President Office issues statement with regard to conflict in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Oct—The President Office of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued a statement (1/2012) dated 25-10-2012. The translation of the statement is as follows:

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
Statement No. (1/2012)
25 October, 2012
10th Waxing of Thadingyut 1374 ME

Statement with regard to conflict in Rakhine State

1. In consequences of crimes in May and June, 2012, there occurred riots and arsons between groups of raging peoples, killing 50, wounding 54 and burning down 2230 houses and 14 religious buildings till 14 June. The incident also left 61,462 people homeless forcing victims to take shelter at relief camps.

2. To bring an quick end to those riots, Rakhine State government issued Article 144 of the Criminal Code of Law in some townships in Rakhine State, the President declared state of emergency by issuing ordinance in conformity with the constitution and the government in cooperation with local people as well as Myanmar Police Force and Tatmadaw took measures to restore the rule of law and community peace and tranquility and as a result, stability could be restored in short period. The state of emergency was declared under the law with the approval of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

3. Some international organizations made criticism of the case, describing it as the abuse of human rights and even presented to the United Nations, making the Myanmar government to defend against those criticisms through every possible mean. At the same time, the government had to make efforts to acquire humanitarian aids for temporarily sheltering, provision of food and health care and rehabilitation of victims.


5. Now is the time when Myanmar has achieved the support and international recognition of its drive for smooth transition in democratization process within the short period of time and when international community is watching ongoing progress in Myanmar with interest.

6. As riots and violence occurred again have a great impact on the national integrity and interest, effective measures will be taken for rule of law and community peace and tranquility with the collaborative efforts of Myanmar Police Force, Tatmadaw and local people. As it is learnt that there are persons and organizations who are conducting manipulation in the incidents in Rakhine State behind the scene, it is announced that they will be exposed and legal actions will be taken against them.

United States to support in monetary growth of Myanmar

The US Deputy Secretary of Treasury was accompanied by US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Derek Mitchell, senior officials and personnel from US Embassy.

They frankly discussed US’s assistance in banking services and economic reforms in Myanmar and full lifting of remaining economic sanctions against Myanmar. —MNA

New suspension steel bridge commissioned into service in Amarapura Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Oct—A suspension bridge was put into service in Wegyisinywa Village, Talingyi Village-tract in Amarapura Township, on 23 October morning.

Wegyisinywa suspension bridge whose ropes is made of steel and title is of iron is 320 feet long and 5 feet width. Its steel ropes, posts and tiles were donated by Mr. Toni Wegyisin Village and Mikyantat Village. Locals are now enjoying smooth transportation thanks to the bridge. —MNA

Japan invited to play at Copa America

NEW YORK, 25 Oct—South American soccer governing body CONMEBOL on Wednesday said Japan and Mexico have been invited to play as guest teams at the 2015 Copa America, the Associated Press reported.

CONMEBOL also said it will hold a special Copa America tournament in 2016 in the United States to commemorate the organization’s 100th year, the AP said. Japan were invited to play in last year’s Copa America in Argentina, but the Asian champions were forced to pull out of the tournament in the aftermath of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami that devastated the northeast of the country and disrupted the fixture schedule in the J-League and other sports.

Japan last took part in the Copa America in 1999. —Kyodo News

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein together with United States Deputy Secretary of Treasury Mr. Steven Wolin pose for a documentary photo. —MNA
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives Speaker of Senate of Poland

**National races prize winners entail**

National Seminar on Myanmar’s National Report in ICPD held

Artifacts handed over to National Museum (Yangon)

**Arousesing people interests in rural development tasks plays pivotal role**

**Mysteries of ICPD— Eight years of implementation and SLA operations**
AU's Peace and Security Council (PSC), which is comprised of a rotating body of members. Nor was it clearly stated whether the vote would come before or after any military intervention against rebels in the north of the country where Bamako now has no control. “We are working ... to finalize the joint planning for the early deployment of an African-led international military force to help Mali recover the occupied territories in the North,” Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, chairwoman of the AU Commission, told ministers at the opening of Wednesday’s PSC meeting.

“At the same time, we will leave the door of dialogue open to those Malian rebel groups willing to negotiate,” she said.
**Science**

**KOROLYOV, 25 Oct—**A Soyuz spacecraft carrying two Russians and an American blasted off on Tuesday for the International Space Station (ISS), where the men are to spend five months in orbit.

The Russian-built Soyuz TMA-06M lifted off on time from the Baikonur launch facility in Kazakhstan for the two-day trip to the station, orbiting about 250 miles above Earth.

"The space ship has entered orbit," an announcer at the mission control centre in Korolyov, outside Moscow, said nine minutes later, prompting a cheer from flight engineers, space officials and relatives watching on a giant screen. "Everything went well. There was a small issue with pressure on board but we fixed it immediately," Vladimir Solovyov, flight director for the Russian segment of the space station, told journalists.

US astronaut Kevin Ford is making his second space voyage, while cosmonauts Oleg Novitsky and Yevgeny Tarelkin are on their first mission.

In footage from the cramped capsule, Tarelkin pumped his spacesuited fist after the successful lift-off while a stuffed toy hippopotamus donated by one of the cosmonauts’ daughters acted as a good luck charm floated in zero gravity as the craft reached orbit.

The trio will join the current ISS crew, Yuri Malenchenko of Russia, Suni Williams of the United States and Akihiko Hoshide of Japan, who are to return to Earth on 12 November.

Another crew of three will join Novitsky, Tarelkin and Ford aboard the station, a $100 billion research complex funded by 15 nations, in late December.

The rocket carrying the Soyuz craft lifted off from a launch pad at Baikonur that had not been used for a manned mission in 30 years. The platform had been renovated so that it could be used while the main pad used for manned launches is refurbished.

Tuesday’s was initially scheduled for 15 October but was postponed because of problems with an unspecified piece of equipment that had to be replaced, according to Vladimir Popovkin, head of the Russian space agency Roscosmos.

Russia’s space programme has suffered a series of humiliating setbacks in recent months, mostly involving unmanned missions such as satellite launches, that industry veterans blame on a decade of cramped budgets and a brain drain.

Since the retirement of the space shuttle fleet last year, the US space agency NASA must rely on Russia to take astronauts to the station at a cost of $60 million each.

NASA is working with private companies to develop a craft it hopes will be able to do the job by 2017. —Reuters

**Technology**

**Science**

**GM tests magnesium sheet metal to make cars lighter**

**Detroit, 25 Oct—**Engineers and scientists at General Motors Co believe they are making major strides toward lighter vehicles by developing a way to expand the use of magnesium in auto parts.

Making auto parts from magnesium sheets by heating the lightweight metal so it can be formed into precise, rigid shapes will help GM and other automakers meet demanding US fuel economy requirements, said GM metals researcher Jon Carter.

Magnesium auto parts formed by high pressure die casting are already common in cars and trucks, for steering wheels and other parts.

Using magnesium sheets to make auto parts could be a significant breakthrough for GM and eventually lead to much more magnesium in vehicles, said Dick Schultz, managing director of Ducker Worldwide and an expert on metals used in manufacturing.

GM is starting slow, using magnesium from sheet metal to make inner panels of doors and trunk lids.

Magnesium is 75 percent lighter than steel and 33 percent lighter than aluminum, said GM engineer Paul Krajewski. He said it also costs three to four times as much as aluminum, but wider use will encourage magnesium sheet metal producers to make more, which will bring down the costs.

"Magnesium will allow us to reduce the weight of certain sheet metal panels and thereby improve fuel efficiency and handling and overall performance," Carter said in a telephone interview.

GM will make about 50 vehicles, which will be sold to consumers, using the magnesium sheet process in the fourth quarter, but Carter would not indicate which model or models will be involved.

By 2020, magnesium will be able to take out 15 percent of the weight of a vehicle, leading to fuel savings of 9 percent to 12 percent, according to the US Automotive Partnership.

The auto industry has been stamping steel sheets into trunk lids, hoods and doors for more than 100 years.

