President U Thein Sein congratulates US President Barack Hussein Obama on his re-election

President U Thein Sein arrives back in Nay Pyi Taw

The Myanmar delegation left Vientiane by special flight and arrived back here at 11.15 am. The President left for Laos to attend 9th ASEM Summit on 4 November. On evening of 4 November, the President received Prime Minister of Finland Mr Jykri Katsiainen and Prime Minister of Luxembourg Mr Jean Claude Juncker respectively at Doung Chanh. On 5 November, the President held talks with Australian Prime Minister Ms Julia Gillard, at Doung Chanh. In the afternoon, the President attended the welcoming ceremony of new members of ASEM and opening session of 9th ASEM at National Convention Centre in Vientiane, together with Heads of State/Government from ASEAN countries, Asia and Europe. In the evening, the President attended 9th Plenary ASEM Summit, and then received German Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Guido Westerwelle. He attended a dinner hosted by Laotian President Mr Choummaly Sayasone and wife. On 6 November, the President held talks with Laotian President Mr Choummaly Sayasone and wife at Presidential Palace. In the evening, he attended the closing ceremony of 9th ASEM summit and then met with Prime Minister of Denmark Mrs Helle Thorning Schmit.

Obama wins re-election as US president

WASHINGTON, 7 Nov—Television networks projected that President Barack Obama won re-election as US president over Republican Mitt Romney in Tuesday’s election despite a sluggish economy and high unemployment. Obama rode signature first-term accomplishments including the auto industry bailout and the killing of 9/11 terrorist attack mastermind Osama bin Laden to another four years in the White House. His victory ensures continued implementation of signature health care and financial sector reform laws and could bring higher taxes for the wealthy as part of deficit-cutting efforts.
Proposal to bring back the remains of late King Hsipaw and queen in Yadanagiri of India put on record

Nay Pyi Taw, 7 Nov—At today's session of Amyotha Hluttaw, Deputy Minister for Industry U Aung Myint Aung responded to the question on more establishment of industrial zones in Thayet Thone Tun sub-Township under Kayin State which U Aung Myint Aung of Kayin State raised by U Than Swe of Tanintharyi Region Constituency (4) that land surveys is being carried out for setting up Myawady Industrial Zone on 1301 acres near Trade Zone in Thinganmyinauk of Myawady District and site to be chosen for the establishment of Industrial Zone in Phayar Thonse sub-Township is underway. Next, U Htaw Ka Nyunt Kyaw of Kayin State Constituency (2) discussed Amyotha Hluttaw-approved Anti-Bribery Bill sent back by Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments. Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee decided to hold discussions on the bill. Then 12 representatives held talks on the proposal urging the Union Government to bring back the remains of late King Hsipaw and queen in Yadanagiri of India submitted by U Than Swe of Tanintharyi Region Constituency (2). Regarding the proposal, Union Minister at President Office U Soe Maung replied that it would be the best to maintain the status quo due to the historical situations and the situation that calls for a coordination to be made in accord with the attitude of Indian government, friendship between the two countries and attitudes of lineages in India; and the proposal should be put on record. U Tin Shon seconded the proposal urging the Union Government to open Arts and Culture College in each and every state in the country submitted by U Maung Saw Pyu of Rakhine State Constituency (4). As the majority were in favour of it, the Hluttaw decided to discuss the proposal. — MNA

CPT Ministry promises 24-hour telephone services in Shan State (North)

Nay Pyi Taw, 7 Nov—The Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telecommunications would negotiate with the state manager and the state government to ensure sufficient power supply, transmission and security to ensure round-the-clock availability of telephone services, Deputy Minister U Win Than said. Hesaid GSM/WCDMA towers would be erected in Lwepinye mountain of Kunlong district in Shan State (North). The deputy made the comment in his answer to the query raised by U Sai San Min of Shan State Constituency (3).— NLM

Myanmar Taekwando athletes win victory

Yangon, 7 Nov—The selected Myanmar Taekwando athletes achieved victories from the 7th Korea Invitational Taekwando Tournament (open) and the 9th International Invitational Taekwando Tournament, which were held in the Republic of Korea from 25 October to 4 November. They arrived back here at 7 pm yesterday. They won eight golds, seven silvers and seven bronzes in the two tournaments. Besides, athlete Win Tun Lin got the best player award and coach U Kyaw Than Oo was awarded the best coach prize. A bout 1500 Taekwando athletes from 40 countries in Europe, Asia and ASEA competed in the tournaments. — MNA

Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Region under maintenance

Nay Pyi Taw, 7 Nov—Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu inspected the maintenance of Bagan Ancient Research Museum and renovation of Shwechantha Pagoda in Ananda Pagoda being undertaken by archaeological survey of India under Myanamar-India friendship programme yesterday morning. — MNA

Health Ministry upgrading rural health centres that satisfy criteria: Union Minister

Nay Pyi Taw, 7 Nov—The Health Department of the Ministry of Health is upgrading rural health centres to station hospitals if the centres meet the criteria set by the department. Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin said at the Amyotha Hluttaw regular session today. He said Singu rural health centre in Nyaung U Township would be upgraded to station hospital in 2013-2014 fiscal year and rejected the proposal of Hanza rural health centre in Thazi Township. The minister made the above comment while answering to the question raised by U Aye M Min of Mandalay Region Constituency (2) who demanded the upgrading of the rural health centres to the station hospital. — NLM

Cooperatives Ministry does away with management of cooperative buildings

Nay Pyi Taw, 7 Nov—Cooperatives Ministry has no hands in lease and sale of cooperative buildings. Deputy Cooperatives Minister U Than Tun said at today's Amyotha Hluttaw session U Thet Naing Oo of Bago Region Constituency (6) asked whether the cooperative and public building would be managed. The cooperatives societies managed the buildings and lands owned by the societies and the ministry only enforced the law. Public buildings are handled by the privatization commission which has auctioned 138 apartments. More nationalized buildings will be handed over to the privatization commission. — NLM

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.
Syria: Bombs rock Damascus, parliament speaker killed

DAMASCUS, 7 Nov— Bombs exploded in three districts of the Syrian capital Damascus on Tuesday, killing and wounding dozens, and gunmen shot dead the brother of the parliament speaker in the latest rebel attack on a figure of the parliament speaker in the capital.

Obama also said he wanted to meet the former Massachusetts governor to discuss ways to move the country forward. Before Obama spoke, Romney conceded defeat at his Boston campaign headquarters.

Romney said in this “time of great challenges for America,” Republicans and Democrats should work together to avoid “partisan bickering and political posturing,” saying leaders should race across the aisles to solve the nation’s myriad of problems.

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On Tuesday evening, activists reported another car bombing, this time near a mosque in the Sunni working-class district of al-Qadam in south Damascus, causing dozens more casualties. Buildings were damaged and bodies buried under debris that clogged the streets, the activists told Reuters.

Some NYC evacuations in face of new storm; construction halting

NEW YORK, 7 Nov— New York City ordered the evacuation of hundreds of nursing home residents on Tuesday and the closure of parks and beaches ahead of a threatening new storm as the region struggles to recover from Superstorm Sandy, whose deadly flooding and high winds.

Disaster

Heavy winds and heavy seas are expected to make the conditions hazardous for any ongoing search and rescue operations.

Four journalists die in car crash in central Peru

LIMA, 7 Nov— Four Peruvian journalists, three of them women, were killed early on Monday after their vehicle skidded off the highway and plummeted over a cliff in central Peru, a journalist association confirmed on Tuesday.

Obama's re-election will present new challenges for the world economy. The president-elect is expected to focus on domestic issues, such as job creation and reducing the federal debt, but global concerns like climate change and nuclear proliferation will also remain on the agenda.

