Businessmen to show sympathetic attitude towards farmers and assist the State in its drive for agricultural development by transforming their farms to mechanized ones

**YANGON, 12 Nov**—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe visited 500-acre farm of Myint Zeya Agriculture Co in 10000-acre mechanized farming special zone in Dagon Myothit (East) Township in Yangon Region yesterday afternoon.

They inspected tractors, thrashers, and transplanters and paddy granaries under construction and heard reports on researches on genetically modified paddy strains.

In meeting with owners and in-charges of agriculture companies in special zones (1) and (2), Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing said that switch to high-yielding quality strains, utilization of irrigation water, transformation from conventional farming to mechanized one, fulfillments of the State for the agricultural inputs including fertilizers and the effective role of private sector are a must in improving socio-economic life the farmers.

The Union Minister then called businessmen for sympathetic attitude towards the farmers and assist the State in its drive for agricultural development by transforming their farms to mechanized farms in unison in time of summer paddy.

Next, Union Minister U Win Myint and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe also gave some instructions. The Union Ministers and attendees then viewed demonstration of land preparation with tractors and tillers.

Union Ministers U Myint Hlaing, U Win Myint and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe observe tractors, thrashers and transplanters machines.—MNA

Academic subjects, thoughts and concepts are changing at a breakneck speed in this 21st century, the age of globalization, information technology and knowledge

Union Minister for Science and Technology U Aye Myint addresses closing ceremony of Special Refresher Course No (77) for basic education teachers.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Nov—The concluding ceremony of Special Refresher Course for Basic Education Teachers No (77) was held in Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) this morning, with an address by Union Minister for Science and Technology U Aye Myint.

The ceremony was also attended by Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Myat Myat Oo Khin, Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin, Member of Union Civil Service Board Dr Win Myint and 1501 trainees.

The Union Minister in his address said that human resources development is needed to gather political, economic and defence strengths. Of education sector, basic education takes on special importance. Human Resources Development is a significance step in (See page 8)

**Myanmar athletes win two bronze medals**

**YANGON, 12 Nov**—Myanmar selected athletes Aung Khant, Kyaw Kyaw Tun and Min Hein Khant won the silver in the men’s Karate event and Myint Myint Thian and Hnin Wai Lwin won a bronze in the women’s double K2 (500) meter Kayak event of the XXVI SEA Games today while Vietnam won the gold and Singapore the silver.

Selected Myanmar athlete Yamin Kay Khaing won bronze in Poomsae women’s individual event in the taekwondo competition while Indonesia stood first and Singapore second in the event.—MNA
A good book is the best of friends

The nation is now in the process of modernization, keeping pace with changes and developments. And constant learning is essential for everyone so as to be able to surf the waves of change.

We will wait for appropriate time before reaching the goal, taking step-by-step approach. Only by doing the right thing at right time and right place, can success be achieved. As past, present and future are intertwined, worldly wisdom is needed.

Reading maketh a full man. Knowledge can be gained from reading. There are many useful and priceless books written by authors in successive years. It is only required to learn from the good and the bad and get the advantage and disadvantage from those books.

One who is fond of reading will be able to reach every corner of academic arena. Various tastes in culture, music and arts can be enjoyed through reading. Although one is reading a lot, he cannot accumulate enough knowledge. It was because he is unable to take something out of the books. Books are non-living things. How to read defines one’s ability to accumulate knowledge.

It is required to read good books. Good spirit and behaviours can be thrived by reading books making sense of humanitarian, good morale and nationalistic fervour. Reading books that show the ways to have sense of self-reliance, habits of doing collectively and follow disciplines and laws is a kind of making friends.

The nation is now calling for good and able citizens in its move towards new era and new system. At such a time, youths of today who are going to shape the future State need to be nurtured. We would like to urge those who are able to read to continue reading good books.

Malaysian wellwishers donate cash and kind to Hngat-aw-san youth training school

YANGON, 12 Nov — Malaysian national association donated foodstuff, household goods and cash worth over K 9.7 million to Hngat-aw-san youth training school under the Social Welfare Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Kawhmu Township on 29 October

Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr. Ahmad Muhamad presented cash and kind to the school.

The ceremony to donate cash and kind to the school was also attended by Chairman of Malaysia-Myanmar Friendship Association Dato Leongkin Mian and donars.—MNA

Press Conference on preparations for XXVII SEA Games held

NAVPYITAW, 12 Nov — A press conference on XXVII SEA Games to be hosted by Myanmar in 2013 was held at Grand Zuri Hotel in Palembang in Indonesia this morning, attended by Director U Kaung Htut of Tourism Services of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Joint-Secretaries of Myanmar Olympic Committee U Naw Taung and U Khin Maung Lwin and Director U Hay Aung of Public Education Division of the Sports and Physical Education Department.

It was also attended by media persons from 10 ASEAN nations. Joint-Secretary of the MOC U Khin Maung Lwin explained arrangements for hosting XXVII SEA Games in 2013 and personnel answered queries raised by those present. —MNA

Bago Region Chief Minister looks into Kunchaung hydropower project

YANGON, 12 Nov—Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win paid an inspection tour of Kunchaung hydropower plant project situated in Pyu Township on 9 November noon.

There he viewed storage of water in Kunchaung Dam and installation of equipments to be used in the plant, after leaving necessary instructions on timely-completion of the plant through a systematic way.

It was reported that the Chief Minister in that morning placed the ornamental on historic Sekhongyi Pagoda in the ornamental-placing ceremony to mark the 501st remembrance of founding Kaytumati Toungoo.—MNA

Mass walk and education talks mark World Diabetes Day in Yangon

YANGON, 12 Nov—Mass walk activity and education talks marked World Diabetes Day in Yangon this morning. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Yangon Mayor Region Development Affairs Minister U Hla Myint and Region Social Affairs Minister Dr Myint Thein formally launched and participated in the activity started from the gymnasium in Kandawgyi.

Professor Dr Tin Swe Latt gave talks on diabetes at the gymnasium. Those participated underwent free diabetes examination.

The Chief Minister addressed ceremony to issue certificates to skilled workers in Myanmar Engineering Society in Hline Township. He inspected quality control lab, reference library and training and certificate issuance centre.—MNA

Myanmar-Vietnam business meeting on 16 Nov

YANGON, 12 Nov — Myanmar and Vietnamese entrepreneurs will hold talks at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry here on 16 November.

The meeting will be held under the arrangement of the RUMFCCI and Vietnamese Embassy in Yangon. RUMFCCI has asked those Myanmar businessmen who want to participate in the meeting to contact the RUMFCCI not later than 15 November. A 32-member Vietnamese delegation will participate in the meeting.—MNA

Cash and publications donated to MLF

YANGON, 12 Nov—Eleven wellwishers donated cash and 3689 publications to Myanmar Libraries Foundation yesterday.

Those who are willing to donate to Myanmar Libraries Foundation may contact its office at No (228), Theinbyu road, Botataung Township, Yangon. (Ph: 01-371342, 01-201936, 01398756).

The foundation is broadening horizons of people and encouraging development of self-reliant libraries.—MNA
Indonesian president opens 26th SEA Games

JAKARTA, 12 Nov—Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono opened the 26th regional sports event of Sea Games (SEAG) in a grand opening ceremony held at Jakabaring sport centre on Friday night located in the capital of South Sumatra Province. Dressed in South Sumatran traditional outfit, President Yudhoyono, accompanied by the first lady Ani Yudhoyono, distingushed guests and officials from the countries attending SEAG, officially opened the biennial event that will last until 22 November in Palembang and the country’s capital of Jakarta.

