Republic of the Union of Myanmar President Office Order No. (39/2012) 10th Waxing of Tazaungmon 1374 ME (23rd November 2012) Appointment of Taninthayi Region Minister

In accordance with Section 262(e) and (f) and Section 264(c) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Section 19(c) and Section 82(c) of Union Government Law and Section 8(g) and Section 56(a) of Region or State Government Law, U Tint Soe has been appointed as Minister for Finance and Revenue of Taninthayi Region.

Sd/ Thein Sein President The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Myanmar, EEAS to cooperate in providing humanitarian assistance in Rakhine State

They held discussions on matters related to cooperation in providing humanitarian assistance for both communities in Rakhine State and upgrading of roads, schools, hospitals, clinics and markets as long-term rehabilitation works in Rakhine State.

Bay Bulletin

According to the observations at (15:30) hrs ST today, the low pressure area over Southwest Bay and adjoining West Central Bay of Bengal has become less marked, announced Meteorology and Hydrology Department. — MNA

Central Committee for holding 65th Anniversary Independence Day ceremony meets

Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham making a speech at coordination meeting for holding 65th Anniversary Independence Day ceremony.

(Navy) Press Release (3/2012) 10th waxing of Tazaungmon 1374 ME (23 November 2012)

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Thailand have been jointly holding meetings for Myanmar migrant workers. The 12th Myanmar-Thai workers affairs meeting will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 26 November 2012.

2. Myanmar delegation led by U Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security will attend the meeting.

3. The meeting will focus on the ongoing work in implementing the agreements reached between Myanmar President and Thai Prime Minister during the President’s good will visit to Thailand, and the minutes of the previous meetings.

4. The Thai side has proposed to concentrate on two topics - the expiry of the process of issuing temporary visas for Myanmar workers on 14 December, and nationality verification. However, other issues such as the topics raised by the President during the visit and issuance of legal documents for children and dependents of the workers, protection of Myanmar workers, comprehensive M OU in sending new Myanmar workers, and sending back Myanmar workers with no legal documents.

(The following is the unofficial translation of the Press Release (4/2012).— Ed)

Sending of Message by the President to the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

1. As the Constitution was approved by 92.48 percent of the eligible voters throughout the country, the State Peace and Development Council prescribed it under Announcement No. 7/2008 dated 29-5-2008. In accord with the Section 441 of the Constitution, it came into effect in the whole country on 31-1-2011 on which the first meeting of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was held.

2. Prior to the enforcement of the Constitution, the State Peace and Development Council enacted 22 laws to make sure that work to be done smoothly.

3. The President sent a message to the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw under Letter No. 107(1)/8/President Office dated 31-10-2012 stating to scrutinize the aforementioned 22 laws whether they were not in conformity with the Constitution and if it was found that it was so, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was to take action as necessary. The following is the translation of the message-

1. As the Constitution was approved through referendum, the State Peace and Development Council prescribed it under Announcement No. 7/2008 dated 29-5-2008.

(The following is the unofficial translation of the Press Release (4/2012).— Ed)
Myanmar cyclists under training aiming medals

Yangon, 23 Nov—Respective sports federations are making preparations for taking part in the XXVII SEA Games to be hosted by Myanmar.

Likewise, Myanmar cycling team is making vigorous efforts in training for securing success in the SEA Games.

The cycling event will comprise four contests in the SEA Games including hilly cycling called downhill event.

Myitkyina-Mandalay cargo down-train derail

Mawlu, 23 Nov—A cargo down-train (934) with 11 coaches derailed between Nansiaung Station and Mawlu Station in Indaw Township, Sagaing Region on 20 November morning. Three coaches dragged along about 800 feet from mile post No. 610-4/3 to 610-8/7. The accident has caused damage to 18 slippers.

Social Security Board of Myanmar Railways is repairing the slip. It is known that the damaged section will be opened soon.

