President U Thein Sein receives New Zealand Prime Minister

Nay Pyi Taw, 22 Nov—President U Thein Sein rolls out red carpet for the visiting New Zealand Prime Minister Mr John Key this morning at the lawn of Presidential Palace.

The President and Prime Minister took salute of the Guard Honour while the national band played the anthems of New Zealand and Myanmar before they inspected the Guard of Honour.

The New Zealand Prime Minister presented his entourage to Myanmar President who introduced President U Thein Sein to Union ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thein, U Ohn Myint, Dr Mya Aye, Dr Pe Thet Khin and Dr Kan Zaw, Deputy ministers U Ye Htut, Dr Pwint Hsan and U Hset Aung to the visiting New Zealand PM.—MNA

President U Thein Sein rolls out red carpet for New Zealand PM

Nay Pyi Taw, 22 Nov—President U Thein Sein holds talks with New Zealand Prime Minister Mr John Key.

At the call, both sides cordially exchanged views on opening of new diplomatic chapter by reviewing diplomatic relations between the two countries, Myanmar’s human resources development, mutual cooperation between the two countries in the sectors of livestock, agriculture, mining, electric power and tourism, visits of New Zealand tourists to Myanmar and cooperation in regional and international affairs.—MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and New Zealand Prime Minister Mr John Key take salute of Guard of Honour.—MNA

Lifetime Achievement Literary Award for 2011 announced

Nay Pyi Taw, 22 Nov—A Lifetime Achievement Literary Award for 2011 was given to Writer U Win Maung (Min Yu Wai) who dedicated his life to writing many books and articles in the interest of Myanmar literary in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The prize will be presented at the ceremony to present awards to National Literary Award winner for 2011 to be held at Myanmar International Convention Centre (MICC), here, on 14 December (Friday) (1st Waxing of Nadaw 1374 ME).

MNA

Winners of National Literary Award for 2011 announced

Nay Pyi Taw, 22 Nov—Winners of National Literary Award for 2011 were announced today.

Writers Ye Myat Tin won in the Collected Short Stories category, Pyinmana Maung Ni Thin in Collected Poems category, Kaythipan U Hla Myint in Belles-letters category, Natmauk Tun Shein in Myanmar Culture and Arts category, Maung Seinn Naung (Lewe) in Children’s Literature category, U Kyi Myint (Latha) in Translation category, Tin Maung Myint in (Aesthetic) category, U Win Naing (Retired Director) in General Knowledge (Art) category, Dr Khin Maung Swe in General Knowledge (Science) category, Thaung Nyunt Thit in General Knowledge (Applied Science) category, Nyein Min in Drama category, Ko Ko Maung Gyi in Political category and U Thet Tun (Retired Ambassador) in English-language book (General Knowledge) category. Among 16 categories including a new prize for best English-language book (Aesthetic), the missing awards for this year were novel, youth literature and English-language (Aesthetic) categories.

Winners are urged to contact and send two 5 x 7 coloured photos and two passport-size photos to Secretary of National Literary Award Scrutinizing Committee in Sarpay Beikman at No (529-531) on Merchant Road (Ph: 01 376569), Admin (Ph: 01 381449) within a week as soon as possible. Prize presentation ceremony will be held at Myanmar International Convention Centre (MICC), here, on 14 December (Friday) (1st Waxing of Nadaw 1374 ME).—MNA
Bangkok International Fashion Fair & Bangkok International Leather Fair 2013 to be held in Bangkok on 13 March

YANGON, 22 Nov — It is learnt that Myanmar Embassy in Thailand has got an invitation of Thailand for Myanmar to take part in the Bangkok International Fashion Fair & Bangkok International Leather Fair 2013 to be held from 13 to 17 March 2003 in Bangkok of Thailand.

Further information, please contact Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) at No (29) on Min Ye Kyaw Swa Road in Lammadaw Township, Yangon.

Inspection of monsoon paddy per acre yield, land records

MAGWAY, 22 Nov — As it is time for a harvest of monsoon paddy, an inspection of model farmland for monsoon paddy per acre yield was carried out by Director U Khin Maung Bo of Settlement and Land Records Department (Head Office) together with staff of region/district/township land records department at the farmland of U Chaw Maung at Field No (1632-ka) of Holding No (1) in Thamandaw village-tract in Magway Township of Magway Region on 11 November. They looked into harvesting the model farmland for correct information about per acre yield of monsoon paddy for 2012-12 monsoon paddy harvest.

On the inspection, the per acre yield of the model farmland where Manaw Thuka paddy strain was planted was 140.91 baskets and 112.32 baskets respectively.

Ayeawady Bridge (Malun) sees 87 per cent completion

MAGWAY, 22 Nov — A rail-cum-road Ayeawady Bridge (Malun) is being built across the fourth defile of the River Ayeawady between milepost Nos (11/4) and (11/5) on Mgaunguype-Pahtanagoo motorway near Ywathit Village and Sit Koe Bin Village in Magway Township of Magway Region.

An approach road to the bridge on the bank of Malun is about five miles far from Malun that links Pathen-Monywa motorway with Yangon-Payaw and Magway-Mandalay roads on the east bank of Ayeawady. As the bridge is situated on the production route, it will contribute swift flow of commodities not only within the country but also to foreign countries through deep-water sea port.

The main structure of the bridge is 3215 feet long. Each approach road on the bank of Mgaunguype and on the bank of Malun is 1312 feet long. The approach railroad on the bank of Mgaunguype is 1957 feet long and on the bank of Malun is 2112 feet long. A two-lane motorway is 28 feet wide and a railroad is 10 feet wide.

The reinforced concrete bridge is flanked by three-foot pedestrian lanes. Its water clearance area is 320 feet wide and 75 feet high. It can withstand 60 tons load.

Construction of the bridge being built by special project group-4 of Public Works of the Ministry of Construction started on 22 November 2009.

So far, installation of steel trusses has been completed by 65 per cent and construction of the bridge by 87 per cent.

MMA to hold its 3rd respect-paying ceremony

YANGON, 22 Nov — Myanmar Music Association (Centre) will organize the third respect-paying ceremony for the doyen musicians with the age of 80 and above at Mahat thanhitthukha Monastery in Tamwe Township, here on 10 January, 2013. Those wishing to donate offerings may contact Myanmar Music Asiyon (Centre), Ph: 545863, —Myanma Alinn

Pseudoephedrine tablets seized

TAHU, 22 Nov — A team of police officers from 3rd-Mile Police Post and special anti-narcotic squad seized 489300 pseudoephedrine tablets and six kilos of pseudoephedrine powder in India-made gas cylinders while conducting a thorough search of a light-truck driven by Thein Zaw Oo from Tamu to Kalay at about 5.40 pm on 16 November.

Driver Thein Zaw Oo (26 yrs), Ma Aye Aye Khine (25 yrs) and U Lynn Nar (50 yrs) of Kalay were arrested and Tamu police station filed a lawsuit against them. Similar seizure of pseudoephedrine tablets took place at Kampar sub-township in Tamu District at about 4.30 pm on 19 November while making a search of a Chevrolet driven by Po Pyaw who was arrested together with 324000 pseudoephedrine tablets.

On 15 November, 543200 pseudoephedrine tablets were seized while carrying out a search of a Chevrolet driven by Maung Nyunt. A total of 1356500 pseudoephedrine tablets were seized within three days in Tamu District.

Greening tasks in Pauktaw

TSP inspected

NAV PAY TAU, 22 Nov — Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin held a meeting with township level departmental heads and town elders at the Administration Department in Pauktaw Township on 18 November morning.

During the meeting, he urged locals to join hands with the state government in carrying out greening tasks as there was no other than flourishing of peace and stability in the state.

In the afternoon, the chief minister gave encouragement to the victims at Pauktaw relief camp who received foods and supplies.

Then, he inspected the construction site of Basic Education Primary School in Ywachaunggyi Village in Pauktaw Township.

On 19 November, the chief minister met fire brigade members at Sittway Fire Brigade and viewed maintenance of fire engines. He enjoyed demonstration on putting out fire, staged by firefighters thereof.

Car hits concrete block on Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road

YANGON, 22 Nov — A car with the plate No. 2Kha/— hit a concrete block near Jivitadhana Sangha Hospital on Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road in Bahan Township, here at 3.18 pm on 19 November. The incident has damaged the left front of the car and five concrete blocks there. —Kyemon
Putin warns Russian accession to WTO may not bring immediate benefits

**Russia**

**NEW DELHI,** 22 Nov —

The Indian government, reduced to a minority for the first time since coming to power in 2004, is scrambling for support ahead of a parliament session that will severely test its economic reform agenda, and its chances of success look bleak.

For the moment, there is no threat of the government falling. But an obstructive opposition and unreliable allies could mean there is little progress on reforms like opening up the financial and pension businesses when parliament’s month-long winter session gets under way on Thursday.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has engaged in unusual dinner diplomacy with allies at his New Delhi home to build consensus on the next round of economic reforms, which need parliamentary approval.

Criticised in the past for cold-shouldering allies and opponents, Singh also plans to dine this week with leaders of the main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), whose obstructionist tactics washed out the last session.

