NAY PYI TAW, 12 Nov—President U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Swedish Prime Minister Mr Fredrik Reinfeldt at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here this afternoon.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Ministers at the President Office U Soe Thein, U Aung Min and U Tin Naing Thein, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw, departmental heads, and Swedish Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Klas Molin.

The meeting focused on cooperation and Swedish assistance for democracy, human rights and the rule of law, inter-governmental cooperation for improvement of human rights in Myanmar, sharing Swedish experiences, Swedish investments in oil, natural gas, rubber, wood, fishery and livestock breeding and further cementing friendship between the two countries.

MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
Press Release (3/2012)
12, November, 2012
13th Waning of Thadingyut, 1374 ME

Press Release on Evacuation and Rehabilitation efforts in quake-hit areas

1. A severe earthquake hit the central Myanmar at 7 hours, 42 minutes, 37 seconds on 11 November 2012, damaging pagodas, religious edifices, houses, schools, offices and construction works and killing and injuring some people in Sagaing, Shwebo, Kyaukmyaung, KhinU, Mandalay, Amarapura, Singu, Kyaukse and Thabeikkyin townships in Sagaing and Mandalay Regions.

2. As it was not convenient for the President to go to the quake-hit areas in the aftermatch of the strong quake, he immediately sent a team led by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham to the quake-hit areas to supervise the rescue, relief and rehabilitation works and to comfort the local people.

3. The President would like to express his heartfelt condolences to the local people who lost their lives and property in the quake. The President would like to thank the local people for their quick aids to the victims and rescue efforts during the emergency time though it cannot be able to predict when an earthquake can jolt. The Union Government will make utmost efforts for evacuation and rehabilitation in the areas.

4. In so doing, the Union Government will cooperate with the people from all walks of life, organizations and INGOs.

* It is amazing
Like a picture painted by a Master Painter.
I've never seen before in our Country.
But it is Real.

* Just like a flying Saucer landing from the other Planet.
This is our Football Stadium with flying colours in our Greater Nay-Pyi-Taw.
Thirty Thousand Seated, Air Conditioned, Two electric Lifts, Field Lighting system, Sound System, fire fighting system, Field Irrigation & Field drainage system.

* CATV, CCTV, PABX systems included as International standards.

* Rooms for the Players, Athletes, Conference, Media Room, Mall, Gymnasium, Warming up, Medical Care Room etc. Whatever you need, There are All.

* Now it is getting near to be Completed. All are moving forward to the winning goal.
Join Hands in Hands firmly. Don’t miss a second.

* Can See smile in every face. Who dares win. We all are Max Myanmar. Yes, MAX MYANMAR. We never walk alone.

(Honour to All Max Myanmar)
Hla Min
Chief Engineer (MMCC)
MANDALAY, 12 Nov—Local and international investments were invited to participate in development of Mandalay International Airport for creating the airport as aviation and transportation centre. Thus, a total of 16 companies from seven countries applied to improve the airport. Of them, the number of applicants was from seven countries.

The applicant company list comprises five from Myanmar, three from China, three from France, two from Thailand and one each from Germany, Japan and Singapore, totaling 16.

“International trade and business competitiveness is gathering momentum across the world. Thus, the role of international airports is kept on the front row, so the emphasis is being placed on development of Mandalay International Airport. It is a focal point for aviation and logistic sectors,” said U Tin Naing Thein, Director-General of the Department of Civil Aviation.

According to the geographical conditions, Mandalay International Airport is playing a key role in transportation of the commodities from the west to the east and from the east to the west and saving the fuel.

Mandalay International Airport was commissioned into service on 17 September 2000.—Myanma Alinn

16 local and foreign companies to invest in development of Mandalay International Airport

Civil Aviation.

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for their convenience.

It is because the vehicles under 10 tons took opportunities that they did not need to receive weighing and broke the rules of loading the commodities. That is why the Ministry of Construction changed the regulations to be able to prevent unacceptable loading of commodities.—Myanma Alinn

Illegal saw mill, timbers seized

KYAIKTO, 12 Nov—An eight-member team from Kyaitko Township Forest Department of Thanlwin District on 5 November arrested two persons together with 1.7354 tons of sawn timber, one saw mill and other equipment in Sittoung Village of Kyaitko Township.

Saw Creek Bridge collapses

Saw, 12 Nov—Saw Creek Bridge on which a GMC driven by U Aung Myint passed through collapsed at 9 pm on 8 November.

Vehicles under 10 tons allowed after receiving weighing

NAVPY Talw, 12 Nov—Toll gates allowed buses and trucks under 10 tons of loads not to receiving weighing at the scales as of 4 September for their convenience.

At present, the regulation has been changed to allow them with loads of commodities after receiving weighing. If the vehicles have not loads of commodities, they do not need to receive weighing.

It is because the vehicles under 10 tons took opportunities that they did not need to receive weighing and broke the rules of loading the commodities. That is why the Ministry of Construction changed the regulations to be able to prevent unacceptable loading of commodities.—Myanma Alinn

Snatchers with gold wares seized within 90 minutes

MAUBIN, 12 Nov—There was a significant event in Maubin Township that as 28 gold chains worth K 14 million were lost, the two suspected persons were arrested with the lost gold wares in 90-minute period and then the gold wares were handed over to the owner.

At 5 pm on 16 October, while owner U Myint Thein was preparing to close the Thameedaw jewellery, Shop No 3 in Development Affairs Committee’ Market in Maubin, unknown man and woman arrived there who requested to buy the gold wares. The owner showed the box of gold to the suspected persons took the address of the owner to write it down because they did not have enough money to buy the gold wares. At that time, the box of gold on the glass box was lost. That was why the owner of the shop opened a file at Maubin Myoma Police Station.

After opening a file of lawsuit, the police station investigated the case and arrested Kyaw Zin Aung, 27 and Hla Thanda, 19 of Twantay Township in searching the bus at Letyayyi Village in Maubin Township.

Commander of Maubin Myoma Police Station IP Thein Win handed over the gold wares to owner U Myint Thein at 4 pm at the police station.—Myanma Alinn

Construction groups, companies emphasize construction of parts of ASEAN highways

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Nov—A total of 679 groups of special groups, district and township groups from Public Works and entrepreneurs are building roads and bridges in the second year of the five-year plan from 2011-2012 to 2015-2016 fiscal years. A total of 13 groups of Public Works and companies are constructing 210.4 miles long Namhsam-Kunhing-Tarkaw-Mong-pyin-Kengtung road section included in ASEAN and Asian Highways spending K 6114 million in 2012-2013 fiscal year. Likewise, 13 construction groups and companies are building 112 miles long Myonwya-Pale-Gangaw road spending K 2750 million.

Three groups of Public Works and five companies are also constructing 83 miles long Kalewa-Gangaw road by spending K 3307 million.

Six construction and companies are undertaking construction of 620.2 miles long Yangon-Mawlamyine-Dawei-Myeik-Taninthayi-Bokpyin-Kawthong road section which is included in ASEAN highway, spending K 14402 million.

Two construction groups are also implementing 149.7 miles long Liemy-Panket-Hsipaw road spending K 3378.73 million.

At the same time, two construction groups are building 123.1 miles long Pakokku-Pauk- Hilin-Gangaw road which is part of BIMSTEC highway with the use of K 300 million, one construction group 108.5 miles long Myitkyina-Tanai-Padaung Road which is part of Lido Road with the use of K 250 million, three construction groups 115.5 miles long Monywa-Yagyi-Kalewa road with the use of K 506 million and two construction groups 102 miles long Hpa-an-Kawkareik-Myaawady Road which is part of ASEAN Highway spending K 1 billion.—Myanma Alinn

Mobile phone donated to library

SAGAING, 12 Nov—A ceremony to install a GSM mobile phone worth K 200,000 at Lungyi Library was held in Hsinant Village of Sagaing Township. It was installed by Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications of Sagaing Region on 4 November with the aim of enabling the youth to participate in development of the village by applying the telephone in time.—Myanma Alinn

Hilux Surf in collision with passenger bus

YANGON, 12 Nov—In front of CP Fresh Mart fried chicken shop between Sanyeiknyein and Hledan bus stops in Kamayut Township at 12.20 pm on 10 November, a Hilux Surf driven by Kyaw Kyaw from Insein to Hledan turned to the opposite way and then collided with a bus from 97th bus line driven by Min Min from the straight way of Insein to Hledan. In the incident, ten passengers from the bus were no injure.—Myanma Alinn
Greek parliament OK’s 2013 budget

Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras speaks to the lawmakers prior to a voting on the 2013 budget law at the Greek Parliament in Athens, Greece, on 11 Nov, 2012. Greece’s parliament on early Monday approved the 2013 budget law, which included further austerity measures to secure fresh tranche of bailout from the debt-ridden country’s international creditors. — Xinhua

The parliamentary ratification of the two bills had been requested by European Union and International Monetary Fund (IMF) creditors as “pre-requisites” for the release of further vital aid to Greece.

