

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

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

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

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



President U Thein Sein attends Summit to mark the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan ties at the State Guest House in Japan.—MNA

In his address, President U Thein Sein said he was pleased to see the 40th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan ties based on unity, mutual respect, friendship and understanding. He ex-

pressed his belief that the Summit would bring better outcomes for strengthening friendship and cooperation between ASEAN and Japan in future. He called for formulation of frameworks in

order to guarantee regional peace and stability and security and step up cooperation. He highlighted nuclear disarmament, fight against transnational crimes, maritime cooperation and hu-

man rights matters.

He stressed the need to acknowledge the already-achieved development in implementing ASEAN-Japan Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap 2012-2013 that can pave the way for the success of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, RCEP. He welcomed the Japanese proposal to establish disaster-resilient ASEAN Community, saying that it is required to stand united in dealing with challenges like development divide, income inequality, urban-rural development gap, lack of infrastructure development, energy insufficiency,

environmental matters and natural disasters. Asia-Pacific region is prone to natural disasters. He welcomed the proposal of Japan for establishment of ASEAN Community that will have the capacity for formation of the network on control and promotion of cooperation for ASEAN-Japan natural disaster management.

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

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

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

MNA

Aye Chan Naing clinches gold medal in Kumite

By Ye Htut Tin

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

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

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

After judges declared his victory, Aye Chan Naing greeted the home



Aye Chan Naing celebrates after being awarded with a gold medal.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

crowd, shedding in tears of happiness and waving the State flag.

Aye Chan Naing had scored 11 points while Christo Mondolu five when judges decided to

stop the match.

He clinched medals in the test match events.

In the Male Individual Kumite below-67 kg category today, Tin Tun Aung had to saddle for bronze

after defeating Md Fdilah Hj Sanif of Malaysia on points.

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

Basketball competitions continue at Zeyathiri Indoor Stadium (A)

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

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

Indonesia won over the Philippines 52:83 while Thailand beat Malaysia

73:69. Myanmar lost to Thailand 99:32 and Singapore defeated Myanmar 52:89.

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

Htin Lin Aung (NLM)

LOCAL NEWS

Hsipaw Sitagu Eye Hospital gives eye treatment to patients



HSIPAW, 14 Dec—Under the aegis of Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nanissara and under the supervision of Secretary of the Hsipaw Maha Muni Buddha Image Board of Trustees, the 26th eye care service will

be given at Hsipaw Sitagu Eye Hospital from 26 to 30 December.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññasiri donated transport charge and foods to needy patients from rural areas who

received medical treatment at the hospital.

Those wishing to donate cash and kind may contact 09-5278173, 09-5270189 and 09-5070442.

MMAL-Sai (Hsipaw)

Course on collection of data for illegal poppy cultivation opened

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

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

officials and trainees.

At first, Deputy Commander of Shan State Police Force Police Lt-Col Kyaw Tun made a speech.

The deputy commissioner of the state and Police Lt-Col Kyaw Tun of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control made speeches. Representative U Sai Aung Kyaw Win of UNODC explained the purpose of the trainee.

The training course was

opened up to 14 December.

The lectures on socio-economy, township and village poppy survey works and collection of data will be given to the trainees.

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

MMAL-State IPRD

Media equipment donated to rural areas in Sagaing Region

Sitagu

Eye

Hospital

in Hsipaw

of Shan

State

(North).

YE U, 14 Dec—Sagaing Region Information and Public Relations Department handed over two Sky Net receivers, two laptops, 95 TVs, 371 radios, 55 EVDs, one set of 5 Net Work and 2500 copies of books donated by wellwishers to the villages through Township Information and Public Relations Department at Ye U Basic Education High School No. 1 of Shwebo District on 7 December.

A ceremony to open the raising reading habit

festival took place.

Sagaing Region Minister for Transport U Aung Zaw Oo, Region Hluttaw representative U Soe Tint Aung, Head of Region IPRD Deputy Director Daw Khin San formally opened the festival signboard.

Next, the media equipment donation ceremony followed at the school hall.

Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye made a speech. Head of Region IPRD Daw Khin San

explained the purpose of the donation.

Students sang the song in commemoration of the festival. Next, officials presented prizes to the winners in the essay, extempore talks, literature retelling and poem recitation contests in commemoration of the festival.

At the ceremony, writers Chit Naing (Psychology) and Myinmu Maung Naing Moe gave literary talks.

Kyemon-Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

Tube-wells sunk in Taungdwingyi

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

“This tube-well is two inches diameter and 500 feet deep tube-well. The department spent K 3,122,500 on sinking the tube-well as of 5 November. On completion, the well can benefit 6075 people from 914 houses of parts 4 of Ohndaw Ward 2,” said Executive Officer U Tin Maung Than of Township Development Affairs Committee.

“Local people face



shortage of water in open season. Under the instruction of Magway Region Government, wells and tanks have been built in other wards and parts of the township. Thanks to this tube-well, the local people will be convenient in supply

of water in the open season. On behalf of local people, I thank the authorities, committee and department for sinking the tube-well,” said a local people from Ohndaw Ward 4.

MMAL-Bo Pyae (Taungdwingyi)

Charity Affairs

Car, cash donated to social association



Wellwisher donates Super Custom car to a social association.

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

Daw Khin Myat Moe and family of Mandalay donated one Super Custom car and K 1 million to Kayaseiktha Thukha Parahita Social Association of Sartoe Village at a ceremony

held in Amarapura Township recently.

Chairman of the association accepted the donation and presented certificate to the wellwisher.

Patron of the association Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kovida delivered a sermon and shared merits gained.

MMAL-Maung Maung Soe (Myitnge)

TAMU, 14 Dec—Indian government is making preparations for construction of an integrated check point (ICP) near Nantphalon Market of Tamu Township, and the project will be completed in March 2015.

The check point will be located between Moreh of Manipur State and Nantphalon of Myanmar. As the border line has not been designated exactly, the area of the check point will be controversial.

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

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

ICP is located in the

territory of India, said Joint Secretary Sambhu Singh of Internal Affairs Ministry of India, adding that Myanmar has no rights to oppose the project.

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

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

At present, 13 check points are stretching their areas along the Myanmar and India border. Each check point must be located on 45,500 acres of land. It was estimated that the Indian government will spend Rupee 136 million.

CL Thang Ngah



Scale model on arrival side of elevation passenger terminal at Central Check Point, Moreh, India.

WORLD

Student opens fire at Colorado high school, severely wounding classmate

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

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

The targeted teacher

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

He later named the gunman as 18-year-old Karl Pierson, who was enrolled at the school. The rampage in the Denver suburb of Centennial took place just 8 miles from the scene of



Arapahoe High School is pictured after a student opened fire in the school in Centennial, Colorado on 13 Dec, 2013.— REUTERS

one of the deadliest school massacres in US history, Columbine High School, where two students gunned down 13 classmates and staff before killing themselves in 1999. Robinson said there was no sign the incident was related to the anniversary on Saturday of last year's shooting at an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut, in

which a gunman massacred 20 children and six adults before killing himself.

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

Japan conveys to UN its interest in joining Syria peace conference

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

The United States, Russia and the United Nations are working

together to draw up a list of participants for the conference, at which they hope representatives from the Syrian government, rebel groups and concerned countries will sit down together and talk. Ban said he would take note of Japan's wish to participate, according to Yoshikawa.

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

Kyodo News

Thai protesters outline reform aims, military neutral for now



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

BANGKOK, 14 Dec — Leaders of the protest movement trying to overthrow Thailand's government outlined their aims at an armed forces seminar on Saturday but military leaders declined to take sides or say if a February election should take place.