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Tourists enjoy themselves on a seashore resort in Boa Viagem, south China’s Hainan Province, on 6 Oct, 2012. Chinese government has approved local governments to develop tourism in the coast areas in the southern provinces of Guangdong and Hainan, respectively, for the 2011-2020 period. The State Council, or China’s cabinet, issued a document instructing local governments to enhance their tourism projects, protect fishermen’s livelihoods and the development of modern fishery, curb ocean pollution and make efforts to improve the marine environment. Xinhua
Amazon to win EU e-book pricing tussle with Apple

Brussels, 7 Nov — European Union regulators are to end an antitrust probe into e-books prices by accepting an offer by Apple and four publishers to ease price restrictions on e-books, two sources said on Tuesday. That decision would hand online retailer Amazon a victory in its attempt to sell e-books cheaper than rivals in the fast-growing market publishers hope will boost revenue and increase customer numbers.

"Faced with years of court battles and uncertainty I can understand why some of these guys decided to fold their cards and take the whipping," said Mark Coker, founder of Smashwords, an ebook publisher and distributor that works with Apple. "It's another certain win for Amazon," he added.

"I have not seen the terms of the final settlement, but my initial reaction is that it places restrictions on what publishers can do, slowing them down just when they need to be more nimble."

A spokesperson at the EU Commission said its investigation was not yet finished. Amazon and Apple declined to comment. In September, Apple and the publishers offered to let retailers set e-reading device prices for a period of two years, and also to suspend "most-favored nation" contracts for five years. Such clauses bar favored nation contracts for retailers set prices or discounts

The agreements, which critics say prevent Amazon and other retailers from undercutting Apple's charges, sparked an investigation by the European Commission in December last year. Pearson PLC's Penguin group, which is also under investigation, did not take part in the offer. The EU antitrust authority, which in September asked for feedback from rivals and consumers about the proposal, has not asked for more concessions, said one of the sources. "The Commission is likely to accept the offer and announce its decision next month," the source said on Tuesday.

Antoine Colombani, spokesman for competition policy at the European Commission, said: "We have launched a market test in September and our investigation is still ongoing." Amazon declined to comment, while Apple did not respond to an email seeking comment. Companies found guilty of breaching EU rules could be fined up to 10 percent of their global sales, which in Apple's case could reach $15.6 billion, based on its 2012 fiscal year.

Amgen experimental drug lowers cholesterol in mid-stage trial

Los Angeles, 7 Nov — Amgen Inc's experimental drug AMG 145 reduced levels of bad cholesterol by as much as 35 percent in combination with statin drugs in patients genetically predisposed to high cholesterol, according to a trial published on Monday.

The drug, given by injection every four weeks, is part of a promising new class of biotech medicines known as PCSK9 inhibitors designed to target a protein that prevents the body from removing artery blocking LDL cholesterol from the bloodstream.

"This trial found that after 12 weeks, patients treated with a low dose of AMG 145 had a 43 percent reduction in LDL, while those given a higher dose had a drop of 55 percent," said Paul Aylward, a plasma swap scientist in the American Heart Association, who led the clinical evaluation of the drug.

The trial, presented here at the annual conference of the American Heart Association, included 188 patients with hypertriglyceridemia, a condition in which a defective gene inherited from one parent impairs the ability to properly metabolize LDL. The disorder is estimated to affect about one in 500 people in the U.S., and is extremely common in China.

The most common side effects seen in the trial were injection-site reactions and cold-like symptoms and headaches. AMG 145, along with other PCSK9 inhibitors being developed by companies like Pfizer, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc in partnership with Sanofi, as well as Amgen, are currently in mid-stage trials.

More subsidies for electric vehicles in Shanghai

Beijing, 7 Nov — Officials from Shanghai's economic planning authority said on Sunday that the city has submitted a proposal for incentive policies for green cars to the National Development and Reform Commission, the Oriental Morning Post reported.

If the proposal is approved, buyers will get as much as 100,000 yuan ($15,800) in subsidies when they buy an electric car.

Amazon offers monthly option on Prime, challenging Netflix

San Francisco, 7 Nov — Amazon.com is testing a new monthly option for its popular Prime video-streaming service as the world's largest Internet retailer steps up competition with Netflix Inc. Prime typically costs $7.99 a year in the United States for a two-day shipping, free video streaming and access to Amazon's Kindle e-book lending library. The company could be testing a proposal for $7.99 a month on its website, which works out to $95.88 a year, at that rate it could be offered strictly on a month-to-month basis.

The monthly option is more comparable to Netflix's streaming video subscription, which also costs $7.99 a month but does not come with free shipping and an e-book library. Another streaming rival, Hulu, also charges $7.99 a month. An Amazon spokesman said the monthly Prime option was a test and declined to comment further.

Amgen CEO Jeff Bouzis demonstrates the Kindle Fire event in Santa Monica, California on 6 Sept, 2012. — Reuters

A customer looks over the iPad mini after the device went on sale at Apple's retail store in Palo Alto, California on 2 Nov, 2012. — Reuters

The headquarters of Morgan Stanley is pictured in New York on 1 July, 2012. — Reuters

New York, 7 Nov — Morgan Stanley is trying to halt a securities arbitration case filed by a Facebook investor who blames the firm and other companies for losses she suffered in the social media giant's botched initial public offering and is seeking $1.9 million in damages. Morgan Stanley, a lead underwriter for the IPO, says the investor is not its customer, and lawyers for the bank filed a complaint in federal court in Manhattan on Monday seeking an order to stop the arbitration as it relates to its firm.

The complaint, filed in US District Court for the Southern District of New York, alleges the investor is not a Morgan Stanley customer because she ordered the Facebook shares through Vanguard Financial Group Inc. The investor, Uma Swaminathan of East Brunswick, New Jersey, did not return a call requesting comment. Swaminathan, according to an arbitration complaint she filed with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, said Morgan Stanley did not inform all investors that it was downgrading its outlook on Facebook just before the IPO and said she was unable to cancel her order for shares.

In addition to Morgan Stanley, Swaminathan also named Vanguard, Facebook, NASDAQ OMX Group Inc and the NASDAQ stock exchange in her arbitration request. Facebook and NASDAQ do not have FINRA licenses, and therefore are not required to arbitrate in its forum. Several units of Vanguard are licensed through FINRA, the securities industry's self-regulator. A Facebook spokesman did not respond to a request for comment. Spokesmen for Vanguard and Nasdaq declined to comment.

A successful outcome for Morgan Stanley could be precedent for preventing other investors from using FINRA's arbitration unit as a path to resolve Facebook-related legal disputes with certain entities, said Steven Caruso, a New York-based securities arbitration lawyer.

Pushback from firms involved in the IPO could leave investors who seek arbitration with only costly, longer court cases as a way to resolve any disputes, Caruso said Facebook's 18 May debut was marred by trading glitches and confusion.

The IPO also became mired in controversy as shareholders, in more than a dozen lawsuits, alleged the company lied about its sales, which a defective gene inherited from one parent impairs the ability to properly metabolize LDL. The disorder is estimated to affect about one in 500 people in the U.S., and is extremely common in China.

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**WASHINGTON, Wall Street misleading each other again as cliff nears**

WASHINGTON, 7 Nov — If presidential elections entered looming budget crisis. And once again, a dissonance between how Washington and Wall Street see the world could cause pain for investors if the two get their signals crossed. At the beginning of next year, $600 billion in spending cuts—known as the fiscal cliff—will automatically become law unless Congress acts. Such dramatic moves could hammer consumer and business spending, push the US economy into recession and send markets reeling.

However, there is a sense of denial among financiers and investors in New York or the lawmakers in Congress are taking each other seriously. Many in Washington believe Congress could do nothing, and the market reaction would be relatively sanguine. Plenty on Wall Street say the fiscal cliff, one way or another, will be dealt with. It raises the possibility that Congress will sail over the cliff, and markets will freak. “The markets have been way too sanguine on the fiscal cliff,” said Greg Valliere, chief political strategist for Potomac Research Group, which tracks Washington for institutional investors.

The fiscal cliff’s automatic triggers were built into law as a way to force lawmakers to tackle huge US budget deficits. Wall Street banks, investors, and financial industry lobbyists have coalesced around the view that after the elections Congress will reach a short-term deal to avert the worst of the cliff. In short, they believe Congress will kick the can down the road for several more months. “They’ll have to do some sort of short-term extension to buy some time to develop the larger component of addressing the fiscal cliff, which is a large-scale fiscal plan,” said Ken Bentsen, head of the Washington office for the financial industry group SIFMA, who sees that happening.