The opening ceremony was featured by a grand theatrical performance conducted by thousands of people, depicting the glory of an Indonesia’s ancient kingdom of Sriwijaya whose site was located in South Sumatra, reigned most areas of regions which are now united under Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). Thousands of athletes from 11 countries, the ten ASEAN member countries and Timor Leste, are going to compete in 44 sports during the 26th SEAG. Indonesia has been a host of this regional sports event for four times with the latest one in 1997.—MNA/Xinhua

Turkey renews call for international aid in wake of second Van quake

ANKARA, 12 Nov—Turkey said on Friday that it is ready to receive international aid, in particular tents and fabricated homes, after a second quake hit the Province of Van in eastern Turkey on Wednesday.

Turkey renewed an earlier call issued for international aid in the wake of the first quake, Turkish diplomatic sources were quoted as saying by the Anatolia news agency.

Van, which was hit by a 7.2-magnitude earthquake on 23 Oct, was struck by a second quake on Wednesday night, killing at least 22 people. The first quake killed 605 people and left thousands of others homeless.

Turkish Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management Directorate (AFAD) said that 30 people were pulled alive from the rubble after the 5.6-magnitude earth-quake and 300 citizens affected by the earthquake were brought to Istanbul and Ankara. The AFAD advised quake survivors not to enter the damaged buildings. AFAD said 815 search and rescue personnel, 71 health personnel, 14 sniffer dogs, 62 work machines, 6,457 tents, 2,051 general purpose tents, 98 breakfast sets, 45,407 blankets, and 600 beds had been dispatched to the quake zone.

The directorate said 22 ambulances, including three planes and eight helicopter ambulances, were also sent to the quake-hit Province.—Xinhua

Eight civilians killed in blast in E Afghanistan

MEHTARLAM (Afghanisti-n), 12 Nov—Eight civilians were killed Saturday in a roadside bombing in eastern Afghanistan’s Laghman Province, an official said.

“The blast occurred at about 10:00 am local time in Mitram District, an area outside the provincial capital Mehtarlam city, when a civilian car was traveling along a road to Mehtarlam city,” spokesman of the provincial government, Saydanullah Patan told Xinhua.

Patan said all victims aboard the vehicle, including a woman and a child, were killed on the spot in the powerful blast in the Province some 90 km east of capital city of Kabul.

No one has claimed responsibilities for the incident so far.

The Taleban militants as part of tactic have resorted to suicide attacks and roadside bombings that often claim civilians.

A total of 1,446 Afghan civilians were killed in the first half of 2011, a 15 percent rise over the same period of 2010, according to the United Nations mid-year report released in Kabul on July.—Xinhua

One policeman killed in checkpoint attack in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 12 Nov—At least one policeman was killed and another injured in a police checkpoint attack Saturday morning in northwest Pakistan, reported local Urdu TV channel Samaa.

According to the local media reports, the incident took place at about 8:50 am (local time) Saturday when a police checkpoint in Shabqadar, a small town located some 20 kilometres north of Peshawar, was attacked by a rocket.

Shabqadar is just several kilometres away from Mohmand Agency, a tribal area in northwost Pakistan which borders Afghanistan, where there exist different groups of militants who often launch attacks deeper into the neighbouring areas of Pakistan.—Internet

US drones deployed in southern Turkish air base

ANKARA, 12 Nov—The United States has deployed four Predator drones at an air base in southern Turkey, Turkish newspaper Today’s Zaman reported on its website Friday.

A total of four drones arrived at Incirlik Air Base on 16 Oct and 23 Oct, which was several days before Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan discussed a Turkey’s request to purchase drones to be used in the fight against the terrorist Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) with US President Barack Obama on the sidelines of a G20 summit in Paris, the newspaper quoted a report of Taraf daily as saying. However, the deployment of the US drones on Turkish territory is separate from Turkey’s request to purchase drones from the United States, the report said. In September, the Washington Post reported that Turkey sought the deployment of a fleet of US drones on its territory as a measure to be used against the PKK following the US withdrawal from Iraq.

Later in September, Erdogan said the United States has agreed in principle to Turkey’s request to deploy its drones on Turkish soil.—Xinhua

Turkey increases aid to Pakistan

ANKARA, 12 Nov—Turkey on Wednesday renewed an offer of international aid to Pakistan, which borders a tribal area in northwest Pakistan, from Mohmand Agency, a small town located some 20 kilometres north of Peshawar, was attacked by a rocket.

Shabqadar is just several kilometres away from Mohmand Agency, a tribal area in northwost Pakistan which borders Afghanistan, where there exist different groups of militants who often launch attacks deeper into the neighbouring areas of Pakistan.—Internet

Rescue workers search for survivors in the rubble of a collapsed hotel in Van, Turkey, following a 5.7-magnitude earthquake.—INTERNET
The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Friday approved HEMACORD, the licensed hematopoietic progenitor cells-cord cell therapy.

HEMACORD is indicated for use in hematopoietic stem cell transplantation procedures in patients with disorders affecting the blood forming system. For example, cord blood transplants have been used to treat patients with certain blood cancers and some inherited metabolic and immune system disorders. The use of cord blood hematopoietic progenitor cell therapy offers potentially life-saving treatment options for patients with these types of disorders," said Karen Middhaun, director of FDA’s Centre for Biologics Evaluation and Research, in a statement.

HEMACORD contains hematopoietic progenitor cells (HPCs) from human cord blood. Cord blood is one of three sources of HPCs used in transplants. The other two are bone marrow and peripheral blood. Once these HPCs are infused into patients, the cells migrate to the bone marrow where they divide and mature. When the mature cells move into the bloodstream they can partially or fully restore the number and function of many blood cells, including immune function.

## New options for stubborn hypertension

**Health**

In this on 1 Nov, 2011 photo, Dr Elaine Urbina, left, examines Joselyn Benninghoff, 10, at Children’s Hospital in Cincinnati. Benninghoff is taking medication to control her cholesterol.

In new guidelines released on 11 Nov, 2011, doctors are recommending that every child be tested for high cholesterol by around age 10 to prevent heart disease later in life.

Karen Middhaun, director of FDA’s Centre for Biologics Evaluation and Research, in a statement.

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## Nine-years-olds should get cholesterol screen

**Health**

DENVER, 12 Nov—Children should be screened for high cholesterol as young as ages 9-11 and again at ages 17-21, no matter what their family history, US researchers say.

The recommendation by the National Institutes of Health and the American Academy of Pediatrics, which aims to combat cardiovascular disease before it starts, replaces the old recommendation, which called for screening children who had a family history of high cholesterol and heart disease, CNN reported.

“The more we learn about heart disease and stroke in adults, the more we know that the process begins in childhood and progresses over time,” said Dr Stephen R Daniels of the University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine and a member of the panel that reviewed the guidelines. “By working with families, we can keep kids at a lower lifetime risk and prevent more serious problems in adulthood.”

The panel suggested pediatricians could use a type of cholesterol screening test that does not require children to fast before getting their blood drawn for the cholesterol test.

## China’s Suning signs deal with IBM for e-commerce

**Business**

SHANGHAI, 12 Nov—China’s Suning Appliance Co Ltd, the country’s biggest electronics retailer, has signed an agreement with IBM to build a multi-billion e-commerce platform, both companies said in a statement on Friday.

The platform will be supported by cloud technology, logistics and supply chain management and both companies will pool their human resources to build it.

As part of the tie-up, IBM will build a global e-commerce centre in Nanjing and will help Suning expand it to hire around 715,000 employees in three to five years.

“A very clear strategy for the next decade, the important point is to increase the technological capabilities of Suning,” said Zhang Jindong, Suning’s chairman in a statement.

China’s e-commerce industry is booming. Taobao Mall, the dominant player in the market, had 32.8 percent of China’s 54.2 billion yuan B2C online marketplace in the second-quarter, according to data from Analysys International. 360buy, Taobao Mall’s nearest rival, had 12.4 percent of the market.

## IMF welcomes Japan trade move

**Business**

TOKYO, 12 Nov—IMF chief Christine Lagarde on Saturday said she welcomed Japan’s decision to enter talks towards an Asia-Pacific free trade deal, during a visit to Tokyo where she met Japanese officials.

