Thura Ko Ko secures two gold, one silver in gymnastics

YANGON, 20 Nov—Myanmar selected gymnastic player Thura Ko Ko brought the honour to the nation by bagging two gold and one silver medals in the 21st International Invitation Gymnastic Competition (Fig Senior) held in Singapore from 16 to 18 November.

Thura Ko Ko and coach U Zaw Win will take a joint training in Thailand from 19 November to 19 January. The gymnastic athletes selected for the coming SEA Games to be hosted by Myanmar in December 2013 led by General Secretary U Aye Thein of Myanmar Gymnastics Federation left here by air this morning to take a joint training in Thailand. They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by the vice-president of the federation and executives, and officials of the Ministry of Sports.—MNA

Myanmar, a dialogue coordinator, vows to strengthen ASEAN-US relations

NAI PHTAWE, 20 Nov—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein attended the fourth ASEAN-US Leaders' Meeting at Champa Room on the third floor of Peace Palace in Phnom Penh of Cambodia at 6.20 pm yesterday.

Also present at the call together with the President were Brunei Darussalam Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah, Prime Minister of Cambodia Samdech Hun Sen, President of the Republic of Indonesia Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Prime Minister of Laos Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Nguyen Tan Dung, President of the United States of America Mr. Barack Obama, US Secretary of State Mrs. Hillary Clinton, ministers of ASEAN countries, ASEAN Secretary-General Dr. Surin Pitsuwan and high ranking officials.

First, heads of ASEAN countries and the US President posed for a documentary photo. In the meeting, heads of state/government of ASEAN countries and the US President reviewed ASEAN-US relations and held discussions on future prospects.

In the discussion, the Cambodian Prime Minister said that future programmes would be laid down ASEAN-US relations at the meeting. US plays an important role in world’s economic, security and development. He called for collaborative efforts between ASEAN countries and the US on the basis of mutual understanding and trust in responding to global economic recession and political challenges, highlighting the strategic partnership role of the US in ASEAN countries.

He stressed the need for effective implementation of ASEAN-US Action Plan (2011-2015) boosting cooperation in peace and development. He urged to make better in trade and investment sectors. (See page 8)

“There was no doubt to say that ASEAN-US relations see remarkable progress during his terms in office. With annual ASEAN-US Leaders' Meetings since 2009, ASEAN-US ties saw continued progress year after year. ASEAN-US Eminent Persons Group was established and found out important points contributing to better ASEAN-US dialogue relations.”
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves Bill Amending the Constitutional Tribunal Law

Besides, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw put on record the journey of the Myanmar delegation led by the President to Vientiane, Laos, to participate in the 9th Asia-Europe Summit. During the report session, Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe reported on seeking approval for spending US$43.162 million and K130 million to remove and install the two 120MW Mitsubishi M701D Gas Turbines contributed by Thailand. Member of the Joint Bill Committee U Aung Kyi Nyunt reported on the finding and recommendations of the Joint Bill Committee. Afterwards, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Kyaw reported on felicitation of signing the additional protocol of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

During the discussion session, six MPs discussed matters related to allocation of the additional budget bill. Similarly, regarding the important findings of the Union Auditor-General’s Office, six MPs discussed the report of the Joint Public Account Committee. Regarding the discussion, Union Minister for Information U Aung Aye, Deputy Minister for Livestock Breeding and Fisheries U Khin Maung Aye, Deputy Minister for Communications and Information Technology U Win Than, Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Aung Aung, Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Zayar Aung and Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun.

Afterwards, Vice-Chairman of the Joint Public Account Committee U Thein Win submitted a proposal to seek the approval from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to approve the report of the Joint Public Account Committee regarding the important findings of the Union Auditor-General’s Office, and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved it.

The meeting ended at 2:30 pm and will continue tomorrow. Twenty-two teacher and 117 school children from the ILBC (Yangon) observed the 7th-day meeting of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Dy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker leaves for Germany to attend Federalism in Europe, Asia and Beyond

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Nov—At the invitation of Hanns Seidel Foundation of Germany, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa and member of Pyithu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission U Win Thwin left Yangon yesterday to attend Federalism in Europe, Asia and Beyond to be held in Wittelsbach of Bavaria State of Germany. They were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Soo, Deputy Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Tin Aung, member of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission U Tin Hte, officials from Hluttaw and German Embassy. —MNA

China hopes Obama’s Myanmar visit conducive to stability

BEIJING, 20 Nov—China hopes US President Barack Obama’s Myanmar visit will be conducive to east Asia’s peace, stability and development.

While commenting on the visit, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying made the remarks at a regular press conference on Monday, adding that, “President Obama’s visit is a matter between the United States and Myanmar.”

She added that China and Myanmar are friendly neighbors, who, on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence, conducted substantial cooperation in the spirit of equality and reciprocity, and they have also promoted their strategic partnership of cooperation.

“The development of China-Myanmar relations benefits the two peoples, and contributes to regional peace, stability and prosperity. We are confident in the in-depth development of bilateral relations,” said Hua. Obama arrived in Yangon on Monday morning kicking off his trip to Myanmar, becoming the first sitting US president to visit the nation in the history of Myanmar-US relations. —MNA/Xinhua
Pakistan army says shelling from Afghan side kills child

Terrorists fired a mortar round from Ganguil Top on Afghan side of the border, at about 14:30 local time, hitting a house in a village in Hilal Khel of Bajaur Agency. As a result, a child was dead,” Pakistani security officials said.

The officials said that a child and a woman were also injured in the shelling. They said Pakistan will lodge protest against Afghanistan government over the incident.

Four civilians in a border village in Afghanistan’s South Waziristan tribal area were killed in a similar cross-border shelling on 12 November.—Xinhua

UN Security Council reports progress on Gaza statement

“There’s still working progress...We hope that we can continue this work first thing tomorrow morning.”

The council began its closed-door meeting on 6:30 pm EST (2300GMT) on Monday, and it lasted about one and a half hours to consider a draft statement, which was produced last Thursday by Morocco, calls for a halt to the Israeli-Hamas hostilities.

The council is expected to meet again Tuesday morning with no objection from any of the council member. A press statement is adopted by consensus at the Security Council and the council president will read it to the press here after its adoption.

Puri said the draft statement contains an important message that “there is panic has to cease by all parties.”—Xinhua

Iranian leader says Syrian national talks possible if opposition gives up armed conflict

The prevention of arms flow into Syria as the only solution to the country’s crisis said, the report is natural for any government to counter the opposition groups when they receive arms from outside the country, he was quoted as saying.

The Iranian leader said that if the Syrian opposition groups lay down their arms, it would be possible for them to demand the government to hear their views and allow them to express their positions, according to Press TV.

Khamenei also warned of the plots by the western powers to break anti-Israel resistance by targeting Syria.

Earlier in the day, the National Syrian Dialogue Meeting concluded here with the participants calling for the right to live and give up armed conflicts in the crisis-ridden country, semi-official Mehr news agency reported.

Some 200 political representatives from Syrian ethnic groups, minorities and semi-official bodies, representatives of the Syrian government and parliament, attended the meeting.

Xinhua

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Xinhua
Photos of Einstein's brain reveal clues to extraordinary mental abilities

The findings in the photos, analysis spotted some unusually elaborate folding on the frontal lobes, which are thought to do abstract thought. The finding may provide tantalizing clues about the neural basis of Einstein's extraordinary mental abilities, said Dean Falk, study co-author and an anthropologist at Florida State University, is more upbeat.

Paul Otellini, president and CEO of Intel Corporation, holds an ultrabook as he gives a keynote address during the 2012 International Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, Nevada, in this 10 Jan, 2012, file photo.— Reuters

US media says newspapers face challenges in digital age

Bruce Sagan told Xinhua, noting "journalism will go on... But not as a mass vehicle in its usual sense." Sagan, a publisher of Hyde Park Herald and a member of the management committee of the ownership of the Chicago Sun-Times, said subscriptions in print Sun-Times have been decreasing by about 40 percent over the last decade, while digital readership in recent years has been increasing. According to a report released recently by the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC), of the Chicago Sun-Times average weekly circulation of over 263,000 (excluding suburban subscribers), about 70,900 is in digital, an increase of over 11 percent from the prior year.

