President U Thein Sein attends Plenary and Retreat Sessions of 7th East Asia Summit

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Nov—President U Thein Sein attended the Plenary and Retreat Sessions of the 7th East Asia Summit at CM Meeting Room on the first floor of Peace Palace in Phnom Penh, Cambodia at 1.40 pm Local Time yesterday. President U Thein Sein also attended East Asia Summit together with leaders of ASEAN nations, heads of state/government of China, the Republic of Korea, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and India, the Foreign Minister of Russian Federation and the ASEAN Secretary-General.

At the meeting, the Chairman of Asia Development Bank and the Deputy Managing Director of International Monetary Fund who were the special guests, explained the regional monetary matters and monetary integration.

Six priority areas for cooperation—energy, environment, education, disaster risk management and ASEAN connectivity—were discussed at the summit. The summit approved The Phnom Penh Declaration on East Asia Summit (EAS) Development Initiative and the Declaration of 7th East Asia Summit on Regional Response to Malaria Control and addressing Resistance to Antimalarial Drugs.

After that, Retreat Sessions of the 7th East Asia Summit followed. At the session, President U Thein Sein discussed that Myanmar would make cooperation with member countries in priority areas of East Asia Summit, especially education, energy and disaster risk management.

The leaders exchanged views on regional and international issues. In the evening, President U Thein Sein together with leaders from ASEAN countries, attended the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Negotiation (RCEP) at Nnon Srey Hall of Peace Palace. ASEAN Alternative Chairman Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen delivered an address. Afterwards, President U Thein Sein and leaders from ASEAN countries posed for documentary photos.  

Regional development tasks inspected in Bhamo

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Nov—Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngyai Sai paid homage to Themiawgyi Buddha Image in Themiawgyi Monastery in Thasi Ward, Bhamo on 16 November morning.

There, he inspected fitness of Zeya Mingala Sasana Berikmar. The chief minister was present at the meeting held at the city hall, and presented assistances worth over K 32.2 million to the persons who were removed due to security reason of the state government, and 100 blankets, 100 umbrellas, K 9.2 million for a medical fund of the hospital, publications to the libraries of Bhamo District, six packages of medicines worth K 1.5 million, 50 exercise books and 600 stationerries to Ayethaya Monastery in Mansi Township and Aung MingalaMyoU Monastery in Dawphoneyan Subtownship each, 56 desks contributed by Themi Than Htay Co for Mineitha Basic Education Primary School, 15 desks for Helon BEPS and Lesu Church each, 50 desks donated by U Zin Yaw, and K 1.5 million donated by Mitzutha Co for the operation theatre of the People’s Hospital.

On 17 November, the chief minister looked into progress of construction of Siin Gate (5 Mile) at the entrance to Bhamo and Nantheanka Gate including construction of the two-storey building of Bhamo University and staff quarters.

On 19 November, he inspected progress of paving road in Sitapu Ward. So, it is required to further strengthen the existing amity between the two countries. He urged embassy staff to put more emphasis on smoother relations between the two countries.

He also explained the progress in Myanmar. After that, the President presented cash assistance and gifts to them. —MNA

President U Thein Sein meets Myanmar embassy staff and families

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Nov—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein greeted Myanmar embassy staff and families.

At the ceremony, those present paid respects to the President. And the President gave instruction on ensuring mutual friendship between the two countries. He said that both Myanmar and Cambodia have close culture relations and are mutually-respected partner countries.

So, it is required to further strengthen the existing amity between the two countries. He urged embassy staff to put more emphasis on smoother relations between the two countries.

He also explained the progress in Myanmar. After that, the President presented cash assistance and gifts to them. —MNA
The 14th day session of Pyithu Hluttaw was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, this morning, attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 385 representatives. A total of 22 teachers and 132 students from ILBC (Yangon) observed the Hluttaw session.

Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein made clarifications on income and expenditure stated in the supplementary budget bill of the Union for 2012-2013 fiscal year. In accordance with the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Bylaw-88, the report on findings and comments of the Joint Bill Committee was submitted, the bill was under discussions and clarifications were made.

Members of Union level agencies discussed budgetary matters described in supplementary budget bill of the Union for 2012-2013 fiscal year and approval was sought from the Hluttaw for the comments of the Joint Bill Committee on the bill.

Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein proposed to approve the entire bill as amended by the Hluttaw. U Khin Maung Yi of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No (6) seconded the proposal. The Hluttaw approved the entire supplementary budget bill of the Union for 2012-2013 fiscal year. Next, Chairperson of Hluttaw Administrative Committee Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Mya Nyein clarified Hluttaw Office’s expenditure.

The Hluttaw Speaker called on MPs to attend if they were to discuss the presented cases and the session came to an end in the evening.—MNA

**Pyidaungsu Hluttaw holds eighth day session**

**Proposition to take punitive action against illegal trade**

Aung Myint, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 385 representatives. A total of 22 teachers and 132 students from ILBC (Yangon) observed the Hluttaw session.

Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint answered the questions on economic matters raised by U Than Oo of Myawady Constituency and U Thein Yi of Htan-U Township Constituency that edible palm oil imports was being allowed for all companies and entrepreneurs without any recommendation, except FDA recommendation for health issue, in accordance with the import/export rules and regulations, and the government would buy 20000 tons of rice through tender in Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady Regions as the first phase from rice reserve purchase programme and more purchase would be carried out in necessary places.

Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Maung Maung Thein replied the questions on financial matters raised by U Maung Maung Soe of Thaketa Constituency and U Than Myint of Windawin Constituency that there was no plan to open Myanma Economic Bank (Branch) at Dawbon and Thakayta at present time, and that banking services is being carried out through fax and online and services would be given like private banks in future.

Dr Win Myint of Hlaingthay Constituency submitted a proposal urging to take punitive action against illegal inflow of goods through the formation of a Union level committee, and Union Minister U Win Aung Myint, Deputy Minister for Energy U Htin Aung, Deputy Minister Dr Maung Maung Thein, Judge of the Supreme Court of the Union U Soe Nyunt, Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo of Attorney-General Office of the Union and Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun made clarifications on the proposal.

Next, Hluttaw amended the proposal to include illegal inflow of goods and approved the proposal to take punitive action against illegal inflow of goods and approved the proposal to take punitive action against illegal inflow of goods and through the formation of a Union level committee.

Today’s session ended at 3.45 pm and the 15th day session will continue tomorrow.

MNA on urging the Union Government to implement Small-Scale Hydropower Development Scenarios for swift development of Myanmar electric power sector submitted by Mandalay Region Constituency No.6.

With regard to the proposal, Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe said that according to the State Constitution, the Union Government did not have authority to carry small hydro power supply directly. Plans are under way to implement small-scale hydro power projects in the swift development of State’s electric power sector. Hluttaw approved it. The meeting came to an end in the evening.—MNA

**Small-scale hydropower projects would be implemented for swift development of electric power sector**

Aung Myint, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 385 representatives. A total of 22 teachers and 132 students from ILBC (Yangon) observed the Hluttaw session.

At today session, Amyotha Hluttaw Government’s Guarantors, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee Secretary U Khin Maung Htay submitted the reports on questions and proposals at fourth regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw.

After that, Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Government’s Guarantors, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee U Aung Tun submitted the reports on the remaining questions and proposal of the respective ministries at first, second and third sessions.

Then, member of Amyotha National Planning Committee U Aung Maung Aye submitted proposal on committee’s undertakings from January to October this year. Hluttaw approved it.

**14th day session of Pyithu Hluttaw in progress at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall.**

**Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe taking part in discussion.** MNA is Chiphangwe project and has been completed by 98.59 percent. Hluttaw approved it.

Eight representatives discussed the proposal.

Daw Nan Ni Ni N N Aye of Kayin State Constituency participates in discussion. MNA

**New Light of Myanmar**

**Hluttaw**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 385 representatives. A total of 22 teachers and 132 students from ILBC (Yangon) observed the Hluttaw session.

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Luxembourg’s Prime Minister and Eurogroup chairman Jean-Claude Juncker (R) talks with Spain’s Economy Minister Luis de Guindos (L) at a Eurogroup meeting in Brussels on 20 Nov, 2012.—Reuters

Brussels, 21 Nov—Greece’s international lenders failed for the second week running to agree how to get the country’s debt down to a sustainable level and will have a third go at resolving their most intractable problem in six days’ time.

After nearly 12 hours of talks through the night during which myriad options were discussed, euro zone finance ministers, the International Monetary Fund and the European Central Bank failed to reach a consensus, without which emergency aid cannot be disbursed to Athens. “We are close to an agreement but technical verifications have to be undertaken, financial calculations have to be made and it’s really for technical reasons that at this hour of the day it was not possible to do it in a proper way and so we are interrupting the meeting and reconvening next Monday,” Eurogroup chairman Jean-Claude Juncker told reporters.

Euro zone, IMF fail to strike Greek debt deal

“There are no major political disagreements,” he said. Nonetheless, the euro extended its fall against the dollar in response.