Forming magnesium sheets into auto parts by heat-treating them to 842 degrees Fahrenheit (450 degrees Celsius) is a slow process. —Reuters

**Dutch court says Samsung does not infringe Apple patent**

**Amsterdam, 25 Oct—**A Dutch court ruled on Wednesday that Samsung’s Galaxy smartphone and tablet computers do not infringe an Apple patent.

"With these products Samsung does not infringe the claims that Apple has made," the court said in its ruling. —Reuters

**US military hypersonic aircraft trial set for 2013**

**Washington, 25 Oct—**The last of four unmanned experimental US military aircraft designed to fly at six times the speed of sound is expected to be tested next year, the programme manager said on Wednesday, months after its predecessor broke up during a trial.

The third test flight of the craft, known as the Waverider or X-51A, broke apart over the Pacific Ocean seconds into a test flight in August. US Air Force officials said at the time they did not know if or when their fourth aircraft would fly.

Preliminary results from an investigation into what went wrong during the August flight indicate that a "random vibration issue" caused one of the craft’s fins to deploy early, the X-51 programme manager at the Air Force Research Laboratory, Charlie Brink, told reporters on a conference call.

"I can’t say conclusively that it’s, but it’s looking more and more like the cause," Brink said, adding that investigators quickly ruled out a software or power malfunction as a cause of the aircraft’s break up. The Waverider was designed to reach speeds of Mach 6 or above, six times the speed of sound and fast enough to zoom from New York to London in less than an hour.

Analysts say the military has its eye on using the Waverider programme to develop missiles with non-nuclear warheads that could strike anywhere in the world within an hour. Results from the investigation into the third aircraft’s failed test flight are expected to be complete in mid-December, Brink said.

"I’m fairly confident that in the next couple of months we’ll have the investigation complete and we’ll move on. We’re already preparing the fourth flight vehicle. We’re doing those things in parallel," he said. Engineers are already modifying the final test X-51A to be ready in late spring or early summer of 2013, he said.

The aircraft is known as the Waverider because it stays airborne, in part, with lift generated by the shock waves of its own flight. The Boeing Co’s Phantom Works division performed design and assembly on the aircraft, according to the military.

Four X-51A aircraft were built for the military, one of which flew for more than three minutes at nearly five times the speed of sound during a 2010 test flight, the Air Force said.

The experimental aircraft are expected to crash at the end of test flights in any case, and are not considered retrievable. —Reuters

**Apple’s iPad mini**

**Softbank, KDDI to offer Apple’s iPad mini in Japan**

**Tokyo, 25 Oct—**Both Softbank Corp and KDDI Corp will offer Apple Inc’s 7.9-inch version of the iPad mini in Japan, Apple said on its Japanese website on Wednesday, competing with the iPad mini as well as Google Inc’s Nexus 7 and Rakuten Inc’s Kobo e-reader here.

Softbank is betting on a $20 billion bid to buy control of US telco Sprint Nextel Corp and diversify away from Japan’s crowded and saturated market dominated by NTT DoCoMo. —Reuters

**Science**

**Samsung Galaxy Note are world’s fastest smartphones, tablet computers.**

**Science & Technology**

**Google Inc’s Nexus 7 and Samsung Galaxy Note are displayed at a shop in Tokyo in this 31 August, 2012, file photo.** —Reuters

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**Technology**

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Softbank is betting on a $20 billion bid to buy control of US telco Sprint Nextel Corp and diversify away from Japan’s crowded and saturated market dominated by NTT DoCoMo. —Reuters
Nissan plans to double car output in Thailand

Tokyo, 25 Oct—Nissan Motor Co is considering investing some tens of billions of yen to build a new plant in Thailand, aiming to double its annual production capacity in the Southeast Asian country, people familiar with the matter said on Wednesday.

Nissan currently produces March compact cars at its existing Thai plant, which has an annual production capacity of 200,000 units. At the new factory, which will be built near the existing one, the automaker plans to initially manufacture around 100,000 units a year and increase annual production to 200,000 units in the future, they said.

Nissan had initially planned to develop a new pickup truck jointly with Mitsubishi Motors Corp. and manufacture the new model at Mitsubishi’s Thai plant, but decided to produce such trucks at its own plant after the plan was abandoned.

Nintendo profit outlook weakens ahead of Wii U launch

Tokyo, 25 Oct—Nintendo Co Ltd trimmed its annual profit outlook Wednesday by almost one-half as a strong yen and diminished console sales weighed on earnings while it readies the launch of the successor to the hit Wii console, which it hopes will reboot earnings growth.

For the year to 31 March, the creator of Super Mario lowered its operating profit forecast to 20 billion yen ($251 million) from a 35 billion yen forecast in July. That compares with an average estimate by 21 analysts surveyed by Thomson Reuters IBES of a 27 billion yen profit.

Its operating loss for the three months to 30 September edged down to 18.8 billion yen from a loss of 19.6 billion yen a year ago, and compared with an average forecast of 16 billion yen from four analysts.

Nintendo’s Wii U, the successor to its 100 million-selling Wii machine, is slated to go on sale in the United States on 18 November. The first hardware offering from Nintendo in six years boasts a tablet-like touch screen controller and a social network, and lets users record TV shows through TiVo and other digital recording services.

Yet, growing competition from tablet PCs and smartphones that are increasingly eating into the $78 billion gaming market mean the Japanese company, which began playing making cards more than a century ago, may struggle to repeat the hit it had with the Wii.

Its successor’s failure will also provide a clue to rivals Sony Corp and Microsoft Corp as to whether advanced games machines can hold back the challenge from mobile devices.

Nintendo said on Wednesday that it expects to sell 5.5 million Wii U machines by 31 March, the first time it has released a sales target for the device.

The company lowered its full-year forecast for sales of its handheld 3DS by 10 million, to 17.5 million. Weak demand for the new 3DS, launched in February last year, forced Nintendo to slash the price of the new gadget by about one-third a year ago. The company stuck with its forecast to sell 2.5 million DS handhelds for the 12 months.

Nintendo also revised its forecast for the euro-yen currency rate from 100 yen to 105 yen for the business year. It kept its forecast for a dollar-yen rate of 80 yen.

Since the start of the business year, Nintendo’s shares have fallen 17 percent, compared with an 11 percent drop in Japan’s benchmark Nikkei average. Its shares fell 1.7 percent to 10,290 yen on Wednesday before the company released its results for the quarter. The Nikkei fell 0.7 percent.

In the United States, the Nikkei is a major market index.

Pfizer to buy maker of attention-deficit drug for $255 million

New York, 25 Oct—Pfizer Inc said it would buy privately held-NextWave Pharmaceuticals for $255 million, gaining access to the company’s attention deficit hyperactivity disorder drug, the first once-daily liquid medicine approved to treat the condition in the United States.

Next Wave’s shareholders would also be eligible to get up to $425 million based on certain sales milestones.

Pfizer said it was exercising its option to acquire NextWave under an agreement signed in the second quarter, under which it had made an option payment of $20 million.

The drug, Quillivant XR, is expected to be available in pharmacies by early next year.

UBS set to cut 400 investment banking jobs: source

Zurich, 25 Oct—UBS (UBSN VX) is set to cut 400 investment banking jobs as early as Wednesday, a source familiar with the situation told Reuters with more job losses at the Swiss bank likely to follow.

The 400 jobs would translate to less than 2.5 percent of UBS’s overall investment bank, which employed 16,432 people at the end of June.

The cuts are planned for corporate finance fixed income and equities across all the Swiss bank’s regions, the source said.

A spokesman for UBS declined to comment.

UBS pledged last year to cut 3,500 jobs across the whole bank including flagship wealth management operations as part of earlier cost cuts. But analysts say this is not enough, given a dramatic slowdown in investment banking business third-quarter earnings on 30 October.

Separately, the Financial Times reported on Wednesday that UBS’s board met in New York on Tuesday to hammer out details of a restructuring, but that cuts might not be finalized in time for third-quarter earnings because various options are still being weighed.

