It is very important for every one of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit. Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

President U Thein Sein meets Belarusian Prime Minister Dr. Mikhail V. Myasnikovich and party

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein had a meeting with the goodwill delegation led by Prime Minister Dr. Mikhail V. Myasnikovich of the Republic of Belarus at Credentials Hall of Presidential House, here, at 9:45 am today.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein, Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htaik, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein, Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay, Union Minister for Science and Technology U Aye Myint, Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Myo Myint, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than, Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu, Myanmar Ambassador to Belarus U Min Thein and departmental heads.

The Belarusian Prime Minister and party were accompanied by Belarusian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Valery Sadokho, Honourary Consular Dr Aung Moe Myint and officials of the Belarusian Embassy.

At the call, they held comprehensive discussions on bilateral relations and cooperation in education, energy, mining, agriculture, economic, trade and heavy industrial sectors on the basis of mutual interest.

Next, President U Thein Sein and Belarusian Prime Minister attended the ceremony to sign agreements between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of Belarus.

In the signing ceremony, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Myo Myint and Belarusian Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Sergei Akinin signed agreements on trade and economic cooperation and visa exemption for holders of diplomatic passports and official passports, and exchanged notes.

Next, Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye and Belarusian Education Minister Mr Sergei Maskevich signed agreements on educational cooperation between the two ministries, and exchanged notes.

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Support persons with disabilities

To promote an awareness of disability issues, the year 1981 was proclaimed the International Year of Disabled Persons and the period from 1982 to 1993 as the International Decade of Disabled Persons by the United Nations Development Program.

The 48th UN General Assembly held in 1993 marked the 3rd of every December as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. In practical, those disabled persons do not need sympathy of other persons, and they can show their capabilities though they are disabled.

Due to flourishing of justice, liberty and equality in Myanmar, the State is looking after the disabled persons and undertaking rehabilitation on a wider scale. Likewise, non-governmental organizations are striving for uplift of living standard of the disabled.

In a family, disabled sons and daughters should be won more favour than the normal ones and their integration in normal life such as pursuing education and going to work must be ensured. All the humans are to give first priority to the disabled persons to be able to touch movements similar to that of other able persons and do their daily works in the society.

Nowadays, the government brings about the Education for All. The Inclusive Education plan creates the opportunity for learning of disabled children. Moreover, training schools and care houses are opened for rehabilitation of the persons with disabilities.

In accord with this year’s motto “Together for a better world for all: Including Persons with Disabilities in development”, everybody is to march towards the Millennium Development Goals by showing sympathy for life of the disabled persons to be able to enjoy the opportunity in equal term with other persons in the society.

Self-reliant electricity supplied to Shan Village in Kangyidaunt Township

Nav Pyi Taw, 2 Dec—Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region U Thein Aung on 30 November viewed milling of paddy, packaging of rice to be sent to the market and drying of paddy at 25-ton Mingala Advanced Rice Mill of U Mya Than-Daw Haik Way in Ward 14 of Pathein.

He attended the launching of power supply in Shan Village in Kangyidaunt Township.

In Ayeyawady Region, a total of 29 villages can enjoy supply of electricity on a self-reliant basis, and Shan Village was the seventh power supplied village. About 3800 villages of about 11,000 villages in the region have been supplied electricity. Plans are underway to supply electricity to the remaining villages.

In Shan Village located beside Pathein-Nyagutaw Road, a total of 595 households from 482 houses are now enjoying supply of electricity.

Belarusian Prime Minister, wife and party go sightseeing in Nay Pyi Taw

Mrs. Ludmila Myasnikovich, wife of the Belarusian Prime Minister, visits office of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation.—MNA

English proficiency course concludes

Yangon, 2 Dec—The English proficiency course No. 2/2011 for staff under the departments of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement concluded at the hall of Fire Services Department in Mayangon Township this morning.

Deputy Minister for SWRR U Phone Swe delivered an address. Altogether 20 trainees attended the eight-week course starting from 10 October.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker meets Belarusian Prime Minister and party

Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint receives visiting Belarusian delegation led by Prime Minister Dr. Mikhail V. Myasnikovich at the hall of Amyotha Hluttaw of the Hluttaw Building.—MNA

Belarusian Prime Minister and party viewed the pagoda.

Prime Minister Mrs. Ludmila Myasnikovich met President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Dr Thet Thet Zin at the hall of the federation this morning.

The president of the federation explained duties and functions of the federation, development of women’s life and protection measures. The wife of the Belarusian Prime Minister signed the visitors’ book after visiting the federation.
**Thailand cleans up, but some areas remain flooded**

BANGKOK, 2 Dec—As Thailand’s floodwaters continue their slow journey to the sea, large swathes of the country have drained and dried, leaving behind a stinky, thick grime on everything touched by the nation’s worst deluge in more than a half century.

In many areas, people are returning to their houses armed with cleaning brushes, rubber gloves and masks to endure the sewer-like stench. But others whose homes are still inundated complain they’ve been forgotten, especially by residents of the capital who escaped the flooding. Nicha Rakpanichmanee, a 28-year-old graduate student, invited a group of friends to help clean her town house on Bangkok’s northern edge.

“I didn’t expect it to be like this … the smell!” she said. Room by room, the cleaning team sprinkled disinfectant powder on everything covered by the thick filthy film, which spread 30 centimetres (80 inches) high during the three weeks Nicha’s neighbourhood was inundated. Other parts of Thailand were covered by more than 6 feet (2 metres) of water for two months.

Just down the street, her neighbours were not as lucky. “We haven’t even started cleaning yet. We’re just throwing things out. We’ve been throwing stuff out for three days now,” said Yai Kupatanornrat, 50, who sells women’s clothes at the popular Chatuchak weekend market. He threw out several bags and boxes of new clothes that he had stored at his home, as well as cabinets and other furniture.

**Los Angeles wind storm disrupts flights, cuts power**

LOS ANGELES, 2 Dec—A powerful wind storm with gale-force gusts left much of the Los Angeles area strown with toppled trees and downed power lines on Thursday, slowing traffic, damaging homes and knocking out electricity to over 350,000 customers. An hourlong power outage at Los Angeles International Airport forced nearly two dozen inbound commercial flights to divert to other airports, and flight delays lingered even after electricity was restored.

LAX spokesman Nancy Castles said.

Damaging high winds also extended into other regions of the West, including Utah, where power was cut to an additional 55,000 residents, and 10 tractor-trailer trucks were tipped over by crosswind gusts north of Salt Lake City.