As SIFMA’s chief lobbyist, Bentsen is essentially Wall Street’s eyes and ears in the nation’s capital. Having a congressman himself—A Texas Democrat who served in the House of Representatives from 1995 to 2003. But Wall Street and Washington have misread each other in the past, and it has not been pretty for markets. One of the ugliest examples of that was in September 2008, not two weeks after Lehman Brothers collapsed, when the House rejected a $700 billion financial bailout plan. Markets plunged; that shock was enough to galvanize lawmakers to pass a revised plan a few days later.

There is some concern that poor assumptions are being made about each side. In Washington, there’s Tea Party-backed Republicans who anticipate a market shock but believe the pain is worth it if it changes what they see as a culture of spending in Washington. Reuters

### AT&T’s Nokia Windows phone prices to undercut rivals

**SAN FRANCISCO, 7 Nov — AT&T set a $50 starting price for Nokia’s latest Windows smartphones, on day they had a meal from a fast-food or sit-down restaurant. “Parents (should) realize that restaurant quality is a straight-off substitute for eating at home. Restaurant consumption and fast-food consumption should not be the norm,” said lead researcher Lisa Powell from the University of Illinois at Chicago.**

“The additional calories and the additional sugar and saturated fat and sodium that are taken in and then consistently taken in will have some longer-term consequences,” she told Reuters Health, such as an increased risk of obesity and diabetes. For their new study, Powell and her co-author Binh Nguyen used data from nationally-representative health surveys conducted in the United States between 2002 and 2010. From different occasions, more than 9,000 teens were asked to recall everything they’d had to eat or drink in the past 24 hours. — Reuters

**China’s Bright Food completes acquisition of majority holding of UK’s cereals manufacturer**

**LONDON, 7 Nov — China’s Bright Food Group, one of China’s largest food groups, announced on Monday that it had completed the acquisition of 50 percent of the share capital of British Wewaxib Food Company. With an Enterprise Value of 1.2 billion pounds, including company shares and debt, the transaction marks the largest overseas acquisition by a Chinese company in the food and beverage sector. This transaction is an important move by Bright Food in its overseas expansion strategy, allowing it to enter both the UK and global food markets through the acquisition of a premium global brand. Bright Food is committed to driving the potential of the Weetabix business, with a focus on the potential in Asia and especially China. China’s cereal market is growing at 20 percent annually as a result of a growing appetite in the country for packaged and convenient healthy foods. The Weetabix brand will now have access to all of Bright Food’s channels, including over 100,000 retail outlets, allowing it to access Chinese households more rapidly. In addition, Wewaxib is conducting research on the diet and taste preferences of Chinese consumers to support the launch of new products for the Chinese market. Commenting on the completion of the acquisition, Wang Zongnan, Chairman of Bright Food, said: “This is a landmark acquisition for Bright Food. We view this entry into both the UK and global food markets through the iconic Wewaxib brand. This acquisition expands the level of investment in Wewaxib brands and product innovation to facilitate its development in the international markets.**

**Donated stem cells may work best for heart patients**

**NEW YORK, 7 Nov — Studies showed that cells derived from the bone marrow of healthy donors work as well or even better as cells harvested from patients themselves, as treatment for damaged hearts and are more convenient to use, according to new research. The 13-month trial was the first to compare the safety and effectiveness of so-called mesenchymal, or bone marrow-derived, stem cells taken from patients themselves versus those provided by donors. Such adult stem cells that renew themselves and mature into specific cell types have been used for 40 years in bone marrow transplants. Scientists are now exploring their use as treatments for ailments such as heart disease and inflammatory conditions, some of the biggest markets in medicine. The rationale behind using patients’ own stem cells to treat disease is that they do not trigger an attack by the body’s immune system. Mesenchymal stem cells, however, are also able to integrate into heart tissue. Researchers from the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, funded in part by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, found that previously prepared cells from a healthy donor were comparatively safe and may offer the most affordable advantage since it takes up to eight weeks to grow the amount of stem cells needed for the treatment. The study involved 30 patients whose hearts were damaged by an earlier heart attack. Half received stem cells that were isolated from muscle injections of their own cells, while the other half received donor cells. Scar tissues was reduced by 33 percent in both groups, are self researchers called “very, very significant.” Improvements in heart function were seen in 28 percent of those receiving donor cells, and in 50 percent of patients receiving their own cells. After a year, five patients in the donor cell group and eight who received their own cells suffered serious adverse events. — Reuters**
Lakapoon village gets electricity supply

Yangon, 7 Nov — Availability of electricity is very important for every nook and cranny of the country, thereby contributing towards remarkable progress in each and every sector including better socioeconomic status. Although only urban areas have access to electricity in the past, border areas and villages later enjoy electricity. Thanks to availability of electricity in far-flung and underdeveloped areas, it is sure that there will be development and better living standard in these areas. Now, local people of Lakapoon village in Pyinmana of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area are happy with the electricity.

Main sponsor Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Manjotthacha Wunna Kyawhtin Dr Khin Shwe and officials opened the ceremony to mark the availability of electricity in the village held on 4 November. Next, Dr Khin Shwe handed over necessary documents to responsible persons.

Ayeyawady Bank to open Pyinmana branch soon

Pyinmana, 7 Nov — Plans are underway to open an Aberdeen of Ayeyawady Bank in Pyinmana of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Photo Show to mark Myanmar-Japan Friendship

Yangon, 7 Nov — A photo show to mark Myanmar-Japan Friendship that enables pilgrims to observe famous Buddhist edifices in some Southeast Asian countries is being kept open at Chanthargyi prayer hall at the north archway of Shwedagon Pagoda from 3 to 18 November.

Photos of Buddhist edifices from both Gara in India, China, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Cambodia are on display at the show. Photos displayed at the show are works of Myanmar photographer U Than Zaw and Japanese photographer Mr Iwao Sekiya. The photo show to mark Myanmar-Japan friendship is aimed at strengthening the area of promotion and propagation of Sasana and cementing friendship between Myanmar and Japan.

Concrete drains for proper flow of water

Yangon, 7 Nov — Construction of Pyinmana Branch of Ayeyawady Bank is undertaken near the Statue of Horse on Sibinonye street in Ward-2. Construction works started from 26 October. Ayeyawady Bank is headquartered at Y wama in Insein Township. Max Myanmar Company-run Ayeyawady Bank has 28 branches across the nation.

Concrete drains for proper flow of water

Yangon, 7 Nov — Engineering Department (Road and Bridge) of Yangon City Development Committee on 3 November built concrete drains for proper flow of water along Strand Road with heavy traffic in Botataung Township to be able to avoid road damage caused by heavy rain in monsoon season. “As there is always a lot of traffic on the Strand road, it is required to upgrade drains into concrete ones for proper flow of rainfall,” an official of the department said. Under the supervision of officials, the 1900-foot and three-foot concrete drain from Bo Aung Kyaw road to Bo M yat Tun road is under construction.

Upon completion, there will not be outflow of rainwater from the drain and the road will not be waterlogged by rainwater during the coming rainy season.

Insecticide-spraying group ready to perform its duty

Nay Pyi Taw, 7 Nov — A group of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee conducted spraying of insecticide at staff quarters of the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Dhannahsheik Ward of Zabuthiri Township on 1 November.

Anyone from staff quarters, wards and villages in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area may inform Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee if it is necessary to spray insecticide at their places.

On-arrival visas available at Mandalay Int’l Airport

Mandalay, 7 Nov — On-arrival visas are available at Mandalay International Airport starting from 1 November.

On-arrival visas are also granted to visitors from 26 countries who are allowed to be granted on-arrival visas in Yangon International Airport. Arrangements have been made for non-immigrant visa, business visa and transit visa to be included in on-arrival visas. Visas on arrival are being issued at once at Mandalay International Airport with the collaborative efforts between Immigration and National Registration Department, Customs Department, and Myanmar Police Force and departments concerned.