The FT also reported that UBS’s investment bank was looking to continue exiting capital-intensive areas in fixed-income trading such as long-end flow rates and global correlation trades.
**Miss Myanmar back home**

**Yangon, 25 Oct —** Miss Myanmar Nann Khin Zeya who took part in Miss International event held in Okinawa, Japan arrived back yesterday at Yangon International Airport where she was warmly welcomed back by her parents and relatives, Pa-U and Shan national races accompanied by Shan traditional dancers. Nann Khin Zeya representing Myanmar in Miss International event was awarded People's Choice Award and Miss Internet Award at the event.

**Preparations for Dancing Elephants of Kyaukse underway**

**Kyaukse, 25 Oct —** Preparations are being made to annually celebrate Shwetharlyayun Pagoda Festival on 14 Waxing of Thadingyut and Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut in Kyaukse of Mandalay Region.

A Nawartha, King of Bagan, put a Holy bottom-left Tooth Relic conveyed from the King of Ceylon on the back of the elephant with a vow to construct a pagoda on the place where it will rest. The elephant climbed up Shwetharlyayun Hill in Myinysal and rested there, and climbed up Kyaukse Hill in Thandaung and rested there. King A Nawartha built pagodas at the tops of Shwetharlyayun Hill and Kyaukse Hill. Shwetharlyayun Pagoda festival is annually held in conjunction with alms-offering ceremony in which elephant-shaped snack and paper elephants are donated.

In preparation for this event, committees comprising Kyaukse District departments concerned and townswinders were formed for successful holding of Kyaukse Elephant Festival 1374 M.E. — Kyemon

**United efforts of Myaungdaga model village**

**Yangon, 25 Oct — With** the aim of broadening the horizons of the people in rural areas where a high percentage of the total population of Myanmar live in and contributing towards their socioeconomic status, Myanmar Libraries Foundation takes responsibility for opening of self-reliant libraries there.

Arrangements are being made by a group of youths from Myaungdaga model village in Hmawby Township of Yangon Region to open a library and free computer courses with the assistance of Myanmar Libraries Foundation.

**Plentiful supply of mushrooms in Pakokku**

**Pakokku, 25 Oct — It** is witnessed that edible mushrooms from Pauk, Yazagyo and Myaung are abundant at Myaung Market in Pakokku. Various kinds of edible mushrooms have fetched prices ranging from K 4000 to more than K 10000 per viss. Tasty mushrooms are now much in great demand by housewives.

**Various species of mushroom are grown well in Myaung. Pakokku Region is the best place for supply of mushrooms. Consumption of mushrooms can be seen not only in Myanmar but also in Japan, Korea and China. It is learnt that the government is dealing with growing of mushrooms that can be used for production of herbal medicines. — Kyemon**

**Skate Park opens in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 25 Oct —** For those who love to do skating as a sport, a skate park is being kept open at Thabyehla Ward of KanU Village-tract on Yangon-Mandalay motorway in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana.

The newly-opened skate park is a large village with social unity. — Kyemon

**Second phase of Ngamoeyeik Water Supply Project nearing completion**

**Yangon, 25 Oct —** Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation) of Yangon City Development Committee said that construction of water purifying factories which is included in the second phase of Ngamoeyek Water Supply Project that will provide Yangon with 45 million gallons of water, was completed by 95 percent and it was expected to be completed early in 2013. Yangon is being provided with 160 million gallons of water daily. On completion, supply of 205 million gallons of water will be realized. Construction of water tank and works, installation of power line and water supply pipes are included in the second phase of the project. “Upon completion of the second phase of the project, all 33 townships in Yangon will be able to enjoy adequate water supply and there will be no shortage of water in remote townships”, an official said. The second phase of Ngamoeyek Water Supply Project started from 2006 to improve water supply in Yangon. — Kyemon

**Locals concern road accidents on Hpa-an-Kawkareik-Myaawady road section**

**Myawady, 25 Oct — While** upgrading of Hpa-an-Kawkareik-Myaawady road section is in progress, a steamroller plunged down into the drain while avoiding the big holes in the road on 10.30 pm every day. It is available for any person aged above 10 with good health, especially in healthy heart condition, regardless of gender. The fee is K 1000 per hour for each person.

As it is the first-ever skate park in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, it is parked with those who are practicing roller skating and skateboarding, especially at the weekend of this opening week. We don’t allow school children to skate during the school hours. They will be allowed after 5 pm,“ the manager of skate park said. — Kyemon

**Photo shows officials concerned of traffic rules enforcement team are carrying out on 22 October road safety measures against unwanted road accidents at the traffic lights on Tawwin Nann junction, the entrance to Meiktila, while a heavy truck driving from Yangon to Mandalay makes a right turn into the road and it is almost in collision with motorbikes. — Kyemon**
Vietnam Expo 2012 in Myanmar from 25 to 28 Oct

A visitor talks to staff of I E M Co Ltd which distributes Lioa brand auto voltage stabilizer, extension socket, electrical accessories, electrical appliance and cable wire at Vietnam Expo 2012 in M yangmar.

A A WSH, 25 Oct—Viet nam expo 2012 in M yangmar was launched at the Tat madaw Convention Hall on U Wlsa Road here today. Eighty Vi etnamese companies which produce high-quality products are participating in the 4-day expo, staging 130 booths in the 7th trade fair in M yangmar. M yanmarntourism companies working as sole distributors for products from Vietnamese companies are also taking part in the expo.

M yangmar—Viet nam Trade and Investment Conference and M yangmar—Viet nam E ntrepreneurs’ meeting will be held from 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm and from 4 pm to 5 pm respectively at the UMFCCT Office Tower on M nyekyawso Road in Lanmadaw Township on 26 October.

NLM

October. The new bus line will run all the weekdays and holidays daily.

It will start the run from 7 am and finish at 5 pm 45 minutes a bus. The bus fare is fixed at K 500 for the whole route and K 200 for the bus stops.

M yaman, A linn

Myint and in-charge U Moe Hein Lin of the department supervise expansion of the 2330 feet long road section from Theinbyu Road to Upper Pazundaung Road including eight car parks.

Botataung Township is one of six downtown townships of Yangon. Thus, traffic jams and blocks can be seen in various areas. On completion of the expansion work and car parks, the people can overcome traffic jams.

— M yaman, A linn

Tourist arrival increases in Mandalay

M andalay—As opportunities have been created for tourists to pay visits to the nation, the number of tourist arrival in increased in Mandalay Region and its surrounding areas in 2010-2011 fiscal year, according to the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Mandalay).

The number of tourist arrival is increasing year by year. A total of 171,651 tourists arrived there in 2009-2010, compared with 242,374 in 2010-2011, exceeding over 70,000. Till September this year, there are 17,185 tourists who have arrived in the nation, said an official of Tourism Service on 9 October. Only when M yanmar tourism industry gains development, the tourism service can earn increased income from the tourists. “Indeed, tourism industry is non-smoking industry. The contact numbers have been announced for tourists to seek help”, he said.

M yanmar cultural heritage and natural beauties attract tourists. Mandalay, Bagan—NyaungU, PyinOLo win, A marapura, Sagaing, Mingung and so on are tourist destinations.

Among the tourists who arrive here, the number of China, France, Italy, Spain, the USA and the Thailand are the largest amount.

— M yaman, A linn

Telephone plans on sales through installation

Hinway, 25 Oct—GSM (2.756) mobile telephones are on sales to local people of Namlian region, 38 miles from PyinOoLwin, from 10 am to 5 pm at U Win and staff together with local authorities giveservice to the local people.

Kyemon
Successful and unsuccessful stories

Nowadays, Myanmar is on her way towards developing the media as per the democratic norms. It ended censorship of private publications on 20 August 2012. The country has already formed a free and independent Press Council, a current need of the private publications.

What’s more, the country’s adopted people-centred policy involves the goal of converting the whole State-owned media industry including print media and broadcast media into public service media.

In fact, public service media is a unique concept. Although easy to understand, it is more often than not misunderstood, sometimes profoundly, sometimes even intentionally.