Without the 31.5 billion euros (40.4 billion US dollars) disbursement, the country could run out of cash reserves on the forthcoming Friday, Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras has warned over October.

However, as EU and IMF lenders continued on their ways to ensure the sustainability of the Greek sovereign debt and counter the crisis, Monday’s Euro Group meeting in Brussels is not due to give the “green light” for the installment, as expected until a few days ago.

In order to cover its immediate financing needs until the 31.5 billion, Greece will hold on Tuesday a new treasury bills auction as part of its monthly programme of T-bills sales.

Samaras, as well as Finance Minister Yannis Stournaras, who travel to Brussels this week, expressed confidence while addressing the parliament ahead of the vote on Sunday night that Greece will receive the aid in time to avoid a disorderly bankruptcy.— Xinhua

Indonesia vows to crack down on human trafficking

Jakarta, 12 Nov—Indonesia has decided to boost efforts to crack down on human trafficking as the country has been used as a transit point by human smugglers and illegal immigrants, officials said on Monday.

“We are intensifying law enforcement against human trafficking by involving the State Intelligence Agency, the Attorney General’s Office and the police—all of whom will cooperate and coordinate with each other in order to better tackle human trafficking cases,” said Hasnil Kleib, foreign ministry’s director general for multilateral cooperation.

Indonesian authorities have arrested at least 15,162 illegal immigrants from 2000 to 2010.

“The immigrants and smugglers used Indonesia as a transit country particularly during emergency situations, such as when their boats’ engines fail in Indonesian waters en route to other countries,” he quoted by Antara news agency as saying.

Ireland’s children referendum amendment gets passed

Dublin, 12 Nov—Ireland’s children referendum amendment has been passed with the support of 58 percent of voters, with only three of the country’s 43 constituencies rejecting the proposed amendment, state broadcaster RTE reported on Sunday.

The turnout for the referendum was only 33.5 percent, according to RTE.

Three constituencies voted no, namely, Donegal North East, Donegal South West and Dublin North West.

The highest yes was in Dublin South.

It is a historic day for the children of Ireland and its the first time the constitution of this republic will recognize them as citizens in their own right,” said Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny, while welcoming the overall result of the referendum.

“The passing of this amendment will help make Ireland a better, a good, secure and loving space for all our children. It will also give reassurance and confidence to parents, foster parents and vulnerable children,” he said.

Meanwhile, Irish Deputy Prime Minister Eamon Gilmore said the referendum is a historic one.

“The decision by the people to insert a dedicated article into the constitution to protect the rights of children draws in a line the sand against the litany of past failures.

Up to now the failure of those in power and those too protectionist has been a blight on our nation’s history.”

Today’s result is a vindication of the values that we hold and how much we value children and child-hood,” said Gilmore.

Salvador Sanchez Ceren participates in his presentation as presidential candidate of leftist party “Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front” for the 2014 presidential elections, in San Salvador, capital of El Salvador, on 11 Nov, 2012.— Xinhua

Iran ready to cooperate with ESCAP in energy, transit sectors

The ESCAP is the regional development arm of the United Nations for the Asia-Pacific region. Made up of 62 member states, the region is home to 4.1 billion people, or two thirds of the world’s population.

The ESCAP, the most comprehensive of the United Nations five regional commissions, and the largest of the U.N. legacy serving the Asia-Pacific region with over 600 staff.

Established in 1947 with its headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand, ESCAP works to overcome some of the region’s greatest challenge by finding results oriented projects, technical assistance and capacity building to member states.— Xinhua

Philippine gov’t, former rebel group resume talks in Malaysia

Manila, 12 Nov—The 33rd Exploratory Talks between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front kicked off in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Monday.

The talks will conclude on 18 Nov, are expected to center on power-sharing, wealth-sharing, and normalization.

A bdulla Camlian, a member of the MILF peace panel, said the session tackled the “vital issues” especially on matters of policing, decommissioning, and gradual realignment of government forces. “I don’t expect a smooth-sailing on the issue of normalization; there will be breakthrough at least during this meeting,” said Camlian in a statement posted on the MILF’s website.

He also said that the two parties will discuss the issues of the MILF “political detaine,” inter-governmental relationship, transitional arrangement and modalities or political road map, third party monitoring team, transitional arrangement on policing, multistrust fund, and joint normalization committee.

Photo taken on 11 Nov, 2012 shows the scenery in Changxi Village in Wuyuan County, east China’s Jiangxi Province. Maple leaves in Changxi Village recently, attracting numbers of visitors.— Xinhua

Athen, 12 Nov—Greece’s parliament on early Monday approved the 2013 budget law, which included further austerity measures to secure fresh tranche of bailout from the debt-ridden country’s international creditors.

A total of 167 lawmakers voted in favor of the budget which introduces a fresh round of spending cuts, 128 against and four cast blank votes with 299 M Ps present in the 300-member parliament during the roll call vote which was broadcast live on local television stations.

The crucial, midnight ballot followed the approval of a new package of austerity and reform measures of 3.5 billion euros (17.1 billion US dollars) for 2013-2014 in a similar tumultuous debate on early Tuesday, with a slim majority of 153.13 votes against growing dissent inside and outside the parliament.

Syrian opposition forms new coalition, elect coalition head

Damas, 12 Nov—Syrian opposition groups announced Sunday on the formation of a new coalition and the election of M ouaz al-Khatib as the unit entity’s head.

A formal agreement for forming the National Coalition for the Opposition Forces was signed on Sunday evening in the Qatari capital of Doha by Khatib and George Sabra, the new head of major opposition group the Syrian National Council (SNC), a Xinhua reporter said.

The opposition groups signed earlier an initial agreement for forming the unity body in order to increase international pressure to bridge their fractures and set up a united entity that could effectively confront the Syrian President B aschar al-Assad’s government.

Khatib, a preacher and scholar born in 1960 in the Syrian capital of Damascus, was elected by 54 out of 58 votes as the president of the new coalition.

Meanwhile, prominent dissident Riad Seif and human rights activist Sohri al-Atsy Asi were chosen as Khatib’s deputies, and Mostafa al-Sabbagh as the secretary general.

The opposition groups have been holding meetings for days in Doha to discuss a proposal by Seif on forming an united opposition front to help end the 20-month Syrian crisis and establish a transitional government headed by Seif. — Xinhua

PHILIPPINE GOVT. TO FIT IN MINISTERS IN VISIT TO INDONESIA

The Philippines will fit in its ministers in the upcoming Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle Regional Development Summit to be held in Surabaya, Indonesia this week.

The Philippines is not a member of the regional grouping—IMT-GT—which also includes Brunei, Malaysia and Thailand.

But it has been invited to participate in the meeting to be held Wednesday.

The Philippines will be represented by Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario and Trade and Industry Secretary Ramon Lopez.

Del Rosario will also meet with his Indonesian counterpart, Trade Minister Mari Elka Pangestu.

Trade and Investment Commissioner Ronald Lañada and Foreign Affairs Undersecretary for Policy and Planning Lorna Gomez will also be in Indonesia.

The Philippines will use the meeting to push for the acceleration of infrastructure projects in the region.

Lañada said Indonesia is ready to increase the bilateral trade between the Philippines and Indonesia.

The Philippines is Indonesia’s largest trading partner, accounting for 14 percent of Indonesia’s total imports and 12 percent of its exports.

Lañada said the Philippines will seek to attract investments from Indonesia to help lift its economic growth. —PNA

The Philippines will also push for more visits of Indonesian tourists to the Philippines. —PNA

The Philippines is the third largest market for Indonesian tourists, according to the Ministry of Tourism.

About 250,000 Indonesian tourists visit the Philippines every year. —PNA

Topics: foreign policy, trade, investment

Reference: MNSX5KU}

END OF TRANSMISSION
IBM surprised by Avantor lawsuit, calls claims exaggerated

NEW YORK, 12 Nov—IBM, which is being sued by chemicals manufacturer Avantor Performance Materials for fraud and breach of contract in connection with a software project, said the accusations were blown out of proportion and that it was surprised by the move.

“We believe the allegations in the complaint are exaggerated and misguid- ed and are surprised that Avantor chose to file suit,” the company said late on Friday in an emailed statement. IBM said it had “met its contractual obligations and delivered a solution that Avantor continued to use in its operations.”