“I welcome Prime Minister (Yoshihiko) Noda’s announcement that Japan will participate in negotiations on the Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership (TPP), which can make a vital contribution to this country’s future competitiveness and growth,” said Lagarde, the IMF’s managing director.

Japanese on Friday said it would enter the talks, a move that threatens to deepen rifts in the ruling party amid opposition from a farm industry fearing cheap imports.

The move came hours before leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum gather for a summit in Hawaii.

Lagarde added Japan should make reducing its mammoth public debt a priority. “We shared the view that the priorities going forward are the swift implementation of reconstruction spending, and the adoption of a strong medium-term plan to reduce public debt,” she said in a press release.
NASA: No risk of ‘killer’ solar flares

WASHINGTON, 12 Nov—Worries that a killer solar flare could strike Earth in 2012 are unfounded, even as solar activity ramps up in its usual 11-year cycle, NASA scientists say.

Although great bursts of electromagnetic energy and particles can sometimes stream from the sun—creating disruptions with signal transmission from GPS satellites and even potentially inducing electric fluctuations at ground level that could blow out transformers in power grids—solar flares from the sun are not physically capable of destroying Earth, a NASA release said Thursday.

There simply isn’t enough energy in the sun to send a killer flare 93 million miles to destroy Earth, NASA heliophysicist Alex Young said.

Solar flares are a problem the same way hurricanes are a problem, he said, meaning advance information can allow proper precautions.

Scientists at NASA and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration can give warnings to electric companies, spacecraft operators, and other concerned entities when the most intense forms of space weather are on their way, Young said.

Improving these predictive abilities is one of the reasons NASA studies the sun and space weather, he said.

NASA plans to launch car-size Mars rover in November

WASHINGTON, 12 Nov—NASA’s car-sized Mars rover Curiosity, which will examine one of the most intriguing areas on the Red Planet, is in final preparations for a launch from Florida’s Space Coast at 10:25 am EST (15:25 GMT) on 25 Nov, the US space agency announced on Thursday.

Curiosity is about twice as long and more than five times as heavy as any previous Mars rover. Its 10 science instruments include two for ingesting and analyzing samples of powdered rock delivered by the rover’s robotic arm. It is now sitting atop an Atlas V rocket awaiting lift-off from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. “Preparations are on track for launching at our first opportunity,” said Pete Theisinger, Mars Science Laboratory project manager at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory. “If weather or other factors prevent launching then, we have more opportunities through 18 Dec.”

Scheduled to land on the Mars in Aug 2012, the one-ton rover will examine Gale Crater during a nearly two-year prime mission. Curiosity will land near the base of a layered mountain three miles (five kilometres) high inside the crater—Xinhua

Fossil is record of ancient shark attack

WASHINGTON, 12 Nov—An ancient shark attack has been preserved in the form of a fossilized whale bone bearing marks of the assault, US paleontologists say. Scientists with the Smithsonian Institution say the fragment of whale rib found in a North Carolina strip mine offers a rare look at the interactions between prehistoric sharks and whales during the Phocene Epoch 3 million to 4 million years ago.

Three tooth marks on the rib suggest the whale was once severely bitten by a strong-jawed animal, and the wide spacing between tooth marks makes scientists believe the attacker was a mega-toothed shark Carcharocles megalodon, a Smithsonian release said Friday. Scientists know the whale survived that attack because “most of the fossil fragment is covered with a type of bone known as woven bone, which forms rapidly in response to localized infection.”—Don Ortner of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History said. Based on the tooth marks, scientists said they believe the shark was relatively small, between 13 and 26 feet long.

“One certainly doesn’t expect to find evidence of animal behavior preserved in the fossil record, but this fossil shows just that, a failed predation,” said Stephen Godfrey, paleontologist at the Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons, Md, and a Smithsonian research collaborator who discovered the fossil. “The shark may have gone away with a mouthful, but it didn’t kill the whale. “This fossil is one of a very few examples that shows a trauma clearly attributed to another animal, yet also shows the victim survived the event.”

Apple updates iOS 5 to fix bug and battery life

SAN FRANCISCO, 12 Nov—Apple Inc has released an update to its iOS 5 mobile operating system after receiving a flood of complaints about the poor performance of the battery on the new iPhone 4S.

Canadians can download the update directly from their device by going into Settings/General/Software Update. iPhone users should also receive a download prompt the next time they sync their device with iTunes. Apple had said earlier that it had found “a few bugs” that were causing the battery to drain too quickly.

“A small number of customers have reported lower-than-expected battery life on iOS 5 devices,” an Apple spokesman told Reuters on 2 Nov.

“We have found a few bugs that are affecting battery life and we will release a software update.”

The software update also addresses several security issues, including a flaw in the operating system that might have allowed hackers to build apps that would secretly install programs to steal data.—Internet

Google to launch music service next week

SAN FRANCISCO, 12 Nov—Google will launch its new music service next week, US media reported on Friday.

In an emailed invitation, Google said it will hold an event called “These GoTo Eleven” next Wednesday in Los Angeles, which is expected to be the debut of Google Music, tech news website The Verge reported.

Google is reported to be adding new features over the current version of its music service, such as a MP3 music store with connection to its social network Google+. According to a separate report from technology news site CNET on Friday, Google has not yet got licensing deals with all four of the major labels—Universal Music Group, Warner Music Group, Sony Music Entertainment and EMI.

Google introduced a beta version of its music service called Music Beta in May, enabling users to upload their entire music libraries for free to Google servers and stream songs from any browser or Android-based devices.

Since the search giant failed to come to license agreements with major music labels at the time, Music Beta is essentially a massive cloud storage hard drive.—Xinhua

Solar flares are a problem the same way hurricanes are a problem, he said, meaning advance information can allow proper precautions.

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Eurozone policymakers need to provide crisis solutions

HONOLULU, 12 Nov—A senior International Monetary Fund (IMF) official on Friday urged eurozone policymakers to provide a clear picture of how to tackle the eurozone debt turmoil although global collaboration is needed.

Zhu Min, deputy managing director of IMF, made the remarks on Friday in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Eurozone debt turmoil was more or less a global crisis that needed global efforts to address the challenge, but eurozone leaders should endeavor to chart the course of how to solve the problem first, Zhu said at the ongoing APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) CEO Summit 2011 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

"There is a consensus that we need two firewalls" to protect the real economy and to stop the contagion triggered by the eurozone debt and banking stress, he noted.

A string of APEC meetings, including the Economic Leaders’ Meeting, the Ministerial Meeting, the Finance Ministers’ Meeting, the Business Advisory Council and the CEO Summit, will be held here this week—Xinhua

Air China in in-flight WiFi first

CHENGDU, 12 Nov—Air China Ltd, China’s largest airline, will become the first in China to provide in-flight WiFi, when it begins offering the service on a Boeing 737-800 on its Beijing to Chengdu route from 15 Nov.

A successful test of the service was conducted on a flight over Beijing on Friday.

Air China received approval from the Civil Aviation Administration of China to operate the WiFi, said Bao Lida, a spokesman for the Southwest Branch of Air China.

Access will be free, but Internet searching will be limited to certain entertainment and tourism services including shopping, room reservation and car rental.

Passengers will only be allowed access while the plane is in the air.

They can use laptops and tablet computers to visit the Wireless Local Area Network, although not mobile phones, which must be turned off for safety reasons for the duration of the journey, said Bao.

Air China plans to roll out the service to other planes in its fleet—Xinhua

Diplomatic efforts should be fully exploited over Iranian nuclear issue

BERLIN, 12 Nov—German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Friday called on the international community to freely exploit diplomatic efforts over Iran’s nuclear issue, rather than discuss the possibility of military solution.

