Local people in Rakhine State should not pursue their own interests only instead they should extensively pursue the interests of Myanmar and its people, global nations and entire mankind

Entire people to work together with the government without racism and religiousism in efforts to ensure mutual understanding over differences between two communities, to respect the rights and avoid conflicts

Summary of observations at 9.30 hr M.S.T on 16-11-2012

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 Nov—During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershower have been widespread in Lower Sagaing Region and Chin State, fairly widespread in Mandalay Region, Shan and Rakhine States, scattered in Magway, Yangon, Ayeawady Regions and Kayah State, isolated in Upper Sagaing, Bago and Taninthayi Regions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy fall in Magway Region. Night temperatures were 3°C to 4°C above November average temperatures in Shan, Chin, Kayah and Mon States and about November average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States.—NLM

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein makes clarifications on undertakings of the government in response to incidents in Rakhine State under the law.—MNA

US President Barack Obama to pay working visit to Myanmar

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 Nov—At the invitation of President U Thein Sein of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, President Mr Barack Obama of the United States of America will pay a working visit to Myanmar in the near future.—MNA
**Union Election Commission Chairman receives EU delegation**

**NAV PYI TAW, 16 Nov—**Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye received a delegation led by Vice-President of European Union and Advisor to the head of Foreign Affairs and Security Mr Robert Cooper at the meeting hall of the UEC Chairman’s Office, here, this morning.

Present at the call together with UEC Chairman U Tin Aye were UEC members U Myint Naing, U Aung Myint, Dr Daw Myint Kyi, U Win Kyi, U Nyunt Tin, U Win Ko and officials of the Commission.

At the call, they friendly discussed plans to cooperate in free and fair elections of Myanmar and enhancement of sharing knowledge about elections in cooperation with international organizations.

**Information Committee**

**Press Release (1/2012) (16, November 2012)**

1. At the meeting of the Union Government held at 2 pm yesterday, the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar gave instructions on Rakhae State Issue and relief and rehabilitation in the quake-hit areas in Sagaing and Mandalay regions.

2. Regarding the conflicts in Rakhae State, the President said that a criminal case had sparked riots, and due to instigation of some racists and fabricated news of some countries and organizations, the conflict had turned to racial and religious conflicts, spreading to others towns, causing widespread riots, arson attacks and killings. Despite a period of stability currently there, the Union Government must be alert to the possible riots and conflicts that can arise anytime. The Union Government must assist the people in earning their livelihood, gaining easy access, enjoying education and health care, returning the flow of goods and trade to normality. The ministries are to carry out the tasks ministry-wise with goodwill to help the local people from feelings of grudges, revenge and anxieties that might arise though they have enjoyed the stability to a certain extent, he said. The President also instructed the Union Ministers to go down to the grass-roots levels and to assist in needs of the people.

3. Regarding the earthquake-hit areas, the President said a work committee for relief and rehabilitation led by the Vice-President (1) has been formed comprising officials from the related ministries to return the relief and rehabilitation of the people in the quake-hit areas to normality as soon as possible. He instructed the Union ministers of the ministries concerned to make field trips to the areas and to speed up the implementation of the tasks. As a government in which people put their trust, it must carry out relief and rehabilitation tasks effectively while the people are in trouble. The Union Government has experienced hardships and challenges unexpectedly and ministries are to coordinate each other and to work together to overcome these challenges.

**Union Health Minister back from ROK**

**NAV PYI TAW, 16 Nov—**Union Minister Dr Pe Thet Khin attended Fifth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and is back from ROK.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

**Information Committee**

**Press Release 1/2012**

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The reality of the situation between Gaza and Israel is very different than what many believe. The current round of conflict did not begin with an Israeli operation on Wednesday (Nov 14), but rather with an anti-tank missile fired by Hamas last Saturday. That attack was immediately followed by rockets targeting the civilian population of southern Israel. In the days before Israel launched Operation Pillar of Defence, over 120 rockets had been fired. This escalation was not the first in recent memory, but rather the third of the past month.

Indeed, it is possible to say that the conflict began long beforehand, when Hamas and the other terrorist organizations intensified the firing of rockets and mortars and Israel disengaged from Gaza in 2005. When Israel left the Gaza Strip, it did so in the hope that removing every terrorist from a strategic and an out-of-control military in Syria.

Israel says its attack in response to escalating missile strikes from Gaza. Israel’s bombing has not yet reached the saturation level seen before its last incursion, but Israeli officials have said a ground assault is still possible.

Egypt’s new Islamist President Mohamed Mursi, viewed by Hamas as an ally, led a chorus of denunciation of the Israeli strikes by Palestinian allies. Mursi’s prime minister, Hisham Kandil, said Mursi had been hit by a rocket since the 1991 Gulf War. Israeli sources said one rocket landed in the sea, while another landed in an inhabited area of Tel Aviv suburbs.

Palestinians extinguish a fire after Israeli air strikes targeted an electricity generator that fed the house of Hamas’ Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh in Gaza City on 15 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

A Pillar of Self-Defence

It fires its rockets from amongst the populace of Gaza, and then aims at the population of Israel. Under international law this is a double war crime.

The international community can play an important role in this crisis. Firstly, it can make it clear to Hamas that the rockets launched at Israel must cease. Not only would that help save Israeli lives, it would also assist the Palestinians. Their goals can never be reached by violence, which causes suffering on both sides.

Secondly, the international community should make it clear that it will not abide by Hamas using the population of Gaza as human shields.

B Warlick, deputy special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, said US soldiers in Afghanistan are being led the delegating. The thorniest issue in future talks will be whether US soldiers in Afghanistan are given immunity from prosecution under Afghan law, or instead would be tried in America.

US Marines of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines Regiment, board a military helicopter to head out for a mission at the landing zone of Combat Outpost Muza Qul-Ah in Helmand province, southwest Afghanistan on 11 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

British govt files charges against nuclear waste plant owners UK

Argentina, US start tough talks on post-2014 troops

This document is intended to provide the legal authority for US armed forces and their civilian components to operate in Afghanistan with the full approval of the government of Afghanistan, said James
Facebook's 'Sponsored Stories' ad settlement hit by lawsuit

San Francisco, 16 Nov — A US judge said he would consider whether to preliminarily approve Facebook's second attempt to settle allegations the social networking company violated privacy rights.

Earlier this year, US District Judge Richard Seeborg rejected a proposed deal that Facebook agreed to preliminarily approve, saying he would consider whether Facebook's plan to allow members more control over how their personal information is used, as well as allowing users to opt out of the company's "Sponsored Stories" advertising feature, was fair. But a hearing on the issue is still pending.

Facebook attorney Michael Rhodes said the settlement provided meaningful protections and that Seeborg's job was to ensure a fair settlement — not write national privacy policy.

"Trust me, I'm not proposing to set grand policy with privacy issues will last," Seeborg said.

Two children's advocacy groups filed court papers opposing the deal, saying that an opt-in procedure with parental consent should be required before Facebook can use a minor's content in ads.

A revised proposal, Facebook and plaintiff lawyers said users now could claim a cash payment of up to $10 each to be paid from a $20 million total settlement fund. Any money remaining would then go to charity.

The company has said it would engineer a new tool to enable users to view any content that might be displayed in Sponsored Stories and then opt out if they desire, the court documents say.

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Apple, Samsung allowed to add products in US patent lawsuit

New York, 16 Nov — A US judge allowed Samsung Electronics Co Ltd to pursue claims the iPhone5 infringes its patents on Thursday, while also allowing Apple Inc to add claims that the Samsung Galaxy Note, Galaxy S III and the jelly Bean operating system violate its patents.

The ruling by US Magistrate Judge Paul Grewal in San Jose, California, was the latest development in a continuing legal war by Apple against manufacturers like Samsung whose products use Google Inc's Android software.

Representatives for both Apple and Samsung declined comment.

The case is one of two patent infringement lawsuits pending in the US District Court in San Jose by Apple against Samsung. An earlier lawsuit by Apple that related to different patents resulted in a $1.05 billion jury verdict against Samsung on 24 August.