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra called a snap election on Monday, when 160,000 people be-

sieged her office. She remains caretaker prime minister but the protesters want her to go now, with political reforms pushed through before any election.

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

It has declined to get involved in the present crisis and Thanasak Patimaprakorn, supreme commander of the armed forces, maintained that neutrality when he opened the forum, which was open to the public.

"We live under rules and reason. For sure, we protect the lives and assets of people. It's not what my job's all about, cracking down on riots and things like that," he said.

"To have peace and prosperity, we must solve these problems properly, sustainably, and not let the same old cycle return."

Protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban told Thanasak that the military had intervened in similar situations in the past. "If you take a decision and choose sides, this matter will be over. If you decide quickly, the people will praise you and you will be a hero," he said.—Reuters

UN peacekeepers find arsenal of weapons left by Congo M23 rebels

UNITED NATIONS, 14 Dec — UN peacekeepers found an arsenal of weapons, including heavy caliber arms and enough ammunition to last a year, at the site of the last stand by M23 rebels in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, UN peacekeeping chief Herve Ladsous said on Friday.

Congolese troops and the UN peacekeeping mission — which includes a unique Intervention Brigade mandated to eliminate armed groups — last month defeated M23, which signed a peace deal with the Congo government on Thursday.

The Tutsi-led M23 rebel group ended its 20-month rebellion, the most serious in Congo in the last decade, after Congolese soldiers and UN peacekeepers, known as MONUSCO, captured its last hilltop strongholds in Chanzu, near the Rwandan border. "I flew over the hill of Chanzu, which was the last battle

effectively between FARDC (Congolese troops), helped by MONUSCO, and M23," Ladsous told reporters.

"It's amazing the quantity that were seized there, including heavy caliber, hundreds of tonnes really of all sorts of stuff including about a year's worth of ammunition supplies," he said.

Ladsous said a UN Group of Experts, who monitor compliance with sanctions and an arms

embargo on Democratic Republic of Congo, was investigating the origin of the weapons, adding: "I'm sure it will make interesting reading." The UN experts, who report to the UN Security Council's Congo sanctions committee, have repeatedly accused neighboring Rwanda of backing the rebellion by M23 in eastern Congo, a claim the Rwandan government has fiercely rejected.—Reuters



UN peacekeepers drive their tank as they patrol past the deserted Kibati village near Goma in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, on 7 Aug, 2013.

REUTERS

US suspect arrested for alleged car bomb plot against Kansas Airport

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

Terry L Loewen, 58, of Wichita, was arrested Friday morning at the Wichita Mid-Continent regional airport and has been charged in a federal court, the federal offi-

cials said at a press conference held in Wichita.

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

According to the criminal complaint filed against Loewen in US District Court in Wichita, he was charged with one count of attempting to

"use a weapon of mass destruction against people and property within the US," one count of maliciously attempting to damage property by means of an explosive and one count of knowingly attempting to "provide material support and resources" to designated foreign terrorist group al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.

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

Loewen was arrested as part of an FBI undercover investigation, and the device used by him was in fact "inert and at no time posed a danger to the public," the US Justice Department said in a statement.

Xinhua

Car bomb destroys only bank operating in northern Mali town

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

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack on the Malian Solidarity Bank, which took place at around 0645 local time (0645 GMT).

Separatist Tuareg rebels

said on November 29 they were ending a five-month-old ceasefire with Mali's government and taking up arms.

"A vehicle in front of the bank is in flames after the explosion.

There is a huge amount of bank smoke in the sky hanging over the town," Kidal resident Ibrahim Maïga said.— Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Lawsuit accuses IBM of hiding China risks amid NSA spy scandal



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

REUTERS

NEW YORK, 14 Dec—IBM Corp has been sued by a shareholder who accused it of concealing how its ties to what became a major US spying scandal reduced business in China and ultimately caused its market value to plunge more than \$12 billion.

IBM lobbied Congress hard to pass a law letting it

share personal data of customers in China and elsewhere with the US National Security Agency in a bid to protect its intellectual property rights, according to a complaint filed in the US District Court in Manhattan.

The plaintiff in the complaint, Louisiana Sheriffs' Pension & Relief

Fund, said this threatened IBM hardware sales in China, particularly given a program known as Prism that let the NSA spy on that country through technology companies such as IBM.

The Baton Rouge pension fund said the revelation of Prism and related disclosures by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden caused Chinese businesses and China's government to abruptly cut ties with the world's largest technology services provider.

It said this led IBM on 16 October to post disappointing third-quarter results, including drops in China of 22 percent in sales and 40 percent in hardware sales.

While quarterly profit rose 6 percent, revenue dropped 4 percent and fell well below analyst forecasts.

IBM shares fell 6.4 percent on 17 October,

wiping out \$12.9 billion of the Armonk, New York-based company's market value.

The lawsuit names IBM, Chief Executive Virginia Rometty and Chief Financial Officer Mark Loughridge as defendants, and says they should be held liable for the company's failure to reveal sooner the risks of its lobbying and its NSA ties.

"These allegations are ludicrous and irresponsible and IBM will vigorously defend itself in court," IBM spokesman Doug Shelton said in an e-mail.

The Louisiana fund is represented by Bernstein, Litowitz, Berger & Grossmann, a prominent class-action specialist law firm. It seeks class-action status on behalf of shareholders from 25 June to 16 October, 2013, and damages for shareholder losses.

Reuters

Sea-level rise fast by natural standards

CANBERRA, 14 Dec — Sea-level rise since the Industrial Revolution has been fast by natural standards and may reach 80 cm above today's sea-level by the year 2100 and 2.5 m by 2200 even without development of unexpected processes, according to a new research made public on Friday.

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

of natural sea-level rise.

"We knew from geological data that sea-level is likely to rise 9 meters or more as the climate system adjusts to today's greenhouse effect, but the timescale for this rise was unclear," lead author Professor Eelco Rohling of the ANU Research School of Earth Sciences explained.

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

The background pat-

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

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

"For the first time, we

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

"Although fast, the observed rise still seems to be just within the natural range." "While we remain within normal range, our current understanding of ice-mass loss is adequate. If we move beyond the natural range our understanding falls short. We then won't be able to predict how fast or severe future sea-level changes will be."

Xinhua

Twitter users revolt over changes to abusive behavior policy

SAN FRANCISCO, 14 Dec — Twitter Inc encountered a user revolt for the first time as a public company after it tweaked its "block" function on Thursday, prompting an outcry from those who said the new policy empowered perpetrators of online abuse.

Users could previously prevent their harassers from following them or interacting with their tweets. Under the new rules, a blocked user can view or tweet at the person who blocked him or her, but that activity will be rendered invisible to the victim as if the offending account did not exist.

Twitter said Thursday

that the change was meant to protect victims of harassment who wanted to filter out abusive messages but feared that the act of blocking a user would prompt retaliation.

Responding to a wave

of criticism, Chief Executive Dick Costolo said on Twitter Thursday evening that the new features were widely requested by victims of abuse.

But many were not convinced. Within hours, the

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

"New @twitter block policy is like a home security system that instead of keeping people out puts a blindfold on YOU when they come in," said user @edcasey.

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



KAYAH & KAYIN STATES

The following is the reproduction of Myanmar Hotels & Tourism Guide 2013. Visit www.tourismguide.com.mm for further information.—Ed



Taung-kwei Pagoda

Kayah State

Capital Loikaw
Population Over 0.30 million
Languages Kayah, Shan, Myanmar
Major Industries Agriculture, Mining (including Tin, Alabaster and Tungsten)

How to get there Car, Bus, Air, Train

Traditions and Culture Padaung I The women wear brass coils around their necks and legs in an ancient tradition that began out of a fear of tigers.

