President U Thein Sein holds talks with Finnish PM in Vientiane

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Nov—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein held talks with Prime Minister of Finland Mr Jykri Katainen in Vientiane in Lao People’s Democratic Republic at 4 pm today.

Also present at the meeting were Union ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Tin Naing Thein and U Kyaw Lwin and deputy minister Dr Win Myint and senior officials while Finnish prime minister was accompanied by the ambassador of Finland to Myanmar and the deputy foreign minister of Finland and senior officials.

During the meeting, the two sides openly discussed matters related to progress of the reforms in Myanmar, tour of Finland businessmen to observe investment opportunities in Myanmar, investment and technological assistance from Finland for the economic development of Myanmar, establishing workshops and factories in Myanmar to produce value-added products in order to create job opportunities, exploration of oil and natural gas and mining sector based on natural resources, providing assistance on technology and cooperation for the development of education sector in Myanmar and seeking support of the members of the EU to lift the remaining sanctions against Myanmar to be able to accelerate the reform efforts.—MNA

Myanmar, Luxembourg keen on economic cooperation

Mr Jean-Claude Juncker at Doung Chanh in Vientiane, Laos this evening.

They had a frank discussion on cooperation in tourism industry development in Myanmar, utilization of human resources and rich natural resources, investment of Luxembourg businessmen in Myanmar, signing of agreement against double tariff between the two countries, resumption of generalized scheme of preferences (GSP) to Myanmar, and bilateral cooperation in various sectors.

Also present at the call together with President U Thein Sein were Union ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Tin Naing Thein and U Kyaw Lwin, and Deputy Minister Dr Win Myint.

Luxembourg Prime Minister Mr Jean-Claude Juncker was accompanied by Development and Cooperation Minister, Health Minister and officials.—MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein holds talks with Prime Minister of Finland Mr Jykri Katainen.—MNA

INSIDE

Last NASA space shuttle becomes museum piece

The space shuttle Atlantis rolls down Kennedy Parkway on its way to its new home at the Kennedy Space Centre Visitor Complex in Cape Canaveral, Florida in this handout photo supplied by NASA on 2 Nov, 2012.

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Nov—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received Prime Minister of Luxembourg Mr Jean-Claude Juncker.

President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Prime Minister of Luxembourg Mr Jean-Claude Juncker.

MNA

Hurricane Sandy damaged areas are seen along RI 35 in Bayhead, New Jersey, on 2 Nov, 2012 in this handout image courtesy of the governor’s office.
Denmark opens embassy in Yangon

YANGON, 4 Nov — M rs Helle Thorning Schmidt, Prime Minister of Denmark, attended a ceremony to open the Embassy of Denmark at No. 7 on Pyithu Road in Mayangon Township at 1:30 pm today.

In her opening address, she said the new chapter between the governments of Myanmar and Denmark and between the two peoples was opened today to strengthen the relations and friendship between the two countries.

Union Minister U Aung M in expressed his hope that the bilateral friendship would help development of all sectors, especially, between the two peoples and social organizations.

The opening ceremony was also attended by members of the delegation led by the Prime Minister of Denmark, Union ministers, diplomats and departmental officials.

The Danish delegation led by Prime Minister Mrs Helle Torning Schmidt arrived here at 8:50 am by special flight and they were welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and diplomats from the Embassy of Denmark.

Deepavali Eve dinner held

YANGON, 4 Nov — Deepavali Eve Dinner Ceremony took place at National Theatre on 1 November.

Chairman U Aung Shwe of Myanmar-India Business Entrepreneurs Association ignited the lights.

Present at the dinner were Yangon Region Electric and Industry Minister U Dyan Tun Oo, ambassadors from foreign embassies, departmental heads and invited guests.

Buddha images of PhaungdawU pagoda concludes procession

YANGON, 4 Nov — Buddha images of Inlay PhaungdawU pagoda were carried back to the throne on 2 November.

Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat, state ministers and officials conveyed the Buddha images back to the shrine and donated meal, lights, water and robe to the Buddha images.

They then enjoyed the boat race and awarded the winners.

Private training schools crucial in nurturing skilled labour: Union Labour Minister

YANGON, 4 Nov — Union Minister for Labour U M Aung M yint called for nurturing skilled and semi skilled labour, signaling his ministry’s assistance for development of private training centres in producing skilled labour.

The Union Minister while visiting Htet Oo Proficiency Training School in Hmaynetha Industrial Zone yesterday morning stressed it is urgently required to nurture skilled and semi skilled labour force not only for local but also for foreign labour market.

He described ASEAN free flow of labour in 2014 as a grave challenge to Myanmar workers who said need to be ready as skilled labour. Private - owned training schools are important in this process, noted the minister who promised the ministry’s assistance for development of such schools in anticipation of influx of FDI.

The Union Minister then visited Greatecold storage and Shwe Y born cold storage. He called for harmonious cooperation between employers and employees to build a peaceful workplace as a mean for future success of the business.— MNA

M yanmar, Thailand vow to triple trade volume

YANGON, 4 Nov — Myanmar and Thailand vowed to triple the 2009’s trade volume in 2013 at the sixth Myanmar-Thai Trade Joint Commission meeting at Royal Orchid Sheraton in Bangkok, Thailand on 2 November.

Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint and Thai delegation led by Minister of Commerce Mr Boonsong Teriyapirom attended the meeting which focused on promoting bilateral trade and investment, cooperation in agricultural produce and industrial products trade, transportation, banking, tourism and service industries.

The Union Minister also held a private meeting with the Thai Minister to share views on bilateral trade.

On 1 November, the Myanmar delegation led by Director-General of Directorate of Trade U Kyaw Htoo and Director- General of Trade Negotiation Department Mrs Piramol Charoenpao held senior officials meeting on bilateral trade.

M aruat at International Modern Living, Fashion and Cosmetics Exhibition

YANGON, 4 Nov — Korean decoration materials producer Maruat floors and Silky wallpapers were put on display at Myanmar International Modern Living, Fashion and Cosmetics Exhibition 2012 that took place at Atrahadaw Convention Centre here on 1-4 November.

The floors and wallpapers can be easily installed and cleaned.

Enob brand sofas, settees and mattresses are also on display at the exhibition.— MNA

Those present were entertained with Indian songs.— MNA

M odern furniture on display at Myanmar International Modern Living, Fashion and Cosmetics Exhibition 2012.
Early voters turn out to vote in Chicago

**Poll**

CHICAGO, 4 Nov — While most US citizens will vote next Tuesday, some of the country’s early voters are already out cast their ballots. Ms Meghan Keskitaoo from Chicago turned out on Saturday, saying “I hope our new president will be our old president.” Keskitaoo and her husband came to the management office of the Horner Park in Chicago Saturday morning, and joined a queue of some 30 people meandering upward to the second floor to cast their votes for the US president.

Living only a block away from the early voting site, Keskitaoo and her husband hope Obama will win the election. “I don’t think [Mitt] Romney’s policies will help our nation,” she said, adding “I think [Barack] Obama has much better ideas.”

The official voting day actually falls on 6 November. But to address the voting of those who may not be able to show up on the voting day, the city of Chicago opened six early voting sites starting on 50 wards from 29 September to 3 November.

It’s great they have early-voting systems in place so people who have stuff they have to do on the election day to still have their voice heard,” said Paoma Christie. Christie has come to the Bucktown-Wicker Park Library to cast her vote. Her choice is Obama.

He [Obama] is being a little bit more honest than the other candidate, and I appreciate that,” said the 23-year-old college graduate. Christie thinks that Obama has better plans for what needs to happen in this country. “I don’t think Romney has a clue, personally,” she said frankly.

Dan Schuessler, a 27-year-old on-line project manager, also turned up on Saturday. “I think he [Obama] is leading the country in a right direction right now. If he is elected, his policy, his stance, issues have been consistent.”

Xinhua

David W. E. Wing has a piece of campaign literature on a door knob as he canvasses for US President Barack Obama in Portsmouth, New Hampshire on 3 Nov, 2012. — Reuters

**Middle East**

JERUSALEM, 4 Nov — Israeli President Shimon Peres on Saturday exhorted Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to turn up to the US White House for the first time in four years. Peres said that the US president and his wife would back Obama, the Democratic incumbent, while Abbas might back Romney, the former Massachusetts governor. The two have been neck and neck in the race for the White House with razor thin margins in four key swing states, according to a Reuters/Ipsos daily tracking poll released on Saturday.

