President U Thein Sein meets Polish Senate Speaker

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct—President U Thein Sein received Speaker of Polish Senate Mr Bogdan Borusewicz and party at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here this morning.

Also present at the call were Union Ministers at the President Office U Soe Maung and U Soe Thein, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw, Polish Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Jerzy Bayer and high-level officials from both sides.

The meeting focused on amity between two countries, cooperation in all sectors beyond parliamentary cooperation, capacity building tasks and Poland’s assistance in follow-up tasks of peace process.—MNA

Suicide bomber kills 40 at Afghan mosque during Eid

MAIMANA (Afghanistan), 26 Oct—A suicide bomber killed at least 40 people in a mosque in Afghanistan’s relatively peaceful north on Friday as worshippers gathered for prayers marking the Muslim Eid al-Adha holiday, police officials said.

The attack in Maimana, capital of Faryab province, also wounded 40, regional police chief General Abdul Khaliq Aqsai said, pinning the blame on the Taleban. A Taleban spokesman said they were investigating to find out who was responsible.

“The suicide bomber detonated explosives when our countrymen were congratulating each other on the Eid holiday,” said Lal Mohammad Ahmadzai, spokesman for the police in the Afghan north, adding that almost half of the dead were police.

He said Aqsai appeared to be the target. “As soon as the police chief got in his vehicle, the bomber detonated his explosives,” Ahmadzai said.

About 20 bodies, some in uniform, lay in front of the mosque’s gates as smoke billowed above.

The attack, at around 9 am local time on the first day of Eid, came just before President Hamid Karzai repeated his call for the Taleban to join the government.

“If you (Taleban) want to come to the government, you are welcome. You have rights as an Afghan and as a Muslim,” he said in a speech marking Eid in the capital, Kabul. —Reuters

Books and cash contributed to village libraries

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct— Members of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation yesterday made donations to Panthaybye Library in Thayeichang Village, Myoetha Library in Chaukgon Village and Pyinya Ahman Library in Hsinthein Tatkon Township. They totally contributed 400 publications and K 150,000 to them.

President Daw Mya of MWAF clarified the aims of the federation and the tasks beneficial for women. Books donor Social and Cultural Working Group Leader Dr Daw Khim Swe Myint explained the purpose of donating books and discussed reading habit and intellectual development, libraries development and increases in number of readers.

Myint explained the purpose of donating books and made suggestions for acquisition of more effective weather forecast. —MNA

Tenth monsoon forum focuses on more effective weather forecast

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct—Department of Hydrology under the Ministry of Transport and Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) jointly organized the tenth monsoon forum here this morning.

The Department of Hydrology and Meteorology discussed weather condition, flood and agricultural weather report during monsoon 2012, comparison of weather forecast and actual condition, and weather predict for cold season, representatives of respective departments utilization of weather forecast and warning in respective fields and made suggestions for acquisition of more effective weather forecast. —MNA

Talks on regulatory compliance given in Kayakto Township

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct—Kayakto Township Police Commander Office of Mon State organized a talk on reduction of crimes at Gangaw ward administrator’s office on 20 October, with an opening address by Mon State Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Htay Lwin.

Inspection Soe Kyi and members disseminated knowledge on crime reduction, rule of law and assistance of townswelders in serving the country joining hands with the police.

Similar talks will be held in 30 villages and wards in the township. —MNA


Frontline players hold the trophy at the awarding ceremony of the 40th Asian Schools Football Championship in Tehran, Iran, on 26 Oct, 2012.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung addresses the Fourth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Labour and Employment Ministers’ Conference (ASEM LABM 4) in Hanoi, capital of Vietnam, on 26 Oct, 2012.

Afghan policemen carry the body of a civilian after a bomb blast in Faryab Province on 26 October. —Reuters
e-Government system moves forward, seeking the prompt

Nav Pyi Taw, 26 Oct—A coordination meeting to develop e-Government, information and telecommunication tasks was held at the President Office here, this afternoon, attended by Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing Thein. He then pointed out that people would surely meet the difficulties in turning points, especially not only good governance and clean government but in every situation, and in implementing e-Government system. The president has already given guidelines how to overcome these problems, he noted. That is why the authorities concerned are responsible for fulfilling the requirements of the entire people without delay, said the Union Transport Minister.

Union Ministers U Thein Tun and Dr Kan Zaw called for the ministries concerned to move forward the e-Government system smoothly, seeking the prompt. Then the work procedures on implementing e-Government system, information and telecommunication sector, future tasks and websites were discussed by the ministries concerned.—MNA

Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing Thein addresses coordination meeting to develop e-Government, information and telecommunication tasks.—MNA

Vice-President U Nyan Tun receives Chairman of TATA International Ltd of India

Nav Pyi Taw, 26 Oct—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun received a delegation led by Chairman of TATA International Ltd of the Republic of India Mr. B. Muthuraman at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 3 pm today.

Present together with the Vice-President were Deputy Ministers U Thant Kyaw and U Myo Aung and officials of the President Office.

At the call, they discussed matters related to cooperation in industrial, energy, mining, steel, hotels and tourism industry and technical services sectors between the two countries on a wider scale.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun shakes hands with Chairman of TATA Internatio nal Ltd of India Mr. B. Muthuraman.—MNA

Entrepeneurs urged to breed cattle on commercial scale

Nav Pyi Taw, 26 Oct—A large number of cattle is being bred in Kyaukpyu, Maung-U, Maung-U and Kyauktaw townships. Especially, least number of animal diseases breaks out in Maung-U likes on island, so animals can be bred on a commercial scale by easily taking control of outbreak of animal diseases, said Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint in meeting with departmental officials, local people and breeders at the hall in Maung-U on 22 October.

The Union Minister urged local people and entrepreneurs to form groups and public companies to implement public-private partnership (PPP) and kept promise to provide necessary pedigrees, technology and assistance to the breeders. He stressed the need to produce finished goods from coconut and develop fishery industry and attended to the needs.

On 23 October, the Union Minister arranged the market for surplus cows at the ground in Minbyin Village of Maung-U Township. After feeding milk to students at Village Primary School, the Union minister viewed surplus cows in Kone Village.—MNA

Conference on Myanmar's Economic Reform held

Nav Pyi Taw, 26 Oct—Jointly organized by Myanmar Development Resources Organization under the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and Southeast Asia Studies from the Republic of Singapore, the Conference on Myanmar’s Economic Reform was held at Myanmar International Convention Centre (MICC) yesterday and today.

At the conference, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw clarified Myanmar’s endeavors for participating in ASEAN’s only one market according to ASEAN Economic Community, activities to create job opportunities in line with market economic system and the circumstances to invest in Myanmar. Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Htet Aung discussed matters related to progress of Myanmar’s economic. The professors, scholars from Hardvard Kennedy School, JICA, MacQuarie University, Kyoto University, Institute of Southeast Asian Study (ISSEAS), OECD Development Centre, University of Kaiserslautern, World Bank and YMCCI read out their papers on Myanmar’s development, Japan’s industrialization way, financial system reform and bank and currency system reform, poverty alleviation and agricultural sector development, small and medium enterprises development, trade and investment convenience and private sector reform and those attendees cordially took part in the discussions.—MNA

TATA International Ltd to invest in Myanmar

Nav Pyi Taw, 26 Oct—As Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint held a meeting with a delegation led by Mr. B. Muthuraman, Chairman of TATA International Ltd, a multinational one, at the Ministry of Commerce, here, this morning, the Union Minister invited the company to make investments in fertilizer plants, steel mills, computer and chemical factories in the country with mutual interests, giving them an advice on establishment of agricultural equipment factories and rice mills.

During the meeting, TATA International Ltd Chairman and officials concerned replied to them that TATA group formed with over 100 companies is working business all over the world, and asked about necessities of gas to be used in producing high-quality products owning to their great interests to make investments in auto mobile industry, steel mills and electricity distributions, software and chemical industries.

The Union Minister and officials concerned answered their queries.—MNA

Attorney-General of the Union receives IMF and UNAIDS officials

Nav Pyi Taw, 26 Oct—Dr Tun Shin, Attorney-General of the Union met a delegation led by Mr. B.arend Jansen of Legal Department of IMF at international hall of the Union Attorney-General Office at 11 am today. He then also met Mr. Michel Sidibe, Executive Director of UNAIDS and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and party at the same venue at 12.30 pm on the same day.—MNA

U Win Naing and wife Daw Than Than Swe of Insein Township in Yangon Region donated K 300,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Joint-Secretary of the Executive Board U Maung Maung Gyi recently.—NLM

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U Win Naing and wife Daw Than Than Swe of Insein Township in Yangon Region donated K 300,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Joint-Secretary of the Executive Board U Maung Maung Gyi recently.—NLM
WASHINGTON, 26 Oct — US President Barack Obama cast his ballot early in Chicago at his home state of Illinois on Thursday afternoon. It was the first time that the US presidential nominee voted early in person. With only 12 days left in the presidential race, Obama stated a polling station at 4:20 pm local time, signed forms, showed his driver’s license and made his choice on the touch-screen machine, according to White House Press Office.

“I can’t tell you who I voted for,” he said on after Obama had cast early ballot, an effort to encourage the early voting drive.