Apple filed the first lawsuit in February, alleging that various Samsung smartphone and tablet products including the Galaxy Nexus infringed eight of its patents.

Samsung denied infringement and filed a cross-complaint alleging that Apple's iPhone and iPad infringed eight of its patents.

US District Judge Lucy Koh issued a preliminary injunction against pretrial sales of the Nexus in June. But the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit overturned the sales ban on 11 October.

Following the debut of the iPhone on 21 September, Samsung sought to add it as an Apple product that infringed its patents. Apple moved likewise to add the Samsung Galaxy Note 10.1, Samsung Galaxy S III and the jelly Bean operating system in connection with the Galaxy Nexus.

In his ruling Thursday, Grewal said Samsung acted with "reasonable diligence" in asking the court to add it to the iPhone 5 to the case. Apple did not oppose adding the iPhone 5.

Nevertheless, Grewal warned Apple to "think twice before opposing similar amendments reflecting other newly released products — eg the iPad 4 and iPad mini — that Samsung may propose in the near future."

While Samsung was allowed to add its product claims, Apple could not add to Samsung's pending claim that the iPhone5 infringes its patents.

Apple argued that it should be allowed to add claims of its own, including the new iPhone 5 with a 4-inch display and other claims.

"There should be no reason why Apple does not have the right to add claims. The new iPhone 5 was not on sale when Apple proposed to add its claims to the lawsuit," Apple said in an emailed statement.

But Samsung said Grewal's ruling was fair, and that "we believe we can add the code so that it's fair," he said.

Apple's proposal to add new claims the court had rejected did "not have the same level of seriousness as Samsung's proposal," the company said.

An earlier US judge allowed Samsung to add its claims to the competition, which included new iPhones and the operating system.

"The new high-speed, small form factor eMMC reinforces Samsung's technology leadership in mobile applications," said Kim Myungho, vice president of Samsung's memory marketing division.

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Wall Street ends flat as wary investors stay defensive

New York, 16 Nov — Stocks were little changed on Thursday as the prospect of a drawn-out battle over impending tax and spending changes made investors wary of getting into the water, while retailer Wal-Mart tumbled after disappointing sales.

The S&P 500 is down nearly 2 percent for the week, adding to last week’s selloff and eroding more of the market’s gains for the year. What looked like a recovery on a stellar 2012 for stocks has turned into merely an average year, and as 2012 draws to a close, investors are becoming more inclined to protect the gains they have.

There’s worry the economy could contract again if no deal is reached in Washington to avoid the “fiscal cliff”—large, automatic budget cuts and tax increases that could add to last week’s selloff after disappointing sales.

Retailer Wal-Mart tumbled Thursday as it showed a 52 cent drop on the news of the impending tax and spending cuts.

Combined with the euro zone debt crisis, the uncertain outlook for corporations makes it hard to know how much a stock is worth, said Alan Lanz, president of Alan B. Lantz & Associates in Toledo, Ohio.

“Valuation is going to be uncertain because you don’t know what the growth will be,” said Lanz. “That is definitely not a good scenario for someone to step up to the plate and do a lot of buying.”

The euro zone relapsed into its second recession since 2009 in the third quarter as the region was hurt by its debt problems.

Wal-Mart (WMT.N) fell 3.6 percent to $68.72 and was the biggest drag on the Dow as frugal consumers hurt the company’s quarterly sales.

Investors will be watching Friday’s meeting of the White House between President Barack Obama and Republican and Democratic leaders of Congress over any sign the two sides are moving closer.

The memory of last year’s political impasse over raising the debt ceiling has also made analysts nervous.

“There’s uncertainty of whether we’re going to have a functioning government going forward. That is a weight that weighs down the market,” said Alan Lanz, managing director and senior economist at Arwen Financial Securities in Exton, Pennsylvania.

Even if the economy avoids an outright recession, there are fears a lengthly political dispute could sap business investment and consumer spending.

Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, on 15 Nov, 2012. — Reuters

New study unveils how cancer drug causes heart failure

Houston, 16 Nov — A drug that kills cancer by damaging heart muscle, which for some patients leads to heart failure, a new study by US scientists show. Scientists at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Centre and Texas Heart Institute at St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital have discovered how the drug, doxorubicin, attacks the heart, opening potential new options to prevent or minimize the drug’s life-threatening side effects, according to the online edition of Texas Medical Microbiology Lab for patient care examines samples to isolate and identify specimens for growth in Nashville, New York.

The drug takes when attacking the heart can help researchers identify those patients who are sensitive to heart damage by doxorubicin, Yeh was quoted as saying. “Once identified, those patients can be placed on alternative cancer drugs, or on special drugs to protect the heart,” Yeh added.

Yeh and his colleagues showed that when a protein known as Top2b was eliminated in the heart muscles of laboratory mice, the mice were protected against and avoided heart damage from the toxic side effects of doxorubicin.

This finding suggests that Top2b triggers the drug’s effect on cancer patients, said Yeh. “This is obviously a significant finding,” he said, and one with the potential to help scientists develop a blood test to predict patients’ sensitivity to this drug, and to completely eliminate its dreaded side effects.

Google increases investment in clean energy

San Francisco, 16 Nov — Google announced on Thursday that it is investing $75 million US dollars in a wind farm in the Midsouth US state of Iowa, making its total investment in clean energy projects to nearly 1 billion dollars.

Google’s clean energy project, called the Ripple Wind Farm, has a capacity to produce 50 M W of wind power, which is enough to power 15,000 homes, according to Google’s official blog.

The wind farm is about 200 kilometers northeast of Council Bluffs, Iowa, where sites one of Google’s data centers backs up its search engine and other services.

A Thursday hearing before the Senate Health, Education, Welfare and Pensions Committee brought the strongest signs so far of bipartisan willingness to approve legislation that could break down the current separation of powers between the FDA and individual state regulators charged with overseeing drug compounding.

“Our first order of business is to answer these health crises,” said Republican Senator Lamar A. Alexander of Tennessee, the state that has become the outbreak’s epicenter with 83 cases and 13 deaths.

A letter suggested the FDA could be given powers to force individual states as the primary regulators of large-scale compounders and withdraw certification from those that fail short.

Senator Pat Roberts, a Kansas Republican long associated with efforts to reform the current regulatory framework, said the outbreak’s repeated loss of life underscores the need for “appropriate measures” to protect patients.

In the face of such a tragedy, it is natural to want to take action, said Senator Tom Harkin, the Iowa Democrat who chairs the Senate committee.

Google reported the current outbreak is only the latest public health menace that has been linked to large-scale compounding pharmacies, which are exempt from FDA manufacturing standards for safety and efficacy and regulated largely by states that critics say are often ill-equipped for the job.

BP to pay US govt 4.5 bln USD to solve oil spill claims

Houston, 16 Nov — BP said on Thursday that it has reached an agreement with the US Justice Department to resolve all federal criminal charges and all claims by the Securities and Exchange Commission against the company stemming from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon rig explosion, the subsequent oil spill and the response.

The payment includes a $4.6 billion fine to be paid over a period of five years, with much of it to go to government environmental agencies. A further $25 million dollars, to be paid over three years, will be used to settle securities claims with the US Securities and Exchange Commission, according to the statement.

The BP penalty is setting a record as the largest previous corporate criminal penalty assessed by the US Department of Justice was the 1.2 billion USD fine imposed on drug maker Pfizer in 2009, according to media reports.

As part of the settlement, BP also agreed to plead guilty to 11 felony counts of misconduct or neglect charges related to the deaths of 11 people in the Deepwater Horizon accident, one misdemeanor count under the Clean Water Act, one misdemeanor count under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as well as one felony count of obstruction of Congress, the BP statement said. — Reuters

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Psychological support, cash and kind for locals in quake-hit areas

**NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR**

**LOCAL NEWS**

**South Okkalapa Township to celebrate Tazaungdaing festival on 27 November**

**YANGON, 16 NOV**— The 11th Tazaungdaing Festival of Okkalapa Pagoda will be held in conjunction with the fifth Matho Shwekyar robe-weaving ceremony on a grand scale at the pagoda in South Okkalapa Township on 27 November (14 Waxing Moon) at 8 am. Winners of the robe-weaving contest will be awarded with a prize of K 50000. A total of seven groups will participate in the contest. Prize-giving ceremony will be held on 28 November morning.