Los Angeles County declared a state of emergency as a result of the winds, a move that hastens the ability of state and federal authorities to provide assistance, said Tony Bell, a spokesman for county Supervisor Mike Antonovich. Classes were cancelled for thousands of public school students in the area, and utility crews worked to restore electricity and remove uprooted trees and fallen limbs that littered neighbourhoods, blocking streets in many places. Widespread power failures left traffic lights on the blink at many intersections.

Homes and parked automobiles were clobbered by fallen trees, with 42 damaged houses and apartment units declared unsafe for habitation by early afternoon in hard-hit Pasadena, but no serious injuries have been reported.—Reuters

**Navy detains seven suspected pirates in Seychelles**

VICTORIA, 2 Dec—The navy has detained seven suspected pirates in the Seychelles, using a team of police dogs to detect the presence of firearms or explosives on their ship, officials said. The seven suspected pirates are alleged to have been involved in an attempted act of piracy on a vessel that supplies the Seychelles tuna fleet, the Foreign Office said in a statement.

They were detained by Royal Marines accompanied by a police dog team which found traces of explosives or firearms — evidence which will help prosecutors in the Seychelles, who have agreed to bring a case against the seven. “Providing sufficient evidence to convict pirates has been a real problem for the international community as pirates often throw their weapons overboard and claim to be fishermen,” the Foreign Office said. “However, the dog handling team is able to search the suspected pirate vessel for traces of explosives and firearms.”

“Rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) are a weapon of choice for the pirates, but even if they are disposed of in the sea they leave exploitive residue that the dogs can identify.”

**Suicide lorry bomb rocks Afghan town, killing bomber, wounding five**

PUL-E-ALAM, Afghanistan), 2 Dec—A suicide lorry bomb rocked Mohammad Aga District in Logar Province, some 60 km south of Afghan Capital Kabul, on Friday, killing the bomber and wounding five others, provincial police chief Rogh Lewanai confirmed.

“A terrorist riding an explosive-laden lorry and attempting to take the vehicle inside a military camp of foreign troops in Mohammad Aga District but failed and detonated it outside the compound, killing himself and injuring five others including a civilian and four policemen,” Lewanai told Xinhua.

There were no casualties on foreign troops, he said. However, he added that windowpanes of several houses around were smashed due to the heavy blast.—Xinhua

**British Royal Marines carry out exercises during an open day for the Press at Plymouth, Devon, 2009.**

INTERNET

A man looks at a fallen eucalyptus tree after a heavy wind storm in the morning at Highland Park in Los Angeles, California 1 December, 2011.—INTERNET

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**Clinton holds “candid, productive” talks**

YANGON, 2 Dec—The United States will support more aid for Myanmar and consider installing an ambassador after an absence of some two decades. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said on Thursday, offering the first rewards for reform. Clinton said she had “candid, productive” conversations with President U Thein Sein and other Myanmar ministers and told them Washington stood ready to support further reforms and possibly lift sanctions.

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Clinton’s landmark visit to the country marks a turning point: The United States will support further reforms and possibly lift sanctions.
**UNSG’s Message on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities**

“Together for a better world for all including persons with disabilities in development”

3 December 2011

It is thirty years since the United Nations first observed the International Year of Disabled Persons under the theme “Full Participation and Equality.” During that period, there has been significant progress in raising awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities and in strengthening the international normative framework to realize those rights – from the World Programme of Action (1982) to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006).

More and more countries are committing to protecting and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. However, many challenges remain. Persons with disabilities experience higher rates of poverty and deprivation and are twice as likely to lack health care. Employment rates of persons with disabilities in some countries are as low as one-third of that of the overall population. In developing countries, the gap in primary school attendance rates between children with disabilities and others ranges from 10 per cent to 60 per cent.

This multi-dimensional exclusion represents a huge cost, not only to persons with disabilities but to society as a whole. This year’s International Day of Persons with Disabilities reminds us that development can only be sustainable when it is equitable, inclusive and accessible for all. Persons with disabilities need to be included at all stages of development processes, from inception to monitoring and evaluation.

Addressing negative attitudes, the lack of services or ready access to them, and other harmful social, economic and cultural barriers will benefit all of society.

On this International Day of Persons with Disabilities, I call on governments, civil society and the global community to work for and alongside persons with disabilities to achieve inclusive, sustainable and equitable development worldwide.

**Oil hovers at $100 ahead of key US jobs report**

**Business**

SINGAPORE, 2 Dec— Oil prices hovered above $100 a barrel Friday in Asia as traders awaited a US jobs report for evidence about the strength of the US economy and demand for crude.

Benchmark crude for January delivery was down 4 cents to $100.16 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell 16 cents to settle at $100.20 on Thursday.

In London, Brent crude was up 33 cents at $109.32 on the ICE futures exchange.

Crude has jumped from $75 during the last two months amid signs the US economy will likely avoid a recession. Investors will be closely watching the Labour Department’s November unemployment report later Friday for evidence economic growth is strengthening, which could justify higher crude prices.

**Gucci sales not slowing yet, has plan B ready**

**Business**

PARIS, 2 Dec— Luxury brand Gucci has not seen any impact on its business from global economic woes but it would be prepared to react quickly and cut costs if sales slowed, its chief executive said in a newspaper interview.

Patrizio di Marco told Le Figaro that Gucci, part of French luxury and retail group PPR, had a “Plan B” that could see it delaying store improvement work while sticking to its store opening programme.

“We are not seeing a slowdown in our growth at this time... (But) we cannot rule out an impact (of global economic woes) on our local markets,” he said. “2012 may be difficult, but we must keep on investing for the medium and long-term.”

**Zynga plans up to $1 billion in IPO**

**Business**

NEW YORK, 2 Dec—Facebook games developer Zynga Inc will sell about 15 percent of its common stock in an initial public offering, Bloomberg said, citing a person with knowledge of the matter. Zynga plans to sell shares for $8.50 to $10 a piece in its initial public offering to raise as much as $1 billion, valuing the company at as high as $7 billion, the agency said.

Dani Dudeck, a spokeswoman for Zynga, declined to comment to Reuters on the Bloomberg report. Zynga rose to prominence on viral games such as “Farmville,” which is still among one of the most popular games on the Facebook social network.

While its games are free, Zynga makes money from selling virtual items such as tractors and weapons that people use in its game worlds.—Reuters
Ministry reconstituted

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec — The President Office of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued Notification No (95/2011) today. The translation of the notification is as follows:-

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

President Office

Notification No. 95/2011

7th Waxing of Nadaw 1373 ME

2 December 2011

Reconstitution of Ministry

Under the agreement of the second regular session of the first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Ministry of Industry-1 and the Ministry of Industry-2 have been reconstituted as the Ministry of Industry.