In an interview with German newspaper Leipziger Volkszeitung’s weekend edition, Merkel said Teheran is “apparently not playing the game openly”, according to the latest report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which cited “credible” intelligence showing that the service was kick-started in Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Anhui and Jiangxi that painting over 300 pieces of artwork by painters from Shanghai as well as provinces of Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Anhui and Jiangxi that lie in “Jiangnan”, or the area south of the downstream Yangtze River.

Chinese President Hu Jintao (R) meets with Honorary Chairman of the Chinese Kuomintang (KMT) Lien Chan, in Honolulu, Hawaii, the US, on 11 Nov, 2011. Xinhua

New deputy head of UNICEF appointed

UNITED NATIONS, 12 Nov—UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday announced the appointment of Johanna Brandt, a Dutch national, as the deputy executive director of the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

“Ms Brandt will succeed Hilde Frafjord Johnson, who was appointed special representative of the UN secretary-general for South Sudan,” UN spokesman Martin Nesirky told a daily news briefing here.

“The secretary-general would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Johnson for her exceptional service and commitment to UNICEF.”

Working in over 150 countries, UNICEF provides children with health care, clean water, nutrition, education, protection, emergency relief, and more.

“Brandt brings to the position strong analytical skills and a deep commitment to working toward a more equitable and sustainable development as well as timely and effective emergency response to humanitarian disasters,” the spokesman said. She has worked extensively on developing and overseeing emergency programmes and is an expert on development and emergency response issues, Nesirky said, adding that she has lived and worked in Uganda, Eritrea, Kenya and South Africa.

Since 2008, Brandt has served as the director general for International Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and prior to that as deputy director-general—Xinhua

Workers raise the Rockefeller Centre Christmas Tree in New York City, USA. Xinhua

Internet
Scandinavian Airlines sells 13 planes to US low-cost airline

**SOLNA, 12 Nov—**SAS Group, the parent company of Scandinavian Airlines, on Friday announced it will sell more than a dozen of its old aircraft to US low-cost airline Allegiant Air. SAS Group said it has entered an agreement with Sunrise Asset Management, an affiliate of Allegiant Air, to sell thirteen McDonnell Douglas MD-82, MD-83 and MD-87 aircraft. It has also agreed to sell an additional 12 spare engines. The order value is more than 20 million US dollars and delivery of the aircraft and engines will commence immediately, SAS Group said. It said the delivery is scheduled to be completed in February 2013. “This transaction is a further step in SAS’ phase-out programme for the MD80 series aircraft which are being replaced by [Boeing 737s] and [Airbus A320s] prior to the commencement of the A320 NEO’s ordered earlier this year,” SAS said in a statement. SAS has already sold dozens of old aircraft to Allegiant Air, which has its headquarters near Las Vegas. SAS sold and delivered 18 MD-80 series aircraft to Allegiant Air last year, and the sale announced on Friday will bring the number of sold MD80 series aircraft by SAS to 45.

Man creates 240-volt booby trap for tenant

**LONDON, 12 Nov—**A landlord in Britain has been jailed for four years after he attempted to electrocute his lodger with an elaborate booby-trap following a row with him over satellite TV subscriptions.

Thirty-three-year-old Eric Malcolm wrapped a live 240-volt extension cable round a door handle and waited for his victim Tony Gilesnan to walk in, the Daily Express reported. Gilesnan, luckily, received only a mild shock but Malcolm then struck him over the head with a hammer, Cambridge Crown Court was told. Their row about the TV bill had escalated after Malcolm mistakenly thought the lodger had used his computer.

Unable to pay kids’ fees, father jumps before train

**LONDON, 12 Nov—**A solicitor in Britain who was constantly worried about paying his children’s school fees killed himself by jumping in front of a train, an inquest has heard.

Vincent Buffoni, 49, was spending up to 30,000 pounds a year to send Matthew, 14, to and elite school and extra to send Francesca, 10, to a prep school, the Daily Mail reported. But the law firm that he feared he had become addicted—

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin delivers a speech on Russia’s domestic affairs and foreign policies during a meeting with members of the Valdai international discussion group of experts in Krasnogorsk outside Moscow, capital of Russia, on 11 Nov, 2011. Putin discussed Russia’s domestic affairs and foreign policies with the members here on Friday.—**INTERNET**

**Princess Diana’s wedding dress replica up for auction**

**LONDON, 12 Nov—**A replica of Princess Diana’s wedding dress has been put up for auction at 65,000 pounds.

The perfect copy of the gown was made by designers David and Elizabeth Emanuel for her Madame Tussauds wax work.

The duplicate dress is said to be sold for charity, and was made at the time of the Royal wedding using the same toile, same fabrics and trimmings as the original, the Sun reported. However, there are two small differences as the antique Carrickmacross lace on the bodice front is similar but not identical to Queen Mary’s Carrickmacross lace used on the original gown, and the train and veil are around a third of the length of the original.—**INTERNET**

**Indonesia’s badminton players Susi Susanti in mid-air after lighting the torch during the opening ceremony of the 26th SEA Games at Jakabaring sport city in Palembang, South Sumatra.**

**British woman force feeds baby to death!**

**LONDON, 11 Nov—**A nurse was sentenced three years in jail Friday for killing her baby by force feeding — the first such case in Britain.

Gloria Dwomoh, 31, was found guilty at the Old Bailey last month of causing or allowing the death of 10-month-old Diamond, the Daily Mail reported Friday.

The mother was said to be obsessed with the baby’s weight. She poured liquidised food down her throat with a jug when she was weaning her.

The incident occurred in March last year. The baby died she was taken to a hospital near her home in Waltham Forest, east London.

The post-mortem examination revealed the baby died from pneumonia caused by food, including meat and cereals, in her lungs.—**INTERNET**

**People of the Miao ethnic group attend a worship ritual to celebrate the Miao’s New Year at an overwater barn in Leishan County, southwest China’s Guizhou Province, on 12 Nov, 2011.**

**Susanti in mid-air after lighting the torch during the opening ceremony of the 26th SEA Games at Jakabaring sport city in Palembang, South Sumatra.**

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**INTERNET**
Academic subjects, thoughts and concepts...

(from page 1)

building a developed nation. Teachers of various regions are to exert all-out efforts in improving education standard of the country. Academic subjects, thoughts and concepts are changing at a breakneck speed in this 21st century, the age of globalization, information technology and knowledge. ICT literacy is a must in the modern world to keep pace with the age. The world of education is chasing the most fruitful educational methods and systems. Every nation is taking education reforms. The reforms of other countries should be studied. Teachers are life-long learners who are responsible for planting love for learning in their pupils’ minds. Myanmar, as a UN member, needs to devise educational plans for sustainable development in this United Nations Decade on Education for Sustainable Development. Teachers are assigned to implement the aims of the Ministry of Education to improve educational standard of the nation. Only quality teachers can provide quality education. They are encouraged to provide Basic Literacy, Continuing Education, Formal Education and Non-Formal Education for human resources development and poverty alleviation as a national duty.

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The Union Minister then cordially greeted the outstanding trainees and completion certificates to leaders of each company.

The Union Minister then presented prizes to outstanding trainees and completion certificates to leaders of each company. The two-week course was completed by 30 trainees. — MNA

By EP-2 Minister attends course concluding ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Nov—Deputy Minister for Electric Power No (2) U Aung Than Oo attended the concluding ceremony Engineering Skill Course No (3) 2011) at the ministry here yesterday morning.

The deputy minister awarded the outstanding trainees and the director-general of Electric Power Supply Department presented completion certificates to a leader of trainees. The two-week course was completed by 30 trainees. — MNA

Chinese delegation pays homage to Uppatasanti Pagoda

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Nov — Together with Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Li Junhua and officials of the embassy, the visiting Chinese delegation led by Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China Secretary of Beijing Municipal Committee Mr. Liu Qi visited Uppatasanti Pagoda, here, this morning.

First, Mr. Liu Qi and delegation members offered flowers to Maha Manimaya Gottama Buddha Image in the eastward of the cave of the Pagoda and the Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic of the People’s Republic of China.