Avantor, which produces chemicals and raw materials for pharmaceutical products, laboratory chemicals and chemicals used in the electronics industry, filed a lawsuit on Thursday in the US District Court for the District of New Jersey. It said it was seeking tens of millions in damages from IBM, which according to the lawsuit, had misrepresented the capabilities of a software program that runs on a platform by SAP, resulting in “a near stand- in” of Avantor’s busi- ness.— Reuters

China launches survey of endangered porpoises in Yangtze

WUHAN, 12 Nov—Chinese scientists on Sunday launched a survey of endangered finless porpoises in the country’s largest river Yangtze, as they worried the freshwater mammal is on the verge of extinction.

Consisting of researchers from the Ministry of Agriculture, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the survey team set off in Wuhan, a central Chinese city along the Yangtze River.

The 40-day survey is the most comprehensive since 2006, when a survey found the population of finless porpoises down to 1,800 and pronounced the white-flag dolphin, a larger mammal native to the river, close to extinction.

There are probably only 1,000 finless porpoises in the Yangtze and two lakes linked to the waterway after continuous drops in the number, said Wang Ding, researcher from the Institute of Hydrobiology under the CAS.

Finless porpoises may die out within 10 to 15 years, if strong mea- sures are not taken,” Wang warned.

The survey team will trace the porpoises using sonar system along the middle and lower reaches of the river, collecting data on the species’ population, which will assist in the making of future protection policies.

The initial results of the survey will be published in December.

As the flagship spe- cies in the Yangtze, finless porpoises are the barom- eters of the river’s ecological conditions,” said Wang Kexi,ing, deputy commander of the survey team.

The survey may not produce optimistic results, as human ac- tivities and water pollution could endanger the porpoises, and their all-out development and information technol- ogy ministers in Teheran on Sunday, that put China’s first female in space and completed a manned dock- ing of the space station plan.

China is far from catch- ing up with the established space superpowers, the United States and Russia, but the Shenzhou 9 marked China’s fourth manned spaceflight since 2003, and comes as budget re- straints and shifting priori- ties have held back US manned space launches.

The United States will not test a new rocket to take people into space until 2016, and Russia has suspended manned missions.

China plans an un- manned rocket launching and deployment of a moon rover and its scientists have raised the possibility of sending a man to the moon, but not before 2020.— Reuters

China province conducts survey of endangered Siberian tigers

HARBIN, 12 Nov—Autho- rities in northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province are conducting a survey to find the exact number of endangered Siberian tigers as their numbers may have increased.

Sun Haiyi, deputy head of the Wild Animals Research Institute of Hei- longjiang, said the province had set up more than 20 monitoring sites, informa- tion will be submitted to the country’s relevant autho- rities.

“Since 2005, wild Siberian tigers have been spotted many times by monitoring cameras in Laoye MOUNTAIN and Wanda MOUNTAIN areas in Hei- longjiang,” Sun told Xinhua.

He estimated that the number of wild Siberian tigers might have increased thanks to the protection ef- forts in recent years. Dead tigers were also found in Wanda MOUNTAIN and Mis- huan area, he added.

Sun said the conserva- tion of natural forests had contributed a lot to the res- toration of the food chain of Siberian tigers.

Iran proposes ECO states to jointly build telecom satellites

TEHRAN, 12 Nov—Iran’s ECO Minister of Communication and Information Technology Reza Tajpour proposed the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) member states to start joint production of tele- communication satellites, semi-official Far News news agency reported on Sunday.

Addressing the first meeting of ECO’s telecommunications and information technology ministers in Tehran on Sunday, Tajpour called for the start of “studies over the possible grounds for building and manufacturing telecommuni- cation equipment and use of common know-how and building joint telecommunication satel- lites to be sent to the orbits of the member states,” ac- cording to the report.

He also asked the ECO members to cooperate and exchange information in various fields including satellite works, to provide various ICT services and to build infrastructures, and to help cooperation among mobile operators in various fields.

On Sunday, Iran’s Maj- lis (parliament) Speaker Ali Larijani stressed the impor- tance of promoting closer cooperation among the ECO states, Press TV reported.

“Under the current cir- cumstances when political and regional equations are changing rapidly, close co- operation among the member states, including ECO member states, can be ef- fective in maintaining the national interests of countries and their all-out develop- ment and progress,” Larijani was quoted as saying.

The ECO is an inter- governmental regional orga- nization established in 1965 by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey with the aim of pro- moting economic, technical and cultural cooperation among the member states.

Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan later joined the organization.—Xinhua

A logo of Sharp Corp is pictured at CEATEC JAPAN 2012 electronics show in Chiba, east of Tokyo, on 2 Oct, 2012.— Reuters

Sharp aims for near full-output from display plant

TOKYO, 12 Nov—Shin- osuke Kyo, chief execu- tive of Sharp Corp, said the output from its Kameyama No 2 plant to near 100 percent, from a current 30 percent, as early as the end of 2012, by mass pro- ducing larger, high defini- tion, power-saving IGZO screens, the Yomiuri news- paper said on Sunday.

The Kameyama plant makes IGZO displays, which contribute 20 percent to 20 percent of the power required by conventional panels, for Apple Inc’s iPad tablet. The company has won orders for larger 30- inch displays from manu- facturers, the report said, without citing sources.

The panels would be used for computed tomog- raphy (CT) or game moni- tors that require clearer def- inition than conventional high-definition displays, the report added.

Kyo, which secured $4.6 billion in emergency loans from its banks in September, is looking to IGZO to spark a revival in its fortunes, as it forecasts a 450 billion yen ($5.66 bil- lion) net loss for the current business year ending March. (1 $ = 79.4500 /a- nese yen)—Reuters
**Smokers may fare worse after colorectal surgery**

In September, a review of surgeries to repair knee ligaments found that smokers tended to have worse outcomes, including not being able to get back full knee function. For the new report, published in the Annals of Surgery, Sharma and his colleagues studied patients included in a nationally representative database of US surgeries between 2005 and 2010. Overall, 47,574 patients were included in the analysis. A nalysis part of their colon or rectum removed, a surgery known as a colorectal resection, either because of cancer, diverticulosis disease or inflammatory bowel disease.

A bout 60 percent of the patients had never smoked, 19 percent were former smokers and 20 percent were current smokers. The researchers looked at the 30 days after surgery to see how many patients in each group suffered either a major complication — such as severe infection, heart or breathing problem or death — or a minor complication, such as an infection at the surgical site or in the urinary tract. Sharma’s team found that current smokers had a 30 percent greater risk of having major or minor complications compared to patients who never smoked, and an 11 percent greater risk than ex-smokers.

A mong 9,700 current smokers, for example, there were 1,497 major complications and 1,448 minor ones, whereas the 9,136 ex-smokers had 1,233 major and 1,386 minor complications. Never smokers, the largest group, numbering 28,738, had 3,316 major complications and 3,462 minor ones. Current smokers were also 15 times as likely to die within 30 days of surgery as never smokers. In addition, the longer someone had smoked — that is, the greater their number of “pack years” — the stronger their chances of complications, the researchers note.

![An ash tray with cigarette butts is pictured in Hinzenbach, in the Austrian province of Upper Austria, 30 September 2012.](image)

**New York, 12 Nov** — Smoking has long been linked with slower recovery in general from injuries and surgeries, and now a new study finds that smokers face more complications and higher chances of death following major surgery for colorectal cancers and other diseases. “We wanted to see if smoking has a specific effect on these patients...”

**BUSINESS & HEALTH**

**Health**

**London, 12 Nov** — GlaxoSmithKline’s rotavirus vaccine has been chosen for Britain’s first routine rotavirus immunization programme, unit to protect babies and children against the most common cause of severe diarrhoea and vomiting. “It will also help hospitals cope in the busy winter months by reducing pressure on beds and front-line staff,” he said. Rotavirus vaccines are already included in routine childhood immunization programmes across the world including in Australia, Austria, Belgium and the United States. **GSK rotavirus shot chosen for UK immunisation campaign**

A dam Finn, a professor of paediatrics at Bristol University said the new vaccination programme would put down epidemics of diarrhoea and vomiting in babies and young children that occur every winter in Britain. “It will also help hospitals cope in the busy winter months by reducing pressure on beds and front-line staff,” he said. Rotavirus vaccines are already included in routine childhood immunization programmes across the world including in Australia, Austria, Belgium and the United States. **GSK rotavirus shot chosen for UK immunisation campaign**

**Cuba int’l Trade Fair draws 67 nations**

HAVANA, 12 Nov — Cuba on Saturday wrapped up the 30th Havana International Trade Fair (Fifty 2012), the largest of its kind in the last decade, with about 3,587 foreign exhibitors from 67 countries taking part. A number of intergovernmental and inter-institutional agreements were signed during the weeklong event, according to Vice-President of Council of Ministers Ricardo Cabrisas. Cuban enterprises also held talks with companies from Venezuela, Russia, Germany and the European Union, during the period, he added. Over a dozen of Cuban companies and companies from Brazil, Russia, China, Venezuela and Spain were awarded at the close of the fair. Products including rums Cubay from local company Cubaron, Mercedes Benz cars, and Tarapacawine from Chile also received awards. Cabrisas said this year’s trade fair was held at a time when the Caribbean island nation is pursuing economic reform that would help boost foreign investment.