But analysts doubt he will manage to forge a consensus on the reforms. “If things go away, and legislation gets deadlocked, it would be negative for markets and will mean those that were pessimistic on Indian reforms taking shape will be vindicated,” said Suresh Kumar Ranathan, head of regional rates and foreign strategy at CIMB in Kuala Lumpur.

Analysts warn of a “nightmare scenario” in which the government loses a test vote in parliament on its flagship reform — opening up the retail sector to foreign supermarkets, a decision that has drawn fire from both opponents and allies who say it will destroy the livelihoods of mom and pop store owners. — Reuters

India’s reform drive could hit rocks in stormy parliament session

**India**

Firefighters work to extinguish a fire after a plane crashed in Sanaa on 22 Nov, 2012.

**NEW DELHI,** 22 Nov —

A Yemeni military transport plane crashed near Sanaa airport, killing 10 people onboard, an air force official said.

The plane came down in an abandoned produce market in the Hasaba District near the Yemeni capital’s airport after suffering a technical problem, the official said. “The plane tried to land in an empty space in Hasaba, but because of a technical problem it crashed and ten of the crew died,” the official said.

Yemeni plane crashes near Sanaa airport, killing 10

**Yemen**

Senior diplomats from the United States, Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany — met in Brussels on Wednesday to consider new negotiating tactics despite abiding skepticism that a

**World powers want new nuclear talks with Iran quickly**

**BRUSSELS**/ANKARA, 22 Nov —

Six world powers agreed on Wednesday to seek renewed talks with Iran as fast as possible, reflecting a heightened sense of urgency to resolve a long rift over Teheran’s disputed nuclear activity and avert the threat of war.

A major player in supporting Syria’s opposition and planning for the post-conflict era, Turkey is worried about Syria’s chemical weapons, the refugee crisis along its border, and what it says is Syrian support for Kurdish militants on its own soil.

Analysts warn of a “nightmare scenario” in which the government loses a test vote in parliament on its flagship reform — opening up the retail sector to foreign supermarkets, a decision that has drawn fire from both opponents and allies who say it will destroy the livelihoods of mom and pop store owners. — Reuters

Yemeni Prime Minister Manmohan Singh speaks during the inauguration ceremony of International Academic Conference 2012, themed Economic Growth and Changes of Corporate Environment in Asia, in New Delhi on 22 Sept, 2012. —Reuters

India Prime Minister Manmohan Singh speaks during the inauguration ceremony of International Academic Conference 2012, themed Economic Growth and Changes of Corporate Environment in Asia, in New Delhi on 22 Sept, 2012. —Reuters

Turkey asks NATO for missile defence against Syria

**BRUSSELS/ANKARA,** 22 Nov —

NATO ambassadors met on Wednesday to consider a Turkish request for the deployment of Patriot missile systems near its border with Syria as the conflict in its southern neighbour deepens.

The move highlights Ankara’s fears that the situation on its border could deteriorate rapidly and echoes its calls for military support during the two Gulf Wars, when NATO deployed surface-to-air missiles on its soil in 1991 and 2003.

Turkey formally made the request after weeks of talks with NATO allies about how to shore up security on its 900-km (560-mile) border. It has repeatedly scrambled fighter jets along the frontier and responded in kind to stray Syrian shells flying into its territory. The head of NATO said the alliance would discuss the request “without delay”. Ambassadors from the 28 NATO members convened a meeting at the military alliance’s Brussels headquarters.

“Such a deployment would augment Turkey’s air defence capabilities to defend the population and territory of Turkey,” Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said. “It would contribute to the de-escalation of the crisis along NATO’s south-eastern border.”

Turkey is reluctant to be drawn into a regional conflict but the proximity to its border of bombing raids is testing its pledge to defend itself. It has found itself increasingly isolated and frustrated by a lack of international action.

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**Russia’s President Vladimir Putin chairs a session of the Security Council at the Kremlin in Moscow, on 21 Nov, 2012. —Reuters**

**MOGOC,** 22 Nov —

Russia may not enjoy immediate benefits from its accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and could even face serious challenges, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday.

Putin poured cold water on those who expected the membership in the world trade bloc would bring fast fruits for the nation.

“Because of the crisis trends on the global markets, the risks linked to our obligations have increased. We have consciously taken these risks,” Putin told a meeting of Russia’s National Security Council, citing the global economic slowdown as a reason why Russia’s WTO accession would not pay off in the short term.

The Russian President also warned that there were certain sectors where special problems could emerge, in addition to areas with poorly diversified economy, which could face rising unemployment, shrinking budget revenues, growing gap in social-economic development, in comparison with more prosperous regions.

Putin, however, urged the government to sustain a positive trend on domestic job market where official unemployment rate hovers slightly over 5 percent.

He also called for efforts to be made to render Russia more attractive for foreign investors to offset the negative impact of global stagnation.

Russia officially joined the WTO on 22 Aug. After the accession, Russia will have to gradually lower its average tariff ceiling to 7.8 percent from the current 10 percent, with the agricultural tariff down from 13.2 percent to 10.8 percent, and the tariff for industrial products slashed from 9.5 percent to 7.3 percent.

**Syrian people, who are fleeing from their homes in the northern Syrian town of Ras al-Ain, walk near Turkish soldiers to cross the border fence from Ras al-Ain into Turkey, as seen from the Turkish side of the border, near Ceylanpinar in Sanliurfa Province, Turkey, 22 Nov, 2012. —Reuters**

**Syria**

Senior diplomats from the United States, Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany — met on Wednesday to consider new negotiating tactics despite abiding skepticism that a deal with Teheran can be reached.

It was not clear after the meeting what options, if any, were agreed. But the six said “necessary contact” with the Iranians would be maintained in the coming days.

“The (six powers) are committed to having another round of talks with Iran as soon as possible,” said a spokesman for EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton, who represents the six countries in dealings with Iran.

Analysts warn that a win-win situation for a negotiated solution is narrowing because of growing alarm over Teheran’s nuclear course in Israel, the Middle East’s only nuclear power which has threatened to bomb the atomic sites of its arch-enemy.

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Finnish app store startup bets on Android in Asia

Helsinki, 22 Nov — Finnish technology startup Blaast on Wednesday opened an Android application store hoping to tap into booming demand for affordable smartphones in Indonesia and other emerging markets. The 2010-founded Blaast builds a platform to distribute apps to mid-range cellphones, enabling carriers to sell more data packages bundled with free access to applications.

“Android is going to own over 75 percent of smartphone sales in emerging markets,” said Blaast Chief Executive Joonas Hjelt.

Samsung wins US court order to access Apple-HTC deal details

San Francisco, 22 Nov — A US judge has ordered Apple Inc to disclose to rival Samsung Electronics details of a legal settlement the iPhone maker reached with Taiwan’s HTC Corp, including terms of a 10-year patents licensing agreement. The Korean electronics giant had earlier filed a motion to compel its US rival — with whom it is waging a bitter legal battle over mobile patents across several countries — to reveal details of the settlement that was reached on 10 November with HTC but which have been kept under wraps.

In August, the iPhone maker won a $1.05 billion verdict against Samsung after a US jury found that certain Samsung gadgets violated Apple’s software and design patents. Now, legal experts say the question of which patents are covered by the Apple-HTC settlement, and licensing details, could be instrumental in Samsung’s efforts to thwart Apple’s subsequent quest for a permanent sales ban on its products. The Asian company has argued it is “almost certain” that the HTC deal covers some of the same patents involved in its own litigation with Apple.

The court on Wednesday ordered Apple to produce a full copy of the settlement agreement “without delay,” subject to an Attorneys-Eyes-Only designation. Representatives for the US company could not immediately be reached for comment. Samsung also requested the California court to add three newly released Apple products — the iPod Touch 5, the iPad 4 and the iPad mini — to the list of devices that it claims to have infringed on some of its patents, according to court documents.

Facebook to share data with Instagram, loosen email rules

San Francisco, 22 Nov — Facebook Inc is proposing to loosen its data-sharing rules, a move that it hopes will claw back some of recently acquired photo-sharing service Instagram, and will loosen restrictions on emails between members of the social network. Facebook also said on Wednesday it is proposing to scrap a 4-year old process that can allow the social network’s roughly 1 billion users to vote on changes to its policies and terms of services. Facebook said it may share information between its own service and other businesses or affiliates — such as email and the Google+ social network — to “help provide, understand, and improve our services and their own services.”

One of Facebook’s most significant affiliate businesses is Instagram, a photo-sharing service for smartphone users that Facebook acquired in October for roughly $1 billion ($715 million). The changes could open the door for Facebook to build unified profiles of its users that include personal and professional data from its social network and from Instagram, similar to recent moves by Google Inc. In January, Google said it would combine users’ personal information from its various Web services — including Gmail and the Google+ social network — to “help provide, understand, and improve our services and their own services.”

A photo illustration shows the applications Facebook and Instagram on the screen of an iPhone in Zurich, on 9 April, 2012. — Reuters

Facebook wants to use the change to more fully integrate the two services and to provide a more streamlined experience for users. The move is also designed to break down the walls between Facebook and Instagram, which can be confusing for users who are trying to navigate between the two apps.