Next, they observed pilgrims paying homage to the Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic.

Then Mr. Liu Qi signed visitors’ book and presented K 500,000 to the Pagoda through Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Dr Maung Maung Htay and members of the board of trustees of the Pagoda.

Afterwards, Mr. Liu Qi and party paid homage to Maha Hsutaungpyae Buddha Image at the northwest corner on the precinct of the Pagoda, and shared the merits gained striking the gong in the eastward of the Pagoda.

After feeding food to White Elephants being kept at the White Elephant Garden in the eastward of the Pagoda, Mr. Liu Qi donated US$ 100 for White Elephants.

Chin traditional costumes enjoy growing market

Cloth weaving business, cottage industry of Chin nationals is thriving following the emergence of market economy.

Tartan pattern, spotted pattern and floral pattern are the favourite designs of Chin weavers. Floral designs are of exquisite craftsmanship and even more attractive and wondrous than those woven by machine.

Chin traditional costume shops in regions and states are always packed with shoppers and the market keeps on expanding. Weavers also create new designs and patterns in response to the demands and the tide of fashion.

One of the Chin traditional costume sellers in Kalay said “Chin traditional costumes sell pretty well. They come from Haka, Falam, Tiddim, Mindat, and Matupi. They are bought much in open season by foreigners and local visitors. Both traditional and modern patterns are marketable. As for the price, the most expensive female wear longyi costs about K 5000 kyats. There is a growing market for Chin traditional costumes as they have gained in popularity.”

Chin nationals make two patterns in weaving traditional costumes and blankets, one for the people of honour and the other for ordinary people, it is learned.

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Translation: TKK

Bronze medal winner in Takewondo Poomsae event Yamin Khay Khaing. (News on page 1) MNA

Bronze medal winners Myint Myint Thin and Hnin Wai Lwin in 500-meter K 2 double Kayak event. (News on page 1) MNA

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Visitors buying Chin traditional costumes.

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Translation: TKK
Shan State Chief Minister attends coord meeting on undertakings of urban/rural development

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Nov — In his address at the work coordination meeting on undertakings of urban/rural development at the office of Shan State Development Affairs Committee this morning, Shan State Chief Minister Sao Aung Myat called for enhancing the image of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw by working together and carrying out rehabilitation and poverty alleviation programmes being implemented by the Union government, Sibin Tha Yar Yaw Bank Ltd will make a loan to vendors and shopkeepers through township development affairs committees under the arrangements of the Ministry of Border Affairs, he added. He also stressed the need for systematic procedures for levying taxes in accord with rules and regulations, minimizing losses and waste. Only when, will developmental undertakings be carried out. After hearing reports on ongoing tasks presented by an official, the State Chief Minister and party viewed documentary photos on construction and repair works, beautifying and water supply tasks being carried out by committees under Shan State Development Affairs Committee. MNA

Armored group exchanges arms for peace

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Nov — In accordance with the State constitution, Myanmar is on a road to a modern, developed democratic nation and the Tatmadaw, upholding Our Three Main National Causes, has worked together with the people to prevail justice, freedom and equality in the country and has been carrying out rehabilitation tasks in disaster-hit areas apart from its main duty of national defense. Members of armed groups who have realized the genuine goodwill of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw have exchanged arms for peace as they realized that it was wrong to follow directives of their leaders to commit destructive acts such as destroying roads and bridges, collecting extortion money, practising recruitment, drug trafficking and killing civilians.

Three armed group members led by Kwon Tong Wan with the rank of captain from KIA (Kachin) group exchanged arms for peace, bringing five small arms and one China-made M-23 machinegun on 3 November in the area of North-East Command. Local authorities cordially welcomed them and provided assistance to them. Other armed group members are willing to exchange arms for peace, it is learnt. MNA

World Diabetes Day

14-11-2011

ACT ON DIABETES. NOW.

Ministry of Health

Shame State Chief Minister attends coord meeting on undertakings of urban/rural development

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Nov — The Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw session continued for the third day at Region Hluttaw Office yesterday, attended by Speaker of Region Hluttaw Thayay Sithu U Hsan Hsint and 67 Hluttaw representatives. The region ministers answered 16 questions on electric power, industrial zone, agriculture, transportation and development affairs raised by representatives at the session. Hluttaw representatives were invited to register for the discussion on rural development and poverty alleviation plan of the region.

After holding discussions on proposals submitted on 8 November with the participation of representatives and region ministers concerned, the Hluttaw approved the proposals and decided to urge the Union government to continue to carry out. Next, the Hluttaw decided to extend proposals of two representatives to be changed into questions and put the submission of the proposal into record.

The sixth day session of Rakhine State Hluttaw took place at the hall of the State Hluttaw yesterday, attended by Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin, State Hluttaw Speaker U Hein Lin and 47 Hluttaw representatives.

Rehabilitation works in flood-bit Pakokku District gaining momentum

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Nov — Up to date, 96 houses have been built for flood victims at Suntheik township and 74 houses are under construction of Pakokku and Monywa Stations and in-charge of rehabilitation works. In Yaypyar and Indaw villages, clearing of mud in the compound of school damaged by the flood, rebuilding of toilets, construction of houses and building of road to Klothaung monastery were carried out.

Orbiting satellite returns its first data

GRUNDENZELL, 12 Nov — An instrument on NASA’s newest Earth-observing satellite has acquired its first data, measuring water vapor in the lower atmosphere, the space agency said.

The Advanced Technology Microwave Sounder is one of five instruments on board the National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System Preparatory Project, or NPP, that launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., on October 28, a NASA release said Thursday. The ATMS captured its first measurements Nov. 8. Tropical Storm Sean is visible in the data in the Atlantic off the coast of the southeastern United States.

Weather scientists can collect data even when it is cloudy and will produce global sets of high-resolution temperature and moisture profiles that are used for forecasting and studying weather. “NPP data will improve our forecast skills out to 5 to 7 days in advance of extreme weather events, including hurricanes, and severe weather outbreaks,” said Dr. Louis Uccellini, director of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Centers for Environmental Prediction. “With NPP, our goal is to make the accurate forecasts achieved for this year’s events even better in the future.” Internet

MNA

This global image shows the ATMS measure of atmospheric water vapor; note that Tropical Storm Sean is visible in the data, as the blue patch in the Atlantic off the coast of the Southeastern United States. Internet

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 13 November, 2011
High-fibre diet cuts bowel cancer risk

LONDON, 12 Nov—Eating enough fibre can cut bowel cancer risk by almost 20 percent. Although a high-fibre diet has been known to be good for the gut and protective against bowel cancer, the Imperial College London study is the first to quantify the benefit. The analysis of 25 studies, involving almost two million participants, found for every 10-gram increase in total dietary fibre, the risk of bowel cancer dropped by 10 percent, the British medical journal reports.

Experts recommend that adults should eat between 18 and 24 grams of fibres a day, but the average intake in Britain is only about 15 grams, according to the Telegraph.

The researchers, from Imperial College London and the Danish Cancer Society, concluded that “a high intake of dietary fibre, particularly from cereal and whole grains, is associated with a reduced risk of colorectal cancer”.

Whole grain foods include brown and wholemeal breads, cereals, oatmeal, brown rice and porridge. Most foods only contain a little fibre so getting enough can be difficult. Muesli, for instance, only contains about three grams per 30 gram serving. Bowel cancer kills about 16,000 people in Britain alone a year, more than breast or prostate cancer.

Robbers pretend to be cops in Baltimore

Baltimore, 12 Nov—A series of recent robberies and home invasions in Baltimore have been carried out by robbers pretending to be police officers, investigators say.

The thieves have used fake badges and walkie-talkies, The Baltimore Sun reported. The police department has many plainclothes detectives on the street in some of the city’s rougher neighbourhoods, and robbers often impersonate them.