The creation of the first Development Special Zone at the Mariel port (48 km west from the capital Havana) have opened new opportunities for foreign investment, he said. He also said Cuban authorities are providing more opportunities for foreign investors and joint ventures, so as to get more funds, modern technologies and a better positioning of its national products in the global market. **Cuba int’l Trade Fair draws 67 nations**

**Hong Kong, Canada sign tax pact**

**Hong Kong, 12 Nov** — Hong Kong signed an agreement with Canada for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of tax evasion on income and capital, the authority announced here on Sunday. Under the agreement, the tax paid in Hong Kong will be allowed as a credit against tax payable in Canada.

Double taxation will be avoided in that any Canadian tax paid by Hong Kong companies doing business through a permanent establishment in Canada will be allowed as credit against the tax payable in Hong Kong. **Hong Kong, Canada sign tax pact**

**An Ally Financial sign is seen on a building in Charlotte, North Carolina on 1 May, 2012.**

**Ally near $4 billion unit sale, GM seen in lead**

In May a plan to sell its auto financing operations in Europe and Latin America for around $4 billion, with General Motors Co emerging as the lead bidder if the company decides to sell those operations as a whole, two sources familiar with the situation said.

A lly is still considering whether to split the business geographically — Europe and Latin America — and sell it to two different parties, the sources said on Friday. A deal could come as soon as next week, they said. Details of an agreement have not been finalized, and the outcome could change, the sources said. A lly is still talking to a handful of financial institutions that have made separate bids for its European and Latin American assets, they said.

A lly, which is 74 percent owned by the US government after a series of bailouts during the financial crisis, announced in May a plan to sell its international operations in a bid to speed up repayment to taxpayers. G M, also partly owned by the US government after its own taxpayer-funded bailout, declined to comment.

A s Ally spokeswoman said, “We continue to be focused on maximizing shareholder value and finding the best solutions for the remaining international operations.”

O nce known as GMAC, A lly is the former auto lending arm of G M, which has been rebuilding its finance operations. The US automaker bought A meriCredit Corp in 2010 and in August disclosed that it was among the bidders for A lly’s international operations. A lly Chief Executive Michael Carpenter said last week that the lender had interest from multiple parties for its Europe and Latin American operations and that he expected a sale to be announced this month. Last month, A lly agreed to sell its Canadian auto finance and deposit business to Royal Bank of Canada for $4.1 billion and its Mexican insurance unit to A CE Ltd for $665 million.

T hose two sales are expected to bring in about $5 billion in proceeds, producing pretax estimated gains of $1.2 billion, A lly said last week. The E uropean and Latin American operations have a book value of about $3.3 billion. A lly is focusing on US auto lending and banking in a bid to turn its business around.

I ts Residential Capital mortgage unit filed for bankruptcy in May, and it is looking to sell most of its remaining mortgage portfolio. Kroger’s $17 billion it owes the US government, A lly has paid back $5.8 billion, including dividend payments. — Reuters **Ally near $4 billion unit sale, GM seen in lead**

**Hong Kong, 12 Nov** — Hong Kong signed an agreement with Canada for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of tax evasion on income and capital, the authority announced here on Sunday. Under the agreement, the tax paid in Hong Kong will be allowed as a credit against tax payable in Canada.

Double taxation will be avoided in that any Canadian tax paid by Hong Kong companies doing business through a permanent establishment in Canada will be allowed as credit against the tax payable in Hong Kong. **Hong Kong, Canada sign tax pact**
Israel FM meets ambassadors over Palestinian UN bid

Jerusalem, 12 Nov — Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman met on Sunday with Israeli ambassadors to the EU and the United Nations regarding the Palestinians’ bid for upgrading their status at the United Nations later this month.

“The past four years Israel approached the PNA many times with the intent of renewing direct negotiations, but the Palestinians chose to avoid the issue and blamed Israel for all their problems,” Lieberman said during the meeting.

The Palestinians have “no interest” in resuming peace negotiations and instead prefer to “erode the Palestinian position further and further,” the foreign minister added.

Peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians came to a halt in 2010 due to Israel’s ongoing settlement construction in the West Bank, a move condemned by the left-wing internationally on the Palestinian people’s behalf. Despite Lieberman’s comments, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas declared on Friday that the Palestinians are ready to resume negotiations and are striving for peace and denouncing violence against Israel.

In a meeting held two weeks ago between Lieberman and EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton, the foreign minister said Israel would fight the Palestinian bid “even if it means collapsing the PNA.”

In September 2011, the PNA made its first bid to the United Nations, which was rejected later that month. According to previous reports and assessments, if the Palestinians are to make their appeal again, they can expect the support of 130 out of 193 UN member states.

On 2 Nov, US government rejected its proposal to recognize the PNA as a non-member state status. “Our comments is not different than that we’ve been making for more than a year,” US State Department spokesman Victoria Nuland said in a briefing.

The United States has adopted Israel’s proposal regarding the PNA’s UN bid and called on the Palestinians to gain statehood through peace negotiations and not through unilateral statements.

US Senator Bob Corker (R-TN) takes part in a panel discussion titled “Fixer-Upper: Repairing the US Housing Market” at the Miken Institute Global Conference in Beverly Hills, California 1 May, 2012.— Reuters

WASHINGTON, 12 Nov — A senior Republican senator voiced confidence on Sunday that U.S. lawmakers would forge a deal on the year-end “fiscal cliff,” while a top aide to President Barack Obama signaled a willingness to compromise on raising tax rates on the rich.

Republican Senator Bob Corker said increasing tax revenues from wealthier Americans would have to be part of the plan, but he stressed closing loopholes rather than raising top tax rates as many Democrats favour, provided spending is also tackled.

"Tactoptimistic," Corker told "Fox News Sunday." "I think there is the basis for the deal. There is a way of getting there on the revenue side. The real question is: can we come to terms on the entitlement side?"

Obama has invited congressional leaders to the White House on Friday to discuss the issue, with only 50 days left until the end of the year. Unless Congress acts first, $600 billion in tax hikes and automatic federal spending cuts would go into effect Dec. 31, with potentially devastating impact on the economy.

Obama won re-election on Tuesday after a campaign in which he called for wealthier Americans to pay a bit more in taxes. But a range of deductions, including on mortgage interest payments and charitable giving, can significantly lower the effective tax rate that most affluent US households pay.

Another influential Democrat, Senator Charles Schumer, voiced skepticism that it would be possible to raise enough revenue to lower the deficit sufficiently without lifting the tax rate on the rich, but said he is open to hearing other ideas.— Reuters

Cuba holds municipal elections in provinces hit by hurricane Sandy

Havana, 12 Nov — Over 140 thousand Cubans residing in the eastern provinces of Santiago de Cuba and Holguin, the most devastated by hurricane Sandy, are casting their votes Sunday to select the two-year and half-deputies to the municipal assemblies of the Peoples Power.

The only exceptions are in Santiago de Cuba, where the head municipality and Palma Soriano will hold their voting process in a proper time to announce later, because of the devastation left by Sandy.

The National Electoral Commission (NEC), informed that 477 polling stations have been opened on Sunday in the territories of Santiago de Cuba and Holguin to elect 170 deputies to the municipal government bodies.

Cuba held on 21 October the first round of general municipal elections, with a participation of the 94.21 percent of the registered electors, according to NEC figures.

In all the constituencies where no candidate obtained more than the half of the valid votes it was held a round off on 4 November, except in the mentioned eastern provinces due to the serious damages of Sandy. The hurricane Sandy swept eastern Cuba on 25 October with winds over the 108mph, heavy rains, coastal flooding and land slides.

Sandy’s hit over the island left 11 dead, over 3 million people affected, 200 thousand damaged houses and economic losses exceeding the 100 million dollars so far. Santiago de Cuba, the capital city of the province with the same name, was the most seriously devastated territory by the hurricane.

Cuba, the capital city of the province with the same name, was the most seriously devastated territory by the hurricane.

Turkey pays final respects to 17 soldiers killed in helicopter crash

Ankara, 12 Nov — Turkish politicians, military officials and thousands of people paid their final respect to 17 soldiers who were killed in a helicopter crash in southeastern Turkey on Saturday. The ceremony for the 17 lost lives was held at the main airport of the Diyarbakir in southeastern Turkey.

The 17 soldiers were killed on Saturday when their Sikorsky helicopter crashed in the province of Sirt in southeastern Turkey due to adverse weather conditions, Turkish officials said.