Loikaw

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

Taung-kwei Pagoda

Literally meaning Split Mountain Pagoda, this ruggedly beautiful rocky hill rising straight out of the surrounding plain is split in two, with pagodas on each.



Mt Zwei Kabin

Kayin State

Capital Hpa-an
Population Over 1.6 million
Languages Kayin, Myanmar
Major Industries Agriculture
How to get there Car, Bus, Air,

Traditions and Culture The Kayin are deeply religious, whether they are Christian or Buddhist. Their New Year, which falls in December, is the most important event in their communities.

Hpa-an

The picturesque Kayin State capital is set amid broad lakes, lush islands, soaring limestone crags, and mountain ranges receding into the distance.

Kaw-goon and Pha-gat Cave Pagodas

These interesting cave pagodas are 14 kilometres (eight miles) south of the town. The interior walls of both pagodas are covered with thousands of images of all sizes carved in relief, or in free form.

Mt Zwei Kabin

Mt. Zwei Kabin is the pride of Hpa-an. It is 772 metres (2,532 feet) high. Of striking beauty, brick steps lead to the summit, where climbers are rewarded by panoramic views.

NATIONAL

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, wife enjoy Karatedo and archery events

Four objectives of 66th Anniversary Independence Day

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

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects development of Cocogyun



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing greets those present at the meeting with families of officers and other ranks in Cocogyun.—MNA

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

Before departure for Cocogyun, the Commander-in-Chief and party were welcomed by

the Guard of Honour of Aung Zeya frigate at No (3) Jetty. Next, the Senior General and party left for Cocogyun.

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

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

Next, the Commander-in-Chief and wife Daw

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec— Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon enjoyed Karatedo and archery event of the 27th SEA Games this morning. In men's recurve event, Malaysia stood first with 668 points. Zaw Win Htike and Nay Myo Aung from Myanmar will compete in knock-out stage.

Aye Chan Naing of Myanmar stood first in men's 75 kg Karatedo event, followed by Malaysia and Thailand at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium (A) this morning. Malaysia seized gold in men's 68 kg competition,

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon enjoy archery events of the 27th SEA Games.

MNA



Vietnam secured the silver and the Philippines took the bronze. Indonesia captured gold in men's 67 kg contest, Malaysia bagged the silver and Tin Tun Aung from Myanmar was satisfied with the bronze. Malaysia snatched gold in men's 60 kg event, Vietnam clinched the silver and Brunei earned the bronze. In women's event, Indonesia stood first with 651 points and Thin Thin Naing and San Yu Htwey from Myanmar will participate in knock-out round.

In men's compound event, Vietnam stood first with 699 points and Shein Htet Kyaw from Myanmar will fight Lin Naing from Myanmar in quarter final.

In women's compound



event, Myanmar stood first with 686 points and Aung Ngein and Aye Aye Thin will take part in quarter final. Altogether 98 archers from Myanmar, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines,

Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam are participating in the event. The events will continue at Wunna Theikdi Archery Pitch tomorrow.

MNA

As many as 300 local...

(from page 16)

and regions, self-administered zones and division and districts and townships.

In his explanation, Leader of MOI's information team U Win Kyi, MRTV Director, said coordinations have been made to give 300 entry cards to local press and 100 each to broadcasters and international press for coverage of SEA Games closing ceremony. He continued that DVB-T2 Set Top Boxes have been distributed to schools, hospitals and clinics, institutes, libraries and social and religious associations in Nay Pyi

Taw, Mandalay and Sagaing Regions. It is planned to sell 30000 Set Top Boxes to service personnel and it will cost K 15,000 per piece. He added that Bar Co Co., Ltd was the winner of Event Sponsor tender and the names of academy tray holders will be announced soon. Next, PPE Deputy General Manager U Maung Win continued the press conference that an article will be put in Myanmar Encyclopedia Year Book 2014 that will be published in February 2014 in order to correct the mistake, saying that U Pyu (Representative of Hsahtung Saohpalong) is right as it was wrongly written in Myanmar

Encyclopedia Vol. 6 published in 1962 that U Pyu (Representative of Kengtung Saohpalong).

Then, IPRD Director U Myint Kyaw said that Mini e-Library will be established in IPRD's offices across the nation in order to enable the people to have access to an online library service via their mobile phones, laptops, notebooks and tablets with Wi-Fi hotspot. The first phase will start at the end of January 2014 at the township IPRD offices in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay and arrangements will be made for the remaining townships in accord with the 2015 budget.

Afterwards, they answered the queries raised by those present.—MNA

Grand Caravan planes start journey

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—A seminar on Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) was held at the Ministry of Mines, here yesterday afternoon with an opening remark by Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung. It was attended by Deputy Minister U Than Tun Aung and Leader of EITI Office in Myanmar Dr Zaw Oo, responsible persons from Myanmar Mineral

Entrepreneurs Association, Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association and Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association, the directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the Ministry and guests.

The Union Minister in his speech said that making strenuous efforts to be a member of EITI is to

effectively use the profits in a transparent manner for the interest of the people in exploiting natural resources as well as to be in conformity with democratic nation building endeavours.

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

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—Grand Caravan planes launched journey on Chanmyathazi-Loikaw-Chanmyathazi and Chanmyathazi-Bhamo-Chanmyathazi routes on 12 December. The planes bought by Myanmar Airways

are based on their journey at Chanmyathazi Airport. The locals are satisfied with the first ever flight schedule. As soon as it landed on the Loikaw, the local greeted it with melodious songs. Kayah State Chief Minister U Khin Maung Oo and government

state ministers viewed it.

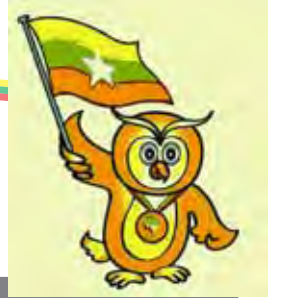
It costs K 49,000 each from Mandalay Chanmyathazi-Loikaw with seating capacity of 11. Moreover, it will fly to Magway, Kyaukhtu and Namhsam.

MNA



The New Light of Myanmar

XXVII SEA GAMES SPECIAL



27th SEA Games



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

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

NLM



Fans arrive at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



Fans buy souvenirs at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



Fans dance to the accompaniment of traditional orchestra as they celebrate victory of Myanmar boxer Nwe Ni Oo in the Women's Feather category of 27th SEA Games.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

XXVII SEA GAMES PHOTO GALLERY



A fan at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE





The New Light of Myanmar

XXVII SEA GAMES SPECIAL

27th SEA Games



Bodybuilding event kicks off in Yangon



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

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—The opening ceremony of bodybuilding event of the 27th SEA Games took place at Myanmar Convention Center (MCC) in Yangon this afternoon with an address by Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye. After bodybuilding events (55, 60 and 70 kilo), the UEC chairman and officials presented prizes to the winners of the matches. MNA

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



Gold medalist boxer Nwe Ni Oo celebrates her victory.

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

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

In the first round, she was influenced by the Philipino boxer, but she could win

By Aye Min Soe

scores with her counter punches in the second and third rounds, said her assistant-coach.

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

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

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

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

Myanmar bag four...

(from page 16)

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

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

MNA

Myanmar Women Sepak Takraw beats Laos in regu event

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—Men's and Women's Regu preliminary events of Sepak Takraw events of 27th SEA Games kicked off today in Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium (B).

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

Women's Regu teams

are Myanmar, Laos, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam. In women's Regu preliminary event, Laos beat Vietnam two-nil and lost to Myanmar nil-2 while Malaysia lost to Thailand and Viet-

nam nil-2. Myanmar women's team will meet Thailand and Malaysia teams tomorrow. The semi-final events for men's teams will go on tomorrow.