“I think he [Obama] is leading the country in a right direction right now. If he is elected, his policy, his stance, issues have been consistent.”

Xinhua

**Israel-Syria**

President Bashar al-Assad’s forces appear over-stretched with fewer fighters on the ground as they have sought to limit rebel advances with far superior firepower, increasingly from the air and sophisticated rebel from the Sukour al-Sham brigade said. Further fighting was reported in the eastern, oil-producing province of Deir al-Zor and on the outskirts of Damascus. Activists said government forces also clashed with rebels near the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights and killed at least nine fighters. An Israeli military spokesman said three Syrian tanks entered the demilitarized zone in the Golan, southwest of Damascus. Activists said the tanks were involved in an artillery battle with rebels. In Washington, the White House had no immediate comment on the incursion.

A soldier watches over seized packages of marijuana during a presentation of the 2nd military zone achievements to the media in Tijuana, Mexico, on 3 Nov, 2012. Mexican Army seized over 2 tons of marijuana during a security operation held on Friday. — Xinhua

**Congo**

Kinshasa, 4 Nov — At least 10 people were killed and four others injured in a head-on collision between the two trains near the intersection of the Democracy Republic of Congo (DRC), according to the Congolese Society of Transport and Ports (SCTP).

The two trains coming respectively from the capital Kinshasa and from Mbandaka, were “brave and important,” and said he had confirmed his eligibility as a true partner for peace “through his deeds and his words.”

“Israel is a country that seeks peace, and as such we must stretch out our hand for peace to a leader like him... He has... made peace, and we support the solution for two states for two peoples.”

Xinhua

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US farms need recharged soil moisture after drought

WASHINGTON, 4 Nov — Drought-struck areas of the US Plains winter wheat belt need a deluge of rain and snow this winter to fully recharge parched farmland, an unlikely scenario that means wheat, corn and soybean crops could face a rough new season. While the worst drought in roughly half a century is slowly loosening its grip on the United States, meteorologists and agronomists warn that the threat has not passed.

Wheat farmers now sowing their last winter seeds, and corn and soybean growers making planting plans for spring, are haunted by the worrisome fact that parts of Nebraska, Kansas and other key agricultural states have the lowest levels of moisture in years. Indeed, Nebraska recorded the driest June, July and August on record and the third-driest September ever, according to preliminary data from the National Climatic Data Centre.

Some areas would need 5 to 6 feet of snow on top of more than 15 inches of rainfall over the next few months just to get back to normal, say climate experts. It typically takes about 10 inches or more of snow to make one inch of water. That would not mark record amounts of precipitation, but would provide much more than normal — and more than can easily be dealt with.

“It’s an insane amount of snowfall that would be required... among the top five snowfalls in history,” said AI Dutcher, a climatologist with the National Drought Mitigation Centre in Nebraska.— Reuters

Mars rover still sniffing for elusive methane

CAPE CANAVERAL, 4 Nov — Initial analysis of the atmosphere of Mars from NASA’s ‘rover Curiosity has shown no sign of methane, a gas detected previously by remote sensors, researchers said on Friday. On Earth, more than 90 percent of the methane in the atmosphere results from living organisms and its presence in the Martian atmosphere, first detected in 2003, raised the prospect of microbial life on the planet. Although no methane was detected during Curiosity’s first detailed atmospheric analysis, scientists working under the auspices of the US space agency plan to keep looking.

“The search goes on,” Curiosity scientist Paul Mahaffy, from NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Centre in Greenbelt, Maryland, told reporters on Friday. In addition to chemically analyzing soil and rocks, Curiosity is equipped to sample and study gases in the planet’s thin atmosphere. The rover’s onboard laboratory looked for methane in concentrations as small as five parts per billion. Scientists so far have no explanation as to why Curiosity has found no methane, when orbiting probes and ground-based telescopes have previously found evidence of the gas on Mars.

As well as being produceby living organisms, methane is also generated by geological activity. Methane would not have to be released at Curiosity’s landing site inside Gale Crater for the rover to detect it, according to atmospheric chemist Sushil Atreya of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. “If there is a source of methane elsewhere, it does not have to be very long for it to get distributed over the planet — about three months,” Atreya said.

“As we monitor (for) methane over time, we may be able to say more about the possibility about any sources in the Gale-Crater region,” he said. Measurements of other atmospheric gases have proven more fruitful. An analysis of carbon, argon and other isotopes, which are variations of particular chemical elements, indicates that Mars, as suspected, has lost significant amounts of its atmosphere to space over time.— Reuters

Last NASA space shuttle becomes museum piece

CAPE CANAVERAL, 4 Nov — NASA’s last space shuttle rolled out of a hangar in Florida on Friday and traveled down the road to the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex to begin a new life as a museum piece. Atlantis is the third and final shuttle to be retired and turned over for public display after the end of the 30-year-old shuttle programme last year.

“Don’t cry because it’s over; smile because we had it,” Patty Stratton, a manager with shuttle contractor United Space Alliance, told workers gathered beforehand outside the Kennedy Space Center’s Vehicle Assembly Building.

The 1960s-era Apollo complex, later used to pair vehicles to the shuttle, was empty. The Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex just after 6 pm EDT (2200 GMT), “it traveled a lot faster in its previous life,” quipped former astronaut Chris Ferguson, who commanded the last shuttle flight aboard Atlantis. “I think that maybe a generation or two of pilots after are going to look at the space shuttle and wonder what it was like to fly that.”

An aerial view shows oil that seeped from a well operated by Chevron at Prada, on the waters in Campos Basin in Rio de Janeiro state on 18 Nov, 2011.— Reuters

Russia launches two satellites into space

MOSCOW, 4 Nov — A Russian Proton-M rocket carrying two telecommunications satellites blasted off from the Baikonur space centre in Kazakhstan early Saturday, federal space agency Roscosmos said.

The launch was carried out at designated time and successful, a Roscosmos spokesman said.

Nine minutes after the launch, at 01:13 Moscow time (2113 GMT Friday), the Briz-M booster separated from the rocket to send the two satellites into their orbits, Roscosmos said.

The separation of the Yamal-300K satellite from the Briz booster was conducted at 10:19 Moscow time (0619 GMT), while the separation of the Luch 5B satellite was performed at 10:33 Moscow time (0633 GMT), according to Roscosmos.

Both Yamal and Luch were built by Reshetnev space company. The Yamal-300K telecast will join the network of Russian energy giant Gazprom’s telecommunications branch Gazprom Space Systems (GSS). It covers a service zone of 95 percent of Russia’s territory. Luch 5B was expected to relay data from space vehicles and track orbits of various space objects, according to its designer.— Xinhua

Pressure builds for better oil spill clean-up technology

LONDON, 4 Nov — With oil becoming scarcer and more expensive, the economics of the industry may finally tip in favour of one of the most neglected areas of its business — the technology for cleaning up oil spills.

Despite efforts by scientists to find new and more effective ways to deal with oil spill, it has been little fundamental change in the technology in the two decades since the 1989 Exxon Valdez disaster that spilled 750,000 barrels of oil into Prince William Sound in Alaska.

But as oil companies push into the environmentally pristine Arctic and deeper waters elsewhere, the pressure on them to demonstrate they can quickly and efficiently clean up will increase. Big spills like BP PLC’s 2010 disaster in the Gulf of Mexico usually trigger a flurry of research, much like the acceleration in weapons technology in wartime, but history shows that industry and government enthusiasm quickly fades.