Cardiac ultrasound machine donated

Yangon, 23 Nov—“Social Security Board is attending to the needs of Labour Hospitals through three ways—State budget allotments, contributions to social security insurances and donations of wellwishers. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the wellwisher for donation of cardiac ultrasound machine to the hospital,” Union Minister for Labour Employment and Social Security U Maung Myint said in the ceremony to present the machine to Shwe Min Wun Ward Hospital.

Narракhaung creek-crossing bridge under construction

Indaw, 23 Nov—Narракhaung creek crossing through near Narракhaung village, Indaw Township, Katha District, Sagaing Region, is on Shwebo-Myitkyina Strategic road. Its datum is about one foot in winter and summer.

It has to take about four to five hours to pass it when the creek is flooded due to torrent rains. This is the only one road to transport goods from planes regions to Kachin State.

One acre of five-acre paddy plantation produced 110 baskets of paddy in dry status per acre.

Illegal teak, timber logs, forest products seized

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 Nov—During a period from 21 to date, a combined team of staff from Taikkyi, Hlegu, Thingangyun and Hmawby Township Forest Departments seized 1735 bags of charcoal while conducting a search of five trucks carrying teak, timber logs, sawn woods, firewood and furniture.

Officials concerned filed lawsuits against 11 owners at respective courts.

Likewise, the team seized 5,756 tons of illegal teak and forest products while launching a search of four trucks carrying teak, timber logs, sawn woods, firewood and furniture. Officials concerned filed lawsuits against nine owners at respective courts.

Technological colleges under repair in Sagaing Region

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 Nov—Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo visited Government Technological College (Kantbalu) in Sagaing Region on 18 November.

The Union minister gave guidance on academic, admin and disciplinary matters and inspected teaching aids fulfilled at the college.

Next, the Union minister looked into renovation of quake-hit school buildings and University of Technology (Sagaing).—MNA

Japanese medical mobile team performs free health care service in Sagaing

Sagaiing, 23 Nov—A Japanese medical mobile team led by Dental and Oral Treatment Specialist Dr. Geni Chi Tokeda from Osaka, Japan and Myanmar dentists mobile team including Dr Win Maung Maung Do jointly gave medical treatments to a total of 87 students from Taungphila M onastic School and 90 locals sharing medical knowledge on dental and oral care at Wacht Chit tadana Sangha Hospital and Dhamayon of Shweentu gaung Monastery in Shwe Min Wun Ward in Sagaing, as of 18 to 20 November.

Likewise, monks, nuns including about 200 students from Wacht Basic Education Post-primary School were given free medical treatment at Wacht Chit tadana Sangha Hospital.

Myonma Alinn
NATO, Russia clash over missile deployment in Turkey

Rasmussen said the deployment of the Patriot missiles, which can be used to intercept missiles or planes, would “serve as a deterrent to possible enemies even thinking of attacks” and help “preserve stability in our southern borders”. The move would be “purely defensive”, he said. Rasmussen, making the first visit to neutral Switzerland by a NATO secretary-general since 2004, voiced great concern about the situation on the eastern border of the country’s批评 was “not justified”. "We have made clear from the outset we will do what we consider to be necessary to defend our allies," he said in answer to a question.

EU naval warships arrest nine suspected Somali pirates

A van drives through flood water at Littlehampton in southern England on 11 June, 2012.—Reuters

Bomb explodes outside Greek prosecutor’s home

A police explosives expert probes for evidence at the house in Glyfada suburb, north of Athens, on 22 Nov, 2012.—Reuters

Flood insurance subsidy deal in doubt

A Greek police explosives expert searches for evidence at the house outside a house in Glyfada suburb, north of Athens, on 22 Nov, 2012.—Reuters

Two dead, up to 100 hurt in massive pileup on foggy Texas highway

A Greek police explosives expert searches for evidence at the house outside a house in Glyfada suburb, north of Athens, on 22 Nov, 2012.—Reuters

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Orange launches smartphone app for free calls, texts

HELSINKI, 23 Nov — Orange, the mobile brand of France Telecom, launched a global free calling and texting application on Thursday, in direct competition with services such as Skype, WhatsApp and Viber. Telecom operators around the globe have suffered as free calling and texting services have proliferated over the past few years. The apps allow users to communicate without using their voice or text allowances, leading some operators like KT to complain about a hit to their bottom line.