The Obama campaign said early voting has been crucial to get-out-the-vote efforts, citing the Republican presidential ticket on the ground particularly in key swing states. This is a major part of our on-the-ground programme and focus, and we hope that having the President do this will help draw in people across the country, in states where early vote is an option, that this is something they should do, too,” said Psaki. “This afternoon, I’m casting my ballot in my hometown of Chicago,” wrote an email by the Obama campaign sent to supporters earlier Thursday, “I’m told I’ll be the first sitting president to take advantage of early voting.”

An exterior view of the US consulate, which was attacked and set on fire by gunmen in Bengazi, on 12 Sept, 2012. — Reuters

US knew too little to deploy US troops to Benghazi: Pentagon

WASHINGTON, 26 Oct — The Pentagon defended its decision not to deploy forces to Benghazi, Libya, as soon as a US mission came under attack on September 11th, saying it would have been irresponsible to put forces in harm’s way without better information. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta reminded Congress on Thursday about whether the US knew too little to deploy forces to Libya at the time of the attack.

“Don’t deploy forces into harm’s way without knowing what’s going on, without having some real-time information about what’s taking place,” Panetta said in an interview with the general Martin Dempsey, chairman of the US military’s Joint Chiefs of Staff, and General Carter Ham, head of the US military’s Africa Command, felt they couldn’t “put forces at risk in that situation.” This happened within a few hours and it was really over before, you know, we had the opportunity to really know what was happening,” Panetta said. In the aftermath of the attack, Panetta reminded lawmakers that the Benghazi attack had been a “wake-up call” for the administration, who deployed a Marine fleet anti-terrorist security team to Tripoli and had Navy ships off the coast. — Reuters

Damasus shelled hours before scheduled truce

BERLIN/GENEVA, 26 Oct — Damascus residents reported artillery barrages by Syrian troops hours before Friday’s scheduled start of a cease-fire to mark the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha. They said that on Thursday night troops stationed on a mountain overlooking the Syrian capital targeted Hajar al-Aswad, a poor neighbourhood inhabited by refugees from the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. There were no immediate reports of casualties. “Continuous artillery volleys from Qasioni shook my home,” said Omar, an engineer who lives in Al-Unaheen district on a foothill of the mountain. On Thursday a Free Syrian Army commander gave qualified backing to the cease-fire, proposed by UN-Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi, but he demanded that President Bashar al-Assad free detainees. An Islamist group said it was not committed to the cease-fire, but may halt operations if the army did.

Brahimi proposed the temporary truce to stem, however briefly, the bloodshed in a conflict which erupted as popular protests in March last year and has escalated into a civil war which activists say has killed more than 32,000 people. The fighting pits mainly Sunni Muslim rebels against Assad, from the Alawite faith which is linked to Shi’ite Islam, and threatens to draw in regional Sunni Muslim and Shi’ite powers and engulf the whole Middle East.

Brahimi has warned. “On the occasion of the blessed Eid al-Adha, the general command of the army and armed forces announces a halt to military operations on the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, from Friday morning ... until Monday,” an army statement read on state television said. It reserved the right to respond if “the armed terrorist groups open fire on civilians and government forces, attack public and private properties, or use car bombings and explosives.” It would also respond to any reinforcement or re-supply of rebel units, from neighboring countries “in violation of their international commitments to the ceasefire”, said Brahimi.

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Al-Qaeda militants assassinate two Yemeni counter-terrorism officers

SANAA, 26 Oct —Al-Qaeda gunmen shot dead two Yemeni counter-terrorism officers south of the capital on Thursday, a police official said, for which the terrorist network claimed responsibility. The intelligence officers, Ali al-Yemeni and Abdallah al-Salih, were gunned down by “two Al-Qaeda gunmen on a motorcycle” in Dhamar Province, some 100 km south of Sanaa early on Thursday, the official told Xinhua by phone. The assailants escaped the scene, he said.

Meanwhile, the Yemeni-based Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) claimed responsibility for assassinating the two intelligence officers. “We successfully assassinated Colonel Ali al-Yemeni of the Yemeni Political Security Agency and Major Abdallah al-Salih of the National Security Agency,” the AQAP said in a brief statement obtained by Xinhua. In February, the AQAP claimed responsibility for assassinating Major Saleh al-Jabri, the prison warden of the Sanaa-based Political Security Agency, while he was on vacation in Dhamar Province.

Earlier this month, Al-Qaeda militants assassinated an Iraqi counterterrorism adviser to the Yemeni Defense Ministry and a security coordinator between the Yemeni government and the US embassy in Sanaa, according to the Yemeni Interior Ministry. The agency said its helicopters and captured the gunnam, alongside the motorcycle, and handed them to the police for investigation. In a separate incident, the state news agency reported that Mayor of Sanaa, Abdulkader al-Hilal, narrowly escaped an assassination attempt by a gunman on a motorcycle on Wednesday. "Hilal survived unharmed from an assassination attempt when he was inspecting the streets of the old city in preparations for the Muharram festivities of Eid," Saba quoted an unnamed security official as saying.

Yemen
Tech focus now on Microsoft Windows 8, Surface tablet

SEATTLE, 26 Oct— Firm sales numbers for Microsoft Corp’s Windows 8 and its new Surface tablet will not be available for three months, but it may be clear long before then if it has a hit on its hands.

“We can definitely gauge it by chatter,” said Emily Chan, an analyst at Bernstein Research. “There is a slight learning curve, so I don’t think we will see that big pop that iPad saw.”

Microsoft is desperate for the new look, touch-friendly Surface to regain ground lost to Apple’s iPad head on. “I’d definitely take it a sign that it’s not super, super strong, but I won’t take it as something negative,” said Chan at Bernstein, who is expecting 8.3 million Surface sales by the middle of next year. That averages out at about 1 million a month, a third the rate of the iPad, which sold 26.7 million units in 28 days and has sold more than one million units, averaging about 3.2 million a month.

Gartner forecasts that Surface and other tablets running Windows RT will sell about 2.3 million units this year and 9.3 million next year, grabbing about 2 percent and 5 percent of the worldwide tablet market, respectively.

Retail activity will be closely watched. Microsoft will have more than 60 brick and mortar stores open for the release of Windows 8 and, on Friday of ‘’pop-up’’ stores that will stay open for the holiday shopping season.

Sprint unveils new data plans for 4G LTE tablets

NEW YORK, 26 Oct—US wireless carrier Sprint Nextel Corp said it will introduce new rate plans for 4G LTE tablets that offer customers up to 20 percent more data than rivals for the same price.

Competition is heating up among wireless carriers to meet growing customer demand for data as more people buy handheld devices with internet browsing capabilities.

Sprint, the No. 3 US mobile service, also said in a statement that it is waiving for a limited time the activation fee on all 3G and 4G LTE tablets.

The wireless carrier said it will offer four monthly plans designed specifically for 4G LTE tablets, starting at $14 for 200 megabytes (MB) of data, $34.99 for 3 gigabyte (GB) of data, $49.99 for 6GB, and $79.99 for 12GB.

New Surface tablet computers by Micrsoft are displayed at its unveiling in Los Angeles, California, on 18 June, 2012.— Reuters

Although new Surface tablets are already on back order, suggesting strong demand, it is not known how many Surface computers Microsoft has manufactured.

“Early reviews of the Surface have been mixed, generally praising the slick hardware, but faulting battery life and the limited software and applications available,” said some fans of the first Surface model, which runs on a stripped-down version of Windows 8 called RT that is not compatible with old Windows programs, would cause some confusion and dissatisfaction among customers.

The three models for sale on Microsoft’s US website and explains it will determine long term success.

Microsoft has not said if it will reveal sales figures for Windows 8 or the Surface before its next scheduled earnings on 24 January.

The company tends to trumpet good news and stay silent otherwise. After the launch of Windows 7 three years ago, CEO Steve Ballmer waited only a month to announce strong sales.

Sprint will offer family plans for data. It is also offering a $100 savings for a limited time on its 4G LTE tablets, starting at $14.99 for 300 megabytes, $34.99 for 1GB, $84.99 for 5GB, and $139.99 for 10GB.

US military hypersonic aircraft trial set for 2013

WASHINGTON, 26 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 Tuesday, the program manager said on Wednesday, months after its predecessor broke up during its flight.

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 hypersonic 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 control fins. In the past, the X-51 program manager at the Air Force Research Laboratory, Charlie B rink, told reporters on a conference call.

“I can’t say conclusively that’s it, 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 program 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 completed in mid-December, Brink said.

“I am 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
US sues Bank of America over “Hustle” mortgage fraud

NEW YORK, 26 Oct— The United States filed a fraud lawsuit against Bank of America Corp, accusing it of causing taxpayers more than $1 billion of losses by selling thousands of toxic mortgage loans to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Wednesday’s case, originally brought by a whistleblower, is the US Department of Justice’s first civil fraud lawsuit over mortgage loans sold to the big mortgage financiers, which were bailed out in 2008. It also compounds the legal problems that Bank of America Chief Executive Brian Moynihan faces over the second-largest US bank’s disastrous July 2008 purchase of Countrywide Financial Corp, once the nation’s largest mortgage lender.

A complaint filed in Manhattan federal court, Countrywide in 2007 invented and Bank of America continued a scheme known as the “Hustle” to speed up processing of residential home loans. Operating under the motto “Loans Move Forward, Never Backward,” mortgage executives tried to eliminate “faulty” papers designed to ensure that loans were sound and not tainted by fraud, the government said.

This led to “defect rates” that approached 40 percent, roughly nine times the industry norm, but Countrywide concealed this from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and even awarded bonuses to staff to “rebut” the problems being found, it added.