A document prepared for the meeting and seen by Reuters declared that Greece’s debt cannot be cut to 120 percent of GDP by 2020, the level deemed sustainable by the IMF, unless euro zone member states write off a portion of their loans to Greece.

The 15-page document, circulated among ministers, set out in black-and-white how far off-track Greece is in reducing its debt to the IMF-imposed target, from a level of around 170 percent of GDP now.

The document set out various ways Greece’s debt could be reduced between now and 2020, but concluded they would not be enough without euro zone creditors taking a hit on their own holdings — something Germany and others have said would be illegal.

The document did say Greek debt could fall to 120 percent of GDP two years later — in 2022 — without having to impose any losses on euro zone member states or forcing through a buy-back of Greek debt from private-sector bondholders.

But International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde rejected such an extension at similar talks last week.

Without any corrective measures the document said Greek debt would be 144 percent in 2020 and 113 percent in 2022, figures first reported exclusively by Reuters last week.

To bring the debt ratio down further, one needs to take recourse to measures that would entail capital losses or budgetary implications for euro area member states, the document says.

The United States will work with our partners in Israel and across the region ... for an outcome which bolsters security in the region and will be sustainable,” said Clinton in a statement issued before she and Netanyah started a late-night meeting to discuss the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestinian militant groups in Gaza.

The 15-page document, a resolution that also requested that UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon “report in the coming days” on allegations of external support for M23, and demands that any and all outside support to the M23 cease immediately.

It demanded “the immediate withdrawal of the M23 from Goma, the cessation of any further advances by the M23 and that its members immediately and permanently disband and lay down arms.” The Security Council also said it was ready to consider additional targeted sanctions against the leadership of M23 and also those providing external support for M23 and violating an arms embargo on the Democratic Republic of Congo.—Reuters

World powers to meet in Brussels to map out Iran plans

Brussels, 21 Nov—Officials from six world powers meet in Brussels on Wednesday to plan for a possible new round of talks with Iran, the latest effort to resolve a decade-long stand-off over its nuclear programme and avert the threat of a military conflict.

The re-election of US President Barack Obama this month has cleared the way for new talks and Western diplomats are eager to start soon as signs grow that Iran is still building up its nuclear capacity.

But the window of opportunity for a negotiated solution is narrowing because of growing alarm over Tehran’s nuclear course in Israel, which has threatened to bomb Iranian installations.

Any Israeli strike, which would spark more fighting in the Middle East, is unlikely before the country’s 22 January election, experts say, giving the six powers some room for maneuver.

“There certainly is a window to do a deal, that window is closing, and closing fast. Ultimately it depends on the Iranians meeting their international obligations,” said Ariel Raitner, former Obama administration political appointee on Middle East issues at the State Department.—Reuters

A security official stands in front of the Bashkur nuclear reactor, 1,200 km (746 miles) south of Tehran, on 31 Aug, 2010.—Reuters

Kabul, 21 Nov—A large blast that was not immediately clear how many people had been killed or wounded, but there were casualties.

Embassy sirens sounded and ambulances could be heard after the blast, which happened in the area where the US and British embassies and the headquarters of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) are located.

A spokesman for ISAF said the coalition was aware of an explosion.—Reuters

Clinton says US to help find sustainable solution to Israeli-Palestinian conflict

Jerusalem, 21 Nov—US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyah here on Tuesday evening that Washington will make great efforts to help Israel and the Palestinians find a sustainable solution to their long-running conflict.

“The United States will work with our partners in Israel and across the region ... for an outcome which bolsters security in the region and will be sustainable,” said Clinton in a statement issued before she and Netanyah started a late-night meeting to discuss the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestinian militant groups in Gaza.

Clinton reiterated the United States’ commitment to the security of Israel and its citizens, and condemned the rocket attacks launched from the Gaza Strip against Israeli citizens and towns, stressing that such attacks “must come to an end.”

The top US diplomat offered her condolences to the families of those killed in the recent fighting, and expressed Washington’s concern over the loss of lives on both sides. She also praised Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi for his efforts in the peace negotiations.

Clinton is scheduled to visit Ramallah on Wednesday morning and meet with President of the Palestinian Authority Mahmoud Abbas. The two will discuss the current conflict and the ceasefire arrangements, as well as the Palestinian bid to be accepted as an observing member of the United Nations General Assembly.

The current Gaza conflict, which broke out last Wednesday, has so far claimed over 130 lives on both sides.

The international community is making every effort to push for an immediate ceasefire.

Earlier on Tuesday, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged Israel to act “with restraint” and “not to invade the Gaza Strip.”

The UN chief also condemned the rocket attacks launched from Gaza against Israeli communities.

“The loss of civilians on both sides is unacceptable,” he stressed.

Large blast hits diplomatic area of Afghan capital

Xinhua

A spokesman for ISAF said the coalition was aware of an explosion.—Reuters

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Russia launches satellite into space

Moscow, 21 Nov — Russia launched a communications satellite on a proton-M rocket late Tuesday, the federal space agency Roscosmos said.

Live webcast showed that the carrier rocket, with an EchoStar 16 direct broadcast satellite onboard, was blasted off from the Baikonur space center in Kazakhstan at 22:31 Moscow Time (0311 GMT).

The satellite was separated from the carrier rocket some 10 minutes after the takeoff. The booster would deliver the satellite into its target orbit at 7:43 am Moscow Time on Wednesday (0443 GMT), according to the space agency.

The direct broadcast service satellite, with a life span of 15 years, was designed and built by Space System/Loral company. It was equipped with 32 Ku-Band transponders which could provide coverage of the United States.

MNA/Xinhua

Unhackable telecom networks come a step closer

London, 21 Nov — Researchers have come up with a way of protecting telecoms networks using quantum cryptography without the need for expensive dedicated optical fiber links.

The technique, developed by Toshiba’s European research laboratory in Britain and Cambridge University engineers, is a step towards perfect security for everything from credit card transactions to private health records.

Quantum cryptography relies on the rules of quantum theory to generate uncrackable codes that encrypt data in a way that reveals if it has been eavesdropped or tampered with.

Governments and the military are thought to be using the technology already, based on systems available from firms like ID Quantique in Switzerland and US rival MagiQ.

But until now, the quantum keys to encode and decode the information had to be sent on single photons, or particles of light, across a dedicated optical fiber separate from the line carrying the data itself.

“The requirement of separate fibers has greatly restricted the applications of quantum cryptography in the past, as unused fibers are not always available for sending the single photons and even when they are, can be prohibitively expensive,” said Andrew Shields from Toshiba Research in Cambridge.

“Now we have shown that the single photon and data signals can be sent using different wavelengths on the same fiber.”

The Toshiba system, outlined in a research paper published in the journal Physical Review X, still requires an advanced detector that picks up the encryption key in a time window of just 100 millionths of a microsecond, at the expected arrival time of the single photons.

But the detector, which is able to filter out the ‘noise’ in the fiber caused by the data itself, avoids the cost of laying down dedicated optical fiber lines.

Previous work has managed to use quantum cryptography on shared optical fibers but only over very short distances, with low capacity rates, or with data moving only in one direction.

Xinhua

New body scanner offers virtual tape measure for online shopping

LONDON, 21 Nov — British researchers have come up with a new body scanning device that gives accurate measurements and could boost online clothes shopping.

Shoppers are still nervous about ordering clothes online because they often do not fit and, some say, there will never be a substitute for trying something on—one reason why the boom in online retail has not had the same impact on clothing as on music, books and electronics retailing.

In the United States, for instance, the consultancy ComScore estimated that only 14 percent of online spending went on clothes and accessories in the year to June.

The new scanner is being developed by the London College of Fashion, video imaging researchers at the University of Surrey and the company Bodymetrics.

The company already has in-store scanners that use the motion sensors from Microsoft Corp’s Kinect gaming device in Bloomingdale’s (part of Macy’s Inc) in the United States, Selfridges and New Look in Britain, and Karstadt in Germany.

Some firms, including Berlin-based Upcloud, are already offering home scanners that use a webcam, but the British developers say their system is able to measure in unprecedented detail.

Unscrewing the measurements combined with a person’s overall proportions to build a 3D image. Combining this with sizing information from retailers, the system would also overcome the problem of variable sizing, which can mean a shopper is a “medium” in one store but a “large” in another.

The technology builds on previous work by the University of Surrey that was used to create animated characters in games like the Sims.

Adrian Hilton, who is working on the technology at the University, told Reuters that while some shoppers may still enjoy the experience of browsing in stores and trying on clothes, for others an improvement in the reliability of shopping online will be welcome.

“For the male market, I think we’re there,” he said.

Reuters
BUSINESS & HEALTH

Microsoft vs Google trial over patents finishes up

Seattle, 21 Nov — A Google expert witness testified on Tuesday that Microsoft will make roughly $4 billion a year through revenue from 2017 from its Xbox game console and Surface tablet that use Google’s patented wireless technology.