Sd/Thein Sein

President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Union Minister reassigned

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec — The President Office of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued Order No (50/2011) today. The translation of the order is as follows:-

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

President Office

Order No. 50/2011

7th Waxing of Nadaw 1373 ME

2 December 2011

Reassignment of Union Minister

Union Minister for Industry-1 and for Industry-2 U Soe Thein has been reassigned as Union Minister for Industry commencing today in accord with Section 232 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Article 12 of the Union Government Law.

Sd/Thein Sein

President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Union Ministers reassigned

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec — The President Office of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued Order No (51/2011) today. The translation of the order is as follows:-

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

President Office

Order No. 51/2011

7th Waxing of Nadaw 1373 ME

2 December 2011

Reassignment of Union Ministers

The following Union Ministers have been reassigned at the ministries shown against each in accord with Section 232 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Article 12 of the Union Government Law.

(a) U Ohn Myint

Ministry of Cooperatives and Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries

(b) U Tin Naing Thein

Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development.

Sd/Thein Sein

President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Deputy Ministers reassigned

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec — The President Office of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued Order No (52/2011) today. The translation of the order is as follows:-

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

President Office

Order No. 52/2011

7th Waxing of Nadaw 1373 ME

2 December 2011

Reassignment of Deputy Ministers

Deputy Minister for Industry-1 U Thein Aung and Deputy Minister for Industry-2 U Myo Aung have been reassigned as Deputy Ministers for Industry in accord with sub-sections (a) and (d) of Section 234 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and sub-paragraph (9) of paragraph (b) of Article 16 of the Union Government Law.

Sd/Thein Sein

President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

One civilian killed, seven injured in separate attacks of KIA group

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec — One innocent civilian was wounded in a shooting of KIA group near Nyangdaw Village in Mogau Township of Kachin State on 29 November.

Due to the shooting of KIA group, U Tu Gyar, 40, son of U N May Gam, of Nyaungdaw Village suffered a wound on his right thigh while carrying food to a filed, about two-furlong west of the village, at 9 p.m. on that day. He was taken to Namti Hospital for treatment by officials who are providing him with necessary assistance.

Likewise, Daw Than Hant, 52, daughter of U Khun, died of chest wounds and six innocent civilians were injured while KIA group shelled Tarlawgyi village-tract of Myitkyina Township on 30 November morning. — MNA

December mass sports activities 2011 discussed

YANGON, 2 Dec — A meeting for organizing December mass sports activities 2011 was held at Kyaiakasan Ground in Tamway Township yesterday morning.

Principal of Institute of Sports and Physical Education Director U Tin Win clarified the mass sports activities at Kyaiakasan Sports Ground in Tamway Township, Aung San Stadium in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Youth Training Centre in Thauwunna in Thingangyun Township and Myaing Sports Ground on Myowa Kyaung Street. — MNA

Myanmar, Laos eye on security cooperation

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec — Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko met a Laotian delegation led by Minister for Public Security Dr. Thoungbanh Seng A Phone at Myanmar International Convention Centre this morning. They held discussions on enhancing Myanmar-Laos bilateral cooperation in security matters.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko and the Laotian Minister spoke on the occasion where two sessions—ministerial meeting and high-ranking officials meeting—were held. — MNA

Myanmar delegation led by Union Home Affairs Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko holds discussion with Laotian delegation led by Minister for Public Security Dr. Thoungbanh Seng A Phone on cooperation in promotion of Myanmar-Laos security measures. — MNA
NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec—Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received Belarusian Prime Minister Dr. Mikhail V. Myasnikovich at Zabuthiri Hall of Hluttaw Building, here, at 2:30 pm today.

The Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw explained undertakings of two tasks of the Hluttaw such as legislation and check and balance, nation-building tasks of the Hluttaw by placing emphasis on people’s voice, people’s wish and people’s desire and cordially held discussions with the visiting Prime Minister on further strengthening of relations between Myanmar and Belarus and promotion of mutual cooperation.

Also present at the call were Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, chairmen and members of Pyithu Hluttaw Committees, Myanmar Ambassador to Belarus U Min Thein and officials.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing visits local air division in Hangzhou, PRC

Commander Sr Col Yu Shu Xiong and officials welcome General Min Aung Hlaing.—MNA

Australia plans world’s largest marine reserve

CANBERRA, (Australia) 2 Dec—Australia says it will create the world’s largest marine reserve in the Coral Sea. The Environment Ministry says the area has shallow reefs that support tropical ecosystems with sharks, coral, sponges and many fish species. The proposal includes seas beyond the already protected Great Barrier Reef Marine Park off northeast Australia. The reserve would cover nearly 1 million square kilometres.

Internet

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party viewed military combat aircrafts at the airfield and posed for documentary photo together with officials.

At Hangzhou railway station, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party presented gifts to officials of the Air Division.

They left Hangzhou by train and arrived in Shanghai where they were welcomed by Commander of Shanghai Garrison Command Maj-Gen Peng Shui Gen and officials.

At the local naval base in Shanghai, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party were welcomed by Commander of Rear-Admiral Shen Hao explained facts about the base and then they exchanged insignia of the two armed forces.

After viewing the naval vessel No. 513, the General signed the visitors’ book and posed for documentary photo together with officials.

In the evening, Commander of Shanghai Garrison Command Maj-Gen Peng Shui Gen hosted a dinner to the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party. The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and the Commander of the Garrison Command extended greetings.

After the dinner, they exchanged gifts.

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party spent a night at Hong Qiao Hotel.

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann receives Belarusian Prime Minister Dr. Mikhail V. Myasnikovich at Zabuthiri Hall of Hluttaw Building.—MNA

Commander of Naval Base Rear-Admiral Shen Hao explains facts about the base to General Min Aung Hlaing.—MNA

Shanghai Naval Base Rear-Admiral Shen Hao and officials together with the Guard of Honour. At the hall, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party spent a night at Hong Qiao Hotel.