"In 20 years, there won’t be any traditional newspapers anymore," Sagan said. "But people will continue to pay for news, for journalism." Owen Youngsman, Knight Professor of Media Strategy at Northwestern University, is more upbeat. "I’m sure there will be print newspapers as long as I’m alive," but acknowledging that people’s desire to get information immediately was a handicap for print newspaper. He said that starting at the first Gulf War in the ‘90s when people could see what was happening in real time on CNN, newspapers were forced to redefine their core purpose.

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Unemployment may be associated with increased heart attack risk.

WASHINGTON, 20 Nov — Unemployment, multiple job losses and short periods without work may be associated with increased risk for acute myocardial infarction (AMI, heart attack), according to a re-post published online Monday by Archives of Internal Medicine.

Many adults in the United States are affected by the strain of employment instability, but little is known about the cumulative effect of multiple job losses and unemployment on risk for AMI according to the study background.

Matthew Dupre and colleagues from Duke University examined the associations between different dimensions of unemployment and the risks for AMI in 13,451 US adults aged from 51 to 75 years in the Health and Retirement Study with biennial follow-up interviews from 1992 to 2010.

Results demonstrated that several features of one’s past and present employment increased risks for a cardiovascular event. Although the risks for AMI were most significant in the first year after job loss, unemployment status, cumulative number of job losses and cumulative time unemployed were each independently associated with increased risk for AMI, the authors note. — Xinhua

US ITC will review Apple, Samsung patent decision

WASHINGTON, 20 Nov — The US International Trade Commission will review a judge’s decision which found that Apple did not violate patents owned by Samsung Electronics in making the iPod touch, iPhone and iPad. An administrative law judge at the ITC had said in a preliminary ruling in September that Apple was innocent of violating the patents. The ITC, which could have opted to simply uphold the judge’s decision, said that it would take up the matter. A final decision is expected in January. If Apple is found to infringe, its devices can be banned on the market.

Apple and Samsung have taken their bruising patent disputes to some 11 countries as they vie for market share in the booming mobile industry. Apple won a huge victory in August when a US jury found the South Korean firm had copied key features of the iPhone.

Apple was awarded $1.05 billion in damages. That ruling is under appeal. In its announcement that it would review the case, the ITC asked for briefings on how it should consider standard essential patents, which are normally expected to be licensed widely and on fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory terms. The use of standards helps companies ensure devices are interoperable.

Some antitrust enforcers have argued that it is wrong for companies which own standard essential patents to ask for infringing devices to be barred from the country except in extreme instances. The commission is reviewing a decision by ITC Judge James Gildea, who said in September that Apple did not violate the four patents at issue in the case, which was filed in mid-2011. The two standard essential patents in the complaint are related to 3G wireless technology and the format of data packets for high-speed transmission.

Apple has a parallel complaint filed against Samsung at the ITC, accusing Samsung, a major Apple chip provider as well as a global rival, of blantly copying its iPhones and iPads. An ITC judge said in that case that Samsung infringed on four Apple patents. The full ITC will issue a final decision in February. — Reuters

Yahoo shares reach 18-month high as investors warm to new CEO

San Francisco, 20 Nov — Yahoo Inc shares reached their highest level in a year and a half, as investor confidence grows that new Chief Executive Marissa Mayer can pull off a comeback that eluded three of her predecessors.

The Internet pioneer has yet to actually provide Wall Street with any hard evidence that its business is turning a corner—and she has warned that it will be a lengthy job—but investor faith in the ex-Google executive is running high. Hedge funds Tiger Global Management and Greenlight Capital Management recently disclosed large positions in Yahoo, accumulated during the third quarter. “Money managers are staring to own this name again,” said Colin Gillis, an analyst with BGC Partners.

“For the amount of traffic they have, and the assets they have, they should be able to squeeze some value out of that,” Gillis said, referring to Yahoo. With Mayer at the helm, he said, Yahoo “has finally got somebody who the market believes can do that.” Gravity Capital Management’s Adam Seeseld said that Mayer’s recruitment of various Google Inc employees, including recently hired Yahoo Chief Operating Officer Henrique de Castro, has also helped burnish Yahoo’s image. “What the market is seeing is not (financial) numbers so much as they’re seeing people voting with their feet, people moving from Google to Yahoo,” said Seeselis, whose firm owns Yahoo shares.

“All these people from Google wouldn’t be following her if they didn’t trust that she didn’t have some good cards to play,” he said. Shares of Yahoo sites climbed Monday’s regular trading session up 2.8 percent at $18.36, amid a broad market rally. The last time Yahoo traded above $18.30 this high was in early 2011. Yahoo now ranks among the world’s most popular websites, with roughly 700 million monthly visitors. But the company’s revenue has eroded, amid competition from Google and Facebook and an industry-wide change in the online advertising market that has compressed prices for the online display ads that are key to its business.

The company has been rocked by internal turmoil: CEO Carol Bartz was fired over the phone and CEO Scott Thompson left after less than six months on the job due to questions about his academic credentials. Mayer, Google’s first female engineer, took the top job at Yahoo in July. — Reuters

Kids with psoriasis likely to be obese or overweight

WASHINGTON, 20 Nov — US children with psoriasis are about twice as likely to be overweight or obese as children who don’t have the disease, according to an international study published on Monday in Archives of Dermatology.

And US children with psoriasis have much higher odds than psoriatic children in other countries of being obese or overweight, the study also shows.

Within this US population, Hispanics and African American children had significantly greater rates of being obese and overweight than whites and Asians. The odds ratio of being obese were particularly high for US children with more severe psoriasis.

“There has been increasing attention to the association of psoriasis and metabolic risks in adults, but this study shows that the association of being overweight or obese and having psoriasis may be even higher in affected children than in adults,” said Amy Paller, chair of dermatology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and lead author of the study.

Smoking in pregnancy tied to lower reading scores

WASHINGTON, 20 Nov — US researchers have found that children born to mothers who smoked more than one pack per day during pregnancy struggled on tests designed to measure how accurately a child reads aloud and comprehends what they read, according to a study published this week in the current Journal of Pediatrics.

Lead author Jeffrey Gruen, professor of pediatrics at Yale University School of Medicine, and colleagues analyzed data from more than 5,000 children involved in the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children, a large-scale study of 15,211 children from 1990-1992 at the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom.

Gruen and his team from Yale and Brock University in Canada, compared performance on seven specific tasks — reading speed, single-word identification, spelling, accuracy, real and non-word reading, and reading comprehension — with maternal cigarette smoking, after adjusting for socioeconomic status, mother-child interactions, and 14 other potential factors. They found that on average, children exposed to high levels of nicotine in utero — defined as the minimum amount in one pack of cigarettes per day — scored 21 percent lower in these areas than classmates born to nonsmoking mothers. The children were tested at age seven and again at age nine. Among students who share similar backgrounds and education, a child of a smoking mother will, on average, be ranked seven places lower in a class of 31 in reading accuracy and comprehension ability. “It’s not a little difference — it’s a big difference in accuracy and comprehension at a critical time when these are being assessed, and are getting a sense of what it means to be successful,” said Gruen. — Xinhua
Obama pledges economic, security engagement with ASEAN

PHNOM PENH, 20 Nov—US President Barack Obama during talks with ASEAN leaders pledged to engage in a range of issues including economic and security aspects, an official said on Monday. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretary General Dr Surin Pitsuwan told a Press briefing after the US ASEAN leaders meeting that Obama had pledged US support for the centrality of the 10-member regional bloc.