Myo Than (NLM)



Sakha of Thailand defences against strike by Kyaw Soe Win of Myanmar in Men's Regu Preliminary Event of 27th SEA Games.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Men's & Women's Volleyball events go on

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—The second day of Men's and Women's Volleyball competitions of the 27th SEA Games continued at Zeyahiri Indoor Stadium (B), here this morning.

Players from Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam,

Myanmar and Indonesia took part in today's volleyball competitions. In the first Women's match, Malaysia lost to Thailand 3-0. In the second Women's match, Myanmar lost Vietnam, 0-3.

The final result be-

tween Indonesia and Vietnam of Men's Volleyball competition was 3:2.

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

Htin Lin Aung (NLM)



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

Photo: HLA (NLM)

Women's Hockey competitions continue for second day

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

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

MNA

Football Results

Timor-Leste	0 - 0	Indonesia
Myanmar	1 - 1	Thailand



PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 15 December, 2013

Environmental Education

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

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

When and where do we start the environmental education? The answer is to teach it in primary schools from now on. We were not in a state of preparedness and no quick response to cyclonic storm Nargis badly we had experienced in 2007 warned us about the lack of environmental education among our people. It would be very effective even if a chapter covers environmental education was integrated into the primary curricula to instill an environment aspect into our children. They will carry the aspect of making environmental conservation a duty they were taught in childhood to their adulthood.

Children who were taught to cherish the environment and to have awareness about the environment and associated challenges lead to adults equipped with environmentally sound practices to address environmental problems. So, we would like to call on educational decision-makers to put the environmental aspect into the hearts of primary students as an essential part of education. Only through environmental education, can we mitigate environmental impacts and make our mother earth a better place to live.

HOME RETURNED BUDDHA STATUE ATTRACTING PILGRIMS AND TOURISTS

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

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

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

Historical background covers ancient Rakhine, and Myanmar history as well as British colonial period. To begin with, one ancient Rakhine Raja by the name of Sanda Suriya of Dannawaddy Kingdom invited living Lord Gotama Buddha to his domains for dhamma duta [preaching His dhamma]. The Buddha with his disciple follower monks left his Jetavana Vihara in Savathi, India and

on the full moon day of Kasone [May], Tuesday 1 pm arrived in Dannawaddy. The king and his people gave a big welcome to the Buddha who preached for some days his dhamma to the king and his people who embraced his teachings. When the Buddha was about to leave for other places for preaching mission, the king and the peo-

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja
Sithu Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

ple requested the Buddha to leave his representation for them to adore and worship. The Buddha agreed to casting an alloy Buddha statue. The king and his people collected pyinsa loha [five kinds of metals namely gold, silver, bronze, lead and zinc] "whereupon" so the legend says "Sakka deva, the Thunder god and his carpenter god Vithakyaone appeared to supervise the casting of the statue on the summit of Sri Makuta mountain to the north east of Dannawaddy kingdom. Peoples from four cardinal directions brought a greater amount of gold than other four metals. Sixty-five heavy loads of gold and other metals were carried by royal white elephant. Thus six cubits and one mite size of a sitting Buddha statue with a bhumi-phasa mudra [earth touching gesture of hand] was ceremonially cast successfully. "The living Gotama Buddha, so says the legend, breathed his breath into the statue so that the statue is still alive with that breath". The Buddhist devotees believe it.

Next, three more statues were cast out of the remaining metals. The first Buddha statue is known as "Maha Muni" and the other three statues are named "Shin Kyaw Muni", "Shwe Bon Tha Muni" and "Man Aung Myin Muni" respectively. Man Aung Myin means "Buddha conquers five evils". Man Aung Myin statue occupied the place to the right side of Maha Muni statue. Originally it weighed 666 viss and 6 ticals.

In ME 1146 [1784 A.D.] Crown Prince who was the son of King Bodawpaya [1782-1819 A.D.] of Amarapura of the first Konbaung dynasty brought the said four Buddha statues to

the then capital Amarapura by the land route crossing the Rakhine Yoma hill ranges, at Taungup, then by water route from the jetty of Padaung to Pyay town. During a short sojourn there, Rakhine people requested Crown Prince at least one statue should be returned to them. Accordingly Crown Prince left Shwe Bon Tha Muni statue at a place on

the west bank of the river facing Pyay. When Crown Prince's entourage reached Amarapura, an auspicious site was chosen at a place to the north of the capital and the two statues Maha Muni and Shin Kyaw Muni were housed in a grand Temple which we still see at Mandalay.

Man Aung Myin statue was taken to the capital and near the palace where it was sheltered in a gold spired temple for daily worship of royal family. Successor kings, Bagyidaw, his brother King Konboun, his nephews King Bagan and King Mindon and King Mindon's brother and crown prince Kanaung kept Man Aung Myin statue at their palace temples for daily worships.

In ME 1214 [1852 A.D.] during the second Anglo-Myanmar war in the reign of King Bagan, his half brothers Prince Mindon and Prince Kanaung revolted against King Bagan who was dethroned and Prince Mindon ascended the throne.

Lord of Zalun Town Minister Thado Mingyi Maha Minhla Nawrahta appointed U Shwe Pwint of the town. His boss Thado Mingyi and himself yearly submitted royal revenue to the King at the capital. So U Shwe Pwint became well-known among the royal family and countries. He was in good favour of the royal family. King Bagan gave him royal favour of permitting to cast a Buddha alloy statue for Zalun. With five medals of 1500 viss weight donated by Zalun people U Shwe Pwint went to Amarapura by boats in January 1852 (M.E 1214, Pyatho) for casting a Buddha statue. When the news reached Chief Queen of King Bagan, she gave all supports and assistances. Bronze

Smith U Maung Maung Latt was assigned the task of casting. Meanwhile the country in the impending outbreak of the second Anglo-Myanmar war, law and order broke down and anarchy reigned everywhere. So the chief Queen advised U Shwe Pwint to return to Zalun and carry out his duty of maintain law and order there. U Shwe Pwint appealed to the Chief Queen to take Man Aung Myin statue to Zalun for the people to worship and promised to return it to the capital when his statue was finished. The Chief Queen agreed. So Man Aung Myin statue was put on a great ceremonial boat "Yan Lwint" and brought to Zalun.

Monks and people enshrined it in a temporary temple built of bamboo and thatch. Head monk Sayadaw U Hpyu brought sacred relics to place near the statue and a grand consecration rite was held. Later when news came that the statue U Shwe Pwint tried to cast at the capital was finished, he had to return Man Aung Myin statue to the palace as promised. But the journey to Amarapura was not safe and the entire country was in the grip of the second Anglo-Myanmar war providing sound excuses for delay in the return of Man Aung Myin statue to the capital.

In the war, the British defeated Myanmar and they occupied Lower Myanmar from Pyay and Toungoo southward. British commander Sir John Stubb confiscated all metallic objects including sacred statues. In M.E 1214 (1852 A.D) he took away to Bombay, India, on board the ship "Shwe Chain" Man Aung Myin statue along with other objects like bells and bronze wars. These confiscated metallic objects were stored in warehouses to melt them down for making coins or cannon balls. It is said that when Man Aung Myin statue was put on high degree fire for melting with four melting machines it did not melt. All attempts failed.

Her Imperial Majesty Queen Victoria, after assuming the imperial title of the Empress of British Indian Empire made a royal tour. She arrived in New Delhi. A grand darbar was

(See page 9)

You know....WHO statement says that the number of global cancer patients is on the rise and the disease is killing more and more people.

Right! The statement also warns that lung cancer is the deadliest killer and the main cause is smoking or tobacco!