Internet

Australia plans world’s largest marine reserve

CANBERRA, (Australia) 2 Dec—Australia says it will create the world’s largest marine reserve in the Coral Sea. The Environment Ministry says the area has shallow reefs that support tropical ecosystems with sharks, coral, sponges and many fish species. The proposal includes seas beyond the already protected Great Barrier Reef Marine Park off northeast Australia. The reserve would cover nearly 1 million square kilometres.
C-in-C General Min Aung Hlaing leaves for Chengdu on his China visit

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing together with senior military officers, Myanmar Ambassador to China Col Tint Wai and officials, Chief of the Foreign Affairs Office of Ministry of Defence of the People’s Liberation Army Maj-Gen Quan Luhua, and Chinese Military Attaché to Myanmar Sr Col Xiong Shao Wei left Hong Quo airport of Shanghai and arrived at Tai PIng Si Airport of Chengdu yesterday morning.

General Min Aung Hlaing and party were welcomed at the airport by Deputy Chief of Staff of Chengdu Military Region Maj-Gen Zeng Ran and officials.

General Min Aung Hlaing and party visited Chengdu aircraft industry where President Mr Wang Guanya of AVIC Chengdu Aircraft Industry (Group) Co Ltd and Vice-President of the company Mr Yang Ying explained facts about manufacture of aircrafts to the Commander-in-Chief, and they exchanged commemorative gifts. The Myanmar delegation proceeded to Peng Zhou vegetable centre. There, Incharge Mr Wu Hai and officials guided around the centre.—MNA

Commander-in-Chief General Min Aung Hlaing and party arrive back home

US Secretary of State Mrs Hillary Clinton concludes visit

YANGON, 2 Dec—US Secretary of State Mrs Hillary Clinton and party this evening left here by special aircraft.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, officials, and officials of the US Embassy.

While in Yangon, Mrs Hillary Clinton met Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and responsible persons of some political parties. She held a Press Conference on her trip at the US Embassy from 2.30 pm to 2.50 pm. —MNA

Moderate quake hits Minahasa, Sulawesi, Indonesia

JAKARTA, 2 Dec—An earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale jolted Minahasa, Sulawesi, Indonesia at 0519 GMT on Friday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 81.30 km, was initially determined to be at 0.0877 degrees north latitude and 120.4436 degrees east longitude.—Xinhua
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 3 December, 2011

President
U Thein Sein
meets
Belarusian...
(from page 1)

Minister for Agriculture
and Food Mrs Nadezhda
Kotkovets signed
agreements on cooperation in
agriculture sector, and exchanged notes.

Afterwards, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung and President of Belarusian Chambers of Commerce and Industry Mr Mikhail Myatlikov signed agreements on cooperation between the two chambers, and exchanged notes.

President U Thein Sein hosts dinner to Belarusian delegation led by Prime Minister Dr. Mikhail V. Myasnikovich

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win hosted a dinner to the delegation led by Belarusian Prime Minister Dr. Mikhail V. Myasnikovich at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential House, here, in the evening.

It was attended by President U Thein Sein and wife, Vice-President Thaha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Chairman of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Thein Soe, Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen Soe Win, Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Myanmar Ambassador to Belarus U Min Thein and departmental heads.

The Belarusian delegation was accompanied by Belarusian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Valery Sadokho and senior officials.

Before the dinner, the State band played the national anthems of the two countries. Before and during the dinner, the cultural troupes of Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture entertained the guests with Myanmar traditional dances and songs.

After the dinner, President U Thein Sein presented the Belarusian Prime Minister a documentary on State visit.

Then, President U Thein Sein and the Belarusian Prime Minister presented baskets of flowers to the performers, and posed for a documentary photo with them.—MNA

Eight Thai citizen prisoners from Myanmar jails granted amnesty and exiled

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec—As a token of hailing the 84th Birthday of His Majesty King of Thailand which falls on 5 December 2011, for the sake of friendly ties and relations between the two countries and considering their personal affairs, eight Thai citizen prisoners serving prison terms at jails in Myanmar were granted amnesty and exiled on 1 December.

MNA
The visit of the Belarusian Prime Minister would further promote friendly relations between the two countries

Myanmar President U Thein Sein

The two countries will cooperate in all sectors such as education and trade

Belarusian Prime Minister Dr. Mikhail V. Myasnikovich

President U Thein Sein meets Belarusian goodwill delegation led by Belarusian Prime Minister Dr. Mikhail V. Myasnikovich at Credentials Hall of Presidential House in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

President U Thein Sein cordially greets Belarusian Prime Minister Dr. Mikhail V. Myasnikovich.—MNA

Port is under construction with the investment of Thailand, and on completion the water course will be shorter due to that fact that it is not necessary to pass Malacca Strait. Likewise, he added that Kyaukpyu Deep Sea Port is under construction at the western coast of Myanmar. He said that a plan is underway to establish Thilawa Deep Sea Port Special Economic Zone in port city Yangon. In this regard, he said that investments were invited from neighbouring countries to cooperate in construction tasks. Now China, Japan and Republic of Korea are planning to make investments in deep-sea port and other businesses. Seventy percent of population of the country are living in rural areas. The poverty rate in this country stood at 26 per cent. Myanmar is striving to bring down the country’s poverty rate by 16 per cent by 2015 from 26 per cent. Such a drive for poverty alleviation calls for more job opportunities to be created. So I would like to invite to invest in agro-based businesses and the sector of meat and fisheries. Investing in rubber, pulses and beans and related industries and mining as well as energy sector would be beneficial to the two countries. I would like to encourage investment of government organizations as well as private investment. Cooperation can be made in civil engineering sector.

The Belarusian Prime Minister said that he agreed with the explanations and discussions of the President. It is hoped that Myanmar and Belarus will be able to produce goods for export to neighbouring countries as the two countries are blessed with trade potentials.

He said he would like to discuss to boost bilateral trade. Cooperation can be made in geological projects in Myanmar as Belarus has a large quantity of geologists. It is also hoped that Myanmar will cooperate with Belarus in manufacturing of automobile. He expressed his hope to penetrate the markets of big countries through the collaborative efforts between the two countries in agriculture sector. He also called for bilateral cooperation in tourism industry and education sector.

Also present at the call were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein, Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Then, Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay, Deputy Minister for Sports U Aye Myint Kyu, Ambassador of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Belarus U Min Thein and departmental heads.

The Belarusian Prime Minister and party were accompanied by Minister of Industry Mr. Dmitry Katerinich, Minister of Education Mr. Sergei Maskevich, deputy ministers, senior officers, Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr. Valery Sadokho and officials.

First snow fall in Beijing this winter disrupts traffic

BEIJING, 2 Dec—First snow fell in Beijing on Friday morning, disrupting the city’s rush-hour traffic and stranding flights.

The Beijing Meteorological Station issued a forecast of the snow at 6:55 am, providing a warning about dangerous road conditions and extended gridlock.