The changes are open to changes and can be altered by users at any time. The changes are designed to give users more control over their data and to make it easier for them to share their information with others.

China issues report addressing climate change

Beijing, 22 Nov — China on Wednesday published a report detailing policies and efforts that have been made over the past year in facing up to the country’s changing climate. The report, titled “China’s Policies and Actions for Addressing Climate Change,” was released before the United Nations Climate Change Conference, which will be held from 26 November to 7 December in Doha, Qatar.

The report outlines actions taken by the Chinese government to mitigate and adapt to climate change. It also documents measures to promote the building of low-carbon communities and advance international negotiation and cooperation.

In the period between the 11th Five Year Plan (2006-2010), said the report, by 2015, the nation aims to reduce energy intensity by 20 percent from that of 2005, which is equivalent to a reduction of 1.46 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions. This means China has accomplished its energy conservation goals listed in the 11th Five Year Plan (2006-2010), said the report.

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In HP-Autonomy debacle, many advisers but little good advice

NEW YORK, 22 Nov — When Hewlett Packard acquired Autonomy last year for $11.1 billion, some 15 different financial, legal and accounting firms were involved in the transaction — and none raised a flag about what HP said on Tuesday was a major accounting fraud.

HP stunned Wall Street with the allegations about its British software unit and took an $8.8 billion writedown, the latest in a string of reversals for the storied company.

HP Chief Executive Meg Whitman, who was a director at the company at the time of the deal, said the board had relied on accounting firm Deloitte for vetting Autonomy’s financials and that KPMG was subsequently hired to audit the deal. HP had many other advisers as well: boutique investment bank Perella Weinberg Partners to serve as its lead adviser, along with Barclays. Banking advisers on both sides of the deal were paid $68.8 million, according to data from Thomson Reuters/Freeman Consulting.

Barclays pocketed the biggest banker fee of the transaction at $18.1 million and Perella was paid $12 million. The company’s legal advisers included Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher; Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer; Drinker Biddle & Reath; and Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, which advised the board. On Autonomy’s side of the table were Frank Quattrone’s Qatalyst Partners, which specializes in tech deals and which picked up $11.6 million.

UBS, Goldman Sachs, Credit Suisse/JPMorgan Chase and Bank of America were also advising Autonomy and were paid $5.4 million each. Slaughter & May and Morgan Lewis served as the company’s legal advisers. While regulators in the United States and the United Kingdom, as well as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, are likely to spend many months if not years investigating what happened, legal experts said on Tuesday that it wasn’t clear if any of the advisers would ultimately be held liable.

“The most logical deep pocket would be the acquired firm’s auditors, who should have allegedly caught these defalcations,” said James Cox, a professor at Duke University law school who specializes in corporate and securities law. — Reuters

Holiday online spending has early, strong start

SAN FRANCISCO, 22 Nov — Holiday season online spending took off in early and strong start, spurred by rising consumer confidence and retailer promotions ahead of the two-week shopping days, comScore Inc said on Wednesday. From 1 November through 18 November, $10.1 billion was spent online, a 16 percent increase versus the corresponding days last year, comScore reported. So far, 8 November has been the heaviest online spending day of the season so far at $829 million, it added.

“Recent 5-year highs in consumer confidence and early retailer promotions is setting a new bar in sales for the season,” said David Moritz, comScore’s Internet executive vice president. — Reuters

4D scans show fetuses yawning in the womb

LONDON, 22 Nov — Growing into a fully formed human being is a long process, and scientists have found that unborn babies not only hiccup, swallow and stretch in the womb, they yawn too. Researchers who studied 4D scans of 15 healthy fetuses also said they think yawning is a developmental process which could potentially give doctors a new way to check on a baby’s health.

While some scientists have previously suggested that fetuses yawn, others disagree and say it is nothing more than a developing baby opening and stretching its mouth.

But writing in the journal PLoS ONE on Wednesday, British researchers said their study was able to clearly distinguish yawning from “non-yawn mouth opening” based on how long the mouth was open.

The researchers did this by using 4D video footage to examine all the times when fetuses opened their mouths. Nadja Reissland of Durham University’s department of Psychology, who led the study, said the function and importance of yawning in fetuses is still unknown, but the findings suggest it may be linked to fetal development and could provide a further indication of the health of the unborn baby.

“Unlike us, fetuses do not yawn contagiously, nor do they yawn because they are sleepy,” she said. “Instead, the frequency of yawning in the womb may be linked to the maturing of the brain early in gestation.” The study was carried out on eight female and seven male fetuses from 24 to 36 weeks gestation.

Business & Health

Friday, 23 November, 2012

Infections linked to tainted steroid injections nears 500 cases

NASHVILLE, (Tennessee), 22 Nov — A deadly outbreak of infections linked to tainted steroid injections is approaching 500 cases nearly two months after it began, and health experts said on Friday that it was unclear whether the epidemic had peaked amid new risks facing patients.

Many patients initially stricken with fungal meningitis are developing secondary infections, prompting a renewed effort to contact people who received the injections, said health officials in Tennessee and Michigan, the two hardest-hit states.

The outbreak, first detected in Nashville, Tennessee, in September, has stricken at least 490 people in 19 states, with 34 deaths linked to the steroid. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. “I wouldn’t want to characterize the epidemic as having reached a peak or (say) that we are over the worst part,” said Dr. William Weber, the CDC’s incident manager, said on Tuesday.

Weber said many patients face weeks to months of additional treatment, more people may get sick, and there is more work to be done to ensure the best care for those stricken.

Talks to address HIV problem among society

JAKARTA, 22 Nov — More than 70 officials from India, China and Indonesia on Wednesday commence discussions on efforts to prevent the widespread of HIV in Indonesia, a statement released by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) said here.

The two-day talks, entitled “Advancing HIV-Sensitive Social Protection in Indonesia” is scheduled to be opened by Indonesian Health Minister Nafisah Mboi, aimed at seeking ways to end discrimination against HIV patients in the communities.

“We need to be friendlier by providing health insurance to HIV patients in Indonesia. It is predicted that HIV patients in Indonesia may rise up to 680,000 by 2014,” ILO said.

“ILO believes that good and proper health treatment for them is a good way to prevent the widespread of the disease. We need to set up orchestrated cooperation to address this issue,” ILO Indonesian Representative Peter Van Rooij said in the statement.

Indonesia records significantly more cases of HIV patients as it grew three folds from 2001 to 2009, with patients initially found in 11 provinces to the country, according to the data issued by ILO and UNDP.

Oil prices on inventories declines, positive data

NEW YORK, 22 Nov — Crude prices rose as US crude inventories fell last week and positive data boosted optimism about US economy, despite the announcement of cease-fire between Israel and Hamas.

Crude prices got boosted as the US Energy Information Administration reported an unexpected drop in US crude inventories. Data showed crude stocks dropped 1.5 million barrels in the week ended 16 November, as both imports and demand from refineries dropped in the week. Besides, stocks of gasoline and distillates also fell 1.5 million barrels, 2.7 million barrels respectively.

On the economic front, flash US Markit Manufacturing PMI rose a solid 1.4 points to 52.4 in November, indicating manufacturing grew at its fastest pace in five months.

The Leading Indicator in October rose 0.2 percent. Initial jobless claims dropped below 300,000 for the first time in five weeks, adding positive signs to US economic recovery.

Hamas and Israel agreed on a cease-fire deal that took effect Wednesday night after a week-long airstrikes and rocket fire. Fears for a new global oil price time bomb and for a possible oil supplies disruption eased. But concerns about conflict in the area increasing continued to weigh on prices, analysts said.

An explosion on a Tel Aviv bus and continuing airstrikes targeted at Gaza militant still worried the investors. Markets also kept an eye on the debt problems in the euro zone. EU financial ministers are scheduled to meet again on Monday, discussing about release of bailout funds to Greece — Xinhua

Friday, 23 November, 2012

Infections linked to tainted steroid injections nears 500 cases

NASHVILLE, (Tennessee), 22 Nov — A deadly outbreak of infections linked to tainted steroid injections is approaching 500 cases nearly two months after it began, and health experts said on Friday that it was unclear whether the epidemic had peaked amid new risks facing patients.

Many patients initially stricken with fungal meningitis are developing secondary infections, prompting a renewed effort to contact people who received the injections, said health officials in Tennessee and Michigan, the two hardest-hit states.

The outbreak, first detected in Nashville, Tennessee, in September, has stricken at least 490 people in 19 states, with 34 deaths linked to the steroid. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. “I wouldn’t want to characterize the epidemic as having reached a peak or (say) that we are over the worst part,” said Dr. William Weber, the CDC’s incident manager, said on Tuesday.

Weber said many patients face weeks to months of additional treatment, more people may get sick, and there is more work to be done to ensure the best care for those stricken.

Talks to address HIV problem among society

JAKARTA, 22 Nov — More than 70 officials from India, China and Indonesia on Wednesday commence discussions on efforts to prevent the widespread of HIV in Indonesia, a statement released by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) said here.