It is much different from state-owned media, that we need to materialize its main sectors — universality, diversity, and independence from both state and commercial interests. Consequently, we will have to overcome a lot more informational and technical difficulties in reforming the state-owned media till it possesses the unique concept of public service media.

In some way, more media freedom and openness means more future challenges. The enactment of laws of international standard, the observance of media codes of conduct, individual capacity building and the technology gap will be some of the main challenges.

Anyhow, we have the firm resolve to carry on media reforms till the unique concept of public service media is achieved. And we fully believe that the fastest and the best way towards media development is the adoption of PSM or the public service media through international cooperation and broader public participation.

Here, one of the important things is that our actions for media reforms must be based both on the successful and unsuccessful stories of international public service media reforms. Only then will we be able to find the right means and avoid harmful ways.
We will go on till realizing media freedom as per the international norms

M inister for Information Aung San Suu Kyi answered the questions of U Ko Ko Aung of BBC Myanmar Programme as follows:

Q: Excellency, thank you so much for giving us the interview. As you are working hard for media freedom, first I would like to know the extent of media freedom you are going to allow.

A: We are trying to free the social websites of the print media, television and radio as per the international norms. Obviously, we have reached a certain point now.

Q: Democracy Myanmar is realizing having been officially declared as disciplined democracy. Do you understand the discipline in democracy itself has difficulties. Is there any exact point for media reform?

A: I don’t think there will be any difficulty in defining disciplined democracy. The nature of democracy itself is the decision-making process with freedom, majority consent, and equality as the three main features. If there are all these three features we can say there is democracy. But there may be differences in norms. The same can be formed in books and papers internationally, even though norms may vary. Currently, we see disciplined democracy as the most suitable for our country.

Q: If so, what sort of media freedom is your goal? Media freedom in conformity with disciplined democracy or media freedom according to internationally accepted principles?

A: We will go on till realizing media freedom as per the international norms. But we cannot reach there overnight. We need time, much time. People of the administrative sector, the citizens and civil service organizations, they all, seriously lack democratic practice. Even people like me are working on childhood parliamentary period experience (I have 14 years of experience on the parliamentary system as a youth), coupled with what we have learnt from books and international experience. So, we cannot imagine a quick arrival of mature democracy with total freedom. It must gradually develop democracy that is most realistic for success. But our ultimate goal is to achieve international norms and values.

Q: Yamanar in her media reforms is in the process of drafting a media law. Can you tell me the type of the law and the present stage of the drafting work?

A: Media reform is just in the project stage at present. You know, we drafted a media law once. But I didn’t feel it much as majority acceptable. So, I switched over to new plan inviting holders themselves to draft the law. First, the Press Council-PC formed with persons who will have to deal with the journalists will start from the zero draft. Then, the PC in cooperation with Information Ministry will draw the first draft. After drawing the first draft, we will organize a comprehensive workshop that meets international standard in January or February next year. As for broader public participation, all stakeholders in the country will take part in it. The second draft will be based on its outcome. The drafting process will be through all-inclusiveness in media, PC, and journalists. After that it will be submitted to the organization concerned.

Q: What you have explained is M Oi’s part. Is cooperation of other ministries important too for media transparency? Now every ministry has got its own press. Everyone has its spokesperson, and M Oi has the website. But there are still inconveniences on the ground. Till now, we do not know where to find the source when we have a question in connection with the Tatmadaw. Can you make any improvement in this?

A: We are insisting on it. During the recent press meet, the President made it clear that all the ministries have already been informed about the matter. Lack of experience creates anxiety in connection with the matter. A Nyaw, it is a challenge. There is weakness in facing the media because of the tendency to avoid answering questions. But soon there will be more transparency. It is my opinion.

Q: Now, foreign media can work in the country to a certain extent. I can also come here and gather news. Is the ministry going to further widen the scope of foreign media after only everything has been completed, such as the media law. For example, investments are invited even before the enactment of the investment law. As for the media, it is facing restrictions to a certain level till now. How far are you going to address it?

A: We will not wait until the completion of the media law. All stakeholders are in the process of submitting every reporter to get entry visa. We have denied one. So, they are freely visiting Myanmar.

Q: Is there any difficulty for Myanmar used to have covering news in the country?

A: It is not required for us to be concerned over covering news. In fact, the main responsibility of the Ministry of Information is to enhance our national identity. It is important to enhance the national image. In enhancing the image of a certain country, it is not enough just to boost it. How far the reform of the country by its own citizens. It is required to have an internationally-recognized gain by the international community in a more constructive manner. Only the foreign media can bring it. So we have always invited it.

Q: A nother point is that there were difficult tasks (for example, Myanmar faces the problem of child soldiers) you have to take responsibility for eradication of forced labour and for liaison with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is required to perform them well. As you were engaged in your duties, you just followed the superiors. For example, there were some goals laid down by the superiors. For the success of our mission, for a specific time to realize the goals, we held negotiations. They were not burdensome at all. We sought common ground and made compromises. A nd then we adopted a win-win strategy. I never assumed them as serious issues or difficulties.

Q: The government is finding common ground with the cautiously treated NLD in the Hluttaw. My last question is: What extent in which form will the cooperation government with NLD in the future?

A: We’ve the guidelines laid down by the President. We’ll find the common ground, setting aside differences. We’ve many things in common. Especially, we can share some common aspects such as serving the interests of the people and bringing about welfare of the people. We’ll have to continue working based on these encouraging facts.

INTERVIEW

Friday, 26 October, 2012

Aung San Suu Kyi and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi had interviews on media freedom.

Q: Myanmar in her media is a country by its own right, ensuring self-reform, reforms is in the process of accountability, financial independence and meet international standards and norms in this period. So, you’ll see the real changes afterward?

A: Yes, Myanmar has a lot of experiences in print media. But, the broadcast media has been long under the total control of government. We know that there are a number of Myanmar private businesses engaging in broadcast media. But, you have any idea of larger foreign investment?

Q: It would be unfair to say the government alone is taking total grip over the broadcast media. Yes, the government takes a larger proportion, but you may see Forever Group, a commercial free-to-air broadcaster as well as private broadcasters like SkyNet. Likewise, there are also five or six FM companies. So, it would be fair to say it both consists of government and private sector. We have not yet asked definite investment policy regarding broadcast media. But, when we observed international procedures in broadcast media, we found some countries reject foreign investment and just authorize citizen entrepreneurs. So, we need to see good examples and learn from them to bring it.

Q: Now, I would like to ask a question concerning your past experience. You held talks with Daw
Surfer killed in shark attack off California coast

Santa Barbara, 25 Oct—A shark killed a male surfer at a popular surf spot off California’s coast on Tuesday in the second fatal shark attack at the same beach in two years, authorities said.

The incident took place at Surf Beach near Vandenberg Air Force Base, north of the coastal city of Santa Barbara. The beach was closed by authorities after the attack.

“It was a confirmed shark attack and a confirmed death,” a Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s spokesman said. A friend of the surfer pulled him out of the water after the late-morning attack, but life-saving efforts were unsuccessful and the man was pronounced dead at the scene, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Department said in a statement.

Authorities could not immediately identify the size or type of shark involved. “I don’t think they saw enough of the shark to identify it,” sheriff’s department spokeswoman Diane Cline said.

Fatal shark attacks are rare on the US West Coast, according to records kept by the Shark Research Committee, a nonprofit group that documents attacks. Surfers were the most frequent victims and Great White sharks were the most frequent attackers, according to the group. The attack came almost exactly two years after a shark attacked a 19-year-old man on a boogie board at the same beach on 22 Oct, 2010, pulling him into the water. That man died from wounds to his leg.—Reuters

White sharks were the most frequent attackers, according to the group. The attack came almost exactly two years after a shark attacked a 19-year-old man on a boogie board at the same beach on 22 Oct, 2010, pulling him into the water. That man died from wounds to his leg.—Reuters

One killed, 5 wounded in New Orleans shooting

Houston, 25 Oct—One person was killed and five others were wounded in a shooting on Tuesday in New Orleans, Louisiana, local media reported.