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Private sector charged with electricity distribution in Mawlamyine

Mawlamyine, 7 Nov—With the aim of ensuring 24-hour electricity in Mawlamyine, Natcom, Mawlamyine Lighting Co., Ltd., is conducting field surveys to be able to engage in generating and distributing electricity in Mawlamyine, after applying for a licence for distribution of electricity to the officials concerned. The work is set to start in December. Although the government allows private entrepreneurs to deal with electricity distribution, there will be no changes in electricity charges. Household use of electricity will be charged at 35 kyats per unit and commercial use at 75 kyats per unit. It is learnt that electricity will be generated by two natural gas-boost 59 KVA generators.

Myanmar swimmers under intensive training

Yangon, 7 Nov—Athletes of all sports federations are in intensive trainings for XXVII SEA Games which will be hosted by Myanmar in 2013 with the aim of achieving success in the upcoming event. The athletes of Mawlamyine Swimming Federation are in training for grabbing medals in the competitions.

M WAF to open make-up course

Yangon, 7 Nov—Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation has invited applications for make-up course to be conducted in conjunction with Wah Wah Than beauty parlour. The course will be opened in Kyauktada Township as of 20 November. The duration for only-for-lady course is extended Strand road to be opened soon

Yangon, 7 Nov—It is learnt that new extended Strand concrete road will be put into service soon.

The four-lane concrete road was built in the late 2010 by Asia World Co., in cooperation with Yangon City Development Committee for container trucks, lorries and trucks carrying logs to be able to use the road. The concrete road runs parallel with Strand road from Htitdan jetty in Kyimin dine Township to Botataung Market Road.

Finishing touches are being put to the road. Upon completion, the volume of traffic on Strand Road two months. The application may be addressed to Wah Wah Than beauty parlour at the corner of A Nawrahta Road and B Aung Kyaw Street in Kyauktada Township not later than 19 November. Details may be available at Ph: 245493 and 373498. —Myana Alinn

New private airline to operate domestic and int’l flights soon

Yangon, 7 Nov—Enabling each and every person to take air travel and emerging an airline with cheaper air fares, a new private airline will be making its maiden flight in January 2013.

The name of the airline is Shwe Mawlamyine Airways. It will operate domestic and international flights, can be reduced to a certain extent, and container trucks, lorries and trucks carrying logs will be allowed to run freely from Htitdan jetty to Botataung Market road, thereby contributing towards swift flow of commodities between Ayeyawady Region and the remaining parts of the country. —Kyemon

M WAF opens creative writing course

Yangon, 7 Nov—Myanmar Writers Association opened basic creative writing course at the hall of the association on Merchants road here yesterday noon.

A total of 97 trainees are attending the one-month course. Chairman of M WA U Tin Hlaing (Ledinwthar Saw Chit) said veteran writers would give lectures on writing poem, novel and article. —Myana Alinn

Paddy output growth makes Ayeyawady dwellers happy

Yangon, 7 Nov—Out of targeted acreage of 3,689 million in Ayeyawady Region, 3,651 million acres have been put under monsoon paddy so far. A total of 93001 acres have been harvested with the per acre yield of about 80 baskets. So far, about 7.5 million baskets of paddy have been produced. A farmer said that per acre production cost was K 150,000 and 60 baskets of paddy left are after the stage of winnowing was over.

Thanks to favourable weather condition, Ayeyawady Region has seen monsoon paddy output growth for 2012-13 harvest season. It is glad to see smiling faces of paddy growers as a basket of monsoon paddy (dry) is expected to fetch about K 3000-3700 and the price of a bag of monsoon rice is about K 12000-14000 in the market. —Kyemon

Myanmar opens first Billiard players in training

Yangon, 7 Nov—Myanmar billiard and snooker players are undergoing trainings for XXVIII SEA Games to be hosted by Myanmar in 2013. Billiard players Kyaw Oo, Aung Htay, Paik Sa, Sithu and Aung San Oo and snooker players K Htet, Win Kyoko, Zaw Aung, Zaw Than Htik, Ye Zaw Htaw (M on), Phone Myint Kyaw and Aung M Oe Thu are camped training.

Myanmar yarnymya celebrates monsoon paddy harvest

Myanma Alinn

The high-yield paddy was cultivated in the township with the assistance jointly provided by Myanma Agiculture Service and Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Fifty farmers participated in the test cultivation.

According to the harvest record of the model plot, the paddy yielded 106 baskets per acre. The seeds will be provided to farmers who want to put their farmland under the Hsinhukha. Myanma Alinn

Traffic police, auxiliary fire brigade members, the head of township development committee and members arrived at the scene and carried out traffic measures and the clean-up. —Kyemon

Book corner at Dawei Airport

Nay Pyi Taw, 7 Nov—A public service book corner was opened at the airport longue in Dawei of Taninthayi Region on 5 November.

With the aim of broadening the horizons of the people, it is arranged to provide the passengers with various kinds of publications by Taninthayi Region Information and Public Relations Department.

It is learnt that travellers and those in the airport longue read daily newspapers, weekly journals and books on display at the book corner. —Kyemon

An official of Mandalay Region Information and Public Relations Department giving an account of the book corner displayed at the No-1 platform of Mandalay Railway Station on 1 November.—MYANMA ALINN

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A matter of time

A legislator recently raised a question in the lower house on “decadent music, dance and dress” of the youth would be banned, saying these would endanger the country’s own culture. But, Mr. Legislative himself did not even use the Myanmar word for “dance” in his mixed-language enquiry. He transliterated the word.

The culture issue is subtle, sensitive and sometimes surreal. Popularity of the western culture doesn’t reflect that the country is not preserving its own culture. It seems these are connected but actually are not.

Japen and South Korea are examples that the westernization will not affect the culture of the host. The two developed countries experienced the influence of western culture decades ago as a result of improved living standards. Can any say that the cultures of Koreas and Japanese are nurtured by one? In Myanmar, Korean cultures are even exported to all corners of the world. Most of the people around the globe know what “Kimchi” is now and even have started to say “Kimchi!” instead of “Cheese!” before the camera. Japen also could manage to preserve its own characters. Japanese is one of the most learnt languages in the world.

It isn’t because they introduced strict regulations to love their own culture but because they have matured into the established democracies. And they know what to preserve and how to do it.

We need to establish the society where freedom, transparency and justice flourish. We won’t be fair if our young people are destroying our own cultures because they are in short skirts, enjoying western music and taking to the floor.

The aforementioned question of the lawmaker is a reminiscence of the traditional fashion that most of Myanmars parents have followed to nurture their children. The clever boys or girls are the ones who hanged on every word of their parents without taking anything into their own consideration. It has killed the creativity of the children. Let our young people apply their independent and creative thinking since their tender ages. Our country should afford the next generation the freedom as long as they respect the law. They will then become mature enough. Nobody will think of attending a meeting in Hawaii shirt.

Mangrove forest conservation stepped up

Nay Pyi Taw, 7 Nov — Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Police Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun said that work is underway to form National Road Safety Council (NRSC) and the organizational setup of the traffic police corps would be extended in his answer to the question raised by U Tun Thein (a) U Tun Tun of Mansi Constituency, on behalf of U Myo Swe of Travancore Constituency. He said fines would be used in beautifying tasks.

Nay Pyi Taw, 7 Nov— Deputy Minster for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Aye Myint Maung assisted in mangrove forest conservation in Ayeyawady Delta during his tour of inspection in 2 to 4 November. The Department of Conserving called on locals in Pyapon District for conserving mangrove forests and systematic extraction.

The Deputy Minister addressed the workshop on conservation of Myanmar’s coastal and marine ecosystem with the use of sustainable ways held at the Sedona Hotel in Yangon on 5 November. The workshop was jointly organized by Myanmar Environmental Conservation Network from Myanmar, the Mangroves for the Future based in Thailand and IUCN based in Switzerland.

