The New Light of Myanmar
THE MOST RELIABLE NEWSPAPER AROUND YOU
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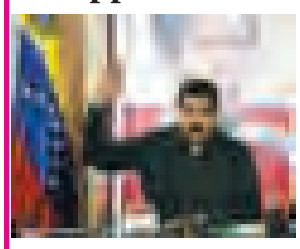

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Pyidaungsu and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets Speaker of Indonesian House of Representatives

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann held talks with Speaker of House of Representatives of Indonesia Mr Marzuki Alie at Mulia Hotel in Jakarta of Indonesia yesterday.

At the meeting, they focused on further cementing relations and cooperation between the two parliaments and democratization process.

The Speaker and party also attended a dinner hosted by the Speaker of Indonesian House of Representatives at the same venue.

The Speaker together with Chairmen of Hluttaw Affairs Committee Thura U Aye Myint, U Hla Myint Oo and U Htay Myint and

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Myanmar mobile payment service introduced

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec— Myanmar mobile payment service was today introduced at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road in Dagon Township, Yangon.

The introducing ceremony was attended by Chairman of Myanma Economic Corporation Lt-Gen Wai Lwin, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Sein Tin Win, the managing director of Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank, officials of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and the Oberthur Technologies of France and the More Magic Co Ltd of the US. On the occasion, the managing director extended greetings.

Next, the Chairman of MEC presented gifts to those present on the occasion and looked round process of mobile payment services after watching a TV programme on mobile money transfer and topping up a mobile phone. As mobile payment service is performed from or via a mobile device, people at far-flung areas can easily use the service.

The Myanmar mobile payment service introducing ceremony in conjunction with TRI Star Tyre and high-quality Myanmar products and exhibition runs till tomorrow.

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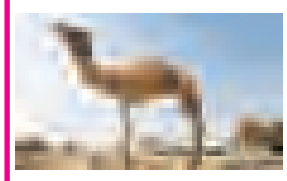

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Myanmar enjoys sweet taste of victory in first-ever Vovinam

By YM (NLM)

Duo of Myanmar Vovinam artists taking part in demonstration discipline.
YM (NLM)

Vovinam competition at the 27th SEA Games kicked off with a colourful start for Myanmar Vovinam team, scoring top points to secure gold medals in three demonstration events. Myanmar enjoyed first taste of victory on the opening day of Vovinam competition in which Myanmar has taken part for the first time.

Pa Pa Win and Chue Thinza Soe accomplished their first assignment for gold in 45-50kg Vovinam Women's SONG LUYEN3 (Dual Form). A score of 270 points which is five points above the second-place rival, Vietnam team, is enough for 20-year-old girls to take first gold not only for Myanmar Vovinam team but also for them. Vietnam from which Vovinam originated had to be content silver while Laos won bronze.

"We received one-year-long training for a three-minute demonstration discipline. As a preparation for goal through Vovinam, we were given one-month training in Vietnam. As it is a demonstration of two Vovinam artists, understanding in each and every movement between us is key to today's success. We are very proud of being first gold medalist of Myanmar Vovinam. It is first time for us taking part in the biggest regional sporting event.

Hnin Thida took home gold, leading three points to nearest Vietnamese opponent, in Vovinam Women's TINH HOA LUONG NGHI KIEM PHAP (YIN YANG Sword Form) in which she scored 269 points. The 27-year-old former P'Silat artist seized gold in the first international tour of Myanmar Vovinam team to 2nd SEA Vovinam Championship in Cambodia.

"I am confident that I will secure gold today," Hnin Thida who was ranked third in pre-SEA Games Vovinam Test attributed her win to self-confidence. "Cheers of my teammates and spectators filled me with a fighting spirit," the single female weapon gold medalist added.

In the evening events, Myanmar's duo of Hsu Lei Phyo and Khine Zin Win added one more gold medal to the Myanmar's Vovinam podium for Day 1. They finished atop Vovinam Mixed TU VE NU GIOI (Self-Defence for Woman), scoring 272 points.

"I am so happy for this our team's first day achievement. We will continue to give our best for winning more gold in combat events as well," said the gold medalist duo who were awarded only bronze in Cambodian Vovinam Championship.

Despite losses to opponents in gold matches of Day 1's combat events, Myanmar Vovinam artists promoted the image of the country and Myanmar Thaing Federation. They showed their impressive performances in demonstration disciplines and shared gold medals in today's events with Vovinam powerhouse Vietnam that also clinched three gold.

"Uncle Mon" preaches taekwondo to the uninitiated

Kerstin Winter

Martial arts competitions are amongst the most popular events for Myanmar spectators at the SEA Games and on Wednesday they were treated to the opening rounds of Taekwondo, a Korean martial art that focuses on kicks.

Explaining the fascination of the sport just before the opening ceremony, the "Living Legend" as he is

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Men's double team Sepak Takraw preliminary events go on

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—Men's double team Sepak Takraw preliminary events of the 27th SEA Games went on this morning at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium (B).

Cambodia men's double team won over Singapore with 21-16, 21-11, 21-19, 21-11, 11-21 and 19-21 while Myanmar beat favorite Indonesia with 21-14, 21-11, 21-15, 21-11, 19-21 and 18-21. Laos defeated Malaysia with 16-21, 13-21, 21-17, 21-19, 21-19, 16-21 and 21-17 in men's double team Sepak Takraw preliminary events.

Kyaw Htike Soe (NLM)

***Women's double team, Sepak Takraw semifinal event between Myanmar and Thailand.*—MNA**

LOCAL NEWS

Acting Union Minister for Education discusses signing MoU

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec— Acting Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Myint received Director of the Asian Studies Program at the Johns Hopkins University of the United States of America and representative of Japan Bank for International Corporation Prof Dr Karl Jackson at his office here on 17 December.

They had a cordial discussion on opening MRES course for International Relations at International Centre of Excellence (ICoE) in Yangon University campus, signing MoU between Yangon University and Johns Hopkins University, learning Myanmar course by students of Johns Hopkins at YUFL and opening Electronic Library at ICoE.—*MNA*

Acting Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Myint receives Director of Asian Studies Program and party.—MNA

KOICA to celebrate Happiness for Myanmar

YANGON, 19 Dec—Kora International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) will host the ceremony named Happiness for Myanmar to celebrate 2013 KOICA Alumni Annual Ceremony & Performance of Korea Traditional music and dance performance by world class performer Kim Dul Soo and the Samul Nori Hanulum Art Troupe at the National Theatre, here on 21 December.

KOICA Alumni Annual Ceremony is mainly purposed to promoting solidarity and coopertion between KOICA fellowship program participants every year and the training perticipants from various Myanmar government ministries will attend the ceremony.

World class performer Kim Dul Soo and the Samul Nori Hanulum Art Troupe will come to Myanmar and perform Korea Traditional music and dance performance to the audience at the ceremony.

KOICA is going to introduce their project aids programs in Myanmar to all the participants and one of the ex-participants will share their experience and knowledge during their training program in Korea. The Chairman of Myanmar KOICA Club is going to deliver the Remarks for KOICA participants.

Moe Thu

Electrification

Electrifiction works performed

YANGON, 19 Dec— Bahan Township Electrical Engineer's Office of Yangon City Electricity Supply Board installed three 11-6.6/0.4 KV 315 KVA transformers, 6.6 KV power line and 400 V power line for system improvement of Shwetaunggyar Ward 1 and 2 in Bahan Township.

The electrification tasks are being carried out for enabling the local people to enjoy electricity at full capacity in Bahan Township.

MMAL-YESB

BMW cars donated for ASEAN Summits

U Zin Yaw, Deputy Minister for Transport accepts BMW car donation.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec— An official ceremony was organized yesterday at the Ministry of Transport, here, to recognize and present the Certificate of Appreciation to the Joint Sponsors of Vehicles for the ASEAN Summits in 2013, BMW Group Asia and Octagon International Services Co Ltd (Prestige Automobiles).

BMW Group Asia and Octagon International Services Co Ltd (Prestige Automobiles), will provide 95 units of flagship Brand New BMW 7 Series, the BMW 5 Series executive seden and the Premium BMW X5 Sports Acitvity Vehicle for the use of dignitaries who will be attending the 24th ASEAN Summit and 25th ASEAN Summit to be hosted by Myanmar during 2014.

At the ceremony of recognizing the sponsors of Vehicles for ASEAN Summit, U Zin Yaw, Deputy Minister for Transport delivered his remarks of preciation and presented the Certificates of Appreciation to the representatives from the company.—*MNA*

Fire drill practised in Bago

BAGO, 19 Dec— According to the programmes of Bago Township Fire Services Department, fire drills were exercised in the township for many times.

Staff Officer U Aye Myint of Bago Township FSD and party inspected the fire preventive measures at Myoma Market and Ottha Thiri Market in Bago Township on 12 December.

They also inspected fire preventive measures at green groceries market and meat and fish market on 13 December.

Moreover, the staff officer of the Township FSD together with in-charge of the market of Township Development Affairs Committee U Khaing Lyan Thang, market elders and members of market Fire Brigade participated in the fire drill.—*MMAL-FSD*

Cruise liner concludes visit

YANGON, 19 Dec— US-based MV Seven Seas Voyager which arrived here for the third time left Thilawa Jetty of Yangon on 16 December afternoon.

The ship headed for Phuket of Thailand.

The cruise liner had arrived here in 2006 and 2008.

The vessel carried 659 passengers and 452 crew men to Myanmar.

Tourists from the vessel visited Shwedagon Pagoda, Bogyoke Market, Shwemawdaw Pagoda in Bago and other famous areas in Bagan-NyaungU, Thanlyin and Kyauktan townships.

They recorded significant pagodas, stupas and other wonderful structures in rural areas.

The vessel arrived in Myanmar on 15 December. On 27 December, one more cruise liner arrive here, it was learnt.

MMAL-Sein Lwin Aung

Capability enhancement course conducted

THONGWA, 19 Dec—The capability enhancement on reproductive health behavior course was opened at Thongwa Township Hospital organized by Township Health Department on 17 December.

Tow day course will be held for four times. The course will admit 50 trainees each of midwives and health workers, totalling 200.

MMAL-Ko Kyaw (Thongwa)

WORLD

Vice Adm John Miller (front L), commander of the US Navy 5th Fleet, and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shake hands prior to their talks at Abe's office in Tokyo on 19 Dec, 2013.—KYODO NEWS

Death toll to reach 23,000 in case of quake directly beneath Tokyo

TOKYO, 19 Dec — Up to 23,000 people may be killed and economic damage may reach 95.3 trillion yen if a magnitude 7.3 earthquake occurs directly beneath the Tokyo metropolitan area, the government said in a report on Thursday. That is more than double the 11,000 dead estimated in 2005 by the same panel, the Central Disaster Prevention Council, as it assessed more severely the damage caused by fires in residential areas crowded with wooden houses around downtown Tokyo. The panel also said rescue efforts might be hampered by traffic jams.

Based on the latest estimate, the government plans to revise its disaster prevention outline by next March so it can maintain key functions of the capital in case of emergency, officials said. If a magnitude-8 temblor with a focus in the Sagami Bay off Kanagawa Prefecture hits the metropolitan region, the number of deaths might climb to 70,000, the report said.