The shooting happened shortly before 7:00 pm local time (2400 GMT), according to local TV channel FOX8.

Five of the victims, aged between 18 and the late 20’s, were rushed to local hospitals and one of the victims died, police said.

Two groups of people were involved in an altercation at that location when someone began firing at least one weapon. It’s not yet clear how many people opened fire, according to the report. Police had not identified any suspects and the investigation was in its early stage, the report said.

Most Taipei hospital fire victims seriously ill patients

Taiwan City, 25 Oct—Most of the victims, including the 12 fatalities, of a big Taipei hospital fire that broke out early on Tuesday were patients of an independently operated medical care facility for serious illnesses or mental conditions, Xinhua has learned.

On the second floor of the Bei-Men branch of the Sining Hospital in Taipei City, where the fire started, signs of the tragic accident were clear on Tuesday afternoon, with charred walls and broken windows visible to a Xinhua correspondent who visited the site.

The medical care facility on the floor was operated by outsiders commissioned by the hospital. Most of its patients were in serious conditions and attached to nasogastric, urinary or respiratory tubes. Some of them had mental illnesses.

Out on the lawn in front of the hospital, charred pillows, quilts, oxygen tanks and wheelchairs were scattered around. Chiu Wenta, chief of Taipei health authorities, told reporters that most of the patients treated at the medical care facility had respiratory conditions or could not move around freely.

He added that the deaths of 12 of the 71 people severely injured in the fire had been announced, and the others were being treated in 13 hospitals in and around the area.—Xinhua

Russia

Moscow, 25 Oct—A Russian activist was forced to confess to plotting unrest against the rule of President Vladimir Putin under threats made to his life, rights workers said on Tuesday after visiting the man in a prison once run by the feared Soviet-era KGB.

Russian investigators said Leonid Razvozhayev had been charged with preparing mass disorder, a day after they said he had voluntarily signed a confession offering details of how he and other protest leaders planned to carry out the unrest.

Civil groups and opposition leaders say the case is meant to sideline activists through legal pressure which has mounted since Putin returned to the presidency in May.

“Razvozhayev said that he was... in the basement of a house and they forced him to write a confession threatening him with a ‘truth serum’ and likewise threatening the lives and health of those close to him,” Anna Karentnikova, deputy head of the Public Oversight Commission of Moscow, which monitors the treatment of detainees, was quoted as saying by RIA.

They and another associate were named in a criminal investigation opened last week after a pro-Kremlin television station, using a hidden camera, aired footage alleging that they received money and orders from abroad to cause chaos in Russia.

All three could be sentenced to 10 years in jail if convicted.

Valery Borschyov, head of the Public Oversight Commission of Moscow, said on television channel Doxhd that Razvozhayev had said his arms and legs had been bound with tape and that he was not fed for three days or allowed to go to the toilet.

The man’s supporters have disputed the accusations against him.

A video posted on the Internet by opposition lawyer Ilya Ponomaryov who employs Razvozhayev as an aide shows him accusing the authorities of torturing him.

Since May, Putin has signed laws increasing restrictions on non-government organizations and raising fines for disorder at protests.—Reuters

China becomes world’s largest FDI recipient in first half of 2012

China exceeded the United States to become the world’s largest recipient of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the first six months of 2012, a report released by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) showed on Tuesday.

It’s mainly due to a 39.2 percent fall in FDI flows to the US, compared to a three percent decline in China, said Zhan Xiaoning, director of UNCTAD Division on Investment and Enterprise.

However, early indications show that FDI flows to the US might be stronger in the second half of 2012, he said.

Zhan said China once claimed the world’s top destination for FDI in 2003.

In the first six months of the year, China attracted 59.1 billion US dollars in FDI while the US attracted 57.4 billion US dollars, according to the latest Global Investment Trends Monitor. As a result of the performance of the US and a decline of 23 billion US dollars in FDI flows to BRIC countries, the global FDI stood at 668 billion US dollars, dropping by eight percent over the same period of 2011, said the report.

The report also showed that developing countries (without transition economies) for the first time absorbed half of global FDI inflows. UNCTAD projects the FDI flows will, at best, level-off in 2012 at slightly below 1.6 million US dollars, according to the report.

Zhan said the slow and bumpy recovery of the global economy, weak global demand and elevated risks related to regulatory changes have continued to reinforce the wait-and-see attitude of many transnational companies toward investment abroad.—Xinhua

Global financial flows to the US might be stronger in the second half of 2012, he said.

Recruiting a foreign investor after a fire broke out at the Bei-Men branch of the Sining Hospital in Tainan City, southeast China’s Taiwan, on 23 Oct, 2012. The fire broke out early Tuesday morning, killing at least 12 people and injuring 60 others, most of whom were patients.—Xinhua
ASEAN ministers for socio-cultural community meet in Cambodia to accelerate cooperation

Phnom Penh, 25 Oct — The ministers for the socio-cultural community from the bloc’s 10 member states gathered here Thursday to expedite building an ASEAN Community by 2015.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the 8th ASEAN socio-cultural community council meeting at the Peace Palace, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said the meeting was very important to strengthen and broaden ASEAN’s cooperation towards building an ASEAN Community by 2015. “ASEAN has still faced a lot of challenges on its way towards a community in 2015,” he said.

“Therefore, we need deeper, closer and broader cooperation in both ASEAN框架 and regional framework,” Hun Sen said.

He added that ASEAN needed to strengthen and expand a unity stance in order to solve issues and complete mutual gaps. The ASEAN Community is scheduled to be established in 2015. The Community will comprise three pillars, namely political and security community, economic community and socio-cultural community.

Sun Chanthol, Cambodian Senior Minister in charge of ASEAN socio-cultural community, said that the ASEAN socio-cultural community has five key characteristics, namely human resources development, social welfare, social justice and rights, environment stability ensuring, ASEAN identity building and poverty alleviation.

Pakistanis death squads spur desperate voyage to Australia

Quetta, Pakistan | Puncak, Indonesia, 25 Oct — It was 3 am when Abdul Rashid and his friends clambered into an Indonesian fishing boat, joining 300 other migrants packed into the hold. Only a few days away by sea, Australia seemed tantalizingly close. Six hours into the voyage, the craft overturned. The two teenagers clung to the upturned hull. One by one, survivors lost purchase and drifted away, their dreams swallowed by the warm waters of the Java Sea.

“When the boat capsized, the dead bodies came floating above the water,” Warasi said, recounting his ordeal in the Indonesian hill town of Puncak, just south of Jakarta.

“Our hearts were so sad for them and we were waiting for our own time when we would die.” The heroism that would ensure the pair survived 48 hours in the water is not merely testament to the bond of friendship that has united Warasi and Muhammad Muntazir since their childhoods in the Pakistani city of Quetta.

Their determination is also a reflection of the ferocity of the persecution unleashed upon their ethnic Hazara community, who are almost all members of Pakistan’s Shi’ite minority. In the past year, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, a Sunni extremist group, has turned Quetta into a hunting ground. Gunmen shooting Hazara every few days while leaflets shoved under doorways warn they are infidels deserving of death. Thousands choose to face the ocean’s terrors rather than risk an encounter with the death squads stalking their city’s streets. Mothers are selling their jewelry so that their sons can leave Quetta for abroad,” said Khalid Hazara, chairman of the Hazara Democratic Party, a Quetta-based political party.

“We are under siege.”

Indonesian policemen guard illegal immigrants from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iraq as they arrive in a police boat at Indah Kiat port in Indonesia’s Banten Province on 12 Oct, 2012. — Reuters

Laos

Bangkok, 25 Oct — Isolated for decades, impoverished and landlocked, Laos is not an obvious choice for investors.

But the Communist country of 6.4 million people hopes to change that with its expected entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO) on Friday, capping years of steady reforms aimed at building a modern economy and tapping a Southeast Asian boom as global manufacturers hunt for lower-cost alternatives to China.

“Laos now seems to be genuinely competitive, unlike before,” said Hal Hill, a professor at Australian National University who specialises in Southeast Asian economies.