“It’s been a continued problem,” Lt Rob Morris of the intelligence section said. “The unfortunate reality is that you can buy some of these little badges just about anywhere.”

Moses Pacheco, who lost $1,800 to three men who searched his home, told the Sun he knew something was wrong when he realized the walkie-talkie the “police” were using was a child’s toy.

The police department has told residents to call 911 if they are suspicious of anyone claiming to be officers and trying to enter their home. They say they very rarely conduct raids without knocking and said officers are required to show identification.

Japanese nuclear plant reopens to journalists

Tokyo, 12 Nov—Japan will take a group of journalists inside the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant on Friday for the first time on its tour of the facility in Japan’s northeast that sparked the biggest nuclear crisis since Chernobyl 25 years ago and forced the evacuation of thousands of people.

Despite a series of setbacks, including the revelation last week that spontaneous fission had been detected inside a reactor that was supposed to be all but extinct, the government and plant operator TEPCO say they remain on track for a cold shutdown by the end of the year. The tour, in which just four representatives from foreign media are being allowed to participate, is part of efforts by TEPCO (Tokyo Electric Power Company) to show they are close to solving the problem.

Up to 3,300 people are taking part in the clean-up at Fukushima Daiichi, a TEPCO spokesman told journalists on Friday.

The atomic crisis at Fukushima was caused by the huge earthquake and tsunami of 11 March that left 20,000 people dead or missing.

Two arrested for pot, gun at LAX airport

Los Angeles, 12 Nov—Two men were arrested in separate incidents at Los Angeles International Airport, officials said.

Derik Dwayne Neely, 32, of Flint, Mich, was arrested Wednesday on suspicion of transporting marijuana for sale, the Torrance, Calif Daily Breeze reported Friday.

Transportation Security Administration spokesman Nico Melen dez said 120 pounds of marijuana was found wrapped as Christmas gifts inside Neely’s checked suitcase. Airport police said the amount was closer to 35 pounds.

Keith Dinicola, 55, of Tucson, Ariz, was arrested earlier that day on suspicion of possessing a concealed firearm without a permit. TSA screens discovered a 45-caliber handgun and two loaded ammunition magazines inside his carry-on bag. Melendez said Dinicola told authorities he forgot the weapon was in his bag.

Fire extinguisher explodes on Indonesian ship, killing three

Jakarta, 12 Nov—Three crew members were killed on Friday when a fire extinguisher exploded aboard a ship in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta, local media reported. Several others were injured. The incident occurred at the shipyard of PT Palau Kuda Laut in North Jakarta when a fire extinguisher located in the engine room of the MV Melinium exploded while a number of crew members were working in the area, the Antara news agency reported.

The report said three people, who were identified as Johan, Niko and Eko, were killed as a result of the explosion. Two other crew members who rushed to the engine room to help the victims suffered from smoke poisoning and were taken to Sukmul hospital.

“All of a sudden, I heard the loud sound of an explosion coming from the engine room,” a crew member told Antara.

It was not immediately clear what caused the explosion, and Antara said police detectives had launched an investigation.
Gunshots reported a few blocks from White House

WASHINGTON, 12 Nov—Shots were reported fired Friday night between the White House and the Washington Monument, setting off a flurry of law enforcement activity, a US Park Police spokesman said.

The incident was reported shortly after 9 pm, according to Sgt David Schlosser, spokesman for the Park Police. Responding officers found an abandoned vehicle in the vicinity of the reported incident and were searching it “trying to figure out what happened.”

Schlosser noted that “no evidence” has been recovered to indicate shots were actually fired.

“I think, obviously, the thing that makes it of interest is simply the location, you know, a bit like real estate,” Schlosser told reporters. “The fact that this occurred outside the White House area. At this point, we don’t think that there’s any link to the White House.”

A Secret Service official who asked not to be identified reported that gunsshots rang out as two cars sped on the National Mall. Agents stationed on 16th Street heard the shots, then saw the cars heading west on Constitution Avenue, the official said.

At least one witness saw that someone had “jumped out of the vehicle and ran,” but no one was captured, the official said.

An AK-47-style rifle was recovered in or near the abandoned vehicle, the official said.

In a brief appearance before reporters, Schlosser noted that “we were searching it “trying to figure out what were searching it” and that this occurred outside the White House area.

Responding officers were searching the area near the White House for shots fired.

Schlosser said he was not aware of any gun having been found.

Five Chinese sailors missing in boat sinking off South Korean waters

SEOUL, 12 Nov—A South Korean fishing boat sank off waters in Chungcheongnam-do of South Korea early Saturday morning, leaving eight people missing, including five Chinese sailors, sources from the Chinese Embassy in Seoul confirmed.

The 69-tonnage boat barged against a 2,116-tonnage freighter and sank in the said waters at 2:15 local time on Saturday. Nine sailors were aboard the boat when the collision happened. The rescued sailor is a Korean national. He said that the sailors were sleeping when the boat was hit suddenly and capsized in about 10 minutes.

The Chinese Embassy in Seoul has contacted the local coast guards and requested them to try every means to rescue the missing sailors. And the embassy is verifying the identity of the Chinese sailors.

South Korea coast guards have dispatched 17 ships and helicopters to search for the missing sailors.

An investigation is underway into the cause of the collision.

Passenger ferry hijacked in NW Turkey

ANKARA, 12 Nov—A passenger ferry was hijacked, Governor of Turkey’s northwestern province of Kocaeli Ercan Topaca was quoted as saying on Friday by local media.

The captain of the ship “Kartepe” was taken hostage, Topaca was quoted as saying by the semi-official Anatolia news agency. “There are 20 passengers on the ship, including the crew members,” Topaca said.

Security forces have already begun to save the ship, and three security boats are following the hijacked ferry, which was travelling in the Gulf of Izmit, east of Turkey’s largest city of Istanbul, Anatolia reported.

Turkish newspaper Hurriyet Daily News said in a report on its website that the ship was hijacked by five people, and further reports claimed that they were carrying a bomb.

Meanwhile, Turkish Transportation Minister Binali Yildirim also said there were four or five assailants on the “Kartepe” ferry, and the assailants said that they were acting on behalf of a wing of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK), Turkish private broadcaster NTV reported.

Four Chinese killed in South African shop fire

JOHANNESBURG, 12 Nov—South African police said on Friday they are investigating a case of arson and murder after they found four Chinese nationals burned down inside their shop when the fire was set.

Brig Thulani Ngubane, police spokesman in the province, said the victims were found at about 02:00 am on Friday.

He said the four are Chinese nationals, three males with the age of 19, 25, 35, and one female of 25, were inside their Ganyesa Fruit and Vegetable shop when they woke up and realized that they were trapped inside a burning shop.

They tried to escape the fire by opening a window but did not succeed because of burglar bars. “One of the deceased called the police to inform them on what was happening and the police rushed to the scene,” Ngubane said.

When police arrived they found that the shop was completely burned down with the four Chinese nationals inside.
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (11023)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (11023) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 13.11.2011 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.

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (459)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (459) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 13.11.2011 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.

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BIENDONG FREIGHTER VOY NO (1156)
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No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

China’s 2011 foreign trade to grow 20 pct: MOC

BEIJING, 12 Nov—China’s Ministry of Commerce (MOC) on Friday forecast the country’s foreign trade to expand about 20 percent year-on-year this year to 3.5 trillion US dollars. Foreign trade growth will slow in the following months of this year and in 2012 mainly due to “the complicated exterior environment,” the MOC said in a report.

Slackening recovery of the world economy, increasing risk of a downturn and rising costs at home will pose risks to China’s foreign trade, it said. China will continue to boost trade growth, adjust its trade structure and expand imports to contribute to global trade balance, the ministry said.—Xinhua

More bachelor girls than boys in Shanghai

BEIJING, 12 Nov—At a time when the number of male bachelor in the 30-44 age group is shrinking in Shanghai, that of single women in the same age demographic seems to be on the rise, said a survey from Shanghai Bureau of Statistics.