That loss of momentum could prove expensive. BP has already spent $13 billion on clean-up operations, paid out over $8 billion in claims and is offering a further $7.8 billion in settlement to those affected by the disaster.— Reuters

Audience queue up to enter the Auditorium of the 17th Tous Ecrans (all screens) International Film Festival in Geneva, Switzerland, on 2 Nov, 2012. The festival selects fictions in all formats and on all media ranging from film to television to video game consoles, not to mention cell phones and the web.— Xinhua

Science & Technology

A sample of Martian soil delivered by the robotic arm on NASA’s Mars rover Curiosity to the rover’s landing site for the first time is pictured in this 16 Oct, 2012 handout photo.— Reuters

The space shuttle Atlantis rolls down Kennedy Parkway on its way to its new home at the Kennedy Space Centre Visitor Complex in Cape Canaveral, Florida in this handout photo supplied by NASA on 2 Nov, 2012.— Reuters

The atmosphere of Mars from Curiosity’s landing site inside Gale Crater for the rover to detect it, according to atmospheric chemist Sushil Atreya of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. “If there is a source of methane elsewhere, it does not have to be very long for it to get distributed over the planet — about three months,” Atreya said. “As we monitor (for) methane over time, we may be able to say more about the possibility about any sources in the Gale-Crater region,” he said. Measurements of other atmospheric gases have proven more fruitful. An analysis of carbon, argon and other isotopes, which are variations of particular chemical elements, indicates that Mars, as suspected, has lost significant amounts of its atmosphere to space over time.— Reuters

Peer-reviewed journal articles, books, and reports can be found on the internet at www.newlightofmyanmar.com
GM badly lags Ford in Europe restructuring

PARIS/Detroit, 4 Nov — Ford Motor Co, which clung to the road with a timely swerve before the 2009 crisis that bankrupted General Motors Co, may now be pulling a similar stunt in Europe.

The Dearborn, Michigan-based automaker is scrapping three European plants and thousands of jobs while its rival appears to be stuck on the starting grid. The speed of Ford’s restructuring plan — and the comparatively slow pace of GM’s — has become more important during a protracted slump in Europe’s auto market, with sales down another 7.2 percent so far this year.

Both companies unveiled hefty third-quarter losses in the region and warned they could lose a combined $6 billion or more in Europe in 2012-13. The bad news weighs heavily on GM’s troubled Opel unit, which has lost billions of dollars over the past decade, has a long history of ill will with its labour unions, has seen its products and brand image plummeted in the media and has shown the door to all but a handful of its top executives. More than anything, however, the cost of making cars is simply too high, with too many workers still on the payroll given sagging demand in most of western Europe.

Opel is lagging Ford in Europe because it “totally missed the golden opportunity to make deep cuts during the last crisis,” said Mirko Mikelic, portfolio manager at Fifth Third Bank, who oversees assets including GM preferred shares and Ford debt. “Most investors would like to see some capacity cuts” at GM, he said. “It doesn’t necessarily have to be the same timing as Ford, but we hope GM will take similar steps.” The euro zone crisis has exacerbated the auto sector’s overcapacity, locking companies into paying high fixed costs to build fewer vehicles. GM and Ford plants in Europe operate at less than 75 percent of installed capacity, analysts say. — Reuters

Sharp's stock falls, credit downgraded as worries mount

TOYKO/HONG KONG, 4 Nov — Shares of Japan’s Sharp Corp fell and Fitch Ratings downgraded its debt to junk status on Friday, a day after it warned of a $5.6 billion net loss for the year and said it might not be able to survive on its own. Sharp’s stock fell 2.4 percent to 165 yen and has lost three-quarters of its value since the start of the year, the worst performing among 2,200 Asian large and midcap stocks, Thomson Reuters data shows.

Shares of rival Sony Corp rose, however, and Panasonic Corp’s steadied after a slide to their lowest in more than 30 years, as investors look for signs that Japan’s sprawling tech firms will finally take the tough steps needed to grapple with more flexible and better-funded foreign rivals. “Sharp and Panasonic look miserable,” said Yasuo Sakuma, portfolio manager at Bayview Asset Management. “Investors are hesitant to buy them even though their share prices look relatively cheap. Nobody can say all the bad news has been discounted.”

Fitch Ratings downgraded Sharp’s credit rating by six notches to B-minus, following cuts by Moody’s Investors Service and Standard & Poor’s last summer. Fitch said it may cut the rating further, citing looming debt maturities, its limited access to capital markets and the struggle it faces turning its business around.

Sharp’s shares remained above a more than three-decade low of 142 yen hit last month, buoyed in part by hopes it can forge an alliance with a high-tech company interested in its display technology, but traders also noted it had become very expensive and difficult for short-sellers to borrow more shares to sell. — Reuters

Kraft Foods approves $650 million restructuring plan

WASHINGTON, 4 Nov — Kraft Foods Group Inc (KRFT.O), which sells Velveeta cheese, said it approved a $650 million restructuring plan related to its spin-off from Kraft Foods Inc in October.

The company said the restructuring cost involves severance related to the spin-off, asset disposals and other one-time expenses. Kraft Foods Group said about half of the total restructuring cost is expected to result in cash expenditures. In addition to the restructuring, the company also approved related capital expenditures of $200 million. It expects to complete the restructuring by the end of 2014.

Kraft Foods Inc spun off its North American grocery business in October as Kraft Foods Group. Mondelēz International Inc (MDLZ.O), whose brands include Oreo cookies, Cadbury chocolate macarons and cheese products are seen on the shelf at a grocery store in Washington, on 3 May, 2012.— Reuters

Confident beginning paves way for happy marriage

VANCOUVER, 4 Nov — Couples who were more confident when starting their marriage were more likely to spend time together, thereby showing more satisfaction in their relationship three years later, a new study showed.

The study, published recently in the journal Family Process, used a community-based sample of 610 newly married heterosexual couples to examine the relationship between marital confidence, time spent together, and marital satisfaction over about three years.

It showed that those who were most confident at the outset of matrimony were still showing their happiness by sticking together as a couple long after the honeymoon was over. "These couples were spending time together, dining out, taking part in activities together, sharing meaningful conversation and physical expressions of affection," said co-author Matthew Johnson, a researcher in romantic relationships at the University of Alberta, Canada. "Those who are more confident in getting married are willing to invest in their relationships." Johnson added, Johnson suggested that couples about to tie the knot should not ignore any nagging doubts about getting married, as it would make a difference in their future marriage.

Canada job market stalls in October after hefty gains

OTTAWA, 4 Nov — Canadian job growth stalled in October after two months of strong hiring. Statistics Canada data showed on Friday, confirming expectations employment gains would ease to reflect sluggish economic growth. The economy added 1,800 jobs in the month, even lower than the small increase of 5,000 jobs forecast in a Reuters poll, while the unemployment rate held steady at 7.4 percent.

Economists have argued that with the economy expanding at a rate of about 2 percent, employment growth of the magnitude seen in the previous two months was not sustainable. “It’s not too surprising to find the Canadian labour market take a bit of a breather. The underlying details are still fairly positive,” said David Tulk, chief Canada macro strategist at TD Securities. “It’s consistent with growth slowing into the third quarter and then recovering slowly thereafter.” The Bank of Canada last week slashed its forecast for third-quarter growth to an annualized basis to 1 percent from 2 percent, citing a greater degree of slack in the economy. — Reuters

Chicago grains down with outside market negativity, demand issues

CHICAGO, 4 Nov — Chicago corn, wheat and soybean futures all fell in trading on Friday, as a negative outside market and concern over US export sales put pressure on agricultral commodities. The most active corn contract for December delivery fell 11.5 cents, or 1.53 percent, to close at 7.395 dollars per bushel. December wheat declined four cents, or 0.46 percent, to settle at 8.645 dollars per bushel. January soybeans sank 1.25 cents, or 2.13 percent, to close at 15.2675 dollars per bushel.

A stronger greenback is a negative force for commodities, as it makes them more expensive to holders of other currencies. — Xinhua

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MOFA donates furniture, stationery to monastic education school

Nay Pyi Taw, 4 Nov— Maternal and Child Welfare Association of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs donated school furniture and stationery to No (6) Monastic Education School of Yangon Region, located in Mawlamyine on 2 November.

Patron of Maternal and Child Welfare Association at the ministry U Win Lin Lin Tin presented the furniture and stationery at the ceremony.

Thriving winter sugarcane plantations in Bago

Yangon, 4 Nov — It is learnt that Yangon Region Cooperative Society is achieving success in cultivation of sugarcane, an industrial crop.

Chairman of the society U Myint Naing said it was allowed to put sugar cane on the area of 180 acres for 30-year term. The produce of 100-acre sugarcane plantation on Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw Expressway in Pakkaung village-tract in Yeadase Township of Bago Region would be transported to No (6) Sugar Mill. A total of 2500 tons of sugarcane to be used for industrial purposes.