Beijing Capital International Airport confirmed the snow has disrupted five flights by 8 am, delaying one for more than an hour and causing four others to be cancelled.—Xinhua
Belarusian Prime Minister, Dr. Mikhail V. Myasnikovich and wife make donation for Uppatasanti Pagoda.—MNA

President U Thein Sein and Belarusian Prime Minister Dr. Mikhail V. Myasnikovich take salute of the Guard of Honour.

(News on page 16)—MNA

Union Minister for Sports and for Hotels and Tourism U Tint Hsan and wife being welcomed by Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Takashi Saito at the reception of birthday of Japanese Emperor, held at Japanese Ambassador’s house in Yangon.

INTERNET

Images of the State visit of Belarusian Prime Minister Dr. Mikhail V. Myasnikovich to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

David Duke arrested in Germany

COLOGNE, (Germany) 2 Dec—David Duke, a former Louisiana legislator and leader in the Ku Klux Klan, was arrested in Germany, he confirmed on his Web site. While not releasing details, the former grand wizard of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan said he was arrested for a “gross twisting of travel laws,” The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune reported Wednesday.

The incident, Duke’s Web site indicated, involved a private, peaceful gathering of about 100 Germans citizens “eager to hear my message of heritage and freedom.”

The Huffington Post said his arrest could be tied to Duke’s expulsion from the Czech Republic in 2009, where he was detained on suspicion of denying the Holocaust, which is a crime in many European countries, including Germany.

A statement by the Cologne police said Duke “was not entitled to stay in Germany” because of a travel ban against him in another European country, the newspaper said.

Duke spent a year in a US prison in 2003 after pleading guilty to tax fraud and using supporters’ donations to pay gambling debts.—Internet

Thousands flee communal clashes in central Nigeria

ABUJA, 2 Dec—Security forces have deployed in central Nigerian villages after communal clashes killed at least eight people and forced thousands to flee their homes, officials said on Thursday.

The clashes broke out last week pitting a local farming ethnic group known as Tivs against Fulani nomadic herdsmen in Africa’s most populous nation. Police in Benue State said they recorded five deaths, while in neighbouring Nassarawa state police said three people were killed in the clashes. Local media speculated that 50 people could have been dead in sporadic fighting between the two sides in recent weeks. Nassarawa state police spokesman Cornelius Ocholi said “heavy security, very heavy security has been deployed” in the affected areas. Both the military and police were involved.

“For now the situation is absolutely calm and security forces have been deployed to ensure the problem does not escalate,” said Benue state police spokesman Ejeke Alariye.—Internet
VW Chattanooga plant gets green award

CHATTANOOGA, 2 Dec—Volkswagen AG’s new assembly plant in Chattanooga, Tennessee, is the first auto plant to receive the top environmental award from the US Green Building Council, the company said on Thursday.

Volkswagen employees inspect an 2012 Passat in the assembly finish department in Chattanooga, Tennessee, on 1 Dec, 2011.—INTERNET

Frank Fischer, chief executive and chairman of Volkswagen Chattanooga, said that being green saves VW money on energy and water costs. The plant’s paint shop alone will save 50 million gallons of water over 10 years, VW said. The plant makes the Passat sedan. VW reported November US sales of about 6,000 of the cars, up from only about 300 a year earlier. The new Passat took the place of a sedan imported from Germany. Volkswagen’s November US sales rose 41 percent to about 28,400 vehicles. VW was ninth among automakers in US sales through October, up from 10th in 2010. The Chattanooga plant uses power from a local hydroelectric dam, and insulation of its walls will save 720,000 kilowatts per year on power, VW said.

The US Green Building Council awarded the plant its highest rating, a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) green building certification.

An Egyptian patrol ship navigates the Suez Canal in 2008. Egypt’s Suez Canal Authority said on Thursday it would raise toll fees for all ships passing through the strategic waterway by three percent from March next year.—INTERNET

Biologists find albino among Brazil dolphins

RIO DE JANEIRO, 2 Dec—Brazilian biologists have found an extremely rare example of an albino dolphin among an endangered species that lives off the southern coast of South America. The research group, based at Univesity university in Santa Catarina, said Thursday that it was the first recorded instance of an albino in the pontoporia blainvillei species, a very shy type of dolphin that rarely jumps out of the water. It’s known in Brazil as Toninha and in Argentina and Uruguay as the La Plata or Franciscana dolphin.

Camilla Meirelles Sartori, the lead biologist of Project Toninhas, said she first saw the white calf with pinkish fins at the end of October. Her group photographed him in early November.

“We were surprised, shocked,” Sartori said. “It’s very small, and the colour is really different. We didn’t know what it was at first.” Sartori said the baby was with an adult, probably its mother. The young live on their mother’s milk until they are six months old and remain dependent on the adult until they’re a year old. The species is endangered. Its dolphins have long, thin snouts and get easily tangled in fishing nets. They can drown or die of stress if not quickly released, Sartori said.

Frances, Germany, Spain and UK, as well as with Airbus, on a series of steps,” said John Clancy, EU trade spokesman in a statement.

“The EU has always said that we would honour our WTO obligations and fully comply with the governments of France, Germany, Spain and UK, as well as with Airbus, on a series of steps,” said John Clancy, EU trade spokesman in a statement.

“We have always said that we would honour our WTO obligations and fully comply with the governments of France, Germany, Spain, and the United States on these disputes, which we said were not yet public, while the feedback from WTO is expected on 19 Dec.

Germany plans to attract more foreign skilled workers

BERLIN, 2 Dec—Germany plans to lower its threshold for attracting more skilled workers and professionals from other countries to fill in its increasing deficiency, an expert commission’s report said on Thursday.

A joint action plan, which was drafted by the cross-party and independent commission, made it clear that immigrants are soon to be exempted a work contract upon their entrance into Germany, only if they conform to the specific criteria for their specialties are truly in need.

“More and more German citizens become increasingly aware of the fact that immigration of alien talents into Germany bears positive effects on the country,” according to the expert commission, led by former North Rhine-Westphalia integration minister Armin Laschet and former defence minister Peter Struck.

It vows to offer more generous and attractive appeal to overseas university students to stay to work in Germany after their graduation, by providing more conveniences for their residency permits and ensuring that they feel being welcomed in Germany.

The ban on non-European Union workers should be compromised to some degree, like the USA, from where the skilled workers can be in favor of to work in Germany, in terms of their targeted and managed immigration, according to the report.

The German government will also cut down the minimum income as a prerequisite for a permanent residency from 66,000 euro to 48,000 euro a year, as foreign students are more likely to stay after graduation.