While indicating the government would be able to maintain its core functions when Tokyo is hit by a huge quake, the report expressed concern that Japan's international competitiveness would decline due to disruption to supply chains and networks, affecting economies at home as well as abroad and causing the suspension of production activities for a long time. Experts say the probability of a powerful earthquake of magnitude 7 or greater hitting the Tokyo metropolitan region is 70 percent within the next 30 years.

The number of deaths would be the worst if the temblor hits Tokyo and vicinity on a winter evening when the wind was blowing at 28.8 kilometers per hour, as 610,000 homes and buildings would be expected to collapse or be burnt down. The number of evacuees may also reach 7.2 million, the report said.

Kyodo News

Senate passes budget deal, focus shifts to spending

WASHINGTON, 19 Dec — The US Senate passed a two-year budget deal on Wednesday to ease automatic spending cuts and reduce the risk of a government shutdown, but fights were already breaking out over how to implement the budget pact. By a vote of 64-36, the Senate sent the measure to President Barack Obama to be signed into law, an achievement for a divided Congress that has failed to agree on a budget since 2009.

"All told, it's a good first step away from the shortsighted, crisis-driven decision-making that has only served to act as a drag on our economy," Obama said in a statement. He also urged Congress to pass an extension of long-term unemployment benefits that expire at year-end for some 1.3 million jobless Americans, a move sought by Democrats that was not part of the deal struck by Republican Representative Paul Ryan and Democratic Senator Patty Murray.

(L-R) Senators Ron Johnson (R-WI), Tom Coburn (R-OK), Max Baucus (D-MT) and Joe Manchin (D-WV) walk out of the Senate chamber to vote on the US budget bill in Washington on 18 Dec 2013.—REUTERS

The budget measure, passed in the House of Representatives last week by an overwhelming margin, restores overall fiscal 2014 spending levels for government agencies to $1.012 trillion, trimming the across-the-board budget cuts that were set to begin next month by about $63 billion over two years. It pays for the additional near-term spending with a variety of other savings, including increased airport security fees paid by airline passengers and pension benefit cuts for new federal employees and working-age military retirees.—*Reuters*

Venezuela's Maduro holds rare dialogue with opponents

CARACAS, 19 Dec — Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro held a rare meeting with opponents on Wednesday, challenging them to collect signatures to oust him in 2016 if they wanted but to work with him in the meantime.

Maduro invited opposition mayors and governors to Miraflores presidential palace in an attempt to draw a line after four bitterly fought elections in Venezuela in little over a year.

"I've greeted you with sincere affection. I respect all your political positions," said the 51-year-old former union activist, urging them to join government anti-poverty projects in the OPEC nation of 29 million people.

"In the spirit of Christmas, we can turn over a new page," he added. "Our differences will remain, but I urge you to work."

Before the meeting, Maduro shook hands with high-profile opponents such as Caracas Mayor Antonio Ledezma, whom he has repeatedly lampooned as a "vampire," and Valencia Mayor Miguel Cocchiola, whom he has called a "thief" and "criminal."

The president also offered them gifts of writings by Hugo Chavez, who died of cancer in March, and played a recording of the late president singing Venezuela's national anthem.

While Maduro spoke of a fresh start between Venezuela's bitterly opposed political factions and listened attentively to his opponents, cynics will remember how his mentor, Chavez, skillfully interspersed rapprochements and attacks to outwit his foes.—*Reuters*

Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro gestures during a meeting with the opposition's newly elected mayors and governors at Miraflores Palace in Caracas on 18 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

Gov't to set guidelines Friday to accelerate recovery of Fukushima

File photo taken in September 2013 shows the No 5 reactor (L) and No 6 reactor at Tokyo Electric Power Co's Fukushima Daiichi power plant in Fukushima Prefecture.—KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 19 Dec — The government plans to set guidelines Friday to accelerate recovery from the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster, featuring expanded financial support for plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co. and preparations to support evacuees seeking to start new lives elsewhere, sources close to the matter said Wednesday.

In a major policy shift, the guidelines will lead to the government spending taxpayers' money on funding part of the cleanup of radiation-contaminated areas outside the accident-stricken Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex, which TEPCO would otherwise have had to shoulder, the sources said.

The government also plans to lift from 5 trillion yen at present to 9 trillion yen the ceiling for interest-free loans that TEPCO is allowed to receive from a state-backed fund for compensation payments and off-site decontamination activities, they said.

The government has drawn up the guidelines based on a proposal submitted by the ruling coalition parties in November. Nearly three years have passed since the nuclear crisis erupted, but 140,000 Fukushima Prefecture residents still live as evacuees.

Offering to evacuees the option of abandoning their homes in Fukushima will mark a change in the stance of the government, which has been seeking to achieve the return of all evacuees to their homes in principle.—*Kyodo News*

Thai protesters take to Bangkok streets ahead of Sunday rally

BANGKOK, 19 Dec — Several thousand antigovernment protesters on Thursday marched along main roads in the capital Bangkok, calling on people to join a large-scale rally scheduled for Sunday.

The rally is aimed at applying more pressure on the caretaker government led by beleaguered Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra. Former Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban, leader of the antigovernment protests, said the protesters will temporarily paralyze the capital on Sunday afternoon.

He added the antigovernment protests will continue until the Yingluck government steps down.

The protesters also vowed to stop the snap election called by Yingluck earlier this month in a bid to defuse the crisis. They demand that political reform first be carried out before the election, set for 2 February.

However, the Election Commission on Thursday expressed its readiness to go ahead with the election, but admitted that a peaceful election is unlikely to happen since the political conflict is still going on.

Kyodo News

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Facebook, Zuckerberg, banks must face IPO lawsuit

NEW YORK, 19 Dec— Facebook Inc, Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg and dozens of banks must face a lawsuit accusing the social media company of misleading investors about its health before its $16 billion initial public offering, a federal judge said. In a decision made public on Wednesday, U.S. District Judge Robert Sweet in Manhattan said investors could pursue claims that Facebook should have prior to its May 2012 IPO disclosed internal projections on how increased mobile usage and product decisions might reduce future revenue.

"The company's purported risk warnings misleadingly represented that this revenue cut was merely possible when, in fact, it had already materialized," Sweet wrote in his 83-page decision. "Plaintiffs have sufficiently pleaded material misrepresentation(s) that could have and did mislead investors regarding the company's future and current revenues."

In a statement, Facebook said: "We continue to believe this suit lacks merit and look forward to a full airing of the facts."

Facebook went public at $38 per share. The Menlo Park, California-based company's share price rose as high as $45 on May 18, 2012, its first day of trading, but quickly fell below the offering price and stayed there for more than a year. Investors including pension funds in Arkansas, California and North Carolina claimed that Facebook negligently concealed material information from its IPO registration statement that it had provided to its underwriters' analysts.

Reutes

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg sits for audience questions in an onstage interview for the Atlantic Magazine in Washington, on 18 Sept, 2013.
REUTERS

Samsung Electronics up 2 percent on upbeat US economic outlook after Fed move

SEOUL, 19 Dec— Shares in Samsung Electronics Co Ltd gained 2 percent on Thursday, as expectations for US economic recovery — triggered by the Federal Reserve's decision to begin slowing its bond-buying program - lifted investor appetite for the index heavyweight.

Samsung Electronics makes up about 18 percent in market capitalization of the wider market, which was up 0.2 percent as of 0302 GMT.

Reuters

A man using his mobile phone walks past a Samsung Electronics shop in the company's main office building in central Seoul on 23 July, 2013.
REUTERS

Shoppers are seen at a Target store during Black Friday sales in the Brooklyn borough of New York, on 29 Nov, 2013.
REUTERS

Target stores' customers hit by major credit card attack

NEW YORK, 19 Dec — Payment card data was stolen from an unknown number of Target Corp customers starting on the busy Black Friday weekend in a major breach at the US retailer, according to a person familiar with the matter.

The Secret Service is investigating, according to a spokesman for the agency, which safeguards the nation's payment systems. Target officials did not respond to requests for comment.

Investigators believe the data was obtained via software installed on machines that customers use to swipe magnetic strips on their cards when paying for merchandise at Target stores, according to the person who was not authorized to discuss the matter and declined to provide further details.

Krebs on Security, a closely watched security industry blog that broke the news, said the breach involved nearly all of Target's 1,797 stores in the United States, citing sources at two credit card issuers. The report said that "track data" from at least 1 million payment cards was thought to have been stolen before Target uncovered the operation, but that the number could be significantly higher. "When all is said and done, this one will put its mark up there with some of the largest retail breaches to date," the report cited an unnamed source as saying.

Reuters

Scientists still waiting for clear signs of ozone hole healing

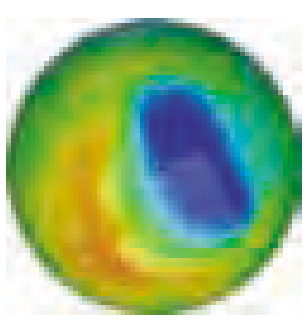
SAN FRANCISCO, 19 Dec — Earth's upper atmosphere is still so saturated with ozone-eating chlorine that it will take about another decade for evidence that a nearly 25-year-old ban on such destructive chemicals is working, scientists said.

Full recovery of the ozone layer, which shields Earth from the sun's harmful ultraviolet radiation, should occur around 2070, atmospheric scientist Natalya Kramarova, with NASA's Goddard Space Flight Centre in Greenbelt, Maryland, told reporters at the American Geophysical Union conference in San Francisco last week.

"Currently, we do not see that the ozone hole is recovering," she said. "It should become apparent in 2025."

Researchers report puzzlingly large variations in the size of the annual ozone hole over Antarctica.

Reuters

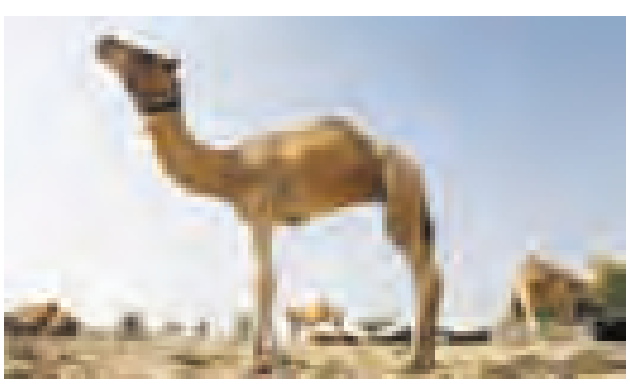


A false-color view of total ozone over the Antarctic pole is seen in this NASA handout image released on 24 Oct, 2012.
REUTERS

Scientists prove deadly human MERS virus also infects camels

LONDON, 19 Dec — Scientists have proved for the first time that the Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) virus that has killed 71 people can also infect camels, strengthening suspicions the animals may be a source of the human outbreak.

Researchers from the Netherlands and Qatar used gene-sequencing techniques to show that three dromedary, or one-humped camels, on a farm in Qatar where two people had contracted the MERS coronavirus (CoV) were also infected.



Camels are seen in a farm in Doha on 5 December, 2010.—REUTERS

The study, published in the *Lancet Infectious Diseases* journal on Tuesday, confirms preliminary findings released by Qatari health officials last month. Camels are used in the region for meat, milk, transport and racing.

But the researchers cautioned it is too early to say whether the camels were definitely the source of the two human cases — in a 61-year-old man and then in a 23-year-old male employee of the farm - and more research is needed.