Michael Daniels, an expert for Google's Motorola Mobility unit, testified on the last day of a high stakes trial over patents between Microsoft and Google in Seattle. The $94 billion figure he cited also includes a wireless adapter that Microsoft no longer sells. It was not clear how far back he was counting past revenues. Microsoft declined comment on the figure. The week-long trial in a Seattle federal court examined how much of a royalty Microsoft Corp should pay to Inc for a license to some of Motorola's patents. Google bought Motorola earlier this year for $12.5 billion, partly for its library of communications patents.

Motorola had sought up to $4 billion a year for its wireless and video patents, while Microsoft argues its rival deserves just over $1 million a year.

If US District Judge James Robart decides Google deserves only a small royalty, then its Motorola patents would be a weaker bargaining chip for Google to negotiate licensing deals with rivals. The rapid rise of smartphones has sparked an explosion of litigation between major players disputing ownership of the underlying technology and the design of handsets.

Microsoft Xbox 360 gaming console units are shown for sale at a Microsoft retail store in San Diego on 18 Jan, 2012. — Reuters

Children attending daycare more likely to be overweight

Vancouver, 21 Nov— Preschool kids who regularly attend day care centres are far more likely to be overweight compared to those who stay at home with their parents, a Canadian study has showed.

The study, published recently in the Journal of Pediatrics, found that compared to those cared for at home by their parents, children whose preschool years were spent in non-parental daycare—including daycare with an extended family member — were about 50 percent more likely to be overweight between the ages of 4 and 10 years.

The result was based on the study of 1,649 families with children born in 1997-1998 in Quebec, Canada. The children were classified according to the type of care in which they had spent the most total hours in their preschool years, and the researchers measured the children’s weight and height in the following six years.

“This difference cannot be explained by known risk factors such as socioeconomic status of the parents, breastfeeding, body mass index of the mother, or employment status of the mother,” said Dr Marie-Claude Geoffroy, who led the study.

However, the researchers believe that diet and physical activity are avenues to follow.

Health

FCC says Dish can use wireless spectrum, with limits

New York, 21 Nov — DishNetworkCorporation(DISH.O) said on Tuesday that the US Federal Communications Commission had proposed allowing the satellite TV provider to use wireless spectrum, but would impose limits on the company's business.

The company, which is the No 2 satellite US television provider, said in a statement the FCC proposal would limit Dish’s spectrum by making the company lower “power and emission levels that could cripple our ability to enter the business.”

Dish General Counsel Stanton Dodge called the FCC move “significantly flawed” because the limits would make the spectrum less useful and hurt Dish’s business ambitions.

An FCC spokesman confirmed that agency ChairmanJulius Genachowski had “shared proposals with his colleagues” on Tuesday.

The commissioners still need to vote on the proposals and no final agency decision has been made, Dish said.

SprintNextel Corp (SN), which has lobbied the FCC to impose limits on Dish, said in a statement it hopes the agency takes “the steps necessary to protect Sprint’s PCS spectrum.”

Since March — when the agency delayed its application — to find out whether it could use the spectrum the way it wanted to help build a wireless US cellular network.

Dish ChairmanErgen has spent more than $3 billion buying up wireless spectrum over the past few years.

Ergen has repeatedly said the FCC’s delay has hurt the company’s chances of ever being competitive in the mobile market now dominated by AT&T Inc (TN) and VerizonCommunicationsInc(VZN).

A FCC move “significantly lowers the price of entry for new firms and thrusts Sprint from the outside of the DC competition into the center,” Ergen said.

About 2880 candles are seen lit during a World AIDS Day event in Jakarta on 1 Dec, 2009. — Reuters

Asian shares ease on uncertainty over Greek bailout, US fiscal cliff

Tokyo, 21 Nov — Asian shares eased on Wednesday as investors focused on the euro zone debt crisis after European officials failed to reach a deal on a bailout for Greece, while Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke highlighted the dangers of a US fiscal crisis.

The euro fell 0.4 percent to $1.2759, extending losses and retreating further from Tuesday’s two-week high of $1.2829.

Euro zone finance ministers will meet again on Monday, after their meeting in Brussels ended on Wednesday without an agreement on the next tranche of loans to Greece.

“The euro is being sold because markets had believed the ministers would agree on aid for Greece at today’s meeting,” said Yuki Saito, director of foreign exchange at Credit Agricole in Tokyo. “Instead, a settlement is postponed, highlighting the difficulty of getting consensus on the debt crisis. But I feel this is a typical European political show and an agreement will be reached.”

The bearish news from Europe dragged down Asian shares, whose two-day rise had already been stalled by Bernanke on Tuesday repeating a warning that the $600 billion “fiscal cliff” in expiring tax cuts and government spending reductions could lead to recession in the United States. The Fed chief said worries over how budget negotiations will be resolved were already damaging growth.

He also reiterated the Fed’s guidance for keeping interest rates near zero until at least mid-2015, but offered few clues as to how the central bank might tweak its bond-purchase programme at the start of next year.

HIV infections fall, UN says ending AIDS “feasible”

London, 21 Nov — An end to the worldwide AIDS epidemic is in sight, the United Nations says, mainly due to better access to drugs that can both treat and prevent the incurable human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes the disease.

Progress over the past decade has cut the death toll and helped stabilize the number of people infected with HIV, the UN AIDS programme said in an annual report on Tuesday.

“The global community has embarked on an historic quest to lay the foundation for the eventual end of the AIDS epidemic. This effort is more than merely visionary. It is entirely feasible,” UNAIDS said. Some 34 million people were living with HIV at the end of 2011, the report said. Deaths from AIDS fell to 1.7 million in 2011, down from a peak of 2.3 million in 2005 and from 1.8 million in 2010.

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Coord meeting on State level Kahtina robe-offering ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Nov — A coordination meeting on organizing the Kahtina robe-offering ceremony of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, here, yesterday morning, with an address by Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung.

In his speech, the Union minister called for active participation with collaborative efforts of respective committees for successful holding of state level Kahtina robe-offering ceremony.

Next, Deputy Minister U Soe Win explained preparation for the ceremony to be held on a grand scale and works of respective committees. Then they present reported on ongoing works and follow-up tasks.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister Dr Maung Maung Htay and departmental heads. — Kyemon

Monsoon paddy harvest time in Pyinmana

PYINMANA, 21 Nov — Now is the time for a harvest of monsoon paddies. Farmers from Mandalay to Nay Pyi Taw, with the aim of raising funds, are harvesting monsoon paddies in their farmlands.

Now Pyinmana Township is used to hire labours to reap the paddies in their farmlands. — Kyemon

Myanmar gymnastic team leaves for Thailand

YANGON, 21 Nov — Under the supervision of the Ministry of Sports, selected athletes from sports federations are in intensive training at Gold Camp training centre in Nay Pyi Taw and training centres in Yangon, Ngwe Hsaw Wa and Pyin Oo Lwin for XXVII SEA Games to be held in December 2013 in Myanmar.

Wheelchair users from Yangon, Mandalay to visit Nay Pyi Taw

YANGON, 21 Nov — It is learnt that wheelchair users from Yangon and Mandalay have arranged to visit Nay Pyi Taw soon.

It will be the third time for those who are going to show their courage as a gesture of hailing the International Day of Disabled Persons which falls on 3 December.

A group comprising 10 wheelchair users and a cyclist will set out on their 248-mile long journey from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw on 26 November. The eight-day seven-night trip includes overnight stops in seven towns.

A group comprising 11 wheelchair users and a cyclist will set out on their 220-mile long journey from Mandalay to Nay Pyi Taw on 27 November. Their seven-day six-night journey includes overnight stops at Kyaukse, Wundwin, Myitkyina, Yamyethin and Lwetla.

A seven-member team who will accompany them along the journey, providing them with health care service and repair works.

The date they set to arrive in Nay Pyi Taw is 2 December and they will attend the ceremony in commemoration of the International Day of Disabled Persons to be held in Nay Pyi Taw on 3 December.

Their train journey will start at 11.20 am on 15 May 2011. Now they are being confined at intensive care unit of 550-bed Children’s Hospital in Mandalay.

In Mandalay, communities will hold a grand ceremony for the harvest of monsoon paddies.

Cash donations for quake victims

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Nov — A cash donation ceremony for quake victims in Mandalay Region took place at the meeting hall of Mandalay Region Government Office on 15 November.

Region ministers U Kyaw Hsan, Dr Win Hlaing and Dr Myint Kyo accepted K 3 million donated by Yunnan Buddhist Temple on 80th Street, 1.5 million by Fukyint Buddhist Temple, K 1 million by Kwangton Buddhist Temple and K 0.5 million by Buddhist Ethnic Temple at the ceremony.

Combine harvesters are being rented at a cost of K 2,500 per acre. Thanks to use of combine harvesters, farmers can save time and money and they can have enough time to prepare for winter crops.

The combine harvesters were seen off at Yangon International Airport by the MGF Vice-President and executives and officials of the ministry.