Giles Corbett, who developed the application called ‘Libon’ for Orange, said telecom operators needed to come up with equivalent services. “The situation is really simple — either you deliver the most compelling service or your users switch to something else. What’s the alternative? We want to be in there,” he said in an interview. The application can be used by any iPhone user for free, while the company charges for some premium features like transcripts of voicemail or email copies of mobile calls.

Libon will be available for smartphones using Google’s Android software in the first quarter of 2013. Telefonica also launched a similar app, called Tu Me, in June.

The telecoms industry association GSM has been working on standardizing RCS for use across all telecom operators and all world regions — to reveal details of the settlement that was reached on 10 November with HTC but which have been kept under wraps.

In a ugust, 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.

Ocean-atmosphere conditions remain neutral with small risk of El Nino: WMO

GENEVA, 23 Nov — Neutral conditions have continued in the tropical Pacific through the recent months and the likelihood of El Nino conditions developing during the remainder of 2012 is now low, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said in an update on Thursday.

Even if El Nino develops between November 2012 and January 2013, its strength would be weak, said the WMO.

Between July and September, the tropical Pacific sea surface temperatures increased to weak El Nino levels, but because atmospheric characteristics of El Nino, such as sea level pressure trade winds and cloudiness, failed to develop, overall conditions remained neutral, it said.

The sea surface temperatures then returned to neutral levels by early October, according to the update. It said the neutral conditions are likely to persist into the first quarter of 2013.

Neutral conditions increased the likelihood of a PDO in the Pacific, with the possibility of a cool bias, which would mean an increased risk of ‘La Nina’ conditions during the period June to October 2013.

The El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) refers to the alternating periods of warming and cooling in the tropical Pacific.

A student controls her robot during the competition of Tagisang Robotics 2012 in Pasay City, the Philippines, on 22 Nov, 2012. A total of 31 teams participated in the competition on Thursday. — Xinhua

Potential huge for China to go “green”

BEIJING, 23 Nov — As the biggest producer and consumer of energy in the world, China faces many challenges. The pressure to ensure the supply of energy is increasing and so is the pressure to deal with the associated environmental issues. In response, the Chinese government has been calling for a transformation in the way energy is developed and adjusting the structure of related industries, especially the use of renewable resources.

Since 2005, China has promulgated a series of regulations to support the development of renewable energy, including the law on renewable energy. In the meantime, it has also established a development fund system and attracted investment from diversified sources which has helped speed up the development pace of the country’s renewable energy industry.

In 2011, China’s installed hydropower capacity reached 210 million kW, the top in the world. Then in 2012, China’s installed wind power capacity of 47 million kW was also the biggest globally. The country also achieved progress in the application of solar and geothermal energy.

A high temperature is strong, the development of China’s renewable energy industries is still at an early stage. Among the myriad of challenges is the cost of renewable energy, which remains much higher than the conventional sources.

Wind power costs 20 to 50 percent more than traditional fossil energy, and solar energy is much higher yet, some two to three times more. Support for renewable energy industries will put more burden on the consumers and require more government subsidies.

Also, China’s low-carbon energy technologies lag far behind developed countries, except in the use of solar heated water and methane. The technological ability of China’s low-carbon energy industries is still at an early stage. Among the myriad of challenges is the cost of renewable energy which remains much higher than the conventional sources.

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

SAN FRANCISCO, 23 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.