Defaults and foreclosures soared, yet the bank has resisted buying back many of the defaulted loans from the scheme, which ran through 2009, the government added.

“The fraudulent conduct alleged in today’s complaint was spectacularly brazen and scope,” US Attorney Preet Bharara in Manhattan said.

“Countrywide and Bank of America made disastrously bad loans and stuck taxpayers with the bill.”

Wednesday’s lawsuit seeks civil fines, as well as triple damages under the federal False Claims Act, which the government has used several times in recent years against Wall Street.

Lawrence Grayson, a bank spokesman, said in response to the lawsuit: “Bank of America has stepped up and acted reasonably to resolve legacy mortgage matters. The claim that we have failed to reimburse loans from Fannie Mae is simply false. At some point, Bank of America can’t be expected to compensate every entity that claims losses for something that actually was caused by the economic downturn.”

In February, Bank of America agreed to a $1 billion settlement of False Claims Act allegations over home loans submitted for insurance by the Federal Housing Administration, in a case from the US Attorney’s office in Brooklyn, New York.— Reuters

Hormone therapy may cut Alzheimer’s risk in menopausal women

CHICAGO, 26 Oct—The latest data from a long-running study of hormone therapy suggests women who started taking hormone replacements within five years of menopause were 36 percent less likely to develop Alzheimer’s disease than women who started years later.

The findings, reported on Wednesday in the journal Neurology, add to evidence suggesting that taking hormone treatments around the menopause may be doing more than just helping women cope with hot flashes and night sweats.

“Our results suggest that there may be a critical window near menopause where hormone therapy may possibly be beneficial,” Peter Zandi of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, one of the study leaders, said in a statement.

The findings come as menopausal women and their doctors continue to parse out the risks and benefits of hormone replacement therapy.

Most researchers agree that hormone replacements do not protect women from diseases of aging, and taking these drugs for long periods of time are associated with significant risks, including breast cancer, heart disease and gall bladder disease.

Earlier this week, the US Preventive Services Task Force reaffirmed its 2005 guideline recommending against treatment as a way to prevent chronic disease.

But the influential advisory panel did weigh in on the use of hormones to treat symptoms of menopause, a practice backed by many of the societies endorse as long as the drugs are prescribed at the lowest possible dose for the shortest period of time.

The most definitive study on hormone replacement therapy to date comes from the Women’s Health Initiative study, a large, randomized trial that was stopped early in 2002 when it became clear that women who were taking a combination of estrogen and progesterin for five years had higher rates of ovarian cancer, breast cancer, strokes and other health problems.

A related study known as the Women’s Health Initiative Memory Study also showed an increased risk of Alzheimer’s disease in women who took hormone therapy.

The findings were couched in a shock to many doctors and their patients, who thought the study would show a protective benefit.

Hyundai quarterly profit up 13 percent, but long-term growth concerns

SEOUL, 26 Oct— South Korea’s Hyundai Motor Co (005380.KS) increased its quarterly net profit by 13 percent to $2 billion, as it squeezed output capacity to keep sales going despite damaging labor strikes at home, where it produces close to half the vehicles it sells worldwide.

Hyundai, which with affiliate Kia Motors (000270.KS) is the world’s fifth-biggest car maker, said its total shipments rose less than 1 percent in July-September, hit by the industrial action that cost the company lost production of more than 82,000 cars worth $1.5 billion.

Hyundai started a new plant in China in June, and added a third shift at a US factory last month, helping ease some of its capacity constraints. July-September net profit rose to 2.17 trillion won, above an average forecast for 2.13 trillion won, and beating last year’s 1.92 trillion won.

“Hyundai will return to record earnings in the current quarter,” said Kim Seung-hwan, analyst at Golden Bridge Investment & Securities. “But the problem is next year. Investors are concerned that Hyundai’s growth momentum will stall, which is reflected in the recent share price slump.” Hyundai shares have dropped more than 13 percent this month to Wednesday’s close, underperforming both the benchmark KOSPI index .KS11 and its major rivals Honda Motor Co Ltd (7267.T), Nissan Motor Co Ltd (7201.T) and Toyota Motor Corp (7200.T).

The results on Thursday, about 25 percent at 226.50 won each.

Beijing, 26 Oct— China’s spending on research and development (R&D) grew an annual 23 percent in 2011 to 868.7 billion yuan ($139 billion), the National Bureau of Statistics said on Thursday. That was equivalent to 1.84 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), up from 1.76 percent in 2010, the bureau said in a report on its website: www.stats.gov.cn.

Chinese industries spent 599.4 billion yuan on R&D in 2011. The spending was led by makers of computers, electronics and telecommunications equipment, which poured 94.1 billion yuan into R&D, followed by chemicals producers’ outlay of 46.5 billion. Most research and development spending came from rich provinces and cities such as Guangdong, Jiangsu and Beijing, according to the bureau.

Government spending on science and technology rose to 490.3 billion yuan in 2011, up 19.2 percent from a year earlier. China has pledged to boost its R&D as it moves towards higher skilled manufacturing and help local companies move up the global value chain. China plans to boost its research and development spending as a share of GDP to 2.2 percent by 2015.— Reuters
**Increased number of vehicles causes traffic congestion in Mandalay**

Mandalay, 26 Oct — With economic development and urbanization, use of cars and motorbikes is on the increase in Mandalay. Thanks to the increase in number of vehicles, undisciplined vehicles stopped on the main road, shopping centers near the junctions are crowded with the buyers’ vehicles and reckless driving and irresponsible drivers, there is much traffic on the main roads of Mandalay.

Measures are being taken for road safety by Mandalay City Development Committee, widening and upgrading downtown roads, designating some roads as one-way traffic, setting up road signs and traffic lights and placing safety barriers at the junctions.

The morning rush hour is from 8 to 10 am and the evening rush hour is from 4 to 7 pm. It is learnt that the long traffic delay near 84th street and near Zaygyo is due to lack of traffic polices there while more traffic polices are assigned to traffic lights.

Kyon

**Substitution of new PVC pipelines for ageing water pipelines**

Mandalay, 26 Oct — For supply of safe and clean water to the people in Mandalay, the ageing water pipelines buried in the earth more than 20 years ago were replaced with new PVC pipelines starting from 9 October. Under the supervision of the Water and Sanitation Department of Mandalay City Development Committee in cooperation with ward administrators and local people. The installation of new pipelines was carried out at K Anthayar ward between 56th and 57th streets and (kaka) ward in Chanmyathazi Township and Mahamyine (2) (Pa) ward in Mahaungmay Township — Kyemon

**E-Pension Card to put into service**

Meiktila, 26 Oct — Starting from next month, E-Pension Card is going to put into service for pensioners who are drawing their pensions at Myanmar Economic Bank in Meiktila. A new Pension Card costs K 3500, and pensioners are allowed to pay it in four monthly installment, K 1000 each for first three months and K 500 for the last month. It is not required to submit a letter of demand for pension while using the card. The pensioner’s representative needs to show a letter of representation together with the card. For pensioners who are applying card are to be interviewed in person. The cards of the deceased pensioners are to be put back to the bank. Thanks to e-pension card, pensioners will be able to enjoy the comfort and convenience of the new system without waiting their turn in the queue. E-pension cards of the bank in a certain region are not allowed to draw pensions at the banks of other regions.

Kyon

**Pajero at speed skids and turns over**

Mandalay, 26 Oct — A Pajero driven by a young man from south to north on 80th Street between 14th and 15th Streets turned over on the platform after skidding out of control and going straight to the lamp post on 21 October afternoon. The incident occurred while trying to go past a moving cart ahead. The driver got minor injuries in the crash that caused damage to the front part of the car and the lamp post. With regard the incident, No 4 (Pa) Police Station in Mandalay filed a lawsuit against the driver.

Kyon

**Parami ready for blood donation in Nyaungshwe**

Nyaungshwe, 26 Oct — Regardless of race and religion, Parami blood donation association in Nyaungshwe is ready for those who are in need of blood. K Phone Myint Win of the association which was established on 5 April 2012 in accord with the instructions of the members of Sangha in Nyaungshwe said that they made necessary arrangements for availability of blood at any time through phone contacts and quick transport by motorbikes.

Blood donors and those who are in need of blood may contact Kyemon (Ph: 09 428310587), U Soe Min Latt Shop (Ph: 081 20905), Thar Lapyae (Ph: 09 428310589) and U Tha Kyaw Htay (Ph: 09 42831590). — Kyemon

**Health care services for elderly**

Yangon, 26 Oct — On 24 October, MANA Chairman U Khin Maung Tun extended greetings and officials explained ongoing tasks for risk reduction of narcotic drugs abuse. U Lu Min, vice-chairman of MPPO gave an account of work for cooperation between the two associations. Officials concerned answered the queries raised by those present. — Kyemon

**E-pension Card to put into service**

Mandalay, 26 Oct — With economic development and urbanization, use of cars and motorbikes is on the increase in Mandalay. Thanks to the increase in number of vehicles, undisciplined vehicles stopped on the main road, shopping centers near the junctions are crowded with the buyers’ vehicles and reckless driving and irresponsible drivers, there is much traffic on the main roads of Mandalay.

Measures are being taken for road safety by Mandalay City Development Committee, widening and upgrading downtown roads, designating some roads as one-way traffic, setting up road signs and traffic lights and placing safety barriers at the junctions.

