Myanmar will redouble efforts to bring benefit and prosperity to nation and its people

US to continue to work hard to strengthen bilateral relationship to promote progress that would be good not only for Myanmar but for region and international community

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Nov—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein met President of the United States of America Mr Barack Obama at the meeting hall of Yangon Region Hluttaw in Yangon this morning.

Present on the occasion together with President U Thein Sein were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko, U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thein, U Aung Min and U Maung Myint, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw and Myanmar Ambassador to the United States of America U Than Swe. The US President was accompanied by US Secretary of State Mrs Hillary Clinton, National Security Adviser to the President Mr Thomas E. Donilon, Deputy National Security Adviser for International Economic Affairs Mr Michael Froman, Assistant Secretary for Asia and Pacific Affairs Mr Kurt M. Campbell, Deputy National Security Adviser for Strategic Communications Mr Ben Rhodes, US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Derek Mitchell and high-ranking officials.

First, President Barack Obama arrived at Yangon Region Hluttaw Building where he was extended a warm welcome by President U Thein Sein in front of mother Myanmar statute at the entrance to the building.

Next, the two leaders had a documentary photo taken in front of mother Myanmar statute and the US President signed the visitors’ book. Afterwards, the President received President Barack Obama about an hour at the meeting hall. After the meeting, the two Presidents met with local and foreign correspondents and explained the meetings between the two countries.

Speaking on the occasion, President U Thein Sein said that the visit of President Obama to Myanmar was the milestone of Myanmar.

Myanmar established diplomatic ties with the United States in the year 1947, a year before Myanmar gained independence and the two countries had long history and had maintained friendly relations, he added.

For the past 20 years, there were some difficulties and obstacles in the bilateral relations, however, the relations between the two countries had been progressing steadily thanks to vision of President Obama and efforts of the Secretary of the State and the US ambassador to Myanmar, he said. President U Thein Sein expressed his commitment to continue cooperation to strengthen the bilateral relations in the years to come. Based on mutual respect, understanding and cooperation, Myanmar would move forward to further strengthen and promote the bilateral relations, President U Thein Sein said.

Myanmar would continue to cooperate with the United States for development of democracy in Myanmar and for promoting of human rights of international standard, for the capacity buildings of officials and for development of the people of Myanmar, and the US President has given a green light for that, he added.

President U Thein Sein said that Myanmar will redouble efforts to translate the results of their discussions into benefit and prosperity of the people of Myanmar.

He also expressed his sincere appreciation to President Obama’s visions, and the support as well as the efforts of the Secretary of State Mrs Clinton, the US Ambassador to Myanmar and the responsible officials from the State Department.

(See page 2)
Speakers of Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw meet US President Barack Obama

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Nov— Visiting US President Mr. Barack Obama accompanied by US Secretary of State Ms. Hillary Clinton and US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Derek Mitchell met Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint at the hall of Yangon Region Hluttaw Building at 11.10 am today.

In his speech, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker congratulated the US President on his re-election reforms in Myanmar and improvable bilateral cooperation and mutual relations between the two countries, thereby contributing towards regional and international peace and stability and development.

The US President frankly replied that the United States recognized the active participation of the Hluttaw in the process of democratic reforms in Myanmar; that he would like to offer a reward for the efforts the Hluttaw have made; that even the sure Myanmar’s democratic reforms would see many difficulties. Surely Myanmar would achieve success in its democratic reforms thanks to leading efforts of the Speakers, he said. There would be further cooperation not only between the two governments but also between the two parliaments and the parliamentary committees.

The United States would give a helping hand in the process of democratic reforms in Myanmar.

Together with the

US President Barack Obama on working visit to Myanmar

US President Barack Obama accompanied by US Secretary of State Ms. Hillary Clinton and US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Derek Mitchell met Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint at the hall of Yangon Region Hluttaw Building at 11.10 am today. Mr. Barack Obama was warmly welcomed by a large crowd of 1000 people who were present there.

During the meeting, the US President expressed his impressions about his visit to Myanmar and his confidence in continuing to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries.

In his speech, the President of the United States expressed his satisfaction with the developments in Myanmar and praised the efforts made by the government and the United Nations to achieve peace and stability in the country.

The President stated that he was looking forward to further cooperation with Myanmar in various areas, including trade, investment, and security.

He also expressed his appreciation for the hospitality shown by the people of Myanmar and thanked them for their warm welcome.

The US President’s speech was met with cheers and applause from the crowd.

After the meeting, the US President and the Speakers of both houses of parliament posed for a photograph.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and US President Mr. Barack Obama pose for a documentary photo.— MNA

Cash donated for rehabilitation tasks of earthquake-hit region

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Nov— A ceremony to present cash for rehabilitation tasks of earthquake-hit victims in Mandalay Region was held at the meeting hall of the government office on 17 November.

Under the leadership of Professor Dean of Patipatti Faculty of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Dhammaduta Dr Ashin Chekima, actor Lu Min and film stars donated K 1 million, China Red Cross Society led by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Junhua US $ 50,000, Ambassador and embassy staff US $ 100,000, Chinese Entrepreneurs Association K 10 million, a group led by General Manager Mr Li Zhong of China International Forestry Group, Myanmar Co., Ltd US $ 10,000 Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint accepted the donations and gave certificates of honour to them and spoke words of thanks.

The region chief minister visited the damaged temples hit by strong earthquake in Mandalay Region.
Another rocket barrage launched towards Tel Aviv, intercepted by defence system

Israel

TEL AVIV, 19 Nov—Another barrage of rockets was launched from the Gaza Strip to Tel Aviv on Sunday evening, for the second time in 24 hours.

Two rockets were intercepted by the Iron Dome anti-missiles battery, which was deployed in the region early Saturday.

Sirens went off at around 6:40 pm (1640 GMT) and sent the city’s residents to shelters and protected spaces. Eyewitnesses reported hearing two loud sounds of explosion, apparently the two interceptions mentioned.

This is the fifth barrage of rockets launched towards the central city, which has not been in missiles range before.

The 1919 Gulf War with Iraq. The Hamas military wing claimed responsibility for the Fajr-5 long-range missiles’ attack.

On Sunday morning, another barrage of rockets was launched towards Tel Aviv at around 10:30 am (0830 GMT). Two missiles were intercepted, and shrapnel caused damage to a vehicle in the area.

The Iron Dome system intercepted 302 rockets, according to the IDF.

During the weekly cabinet meeting, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the army is prepared for a ground invasion of the Gaza Strip.

“We are exacting a heavy price from the Hamas and the other militant organizations, and the IDF is prepared for a significant expansion of its operation,” Netanyahu said.

More diplomacy to try to halt Israel-Gaza fighting

TEL AVIV, 19 Nov—Hostilities between Islamist militants and Israel entered the sixth day on Monday as diplomatic efforts were stepped up to try to stop rocket fire from the Gaza Strip and Israeli air strikes on Gaza.

International pressure for a ceasefire seemed certain to mount after the deadliest single incident in the flare-up on Sunday claimed the lives of at least 11 Palestinian civilians, including four children. United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said in Cairo that Israel should end its offensive.

An Israeli missile killed a senior commander of rocket attacks and brought the latest in a string of attacks that killed civilians, including four children in the home of the Dalu family.

It was the deadliest single incident in the war which has lasted for more than two weeks.

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Another Israeli air strike killed 11 civilians in Gaza: Hamas

Gaza/Jerusalem, 19 Nov—An Israeli missile killed 11 Palestinians, including four children in Gaza on Sunday, medical officials said, apparently an attack on a top militant that brought a three-storey home crashing down.

International pressure for a ceasefire seemed certain to mount in response to the deadliest single incident in five days of Palestinian rocket attacks on Israel and Israeli air strikes on Gaza.

Egypt has taken the lead in trying to broker a ceasefire and its officials met the parties on Sunday.

The 11 Palestinian civilians were apparently killed during an Israeli attack on a militant, which brought a three-storey house crashing down on them.

Gaza health officials have said 75 Palestinians, 21 of them children and several women, have been killed in Gaza since Israel’s offensive began. Hundreds have been wounded.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he had assured world leaders that Israel was doing its utmost to avoid causing civilian casualties in the military showdown with Hamas.

Gaza militants launched dozens of rockets into Israel and targeted its commercial capital, Tel Aviv, for a fourth day on Sunday. Israel’s “Iron Dome” missile shield shot down all three rockets.