“ASEAN leaders welcomed the statement on supporting ASEAN centrality in the evolution of cooperation in the region. The US also pledged to engage economically and work on security and stability in the region.” Assuring of a long engagement, Obama had remarked on the rapid increase in relations between the two sides and insisted that continued meetings would result in more extensive engagement.

“All leaders were enthusiastic of more extensive relations and continuous summits that would lay down irreversible momentum for US and ASEAN relations,” he said.

Obama had also commended ASEAN for adopting Human Rights Declaration and commitment to address related challenges in the region. He is also to attend the East Asia Summit on Tuesday when key global and regional issues are to be raised by the leaders of ASEAN members and eight dialogue partners.—Xinhua

Wen urges closer cooperation in East Asia

PHNOM PENH, 20 Nov—Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on Monday urged members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China, Japan and South Korea (10+3) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 19 Nov, 2012. The summit coincided with the 15th anniversary of ASEAN Plus Three (APT) cooperation.—Xinhua

UN Security Council calls for comprehensive response to piracy

UNITED NATIONS, 20 Nov—The UN Security Council on Monday issued a presidential statement, calling on the international community to develop a comprehensive response to tackle the underlying causes of piracy.

“The Security Council continues to be gravely concerned by the threat that piracy and armed robbery at sea poses to international navigation, the safety of commercial maritime routes, and the security and economic development of states in the regions concerned,” the statement said following an open debate of the 15-nation body on piracy.

It stressed the need for a comprehensive response by the international community to repress piracy and tackle its underlying causes for a durable eradication of piracy and armed robbery at sea and illegal activities connected therewith.

In the statement, the Security Council underlined that regional coordination of efforts is necessary to develop a comprehensive strategy to counter the threat.

It also called for international assistance as part of a comprehensive strategy to support national and regional efforts to assist the UN member states undertaking steps to combat piracy and related illegal activities.

“The Security Council reiterates its call upon states, particularly concerned states, to criminalize piracy under their domestic laws and to favourably consider the prosecution of suspected, and imprisonment of convicted pirates and their facilitators and financiers ashore, and regional and international efforts to assist in the region,” the statement said.

The Council lauded that effective counter-piracy measures through increased national, bilateral and multilateral initiatives as well as regional cooperative mechanisms has led to a substantial reduction in the number of successful piracy-related attacks in different regions.—Xinhua

At least 20 dead in stampede in eastern India

NEW DELHI, 20 November—At least 20 people, including children and women, were killed and several others injured in a stampede on a bridge over the Ganges river during a Hindu religious ceremony on Monday evening in the eastern Indian state of Bihar, said local media reports. The incident took place in Bihar’s state capital Patna during the Chhath festival celebrations worshiping the Sun, when people were returning after offering prayers at sunset at the famous Adalatganj ghat.

A temporary bridge made of bamboo collapsed due to heavy rush of people, mainly devotees and their family members, said Indo-Asian News Service. All the bodies were brought to the Patna Medical College Hospital for postmortem and the injured were admitted for treatment in nearby hospitals. Over 100,000 people were present during the ceremony.—Xinhua

UN chief in Cairo, meets Egyptian FM on Gaza truce bid

CAIRO, 20 Nov—UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon arrived on Monday evening in Cairo for a two-day visit to push for an early ceasefire between Israel and the Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip, official MENA news agency reported.

Ban has met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohamed Amr, discussing the efforts to put an end to the ongoing Israeli attack on Gaza and reach a ceasefire, as well as the Syrian crisis.

During the visit, Ban is also scheduled to meet with Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi and Prime Minister Hamid Duck. The meeting is expected to focus on regional and international issues, topped by the current conflict between Israel and Hamas. Ban will also meet with Arab League Secretary-General Nabil al-Arabi on Tuesday to discuss the Gaza escalation, before the latter heading for the Gaza Strip in a solidarity visit.

According to Palestinian medics, the death toll in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip has climbed to 104 Palestinians since Wednesday.—Xinhua

A man hangs paintings created by autistic children on the wall in Huaji Chuanmyi Restaurant in Xioaduan County of Tianyuan City, capital of north China’s Shanxi Province, on 19 Nov. 2012. The restaurant has provided a platform to sell paintings by autistic children from Fangzhou Autism Rehabilitation Centre in Shanxi since October in 2011. Xinhua

Photo taken on 21 May, 2012 shows the summer scenery of Wuyuan County, east China’s Jiangxi Province. Wuyuan’s environmental protection efforts in recent years has turned it into an ideal wild bird habitat. More than 370 wild bird species, including 46 endangered species, now live in the county’s 193 conservation areas. Xinhua

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Preventive measures taken for illegal timber extractions

Seizure of illegal timber extraction is one of the five tasks to nurture the forest plantation.

Due to implementing the plan to fight illegal extraction of timber in the area of Bago mountain ranges, a total of 26022 tons of timbers including teak, hardwood and other woods were seized in the five-year plan period and action was taken for 6867 illegal timber extraction cases.

In the second five-year plan, a total of 19 persons were seized with 14 cars, three boats, two motorcycles, 75.5823 tons of teak, 33.2878 tons of hardwood and 101.5734 tons of other woods in 107 cases in September and October 2012 in Bago, DaikU, Kyaukkaing, Nyaunglebin and Shwegyin townships of Bago District.

Thus, seizures of illegal timbers are being geared up for minimizing deforestation and greening Bago mountain ranges, said an official.

Myanna Alinn

Mobile telephones sold to rural people

Gangaw, 20 Nov—Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications of Gangaw is selling GSM mobile phones to the rural people as of 15 November.

So far, the MPT has sold 1016 GSM mobile phones to 41 villages. In the township, there are over 2500 GSM mobile users.

Moreover, Gangaw Township has installed 720 auto-digital telephones and 1600 CDMA mobile phones.—Myanna Alinn

New school building handed over

Pyawbwe, 20 Nov—A ceremony to hand over Anawrahta Building of Basic Education Primary School (Branch) to the education department was held in Pyawbwe Township on 10 November morning.

The building was constructed at K 27.5 million by the Government, K 3,515,000 by wellwisher U Tin Soe-Daw Aye Aye Than, and K 1,365,000 by local people.

Myanma Alinn

Mine blast destroys bridge, railroad, causes traffic delays

Myovyin, 20 Nov—A mine exploded on the bridge No. 478 between mile posts No. 599/23 and 24 and between Mawlu and Panwe stations Indaw Township, Sagaing Division, 11.50 pm on 17 November. The blast damaged the floor of the railroad bridge and destroyed about three feet of railroad.

As engineers from the Myanma Railways are repairing the damage portion of the bridge and railroad, the passenger trains running between Mandalay and Myitkyina have stopped nearby railway stations, causing delays of on the rail road.

The blast is the first in Indaw Township in Sagaing Division this year although mine blasts usually happen in Kachin State.—NLM-001
Higher income versus better health

Today when Myanmar is marching towards a democracy nation we all must work hard. To able to work hard we must keep good health. As our country needs good workers its our duty to keep healthy and strong.

Most of us don’t think about the state of our health until we are sick, but being mindful of your lifestyle choices and paying attention to the way you feel can help you take steps to ensure that you are doing everything you can to optimize your health.

As the trends show, people have a very tough time achieving healthy weights when inactive lifestyles are the norm and inexpensive, high-calorie foods and drinks are readily available 24 hours a day.

According to the FAO, the period between 1990 and 2009 saw a decline in per capita consumption of cereals, roots, beans and pulses. During the same period, however, the per capita consumption of cheese doubled, that of egg almost tripled, chicken quadrupled, and beef increased nearly five-fold.

This nutrition transition or the increased consumption of animal protein and foods with higher fat content is common in developing and emerging countries. As the middle class grows and people have more disposable income, they tend to eat higher up on the food chain. But the consumption of fast food, dairy products and meat can have serious consequences on health.