The morning rush hour is from 8 to 10 am and the evening rush hour is from 4 to 7 pm. It is learnt that the long traffic delay near 84th street and near Zaygyo is due to lack of traffic polices there while more traffic polices are assigned to traffic lights.

Kyon

**Substitution of new PVC pipelines for ageing water pipelines**

Mandalay, 26 Oct — For supply of safe and clean water to the people in Mandalay, the ageing water pipelines buried in the earth more than 20 years ago were replaced with new PVC pipelines starting from 9 October. Under the supervision of the Water and Sanitation Department of Mandalay City Development Committee in cooperation with ward administrators and local people. The installation of new pipelines was carried out at K Anthayar ward between 56th and 57th streets and (kaka) ward in Chanmyathazi Township and Mahamyine (2) (Pa) ward in Mahaungmay Township — Kyemon

**E-Pension Card to put into service**

Meiktila, 26 Oct — Starting from next month, E-Pension Card is going to put into service for pensioners who are drawing their pensions at Myanmar Economic Bank in Meiktila. A new Pension Card costs K 3500, and pensioners are allowed to pay it in four monthly installment, K 1000 each for first three months and K 500 for the last month. It is not required to submit a letter of demand for pension while using the card. The pensioner’s representative needs to show a letter of representation together with the card. For pensioners who are applying card are to be interviewed in person. The cards of the deceased pensioners are to be put back to the bank. Thanks to e-pension card, pensioners will be able to enjoy the comfort and convenience of the new system without waiting their turn in the queue. E-pension cards of the bank in a certain region are not allowed to draw pensions at the banks of other regions.

Kyon

**Pajero at speed skids and turns over**

Mandalay, 26 Oct — A Pajero driven by a young man from south to north on 80th Street between 14th and 15th Streets turned over on the platform after skidding out of control and going straight to the lamp post on 21 October afternoon. The incident occurred while trying to go past a moving cart ahead. The driver got minor injuries in the crash that caused damage to the front part of the car and the lamp post. With regard the incident, No 4 (Pa) Police Station in Mandalay filed a lawsuit against the driver.

Kyon

**Parami ready for blood donation in Nyaungshwe**

Nyaungshwe, 26 Oct — Regardless of race and religion, Parami blood donation association in Nyaungshwe is ready for those who are in need of blood. K Phone Myint Win of the association which was established on 5 April 2012 in accord with the instructions of the members of Sangha in Nyaungshwe said that they made necessary arrangements for availability of blood at any time through phone contacts and quick transport by motorbikes.

Blood donors and those who are in need of blood may contact Kyemon (Ph: 09 428310587), U Soe Min Latt Shop (Ph: 081 20905), Thar Lapyae (Ph: 09 428310589) and U Tha Kyaw Htay (Ph: 09 42831590). — Kyemon

**Health care services for elderly**

Yangon, 26 Oct — An official of Engineering Department of Yangon City Development Committee said that five free parking lots would be built in order to reduce traffic congestion and solve the problem of car park shortage in Yagon. Five free parking lots—a place between Bapaya Street of Upper Kyimyindine in Kyimyindine Township and Hanthawaddy Street, a place between Arawraha Street and Maha Bandoola Street on Botataung Pagoda Road, a place in front of Yagon general Hospital on Bogyoke Street, a place on upper Pazundaung Road and a container yard on Strand Road in Ahtom Township—are under construction. A container yard on Strand Road can hold many containers, trucks and garages and public toilets will be built there. Upon completion it will be the biggest parking lot in Yagon. “Thanks to construction of more free parking lots and widening of roads, it is expected to reduce traffic congestion by early 2013,” he said. — Kyemon
Familiarity with culture and tradition of national brethren vital for nationalistic fervour

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct—In honour of the 19th Myanmar National Races’ Traditional Performing Arts Competition, a dinner was hosted at Myanma International Convention Centre here this evening, attended by Vice-President U Nyan Tun who presented certificates of honour to members of panel of judges.

Also present at the dinner were Union ministers, deputy ministers, members of leading committees and subcommittees for organizing the competition, departmental heads, judges, managers and coaches from regions and states, members of national race cultural exchange teams from states, and invited guests.

In his address of honour, the Vice-President noted the cooperation of senior artists, contestants, personnel of committee and subcommittees, national brethren from every corner of the nation with nationalistic fervour for the success of the competition in grandeur.

He expressed thanks to all personalities who put heart and soul in the competition with a sense of responsibility.

It was grateful, encouraging and the pride for the future nation that and departmental personnel cooperated with might and main out of nationalistic awareness for the competition while discharging departmental duties and senior artists devoted their time and efforts into the competition despite of tiredness to disseminate cherished arts, noted the Vice-President.

The ancestors also have handed down their fine inheritance to us and our efforts at present are intended to guarantee the future of younger generation.

It is required to nurture the younger generation, who would take over our responsibilities in the future.

The Vice-President related a sense of value for own national brethren and nationalistic fervour urging to make the younger generation familiar with tradition, customs, culture and characteristics of own national brethren, who would take over our responsibilities in the future.

K yauktaw, Yathedaung, Kyaukpyu, Pauktaw of Rakhine State shaken by violence

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct—Mob arson attacks in Kyauktaw, Yathedaung, Kyaukpyu and Pauktaw Townships of Rakhine State yesterday razed 385 houses to the ground, leaving 10 dead and nine injured.

The similar attacks in Lethsaungkauk village in Kyauktaw Township burnt 18 houses to the ground, leaving six dead and four injured. 41 improvised percussion lock firearms abandoned by the crowd were seized.

Two people were killed and four injured in the similar attacks that set 30 houses ablaze in Nyaungbingyi village in Yathedaung Township.

Mob violence in western ward, Thanpanchaung ward and Taungyin village-tract extended ward in Kyaukpyu killed two and hurt one.

A total of 153 houses and one building were burnt down. Rakhine state government and regional authorities reached out to the scenes and are taking actions to take rescue and resettlement measures, ensure the rule of law and stability and control the violence.

MNA

Turkish aids arrives, plans under way to send them to victims quickly

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct—Under the scheme of Turkish embassy in Myanmar to provide humanitarian aids to both societies in Rakhine State, two C-130 of Turkish military aircrafts with aids arrived at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

The officials systematically received the aids and transported to Sittway with cargo ships of M yanma Airway.

MNA

Farmland laws multiplier course kicks off

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct—Organized by Pobbathiri Township Settlement and Land Records Department, the multiplier course on farmland law and vacant, virgin and fallow land management law and related rules was opened at the hall of Pobbathiri Township General Administration Department in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 24 October.

On the occasion, Township Administrator U Tint Kyaw Lwin made a speech.

A ssistant Director of Settlement and Land Records Department U Kyaw Lwin and Head of Township SLRD U Aung Myint Sein explained the laws and rules.

MNA

Vice-President U Nyan Tun gives certificates of honour to the members of panel of judges.—MNA
MINISTRY OF IMMIGRATION
Committee held the meeting Oct—The Central Census
Saturday, 27 October, 2012
answers they have been told.
of a student and not letting them write down the
students sports activities, the country has faced the
most of the schools. Since the cessation of nationwide
their physical development. Unfortunately, physical
school and tuition, which have direct impact on
students in urban schools have no time to play between
a doctor. The number of a square peg in a round
of parents who if affordable force their offspring to
medical universities have long been the top choice
Myanmar where medical profession has been
quite usual in most societies. In this regard, parents
his interests lie and what he wants to be, which is
horizon in a deeper sense? For the majority of
Myanmar parents, the answer would no doubt still
be the grades and it would be no different for most
the students.
There is hardly a child who knows clearly where
his interests lie and what he wants to be, which is
quite usual in most societies. In this regard, parents
are obliged to let their children discover his/her
dream and point out the right approaches. In case of
Myanmar where medical profession has been
widely accepted as the most prestigious occupation,
medical universities have long been the top choice
or parents who it affordable force their offspring to
do a degree there.
This has resulted in two undesirable consequences,
one who does not want to be a doctor and one wants to be a doctor does not become
a doctor. The number of a square peg in a round
hole is uncountable with no measurable effect on
intellectual capital of the nation.
Moreover, most of primary and secondary
students in urban schools have no time to play between
school and tuition, which have direct impact on
their physical development. Unfortunately, physical
training has been excluded from the curriculum in
most of the schools. Since the cessation of nationwide
students sports activities, the country has faced the
shortage of outstanding young athletes.
In fact, the marks does not mean anything and
examination should be viewed as testing the abilities
of a student and not letting them write down the
answer they have been told.

Central Census Committee meets
Nay Pyi Taw, 26 Oct—The Central Census
Committee held the meeting 3/2012 at the hall of the Ministry of Immigration
and Population, here, on 25 October. Chairman of the Central
Census Committee Deputy Minister for Immigration
and Population U Win Myint made a speech on harmonious efforts of the
departments concerned to participate in conducting the
national census.
Secretary of the Central Committee Director-General of the Population Department
U Myint Kyawing reported on plans for collection of
national census. The participants discussed cooperation of departments in collecting the census and
requirements. MNA

NATIONAL
19th Myanmar National Races ...
(from page 16)
level literature and arts
to confer degrees and
upgrading of previously
“music schools and art
and sculpture schools” into “fine
arts high school” that offer
combined curriculum of
basic education high school
level education and fine
arts by the government is indeed
laying foundation for
“knowledge” infrastructure,
a minimum condition for
striking balance between
traditional cultural fine arts
and modern technologies.
The Vice-President then
awarded first, second and
third prize winners of basic
level Maha Gita contest.
Then, Union ministers,
senior military officers from Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s
Office, and deputy ministers
presented prizes to winners of
respective contests.
The Vice-President
presented awards to invited
prize-winning national
race cultural exchange
teams from Kachin, Kayah,
Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakine
and Shan states, prize-
winning troupes in drama,
marionette and opera
contests and medals and

MNA

What grades really mean
W hat do you think is more important on report
cards, grades on the surface or perception of actual
horizon in a deeper sense? For the majority of
Myanmar parents, the answer would no doubt still
be the grades and it would be no different for most
of the students.