In scenes recalling Israel’s 2008-2009 winter invasion of Gaza, tanks, artillery and infantry have massed in field encampments along the sandy, fenced-off border with Gaza and military convoys moved on roads in the area.

A municipal worker walks past a hole in the road after a rocket fired by Palestinian militants in Gaza landed in the southern city of Ashdod on 18 Nov 2012. REUTERS

Chinese premier meets Malaysian counterpart, pledges closer cooperation

China

Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao (R) meets with Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak in Phnom Penh, capital of Cambodia, on 18 Nov, 2012. Xinhua

Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao (R) meets with Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak in Phnom Penh, capital of Cambodia, on 18 Nov, 2012. Xinhua

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao met with his Malaysian counterpart Najib Razak here on Sunday and pledged to boost cooperation between the two nations.

Wen noted that in recent years, China-Malaysia relations have increasingly developed and are among the best bilateral ties China has developed with members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Both sides have attached more importance to mutual understanding and support in political and security spheres with strategic perspectives, said the Chinese premier.

Noting China has become Malaysia’s largest trading partner, Wen also said that the two countries have achieved outstanding progress in cooperation in fields like trade, industries, infrastructure projects and cultural exchanges.

All these developments have not only enabled both sides to work together to better cope with complicated regional situations and the global financial crisis, but also have set up a basis for achieving common development in the longer-term and of higher levels for the two countries, he added.

Premier Wen proposed that both governments work more closely to map out a five-year blueprint for bilateral economic and trade cooperation and ensure successes of the China-Malaysia Qinzhou Industrial Park.

Both sides should also boost cooperation in tourism, education, finance, medicine and telecommunications in a bid to bring more benefits to the two countries and their peoples, said the Chinese premier.

For his part, Najib said the successful conclusion of the mega project of the Communist Party of China has made Malaysia have more confidence in the development prospects of both China and the Malaysia-China relations.

Three killed, 23 injured as blast reported near Shia mosque in Karachi, Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 19 Nov—At least three people were killed and 23 others injured when a bomb went off near a mosque in Pakistan’s southern port city of Karachi on Sunday night, said an official.

Sharifuddin Memon, Advisor to Home Minister of Sindh Province where Karachi is its capital, said that the blast which hit Mustafa Mosque, the largest mosque for Shiite Muslims in the city, on Sunday night, killed at least three Shiite Muslims including a woman and wounded 23 others.

The incident also include five members of Rangers, a paramilitary force in Pakistan, who were posted at the mosque to protect the prayers, confirmed a spokesman of Rangers.

Xinhua

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Economy, environment go together towards green

BEIJING, 19 Nov—Economy and environment should be brought together towards a green ecological development model, said participants at the fifth annual World Economic and Environmental Conference (WEC) Saturday in Beijing. This will be a core goal for countries to jointly respond to climate change and deteriorating environmental problems, they added.

Focusing on future momentum for green and sustainable development, they also held that China's future on implementing sustainable development will be promising. "It is very strongly anchored in the current 5-year-plan of Chinese government to promote green economy, promote circular economy, the recycling of goods and resources," said Irene Giner-Reichl, a U.S. ambassador to China and to Mongolia.

To cope with the current context of global recession, most of the participants said that economic recovery and environmental protection are not antagonist, rather they could go hand in hand. "Environmental protection can lead to economic development," pointed out Monica Oliphant, honorary president and former president of the International Solar Energy Society.

It in deed has been a big debate all around the world, agreed John Edwards, Counsellor at British Embassy in Beijing. "But you looked at figures of the UK for the last year, one third of the UK's growth was from the green economy, many of the other part of economy shrank," Edwards added, saying "It employed 4 percent as in every 25 people it worth 200 billion dollars a year." More than 3,000 international political and business leaders from over 40 countries and regions attended the conference.

The conference, an international and professional annual event launched in China, aims at promoting a green development mode in the course of human activities by joint efforts from walks of life.—Xinhua

Soyuz with crew of three lands in Kazakhstan

ALMATY, 19 Nov—A Russian Soyuz spacecraft landed on the Kazakh steppe on Monday, safely delivering a trio of astronauts from a four-month stint aboard the International Space Station.

The Soyuz TMA-03M capsule, carrying Japanese astronaut Akihiko Hoshide, Russian cosmonaut Yuri Malenchenko and U.S. astronaut Sunita Williams, parachuted through dark, cloudy skies and touched down at 7:56 am local time (0136 GMT). A round of applause greeted the landing at Russian mission control near Moscow, footage from NASA TV showed. "Fresh air—very good!" Williams said in Russian. The landing, after a three-and-a-half-hour descent from the orbital outpost, was the first pre-dawn touchdown since 2006. The Expedition 33 crew had spent 125 days aboard the International Space Station, a $100 billion research complex involving 15 countries and orbiting 250 miles above Earth.

The capsule crew of three astronauts conducted a number of experiments, including on radiation levels at the space station and research into the effects of melting glaciers and seasonal changes on Earth's ecosystems, NASA said in a statement. They also managed several visits to the space station by international and commercial spacecraft and conducted several spacewalks to maintain the station.

A three-man crew remains aboard the space station. When NASA's SpaceX cargo ship is delivered to the International Space Station on Tuesday, it will bring spacewalking hardware and science equipment to the ISS.

The International Space Station (ISS) crew members Japanese astronaut Akihiko Hoshide (L), Russian cosmonaut Yuri Malenchenko (C) and U.S. astronaut Sunita Williams rest after landing near the town of Arkalyk in northern Kazakhstan on 19 Nov, 2012.—Reuters

World Bank warns of climate change disaster

WASHINGTON, 19 Nov—The world is barreling down a path to heat up by four degrees at the end of the century, a general of the global community fails to act on climate change, the World Bank said on Sunday in a report.

Raging consequences are a cascade of cataclysmic changes that include extreme heat-waves, declining global food stocks and a sea-level rise affecting hundreds of millions of people, it warned. All regions of the world would suffer—some more than others—but the Turn Down the Heat report finds that the poor will suffer the most.

The report is a snapshot of the latest climate science prepared for the World Bank by the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) and Climate Analytics. "A four degrees warmer world can and must be avoided—we need to hold warming below two degrees," said World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim in the report. "Climate change is one of the single biggest challenges facing development, and we need to assume the moral responsibility to take action on behalf of future generations, especially the poorest," it said.

The report points to 2012 as a year of record-breaking heat and potentially record-breaking floods, to the extent that the authors say they had to rewrite its conclusion. "2012 was extraordinary," says ex-President John Yokoyama of the International Panel of Climate Change.

"The war is taking place on three fronts. The first is physical, the second is on the world of social networks and the third is cyber," said Carmel A. Vnaer, Israel's chief information officer.

Israeli government websites under mass hacking attack

JERUSALEM, 19 Nov—More than 44 million hacking attempts have been made on Israeli government websites since Wednesday when Israel began its Gaza air strikes, the government said on Sunday.

Foreign Ministry Inspector Yoval Steinitz said just one hacking attempt was successful on a site he did not want to name, but it was up and running after 10 minutes of downtime.

Typically, there are a few hundred hacking attempts daily on Israeli sites, the ministry said.

Attempts on defence-related sites have been the highest, while 10 million hacking attempts have been made on the site of Israel’s president, 7 million on the Foreign Ministry and 3 million on those of the prime minister.

A ministry spokesman said while the attacks have come from around the world, most have been from Israel and the Palestinian territories.

Cisco to buy cloud-networking start-up Meraki for $1.2 billion

NEW YORK, 19 Nov—Networking equipment company Cisco Systems Inc said it will buy privately held cloud networking company Meraki for $1.2 billion (754.6 million pounds) in cash as part of its cloud and networking strategy. Cisco said the acquisition of Meraki, which was founded in 2006 by a team of researchers from Stanford University, is expected to close in the second quarter of Cisco's 2013 fiscal year and is subject to regulatory approval.

Cisco's second quarter runs until the end of January. Meraki—funded by Sequoia Capital and Google Inc—offers Wi-Fi technology, switching, security and mobile device management from the cloud with a focus on mid-sized businesses.

"This is a very logical move for Cisco," said ZK research analyst Zeusk Kervarna. He said the deal will allow the company to offer alternative solutions to traditional Wi-Fi deployment models like smaller competitors, such as A Rapa Networks and Ruckus Wireless, which debuted on Friday.