The two-day talks, entitled “Advancing HIV-Sensitive Social Protection in Indonesia” is scheduled to be opened by Indonesian Health Minister Nafisah Mboi, aimed at seeking ways to end discrimination against HIV patients in the communities.

“We need to be friendlier by providing health insurance to HIV patients in Indonesia. It is predicted that HIV patients in Indonesia may rise up to 680,000 by 2014,” ILO said.

“ILO believes that good and proper health treatment for them is a good way to prevent the widespread of the disease. We need to set up orchestrated cooperation to address this issue,” ILO Indonesian Representative Peter Van Rooij said in the statement.

Indonesia records significantly more cases of HIV patients as it grew three folds from 2001 to 2009, with patients initially found in 11 provinces to the country, according to the data issued by ILO and UNDP.

Oil prices on inventories declines, positive data

NEW YORK, 22 Nov — Crude prices rose as US crude inventories fell last week and positive data boosted optimism about US economy, despite the announcement of cease-fire between Israel and Hamas.

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On the economic front, flash US Markit Manufacturing PMI rose a solid 1.4 points to 52.4 in November, indicating manufacturing grew at its fastest pace in five months.
White House condemns bus bombing in Israel

WASHINGTON, 22 Nov—The White House on Wednesday condemned a deadly bus bombing in Tel Aviv and said it would help Israel catch those responsible.

At least 10 people were wounded when a bus was blown up on a main street in Tel Aviv after days of military exchanges between Israel and the Palestinians in Gaza. Israel’s government called it a terrorist attack.

“The United States will stand with our Israeli allies, and provide whatever assistance is necessary to identify and bring to justice the perpetrators of this attack,” White House press secretary Jay Carney said in a statement.

A wounded woman is treated on the ground as smoke rises from a bus after an explosion in Tel Aviv on 21 Nov. 2012. REUTERS

Hamas-Israel ceasefire takes hold but mistrust runs deep

CAIRO, 22 Nov—A ceasefire between Israel and Gaza’s Hamas rulers took hold on Thursday after eight days of conflict, although deep mistrust on both sides cast doubt on how long the Egyptian-sponsored deal can last.

Even after the ceasefire came into force late on Wednesday, a dozen rockets from the Gaza Strip landed in Israel, all in open areas, a police spokesman said.

In Gaza, witnesses reported an explosion shortly after the truck took effect at 9 pm (1900 GMT), but there were no casualties and the cause was unclear.

The deal prevented, at least for the moment, an Israeli ground invasion of the Palestinian enclave following bombing and rocket fire which killed five Israelis and 162 Gazans, including 37 children.

But trust was in short supply. The exiled leader of Hamas, Khaled Meshaal, said his Islamism movement would respect the truce if Israel did, but would respond to any violations. “If Israel complies, we are compliant. If it does not comply, our hands are on the trigger,” he told a news conference in Cairo. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he had agreed to “exhaust this opportunity for an extended truce”, but told his people a tougher approach might be required in the future.

Both sides quickly began offering differing interpretations of the ceasefire, brokered by Egypt’s new Islamist government and backed by the United States, highlighting the many actual or potential areas of discord.

If it holds, the truce will give 1.7 million Gazans respite from days of ferocious air strikes and halted rocket salvos from militants that have unnerved a million people in southern Israel and reached Tel Aviv and Jerusalem for the first time.

At the United Nations, the Security Council called on both Israel and Hamas to uphold the ceasefire and commended Egypt’s President Mohamed Mursi and others for brokering the truce. The council said in a statement it “deplored the loss of civilian lives resulting from this situation and reiterated the need to take appropriate steps to ensure the safety and well-being of civilians and their protection in accordance with international humanitarian law.”

“Allahu akbar, (God is greatest), dear people of Gaza you won,” blared mosque loudspeakers in Gaza as the truce took effect. “You have broken the arrogance of the Jews.”

Ex-Mirror chief seals regional newspaper shake-up

LONDON, 22 Nov—Daily Mail has agreed to sell its regional titles to a new company led by tabloid veteran David Montgomery in the biggest shake up of the British newspaper market for years.

Under the plans, the new group will be called Local World and will reach a weekly newspaper audience of 6 million readers and 7 million online users, through its 107 print titles and 60 websites.

Daily Mail will sell its titles to the new company for 52.5 million pounds ($83.6 million) and receive 39 percent of the new media group.

Montgomery has played a key role in restructuring Europe’s newspaper industry, firstly at Britain’s Mirror Group and then as chief executive of European newspaper group Mecom.

He told Reuters a year ago that he had formed a London registered company with unnamed partners called Local World, with the intention of investing in European titles.

Montgomery will be chairman of the new group which would own 39 percent of the new media group.

Meanwhile, current chief executive Steve Auckland, currently chief executive of Daily Mail’s regional unit, will become the chief executive of Local World.

“With this move we receive cash from the sale and also retain a stake in a business with excellent prospects,” Daily Mail Chief Executive Martin Morgan said.

“Local World has talented people and a clear vision for the future of local media. I think the media industry has been waiting for this logical next step for regional newspapers.”

Suicide bomber kills 13 in Pakistan’s Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI, 22 Nov—A suicide bomber killed 13 people at Shi’ite processions in the city where Pakistan’s army is headquartered on Wednesday night, highlighting the country’s security challenges a day before it hosts leaders from Egypt, Iran and other developing nations.

Local television stations said 13 people were killed but police put the death toll at eight. Twenty-five people were wounded, including children.

The blast ripped a hole in the walls of a Shi’ite mosque in the city of Rawalpindi, near the capital Islamabad. Body parts were scattered at the scene.

Hundreds of worshippers, beating their heads and chests, kept marching, even though other explosive devices were found at the site.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack which occurred hours after two bomb blasts killed at least three people near a gathering of Shi’ites in Pakistan’s commercial hub and biggest city Karachi.

Hardline Sunni militant groups linked to al-Qaeda have in recent months stepped up attacks against Pakistan’s minority Shi’ites, whom they regard as non-Muslims.

Pakistan’s military, one of the world’s biggest, has failed to break the back of a persistent insurgency despite launching several offensives against their strongholds in the northwest near the border with Afghanistan.

Pakistan hosts a summit of eight developing nations on Thursday. Pakistan, Iran, Egypt, Turkey, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria and Bangladesh are expected to discuss ways of boosting trade and investment at an event which Islamabad hopes will improve its standing.

US carrier presence in Gulf to decline, briefly

WASHINGTON, 22 Nov—The US carrier presence in the Gulf region will decline for about two months, from two to one carrier, due to an unexpected repair that has triggered a rescheduling of deployments, the Navy said on Wednesday.

Israel will be the first time since December 2010 the Navy has not had two carriers in the Gulf region for an extended period of time, as tensions with Iran simmer.

The reshuffling, which the Navy described as “unusual,” was caused by the discovery of needed repairs on board the carrier USS Nimitz, which was meant to deploy to the Middle East and replace the carrier USS Dwight D Eisenhower — which is now in the Gulf.

Instead, the Eisenhower will return in December to the United States, where the Navy will resurface its flight deck, and it will return to the Middle East region early next year for an additional deployment lasting several more months.

The Nimitz will deploy once repair work is complete, the Navy said.

The aircraft carrier USS Dwight D Eisenhower departs Naval Station Norfolk in this file photo taken on 25 August, 2011. REUTERS
Italian city to host international journalism festival in April 2013

ROMI, 22 Nov—The next International Journalism Festival will be hosted in the Italian city of Perugia on 24 April, 2013, the festival’s co-founder and director Christopher Potter told Xinhua on Wednesday. The annual International Journalism Festival in Perugia started in 2006 and aimed to set up an event which could provide an opportunity to engage with leading journalists from all over the world.

“The International Journalism Festival is unique. It is the only media event in the world which offers first-classes events with hundreds of international journalists, all in a beautiful setting,” Potter said.

The sixth edition in 2012 featured 217 different events in the 5-day programme, attracting 524 speakers, more than 200 volunteers from 28 different countries and regions and about 50,000 attendees. The festival is open to the public for free charge.—Xinhua

Thanksgiving Day Parade aims to lift New York spirits after Sandy

TOKYO, 22 Nov — Eri Suzuki is serious about her goal in life — working in a theme park as a character and mascot, one of those oversized, fuzzy creatures that dance and cavort with children. So she came to the Choko Group mascot school in Tokyo for instruction in the myriad tricks of the trade, such as how to move in giant feet and a furry animal head.

“Where are your eyes? Where are your ears?” said Choko Oohira, the school founder, gesturing in front of a recent class on moving in costume that included students dressed as a giant panda, cat and sheep. Her self a 20-year veteran of the mascot arts, Oohira founded the school — the only one of its kind in Japan and, quite possibly, the world — in 1985. Her goal: to help mascots wannabes perfect the art of moving and playing the characters.