Straight a student does not necessarily mean
to have certain mental agility in and outside the
classroom in our schools. There have been some
perceived changes in educational institution, but
it seems that the reform does not much affect our
educational values and the apparent parrot-learning
is still frequent around us, from elementary students
to undergraduates.

There is hardly a child who knows clearly where
his interests lie and what he wants to be, which is
quite usual in most societies. In this regard, parents
are obliged to let their children discover his/her
dream and point out the right approaches. In case of
Myanmar where medical profession has been
widely accepted as the most prestigious occupation,
medical universities have long been the top choice
or parents who it affordable force their offspring to
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This has resulted in two undesirable consequences,
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national census. The participants discussed cooperation of departments in collecting the census and
requirements. MNA

Do not become “respected
disciplines” in practice.

Mnaung Maung San Lwin

Trade Development Meeting held
Nay Pyi Taw, 26 Oct—Trade Development Meeting held
6/2012 of Union Commodity Price Stability Committee took place at 1 pm today at the
Ministry of Commerce, with an address by Committee Chairman Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint. At the meeting, the
Union minister said that entrepreneurs, associations
needs to prepare for exporting quality value-added products as Myanmar has chance to trade with
Asian countries and the world. Only when Myanamar business-men export high-quality products to the market, can they overpass
obstacles to penetrate into the foreign market. To reduce
necessary expense as soon as possible for commodities
flow, it needs to cooperate with line department and organizations and to form
mobile teams to prevent illegal products, he said.
Then, deputy ministers, president of UMFCCI and officials from sister
associations and department concerned presented commodity stability, goods production and trade development.
MNA

Admission of error
We printed a wrong photo accompanying the report of the meeting
between Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and US Deputy
Secretary of Treasury Mr Neil Steven Wolin in our
26 October issue. The editorial board accepts full responsibility for the error.—NLM

All the disciplines in words

MNAung Maung San Lwin

Firefighting Platoon Commander
course commences
The Firefighting Platoon Commander Course No 13/2012 was opened at Anawrahta Hall of Central
Firefighting Training School in Pyin U Lwin Township on 23 October, attended by 120
trainees.

New Social Security Board explained
A clarification on implementation of new social security law
and extension of social security project was held at the hall of Taninthayi
Road construction works under
inspection
Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint
inspected maintenance of Pyay-Aunglan-
Mawgaw road and
placing of gravels on Thaggar-Koebin road,
tarmacking and concrete drain construction on 21 October.

News in Brief
Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint
Kyu presents prize to a winner in Performing
Arts Competition.
MNA

The prize presentation ceremony.
Present at the concluding ceremony were Union ministers, senior military officers from Defence Services
Commander-in-Chief’s Office, deputy ministers,
departmental heads, members of the leading
committee for organizing competition, judges,
managers and participants for regions and states,
national race cultural exchange teams from states, prize winners and
contestants.—MNA

NATIONAL
PYITHU HLUTTAW

Five questions answered, one proposal submitted, informing Hluttaw, submitting important proposal carried out

Deputy Minister for Finance and Trade U Myo Myint and Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Than Kay Htay replied to the questions raised by the representatives. Thura U Shwe Mann and 359 other MPs from Hluttaw raised a question about if there is plan for helping farmers who suffer loss from annual flooding of rice plants about if there is plan for helping farmers who suffer loss from annual flooding of rice plants. Members of Parliament from Mandalay Region asked the government to provide an explanation about if there is plan for helping farmers who suffer loss from annual flooding of rice plants.

U Gun Mwng of Haka Constituency puting proposals—MNA replied that the proposal was an appropriate one in accord with the present time. The proposal was approved to put on record by the Hluttaw. Thura U Shwe Mann and 359 other MPs from Hluttaw raised a question about if there is plan for helping farmers who suffer loss from annual flooding of rice plants. Members of Parliament from Mandalay Region asked the government to provide an explanation about if there is plan for helping farmers who suffer loss from annual flooding of rice plants.

Deputy Health Minister responds to questions of three representatives

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Than Kay Htay responded to the questions raised by the representatives. Dr Aung Than of Shwebo Constituency, Dr U Maung of Maung Maung Thein of Mandalay Region asked the government to provide an explanation about if there is plan for helping farmers who suffer loss from annual flooding of rice plants. Members of Parliament from Mandalay Region asked the government to provide an explanation about if there is plan for helping farmers who suffer loss from annual flooding of rice plants.
Texas opens first 85-mph highway in US, but trucks may shun it

LOCKHART, (Texas), 26 Oct — Everything’s bigger in Texas including, as of Wednesday, the speed limit. A new 41-mile (65-kilometre) stretch of toll road between San Antonio and Austin is now open with an 85-mph (137-kph) speed limit, the highest posted speed limit in the United States. State transportation officials hope that the speed limit will be an incentive for motorists to pay the roughly $12 toll to drive in Texas including, as of Wednesday, the highest posted speed limit in the United States.

Lifting barriers could unlock Africa food trade:

Washington, 26 Oct — Africa could avoid food shortages if it reduces the tangled web of rules, fees and high costs strangling regional food trade and by putting large swathes of uncultivated land to productive use, a World Bank report said on Wednesday. Just 5 percent of Africa’s 200 million hectares of arable land imports are now provided by African farmers, according to the report released on the eve of an African Union summit on agriculture and trade in Ethiopia. "Too often borders get in the way of getting food to homes and communities which are struggling with too little to eat," said Makhtar Diop, World Bank vice president for Africa. The bank estimated that 19 million people are in danger of hunger and malnutrition in West Africa’s Sahel region.

Sudan blames Israeli air strike for munitions plant blasts

KHARTOUM, 26 Oct — Sudan said on Wednesday that an Israeli air strike had caused the huge explosion and fire at an arms factory in Khartoum that killed two people, but Israel’s defence minister declined to comment.

Sudan, which analysts say is used as an arms-smuggling route to the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip via neighboring Egypt, has blamed Israel for such strikes in the past, but Israel has either refused to comment or said it neither admitted nor denied involvement. A source at Israel’s Channel Two News about Sudan’s accusations, Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak said: "There is nothing I can say about this subject."

Three killed, two wounded in twin shootings near Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, 26 Oct — A gunman opened fire at a small business and a nearby home owned by members of the same family in the Los Angeles suburb of Downey on Wednesday, killing three people and wounding two others before fleeing in a stolen car, authorities said. It was unclear what motivated the gunman to commit the back-to-back shootings, which erupted shortly after 11 am about two blocks apart in a blue-collar neighborhood, Downey police Lieutenant Dean Miligan said. The fact that all five victims were believed to be relatives led investigators to suspect that they may have been singled out by the perpetrator, he said. "We don’t believe it’s a random act because it’s two locations that are tied together, but we can’t confirm that at this time," Miligan told Reuters. He said police have not identified the suspect and were told by survivors that he did not recognize their assailant, who remained at large in Downey, a suburb southeast of Los Angeles. Details of the attacks remained murky. But according to authorities’ initial account, the gunman walked into a commercial fire-protection business and started shooting, killing a man and woman and wounding a third person, described only as a female. Driving away in a car owned by one of the family members, the suspect then moved on to the house two blocks away, where he killed a female occupant and wounded a 13-year-old boy, police said. Ages of the other victims were not given. The two survivors were listed in critical but stable condition.

UN Middle East envoy calls for maximum restraint from Palestine, Israel

UNITED NATIONS, 26 Oct — UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Robert Serry on Wednesday called on Palestine and Israel to show "maximum restraint" amid the recent surge of violence. Mr. Serry, a spokesperson for the UN secretary-general, said at a daily briefing that Serry made this appeal during his visit to the UN Gaza Office and a UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) project in Gaza. During the visit, there was another escalation of violence between Israel and Gaza. Serry deeply deplored the violence and called on all parties to show maximum restraint, said Serry. Palestine reportedly fired dozens of rockets into Israel from Gaza on Wednesday, for which Hamas and Popular Resistance Committee groups have claimed responsibility. Israel retaliated with airstrike that left at least five people wounded.

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Wednesday afternoon that Israel was "prepared for a much wider and deeper operation" to quell the ongoing rocket salvos by Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip. Serry expressed his concern that "with recurrent violence, as illustrated today, continued closures, and the persistent Palestinian division, we will lose the race against time to preserve Gaza as a livable place."