As an attempt to take part in rural region development and poverty alleviation scheme of the government, Yangon Region Cooperatives Society established 100-acre sugarcane plantation that can create jobs for local people. With the aim of producing more sugar for public consumption, the society will transport 2500 tons of sugarcane to the mills.

Tourists throng Pakokku, Pakhangyi, Bawditaung, Powintaung Regions

Magway, 4 Nov — Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku), Thihodandha (Shweku), Thayet Township of Bawditaung, Shwebataung in Monywa and Powintaung and Mohnyin Thanbodhdae in Pakhangyi in Yezagyo Township are tourist attractions. Then they thronged with globe trotters who are taking photographs.

Pakokku Market is also on the list of tourist attraction. Tourists showed an interest in fruits stalls packed with local produce and trading of Thanakhta, a well-known produce of Pakokku region.

They also visited cotton mills and footwear factories in Pakokku in order to get good documentary photos.

Fire breaks out in oil drilling block

Thayet, 4 Nov — Fire broke out at an oil block of Shwe Yarthi company in Thayet Township in Thayet District of Magway Region on 2 November morning.

The oil well caught fire when a worker drew the oil and made fraction with the pipe. Equipment from five oil wells, one engine, one pump, one motorbike, one bicycle, three staff quarters, and fifty barrels of crude oil were burnt in the fire.

Thayet Township Fire Brigade of Pakangyi in Yezagyo Township, Thanks to Ayeyawady river crossing bridge, locals enjoy better transportation and generate more incomes from sales of local-made cotton garments that can attract the interest of globe trotters.

Myanmar selected football team Head Coach leaves for Vietnam

Yangon, 4 Nov — A delegation led by Head Coach of Myanmar selected football team Pak Hsang-hwa left here yesterday for Hanoi, Vietnam, to observe the play of Vietnamese team, Myanmar’s arch-rival in the group of Suzuki Cup, in its friendly match against Malaysian football team.

The Myanmar head coach was accompanied by coaches U Tin Myint Aung and U Tun Tun Aung who will video the friendly match between Vietnam and Malaysia to be held at 7 pm local time on 3 November. The Myanmar delegation has arranged to visit Thailand on 7 November to watch a friendly match between Thailand and Malaysia. The group matches of SUZUKI Cup will be held on 24 November. Myanmar is one of the teams of Group (A) comprising Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines and Myanmar.

Before group matches of SUZUKI Cup, Myanmar selected football team will play against Okayama Club of Japan in Yangon on 15 and 17 November.

Multiplier course on farmland organized

Yangon, 4 Nov — A multiplier course on farmland law, law for management of vacant, virgin and fallow land and bylaws was conducted at the meeting hall in Pindaya Township of Danu Self-Administration Zone. A total of 117 trainees comprising administrative personnel, ward administrators and clerks from Settlement and Land Records Department took the course.
New Light of Myanmar
Monday, 5 November, 2012

LOCAL NEWS

Newspapers available for locals in Myelk, Taungyi, Sitway, Myinkakan, Bogale and Mawgyun

YANGON, 4 Nov — With the aim of knowing the people and progress of the nation at present, News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information sent newspapers to each and every corner of the nation by air, water and land.

Under the arrangement of the Ministry of Transport, Asian Wings, Air KBZ has always played a helping hand in carrying Myanma Alinn colour newspapers to Myelk, Taungyi and Sitway. As Myanma Alinn newspaper has a daily circulation of 3200 in Taungyi, newspapers are being transported to there by air.

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A clash broke out over a mobile shop on Latha Street, the way of distributing only 5000 kyats had led to a stampede to be gathered around the mobile shop. A furious mob was completely out of control while coupons were being distributed to the rowdy crowd in front of the shop.

Public service book corners arrives within the reach of the people

YANGON, 4 Nov — Today is Information Age, Knowledge Age. With the aim of introducing a way for promotion of reading habit among the public, arrangements are being made by Information and Public Relations of the Ministry of Information for opening of book corners at busy and bustling places like bus-stops, ports, stations and airports.

A book corner was opened at area-2 of domestic departure at Yangon airport on 3 November 2012.

As an attempt to stand as a public service media, the purpose of opening book corners at the public places is to provide the people with information.

Regional development tasks gear up in Lektho, Thandaunggyi and Thandaung

NAVPYITAW, 4 Nov — An opening of new school building for Basic Education High School in Lektho of Thandaunggyi Township took place at the school on 27 October.

Officials cut the ribbon to open the new school building which was built with the contribution of K143 million of the State. Officials provided funds for construction of roads, offices, hospital and basic education high school and presented there sets of SKY NET, one set of computer, four solar panels and one set of TV to responsible persons.

Road works are being carried out for widening of the road section between mile post Nos (28/4) and (28/5) on Lektho-Thandaung road section. Officials presented two sets of SKY NET, one set of TV and cash assistance for People’s Hospitals and BEHSs in Thandaunggyi and Thandaung.

Books donated to Myanma Alinn daily

YANGON, 4 Nov — Books donated to Myanma Alinn daily

Thandaunggyi and Sittway. As Myanma Alinn colour newspapers are distributed among other table sets of SKY NET, one set of computer, four solar panels and one set of TV to responsible persons.

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Common hovercraft charges set

MONYWA, 4 Nov — Hovercraft liners in Chindwin river agreed to set the same charge for their routes at the meeting in Monywa in the last week of October.

Hovercraft liners association is formed with three liners in the river based in Monywa.

The business made less profit as the rivaling hovercraft liners contested to attract passengers with lesser fare charges.

The hovercrafts ply between Monywa and Homalin.— Myanma Alinn

Demand rising for tablets with sim slots

YANGON, 4 Nov — Tablets with Sim card slot are in quick sale, according to market sources.

Samsung, Lenovo, HTC tablets are holding large market share some of which are distributed among other Chinese brands.

“we sell tablets with GSM Sim card slot and others. Prices vary. The number of internet users on tablets rather than handsets is increasing.”

According to a mobile shop.

Myanma Alinn

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Myanma Alinn
Special economic zones

In fact, special economic zones serve as the unique attraction for foreign direct investment needed for our national industrialization project. One of the basic factors for industrialization is the effective use of natural resources and favourable land and climate.

But it is important that such special economic zones should not pose a threat to the interests of our own national people, national image, sovereignty of the State and ecological balance.

So the departments concerned are in the mission of taking preventive measures against adverse environmental impacts, social and economic problems within the project areas, and also finding means for addressing other issues caused by projects such as the relocation of villages, reparation plans for displaced people, land utilization and transportation. Moreover, small-scale industrial establishments are being set up, new homes are being built and seedlings and bio-fertilizer are being distributed for local people and displaced villagers.

So we need to implement such projects in line with the existing laws and international procedures so that we may have special economic zones of global standard. Besides, they can invite large amounts of foreign investment and help our products reach global markets more easily.

In parallel with loan, security forces have been deployed to conflict areas to restore tranquility and the rule of law.

The Rakhine State chief minister said adequate security forces have been deployed to conflict areas to restore tranquility and the rule of law. The Rakhine State chief minister said adequate security forces have been deployed to conflict areas to restore tranquility and the rule of law.

The role of regional authorities is important as they in cooperation with social organizations can convince the local people that environmental impact and social impact are taken into consideration in implementing special economic zones, which are aimed for regional development. In this way the projects will win public trust and cooperation.

An aerial view of reconstructed houses in Mawyawady village. — MNA

Yes. It’s just arrived. Here!

Thein Tun

An aerial view of reconstructed houses in Mawyawady village. — MNA
“RETIREMENT”

“Retirement” is the last stage in the lifelong career for the civil employee in the service of the Government. It is a memorable landmark and the exit point of tenure extending 40 years or more for many. The age of retirement or superannuation is normally fixed by law in many countries taking into consideration the geographic, climatic condition, general life expectancy of the population, economic and social factors etc. An ILO study found the variation of retirement age from 55 to 65 with few Scandinavian countries extending beyond. Sixty is found to be the general norm. Now with improved health and longevity of workers the age of retirement or superannuation may make good use of their experience and expertise for mutual benefit.