"Cisco didn’t really have anything to counter that before," Kervarna noted.
Asian shares rise on US fiscal hopes

Business

Tokyo, 19 Nov—Asian shares rose on Monday, supported by hopes US politicians can overcome an imminent fiscal cliff while the euro fell to a seven-month low against the dollar on expectations a new government chosen in next month’s election could pump large amounts of stimulus cash into the economy.

A 0.2 percent gain in US stock futures points to a firmer opening in global markets and financial spreadsheets predict London’s FTSE 100 (.FTSE), Paris’s CAC-40 (.FCI) and Frankfurt’s DAX (GDAXI) will open as much as 0.9 percent higher.

MSCI’s broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan <.MIAPJ0000PU> outperformed as mounting supply concerns escalat- ing tension from Israeli air strikes on the Gaza Strip and Hamas rocket attacks on Israel underpinned oil prices.

Its energy sector <.MIAPJ0000PU.T> outperformed as mounting supply concerns escalat ing tension from Israeli air strikes on the Gaza Strip and Hamas rocket attacks on Israel underpinned oil prices.

The material sector <.MIAPJ0000PU.MT> was among top gainers, as London copper rallied 1 percent to $7,684 a tonne on a renewed growth outlook for China and hopes for a solution to the US fiscal cliff. (MTL).

Australians shares <.AXJO> climbed 0.6 percent but Shanghai shares <.SSEC> were unchanged with a 0.5 percent drop, having earlier touched levels not seen since early 2009.

We have some positive leads from the US on Friday. Our market had been underperforming last week,” Peter Esho, chief market analyst at City Index, said of Australian equities.

“There’s some hope that the negotiations in the US around the fiscal cliff may some-what improve—the prospects around that may improve this week.”

Japan’s Nikkei average <.N225>, which bucked the broad Asian downtrend on Friday and surged 2.2 percent, extended gains with a 3.4 percent climb to close at a two-month high.

Reuters

China, ASEAN boost lumber, wood products trade

Nanning, 19 Nov—China and ASEAN member states have seen increases in trade and cooperation in the lumber and wood products industries during an exhibition held in southern China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autono- mous Region.

Thousands of enterprises from both China and Southeast Asian nations attended the ongo- ing China-ASEAN Forest & Wood Products Expo, scheduled from 16 to 19 Nov in Nanning, provincial capital of Guangxi.

A bout 1,500 booths have been set up at the exhibition to display and sell a range of wood products, including furniture, build- ing materials, pulp paper, garden plants and flowers, machines made of wood and other wood products.

The exhibition forum wood culture forums and exchange and commu- nication meetings will also be held during the expo.

“Although this is the first time I have attended the expo, I have known China for a long time, as our company has had business relations in a number of industries in Guangxi and Yunnan,” Vietnamese exhibitor Nguyen Chau Wan said, adding that China has become an important market for her company in recent years.

T’ai Kuen-sheng, who runs a rosewood craft company in Vietnam, said Chinese customers favor rosewood furniture and the low circulation costs in the free trade area between China and the ASEAN have brought many benefits to his company.

“I hope to know more trade partners and secure more orders on the expo, as well as raise the prestige of our brand,” T’ai said.

Statistics released by State Forestry Administration of China in November showed that the volume of China’s lumber and wood products industry in 2011 totaled 490 billion US dollars, and lumber and wood products trade in 2011 amounted to more than 120 billion US dollars.

Xinhua

No deal yet in airline SAS’s survival talks with unions

Copenhagen/Stoc- kholm, 19 Nov—Troubled Scandi-navian airline SAS and unions held vital talks on Sunday aimed at increasing the country’s survival and avoiding bankruptcy, but no deal had been reached by the evening.

The Scandina-vian airline, hit by com-petition from low-cost rivals, last week announced plans to cut some salaries by up to 17 percent and reduce overall headcount to about 9,000 from 15,000.

A newspaper said board mem- bers were meeting banks in Stockholm after talks with unions that began on Monday and were due to last if the loans with the banks were not agreed.

The airline was said to be “out of options” if necessary.

During the January-September period, Cambodia’s US exports to the United States accounted for 2.02 billion US dollars, up 0.5 percent, while the country’s imports from the US were 1.60 billion US dollars.

Cambodia has mainly exported garments, textiles and footwear to the United States. In exchange, it has bought vehicles, machinery and medical equipment and supplies. On the investment side, the United States’ investment in Cambodia was $1.29 billion from 1994 to July 2012, according to a record by Cambodia Investment Board.

Cambodia-US trade reaches 2.2 bln USD in 9 months, up 2 pct

Business

Death toll from yellow fever in Sudan’s Darfur region jumps to 150

Khartoum, 19 Nov—The death toll from yellow fever jumped to 150 in Sudan’s Darfur region and the number of infection cases to 400, Khartoum’s Al-Ray Al I Am daily reported on Sunday.

“The death cases from yellow fever in Darfur region reached 150 in addition to the infection of 400 people,” the report said.

The paper further disclosed that great quantities of yellow fever vaccines have arrived in the country and have been received by Sudanese ministry of health, while the remaining quantity is expected to arrive in the coming days to reach 4.2 million doses at a cost of more than 7 million US dollars.

The vaccines would be given to the people to overcome the disease other than alleviate dehydration and fever and blood transfusion.”—Xinhua
**Yangon, 19 Nov**—More foreign exchanges are being kept open at private banks as there is an increase in tourist arrivals in Mandalay. Foreign exchanges of CB bank are being kept open from 9 am to 4 pm daily at places like 78th street in Maha Aungmyay Township, the ground floor of Yadanaon Diamond Plaza and the archway of Maha Muni Buddha Image in Chanmya Thazi Township where tourists throng to.

It is convenient for foreign visitors as selling and buying of US dollar, Euro currency, Singapore dollar, Japan yen and UK pound are being carried out at foreign exchange facilities in accord with the market price.

**Mine blast causes damage to Phapant bridge**

**Mawlu, 19 Nov**—A mine blast caused damage to the 80-foot Phapant Yaypauk rail bridge (Bridge No 478) between Mawlu and Pinwe stations in Indaw Township of Sagaing Region at 10.30 am yesterday.

The bridge, seven mile far from Mawlu railway station, is situated between mile post Nos (599-23) and (599-24). Rail tracks on the bridge was ripped in two, and steel truss of the bridge and 15 sleepers were destroyed in the blast.

Due to the mine blast, No (58) down-train from Myitkyina stopped at Mawlu station.

Repair works are being carried out by Engineer U Tin Hla and party. —*Kyemon*

**Gala concert at People’s Square in Yangon**

**Yangon, 19 Nov**—According to the press briefing of MTV EXIT at Sedona Hotel yesterday, a gala concert will be held at People’s Square, here, on 16 December with the aim of educating the public about prevention against Human Trafficking. Grammy Award Winner and Songwriter Jason Martz together with MTV EXIT Ambassadors to Myanmar Pyu Pyu Kyaw Thein and R Zarni, and singers Chan Chan, Chit Thu Win, Lin Lin, Sai Sai Thu Wai, Lin Lin, Sai Sai and Phyo Gyi will perform entertainment at the concert free of charge.

**Pazundaung Township offers Padethabins to monasteries**

**Yangon, 19 Nov**—The 17th Kahtina robe-offering ceremony of Pazundaung Township was held yesterday. A total of 40 padethabin donated by families of ward-1 and wellwishers were offered to seven monasteries in the township. Seven monasteries received K 125,000 each as cash donation of wellwishers.

At 3pm, the congregation shared the merit gained in the presence of seven members of the Sangha. —*Kyemon*

**Counsel given**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 19 Nov**—Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nyannadhaja of Hilly Region Missionary Monastery in Myitkyina organized a ceremony to receive the counsel of Ovadacariya Sayadaws in Myitkyina at the monastery at 9 am on 12 November.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Silavamsa delivered a sermon to Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nyannadhaja and congregation. Next, the chief minister and wellwishers offered alms to members of the Sangha. —*Kyemon*

**Photo shows basic education middle school level essay and cartoon contests about taxation held at Basic Education High School No (11) in Aungmyethazan Township of Mandalay Region on 16 November. Altogether 68 students representing respective basic education middle schools were taking part in the contest supervised by Headmistress Daw San Su May and teachers, and Head of Township Internal Revenue Department U Thein Han (Assistant Director) and staff.**

**Tatkon Township to celebrate Kathina robe-offering festival**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 19 Nov**—The 46th Tatkon Township Kathina robe-offering festival will be held from 24 to 28 November (11th to 15th Waking of Tarazunmon) on a grand scale.