"People in Gaza and the West Bank expect their leaders to take tangible steps towards Palestinian reconciliation, and that the United Nations would continue to work with all parties to build confidence," said Serry. — Xinhua

Displaced women wait with vouchers at a food distribution centre at a camp for internally displaced persons (IDP) in Abu Shouk on 18 Oct, 2012. — Reuters

Three killed, two wounded in twin shootings near Los Angeles

Onlookers gather to look at a huge fire that engulfed the Yarmouk ammunition factory in Khartoum on 24 Oct, 2012.— Reuters

Middle East

Displaced women wait with vouchers at a food distribution centre at a camp for internally displaced persons (IDP) in Abu Shouk on 18 Oct, 2012. — Reuters
**Japan Cabinet OK's 422 billion yen emergency spending to boost economy**

**Tokyo, 26 Oct** — The Cabinet of Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda approved a fiscal stimulus package Friday, with the government spending 422.6 billion yen (about 5.3 billion) in emergency funds to underpin Japan's economy, which is feared to fall into a recession amid weakening domestic demand.

The policy package, also financed by regional governments and totally valued at over 750 billion yen, came as the first in a series of steps aimed at boosting growth at a time when the world's third-biggest economy has seen a deceleration in its recovery from the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

"We will accelerate our efforts to ensure an early exit from deflation and revitalize the Japanese economy," Noda was quoted by Chief Cabinet Secretary Osamu Fujimura as telling his ministers.

The premier also said that full-fledged stimulus will follow as early as next month. — Kyodo News

**Cambodia records 5 percent decline in landmine casualties in 9 months**

**Phnom Penh, 26 Oct** — Cambodia on Friday reported 143 landmine casualties in the first nine months of this year, representing a 5 percent decrease from 151 casualties at the same period last year, according to a report from the Cambodian Mine and Explosive Remnants of War Victim Information System. During the January-September period of this year, 37 people were killed, up from 32 deaths at the same period last year, said the report.

Besides, 106 others were injured or amputated, down 11 percent from 119 at the same period last year. It said that 54 percent of the victims were men, 27 percent were boys, and 19 percent were women and girls. The two late标志着late-term pregnancy

**New Zealand offers new home to Afghan interpreters**

**Wellington, 26 Oct** — A group of Afghan interpreters working for New Zealand troops and diplomats in the province of Bamyan will be offered residency in New Zealand, the New Zealand government announced on Friday. The offer to 23 interpreters and their families follows New Zealand opposition warnings that Afghans working for New Zealand would face persecution or death if they were left in Afghanistan after New Zealand and troops leave in April next year.

Defence Minister Jonathan Coleman and Immigration Minister Nathan Guy announced the offer of resettlement, which would cover about 73 Afghans if all the interpreters accepted it.

The package allows for up to 32 Afghan interpreters to be resettled in New Zealand, with their family members expected to opt for a three-year salary payment so they could opt to relocate elsewhere in Afghanistan, said a statement from the ministers.

"The interpreters are playing a critical role in the operation of the PRT (Provincial Reconstruction Team) in Bamyan, enabling the PRT to interact effectively with the local population," Coleman said in the statement. "Offering assistance to current interpreters employed by the government reflects the view that New Zealand should demonstrate a duty of care to this group who have served New Zealand with the work of the Provincial Reconstruction Team," he said.

Immigration Minister Nathan Guy said the interpreters were not "refugees" as defined by the Refugee Convention or asylum seeker status, but would gain residence under a discretion offered by New Zealand immigration laws.

"They will not displace refugees offered places under our United Nations High Commissioners for Refugees (UNHCR) quota of 750 people per year," Guy said in the statement. — Xinhua

**Two dead, dozens injured in Hokkaido road accident**

**Sapporo, 26 Oct** — A collision involving two buses and a sport-utility vehicle killed two people, apparently in their 70s, and injured dozens more, with over 30 people rushed to hospital Friday in Hokkaido, local police said.

The accident occurred around 1 a.m. on a slippery road in K Momosu in the southwest of the prefecture.

Police and local fire department officials believe the sport-utility vehicle veered onto the opposite lane, hit a small bus and then collided with another bus following behind.

The two killed were in the SUV, while the small buses were carrying workers on their way to a food-processing plant in Kimobetsu. — Kyodo News

**China launches another satellite for independent navigation system**

**Canberra, 26 Oct** — Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard will launch the Australian Century white paper in Sydney on Sunday.

The document is expected to be predominantly focused on Australia's relations with China, India, Indonesia, Japan and South Korea. After a wait of up to 13 years, the coming 300-page policy blueprint is expected to set a series of long-term targets for Australia's political, economic and personal ties with the rapidly rising region.

Announcing the paper in September last year, Gillard said the dramatic shift of economic and strategic power to Asia would require Australia to have a profound and uninvolved influence on Asia's future prosperity and security.

Ken Henry, chief author of the Australian Century white paper, has said Australia must embrace Asia to stay prosperous. "Asia presents enormous opportunities for Australia but they won't come to us simply because they are geographically next door," he said last month. — Xinhua

**Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung addresses the Fourth Asia-Europe Meeting**

**Hanoi, 25 Oct** — Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung addresses the Fourth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) at the Fourth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) on Friday, 25 Oct. 2012. The Fourth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) launched another satellite into space for its indigenous global navigation system has been gradually launched after launching three Beidou satellites into space, according to the photo in the southwest of the province.

The Beidou system, or Compass Satellite Navigation System (CSNS), is expected to offer services by 2020. Since it started to provide services on a trial basis on 27 Dec, 2011, the Beidou system has been gradually used in extended sectors including transportation, weather forecasting, marine fisheries, forestry, telecommunications, hydrological monitoring and mapping, according to the spokesperson.

The newly-launched satellite will play an important role in improving the system's service, the spokesperson said. China started to build up its own satellite navigation system to break its dependence on the US Global Positioning System in 2000. Between October 2000 and May 2003, the country set up a regional satellite navigation system after launching three Beidou geostationary satellites. — Xinhua

**Cambodia launches another satellite for independent navigation system**

**Xichang City, 26 Oct** — China successfully launched another satellite into space for its indigenous global navigation and positioning system.

**Cambodia**
A former employee of the World Changers Church who resigned from his job in August, said Fulton County Police Corporal Kay Lester Palmer was arrested in an Atlanta shopping mall, nearly six hours after the shooting, said Jeff Faley, a spokesman for the US Marshals Service.

"He did not put up a fight," he said. As many as 25 people were inside the church when Palmer was said to have walked calmly into the service and began shooting. Lester said he then turned around and walked out, driving away in a car.—  Reuters

US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta (L) and his Republic of Korea (ROK) counterpart Kim Kwan-jin attend a press conference after their meeting at the Pentagon in Washington D.C., capital of the United States, on 24 Oct, 2012.— Xinhua

US, ROK defence chiefs focus on joint nuclear deterrence

WASHINGTON, 26 Oct — US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta on Wednesday met with his Republic of Korea (ROK) counterpart Kim Kwan-jin at the Pentagon, and agreed to focus on a joint deterrence policy against nuclear threats on the Korean Peninsula. The two reached the agreement at the annual Security Consultative Meeting.

According to a joint communiqué, the two agreed the nuclear and ballistic missile programmes of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) “pose a serious threat to regional stability and global security,” and they are “committed to maintaining close consultation to develop comprehensive alliance capabilities to counter DPRK’s ‘weapons of mass destruction threats.” The two reaffirmed that any DPRK aggression or military provocation is not to be tolerated and that the US and the Republic of Korea would work shoulder-to-shoulder to demonstrate our combined resolve,” said the communiqué.

Panetta reaffirmed to his South Korean counterpart the “continued commitment to provide to and strengthen extended deterrence for the ROK,” including using US nuclear umbrellas, conventional strike and missile defence capabilities. The two decided to develop a “tailored bilateral deterrence strategy through the Extended Deterrence Policy Committee.” They also approved “joint concepts and principles of tailored deterrence.” During a press briefing after the talks, Panetta said on Washington is also in consultations with ROK over its future role in a regional missile defence system. Washington has recently expanded its missile defence system in Japan, adding a new radar.— Xinhua

US, ROK defence chiefs focus on joint nuclear deterrence

A man is seen behind the entrance door of the offices of the Financial Services Authority (FSA) in Canary Wharf, London, on 19 Nov, 2010.— Reuters

LONDON, 26 Oct — Most Britons seeking a home loan after next year will be required to get professional advice to establish whether they can afford the repayments, the Financial Services Authority said on Thursday. Only people who earn 300,000 pounds a year, have assets worth three million pounds or only want minor changes to an existing loan will be exempt from a consultation. The aim of the new rules which come into force on 26 April 2014 is to test affordability and end so-called “ liar loans” where the borrower has not been required to give proof of income.
The changes seek to end Britain’s history of housing booms and busts due to the country’s love affair with home ownership, creating rollercoaster rides for the economy.

The home loans market has already cooled sharply compared with the run up to the 2007-09 financial crisis as lenders are far stricter, forcing borrowers to stump up much bigger deposits while turning down others. “We recognize that many lenders are now using a far more sensible set of lending criteria than before, but it is important that these common sense principles are hard-wired into the system to protect borrowers,” FSA managing director Martin Wheatley said in a statement.

“At the heart of the new measures is an affordability test to check borrowers can meet the repayments of the mortgage they want.” Interest-only mortgages can be offered to anybody who shows they have a credible repayment strategy, the FSA said. There are no fixed limits on how much a bank can lend to a first time buyer, or limits on lending to older people.— Reuters

FSA bans “ liar loan”

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Iran dismisses French FM’s nuclear remarks as “ irresponsible”

TIBERIAS, 26 Oct — Iran’s Foreign Minister Spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast dismissed as “irresponsible” the recent remarks by the French foreign minister about the Iranian nuclear program, Press TV reported on Wednesday.