14 of the victims were members of gendarmerie special forces and the rest were helicopter staff, Siirt Governor Ahmet Aydin said. The soldiers were being transported to a region near the Turkish border with Iraq to help troops in their fight against the rebels of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK).

Aydin said three officers, four noncommissioned officers, one special sergeant and nine privates were killed in the crash.

The japenese icebreaker Shirase leaves Harumi Wharf in Tokyo Bay on 11 Nov, 2012, for Antarctica to support Japans 54th expedition team to be deployed there. The 12,400-ton vessel was unable to dock at Japans Showa Base the previous year, due to heavy ice. — Kyodo News

Republicans say deal can be done on US “fiscal cliff”

WASHINGTON, 11 Nov — The 12,650-ton vessel was unable to dock at Japan’s Showa Base the previous year, meaning the expedition team had to reach the Antarctic base by air and land. — Xinhua

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Cuba, the capital city of the province with the same name, was the most seriously devastated territory by the hurricane.
Russia to help probe Arafat’s death, Palestinian president says

JERUSALEM, 12 Nov — Russian and Palestinian officials said on Monday they are due to exhume the body of Yasser Arafat, the former Palestinian president, and also from the Russian government. Abbas told a rain-drenched ceremony on the eighth anniversary of the death in France of the former guerrilla who led Palestinians’ campaign to create a state through years of war and peace. Abbas asked Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov for Moscow’s help during talks in Jordan last week, Palestinian sources said.

The investigations are due to begin later this month in an attempt to discover how he died after Abbas, said on Sunday. Palestinian leader, Mahmoud Abbas, also said he was due to visit Arafat’s body in Ramallah during talks in Jordan last week. Palestinian sources said. Abbas’s administration, “as a matter of sovereignty,” he told Reuters. Abbas also said he will remain a challenging task. “There’s full cooperation these days between us and the French and Swiss experts, and also from the Russian government,” Abbas said.

Gulf Arab construction sector challenged, despite gradual rebound

DUBAI, 12 Nov — The Gulf Arab construction sector, albeit in a modest comeback mode, suffers from a rough business and financial climate, said the CEO of Dubai-based maintenance and plumber firm Drake and Scull International (DSI) in an interview with Gulf Business on Sunday. Khalidom Tabari said the industry shall not be affected as of Monday morning.

While Tabari affirmed that the construction sector was on a revival track, “a lack of funding options” was weighing on the market, he added, saying that DSI’s biggest problem was the collection of payments from customers.

Earlier in the day, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said that economic growth in the six member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, namely Saudi Arabia, Kwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman, reached 7.5 percent in 2011, adding that the growth will remain “robust” this year.

Research figures from different sources confirm that all that glitters is not gold. According to Middle East Economic Digest (MEED), in 2011 alone real estate projects worth 188.7 billion US dollars were cancelled. The research firm BNC Network said in mid-September that 43 percent of projects in the GCC were on hold.

In the first six months of 2012, DSI’s net profit slumped by 34 percent year-on-year, amounting to 63.6 million Dirham (17.35 million US dollars).

DSI’s rival Arabtec Construction said last week that its net profit for the first quarter declined by 10.5 percent to hit 35 million Dirham (9.54 million US dollars).

Comments from industry experts to Xinhua on the industry outlook sound similar. Royee Han, who is an account manager at China National Building Material Company or CNBM said that whilst the Gulf region was promising, “growth was still slow.” “We still feel the fallout from the financial crisis,” said Ha.

Thorsten Schneider, business unit manager Gulf region at Germany’s industrial giant Henkel Group and the world’s largest producer of glues, said he was more bullish on Saudi Arabia than on the UAE, not only because Saudi Arabia has the region’s largest population, but also “The kingdom has a housing gap of 5 million homes, while residential construction in the UAE is much more volatile and speculative,” said Schneider. The UAE is DSI’s home market. Since its 2012-peak the DSI share shrank is DSI’s home market. Since its 2012-peak the DSI share is DSI’s home market. Since its 2012-peak the DSI share since its 2012 peak the DSI share has remained volatile.

Highways closed as snowstorm hits NE China

HARBIN, 12 Nov — Two highways in northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province have closed due to heavy snow and sleet, local traffic authorities said on Monday.

Heavy snowstorms in Heilongjiang since November have caused the closure of a highway linking Harbin, capital of Heilongjiang, and Tongjiang City. The other highway to close links Hegang and Jiamusi cities, leaving many coaches and passengers stranded.

The snowstorms prompted Heilongjiang’s weather authorities to issue an “orange alert” — the second highest level, in Hegang and Jiamusi in the next six hours.

Traffic authorities of Harbin have warned that more coaches will be stranded as more snowstorms are expected.

Flights and railway services in the city, which is forecast to receive snowfall of four millimeters in the next 12 hours, have not been affected as of Monday morning.

The Dubai-based airline Emirates apologizes for the incident. “Emirates apologizes for the inconvenience caused to its customers, however the safety of our passengers and crew is of the highest priority and will not be compromised,” it said.

The Dubai-based airline has offered the passengers alternative flights.

Trans-Tasman intelligence sharing pact targets organized crime

WELLINGTON, 12 Nov — New Zealand and Australia on Monday signed an agreement that will help police on both sides share information on organized crime. Australian Crime Commission (ACC) chief executive John Lawler and New Zealand Police Commissioner Peter Marshall signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in Wellington to expand trans-Tasman cooperation.

“Improving national intelligence sharing between the ACC and New Zealand Police will enhance the international picture of organized crime and inform strategies to reduce supply, demand and harm to four weather warnings were issued on Monday.

The passengers of Flight EK 413 heard a loud bang and saw flashes of light coming from one of the engines about half an hour after departure, according to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) reports.

Passenger Ross Clarke said the pilots told people in the cabin that something had gone wrong on the plane’s number three engine.

“The aircraft returned, dumped fuel and then landed back at Sydney after about two hours it had taken off,” he said.

Emirates said in a statement that an engine fault was to blame for the incident.

“Emirates apologizes for any inconvenience caused to its customers, however the safety of our passengers and crew is of the highest priority and will not be compromised,” it said.

The Dubai-based airline has offered the passengers alternative flights.
Swedish delegation led by Prime Minister of Sweden arrives in Yangon

YANGON, 12 Nov—A Swedish delegation led by Prime Minister of Sweden Mr. Fredrik Reinfeldt arrived in Yangon by special flight this morning. They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Tin Win. Officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Swedish Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Klas Molin and embassy staff.

Be straightforward! Are you giving me the finger or pointing me out to somebody? A void double-edged behaviours.

If there is anyone who wants to remonstrate about the name, flag and seal of the party, they may remonstrate with the Union Election Commission with firm evidence within seven days from the day of the announcement.

flag of the United National Congress

Swedish delegation led by Prime Minister of Sweden arrives in Yangon

YANGON, 12 Nov—A Swedish delegation led by Prime Minister of Sweden Mr. Fredrik Reinfeldt arrived in Yangon by special flight this morning. They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Tin Win. Officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Swedish Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Klas Molin and embassy staff.

World Diabetes Day

November 14, 2012
Diabetes: Protect Our Future

Ministry of Health

First off, I want to mention that the Pagoda is hollow and that the Buddha is made of jade. This is a common practice in many Buddhist countries to house the relics of the Buddha in a hollow structure. The Buddha statue is enshrined in the Pagoda, surrounded by various sacred relics and offerings, including the Sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha, which is one of the most important relics in Buddhism, believed to have been enshrined in Srilanka by Emperor Ashoka. It is believed that the Sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha is a representative of the Buddha’s wisdom and his teachings, and is considered a symbol of the Buddha’s presence in the world.

In conclusion, the Pagoda is a place of great spiritual significance and a source of pride for the Myanmar people. It is a testament to the country’s rich cultural heritage and its deep-rooted Buddhist tradition. The Pagoda’s unique structure, adorned with various sacred relics and offerings, is a representation of the Buddhist belief in the impermanence of material things and the importance of the spiritual journey towards enlightenment.
Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham accepts cash donations for earthquake victims of Sagaing, Mandalay regions

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Nov—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham, accompanied by Lt-Gen Myint Soe of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint, Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye and deputy ministers, this afternoon comforted patient workers from the earthquake-hit construction site of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadana Theinga) at Shwebo People’s Hospital in Shwebo.

After that, the Vice-President delivered an address at the cash donation ceremony for quake victims at the hall of Shwebo Yadana M Ingala Palace.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-President said that he arrived there to comfort the quake victims and patients and fulfill the requirements. Natural disasters occur not only in Myanmar but also across the world, he added. In this regard, he said that the occurrences of natural disasters are based on human as well as nature. Thus, he stressed the need to conserve the environment and natural forests in doing businesses. He pointed out that the government, wellwishers, authorities and entire people are to join hands in relief and rehabilitation tasks after and during the natural disasters.