Pygopagus Conjoined Twins to undergo elective surgery

MANDALAY, 21 Nov — Arrangements are being made for Pygopagus conjoined twins — Maung Aung Khant Kyaw and Maung Aung Mya Kyaw who were born in Mandalay to perform a major surgery by a medical team comprising Anaesthetist Dr U Maung On and surgeons led by Professor/Head of Paediatric Surgery Department of 550-bed Children’s Hospital in Mandalay Dr U Aung Mya on 26 November.

The twin brothers were born to Daw Mya Thandar, wife of U Win Toe of Honebu village in Mingon of Sagaing Township. They were admitted to 300-bed Children’s Hospital in Mandalay within the hour after they were born at Aye Thukha Hospital at 11.20 am on 15 May 2011.

Now they are being confined at intensive care unit of 550-bed Children’s Hospital in Mandalay.

In Mandalay, communities will hold a grand ceremony for the harvest of monsoon paddies.

Applications for Miss Myanmar International 2013 invited

YANGON, 21 Nov — Miss Myanmar International 2013 will be organized by Myanmar Travel Operators Federation in February 2013. Applications for the competition are invited.

It is an opportunity for young women nationwide who are fluent in spoken English and have well-developed general knowledge to have a chance of taking part in international beauty pageant contests. Only those from 18-25 years of age who are between five feet and three inches and five feet and nine inches are eligible for the contest.

Application forms can be submitted to Myanmar Tourism Service Company at Yuzana Tower on MNA

Railway guard saves lives of passengers on board the train

MAWLWU, 21 Nov — A mine blast occurred on the 800-foot Bridge No.478 at mile post No. 599-23/24 between Mawlw and Payet railway stations in Indaw Township of Sagaing Region at about 10.30 pm on 17 November.

There was no casualty thanks to the diligent railway guard U Chit Maung (a) Sai Khin Maung who gave a red light signal to U Tin Aung train driver of No. (58) down-train which left Mawlw railway station, in time to stop the train before it arrived at the blast-hit bridge. The train went back to Mawlw railway station and arrived back there safe and sound.

Mawlw locals showed their goodwill to passengers on the board the (58) down-train, providing food to them.

The train left Mawlw railway station at 7 pm on 18 November when the railway returned to normalcy. — Kyemon

Photo shows a team of movie stars comprising vice-chairman of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization La Min, Yazar Nay Win, Nay Htoo Naing, Chit Chit Zaw, Khin Zarchi Kyaw, The Naw Zar, Khaing Thin Kyi, Ma Kayba and Waso Hoe Oo who donated K 17.7 million and medicines, clothing and personal goods for renovation of religious edifices and rehabilitation of victims in quake-hit areas in Sagaing and Mandalay Regions on 17 November.

They also perform entertainments during their tour of Kanbula and Khin U Townships and Kyaukmyaung sub-township as psychological support for quake victims.

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A responsible person of Shwe Minthar Foundation (Myanmar) said that it is aimed at giving psychological supports to those who are physically disabled across the nations and encouraging them to do as ordinary people do.
General Soe Win visits Chengdu and Beijing

General Soe Win meets with Chinese senior military officer.—MNA

Yangon, 21 Nov—
Ministries and Myanmar Rice Industry Association will purchase reserve rice for monsoon paddy worth K 14.5 billion, according to an official of Myanmar Rice Industry Association.

Due to the information that the state reserve rice will be purchased for monsoon paddy in 2012-2013, the market of early-monsoon rice is stable and the trading is in regular.

All the farmers welcome fair price of the government in purchasing rice, said a farmer.

 Reserve rice will be bought in Yangon, Ayeyawady, Mandalay and Bago regions.

The reserve rice has been purchased from farmers for the first time and from the brokers for the second time. The third time will be bought through tender. —Myanma Alinn

Reserve rice to be purchased for monsoon paddy

NDCGL holds annual general meeting

Yangon, 21 Nov—
Thanks to developing process in various fields of Myanmar, the number of investors is increasing and most of the people are interested in businesses.

Women’s aerobics course wraps up

Kath, 21 Nov—
Organized by Katha District Women’s Sports Committee, the women’s aerobics course concluded at Aung San Hall of Basic Education High School No. 1 in Katha on 7 November, with an address by Patron of District Women’s Sports Committee Dr Htay Htaw Win.

Deputy Commissioner of the district U That Lwin and officials presented certificates of honour to the trainees.

 Altogether 30 trainees attended the one-week course.

—Myanma Alinn

Prime Minister of New Zealand Mr John Key cordially greets Myanmar entrepreneurs at New Zealand and Myanmar Talking Business ceremony. —MNA

Illegal timber seized in Taninthayi Region

Yangon, 21 Nov—Staff of Yebyu Township Forest Department and staff of Taninthayi Natural Forest Reserve Project were on duty of clearing illegal timber extraction in Block 32 of Dawei Myitkyewti in Township opened a file of lawsuit. —Myanma Alinn

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Milk fed to schoolchildren

Loikaw, 21 Nov—The milch cow breeder group of Loikaw fed milk to schoolchildren at No. 2 Basic Education Primary School on 16 November morning.

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Thai Expo scheduled in Yangon, Mandalay

Yangon, 21 Nov—
Under the arrangements of Ministry of Commerce and Thai International Trade Promotion Department, the Thai Expo will be held in Yangon and Mandalay in December.

The expo will take place at Tawwin Centre in Yangon from 6 to 9 December and Diamond Plaza in Mandalay from 13 to 16 December. —Myanma Alinn

With regard to the incident, Winwa Police Station of Thayetchaung

Thayetchaung, 21 Nov—An express bus from Thayetchaung transport service plunged into the road side and then overturned near mile post No. 41/1 on Myeik-Dawei Road in Yange Village of Thayetchaung Township at 1 pm on 12 November.

The root cause was that the bus dodged the man on the road. In the incident, nine passengers were injured at legs, hands and heads. —Myanma Alinn

Express bus overturns on Myeik-Dawei Road

NATIONAL

General Soe Win visits Chengdu and Beijing

Yangon, 21 Nov—At the invitation of President U Thein Sein of the Republic of Myanmar, a goodwill delegation led by Prime Minister of New Zealand Mr John Key, arrived here by special flight at 1:30 pm to pay a goodwill visit to Myanmar.

The visiting goodwill delegation was welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan, Yangon Region Development Affairs

Soo Win and party gave encouragement to the Myanmar Ambassador and embassy families and military attaches families. —MNA

New Zealand Prime Minister in town

Yangon, 21 Nov—
Prime Minister Mr John Key delivered a speech at New Zealand and Myanmar Talking Business ceremony at Chatrium Hotel in Tanwe Township. He met with Myanmar entrepreneurs and posed for a documentary photo. In the evening, the visiting goodwill delegation paid homage to Shwedagon Pagoda.—MNA

Illegal timber seized in Taninthayi Region

Yangon, 21 Nov—
Chairman of the company Dr Khin Shwe made a speech. The reports of the Board of Directors and financial statement was read and then approved. Member of BOD U Khin Maung Pyone explained the election of new directors. The concluding remark was given by Dr Khin Shwe. National Development Company Group Ltd is established as a public company and operated in line with the international rules.—Myanma Alinn

Milk fed to schoolchildren

Loikaw, 21 Nov—The milch cow breeder group of Loikaw fed milk to schoolchildren at No. 2 Basic Education Primary School on 16 November morning.

Responsible persons of the group explained the purpose of feeding milk to the children. It was also attended by the Kayah State Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding, departmental officials and teachers. —Myanma Alinn

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Myanmar Alinn
Responsible tourism

Responsible tourism is an approach to managing tourism, aimed at maximizing economic, social and environmental benefits and minimizing costs to destinations. Simply but responsibly tourism is tourism that creates better places for the people to live in and better places to visit, achieving economic growth, environmental sustainability and social justice.

Myanmar is currently experiencing rapid growth in tourism demand. The country is becoming an emerging and fast growing tourism destination in South East Asia. In the first six months of 2012, international visitor arrivals increased by over 30 per cent compared to 2011. In the short run, success is assured and tourism will continue to grow rapidly. However, Myanmar risks potential unsustainable tourism growth and negative impacts relating to the environment, culture and society.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism recognized that the repaid tourism development may succeed in boosting the sector and creating swift economic development, but may fall in the long-term success for sustainable tourism development in the country.

In response to the challenge, those from the private sector, the public sector and international responsible tourism professionals are making earnest efforts for bringing about responsible tourism in Myanmar. And there was a consensus that a Myanmar Responsible Tourism Policy is urgently needed—a set of national policy that provides the foundation for a Myanmar Tourism Development Strategy and Action Plan.

As Myanmar people are kind and friendly, and their facial expressions, particularly their sweet smiles, always captivate the visitors, it’s sure that Myanmar tourism industry will get off the ground when a Myanmar Responsible Tourism Policy is in place.

FM attends 21st ASEAN Summit, its related meetings

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 Nov—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, who left for Phnom Penh to attend the 21st ASEAN Summit and its related meetings, attended the ASEAN Foreign Policy is in place.