As a traditional festival of Tatkon Township which is annually held, arrangements have been made to stage a variety of entertainment programmes at this year’s festival, and the festive ground will be near Sasana Beikman in Bo Min Yaung ward. As mobile entertainment programme, famous singers will entertain the people wandering around the streets in the township. —*Kyemon*

**Inspection of model farmland for per acre yield of monsoon paddy**

**Sagagai, 19 Nov**—Deputy Director-General U Thado Aung of Land Records Department (Head Office) and Director U Kyaw Nyein Aung carried out a thorough inspection of Holding No 80 in Nyaungbinzin village-tract in Sagaing Township of Sagaing District in Sagaing Region on 13 November. They looked into harvesting the model farmland for correct information about per acre yield of monsoon paddy during 2011-12 monsoon paddy harvest.

According to their observations, the per acre yield of the model farmland where Manaw Thuka paddy strain was planted was 102.89 baskets and 96.37 baskets respectively. —*Kyemon*
Myanmar Parliamentary Union holds its 2nd meeting

YANGON, 19 Nov— The Myanmar Parliamentary Union, held its 2nd meeting at the meeting hall of Yangon Region Hluttaw Office on Ashlon Road, here, this morning.

It was attended by Chairman of Myanmar Parliamentary Union Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Vice-Chairman of MPU Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann at Myanmar Parliamentary Union’s 2nd meeting.— MNA

Rakhine State Chief Minister presents cash to Rakhine Traditional Dance Troupe

NAVPYTAW, 19 Nov— After visiting traditional musical instruments’ at Cultural Museum in Rakhine State on 17 November, Region Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin made a speech to the Rakhine Traditional Dance Troupe which will touch down Lin Cheng-Hsiong Delta Region Cultural Show held in Jinghong Town, Sipsongpanna Sub-region in Yunnan Province from 26 to 30 November and gave cash awards.

The Rakhine Traditional Dance Group will entertain their traditional dances in this show. MNA

Public Relations Training for government officials opened

NAVPYTAW, 19 Nov— The training course on Public Relations Training for Government Officials, jointly conducted by Ministry of Information and UNESCO (Myanmar) commenced at the ministry at 9 am today.

Deputy Minister U Ye Hlut delivered an opening address. Programme Manager Mr. Sardar Umar Alam extended greetings and posed for documentary photo together with those present at the ceremony.

Present on the occasion were officers-in-charge of contact persons from ministries, and the course will last up to 23 November. At the training course, UNESCO and local and foreign media scholars will provide lectures on history of media, types of media and responsibilities for society, democracy, citizens, what do the media want? working with the media and future directions, and take-home tips.— MNA

Quake-hit technological colleges in Sagaing Region under maintenance

NAVPYTAW, 19 Nov— Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Ko Ko Oo yesterday morning looked into teaching, management and disciplinary measures and providing of teaching aids at Government Technological Institute in Kanbalu in Sagaing Region.

The Union Minister supervised maintenance of school buildings which damaged due to earthquake at Government Technological College in Shwebo and Technological University in Sagaing.— MNA

Chairman of Myanmar Parliamentary Union Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Vice-Chairman of MPU Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann at Myanmar Parliamentary Union's 2nd meeting.— MNA

Myanmar Parliamentary Union will help the regional and state Hluttaws to settle out the obstacles and to get assistance for their needs in accordance with the law and rules, he said.

Afterwards, Secretary of MPU Vice Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Mya Nyine reported on progress of works which have been completed in accordance with the resolution of the first meeting of the MPU.

Afterwards, members of the MPU speakers of regional and state Hluttaws discussed matters related to procedures for becoming members of MPU including seeking approval from respective Hluttaws, establishing law assessment committee or commission for their Hluttaws, revoking, amending the existing laws and enacting new laws for the regional and state Hluttaws.

Afterwards, regarding the approval of the draft charter for the MPU, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee will review and put it forward to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Afterwards, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann gave remarks on the discussion of the speakers of the regional and state Hluttaws and Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw laid down the tasks to be carried out by the MPU.

The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. MNA

Programme Manager Mr. Sardar Umar Alam poses for documentary photo with trainees of training course on Public Relations Training for Government Officials.— MNA
Peace, stability and the rule of law

In fact Rakhine State has brighter opportunities to become a regional hub in the future as it is the western gate of Myanmar with two major towns — Sittway and Kyaukpyu — becoming deep seaports for international trade by the year 2013.

So, it is not unusual that China and India are interested in using these two deep seaports for their landlocked provinces in the west or states in the northeast. As a Rakhine State is in the western part of Myanmar its prospects are high for trade links with countries in the West, Africa and Middle East, apart from the two Asian giants, the rest of ASEAN, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

So we must develop Rakhine State into a regional trade center. We have plans for turning Thandwe, Kyaukpyu and Sittway airports into facilities handling international flights. Moreover, gas pipelines and oil pipelines have been laid from Kyaukpyu to Unnng in China and when roads and railroads running in parallel with the pipelines are completed, Rakhine State will become the corridor serving as a major link between nations in the east and west of Myanmar as well as a gateway to the Union.

Rakhine State will enjoy many other advantages if it becomes the heart of regional trade, large amounts of foreign direct investment will flow into it together with capital from other places of the Union for new industrial and business establishments thereby bringing rapid economic growth, which is the foundation of well rounded development, stability and the rule of law.

Cardiac Ultrasound M machine donated

YANGON, 19 Nov — President of the United States of America Mr Barack Obama, accompanied by US Secretary of State MrsHillary Clinton, Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Maung Myint and officials, arrived at Shwedagon Pagoda at 11.40 am today.

The US President was welcomed by members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees. The US President offered flowers and water to the Buddha image and officiated at the visit there.

At 12.20 pm, the US President met Chairperson of the Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Stability and Peace Committee Chairperson of the National League for Democracy Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at her residence on University Avenue.

The US President delivered a speech at the meeting with public-based organizations, political parties, social organizations, faculty members of the university and people at the convocation hall of Yangon University.

On arrival at Yangon International Airport at 3.25 pm, the US President took the salute of the Guard of Honour.

Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe ushered the US President in the airport. The President was bade farewell by Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Maung Myint, Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Sein Tin Win, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Kyaw, Yangon Region Minister for Development Affairs Mr Derek Mitchell and officials.

US President Mr Barack Obama left here at 3.35 pm.

Donations made for earthquake-hit victims in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Nov — A donation ceremony for resettlement of the earthquake-hit victims in Mandalay Region took place at the region government’s office on 12 November morning.

At the ceremony, Chairman of Yunnan Buddhist Temple (80th Street) U Kyaw Sein and CEC members presented K1 million donated by Yunnan Buddhist Temple family, U Phyu Win and CEC members of Fujin Buddhist Temple, K1.5 million donated by Fujin Buddhist Temple family, Vice-Chairman and CEC members of Guangdong Buddhist Temple, K1 million donated by Guangdong Buddhist Temple family, Vice-Chairman of Ethics Buddhist Temple U Than Htay and CEC members, K5,000,000 donated by Ethics Buddhist Temple family, through Mandalay Region Ministers U Kyaw Sein, Dr Win Myint and Dr Myint Kyu.

The conference will focus on the topics: the US-Myanmar Trade and Investment Relationships: Finding the Way Forward; Creating an Attractive Investment Environment; Developing Myanmar’s Energy Resources; Information Technology; Propelling Economic Growth; Building a Viable Financial Sector; Corporate Social Responsibility: benefitting the Community and Integrating Myanmar into the ASEAN, Asian, and Global Economy.

Those wishing to attend the conference may register at the UMFCCI, No.29, M inye Kyawswa Road, Lannadaw Township, not later than February 22, 2013.

MNA
President U Thein Sein receives Thai Prime Minister Mrs Yingluck Shinawatra

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Information Team
Press Release No. 2/2012
November 18, 2012

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, as part of its continuing efforts to meet its international obligations, protect and promote human dignity, and strengthen democratic governance for its peoples, aspires to the following:

Human Rights

The Government of Myanmar will allow the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to resume prisoner visits in coordination with the Ministry of Home Affairs. ICRC has recommenced operations in Myanmar since 2011, installing sewage systems, solar power and access to groundwater in many of the country’s prisons. Additional access will be granted to assess the welfare and living conditions of the prisoners and to facilitate medical treatment.

