added.—PTI



Actor
Bradley
Cooper

Naomi Watts embraces her dark sides

LONDON, 17 Dec—The 44-year-old actress is known for her optimistic outlook but she admits she likes to show off a different side to her when she's acting and isn't afraid about not looking beautiful all of the time.

In an interview with The Times newspaper, she said: "Look, we've all got a dark side. It's just that some of us are OK with cracking it open and embracing it. I'm not looking for a pretty painting. I like something with a bit more destruction."



Naomi plays a Indian Ocean tsunami survivor in new movie "The Impossible".

Something that's messy." Naomi plays a Indian Ocean tsunami survivor in new movie

"The Impossible" and it is the latest in a long line of acclaimed movies she has worked on.

But the Hollywood star's life hasn't always been so good, and she lived through a traumatic

childhood which saw her father, Peter Watts, die of a heroin overdose when she was just seven.

Naomi—who has two sons, Sasha, five, and four-year-old Samuel, with her partner Liev Schreiber—admits her early life experiences mean she will always have issues.

She said: "Something like that leaves a lifelong mark, there's no question about it. I've got demons and I'm someone who's been accused of presenting myself as a lighter, happy-go-lucky person. And there's possibly some untruth in that."

When she

was 14 Naomi and her family moved to Australia, before she left to make it as an actress in Los Angeles and she admits she was close to giving up on her dream.

She said: "I spent 10 years in LA, fighting for tiny parts in terrible things and I was on the cusp of returning home but Nicole Kidman told me, 'Don't do it. Don't worry. It will only take one role.' "Then I got 'Mulholland Drive' and it changed my whole career and life."—PTI

Amanda Bynes settles hit and run cases

LOS ANGELES, 17 Dec—The troubled former actress was due in court on 17 December to face charges relating to two separate incidents—where she allegedly ran into a car and fled in the scene—in April and August, but they were formally dismissed earlier this week.

A source told RadarOnline: "Amanda Bynes was able to reach a civil compromise in both of her hit- and run-cases. "The two separate victims agreed to dismiss the charges after a financial settlement was reached with both... There really is no need to pursue legal charges because damage to their respective vehicles was paid for. "Her lawyer Richard Hutton

advanced the case and went in early to avoid the media." This will come as a relief for the 'Easy A' star as if she had been convicted on both counts, she could have faced up to 12 months in jail.

Along with her legal troubles, Amanda, 26, was involved in two bizarre episodes in September, locking herself in a store changing room for nearly two hours and refusing to come out and stripping off during a gym class and friends say her parents don't know what to do as Amanda has cut contact with everyone.

The insider explained: "Amanda shut them out and isn't speaking to them. She is doing everything on her own. She has no direction.



"Amanda is out of control. She won't accept help from anybody... She's completely lost."

PTI

Amanda Bynes

Juventus extend lead with one-sided win

MILAN, 17 Dec—Juventus extended their lead at the top of Serie A with an embarrassingly easy win over Atalanta, who trailed by three goals and were reduced to 10 men after barely more than half an hour on Sunday.

Andrea Pirlo's goal from a curling, dipping free kick was the highlight of Juve's 3-0 win as the

titleholders went seven points clear of second-placed Inter Milan.

Mirko Vucinic set Juve on their way in the second minute and Claudio

Marchisio scored the third as Juventus moved on to 41 points after their 13th win in 17 league games.

the same score.

Roberto Donadoni's Parma also won 4-1, at home to Cagliari, while Sergio Pellissier's 87th-minute goal gave Chievo a 1-0 win over sixth-placed AS Roma in fog-bound Verona.