**Sitagu eye hospital opened in Namkhim**

**NAMKHIM, 16 NOV**— The opening of Sitagu Eye Hospital built with the contributions of wellwishers was held at the clinic in the compound of Zeyathuka M onastic Education School in Ward 7 of Namkhim in M use District, Shan State, on 14 November morning. It is the nineteenth facility of Sitagu eye hospitals across the nation. A medical team comprising eye specialists from Sitagu Hospital in Sagaing will perform eye surgeries to patients from Lashio, M use, Hsipaw and Namkhim in Shan State and Lwegyal in Kachin State and R uili and M ansi in China. During the opening period, a total of 80 eye patients have been provided with free medical treatment. It is learnt that anyone, regardless of race and religion, can receive eye care at the hospital. The Sitagu eye hospital complete with one two-storey building and one patient ward was built with the contribution of K 350 million by wellwishers.

**International Financial Reporting Standards Workshop on 23 November**

**YANGON, 16 NOV**— Myanamar Institute of Certified Public Accountants will organize a workshop on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) at a hotel here, from 23 to 25 November.

**Mobile Developer Day**

**MYANMAR ON 17 NOVEMBER**

**Mobile Developer Day**

**YANGON, 16 NOV**— With the aim of giving a helping hand in rehabilitation works for quake victims, officials led by Shwebo District Township Pyuthu Hlutaw represent-tive Dr Aung Than and Region Hlutaw representa-tive U Tun Ko, a mobile medical team led by Shwebo District Health Department Head Dr Thein Soe, Professor Dr Kyaw Han Min and Specialist Dr Maung Aung Kyaw, a group of doctors and nurses led by Chairman of M yanmar Medical Association (Shwebo) Dr Tin Win and Vice-Chairman Dr Aung Than Gyi, Chairperson of Shwebo District Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Shwesi and members and Head of Shwebo Township Fire Service Department U Sann Oo and fire brigade members went to quake-hit villages— K yaukmyaung, Nweyin, Shwegun, Shwe-tak, Malar and M akaung—in Shwebo Township. On their arrival at the playground of Basic Education Primary School in Malar village, eight-mile west to Thayet, they organized talks on mobile applications market, current improvements and latest technology in mobile technology for ordinary parents, they were worried about the future of their quadripets.

**Yesagyo quadruplets in good health**

**YANGON, 16 NOV**— Ma Khin Myint Kyi, wife of Ko Thein Soe, who is living at Hsinkyo village in Ye-sagyo Township of Pakokku District in Magway Region, gave birth to quadruplets whose weight is four pounds and nine ounces each to the injured and the deceased, and to reconstruct Malar bridge and religious edifices.

**Wellwishers donated cash and kind to hospitals**

**Wellwishers led by Shweyinmar Sayadaw and other donor groups presented 55 bags of rice, 60 boxes of instant noodles, 55 T-shirts and one bag of detergent powder to victims. Arrangements were made to donate K 50000 each to the injured and the deceased, and to reconstruct Malar bridge and religious edifices. Wellwishers are invited to donate cash and kind to victims and to contribute to the funds for renovation of religious edifices, schools and public buildings and humanitarian aids.

**GSM towers reach villages in Thayet Township**

**THAYET, 16 NOV**— In its drive for better living standards of local people in Thayet District of Magway Region, Myanma Posts and Telecommunication allowed 900 subscribers to have access to GSM network during the period from 16 October to 12 November. Aimed at contributing towards rural region development and poverty alleviation scheme, local people will be able to pay for GSM Sim cards in 16 monthly instalments after paying K 4000 for first installation.

**Mobile network between rural and urban areas is being set up in villages**

**Moreover, GSM towers necessary for bridging the gap of access to mobile an auspicious place where historic Thayatkam Buddha Image is being kept. Ko Thein Soe and Ma Khin Myint Kyi said that as ordinary parents, they were worried about the future of their quadruplets.**

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**Kyemon**

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**THAYET, 16 NOV**— In its drive for better living standards of local people in Thayet District of Magway Region, Myanma Posts and Telecommunication allowed 900 subscribers to have access to GSM network during the period from 16 October to 12 November. Aimed at contributing towards rural region development and poverty alleviation scheme, local people will be able to pay for GSM Sim cards in 16 monthly instalments after paying K 4000 for first installation.

**Mobile network between rural and urban areas is being set up in villages**

**Moreover, GSM towers necessary for bridging the gap of access to mobile an auspicious place where historic Thayatkam Buddha Image is being kept. Ko Thein Soe and Ma Khin Myint Kyi said that as ordinary parents, they were worried about the future of their quadruplets.**

**Kyemon**
Grand meditation centre under construction

YANGON, 16 Nov—A meditation centre is under construction for older persons and pensioners at the entrance to Shwepaukkan Hta Ward in North Okkalapa Township. Those wishing to join the meditation course may enrol there.

The grand facility was born out of a small meditation centre which was established at an apartment in Natchaung Ward of Tamway Township in 1998. Thanks to land plot donation, Sayadaw Bhaddanta U Lokapala with the F-League 2 Club. In September, Myanmar lost to Okarama 0-6 in the tune-up match in Japan but in yesterday’s match Myanmar could play and counter-attacks to the Japanese club. The opening goal of Myanmar was scored through the counter-attack, in which Kyi Lin kicked the ball into the net from the pass of David Dune. The counter-attacks of Myanmar were praised by the Japanese coach after the match. However, he noted that Myanmar should make preparations not to lose football in the tussling and to save the defensive line.

The reliable Kyi Lin of Myanmar was substituted in the first half due to injury. So, the second half of Myanmar had less active.

Fortunate to Myanmar got two chances to score the goals, but Thet Naing and Soe Kyaw Kyaw missed the chances. Defenders of Myanmar could play the whole match without mistakes. But, the Myanmar allowed Japan to score an equalizer at 85th minute. The equalizer for the game was scored through header of Okasatbi. The second tune-up match of the two teams will be held at Youth Training Centre at 5.30 pm on 17 November. 

Myanma Alinn

GSM telephone donated to village library

INDAW, 16 Nov—Sagay Region government donated one GSM telephone to Moethaukyee Library in Nanaung Village of Kandaw Village-tract in Indaw Township of Katha District on 10 November. It was attended by communication in-charge U Aung Zaw Myint, the head of Township Information and Public Relations Department, village administrator and local people.

The in-charge of the communication donated GSM telephone and Indaw Dana Thukha social association books to the library. The village administrator accepted the donations and presented certificates of honour to them. Nanaung Village is located two miles of Indaw. Its being supplied electricity round the clock—Myanma Alinn

YANGON, 16 Nov—According to the Conceptual Plan of the Yangon City Port Development, the Ministry of Transport and Yangon City Development Committee will join hands in upgrading Botataung Port, Nanthida Jetty, Sule Port, Panosodan Jetty and Dalla Jetty.

In so doing, they will undertake development tasks of the Yangon Port so as to improve the image of Yangon City without harming to ancient and significant buildings of the city.

They have plans to upgrade the 32.175 acres of land from Ywathitchaung to the urban area to modern freight-handling machinery and construct modern port buildings under the concerted efforts of the Ministry of Transport and YCDC. Moreover, they will upgrade Nanthida, Panosodan and Dalla jetties and construct the modern business buildings.

They will start from the 10 km-race which will win US$800, the second US$400, the third US$250, the fourth US$150 and the fifth US$100. The fee for competition is fixed at K 5000 per athlete. The entrance fee will be spent on philanthropic works and donated to non-governmental organizations.

Any men and women may take part in the marathons.