Next, the Vice-President, the region chief ministers, Lt-Gen Myint Soe and U Tha Aye and Deputy Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin accepted cash donations for the quake victims.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham supervises earthquake-hit area in Sagaing Region

MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Nov—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar together with Lt-Gen Myint Soe of Commander-in-Chief Office (Army), Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye and members arrived at Male Village in Kanbalu Township by helicopter this morning.

The Vice-President inspected wrecksages due to the earthquake and met with earthquake victims. In meeting with them, the Vice-President said that he was there to inspect damages and wrecksages, to provide necessary assistance. Natural disaster like flood, fire, storm and earthquake are not predictable, he said. The Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Ministry is carrying out relief and rehabilitation tasks in the disaster-hit area in cooperation with the Union Governments, Region governments and local people to accomplish the tasks, he added.

Deputy Minister U Phone Swe explained preparedness for natural disasters, Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye implementation of relief and rehabilitation tasks in earthquake-hit Sagaing Region. Townselders and local people reported on requirements in the disaster-hit region. Townselders and local people reported on rehabilitation tasks and necessities to the Vice-President. The Vice-President fulfilled the requirements and viewed medical treatment to locals people provided by Tatmadawmen in the precinct of Male Monastery.—MNA

Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation led by General Soe Win leaves for China

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Nov—A Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation led by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win left Yangon this afternoon by air to pay a goodwill visit to the People’s Republic of China from 12 to 19 November. The Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation was sent off at Yangon International Airport by Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hsan Oo, Commander of Ayeyawady Naval Region Command Commodore Maung Oo Win, Commander of Mingaladon Airbase Brig-Gen Thein Naing and senior military officers, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Li Junhua and officials of the military attaches’ office.

The delegation comprises Lt-Gen Win of Myanmar Tatmadaw (Army) Office, Maj-Gen Aung Myo Min, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Maung Aye and senior military officers.—MNA
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives Swedish Prime Minister and party

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint meets with Swedish Prime Minister Mr. Fredrik Reinfeldt. — MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Nov — Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint held talks with a delegation led by Swedish Prime Minister Mr Fredrik Reinfeldt at the hall of Amyotha Hluttaw, here, at 4 pm today.

At the call, both sides cordially discussed assistance of gaining achievement of democracy process, national race affairs and implementing peace making process, matters of Rakhine State discussed in Hluttaw, formation of two Hluttaws and work procedures. — MNA

Deputy Foreign Affairs Ministers meet Chinese delegation

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Nov — A six-member Chinese delegation led by the law professor of Shanghai International Studies Department of the People’s Republic of China visited Myanmar from 4 to 9 November. During their visit to Myanmar, they called on Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw, here, on 6 November and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Zin Zaw on 7 November separately.

While in Yangon, the Chinese delegation held talks on regional cooperation in East Asia, China’s role in the region and regional matters with officials of Myanmar Strategy and International Studies on 4 November, International Relations Department on 5 November and Myanmar Human Rights Commission on 6 November separately. — MNA

IWT launches Hlinethaya-Sint-o-dan Tanhlyat vessel

Yangon, 12 Nov — Inland Water Transport launched Tanhlyat vessel plying between Hlinethaya jetty and Sint-o-dan jetty this morning.

The opening ceremony at Sint-o-dan jetty was attended by Yangon Region Road Transportation Minister U Aung Khin, Yangon Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tin Aung and IWT Managing Director U Win Pe.

The route is launched to offer an alternative for commuters in the face of the traffic jam in the largest city of Myanmar.

Simultaneously, iPay card service for fares of the vessel was introduced. — MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets Swedish Prime Minister and party

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Nov — Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann received a Swedish delegation led by Prime Minister of Sweden Mr. Fredrik Reinfeldt at Zabuthiri Hall of Hluttaw Building, here, this evening.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker was accompanied by chairmen of Hluttaw committees U Maung Maung Thein, U Thein Zaw and U Hla Myint Oo, the secretary of Pyithu Hluttaw National Races Affairs and Internal Peace Making Committee, committee members and officials of the Hluttaw Office. Together with the visiting Swedish Prime Minister, Minister for Trade Dr. Ewa Bjorling, Swedish Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Klas Molin and high-ranking officials attended the meeting.

At the call, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker gave an account of parliamentary activities of Myanmar and political and economic reforms in Myanmar, and held comprehensive discussions with the Swedish Prime Minister on boosting Myanmar-Sweden friendship and further cooperation between the two countries. — MNA

Union Attorney-General back from Indonesia

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann shakes hands with Swedish Prime Minister Mr Fredrik Reinfeldt.— MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Nov — Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann received a Swedish delegation led by Prime Minister of Sweden Mr. Fredrik Reinfeldt, here, at this evening.

At the meeting, the union attorney-general said that Myanmar has signed the treaty on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters in 2004 and has approved it in 2009. Moreover, Myanmar has been cooperating with ASEAN and other countries, he added.

Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin attended 6th Meeting of Senior Officials of the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters. — MNA

Dr. Ewa Bjorling, Swedish Minister, Minister for Trade visited Myanmar from 4 to 9 November. During their visit to Myanmar, they called on Prime Minister Mr Fredrik Reinfeldt at the hall of Amyotha Hluttaw, here, at 4 pm today.

Present at the call, both sides cordially discussed assistance of gaining achievement of democracy process, national race affairs and implementing peace making process, matters of Rakhine State discussed in Hluttaw, formation of two Hluttaws and work procedures. — MNA

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Simultaneously, iPay card service for fares of the vessel was introduced. — MNA
Taipei, mainland hold seminar on Sun Yat-sen

TAIPEI, 12 Nov—Taipei and the Chinese mainland have held a joint seminar on Sun Yat-sen and his wife Madame Soong Ching Ling in Taipei. The seminar, held at the Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall on Sunday, was organized by the mainland-based China Soong Ching Ling Foundation and the Taipei-based Sun Yat-sen Cultural Foundation.

Six scholars from the mainland and nine from Taipei submitted a total of 11 research papers on Sun and Soong. Extensive discussions on subjects related to the couple were held.

Qi Mingqiu, vice chairman of the Soong Ching Ling foundation, said that the seminar marked a “historic moment” as it was the first time for the mainland and Taipei to jointly hold such an event. The former residence of Soong in downtown Beijing was repurposed as a public memorial site and museum after she passed away in 1981. It holds many historical items.

Qi invited scholars from Taipei to visit the residence as part of efforts to deepen cross-Strait exchange on academic research on Sun and Soong.

Hsu Shui-ting, chief of the Sun Yat-sen Foundation, said that both Taipei and the mainland had witnessed economic prosperity, in line with Sun’s ideals. He called on the two sides to “join hands in creating a better future for the Chinese nation.”—Xinhua

China’s Guizhou Ethnic Customs Exhibition held in Ankara

ANKARA, 12 Nov—China’s Guizhou Ethnic Customs Exhibition opened in the Turkish capital of Ankara on Sunday.

The five-day exhibition, organized by China’s State Ethnic Affairs Commission and the Ethnic Affairs Commission of Guizhou Province, will demonstrate the minority customs, clothing and culture in China’s southwestern province of Guizhou.

Minister Counselor of the Chinese Embassy in Turkey Wang Xiong said at the opening ceremony he hopes the exhibition will help the Turkish people deepen their understanding of Chinese culture and policy. The exhibition has been held from Wednesday to Saturday in Turkey’s southeastern Province of Malatya, and will open on next week in the western Province of Denizli.—Xinhua

Pakistan hosts regional meet on Counter-Narcotics on 12-13 Nov

Islamabad, 12 Nov—Ministers from twelve regional countries would be participating in the Regional Ministerial Conference on Counter-Narcotics in Islamabad from 12 to 13 November, officials said on Sunday.

The invited countries included Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

The Foreign Ministry said the aim of the ministerial conference was to maintain regional experiences in countering the menace of illicit drugs and discuss prospects of regional cooperation in developing pragmatic, comprehensive and sustainable ways of addressing the multifaceted challenge posed by illicit drugs production, demand and trafficking.

President Asif Ali Zardari, who has taken the initiative, will inaugurate the conference, Foreign Ministry spokesman Moazzam Khan said. The democratic government of Pakistan has taken a number of steps in the recent past to address the growing threat of narcotics.—Xinhua

Two miners killed in gold tunnel collapse in S Philippines

DAVAO CITY, 12 Nov—Two miners have been believed killed when a gold tunnel collapsed in southern Philippines, officials said on Sunday.

Days of continuous rains caused a mine shaft to collapse in Mount Magdikwata, San Francisco town, in Mindanao’s Aguasan del Sur Province late on Saturday, according to mayor Jenny de Asia.