Believed to be 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 A shop attendant poses with replicas of HTC, Samsung and Apple’s smartphones inside a mobile phone shop in Taipei on 6 April, 2012. — Reuters

A shop attendant poses with replicas of HTC, Samsung and Apple’s smartphones inside a mobile phone shop in Taipei on 6 April, 2012. — Reuters

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Fitch cuts Sony, Panasonic debt ratings to “junk” status

TOKYO, 23 Nov — Ratings agency Fitch downgraded the debt ratings of Japan’s Sony Corp and Panasonic Corp to “junk” status citing weakness in their consumer electronics and TV operations, further diminishing the luster of the once-great Japanese brands. The cut to below investment grade, the first by a ratings firm, comes as the floundering Japanese tech giants face weak demand and fierce competition from Apple Inc and Samsung Electronics.

A strong yen and bumps envisage the current situation continuing,” said Masashi Oda, Chief Investment Officer at Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank.

“A collapse of their core business will be a bearable problem, but we are not at the point yet, and to me Fitch looks too negative,” Oda added. Fitch downgraded Sony by three notches to BB-minus, saying meaningful recovery will be slow. The move came after Sony, the maker of PlayStation game consoles and Vaio laptops, last week announced plans to raise

Asia share set for best week in 2 months as outlook improves

SINGAPORE, 23 Nov — Asian shares ambled higher on Friday and were on course for a weekly gain of more than 2 percent, their best in two months, after manufacturing surveys from China and the United States raised hopes that the global growth outlook is improving at last. The euro was also enjoying a positive week, despite data on Thursday pointing to the euro zone sliding into its deepest recession since 2009, with the currency standing up more than 1 percent on last Friday’s close on optimism that a funding deal for debt-burdened Greece will ultimately be agreed.

A logo of the BlackBerry maker’s Research in Motion is seen on a building at the RIM Technology Park in Waterloo on 18 April, 2012. — Reuters

The two companies, along with Sharp Corp, racked up combined losses of $20 billion last year, leading them to axe jobs, sell assets and close facilities.” Both Sony and Panasonic are struggling to generate operating profits, but each is restructuring and I don’t

A Sony logo is seen as customers look at Sony digital cameras at an electronics shop in Tokyo, in this 10 May, 2012 file photo. — Reuters

in China, where growth has slowed and Japanese goods have been targeted in sometimes violent protests recently, have also weighed on their earnings.

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Proposal to send large....

(from page 16) 
Kangyidaun Constituency on drafting of Media Law and Press Law with the change of fourth estate, Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway replied that Myanmar Press Council (Temporary) has started drawing a draft. A workshop in which local and foreign media men linking Hlinethaung and Mayangan townships like Bayinnaung Bridge, Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint replied that upon receiving the fund of K 1150 million asked for 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 fiscal years, construction would be started immediately in coordination with Yangon Region government. 

Regarding the question of U Zone Teint about whether there is plan to establish another bridge linking Hlinethaung and Mayangan townships like Bayinnaung Bridge, Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint replied that upon receiving the fund of K 1150 million asked for 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 fiscal years, construction would be started immediately in coordination with Yangon Region government. 

The Union U Soe Nyunt, the bill to amend Transfer of Property Act and the bill to amend civil law procedure. U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency, the bill to amend Union Judiciary Law and Daw Tin Nwe Oo of Dagon Myothit (North) Constituency, the bill to abolish the 1993 development committees law (Law No(555) of State Law and Order Restoration were allowed to jointly run Laptadantaung copper mining project in accord with the Order No. (0003/2010) dated 5-3-2010 of the Ministry of Mines and they were granted 60-year government grant-land in September 2012. 