Myanma Alinn

Shwemanthu responds news on engine blast

PAIYIN, 16 Nov—A passenger transport vehicle from Ywathitchaung to Shwemanthu Highway was involved in an accident with a car on 18 November 2012. The passenger transport vehicle wasawarded a prize in the1st prize in the Yoma marathon 27 January, 10.7 km marathon race will start from the people’s square to International Business Centre on Pyay Road. It is expected that over 1000 local and foreign athletes will take part in the Yoma marathon. Five prizes each will be awarded to the winners in the two races. The first prize in the 42-km marathon will secure US$2500, the second US$1200, the third US$600, the fourth US$400 and the fifth US$300. The first prize in the 10-km race will win US$800, the second US$400, the third US$250, the fourth US$150 and the fifth US$100. The fee for competition is fixed at K 5000 per athlete. The entrance fee will be spent on philanthropic works and donated to non-governmental organizations.

Any men and women may take part in the marathons.

Myanma Alinn

Miss Myanmar International 2013 on 24 Feb

YANGON, 16 Nov—With the aim of making Myanmar known globally, increasing arrival of tourists and enabling Myanmar to take part in the international contests, Myanmar Travels Federation will organize the Miss Myanmar International 2013 at the Traders Hotel in Yangon on 24 February 2013. A total of 20 contestants will be selected from the contest.

Talents and Model Agency will train the selected contestants in personality, relations, general knowledge subjects, said a responsible person.

Myanma Alinn

Shops of market to be allotted to vendors

KYAIKUH, 16 Nov—A plan is underway to allot shops for vendors at Mingala Market in Ward 6 of Kyaukume. On 10 November, a coordination meeting was held at the hall of Kyaukume Township Development Affairs Committee. Director of Shan State Development Affairs Committee U Zaw Win, Kyaukume District Deputy Commissioner U Soe Naing and officials met with market development committee, townswelders and vendors. About 400 vendors will be allotted to shops in the market on 17 November.

Myanma Alinn
Rising power in the workplace

The changing economic landscape of Myanmar under the reformist government is widely expected to bring new business opportunities, particularly new jobs with sufficient income for basic needs. While there are certain encouraging signs, some local economists have voiced concerns over incompetent human resources of the resource-rich country.

While legacies like regulatory and institutional weakness and business concentration must be addressed as major barriers against democratization and economic performance, the need to consider the role of the youth as a source of idea and innovation.

The popular answer of young people in the street learning business studies to the question of for what purpose he learns would still be to get a well-paid job in a big company. “To run my own business” has been a very unlikely answer, a clear implication of lack of ambition, which indeed is an underlying cause of concern for the future of our country. Lack of ambition has resulted in lack of innovation, essential for entrepreneurship which creates jobs and stimulates the economy.

“The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow” is what the successive government figures have said on their formal tours of educational institutions. But, still there are certain circumstances serving as restraints on energies and devotion of young workers, for example, the long-standing practice of seniority coupled with nepotism in government offices and traditional family-owned companies has barred capable young employees from managerial and decision-making positions, which in turn kill their passion and creativity in the face of grim future with limited option for seeking pastures new.

Merit system must be practised urgently in the workplace if we are to promote our efficiency, competitiveness and productivity. But, merit system does not necessarily mean sacking all the old employees who usually fail to keep pace with changes and perform better par in comparison with young ones but to recognize the rising power of young employees who learn and adapt faster and give them more initiatives, by implication full utilization of human resources.

It is the youth who will decide the tomorrow and it is therefore urgently required to create an environment in which the youth can combine their creativity with passion and energies shaping own future.

Local people in Rakhine State...

(from page 1)

200,000 persons suffering from malnutrition in the northern part, which are viewed as real challenge to the government. It therefore can be concluded from the overall situation that 600,000 locals (19 per cent) out of the local population of approximately 3.2 million people have unfortunately turned into refugees.

This situation suggests that only the collaborative efforts of government and people, UN agencies and international organizations, and NGOs can guarantee the survival of those 600,000 victims.

Rakhine State has seen nearly seven times of communal strife since 1942 in its northern part and 2012 incidents are of the severest ones with perceived instigations designed for conversion from usual social phenomenon to political process.

The conflicts were attributable to attempts for widening the social gap based on long-existing differences of race, religion, language, culture and custom between the two societies.

It is concluded that preventive measures to further reinforce the differences between the two societies and gain upper hand over each other have led to conflicts. In reality, it needs to learn from the examples of different global countries in modern world in which diverse races, languages, religions and customs are converted to link with the mainland but also to link the east and west nations and would become the trade center.

When it becomes the trade center, foreign investment and local investment would flow into the state, boosting the economy of the state and creating job opportunities.

Making the best use of the economic and job opportunities, efforts should be made to improve the educational standard of the people in Rakhine State.

However, what play a key role in achieving the aims are stability, peace and the rule of law, he said, and that would be achieved only when there is no social conflict in the region.

In reality, Rakhine State is the back gate of Myanmar with commercial opportunities with Western countries, the Middle East nations, ASEA N fellows as well as India and Bangladesh.

Not only Myanmar, but also China and landlocked states near north-east India are interested in using ports in Rakhine State and we should turned the Rakhine State to the trade center of the region.

Sittway and Kyaukpyu deep seaports in Rakhine State would become the international seaports in 2013. Similarly, plans have been made to upgrade the Thandwe, Kyaukpyu and Sittway airports to international airports. Gas pipelines and oil pipelines have been laid from Kyaukpyu to Kuning of the People’s Republic of China and when roads and railroads are completed in parallel with the pipelines, Rakhine would become the corridor not only
Local people in Rakhine State... (from page 8) with the government without racism and religiousism in attempts to bring the mutual understandings on the differences between the two communities, to respect the rights, not to cause conflicts and to bring about the society's compatibility with each other. The president asked those present at the meeting to give advice for improvement of the socio-economy of the Rakhine State and the people.

Next, Bhaddanta Cintitalankara, member of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and abbot of Mizimayon monastery of Mawlamyinegyun Township in Ayeyawady Region, said that these cases would disrupt the transition. He quoted the Buddha as saying, "Efforts of united group bring about well-being." He stressed the importance of unity of all the people living in the country. Tolerance and loving-kindness among the people must be developed, he said.

Aga Maha Gantha-vaça¾ka Pandita Bhdaddanta Nandasiri of Sittway recognized the inspection team formed by the government as a group of practitioners; urging them to give the medicine that can cure the disease and highlighting middle way to be practiced. The Sayadaw acknowledged the President's policy of human rights, not to cause conflicts and to respect the communities, to recognize the government's development of the country. The Sayadaw said that the government was striving for peace and stability and development of the people, day in day out. Unselfish and righteous motives could bring peace and stability.

Secretary of Rakhine State Sangha Nayaka Committee Aga Maha Gantha-vaça¾ka Pandita Bhdaddanta Nandasiri of Sittway and Dhammacariya University, quoted Maha-tma Gandhi of Alodawpyae monastery danta Sucittabhivamsa, abbot of all-religion friendship. While the conflict that happened in Rakhine is just a small one in compare with the global ones. If we can work to prevent peace and stability in the region, we can go along the right track to the development smoothly. After that, the President said he was pleased to realize the Ovada of the Sayadaw and request to stay away from racism, regionalism and past experiences.

Buddha, said, "We need to have loving-kindness, to be patient, to respect and to indulge in all-religion friendship. While unrests in Rakhine state can cure the disease and needs to be done in the worst way. We want to urge to search the arms and take actions against those who are holding arms. We should do it for the rule of law. The government should let the people know through media that the legal actions are taken against those who are holding arms. Rakhine State is weak in education and health sectors and it will take time to improve those sectors. If the conflict that happened in Rakhine is just a small one in compare with the global ones. If we can work to prevent peace and stability in the region, we can go along the right track to the development smoothly. After that, the President said he was pleased to realize the Ovada of the Sayadaw and request to stay away from racism, regionalism and past experiences..."
Florida governor orders review of election laws after voting snafus

Tallahassee, 16 Nov—Florida Governor Rick Scott ordered his top elections officials on Wednesday to figure out what caused long lines at polling stations and delays in ballot counting in the battleground state on Election Day.