“When I see places where someone’s hands is coming out between the costume’s hands, or they take off their mask in front of people, or show their skin under the mask, it’s very disappointing,” Oohira said. “I just want to tell them that’s not how to do it. I want to show the world how to fully become the character and explain that’s how to make children happy.” Students are taught everything from traditional dance, to help with actual dance routines as mascots, to different walking styles that illustrate different ages while wearing costumes. Other lessons include how to interact with children while wearing a costume, how to present a kind or even scary aura, and training to make sure the mascot’s gestures work when people are unable to see the performer’s face. There are roughly 25 students, ranging from those just giving it a try for fun to others, like Suzuki, destined for work in theme parks.—Reuters

Japanese mascots go beyond cute to master trade

The parade will feature 16 giant character balloons, many of which are lucrative registered trademarks or brand mascots, including a 60-foot tall Kermit the Frog, as well as 28 floats, 1,600 cheerleaders and dancers, 11 marching bands, and someone who looks a lot like Santa Claus. Celebrities including Whoopi Goldberg, Chris Isaak, Carly Rae Jepsen and the Muppets are due to appear or perform.

Macy’s has said it will provide transport and seats for some 5,000 people affected by Sandy, which last month inundated lower Manhattan with seawater, rearranged the New Jersey shore and Long Island, and tore up neighborhoods in far-flung areas of New York’s outer boroughs.

“As it has been during turbulent times in our history, we hope the Macy’s Parade serves as a beacon of hope for all who tune in and gather with friends and family to give thanks this season, as they remember the devastation of Superstorm Sandy,” Amy Kule, the parade’s executive producer, said in a statement.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao (R) and Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra attend the unveiling ceremony of the Chinese Culture Centre in Bangkok, Thailand, on 21 Nov, 2012. —Xinhua

UN to provide food rations to 350 families in Gaza

BUENOS AIRES, 22 Nov— UN reported Wednesday that it would provide emergency food assistance for about 350 families with around 2,100 people in the Gaza Strip whose houses were destroyed in recent Israeli attacks.

The families would receive canned food and bread for an initial period of 10 days, UN Deputy spokesperson Eduardo del Bello said at a daily news briefing here on Wednesday.

Four trucks with WFP food stocks, sufficient to feed 5,600 people for a month, have failed to cross Israel’s Kerem Shalom border crossing with Gaza due to rocket fire, the spokesperson said. “It is critical to ensure this access point is open for humanitarian food and other supplies in the coming days,” he noted.

The Gaza conflict between Israel and the Islamic Hamas movement broke out last Wednesday, reportedly killing more than 140 Palestinians and at least five Israelis, and causing more than 1,000 others on both sides. On Wednesday afternoon, Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohamed Kamel Amr announced that Israel and Hamas had reached a ceasefire agreement.

The Egypt-brokered truce took effect at 09:00 GMT Gaza time (1900 GMT) the same day. —Xinhua

US envoy to UN refutes criticism over Benghazi attacks

WASHINGTON, 22 Nov— US Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice on Wednesday lashed out at criticism over her role in explaining what caused the 11 Sept Benghazi attacks which led to the death of the US ambassador to Libya.

In her first public defence against fierce assaults from US Senator John McCain and other Republican lawmakers over the issue, Rice said that she relied “solely” on intelligence reports when she appeared on Sunday news programmes on 16 Sept to discuss the death of the US ambassador, Chris Stevens, and three other Americans.

“When discussing the attacks against our facilities in Benghazi, I relied solely and squarely on the information provided to me by the intelligence community,” she told reporters outside the UN Security Council chamber.

“As a senior US diplomat, I agreed to a White House request to appear on the Sunday shows to talk about the full range of national security issues of the day which at that time were primarily, particularly, the protests that were threatening many American diplomatic facilities,” Rice said.

Xinhua

S African investments in HIV treatment saves many lives

JOHANNESBURG, 22 Nov— South Africa increased its scale of HIV treatment by 75 percent, allowing 1.7 million people to have access to the life-saving treatment, a new United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) report revealed on Wednesday.

“The move has led to a decrease of more than 41 percent in new HIV infections in the past two years, the said report.

“The report said the increase in South Africa’s sustained investments in HIV treatment, such as antiretroviral therapy (ART), led to a decrease of 41 percent in new HIV infections in the past six years.

“South Africa is the country that has made the highest domestic investment in AIDS among all low- and middle-income countries. It alone invested 1.9 billion US dollars in 2011 from public sources, resulting in a five-fold increase between 2006 and 2011,” said the UNAIDS’ 2012 World AIDS Day report.

“This strategic leadership is an example being echoed across the region,” said the report. The report was released ahead of the World AIDS Day observed on 1 December every year. It is dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection.

Xinhua

HIV/AIDS in South Africa is a sustainable health concern. The country is believed to have more people with HIV/AIDS than any other country in the world. “South Africa is committed to the fight against new HIV infections, and will continue to invest in the sustainable HIV treatment,” Acting Cabinet Spokesperson Phumzile Williams said in response to the report. —Xinhua
Every drop is precious

About 70 percent of the Earth’s surface is water-covered. Although an overwhelming majority of the planet is composed of water, 97% of this water used to sustain humans is only 3% of the total amount of water on Earth. Water is the lifeblood of a community. Water is worth more than gold and more crucial for survival above all other resources on earth. Water scarcity is among the main problems to be faced by many societies and the World. Water use has been growing at more than twice the rate of population increase in the last century. About 80% of the world’s population lives in areas with threats to water security.

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Forty-one percent of the world population is living in arid zones and 20 percent have no access to clean water. The water scarcity is a shared threat to human and nature and it is pandemic.

Growing population and overuse of fresh water in factories and agriculture sector cause the scarcity of fresh water. Water scarcity is both a natural and a human-made phenomenon.

Due to the lack of effective utilization of water resources, people would face the scarcity of water, leading to the outbreak of conflicts between some countries.

The competition for water in an overpopulated world would pose a major threat to human stability. The world’s diminishing water supply carries serious security, development and social risks, and could adversely affect global health, energy stores and food supplies.

Good management of water resources can jointly manage biodiversity protection and human water security. The way water scarcity issues are addressed impacts upon the successful achievement of most of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. We all need to join hand in hand to achieve MDGs by 2015.

In this age of technology, both news and humors could be globalized with one click.

Hee Hee.

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.
President U Thein Sein expresses thanks to NZ for its plan to grant more scholarship for Myanmar students

New Zealand to open embassy in Myanmar, a basic foundation for promoting bilateral relations

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Nov—President U Thein Sein urged New Zealand Prime Minister Mr. John Key for immediate economic cooperation in their talks at Credentials Hall of the President Residence here this noon.

Present on the occasion were Union Ministers U Winna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thein, U Ohn Myint, Dr Mya Aye, Dr Pi Thein Khun, Dr Kan Zaw and Dr Ko Ko Oo, and New Zealand Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Tony Lynch.

President U Thein Sein thanked the New Zealand PM and people for financial assistance to Myanmar’s agriculture sector and humanitarian aid in Rakhine incident. The President added that democracy has been only 18 months old in Myanmar, but the incumbent government is putting heart and soul in democratization, striving for peace and stability of the State and economic development, the cornerstone for promotion of democracy.

It has been making sure participation and inclusiveness in political process and has so far granted amnesty for six times. Now, respective parties including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and National League for Democracy have been joining in political process with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi elected to Pyithu Hluttaw. Moreover, the government has been holding peace talks with armed groups to end the world’s longest armed conflict and has reached some agreements with 10 out of 11 armed groups. He asked the help from New Zealand PM in education and health service delivery and rehabilitation works to be implemented in those regions.

Economic performance is crucial for promotion of democracy. The government is inviting foreign investment as Myanmar is lack of capital and technology and still has to walk a long way to nurture human resources. The Western countries have eased economic sanctions against Myanmar as the country maintains cordial relations with all global countries regardless of east or west. Myanmar is blessed with abundant natural resources and agricultural produce and adequate workforce. He invited New Zealand economists to observe economic potentials in Myanmar which lies between huge markets. Labour-intensive industry is preferable if possible to create jobs, urged the President, saying that there are prospects for rubber-based industries as downstream business. It would be beneficial to both sides to export timber as high value products through establishment of factories and workshops, said the President.

He added that various crops can be grown in Myanmar thanks to its favourable climate and soil. Offshore fishery, hydropower generation and fishery can also be run in Myanmar which produces copper and iron with thousands of tons of unexploited mineral deposits, said the president who recommended investment in mining industry. There are huge prospect for hospitality industry in Myanmar which is blessed with cultural heritage sites and the gift of nature. He invited immediate economic cooperation from New Zealand as a dialogue partner of ASEAN.

It is highly important to nurture competent human resources for national development and economic growth. He expressed his special thanks to New Zealand’s investment in pharmaceutics industry.

After that, the New Zealand Prime Minister said that both Myanmar and New Zealand are located in Asia-Pacific Region in which the fastest growth rate in the world was seen. New Zealand extended a welcome to Myanmar for its reintegration in the international community. He expressed his support for the counterpart’s and government’s efforts for better socio-economic status of local people and development and peace and stability. He recognized President’s efforts for remarkable progress achieved in a short period of time. The counterpart’s leadership took a center stage in that reform process that bore witness to the meeting technology and capacity building.