President U Thein Sein leaves Cambodia

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 Nov—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein arrived at Phnom Penh International Airport via Hotel Cambodiana in Phnom Penh to leave for Myanmar after attending the 21st ASEAN Summit and Related Summits held in Phnom Penh of Cambodia at the invitation of Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen. The President was seen off at the Airport by Cambodian Information Minister Mr Khiev Kanharith and officials, the Myanmar Ambassador to Cambodia and wife, the Military Attaché and wife, and staff from the Embassy and the Military Attaché office.

President U Thein Sein meets Myanmar reporters from local and foreign media

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 Nov—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein who attended 21st ASEAN Summit and its related Summits, ASEAN Community, benefits of the Summit, cooperation, benefits for Myanmar thanks to the Summit and discussions with the US President and benefits and his fruitful visit to Myanmar.

After that, the President replied to the queries raised by the reporters. Then, they paid respects to the President. After the call, the President together with the reporters posed for a documentary photo.

Fifteen reporters included member of Newspaper Governing Body U Ye Naing Moe (Moe Tint Swe), U Kyaw Yin Myint and Ma Nan Lwin from Kumudra Journal, Ma Tin Zar Zaw from Popular Journal, Dr Myo Min Htike from Venus Journal, Ma Kyaw Yin Mon from Myanmar Times, Ko Nyein Chan and Ko Nay Tun from Cctv's along roads and at bus-stops?

Do we need CCTVs along roads and at bus-stops?

Myay Zar

President U Thein Sein being seen off by Cambodian Information Minister at Phnom Penh International Airport.—MNA

President U Thein Sein speaking in meeting with Myanmar reporters from local and foreign media at Hotel Cambodiana.—MNA

President U Thein Sein being seen off by Cambodian Information Minister at Phnom Penh International Airport.—MNA

Do we need CCTVs along roads and at bus-stops?

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The state is ensuring the child rights with respective governments and NGOs. Every child has rights not only to speak out, write and think freely but also to live, develop, protect, involve and to earn the best in their standard of living according to the law,” said Kachin State Chief Minister U La Naing from Eleven Media Group, Ma Ei Mon Kyaw from Kyodo News Agency, Ma Mya Hnin Aye from The Voice Weekly, Ko Myo Than from Mizzima Media, Ko Nyan Lin from Mawson Magazine, Ma Thi Htet San from Democratic Voice of Burma, Dr Tin Aung Khaing and Ko Moe Tint Swe from Myanmar News Week, Daw Nan Kalyar Win of Asian Fame Media Group and U Thaung Su Nyein from 7Days News.
President U Thein Sein attends 21st ASEAN Summit and related meetings

**President U Thein Sein attends 4th ASEAN-US Leaders’ Meeting.**

On 18 November, President U Thein Sein together with heads of state/government of ASEAN countries attended the opening ceremony of the 21st ASEAN Summit at Peace Palace in Phnom Penh. ASEAN Alternate Chairman Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Samdech Hun Sen delivered an opening address, and the President together with heads of state/government of ASEAN countries formally opened the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR).

At the 21st ASEAN Summit plenary session, ASEAN Alternate Chairman the Cambodian Prime Minister extended greetings.

Next, President U Thein Sein and ASEAN leaders and the ASEAN Secretary-General held frank discussions on ASEAN Community, and signed the Phnom Penh Statement on the adoption of ASEAN Human Rights Declaration.

At the meeting between ASEAN leaders and ASEAN Business Advisory Council, ASEAN Alternate Chairman the Cambodian Prime Minister extended greetings and a discussion on functions of the council and trade and investment matters was held.

President U Thein Sein met Malaysian Prime Minister Dato’i Seri Mohammad Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak and held discussions on bilateral relations and further mutual cooperation in economic and investment sectors at 2:40 pm.

ASEAN leaders exchanged views on international and regional issues at the retreat session of ASEAN leaders at 3:45 pm.

At the 15th ASEAN-China Summit on 19 November, leaders of state/government of ASEAN countries and Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao made review on the relations between ASEAN and China and future plans.

President U Thein Sein met Thai Prime Minister Mrs Yingluck Shinawatra at 3:45 pm and exchanged views on boosting bilateral cooperation.

President U Thein Sein met Japanese Prime Minister Mr Yoshihiko Noda at 4:20 pm. The Japanese Prime Minister said he was deeply touched by the earthquake in Sagarin and Mandalay region on 11 November in Myanmar and reaffirmed debt reduction and further loan of 500,000 mln yen to Myanmar. The two sides also exchanged frank views on joint programmes to be implemented and Myanmar government’s public welfare schemes. The fourth ASEAN-US Summit was held at 6:20 pm during which ASEAN leaders and US President Mr Barack Obama reviewed ASEAN-US relations and discussed prospects for strengthening of ties. Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Samdech Hun Sen and wife then hosted dinner to State leaders.

President U Thein Sein attended ASEAN Global Seminar on 20 November morning. Representatives of ADB, WTO, UNCTAD and IMF discussed financial, commercial and economic integration and promotion among regional and international organizations. President U Thein Sein then held talks with Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. The two sides discussed democratization and reform process in Myanmar and prospects for closer bilateral ties and continued joint programmes.

President U Thein Sein attended 7th East Asia Summit plenary session and 7th East Asia Summit retreat session in the noon and concluding ceremony in the evening.

President U Thein Sein met families of Myanmar Embassy and Military Attache Office in Cambodia and gave an interview to local and foreign reporters hunting ASEAN Summit news there on 20 November morning.

**Myanmar delegation attends 15th ASEAN related Summits**

The Union Minister attended ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting Mr Cham Prasidh on 16 November.

The Union Minister attended the preliminary meeting of ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting in Peace Palace in Phnom Penh on 17 November and agreement signing ceremony of two agreements under the framework for comprehensive economic cooperation between China and ASEAN.

The Union Minister met Japan Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Mr Yukio Edano at Peace Palace on 20 November.

- **FG-ABU Digital Broadcasting Conference held**

Use of state-of-the-art technologies in future programme,” said Deputy Minister for Information U Paik Htway. After that, officials discussed delivery to four screens, Effective workflow and Media Management, Setting Up Infrastructure in Developing Markets and Building Business Models. Workshop on FG-ABU Digital Broadcasting Conference for Asian Broadcasters was held from 19 to 20 (AIPR).

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- **Union Minister at President Office U Tin Naing Thein attends 15th ASEAN related Summits.**

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Four men charged in California with plot to join al-Qaeda

In conversations relayed or recorded by an unidentified paid FBI informant, Deleon and Santana spoke about traveling to Afghanistan to join al-Jabir and engage in “violent jihad,” according to the complaint. It said they described potential targets for attacks including U.S. military bases. The three others, all listed as living in Southern California’s Inland Empire, east of Los Angeles, were arrested outside an apartment complex in the town of Chino on Friday, two days before they had planned to fly from Mexico to Turkey, the FBI said. It said Cabir met Deleon and Santana in a hookah lounge and introduced them in 2010 to radical Islamic teachings, including those of U.S.-born al-Qaeda militant Anwar al-Awlaki, who was killed by a U.S drone attack last year in Yemen.

Butkevicius to be nominated candidate for Prime Minister of Lithuania

LITHUANIA, RIGA, 21 NOV — Lithuania’s president Dalia Grybauskaite nominated local leader of the Social Democrats Algirdas Butkevicius as candidate for Prime Minister on Tuesday.

Grybauskaite had signed a decree on Algirdas Butkevicius nomination for the Prime Minister and submitted his candidacy to the Seimas. She suggested that the head of the Social Democratic party formed the government because this party received the most of parliamentary seats. If this proposal is adopted, Butkevicius will assemble the new Cabinet.

Butkevicius, born in November 1958 in Radviliskis District of Lithuania married and has a daughter. He became the chairman of the Lithuanian Social Democratic Party in 1991. In 1996 and 2000, Butkevicius was elected to the Seimas. From 2004 to 2006, he served as Minister of Finance and from 2006 to 2008 as Minister of Transport and Communications of Lithuania. He was the Social Democratic Party of Lithuania’s candidate in the 2009 presidential election, placing second with 11.85% of the votes.

During two rounds of parliament selection on 14 and 28 October, Lithuanian Social Democratic Party won the most 38 seats and got into the parliament.

New Zealand volcano erupts, aviation warning raised

Wellington, 21 Nov — New Zealand’s central North Island volcano of Tongariro erupted Wednesday at 1:25 pm local time, the government’s Institute of Geological and Nuclear Science (GNS Science) announced.

A statement from GNS Science said that volcanologists were monitoring the eruption and further information would be released as it became available.

It said the volcanic alert level had been raised from level one, which indicated signs of volcano unrest, to level two, which indicated minor eruptive activity.

The aviation colour code was set at red, warning aircraft that an eruption was underway with significant emission of ash into the atmosphere.