A week after Florida again made headlines for an election fiasco that forced voters to wait hours to cast ballots after polls closed and caused long delays in counting votes, Scott urged lawmakers to review recent changes to state election laws that critics say contributed to the problems.

“Floridians should not have to wait several days for the results of a major presidential election to be made to current Florida election law,” Scott said.

Scott also said the voting laws should be addressed in the upcoming legislative session, which begins in March.

“The effectiveness and fairness of the laws governing our election have been brought into question by the past election,” Rep Darryl Rouson, a Democrat, said in a statement.

The government said the state’s top elections officials, Secretary of State Ken Detzner, will focus on problems that plagued Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and St Lucie counties.

Each of the counties experienced delays reporting voting results.

The government said the statement. “Our Legislature and the people of our country so we can achieve the ambitions and goals of the revolution,” Zeidan said.

Outgoing Prime Minister Abdurrahim El-Keib handed over a gold-coloured replica of Libya to Zeidan.

Cries of “God is great” filled the room as the ministers prepared to take the oath while a video showing stages of last year’s uprising against Gaddafi was played.

The government has inherited a huge challenge in restoring order in a country against Gaddafi was played. The government has inherited a huge challenge in restoring order in a country that is yellow because they haven’t counted the votes,” Weatherford said.

Florida Governor Rick Scott (C) speaks during a news conference as Tropical Storm Isaac approaches the state amid final preparations for the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Florida on 26 Aug. 2012. — Reuters

18 killed, 108 wounded in wave of bombings in Iraq

Baghdad, 16 Nov—Up to 18 people were killed and 108 wounded in a new wave of bombings across Iraq on Wednesday, on the eve of Muslim festival marking the Islamic lunar new year.

The deadliest attack occurred in the oil-rich province of Kirkuk in northern Iraq, where four car bombs killed a total of nine people and wounded some 32 others, a provincial police source told Reuters.

The attacks reportedly went off in central the city of Kirkuk, some 250 km north of Baghdad, and the second ripped through the city of Hawijia, some 50 km southwest of Kirkuk, the source said.

A third car bomb detonated near the office of a Kurdish party in a village, just south of Kirkuk, while a fourth exploded at a parking lot in northwestern Kirkuk, the source added.

Also in the province, a roadside bomb struck a convoy of vehicles carrying Omer al-Hamiri, governor of the adjacent province of Diyala, at the southern entrance of Kirkuk City, damaging two of its vehicles without causing human casualties, the source said.

The ethnically mixed province of Kirkuk and its capital Kirkuk City are part of the disputed areas between the Kurds and both Arabs and Turkomans.

Another car bomb attacked a crowded marketplace near the city of Hilla, some 100 km south of Baghdad, and wounding at least 37 others, an Interior Ministry source anonymously told Xinhua.

In Baghdad, a car bomb detonated near the convoy of a senior police officer at an Interior Ministry building in the city, wounding two of his bodyguards and five civilians, the ministry source said.—Xinhua

Three died in chlorine leak in central Russia

Moscow, 16 Nov—Three people died and nine were hospitalized in chlorine leak at a chemical plant in Russia’s central Perm Region, local emergency department said on Wednesday.

“Three people died on the spot as a result of a chlorine leak and nine others were hospitalized due to gas contamination,” the department was quoted by local media as saying.

In addition, 38 more people were admitted to the hospitals for non-life-threatening treatment, the authorities added.

The accident happened at a titanium-amalgam alloy plant at 13:55 Moscow time (0955 GMT) in the city of Berezniki in Perm Region.

According to preliminary reports, the chlorine unit depressurized and a chlorine cloud occurred. Till now there is no information about any threat to the population. The accident happened at the day shift and swift repair works were underway.—Xinhua

Five charged over Kenya police killings, hunt intensifies

Naiboi, 16 Nov—Kenya on Wednesday charged five regional officials with the murder of 32 Kenyan police officers killed by armed cattle raiders in an ambush at the weekend, described as the worst attack on the country’s police.

The two variables that the presidents have been using to try and appeal to the people are the price of life and the foreign politics. The two are important, but the first is the more important for the people. The price of life is the most important because it is the most visible and it is the one that the people can see how much it is costing them. The second is the foreign politics because it is the one that is more difficult to understand and it is the one that the people do not understand. The two are important, but the first is the more important for the people. The price of life is the most important because it is the most visible and it is the one that the people can see how much it is costing them. The second is the foreign politics because it is the one that is more difficult to understand and it is the one that the people do not understand. The two are important, but the first is the more important for the people. The price of life is the most important because it is the most visible and it is the one that the people can see how much it is costing them. The second is the foreign politics because it is the one that is more difficult to understand and it is the one that the people do not understand. The two are important, but the first is the more important for the people. The price of life is the most important because it is the most visible and it is the one that the people can see how much it is costing them. The second is the foreign politics because it is the one that is more difficult to understand and it is the one that the people do not understand. The two are important, but the first is the more important for the people. The price of life is the most important because it is the most visible and it is the one that the people can see how much it is costing them. The second is the foreign politics because it is the one that is more difficult to understand and it is the one that the people do not understand. The two are important, but the first is the more important for the people. The price of life is the most important because it is the most visible and it is the one that the people can see how much it is costing them. The second is the foreign politics because it is the one that is more difficult to understand and it is the one that the people do not understand.

Kenyan police officers wait to receive bodies of colleagues killed in an ambush by cattle raiders in a remote northern region, at the Chiromo University Mortuary in Naiboi on 13 Nov. 2012. — Reuters

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JAPAN SETS COURSE FOR 16 DECEMBER ELECTION AND SEVENTH PM IN SIX YEARS

The parliament building is pictured in Tokyo on 15 November, 2012. — Reuters

Tokyo, 16 Nov— Japan is set to dissolve parliament’s lower house on Friday for a 16 December election that is likely to return the long-dominant Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to power with a conservative prime minister at the helm. However, few expect the poll, three years after a historic victory swept the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) to power for the first time, will fix a policy

US, Thailand sign defence alliance pact

Bangkok, 16 Nov— The United States and Thailand signed on Thursday a “Joint Vision Statement” for Thai-US defence alliance with intent to maintain peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region. US Secretary of Defence Leon Panetta and his Thai counterpart ACM Sukumpol Suwanatat signed the agreement at the headquarters of the Thai Defence Ministry.

Panetta, who is currently on his official tour to Southeast Asian countries, will be followed here on Sunday by US President Barack Obama who will meet with Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra at Government House. Both are scheduled to leave for Myanmar next Monday and then for Cambodia to attend an ASEAN summit.

The US defence secretary announced in a press conference that the government has been committed to the developing and strengthening of the Thai-US defence alliance, because, he said, Thailand is a “great ally” of the United States since the last five decades. Thailand is one of the five countries in the Asia-Pacific categorized as a strategic ally of the United States. The other US allies in the region include Japan, South Korea, Australia and the Philippines.

The Thai and US military forces conduct a joint military exercise, codenamed Cobra Gold, in Thailand annually. It is called operations in eastern Afghanistan throughout the past 24 hours, the coalition forces have confirmed in a press release issued from Bagram, the main US base in the country, on Friday. Afgan and coalition forces killed two insurgents, detained two and cleared two Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) during operations in eastern Afghanistan.

operations in RC-East are still ongoing, the coalition release added. Taliban and insurgents have been waging an insurgency of more than a decade, has yet to make advancements.

FOREIGN LEADERS TO PAY TRIBUTE TO CAMBODIA’S LATE KING

PHNOM PENH, 16 Nov— A number of foreign leaders will pay their last respects to recently deceased King Father Norodom Sihanouk at Phnom Penh’s Royal Palace while they visit Cambodia to attend the 21st ASEAN Summit and related Summits later this week, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Thursday.

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao will pay tribute to the late King on Sunday, while Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, an Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard, Malaysian Prime Minister Mohd Najib Haji Abid Razak, and Naoyuki Shinozaka, Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, will pay tribute to Sihanouk next Monday.