Cartoon Thabyay

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein attends 5th Mekong-Japan Summit

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

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

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

In his speech, the President said that he was pleased to meet again with the counterparts from Me-

kong region countries and Japan and have a chance to exchange views on development of Mekong region at the summit. He attached importance to creating alternative development and job opportunities for narrowing development gap between urban and rural areas. The President pointed out that development gap between Mekong region and other ASEAN countries can be narrowed by implementing the projects in cooperation with Japan. As Mekong region countries are agro-based countries, road transportation sector is important for sharing market and distribution of agricultural produce. The President expressed his hope of continuing support of Japan for achieving success of those aims.

Economic, social and reciprocal relations between the peoples of Mekong region countries will be further cemented by implementing east-west economic corridor and

President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with heads of ASEAN countries and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at 5th Mekong-Japan Summit.
MNA



southern economic corridor in the region, he said. There should be to choose ways with least environmental impact in making investments for economic development in the region and it is important to place emphasis on green economy

and green development, he added. Expertise, technology and human resources development assistance from Japan are of importance for Mekong region countries, adding Myanmar would fully cooperate to implement Mekong-Japan

cooperation program successfully. He reaffirmed that 7th Mekong-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting will be held in Myanmar in 2014 in conjunction with 47th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

In the evening, the

President together with heads of ASEAN countries attended a dinner in commemoration of 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Summit hosted by the Japanese Prime Minister and wife at Fuji-no-ma Hall of Imperial Hotel.—MNA

ARTICLE

Home returned Buddha ...

(from page 8)

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

Now an unbelievable story happened. Queen Victoria suddenly caught a serious headache keeping her awake for many nights. Many royal physicians did their best either to cure it or to give relief but failed. One night, she had a dream in which she was told that of Man Aung Myin Buddha statue now kept in the storehouse in Bombay was returned to the place of origin, her sufferings shall disappear immediately. When she woke up, she decided to carry out what she was told in her dream. The following day, at her command, the Buddha statue of her dream was discovered in the storehouse waiting to be melted again. She was unhappy to see such act of sacrilege and vandalizing of sacred objects of other

religions. Immediately she ordered the return of Man Aung Myin statue to its homeland. Soon after that order was given, it is said, her headache miraculously disappeared.

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

When the District Commissioner of Zalun came to his counterpart in Hinthada on official business, he visited "Pawdawmu Paya". To his surprise he found that the statue was Man Aung Myin statue of Zalun taken to Bombay by the British. He informed

Sayadaw monk U Hpyu who with his followers arrived with 12 big boats. Monk U Hpyu examined the statue in detail including inscription on it and he was assured that it was Man Aung Myin of Zalun. U Hpyu went to District Commissioner of Hinthada and told all about that matter.

District Commissioners of Zalun and Hinthada arranged a meeting between head monk Sayadaws of both towns to decide the matter. Thus Sayadaw monk U Hpyu of Zalun and Sayadaw monk Kyikan of Hinthada met with public around them. Monk Kyikan was senior to U Hpyu in age and ordained age.

Kyikan Sayadaw asked Monk U Hpyu to give evidence to prove that the statue belonged to Zalun.

Monk U Hpyu replied he saw inscriptions on its body were strong evidences.

Kyikan Sayadaw asked Monk U Hpyu if he could recite there inscriptions.

Without much also U Hpyu recited them by heart every line of the inscriptions.

Next he was asked to give the meanings of inscriptions that were in Pali.

As Kyikan Sayadaw found all correct he gave the verdict that the statue belonged to Zalun. The whole meeting was satisfied with the verdict.

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

A grand welcome ceremony was held for days at Zalun to receive their statue. Since then the statue acquired a new name "Zalun Pyitaw Pyan Paya" [Home

returned Buddha Statue at Zalun]. Its original name "Man Aung Myin" was changed to many names—Nan U Paya, Su Taung Pyi Paya, Min Tat Min Paya. The statue's residence also changed. When it was returned from Hinthada, it was housed in U Thaing's Tawya Gu Temple for 3 years. Later in 1223 ME (1861 AD) it was moved to a new gold mosaic temple where it resided for 25 years. Then in 1248 ME (1886 AD) it got a new grand residence at a very big temple with pavilions built under the supervision of Sayadaw U Hpyu. Again in 1280 ME (1918 AD) after 32 years of residence in that temple it was again moved to Bo Pona Kone for 10 years, next to Ta-pya Tazaung for 4 years, Major cause for these movements was the erosion of the River Ayeyawady along the water fronts of Zalun.

Finally in 1283 ME (1921 AD) in Kasone (May) the Statue was moved to the present brick Temple donated by U Shwe Kone and Daw Min Thwe of Kanyin Kwin Village. Since 1317 ME (1955 AD) many renovations and decoration were added by generous

Buddhist devotees. The statue was adorned with gem studded solid gold regalia. Many solid gold paraphernalia such as rice bowl, water goblets, water cups, gold fans etc were donated to the statue. More Dhamma teaching halls and rest houses for pilgrims appeared in its spacious precincts. The entire big temple looks like a big palace adorned with best works of ten visual arts and brightly lit by chandeliers of candles.

Zalun Pyitaw Pyan Paya to-day is not only one of the most attractive pilgrimage but also of foreign tourists' attraction. Riverine cruises like the Road to Mandalay, Orchaella, Pantaw and other bring globe-trotters to Zalun only to see, adore and marvel at the sublime statue and grand temple.

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

National Sports

Football tournament marks 66th Anniversary Independence Day



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

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

Chairman of the organizing committee U Tin Win urged the players to take part in the tournament with sporting spirit.

In the debut, Thanthayar Aye Monastic Education School B played against White Youth team. It was

crowded with local people.

Altogether 16 football teams are taking part in the tournament. On 4 January, the final matches of the tournament and prize presentation will take place.—Kyemon-Myeik District IPRD

Mobile Team checks ships in Myeik



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

afternoon with the aim of preventing consumer rights.

The team inspected 20 tons of diesel, Aung Chit Khin Ship-3 with the load of imported licences and ID of customs, Lin Po Po Aung (5) ship with 40 tons of cement and Ngwe Zinyaw (5) ships

with 50 tons of cement. They also checked Lin Po Po Aung-3 ship with 250 tons of fish and holding of EL-ED. Myeik District IPRD

Talks on taking census 2014 held in Palaw

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

Staff Officer of the Township INRD U Aye

Myint explained the plan to take census across the nation from 30 March to 10 April 2014.

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

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

Kyemon-Palaw Township IPRD

Flower arrangement course kicks off

Members of WAO and MCWA attending flower arrangement course.



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

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

Patron of Magway Region MCWSC and WAO Daw San San Myint made

a speech.

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

Kyemon-Tin Tun Oo

Five Myanmar people, two Bangladeshi children handed over



MAUNGTAW, 14 Dec—Deputy Director U Saw Naing of Maungtaaw District Immigration and National Registration Department and party held a flag meeting with Commanding Officer Lt-Col Khalit Hassan of No 17 Cox's Bazaar Border Guard

Force and party at the camp of battalion in Gaungton Village of Bangladesh on 10 December.

It was also attended by Commanding Officer of the No 42nd Taknat BGF.

The deputy director accepted five Myanmar

citizens released from Cox's Bazaar Jail and handed over two Bangladeshi children placed under care at Maungtaaw Police Station.

They held a meeting on further cementing border relations.—Kyemon-Maungtaaw District IPRD

Rural development tasks inspected in Kalay

KALAY, 14 Dec—Chairman of Kalay District Management Committee U Maung Htoo and assistant directors of District Irrigation Department,

heads of District Agriculture Department and Settlement and Land Records Department, the chairman of Township Management Committee

and members of Township Development Affairs Committee inspected the site for construction of Large Kyunchauk Bridge and Small Kyunchauk Bridge on Kalay-Tintha Road on 12 December.