Wanbao Mining Ltd made full investment at US$ 999 in accord with Order No(438/2010) issued by Myanmar Investment and the grant of K 5.8 million for stipends of university students were carried out. For getting three Internationally-recognized certificates, works have to be managed in line with international standards. For surveillance, survey and maintenance for each sector had to be undertaken systematically. It follows sound and suggestions of Amyotha Hluttaw Mines and Minerals Committee and Myanmar Human Rights Commission. Profit and loss statements. It aims not to cause a heavy burden to the government in the time of nation building. From the point of view of the political position, there are no eternal friend and eternal enemy in the international relations, but is only eternal interest. So, the political viewpoint is for the interests of US nor China. It is only for the interest of the country. According to the economic analysis, there would be determents to the influx of FDI and foreign investments if those contacts were broken without keeping such promises.

The last point is mental assessment. No matter what system is in practice, it needs to follow the law. It is important that the right side without bias and it is the justice. In addition it needs to make sure none other political viewpoint democracy practices flourish even at the majority’s demand. 

The next one is the problem of demonstration. Currently, nothing can be done since 18 November. If those projects are stopped like this, it causes the loss of USD 2 million monthly. The crisis has dragged on since

Arrival of Pyithu Hluttaw representatives at fifth regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw.—MNA

would participate, be held after the first draft is drawn in coordination with experts from the Ministry. The second draft will be drawn in cooperation with journal reporters from the Press Council based on the workshop’s results. And it will be submitted in accord with respective procedures for approval.

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Arrival of Pyithu Hluttaw representatives at fifth regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw.—MNA
Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets New Zealand Prime Minister and party

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Shwe Mann held talks with New Zealand Prime Minister Mr John Key — MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with New Zealand Prime Minister Mr John Key — MNA

Winners of Sarpya Beikman Manuscript Award for 2011 announced

Nav Pyi Taw, 23 Nov — Winning manuscripts and winners of Sarpya Beikman Manuscript Award Competition 2011 organized by Printing and Publishing Enterprise were announced today.

In the novel category, first prize went to M in Than (Moe Aung), followed by Kayt Hla Hla and Maung Yi Kyaw (Physics) and Zaw Myo Han.

In the collected short stories category, Amanya Po La Pyae won second prize and Nann Moe Saw Aung a third prize.

In the collected poetry category, Maw Lwa Nang (Sabangon), Aung Tha Hsan (Tandaw) and Zaw Myo Han stood first, second and third respectively.

Lin Haik Tin Hlaing (Kyaunku) won first prize, Kyaw Hla Win (Education) second prize and Yin Yin Maung (Agriculture) third prize.

Press Release (3/2012)...

(From page 1)

5. Moreover general matters includes quicker money transfers by the banks, educational opportunities for children of migrant workers, issuance of documents for seasonal migrant workers, protection of Myanmar workers facing unfair labour and pressures on board trawlers, lessening the punishments on and the amnesty for Myanmar workers serving prison terms in Thailand, and the review of the MOU signed in 2003 and its amendment at an appropriate time.

6. Thailand is expressing its intention through the media that it will not continue to host illegal workers from Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia after 14 December 2012.

7. According to the estimation of international organizations, there are over two million Myanmar workers in Thailand. It also says that temporary visas have not been issued for about 300,000 registered workers yet, and about one million workers still remained to be registered.

8. However, the international community at present is praiseing the efforts of the two governments to issue proper documents for Myanmar workers as per the international practices.

9. If the process is halted it will have adverse impact on the interest of both countries and workers’ rights. Moreover, Thai entrepreneurs will face criticism of international organizations and NGOs dealing with the affairs of illegal migrant workers in Thailand. So, Myanmar will insist on extending the term in connection with the said matter.

Press Release (4/2012)...

(From page 1)

2. In accord with the Section 441 of the Constitution, it came into effect in the whole country on 31-1-2011 on which the first meeting of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was held.

3. Section 443 of the Constitution states “The preparatory work done by the State Peace and Development Council, before this Constitution comes into operation, to bring the Constitution into operation, shall be deemed to have been carried out in accord with this Constitution.” In accord with this prescription, the State Peace and Development Council, referencing Section 443 of the Constitution, enacted 22 laws which were needed to enact in advance to build the future nation. The list of the laws was presented in the appendix.