In addition, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, the World Bank’s Managing Director Sri Mulyani Indrawati, the World Trade Organization’s Director General Pascal Lamy, and the Asian Development Bank’s President Haruhiko Kuroda will pay their homage to Sihanouk next Tuesday.

Also, New Zealand Prime Minister John Key will visit Cambodia in favour of the late King next Wednesday. Sihanouk died of illness at the age of 90 in Beijing on 15 Oct and his body was returned to Phnom Penh on 17 Oct. After a week of mourning his body has been lying in state for at least three months at the Royal Palace for the public to pay their last respects before it is cremated in the first week of February next year.

Sihanouk ruled the country from 1941 to 1955 and again from 1993 until his voluntary abdication in 2001. He was in favour of his son, the current King Norodom Sihamoni.

He was the king who led the country to gain independence from France in 1953. He suffered from various forms of cancer, diabetes and hypertension and had been treated by Chinese doctors in Beijing for years before his death.

A worker fills a car at a gas station in Hangzhou, capital of east China’s Zhejiang Province, on 15 Nov, 2012. China will cut the retail prices of gasoline by 310 yuan (49.2 US dollars) and diesel by 300 yuan per tonne starting from Friday, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the country’s top economic planner, said on Thursday. — Xinhua

TWO INSURGENTS KILLED IN EAST AFGHANISTAN

KABUL, 16 Nov— The Afghan forces and the NATO-led coalition troops have eliminated two insurgents and detained two in restive eastern Afghan provinces within a 24-hour period, the coalition forces confirmed in a press release issued from Kabul, the main US base in the country, on Friday.

“An Afghan and coalition forces killed two insurgents, detained two and cleared two Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) during operations in eastern Afghanistan throughout the past 24 hours,” the coalition’s Regional Command-East (RC-E) said in the release.

The insurgents were killed in two separate

OIL TANKER, FOOD TRUCKS ATTACKED IN NORTHERN AFGHAN PROVINCE

Afarak, (Afghanistan), 16 Nov — Unknown armed men attacked an oil tanker and two food-laden trucks in Samangan Province 215 km north of Kabul late Wednesday night, a local official said on Thursday.

“Unidentified armed men, possibly Taliban militants attacked and destroyed an oil tanker and two trucks carrying food stuffs to Kabul late last night,” Ghulam Mohammmed, head of the police’s crime

Afghans gather around burned tanker at a high way in Samangan province, 215 km north of Kabul, Afghanistan on 15 Nov, 2012. Unknown armed men attacked an oil tanker and two food-laden trucks in Samangan province, 215 km north of Kabul, late Wednesday night, a local official said on Thursday. — Xinhua
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MATTTYS VOY NO (1246)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV MATTTYS VOY NO (1246) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.11.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expense 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 to 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 CHINA SHIPPING (MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

US stops short of recognizing Syrian opposition body

WASHINGTON, 16 Nov—US intelligence committees open Benghazi attack probe

WASHINGTON, 16 Nov—US intelligence committees opened an investigation into the attacks on the US diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya, that has turned into a contentious issue between Republicans and the administration of President Barack Obama.

Former CIA Director David Petraeus, before his resignation last week over an extramarital affair, had initially been scheduled to testify at Thursday’s closed session of the House of Representatives intelligence committee, but will now be a solo witness before those panels on Friday morning.

Republicans have accused the Obama administration of minimizing the extent of the attacks in the early days following the Sept. 11, 2012, attack that killed the US ambassador to Libya and three other Americans.

Two top Republican senators on Wednesday threatened to block any nomination of Susan Rice, US ambassador to the United Nations, to a Cabinet post, which must be confirmed by the Senate, for making those initial comments. Obama came to her defence and said if she was the right person for a spot in his Cabinet, he would nominate her. — Reuters

CAIRO/PAIS, 16 Nov—France became the first European power to recognize Syria’s new opposition coalition as the sole representative of the Syrian people and said that Assad once they form a government.

Twenty months into the bloody uprising against Assad, fragmented Syrian opposition groups have signed a deal in Doha that is supposed to bring a peaceful framework and a transitional government.

French recognition, however, is likely to be met with setbacks and will not be enough to secure the recognition of the United States, which has leading Arab League member states and the European Union, the United States, the European Union and Russia have all decided not to recognize it so far. — Reuters

French recognizes new Syria opposition

Lebanon, 16 Nov—The United States declined to follow France in fully recognizing a Syrian opposition coalition on Wednesday, saying the body must prove its worth before gaining the US’s support.

Washington, 16 Nov—The United States declined to follow France in fully recognizing the Syrian opposition coalition on Wednesday, saying the body must prove its worth before gaining the US’s support.

Syria declared the new group, which it said had closed the door to a negotiated solution with President Bashar al-Assad.

The whole world, and Syria too, says the problem in Syria should be solved in a peaceful framework and through a national dialogue, the US foreign minister said.

“The US welcomes the new Syrian opposition body established in neighboring Jordan as an important step forward, but did not offer full recognition or arms,” the State Department said.

Washington, 16 Nov—The United States declined to follow France in fully recognizing a Syrian opposition coalition on Wednesday, saying the body must prove its worth before gaining the US’s support.

The new body brings the conflicting Syrian opposition groups under one roof, with France and other European states expressing there was no single opposition group that could bring about a united and democratic Syria.

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Psy, Drake, Gotye join American Music Awards birthday bash

LOS ANGELES, 16 Nov — The American Music Awards rings its 40th year on Sunday, with top nominees like Rihanna and Nicki Minaj battling for the top trophies and Stevie Wonder leading a tribute to the show’s late founder, Dick Clark. Variety is the key to this year’s three-hour ceremony from Los Angeles, with performers including Canadian pop star Justin Bieber, 1990s ska-punk band No Doubt, alt-rockers Linkin Park, country-pop darling Taylor Swift, Korean Internet sensation Psy and British-Irish boyband The Wanted.

“The AMAs reflects pop culture, which is all forms of music, all genres, pop, rock, country, hip hop, alternative ... all these things that normally don’t together. It’s our job to make it flow,” producer Larry Klein told Reuters.

R&B star Rihanna, 24, and Minaj, 29, tied for the most nominations this year, with four apiece, and will battle each other in the hotly contested female pop-rock category. Rihanna will also face stiff competition for the top award of the night, the artist of the year accolade, where she will compete with Bieber, Katy Perry, Maroon 5 and Drake.

The new artist category is expected to be a tight race between rapper Cole, indie-pop band fun, Australian singer Gotye, British boyband One Direction and Canadian popstar Carly Rae Jepsen, who will also be performing on Sunday. The ceremony will be shown live on ABC TV.

Unlike the Grammy Awards, which are decided by music producers, songwriters and others working in the industry, the American Music Awards are determined by fans. — Reuters

South Korean singer Psy poses with his Best Video award backstage during the MTV European Music Awards 2012 show at the Festhalle in Frankfurt on 11 Nov, 2012. — Reuters

NEW DELHI, 16 Nov — Justin Bieber will be sitting with Taylor Swift at the American Music Awards on Sunday (18 November.).

The Beauty And A Beat hitmaker was due to be seated beside Selena Gomez at the awards ceremony in Los Angeles, but after the couple announced their split last week, a number of changes have been made.

Taylor — who is one of Selena’s best friends — will now sit near Justin with the 18-year-old singer’s friend and mentor Usher and American Idol winner Carrie Underwood on the other side of him.— PTI

Meanwhile, Selena’s friends reportedly hope her romance with Justin is over for good as she has “shed many tears” over him in the past year.

Newly single J uustin Bieber to sit with Taylor Swift at American Music Awards

LonDon, 16 Nov — Newly single Justin Bieber to sit with Taylor Swift at the American Music Awards on 18 November. PTI

A friend of Selena’s said: “It’s been so difficult to watch this unfold over the past year or so. Selena has shed so many tears over Justin. She’s tried to split up with him so many times but they have always ended up back together. It’s out in the open now and that is one of the toughest parts, so that means there’s more chance it will be permanent this time. But we expect Justin to try to win her back — and he tends to get what he wants.” — PTI

Keira Knightley once found a ghost in her hotel room

NEW DELHI, 16 Nov — Keira Knightley once found a ghost in her hotel room.