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

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

The chairman of the district management committee replied to queries raised by local people and attended to the needs for rural development.

The Chairman of District Management Committee and party inspected basic education schools in Tintha Village, Doenwe Village and Sharpo Village.

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

Kyemon-Joe Net



REGIONAL

Japan, ASEAN vow to cooperate in ensuring freedom of overflight

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

The leaders “agreed to enhance cooperation in ensuring the freedom of overflight and civil aviation safety in accordance with the universally recognized principles of international law...and the relevant standards and recommended practices by the International Civil Aviation Organization,”

according to a joint statement issued after a summit in Tokyo, without singling out a specific country. Alluding to the South China Sea issue, the leaders of Japan and the 10-member ASEAN underscored the importance of resolving maritime disputes “by peaceful means,” according to the statement.

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



Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko meet with ASEAN leaders and their wives at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo on 13 Dec, 2013. The leaders from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations were in Japan for a summit with Japan. —KYODO NEWS

Gov’t mulls raising loan ceiling for TEPCO

TOKYO, 14 Dec — The government is considering raising the ceiling on loans available to Tokyo Electric Power Co for compensation payments and decontamination work following the 2011 nuclear disaster from the current 5 trillion yen to 9 trillion to 10 trillion yen, sources close to the matter said on Saturday.

The government plans to decide on the additional assistance for TEPCO later this month, while the operator of the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex seeks to include the assistance in its business plan to be reviewed by year-end, according to the sources.

Under the current loan scheme, the Nuclear

Damage Liability Facilitation Fund is allocated a type of government bond up to 5 trillion yen, which carries no interest and can be cashed by TEPCO when necessary.

The government is considering lifting the bond issuance ceiling by about 4 trillion to 5 trillion yen. Of the additional assistance, 2.5 trillion yen is to be earmarked for decontamination work and 1 trillion yen for construction of facilities to store radioactive waste from decontamination, the sources said.

The government is now studying how much additional assistance will be necessary for damage compensation, they said.

Kyodo News

Japanese businesses see Southeast Asia as key to their growth

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

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

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

Akio Mimura, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said,

“ASEAN is Japan’s biggest investment destination. Our relations with ASEAN are indispensable for Japan’s economic revitalization.”

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

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

Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, making a brief address on behalf of ASEAN, asked Japanese businesses to continue to invest in the region, saying their technological skills

are highly recognized around the world.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who attended the luncheon hosted by Keidanren and the

JCCI, praised ASEAN’s development, saying, “The rise of ASEAN is an accumulation of people’s enormous efforts.”

Kyodo News

Guide launched to assist foreign investment in Laos

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

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

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

According to German Ambassador to Laos, Robert von Rimscha, economic growth in Laos will mean poverty reduction for millions of Lao citizens. The German government assisted ECCIL to compile the guide in order to promote a more diversified Lao economy necessary for future growth.

“This will be a very useful tool to enhance Laos as an investment destination, specifically for European business,” von Rimscha told Xinhua at the launch ceremony in capital Vientiane. “I certainly hope that there will be more European investors interested in becoming active in Laos as the opportunities in this country are plentiful and as the Government is keenly aware of the shortcomings specifically when it comes to rule of law that still need to be addressed,” he said.

Foreign investment in Laos is a crucial component of the national strategy to maintain 8 percent annual GDP growth from 2011-2015. According to the 7th National Socio-Economic Development Plan approximately 15 billion US dollars of investment is required for the period 2011-2015 in order to maintain targeted GDP growth with aims to graduate from the UN list of Least Developed Nations by 2020.—Xinhua



Photo taken on 13 Dec, 2013 shows exhibits of the Eastern Command Museum at the headquarters of Eastern Command of India Army at Fort William in Calcutta, capital of eastern Indian state West Bengal. The museum is full of collections of memorabilia, documents and other exhibits of the 1971 War. XINHUA

Overseas knowledge contestants to visit NW China

BEIJING, 14 Dec — Eight foreign contestants winning the top prize of a knowledge contest about northwest China will be invited to visit the region.

The 2013 Experience China Awards Ceremony was held Friday with eight contenders from the United States, India, Spain, Cambodia, Senegal, Germany, Mauritania and Argentina clinching the top prize.

As part of the award, they will embark on trips to northwest China’s Qinghai and Gansu provinces and Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region in three teams shortly after, the contest’s organizers said.

Running from 28 August to 15 November,

the 2013 NW China-themed Global Knowledge Contest “Experience China” was jointly sponsored by the State Council Information Office (SCIO) and China National Tourism Administration and hosted by China Radio International.

The contest, held via radio, websites, social networking portals and traditional media in ten languages, attracted the participation of 247,000 respondents.

Senior SCIO official Zhang Yanbin said he hoped that the contest could forge “a bridge of friendship” to promote mutual understanding and trust.

Xinhua



A tourist poses for photos in front of an historical building at Jiaxi Village, a scenic spot transformed from a residential section in Chongqing Municipality, southwest China, on 13 Dec, 2013. Traditional architectural style and some historical buildings as cultural relics were kept well at the Jiaxi Village. XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (030)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (030) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Barcelona-Paris high-speed rail link to open on Sunday

MADRID, 14 Dec — French and Spanish rail operators on Friday said more than 20,000 tickets have been sold for the high-speed train line connecting Barcelona and Paris, which is due to open on Sunday.

According to French rail operator SNCF and its Spanish counterpart RENFE, a total of 22,400 tickets have been purchased by Wednesday since the tickets went on pre-sale on 28

November. The number is expected to rise to 30,000 by the weekend.

The Barcelona-Paris high-speed train line, which will begin operations on 15 December, will reduce travel time between the two cities to around six hours.

Each operator is dedicating 10 trains to the line with the hope that the coming year will see around a million people take advantage of the route.—Xinhua



Workers take ice from Songhua River for an ice sculpture fair at Zhaolin Park, in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on 13 Dec, 2013. Nearly 1,000 workers started to pick ice in Harbin recently for making ice sculptures. XINHUA

Cadmium poisoning patients to get compensation under expanded criteria

TOYAMA, 14 Dec — Mitsui Mining & Smelting Co is set to agree to pay 600,000 yen per person in lump-sum compensation to patients of an early stage of "itai itai" cadmium poisoning disease marked by renal impairments, sources close to the matter said on Saturday.

An agreement is expected to be signed with a victims' group on Tuesday to pay compensation to patients whose urinary concentration of a protein called beta 2-microglobulin, a measure of the

deterioration of renal functions, is 3,000 micrograms per liter or more, according to the sources.

Patients of cadmium nephropathy, an early stage of the disease, have not been recognized as patients of the disease under the government's criteria, and the upcoming agreement will signify a comprehensive settlement of the decades-old issue.

About 500 to 600 people are expected to receive 600,000 yen compensation, the sources said.

The disease, which

causes kidney dysfunction and bone softening, occurred in the basin of the Jinzu River, Toyama Prefecture.

It is one of the four major pollution diseases that emerged in Japan in its era of postwar high economic growth.

It was caused by cadmium released from Mitsui Mining & Smelting's Kamioka mine located upstream of the river in Gifu Prefecture. The disease became Japan's first recognized pollution disease in 1968.—Kyodo News

ENGAGEMENT

Both families would like to honour the engagement of
YADANAR KHINE @ WENDY SEIN

B.B.A, UTCC (Bangkok)

Master of Business, Australian National University (Canberra)

daughter of

U Paw Lwin Sein (Myanmar Ambassador to Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and the European Union) & Daw Khin Mie Mie Win

residing in Kabar Aye Villa, Mayangone Township, Yangon

&

DR. AUNG KYAW SETT

M.B.B.S., M.R.C.P (U.K)

M.R.C.P.(Geriatric Medicine) U.K.