"This is definitive proof that camels can be infected with MERS-CoV, but based on the current data we cannot conclude whether the humans on the farm were infected by the camels or vice versa," said Bart Haagmans of Rotterdam's Erasmus Medical Centre, who led the study with other Dutch and Qatari scientists.

He said a further possibility is that humans and camels could have been infected "from a third as yet unknown source".

"The big unknown is the exact timing of infections, both in the persons and in the camels," he added. Both the men infected in Qatar recovered.

Scientists around the world have been searching for the animal source, or reservoir, of MERS virus infections ever since the first human cases were confirmed in September 2012.

Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Obamacare tech hurdle looms right before enrollment deadline

NEW YORK, 19 Dec — Some technical experts are perplexed at the US government's plan to switch web hosts for its new health insurance portal, HealthCare.gov, in the midst of an expected last-minute rush to beat a 31 March enrollment deadline for 2014 coverage.

Switching hosts is not in and of itself a huge risk if it is done carefully and with lots of preparation, according to technical experts interviewed by *Reuters*. It is the timing of the highly complex maneuver that is risky. If there are problems, the website could become sluggish or even unusable for anyone trying to enroll.

The government is tempting fate, they said. It already has a poor technological track record in carrying out President Barack Obama's signature health law, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which is intended to provide millions of uninsured with medical coverage.

*A man looks over the Affordable Care Act (commonly known as Obamacare) signup page on the HealthCare.gov website in New York in this 2 October, 2013 photo illustration.—*REUTERS

HealthCare.gov, an important component of the reform, was plagued by technical problems when it opened for insurance enrollments on October 1 and it has taken weeks of repairs to nurse it back to almost full health. It is still not functioning 100 percent.

If the switchover between web hosts does not go smoothly, that could feed already negative perceptions among many people about the law known as Obamacare. The problems with the website have generated weeks of bad headlines, and polls show the negative publicity has weakened people's confidence in the initiative.

The timing of the change in host services "is nonsensical in all dimensions," said Peter Neupert, who managed similar transitions when he ran drugstore.com, a website he took public in 1999, and while working as a corporate vice president at Microsoft Corp.

Reuters

UNSG's message on Human Solidarity Day

20 December, 2013

At the dawn of this century, at the Millennium Summit, world leaders reaffirmed their commitment to peace and security, human rights and good governance. They agreed on a set of time-bound targets, encapsulated in the Millennium Development Goals, to reducing extreme poverty, hunger, needless disease and other global social and environmental ills by 2015. And they recognized that these objectives demand that we must all practice mutual respect and accept shared responsibility.

This year we mark Human Solidarity Day with the resolve to work together to bridge the remaining gaps to reach the Millennium Development Goals and define the path we will follow after 2015 to achieve a more sustainable future for all. We all have a role in overcoming today's economic, political, environmental and social challenges, and we must all share the costs and benefits of sustainable development according to needs and ability. This is the essence of justice, fairness and equity. It is the meaning of solidarity.

On this Human Solidarity Day, I urge people from all nations, faiths, cultures and traditions to work together in common cause to keep the promise made at the turn of the Millennium and leave a legacy of peace, prosperity and sustainable progress for generations to come.

UNIC/Yangon

Taking HIV prevention pill may not encourage risky sex

CHICAGO, 19 Dec — Taking a pill as a preventive measure against HIV infection may not encourage people at high risk for the disease to engage in risky sexual behavior, according to a new US study meant to address fears about its use.

The research, published in the Public Library of Science journal *PLOS ONE*, builds on the 2010 landmark study that found Gilead Sciences Inc's Truvada — a pill already used widely to treat the human immunodeficiency virus — was more than 90 percent effective at preventing HIV infections among test subjects who took the drug as prescribed.

It is the latest to look at whether taking a pill to prevent infections could lead to "risk compensation," or an adjustment to their behavior in response to their perceived level of risk. "There has been a concern that really anything we do to prevent HIV in high-risk individuals could lead people to feel more secure and have riskier sex," said Dr Robert Grant of the Gladstone Institute of Virology and Immunology in San Francisco, one of the study's authors.—*Reuters*

Dow, S&P 500 end at record highs after Fed trims stimulus

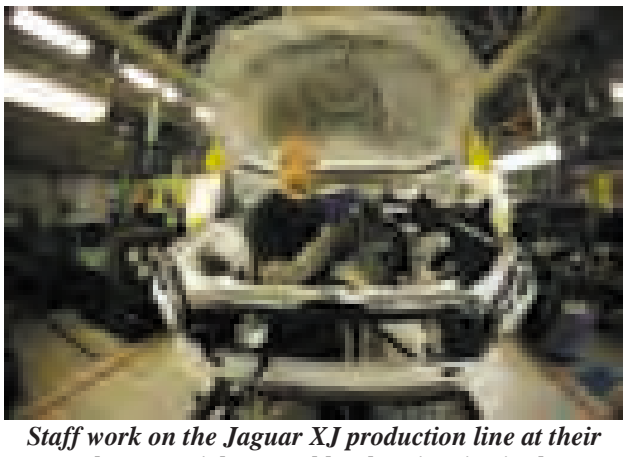
NEW YORK, 19 Dec — US stocks staged an explosive rally on Wednesday, driving the Dow and the S&P 500 to all-time closing highs after the Federal Reserve announced it would start to unwind its historic stimulus. While the Fed's move came as a surprise to many in the market, it confirmed that the US economy was on firmer footing and put to rest the question of when the Fed would begin to scale back its bond-buying program, a relief to some investors, analysts said.

*A trader works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange shortly after the market opening on 16 Dec, 2013.—*REUTERS

"This is a vote of confidence in the economy and represents the first step toward monetary policy normalization," said David Joy, chief market strategist at Ameriprise Financial, in Boston. The central bank said it would reduce its monthly asset purchases by $10 billion to $75 billion, while it also indicated that its key interest rate would stay at rock bottom even longer than previously promised. It said it "likely will be appropriate" to keep overnight rates near zero "well past the time" that the US jobless rate falls below 6.5 percent.

Yet the decision to move now rather than later pointed to better prospects for the US economy and the labour market. It also marked a turning point for the largest monetary policy experiment ever. Stocks extended losses just after the announcement, but quickly turned higher and began rallying. The day's move marked the biggest swing from the day's high to the low for the S&P 500 in two years. All 10 S&P 500 sector indexes ended higher, with all but information technology. SPLRCT gaining more than 1 percent, and the S&P 500 financial index. SPSY rising 2.4 percent.—*Reuters*

UK car manufacturing heads for six-year high



*Staff work on the Jaguar XJ production line at their Castle Bromwich Assembly Plant in Birmingham on 29 Nov, 2011.—*REUTERS

LONDON, 19 Dec — British car manufacturing output is on track to hit a six-year high of over 1.5 million vehicles in 2013 and further growth is likely next year, a leading automotive group said on Thursday.

Car production rose 4.5 percent to 1.42 million units in the first 11 months of the year, according to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT), driven by new models coming onto the market such as the third-generation Mini.

A 3.6 percent fall in output in November compared with the same month a year ago was due to some manufacturers preparing production lines for more new models, which will boost production in 2014.

This year's overall rise was helped by a 24.2 percent jump in demand from the domestic market to 293,292 vehicles. New car sales in Britain have soared as the economy recovers and as distributors offer attractive financing deals. Demand for new fuel-efficient models has also helped sales.

The SMMT expects annual car output in Britain to hit 2 million by 2017.

Earlier this month the SMMT said the number of new cars registered in Britain had soared 7 percent in November, the month's highest increase since 2004, representing 20 consecutive months of rises in car sales.

Registrations are up 9.9 percent so far this year and SMMT forecasts them to hit 2.25 million for 2013 as a whole. Sales abroad have grown just 0.3 percent this year, however, thanks to the slower economic recovery in Europe, which buys up half of Britain's car exports, although the outlook there may be improving.—*Reuters*

Stellar hepatitis C data puts Gilead farther ahead of pack

NEW YORK, 19 Dec — Gilead Sciences Inc released impressive late-stage data Wednesday for its once-daily combination pill to treat hepatitis C, advancing its lead in the race to develop new, all-oral treatments for the liver disease, and pushed up its timeline for seeking US approval.

Gilead unveiled initial results from three Phase III studies that demonstrated cure rates well in excess of 90 percent with as little as 8 weeks of treatment for some patients, and its share price rose 5 percent. The findings were achieved without the use of either injectable interferon, which causes miserable flu-like symptoms, or ribavirin, an antiviral pill that carries its own troublesome side effects.

The tough-to-tolerate older drugs have led thousands of patients to delay treatment for the potentially fatal disease and await new options.

"The results certainly raise the bar and dim the outlook for competitors such as AbbVie, Bristol-Myers and Boehringer Ingelheim," Sanford Bernstein analyst Geoffrey Porges said of rival all-oral programs in development that require more drugs and more pills than Gilead's to achieve similarly high cure rates.—*Reuters*

The New Light of Myanmar

XXVII SEA Games Special

27th SEA Games

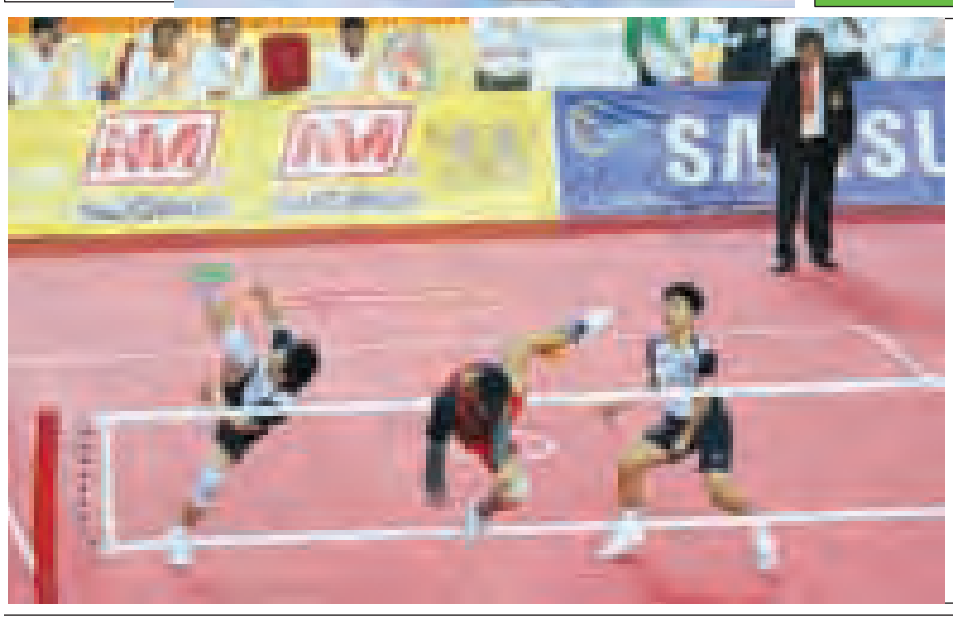
XXVII SEA Games Photo Gallery

Khaing Zin Moe of Myanmar competes in Women's BMX Cross. Photo: Aye Min Soe

Thu Zar Han (Left) defeats Soutchay Silapheth (Right) of Laos on points in 60-kg Muay category. Photo: Aye Min Soe

Fans roar out their support to Myanmar's Muay fighter Thu Zar Han during her semi final match against Laotian rival.—Photo: Aye Min Soe

Win Tun Lin fights with Muhammad Etpryzal Salputra of Indonesia during semi-final match of Men's 74-80kg category of Taekwondo event. Photo: Aye Min Soe



Myanmar's K N Wai strikes the caneball to the floor of Thailand's side. Photo: Aye Min Soe

Maung Too celebrates after defeating Nouna of Laos in semi-final match of 67-kg category of Muay.—Photo: Aye Min Soe

The New Light of Myanmar

XXVII SEA GAMES SPECIAL

27th SEA Games

Patrons of MWSF present cash to awards Myanmar traditional rowers

YANGON, 19 Dec—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham's wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, Vice-President U Nyan Tun's wife Daw Khin Aye Myint and members of panel of patrons of Myanmar Women Sports Federation enjoyed the traditional boat races and presented prizes to the winners of Myanmar at Ngalike Dam in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Patron of MWSF Daw Nan Shwe Hmon presented K 500,000; Parton of MWSF Daw Khin Aye Myint, K 200,000; the wives of Union ministers, K 1.5 million; Myanmar Maternal and Child Development Federation, K 500,000 and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, K 500,000 to Myanmar Traditional Rowing Federation.