But the bodies of Ronnie Lawangon, 36, and Glenn Casper, 27, both of San Francisco town, have yet to be found after a day after the 4 pm incident in Mag-As Creek, Alegria village, as fears of new avalanche due continuous rains loomed, causing the local government to suspend retrieval operations, Davao City officials said.

Local and provincial officials two years ago have ordered the stoppage of gold mining operations in the area due to environmental concerns.—Xinhua

Philippine, Australia to cooperate on military exercises

MANILA, 12 Nov—The Philippines and Australia have started discussions for the possible participation of Australian troops in the annual Philippine-US Balikatan exercise and the participation of Philippine troops in Australian exercises with other countries, Philippine military announced on Sunday.

The Department of National Defence (DND) Office of the assistant Secretary for Strategic A Fairs said in a statement, “explored in the meeting were Australian troops taking part in Philippine-U.S. Balikatan Exercises while Philippine forces joining the Australian Kakadu and Pitch Black Exercises.”

Kakadu is a vital maritime exercises involving Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, Japan and Malaysia. Meanwhile, Pitch Black is an air combat exercises conducted by Australia with Singapore, New Zealand and Thailand.

The discussions occurred during a joint defence cooperation committee meeting held on 24 and 25 Oct in Manila. The meeting occurred three months after the Senate’s ratification of the Philippine-Australia Status of Visiting Forces Agreement.

The statement also said, “Australia would continue to contribute to Philippine defence capacity building, offering a number of graduate and training courses as well as subject matter experts and mobile training teams for 2013.”

In a phone interview, Department of National Defence spokesman Peter Paul Galvez said more discussions will be held regarding the participation of Australia in the Balikatan exercises. A no, he said the United States would have to agree before Australia can join the activity.—Xinhua

Rail services disrupted in Japan’s K yushu

O SAKA, 12 Nov—Train services on the Kyushu Shin-kansen Line (high-speed line) have been suspended since the morning hours on Monday due to overhead wire damage occurred near Kumamoto station in Kumamoto City of southwestern Japanese island of K yushu, affecting thousands of passengers and their travel, local Press reported.

The accident occurred at around 9:00 am local time after the 17-meter-long arm of a truck crane hit the overhead wire and caused a series of system problems to provide power for the high-speed line according to Japan’s public broadcaster NHK.—Xinhua

Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda (R) shares time with children at the Kodomo Sogo Centre child-care facility in Tokyo’s Shinjuku Ward on 11 Nov, 2012.—Kyodo News

China, Australia mulling direct currency trading

BEIJING, 12 Nov—Chinese and Australian central banks are considering to launch direct trading between the yuan and the Australian dollar would be “a good thing, a matter of course,” a senior official said on Sunday.

Other major currencies that have been used as intermediaries for the China-Australia currency trading are sometimes unstable, said Zhou Xiaochuan, governor of the People’s Bank of China.

The bilateral trade, investment and tourism relations between China and Australia have developed rapidly in past years, resulting in growing demand for the direct currency trading, Zhou told reporters at a group interview on the sidelines of the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China.

The Chinese and Australian central banks support the direct trading, said Zhou, adding that such a direct trading would be “a good thing, a matter of course and a choice that respects the market.”—Xinhua

People attend a lecture by Aoyama Gakuin University professor Toshiro Kojima as part of a series of “Inamata Disease University courses on 10 Nov, 2012, at Rikkyo University in Tokyo’s Toshima Ward.—Kyodo News

Philippines Customs Exhibition held in Tokyo

The Philippines Customs Exhibition held in Tokyo’s Shinjuku Ward on 11 Nov, 2012, shows regional coast guard members conducting an intensive search for people listed as missing a year and eight months after the massive earthquake and tsunami in Japan’s northeast.—Kyodo News

Taipei hold seminar on Sun Yat-sen
Singapore’s demand for foreign workers expected to increase

SINGAPORE, 12 Nov—Singapore’s demand for foreign manpower, such as those working in the health-care and construction sectors and foreign domestic helpers, is expected to increase, the government said on Monday.

The demand for health-care workers is expected to grow from 50,000 in 2011 to 91,000 in 2030, partly due to the aging population, the National Population and Talent Division said in a report. Of this total, 28,000 will be foreign health-care workers, up from 13,000 in 2011.

The division, a department in the Prime Minister’s Office, said its projections are not targets but illustrate the growth and change in demand. It said projections in these sectors based on certain assumptions drawn from the country’s demographic and demand trends. —Xinhua

UN day on Pakistani girl injured in Taliban attack observed

ISLAMABAD, 12 Nov—School children in Pakistan on Saturday offered special prayers for Malala Yousafzai, a 14-year-old girl shot and injured by Taliban in the country’s northwestern Swat valley last month for her quest to promote education among the girls, local media reported. The United Nations had announced to observe Malala Day on Saturday to pay tributes to Yousafzai, who is now getting medical treatment in the UK. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon had extended his support to the young girl and her fight for education, describing her as the “global symbol” of every girl’s right to education in his video message. Ban Ki-moon’s Special Envoy for Global Education, former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown arrived in Islamabad on Friday on a three-day visit to participate in functions to mark “Global Day of Action for Malala Yousafzai”.

Yousafzai was attacked in Swat valley for her quest to promote girls’ education and is now under treatment in a hospital in Peshawar.

Gordon Brown spoke a function along with Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari, who lauded his initiative whereby over 3 million children of the poor families of the country would be provided financial assistance.
US singer Taylor Swift poses with her Best Female, Best Live and Best Look awards backstage during the MTV Europe Music Awards 2012 show at the Festhalle in Frankfurt on 11 Nov. 2012. Swift made up for disappointment at the Country Music Association awards with three prizes on Sunday at the MTV Europe Music Awards, one of the biggest nights in pop outside the United States.

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A source said, “Rohit requested her to wear the watch as all the models as well as the celebrity models wore it. But Sushmita refused to wear the time piece as she was not paid for doing so.”

Sushmita Sen may not have any films on hand but she continues being the diva. The actress was the showstopper at Rohit Verma’s recent fashion show in Mumbai.

At the event, all those who walked the ramp including Sunny Leone and Sonu Sood wore watches designed by Shipa Marigold. But Sushmita Sen refused to wear the time piece as she was not paid for doing so.

A source said, "Rohit requested her to wear the watch as all the models as well as the celebrity models wore it. But Sushmita refused to wear the time piece as she was not paid for doing so."

Swifty Moore celebrates low key 50th birthday

Dubai, 12 Nov — Ac- tor Ranbir Kapoor says he has no problems playing the second or even third fiddle to anyone as long as a film’s script is good.

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**Soccer**

**Ronaldo urges Neymar to ignore expectations**

**Los Angeles, 12 Nov** — Brazilian football legend Ronaldo has urged Neymar to ignore growing expectations on the starlet in the lead up to the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

Ronaldo, 2002’s World Cup and 2006 Olympic Games winner, told Brazilian sports daily O Estado de S.Paulo that the 22-year-old forward should be careful not to let outside pressure affect him.

Neymar recently marked his first year as Brazil’s number-one striker and is set to become an even bigger star in the second half of the campaign.

**Kings centre Cousins suspended for two games**

**Los Angeles, 12 Nov** — Sacramento Kings centre DeMarcus Cousins has been suspended for two games by the National Basketball Association for confronting an official in a hostile manner, the league said on Sunday.

**Beljan wins in Florida two days after hospital stay**

**Los Angeles, 12 Nov** — PGA Tour rookie Charlie Beljan claimed the miracle Network Hospitals Classic champion… what a joy! Starting the week at 139th on the money list and facing the prospect of losing his tour card for 2013, Beljan traded two bogeys over the first five holes, leading many to think he may have taken a lot of the other nerves off that I may have felt if I was thinking about the golf. A nervous double bogey after tree and sand trouble on the 13th was just a temporary stumble as another birdie on the 14th allowed Beljan to regain control of his round and although he bogeyed the final hole he still did more than enough to claim the win.

**Tennis**

**London, 12 Nov** — Roger Federer provided an emphatic reminder that he will be chasing more major titles next year with a straight-set display to outclass Britain’s Andy Murray on Sunday and set up a season-ending blockbuster with Novak Djokovic.

The Swiss 17-times grand slam champion, who will turn 32 next year, continued his dominance of the ATP World Tour Finals with a 7-6, 6-2 victory over the man who deprived him of Olympic singles gold at London’s Wembley Stadium in 2012.

Neither semi-final lived up to their pre-match billing although Federer’s majestic form after a slow start against Murray had a sell-out crowd at the O2 Arena in raptures after his victory.

**Football**

**London, 12 Nov** — Chelsea manager Roberto Di Matteo said on Sunday night that he knew nothing about the latest reports that the Blues’ midfielder Frank Lampard will be transferred to the Chinese Super League during the winter.