The Government of Myanmar will extend an invitation to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to establish an office in Myanmar and begin negotiations on a memorandum of understanding that would establish terms of reference.

The Government of Myanmar has already eliminated a “blacklist” of persons barred from entering or leaving the country based on their suspected political activity. The Government of Myanmar has also established a point of contact in the Office of the President to provide a timely response to citizens and foreigners inquiring about their status.

Prisoner Releases

The Government of Myanmar will initiate a process between the Ministry of Home Affairs and interested parties to devise a transparent mechanism to review remaining prisoner cases of concern by the end of December 2012. Criteria and guidelines for assessing the criminality of politically concerned cases will be identified and discussed in line with international standards and practice.

Conflict Mitigation and Reconciliation

In addition to existing ceasefires with ten major ethnic armed groups, the Government of Myanmar will continue to pursue a durable ceasefire in Kachin State and other areas to desescalate violent conflicts. The government will pursue sustainable political solutions that address efficient governance and rights of ethnic nationalities in Myanmar.

In Rakhine State, as pledged in President U Thein Sein’s 11 November 2012 letter to the UN Secretary General, the Government will take decisive action to prevent violent attacks against civilians; it will hold accountable the perpetrators of such attacks; it will work with the international community to meet the humanitarian needs of the people; and it will address contentious political dimensions, ranging from resettlement of displaced populations to granting of citizenship.

The Government of Myanmar will expedite its negotiations with the ICRC and other international humanitarian organizations for broader access to conflict affected areas.

Non-Proliferation

The Government of Myanmar will sign an additional Protocol to the Comprehensive Nuclear Safeguards Agreements and give effect to the Modified standardized text of the Small Quantities Protocol. President U Thein Sein has approved the measure, which will now be forwarded to the parliament for final approval. Myanmar has been a member of the IAEA since 1957, signing the Non-proliferation Treaty in December 1992, the Small Quantities Protocol in 1995, the Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty in 1995. This is the official translation of the Press Release issued by the Information Team.
Dramatic transition began over last year and a half
Desire for change meets agenda for reform under the
leadership of President U Thein Sein
US President Barack Obama gives speech at Yangon University

YANGON, 19 Nov — The visiting President of the United States of America Mr. Barack Obama who was here to pay a working visit at the invitation of President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein gave a speech to community-based associations, political parties, social organizations, faculty members and the people at the Convocation Hall of Yangon University, here, at 2.40 pm today.

The US President said that he came here because of his respect for the Yangon University and America’s belief in human dignity; that the two countries became strangers over the last several decades; that now he could tell Myanmar people that they always remained hopeful about the people of that country; that Myanmar people gave them hope and they bore witness to the courage of these people; that they learned of ordinary people who organized relief teams to respond to a cyclone and they heard the voices of students and the beats of hip hop artists projecting the sound of freedom.

He continued that when he took office as president, he sent a message in which he said he would extend a hand if they are willing to unclench their fist to those governments who ruled by fear. Over the last year and a half, a dramatic transition had begun and the desire for change had been met by an agenda for reform under the leadership of President U Thein Sein, he said.

A civilian led the government and parliament was asserting itself. The National League for Democracy stood in an election and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was a Member of Parliament. Hundreds of political prisoners of conscience had been released and forced labor had been banned. Preliminary ceasefires had been reached with ethnic armies and new laws allowed for a more open economy.

He continued that he came here to keep his promise and extend the hand of friendship. Sanctions had been eased and they would help rebuild an economy that could offer opportunities for the people. The fickers of progress must not be extinguished and it must be strengthened and it must become the shining North Star for all the entire people of the nation.

He said that if Myanmar took these steps, she could draw on her progress. Instead of being ignored, citizens who protested the construction of Myitsone dam project were heard. Instead of being outlawed, political parties had been allowed to participate.

He vowed to give their assistance to empower civil society, to military to professionalize democracy and human rights and take steps towards democracy with economic development.

He said he had confidence that as Myanmar people could do that they could draw on this diversity as a strength and not a weakness.

He said though United States was a nation of diversity, they were one nation and they were one people and that truth had, time and again, made their union stronger. He said he deeply believed that Myanmar could be able to transcend its differences.

Holding meetings between Heads of States leads to making good relationships stronger and stronger

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Nov — A goodwill delegation led by Air Chief Marshal Prajin Juntong of Royal Thai Air Force and wife arrived here by air this morning. They were welcomed at Nay Pyi Airport by Chief of Staff (Air) Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint and officials.

On arrival at Zeyathiri Beikman, the Thai Air Chief Marshal was cordially greeted by Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Myat Hein. Next, the Thai Air Chief Marshal took the salute of the Guard of Honour and inspected it.

The Thai Air Chief Marshal introduced senior officers of the Royal Thai Air Force, Thai Ambassador Mr. Pisanu Suvanajata, Thai Air Force Attaché Group Captain Prakrit Kantawong to General Myat Hein. The General also introduced Chief of Staff (Air) Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Commander of Toungoo Airbase Brig-Gen Than Lwin and senior military officers.

After the welcoming ceremony, the Commander-in-Chief (Air) received the Thai Air Chief Marshal at Zeyathiri Beikman.

Later, they exchanged gifts and the Thai Air Chief Marshal signed the visitors’ book.—MNA

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Air Force Air Chief Marshal Prajin Juntong and party.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Nov — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Air Force Air Chief Marshal Prajin Juntong and party.

During the meeting, Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said that it is obvious that Myanmar Tatmadaw has widely cooperated with those of ASEAN member countries in ASEAN community, especially, with armed forces of its neighbouring countries.

At present, stability and peace could be seen at the borders between Myanmar and Thailand thanks to collaborative efforts between the two countries. Besides, very often holding meetings between the heads of the two States leads to making good relationships stronger and stronger. Besides holding meetings between the Heads, it needs to hold meetings between all levels to exchange views on experiences, and to more implement cooperation tasks between the two countries.

Also present at the call were Chief of General Staff (Army/Navy/Air) General Hla Hlay Win, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear Admiral Thura Thet Swe, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Myat Hein, Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, and senior military officers. The Royal Thai Air Force Commander-in-Chief Air Chief Marshal was accompanied by officials from Royal Thai Air Force, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Pisanu Suvanajata, and Thai Military Attaché Group Captain Prakrit Kantawong.

MNA
Japan PM meets ASEAN leaders to boost economic, security ties

Phnom Penh, 19 Nov—Japan’s Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda attended a meeting on Monday with leaders from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Cambodia, during which they are expected to pledge to strengthen economic and security ties. Noda is set to promise that he will actively help ASEAN achieve its goal of creating an economic community by 2015, aiming to capitalize on growth in the Asia-Pacific region to further develop Japan’s export-reliant economy, Japanese officials said.

In Cambodia’s capital Phnom Penh, the leaders plan to agree to step up their efforts to create a region-wide free trade framework with 10 ASEAN members and its six regional partners — Japan, China, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand — called the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. On the security front, they are likely to reaffirm their friendship and strategic partnership to maintain regional peace and stability in line with a joint declaration adopted in Bali, Indonesia, last year, said one other than maritime issues, Japan and the ASEAN members are expected to vow to strengthen disaster management cooperation, especially since several ASEAN nations are vulnerable to natural disasters such as typhoons and floods.

Kyodo News

Wen says China-Cambodia relations good example of friendly neighbouring ties

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao (L) shakes hands with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen in Phnom Penh, on 18 Nov, 2012.— Xinhua

Phnom Penh, 19 Nov—Visiting Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here on Sunday that the relationship between China and Cambodia has set a good example of friendly ties between neighbouring countries. Wen made the remarks during a meeting with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen.

The comprehensive strategic partnership of cooperation between China and Cambodia has witnessed rapid development in recent years, Wen said. The two sides have treated each other with respect, mutual trust and strongly supported each other over issues bearing each other’s core interests, Wen said.

China and Cambodia have also strengthened coordination in regional affairs and safeguarded common interests, which not only benefit the two peoples but also contributes to regional peace, development and prosperity, Wen said.

Hun Sen noted that China has rendered Cambodian firm support and valuable help in its effort to safeguard national independence and sovereignty, as well as in economic development. Cambodia is willing to make concerted efforts with China to take the opportunity of the 50th anniversary of bilateral ties to expand economic and trade cooperation, increase people-to-people exchanges and push bilateral friendly ties to a higher level.