MNA

Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, wife of Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and Daw Khin Aye Myint, wife of Vice-President U Nyan Tun present cash awards to victorious Myanmar rowers through an official.

MNA

Myanmar men's, women's hockey teams to compete for third place

YANGON, 19 Dec—Final round-robin events of hockey event in the 27th SEA Games took place at Theinbyu Turf Hockey Pitch, here, this morning.

At today's matches, Myanmar women's team won over Cambodian team with 7-0. Myanmar will play against Singapore for third place.

Malaysian women's team will play against Thailand for first place while Indonesia with Cambodia for fifth place.

In men's hockey events, Malaysia will play against Singapore for first place and Myanmar with Thailand for third place. Vietnam was consoled with fifth.

Women's hockey event will be held tomorrow and men's hockey event on 21 December.

MNA

Women's Sepak Takraw team clinches silver medal

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—Myanmar men's Sepak Takraw team advanced to final after defeating Cambodia from group (A) in the quarterfinal event.

In preliminary events, Myanmar lost to Indonesia and top the chart in group (B). And Myanmar will meet Brunei (group-A) or Indonesia (group-B) tomorrow.

Thailand won first prize in women's Sepak Takraw event and second prize went to Myanmar and third to Vietnam.

According to an official, Myanmar men's team is likely to secure gold medal. After the final event, prize-presenting ceremony will be held.

MNA

MKF holds coord meeting

Coordination meeting of Myanmar Kampo Federation in progress.

MNA

YANGON, 19 Dec—A coordination meeting on Kempo event of the 27th SEA Games took place at Padamya Hall of Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium (1), here, this morning.

It was attended by President of World Kempo Federation Mr Ara, President of South East Asian Kempo Federation Mr Kusumo, Technical Director Mr Indra, President U Kyaw Moe Naing and Vice-President U Aung Myo Hein of Myanmar Kempo Federation and managers and coaches from Kempo teams of Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Timor-Leste.

At the meeting, they discussed successful holding of the event and further activities of Myanmar Kempo Federation for ensuring victory and development of Kampo sport.

MNA

Sithu Moe Myint, Phone Kyaw Moe Myint seize gold in Half-Rater (Open) of yachting event

NGWEHSAUNG, 19 Dec—Sithu Moe Myint and Phone Kyaw Moe Myint took first gold for Myanmar in Half-Rater (Open) of yachting event in the 27th SEA Games at Ngwehsaung Beach.

They won gold medal after competing nine matches against their rival teams. In fact, Half-Rater (Open) event includes 12 matches.

The teams from Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia are competing in the Half-Rater (Open) of yachting for second and third places.

At today's match, Su Myat Soe and Nan Kham Hsay stood first in Int'l 470 (women) event.

Ye Khaung Nyunt

Sithu Moe Myint and Phone Kyaw Moe Myint celebrate victory after securing gold for Myanmar in Half-Rater (Open) of yachting event.—PHOTO: YE HTUT

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 20 December, 2013

Opportunity cost

Our human beings have to earn our livings by doing business or working as a staff. In running our private business, we need to have economic point of views. The businessmen who have good economic ideas can calculate the profit and loss of their businesses. Thanks to it, they can generate more profits from their lucrative businesses rather than others.

Business is closely intertwined with political and social matters. Better social skills could bring about business success. Likewise, it needs to extend a helping hand to others in view of politics.

For instance, Japan offered more assistance to Asian countries, especially loans and aids when the tension between Japan and China over the East China Sea conflict was high. Some countries provide economic assistance to the regional countries in consideration of their military strategy. Meanwhile, some offer social assistance, taking their interests into consideration.

That is to say, a business never exists alone. But some businessmen are paying attention only to their businesses and would have to give up the profits that would come from other standpoints. In that regard, we called it "opportunity cost": A benefit, profit, or value of something that must be given up to acquire or achieve something else.

We should not run our businesses from economic point of views alone. To be a successful and sustainable business needs to take other factors into account in addition to economic view.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with Speaker of House of Representatives of Indonesia Mr. Marzuki Alie.—MNA

Pyidaungsu and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker ...

(from page 1)

members met with Chairman of People's Consultative Assembly (MPRI) Mr Sidarto Danusubroto at the Parliamentary Building this morning before they visited National Museum.

In the evening, the Speaker and party left here for Cambodia and they were seen off at Jakarta Airport by officials from the House of Representatives and Myanmar Embassy.

MNA

Vice-Senior General Soe Win visits Budh Gaya, Demapur of India

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win donated offertories to Myanmar Monetary in Budh Gaya of India on 14 December.

The Vice-Senior General and wife attended the graduation parade of OTA.

They then left for Demapur of Nagaland State of India by special flight of Indian Army.

At No. 3 Corps Headquarters, the Vice-Senior General met with the Chief of Staff of Indian Army.

They cordially discussed border affairs between Myanmar and India, matters of training courses, cooperation in information exchange without accepting bases of anti-government armed groups, and promoting cooperation in narcotic drugs and anti-human trafficking between the two armed forces.

The Vice-Senior General attended a dinner hosted by the Chief of Staff of Indian Army in the evening.—*Myawady*

Vice-Senior General Soe Win poses for documentary photo with cadets at graduation parade of OTA in India.—MYAWADY

Chairman of Myanma Economic Corporation Lt-Gen Wai Lwin presents gifts to the guest. **(News on page 1) MYAWADY**

Union Sports Minister enjoys ...

(from page 16)

gave applause to the Taekwondo women's event (67 kg) between Thailand and Vietnam and the Taekwondo men's final match (80 kg) between Myanmar and the Philippines.

Next, he awarded Win Tun Lin gold, the Philippines silver and Thailand and Laos bronze. Union Minister U Khin Yi and President of Myanmar Taekwondo Federation U Mya Han presented medals and gifts to the winners.

After that, he posed for documentary photo with victorious athletes and presented K 700,000 to Win Tun Linn. The Union Minister enjoyed volleyball semifinal match between Myanmar and Indonesia at Zeyathiri Indoor Stadium (A).

MNA

Union Ministers U Tint Hsan, U Hla Tun and U Than Htay celebrating victory together with gold medalists in Vovinam event of 27th SEA Games at Zeyathiri Indoor Stadium (A).

MNA

Men's Football Semifinal Results in 27th SEA Games

Indonesia 5-4 Malaysia

Thailand 1-0 Singapore

U Tin Yu presents Credentials to President of Belarus

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Dec—U Tin Yu, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Belarus, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Alexander Lukashenko, President of the Republic of Belarus, on 16 December 2013, in Minsk.—*MNA*

U Soe Nwe presents Credentials to President of Austria

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Dec—U Soe Nwe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Austria, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Dr Heinz Fischer, President of the Republic of Austria, on 16 December 2013, in Vienna.—*MNA*

***Senior General Min Aung Hlaing enjoys women's hockey match.*—MNA**

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing ...

(from page 16)

Malaysia play the final match.

Myanmar women's hockey team is formed with Myanmar women footballers and track and field women athletes. Despite their eight-month training period, they could have well defeated Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore hockey teams, which are in the top lists of world ranking position in hockey.

MNA

Solar panel accessories to be sold in installment

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—Union Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Ohn Myint met representatives from EIKI SHOJI Myanmar Co., Ltd at his office here this afternoon.

He said that EIKI SHOJI Myanmar Co., Ltd will sell solar-power equipment and panel accessories to rural people by installment through Rural Development Bank under the Ministry. Thanks to it, rural people will have easy access to electricity, he added.

Later, Director U Kyi Win donated three bundles of clothes, ten sets of solar equipment, five laptops, ten sets of computer desktop and ten refrigerators worth K 10 million through the Union Minister.

Afterwards, Director-General U Soe Ko Ko of Rural Development Department and Mr Atsushi Yazaki of EIKI SHOJI Myanmar Co., Ltd signed an MoU on donation of two clothes containers and follow-up program.

MNA

"Uncle Mon" preaches ...

(from page 1)

called in his home country the Philippines, Southeast Asian Taekwondo pioneer, former action movie star and current deputy chief of the Philippine Olympic Committee Manuel "Mon" Del Rosario, said, "No offense to other sports, but I think it is the most effective, most impressive and most deadly of all the martial arts that focus on leg action due to its superior kicking techniques."

"You can kick as hard as you want to the head and to the body, and in my fighting days I saw guys lose their teeth, get their bones broken, puke blood, it was really scary."

A two-time gold medalist at the SEA Games in the 1980s, Philippine champ and Olympian, Mon had trained in every martial art under the sun, but said when he first saw taekwondo at 14 in Manila there was no turning back.

"First of all, the kicking is amazing. It's really spectacular when you see the masters perform, their incredible jump and split-kicks, and the accuracy of the kicks," he said, adding he started off with karate at age 9 because he was bullied in school and wanted to defend himself.

"Where I come from - the province of Negros Occidental– there was nothing to do apart from boxing and drinking, and when I saw my first Bruce Lee movie I knew that I wanted to become like him one day."

Before Mon made it to the big screen, taekwondo was little known in the Philippines, but since starring in a number of blockbusters for two decades since the mid-1980s, with the support and encouragement of the Philippine and Korean taekwondo federations, the sport has not only become extremely popular, but Mon has also inspired countless young athletes in other martial arts to follow in his footsteps.

"I am so happy how well the Philippine fighters are doing here at the Games. On Tuesday, our boy Phillip Delarmino won with a technical knockout over his Malaysian opponent in Muay Thai, and he said that I was his idol and that he wanted to win to impress me," he said, explaining that he incorporated muay and many other combat sports in his movies.

His niece Maria Isabel Mora will fight Friday in the flyweight division and he told her she has to make it to the finals.

"I started training her when she was 5, and she is the only one in the family who does not bow to me and kiss me and call me Uncle Mon. She was a real tomboy as a kid, and has since won numerous medals in regional events. I hope she will get gold."

At least "Uncle Mon" won't have to worry about her teeth and bones because with the progression of the sport the safety measures have improved over the last 25 years.

"Taekwondo has been in the Olympics since 2000 and the International Olympic Committee wanted safety gear to protect the fighters. In my time it was raw and tough, there were no rubber mats, no elevated court, head gear and all the other body guards. And no scoreboards where you could see if you're leading or losing," he said.