Pyithu Hluttaw regular session in progress.—MNA

The Deputy Minister said in his answer to the question of Daw Nan Wai Nu about issuance grants of houses in regions and states that the grants are issued with the approval of the director-general of the General Administration Department and the Union Minister for Home Affairs. He added the land disputes are settled by the General Administration Department and the Union Minister for Home Affairs.

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Judge of the Supreme Court of the Union U Soe Nyunt dismissed two queries raised by Hlaingwe Constituency MP Su Than Win Htun. He asked about inspection tours to prisons and detention centres by judges of the Supreme Court of the Union. He added that the judges did not visit the prisons and detention centres.

He added the land disputes are settled by the General Administration Department and the Union Minister for Home Affairs.

With respect to the proposal, U Tun Tun of Mansi Constituency, on behalf of U Myo Swe of Travancore Constituency. He said fines would be used in beautifying tasks.

In her answer to the question raised by U Myo Swe of Tanai Constituency, on behalf of U Myo Swe of Travancore Constituency. He said fines would be used in beautifying tasks.
The next month in Myanmar calendar after Iadingyut is Tazaungmone. It is said to be the clearest of all months; the skies are clear of menacing dark rain clouds and millions of stars twinkle in the heaven above.

Myanmar believes that when Prince Siddharta renounced his worldly attachments to go in to the forest to later emerge as Lord Buddha he stopped at the banks of the Narmada River and cut off his hairs. These hairs were received by Sakra (King of the Celestials) and enshrined in the pagoda he built in the Abode of Celestial—the Sulamuni Pagoda. So during the Fullmoon night of Tazaungmone people all over Myanmar celebrate the Ipaungmone lights festival. They would light up their houses and also organize street celebrations. Hot air balloons are sent up to pay homage to the Sulamuni Pagoda in the Abode of Celestial.

The Myanmar Encyclopedia also described this month as the month when candles or fire brands are lighted. It also goes on to describe the Tazaungmone Festival of Lights and the Ma Thoe Thingan Holy Robes Weaving Competition during the time of King Bagyidaw and King Thibaw.

The Sulamuni Pagoda at Taunggyi. The Taunggyi Kahtein Holy Robes Offering Ceremony and the Taunggyi Hot Air Balloon festivals are two of the most notable festivals for foreign tourists to visit. Ma Thoe Thingan Holy Robes Weaving Competitions are held at Shwedagon Pagoda and many well known pagodas in Myanmar where the Sa Ye Dan Mae Ceremonies are also held at many towns and cities across Myanmar.

Myanmar monarchs, during their times, had a large barge made and put up as offerings: one thousand fruits, one thousand flowers, one thousand rice packets and one thousand candles to commemorate this event. One particular activity that is not practised today is the “Khee Ma Noe Pwe”. Literally it translates as “Before the Crows Are Up!” This is because youths will try and take away anything not tied down to another place just for fun or as a practical joke while everybody is still fast asleep. I just imagine a sign saying “beauty parlour” in front of the local grog shop! But this prank is dying out.

The Kahtein is also known as the Shin Mar Le Ceremony. The story goes that Shin Mar Le, who happens to be a Buddhist Holy man or a Saint was on his way to Tatvanima, or the A bode of the Celestials to pay homage to the Sulamuni Pagoda there. On his way he met the next emiro Buddha Areinmadeya who requested him to preach about Lord Gautama Buddha’s unselfish donations as retold in the Wathantaya Jataka stories. Shin Mar Le preached the humans about the selfish donations of Prince Wathataya, which consisted of 1000 verses, every Tazaungmone Fullmoon Day. The punishment she was then commanded to dance around the palace accompanied by a Myanmar traditional doebat music troupe.

One of the most important religious ceremonies of Tazaungmone is the weaving of Ma Thoe Thingan Holy Robes. This is to weave the Holy Robes in one night before the sun comes out (ma thoe in the Myanmar language means “still fresh”). Hence the Robes must be finished before the break of the new day. Many pagodas in Myanmar organize these Ma Thoe Thingan Holy Robes Weaving Competitions where teams of young maidens would sit and weave the Robes on their traditional looms with much friendly spirit. At the break of dawn, these Holy Robes are offered to the pagodas and Buddha images to be followed by offering of lunch to the monks and the invited guests.

The Kahtein is also another important Buddhist ceremony during this time. Lord Buddha had given permission to offer new robes to the monks to replace the old and the one that were used during the monsoon period and devotees take advantage of this to organize Kahtein Holy Robes Offering Ceremonies at the monasteries in their localities. Some Kahtein ceremonies are private before being carried to the monasteries that had been allotted for the particular bamboo tree of plentiful bamboo with much Merriment.

A little known ceremony that has disappeared is the “Sa Ye Dan Mae Ceremony”. This is because youths would light up their robes and parade them in front of the local grog shop saying “beauty parlour” in front of the local grog shop! But this prank is dying out.

The herbs are more potent on Tazaungmone Fullmoon Day. The Herbs Are Most Potent!"
Pyithu Hluttaw committees, commission meet

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov—Pyithu Hluttaw committees and commission met at Zabuthiri Hall in Hluttaw Complex here this afternoon. Present on the occasion were Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Shwe Mann, Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, chairpersons and secretaries of committees and commission, commission members, and personnel of Hluttaw Office.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker delivered an inaugural speech and chairpersons and secretaries of Pyithu Hluttaw committees explained ongoing works of the committees concerned.

Next, members of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission explained amended, abolished and new laws, followed by discussions of committees and commission members on renewed budget for 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Next, participants discussed miscellaneous matters and the meeting came to an end with concluding remark of the Speaker.

Union Foreign Affairs Minister meets Hungarian Foreign Affairs Minister, Special Representative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin who accompanied the President during the latter’s visit to Laos People’s Democratic Republic met Hungarian Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Janos Martonyi at National Convention Centre in Vientiane on 5 November.

They held discussions on democratic transition in Myanmar, mutual cooperation between the two countries, establishment of connection between Myanmar and International Centre for Democratic Transition in Hungary, establishment of parliamentary relations, suggestions and support for Myanmar which is to chair ASEAN in 2014, Hungary’s experience of EU chairmanship in 2011, fully lifting of EU-imposed sanctions against Myanmar and granting OSP to Myanmar as soon as possible.

Next, Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin received Special Representative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands Mr. Bob Hiensch at National Convention Centre the following day. They held discussions on assistance for Myanmar’s reform process and economic development, food security and agricultural development and water resources management, support for the Netherlands in its bid to alternate membership of UNSC for 2017-2018 and opening of the representative’s office of the Netherlands in Yangon as soon as possible.

9th Steering Meeting & Symposium of “water management for Paddy field Irrigation and Impact of climate change” kicks off

YANGON, 7 Nov—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing called on his staff to convince farmers of the good agricultural patterns.

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Union A & I Minister calls for success of researches

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18th plenary session of sixth 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee on 4th, 5th Dec

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov—The 18th plenary session of the sixth 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee will be held on 4 and 5 December (6th and 7th Waning of Tazaungmon, 1374 ME) at Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township, Yangon.

The invitation letters have already been sent to the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Sayadaws. Even if the letters are not received in time, the Sayadaws are invited to come there on the same day, said the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann gives a speech to committee and commission members.—MNA

The meeting runs until 8 November and 12 papers will be read out during the 3-day meeting.

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**New Light of Myanmar**

**Regional**

**Wellington, 7 Nov—** A subdued economy saw New Zealand tax revenues fell below forecast in the quarter ending September, leading to a higher-than-expected government operating deficit, the Treasury announced on Wednesday.

The operating balance before gains and losses (OBEGAL) was 2.1 billion NZ dollars (1.74 billion US dollars) in deficit during the quarter 449 million dollars higher than forecast.

Core government tax revenue of 13.5 billion NZ dollars was 295 million NZ dollars, or 2.1 percent, lower than expected, said a statement from the Treasury. Most major types of tax revenue were below forecast, including the Goods and Services Tax a consumption tax, with the exception being other individuals’ tax revenue, which was higher than expected.