Napoli (33 points) were at home to Bologna in the late match (1945 GMT) where a win would lift them into second place ahead of Inter, who have 34 points after losing 1-0 at fourth-placed Lazio on Saturday. Juve's Montenegro forward

Vucinic side-footed the ball past Andrea Consigli after less than two minutes, and the match could have taken a different course if German Denis had levelled shortly afterwards.—Reuters

AC Milan were given a helping hand on their way to a 4-1 win over lowly Pescara, who gave away two own goals, while Luca Toni scored twice as Fiorentina produced another impressive performance to beat bottom club Siena by



Espanyol's Juan Albin (2nd R) celebrates his goal after scoring during their Spanish First Division soccer match against Real Madrid at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in Madrid on 16 Dec 2012.—REUTERS

MADRID, 17 Dec—Jose Mourinho wrote off Real Madrid's chances of overhauling Barcelona to retain their La Liga title after being held to a surprise 2-2 draw at home by struggling

Espanyol on Sunday.

Unbeaten leaders Barca went on to hammer second-placed Atletico Madrid 4-1 with a double from Lionel Messi at the Nou Camp in the late game and moved 13

Dortmund beat Hoffenheim to end year in third

BERLIN, 17 Dec—Champions Borussia Dortmund beat Hoffenheim 3-1 on Sunday to move back into the top three heading into the Bundesliga's winter break. Dortmund's Mario Goetze opened the scoring for the visitors when he superbly drilled in through the legs of defender Andreas Beck and past keeper Koen Casteels in the 26th minute.

Hoffenheim's Sven Schipplock, however, levelled nine minutes later, stabbing the ball in from close range.

Dortmund, who had lost ground in the title race following two draws and a defeat in their last three league matches, renewed their lead early in the second half with Kevin Grosskreutz rounding off a quick move



Borussia Dortmund's Mario Goetze (R) and his team mate Moritz Leitner celebrate Goetze's goal against Hoffenheim during their German first division Bundesliga soccer match in Sinsheim on 16 Dec, 2012.

REUTERS

started by Goetze.

The goal took any will to fight out of the hosts and Poland striker Robert Lewandowski rounded Casteels to score his 10th league goal in the 66th

minute. "It was important to go into the break with the three points," Dortmund defender Mats Hummels told reporters. "We have wasted eight or 10 points so far this season and that

Grosjean wins Race of Champions

BANGKOK, 17 Dec—French Formula One driver Romain Grosjean, whose future with the Lotus team is yet to be confirmed, beat Sebastian Vettel and Michael Schumacher on his way to winning the Race of Champions event in Bangkok on Sunday.

Dubbed a 'first lap nutcase' by Australian Mark Webber after he caused a number of collisions this year, including one in Belgium that got him banned for a race, Grosjean showed a steadier side to his talents.

After beating Red Bull's triple champion Vettel in the quarter-finals and seven-times F1 champion Michael Schumacher in the semi-finals, Grosjean went on to defeat Denmark's eight-times Le Mans 24 Hours winner Tom Kristensen in the best-of-three race final at the Rajamangala Stadium.

"It's been a tough end to the Formula One season

but I finally got back on the podium yesterday and now this," Grosjean, who lost the team final to the German pair on Saturday, said on the event website.

"It's great to get this win before I head off for a

holiday," added the 2011 GP2 champion.

The annual event pits winners and champions from various motorsport series against each other over several rounds in identical machinery.—Reuters



Driver Romain Grosjean (L) from Team France who won the Race of Champions (ROC) holds his trophy next to Tom Kristensen from Team All Stars, who came in second place, during the awards ceremony at the Rajamangala National Stadium in Bangkok on 16 Dec, 2012.

REUTERS

La Liga practically impossible now, says

Mourinho

points clear of third-placed Real after 16 games.

"It is practically impossible," Mourinho told a news conference about their title hopes.

"That's too much (of a gap) at this stage. Last year we had a 10-point advantage in February or March and we were able to maintain it.

"But if we can improve in the league it will serve to help us in the King's Cup and the Champions League."

Real have struggled to replicate their record-breaking performances from last year and have already dropped 15 points with three

draws and three defeats, one more than in the whole of last season.

Barca have won every league game except for the 2-2 draw at home to Real back in October.

Real's surprise 2-1 defeat at Celta Vigo in a King's Cup last-16 first leg in midweek has led to renewed speculation that Mourinho will not see out his contract at the Bernabeu which runs until 2016.