Talking about competition,Mon said he was obviously biased towards the Philippines, but thinks that Thailand and Vietnam are very strong too.

"It can be anybody's game, but I got gold in the SEA Games twice and we've already won several medals here, so I feel like we are the champs."

He said the most difficult thing about taekwondo is to stay disciplined, train every day and stay away from temptations. "Especially when you fight away from home there is often judging in favor of the host nation. It's happened to me too. So the only way to beat the host athletes is to knock them out."

"I had that determination when I was a kid to become the best, and I started training, and 'well, the rest is history'," he said.

***Win Htun Linn (L) of Myanmar kicks in the chest of Muhammad Etpryzal Salputra of Indonesia (R) during the semi-final match of Men's 74-80 kg category of Taekwondo event of 27th SEA Games.*—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**

ASEAN Summits and related meetings will be held at Myanmar International Convention Centre (1), Nay Pyi Taw

Photo: Kyaw Swe Moe (IPRD)

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**

Drug elimination talks given to students

BAGO, 19 Dec—A talk on drug elimination was held at the hall of Basic Education High School No 7 in Kalyani Ward of Bago on 17 December.

It was organized by Bago Region Anti-Narcotics Association.

Vice-Chairman of the Bago Region association writer Wut Yi Khin made a speech.

The Chairman of Bago Township Association gave talks on disadvantages of doping.

Assistant Director Bago Region Assistant Education Officer U Ye Lwin disseminated knowledge on disadvantages of drugs.

Kyemon-Min Thitsa (Bago)

32 sets of desks donated to Nyaunglebin BEHS Branch

NYAUNGLEBIN, 19 Dec—Chairman of Nyaunglebin Township Development Supportive Committee U Thein Naing-Daw Aye Aye Khaing and family donated 32 sets of desks and chairs worth K 1.6 million to Basic Education High School Branch on 18 December morning.

Headmistress of the school branch Daw Sein Sein Ohn made a speech.

Chairman of the committee U Thein Naing explained purpose of donations and handed them over to the headmistress who returned certificate of honour.

Next, teacher U Thein Lwin spoke words of thanks.—*Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)*

Donation for HRD

Prizes awarded, books donated at school libraries

THATON, 19 Dec—With the assistance of Myanmar Libraries Foundation, the essay, poem, extempore talks and reading skill contests for students of all basic education schools in Thaton Township was held at the hall of BEHS No 2 in Thaton on 12 and 13 December.

It was also attended by Speaker of Mon State Hluttaw U Kyin Pe, Mon State Minister for Development Affairs Dr Toe Toe Aung, Chairman of Myanmar Libraries Foundation U Maung Maung and party, Hluttaw representatives of Thaton Township, the deputy commissioner of Thaton District, the township administrator, departmental officials and students totalling about 700.

The Mon State Minister for Development Affairs stressed the needs for students to try hard in their learning.

The Chairman of MLF explained the purpose of holding the situation.

Officials presented prizes to the winners. Those winners in the extempore talks and poem recitation contest demonstrated their skills.

Vice-Chairman of the foundation U Nyunt Swe donated 2200 books to the school library, Chairpeson of District Women's Affairs Organization Daw Sein Sein Soe and members books and publications.

District Education Officer U Aung Moung spoke words of thanks.

A total of 146 students took part in the contests. Of them, 35 students were awarded in the respective contests. Later, writers Chit Naing (Psychology), Nwan Ja Thaing and Akyi Daw gave literary talks to the students.

Kyemon-Thet Oo (Thaton) District IPRD

The ceremony of prize awarding for winners in essay, poem, extempore talks and reading skill contests in progress in Thaton.

Agriculture

Farming rights certificates handed over

PAUK, 19 Dec—A ceremony to issue farming rights certificates to local farmers was held at the hall of Pauk Township General Administration Department on 18 December morning.

Deputy Commissioner U Tin Maung Win of Pakokku District General Administration Department and officials presented certificates to 35298 farmers from 235 villages of 66 village-tracts and four wards of the township.

After the deputy commissioner had made a speech, Head of Township Settlement and Land Records Department U Win Swe explained the process of issuance on farming rights certificates, farmland law, rights of farmers, rules and regulations for farmers and tasks of agriculture, irrigation, water resources and other matters.

It was attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Re-presentative U Khin Maung Nyo, Region Hluttaw representative, the district farmland management committee, the township administrator, the township farmland management committee, staff and local farmers.

Kyemon-Myo Maung Maung Kyaw

Knowledge about taking census process shared in Pobbathiri Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—Pobbathiri Township Information and Public Relations Department and Township Immigration and National Registration Department jointly organized the talks on taking census process and raising reading habit at the Dhammayon of Aungthukha Village in the township on 13 December morning and the Dhammayon of Nyaungbingyisu Village in same township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 13 December afternoon.

Head of Township IPRD Daw Theint Theint Myo explained as active participation of the people for serving interests of the State and the people in taking census process, the people are to join hands with the departments concerned in the tasks, adding that all the people are to emerge the standardized libraries. Next, she urged all to contribute to emergence of libraries as national duty. Staff of Township INRD U Hsan Po explained good reults for the people in taking census and replied to queries raised by the local people.

Kyemon-Zaw Min Tun (IPRD)

27th SEA Games, Myanmar, 2013 Nay Pyi Taw

Volleyball's honorary chief urges Asian teams to apply for more money to seed development

By Alan Adams

The life honorary president of the International Volleyball Federation wants member federations in Southeast Asia to submit development plans, saying there is a war chest containing 1.3 million swiss francs waiting to be spent.

Wei Jizhong of China, who is also honorary president of the Asian Volleyball Federation, said the world governing body is not interested in spending money just for the sake of it.

"The problem is the national federations, they did not apply for the money," said Wei as he took in the men's volleyball semifinals at the SEA Games. "We do not want to distribute the money unless we first know their needs and how they want to spend the money."

"We tell them we have money and we have equipment and now give us a plan. Now we are saying to get plans, more and more national federations are becoming aware of the possibilities of their programs if they get some help."

Wei said he was pleased with the competitive level at the SEA Games, especially on the women's side.

"Generally speaking, in this region, the most important thing has been participation. Now we have more men's teams and five women's teams."

Wei is also pleased with changes in Myanmar that allow more participation by the national teams of the host country for the 27th SEA Games.

"Myanmar has had few appearances in world and Asia volleyball competitions because before, what happened was their government did not allow them to go out and they had conservative we have no chance to win."

Players from the women's volleyball team of Myanmar practice during their training on 6 Dec. 2013 in Nay Pyi Taw.
Photo: Aye Min Soe

BMX bikers from Philippines, Indonesia show the rest how to tear up a track

By Kerstin Winter

Philippine BMX rider Daniel Patrick Caluag dedicated his gold medal win Thursday to the victims of Typhoon Haiyan, which devastated large parts of the central Philippines in November.

"I will donate my jersey for an auction and the money will go directly to the victims," he said, flanked by his younger brother Christopher John who won silver in the men's cross.

It was the first time for the Caluag brothers to compete in the SEA Games, but the other teams had already considered them the clear favorites in the men's category before the start, citing the brothers' lifelong training in the United States, the cradle of BMX.

Explaining the fascination of the sport, Daniel said, "You get hooked quickly. I was ten when I started BMX, now I am 26. It is fast, energizing and for people of all ages. The jumps might be a bit scary at first, but you just have to ride your bike to understand it." That was the exact strategy of the rookie Myanmar team, with Indonesian coach Benny Setyawan saying, "When I first came here for the test in March and I watched them ride, none of the Myanmar team members could even jump. Now all of them jump. It is surprising."

Talking about inexperience, Myanmar rider Thura Zaw said every team member was recruited only about a year ago, and that none of them had done BMX before. "I just knew BMX from the Olympic Games on TV, where I saw Maris Strombergs of Latvia win gold. He is my hero, my idol. And when I was selected to compete in BMX at the SEA Games I was so excited because I had only done road racing in Mandalay before."

He said his road racing coach recommended him to officials and soon Thura Zaw was on his way to Nay Pyi Taw to train in BMX with a Thai coach. "We have had one year training here and only 6 months with the Thai coach. I love it, the jumps, the turns, the rhythm parts. It is the most exciting bike sport and I want to go on to the SEA Games in Singapore in 2015," said the man who finished last in the finals.

Discovered under even less likely circumstances, Thursday's gold medalist in the women's cross Elga Kharisma Novanda (INA) was spotted when she was playing with knives and recruited on the spot by one of her future coaches, Setyawan.

"I saw this girl playing with knives in my neighborhood in Malang City in East Java, and I thought 'OK, she likes boys' games, so may be she will like BMX'." Somewhat un-expectedly, Novanda's uncle is a team coach for the Indonesian team, but he had never encouraged her to start with BMX.

"So I got her started when she was 16, and now, four years later, she has won two SEA Games gold medals, countless other competitions, and in 2010 qualified for the Olympic Youth Games in Singapore, placing seventh," Setyawan said.

Novanda described herself before the start as a "positive, optimistic person who does not care if judges are unfair." She said she is happy as she was invited by the International Cyclist Union to train in the World Cycling Centre in Aigle in Switzerland.

"I have trained there three times and just before the Games stayed there six months, I did supercross training, learned many new techniques, so I feel strong, fast and well prepared," she said, noting the 350m Myanmar track had more pedal sections, smaller jumps and is not as challenging as the Swiss course.

Also used to training in world-class facilities, the Caluag brothers had access to the Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, California, where they trained on a London Olympics replica track. "In the United States we obviously have more resources, the track here is a bit smaller and also has some rough patches," Christopher Caluag said, with his older brother Daniel adding, "Given the fact Myanmar is hosting the Games for the first time the facility is really good." Still largely unknown in Myanmar, BMX got its first worldwide exposure when it debuted as a discipline in the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

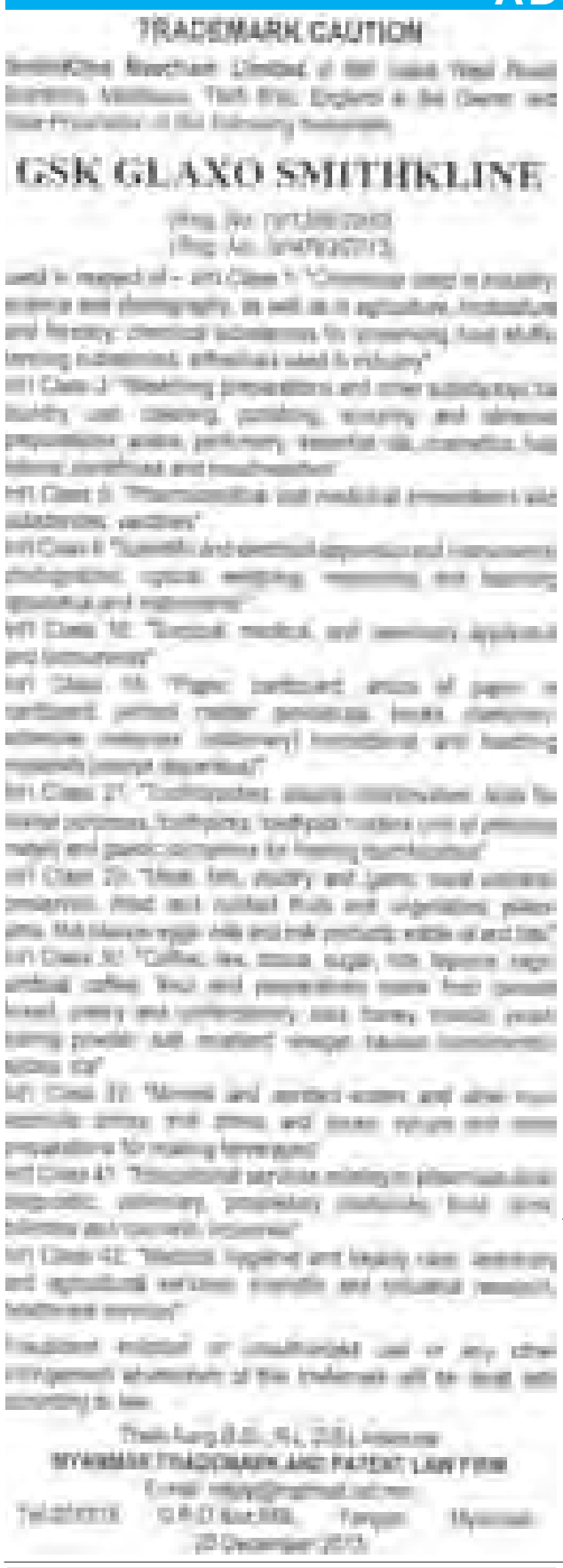
Due to the exposure it has grown in popularity since BMX began in the 1980s when riders used small, compact, one-gear bikes to perform jumps.