“There is this question that how can the French foreign minister speak of the danger of Iran obtaining nuclear weapons while completely ignoring the inspections of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) over past years that have rejected any divestionary efforts by the Islamic Republic of Iran from peaceful purpose,poses,” Mehmanparast was quoted as saying. According to media reports, on Sunday, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said that Iran would obtain nuclear weapons by mid-2013. Mehmanparast expressed hope that Fabius would not repeat the “ mistakes” of some former French officials who had adopted “radial and unrealistic” stances against Iran, according to Press TV.

Suspected gunman in custody after Atlanta church shooting

ATLANTA, 26 Oct — A former employee at a suburban Atlanta megachurch was taken into custody on Wednesday, only hours after he was said to have walked into the church with a gun and opened fire, killing a man leading a prayer service, police said.

Multiple gunshots rang out in the chapel of the World Changers Church International in College Park, Georgia, around 10 am EDT (1400 GMT).

The suspected gunman was identified as Floyd Palmer, 32-year-old former...
Ex-Britney Spears confidante sobs over death threats

LOS ANGELES, 26 Oct— The former confidante of pop star Britney Spears broke down on the witness stand on Wednesday, saying his tell-all book on the singer’s personal life triggered a deluge of death threats that drove him into a suicidal depression.

“If I went anywhere public, people were assaulting me,” Sam Lutfi told jurors at a civil trial in Los Angeles.

“People knew who I was. Some people were online threatening me. There were countless postings online that were threats to kill me. People wishing that I was dead,” Lutfi said, choking up and beginning to cry. “People wishing harm on my family.”

Lutfi, who emerged as Spears’ closest friend during her 2007 personal and career meltdown, was testifying for the second day in his lawsuit against the “Toxic” superstar and her parents.

He said Spears’ mother, Lynne Spears, alleged she hired him in her 2008 book “Through the Storm,” and made him a scapegoat for her father’s problems.

He is also suing Britney Spears for a chunk of her earnings, claiming she hired him as her manager soon after meeting him in 2007. And he is suing her father, Jamie Spears, for assault.

Lutfi said on Wednesday that Spears’ father chased him, punched him and threatened to kill him in her Los Angeles home in early 2008. “Jamie Spears was spitting and shouting, yelling at me, telling me that I had hurt his daughter and I had better leave or he was going to beat the hell out of me,” Lutfi testified.

The trial, which began last week, has offered a glimpse into Spears’ private life during her highly publicized crisis five years ago, including a divorce, a bitter child custody battle, head-shaving incident and claims of amphetamine abuse.

Rare James Bond posters hitting auction block in LA

LOS ANGELES, 26 Oct— In line with the 50th anniversary of the James Bond franchise, posters from every Bond movie in the series are hitting the auction block in December, along with stills, lobby cards and other 007 ephemera.

Auctioneer Profiles in History said the Bond poster collection is expected to take in well over $200,000, led by a rare “From Russia With Love” special advance Leicester Square world-premiere poster from 1963.

It is one of a handful believed still in existence and is expected to fetch $10,000 to $15,000, the auction house said.

“It’s such a rare thing when you get every title like this,” said Joe Maddalena, the auction house’s president, referring to the comprehensiveness of offerings.

The posters and other items were assembled over some 25 years by a private British collector, Maddalena told Reuters. “He wanted to build the most comprehensive James Bond movie poster collection,” he said.

“It’s really a mind-boggling collection,” Maddalena added, pointing to examples such as a yellow “Dr No” silkscreen on linen poster from 1962 that is thought to be the very first 007 film poster ever to appear to the public.

Tom Cruise files $50 million lawsuit over claims he abandoned Suri

LOS ANGELES, 26 Oct— Tom Cruise filed a $50 million defamation lawsuit on Wednesday against magazines that claimed he had abandoned his daughter, Suri, following his divorce from actress Katie Holmes. The “Mission: Impossible” star filed the lawsuit in US court in Los Angeles against the publishers of celebrity magazines “In Touch” and “Life & Style.”

Cruise’s attorney Bert Fields said in a statement:

“Tom is a caring father who dearly loves Suri. She’s a vital part of his life and always will be. To say he has ‘abandoned’ her is a vicious lie. To say it in lurid headlines with a tearful picture of Suri is reprehensible.”

Cruise’s lawyer, Bert Fields, said in a statement:

The lawsuit refers to two cover stories published by the magazines in July and September with the headlines “Abandoned by Daddy” and “Abandoned by her dad.”

The September story from “In Touch” claimed that six-year-old Suri, the only child of Cruise and Holmes, had gone more than 44 days without seeing him.

The magazines, owned by privately held German publishing group Bauer Media, have reportedly never return calls for comment.

Holmes filed for divorce in June after six years of marriage, seeking sole custody of Suri, in a no-fault divorce.

She is also said to be working with Paris-based travel expert Omar Cheff, who owns OC Travel, to organize the luxury celebration.

Jafri: No expense spared

The couple, who have been dating since 2008, celebrated the model’s 40th birthday together with a huge party in the south of France two years ago. Guests including the Black Eyed Peas, Grace Jones, Donatella Versace, Kate Moss, Giorgio Armani and Jennifer Lopez helped her celebrate the milestone.

Naomi Campbell plans Indian bash for boyfriend

LOS ANGELES, 26 Oct— Naomi Campbell is planning a huge Indian bash next month for her billionaire boyfriend Vladislav Doronin’s 50th birthday.

The 42-year-old model, who was blamed by her Russian boyfriend’s ex-wife for their divorce earlier this year despite being separated for ten years, is throwing a lavish four-day celebration for her beau that will kick off in Rajasthan on 4 November with guests flying in from around the world.

A source told the New York Post’s Page Six: “Naomi is flying a lot of people out to India and paying for everything.”

The supermodel has reportedly emailed guests invitations that include an image of her boyfriend posing underwater with a Seabob, a hand-held propulsion device in a James Bond style photo-shoot.

The British style icon has reportedly booked out an entire five-star hotel for the main celebrations but has planned a number of other events that will take place in other parts the scenic city of Jaipur.

She is also said to be working with Paris-based travel expert Omar Cheff, who owns OC Travel, to organize the luxury celebration. A source said: “No expense has been spared.”

Naomi’s team is even helping their friends secure visas. “It will be the party of the century.”

The couple, who have been dating since 2008, celebrated the model’s 40th birthday together with a huge party in the south of France two years ago. Guests including the Black Eyed Peas, Grace Jones, Donatella Versace, Kate Moss, Giorgio Armani and Jennifer Lopez helped her celebrate the milestone.

- Reuters
Barca and Atletico look to pile pressure on Real Madrid

Madrid, 26 Oct — FC Barcelona have the chance to further pile the pressure on Real Madrid in matchday nine of the BBVA Primera Liga. League leaders Barca travel to the capital to take on struggling Rayo Vallecano in the Vallecas Stadium on Saturday night with Real Madrid not playing until Sunday, a win in Vallecas would temporarily take Barca 11 points clear of Madrid, who face a difficult trip to play in Malaga on Sunday. Barcelona will hope to have central defender Gerard Pique available for the trip and his height will be vital for a defensive set that has struggled to defend set pieces this season. Pique could partner young-up M: Arbeloa, who impressed against Celtic in midweek, while Javier Mascherano is suspended. A defensive Madrid are another side that could momentarily go 11 points clear of Real Madrid should Diego Simeone’s side win at home to Osasuna. A tetchy kick off before M: Madrid and will fancy all three points against the side that is currently bottom of the table.

Saturday’s remaining matches will see Valencia look to maintain their recovery away to a Betis side that loses Benat Etxebarria following suspension. Valencia are in good spirits after a 3-0 win away to BATE Borisov in the Champions League and the return of midfielders David Alba and Ever Banega to the side’s Man while the Galician derby between Celta Vigo and Deportivo de La Coruña returns to the top flight. Deportivo are currently in their relegation zone but will take a point from a rival that looks solid at home.

Three places Malaga have little time to recover from their European exploits and follow their 1-0 win over A.C Milan with a trip to struggling Espanyol. Malaga coach and former defender Pepe Mel will hope to have defender Nacho and Espanyol new arrival after a back problem. Real Madrid’s trip to Malaga is the highlight of Sunday’s matches and Jose Mourinho will have to continue with his make-it-fit defense as a result of injuries to full backs Marcelo and Fabio Coentro and A Ivaro Arbeloa. Sami Khedira will also miss the trip to take on a tough side that is currently bottom of the table.

Sunday begins with Zaragoza looking to confirm that they are not going to struggle this season which they had in previous campaigns.— Reuters

Tennis

Nadal pulls out of Paris and London

Paris, 26 Oct—World number four Rafa Nadal has pulled out of the Paris Masters and the ATP World Tour finals in London as he is still recovering from his left knee injury, the ATP said on Thursday. The 11-times grand-slam singles champion has not played since he suffered a shock second-round loss to Czech Lukas Rosol at Wimbledon in June.

“It is disappointing for me to miss the last two tournaments of the season in Paris and London but it doesn’t come as a surprise,” the 26-year-old Spaniard was quoted as saying in a statement on the ATP website (www.atptour.com).

Li Na of China hits a return to Serena Williams of the United States during their match at WTA Championships 2012 in Istanbul of Turkey on 24 Oct, 2012.— Xinhua

Nadal, who has been battling knee problems for years, could also miss the Davis Cup final between his country, who are the defending champions, and Czech Republic in Prague from November 16 to 18.