A comparison was made between the male-female ratio of older singles (defined as those aged between 30 and 44) between 2000 and 2010. The number of older unmarried men dropped by 2.2 percent in 10 years, while that of older unmarried women increased by 3.4 percent from 2000 to 2010. The survey was based on data collected from the sixth national census.

A matchmaking party coming up on 12 and 13 Nov, would illustrate that visually. A greater number of single women will be vying for the attention of a relatively less number of eligible bachelors, according to the organizer.

“We sold about 10,000 tickets for the matchmaking event to be held this weekend, which made us the city’s largest ever matchmaking party,” said Wang Weiming, vice-president of Shanghai Matchmaking Agency Management Association, one of the co-organizers.

“However, single women might be up against stiff competition, as there will be six females for every four males.”—Xinhua

Surfer sets new world record after riding 90ft wave

McNamara has spent more than ten years searching for the ultimate wave.—INTERNET

Photo taken on 9 Nov, 2011 shows robot “Guine” which is used in Fukushima nuclear accident at the International Robot Exhibition in Tokyo, Japan.—XINHUA

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Millionaire allegedly walked nude in hotel

Police in New York said a millionaire spice importer was taken to a psychiatric ward after drunkenly parading nude through an upscale hotel’s workout facility.

Investigators said the Four Seasons hotel received several complaints from guests about Dhiraj Arora running nude through the workout facility around 11 am on 23 Sept. He refused to emerge from his room until officers threatened to break down the door, the New York Post reported Thursday.

Police escorted Arora to a nearby hospital psyk ward, and he was released about two hours later. No charges were filed against the wholesaler, who provides imported spices to stores including Whole Foods. Arora said he was neither drunk nor nude in the workout area, but he did disrobe in the steam room.

“I don’t run around places naked, and I sure as hell was not running around naked at the Four Seasons hotel,” he said. “All I can tell you is there must have been some guests at the hotel who must have been uncomfortable with my North Indian heritage,” Arora said. “The way I carry myself, the way I roll. I don’t cut my hair. I don’t shave every day.”

$1,000 reward for return of cannon

A Michigan man said he is offering a $1,000 reward for the return of an antique Spanish-made bronze cannon dating to 1795.

Matt Switlik, 70, of Monroe, said his cannon, which is engraved with the crest of a Spanish king, was stolen alongside other items 2 Nov at Edston Plastic in Romulus, where he had taken it to have a plastic replica made for a museum, the Detroit Free Press reported Thursday.

Ed Roberts, owner of Edston Plastic, said the thieves also took about 20 power tools and several 200-pound boxes of aluminum. Switlik said the $1,000 reward he is offering for the return of the cannon is more than twice what the item would fetch as scrap metal.

Daniel Radcliffe was ‘allergic’ to Harry Potter glasses

WASHINGON, 12 Nov—Daniel Radcliffe has revealed that he was ‘allergic’ to the first ever pair of Harry Potter glasses. He revealed this in a one-of-a-kind conversation with Harry Potter author J K Rowling as part of the ‘Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 2 Blu-ray and DVD set’.

“It was brilliant because we put the glasses on and eventually we realized that I was allergic to them,” ABC news quoted him as telling Rowling. “I was actually allergic to the Harry Potter glasses. Because I had these two rings of white heads and spots that had come up around my eyes and it took us a week to realize that it was actually the glasses,” he said.

Their almost hour-long conversation is one of more than a dozen extras featured on the disc.

Filmed in London in 2010, the sit-down chronicles how the iconic film franchise changed both their lives.

In response to the glasses revelation by the author, Rowling laughingly replies that its lucky neither of the two believes in signs.

Lovers of chocolate and musicals met on Broadway at the opening of the New York Chocolate Show, which started with a parade of models — dressed in chocolate.

Carolbad, 12 Nov—US pop star Mariah Carey, the newest celebrity spokeswoman for the Jenny Craig weight-management programme, says she has lost 30 pounds.

Carey started the new Jenny programme in late July following the birth of her twins, Monroe Cannon and Moroccan Scott Cannon, in April.

“I’m just here as a catalyst. Ideally, this will help create awareness — my goal is to at least make a difference,” said Carey, who has sold more than 200 million albums to date.

Russell Brand wears wife Katy’s clothes

LONDON, 12 Nov—Actor Russell Brand likes to wear wife Katy Perry’s clothes in public.

The 36-year-old attended a recent yoga class in a small T-shirt and sweatpants borrowed from his wife, said a classmate.

“’He admitted he was wearing Katy’s clothes and that she doesn’t mind. He said, Women’s clothes fit better!’ and added, ‘What’s hers is mine!’” contactmusic.com quoted the classmate as saying.

Brand, famous for wearing skinny jeans and make-up, has previously admitted to stealing garments from Katy before they got married in London in October 2010.

Actor Russell Brand from his wife, said a classmate.

Jackson brothers set for Michael fan festival

LAS VEGAS, 12 Nov—Marlon, Jackie and Tito Jackson are booked to attend a Las Vegas fan festival honouring their late brother, pop icon Michael Jackson, organizers said. The event, which is authorized by the singer’s estate, is to take place 3 to 14 Dec at Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino.

Jackson’s three brothers are expected to take part in an exclusive question-and-answer session for fans at the exhibition 4 Dec. The fan festival “is designed to transport guests through the life of the mega-star, showcasing never-before-seen personal items and career memorabilia,” a news release said.—Internet

Springsteen guitar sale raises $160K for charity

NEW YORK, 12 Nov—One of Bruce Springsteen’s acoustic guitars has been sold for $160,000 at a New York benefit show for the Bob Woodruff Foundation, organizers said. The Newark (NJ) Star-Ledger said the rock star donated the instrument for the cause and played four songs at Wednesday night’s “Stand Up for Heroes” fundraiser at the Beacon Theatre.

The buyer of the guitar presented it to a serviceman at the show as an expression of gratitude, the newspaper said, without identifying either person by name.

Comedians Ricky Gervais, Jim Gaffigan and Jon Stewart performed during the show, which also featured appearances by celebrity guests including President Bill Clinton.
China needs a miracle after losing to Iraq at World Cup qualifying

DOHA, 12 Nov — China's 2014 World Cup hopes were nearly smashed after conceding a goal in the stoppage time, losing to Iraq 1-0 in a crucial game of the Asian zone qualifying round here on Friday. The defeat has actually hampered the last nail in the coffin of Jose Antonio Camacho's side, who collected only three points from four matches in Group A. They now need a miracle to save them from elimination. They will have to win their last two games, against Singapore on Nov. 15 and Jordan on Feb. 29 next year, by big margins the same time Iraq lose both, to Jordan and Singapore.

Jordan, who will play Singapore later, lead the group with nine points by winning all their first three games. Iraq are ahead by nine from three wins and one loss while Singapore are the fourth after being defeated for three times. The winners and runners-up of the five groups will be drawn into two pools for the round-robin fourth stage, with the eventual top two in each section earning a ticket to the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

Baleotl fires Italy to 2-0 win in Poland

WARSAW, 12 Nov — Mario Balotelli scored his first international goal with a spectacular long-range strike to help Italy beat European Championship co-host Poland 2-0 in a friendly on Friday and ease the Azzurri's attacking woes. Balotelli received the ball about 40 yards (35 metres) from goal and spotted Poland goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny off his line, taking a few steps forward before beating him with a dipping long-range effort.

It was the Manchester City striker's first goal in six internationals and comes at a timely moment with starting forwards Giuseppe Rossi and Antonio Cassano out with long-term injuries. "This great display by Balotelli counts for a lot because even aside from the goal, Mario played a great game," Italy coach Cesare Prandelli said. "Compliments to him and the team." Pazzini issued a warning about putting too much pressure on the 21-year-old.