Loading up on hamburgers, fried chicken and other high-fat food can lead to heart disease, obesity and diabetes. Meanwhile, aging, dietary changes and reduced physical activity are leading to more heart disease and stroke. According to the report, a 64 per cent increase (3.4 million cases) in deaths related to coronary heart disease is expected between 2020 and 2030, and the above-mentioned health tips for everybody are simply a matter of choice these day.

Myanmar, a dialogue coordinator...

(from page 1)

He made a proposal urging to upgrade ASEAN-US Leaders’ Meeting as ASEAN-US Summit and to hold the summit annually.

The US President replied that the US and ASEAN countries would continue to cooperate in economic and trade sectors. He said that there would be more cooperation in the sectors of trade, investment and SMEs through ASEAN-US Trade and Investment Framework Agreement. Under the cultural exchange programme, Youth Leadership programme including educational cooperation would be implemented with the aim of cementing relationship between ASEAN and American people.

He acknowledged the unity of ASEAN and its leading role in the region. The US was paying attention to the South China Sea issue investment, the ministry will provide necessary assistance” said Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint at the meeting with Chairman Mr Kim Chun Hwan and party from Shinhan Engineering & Construction Co Ltd of the Republic of Korea at the ministry here this morning.

Shinhan Engineering & Construction Co Ltd has experienced in construction, although it is not involved in the issue.

He expressed US’s support for the ASEAN’s six-point principles on the South China Sea, welcoming informal meetings between ASEAN and China on the issue of South China Sea.

He explained US’s efforts for drawing on stability not for long-term solution but for the present conflicts.

He would try to visit Brunei. He remarked his visit to Myanmar as a successful trip, expressing special thanks for hospitality of President U Thein Sein. The very first visit to Myanmar as US President had brought good results.

President U Thein Sein replied that he was very delighted to have a chance to address the meeting as a country which is responsible for ASEAN-US Dialogue Coordinator.

He congratulated Mr. architecture, electricity production, housing construction projects and has been implementing projects in many countries.

The company wishes to make long-term economic cooperation with Myanmar.

The Union Minister, Deputy Minister Dr Pwint Hsan and officials answered to queries raised by those attendees.

Barack Obama on his re-election as President of the United States.

His re-election as President proved that American people’s support for his domestic and foreign policies, the President added.

He said that there was no doubt to say that ASEAN-US relations see remarkable progress during his terms in office. With annual ASEAN-US Leaders’ Meetings since 2009, ASEAN-US ties saw continued progress year after year.

ASEAN-US Eminent Persons Group was established and found out important points contributing to better ASEAN-US dialogue relations.

He called for benefit cooperation for strengthening ASEAN-US relations, thereby contributing towards sustainability of pragmatic relations.

He expressed his support for the suggestions of the Group, saying that the Group would be able to win the support of those present. ASEAN-US Economic Forum was an opportunity that could boost bilateral trade and investment.

He welcomed US involvement in Asia-Pacific region, especially steps to better relations with ASEAN, highlighting US’s key role in peace and stability of the region.

He was glad to see US participation as a signatory to Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, the US as ASEM member, US recognition of the pivotal role of ASEAN in development of regional architecture and its support for establishment of ASEAN Community as a gesture of keeping its pledge to assist ASEAN.

It was decided to upgrade ASEAN-US relations into strategic partnership level. As a country that is responsible for Dialogue Coordinator, he pledged to strengthen ASEAN-US relations.

He expressed thanks for a English language training programme, jointly-conducted by the US and Brunei, for the people of ASEAN.

The President said he met Mr. Barack Obama during the latter’s visit to Myanmar ahead of the meeting. Myanmar people took great pride in the first visit of US President to Myanmar.

He welcomed constructive engagement of the US on Myanmar. He was confident that policy changes in the US would assist in the areas of democratic transition, promotion and protection of human rights, socioeconomic development and global economic integration and ensuring connectivity with international community.

The President reiterated that his government continued to perform reform process and would strive to be a genuine people-centered government.
President U Thein Sein attends dinner hosted by Cambodian Prime Minister and wife

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Nov—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein attended a dinner hosted by Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen and wife at Diamond Island Convention and Exhibition Center in Phnom Penh of Cambodia at 8:30 pm LST on 19 November.

Also present at the dinner together with President U Thein Sein were heads of state/government of ASEAN countries, East Asia Summit Leaders Prime Minister of the People’s Republic of China Mr Wen Jiabao, Prime Minister of Japan Mr Yoshihiko Noda, President of the Republic of Korea Mr Lee Myung-bak, Prime Minister of the Republic of India Dr Manmohan Singh, President of the United States of America Mr Barack Obama, special representatives of heads of state from Australia, New Zealand and Russian Federation, ministers from ASEAN countries, high ranking officials, ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Surin Pittsawan and invited guests.

At first, President U Thein Sein and heads of state/government of ASEAN countries were cordially greeted by Cambodian Prime Minister and wife.

Cambodian Prime Minister and wife, heads of state/government of ASEAN countries and the ASEAN Secretary-General posed for a documentary photo. Then, Cambodian Prime Minister extended greetings and hosted a dinner.

During the dinner, Cambodian cultural troupe entertained the guests with dance and song.—MNA

Visiting Thai delegation concludes visit

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Nov—The visiting delegation led by Royal Thai Air Force Commander-in-Chief Air Chief Marshal Prapit Juntong and wife paid a visit to Defence Services Museum, here, yesterday morning. They then proceeded to Uppatansanti Pagoda, and observed Yadana white elephants in the precinct.

Afterwards, they visited Gem Museum. They this morning arrived in Yangon by special flight of Thai Air Force. There, they paid homage to Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda, Shwedagon Pagoda and Botataung Kyaikdaup Pagoda.

In the evening, they returned home by special flight of Thai Air Force.—MNA

General Soe Win visits People’s Republic of China

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Nov—At the invitation of Deputy Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen Qi Jianguo of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army, Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation led by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win paid a goodwill visit to the People’s Republic of China on 12 November. They arrived at Kunming International Airport at 6 pm local standard time where they were welcomed by Deputy Chief of Staff of Yunnan Military Region Sr. Col Zhao Yongji.

Then the Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation proceeded to Zhuhai of Guangdong Province by special flight of the Chinese PLA. On their arrival at Zhuhai Airport, they were welcomed by Zhuhai Garrison Deputy Commander Sr. Col Jiang Songhua. On 13 November morning, the Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation attended the ninth China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition and observed the aerobatic performance staged by respective countries at the air show.

Next, they viewed around the booths of aviation and aerospace displayed at the air show. The goodwill delegation accompanied by Deputy Bureau Chief Sr. Col Song Yanchao of Foreign Affairs Office of the Chinese PLA and Chinese Military Attaché to Myanmar Sr. Col Xiong Shaowei went sightseeing Macau along Wanzhi by boat. Then they attended reception hosted by the Ministry of National Defence on the occasion of the ninth Air Show China held at De Han Hotel in Zhuhai. Before the reception, General Soe Win together with guests called on Lt-Gen Chen Yong, Assistant Chief of General Staff of the Chinese PLA.

In the evening, they attended documentary photo with heads of State/Government at the dinner hosted by Cambodian Prime Minister and wife.—MNA

Royal Thai Air Force Commander-in-Chief Air Chief Marshal Prapit Juntong and wife visiting Defence Services Museum.—MNA

Capacity building of banking service kicks off

YANGON, 20 Nov—The Central Bank of Myanmar and Mizuho Financial Group jointly organized a workshop on enhancement of the joint venture with international banks, at Sedona Hotel, here, yesterday morning.

At the workshop, Deputy Director-General of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Thein Zaw and Managing Executive Officer Mr. Hiroshi Suehiro of Mizuho Corporate Bank Ltd gave opening speeches. Senior Joint General Manager Mr. Guan Yeow Kwang explained the purpose of holding the workshop to the participants, and Joint General Manager Mr. Noriyoshi Tsunoda made a discussion about global financial market and FX market analysis.