"I have never seen a situation like this before, losing so many points, and having a team so far from its objectives," Mourinho

added.

"It's new for me, but I am not about to give up. I am not going to make a drama of it. We will seek to finish the season in the best way possible.—Reuters

Real Madrid's coach Jose Mourinho gestures during their Spanish First Division soccer match against Espanyol at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in Madrid on 16 Dec, 2012.

REUTERS



Chelsea stunned by Corinthians in Club World Cup final

YOKOHAMA, 17 Dec—Paolo Guerrero snatched a 69th-minute winner as South American champions Corinthians stunned Chelsea to win soccer's Club World Cup on Sunday.

Corinthians, who won

the first Club World Cup in 2000, caught Chelsea cold when Peru striker Guerrero headed home from close range after Danilo's shot looped up off defender Gary Cahill's boot.

Reuters



Paulo Guerrero (C) of Brazil's Corinthians celebrates after scoring a goal, past Ashley Cole and David Luiz (R) of Britain's Chelsea, during the FIFA Club World Cup final soccer match in Yokohama, south of Tokyo on 16 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

GENERAL



Visitors, readers and workers of bus lines reading at public service book corner opened on 3 December led by NyaungU District Information and Public Relations Department at Shwezigon bus terminal.
MYANMA ALINN

First stadium for Brazil's 2014 World Cup opens

FORTALEZA, 17 Dec—The Castelao Arena in the northeastern Brazilian city of Fortaleza became the first stadium to be inaugurated for the 2014 World Cup finals on Sunday.

Along with the Mineirao in Belo Horizonte, to be

Castelao, which has been completely refurbished at a cost of 518.6 million Brazilian reais (\$249.18 million) with a capacity for 67,000.

She said inauguration of the first stadium for the 2014 tournament and Corinthians'

northeastern venues. Castelao will host six World Cup matches including one of Brazil's in the first round, a second-round game and a quarter-final.

It will also host three Confederations Cup matches including Brazil's group stage meeting with Mexico on 19 June, the stadium's debut in an official FIFA tournament.

FIFA extended the deadline for the other Confederations Cup venues, Brasilia, Recife, Rio de Janeiro and Salvador, until March while the remaining World Cup stadiums will be completed sometime during 2013. "This is a very special day for us at FIFA because it marks the two great events that will take place in Brazil in the coming years, the Confederations Cup and the World Cup," FIFA president Sepp Blatter said in a message recorded in Tokyo where he was attending the Club World Cup and shown at the Castelao.

Reuters



Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff (in red) kicks a soccer ball during the inauguration of the Arena Castelao in Fortaleza on 16 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

opened on 21 December, they are the only stadiums to meet the December 2012 deadline set originally for next year's Confederations Cup, a World Cup finals dress rehearsal.

President Dilma Rousseff attended the opening ceremony at the

victory in the Club World Cup final in Japan earlier on Sunday showed Brazil's strength on and off the football field. "Brazil is capable of both things, winning on the football fields and building a stadium of this standing," she said.

The biggest of the

Tottenham beat Swansea 1-0 to go fourth

LONDON, 17 Dec—Belgium international Jan Vertonghen broke the deadlock to send Tottenham Hotspur back into the top four of the Premier League with a 1-0 home win against Swansea City on Sunday. The former Ajax defender scored in the 75th minute at White Hart Lane with a beautifully-struck right-footed shot after a Kyle Walker free kick from the right was nodded on by the Swansea defence.

Spurs leapfrogged Everton to take fourth place, level on 29 points with third-placed Chelsea who have a game in hand after losing the Club World Cup final in Japan 1-0 to Brazil's Corinthians on Sunday. Manchester United, who beat Sunderland 3-1 at Old Trafford on Saturday,

have 42 points and are six clear of Manchester City at the top of the table.