F.R.C.P (Edinburgh)

U.K. Specialist Certificates in Stroke, Geriatric & General Internal Medicine

Consultant Stroke Physician

Son of

Brigadier General Maung Sett (Retired – Myanmar Air Force) & Daw Tin Aye Win

residing in Thuwunna, Yangon

which cordially took place on December 14, 2013 in Brussels Belgium.



Fans enjoy the musical performance of Egyptian band Masar Egbari taking place at the Cairo Opera House, in Cairo, capital of Egypt, on 12 Dec, 2013. As one part of the annual International Volunteer Day event organized by United Nation Volunteers programme and others, two Egyptian popular-music band Masar Egbari and Wust El-Balad gave a show on Thursday, attracting hundreds of local young people.—XINHUA

Russia modernizing Arctic airports, port facilities, says official

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

"To protect our strategic interests, further development of the airfield network and port infrastructure (in the Arctic) has been envisaged," chief of the General Staff of the

Russian Armed Forces Col Gen Valery Gerasimov told a meeting with 90 foreign military attaches.

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

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday ordered the Defence Ministry to take every step

necessary to protect Russia's security and national interests in the Arctic region.

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

A huge pit appears out of nowhere in a village of western China's Sichuan Province at midnight on 12 Dec, devouring 11 houses but luckily leaving no casualties. The 60-metre long, 40-metre wide and 30-metre deep pit at present continues to grow. Local villagers have been hearing low vibrating sounds underneath the earth's surface for the past twenty days. Residents have all been evacuated and the cause for the anomaly is under investigation.—XINHUA



ENTERTAINMENT

Bruno Mars is Billboard's 2013 Artist of the Year

LOS ANGELES, 14 Dec — Singer Bruno Mars was named Billboard's 2013 Artist of the Year by the industry trade magazine on Friday.

Hawaiian-born Mars, 28, topped eight of Billboard's year-end music chart lists, including the Hot 100 Artists, Mainstream Top 40 and Hot Digital Songs, and his 2012 album "Unorthodox Jukebox" has becoming one of this year's best-selling records with more than 1.8 million copies sold in the United States.

"Bruno did well in touring and I think longevity does really well for him. His songs stuck around on multiple formats all year round," Bill Werde, editorial director of Billboard

magazine, told Reuters.

"He's a powerhouse, and really keeps his focus on the music in a year where conversations have been dominated by (MTV's Video Music Award) performances and PR cycles."

Grammy-winning Mars, whose music crosses between R&B and pop, has established a successful career as a singer and producer with The Smeezingtons, working on songs both for himself and other artists.

He also notched four Grammy nominations this month, including two of the industry's top prizes — his single "Locked Out of Heaven" picked up both record and song of the year nods. The singer will embark on the North American leg of his "Moonshine Jungle World Tour" in 2014, and will also headline the Super Bowl half time show in February. Mars's music crosses over between pop, R&B, soul and hip hop, and he is known for conjuring up different musical eras within his albums. He reimagined 1940s doo-wop music for his 2010 debut album, "Doo-Wops & Hooligans," and revived sounds of Motown and 1970s disco in "Unorthodox Jukebox." —Reuters



Bruno Mars (C) performs during the iHeartRadio Music Festival in Las Vegas, Nevada on 21 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS



A fan walks near a poster promoting a tribute concert which marks the 32nd death anniversary of British legendary rocker John Lennon of the Beatles at a vintage cafe in Hanoi on 7 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

Batch of 59 rare Beatles songs to be released for sale

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

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

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

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

In 2011, the European Union ruled that copyright over sound recordings

should be extended from 50 to 70 years from next year, but only for recordings released before the 50-year term had expired.

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

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

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

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

Beyonce's surprise release of new album excites fans

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

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

After she announced the album, it was immediately available worldwide exclusively on iTunes, skipping the advance publicity, critics' reviews and other marketing strategies that usually precede the release

of a major musical artist's new work.

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

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

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

"Being able to listen to



Singer Beyonce attends HBO's New York premiere of her documentary "Beyonce - Life is But a Dream" in New York on 12 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

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

"What it does show

in the age of the Internet is that artists can have a really strong direct relationship with core fans and present art to them in the way they want to," he added.

Reuters

Old TV darlings dumped as Golden Globes seek out the new and edgy

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

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



(L-R) Actors Zoe Saldana, Aziz Ansari and Olivia Wilde sit on stage at the announcement of nominations for the 71st annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, California on 12 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

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

"It's the job of the people in the industry to try and prepare people for the next generation of shows, and make sure something strong is on the upwards escalator, so I welcome the new shows in the category," "Downton Abbey" creator Julian Fel-

lowes said in an interview.

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

The Golden Globes, voted for by the members of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, are one of Hollywood's top honours for film and television, and

winners will be announced at a televised ceremony in Beverly Hills on 12 January.

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

A surprise entry into the mix was premium cable channel Starz, which had two shows vying for honours in the TV mini-series/movie categories, landing a network record of six nominations.—Reuters

SPORTS

Blow for Man United as Van Persie ruled out for a month

Suarez confounds critics and rewards patient fans

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

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

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

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

place, 13 points behind leaders Arsenal.

"It's unfortunate because I think if you look at our record with Wayne Rooney and Robin in the team, it is actually very good and we have not had them for quite a period recently," Moyes said.

Responsibility will now fall to Rooney who has been in great form this season despite United's

problems and who is edging towards Bobby Charlton's club scoring record of 247.

Rooney will clock up 500 first-team appearances (including with Everton) on Sunday and Moyes thinks that, at 28, the England international is getting better.

"There are big things ahead for Wayne and some big targets ahead — he can break Sir Bobby's record," Moyes said.—Reuters



Manchester United's manager David Moyes speaks to substitute Robin Van Persie during their Champions League soccer match against Shakhtar Donetsk at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England, on 10 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

Pellegrini admits Bayern blunder but not feeling guilty

LONDON, 14 Dec — Manchester City manager Manuel Pellegrini said he made a mistake by not realising his team were one

goal away from topping their Champions League group, but does not feel guilty about his mathematical blunder.



Manchester City coach Manuel Pellegrini (L) and Bayern Munich coach Pep Guardiola chat before their Champions League Group D soccer match in Munich on 10 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

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

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

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

"When they scored,

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

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

Sutil swaps Sauber seats with Hulkenberg

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

"I am very happy we found common ground," the 30-year-old Sutil was quoted as saying on the Sauber website (www.sau-

berf1team.com), adding he had "known for a while" where he wanted to drive but negotiations took a bit longer than planned.

No details of the agreement were revealed.

"After six good years driving for Force India, with a lot of highlights, it's now time to embark on a new challenge. I am determined to do my part in order to have a successful future

together with the Sauber F1 team." Sauber team principal Monisha Kaltenborn

said Sutil had been a long-term target for the team.

Reuters



Former Force India Formula One driver Adrian Sutil of Germany drives during the Indian F1 Grand Prix at the Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida, on the outskirts of New Delhi, on 27 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS

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

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

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

Yet it is his added ability to conjure moments of individual brilliance and single-handedly pick apart the opposition that make



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

him an indispensable presence in Brendan Rodgers's Liverpool team.

"I stop and think 'wow' every day in training," defender Kolo Toure said of his team mate on the club website (www.liverpoolfc.com).

"He scores unbelievable goals all the time in training so we shouldn't really be surprised by what we see him do in matches."