Altogether 90 bank officers attended the workshop whose second day sees discussion of Mr. Kenichi Matsumoto about settlement method, trade financing solution and third day, discussion of Mr. Ling Kok Dung on lending business.—MNA

General Soe Win attends opening of ninth China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition in China. MNA

Members of Actionaid Organization observe Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Nov—A 25-member delegation from Actionaid Organization (NGO) visited Hluttaw buildings at 2 pm today.

Depression weaken into a low pressure area

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Nov—Department of Meteorology and Hydrology Department announced today that according to the observations at 6:30 hrs NST today, the depression over west-central Bay of Bengal, it move southwestwards and has weaken into a low pressure area. MNA

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NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein attends dinner hosted by Cambodian Prime Minister and wife
**New Light of Myanmar**

**WORLD**

**Bomb rips through Nairobi minibus, killing six**

**Nairobi, 20 Nov**—A bomb tore through a minibus in Nairobi’s Somali-dominated Eastleigh neighborhood on Sunday, killing six people in an attack that badly damaged the minibus.

Kenya has suffered a string of deadly attacks in its capital Nairobi, the port city of Mombasa as well as the eastern garrison town of Garissa over the past year.

The attacks have been blamed on Somali militants. Kenyan police in retaliation for Kenya’s deployment of troops in neighboring Somalia last month are trying to drive out Shabaab rebels whom Nairobi has blamed for attacks on Kenya territory.

“IA saw bodies ripped apart,” said a Reuters photographer at the scene of the blast. He saw a crowd lifting five dead bodies wrapped in sacks onto the back of a police vehicle.

“The force of the explosion left only the charred skeleton of the minibus, commonly known as matus- tus in Kenya, the orange seats ripped apart. The window of a nearby cafe were shattered and two other cars were damaged.”

“There’s a laxity on the side of the government. This is the fourth attack in providing security for its citizens,” he said.

Armed cattle raiders killed at least 32 Kenyan police officers in a military-style ambush last weekend. The attack exposed how ill-equipped Kenya’s police force is as it faces challenges on several fronts, including a presidential election next March.

**122,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon**

**Beirut, 20 Nov**—The United Nations Higher Refugees Council said on Sunday in its weekly report that the number of Syrian refugees receiving aid in Lebanon has reached 122,000.

The UN report pointed out that 88,794 Syrian refugees in Lebanon have been registered, while another 33,500 are still waiting for registration. It added that there are around 6,000 Syrian refugees arriving in Lebanon each week, and the current figure represents an increase of 77,030 refugees since July.

**Cuba receives humanitarian aid from Mexico**

**Havana, 20 Nov**—A Mexican vessel with humanitarian aid for Sandy-affected regions arrived Sunday in Santiago de Cuba.

Mexican Navy ship “Papaloapan” carried a 163-ton load of asphaltos cement plates to mend homes and other buildings damaged by Superstorm Sandy, which swept the Caribbean country and claimed 11 lives in its eastern region.

Santiago de Cuba, one of Cuba’s worst-hit cities, is making efforts to return to normalcy with the restoration of essential public services such as electricity and telephone services, water supply, and urban cleaning.

**72 pcs overseas students return to China**

**Beijing, 20 Nov**—More than 72 percent of overseas Chinese students have returned to China after finishing education abroad since the late 1970s, according to a report from a government-backed agency.

From 1978 to 2011, about 818,400 Chinese students returned home after studying abroad, said a report issued Sunday by the Chinese Service Center for Scholarly Exchange (CSCSE), which is administered by the Ministry of Education.

In 2011 alone, nearly 186,200 chose to return, nearly 40 percent more than that in the previous year, said the report, adding that the center had offered services to 110,000 of them.

To help those returning students, the center organized a special job fair for them, which is scheduled for 24 Nov.

The fair, featuring more than 500 jobs in big enterprises or public institutions, has attracted more than 1,500 applications, the report said.—Xinhua

**Seven killed in water tank collapse in India**

**New Delhi, 20 Nov**—Seven persons were killed and 35 others injured when an overhead water tank collapsed in a slum area of the central Indian city of Bhopal early Monday, reported Press Trust of India.

The incident took place at Saibaba Nagar slum area in the wee hours, when an overhead water tank of Bhopal Municipal Corporation or local civic government collapsed, killing seven persons and trapping a large number of others, according to the report.

A number of slums situated in the vicinity of the large water tank also got damaged in the incident. The cause of the incident was yet to be ascertained.—Xinhua

**Senior al-Qaeda leader killed in Algeria**

**Algiers, 20 Nov**—A senior leader of al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) was among the three militants killed on Friday by Algerian forces in the southern province of Bejaia, local TSA news website reported on Sunday.

Citing a security source, TSA said that forensics identified one of the three militants as Mokhtari Rabah, 45, who was also known as Sheikh Abdennacer. Hailing from the province of Boumerdes, some 50 km east of Algiers, Sheikh Abdennacer was known to have been close to head of AQMI Abdelmalek Droukdel and was the commander of the group responsible for the Kabylie region (covering the provinces of Tizi Ouzou, Boumerdes, Bouira and Bejaia), the source specified.

In March 2012, an Algerian court sentenced Abdelmalek Droukdel to death in absentia together with Droukdel and two other militants on the run.

Forensics are still working to identify the other two dead militants, the source said, adding that they might also be key members of AQMI.

**Blast rocks western Afghan town, three injured**

**Herat, (Afghanistan), 20 Nov**—A powerful blast rocked the border town of Islam Qala, leaving three people injured, the official told Xinhua but declined to be identified.

He also noted that authorized officials would release the details after completion of investigation.

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**After Sandy, EPA extends clean fuel waivers for NJ, New York City**

**Washington, 20 Nov**—The Environmental Protection Agency has extended its emergency waivers for clean fuel rules for New Jersey and the New York City area as damage from Superstorm Sandy continues to prevent fuel distribution in the hard-hit region.

The waivers had been set to expire on 20 November, but Governors Chris Christie of New Jersey and Andrew Cuomo of New York asked the EPA to extend them because of continued fuel supply shortages.

The EPA said it will continue to waive clean gasoline and diesel requirements for the area until 7 December.

Conventional gasoline still available in the distribution system after that time can be sold until the supply is depleted. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson wrote in a letter sent to the governors on Friday.

Low-sulfur requirements will also be waived for emergency response vehicles and equipment used for disaster recovery, Jackson’s letter said.

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The fair, featuring more than 500 jobs in big enterprises or public institutions, has attracted more than 1,500 applications, the report said.—Xinhua
1st ASEAN global dialogue kicks off in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 20 Nov— The first-ever ASEAN global dialogue was held here on Tuesday, focusing discussions on global challenges, particularly economic and financial issues.

The dialogue, held back to back with the 21st ASEAN Summit and related Summit, was attended by the leaders or representatives of East Asia Summit and the heads or representatives of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization, the Asian Development Bank, and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

The high-level forum was initiated by Cambodia, aiming at exchanging views on global challenges and ASEAN role in contributing to solving issues. Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said at the opening address, “We hold the meeting while the world has not completely got out of the global financial crisis, so we have to continue facing the uncertainties of economic growth and other issues in the future,” he said.

He added that slow economic growth and weak financial system in some developed countries have caused the global market to face instability and investors are reluctant to release their capitals. “Despite in this difficulty, to date, ASEAN economies remain resilient,” he said. “However, if the situation of the global economy is still weak, ASEAN will be inevitable from the consequences of the crisis.”

Therefore, the dialogue is very important to reflect the rising role of ASEAN in interactions to determine United States policies in the region and the world,” said the premier.

The high-level forum of the 18 countries in the East Asia Summit including the ten member ASEAN and the United States, China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia, New Zealand and Russia are gathering here to attend the 7th East Asia Summit, which will be held this Tuesday afternoon.—Xinhua

Philippines seeks MILF’s help to bring massacre fugitives to justice

MANILA, 20 Nov— Philippine authorities will ask the help of all the stakeholders in the peace process, particularly the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), to facilitate the immediate arrest of the 92 suspects remaining at large in the 2009 Maguindanao massacre, police said on Monday.