Gill says replacing Ferguson will be tough

LONDON, 12 Nov — Manchester United executive David Gill is dreading the day he has to replace Sir Alex Ferguson. Gill has underlined the requirement of the man-ager's eventual successor to be completely in tune with the values so prevalent at Old Trafford. Ferguson celebrated 25 years in the United hotseat on Sunday. As Ferguson has shown no inclination to surrender his position, the search for a successor has yet to begin. However, when it does, Gill has highlighted some non-negotiable requirements the new man must meet.

"It will be difficult to replace him — it's naive to say anything other than we will be tough," Gill told MUTV. "But we are a great club whose values go back in history to our heritage to the 50s and 60s and the last 25 years with Alex. "To continue with that, the new manager needs to understand those values and the vision for the club and must buy into that.

Hernandez considered quitting

LONDON, 12 Nov — Javier Hernandez has revealed the almost-quit football before joining Manchester United.

The Mexico striker last month signed a new five-year contract at Old Trafford after making a huge impression in his first season at the club. Hernandez scored 20 goals in all competitions last term after coming from Chivas of Guadalajara in the summer of 2010. Yet the 23-year-old has not always enjoyed his football and said: "It was about three years ago and I had a lot of questions about whether or not this was the path God wanted me to fol-low."

He added: "I wasn’t playing much football, I was being kept in the re-serves."

Federer records 800th career match win at Paris

PARIS, 12 Nov — Swiss superstar Roger Federer has become the seventh man in the Open Era to earn 800 career match wins after he beat Argentina’s Juan Monaco 6-3, 7-5 in 85 minutes on Fri-day to book a place in the Paris Masters semifinals.

It was Federer's third win over Monaco this year. The Swiss is still 424 victories shy of Jimmy Connors' all-time record of 1,242 match wins.

"I only heard about it," admitted Federer. "It's nice. It's a lot of matches, a lot of tennis I've played - I know that. But I know there are many other players that have played more than I have. So it's not just another win, but it's a special one nevertheless, because 800 is definitely an big number."

Fernandez-Castano takes 3-shot Singapore Open lead

SINGAPORE, 12 Nov — Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano of Spain shot a scorching 10-under 61 to jump to a three-shot lead after the second round of the Singapore Open on early Saturday. Fernandez-Castano holed some birdies and one eagle to bolt ahead of James Morrison of England and Edoardo Molinari of Italy, who both had 68s to be tied at 12 under. The 31-year-old Fernandez-Castano, who has won four European Tour titles, is 15 under through two rounds.

Phil Mickelson had a 67 and Ernie Els a 66 to be at 4 under while Graeme McDowell’s 71 put him at 3 under, making the cut on that number. The second round was completed Saturday because the threat of lightning from a rain storm delayed play for nearly three hours on Friday. The third round begins later Saturday.
Accidental blast at Iranian arms depot kills 27

TEHERAN, 12 Nov—An accidental explosion at a Revolutionary Guard ammunition depot west of Teheran killed at least 27 soldiers on Saturday, Iranian officials said.

The explosion occurred while military personnel were transporting munitions at a base, said Guard spokesman Gen Ramazan Sharif. The site is located outside Bidganeh village, 25 miles (40 kilometres) southwest of the capital. The Guard is Iran’s most powerful military force.

“My colleagues at the Guard were transporting ammunition at one of the depots at the site when an explosion occurred as a result of an accident,” Sharif said.

At least 27 Guard members were killed, state TV reported. The broadcast said 16 other soldiers were injured and hospitalized. Sharif said some of them were in critical condition.

Lawmaker Parviz Soroori ruled out sabotage.

“No sabotage was involved in this incident. It has nothing to do with politics,” Soroori was quoted as saying by the parliament’s website, icana.ir.—INTERNET
**Pilgrims add in crowd paying homage to Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic**

**NAY PYI TAW, 12 Nov—** Today is the seventh day on which the Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic had conveyed for the fourth time from the People’s Republic of China to Myanmar for Buddhists in Myanmar from dawn to dusk. Pilgrims continued to crowd Uppatasanti Pagoda in which the Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic is sojourning in front of Gautama Buddha Panima Yadana Jade Buddha Image in the Pagoda, care for paying homage to it. Among the crowds this morning, a total of 21 elder persons—four males and 17 females—from Nay Pyi Taw Pymannya Home for the Aged participated in the donations for the Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic accepting take care of Patron Dr Daw Kyawt Tha Sein and officials concerned of the committee for Home for the Aged. Pilgrims led by Myanmar Monastery Presiding Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Nannasara from Kuthinayon of India donated K 0.4 million, 80 bahts and 20 rupees, Director-General of Energy Planning Department U Htin Aung and wife Daw Cho Cho Win and family, K 0.3 million, U San Shwe Aung from the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs and wife Daw Aye Aye Than, K 0.2 million, Warrant Officer Class I Sein Win and Daw Sein Sein Aye, one gold crystal and one gold chain estimated amounted K 720,000, CaptainNaung Zaw Oo (Retd) and brothers and sisters, one gold ring estimated amounted K 0.5 million, U Wumsowe and (Daw Lintngar) Shwewa Family rice shop, one gold ring, a pair of gold earrings estimated amounted K 349,000, Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min (Retd) and Daw Thazin Nwe, two gold rings estimated amounted K 310,000, Daw Khin Aye (Lappan Kharthla) of Zabuthiri Township, one gold bracelet estimated amounted K 310,000, Members of financial sub-committee accepted donations of 18 donors who made donations over K 0.1 million and 76 donors who donated various kinds of jewels and presented certificates of honour to them. In yesterday evening, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla donated K 0.5 million, Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi and wife Daw Khin May Soe, K 0.2 million.

**Myanmar National Human Rights Commission sends open letter to President**


The full text of the open letter is as follows:

Mr President
1. Myanmar National Human Rights Commission had in an open letter dated 10, October, 2011 submitted an appeal for the release of prisoners by granting amnesty to them. In our submission, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission humbly requested the President as a reflection of his magnanimity to grant amnesty to those prisoners, convicted for breach of existing laws, who do not pose a threat to the stability of the State and public tranquility, in the interests of national races to enable them to participate in whatever way they can in the nation-building tasks.
2. The Commission is greatly heartened that the President on 11 October, 2011 granted amnesty to 6359 prisoners.
3. The fact that the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission had made a submission for amnestying the prisoners and that the Government had granted the amnesty received widespread support and welcome both domestically and internationally. It has, in our opinion, generated greater interest in and recognition of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission.
4. The Commission is cognizant of the fact and appreciates the position of the government that although among the prisoners there are those who had engaged in political activities, they are in prison for contravening existing laws. At the same time, there had been assertion by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and a number of countries that there were nearly 2000 of what is referred to as “Prisoners of Conscience”. It has also been asserted that out of 6359 prisoners released, there were approximately 200 prisoners in the said category.
5. In this regard, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission had made enquiries with the relevant ministries. The result of the enquiries is that the relevant ministries had asked for the list from some western governments and other sources and upon checking, it was learnt that of the nearly 2000 prisoners on the list, only some 500 were actually in prison. We are therefore heartened that out of the approximately 500 on that list, some 200 were released under the amnesty.
6. The release of the remaining prisoners, including those cited above convicted for breach of existing laws who do not pose a threat to the stability of State and public tranquility, in the interest of national races, will not only enable them to participate in whatever way they can in the nation-building tasks but also will in a way help promote national unity.
7. Accordingly, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission again humbly requests the President as a reflection of his magnanimity to include those prisoners when a subsequent amnesty is granted.
8. If for reasons of maintaining peace and stability, certain prisoners cannot as yet be included in the amnesty, the Commission would like to respectfully submit that consideration be made for transferring them to prisons with easy access for their family members.

Respectfully,
Win Mra
Chairman
(for) Members of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission
Date: 12 November, 2011
Yangon