The vacancy of post for enough job applicants with special expertise become increasingly more acute in Germany, as a recent survey showed that the job vacancy would amount up to 3.5 millions by the year 2025, and the huge gap must be filled in by enough immigrant workers from other countries.

EU informs WTO, US of plan to end Airbus subsidies

BRUSSELS, 2 Dec—The European Union (EU) said Thursday it had sent a report to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United States on eliminating all subsidies to the aircraft manufacturer Airbus. In May, a WTO panel made a verdict ruling that EU were giving subsidy to Airbus, including aid loans, which may hurt the interests of Boeing, Airbus’ main rival.

“We have always said that we would honour our WTO obligations and fully comply with the governments of France, Germany, Spain and UK, as well as with Airbus, on a series of steps,” said John Clancy, EU trade spokesman in a statement.

“Through this package we address all categories of subsidies, all forms of adverse effects, and all models of Airbus aircraft covered by the WTO rulings,” Clancy added.

However, Clancy declined to give any details on the report’s contents, which he said were not yet public, while the feedback from WTO is expected on 19 Dec.

EU’s economy should expand by “over 7.5 percent’’ this year despite weak growth in the latest financial quarter and global economic turmoil, Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee said on Friday.—INTERNET

Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

Xinhua

The report said on Thursday.

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“We have always said that we would honour our WTO obligations and fully comply with the governments of
INVITATION FOR TENDER

1. The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia invites all qualified Human Resources Management Company to submit their best cost proposal for managing outsourcing at the Indonesian Embassy for the budget year 2012. The said company will be responsible to manage 48 personnel with total Self Estimation Price of the tender US$153,036.00 (one year).

2. Interested companies may come to the Embassy during office hours (09.00 am-04.00 pm) on 5-10 December 2011.

3. The Aannwijzing (tender explanation) will be held on 9 December 2011 jam 10.00 am.

4. The proposals are to be submitted by 10 December 2011. Late bids will not be accepted.

5. Detailed information regarding the tender may be available at the Embassy’s website www.kbriyangon.org or the following address.

Procurement Committee
Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia
100 Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road
Dagon Township, (11191) Yangon, Myanmar
Phone number: 01-254465, 254469

12 THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 3 December, 2011

Researchers find new pool of stem cells in heart

WASHINGTON, 2 Dec — Researchers have identified a new and relatively abundant pool of stem cells in the heart. The findings in the December issue of Cell Stem Cell, show that these heart cells have the capacity for long-term expansion and can form a variety of cell types, including muscle, bone, neural and heart cells. The researchers say the discovery may lay a foundation for much needed regenerative therapies aimed to enhance tissue repair in the heart. The damaged heart often doesn’t repair itself well because of the incredibly hostile environment and wide-scale loss of cells, including stem cells, after a heart attack.

"In the end, we want to know how to preserve the stem cells that are there and to circumvent their loss," says Richard Harvey of the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute in Australia.

Action Comics Superman debut copy sells for $2.16m

NEW YORK, 2 Dec — A copy of the first issue of Action Comics, featuring Superman’s debut, has become the world’s most expensive comic, fetching $2.16m (£1.4m). It was auctioned online for a starting bid of just $1, with a reserve price of $900,000.

The buyer or seller’s name was not disclosed, but there speculation it was owned by actor Nicolas Cage. It is the first time a comic book has broken the $2m barrier. The issue was published in 1938 and cost 10 cents.

About 100 copies of Action Comics No 1 are thought to exist, and only a handful of those are in good condition. Another copy of the same issue sold for a then record-breaking $1.5m in March last year.

Motorbike stunt rider escapes with life after high-speed act goes disastrously wrong

LONDON, 2 Dec — This is the astonishing moment a daredevil motocyclist cheats death after smashing head-on into an oncoming car during a disastrous stunt.

The rider is filmed pulling off a series of impressive stunts with a fellow biker at the Beto Carrero World theme park in south-east Brazil when the performance goes horrifyingly wrong.

After revving his motorbike with his colleague at one end of the arena in front of a large crowd, the biker puts his foot down and speeds towards three oncoming red cars with the intention of dramatically weaving between them.

But while accelerating towards the cars, the rider misjudges his path during a wheeze and strays into the path of the vehicle. To the horror of spectators and his fellow stuntman, the biker ploughs headlong into the car, sending his body spinning 80ft through the air before slamming into the ground and rolling a further 20ft.

The daredevil biker flies through the air after misjudging a stunt and ploughing headlong into an oncoming car.

New Icelandic volcano eruption could have global impact

REYKJAVIK, 2 Dec — Hundreds of metres under one of Iceland's largest glaciers there are signs of an imminent volcanic eruption that could be one of the most powerful the country has seen in almost a century. Mighty Katla, with its 10km (6.2 mile) crater, has the potential to cause catastrophic flooding as it melts the frozen surface of its caldera and sends billions of gallons of water surging through Iceland's east coast and into the Atlantic Ocean.

"There has been a great deal of seismic activity," says Ford Cochran, the National Geographic's expert on Iceland. "There have been more than 500 tremors in and around the caldera of Katla just in the last month, which suggests the motion of magma. And that certainly suggests an eruption may be imminent." Scientists in Iceland have been closely monitoring the area since 9 July, when there appears to have been some sort of disturbance that may have been a small eruption.

How animals predict earthquakes

LONDON, 2 Dec — Animals may sense chemical changes in groundwater that occur when an earthquake is about to strike. This, scientists say, could be the cause of bizarre earthquake-associated animal behaviour.

Researchers began to investigate these chemical effects after seeing a colony of toads abandon its pond in L’Aquila, Italy, in 2009 — days before a quake. They suggest that animal behaviour could be incorporated into earthquake forecasting. The team's findings are published in the international Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health.

In this paper, they describe a mechanism whereby stressed rocks in the Earth’s crust release charged particles that react with the groundwater.

Animals that live in or near groundwater are highly sensitive to any changes in its chemistry, so they might sense this days before the rocks finally “slip” and cause a quake.

Can pond-dwelling animals pick up pre-earthquake signals?

How do animals sense changes in the groundwater that occur when an earthquake is about to strike? This could be the cause of bizarre earthquake-associated animal behaviour.

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**Firm wants to turn Eiffel Tower into “giant tree”**

A French company wants to turn the Eiffel Tower into a towering tree, reports the Internet. The plan involves covering the iconic structure with metal struts and rivets under a mantle made of 600,000 plants.