Keira Knightley has never believed in the supernatural, but thinks that can be the only explanation for the encounter she had with a mystery man who “disappeared” in front of her eyes.

She told TV talk show host Jay Leno: “I was staying in a hotel in this city [Los Angeles]. The room had a bedroom and a sitting room. I walked into the sitting room, I just got out of the shower. There was a guy sitting on the sofa. He had a burgundy shirt on and he had short black hair and I thought ‘Oh some guy has come into my room.’ I said to him ‘I’m really sorry, you’re in my room,’ and he disappeared. Then my mum came in and was like ‘Who are you talking to?’ and I’m standing there. ‘I don’t think I’ve been drinking, it was early in the morning so I can’t figure out what it was other than a ghost. He was so real, then all of a sudden he wasn’t there.’ However, the Anna Karenina actress accepts her story doesn’t sound very convincing but is adamant the spooky encounter happened. — PTI

Amitabh Bachchan is the biggest crowd puller at Kolkata Film fest

KOLKATA, 16 Nov — Megastar Amitabh Bachchan, who had mesmerised Kolkatans with his Bengali at the inauguration of the Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF) last week, continues to be its biggest crowd puller.

A select bouquet of seven of his most memorable films are being screened at the eight-day festival which ends on Saturday.

Officials said all the shows are going houseful with tickets being sold out days in advance. 26-year-old techie Goutam Basak, who stood in a queue at the state-run auditorium Nandan to buy tickets of the Yash Chopra directed 1973 classic film Deewar said it is probably the only time he will get to watch his favourite film on the big screen.

“The new releases can be seen in theatres but not the old ones. This is a golden opportunity for me to watch it on the big screen rather than on DVD,” he said.

Right from the 1969 film Saat Hindustani, one of Bachchan’s earliest films, to more recent hits like Black and Chini Kum, are being shown. — PTI

KATRINA

The Anna Karenina actress accepts her story doesn’t sound very convincing but is adamant the spooky encounter happened. — PTI

The couple would have celebrated their sixth wedding anniversary on 18 November. — PTI

and what she should buy for Christmas. “There’s always the worry that Tom will outdo Katie and make her feel inadequate as a mother,” said the source. — PTI

Katie Holmes still “trapped” by Tom Cruise?

LOS ANGELES, 16 Nov — Actress Katie Holmes still feels trapped by Tom Cruise — despite their divorce.

Cruise remains in almost constant contact to keep tabs on their beloved daughter Suri, so Katie can’t ever feel completely free.

“When I was in shoes, I would be looking over my shoulder every step to see Tom’s reaction. I know how she must feel. It would be torture almost 24 hours a day. I don’t see how Katie would ever be able to relax,” “However she looks at it — she’s trapped,” added the source. Adding to her anxiety is the fact that the couple would have celebrated their sixth wedding anniversary on 18 November.

“She’s got to be torn — and I don’t think they’ll ever be able to relax,” added the source. — PTI

Nicolas Cage to cage in China-US co-production

Nicolas Cage to star in China-US co-production officials from the Yunnan Film Group said.

The film will be directed by Nick Powell, who is known for his fight choreography in the “Bourne” action film franchise, according to the company.

Powell said the film will be a challenge for him because it includes backgrounds from multiple cultures, as well as features multiple topics.

Hollywood actor Hayden Christensen, who previously starred in the “Star Wars” prequels as Anakin Skywalker, will also join the cast, the film company said, adding that it will be the first film starring both Christensen and Cage.

“The company did not provide the name of the film’s US producer, nor did it say when the film would make its debut. — Xinhua

BEEING, 16 Nov — Academy Award-winning actor Nicolas Cage will star in a China-US co-production to be filmed in southwest China’s Yunnan Province, the Chinese producer of the film announced on Thursday.

The action film “The Last War” tells the story of soldiers travelling through east Asia in the 12th century and their relationships with a Chinese prince and princess.
**Giants’ Buster Posey wins NL MVP award**

NEW YORK, 16 Nov — Buster Posey of the San Francisco Giants won the National League’s Most Valuable Player award on Thursday for the 2012 Major League Baseball season.

The hard-hitting Posey posted the highest batting average in the major leagues at .336 and pounded 24 home runs while driving in 103 to win MLB’s most cherished individual award, which is based only on performance during the regular season.

Besides his batting prowess, the 25-year-old catcher was widely credited with helping to guide the Giants’ outstanding pitching staff as San Francisco went on to win their second Fall Classic crown in three years by sweeping the Detroit Tigers.

Posey garnered 27 of the 32 first-place votes in ballots cast by members of the Baseball Writers’ Association of America in becoming the first catcher in 40 years to win the award since Johnny Bench of the Cincinnati Reds won in 1972.

It was a brilliant comeback season for Posey, who missed most of the 2010 campaign after suffering a broken leg and torn ligaments in his ankle in a crushing collision as he tried to make a tag at home plate.

“It probably took a couple of months,” Posey told MLB TV about when he felt confident about his comeback. “For me the toughest thing was running the bases, it aggravated my ankle a little bit and bothered me behind the plate. But I give tons and tons of credit to our training staff.

“This is an award that will be shared by everyone in our organization.” In his 2010 rookie season, Posey played a key role in helping the Giants win their first World Series in more than half a century and was named Rookie of the Year.

Following his injury-shortened 2011 season, Posey returned this year as though nothing had happened. He was behind home plate in June when Matt Cain became the first Giant to pitch a perfect game and he was even more lethal with the bat.

Posey became the first catcher to win the NL batting crown since Ernie Lombardi in 1942 and was a runaway winner of this season’s NL Comeback Player of the Year award.

Milwaukee Brewers left fielder Ryan Braun (.319, 41 HR, 122 RBi, 105 R), the 2011 MVP, was runner-up in the voting after receiving three first-place votes and 285 points.

The other two first-place votes went to St. Louis Cardinals catcher Yadier Molina (.315, 22 HR, 76 RBi), who finished fourth behind Pittsburgh Pirates centre fielder Andrew McCutchen (.327, 31 HR, 96 RBi). — Reuters

**Detroit’s Cabrera wins AL MVP award**

NEW YORK, 16 Nov — Miguel Cabrera of the Detroit Tigers, the first player to win the Triple Crown in 45 years, added the American League’s Most Valuable Player award on Thursday for the 2012 Major League Baseball season.

Cabrera became the first player since Carl Yastrzemski of the Boston Red Sox in 1967 to lead the league in the three top traditional offensive categories with a .330 batting average, 44 home runs, and 139 runs batted in.

He also became the first Venezuelan to win the coveted MVP award, getting the nod over Rookie of the Year Mike Trout of the Los Angeles Angels, whose brilliant all-around play had made him a serious challenger to Cabrera.

“Very excited. I don’t have any words to explain how excited I feel,” Cabrera told MLB TV. “I never expected I’m going to win because Mike Trout got an unbelievable season.

“I think winning the division, winning games, helped me to win the Triple Crown because baseball is about winning more than personal numbers. I think this MVP is about all my team.”

Cabrera followed his teammate, ace pitcher Justin Verlander, as American League MVP winners.

Combining the brute power of a slugger and the finesse of a leadoff hitter, Cabrera registered his historic season despite making a shift in position, moving from first base to third in order to make room for free agent Prince Fielder.