Despite its appeal mainly to youngsters, sponsor money - unlike in many other action sports - is scarce so the Caluag brother had to get "real" jobs to pay the bills.

"I am a civil engineer and go straight from work to the gym and on my bike. In the last months before the Games I trained five hours a day," 25-year-old Christopher said, stressing that he is doing so well in the sport because his older brother is "his coach, his competitor and biggest inspiration."

A biker from Thailand participates in Men's BMX Cross in Nay Pyi Taw on 19 Dec. 2013.—**Photo: Aye Min Soe**

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL


TRADEMARK CAUTION

GSK GLAXO SMITHKLINE

MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM

29 December 2013

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(16/2013)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Qty	Remark
(1)	IF'B-134(2013-2014)	Spares forAB 100 Well Servicing Truck	(2) Items	US$
(2)	IFB-135(2013-2014)	Spares for Blow Out Preventer Ex ZJ 70 L Drilling Rigs	(5) Items	US$
(3)	IFB-136(2013-2014)	Universal Fuel Pump Test Stand	(1) No	US$
(4)	IFB-137(2013-2014)	5 Ton Elevator (0.16 m3)	(2) Units	US$
(5)	IFB-138(2013-2014)	25 Ton Elevator (1.2 m3)	(2) Units	US$
(6)	IFB-139(2013-2014)	Rig Air Compressor	(6) Nos	US$
(7)	IFB-140(2013-2014)	30 Ton Crawler Crane	(1) Unit	US$
(8)	IFB-141(2013-2014)	8" & 6 1/2" Spiral Drill Collar	(2) Items	US$
(9)	IFB-142(2013-2014)	Welding Electrode E 6011 (30 Ton)	(1) Lot	US$
(10)	IFB-143(2013-2014)	Spares for CAT D379 & CAT D399 Engines	(5) Items	US$
(11)	IFB-144(2013-2014)	Drawworks Main Drum Brake Shoe Lining	(9) Items	US$
(12)	IFB-145(2013-2014)	Portable Welding Machine with Complete Accessories (300 AMP, Diesel Engine Driven)	(4) Units	US$
(13)	IFB-146(2013-2014)	Heat Shrinkable Sleeve (1200 Rolls) Closure Patches (25000 Nos)	(4) Items	US$
(14)	DMP/L-044(2013-2014)	Spares for F 1000 Rig Pump Ex D3T2 SR I & II	(12) Items	Ks
(15)	DMP/L-045(2013-2014)	Rotor Seal for ZJ 70 L SR I & II	(10) Items	Ks
(16)	DMP/L-046(2013-2014)	Electrical Spares for Caterpillar Gas Engine Lighting Set	(4) Items	Ks

- Tender Closing Date & Time - 13-1-2014,16:30 Hrs

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 16th December, 2013 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411097 / 411206

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV E.R TURKU VOY NO (033)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R TURKU VOY NO (033) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S HANJIN SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

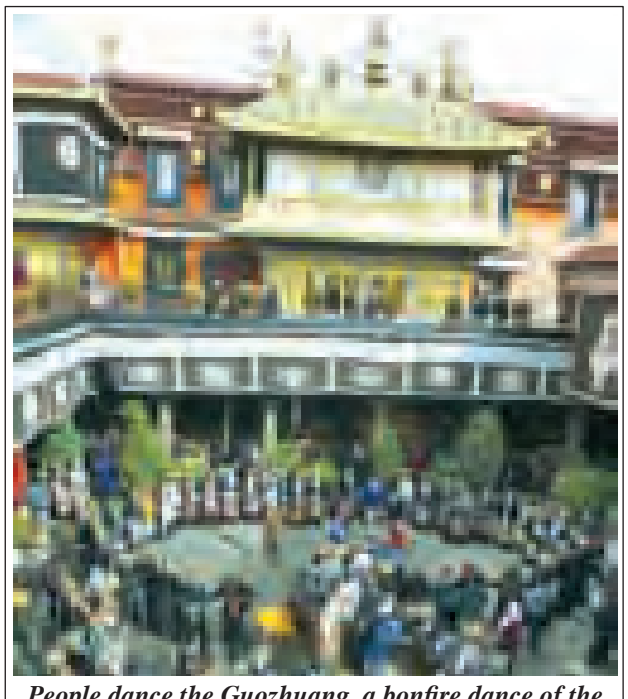
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGLAR KAKOLI VOY NO (106(B))

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGLAR KAKOLI VOY NO (106(B)) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(3) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BAY LINE SHIPPING CO LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921



People dance the Guozhuang, a bonfire dance of the Tibetan ethnic group, to celebrate the Palden Lhamo Festival at the Jokhang Temple in Lhasa, capital of southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, on 17 Dec, 2013. —Xinhua

Six NATO soldiers killed in aircraft crash in Afghanistan

Kabul, 19 Dec — Six soldiers of the NATO-led coalition were killed Tuesday in an aircraft crash in southern Afghanistan, the coalition forces confirmed in a statement.

"Six International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) service members died following an aircraft crash in southern Afghanistan today," the ISAF said in the statement.

The cause of the crash is under investigation, the statement said, adding "however initial reporting indicates there was no enemy activity in the area at the time of the crash."

"A foreign forces' airplane crashed at Shah Joy district of the southern Zabul province at around midday," the deputy provincial governor Mohammad Jan Rassoulyar told *Xinhua*, without providing details. Meantime, the Taleban insurgent group fighting Afghan and ISAF forces claimed responsibility for the incident.

A Taleban purported spokesman, Qari Yousuf Ahmdi, told local media that the insurgent shot down a US military plane in Zabul, killing all US personnel aboard.

The ISAF statement did not disclose the nationalities of the victims under the ISAF policy.

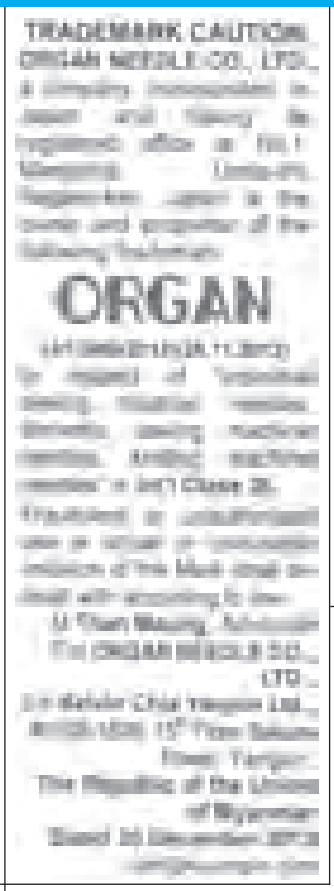
Zabul and the neighbouring Kandahar Provinces are known Taleban hotbed.

On 27 April, a US military helicopter crashed in Zabul Province, 340 km south of Kabul, killing four US military personnel. The deaths have brought to 155 the number of foreign soldiers killed in Afghanistan so far this year.

Xinhua

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Break Through



TRADEMARK CAUTION

ORGAN

MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (086)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (086) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.12.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ORINET OVERSEAS CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Arnold Schwarzenegger's line 'I'll be back' named best catchphrase

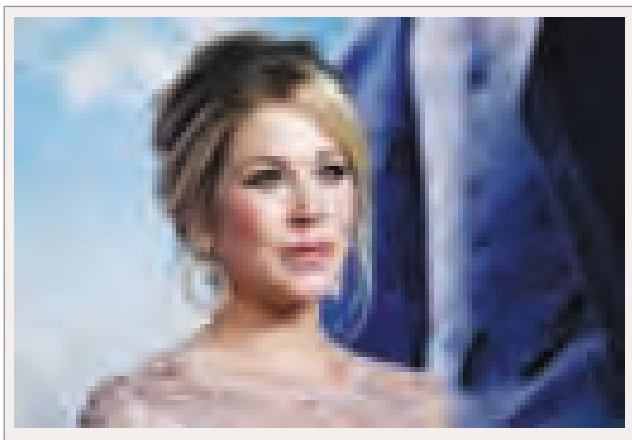
LONDON, 19 Dec— Hollywood star Arnold Schwarzenegger's famous dialogue from Terminator series "I'll be back" has been named the best movie catchphrase of all time.

In a poll conducted by LoveFilm, Schwarzenegger's dialogue has garnered 25 per cent votes to become the best catchphrase of all time, reported *Daily Express*. "I'll be back" has beaten Sean Connery's unforgettable line "Bond, James Bond", from Dr No after it could only receive 14 per cent votes. "There are catchphrases from films that are universally recognised and quoted time and time again. It's interesting to see how they've crossed over into mainstream conversation, and amazing that one line can instantly conjure up a character and a scene so vividly," LOVEFiLM editor Helen Cowley said. "We've rounded up a definitive list of the best ten, the editor added.

PTI

Arnold Schwarzenegger in a still from Terminator

'Anchorman 2' revives cult classic, but has Ron Burgundy sold out?



Actress Christina Applegate poses at the UK Premiere of the film Anchorman 2 in Leicester Square, London in this on 11 Dec, 2013 file photo. He's in your fridge, on your bookshelf and taking over your television screen. But as 'Anchorman2: The Legend Continues' brings back a cult comedy classic, has fictional leading man Ron Burgundy sold out?

REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 19 Dec—He's in your fridge, on your bookshelf and taking over your television screen. But as "Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues" brings back a cult comedy classic, has fictional leading man Ron Burgundy sold out?

The answer is "yes." Even the director said so.

In anticipation of the opening of "Anchorman 2" in US theaters on Wednesday, the chauvinistic San Diego anchorman, played by comedian Will Ferrell, has promoted Ben & Jerry's ice cream and Dodge Durangos, written a memoir, anchored the news in North Dakota, and served as roving reporter for the MTV Video Music Awards. And that's just a short list of his stints. His invasion of the mass market prompted some grumbling among die-hard fans across social networks: Ron Burgundy had become too mainstream, they said, and less likable to the niche audience of the first film.