Spurs, without the injured

Gareth Bale but with England midfielder Scott Parker returning as a late substitute for his first appearance of



Tottenham Hotspur's Jan Vertonghen (2nd L) celebrates his goal against Swansea City with Aaron Lennon (2nd R) during their English Premier League soccer match at White Hart Lane in London on 16 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(18-12-12 09:30 am ~ 19-12-12 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * 51st Charity Funfair of Hninzigon Home for the Aged
- * News
- * Golden Dreams & His Art (Academy Diramo)
- * News
- * The Opening Ceremony of NACHASPA (Beauty & Wellness)
- * News
- * Fantastic Villa From Ancient Cultural Land
- * News
- * YES Annual Screening 2012
- * News
- * A Day Out with Sarah (Episode-7)
- * News
- * "Youth and Language" YUFL (Part-2)
- * News
- * New Star with the Best Smile Photo Contest
- * Myanmar Movie "Love between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea"

MYANMAR TV

(18-12-2012, Tuesday)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 7:00 am | 4:20 pm |
| 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw | 14. The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies |
| 7:15 am | 4:30 pm |
| 2. Dhamma Puja Song | 15. Teleplay (Forest) |
| 7:25 am | 4:45 pm |
| 3. To Be Healthy Exercise | 16. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (English) |
| 7:30 am | 5:00 pm |
| 4. Morning News | 17. Songs For Upholding National Spirit |
| 7:40 am | 5:05 pm |
| 5. Nice & Sweet Song | 18. Musical Programme |
| 7:55 am | 5:20 pm |
| 6. Health Programme | 19. Documentary |
| 8:05 am | 5:45 pm |
| 7. Performance with Song | 20. Sweet Melody |
| 8:10 am | 6:20 pm |
| 8. Songs Of Yester Years | 21. Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than |
| 8:20 am | 6:35 pm |
| 9. Dance of National Races | 22. Sing A Song |
| 8:30 am | 7:00 pm |
| 10. Teleplay (Traffic) | 23. TV Drama Series |
| 8:40 am | 8:00 pm |
| 11. International News | 24. News |
| 4:00 pm | 25. International News |
| 12. Martial Song | 26. Bakery World |
| 4:05 pm | 27. TV Drama Series |
| 13. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions | 28. India Drama Series |

Olympics sparkle at height of magical British summer

LONDON, 17 Dec—London defied Britain's wettest summer for 100 years, potential transport and security chaos and a depressed economy to stage a marvellous 2012 Olympics during a magical year for British sport.

Over the past century Britons have become resigned to watching the rest of the world beat them at games they had either invented or codified at the height of the island nation's imperial splendour.

This year, to their fans'



Fireworks explode over the Olympic Stadium during the closing ceremony of the London 2012 Paralympic Games on 9 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

surprise and delight, British teams and athletes surpassed themselves across a range of sports, including third place in the Olympic medals' table behind the world's two great economic powers the United States and China.

Englishman Bradley Wiggins, who looks like a throwback to the English beat groups of the swinging sixties with his mop of hair and straggling sideburns, became the first Briton to win the Tour de France prior to taking a fourth Olympic gold medal.

After finishing runner-up in four grand slam finals during a vintage era for men's tennis, Scotland's Andy Murray finally made the breakthrough as the first British male in 76 years to win one of the big four titles with victory over Novak Djokovic

in the US Open.

And Northern Irishman Rory McIlroy, winner of four PGA titles including the PGA championship by a record eight strokes, was awarded the annual Jack Nicklaus award for player-of-the-year. At the age of 23 he was the youngest recipient since Tiger Woods in 1997.

At the heart of the year's sporting action, London staged the summer Olympics for the third time to unanimous acclaim throughout the world.

Under the assured stewardship of organising committee chairman Seb Coe, as adroit in the convoluted realm of sports politics as he had been on the track while winning two Olympic 1,500 metres titles, the London organisation was impeccable.

Reuters

Schools to serve as a place for nurturing law-abiding citizens

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec — President U Thein Sein accompanied by Vice-President U Nyan Tun, Union ministers and Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko and Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win of Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office and officials visited Dawei University yesterday.