Core expenditure of 17.3 billion NZ dollars was 201 million NZ dollars, or 1.1 percent, lower than forecast, with the most significant under-spending was in welfare, education and finance costs.

“That's important in a world where economic and financial market conditions remains difficult and unpredictable. We need to remain on top of the factors we can control, so we can minimize our debt and have a strong balance sheet.”

The government was making progress in reducing debt, but it would need to restrain spending "for some years to come," English said.

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**Osaka, 7 Nov—** A conference to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention in Japan's ancient capital of Kyo to on Tuesday, local Press reported.

More than 600 people, including Southeast Asian and natural heritage experts, researchers from non-government organizations and officials, from around the world attended the event, local Press reported.

The international meeting, held at the International Conference Centre, was organized by the Japanese government in cooperation with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Heritage Centre with the aim to discuss the significance of World Heritage to humanity and the future of the Convention reflecting on the founding spirit of the Convention, as well as its achievements and evolution over the past four decades, according to the daily Asahi Shim bun.

Presiding over the opening of the Kyoto event on Tuesday morning, UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova expressed that the cultural organization would put much emphasis on how to preserve heritage sites consistent with local development in each country or region so that it could continue to act for future generations.

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**Philippines**

**Davao City, 7 Nov—** Police on Monday said a jobless man has died after being attacked by crocodiles in a southern Philippine resort.

The decomposing remains of 57-year-old Sorbeto Sonajo were recovered around 7 pm on Friday from a man-made lagoon inside the J.K. Mercado and Sons Agricultural Enterprises, an inland resort in Sto. Tomas town, in Mindanao’s Davao del Norte Province, according to Inspector Zosimo Jose, deputy town police chief.

Jose said Sonajo, a resident of Luna village in Kapatag town, apparently fell to the farm’s crocodile breeding pen for a still unknown reason, and was subsequently attacked by the reptiles.

"Parts of (the victim’s) head was ripped away and the arms and right leg were missing, possibly eaten by the crocodiles," the police official said, adding that Sonajo was then being conducted to ascertain how and why the victim was able to gain entry into the crocodile pen.

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**Man dies in crocodile attack at S Philippine resort**

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**Vietnam, Cuba communist parties hold theoretical seminar to boost ties**

**Hanoi, 7 Nov—** The Vietnamese Communist Party and Cuban Communist Party held the first ever joint theoretical seminar in Vietnam’s capital Hanoi on Monday, to further boost multi faceted cooperation ties between the two parties and the two countries.

A addressing the seminar, Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, vice chairwoman of the National Assembly of Vietnam said that the seminar serves as an opportunity for theorists and practical activists to share experiences and discuss the method of communist party leadership in innovation progress.

Innovation is the career of the entire Vietnamese nation, thereby, promoting the role and power of the people and building a strong, healthy and genuine party are among vital issues in innovation progress in Vietnam, Ngan said.

Jose Ramon Balaguer, head of the Commission for External Affairs of the Communist Party of Cuba, said that through the seminar, the two parties will deepen awareness about the socio-economic development principles as well as the leadership of the Communist Party.

Balaguer said in his speech that the key objectives of the Communist Party of Cuba in the upcoming years include strengthening the national unity, fighting against individualism, discrimination and corruption, and focusing on political duties.

In the context of the unstable international and regional situation, the two communist parties of Cuba and Vietnam’s consistency in building a fair and prosperous society is of great significance, Balaguer said.

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**Indonesia seeks to foster cooperation with overseas defence industries**

**Jakarta, 7 Nov—** Indonesian Vice President Boediono said on Wednesday that the domestic defence industry should cooperate with overseas defence industries.

The vice president made the statement as the Southeast Asia’s largest economy is striving to bolster a minimum essential force to face multiple threats of terrorism, transnational crimes and catastrophes.

"A nother way to boost defence industry is to cooperate with defence industries overseas which have already been established," Boediono said at the Indo defence 2012 Expo and Forum here.

To achieve the goal, he said that Indonesia’s defence industry could use opportunities provided in various defence treaties already signed by the government and parliament with other countries.

"I am confident that there are many chances that can be used to build cooperation to build defence industries of each country," said Boediono.

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**Cambodia to send 3rd batch of peacekeeping forces to Lebanon**

**Phnom Penh, 7 Nov—** Cambodia will send the third batch of 218 military personnel to Lebanon to replace the second batch who will end a one-year mission later this month, a senior military official said on Tuesday.

Lt Gen Sam Sovanny, director-general of the Cambodian National Centre for Peacekeeping Force, said that 20 leading forces will leave Cambodia on Tuesday night for Lebanon in order to prepare everything in advance.

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**Cambodia first sent troops to Lebanon in 2010 under the framework of the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces.**

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**Cambodia**

The Cambodian government organized the national conference, children from more than 20 countries, beside the main conference, children from 33 countries including
Photo taken on 4 Nov, 2012 shows an autumn view in Bomi County of Nyingchi Prefecture, southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region. — XINHUA

Iraqi court issues 3rd verdict of death penalty to fugitive Vice President

 CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TAMPAVNOYVO (475)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAVNOYVO (475) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-11-2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm. Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Over 100 rockets hit southern Israel in October

Jerusalem, 7 Nov—The Israeli Security Services (ShinBet) released on Sunday their monthly summary of militant attacks against Israelis, revealing that 116 rockets and 55 mortar shells were fired into southern Israel from Gaza in October.

This figure marks a high escalation in violence from 17 rockets that were fired towards southern Israel and eight mortar shells in September. According to the report, which was obtained by Xinhua, October saw an increase in the number of militant attacks from the Gaza Strip — from 23 in September to 96 in October.

Meanwhile, the number of attacks against Israelis in the West Bank is 39 — the same with last month.

On the other hand, the amount of attacks in Jerusalem has gone up from 28 in September to 31 in October.

The attacks from the Gaza Strip are in the form of rocket barrages, while in Judea and Samaria (Biblical name for the West Bank), the most popular weapon is firebomb. Other forms of attacks include stabbing and explosives. A stor of casualties, five Israelis were injured in different militant acts in October. — XINHUA

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Iraq

BAGHDAD, 7 Nov—An Iraqi court on Sunday issued verdict of penalties by hanging against Tariq al-Hashimi and his son-in-law Ahmed Qahtan after finding them guilty in the case of bombing a KIA minibus among Shiite pilgrims on the major Shiite ritual of Ashura last year, The spokesman of the Iraqi Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) A.bul-Sattar al-Biropdar told reporters.

Sunday’s verdict is the third for Tariq al-Hashimi since 9 September when the court sentenced Hashimi and Qahtan, who was also the head of Hashimi’s office, to death penalty over terror charges. Three days ago, the court issued the second death penalty verdict against the two over the charge of inciting Hashimi’s bodyguards to attach a sticky bomb to the car of an interior ministry officer.

Hashimi and his son-in-law Qahtan are believed to be living in Turkey. They have been tried in absentia over alleged role in ordering to kill security members, government officials and Shiite pilgrims. On 19 Dec, 2011, an arrest warrant was issued against Hashimi on charges of running death squad. For its part, the Interpol issued an international memorandum in May called “red notice” against Hashimi over alleged terrorist attacks. “At the request of Iraqi authorities, Interpol has published a “red notice” for Iraq’s Vice-President, Tariq al-Hashimi, on suspicion of guiding and financing terrorist attacks in the country,” the international police agency in a statement, stressing that the red notice is not an international arrest warrant.

Soon after the US troops fully withdrew from Iraq late last year, Iraq plunged into serious political row as Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki sought to arrest his political rival Hashimi, a leading member of the Sunni-backed political bloc of Iraq, over terror charges. — XINHUA

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K-Drama OST Myanmar-Korea Joint Concert (Nov. 11 @ MCC)
The 6th Korean Ambassador’s Cup Taekwondo Championship (Nov. 12 – 13 @ Thuwana Indoor Stadium)
The 10th Korean Speech Contest (Nov.14 @ Traders Hotel)

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**Direction happened by chance: Renee Zellweger**

Los Angeles, 7 Nov — The Bridget Jones’s Diary star Renee Zellweger says she accepted directing duties for new movie 4 1/2 M minutes because no one else in Hollywood was interested. The 43-year-old actress said her directorial debut was never planned, and she had initially envisaged producing and starring in the script by writer Anthony Tambakis, The Hollywood Reporter said.