With the Spaniard unable to play in the French capital and the year’s eight best players, who impressed against Celtic in midweek, will converge on London’s O2 arena for the finale of the season, the 2008 and 2010 title holder, Nadal, will now only play the ATP World Tour Masters 1000 next month in Paris.

Stoner bids for fairytale farewell at Phillip Island

Melbourne, 26 Oct—Record crowds are expected to hail local hero Casey Stoner on Phillip Island on 26 October as he bids for a record sixth home Grand Prix, but injury and Jorge Lorenzo could spoil his party. Twice MotoGP champion Stoner has been out of the running in the US and the Honda painful injury on his tricky coastal circuit where a wet and gusty conditions are certainly to prevail.

The circuit’s owners have honoured the Australian by naming the hary turn three “Stoner’s corner” and the rider has vowed to attack the track with his trademark aggression. The injury, however, has worsened since his return at the Japan Grand Prix, where he finished a creditable fifth behind his team-mate Dani Pedrosa. “We’ve had a lot more trouble with it day-to-day, just getting around on it at all,” Stoner said.

“I don’t think it will affect me any differently on the bike. The biggest moment I’m having at the moment is flexibility on the bike trying to get it working,” Stoner said.

Fortunately on this track there are not too many tight corners that are so critical, so we should be a little more comfortable riding around here. The main fitness problem I’m having at the moment is endurance.” Despite a career marred by injury and illness, Stoner has enjoyed a long, uninterrupted reign at Phillip Island, and he underlined his mastery of the track on Friday by finishing top of the time-sheets after the first round of practice.

Last-gasp win for Inter, Athletic lose again

Berne, 26 Oct—Rodrigo Palacio snatched an 89th minute win for Inter Milan over Partizan Belgrade in the Europa League on Thursday while 1.18 were on the wrong end of some late drama in a 1-1 draw at Panathinaikos.

Napoli produced another comeback performance, losing 3-1 at Dnipropetrovsk, and Udinese, the fourth Italian side, suffered a shock 3-1 defeat at Young Boys where Raul Bobadilla scored a hat-trick.

Titleholders Atletico Madridchalked up their third straight group stage win, beating A cademica Coimbra 2-1, but Athletic Bilbao, last season’s runners-up, were left on the brink of elimination after losing 2-1 at Olympique Lyon At San Siro, Lazio were heads in a crowd from fellow Argentine Diego Milito one minute after Partizan’s Lazar Markovic nearly scored for the Serbs on the break.

The win left Inter and Rubin Kazan, who beat AFC 1-0, level on seven points from three games at the top of Group H.

Lazio were gifted a 25th minute lead in Athens when Giourkas Seitaridis’s back pass caught goalkeeper Ersdis Kastrati short and the ball rolled into the net. Toche equalised for Panathinaikos on stoppage time.—Reuters
Disaster

**Hurricane Sandy menaces US after slamming Cuba**

A local resident clears the damage after Hurricane Sandy hit Santiago de Cuba, Cuba, on 25 Oct, 2012. The hurricane currently on the Caribbean has grown stronger and larger than expected Thursday, and is threatening to affect US East Coast early next week, according to forecasters.—Theinbyu

**New York, 26 Oct—** A mother returned home to her New York City apartment on Thursday to find two of her young children stabbed to death in the bathtub, and the family’s nanny was arrested as the suspect in the killings, police said. The mother discovered the bodies of the little boy and girl at about 5:30 pm in their apartment at 57 West 75th Street, near Central Park, on Manhattan’s affluent Upper West Side, police said. New York Police Department spokesman Paul Browne said the children suffered “multiple stab wounds,” and were pronounced dead at the scene, he said.

“‘It’s about the worst thing you can hear or imagine,’” Browne said. The nanny was lying on the bathroom floor and had stabbed herself in the neck, police said. A bloody kitchen knife lay on the floor nearby, police said. The 50-year-old nanny, who was not identified, was taken to a nearby hospital and was under arrest, police said. She was listed in critical but stable condition, police said. The mother was identified as Marina Krim, 38, police said. The slain children were Leo, 2, and Lulu, 6. Their father is Kevin Krim, a CNBC executive.

The mother had returned home with a third child, 3-year-old Nesses, after the girl’s swimming lesson. Police Commissioner Ray Kelly said at a media briefing. She saw that the apartment was dark and returned to the lobby to ask the doorman if the nanny and kids had gone out, he said. The doorman said no, and she returned to the apartment to make the grisly discovery, he said. A neighbour heard the mother’s screams and called 911, police said. A neighbour quoted in The New York Times said she could hear “bloodycurdling screams” from a woman in the apartment.—Reuters

**Two children stabbed to death in NYC apartment, nanny arrested**

Crime

**M inivan crashes into Canadian school, injuring several children**

**Accident**

**Edmonton, 25 Oct—** A minivan veered off a road and plowed into a classroom in western Canada on Thursday, seriously injuring several children, including one who was pinned underneath the vehicle, police said. Witnesses described a chaotic scene at the school in the town of St. Paul, Alberta, 200 km (125 miles) northeast of Edmonton, after the white van sped through a fence, smashed into a window and landed in a classroom where a sixth-grade French class was taking place.

Three students were airlifted to a hospital in Edmonton with critical injuries following the morning incident, which started children and teachers throughout the school.

**A police officer stands in front of a building on 57 West 75th Street in New York on 25 Oct, 2012.—Reuters**

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**NLM**

**Saturday, 27 October, 2012**
19th Myanmar National Races’ Traditional Performing Arts Competition concludes

NAY PYI TAN, 26 Oct—“Cultural image is one of the images that represent a country or a nationality. A country with a long history of flourishing culture will be able to stand tall among international community. Cultural image includes tangible historical and archaeological assets and performing arts that can be measured emotionally,” said Patron of the Leading Committee for Organizing 19th Myanmar National Races’ Traditional Performing Arts Competition Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun as headaddressed the concluding and prize presentation ceremony of the competition at Myanmar International Convention Centre here this morning.

The Vice-President said: These performing arts develop based on nature they exist. Performing arts developed on the land with the beauties of nature reflect pleasant surroundings of Myanmar. It is our social figure or our surroundings of Myanmar.

We gained recognition of international community for our performing arts in combination with harmony and tranquillity and liveliness and tenderness. Ramayana Drama, a well-known art work of Southeast Asian countries, is acknowledged as a gloriously style of dancing of Myanmar in the world up to date.

The 19th Myanmar National Races’ Traditional Performing Arts Competition has succeeded in conveying cultural heritage and fine traditions of Myanmar national races to younger generation. Each awardee today is the one who excels in performing national duties of arts as a citizen and deserves the national level honour. They will have to keep in mind from now on that they have the bountiful national duty of arts. I would like to call on judges, who are veteran artists, and volunteers of the event for getting ready

Competition among the contestants and cultural exchanges become peaceful and melodious voice for our country. Myanmar arts such as rural songs, Myanmar national races’ songs, classical songs, dance, single talks etc, are played and sang in all walks of life. And then they are put on record from radio, CD, tape, cassette, CD, VCD ages to Internet age.

The world sees the rapid changes in all aspects. Not only we should not assume every change as development but turn a blind eye to changing environments by timely holding Myanmar tradition alone. Striking a balance between modern technology and traditional arts has made it possible to put traditional songs, traditional music and traditional dances on the internet. Finding a right balance calls for employment of a sheer quantity of technologies and visions.

This is the reason behind consideration of technical assistance such as the setting special effects in performance appraisal to date.

The establishment of “national culture and fine arts universities” as a learning centre of higher

Vice-President Dr Sai Ma'uk Kham receives UNAIDS Executive Director and UN Under-Secretary-General Mr Michel Sidibe.

NAY PYI TAN, 26 Oct—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Ma’uk Kham received a delegation led by Executive Director of UNAIDS and United Nations Under-Secretary-General Mr Michel Sidibe.

Vice-President Dr Sai Ma’uk Kham received UNAIDS Executive Director and UN Under-Secretary-General Mr Michel Sidibe.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun presents prize of honour to traditional cultural exchange troupes from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States.

Vice-President of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun as headaddressed the concluding and prize presentation ceremony of the competition at Myanmar International Convention Centre here this morning.

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The establishment of “national culture and fine arts universities” as a learning centre of higher

Nations’ Under-Secretary-General Mr Michel Sidibe.— MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Ma’uk Kham receives UNAIDS Executive Director and UN Under-Secretary-General Mr Michel Sidibe.

At the call, they discussed assistance of UNAIDS for eradication of HIV/AIDS infection in Myanmar.—MNA

Hurricane Sandy drenches the Bahamas, leaves 21 dead in Caribbean

BAMAHAS, 26 Oct—Hurricane Sandy pounded the Bahamas with battering winds and rain on Friday, sweeping over the island chain after killing 21 people across the Caribbean and posing a menacing threat to the US East Coast.

Forecasters warned the late-season storm is expected to combine with a polar air mass near the United States next week, potentially producing a highly unusual and potent storm that could wreak havoc along the US East Coast.

The US National Hurricane Center early on Friday issued tropical storm warnings for much of the Florida coast and tropical storm watches up through much of North Carolina.

Late Thursday, Sandy weakened to a Category 1 storm as it tore through sparsely populated low-lying southeastern islands in the Bahamas, knocking out power and blowing off rooftops of some homes.

Sandy’s torrential rains and heavy winds were blamed for the deaths of 21 people.— Reuters