Premier Wen arrived in the Cambodian capital Sunday afternoon to attend a series of meetings for East Asian leaders and pay an official visit to the country.

Wen said the meetings for East Asian leaders are being held against the backdrop of a weakening global economic recovery and complicated inter-national and regional circumstances.

Xinhua

New Zealand PM leaves for East Asia Summit in Cambodia

Wellington, 19 Nov—New Zealand Prime Minister John Key left on Monday morning for Cambodia to attend the East Asia Summit followed by a visit to Myanmar. Key will be involved in the launch of negotiations for a free trade partnership involving several nations at this week’s East Asia Summit in Cambodia.

John Key will join leaders from 10 Southeast Asian countries, as well as Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea, and new members Russia and the Philippines.

Key said in a statement that negotiations will begin toward a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership involving the 10 ASEAN countries and their six free trade agreement partners.

He said the grouping of countries is very important to New Zealand, but there is some concern about the recent growth of the Asian region.

Xinhua

Philippine police caution credit card owners against fraud syndicates

Manila, 19 Nov—Philippine authorities warned on Monday credit card owners of the resurgence of activities of credit fraud syndicates as the Christmas season nears.

Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) Anti-Fraud and Commercial Crime Division (AFCCD) chief Benjamin A. Corda said several groups engaged in credit card fraud that are listed in the watch list of the CIDG and the Credit Card Association of the Philippines (CCAP) have become active again in Metro Manila and other nearby provinces.

He specifically warned credit card owners of the modus operandi of credit card fraud syndicates that use skimming access device which they have acquired easily because they are being sold in the internet.

“These devices, which they have distributed to some unscrupulous cashiers in different malls, gasoline stations and supermarkets, even installed in ATM machines, are capable of stealing account information of unsuspecting credit card owners, which are then used to clone credit cards,” a Corda said.

He described the skimming access device as small and handy that some unsuspecting victims barely notice that their card is swiped into it by cashiers who are in cahoots with the syndicate.

Corda also cautioned the public in filling up information forms via the internet when doing online purchase using their credit cards and from photo copying their credit card, as it can be used to clone their cards.

From January this year, the CIDG AFCCD has arrested eight persons in entrapment operations and has filed five anti-fraud charges against the suspects.

Xinhua

New Zealand Prime Minister John Key is greeted after arriving at the international airport in Phnom Penh on 18 Nov, 2012.— Kyodo News

A snow clearer works on a road in Changchun, capital of northeast China’s Jilin Province, on 19 Nov, 2012. The local meteorological observatory issued a blue warning for further snowstorms on Monday. Xinhua

China uncovers luxury bag, food scams, arrests 73

Beijing, 19 Nov—Chinese police, working with US law enforcers, uncovered a major transnational criminal case of manufacturing and exporting fake international brands and arrested 73 suspects.

The police has confiscated over 20,000 counterfeit bags branded as Louis Vuitton, Hermes or Coach, closed 27 illegal sites for the production and sale of such bags, and found that the suspects have manufactured and sold more than 960,000 such fake bags, the Ministry of Public Security said in a statement on Sunday.

The police also seized 17 sets of equipments for manufacturers and 91 bank cards and accounts used for receiving and transferring illegal gains, according to the statement.

Local police in south China’s Guangdong Province found in January that a suspect surnamed Qian and some others were responsible for a huge production of fake brands and exports to foreign countries.

The ministry soon exchanged the information with the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement and proposed a joint investigation.

Chinese police later found that the suspects were running illegal sites from provinces such as Guangdong, Fujian and Anhui. In May, Qian was arrested before he was about to export another batch of counterfeit goods.

Xinhua

Whooper swans fly from a lake at Rongcheng National Nature Reserve in Rongcheng, east China’s Shandong Province, on 18 Nov, 2012. Thousands of swans chose to get through winter at the reserve. — Xinhua
French gendarmes block access to a road to La Combe d'Ire in Chavaline near Annecy, southeastern France, on 7 Sept, 2012 after Saad al-Hilli, an Iraqi-born British engineer, was found shot dead with his wife and mother-in-law in their BMW car in a car on a road in the Alps.— Reuters

French police investigating a quadruple murder on a remote Alpine road two months ago have widened their probe to gun users and mentally disturbed people in the region after failing to find a motive for the killing, the BBC reported on Saturday.

Offi cers plan to investigate hundreds of people fitting the pro le over the unexplained shooting of three members of a British family and a French cyclist near the village of Chevaline, close to the Swiss and Italian borders.

Investigators were looking for someone “who puts no value on human life, so someone who has doubtless killed before,” French prosecutor Eric Maillaud told the BBC, but cast doubt on the theory that the murder was a professional assassin.

Saad al-Hilli, an Iraqi-born British engineer, was found shot dead with his wife and mother-in-law in their BMW car on a remote mountain road near the village of Chevaline, with the body of a cyclist, Sylvain Mollier, discovered nearby.

They were killed in what appeared to be execution-style murders, with at least two hits to the head from a semi-automatic pistol. “We are looking at all mentally unbalanced people, very violent or known to be capable of violence, using weapons,” Maillaud said, in comments translated by an interpreter.

Latin America looks to Europe for drug fighting models

C A B I D O, 19 Nov— Latin American countries are turning to Europe for lessons on fighting narcotics abuse after souring on the prohibition-style approach of the violent and costly US-led war on drugs.

Until recently, most Latin American countries had zero-tolerance rules on drugs inspired by the United States.

But now countries from Brazil to Guatemala are exploring relax ing penalties for personal use of narcotics, following examples such as Spain and Portugal that have channelled resources to prevention rather than clogging jails.

Latin America is the top world producer of cocaine and marijuana, feeding the world’s largest demand in the United States.

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos said on Thursday it was worth exploring the Portuguese model, one of the most liberal drug policies in the world.

“The experience that you have had with drug consumption policies is very interesting to us,” Santos told his Portuguese counterpart.
I’m not jobless on the film front: Priyanka Chopra
Mumbai, 19 Nov—Though busy with her singing, actress turned singer Priyanka has four films on hand. Priyanka Chopra is busy juggling her film and music career. However the general perception is that the actress is jobless on her film front. Not wanting anything to do with these so-called for speculations, PC is infact busy with four films.

Priyanka, “I only know what the truth is. Abhi ise jyaada mein kaam bhi nahi kar sakti. I am working on two careers simultaneously as singing is a full-time job. I have KRISH, which is releasing next Diwali and I start Zanjeer now. Then I will be in LA to promote my song and then next year I start Milan Talkies and then Gunday.”

Priyanka is also extremely happy that she has finally managed to being considered a good actress. She says, “That’s what people are saying. For me, I always like to do a film every year, which is for the actor in me. It is a conscious effort of picking up films that balance along with the commercial films that I do. That’s why you will see a Kaminey, 7 Khoon Maa, Aashiqui 2, Aashiqui 3 or Aitraaz in my resume. If you see Kaminey, I only had about eight scenes in the entire film but it was a powerful part.” About being part of the remakes of Amitabh Bachchan’s films, she says, “I am Mr B cachchan’s brand ambassador and yeh mere contract mein hona chahiye. Now I can’t be Vijay so I am being his heroine in any film. But if given a chance I would like to play Aashu in the remake of Amar Akbar Anthony and the film has to be made with three girls!”—PTI

Los Angeles, 19 Nov—Canadian pop star Justin Bieber swept the American Music Awards on Sunday, topping strong competition from Rihanna, New Zealand crooner Lorde and the family when fans voted online by his fans in his acceptance speech.—Reuters

Bieber, 18, won all three categories in which he was nominated, including the night’s biggest award, artist of the year, over Rhi-anna, Katy Perry, M. Atron 5 and Drake.

“This is for all the hat- ers who thought that maybe I was just here for one or two years, but I feel like I am going to be here for a very long time,” Bieber said on stage, dedicating his first win of the night to his mother, Pattie Mallette, who accompanied him after his widely reported split from girlfriend Selena Gomez.

“It’s hard growing up with everyone watching me. I wanted to say that as long as you guys keep believing in me, I want to always make you proud,” Bieber said at the end of the night.

Bieber, who also won favourite pop/rock artist and favourite pop/ rock album for “Believe” took to a bare stage to sing an acoustic stripped-down version of his latest single, “As Long As You Love Me” before livewing up the show with Nicki Minaj for “Beauty and a Beat.”