Criminal Investigation and Detection Group Special Investigation Task Force Group (CIDG) Maguindanao will also use the social media to reach out to the public for information that will lead to the arrest of those suspects, CIDG chief, Police Director Samuel Padilla Jr said.

The CIDG remains strongly committed in its mandate to run after and arrest the remaining suspects and that it will not hesitate to explore other remedies like seeking the cooperation of all the stakeholders in the Mindanao Peace Process to finally account for all the suspects at large and bring justice to the massacre victims, he said.

MAGUINDANAO Governor Esmael Mangudadatu points at the photo of one of the 195 suspects of Maguindanao massacre at the Philippine National Police (PNP) Headquarters in Quezon City, the Philippines, on 19 Nov, 2012. The PNP has arrested 103 suspects while 92 remain at large. In November 2009, a total of 57 people including 32 journalists were killed in the country’s worst political massacre in Maguindanao.—Xinhua

Vietnam hosts regional meeting on anti-money laundering, anti-funding to terrorism

HANOI, 20 Nov— The 15th conference on anti-money laundering and anti-funding to terrorism of the Asia-Pacific Group (APG) was convened in Vietnam’s capital Hanoi on Monday to review activities by and share experience among the group members in related issues.

Vietnam is determined to join the regional effort in preventing and fighting against money laundering and funding to terrorism, said Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Vu Van Ninh, adding that the country has implemented synchronized measures during the process.

Vietnam wants international agencies such as the APG to pay attention to the country’s legal system so as to evaluate its fight and results obtained over the past years in this field, said Vu Van Ninh. APG’s principal executive officer, David Shannon, said the APG supports its 41 members to reduce the impact of money laundering and terrorism to their social and economic development.

The APG conference is an essential part in the working program aimed at uniting nations in the Asia-Pacific region in the fight against crimes and terrorism.

The conference for the first time attracted the participation of representatives from the 41 private sector, which is an important step to prove the regular coordination in the common effort against money laundering, he said.

Indonesia to ratify Nagoya Protocol

JAKARTA, 20 Nov — Indonesia will ratify the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources, fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization, Vice President Boediono said on Monday.

“The government has submitted a bill on ratifying the Nagoya Protocol,” he said here.

He added that ratifying the protocol is essential for Indonesia as it is one of the world’s genetic resource-rich countries. “With the law, Indonesia will have a firm legal basis to protect and preserve its genetic resources and traditional knowledge related to genetic resources,” he said.

In addition, the law will also serve as a legal basis for the country to prevent theft and illegal utilization of biodiversity.

It will also ensure the fair and equitable sharing of financial and non-financial benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and traditional knowledge related to genetic resources to the genetic resources provider based on a common agreement, he said.

The vice president said after ratifying the protocol, Indonesia will prepare a set of good operational instruments for the implementation. The Nagoya Protocol was adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its tenth meeting on 29 Oct. 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, the Antara news agency reported.

The protocol is aimed at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way.—Xinhua

Mongolia, DPRK pledge to boost cooperation

ULAN BATOR, 20 Nov — Mongolia and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) pledged here on Monday that they would boost bilateral cooperation in various fields.

The two countries have been sharing traditional friendship since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1948, Zandaakhut Enkhbold, speaker of the Mongolian parliament said when meeting Choe Tae Bok, chairman of the DPRK Supreme People’s Assembly.

“I want to say that Mongolia is ready to cooperate with the new leader of the DPRK and continue the traditional friendly relationship,” Enkhbold said, hoping the two countries can cooperate in trade, information technology, exchange of workforce and lease of ocean ports as Mongolia is a landlocked country without ocean ports.

Enkhbold noted Choe’s visit to Mongolia is very important in enhancing cooperation between the two legislative bodies.

While 103 are now under detention, 92 remain at large, among them are nine members of the Ampatuan clan involved in the massacre, 64 Civilian Volunteer Organization members, eight policemen, four military personnel and seven others, Singian said.

Singian added that some of those fugitives have hidden in areas occupied by MILF rebels in Mindanao, which, according to him, complicated the manhunt.

Fifty-eight people, including over 30 journalists, were killed on 23 Nov, 2009 in Maguindanao on the southern island of Mindanao, which was considered as one of the worst election-related violence in the country’s history.—Xinhua

Rescuers work at the site where a double decker bus crashed with two other vehicles at Shau Kei Wan of Hong Kong on 19 Nov, 2012. The accident, happened at about 11:38 am local time, left three people dead and about 50 injured, local media reported.—Xinhua

Danvers perform during a dancing show about the tradition of the Dong ethnic groups in Kaili City of Quangdong, southwest China’s Guizhou Province, on 19 Nov 2012. Xinhua

Xinhua

Toru Sasaki, director of the ramen restaurant Ishinari, holds a bowl of ramen at his restaurant in London on 12 Nov, 2012. The restaurant opened in March 2012. KYODO NEWS
Ministry of Information

Invitation for open tender of Myanmar Radio and Television (Nay Pyi Taw, Tatkon) to maintain air-conditioners

1. Open tenders are invited to maintain air-conditioners of Myanmar Radio and Television (Nay Pyi Taw, Tatkon) under the Ministry of Information.

2. The following three types of air-conditioners are required:
   (1) Air-conditioners in Studio Complex
   (2) Air-conditioners in Radio Transmitter
   (3) Air-conditioners in Padawk Myay Radio Transmitter Complex

3. Application forms of open tenders may be taken out from Office No. 7, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw, from 09:30 hour to 16:30 hour from (21-11-2012) to (29-11-2012) during weekdays.

4. The tenderers are requested to submit their tenders to Office No. 7, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw, in the presence of the members of the tender committee.

5. The tenders, later than the designated date, will not be considered.

6. Forms of open tender and detailed information may be inquired by following address:
   Procurement Committee
   Ministry of Information
   Office No. 7, Nay Pyi Taw
   Tel: 067 - 412327, 79474

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Ministry of Information

Invitation for open tender of Myanmar Radio and Television to purchase machines

1. Machines to be purchased for Myanmar Radio and Television under the Ministry of Information are as follow:
   (1) Recording Media - 1 Lot
   (2) UPS System - 1 Lot
   (3) NLE Laptop & Recorder - 1 Lot
   (4) Fibre Equipment - 1 Lot

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Indonesian minister issues decree limiting recruitment of contract workers

Jakarta, 20 Nov—Indonesian Manpower and Transmigration Minister Muhamin Iskandar said that his ministry has issued a decree that will limit the use of contract workers, known as outsourcing scheme, in companies operating across the country, local media reported on Monday.

The minister said over the weekend that he had already signed on Thursday a revised decree on labour outsourcing and that it had been sent to the Law and Human Rights Ministry to be passed before its immediate enactment.

Under the decree, companies will be given six months to alter the status of their contract workers into permanent staff.

Due to the inflexibility of the Labour Law, labour-intensive companies, such as footwear and textile firms, prefer to outsource their core work to third parties on a contract basis in order to avoid making them permanent employees.

Companies, meanwhile, argue that they employ contract workers to do core jobs because, under the existing Labour Law, it is costly and difficult to fire under-performing permanent staff, the Jakarta Post reported.—Xinhua

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Troika negotiators to continue work on bailout deal in Cyprus

Nicosia, 20 Nov—International lenders’ negotiators are going to stay longer than originally planned in Cyprus, to clinch a bailout agreement with the government of this southeastern Mediterranean island country, local media reported on Sunday.

Technocrats from the so-called troika including European Commission, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund arrived in Cyprus 10 days ago for a second round of bailout negotiations and were scheduled to leave on Sunday. However, they are planning to extend their stay and hold further talks over the next few days, following reports that they have reached an agreement with Cypriot officials on some of the key issues under discussion.