The existing regulation in force governing the conditions of civil service, from recruitment to retirement in Myanmar is called Fundamental Rules or FR. The Section on retirement is stipulated in Rule 56 (a) as follows: “Except as otherwise provided in the public interest for particular services or posts, the date of compulsory retirement of a government employee is the date on which he attains the age of 60 years…”

Thus for a public servant retirement is no stranger phenomenon. It is a change that comes to every employee in turn and there is no turning back. It is a uniform standard rule, and all must be governed by that rule. It has nothing to do with physical fitness, efficiency or experience of a particular individual, or premature senility for those who grow old before their time. The fact at sixty some retirees are not only fit and healthy but at the very peak of efficiency experience and valued expertise. Superficially it would seem wrong to deprive a government enterprise of the priceless service of such seasoned veterans. Offsetting such paragons of excellence there are persons of sixty or so who have slowed down so progressively that they can no longer pull their weight. Through seniority of service they may have managed to reach the top echelons. But they do no more good than to block the progress of work and block the advancement of younger men. They begrudgingly shift all older men at the top to whom much of the quick and the quicks. The oldies approaching retirement at sixty assume that they are still fit and indispensable and wish to hang on as long as possible. There lies the rationale for a single standard which needs to be enforced without fear or favour.

What follows a person at sixty after retirement is a complete transformation physically, mentally and psychologically. As the clock begins, he comes to be keenly aware of the change that has come into his lifestyle, which must be understood by all concerned in the immediate family; his wife and children. On his part too he must learn to see life in a new perspective, cultivate a positive outlook, and not be demoralized and self-defeating. In effect, retirement may open up the most richly rewarding experience of the entire career of the civil servant. He may sense the new freedom. He will no longer be bossed around. The old obligations no longer fetter him. He may now seek out new challenges which have long been in his mind but had to be postponed due to bonds and obligations of service. He can now select from his deferred agenda of activities which thrill him most, set his own tempo and rhythm in doing them. He can alternate at will activities with rest and relaxation. He can work part time or full time as he pleases. When he plans for a vacation he no longer needs to justify his wife and family that his boss cannot spare him. He is now his own master.

Our country has been undergoing radical reforms towards open economy, rule of law, representation of people through the electoral process, all vestiges of democracy. There is a high expectation of change in every aspect of the economic and social spectrum. New private banks are opened, new economic and commercial enterprises established, highly competitive market, new education institutions to educate and train the rising generation of youths towards their aspiration to meet the challenges of the ever changing demands are also highly competitive to lure the prospective students. Thus the need for trained, skilled and experienced manpower ready for use, become most essential.

Here the retirees are most sought by the newly formed institutions, where their services are most valuable. They can provide much needed skills, proven experiences to the jobs at hand. They may be slower and less active than the younger generation but more reasoned and thorough to provide an equitable balance in planning and decision-making. And they can train the upcoming generation in the process of management, administration and leadership for most needed continuity and development. This is a real bonanza for the retirees who can really take advantage of the good fortune.

When he takes up a new job which fits his credentials, expertise and experience, he will find with joy that he earns more after retirement. While in service he knew that he could earn more outside, but long years of service with assured pension benefits, though he enjoyed it, may still be relevant today, to seek another job to supplement his pension, though he was keenly aware of the social and humanitarian causes. Many retirees who have taken up sports of one form or the other like golf, will find more time and pleasure making the game and the community of friends.

Any oldies of the same service or old university mates now use to meet regularly at arranged breakfast parties, to talk freely about the old days of mirth and hilarity. All feel rejuvenated and fresh enough to continue living, and render selfless service for the voluntary cause as they wait eagerly for another meal they which they never miss.

For those who seek inner peace of mind, this is the most propitious moment to cultivate purity of mind to bring learning are now open to him where he can pursue with contemplation and mindful concentration. He can also practise meditation. There is an inner glow, spiritual vibration and enlightenment. With children all grown up, settled and married, he now can opt for life of a recluse, detached from worldly pleasures.

Or he can enter a meditation centre to a life of peace and serenity. Such inner wisdom is reflected in our unshifted visage. One can solve all problems, cope with pride, humiliation, subjugation of carnal desires and attachments. Instead he can visibly sense with pleasure the priceless service of excellence and further dedication.

However there are certain segments of people who are not psychologically or emotionally prepared for the inevitability of retirement. He has no dreams of doing anything, no motivation that may still arouse his creative powers. A man after his career his best efforts rise no higher than daily shuffling his papers on his desk. He may have not taken some kind of sports and hobby for relaxation, nor participate in some kind of game and the community of friends. Many retirees who have taken up sports of one form or the other like golf, will find more time and pleasure making the game and the community of friends.

In essence one must see that this is the time to reassess one’s perspectives with positive attitude. In that light life is a challenge, not a curse; a privilege, not a negation; a social outing, not isolation. So let us make our post-sixty retirement life meaningful, worthwhile and rewarding. I believe that if you have the will and cultivate the right frame of mind, you will surely be on the right track to an exciting exit of unique.

It is now 20 years since the 1930s generation who entered government service in their prime of life has retired. A few like the author still contribute to the social and humanitarian causes. Some still write crystalized gems of writing for the coming generations to read and enjoy; reminiscences of the past the means to make good use of time. Surprisingly it may still be relevant today, don’t you think?

YANGON REGION HOCKEY TEAM EMERGES CHAMPION

YANGON, 4 NOV—Jointly organized by the Ministry of Sports and the Yangon City Development Committee, the final match of 4th Inter-Region/State Men’s Hockey Tournament was held at Theinbyu Artificial Turf here this afternoon, attended by Union Minister for Sports U Tin Hsan. The Union Minister presented championship trophy and duplicated child to first prize winner Yangon Region team.

Present on the occasion were President of Myanmar Hockey Federation U Thaung Htik, Director-General U Myo Hlaing of Sports and Physical Education Department, Deputy President of Myanmar Hockey Federation and Member of Yangon City Development Committee U Htin Zaw Win and executives and sport enthusiasts.

At the final match, Yangon Region team beat M State team 3-0 and the presentation ceremony followed. Officials awarded respective prize winners.

Mohnin, 11 Nov—An ex-government employee got the permission from the Department of Labour on 31 October to stage a solo protest in Mohnin, Kachin State. U Hla Thang, 66, who got fired from his job working for the Zeyawaddy Distillery, will stage the solo protest from 9.10 am from the east bank of the Namijk Creek to the Myoma Market on 11 November, holding a placard which reads “Solve the issue of the government employees who got fired from jobs due to 33 rules in 1991”. The head of Mohnin Township Police Office has issued an order dated 31 October to now his solo protest. He is living at No 103 in Namijk Ward in Mohnin and his native town is Pyu Township, Sagaing Region.
Norway embassy established in Yangon

Yangon, 4 Nov—Norwegian Prime Minister Mr Jens Stoltenberg and wife met Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee and of National League for Democracy Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at her Nay Pyi Taw residence this morning. They then flew to Yangon at noon.

The Norwegian PM attended the opening of Norwegian embassy in Myanmar at No. 7 Pyithu Street in Mayangon Township.

The prime minister said at the opening ceremony that Norwegian companies can now invest in Myanmar as the economic sanctions against Myanmar have been lifted and Norway has the encouraging records of investment.

Union Minister at the President Office U Aung Min said the friendship between Myanmar and Norway would flourish in all sectors and areas.

The ceremony was attended by the Norwegian PM and wife, Union ministers U Aung Min, U Soe Thein, U Ohn Myint, U Than Htay and Dr Kan Zaw, Yangon region ministers and members of Union level peace-making committee.

The delegation viewed documentary photos displayed in the hall and Centre in Kamayut where they were welcomed by Union ministers U Aung Min, U Soe Thein, U Than Htay and Dr Kan Zaw, Yangon region ministers and members of Union-level peace-making committee.

The delegation met the youths from each state.

Union minister U Aung Min presented the Norwegian PM and wife Visit of the Norwegian PM and wife meets Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Daw Aung San Suu Kyi of National League for Democracy.—MNA

3,490 to be honoured with autumn decorations

Tokyo, 3 Nov—Former construction minister Taku Yamazaki and former Supreme Court Justice Takao Kainaka are among the 3,490 recipients of this year’s autumn decorations for contributions to society, the government said on Saturday. In addition to Japanese recipients, 46 foreigners from 23 countries and territories, including former Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi, 73, and former

Colombian leader urges intensified battle against rebels

Bogota, 4 Nov—Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos on Friday called for intensified strikes against two rebel forces until peace deals were reached.