The 29-year-old Cabrera came on strong at the end of the season to help the Tigers overcome a sluggish start to overtake the Chicago White Sox and win the AL Central title on their way to a trip to the World Series. — Reuters
US Postal Service has record loss, may face cash shortfall

WASHINGTON, 16 Nov— The US Postal Service reported a record annual loss of $15.9 billion on Thursday and warned that, without congressional action, it could face a cash shortfall next fall. The mail service said it lost $15.9 billion in the fiscal year that ended on 30 September. That is more than triple its $5.1 billion loss last year. The USPS, which relies on the sale of stamps and other products rather than taxpayer dollars, has been grappling for years with high costs and tumbling mail volumes as consumers communicate more online. In September, the Postal Service hit its $15 billion borrowing limit for the first time in its history. That leaves it with few options if it suffers an unexpected shock, such as a slowdown if lawmakers are unable to prevent the year-end tax increases and spending cuts known as the “fiscal cliff.” “When you’ve got a $63 billion revenue business and you are looking at the potential of this fiscal cliff, of course that may have an impact on advertising and whatnot, which could hurt us,” Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe said on Thursday. “That’s why we’re saying let’s get this thing done and get us off of our own personal, postal fiscal cliff.” Much of the Postal Service’s loss in 2012 came from two defaults on a total of more than $11 billion in payments that Congress had directed USPS to pay to a fund for future retiree health benefits.—Reuters

Belarus rejects Russia’s claim for 1.5 b USD in oil duties

MINSK, 16 Nov— Belarusian Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikovich on Thursday rejected Russia’s claims for the return of 1.5 billion US dollars in oil duties that Belarus allegedly failed to repay to Russia. “Concerning M oscow’s claims for 1.5 billion US dollars, I want to say that Belarus hasn’t violated anything,” Myasnikovich said on Thursday in Minsk. According to the official, it is incompetent to reproach Belarus for some underpayment or other things. “We work correctly, honouring all the obligations.”

Belarus receives duty-free oil and oil products from Russia in 2012. It pays 100 percent duties on oil products made from Russian raw materials to the Russian budget, if the products are exported outside the Customs Union. Solvents, thinners and lubricants are not included in the list of the oil products. A ccording to the Russian part, Belarus increased the procurement of Russian oil products and exported petro to European markets disguising it as solvents. Russia’s Energy Ministry estimates the losses caused by solvents smuggling by Belarus at 1.5-2.5 billion US dollars. Russia already offered Minsk to compensate for the losses from the “solvent business,” but the claim cost was estimated at 1.5 billion US dollars.—Xinhua

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Ukraine bids to be world’s “breadbasket”

KIEV, 16 Nov— Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych said here on Thursday that his country, once one of Europe’s leading exporters of food, has the potential to become a breadbasket for the rest of the world during the global food crisis. “The world population reached over 7 billion people and by 2042 it is expected to hit the 9-billion mark. This is a historic opportunity for Ukraine, and we must use it to take our rightful place in the global food market,” Yanukovych said during his meeting with farmers here. The authorities set a target to boost the country’s agricultural output by 30 percent in the next decade, the president said. To achieve this, the government is undertaking reforms in agriculture, encouraging investment and promoting domestic agricultural commodities, especially grain, to new markets, F. Yanukovych said.—Kyivpost

London black cab maker resolves steering defect

LONDON, 16 Nov— PricewaterhouseCoopers, administrators to Manganese Bronze Holdings Plc, said on Thursday that it had found a solution to the steering box defect affecting its new TX4 model. The maker of London’s black taxi, which has been reporting losses since 2008, recalled about 400 TX4 London taxis last month after it found a defect in a steering box that was introduced in February. PwC said it had secured supply chain availability and logistics from a UK supplier to begin replacing the faulty steering boxes, which it aims to have completed by mid-December. “Having secured replacement parts for the entire recalled fleet, the programme to fit these new components has been devised so that all recalled fleet cars will be fitted with new replacement parts by mid-December,” said M. Hammond, joint administrator and PwC partner.

The steering box is a design from a supplier in China, which was introduced in the company’s Coventry factory in late February. “We are working to get taxis back on the road as quickly as possible but clearly, with the large number of vehicles affected in London and also in other regions, the work will take several weeks to complete,” said Hammond.—Reuters

Second UK man charged over kidnapping in Syria

LONDON, 26 Nov— British police charged a second man on Thursday with terrorism offences over the kidnapping of two photographers in Syria in July. Jabybar Chowdhury, 24, is accused of unlawfully imprisoning Dutch photographer Jeroen Oerlemans and British colleague John Cantlie who were taken hostage on July 17 while working near the Syrian border with Turkey. They were released on 25 July. Chowdhury, who was arrested on Monday at London’s Heathrow airport after arriving on a plane from Bahrain, is due to appear at London’s Westminster Magistrates’ court on Friday. Last month, Shahjal Islam was charged by British police with being involved in the kidnapping incident.—Reuters
Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham receives Chairman of Task Force Mr S Ramadorai and party from India

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 Nov—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham received a delegation led by Chairman of Task Force Mr S Ramadorai, who was in the rank of cabinet minister of Indian Government, for construction of Myanmar Institute of Information Technology (MITT) at Credentials Hall of Presidential Palace at 2 pm today.

Present at the call together with Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham were Union Minister Dr Ko Ko Oo, Deputy Ministers U Thant Kyaw, U Ba Shwe, U Hset Aung and officials. Mr. S Ramadorai was accompanied by the Indian ambassador to Myanmar.

At the call, both sides cordially discussed matters on designation land for construction of Myanmar Institute of Information Technology (MITT) in Mandalay, appointment of trainers and staff and construction of staff quarters.—MNA

Union Industry Minister asks additional expenditure for two steel production projects

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 Nov—Debate at today’s Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session mainly focused on additional budget allocation of the Union government in 2012-2013 fiscal year for No.1 Steel Industry (Myingyan) and No.2 Steel Industry (Pimpet).

Union Minister for Industry U Aye Myint discussed the two projects in detail. He said the projects are designed to produce 400,000 tons of steel and have full access to electricity and natural gas.

The ministry has thoroughly examined the quality of iron ores from Pimpet Deposit to determine whether it is required to import iron ores as the local iron ores are of inferior quality. And the results showed that it does not require importing iron ores from abroad as local raw materials can be used for over ten decades. The minister showed his strong confidence in the project as he said his ministry would somehow best utilize the local raw materials despite their low quality. Professors from Mocsoy Institute have promised to offer technical help for the project, added the Union minister.

The Union minister assured that his ministry would be able to repay the loans it taken from CDB Bank for the project within the set period. He revealed the implementation of the project so as to fulfill the domestic demand rather than exportation, adding that only the surplus would be exported. He again showed his confidence to sell out the surplus, which he said are in high demand in international market.

He in conclusion called the Hluttaw for allotting expenditure in current fiscal year for the project, warning against the undesired consequences of failure to continue the project as the project is a business deal signed with international contractors.

Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe discussed availability of electricity for the projects: Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay availability of natural gas and Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Zayar Aung transportation of raw materials to the sites.—NLM

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw focuses on debt settlement

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 Nov—Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein clarified the country’s debt account at today Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s session, in response to the President’s message about settling the remaining loans from ADB, World Bank and ten member states of Paris Club.

He divided the country’s foreign loans into debt before 1988 and debt account after 1988 and the former was borrowed from member states of Paris Club—Denmark, Germany, Canada, Finland, France, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Austria, England and Japan, ADB and World Bank, and the latter from Japan (BPD+C+NEK+), Korea, OPEC, Thailand, Malaysia, Serbia, China and India.

Most of the loans borrowed before 1988 have not been repaid yet though they have well past the due date. The amount of those loans has increased due to interests and overdue fees added to the original amount.

In measures to settle the loans, steps are being taken to settle the Japan ODA loans with the approval of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, said the Union minister who sought approval from the Hluttaw to settle the loans borrowed from ADB and IDA (World Bank). After settling the loans of Japan ODA, ADB and IDA (World Bank) out of the debt before 1988, the remaining loans from member creditors of Paris Club would be settled, said the Union minister.

Myanmar has got money from ADB since 1973-1974 financial year. The 22-1-2013 is set for repayment date. The capital is USD 426.817 million and interest, 96.290 million USD, totalling 523.107 million USD. Due to currency exchange rate on the repayment date, both sides have agreed to repay 440 million USD.

Myanmar will have to get bridge loan from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBC) so as to pay off the debts of ADB and World Bank. To repay that bridge loan, Myanmar will have to take Policy Based Loan (PBL) from ADB and Development Policy Operation (DPO) from World Bank. (See page 9)