Cyprus applied for EU and IMF financial support in June after two of its largest banks asked for state support to replenish their core tier 1 capital depleted by the write-down of the Greek debt and extensive exposure to the crisis-stricken euro economy. State broadcaster Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation had been seeking endorsement from its negotiators of preliminary agreements they had reached or were near to with the government on the capital ratio of the banks, and the selling of mortgaged property when bank loans are not serviced for more than three years.

The two sides in the negotiations set a core tier 1 capital ratio of 9 percent by the end of 2013 and 10 percent at the end of 2014.

Supervision of cooperative banks is to be done on two levels, originally by the Cooperative Central Bank, which will in turn be supervised by the Central Bank.—Xinhua

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麾下新闻

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**Why Oscar’s “Simple” date-change is a ticking time Bomb**

LOS ANGELES, 20 Nov—The Press release didn’t look as if it contained big news. “Key Dates Announced for the 85th Academy Awards,” read the headline on the 18 September announcement, which came significantly later than usual for the Academy and contained one seemingly innocuous line: “In an effort to provide members and the public a longer period of time to see the nominated films, the Academy will reveal the 85th Academy Awards nominations on 10 January, five days earlier than previously announced.”

But that little change — those five days, which moved the nominations from what was already an unusually early slot to the Thursday before the Golden Globes — has shaken all things Oscar, essentially detonating a time bomb across the Academy Awards landscape. As advertised, the move will give members of the Academy and prospective viewers extra time to see the 35 or so features that will be nominated (plus another 10 documentaries and foreign-language films) - but it’ll give them significantly less time to see the 250 to 300 films that are eligible to be nominated. “As an Academy member, I’m not happy about it,” said one voter, who was typical of those TheWrap has spoken to. “It’s short-sighted and unfair to members, and they’re limiting the number of movies that might get nominated because members won’t see as many. And as a marketer, it hampers you in every way and forces you to flood people with emails and mailings and screenings and screencaps to get all your stuff out by 1 January.”

Grumbling, moaning and the occasional gnashing of teeth over the compressed timeline has been almost constant since the announcement. One commonly heard phrase is, “What were they thinking?” Another is, “I know what they were thinking, and it has nothing to do with what they say they were thinking.”

To this latter camp, which includes both outsiders and AMPAS members, the clear intent of the move was to hurt the Golden Globes, the tacky show whose importance on the awards calendar has always rankedled the Academy.

The governors were said to be determined to make the Globes (and its presenting body, the much-maligned Hollywood Foreign Press Association) irrelevant by announcing Oscar nominations before the Globes even happen, as if that would stop people from tuning in or persuade NBC, Dick Clark Productions or the HFPA to pull the plug on a multimillion-dollar cash cow that they would no doubt move to Thanksgiving weekend before they’d even consider giving it up.

Yes, the move will put the Globes in the awkward position of taking place at a point where trade ads are more likely to proudly trumpet “six Oscar nominations!” than “Golden Globe winner!” And by the time Academy members are able to vote, the Globes are most likely to be forgotten by anybody casting an Oscar ballot.

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**Aussie rockers AC/DC’s music to be sold on iTunes**

NEW YORK, 20 Nov—AC/DC’S entire catalogue, including 20 studio and live albums and three compilations will be available on iTunes for the first time worldwide, Columbia Records and Apple said on Monday. “Until now the Australian heavy metal group that was formed by two brothers, Angus and Malcolm Young, in 1973, had refused to put their music on Apple Inc’s online music store.”

“AC/DC’s thunderous and primal rock and roll has excited fans for generations with their raw and rebellious brand of music, which also resonates with millions of new fans discovering AC/DC everyday,” Columbia Records and Apple, said in a statement announcing the deal.

“Their growing legion of fans will now experience the intensity of AC/DC’s music a way that has never been heard before,” they added. The group’s 1976 debut album “High Voltage,” its classic “Back In Black” and 2008’s “Black Ice” are among the albums available on iTunes. All of the music has been mastered for iTunes and fans can download entire albums or individual songs.

**Metal singer Aaron Lewis finds second home in country music**

NASHVILLE, (Tennessee), 20 Nov—Aaron Lewis stands as one of the more unusual crossovers into country music, but the singer of the metal band Staind believes it was a fit made in the cradle.

“It’s been quite the pleasant eclectic mix of tattoos and black eyeliner, and Stetsons, cowboy boots and big shiny buckles,” Lewis said in an interview after the release of his first full-length country studio album, “The Road,” this week.

Lewis, 40, is raised on what he terms his grandfather’s country music: Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings, Charlie Daniels and George Jones. He collaborated with Daniels and Jones on his country EP, “Tow Line,” released last year.

This made the transition from the angsty, ridden world of metal to the laid-back country scene an easy step for him, but perhaps not so much for his head-banging fans. “A few fans are really having a hard time with it,” Lewis said.

**“Twilight” sendoff starts with huge $341 million worldwide**

LONDON, 20 Nov—The “Twilight” vampire saga’s final chapter debuted with a massive $341 million (214 million pounds) in global movie ticket sales as devoted fans bid farewell to blood-sucking spouses Bella and Edward and one of Hollywood’s biggest franchises.

“The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2” earned an estimated $141 million (85 million pounds) in the United States and Canada over the weekend, falling slightly short of a record for the supernatural romance series about a human-vampire-werewolf love triangle.

The total, which includes sales from late night Thursday through Sunday, ranked as the eight biggest debut of all time. Late-night Thursday screenings comprised $30.4 million of the $141 million total.

Fan fever for the fifth “Twilight” movie raged high around the world. “Breaking Dawn Part 2” rang up sales of $199.6 million from Thursday to Sunday at theaters in 61 countries for a worldwide total of $341 million, distributor Summit Entertainment said on Sunday.

The earlier “Twilight” films pulled in a combined $2.5 billion at global box offices over a four-year run. The success lifted tiny studio Summit Entertainment into Hollywood’s big leagues and paved the way for its $412 million acquisition in January by Lions Gate Entertainment.

“New Moon” scored the biggest debut of the series, grossing $142.8 million over its first three days in 2009.

The movies based on a series of best-selling young adult books by Stephenie Meyer ignored a pop culture infatuation with blood-sucking vampires and werewolves. The films star Kristen Stewart as human-turned-vampire Bella Swan, Robert Pattinson as her vampire love Edward Cullen, and Taylor Lautner as werewolf Jacob Black, who competes for Bella’s affection.

Summit spent $120 million to produce "Breaking Dawn Part 2," which concludes the tale with newly turned vampire Bella and husband Edward in a high-stakes battle to protect their half-human, half-vampire daughter from an ancient vampire clan.

**US singer Gloria Gaynor performs during the 11th edition of the Mawazine World Rhythms music festival in Rabat on 19 May, 2012.**


**“Secret Disco Revolution” gets US release**

LOS ANGELES, 20 Nov—Screen Media Films has acquired US theatrical rights to the documentary “Secret Disco Revolution,” featuring interviews with many 70’s music icons, including Gloria Gaynor, The Village People, and Kool and the Gang. ScreenMedia plans a June 2013 US theatrical run of the documentary, the company announced on Monday.

Written, directed, and produced by Kastner, the film looks into the disco movement and many of its key figures. “For anyone that grew up with disco this film will transport you back in time while filling in the blanks to what you didn’t even realize was happening around you,” said Suzanne Blech, president of Screen Media Films. —Reuters
Beckham to quit LA Galaxy after MLS Cup final

Los Angeles Galaxy’s David Beckham (C) chases the ball between Real Madrid’s Fabio Coentrao (L) and Xabi Alonso (R) during the first half of their World Football Challenge international friendly soccer match in Carson, California on 2 Aug, 2012. REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 20 Nov—Former England captain David Beckham will leave LA Galaxy after next month’s Major League Soccer (MLS) Cup final but intends to continue his playing career. The 37-year-old midfielder said in a statement: “I’ve had an incredibly special time playing for the LA Galaxy, however, I wanted to experience one last challenge before the end of my playing career. “I don’t see this as the end of my relationship with the league (MLS) as my ambition is to be part of the ownership structure in the future.” While age has taken its toll on his on-field ability, Beckham, who is married to ex-Spice Girl turned fashion designer Victoria, remains one of the most marketable figures in the game. His management on Friday denied he had plans to move to Australia’s A-League though his decision to leave the Galaxy will prompt speculation over his next destination, with a return to England sure to be another option floated.