After 15 years of talks, the 157-member, Geneva-based world trade body is expected to confirm Laos as a member on Friday. Laos’ parliament expects ratification by 2013, touting the move as crucial for reducing one of Asia’s worst poverty rates.

The transition, however, looks difficult. Reducing red tape and enforcing pro-business regulations are proving more formidable for the Lao People’s Revolutionary Party (LPRP) than crushing political dissent and chasing anti-communist rebels during nearly four decades of authoritarian, single-party rule.

In one imminent test case, Macau-based casino operator Sanum Investments Ltd has started international arbitration proceedings after the government took away its 60 percent stake in the Thanaleng Ski-Machne Club in the Lao capital, Vientiane.

Samun President Jody Jordahl says his Lao partners consented with “extremely well-connected people” to take control of the club when it started to generate good profits. Sanum could also be stripped of its stake in casino Savan Vegas for failing to pay $23 million in taxes that Jordahl said were not part of their agreement.

Sanum executives face jail.

“They have regulations but no intention to follow them. If this is how they’ll treat foreign investors, then they’re not ready to be integrated into the global economy,” Jordahl said. Officials in Laos did not respond to interview requests.

Thanks to a mining and hydro-power boom, Laos is already one of Southeast Asia’s fastest growing economies, expanding 7.9 percent this year with double-digit growth in exports and imports, according to the Asian Development Bank.

Japanese cars and sport utility vehicles clog the streets of once-sleepy Vientiane. According to the WTO, more than 90 laws and regulations have been enacted and amended to meet the requirements of the global trade group in a spasm of reform that has also seen the opening of a stock exchange in 2011 and plans to host an Asia-Europe Meeting summit next month.

Thailand’s Siam cement to build 358 mln USD plant in Indonesia

Jakarta, 25 Oct — Siam Cement, Thailand’s biggest cement producer, plans to invest more than $350 million for the construction of a cement plant in West Java as part of its efforts to expand in the region, local media reported on Thursday.

The 11 billion baht (about 358 million) Indonesian cement plant is one of its three projects across Southeast Asia. The Bangkok-based company said in a statement released on Wednesday.

China factories eye stronger fourth quarter, external risks remain

Beijing, 25 Oct — China’s factory output growth should grow faster in the last three months of 2012 than in the third quarter, though the recovery remains clouded by external risks, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said on Thursday. Monthly improvements in output growth, an apparent turnaround signaled by a private sector survey of purchasing managers and an uptick in preliminary power generation data were all indications of a burgeoning recovery, the ministry spokesman and chief engineer, Zhu Hongren, told a news conference.

“The industry sector performance has shown significant recovery and we can see an even clearer growing trend from the month-on-month figures in the third quarter,” Zhu said.

“Therefore, we expect that industrial output growth in the fourth quarter would be faster than that in Q3, which will help the country to achieve its annual economic growth target of 7.5 percent,” he added.

But a ministry statement issued before the news conference began was focused more on the risks of weak external demand, rising production costs, financing strains and squeezed profit margins across China’s industrial complex.

“The stabilization trend of China’s industrial sector is not yet solid and we are still facing many challenges and difficulties to realize stable growth,” the ministry’s earlier statement said.

“Although export growth rebounded in September, it is still very difficult to see a stable growth in exports of industrial products in future due to shrinking external demand,” the statement said.

A worker cleans the window of an apartment building at a residential area in central Beijing, on 24 Oct, 2012. — Reuters

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Theotherprojectsinclude a cement packaging plant in Thailand and expansion of a cement plant in Cambodia. The “board of directors has approved several new investment projects, totaling 23,200 million baht in the cement and paper businesses. These investments are in-accordance with Siam Cement’s strategy to become an ASEAN sustainable business leader,” the statement said.

The Indonesian cement plant is expected to have total estimated annual production at 1.8 million metric tons.

Photo taken on 24 Oct, 2012 shows the burnt area after a fire in Quayside City, Phillipines. Around 400 residents were left homeless in residential fire occurred in October. — Xinhua

Thailand

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A banknote is left among flowers and candles on a sand pagoda on Mai Lao, or Lao New Year celebrations in Vientiane on 15 April, 2012. — Reuters

A worker cleans the window of an apartment building at a residential area in central Beijing, on 24 Oct, 2012. — Reuters

ASEAN
**EXPLOSION AT MILITARY CAMP KILLS 5 SOLDIERS IN YEMEN’S ADEN**

A remote-controlled bomb went off in a military camp in Yemen’s southern port city of Aden on Monday morning, killing five soldiers and wounding two others, a security official told Xinhua. The blast occurred inside a military camp located on the northern outskirts of Aden, leaving at least five soldiers killed and two others injured, the local security official said, requesting anonymity. “It appeared that an improvised explosive device exploded at the military engineers camp. Experts of the anti-bomb disposal unit have arrived at the bombing site,” the security official said. The wounded have been sent to the Basubih military hospital for treatment, he said. However, an army officer told Xinhua anonymously saying that “the explosion was most likely caused by an accident. It happened when soldiers were moving hand grenades and landmines at an ammunition store at the camp.” A large fire was seen at the military camp for several minutes after the huge explosion and ambulances have rushed to the scene as police troops shut access to the area, according to local media. Yenemen has undergone a political transition after the stepping down of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh earlier this year under a peaceful transfer of power backed by the United Nations.

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE**

As the week’s warehouses and chellan offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 27th **October 2012 (Bakri Eid Day)** and 30th **October 2012** (Fullmoon day of Thadinkyut) Goods Shipped or delivered on payment will be received as Holiday Fees.

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

**INVITATION TO PREQUALIFICATION**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV GENIUS STAR XVOY NO (21)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GENIUS STAR X VOY NO (21) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.10.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W (2) where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV PHUONG NAM 69 VOY NO (-)**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV PHUONG NAM 69 VOY NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHUONG NAM 69 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.10.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

**OCTOBER 2012**

**INVITATION TO PREQUALIFICATION**

**AGENT FOR: M/S EASTERN CAR LINER S’PORE PTE LTD.**

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**Dozens feared killed in northern Nigeria explosion**

YORUB, NIGERIA, 24 Oct —Dozens of traders were feared killed on Sunday night when an improvised explosive device (IED) went off in Potiskum town located in Nigeria’s northeastern state of Yobe, according to local security sources. Spokesperson of the military Joint Task Force (JTF) Lt Eli Lazarus confirmed the explosion to Xinhua, but could not give further details on the incident. “Detailed report is still being awaited from our officers in the field,” he said. However, other security sources in the state said the explosion occurred at a busy market in Potiskum, therefore dozens of traders and other people might have been killed in the attack.—Xinhua

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**Bank Holiday**

All Banks will be closed on 30th October (Tuesday) End of the Buddhist Lent Day 2012, being public holiday Under the Negotiable Instruments Act, Central Bank of Myanmar
At 50, Kelly Preston feels like she is 25 years old

Los Angeles, 25 Oct — Kelly Preston feels better than she has done “for years” since turning 50. The actress, who has two kids, Ella, 12, and 23-month-old Benjamin with husband John Travolta, insists she is so happy she only feels 25 years old, but admits reaching half a century on 13 October did initially “floor” her. She said: “I feel incredible. It floored me for a bit, but now I love it and I feel better than I have in years. You are as old as you feel and I feel like I’m 25.” Kelly, who lost three stone in the first 14 months after giving birth to Ben in November 2010 — credits her two children for helping her to feel younger than her years and she insists losing weight through Kirstie Alley’s Organic Liaison weight-loss program and two years of breastfeeding has given her “tons of energy”.

She added: “I’m running after a two-year-old and keeping up completely. “Ben runs around and three, four, five times a day we go outside and find frogs, millipedes and lizards. It’s always, ‘Mama, get it! Mama, get it!’ “I go up and down one or two pounds without worrying about it. I think I’d like to stay at this weight. I feel really healthy and I have tons of energy. ‘The way I lost the weight was through Kirstie’s [programme], and breastfeeding, and the way I gained another pound is because of her!’ She sent me a box of unbelievably delicious sweets — Rice Krispie treats, homemade jams, coconut macaroons, you name it. I plowed right though it!’