The idea, which has not so far been made reality, is that it would gain in fame if the dream becomes reality. It would transform the three-floor edifice of more than 300 metres (yards) into a vast environmental curiosity as one of the biggest tourist attractions in the world — each earning power will survive its use, experts say.

**Burglar makes himself at home**

A United Arab Emirates man said it took him 3,000 hours to coat his 1998 Chevrolet Camaro in 33,000 of the country’s coins. Tariq Javaid, a Pakistan native who has lived in Dubai since 1999, said he began gluing the coins to the car 15 Oct, 2010, and attached the last piece of currency last week so the car would be completed in time for National Day celebrations.

“ requested my friend who works in a bank to arrange for the coins. All the coins used in this car are brand new,” Javaid said. Javaid, who used all denominations of coins for the car, which he dubbed “Pride of the Emirates,” said he hopes his feat makes it into the Guinness Book of World Records.

**Man covers car in 33,000 coins**

Simon Cowell, New York Yankee star Derek Jeter and pop-singing sensation Katy Perry as three of the year’s “10 Most Fascinating People.” Also on the list are businessman and TV personality Donald Trump, the Kardashians, reality TV family, plus Jesse Tyler Ferguson and Eric Stonestreet, the oscars winning couple from ABC’s comedy hit “Modern Family.” Others include Pippa Middleton, sister of British royal Kate Middleton, and Amanda Knox, the former Seattle exchange student whose four years in custody ended when an Italian court overturned her murder conviction.

A nine name is yet to be announced. The Most Fascinating Person will be revealed on the broadcast. The Nine-minute special, Walters’ 19th annual “Fascinating People” edition, airs on ABC on 14 Dec.

**Jackson legacy expected to thrive after trial**

Los Angeles — The private world of Michael Jackson, fiercely shielded by the superstar in life, was exposed in the trial of Dr Conrad Murray. But rather than suffering harm from revelations of drug use, experts say Jackson’s legacy and posthumous earning power will survive any damage done and could actually grow after he was portrayed as a victim of a money-hungry doctor.

Jackson died before he could launch a series of highly anticipated comeback concerts in London as he tried to regain the towering status he enjoyed when he released the “Thriller” album in 1983. But his death did breathe new life into record sales and boosted other projects to generate hundreds of millions of dollars for his estate, even as his already tarnished personal life took another hit by revelations about his drug use. Jackson zoomed to the top of the Forbes Magazine list of highest earning dead celebrities and his executor is moving quickly on more projects designed to burnish the performer’s image and expand the inheritance of his three children.

**Three Broadway shows hum happily after Grammy nods**

New York, 2 Dec — Move over Adele, Kanye West and Bon Iver. One of the livelier contests at next year’s Grammy Awards will pit Harry Potter, Cole Porter and a pair of Mormon missionaries. The cast recordings of “The Book of Mormon,” “Anything Goes” and “How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying” — an eclectic group of shows still going strong on Broadway — each earned Grammy nominations Wednesday night.

“We’re so very thrilled,” said Kathleen Marshall, who directed and choreographed the Porter-driven “Anything Goes,” which stars Sutton Foster and Joel Grey and features such songs as “I Got a Kick Out of You” and “You’re the Top.”

**Ten shorts eligible for animated Oscar**


**Dog shoots hunter in buttocks**

Authorities in Utah said a hunter was wounded in the buttocks when his dog jumped on a 12-gauge shotgun, causing the weapon to fire a round of birdshot.

Box Elder County Sheriff’s Chief Deputy KevinPotter said two duck hunters were at the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge preparing for a day of hunting Sunday morning when the incident took place. The Salt Lake Tribune reported.

“One of the hunters was inside the boat with the dog, and the other hunter was in the water setting up decoys,” Potter said.

“The guy in the water had put his 12-gauge shotgun across the bow of their boat.”

**Internet**

In this 16 Nov, 2011 image released by ABC, singer Katy Perry, left, poses with interviewer Barbara Walters in New York. — INTERNET

Simon Cowell, New York Yankee star Derek Jeter and pop-singing sensation Katy Perry as three of the year’s “10 Most Fascinating People.” Also on the list are businessman and TV personality Donald Trump, the Kardashians, reality TV family, plus Jesse Tyler Ferguson and Eric Stonestreet, the oscars winning couple from ABC’s comedy hit “Modern Family.” Others include Pippa Middleton, sister of British royal Kate Middleton, and Amanda Knox, the former Seattle exchange student whose four years in custody ended when an Italian court overturned her murder conviction.

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**Internet**

In this 31 Jan, 1993 file picture, Michael Jackson performs during the halftime show at the Super Bowl XXVII in Pasadena, Calif. — INTERNET

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**Internet**

In this theater publicity image released by Bonneville-Renne, Andrew Rennie, centre, performs with an ensemble cast in “The Book of Mormon” at the Eugene O’Neill Theatre in New York. — INTERNET

“They’re two big classics and they did a really good job casting and remounting them.” — Internet

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**INTERNET**
Liverpool and Man City to meet in cup semis

LONDON, 2 Dec — Barclays Premier League rivals Liverpool and Manchester City have been drawn against each other in the semi-finals of the Carling Cup. The clubs will meet over two legs in January to decide who will reach the final at Wembley in February after Liverpool beat Chelsea and City edged past Arsenal to reach the last four.

Manchester United will not be able to add to their tally of three Carling Cup wins in the last six seasons after they were knocked out of the competition at Old Trafford by Championship side Crystal Palace.

Palace took the lead thanks to a stunning 30-yard shot from Darren Ambrose in the 18th minute.

Palace’s reward is an all-Championship semi-final meeting with Cardiff City, who saw off Blackburn with a 2-0 victory on Tuesday.

The first legs will be held in the week beginning 9th January and the second legs the week beginning 23rd January, with the final due to take place on Sunday 26th February. — Internet

Ukraine will surprise world — Euro 2012 chief

Kiev, 2 Dec — Euro 2012 moves a huge step closer on Friday when the UEFA awarded the finals on 18 April, 2007, when UEFA awarded the finals.

Poland, has been a long and arduous one. Michel Platini, president of European soccer’s ruling body, Uefa, issued an ultimatum to Ukraine as recently as March last year, saying: “If the stadium in Kiev is not finished then we will not go there and if there is no Kiev there is no Ukraine”.

The stadium in Kiev, and others in Lviv, Donetsk and Kharkiv, are all ready now, as well as all four Polish venues in Warsaw, Wroclaw, Poznan and Gdansk, and everything is for the gala draw which starts at 1000 local time (1700 GMT). — Internet

Spurs on brink of European exit

LONDON, 2 Dec — Tottenham’s hopes of reaching the last 32 of the Europa League are hanging by a thread after a 2-1 defeat at home against Greek side PAOK Saloniki at White Hart Lane.