Marking the 121st anniversary of Colombia’s National Police, Santos said his administration had offered the Armed Revolutionary Forces of Colombia (FARC) and National Liberation Army (ELN) “sincere and open dialogues” to bring an end to some 50 years of armed conflict.

Meanwhile, the power

US Justice Department to send election monitors to 23 states

Washington, 3 Nov—The US Justice Department on Friday announced that it is sending more than 780 federal observers and monitors to 23 states across the country to watch for potential voting rights violations in the 6 Nov presidential election.

The department said that the observers will go to 51 jurisdictions in those states to help enforce federal voting rights laws, which protect ballot access.

The observers will also be watching over voting procedures. Media reports said that one reason for the dispatch was to prevent discrimination based on languages and ethnicity.

The officials will also ensure that voters with disabilities are accommodated, and that no procedures are used to subject voters to different procedures on the basis of race, color or national origin.

Many of the locations being targeted for the 2012 general election have also appeared on similar lists for past elections.

Colombia’s President Juan Manuel Santos (C) delivers a speech during the 121st anniversary of the Colombian National Police, in Bogota, capital of Colombia, on 2 Nov, 2012.—Xinhua

Myanmar, Norway eye for promotion of ties

Nay Pyi Taw, 4 Nov—Norwegian Prime Minister Mr Jens Stoltenberg and party paid a call on Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann at Zabuthiri Hall in Hluttaw Complex here this morning.

The Speaker expressed his pleasure for the visit of the Norwegian PM, extending a warm welcome. He elaborated on ongoing political and economic reforms of the government and frankly discussed promotion of ties and cooperation between the two countries with the Norwegian PM.

Aiso present at the call were the chairpersons of Hluttaw committees, some MPs, member of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Committee U Khin Soe, and personnel of Hluttaw Office.—MNA

MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and Norwegian Prime Minister Mr J ens Stoltenberg at Zabuthiri Hall in Hluttaw Complex.
EU, Singapore expected to complete FTA before year-end

Singapore

The head of the European Union (EU) delegation in Singapore has said that a free trade agreement (FTA) between the EU and Singapore is expected to be completed by the end of the year. Singapore broadcaster Channel NewsAsia reported on Saturday.

Marc Ungeheuer, head of the EU delegation in Singapore, said that the FTA will have a chapter on investments. It makes sense to include investments in the FTA, given the safe investment environment in Singapore, Ungeheuer quoted as saying. The EU is the largest source of foreign direct investments (FDI) in Singapore. Singapore accounts for 63.5 percent of FDI from the EU to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

SINGAPORE, 4 NOV—
The FTA will make Singapore the first member state of the ASEAN to ink a FTA with the EU.

Ungeheuer described the deal as a building block for a wider FTA between ASEAN and the EU. The talks are already underway in Malaysia and Vietnam while negotiations with Thailand and Indonesia are expected to start next year.

“We hope, of course, that the 2015 ASEAN Economic Community will bring about a more co-ordinated and economically integrated ASEAN. Once ASEAN has further integrated and we already have the building blocks of the bilateral free trade agreements, the EU will be ready to negotiate a bilateral free trade agreement,” he said.

Lao Deputy PM says China-Lao relations more crucial to development in new era

VIENTIANE, 4 NOV—Enhanced China-Lao relations in the new era will be of great significance for the development of both nations as well as the Asia-Pacific region, Lao Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Thongloun Sisoulith said on Saturday.

In an exclusive interview with Xinhua before the Ninth Asia-Europe Meeting Summit (ASEM-9), scheduled for 5-6 November, Sisoulith said that Laos has witnessed substantial progress in many aspects since the carrying out of agreements reached by Chinese and Lao leaders at a time when globalization continues to undergo complicated challenges.

“It is even more crucial than ever for the two nations to have closer relations as to how to contribute more to regional peace, stability and social advancement,” said the Lao deputy prime minister.

Sisoulith thanked China and other friendly countries for their support to Laos in their upward to the summit, one of the biggest occasions in the history of the landlocked country.

“We are grateful for both financial and spiritual assistance extended by Chinese government and the Chinese people,” Sisoulith said.

He added that as the host country, Laos is preparing for the event with utmost efforts to ensure the summit would bring about tangible results.

The ASEM Summit, a key forum for dialogue between Asian and European countries, is held biennially between Asian and European countries, according to the deputy prime minister.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) approved Laos’ entry into the organization on 26 Oct., 2012, fifteen years after the country submitted its initial application.

With a population of some 6.5 million, the Southeast Asian nation began to launch reforms in 1988, allowing the development of private enterprises and encouraging foreign investment. Since its bid to join the WTO, Laos has achieved consistent, if not dramatic, economic growth.

“Laos will also strengthen cooperation and enhancement in economic links with Asia and Europe in order to promote export of Laos and attract more investment,” Sisoulith noted.

To support Laos’ hosting of the ASEM 9, China has sent leading enterprises in construction sector to assist the country in building a National Convention Centre, the venue for this year’s summit. Chinese companies have also actively involved in the reconstruction and extension of Vientiane Wattay International Airport, as well as the building of ASEM leaders’ village district and other supporting projects for the summit.

Police to raid Schindler over fatal elevator accident

KANAZAWA, 4 NOV—Police will soon raid the Tokyo headquarters of Schindler Elevator K.K., the local arm of Swiss-based Schindler Holding Ltd, over a recent fatal accident in a central Japan prefecture, investigative sources said on Sunday.

The police suspect professional negligence by company officials in an accident in which a cleaner was killed after being wedged under the floor of an ascending elevator and a doorway frame on Wednesday afternoon at a hotel in Kanazawa city.

Police filed a report on the incident on Friday for criminal negligence resulting in death of a cleaner, who became wedged under the floor of an ascending elevator and a doorway frame while on his way to the 13th floor of the hotel.

Police said they would raid the company headquarters as early as Monday to question officials about the accident.

Ishihara hopes to create a third force to aim for more than 100 seats in election

TOKYO, 4 NOV—Former Tokyo Gov. Shintaro Ishihara said on Monday he will aim to grab more than 100 seats in the next general election if he forms a “third force” to challenge the ruling Democratic Party of Japan and main opposition Liberal Democratic Party.

Ishihara, an independent, told a news conference that he believed his forces would win a “tremendous” victory in the election, given the country’s political system.

Ishihara said he was ready to join forces with other small opposition parties, which he described as “the real opposition.”

He made his comments at a meeting of his “Libers”, a group of 10 to 15 local politicians and support staff.

Ishihara hopes to incorporate the Sunrise Party of Japan and is seeking also to link hands with the opposition Your Party and Osaka Mayor Toru Hashimoto’s Japan Restoration Party in the run-up to the House of Representatives election that must be held by next summer.

Ishihara was expected to create a new party that is set to be formed by incorporating small opposition parties.

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Naco, (Arizona), 4 Nov—A probe into the killing of a Border Patrol agent in an apparent “friendly fire” death has revealed he was in radio contact with other agents on the scene before the fatal shooting last month in southern Arizona, local media reported.

A report on Friday from the Cochise County Sheriff’s Office said agent Nicholas Ivie and two fellow agents involved in the predawn incident were responding to a tripped sensor near the US-Mexico border, Phoenix television station ABC15 said on its website.

The sheriff’s report also said one of the two other agents, both of whom had approached the scene in darkness from the opposite direction as Ivie, told investigators she had observed Urie “signaling them with his flashlight.” Ivie, 30, ended up being shot to death in a burst of gunfire in the desert near Naco, Arizona, a spot well-known for drug- and human-trafficking.

A second agent was shot and wounded, while the third, who reported seeing Ivie’s flashlight beam, was unscathed. The information about the radio contact and other details of what transpired in the early morning hours of 2 October were brought to light in statements made to investigators by the uninjured female agent, the television station reported.

After joining up with the second agent by vehicle and proceeding together on foot, she saw muzzle flashes and gunfire as she walked up a trail, then took cover.

At least 85,000 more people displaced within Mali than originally estimated

The UN headquarter in New York

Border agents in radio contact before fatal shooting

After Friday that “new data is showing a higher number of internally displaced people than previously reported in Bamako,” Mali’s capital, del Buey noted.