But after the project failed to draw investors and directors to the movie, Zellweger decided to step up to the role, and she is delighted with the project’s progress.

“A athony sent the script to me last year, asking thoughts and whether I’d partner with him to produce. I’m such a fan of his writing. He has an ability to capture worlds with remarkable compassion, humour and intimacy and the truth of his characters’ humanity is felt in every line. I couldn’t get the script out of my head, but we didn’t have a director and weren’t making any headway. During a work session for (near TV drama) ‘Cinnamon Girl’ in early 2012, I brought up 4 1/2 M minutes again, A thony suggested I direct, and it all started rolling from there.”

**Kristen Stewart kept Twilight rings**

Los Angeles, 7 Nov — Actress Kristen Stewart has kept the two rings she got while filming the Twilight series as they are important to her.

The 22-year-old held on to the rings that her character’s mother gives her in the beginning of the series and the engagement ring Pattinson’s character proposes with.

“I kept the rings. The rings are really important to me,” she said. The last film in the series will hit the theatres on 16 November.

**3D version of “2012” to hit Chinese screens in November**

Beijing, 7 Nov — Competition in China’s film market will become more fierce in November, as the 3D version of the US sci-fi disaster film “2012” is set to arrive in China.

The 3D version of the 2009 film is scheduled to debut on 20 November, according to a report in the Friday edition of the Beijing News.

The film will compete with two other blockbusters: Ang Lee’s 3D film “Life of Pi” and the homegrown epic “Back to 1942” by renowned director Feng Xiaogang. The former is set to debut on 22 November, while the latter is scheduled to hit screens the following day.

Lee’s film, which tells the story of a boy’s life at sea on a boat with a tiger, is likely the most anticipated film for next month, according to an earlier report in the Beijing News. However, 2012 could surpass its performance in 2009, when the film raked in about 74.5 million US dollars to top the box office at that time, the paper said.— Xinhua

**Chinese composer wins top int’l musical award**

Moscow, 7 Nov — Chinese composer and conductor Tan Dun received here on Saturday top musical award named after Russian musician Dmitri Shostakovich.

Tan, one of the most iconic contemporary Chinese musician, said he was “honoured and so touched” to receive Shostakovich Award in Russia, “the hometown of music.”

During the Press conference before the award ceremony, Tan said music was just like a bridge connecting Chinese and Russian people together.

Recalling his early music life, Tan said he has got familiar with works of Shostakovich since a young age and held the Russian musician in high regard.

“There is no territory in the world of music. On this common platform, we could connect past with future, share ideas and thoughts, dig into inner self and pursue our dreams,” Tan said.

The laureate then gave a performance to Russian audience in collaboration with the Symphony Orchestra of New Russia, during which Russian musicians using orchestral instruments to simulate Chinese folkloric instruments and natural sounds under the dramatic conducting of Tan.

Xinhua

**Zac Efron to star opposite Harrison Ford in next**

Los Angeles, 7 Nov — Zac Kristen Stewart is set to star in a new film titled You Belong To Me opposite veteran actor Harrison Ford.

The movie will be directed by Rob Reiner.

Ford is expected to star as a psychiatrist who faces difficulties after one of his female patients commits suicide, reported Aashishowbiz.

Efron, meanwhile, is poised to tackle the part of the patient’s brother James.

The psychiatrist and James end up developing a bond, but things turn ugly as James starts seducing the psychiatrist’s wife and daughter.

David Murray provides the script and serving as the producers are Richard Lewis, Alan Greensman and Mark Damon.

The project is targeted to kick off the production in March 2013.

**Arjun Kapoor has a crush on Kareena Kapoor**

New Delhi, 7 Nov — It’s confession time for Arjun Kapoor. The actor reveals he has a huge crush on actress Kareena Kapoor and would do anything to grab a chance to work with her.

The actor, who made a successful debut with Ishaqzaade, made the candid confession during UTV Stars’ Live My Life 2 show, which lets a lucky fan be in the shoes of his or her favourite Bollywood celebrity for a day.

Asked by his fan Amulya, as to who would he like to work with from the industry, Arjun said: “Kareena Kapoor! I have a huge crush on her and will literally give my right arm to work with her! I really, really want to work with her!”

**Arjun will be aired on Sunday**

In the meantime, Arjun has projects Gunday and Aarangan in his kitty.

The episode featuring Arjun will be aired on Sunday. In the meantime, Arjun has projects Gunday and Aarangan in his kitty.
**SPORTS**

**Draw in Kiev takes Porto through to knockout stages**

Porto’s Jackson Martinez (C, front) fails down on the pitch while Dynamo Kiev’s goalkeeper Maxym Koval (C, back) looks at the ball during their Champions League Group A soccer match at the Olympic stadium in Kiev. **Reuters**

**Mancini unhappy with referee as Man City held by Ajax**

Manchester, 7 Nov—Furious Manchester City manager Roberto Mancini remonstrated with the referee after his side were held to a 2-2 draw at home by Ajax Amsterdam in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Peter Madsen disallowed a late effort from Sergio Agüero which in- censed Mancini and City’s volatile Italian forward Mario Balotelli also had to be restrained by team mates at the end of the match after his late penalty appeal was turned down.

“I said to the referee ‘It was a goal, congratulations, it was a goal,’” Italian Mancini said after the enthralling Group C clash at the Etihad Stadium. “I didn’t see Mario’s penalty (appeal) but the players said it was a penalty.”

“I didn’t see the late situation with Mario but the referee and his staff were really poor tonight. I think we scored three goals tonight, but we conceded two stupid goals.”

The draw kept alive City’s faint hopes of reaching the next stage but they need to win their final two games, at home to Real Madrid and at Borussia Dortmund, while hoping other results go their way - a chain of events Mancini believes is impossible.

“There is no chance,” he said. “We can only get eight points. If we finish with eight points and go through, then we can win the Champions League because this will be our destiny.”

**Dynamo Kiev’s Martinez (C, front) falls down on the pitch while Porto’s Koval (C, back) looks at the ball during their Champions League Group A soccer match at the Olympic stadium in Kiev. **Reuters**

**McLaren unsure how good Perez really is**

London, 7 Nov—McLaren have recognised that they do not know just how good Mexican signing Sergio Perez really is. The 22-year-old Formula One driver has failed to score a point in the four races since he was announced in September as successor to departing 2008 champion Lewis Hamilton, who will be racing for Mercedes next season. Before the announcement, Perez had chalked up three podium finishes at Sauber. “I think he’s got a lot of talent but if I’m honest, I don’t know,” McLaren team principal Martin Whitmarsh told reporters when asked about his new signing’s potential at the weekend’s Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. “We wouldn’t have signed him unless we thought he could go to another level, but we don’t know,” added the Briton. Perez, whose Japanese team mate Kamui Kobayashi has scored 23 points in his last four races, is the same age as Hamilton was when he joined McLaren in 2007 for what was to turn out to be a sensational debut season.

“The Mexican has been at Sauber for two years and was seen initially as a ‘pay driver’, someone who owes his seat as much to the financial backing he brings as his talent.”

That notion changed this season, with Perez earning considerable praise for the way in which he has managed victims of injury and fought for podium placings. However, moving to McLaren, the second most successful team in Formula One by race wins and one of whose drivers are expected to be fighting for the title, brings far more pressure than racing for mid-table Sauber. **Reuters**

**Berdych and Stepanek lead Czechs in Davis Cup final**

Prague, 7 Nov—World number six Tomas Berdych and Radek Stepanek will spearhead the Czech team when they take on Davis Cup holders Spain in this month’s final in Prague.