The eruption occurred in the Te Maari Craters area of Tongariro.

The Ministry of Civil Defence warned that light volcanic ash fall could be anticipated downwind of Tongariro and affect the regions of Waikato, Hawkes Bay, Gisborne and the Bay of Plenty.

It said people experiencing ashfall should protect their eyes and try to avoid breathing the ash.

Tongariro last erupted on 6 August, throwing out small amounts of ash in its first eruption since 1897.

Last week, GNS Science warned that the nearby volcanic ash plume was showing signs of an imminent eruption as the temperature beneath its Crater Lake reached about 800 degrees centigrade, but the lake itself was only 20 degrees centigrade, which suggested a vent was partly blocked.

Illinois may grant driver’s licenses to illegal immigrants

Chicago, 21 Nov — Illinois may soon become the most populous US state to grant a form of driver’s licenses to illegal immigrants, after the nation’s growing Hispanic population boosted the power of Democrats in national and state elections on 6 November.

A bipartisan group of Illinois politicians announced on Tuesday they would propose such a law when the legislature convenes on 27 November.

Washington state and New Mexico are the only states that currently allow illegal immigrants to get licenses for driving permits. As the fifth most populous state, Illinois would be the biggest state to adopt such a law.

A California law that allows immigrants with federal work permits to receive driver’s licenses will take effect January 1, 2013.

Supporters said the law would be good for public safety, allowing Illinois immigrant motorists to get tested on their driving skills and buy insurance.

“When you have a quarter of a million undocumented drivers on the road, it’s definitely a safety concern,” said Ron Holmes, spokesman for Illinois Senator John Cullerton, who is backing the measure along with fellow Democrats Illinois Governor Pat Quinn and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

Former Illinois Governor Jim Edgar, a Republican, joined Democrats at a news conference in Chicago on Tuesday to support the idea, as did Republican State Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka.

It also has the support of the powerful House Speaker, Chicago Democrat Michael Madigan, giving it a good chance of passage.

The drive to pass the law follows the re-election of Democratic President Barack Obama, Democratic gains in the US Senate and in the Illinois legislature with strong Hispanic support.

Since 2010, a handful of Republican-led states, notably border state Arizona, passed laws cracking down on illegal immigrants.

Tanzanian President says SADC considers possibilities to deploy troops in eastern DRC

Arusha, (Tanzania), 21 Nov — The Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) is considering the possibilities of deploying troops in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as a last resort to save millions of people who are suffering from the ongoing conflict.

Kikwete, who is the chairman of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation (SIPDC), said that regional bloc is currently working on how to intervene the situation in the mineral-rich country.

“We want to resolve this matter amicably and deploying troops will be the last resort,” he said.

He also revealed that the situation in the eastern DRC was deploring, that M23 rebel group was still active. It also has the support of the powerful House Speaker, Chicago Democrat Michael Madigan, giving it a good chance of passage.

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Cambodia halts commercial flights for foreign leaders after ASEAN Summit

PHNOM PENH—Cambodia suspended all commercial flights at the capital’s airport for nearly six hours on Tuesday evening in order to facilitate air traffic for foreign leaders departing Cambodia for their respective countries after the 21st ASEAN Summit and related Summits, according to a notice by the Cambodia Airports.

The notice said that the closure was made from 16:00 pm (local time) to 21:30 pm at the Phnom Penh International Airport.

The leaders of the ten-member ASEAN and eight ASEA’s dialogue country leaders including US President Barack Obama, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Australisian Prime Minister Julia Gillard, New Zealand Prime Minister John Key, and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov had participated in the Summits from 18-20 November.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, Chair of ASEAN in 2012, said at the closing ceremony, on Tuesday that the 21st ASEAN Summit and related Summits came to an end successfully with fruitful results as expected.

At the closing ceremony, Hun Sen also handed over the ASEAN rotating chairmanship for 2013 to Brunei.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Eight people injured in blast in S Philippines

DAVAO CITY, 21 Nov—Eight people, including two policemen, were wounded following an explosion near a regional police camp in southern Philippines on Wednesday, authorities said.

The blast happened just meters from the Northern Mindanao police regional office in Cagayan de Oro city shortly after 8 am local time, according to Gil Hitosis, regional police chief.

Hitosis told local radio the wounded included six civilians and two policemen.

The police official said an investigation was underway to determine if the explosion was caused by a grenade or an improvised explosive device.

India calls for early successful conclusion of Doha round of global trade talks

NEW DELHI, 21 Nov—India hopes for an early successful conclusion of the stalled Doha round of the global trade talks under the auspices of the World Trade Organization (WTO), said a senior Indian official.

The Indo-Asian News Service quoted Indian Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma as saying on Tuesday that India has urged the need to “revitalize the Doha WTO negotiations to put in place a rule-based multilateral trade regime in order to revive the global economy”.

“It has never happened that any round has ever been aborted... and India has the conviction that this round has to be taken to an early and successful conclusion and we are committed to work with all the stakeholders and negotiating partners,” he said.

Two children killed, thousands flee in S Philippine flooding

DAVAO CITY, 21 Nov—Two children drowned and thousands of people fled their homes as heavy rains brought widespread flooding in southern Philippines on Tuesday, disaster officials said on Wednesday.

The flooding affected residents in eight townships in three southern provinces of Mindanao’s Davao region, authorities said.

A 14-year-old boy and another child died after being swept away by floodwaters in San Isidro town, in Davao Oriental province, according to a member of the Davao Oriental provincial disaster council.

In the province of Compostela Valley, some 425 families were rescued overnight as the Agusan river overflowed and flooded communities in the towns of Monkalay, Montevista, Compostela and Nabunturan, said Raul Villalocino, provincial disaster officer.

According to Villalocino, small landslides were also reported in the town of Mawab but did not cause any casualties.

Fifteen families were also rescued after a river flooded two communities in the towns of Kapalong and Atuban in Asuncion municipalities in nearby Davao del Norte Province, said Sonio Sanchez, disaster officer for the province.

Senior CPC official leaves for Asian party conference

BEIJING, 21 Nov—A senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC) left Thursday morning for the 7th General Assembly of International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) in Baku of Azerbaijan.

The official is Du Qinglin, a member of the secretariat of the CPC Central Committee.

Du, also vice chairman of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference National Committee, was invited by the ICAPP Secretariat.

Villager Guo Xin’e makes embroidery insoles in Duzhen Township of Xiaoyi City, north China’s Shanxi Province, on 21 Nov, 2012. More than 200 women farmers here join in a handicrafts cooperative and start living on their skill in making embroidery insoles.

New children made embroidery insoles in Duzhen Township of Xiaoyi City, north China’s Shanxi Province, on 21 Nov, 2012. More than 200 women farmers here join in a handicrafts cooperative and start living on their skill in making embroidery insoles.

New children made embroidery insoles in Duzhen Township of Xiaoyi City, north China’s Shanxi Province, on 21 Nov, 2012. More than 200 women farmers here join in a handicrafts cooperative and start living on their skill in making embroidery insoles.

New children made embroidery insoles in Duzhen Township of Xiaoyi City, north China’s Shanxi Province, on 21 Nov, 2012. More than 200 women farmers here join in a handicrafts cooperative and start living on their skill in making embroidery insoles.
Ministry of Information
Invitation for open tender of Myanma Radio and Television
(Nay Pyi Taw, Tatkon) to maintain air-conditioners

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

2. Application forms of open bidders may be taken out from Office No. 7, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw, from 09:00 hour to 16:30 hour from (21-11-2012) to (29-11-2012) during weekdays.

3. The open bidders are submitted to Office No. 7, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw, in the presence of the members of the tender committee from 9:30 hr to 16:30 hr on (30-11-2012). The tenders, later then the designated date, will not be considered.

4. Forms of open tender and detailed information may be inquired by following address.

Ministry of Information
Invitation for open tender of Myanma Radio and Television to build retransmission stations

1. Open tenders are invited to build five retransmission stations of Myanma Radio and Television under the Ministry of Information in 2012-2013 fiscal year.

2. Application forms of open tenders may be taken out from Office No. 7, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw, from 09:00 hour to 16:30 hour from (22-11-2012) to (3-12-2012) during weekdays.

3. The open tenders are submitted to Office No. 7, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw, in the presence of the members of the tender committee from 9:30 hr to 16:30 hr on (4-12-2012). The tenders, later then the designated date, will not be considered.

4. Forms of open tender and detailed information may be inquired by following address.

Ministry of Information
Invitation for open tender of Myanma Radio and Television to purchase machines

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

2. Application forms of open tenders may be taken out from Office No. 7, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw, from 09:00 hour to 16:30 hour from (21-11-2012) to (29-11-2012) during weekdays.

3. The open tenders are submitted to Office No. 7, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw, in the presence of the members of the tender committee from 9:30 hr to 16:30 hr on (30-11-2012). The tenders, later then the designated date, will not be considered.