Over the past couple of months, the UN has reported a “disturbing rise” in Mali in extremism, prevalent human rights abuses and extreme poverty. There are also reports of prevalent smuggling of arms, drugs and human trafficking in the northern part of the West African country.

The figures released by the UNCHR are “indications of actual new displacement,” Eduardo del Buey, the deputy UN spokesman, told a daily news briefing.

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The UNCHR’s revised figure “reflects in part better access to areas in the north of Mali, as well as improved counting of internally displaced people in Bamako,” Mali’s capital, del Buey noted.

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New Jersey’s own Springsteen and Bon Jovi sing for Sandy victims

NEW YORK, 4 Nov — New Jersey natives Bruce Springsteen and Jon Bon Jovi joined Staten Island-born Christina Aguilera and others Friday in a televised benefit concert for victims of Sandy, the storm that killed more than 100 and devastated parts of the US Northeast. The commercial-free one-hour telecast, “Hurricane Sandy: Coming Together,” included appearances by Sting, Billy Joel, Jimmy Fallon, Steven Tyler, Mary J Blige, Tina Fey, Jon Stewart, Whoopi Goldberg, Kevin Bacon and Danny DeVito.

The host was “Today” show co-anchor Matt Lauer, who said, “We haven’t seen a storm like this in 100 years.” The fundraiser, shown on NBC, opened with Aguilera singing: “I was born in Staten Island. Four days ago, Hurricane Sandy came through and devastated it.” The New York City borough accounted for about half the city’s 41 deaths from the storm.

Aguilera, a judge on the television singing competition “The Voice,” vowed the show will do whatever we can to help. “We will not leave anyone behind,” then performed “You Are What You Are (Beautiful).” Next up was Bon Jovi, who was seen in footage filmed this week after he rushed back from a British promotional tour to visit his hometown of Sayreville, New Jersey, to console residents and view the devastation. Bon Jovi sang “Who Says You Can’t Go Home.” Fey, an actress and comedian, implored viewers to donate at 1-800-HELPNOW and spread the message for donations via social media such as Twitter.

Donors can also text the word REDCROSS to 90999 to make a $10 contribution. All proceeds were earmarked for the American Red Cross to benefit victims of Sandy and rebuilding efforts. The show was sprinkled with news footage of destruction in New York City and along the New Jersey coast, such as the ruins of the amusement pier familiar to viewers of “Jersey Shore.”

“The festival has a budget of Rs.3.3 crore,” said state information and cultural secretary Nandinidhi Chakraborty. However, she kept mum when asked about the contribution of the state government and the sponsors. Centenary tributes would be paid to Italian movie director Michelangelo Antonioni, 13 of whose creations — five features and eight documentaries — would be showcased at the festival, the country’s second oldest.

“Star Trek” race of long-haired warriors has moved boldly into pop culture where few other alien tongues have gone before. With a new book about the classic Klingson starship, Bird-of-Prey, and a Klingon spoof of the “Gangnam Style” music video racking up millions of views on YouTube, Klingons are showing a fun side that outstrips their Trekkees fans.

With their high-ridged foreheads, starships that boast cloaking devices and strict code of honour, Klingons are rivaling Mr Spock’s Vulcans in the language and popularity stakes. “Klingons are these big, meaty guys, but they are also funny, so it is fun to behave like a Klingon,” said Mark Okrand, who created the cultural language and compiled the first Klingon dictionary in 1965. Okrand, a Washington DC-based linguist, also created the Vulcan and Romulan dialogue for the 2009 feature film “Star Trek.”

“Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan to inaugurate Kolkata film fest

KOLKATA, 4 Nov — As many as 189 films from 60 countries will be screened at the 18th Kolkata Film Festival, which will be inaugurated by Bollywood superstars Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan on 10 November.

Iranian film Nader and Simin: A separation directed by Asghar Farhadi will be the opening film of the eight-day festival ending on 17 November, said the organisers at a media meet on Friday.

Tributes would be paid to first Hollywood superstar Rajesh Khanna, who died earlier this year. Anand, the evergreen movie featuring Rajesh Khanna in the role of an ever-smiling cancer patient, would be screened.

Bengali movie star Koel Mullick will be the titular girl for the second consecutive year at the opening, said her father and KIFF chairperson Ranjit Mullick.

Charlie Sheen hospitalised due to ear infection

LOS ANGELES, 4 Nov — Former Two And A Half Men star Charlie Sheen was reportedly hospitalised because of a severe ear infection.

Due to his health problem, the 47-year-old actor missed work on the set of his new TV show Anger Management for two days, reported Ace Showbiz.

“Charlie flew to NYC and brought his children Sam Sheen as well as Lola Sheen, to see their mother Denise Richards. He suffered from the ear infection after flying back to Los Angeles the next day,” a source said.

The Scary Movie 4 actor has now recovered and returned to work for a table read with the stars of the Anger Management series. The actor also experienced similar infection in December 2011 when he was in Las Vegas. According to some sources, the infection worsened because he took a flight. At the time, he was still a lead actor of Two and A Half Men and was unable to go to the set. Apart from the ongoing Anger Management TV show, Sheen has several movie projects.”

Musician J on Bon Jovi performs during Hurricane Sandy: Coming Together, a Red Cross telethon on NBC to benefit victims of Hurricane Sandy, the storm that killed more than 100 and devastated parts of the US Northeast, in New York, on 2 Nov, 2012. — Reuters

Singer Elleya Tao performs during the Press conference of her new album “Chemistry Love” in Taipei, southeast China’s Taiwan, recently. — Xinhua

Charlie Sheen poses at the premiere of ‘I Am Legend’ in London on 19 Dec, 2007. — Reuters

Director Francis Lawrence poses at the premiere of ‘I Am Legend’ in London on 19 Dec, 2007. — Reuters

Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan to inaugurate Kolkata film fest

KOLKATA, 4 Nov — As many as 189 films from 60 countries will be screened at the 18th Kolkata Film Festival, which will be inaugurated by Bollywood superstars Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan on 10 November.

Iranian film Nader and Simin: A separation directed by Asghar Farhadi will be the opening film of the eight-day festival ending on 17 November, said the organisers at a media meet on Friday.

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Bengali movie star Koel Mullick will be the titular girl for the second consecutive year at the opening, said her father and KIFF chairperson Ranjit Mullick.

The festival has a budget of Rs.3.3 crore,” said state information and cultural secretary Nandinidhi Chakraborty. However, she kept mum when asked about the contribution of the state government and the sponsors. Centenary tributes would be paid to Italian movie director Michelangelo Antonioni, 13 of whose creations — five features and eight documentaries — would be showcased at the festival, the country’s second oldest.

The second time that the regime of West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee is organizing the film fest.

Like last year, the festival will kick off with a gala inaugural ceremony at the Netaji Indoor Stadium. The Calcutta-Kolkata section will showcase eight feature films giving a wider window to understand the city.

PTI

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Charlie Sheen
Murray ready for triumphant homecoming

LONDON, 4 Nov — When Andy Murray steps out on court to face Tomas Berdych in his first match at the ATP World Tour Finals on Monday the expectation he usually shoulders will weigh a little less. The season-ending event will be the London-based Scot’s first tournament on home soil after he finally made his major breakthrough by winning the US Open in September, beating Novak Djokovic in an epic final. The 25-year-old ended 76-years of British hurt by downing Djokovic at Flushing Meadows and will be guaranteed a rapturous reception at London’s 02 Arena, the final stop off another year of dominance for the game’s big guns.

Djokovic, guaranteed to end the year as world number one for the second time, has been drawn to face Murray in Group A which also features dangerous Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga. With Rafael Nadal absent injured, Wimbledon champion Roger Federer heads Group B which also contains David Ferrer, Juan Martin del Potro and Janko Tipsarevic. All eyes will be on Murray though as he aims to complete a magnificent treble, having also taken Olympic gold in London. “I’m sure it will be a great expectation,” Murray told reporters on Saturday after the draw. “I will have to wait and see what sort of situation it happens. It will obviously be nice.” — Reuters

Murray said to his doubles partner, Amir Weintraub, and a limited number of spectators, “I had an absolute dream weekend,” Murray said. “The atmosphere was electric and I feel like I’ve never played in front of a crowd like that.”

Murray is 26-2 this year. The world No.1 has won 14 tournaments in 2012, along with the Olympic gold medal in London.