Now, there were good prospects for further strengthening relations between two countries. New Zealand would make effort for opening embassy in Myanmar in the short period of time, which is a basic foundation for promoting bilateral relations. New Zealand would make cooperation with Myanmar in English Language development that will support Myanmar’s alternate ASEAN chairmanship and livestock and diary products that will facilitate rural development and food security. He continued to say that he met with New Zealand entrepreneurs in Yangon yesterday. Other entrepreneurs and investors from New Zealand showed interests in making investments in Myanmar. New Zealand had small and active civil societies that are engaging in many sectors in Myanmar including education, technological assistance and capacity building. Those societies were making arrangements to make investments in such sectors as education, and government’s efforts. He hoped that he would welcome the counterpart’s visit to New Zealand in the near future.

In his speech, the President said that his government would continue to maintain amity and make cooperation with New Zealand. A number of mutually-beneficial matters were discussed during that meeting, and continued efforts would be made for implementation. Then, the meeting came to an end.

After the call, the President and the Prime Minister explained their discussions to local and foreign media. The President said that US President Mr Barack Obama paid a working visit to Myanmar recently as first-ever US President’s visit to Myanmar. He said that counterpart’s visit to Myanmar was a first-ever New Zealand Prime Minister during 54 years since diplomatic relation between Myanmar and New Zealand had been established. Those periods were defining moments for Myanmar. He hoped that he would welcome the counterpart’s visit to New Zealand. After that, the President hosted a...
Rakhine State has potentials for trading with Western countries, Middle East, ASEAN countries, India, and Bangladesh.

Myanmar Gazette

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Deputy Director-General U Tin Tun of Planning and Statistics Department under the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry as Director-General of the same department on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

New Zealand Prime Minister meets Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

The Union minister and UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Aid Coordinator Mr Ashok Nigan described financial constraints, declining stocks, locals’ misunderstanding of aid workers, less participation of humanitarian aid associations, and vast are of rehabilitation as grave challenges, reaffirming UN commitment for cooperation with government and donors. Next, ambassadors and reps of INGOs from Yangon and Geneva made suggestions. The Union minister and UN coordinator then gave interview to local and foreign journalists. —MNA

Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay speaking at the launching of Rakhine Response Plan.—MNA

New Zealand Prime Minister Mr. John Key and Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Peace and Tranquility Committee Chairperson Daw Aung San Suu Kyi reply queries of local and foreign media.—MNA

New Zealand Prime Minister Mr. John Key and Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Peace and Tranquility Committee Chairperson Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at 4:30 pm. Afterward, the Prime Minister and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met local and foreign media and replied to the queries. In the evening, the Prime Minister and party visited Nay Pyi Taw Gems Museum.—MNA

EANET holds its 12th SAC meeting

YANGON, 22 Nov—Under the United Nations Environment Programme-UNEP, member countries of Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) held the 12th Scientific Advisory Committee meeting at Yangon City Hotel, here, this morning.

During the meeting, the member countries made a decision to invite records that states measurements of the presence of acid in rainwater and of gas that can increase acid deposition in the air. It is learnt that Myanmar has been a member of EANET since 2005, and is carrying out testing on existence of PH and Iron in rainwater. The meeting will last till 24 November.—MNA

Myanmar-Vietnam Business Forum on 30 Nov

YANGON, 22 Nov—Jointly organized by Vietnam Embassy to Myanmar of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, a Myanmar-Vietnam Business Forum will be held at the federation on Min Ye Kyaw Swa Road, here, on 30 November.

Those wishing to attend the Forum may enlist and questions written in English version will be sent to the federation not later than 27 November. —MNA

Public companies granted relaxation of restrictions

YANGON, 22 Nov—The Department of Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration has allowed applications for registration of eight kinds of business such as trading and services, industry and production, construction, gems, hotels tourism and banking service before. As of 25-10-2012, the department has been granting relaxation on restrictions public companies. —MNA

New Zealand Prime Minister lays wreath at Haukkkyant Commonwealth War Cemetery

YANGON, 22 Nov—The New Zealand delegation led by Prime Minister Mr John Key, who was accompanied by Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan and officials laid wreath at the Commonwealth War Cemetery in Haukkkyant in Mingaladon Township, here, this morning.

The New Zealand PM also laid wreath at Commonwealth War Graves of eight New Zealand fallen soldiers, and signed the visitors’ book. —MNA

Judicial system, administration inspected

YANGON, 22 Nov—Deputy District Judge U Nyo Tun of Mawlamyine District Court on 20 November called the judges doing judicial system and staff working administrations at the court in Chaungsone Township for ensuring avoiding taking bribery and corruption.

The deputy district judge has arranged to pay inspection tours to Mudon Township Court, Thanpyuzayat Township Court and Kyekmayaw Township Court. —NLM
Philippine urges progress to address climate change in upcoming Doha meeting

MANILA, 22 Nov—The Philippine government expressed hope on Wednesday that the signatory countries of the Kyoto Protocol would be able to resolve several issues on climate change during the conference in Doha starting next week.

Climate Change Commission (CCC) Vice-Chairman Mary Ann Lucille Sering, in a news briefing, said that the future of the Kyoto Protocol will be tackled during the “18th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)” and the “8th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.”

The events will take place from 26 Nov to 7 Dec, 2012 at the Qatar National Convention Centre in Doha, Qatar.

“This is a very important conference for us, especially developing countries like the Philippines, because we will talk about the Kyoto Protocol. There is a talk of extending the second commitment period,” she said.

The Philippines wants the second commitment period to span from 2013 to 2017, she added.

The Kyoto Protocol is the only international treaty limiting greenhouse-gas emissions that expires in 2012.

Shallow undersea quake hits East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia

JAKARTA, 22 Nov—An earthquake measuring 5.9 Richter scale struck off East Nusa Tenggara of Indonesia on Wednesday evening, the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency reported here.

The shakes of the quake was felt in nearby Bali island and Lombok area, an official of the agency said.

The quake struck at 23:46 pm Jakarta Time (1646 GMT) with epicentre at 271 km southwest Sumba Barat of East Nusa Tenggara and with the depth at 10 km under sea bed, an official of the agency told Xinhua by phone.

The intensity of the quake was felt at 2 to 3 MMI (Modified Mercally Intensity) in both of Bali island and Lombok area, he said. Indonesia is vulnerable on quake as it sits on a quake-hit zone so-called “the Pacific Ring of Fire”.

Bomb kills three soldiers, two civilians in Pakistan

QUETTA, 22 Nov—A bomb blast killed three soldiers and two civilians in this Pakistani city of Quetta on Wednesday, security officials said.

The bomb, attached to a motorcycle, exploded near a security vehicle escorting school children, they said. Sixteen people were wounded. A Reuters reporter saw the corpses of three soldiers under the vehicle as it burned. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack in Baluchistan, Pakistan’s biggest but poorest province which borders Afghanistan and Iran, where several militant groups are active.

Ethnic Baluch separatists are waging an insurgency, demanding more autonomy and control over natural resources. Pro-Taleban militants also operate in the area and Sunni Muslim militants regularly carry out attacks on Baluchistan’s Shia Muslim minority.

In a separate attack, suspected militants shot dead four policemen in the northwestern town of Bannu, a police official said. Pakistan’s Taleban movement claimed responsibility.—Reuters

Australian police seize 350 kg drugs hidden in road roller

SYDNEY, 22 Nov—A total of 350 kilograms of cocaine and methamphetamine, with an estimated street value of 237 million AU dollars (246.25 million US dollars) have been seized in Sydney after a “complex and protracted” two-and-half-year investigation, the Australian Federal Police (AFP) said on Wednesday.

The AFP said a 33-year-old American man and a 34-year-old Canadian man arrested earlier this week were the key players in an international organized crime syndicate planning to conduct a significant illicit drug importation into Australia.

A search warrant was executed in a storage unit at Warriewood in northern Sydney, where AFP officers found 350 kilograms of illegal drugs hidden inside a road roller. Acting National Manager Serious and Organized Crime David Sharpe said this seizure follows a number of successful joint investigations, which have resulted in the seizure of more than 2.3 tonnes of illicit substances in the past five months.

“The seizure sends a clear message to criminals that no matter how long it takes, how complex or innovative the concealment method, global law enforcement is joining forces to stop the importation of illicit drugs into Australia,” Sharpe said in a statement.

Mongolia becomes 57th OSCE member

ULAN BATOR, 22 Nov—The Mongolian Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday the country’s application to join the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has been ratified, making Mongolia its 57th member.

Mongolia became an Asian partner of the OSCE in 2004.

Then Foreign Minister Gombojav Zandanshatar told a meeting of the OSCE and Asian partners in May 2011 that expanding cooperation with the OSCE is a priority of Mongolia’s foreign policy, and expressed willingness to become a member of the organization.

In October 2011, Mongolia formally submitted its application for the OSCE membership.

Two killed in suicide bomb attack near Kabul NATO base

KABUL, 22 Nov—A suicide bomber killed two Afghan guards outside a NATO-run compound in the main diplomatic area of the Afghan capital, Kabul, on Wednesday. The Interior Ministry officials, said an attack that was quickly claimed by the Taleban.