Beckham has spent six seasons with the Galaxy and in January signed a new two-year contract after winning the MLS title with the club. The former Manchester United and Real Madrid player will play his final game on 1 December in the MLS Cup final against Houston Dynamo at Galaxy’s Home Depot Centre.

Beckham earned 115 caps for England, won six league titles with Manchester United in the Premier League and then enjoyed league success with Real in Spain.

The London-born midfielder was the first ‘Designated Player’ in MLS - a title covering the ‘Beckham Rule’ which allowed clubs to sign certain players outside of the league’s strict salary cap rules. “In my time here I have seen the popularity of the game grow every year. I’ve been fortunate to win trophies, but more important to me has been the fantastic reception I’ve had from fans in LA and across the States,” said Beckham. “Soccer’s potential has no limits in this wonderful country and I want to always be part of growing it.” Both MLS and the Galaxy credit Beckham, who has maintained his celebrity status in the United States, with boosting the profile of the league and one of its leading clubs.—Reuters

Golf World rankings

LONDON, 20 Nov—World rankings on Monday (US unless stated, last week’s positions in brackets):

1. (1) Rory McIlroy (Northern Ireland) 12.59 average points
2. (3) Luke Donald (England) 9.06
3. (2) Tiger Woods 9.00
4. (4) Lee Westwood (England) 6.60
5. (5) Adam Scott (Australia) 6.59
6. (6) Louis Oosthuizen (South Africa) 6.15
7. (7) Justin Rose (England) 6.08
8. (8) Jason Dufner 5.83
9. (9) Brandt Snedeker 5.64
10. (10) Henrik Stenson of Sweden 5.40
11. (11) Bubba Watson 5.49
12. (12) Phil Mickelson 5.21
13. (16) Ian Poulter (England) 5.16
14. (14) Keegan Bradley 5.08
15. (15) Nick Watney 4.94
16. (17) Matt Kuchar 4.88
17. (18) Dustin Johnson 4.81
19. (19) Peter Hanson (Sweden) 4.77
20. (20) Ernie Els (South Africa) 4.69—Reuters

Minnesota Timberwolves guard Brandon Roy (L) grabs a loose ball in front of Toronto Raptors defenders Alan Anderson and DeMar DeRozan (R) during the first half of their NBA basketball game in Toronto on 4 Nov, 2012.—Reuters

Timberwolves guard Roy to miss a month after knee surgery

NEW YORK, 20 Nov—The comeback by former Rookie of the Year Brandon Roy hit a snag on Monday when the Minnesota Timberwolves guard had arthroscopic surgery on his right knee.

Roy, who was averaging 5.8 points and 4.6 assists per game in five games this season, was expected to miss about a month, the NBA team said. He had been sidelined the previous 10 days due to discomfort with his knee. “I think he feels like it’s worth doing,” coach Rick Adelman said. “Making sure everything’s all right, so you have to just go with it and hopefully it’s over with him’ll be able to come back.”

The 28-year-old Roy, a three-time NBA All-Star and sixth overall pick in the 2006 by the Portland Trail Blazers, missed the entire 2011-12 NBA campaign due to chronic knee problems but showed good form in the off-season when he signed on with Minnesota.

The loss of Roy further depletes the backcourt for the Timberwolves (5-4), whose point guard J.J. Barea is sidelined with a sprained left foot.—Reuters

Dempsey wins US player of the year award

NEW YORK, 20 Nov—Striker Clint Dempsey was named US Soccer’s “Athlete of the Year” for 2012, winning the award for the third time and second in a row, the federation said on Monday.

Dempsey, a regular starter in Juergen Klinsmann’s US national team, scored 17 goals in the Premier League for Fulham last season and then moved to Tottenham Hotspur during the close season.

The Texan, who scored five goals in this year’s CONCACAF qualifiers for the 2014 World Cup, previously won the award in 2007 and 2011.

Under-17 team midfielder Rubio Robin won the Young Male Athlete of the Year award.—Reuters

Stenson clinches South Africa Open to seal Dubai spot

EKURHULENI, (South Africa), 20 Nov — Henrik Stenson fired a one-under-par final round of 71 to win the 102nd South African Open on Sunday, helping him to qualify for the lucrative DP World Tour Championship in Dubai.

The Swede finished three strokes ahead of South Africa’s George Coetzee at the Serengeti Golf and Wildlife Estate to claim his seventh European Tour title.

Stenson started the day in 16-under-par after three impressive sub-70 rounds at the Jack Nicklaus-designed course and held a three-shot lead over Coetzee.

He endured a nervy start and a double-bogey at the par-three ninth hole which rounded off a disappointing outward nine of 38.

Stenson regained his composure however, and made three birdies without a blemish on the way home to post a winning score of 271.

“I got a couple of loose ones out there, and obviously the one on nine was a bit like that. I left the club behind a little bit, wrapped it and hooked it into the hazard which wasn’t a great time to do that,” Stenson told reporters.

“Sometimes you need a poor one to wake you up and make you more determined so that you’re committed on the next one. I was in the driver’s seat for most of the week, so it was the way it turned out. It’s nice to seal the deal and it wouldn’t have been nice to.”

Coetzee, who still awaits his maiden European Tour victory, eagled the par-five third hole to send out a warning shot to his playing-partner Stenson.

Two successive bogeys followed, but he pushed the former Ryder Cup player all the way, and the pair were level walking down the 15th hole.—Reuters

Tottenham Hotspur’s Clint Dempsey heads the ball to score a disallowed goal against Lazio during their Europa League soccer match at White Hart Lane in London on 20 Sept, 2012.—Reuters

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Shaqra area, some 30 kms the report said. of North Darfur State, and explosions in the western reported. Sudan’s Ashrouq net to be launched by rebels, artillery shelling believed was targeted on Saturday by in Sudan’s Darfur region, would flood, a move that storm Sandy is being com- to recover from Super- New Jersey Transit’s strug-
President U Thein Sein attends
ASEAN Global Dialogue

President U Thein Sein attends ASEAN Global Dialogue.—MNA

Myanmar welcomes State-owned and private-owned enterprises from Indonesia, and more cooperation to be made between the two countries

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Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono

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UN, NGOs and INGOs. Indonesia would make close cooperation with Myanmar for seeking the ways of how to ward off the misunderstandings in the international arena, based on Myanmar’s current policy.

President U Thein Sein, for his part, expressed thanks to the Indonesian president for his support for Myanmar’s handlings of Rakhine incident. The government was systematically undertaking the rehabilitation tasks by ways of opening relief camps and building new houses for the displaced people. For dissemination of knowledge and education and economic development, the government was opening more basic education schools and creating more job opportunities there in cooperation with UN, international organizations, NGOs, INGOs and donors at home. He continued to say that Myanmar welcomed Indonesia’s investment and assistance in Myanmar. The 27-member Investigation Commission was formed to expose the root cause of the incident. The cost of daily meal and accommodation for victims in relief camps was about USD one million per month. Such amount had caused a heavy burden to Myanmar alone. So, Myanmar welcomed international aids, including UN.

He added that Myanmar welcomed State-owned and private-owned enterprises from Indonesia, and more cooperation would be made between the two countries.

President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono at Call Room on 4th floor of Peace Palace in Phnom Penh of Cambodia. —MNA