In the quarterfinals, Novak Djokovic will face Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, with Murray to meet either Juan Martin del Potro or Janko Tipsarevic.

Murray said: “The atmosphere has been electric, it’s been absolutely amazing.”

Although Murray is the British hero, the Olympic gold medal he won in London was for his double with brother Jamie.

The Scot said: “I was really looking forward to these matches. It was a dream start. I was really looking forward to this event and it’s been everything I could have wished.”

Andy Murray of Britain hits a return to Poland’s Jerzy Janowicz during the Paris Masters tennis tournament on 1 Nov, 2012. — Reuters

Tong Jian and Pang Qing (L) of China compete during the pairs free skating programme at the Cup of China ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating in Shanghai, east China, on 3 Nov, 2012. Tong and Pang claimed the title with 188.82 points. — Xinhua

Inter end Juve’s unbeaten run at 49 matches

ROME, 4 Nov — Juventus’s Serie A unbeaten run came to an end after 49 matches on Saturday when Diego Milito’s double helped Inter Milan win 3-1 in a pulsating “Derby of Italy” clash in Turin. The win leaves second-placed Inter one point behind champions and league leaders Juve and is a sign that Andrea Stramaccioni’s side are genuine challengers for the title. “It hurts to lose, obviously it hurts, but it’s right to give credit to Inter, who played in a very intelligent way, with a great will to win,” said Juventus captain Gianluigi Buffon. “I conceded three goals without having all that much to do but that can happen against the players that Inter have; they’re very good.”

Juventus scored straight from the kick off when Kwadwo Asamoah latched onto Mirko Vucinic’s through ball and sluffed his shot into the path of Arturo Vidal, who gleefully tapped home from the edge of the six yard box after 19 seconds. Television replays showed Asamoah was offside when he collected Vucinic’s pass but the linesman’s flag stayed down. “We were caught napping for the first goal,” said Claudio Marchisio. “It was extremely frustrating, even if it was offside, but after that we reacted and played brilliantly. We deserved to win,” Milito told Sky Sport Italia. “It was a really hard match. We knew that it would be like that, we were up against the current champions, a great team like Juventus.”

Juventus could have doubled their lead after eight minutes when Claudio Marchisio met Andrea Pirlo’s delightful through ball with a volley that Hanadorvan did well to push wide. Inter must have expected a goal at some point, but were unlucky not to level after 49 minutes when Esteban Cambiasso’s shot was saved by goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon, but Milito tapped home from the edge of the box. “I was more aggressive in the first game of the season,” said the Frenchman.

It was a night like this we have been penalized by that did not start well. “So far it was like this and deserved it too,” he said.

A.C. Milan head coach Massimiliano Allegri cut a relieved a figure and said it’s right to give credit to Inter, who played in a very intelligent way, with a great will to win. “The team played well from start to finish. Technically and physically we were in good shape and above all every player was at the disposal of the squad. It’s an important thing to choose the right Milan,” he said.

“After a crisis period, we really needed a night like this and deserved it too. We still have to improve like this and deserved it too. We have been penalized by that did not start well. “So far it was like this and deserved it too,” he said.

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“It’s extremely frustrating, because I believe if I was serving first it would have been a different match. I don’t remember how many break points I had, may be ten, in all games I think except one,” said the Frenchman.

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Johnson has been a genuine challenger for the title. “It’s an important thing to choose the right Milan,” he said.

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New York nanny arrested in slayings of two young children.

New York, 4 Nov—A New York nanny suspected of slaying two young children of a Manhattan couple last month in their luxury apartment was arrested on Saturday and charged with murder in their stabbing deaths, New York’s deputy police commissioner said.

The nanny, Yoselyn Ortega, was arrested on the deaths of 6-year-old Lucia Krim and her toddler brother, Leopoldo, who had been days shy of his second birthday, following a 911 call at 5:06 am today.

Ortega, who is a 49-year-old from the Dominican Republic, was formally arrested and charged with murdering both children.

She said that Ortega, 50, was charged with two counts of first degree murder and two counts of second degree murder over the killings, which sent shock waves through the city.

Ortega, who had been employed by the Krim family for two years before the killings, lived with her son and sister near the Krim’s apartment off Central Park and has been a naturalized US citizen for a decade, police said.

She was apparently referred to the Krim’s by another family, police have said.

US disaster relief in a race against freezing cold.

New York, 4 Nov—Fuel supplies headed toward disaster zones in the US Northeast on Saturday and a million customers regained electricity as near-freezing temperatures threatened to add to the misery of coastal communities devastated by Hurricane Sandy.

The power restorations relit the skyline in Lower Manhattan for the first time in nearly a week and allowed 80 percent of New York City subway services to resume, but more than a million homes and businesses still lacked power, down from 3.5 million on Friday.

In Staten Island, the New York City borough where the superstorm left the most residents without power, residents were urged to stay away until they could go home safely.

Traffic rules adherence in Yangon questioned.

Nay Pyi Taw, 4 Nov—Adherence of traffic rules in Yangon is in question as the commercial city is facing increasing traffic jams like never before.

“Traffic jam escalates day by day,” Executive Editor Daw Lwin Lwin groans about the heavy traffic congestion of the largest city of Myanmar.

“Labour and time are lost in packed and unbearable buses.”

She sees it as a discouraging factor for service industry of the commercial hub.

A near-death survivor of a clash of two city buses called for fierce action while recalling his devastating morning of a creepy line of buses near the bus stop of former Tamway market.

“Serious actions should be taken,” he said. Ko Zaw Lin, a taxi cab driver, sees “speed” as a “problem”, suggesting the wheel holders to keep their cars at the speed that should be.

A Yangonite said vendors by the streets contributed to the congestion as well.

“Corruption is challenging the traffic rules,” he said.

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President U Thein Sein arrives in Vientiane, Lao PDR

Nay Pyi Taw, 4 Nov—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and party left here by air this morning to attend the 9th Asia-Europe Meeting to be held in Vientiane, Lao People’s Democratic Republic and arrived at the Wattay International Airport, Vientiane at 11:45 am LST.

President U Thein Sein and party were welcomed at the airport by Minister of Health of Lao PDR Prof Dr Eksavang Vongvichit, Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Mr Noulvin Sinhbandith, Minister of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology Mr Kham and U Thein Tun, Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Soe Win, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Win Myint and staff from embassy and military attaché office and their families.

Next, the President and party proceeded to Dong Chao Guest House in Vientiane in a motorcade.

MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein takes the salute of the Guard of Honour at Wattay International Airport, Vientiane, Lao PDR.— MNA

President U Thein Sein leaves for Lao PDR to attend 9th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM9)

Nay Pyi Taw, 4 Nov—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein at 10 am left here by air for Lao People’s Democratic Republic to attend the 9th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM9) to be held there.

President U Thein Sein was seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win, Union Ministers U Thein Nyunt, U Myint Hlaing, U Thein Tun, U Nyan Tun Aung, U Tin Hsan, Dr Mya Aye and Dr Ko Ko Oo, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Aye and heads of department and Charge d’Affaires ai of Laoian Embassy in Myanmar Mr Vongpano Sipaseuth.

Members of the Myanmar delegation led by President U Thein Sein are Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing Thein, Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint and departmental heads.

MNA

WWII carrier pigeon remains found in UK chimney

Surrey (England), 4 Nov—The remains of a World War II carrier pigeon, found during renovations at a southern England home, are now being examined by experts in the UK, who are trying to decipher the message sent by the bird.

David Martin found the bird when he was cleaning out a Victorian fireplace he’s unearthed.

“As we pulled them out, bits of bird came out with it, the breast bone first, then the head and the leg with an aluminium ring round it, obviously a racing pigeon, then we found a red capsule attached to it and I said ‘I wonder if it’s a secret message’ and it was. After we took the spool off there was a cigarette paper with coded writing on it. It’s a mystery,” Martin said.

Martin’s home in Surrey is close to a hotel where Britain’s General Montgomery planned the D-Day invasion of France.

World War II experts are now trying to decipher the message. Sent by a Sergeant W. Stott, the message was meant to reach a mysterious ‘X02’—a possible code name for ‘Bomber Command’.

Homing pigeons were often used by Allied forces to send messages during World War II. Flying at speeds of up to 80 kilometres per hour, pigeons can travel distances of up to 1000 kilometres.

Reuters