Kelly admits she had the “best time ever” during a short trip to Paris last month to celebrate her birthday, while she saw in the milestone earlier this month by taking in Barbra Streisand’s “magnificent” Brooklyn concert with John and Ella.

She added: “I can’t even put into words the experience because she was so magnificent. She said, ‘Happy birthday,’ to me [from the stage]. It was the best concert I’ve ever been to in my life, just magic. It was truly an amazing birthday.”

Britney Spears’ music label exec dismisses Lutfi’s claims

Los Angeles, 25 Oct — The man suing Britney Spears for a large amount of money claiming he was her manager for several months was in fact a “gofer” who performed menial tasks, one of the world’s top music executives testified in court on Monday.

Sam Lutfi, one of Spears’ closest friends in 2007 and early 2008, never identified himself as Spears’ manager or had any kind of business dealings with her music label, said Barry Weiss, the former CEO of Jive Records who signed Spears when she was 16.

“I had never heard of this guy before,” Weiss said. “He was a gofer...someone who has menial tasks, like a personal assistant.”

Monday was the first day of testimony in a civil trial against Britney Spears, in which her former confidante Lutfi is suing the singer for a chunk of her earnings during 2007 and 2008, when he said he managed her.

Lutfi is seeking 15 percent of Spears’ earnings — which during a time she was making $800,000 to $1 million per month, his attorney said. Lutfi is also suing Spears’ parents, claiming Jamie Spears punched him in the chest in 2008 and Lynne Spears libido him in her book “Through the Storm” released later that year. The trial has torn the veil of Spears’ struggles during her meltdown in 2007 and 2008, when the singer was twice hospitalized on a psychiatric hold, lost custody of her children and photographs of the singer shaving her head and swinging an umbrella made international headlines.

She was placed under her father’s conservatorship, giving him control of her health and finances. Spears, now 30, has since made a comeback with world tours hit albums and a new job as a judge on TV talent show “The X-Factor”. She was not in court Friday and is not expected to attend the trial although her parents are expected to testify.

Last week, attorneys argued before the jury over whether Lutfi ever had a valid contract with the pop star. Her father’s attorney said Spears seemed to enter a downward spiral after his breakup with Justin Timberlake. The attorney revealed Jamie Spears constantly feared her daughter’s drug abuse was going to kill her, and he suspected Lutfi was taking advantage of her and making her problems worse.

Daniel Radcliffe tops young, rich and British list

London, 25 Oct — “Harry Potter” star Daniel Radcliffe has topped the list of youngest rich British stars for the second time, with reported earnings of 53.3 million pounds. The 23-year-old is said to have earned around 25 million pounds just for his role in the two “Deathly Hallows” films. Radcliffe is followed by “Twilight” star Robert Pattinson, 26, in second and actress Keira Knightley, 27, in third in the Heat magazine’s list of 30 richest British stars under the age of 30. Emma Watson, 22, retains fourth place with a fortune of 26.5 million pounds.

Boy band group One Direction are the highest new entry, placed at number five by amassing a fortune of 26.3 million pounds in the last year. The Heat rich list is compiled by a panel of industry experts who have analysed the stars’ financial affairs. Adele, 24, who gave birth to her first child last week, is at sixth place on the list. Her estimated earnings stand at 26 million pounds, an increase of 18.4 million pounds on last year.”
Real among big guns left reeling by defeats

LONDON, 25 Oct — Real Madrid, Manchester City, Arsenal and AC Milan suffered painful Champions League defeats on Wednesday when they complicated their chances of progressing from an increasingly intriguing group stage.

German sides shone the brightest as Bundesliga champions Borussia Dortmund downed nine-times European Cup winners Real 2-1 at home while local rivals Schalke 04 pulled off a 2-0 victory at Arsenal thanks to Klaas-Jan Huntelaar’s second-half opener.

His ex-side Milan, seven-times winners, continued their poor form with a 1-0 loss at a Malaga outfit who have suffered similar financial constraints to the Italians but who are coping much better and top Group C with maximum points. English champions Manchester City, who failed to get out of the group phase last term, are risking the second group phase.

Ferguson aims to get balance right at Chelsea

LONDON, 25 Oct — Manchester United head to Premier League leaders Chelsea on Sunday with Alex Ferguson admitting that not only is he worried about his porous defence but he now has a problem in attack — albeit a “good” one.

United, who are second domestically, beat Braga 2-1 in the Champions League on Tuesday after trailing 2-0 inside the first 20 minutes to top Group H with maximum points from their three games.

Javier Hernandez, who has often been overlooked this season despite scoring three goals from four starts, netted twice to rescue the win and the Mexican has given manager Ferguson a selection dilemma for the clash at Stamford Bridge.

“The boy is improving all the time,” Ferguson told reporters. “He is fantastic in training and he’s always practising.

Tiger eyes lake-side ambush of McIlroy

ANTALYA, (Turkey) 25 Oct — Still smarting from losing the Ryder Cup in extraordinary circumstances, Tiger Woods has his sights on more quick payback against world number one Rory McIlroy in London when he cruised past unseeded Spaniard Fernando Verdasco 6-1, 6-4 in the second round.

McIlroy, twice a major winner, most missed his tee time but the 23-year-old made it in the nick of time.

Valencia, Cilic through

RAONIC, Isner crash out in Valencia, Cilic through

VALENCIA, 25 Oct — Milos Raonic and John Isner were knocked out of the Valencia Open by lower-ranked opponents on Wednesday, denting their chances of clinching one of two remaining berths at next month’s World Tour finals in London.

Eight-seeded Canadian Raonic lost his first-round match against Luxembourg’s Gilles Muller 7-5, 7-6, while American Isner, the fifth seed, was beaten 7-6, 4-6, 6-4 in the second round by Belgian 21-year-old David Goffin, who reached his third Tour quarter-final of the season.

Seventh seed Marin Cilic of Croatia improved his chances of a spot in London when he cruised past unseeded Spaniard Fernando Verdasco 6-1, 6-4 in the second round.

Cilic will play Ivan Dodig in the last eight after the Croatian qualifier beat former world number one Lleyton Hewitt of Australia, a wildcard at the indoor hard court event, 6-1, 3-6, 6-2.

Defending champion Marcel Granollers of Spain won his first round match against Czech qualifier Jan Hajek 7-5, 6-4.

Top seed David Ferrer plays his second-round match against unseeded Spanish compatriot Albert Ramos on Thursday.

Ferrer, the world number five, has already qualified for London along with Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic, Andy Murray, Rafa Nadal and Tomas Berdych.

Tiger eyes lake-side ambush of McIlroy

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**Focus Myanmar TV Programme**

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<td>7:40 am</td>
<td>3. Dhamma Puja Song</td>
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<td>7:50 am</td>
<td>4. Nice &amp; Sweet Song</td>
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<td>5. Health Programme</td>
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<td>6. The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies</td>
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<td>7. Teleplay (Health)</td>
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**Budget carrier easyJet wins London to Moscow route**

An easyJet airliner lands for the opening of a new base of the low cost airline at Nice International airport on Wednesday, called by Richard Branson, also after a decision by Britain’s Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). The Gatwick to Moscow route, said the CAA’s director of regulatory policy Iain Osborne said. The easyJet’s proposal... has the potential to deliver the greatest dynamic fare benefits for consumers,” the CAA’s director of regulatory policy Iain Osborne said. The Gatwick to Moscow route came up for grabs after British Airways, part of International Consolidated Airlines Group (IAG), will continue to operate the London Heathrow to Moscow route, said the CAA on Wednesday.” The easyJet’s proposal... has the potential to deliver the greatest dynamic fare benefits for consumers,” the CAA’s director of regulatory policy Iain Osborne said.