The American Music Awards nominees and winners are voted online by fans, and the awards are handed out during a live three-hour broadcast featuring performances by artists. R&B singer Rihanna, 24, and rapper M. Atron 29, led the nominees into Sunday’s awards with four apiece.

Sia won favourite rap/hip hop artist and rap/hip hop album of the year for “Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded.”

“She is just genius,” said the singer, who won for her on-stage performances, said her latest hit “Free-dom” in a winter wonder-land-themed set.

Rihanna came away with one win. She couldn’t make the show because she is in Berlin, midway through a seven-day tour across seven cities around the world promoting her upcoming “Unapologetic” album. Canadian pop singer Carly Rae Jepsen, 26, picked up the coveted new artist-of-the-year award over One Direction, Australian artist Goyte, indie-pop band fun. and rapper J Cole. She performed her hit “Call Me Maybe.”

“Thank you fans. Thank you Bieber and Minaj for ‘Believe’ in me,” the singer said, thanking Bieber along with her fans in her acceptance speech.—Reuters

Los Angeles, 19 Nov—―The Twilight Saga Breaking Dawn - Part 2‖ has expenently struck a chord with audience in North America. It debut ed for a weekend of $143.1 million dollar worth of tickets, the eighth biggest premiere in all time in Hol-lywood.

The final teenager-skewing vampire-and- werewolf romantic fan- tasy drama, released by Summit Entertainment and hit the theaters in the United States and Canada on Fri- day, ranked in tenth if ticket price inflation is taken into account. Although the pro-jected statistics is a bit lower than Saturday’s estimate of $162.2 million dollars, the performance is anyway better than the $138.12 million dollar debut of “The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2” which opened in July 2011. However, it still paled comparing with the $142.84 million dollar pre-miere of 2009’s “The Twi-light Saga: New Moon.”

The final installment, which also is the fifth film of the wildly popular vampi-re series, won the re-sounding victory with the help of lingering appeal of the romance, the good press and the rave reviews in the leadup to its premiere. In the swan-song drama, Kristen Stewart plays Bella who, as Mrs. Edward Cul-len, is adjusting to her new life as both a mother and a vampire. Mrs. Cullen and her husband (played by Robert Pattinson) round up a crew of sympathetic vampi res to side with the family when malevolent Volturi go after their child.—Xinhua

Charlie Chaplin’s bowler hat and cane fetch over $60,000 at auction
New York, 19 Nov—One of Charlie Chaplin’s bowler hats and a cane, the staple of Hollywood silent-era comedy, were auctioned for $62,500 (39,340.34 pounds) on Sunday, said auction house Bonhams.

Chaplin’s bowler hat and cane, which fetched more than the initial estimate of $40,000-60,000, are syn- onymous with his “Little Tramp” character in films such as “City Lights” and “Modern Times.”

Bonhams memorabilia specialist Lucy Carr said earlier it is unknown how many of Chaplin’s bowlers and canes still exist. Those auctioned on Sunday are from a private collection but have a direct link to Chaplin, Carr said.

The wadding and bumbling “Little Tramp” character propelled Chaplin to global fame. The character, Hollywood leg- end, says was created by accident on a rainy day at Keystone Studios, first appeared in 1914’s “Kid Auto Races at Venice” and lastly in 1936’s “Modern Times.”

Chaplin’s hat and cane are the highlights of an auction of popular cul- ture artifacts that is still in progress. Other items include a handwritten let- ter from John Lennon in which the Beatle sketched himself and wife Yoko Ono nude.

There is also an ar-chive of Marilyn Mon-roe photographs, an early Charles Schulz “Peanuts” comic strip, and a wicker chair from Rick’s Cafe in “Casablanca.”—Reuters

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Charlie Chaplin’s signature bowler hat from numer- ous productions such as “The Tramp” is pictured at a preview of actress Debbie Reynolds’ Hollywood costume and prop collection in Beverly Hills on 6 June, 2011.—Reuters
Jimenez proves age no factor in Hong Kong victory

The Spaniard completed the tournament on 18 Nov, 2012.— Reuters

Czech Republic’s team celebrates with the Davis Cup trophy after they defeated Spain in the final match in Prague on 18 Nov, 2012.— Reuters

Jimenez of Spain poses with his cigar after winning the Hong Kong Open golf tournament on 18 Nov, 2012.— Reuters

Chinese national football team skipper Zheng Zhi

Kuala Lumpur, 19 Nov.—Chinese national football team skipper Zheng Zhi has been nominated for the 2012 AFC Player of the Year award, competing for the top individual award of Asian football with the other four contenders.

The 32-year-old midfielder has brought his Guangzhou Evergrande to the quartfinal of this year’s AFC Champions League while defending the league title in China. He is also the key player of the Chinese national team coached by Spaniard Jose Antonio Camacho.

Zheng signed with Guangzhou Evergrande in 2010 after spells in former English Premier League team Charlton Athletic and Scottish giants Celtic.

He will compete for the award with 2004 AFC Player of the Year Ali Karimi, South Korean Lee Keun-ho, who helped Ulsan Hyundai win the AFC Champions League this year, Australian defender Lucas Neill and and their teammate Yuki Ogiwa.

English Premier League team Fulham’s Australian goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer, Manchester United’s Japanese player Shinji Kagawa and Inter Milan’s defender Yuto Nagatomo were nominated for the newly launched AFC Asian International Player of the Year.

Kagawa was one of the top contenders for last year’s AFC Player of the year, but the award eventually went to Server Djeparov of Uzbekistan as it would be only awarded to those present at the AFC Annual Awards gala. Meanwhile, Brazilian players have dominated the AFC Foreign Player of the Year award, which is also newly launched this year.

Patriots’ Gronkowski breaks forearm

Foxborough, 19 Nov.— New England Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski broke his forearm in Sunday’s 59-24 win over the Indianapo lis Colts and could face six weeks out, NFL.com reported on Sunday.

Gronkowski, who was a key part of the Patriots’ run to the Super Bowl last season with 17 touchdowns, had 137 yards and two touchdowns against the Colts before his injury.

Aaron Hernandez, the other part of the Patriots innovative twin tight end offense, has been out with an ankle injury since week seven.

Gronkowski has said he could be out for four to six weeks, NFL.com reported.

The Patriots (7-3) lead the AFC East by three games.— Reuters

McLaren Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton of Britainazs next to Red Bull Formula One driver Sebastian Vettel (L) of Germany, Ferrari Formula One driver Fernando Alonso (R) of Spain and Texas Governor Rick Perry (in suit) during the podium ceremony after the US F1 Grand Prix at the Circuit of the Ameri cans in Austin, Texas on 18 Nov, 2012.— Reuters

Hamilton wins US Grand Prix for McLaren

Austin, (Texas) 19 Nov.—McLaren’s Lewis Hamilton won the US Grand Prix on Sunday while Red Bull’s championship leader Sebastian Vettel failed to clinch his third consecutive drivers’ title on his 100th career start.

Red Bull did celebrate another victory, however, securing the constructors’ title for a third straight year with Vettel finishing second in the race.

The battle for the drivers’ title will now come down to the final race on the calendar in Brazil next Sunday with Vettel taking a 13 point advantage over Ferry’s Fernando Alonso into Sao Paulo. Alonso finished third on Sunday.— Reuters

Athletes compete in the 26th Marabana Marathon 2012 in Havana, capital of Cuba, on 18 Nov, 2012. The marathon was to commemorate the founding of the town of San Cristobal and the National Day of Physical Culture and Sport.— Xinhua

Stadium record breaking in Prague

Prague, 19 Nov.—The Czech Republic beat holders Spain 3-2 to win the Davis Cup for the first time as independent nation when Radek Stepanek overcame Nicolas Almagro in four tough sets before a raucous home crowd on Sunday.

It also made the Czech Republic the first country to win the Davis Cup and Fed Cup team trophies for men and women respectively and the mixed Hopman Cup event in one year. “I was dreaming about it my whole life and now we’re standing here as Davis Cup champions, it’s amazing,” said Stepanek after clinching the 100th Davis Cup final.

His success delighted a home crowd that had earlier been silenced when Spain’s world number five David Ferrer cruised to a 6-2, 6-3, 7-5 win over Tomas Berdych to level the final at 2-2 after the Czechs won a four-set doubles rubber on Saturday.

Ferrer’s victory over sixth-ranked Berdych put Spain, who have dominated the event in recent seasons but were without injured former world number one Rafa Nadal, back in the hunt for a fourth Davis Cup crown in five years and sixth overall. The two Czech players have carried the team since 2007 but lost the other time the country has appeared in the final — a 5-4 drubbing by Spain in 2009 on the clay courts of Barcelona.