The loss means Spurs sit third in Group A on seven points after five matches, three points behind Russian side Rubin Kazan and four behind PAOK, who have qualified for the next stage.

Harry Redknapp’s side must now beat Shamrock Rovers in their last match on 15 December, hope PAOK triumph over Rubin and enjoy a six-goal swing in the process to reach the last 32. "I am

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Lucas sidelined for rest of the season

LIVERPOOL, 2 Dec — Liverpool midfielder Lucas Leiva has been ruled out for the rest of the season with a knee injury.

Lucas was carried off on a stretcher towards the end of Tuesday’s 2-0 Carling Cup victory over Chelsea at Stamford Bridge. A scan confirmed damage to the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee, and the Brazil international will undergo surgery.

On Wednesday, Liverpool recalled 19-year-old midfielder Jonjo Shelvey from his loan at Blackpool. — Internet

Brazilian Lucas Leiva has been a key figure in Liverpool’s midfield this season

Barclays Premier League standing

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<th>Club</th>
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Spurs’ Europa League form contrasts with their superb run in the Barclays Premier League.

Lucas was carried off on a stretcher towards the end of Tuesday’s 2-0 Carling Cup victory over Chelsea at Stamford Bridge. A scan confirmed damage to the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee, and the Brazil international will undergo surgery.

On Wednesday, Liverpool recalled 19-year-old midfielder Jonjo Shelvey from his loan at Blackpool.

Lucas Leiva has been a key figure in Liverpool’s midfield this season

World No 1 women’s tennis player Caroline Wozniacki

Corrinsco, 2 Dec — World No 1 women’s tennis player Caroline Wozniacki starts her 2012 tennis season at the Sydney International this year, following her first Grand Slam title of 2011.

The matches there are always so tough because so many of the top players compete there so I know I will get the match practice I need before Melbourne,” she added, in comments carried on the Sydney tournament’s website. The Sydney International also features Chinese Li Na, who won the event’s 2011 edition and the French Open, as well as US Open champion Samantha Stosur of Australia. — Internet

Ronaldo back to Real squad

Madrid, 2 Dec — Real Madrid’s star striker Cristiano Ronaldo returned to the squad for Spanish La Liga match slated for the weekend after recovering from an ankle strain, his club said on Thursday.

"Cristiano Ronaldo rejoined the squad in this morning’s training session in preparation for Saturday’s match against Sporting Gijon," Real Madrid said in a statement on their website.

He had skipped training earlier this week after suffering a left ankle sprain during last weekend’s 4-1 La Liga match victory over Atletico Madrid. Ronaldo is currently the joint top scorer in the Spanish league this season, level with Lionel Messi of Barcelona on 16 goals. Real Madrid, who lead the Spanish top division by three points ahead of European champions Barcelona, travel to third-from-bottom Sporting Gijon on Saturday.

Real Madrid’s Cristiano Ronaldo

Wozniacki to start 2012 tennis season in Sydney

S P O R T S

Lucas Leiva has been a key figure in Liverpool’s midfield this season

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**Toyota recalls 210,000 Sienna minivans**

CHICAGO, 2 Dec—Toyota Motor Corp. said Friday it is recalling 210,000 Sienna minivans for failing to display the correct vehicle capacity weight.

Toyota is recalling certain model year 2011 through 2012 Sienna vehicles for failing to disclose the proper maximum load. These vehicles do not meet the requirement for displaying the correct vehicle capacity weight.

The NHTSA said incorrect information on the vehicle may lead to tire overloading and possibly tire failure that would increase the risk of a crash.

Toyota will mail owners a corrected placard along with revised owner manual information for free.

Xinhua

A customer looks at new cars in the showroom of Toyota car dealer Ansers in Tallinn 22 November, 2011.
President U Thein Sein receives Belarusian Prime Minister Dr. Mikhail V. Myasnikovich and party

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a goodwill delegation led by Prime Minister Dr. Mikhail V. Myasnikovich of the Republic of Belarus at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential House, here, at 8.50 am today.

At the meeting, the President extended greetings, saying that he took pride of the visit of the Belarusian goodwill delegation, and he expressed his belief that the visit of the Belarusian Prime Minister would further promote friendly relations between the two countries.

In his speech, the Belarusian Prime Minister expressed his thanks for the opportunity to pay a first-ever trip to Myanmar. He said that he would continue more mutual cooperation between the two countries. He praised progress in reforms of Myanmar under the leadership of the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. He expressed his concept that very far distance between the two countries could not disturb friendly relations between them. From now onward, the two countries will cooperate in all sectors such as education and trade. He said that a great potential for cooperation and trade can be seen in Myanmar. He expects to further enhance trade volume between the two nations than before. After signing the basic bilateral agreements, the two nations would achieve greater success in cooperation in all sectors between the two countries.

In his address, the President said that China puts investments in laying of pipelines for transport of oil from Middle East to China through Yunnan Province via Myanmar and construction of railroads. Moreover, he said that other countries invested in deep sea port and other businesses. For example, he said that Dawei Deep Sea

(See page 9)

President U Thein Sein, wife Daw Khin Khin Win welcome Belarusian Prime Minister Dr. Mikhail V. Myasnikovich and wife

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec—A ceremony to welcome the goodwill delegation led by Prime Minister Dr. Mikhail V. Myasnikovich and wife of the Republic of Belarus that arrived here to pay a goodwill visit to Myanmar at the invitation of President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, was held on the lawns in front of the Presidential House, here, at 8.30 am today.

On arrival at the Presidential House from Myat Tawwin Hotel in a motorcade, the Belarusian Prime Minister and wife were cordially greeted by President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win in front of the Presidential House.

On the dais, they took the salute of the Guard of Honour. Meanwhile, the State Band played the National Anthems of the two nations. Next, they inspected the Guard of Honour. The Belarusian Prime Minister presented his entourage to President U Thein Sein.

Likewise, President U Thein Sein introduced Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Hay, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Winna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister at the President's Office U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htaik, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Theyin, Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay, Union Minister for Science and Technology U Aye Myint, Deputy Sports Minister U Aye Myint Kyu and Ambassador of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Belarus U Min Thein to the Belarusian Prime Minister.

President U Thein Sein and Belarusian Prime Minister Dr. Mikhail V. Myasnikovich inspect Guard of Honour.—MNA