4. Forms of open tender and detailed information may be inquired by following address.

Sarkozy ally wins French right leadership battle

Paris, 21 Nov—Rightist Jean-Francois Cope, an ally of former President Nicolas Sarkozy, claimed the leadership of France’s main conservative party on Monday in a closely fought two-way contest marred by mutual accusations of voter fraud.

Cope, already the incumbent leader of the UMP party, beat centrist former prime minister Francois Fillon by 50.03 percent to 49.97 percent, the head of an internal voting commission said—a margin of just 95 votes out of almost 175,000 cast. The victory could pave the way for Cope, whose controversial campaign included accusations that “anti-white” racism is rife in France, either to run for president himself in 2017 or stand aside for Sarkozy if his mentor chooses to re-enter politics.

“My hands and my arms are wide open,” Cope told supporters at party headquarters in Paris after the result was announced. The contest would normally decide the UMP’s candidate for the 2017 presidential election, but surveys indicate that two-thirds of party members think Sarkozy has a better chance of wresting power back from the ruling Socialists. The election row has further fuelled speculation of a comeback by Sarkozy, who has told aides he will feel obliged to return if the Socialists fail to revive the sickly economy. The vote to pick a successor to Sarkozy was meant to determine whether the UMP would cleave to the centre ground under Fillon, in keeping with the party’s decades-old roots, or move right under the combative Copé in a quest to regain power.

WASHINGTON, 21 Nov—US First Lady Michelle Obama on Monday honoured a Chinese programme dedicated to preserving the cultural heritage of the Dong people of China, presenting representatives of the programme with International Spotlight Award from the President’s Committee on the Arts and Humanities.

The programme, which won the 2012 Dong Song Programme, Wu Liyan, a 13-year-old girl who participates in the programme, and Ren Huxin, curator of Dimen Dong Cultural Eco-Museum, received the award at a White House ceremony.

Deng Hongbo, Deputy Chief of Mission and US First Lady honours Chinese minority folk art programme

Minister from the Embassy of China, joined Mrs Obama in presenting the award.

In remarks to the Press, Deng said the award is an opportunity to showcase unique folk art of China to the American public, enhancing understanding and cultural exchange of the two peoples.

He voiced expectation that more folk art from China can gain international audience.

The 100 Dong Song Programme, an initiative of the Western China Cultural Ecology Research Workshop, teaches hundreds of young people the art of music through traditional Dong music.
The upper East Side, which
a triple-wide townhouse on
23.5 million. The 54-year
selling off her Harperley Hall
Queen of Pop Madonna is
Madonna selling million dollar New York home?

NEW DELHI, 21 Nov — Queen of Pop Madonna is
selling off her Harperley Hall
home in New York for USD
23.5 million. The 54-year
old singer has been living in
a triple-wide townhouse on
the upper East Side, which
she bought in 2009 for USD
32.5 million and has spent
millions more on renovating.

The Harperley Hall home
is a duplex on the fifth and
sixth floor of a building at
West 64th Street and Central
Park West, according to a
listing from Brown Harris
Stevens, reported
listing from Brown Harris
Stevens, reported

Any unauthorized use,
infringement or
infringements of the
above marks will be dealt with
according to law.

The interiors of the house are designed by
Madonna’s decorator brother Christopher Ciccone.

He also plays the lead
role and said that he regarded
it the “best film for myself”
in the last ten years.

“I’m the director, I’m the
writer, I’m the producer, I’m
the action director, almost
everything,” the 58-year
old Jackie Chan actor told
Reuters while in Beijing to
film a documentary.

“This really, really is
my baby. You know, I’ve
been writing the script for
important movie for him
because it will be his
last major action feature,
although he insisted it is not
the end of his action career.

“I’m not young any
more, honestly,” he said,
noting that with special
effects technology and
doubles a lot can be done
without physical risk.

“Why (do) I have to use
audience’s to the Beatles
Paul McCartney. I mean when I saw the
crowd last night it reminded
me of myself and Paul
McCartney, you know?

But even those tremendous
legends who really changed
the face of music for our
culture did not have a start-up
like yours because you are a
product of, to a great extent,
social media. So therefore
there’s never been a star
like you.”

The full interview on
‘Oprah’s Next Chapter’ will
air on OWN on 23rd November at 9 pm EST.

Oprah Winfrey compares Justin Bieber to
Michael Jackson, Beatles

NEW DELHI, 21 Nov — Oprah Winfrey believes
there has never been a “star”
like Justin Bieber. The chat-
show host has revealed a clip
from her upcoming interview
with the award-winning
pop sensation on Oprah’s
Next Chapter, in which she
discusses his rise to fame and
compares his “screaming fans”
to those of legendary
musicians such as Michael
Jackson.

After referring to the
similarities between this
interview and her chat with
the “Thriller” hitmaker in
1993 she says: “Justin Bieber
is a phenomenon for our
time, just like the Beatles and
also like Michael Jackson he
has millions of screaming fans all
over the world. He’s adored
by them.”

The clip then shows a
teacher of Oprah and Justin
sat together, with Oprah telling
him: “There’s never been a
star like you. Do you realize
that?” to which the 18-year-
old singer responds: “What
do you mean by that?”

She then proceeds
to talk about how Justin
is a “product” of social
media websites like twitter,
which helped boost his
international success, as well
as reminding us about when
she used to obsess over Sir
Paul McCartney.

She says: “Obviously
lots of people compare
your audiences to Michael
Jackson’s audiences—the
screaming fans and your
audience’s to the Beatles
fans. I mean when I saw the
crowd last night it reminded
me of myself and Paul
McCartney, you know?

But even those tremendous
legends who really changed
the face of music for our
culture did not have a start-up
like yours because you are a
product of, to a great extent,
social media. So therefore
there’s never been a star
like you.”

The full interview on
‘Oprah’s Next Chapter’ will
air on OWN on 23rd November at 9 pm EST.
Beckham to make post-Galaxy decision by year-end

Los Angeles Galaxy’s David Beckham (L) controls the ball as Real Madrid’s Jose Maria Callejon (C) and Gonzalo Higuain (R) defend during the first half of their World Football Challenge international friendly soccer match in Carson, California on 2 Aug. 2012.—Reuters

Inter’s coach Stramaccioni, striker Cassano banned

Rome, 21 Nov—Inter Milan coach Andrea Stramaccioni and striker Antonio Cassano have been banned one and two matches respectively, Italian Serie A bosses announced on Tuesday.

Serie A officials said in a statement Stramaccioni was banned from the touchline for the next league game after “protesting a refereeing decision, leaving the designated coach’s technical area and making offensive remarks to match officials”.

Cassano’s ban was for “making offensive remarks to the referee on the way down the players’ tunnel following the game”.

Stramaccioni was red carded for protesting against the decision not to award the spot-kick while Cassano remonstrated with the referee on the way down the players’ tunnel after the final whistle in Inter’s 2-2 draw with Cagliari on Sunday. Inter remain second with a four-point deficit to champions and leaders Juventus.—Xinhua

Numbers continue to rise in “pass happy” league

New York, 21 Nov—It is no surprise to see elite NFL quarterbacks such as Tom Brady and Drew Brees racking up big numbers in yardage this season but what is increasingly noticeable is the number of less accomplished quarterbacks joining them.

Three quarterbacks have already passed the 3,000 yard mark this season; Brees, Atlanta’s Matt Ryan and Oakland’s Carson Palmer, and plenty more are poised to join them.

More significantly, eight quarterbacks are averaging over 290 yards per game, including Indianapolis Colts rookie Andrew Luck (296.5), Detroit’s Matthew Stafford (298.8) and the oft-criticized Dallas Cowboys signal caller Tony Romo, who has passed for 2,916 yards from 10 games.

Three years ago only two quarterbacks, Brees and Houston’s Matt Schaub, averaged more than 290 per game, and five seasons back, only New England’s Brady managed it. Admittedly, the bad weather winter games have yet to come and they can push down averages but there are plenty of other signs that quarterbacks are gaining more and more yards in the modern NFL.

Breaking 500 yards in a single game used to be one of the rarest of achievements. Only two players managed it in the entire 1990s, yet two players have done it already this season. Schaub, not even ranked in the top ten quarterbacks in the league, did it with 573 yards against Jacksonville on Sunday while Eli Manning threw 510 for the New York Giants in September.—Reuters
Recovering Nadal back on practice court

MANACOR, 21 Nov—Rafa Nadal returned to the practice court and started hitting balls again on Tuesday for the first time since the latest in a series of knee injuries forced his withdrawal from the US Open at the end of August.