Spain will be without Rafael Nadal, who led his country to a 5-0 rout over the Czech Republic in the 2009 final when the two sides last met but has long struggled with a knee injury.

The Czech Republic are looking for their third Davis Cup title since Czechoslovakia lifted the trophy in 1980. They are also hoping to follow up the Czech women’s Fed Cup victory last weekend to make the country the first since 1990 to sweep both team titles.

Lukas Rosol and Ivo Minar will back up Berdych, 27, and Stepanek, 33. The team’s two best players have teamed up for the doubles match in all of the Czechs ties this year.

Team captain Jaroslav Navratil stuck with the same squad that defeated Argentina in Buenos Aires in the semi-final.

“There is not a reason to change the team, it was fantastic in Argentina,” he was quoted as saying by CTK news agency. “We are again close (to the title) but also still far away.”

The 16-18 November final will be played on an indoor hardcourt, which Spain’s coach said on Monday favored the Czechs.

**Federer trounces Tipsarevic at Tour Finals**

London, 7 Nov—Roger Federer reached yet another milestone when victory over Janko Tipsarevic at the ATP World Tour Finals on Tuesday put him top of the list for match wins at the traditional season-enders.

The 17-times grand slam champion cruised to a 6-3 6-1 victory over the Serbian world number nine, taking his haul of victims in the event to 40, one more than Ivan Lendl. Federer, who has won the title a record six times including the last two editions at London’s O2 Arena, seized the initiative when he broke Tipsarevic’s first service game and never looked like loosening his grip in a one-sided contest.

“I was striking the ball well today,” world number two Federer, who is playing at the Tour Finals for the 11th consecutive year, told reporters. “I hope it’s a sign for more to come. I’m happy the first one went so well and it takes the pressure off looking ahead in the next couple of matches.” **Reuters**

**Tomas Berdych of Czech Republic serves to Andy Murray of Britain during their men’s singles tennis match at the ATP World Tour Finals in the O2 Arena in London on 5 November, 2012.** **Reuters**

Switzerland’s Roger Federer walks through smoke as he arrives for his men’s singles tennis match against Serbia’s Janko Tipsarevic at the ATP World Tour Finals in the O2 Arena in London on 6 November, 2012. **Reuters**
Cambodia needs more Japanese investors, tourists

PHNOM PENH, 7 Nov — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen suggested his Japanese counterpart Yosihiko Noda encourage more Japanese investors and tourists to Cambodia in order to further heighten bilateral ties.

The suggestion was made during a meeting between the two Prime Ministers in Laos’ capital Vientiane on Monday on the sidelines of the 9th Asia-Europe Meeting Summit (ASEM-9). Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary of State at Cambodia’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told reporters at the Phnom Penh International Airport when Hun Sen returned from Laos on Tuesday evening.

“Prime Minirster Hun Sen also urged Japan to consider operating direct flights to Cambodia,” he said. “In response, Prime Minister Yosihiko Noda promised to encourage Japanese investors and tourists to Cambodia,” said Kao Kim Houn.

Both sides also exchanged views on regional issues and Noda said that he would attend the 21st ASEA Summit and related Summits in Cambodia, to be held from 18-20 November. He said, Cambodia and Japan have had very good diplomatic ties, but ties in trade, investment and tourism remain small.

Xinhua

NY university faces growing criticism after Sandy kills lab mice

NEW YORK, 7 Nov — After superstorm Sandy flooded New York University’s medical research laboratories, first accounts were of Herculaneum rescue efforts.

A handful of scientists spent the night watching over their furry charges and, the next morning, a bucket brigade of scientists and others hauled dry ice up flights to save tissue samples and human organs kept in ice for research.

But a week later a different picture has emerged. Critics are asking whether the laboratories did everything they could—and whether they followed government guidelines—to protect the research animals.

Thousands of animals, mostly mice housed in the basement of one NYU Langone Medical Centre building on the East River in Manhattan, died during the storm. The hospital also evacuated over 200 patients that night when it lost power; none was reported injured.

All told, said NU spokeswoman Jessica Guenzel, the medical facility lost 7,660 cages of mice and 22 cages of rats. Each cage houses between one and seven animals, she said. “This happens again and again and (research labs) never learn,” said Fran Sharples, director of the Board on Life Sciences at the congressionally chartered National Academy of Sciences (NAS).

“Anybody with half a brain knows you do a site-specific analysis” to understand the risk of disasters, she said. “And it’s really stupid to put your animals in the basement if you’re in a flood zone.”

It’s not as if scientists didn’t have recent lessons in the risk of natural disasters to biomedical research, she said. In 2001, tens of thousands of mice and scores of monkeys and dogs were lost when Hurricane Allison struck Houston, and in 2005, some 10,000 lab animals drowned when hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans.

The National Institutes of Health, the nation’s primary funder of biomedical research, requires its grantees to follow the NAS animal-care guidelines.

Scientists who fail to do so can have their grants revoked. A nasal-use committee at universities also make sure scientists adhere to the guidelines, said Paul Locke, associate professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, who served on the NAS panel that wrote the 2011 guide. — Reuters

K yakhtiiyo Pagoda gets new road

YANGON, 7 Nov — A new road to the arch of famous Kyakhtiiyo Pagoda was constructed with the contribution of the visitors.

The new road has the width of 22-24 ft and the narrowest part of the road has the width of 18 ft.

According to a member of Pagoda board of trustees, the road is safe as the deepest slope is 15 degree. There is also a staff with phone at each site for potential risk. The Pagoda is celebrating seven-month-long festival.

Myanma Alinn

S. Korea’s IT exports hit new high in October

SEOUL, 7 Nov — South Korea’s exports in the information technology (IT) industry hit a new high last month due to solid demand for handsets and semiconductors, a government report showed Wednesday.

Exports of locally-manufactured IT products reached 145.5 billion US dollars in October, up 61 percent from the same month of last year, according to the Ministry of Knowledge Economy.

For the first 10 months of this year, the exports amounted to 327.88 billion dollars, down 2.6 percent from the same period of 2011.

The October figure topped the previous record high of 141.1 billion dollars tallied in October 2010, and was up from 140.7 billion dollars in the previous month. The IT exports kept its upward trend for three months in a row.

Despite the persistent external uncertainties such as the eurozone debt problems, South Korea shipped a record high of IT products thanks to solid demand for semiconductors and handsets, the ministry said.

As for handset shipment, strong demand for locally-made smartphones from Europe and a reduction in the proportion of handsets manufactured in overseas factories contributed to the export rebound.

Handset exports jumped 18.1 percent last month, up from 7.6 percent growth for September and 26.6 percent drop for August.

Reuters
Myanmar enjoys brotherly, respectful relations with Laos

President U Thein Sein arrives back from Laos

President U Thein Sein arrived back here from Laos after attending the 9th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) this morning. The President was welcomed back by Vice-President Dr Sai Maung Maung and Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win, Union Ministers U Thein Nyunt, U Soe Maung, U Hla Tun, U Win Myint, Thura U Myint Maung, U Aye Myint Kyu and Dr Mya Aye, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Maung Aye, departmental heads, and Charge d’Affaires of Laotian Embassy Mr Vongpano Sipaseuth at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.

Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Tin Naing Then and U Kyaw Lwin, Deputy Minister Dr Win Myint and departmental heads, who had accompanied the President, also arrived back on the same flight.

President U Thein Sein being welcomed back by Vice-President Dr Sai Maung Maung and party.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun sends message of congratulations to US Vice-President Joe Biden on his re-election

Vice-President U Nyan Tun sends message of congratulations to US Vice-President Joe Biden on his re-election

Vice-President Dr Sai Maung Maung and party.

President U Thein Sein presents gifts and foodstuffs to staff and families of Myanmar Embassy and Military Attaché Office in Lao PDR.

Union Govt to supervise, coordinate development tasks in regions, states

Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun stressed the need for making endeavors by region/state governments and leading bodies of the self-administered Zones for development of respective regions and states as they all have been given equal rights.

Speaking at the meeting Union Ministers U Hla Tun and Dr Myint Aung meet farmers at Pyaw Village.