The 'wow' factor has

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

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



US forward Alex Morgan (13) dribbles the ball around Brazil goalkeeper Luciana (12) in the second half at Florida Citrus Bowl.

Peralta, Morgan selected CONCACAF Players of the Year

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

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

In the other categories, Tim Howard (Everton & United States) was named as Goalkeeper of the Year, Juergen Klinsmann (United States) as Coach of the Year,

Mexico's Marco Antonio Rodriguez as Referee of the Year and Mexican Raul Jimenez's brilliant strike against Panama in October as Goal of the Year.

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

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

GENERAL

**Asleep In Jesus
Daw Nyo Nyo (Ellen)
Age: 82 Yrs**

Daughter of U Boe Aung and Daw Pan Yin, lived in No.669, Thiri St, Pannegone, Insein Tsp, Yangon and beloved mother of U Aung Moe Oo (Chief Officer - JSM Shipping Co., Ltd) + Daw Nyein Nyein Swe, U Aung Moe Htoo (Manager, Myawaddy Bank Ltd) + Daw TheinGi Khine (B.E.H.S <Branch>- B.E.M.S No. (7) Insein), U Aung Moe Htwe (Myanmar Ganad Advertising Co., Ltd) + Daw Aye Myat Htun, U Aung Moe Kyaw (Manager, Myanma Railway) + Daw Sandar Soe, (U Aung Moe Naing) + Daw San San Htwe (USA), U Aung Nanda Htun + Daw Moe Moe Htwe (A & M Education Services); And Grandmother of 18 children; Wife of U Saw Chit Sein (Central committee member, NUP), Daw Nyo Nyo (Ellen) has slept in Jesus at 12 noon on Friday (13.12.2013). So, funeral ceremony will be held at Yayway Cemetery at 11:00 AM on Sunday (15.12.2013).

Note: Ferry Bus will take off at 9:30 AM

**Asleep In Jesus
Daw Nyo Nyo (Ellen)
Age: 82 Yrs**

Daughter of U Boe Aung and Daw Pan Yin, lived in No.669, Thiri St, Pannegone, Insein Tsp, Yangon; Little sister of Dr. Robert Mya Pe + (Daw Esther Mya Pe) USA, (U Fredick Dun + Ellsie Dun) USA, U Phyo Sein + (Daw Khin Aye) USA, (Mann Phu San + Nant Lilly); And beloved wife of U Saw Chit Sein (Central Committee member), Daw Nyo Nyo (Ellen) has slept in Jesus at 12 noon on Friday (13.12.2013). So, funeral ceremony will be held at Yayway Cemetery at 11:00 AM on Sunday (15.12.2013).

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

XINHUA

**Israel to transfer water pumps to Gaza to fight flooding**

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

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

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

Xinhua



Kurara Chibana (L), a model who was runner-up in the Miss Universe 2006 beauty pageant, is pictured in Tokyo on 13 Dec, 2013, after she was named as the first Japanese ambassador for the World Food Program. At right is Elisabeth Rasmusson, assistant executive director of the Rome-based UN body.—KYODO NEWS

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

TOKYO, 14 Dec—Kurara Chibana, a model who was the runner-up in the Miss Universe 2006 beauty pageant, was named on Friday as the first Japanese ambassador for the World Food Programme.

Chibana, 31, became a celebrity partner of the WFP in 2007 and has since visited disaster-hit countries such as Zambia and the Philippines, as well as the Tohoku region of north-eastern Japan devastated by a major earthquake and tsu-

nami in 2011. At a ceremony held in Tokyo, Chibana said a WFP programme to offer meals at schools in areas of poverty encourages children to receive education. "I'd like many people to know about this activity," she said.

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

From Tokyo banker to J League mascot

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

When Sanfrecce sealed their second straight J League title earlier this month with a 2-0 win over Kashima Antlers, Koyano took the field to hold up the banner for fans alongside fist-pumping players, the culmination of an unlikely year of reinvention.

"When I was an investment banker, my focus was to make things happen. I

focused on how to win a deal and tried to control as many things as possible," the 50-year-old told Reuters.

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

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

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

tailer Edion Corp.

At the time, Hiroshima had just won the J.League championship but its losses off the field threatened to undermine its success.

As of this year, any team sustaining losses for three straight years, or those with liabilities exceeding assets, risks losing their J League license.

So when Koyano went to work improving Hiroshima's profitability, he started by interviewing fans before games or waiting at the nearby train station on the way home.

Fans would often press him about the club's strategy on acquiring new talent while Koyano would ask them for advice on how to

boost season ticket sales.

"They tell us things we don't notice," says Koyano.

One of the unsolicited marketing suggestions was aimed at the club's fan-friendly general manager himself. Supporters urged Koyano to make himself a team mascot.

Thus was born "Koyanon," a caricature of Koyano that plays up his chubbiness and carefully parted hair with a made-in-Japan manga-style cute.

In September, Sanfrecce released its first Koyanon collectible — a key holder. It sold out quickly.

In October came the Koyanon t-shirts. Wristbands followed in November.—Reuters



President of the professional soccer club Sanfrecce Hiroshima, Kaoru Koyano, poses with a mascot key ring named "Koyanon" which features himself in front of a replica of the J-League winner's trophy at the Japan Football Museum in Tokyo on 11 Dec, 2013.

REUTERS

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

15-12-13 07:00 am ~
16-12-13 07:00 am) MST

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- * Trishaw Man
- * Local News
- * A Day Out With Sarah (Episode-3)
- * Ywar Thit's Monhinkhar

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

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

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

Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu made an address on further promotion of cooperation in amity among ASEAN countries, better relations

in ASEAN community to be established in 2015 and further cementing relations among ASEAN countries.

Artistes in traditional costumes of ASEAN countries sang the song under the title of Sports Year.

ASEAN traditional dances and songs were followed by the artistes from ASEAN countries. Host Myanmar also performed the traditional dances and songs, winning the applauses of the audiences from ASEAN member countries. Altogether ASEAN countries' artistes sang the song "Sports Year" with the dances.

The Vice-President and wife and the Union ministers presented gifts to the entertainers and they altogether posed for documentary photos.



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

Vice-President U Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint pose for documentary photo with artistes at entertainment to mark the 2013 ASEAN Sports Year at MICC.—MNA



Vietnam tops shooting event's medal-table



Gold medalist Vietnamese shooter.

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

Vietnamese shooters clinched four gold in Men's 50-metre rifle prone (individual), Women's 10-metre air pistol, Men's 50-metre pistol (team) and Women's 10-metre air pistol contests to top the table in which Thailand and Malaysia are ranked second and third places. Myanmar stands fourth place with one gold, two silver and one bronze.

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

MNA

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Union Minister and party awarded K 4.4 million to gold medalist Ma Chaw Ei Thu in Petanque women's singles event.

Myanmar awarded gold, Vietnam silver and Malaysia bronze together with Indonesian counterpart in Karatedo women's team event. Union Minister U Khin Yi presented K 700,000 to the winner Myanmar team.

In Pencak Silat events,

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

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

(See page 7)

Medal Tally

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Thailand	33	30	30	93
Myanmar	31	29	28	88
Indonesia	30	40	34	104
Vietnam	29	23	33	85
Malaysia	18	12	31	61
Singapore	12	10	19	41
Philippines	7	11	15	33
Cambodia	4	6	11	21
Laos	2	5	18	25
Brunei	1	1	3	5
Timor-Leste	0	0	1	1

T2 Set Top Boxes, 2012 Academy Award Ceremony, measures taken against the article entitled "Rewrite the true history" written by Khun Sein Win in Myanmar Alinn daily issued on 9 December and establishment of Mini e-Library in states (See page 5)