“Not so far as I concerned,” said the Italian in the Press conference after Chelsea’s 1-1 draw with Liverpool in the league clash. According to some latest reports, the 34-year-old Lampard has been linked with CSL side Guizhou Renhe.

**Cousins, a first-round pick in the 2010 draft, will miss Sunday game against the Los Angeles Lakers and Tuesday’s home contest with the Portland Trail Blazers.** — Reuters

**Hollywood take big step towards MLS final**

**Washington, 12 Nov** — The Houston Dynamo took a big step towards the MLS Cup final with a 3-1 win in the home leg of their Eastern Conference championship against DC United on Sunday. Dynamo came back from a goal down for a victory which opens up the possibility of a repeat of last season’s final when Houston lost to the LA Galaxy.

The Galaxy hosted their first leg of the Western Conference final later on Sunday against the Seattle Sounders. Rookie Nick DeLeon, whose goal against the New York Red Bulls on Thursday earned DC their place in the conference final, struck again with a 27th-minute opener. DeLeon fed Landon Pajoey down the left who cut inside and hit the right post but DeLeon responded quickly and slotted in the rebound.

**Two-times MLS champions Houston went close to an equaliser eight minutes before the break when Anelka Kadji’s diagonal shot from the left was pushed wide by Joe Willis. That was a sign of things to come in the second half.** — Reuters

**Beljan wins in Florida two days after hospital stay**

**Los Angeles, 12 Nov** — PGA Tour rookie Charlie Beljan claimed the first current England international player to play for a Chinese club.

Lampard, along with fullback Aly Cissoko, whose current contracts expire in the next summer, have felt if I was thinking about the golf. A nervous double bogey after tree and sand trouble on the 13th was just a temporary stumble as another birdie on the 14th allowed Beljan to regain control of his round and although he bogeyed the final hole he still did more than enough to claim the win.

**Motivated by hometown magic, Lampard will become the first Englishman to win Olympic gold at the home of athletics. He will turn 32 next year, continued his dominance of the ATP World Tour Finals with a 7-6, 6-2 victory over the man who deprived him of Olympic singles gold at London’s Wembley Stadium in 2012.**

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Washington, 12 Nov—President Barack Obama laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to mark the Veterans Day holiday on Sunday, declaring that soldiers’ needs would be met even as the country winds down wars in the Middle East and Asia.

In the ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, Obama pledged continuing support for veterans as they make the transition to civilian life.

“This is the first Veterans Day in a decade in which there are no American troops fighting and dying in Iraq,” the president said at the cemetery across the Potomac River from Washington, where soldiers’ graves are marked with row upon row of simple white stones.

“After a decade of war, our heroes are coming home,” he said. “Over the next few years more than a million service members will transition back to civilian life.” The president toasted the work of first lady Michelle Obama and Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, for their work in the Joining Forces campaign, which urges businesses to hire veterans. He also reaffirmed his commitment to continuing the post-9/11 GI Bill programme, which provides college education funding for those who have served, and said soldiers suffering war-related health problems will get the care they need.

“No one who fights for this country overseas should ever have to fight for a job, or a roof over their head, or the care that they have earned when they come home,” he said. A flare the ceremony, Obama visited with people in an area of the cemetery known as Section 60, where many of the soldiers who died in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars are buried. The Democratic president won re-election to a second four-year term on Tuesday and now faces tough negotiations with Republican congressional leaders to avoid sharp spending cuts that loom at the end of the year. A big chunk of those reductions would come through a decline in defence spending.

During the campaign, Obama and Biden regularly pledged their commitment to bringing troops home from Afghanistan and taking care of American veterans. Obama criticized his opponent, Republican Mitt Romney, for failing to mention the war in Afghanistan during his speech to the Republican National Convention.—Reuter

US President Barack Obama applauds for military veterans during a Veterans Day observance at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, on 11 Nov, 2012.—Reuters

Algérie

Al-Qaeda linked tribal leader under house arrest in Yemen’s A’den

A’den, 12 Nov—A prominent tribal leader with alleged links to the Yemen-based Al-Qaeda offshoot was put under house arrest in the southern city of A’den, a Yemeni government official told Xinhua on Sunday.

Taqi al-Fadi, a tribal leader suspected of having links to the al-Qaeda, was moved out of his besieged residential compound in the surrounding Abyan Province to the port city of A’den, where he will live under house arrest, the local government official said on condition of anonymity.

“Al-Fadi along with his family are now away from house arrest in A’den. He left his residential compound late on Saturday night after deadly armed clashes with pro-government militiamen,” he said.

On Saturday, armed clashes erupted between pro-government militiamen and supporters of Al-Fadi in Abyan, leaving at least two people killed and three others injured, a security official said. Two leaders of al-Fadi were among those injured, according to the official.

Taqi al-Fadi, who was raised in Saudi Arabia and fought in Afghanistan, heads a prominent tribe in Abyan.—Xinhua

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Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham views damaged of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadana Theingha).— MNA

14th Waning of Thadingyut 1374 ME Tuesday, 13 November, 2012

Union government plans relief and rehabilitation of quake victims

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Nov—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham, accompanied by Lt-Gen Myint Soe of the Commander-in-Chief (Army)‘s Office, Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint, Deputy Ministers Dr Maung M Aung Htay, U Phone Swe, Dr Win Myint, U Aye Kyu, U Aung Than Oo and U Han Sein, left Mandalay by helicopter this morning and arrived at Kyaukmyaung of Sagaing Region at 8.45 am.

They were welcomed by Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin, Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye and officials.

After viewing the damaged Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadana Theingha) hit by earthquake, the Vice-President heard reports on brief history of the bridge, progress of construction tasks, damages of the bridge in 6.8 Richter Scale earthquake on 11-11-2012 morning by Union Minister U Kyaw Lwin and Managing Director U Kyaw Lin. They reported that the 208 meters long frame of the bridge between pier RP 1 and PR 3 fell into the pier RP 3 on Singu side. Due to falling of erection tower and erection crane on the frame, one barge and one Z-craft were sunk into Ayeyawady River. One personnel was dead and five missing in the incident. Eighteen wounded workers are receiving medical treatment at the hospital.

A rearrangement is being made to take off the parts of the damaged bridge frame, choose the parts of the frame that cannot be repaired and substitute more iron frames in the place of damaged parts in cooperation with the outside experts.

The Chief Minister of the region submitted reports on damages and losses of religious edifices and departmental buildings, and casualties and the number of missing people.

After giving necessary instructions, the Vice-President cordially greeted the local quake victims at the briefing hall and gave words of encouragement that the Union government is making arrangements for relief and rehabilitation of the victims.

MNA

Vice-President visits Kanbalu hospital, comforts train blast victims

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Nov—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, accompanied by Lt-Gen Myint Soe of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye and party, visited 100-beded Kanbalu Hospital this morning.

The Vice-President comforted 86 patients from Chetgyi Village of Kanbalu Township who were injured in the blast of the train derailment near Chetgyi railway station on 9 November received medical treatment at the hospital. Four among them were dead. Remaining eight patients are receiving treatment in Kyunhla hospital.

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MNA

A glance on investments from Sweden in Myanmar

Entrepreneurs from Sweden are visiting Myanmar along with the Prime Minister of Sweden recently to explore opportunities for trading between the two countries and investment in Myanmar.

In the wake of confirmed interest of Swedish investors, I interviewed Daw Marlar Win, Managing Director of the U M G (Myanmar) Company, the sole distributor of the Volvo which has already made investment in Myanmar.

Q: Let me know the name of your company which is currently standing as the sole distributor of Volvo and when you established the company?
A: The United Mercury Group (Myanmar) was established in 2003 and the reason why we used Myanmar is there are also branches of U M G in other countries.

Q: Are there any branches of U M G (Myanmar) in other towns, apart from the Headquarters in Yangon?
A: Yes. We have opened our branch offices in 25 towns to directly reach out to our customers and to provide best and quick services to our customers.

Q: As the sole distributor of the Volvo, how many employees are there in your company?
A: There are over 1300 employees to provide services to our customers throughout the country and more than half of our employees are engineers. Both experienced and new engineers of our company have received practical training at home and abroad before they are assigned to their jobs.

Q: Which products from the Volvo are put on sale in Myanmar and let me know your achievement after a decade of investment in Myanmar?
A: We have distributed Volvo brand heavy machinery and provided spare parts and services to our customers. After a decade, we have won about 45% of the market share. The key to our success is our best and quick services to our customers.

Q: As the last question, which advice do you want to give to Swedish businesses which are going to enter Myanmar?
A: We can give a helping hand to other businesses so that they can make investment in Myanmar which is on the track of rapid development.