The 11-times grand slam singles champion, who has not competed since a shock defeat to Czech Open singles champion,

Spain’s Rafael Nadal gestures between television interviews, during which he detailed reasons for pulling out of the US Open, in Palma de Mallorca, on the island of Mallorca on 17 Aug, 2012.—Reuters

newled.tv/myanmar

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(22-11-12 09:30 am – 23-11-12 09:30 am) MST

* News
* 7th Ye Nanthaeb Art Exhibition
* Increasing Population in Yangon City & Its Affordable Housing Projects
* News
* Equality for a Better Future
* News
* Music Programme
* Myanmar Highlights
* News
* A Famous Pagoda in the Sea
* News
* Brilliant Youngsters

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

(22-11-12, Thursday) 7:00 am
1. Paritta By Hilly Missionary Sayadaw
7:15 am
2. Dhamma Puja Song
7:25 am
3. To Be Healthy Exercise
7:40 am
4. Nice & Sweet Song
8:00 am
5. Dance Variety
8:10 am
6. Documentary
8:25 am
7. Dance of National Races
8:40 pm
8. Martial Song
8:45 pm
9. Musical Programme
8:55 pm
10. Cute Little Dancers
9:30 pm
11. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (History)
10:45 pm
12. TV Drama Series
11:00 pm
13. News
11:15 pm
14. Songs Programme
11:30 pm
15. India Drama Series
11:45 pm
16. Myanmar Series
12:00 pm
17. Approaching Science Discovery World
12:15 pm
18. TV Drama Series
12:30 pm
19. News
12:45 pm
20. International News
1:00 pm
21. Weather Report
1:15 pm
22. TV Drama Series
1:30 pm
23. TV Drama Series
2:15 pm
24. News
2:30 pm
25. News
2:45 pm
26. Songs For Upholding
3:15 pm
27. Nice & Sweet Song
3:30 pm
28. Discovery World

Population ageing weighs on crisis-hit Italy

ROME, 21 Nov—Over half of Italy’s overall retirees struggle to make a living amid the current economic crisis in a country whose population is growing old, local reports said on Tuesday.

According to the national pension agency INPS, around 7.2 million retirees receive monthly pensions of less than 1,000 euros (1,280 US dollars) while 35 percent get between 500 and 1,000 euros, and 17 percent receive less than 500 euros.

The average monthly pension in Italy was 1,131 euros, while just 2.9 percent of retirees receive more than 3,000 euros per month, INPS said.

Meanwhile, according to national statistics agency Istat, the Italian population continues to age. Last year, a total of 546,607 births were recorded in the country, about 15,000 fewer than in 2010, confirming the downward trend that began in 2009.

Italian families are struggling amid recession deepened by a series of tax hikes and welfare cuts carried out by Prime Minister Mario Monti’s emergency government to tackle the country’s massive debt crisis.

According to a study by business association Confesercenti, this year the average household’s tax bill in Italy will be 1,450 euros (1,858 US dollars) higher than it was in 2011.

The study said the recent austerity measures and other budget reforms have taken the Italian overall tax burden up to 44.7 percent, 5 percent higher than the European average.

As a result of the crisis and dented spending power, in 2012, the number of Italian households who say they cannot afford a meat or fish dish more than every two days rose to 12.3 percent from 6.7 percent last year, according to a survey conducted by Istat.

Italians who cannot afford to adequately heat their house increased to 17.9 percent from 11.2 percent among the surveyed, while those who cannot afford a yearly week’s holiday rose to 46.5 percent from 39.8 percent.

On Monday, President Giorgio Napolitano said Italy must tackle its public debt, which is around 126 percent of its gross domestic product (GDP), by reducing spending rather than increasing taxes.

“It is a weight we need to get rid of with austerity policies that aim to reduce spending more than with increasing taxes,” he said. (1 euro = 1.28 US dollars) —Reuters

Baseball

Spanish’s Rafael Nadal gestures between television interviews, during which he detailed reasons for pulling out of the US Open, in Palma de Mallorca, on the island of Mallorca on 17 Aug, 2012.—Reuters

New York, 21 Nov—The New York Yankees face a number of questions about their roster this offseason but removed some of the doubt about their rotation by signing pitcher Hiroki Kuroda to a one-year contract, the American League team said on Tuesday.

Kuroda, 37, went 16-11 with a 3.32 earned run average in his debut season in New York after signing as a free agent following four seasons with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

“I am very happy and excited to re-sign with the Yankees,” said Kuroda in a statement. “I am very grateful for all of the interest and all of the offers that I received from the various teams that courted me.”

It was a tough decision for me to make, but at the end of the day, I wanted to try to win a championship with the team mates that I went to battle with last season.”

Terms of the deal were not announced, but ESPN reported it was worth about $15 million.

The Yankees must decide whether or not to bring back a number of players for next season including outfieiders Nick Swisher and Ichiro Suzuki, and catcher Russell Martin.

Signing Japanese right-hander Kuroda enabled the Yankees to slot into their rotation one of their most reliable starters from last season’s AL East championship squad.

Kuroda had career bests in wins, starts (33), innings pitched (219.2) and strikeouts (167). Throng Kuroda, 37, ranked fourth in innings, tied for sixth in wins and finished eighth in ERA.

After a mediocre start to the season, when he posted a 3-6 record and 4.56 ERA in his first nine starts, he went 13-5 with a 2.92 ERA over his final 24 starts. Among all Japanese-born pitchers to play in Major League Baseball, Kuroda’s 3.42 career ERA is the lowest all-time among pitchers who have made 20-or-more career starts and pitched at least 350 innings.

Kuroda signs for another season with Yankees

Preparations for taking part in the contest are being made at 160 leagues including Mya Na Nw, Pa Pa Wady, Thuzatar, Pu, Datu Kalyar and Rupa Marlar.

Myanmar Alinn

Looms preparing for Mathoe robe weaving contest

YANGON, 21 Nov—The 30th Mathoe robe weaving contest will be held on the looms on the platform of Kyakdaebung Botulaung Township on 14th waxing and fullmoon day of Takaukmon.

Preparations for taking part in the contest are being made at 160 leagues including Mya Na Nw, Pa Pa Wady, Thuzatar, Pu, Datu Kalyar and Rupa Marlar.

Myanmar Alinn

New York Yankees starting pitcher Hiroki Kuroda throws a pitch to the Boston Red Sox in the first inning of their MLB American League game at Yankee Stadium in New York on 29 July, 2012.—Reuters

New York Yankees starting pitcher Hiroki Kuroda
21st ASEAN Summit concludes

NAVPYTAW, 21 Nov—The concluding ceremony of 21st ASEAN Summit was held at Neum Srey Hall of Peace Palace, Phnom Penh, Cambodia yesterday evening.

President U Thein Sein, head of State/Government of ASEAN fellow countries, high-ranking officials, the ASEAN Secretory-General and invited guests were present on the occasion.

First, video clips on emblems of ASEAN countries and developments and activities of Brunei which took ASEAN Chair in 2012 were shown and the Cambodian Prime Minister delivered an address.

The Cambodian Prime Minister handed over ASEAN Chair to the Brunei Sultan who takes over ASEAN Chairmanship for 2013.

Brunei Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah extended greetings.

The ceremony came to an end with video clips on developments of Brunei.

MNA

President U Thein Sein and Heads of State/Government seen at concluding ceremony of 21st ASEAN Summit.—MNA

President U Thein Sein back from Cambodia

NAVPYTAW, 21 Nov—President U Thein Sein of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar after attending 21st ASEAN Summit and related meetings in Phnom Penh, Cambodia arrived back here this afternoon.

Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Maik Kham and U Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and officials.—MNA

24th Myanmar disabled athletes sports tournament opened

YANGON, 21 Nov—Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe attended the opening of 24th Myanmar disabled sports tournament at Aung San Gymnasium this morning and opened the tournament.

At the opening ceremony, the chief minister urged disabled athletes to participate in the tournament.

The chief minister also attended the commemorative ceremony for United Nations Convention on the child rights at IBC on Pyay Road in Inle Township.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Chairman U Win Mya and United Nations Children’s Fund Resident Representative Mr Bertrand Bainvel extended greetings at the ceremony.—MNA

Healthcare services given to earthquake victims

NAVPYTAW, 20 Nov—Medical teams who have made field trip are giving healthcare services in quake-stricken townships in Mandalay and Sagaing Regions and sending injured patients to hospitals. Medical teams from Meiktila, Kyaukse, Shwebo hospitals and Shwebo, Kanbalu, KhinU, Wetlet Townships were giving medical treatment to the patients in villages of Singu, Thabeikkyin, Shwebo, Kanbalu, KhinU and Wetlet Townships.

A total of 1547 outpatients have been given medical treatment at Shwebo, Singu and Thabeikkyin hospitals till 19 November.—MNA

Production Management Improvement for Executives opened

NAVPYTAW, 21 Nov—Union Minister for Industry U Aye Myint addressed the opening of Production Management Improvement for Executives in Myanmar (Group C) jointly organized by the Overseas Human Resources and Industry Development Association (HIDA) and Industry Ministry of Myanmar under the arrangement of Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan yesterday morning.

The Union Minister said he hoped that the training course would create good opportunities for government officials and bring about fruitful results over objectives of the State.

HIDA conducted module 1 of Production Management Improvement Course for Group A and Group B from 27 August to 7 September and module 2 from 15 to 26 October, training 80 officials from ministries.

A total of 40 officials are attending the course for Group C. MNA