"Ron Burgundy is a sellout," Adam McKay, the film's writer-director, told Reuters. "The whole joke of the character is that he is a complete and total sellout, so it makes us laugh to see him doing the news and selling cars."

McKay said the cult thing is over for the second film, which is a much more lavishly promoted release than the July 2004 film about the 1970s anchorman. Made by Paramount Pictures for a budget of $50 million, "Anchorman 2" could earn $55 million over its first five days, estimated Jeff Bock, senior box office analyst at Exhibitor Relations Co. "Anchorman 2" picks up the story of the suit-clad and mustachioed Ron Burgundy, described as "more man than the rest," a decade after the first film, when he has been reduced to becoming an alcoholic SeaWorld announcer after losing his anchor job to his now estranged wife, Veronica Corningstone.

Will Ferrell as Ron Burgundy salutes the crowd at the Roar of the Rings Canadian Olympic Curling Trials in Winnipeg, Manitoba on 1 Dec, 2013.

REUTERS

By a stroke of luck, Ron Burgundy is scouted for a new global news cable channel, and reunited with his news team - played by Steve Carell, Paul Rudd and David Koechner - as they take on New York City's world of broadcast news, and unknowingly usher in a new era of news known as "infotainment."

"American news has become really driven by ratings and entertainment. I think people working in broadcast news would even agree with that," said McKay, who directed the first "Anchorman" film and co-wrote it with Ferrell. "So the idea of making all of that Ron Burgundy's fault was too funny to pass up."

Reuters

SPORTS

West Ham find Spurs jugular, Man United reach semis

LONDON, 19 Dec — West Ham United piled more misery on manager-less Tottenham Hotspur by coming from behind to book their place in the League Cup semi-finals with a 2-1 win at White Hart Lane and Manchester United also reached the last four on Wednesday. Tottenham, who sacked boss Andre Villas-Boas on Monday following their crushing 5-0 home defeat by Liverpool, looked on course for victory when forgotten man Emmanuel Adebayor volleyed them ahead.

But the north Londoners' defensive frailties were exposed again as Matt Jarvis equalized with 10 minutes left and Modibo Maiga headed the winner shortly afterwards.

"We saw the shaken nerve ends of Tottenham when we scored. We then went for the jugular," West Ham manager Sam Allardyce said on *Sky Sports.*

In the night's other quarter-final, Ashley Young scored his first goal in 18 months as champions Manchester United reached the last four with a 2-0 win at Stoke City in a match held up for 10 minutes by a hail storm in the first half.

West Ham's reward was a two-legged semi-final against Manchester City, who booked their place in the last four on Tuesday, and Manchester United will play Sunderland, who shocked Chelsea in their quarter-final.

Amid grumblings about Tottenham's sterile attacking performances and stolid tempo, caretaker manager Tim Sherwood, touted by many as a potential long-term appointment, sought to make an immediate impression.

He cast aside Villas-Boas's dogged commitment to playing with a solitary striker and brought Adebayor back into the fold for his first start of the season.

They began with a spring in their step and laid siege to the West Ham goal in the opening stages, hemming the visitors into their own half and creating a string of good chances.

The script seemed to have been written when Adebayor put the hosts ahead in emphatic fashion, arriving late on to Jermain Defoe's cross to smash home a volley off the underside of the bar.

It proved a false dawn, however, as West Ham levelled when Jarvis slammed the ball high into the roof of the net after Matt Taylor had flicked on a long pass forward and Maiga thumped home a fantastic low header from Mohamed Diame's cross.

"We started the game really well. We created chances in the first 20 minutes, but couldn't make the breakthrough. Later we gave it away and encouraged West Ham - they got the breaks in the end," said Tottenham's caretaker boss.

"Give them credit - they bombarded us and stuck to their task."

England international Young was handed a rare United start with question marks hanging over his future at Old Trafford, but he reminded fans of his talent with a pile-driver of a shot from 20 metres to put the visitors ahead in the second half.

Left back Patrice Evra curled home a cool finish, clipping the ball into the far corner, to wrap up victory for David Moyes's team with 12 minutes remaining.

"I'm glad we're through. It will be a tough semi-final against Sunderland. Sunderland played well to beat Chelsea so anything can happen but we are really pleased to be in the last four," Moyes told *Sky Sports.*

"The conditions were a leveller and it was really difficult to play in tonight. It's some of the worst conditions I've played or managed in. But once we got the first goal we felt confident.

"This club is used to winning trophies, it is business as usual."—*Reuters*

Manchester United's Ashley Young (L) celebrates scoring against Stoke City goalkeeper Thomas Sorensen during their English League Cup quarter-final soccer match at the Britannia stadium in Stoke-on-Trent, central England on 18 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

Nacer Chadli (C) of Tottenham Hotspur has his shot saved by Adrian of West Ham United during their English League Cup quarter-final soccer match at White Hart Lane, London, on 18 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

Rogers blames food for positive clenbuterol test

PARIS, 19 Dec — Australian Michael Rogers blamed food contamination after he was been provisionally suspended on Wednesday after failing a positive test for the banned anabolic agent clenbuterol.

"The UCI advised Australian rider Michael Rogers that he is provisionally suspended," the International Cycling Union (UCI) said in a statement.

"The decision to provisionally suspend this rider was made in response to a report from the WADA-accredited laboratory in Tokyo indicating an adverse analytical finding of clenbuterol in a urine sample collected from him in a test during the Japan Cup Cycle Road Race on 20 October 2013."

The 33-year-old Rogers denied any wrongdoing, according to his Saxo-Tinkoff team. "The Australian explained to the team management that he never ingested the substance knowingly nor deliberately and fears that the adverse analytical finding origins from a contaminated food source," the team said in a statement. "Michael Rogers now has the opportunity to request an analysis of his B-sample. According to the team's Anti Doping policy, Michael Rogers is provisionally suspended with immediate effect."

At this year's Tour de France, Japan Cup winner Rogers was a road captain in the Saxo-Tinkoff team of Alberto Contador, who was banned for two years after a failed test for clenbuterol on the 2010 edition of the world's greatest cycling race.

Reuters

Sky Procycling rider and leader's yellow jersey Bradley Wiggins of Britain (L) is congratulated by team mate Michael Rogers of Australia after the final 20th stage of the 99th Tour de France cycling race between Rambouillet and Paris, on 22 July, 2012.—REUTERS

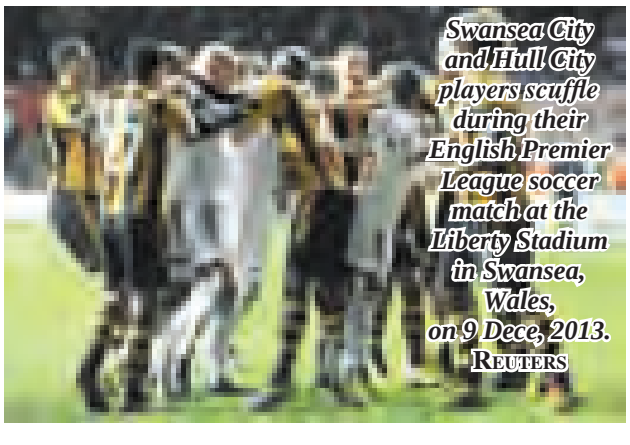
Gold medallist Yelena Isinbayeva of Russia celebrates at the women's pole vault victory ceremony during the IAAF World Athletics Championships at the Luzhniki stadium in Moscow on 15 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

Swansea and Hull fined for mass confrontation

LONDON, 19 Dec — Swansea City and Hull City were fined 20,000 pounds each following a mass confrontation between their players during a Premier League match this month, the Football Association said on Wednesday.

Swansea's Ashley Williams clashed with Hull's Tom Huddlestone and Yannick Sagbo in the closing stages of their 1-1 on 9 December, sparking a fracas between both teams' players. "The clubs each admitted a charge of failing to ensure that its players conducted themselves in an orderly fashion," the FA said in a statement.

Hull, who are 12th in the Premier League, travel to West Bromwich Albion on Saturday and 10th-place Swansea play Everton on Sunday.—*Reuters*



Swansea City and Hull City players scuffle during their English Premier League soccer match at the Liberty Stadium in Swansea, Wales, on 9 Dece, 2013.
REUTERS

Isinbayeva wins Russian Athlete of the Year award

MOSCOW, 19 Dec— World pole vault champion Yelena Isinbayeva has been named Russia's Athlete of the Year in a nationwide poll conducted by sports journalists. Isinbayeva's gold medal was for many Russians the highlight of the August 10-18 world athletics championships in Moscow.

At 31, she has two Olympic titles, has set 28 world records and is one of the heroes of Russian sport.

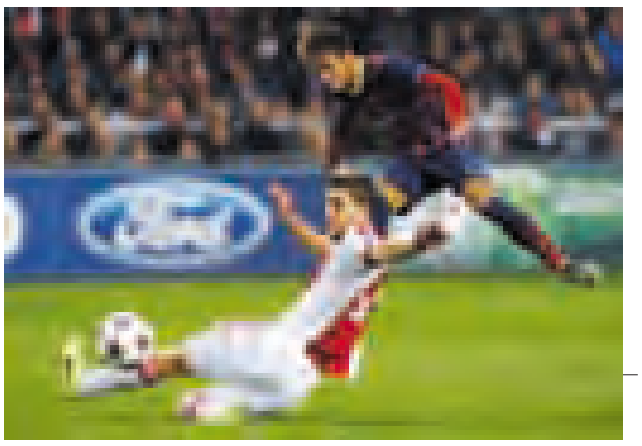
Russia's soccer coach Fabio Capello and Mikhail Likhachev, coach of the country's beach soccer team, were named Best Coaches of the Year after collecting an equal number of votes. Capello led Russia to their first World Cup appearance since 2002 after topping their qualifying group ahead of Portugal while Likhachev guided the Russians to their second consecutive beach soccer World Cup title in Tahiti in September.

Russian men's volleyball team took the Team of the Year after winning the 2013 World League.

Reuters

GENERAL

Barcelona's signing of Neymar being investigated by court



Ajax Amsterdam's Joel Veltman (L) fights for the ball with Barcelona's Neymar (R) during their Champions League group H soccer match at Amsterdam Arena in Amsterdam on 26 Nov, 2013.—REUTERS

BARCELONA, 19 Dec — Barcelona have been ordered by a local court to provide details about the signing of Neymar before a decision is made on whether to open proceedings against club president Sandro Rosell for the misappropriation of funds.

The case has been brought to court by club member Jordi Cases.

The Brazil forward signed for the Spanish champions in the close season for 57.1 million euros ($78.40 million) of which 17.1 million euros went to his former club Santos, it was said in court.

Cases is looking for clarification over what happened to the remaining 40 million euros, which Barcelona say was paid to a company, named in media reports as Neymar & Neymar.

"It is not known what has really taken place with the 40 million euros supposedly paid to the player or his representatives," Cases said in a statement read out at the hearing on Wednesday.

The judge Pablo Ruz has given Barcelona five days to provide Neymar's contracts.

He has also asked for the club's financial records from the previous three years to cover the period during which negotiations for the 21-year-old's signing took place.

"It is a charge without basis. I am relaxed," Rosell told reporters on Monday.