Reuters

Radek Stepanek overcame Nicolas Almagro in four tough sets before a raucous home crowd on Sunday. The Czech Republic won the Davis Cup 32 years after Czechoslovakia won the tournament led by the greats of Jan Hajek and Jirka Novotny.

The 24-year-old has been a great inspiration to the Czechs, who were once ranked 131 in the world before Stepanek’s rise to world number 28.

“You know, to be honest, I never thought I could win the Davis Cup,” Stepanek said as he hugged his wife and three children on the clay court.

“It is a dream come true. I am too happy to say something else.”

Reuters

Golf

Miguel Angel Jimenez of Spain poses with his trophy andclinching victory in the final match in Prague on 18 Nov, 2012.— Reuters

Jimenez is 284 days off the challenge of joint-European Tour titles at the age of 48 years and 318 days. Jimenez was 28 days older than his British counterpart Des Smyth was when he won the 2001 Madeira Islands Open and his triumph comes a week after Italy’s Matteo Manassero became the first teenager to claim a hat-trick of European Tour titles at the Singapore Open.

After also winning the Hong Kong title in 2005 and 2008, Jimenez saw off the challenge of joint-overight leader Michael Campbell when the New Zealander fired a disappointing two-over 72 to slip down into a tie for eighth. As Jimenez gleefully accepted the Hong Kong Trophy for a third time, he refused to rule out adding further victories to his 19 European Tour triumphs.

“I hope it’s not the last one,” he said at the victory ceremony. “The way I am playing and handle myself I can be fit to win another one.” Jimenez admitted the Hong Kong Golf Club, with its tree-lined fairways, was totally suited to his shot-shaping golf game and he made only two bogeys in four rounds.

“Distance does not matter here,” he said. “I controlled the ball well and gave myself many chances for birdies which you have to do here.”

Andersson Hod chased Jimenez all the way to the wire with two runs of three birdies on the trot as he ended the tournament on an impressive six-under-par final round.

However, there was disappointment for Campbell, who had gone into the final round looking to end a winless streak stretching back to 2009 but missed the US Open and World Match Play Championship.

Reuters

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Reuters
Cameron pledges to lower hurdles to growth

LONDON, 19 Nov—British Prime Minister David Cameron promised on Monday to slash legal and regulatory obstacles to economic growth, seeking to ward off criticism that the government is doing too little to help companies and revive an ailing economy. Cameron said he was determined to cut through officialdom and change a risk-averse government culture of consultation, review and audit that hindered enterprise.

"When this country was at war in the 1940s, Whitehall undertook a revolution," he said, referring to the British government. "Normal rules were circumvented. Convention was broken." Cameron said in advance extracts of a speech to business leaders.

"As one historian put it, everything was thrown at 'the overriding purpose' of beating Hitler. Well, this country is in the economic equivalent of war today - and we need the same spirit," he added. Cameron’s Conservative-led government has pledged to tackle its budget deficit and has little room to boost Britain’s stagnant growth with extra state spending. It has instead been seeking to promote a private-sector-led recovery, identifying a series of job-creating infrastructure projects, but has since been frustrated by the slow pace of progress.

"Cameron said the government would impose restrictions on the use of a legal process known as judicial review, used by opponents to delay big infrastructure schemes. A planned high-speed rail line from London to Birmingham faces five such reviews in court hearings next month from residents and others affected by its construction.

In addition, officials would be barred from introducing costly business regulations unless they withdrew two bureaucratic rules at the same time, in a doubling of an existing “one-in, one-out” procedure. Cameron was due to make the remarks to the country’s main business lobby group, the Confederation of British Industry, which has demanded more action to boost the economy.—Reuters

UN chief spotlights road safety as traffic accidents claim 1.2 million lives each year

UNITED NATIONS, 19 Nov—UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Sunday highlighted the importance of road safety in preventing more than one million people from dying and many more from getting injured each year in traffic accidents. “This year, the world’s roads have claimed some 1.2 million lives,” the secretary-general said in his message marking World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims.

According to the UN World Health Organization (WHO), in addition to killing close to 1.3 million people every year, traffic accidents also injure or disable as many as 50 million more — and, without urgent action, road traffic injuries will become the fifth leading cause of death by 2030. The World Day came about following the adoption of a resolution by the UN General Assembly in October 2005 calling for governments to mark the third Sunday in November each year as the occasion to give recognition to victims of road traffic crashes and the plight of their relatives who must cope with the emotional and practical consequences of the accidents.

In his message, the secretary-general noted that governments have taken positive steps to address traffic accidents since more than 100 countries pledged last year to save five million lives by implementing road safety strategies and information campaigns at the launch of the Decade of Action for Road Safety, 2011-2020.

“Governments are acting,” Ban said. “Chilean law now requires people travelling on inter-city buses to wear seatbelts. China has criminalized drinking and driving and increased penalties for offenders, and New Zealand has introduced stricter controls on alcohol for younger drivers.”—Xinhua

Experts call for improving law on cultural relics protection

BEIJING, 19 Nov—Experts have called for timely moves to further improve the law on cultural relics protection at the time when the country marks the 30th anniversary of its legislation on protecting cultural heritage.

On 19 November, 1982, China’s top legislators approved the country’s law on cultural relics protection. During the past 30 years, the country has made great achievements in the cause of protecting cultural relics. However, many cultural relics are still not being protected in a timely and effective manner, as some relics are destroyed in the process of urban construction, ancient tombs are robbed, collected historic relics are stolen and relics are smuggled.

According to statistics from the latest national archaeological survey conducted from 2007 to 2011, China has more than 760,000 pieces of registered movable cultural relics and 2,384 state-owned museums with 28.6 million pieces of collected relics.

Tresures also revealed that in the past 30 years, more than 40,000 unmovable cultural relics have vanished, with half of them destroyed by construction work.

Thirty-one Han Tombs in north China’s Hebei Province that were listed on the provincial-level preservation list in 1982 have suffered fierce robberies. Irregular bottomsless caves can be found at each tomb, and some thieves have even robbed the tombs in broad daylight, according to local villagers.

With British Prime Minister David Cameron meeting injured soldiers and their families at Tedworth House, a Help for Heroes recovery centre, in Tidworth, southern England on 16 Nov, 2012.—Reuters

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President U Thein Sein attends 15th ASEAN-China Summit

President U Thein Sein meets Japanese Prime Minister Mr Yoshihiko Noda

Nay Pyi Taw, 19 Nov—President of the Republic of Myanmar U Thein Sein met Japanese Prime Minister Mr Yoshihiko Noda at Lumchang Room on the second floor of Peace Palace in Phnom Penh of Cambodia at 4:20 pm today.

At the meeting, the Japanese Prime Minister exchanged souvenirs and posed for a documentary photo. At the meeting, the President pledged cooperation including cooperation in ASEAN-China trade and investment and development of south and north economic corridors among Mekong region countries; that such corridors reflect the vital role of China for the success of the ASEAN Integrated Communication Master Plan, and that they will exert more efforts for realization of the master plan partnering the government and private sector.

Myanmar took pride in taking charge of duty as an honorary country at the 9th China-ASEAN Expo held in Nanning and reaffirmed its adopted commitment to achieving the ASEAN-China trade objectives by 2015, he said.

The President also expressed his honour to Premier Wen Jiabao for his constant support in the promoting of the ASEAN-China relations, saying that the premier was a good friend for ASEAN, and wished him success, happiness and pleasure. The President assured close cooperation with new leaders of China in the future.

Storm news

Nay Pyi Taw, 19 Nov—According to the observations at 6:30 hrs MST today, the depression over West-central Bay of Bengal lay centered at about (420) miles west of Pathein, (400) miles Southwest of Kyaukpyu. It’s forecast to move West-Southwest slowly.

Current stage of the depression is coded as yellow stage which means is not moving towards Myanmar Coast.

Under the influence of Depression, occasional squalls with rough sea will be experienced off and along Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—MNA

A slight earthquake jolts inside Myanmar

Nay Pyi Taw, 19 Nov—A slight earthquake of magnitude 3.8 Richter scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about 25 miles South of Nay Pyi Taw) about 176 miles South of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 23 hrs 17 min 44 sec M.S.T yesterday, announced Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—MNA

The President explained activities for the State and the people.—MNA