After observing research papers, ancient artifacts of Pyu Age, theses and textbooks, the President stressed the need to apply theses in real world and urged faculty members to teach their students to be proficient in their subjects, calling for lifelong learning. Schools are to serve as a

place for nurturing law-abiding citizens, he said.

The quality of the education could be measured by effectiveness, efficiency, relevance and impact, the President said.

The President and party then met faculty members at the convocation of the Dawei University.

The President briefed on the trends the country is following and urged the faculty members to fulfill their duties for promotion of education standards.

The President attended to the needs in coordination with the Union ministers, the region government and the rector.

MNA



President U Thein Sein views subject-wise theses and reference books displayed at Dawei University.

MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Pyithu Hluttaw
Announcement No. (4/ 2012)
4th Waxing of Nadaw 1374 ME
(17th December 2012)

Sixth Regular Session of First Pyithu Hluttaw summoned

Under the Section 126 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Article 35 of Pyithu Hluttaw Law, it is hereby announced that the sixth regular session of first Pyithu Hluttaw will be convened at 10 am on 12th Waning of Nadaw 1374 ME (9th January 2013).

Sd/Thura Shwe Mann
Speaker
Pyithu Hluttaw

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Amyotha Hluttaw
Announcement No. (4/ 2012)
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Sd/ Khin Aung Myint
Speaker
Amyotha Hluttaw

Funerals begin for Newtown victims as schools confront tragedy

NEWTOWN, 17 Dec — The small Connecticut town shattered by an act President Barack Obama called “unconscionable evil,” holds on Monday the first two of 20 funerals for schoolchildren massacred in their classrooms last week.

Meanwhile, schools across the country will reopen their doors to con-

fused and scared children full of questions about why the Newtown, Connecticut, shooting happened - and whether they are safe from the very same danger.

Obama, addressing an interfaith vigil in Newtown on Sunday night, spoke forcefully on the country's failings in protecting its children and demanded changes in response to the

mass shootings of the last few months.

“We can’t tolerate this anymore. These tragedies must end. And to end them, we must change,” he said, adding that he would bring together law enforcement, teachers, mental health professionals and others to study how to best stop the violence.

But before those changes, the families of the victims will grieve. Noah Pozner and Jack Pinto will be laid to rest Monday afternoon. Noah, 6 years old just last month, was the youngest victim. Reports describe him as “inquisitive” and as particularly mature for his age. The family’s rabbi has said he encouraged Noah’s mother to focus on her other four children amid the grief.—Reuters



Egyptian opposition calls for nationwide demonstration over violations in referendum

CAIRO, 17 Dec — Egypt’s main opposition bloc, the National Salvation Front, called on Sunday night for a nationwide demonstration over the alleged violations spotted during the first round of the constitutional referendum.

The opposition bloc said in a statement the National Salvation Front, led by liberal and leftist politicians, including former diplomat Mohamed El-Baradei and ex-Arab League chief Amr Mousa, called all Egyptians to protest in Tahrir Square and other squares on Tuesday.

Hailing millions of Egyptians who lined up outside polling stations on Saturday to cast their votes,

the National Salvation Front said they will ask the Higher Elections Commission to answer inquiries about violations that happened during the first phase of the constitutional referendum, official news agency MENA reported.

Meanwhile, unofficial results of the first stage of Egypt’s constitution referendum show that 56.5 percent of voters said “yes” for the constitution.

Egyptians on Saturday morning went to polling booths in 10 governorates to vote in the first stage of the referendum on a draft constitution. The final official result is to be announced after the second round due on 22 December.

Xinhua

Relations with China important for Japan: Abe

TOKYO, 17 Dec — Shinzo Abe, leader of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), said here on Monday that relations with China is one of the most important foreign relations of Japan.

Abe made the remark at the first official press conference in LDP’s headquarters after his party won by a landslide in Sunday’s general election, adding tensions between China and Japan have scratched Japan’s national interests.

Abe said he will intensify communication with China so as to improve the current relations with China.

Xinhua

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