“The bomber killed himself in front of the compound. Two people were killed and two more were wounded, all Afghan guards,” said Interior Ministry spokesman Najib Danish.

A second man wearing known as Camp Eggers, the headquarters of the NATO training mission and home to some 2,500 trainers from the multinational coalition.

Dozens of police swarmed to the area, where shattered glass from cars lay on the ground, and cordoned it off.

The Taleban took responsibility for the attack, which happened at 8.20 am (0350 GMT) local time. Taleban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid told Reuters by telephone from an undisclosed location.

Visitors experience an economy car during the 2012 Harbin Autumn Automobile Exhibition in Harbin, capital of northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, on 20 Nov, 2012. Economy cars presented on the week-long exhibition with a price under 100,000 yuan (about 16,030 US dollars) attracted lots of attention.—Xinhua

Australian police seize 350 kg drugs hidden in road roller

A firefighter spraying water on a vehicle at the site of a bomb attack in Quetta on 21 Nov, 2012. REUTERS

NATO troops inspect the site of a suicide bomb attack in Kabul on 21 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

Violence is intensifying across Afghanistan ahead of the planned withdrawal of most foreign troops by the end of 2014, sparking concerns over how the 350,000-strong Afghan security forces will be able to manage.—Reuters
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ER TURKU VOY NO (005)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV ER TURKU VOY NO (005) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.11.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS HAN JIN SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MERKUR BRIDGE VOY NO (022)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERKUR BRIDGE VOY NO (022) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.11.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS MOL (S’PORE) PTE LTD,
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (061)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (061) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.11.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS ORINET OVERSEAS CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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China, Netherlands celebrate 40th anniversary of diplomatic ties

BEIJING, 22 Nov—A reception was held in Beijing on Tuesday to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of Sino-Dutch diplomatic relations. Li Jianping, vice president of the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), said at the reception that relations between China and the Netherlands have maintained sound development momentum since the two countries forged diplomatic ties 40 years ago. “During the past four decades, economic cooperation and mutual political trust have been enhanced. Non-governmental exchanges and local cooperation have scored remarkable achievements,” Li said, adding that the two countries should further strengthen bilateral ties and join hands in creating a better future for Sino-Dutch relations.

While addressing the reception, Aart Jacobi, Dutch ambassador to China, said China and the Netherlands share a long history of friendly exchanges and look forward to the continuous development of bilateral cooperation in various areas. The reception was hosted by the CPAFFC and the Dutch Embassy in China. About 100 guests from both countries, including Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Xie Hongsheng, attended the reception.—Xinhua

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US woman jailed for 80 years for toddler’s death

HOUSTON, 22 Nov—A US woman was sentenced to 80 years in prison on Tuesday for the death of a toddler in a fire at her home daycare centre last year, US media reported. Jessica Tata, 24, the owner of a Houston daycare centre, also received a 10,000-US-dollar fine for her role in the death of an 16-month-old boy, one of four children who died in the fire after being left unattended at the daycare center, according to the website of the Houston Chronicle.—Xinhua

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Ministry of Information
Invitation for open tender of Myanma Radio and Television (Nay Pyi Taw, Tatkon) to maintain air-conditioners
1. Open tenders are invited to maintain air-conditioners of Myanma Radio and Television (Nay Pyi Taw, Tatkon) under the Ministry of Information.
   (1) Air-conditioners in Studio Complex
   (2) Air-conditioners in Transmitter Complex
   (3) Air-conditioners in Padawk Myay Radio Transmitter Complex
2. 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 on 23-11-2012 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.
   Tender 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 Myanma Radio and Television to purchase machines
1. Machines to be purchased for Myanma 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
2. 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 (23-11-2012) 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.
   Tender 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 MV BANGKAI VOY NO (80)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGKAI VOY NO (80) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.11.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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Invitation for open tender of MV Radio Telephone 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 years.
2. 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 (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.
   Tender Committee
   Ministry of Information
   Office No. 7, Nay Pyi Taw
   Tel: 067 - 412327, 79474
Tom Cruise misses Suri terribly

Los Angeles, 22 Nov — Actor Tom Cruise, who got divorced from actress Katie Holmes, reportedly gets emotional when he is away from his six-year-old daughter Suri.

“He cries at night because he misses her so much. Both of them are taking the divorce really hard, and it’s tough on Katie because she has to deal with Suri’s public meltdown,” showbizpy.com quoted a source as saying.

“But Suri knows she’s deeply loved by both her mom and dad. And she’s bravely facing all the changes brought on by the divorce just like any other normal little girl would,” added the source.

Katie Holmes and Tom Cruise parted ways in August this year. — PTI

Rihanna’s “Diamonds” tops Hot 100, “Unapologetic” to debut big

Los Angeles, 22 Nov — R&B star Rihanna scored her 12th chart-topping single on the Billboard Hot 100 on Wednesday, as her seventh studio album “Unapologetic” raced toward a big debut after its release this week. Rihanna’s “Diamonds,” the lead single from “Unapologetic,” notched the top spot on the Hot 100, tying the Barbra Streisand with Madonna and The Supremes for the fourth-most chart-topping singles in Billboard history.

Only Michael Jackson, Mariah Carey and The Beatles have had more hit singles. “The 24-year-old singer has just wrapped up a seven-day mini-tour across seven world cities to promote “Unapologetic,” her seventh studio album, which was released on Monday and shot to the top of the iTunes album charts in 43 countries despite garnering mixed reviews. “Unapologetic” scored 65 out of 100 on review aggregator site Metacritic.com, with some critics giving and bulletproof.” But BBC Music’s Natalie Taylor said the album was a difficult listen, calling it “the sound of a human unsettled by the singer’s harder sound and close-to-home lyrics. Others have embraced it. “The New York Times’ Jon Caramanica called Ri-hanna’s latest “one of her best albums yet,” adding that the singer’s ‘presence made her “without peer when it comes to her image, which is steely and unfor-
dragged headfirst into a breakdown,’” and criticizing the singer for using “pop music to inadvertently con-
done abuse.” The track that Shaw refers to and has ever-yone talking is Rihanna’s collaboration with ex-boy-friend Chris Brown, who was charged with assaulting her three years ago. — Reuters

Selena Gomez turns designer with sportswear

London, 22 Nov — Wizards of Waverly Place star Selena Gomez is launching a new fashion collaboration with the sports giant Adidas.

The 20-year-old singer-actress is the Adidas Neo Label’s new global style icon and as part of the three-year partnership, Gomez will design and de-
develop seasonal ranges for women, including sneakers, clothing and accessories.

“It is a great partner-
ship for me because Neo really cares about style and having fun with fashion and allowing you to be yourself. This is something that’s always been important to me and is important to my fans too: knowing they can express themselves through wearing whatever clothes they want and feel good about themselves.”

“I am really enjoying being involved with the design process and Neo is let-
ting me have fun with this. I get to wear the clothes first and have a voice and an opinion and I can’t wait to see the results of our new collection” she added.

The new project is a welcome distraction for the American star following the rumours suggesting her rel-

Friday, 23 November, 2012
Manchester City defence
Karim Benzema scored a
their place in the last 16
to Manchester City on
Real Madrid drew 1-1 away
Karim Benzema scored a
their place in the last 16

draw.— Xinhua

Tennis

HONG KONG, 22 Nov —
Ivan Lendl threw up
his own Iron Curtain on
Wednesday when report-
ers probed about the state
of Andy Murray’s mind and
his game as Britain’s newly minted Grand Slam
champion switches his fo-
cus to the Australian Open.
“I never get into the details of his game with anyone because it’s not necessary for anyone other than Andy to know,” the Czech-born Lendl said in familiar tac-
turn style.
The former world number one — now a US citizen — steered Murray to the US Open crown in Sep-
tember, ending Britain’s wait for a men’s grand slam singles champion which had stretched back to 1936. Like Murray, Lendl lost the first four grand slam finals he contested but then went on to win eight, failing only

Dubai display restored 1999 winner
Lawrie’s belief

DUBAI, 22 Nov — Paul
Lawrie believes his second-
place finish in last year’s
DP World Tour Champi-
Onship in Dubai was the springboard for his return to the Ryder Cup stage af-
fter a 13-year absence. The veteran Scot, winner of the
British Open at Carnoustie
in 1999, was in the dol-
Drums for several years un-
til he got a confidence boost from winning the Andalu-
sian Open last year. Lawrie then took an-
other step up in class by
coming close to landing
the end-of-season Dubai
showpiece featuring the top 60
players in Europe, finishing
the two strokes behind Alvaro
Quiros of Spain who posted
a winning tally of 19 under
par. “This week last year
was the one that really gave me back my self belief,”
Lawrie, 43-year-old told reporters on
the eve of the $8 million extravaganza. When you go
close to winning tourna-

ments of this size it gives you a boost.
“Last year made me feel like I belonged again in
the top 50 of the world rankings. I think a lot of
my play this season all goes down to that event.”
World number 27 Lawrie has been consistent personified in
2012, stringing together
nine top 10 finishes includ-
ing seven at the Qatar
Masters and the Johnnie
Walker Championship in
Scotland.