Barcelona spokesman Toni Freixa said the club had nothing to hide.—*Reuters*

South Sudan army says loses town as fighting spreads

JUBA, 19 Dec — South Sudan's army said it had lost control of the flashpoint town of Bor on Wednesday, its first acknowledged reversal in three days of clashes between rival groups of soldiers that have triggered warnings of a slide into civil war.

President Salva Kiir earlier said he was ready for dialogue with his sacked vice president Riek Machar — the man he accuses of starting the fighting, which diplomats say has killed up to 500 people, and plotting a coup.

But the United Nations said tensions was still spreading across South Sudan's remote states as the violence, which first erupted in the capital Juba late on Sunday, moved north to Bor, the site of an ethnic massacre in 1991.

Witnesses and officials said fighting had broken out in two barracks in Bor between troops loyal to Kiir, from South Sudan's Dinka ethnic group, and Machar, a Nuer, though the reports were sketchy.

"We (are) not in control of Bor town," South Sudan's army spokesman Philip Aguer told *Reuters*, without going into further details.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(20-12-2013, Friday)

6:00 am
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

6:15 am
2. Physical Exercises

6:25 am
3. Documentary

6:45 am
4. SEA Games Songs

7:00 am
5. News/Weather Report

7:30 am
6. Talks Show

8:00 am
7. News/ International News

8:30 am
8. Hyper Sports

8:45 am
9. SEA Games Songs

9:00 am
10. Rowing

12:00 pm
11. News/ International News/Weather Report

12:30 pm
12. Documentary

1:00 pm
13. People Talks

1:30 pm
14. SEA Games Songs

2:00 pm
15. Sport News

2:30 pm
16. Hyper Sports

3:30 pm
17. Talks Show

4:00 pm
18. 27th SEA Games Football (Live) (Myanmar & Malaysia) (Third Price) (Women)

6:00 pm
19. News/Weather Report

6:30 pm
20. SEA Games Songs

6:20 pm
21. Talks Show

7:30 pm
22. 27th SEA Games Football (Live) (Thailand & Vietnam) (Final) (Women)

9:00 pm
23. News/ International News/ Weather Report

10:00 pm
24. Talks Show

Finnish-Estonian police seized over 76 kg of drugs

TALLINN, 19 Dec — Estonian and Finnish law enforcement agencies have arrested 25 people in connection with an international drug smuggling operation, and have confiscated 76 kilograms of amphetamines and smaller quantities of other drugs, local media reported on Wednesday. The group, most of them Estonians, allegedly smuggled drugs to Finland mainly from the Netherlands using parcel-post, according to Estonian Public Broadcasting.

The drug-smuggling operation was masterminded from a prison in Helsinki using a smart phone, which Finnish police said was smuggled into the prison. Police said the phone was attached to an arrow and shot to the prison's roof near the accused inmate's window with a crossbow

Xinhua

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

20-12-13 07:00 am ~ 21-12-13 07:00 am) MST

* Local News
* "Travelling in Shan Mountain Ranges" Shan Traditional Food
* World News
* Grafiti: Character Art
* Local News
* Journey To Unimaginable Spots (Episode-3)
* World News
* Myanmar Movie Review "So Cool-2"
* Local News
* A Ceremony to recognize as son-in-law
* World News
* Myanmar Masterclass: Cubism
* Local News
* My Golden Dancers and Artist U Lun Gywe
* World News
* Exquisite Myanmar Silk
* **27th SEA GAMES COMPETITION**
* Local News
* Ananda Gu Phaya
* World News
* Colonial Buildings and a New Yangon
* Local News
* Travel To The Southern Part of Shan State (Inn Lay Lake)
* World News
* Talented Musicians
* Local News
* Product of Myanmar - Stone of The Heavens
* World News
* Porcelain and Glass
* Local News
* Soft Crab Breeding Procedure
* World News
* The Exotic Land of Myanmar

Arsenal, Chelsea look to find form at the top

LONDON, 19 Dec — Arsenal and Chelsea fill two of the Premier League's top three spots but will be hoping to shrug off indifferent form as they get the busy Christmas period underway when they clash on Monday (2000 GMT).

The feelgood factor around Arsene Wenger's Arsenal was dented following their 6-3 battering at the hands of Manchester City on Saturday, a result that trimmed their advantage at the top to two points.

That loss came on the back of a 2-0 Champions League defeat by Napoli, a result that knocked them into second place in the group and a resulting last 16 match-up with European champions Bayern Munich.

Wenger pointed the finger at a congested schedule for recent results, rather than any longer-term malaise, but was hoping for a tighter defensive effort after coughing up eight goals in two matches.

"We didn't defend well from up front and did not show enough solidarity defensively," Wenger said after the City loss.

"That's too easy going. We had the best defense until now in the league and to give six goals like we did is just difficult to accept because we lost our discipline and in the big games and you pay for that.

"The schedule didn't help us, let's be fair as well," he added. "You could see that the legs were tired and you play Sunday, Wednesday, Saturday morning, it's too difficult."

Arsenal could be without Jack Wilshere, who faces a two-game suspension for making an offensive gesture towards City fans at the Etihad Stadium.

Chelsea will also be hoping to pick up momentum, having lost in extra-time to struggling Sunderland in the League Cup on Tuesday, and having put in an unconvincing performance in battling past Crystal Palace 2-1 last weekend.

They managed 17 shots on target against Sunderland, and manager Jose Mourinho said they were paying the price for failing to be ruthless in front of goal.

"It is the same story of Stoke, of Everton, of every match we lost," the Portuguese said.

"We never lost a match because the opponent is stronger than us.

"We don't kill the opponent, we give them life. It's always the same."

Having won all eight home matches and scored 35 goals in the process, fourth-placed Manchester City will head to Fulham on Saturday (1500) hoping to translate that dominance to their travels.

Sergio Aguero, who has scored 13 league goals this season, could be out for up to two months with a calf injury, while fellow Argentina international Pablo Zabaleta is doubtful after hurting a hamstring in the 3-1 League Cup win over Championship side Leicester City.—*Reuters*

Chelsea's Juan Mata (L) celebrates scoring against Arsenal during their English League Cup fourth round soccer match at Emirates Stadium in London, on 29 Oct, 2013.
REUTERS

R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.

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The New Light of Myanmar

Friday, 20 December, 2013

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing enjoys hockey matches of 27th SEA Games

YANGON, 19 Dec—The men's and women's hockey matches of the 27th SEA Games continued at Theinbyu Turf Hockey Pitch, here, this morning.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing enjoyed the today's matches and presented cash awards to Myanmar women's hockey team.

Myanmar women's hockey team plays Singapore for third place while Malaysia and Thailand play the final match on 20 December.

On 21 December, Myanmar men's hockey team plays Thailand for third place while Singapore and

(See page 9)

Union Sports Minister enjoys events of 27th SEA Games

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec— Chairman of the Leading Committee for successfully holding the 27th SEA Games Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan was present at the opening of Vovinam event of the 27th SEA Games at Zeyarthiri Indoor Stadium (A), here, this morning.

Next, the Union Minister enjoyed the semifinal event between Myanmar and Thai Sepaktakraw women's teams at WunnaTheikdi Indoor Stadium (B).

At the Indoor Stadium (A), the Union Minister together with Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi

(See page 8)

Win Htun Linn sweeps gold in men's 74-80 kg Taekwondo event

Gold medalist Win Htun Linn celebrates victory carrying Myanmar flag after defeating Dela Cruz of the Philippines in men's 74-80 kg Taekwondo event.—**Photo:AMS**

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—The semifinals and finals of Taekwondo event of the 27th SEA Games was held at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium (A) in conjunction with prize awarding ceremony today.

Jade Zafra of the Philippines snatched gold in women's 53-57 kg contest after winning over Worawong Pongpnit of Thailand with 7-1 points in the final.

Laotian Taekwondo fighter Phouthasone Thammavong clinched gold in men's 63-68 kg competition after beating his Thai rival Chetrapee Tangjai with 10-7 points in the final. Cassandra Haller of Thailand grabbed gold in women's 62-67 kg event after routing his Vietnamese opponent Thanh Hien Nhuyen with 11-2 points. Win Htun Linn from Myanmar swept gold in men's 74-80 kg event after defeating Dela Cruz of the Philippines with 9-6 points.

Kyaw Htike Soe (NLM)

Three Myanmar boxers sail to finals in Muay event

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—The semifinals of Muay boxing event continued at Boxing Indoor Stadium of Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex today and three Myanmar Muay boxers advanced to the finals after beating their rivals.

Zin Mar Khine of Myanmar lost to Sirisopa Sirisak of Thailand in women's 57 kg Muay event. Latsasack Souliyavong of Laos won over Tran Duy Nhat Nguyen of Vietnam in men's 60 kg contest and will face with Thailand's Ronnakit Boontree in the final. Thu Zar Han of Myanmar defeated Laotian fighter Soutchay Silapheth in women's 60 kg competition and will fight against Thi Ngoc Nguyen from Vietnam in the final that will be held on 21 December. Panupong Tanjad of Thailand beat Soe Lin Oo from Myanmar in men's 63.5 kg event and will compete with Jonathan Polosan of the Philippines in the final. Maung Too of Myanmar went to the final after winning over Nouna Ngeumsangouane of Laos in men's 67 kg contest and will meet with Punupun Tanjad of Thailand on 21 December. Tun Tun Min from Myanmar kicked Quoc Hung Truong of Vietnam out the competition in men's 71 kg event to reach final.

Tun Tun Min from Myanmar lending a blow to Vietnamese rival Quoc Hung Truong during men's 71 kg Muay event. **Photo: AMS**

Three Myanmar Muay boxers namely— Thu Zar Han in women's 60 kg contest, Maung Too in men's 67 kg competition and Tun Tun Min in men's 71 kg event advanced to the finals.

Fighter Ma Thu Zar Han said that she has confidence for the final against Vietnamese rival. "I'll do my best in the final although I have little international experience. I pledge Myanmar people to seize gold medal for the country".

Kyaw Htike Soe (NLM)

Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker arrives back home

YANGON, 19 Dec—A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa arrived back here by air this morning after paying visits to Sweden, Denmark and Norway.

The Deputy Speaker and party were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tin Aung, Hluttaw representatives and officials from the Hluttaw Office.

MNA

***Phouthasone Thammavong of Laos celebrates his victory after defeating Chetrapee Tangjai of Thailand in Men's 63-68 kg category of Taekwondo event.*—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**

Matriculation exam timetable (2014) announced

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—Department of Myanmar Examinations Board under the Ministry of Education has today issued a timetable for matriculation exam (2014) that will be held from 12 to 22 March, 2014.

Myanmar subject will be on 12 March (Wednesday);English subject on13 March (Thursday); Mathematics on 14 March (Friday); Chemistry on 17 March (Monday); Physics on 18 March (Tuesday); Biology and Economics on 19 March (Wednesday); Geography on 20 March (Thursday); History on 21 March (Friday); and Optional Myanmar on 22 March (Saturday). And the exam time is from 9 am to noon daily, said the announcement.

MNA

Medal Tally

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Thailand	82	80	66	228
Vietnam	64	60	70	194
Myanmar	60	52	57	169
Indonesia	54	62	85	201
Malaysia	33	34	63	130
Singapore	25	24	33	82
Philippines	23	27	30	80
Laos	9	8	35	52
Cambodia	6	8	17	31
Brunei	1	1	4	6
Timor-Leste	1	0	2	3