**FAO chief calls for world’s eradication of hunger**

**ROMANIA, 25 Oct** — FAO Director-General Jose Graziano da Silva on Wednesday called on international food communities and all players in the global food system to join together in eradicating hunger “within our lifetimes.” Opening the bi-annual Terra Madre conference organized in Turin by Slow Food International, he said achieving zero hunger would, among other measures, require moving to eliminate food losses and waste.

“Around one third of all the food produced in the world is lost or wasted every year,” he noted, adding that three lost and wasted was enough to feed an extra 500 million people without putting additional pressure on natural resources.—REUTERS

**Two NATO soldiers killed in Afghan insurgent attack**

**KABUL, 25 Oct** — Two NATO soldiers were killed on Wednesday in an insurgent attack in southern Afghanistan, which is confirmed by the coalition forces.

"Two International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) service members died following an insurgent attack in southern Afghanistan today," the NATO-led coalition or ISAF said in a press release. The brief press release did not mention the nationalities of the victims and details about the incident under the ISAF policy.

Troops mostly from US, Britain and Australia have been serving in southern Afghanistan.

The Taleban-led insurgency has been rampant since the militant group launched the annual spring offensive on 3 May against Afghan government and about 100,000 NATO-led troops.

Up to 360 foreign troops have lost their lives in Afghanistan in 2012.

**Texas executes man for 1991 stabbing-strangulation murder**

**AUSTIN, (Texas), 25 Oct** — Texas prison officials on Wednesday executed a man for the gruesome 1991 murder a woman who was stabbed repeatedly with an ice pick and strangled with stereo wire at her Dallas-area apartment, state officials said.

Bobbi Lee Hines, aged 19 at the time of the killing, was sharing a next door apartment with a maintenance man who had master keys to all the units in the building, according to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Hours after neighbors heard screaming and other loud noises coming from the apartment of Michelle Wendy Haupt, 26, her body was found just inside the door of her unit, covered with about 18 puncture wounds, according to a summary of the case from the Texas attorney general’s office.

Hines’ fingerprint and bloody palm print were found in the apartment. Haupt’s gold sand-dollar charm was found in Hines’ pants pocket.

Hines was put to death by lethal injection at a state prison in Huntsville, Texas. He was pronounced dead at 6:28 pm local time (2328 GMT), said Jason Clark, a spokesman for the criminal justice department. Hines, 40, was the 11th person executed this year in Texas and the 33rd in the United States.

In his final statement, Hines asked Haupt’s family for forgiveness, according to a copy of the statement provided by Clark.

“To the victim’s family, I am sure I know that I took somebody special from y’all,” Hines said.

“I know it wasn’t right, it was wrong.”

He also said that God has forgiven him and that being locked up for the rest of his life would have been more of a punishment.

“I wish there was some other way to show I’m sorry,” he said. Hines’ execution was scheduled for earlier this year, but it was postponed so that DNA testing could be conducted on fingernail clippings collected from Haupt’s body.

The testing did not exclude Hines as a source of the DNA, according to the attorney general’s office.

**Khitaye Village trying to enjoy electricity**

**NAY PYI TAW, 25 Oct** — Under the leadership of Yanaungmyin monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kasula and Khitaye Village administrator U Maung Maung Aye in Zeyathiri Township, the self-reliant electricity supply committee for Khitaye Village was formed for making efforts for supply of electricity in the village.

Over 300 houses of the village contributed cash assistance to the fund for installation of transformer, cables and erection of lamp-posts. At present, concrete lamp-posts are being erected and cables installed there. It needs to install the transformer in the village.

After that, service cables will be installed from the lamp-posts to the houses and meter boxes equipped on self-reliant basis for the local people.

Some village of Zeyathiri Township are now enjoying supply of electricity. In the near future, Khitaye village will be illuminated in multicolours.—KYEMON

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*Our Lifetimes. Opening hunger from the earth “within our lifetimes.” Opening the bi-annual Terra Madre conference organized in Turin by Slow Food International, he said achieving zero hunger would, among other measures, require moving to eliminate food losses and waste.

“Around one third of all the food produced in the world is lost or wasted every year,” he noted, adding that three lost and wasted was enough to feed an extra 500 million people without putting additional pressure on natural resources.—REUTERS

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A alleged cases of corruption at different levels of courts not hold water: Supreme Court J judge

**Na Pyi Taw, 25 Oct —** As the Pyithu Hluttaw session continued for the sixth day, U Than Tun of Debayin Constituency raised a question about measures for fighting against corruption at court at different levels and U Myint Tun of Kawthoung Constituency about measures of the Supreme Court of the Union for strengthening of judicial pillar, a proposal approved by Pyithu Hluttaw.

**Judge of the Supreme Court of the Union U Soe Nyunt** described the alleged corruption at different levels of courts from the ground as misleading hearsay without credibility. The Supreme Court of the Union he said has issued instructions to prevent against bribery, corruption, fraud and negligence of judges and personnel at different levels of courts. Such measures as multi-level enforcement, punitive actions against failure to observe instructions and investigation and punishment on receiving complaints are in practice to enforce the instructions. As regards the question of U Myint Tun, he replied that the Supreme Court of the Union has prepared itself to take advices as necessary if the three other pillars are to support the judicial branch. He reckoned that the Supreme Court of the Union would not need to issue law, by-law, order and instruction with regard to proposal passed by the Pyithu Hluttaw.

The government helping displaced people in Kachin State

**Na Pyi Taw, 25 Oct —** U Thein Zaw of Myitkyina Constituency put forward an urgent proposal urging the Union government to take a leading role in assuring food security and regional development of Putao District of Kachin State at today’s Pyithu Hluttaw session following the proposal of U Yaw Di Diwe of Putao Constituency who urged the Union government to provide comprehensive support to displaced local national people due to security condition in Kachin State coupled with shortage of foods, civil servants who find it difficult to discharge duties in assigned places and local and foreign businessmen due to lack of security, especially in transportation to Putao District, Chipwe and Sawlaw regions.

**Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann** let discussion of two related proposals same time. Five Hluttaw representatives discussed the proposals. As regards the proposals, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Police Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun repeated that under the guidance of the Union government, Ministry of Border Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Kachin State government in cooperation undertaking relief and rescue works.

In addition, Pyidangsu Hluttaw representatives, State Hluttaw representatives, UN agencies, NGOs and INGOs, social and religious organizations and wellwishers are assisting in food provisions, accommodation, health, and education for the victims. Measures are being taken from various aspects for easing difficulties to local people and departmental personnel. The Hluttaw then put the measures of the government on record under the agreement of the proposers.

Plans underway for regional development tasks

**Na Pyi Taw, 25 Oct —** Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay responded to the questions raised by U Tun Kyaw of Shan State Constituency No (15) and U Htay Maung of Mandalay Region Constituency No (13) about regional development tasks at today’s Amyotha Hluttaw session.

The Union minister said that repair of wooden bridge across Namtkyone creek between Namhsan and Kyaunggyu villages would cost K 12 million and it was listed in the funds of the ministry; that plans had been made for construction of new bridges and road works on district-to-district road No (2) in Thazi Township in 2012-13 fiscal year, arrangements would be made for upgrading works; that the earth road section of Nyaungyan-Magyikon, Shwetokekong village would be upgraded on and the remaining section upgraded into an earth one.

Union Health Minister vows upgrading of health facilities

**Na Pyi Taw, 25 Oct —** Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin answered the questions raised by U Aung Nyein of Magway Region Constituency No (20) and U Pe Thaung of Kachin State Constituency No (6) about upgrading of health sector at today’s Amyotha Hluttaw session.

The Union minister replied that appointments of health facilities specialists in YeMyo Township People’s Hospital would be possible according to the organizational setup as one head of Township Health Department and four surgeons had already been appointed at the 50-bed hospital; that 16-bed hospital of Hopan sub-township would be upgraded into 25-bed one in 2013-14 fiscal year, that in 2013-14 fiscal year, arrangements would be made for upgrading works; that the earth road section of Nyaungyan-Magyikon, Shwetokekong village would be upgraded on and the remaining section upgraded into an earth one.

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall

**(25-10-2012)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Amount (inches)</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Madauk</td>
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