Romario, Zico to play in
Soccerex duel

RIO DE JANEIRO, 22 Nov —
Brazilian football leg-
er Romario and Zico will
take part in a match featur-
ing intellectually handi-
capped players on Rio’s
iconic Copacabana beach.
The match has been
scheduled to raise aware-
ness of mental disabilities
also in the wake of the paraly-
augural Special Olympics
Football World Cup in Rio.
The fixture will also
form a part of the 2012
Soccerex Global Conven-
tion — a five-day football
business conference in the
beachside Brazilian city.
Romario, 46, has been
a strong campaigner for
children with disabilities
since being elected to Bra-
zil’s federal chamber of
 deputies as a member of the
country’s socialist party in
2010. The former Barce-
llona striker and World Cup
winner’s youngest daugh-
ter, Ivy, has Down syn-
drome.— Xinhua

WBO welterweight champion Manny Pacquiao of the
Philippines is treated in his corner between rounds
during his title fight against Timothy Bradley Jr. of
the US at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas,
Nevada on 9 June, 2012. — REUTRS

Pacquiao eyes vindication in
fourth bout with Marquez

LOS ANGELES, 22 Nov —
With his ego bruised and
his stature diminished after
delivering below-par perfor-
mances in his last two bouts,
Manny Pacquiao has set his sights on bold vindication
when he fights Juan Manuel
Marquez next month. It will
be the fourth time the two
boxers will square up in the
ring, Pacquiao having nar-
rowly retained his WBO
welterweight title with a
controversial majority deci-
dion when they last met in
November 2011.
On that occasion, the Filipino southpaw earned
two of the verdicts from the
three judges, though it was
a surprisingly unimpressive
display and boos from dis-
grunted Marquez fans ech-
ued around the arena after
the shock decision was an-
ounced.
“Right now my mind
is focused on being more aggressive for this fight,”
Pacquiao told reporters
while preparing for the 8
December bout at the MGM
Grand Garden Arena in Las
Vegas. “If there is a chance
in the ring during the fight, why
not make the fight easy (by
knocking Marquez out) if I
have the opportunity?”
“I will try not to fight as
slow at the end of this fight as
I did in the last three fights.
That is my focus right now.
I want to finish stronger in this
fight.”
Mexican Marquez is a three-division world
champion and, according
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“Opponent over the years.

Dubai display restored 1999 winner
Lawrie’s belief

DUBAI, 22 Nov — Paul
Lawrie of Scotland tees off
on the first hole during the
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at Lake Malaren Golf Club in Shanghai

Spanish teams take valuable
Champions League draws

Soccer

Manchester City defence
Karim Benzema scored a
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Majority of Icelanders want to quit EU membership bid: survey

STOCKHOLM, 22 Nov—Most of Icelanders want to back out of the country’s European Union (EU) membership bid, according to a survey published on Wednesday.

According to a survey conducted by market research company Capacent Gallup, 53.5 percent of those surveyed chose not to support the bid any more, Icelandic online daily Ice News reported. Only 36.4 percent thought that the country should continue with the accession negotiations with EU, while 9.9 percent were unsure about the issue, the survey showed.

Iceland applied to join EU in 2009 and by now the country has finished 10 of the 35 negotiating chapters with EU officials.

Iceland was faced with challenging issues in the bid concerning fisheries, agriculture and environment, European Commissioner for Enlargement Stefan Fule was quoted as saying by Ice News.

According to officials from Capacent Gallup, the survey was carried out from September to October this year and the company didn’t publish a margin of error.

Poland to invest 31 bln USD in energy sector by 2020: PM

WARSAW, 22 Nov—Poland will invest more than PLN 100 billion (31 billion US dollars) in the energy sector — including nuclear energy — by 2020, Prime Minister Donald Tusk said on Wednesday.

According to local media, the government planned to invest in Kozienice (Poland’s biggest energy plant), gas pipelines, and inter-connectors with Lithuania and other countries.

Poland would also speed up shale gas exploration to reach the output of 10 billion cubic meters of gas by 2020. This could make Poland independent from gas supplies from the East, Treasury Minister Mikolaj Budzanowski said.

Budzanowski added that shale gas extraction project in Poland would be the best solution for the European power sector.

The EU should increase its own production of raw materials instead of building new infrastructure which will make it more dependent on eastern gas deliveries, he stressed.—Xinhua

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Macedonians to plant millions of trees on Tree Day

SOFIA, 22 Nov—Macedonians are taking a day off on Wednesday to plant some three million trees as part of the government’s efforts to revive forests and increase ecological awareness in the Balkan country. The government declared on Wednesday a non-working day for the purpose of mass turnout, and thousands of people are expected to plant trees in some 800 hectares of land around the country on this special public holiday.

This is the tenth consecutive time that the nationwide collective tree planting campaign took place in the western Balkan country and its motto for this year is “FORESTING CAN BE A SPORT, TOO”.

The afforestation campaign was introduced in 2008 to revive Macedonia’s forests and green spaces to replenish timber stocks which often fall prey to summer wildfires.

So far, 12,200 hectares have been planted with 30.4 million seedlings in Macedonia.—Xinhua

Dallas area prepares for 50th anniversary of Kennedy assassination

DALLAS, 22 Nov—One year before the 50th anniversary of John F. Kennedy’s assassination, events and tributes are being held in the city the day President Kennedy was assassinated.

The city announced this week that it would hold a memorial service at 12:30 p.m. local time on 22 November, 2013, at Dealey Plaza, the precise time and place that Lee Harvey Oswald is believed to have shot Kennedy.

The service will be a departure for the Oak Cliff section of Dallas at this time so we decided to have a grass-roots community service of the First Rescue Squad of the South China Sea carry three fishermen who got lost at Leizhou Bay area to safe place in Zhanjiang, south China’s Guangdong Province, on 19 Nov, 2012. The squadron saved two sick fishermen and three missing fishermen from 17 Nov to 19 Nov. Xinhua

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This week, a Texas historical marker was dedicated to Dallas Police Officer JD Tippit, whom Oswald shot to death in the Oak Cliff section of the city, shortly after the shooting of Kennedy during his motorcade parade in the nearby downtown area.

Tippit was on patrol when he spotted Oswald and stopped to question him. Witnesses told police that Oswald shot Tippit four times. Oswald was arrested a few blocks away in the Texas Theatre a short time later, Dallas police said.

“There is going to be a lot going on in Dallas next year at this time so we decided to do our tribute this year so it is not overshadowed,” said Phil Leven, president of the Oak Cliff Conservation League, a grass-roots community organization. “Officer Tippit died in the line of duty, and we feel this is a good opportunity to raise awareness and give him the recognition he deserves.” —Reuters

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Friday, 23 November, 2012

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PYIDAUNGSU HLUTTAW

Three laws abrogated, foreign investment law enacted

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Nov—The fifth regular session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw came to an end with approvals for debt settlement, abrogated laws and expenditure of Parliament Office today.

Dr Banya Aung Moe of Mon State Constituency No (7) discussed use of Parliament Office’s expenditure under different headings. As no parliamentarian raised objection, the parliament approved the proposal of objection, the parliamentarian raised questions about the ministry here and preparations for formulation of new communication sector law, inviting tenders under the suggestion of ITU and tender selection process by committee led by Myanmar Investment Commission Chairman, price reduction scheme for mobile phone subscribers nationwide, free access to all websites except from porn ones and improvement of communication sector ahead of SEA Games. MNA

Prospects for private sector participation in communication sector discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Nov—Union Minister for Communication and Information Technology U Thein Tun, Ms Mari Nitise of UNESCAP and Professor Michael Ewing Chow of National University of Singapore held talks on future programmes for communication sector of Myanmar and prospects for private sector participation at the ministry here yesterday.

Guests from UNESCAP raised questions about new communication laws, preparations for formulation of bylaws, competitiveness of operators, number of mobile phones per year to be launched in five-year mobile phone extension programme. The Union minister made clarifications on enactment of new communication law, issue of permits under the regulations of the law, inviting tenders from international companies under the suggestion of ITU and tender selection process by committee led by Myanmar Investment Commission Chairman, price reduction scheme for mobile phone subscribers nationwide, free access to all websites except from porn ones and improvement of communication sector ahead of SEA Games. MNA

Zaykabar Myanmar Open Golf Championship to kick off Asian Tour 2013 Season

YANGON, 22 Nov—Myanmar biggest sporting extravaganza Zaykabar Myanmar Open Golf Championship is to be played at the beautiful and challenging Mingalardon Golf & Country Club which also boasts one of Asia’s best clubhouse facilities. MNA

Sound system failure forces Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session to move to Pyithu Hluttaw Hall

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Nov—While the ninth day meeting of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw sessions was taking place at Hluttaw Complex, here today, electricity went off breaking down the sound system. Thus, the remaining agenda was continued at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall.—MNA

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint at the fifth regular session.—MNA

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw replies to discussion.—MNA