4. Article 446 prescribes “Existing laws shall remain in operation in so far as they are not contrary to this Constitution until and unless they are replaced or amended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.” It makes the provisions of existing laws contrary to Constitution automatically become invalid. It is therefore shall be appropriate to amend, rewrite and abrogate the provisions as necessary after determining which provisions are contrary to the Constitution in actions taken under the existing laws.

5. The message is sent with recommendation to form a committee with parliamentarians, legal experts from administrative organs and outsider legal experts and to assign them to make clear whether provisions in those 22 laws enacted by the State Peace and Development Council in advance under Article 443 of the Constitution are contrary to the Constitution so that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw can take actions as necessary in case of contrary provisions.

4. The list of 22 laws enacted by the State Peace and Development Council in Article 443 of the Constitution is described as Appendix A as follows:

- State Flag Law (No. 8/2010)
- State Seal Law (No.9/2010)
- National Anthem Law (No.10/2010)
- Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law (No.11/2010)
- Pyithu Hluttaw Law (No.12/2010)
- A myothu Hluttaw Law (No.13/2010)
- Government Law (No.15/2010)
- Region or State Government Law (No.16/2010)
- Self-Administered Division or Self-Administered Zone Leading Body Law (No.17/2010)
- Nay Pyi Taw Council Law (No.18/2010)
- Election of the President and Vice-Presidents Law (No 19/2010)
- Union Judiciary Law (No 20/2010)
- Constitutional Tribunal of the Union Law (No 21/2010)
- Attorney-General of the Union Law (No.22/2010)
- Union Chairman of Civil Services Board (No 24/2010)
- Emolument, allowance and privileges of Union Level Persons Law (No 2/2011)
- Emolument, allowance and privileges of Region/State level Persons Law (No.3/2011)
- Emolument, allowance and privileges of chairman and executive committee members of Self-Administered Division or Self-Administered Area Law (No.4/2011)
- Emolument, allowance and privileges of chairman and members of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area Law (No.5/2011)
- Emolument, allowance and privileges of Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw, Region/State Hluttaw representatives and members of leading body of Self-Administered Division or Self-Administered Area Law (No.6/2011)
Mobile education
Parliamentary debate and press criticism over education standards have made it clear that a lot more needs to be done in education system to keep abreast of our regional counterparts first, to be pragmatic. But, to radically reform the education system would rather take time and to improve educational institutions across the nation at the same time would be unrealistic.

Yangon University, the once-prestigious seat of learning in South East Asia, is reportedly to be rejuvenated with the assistance of foreign donors and local contributors to restore the public confidence in the education system as part of educational reform apart from establishment of centers of excellence and authorization for private schools.

While there is an apparent increased focus on both formal and informal education, distance education seems still out of sight after decades of neglect. Leaving aside the questionable quality of distance education with a lot of never-corrected misspellings in textbooks, exams only serve as annual gathering for most of undergraduates to spend a month of complete freedom.

But, I have to admit that it is just the general picture with a few notable exceptions. Nonetheless, the importance of certificates in job-seeking is undeniable even though these certificates do not represent any real qualification, which looks like a conflict.

I here just would like to focus on a possible alternative for rapid development of human resources. It would be much beneficial for the youth if the Education Ministry in cooperation with Communication and Information Technology podcast interesting and useful lessons as the number of mobile phone subscribers is increasing nationwide and the price of MP3 and MP4 has become affordable.

Mobile learning is a cost-effective learning tool to broaden our horizons in a short time and it is convenient for those who have no free time to attend a full-time course. Providing there is full access to internet plus good internet connection, perhaps all we need is to take cue from India which saw communication revolution through mobile phone. On the other hand, Myanmar notizens are still busy indulging in social websites while there is a number of learning sites available now.

Can white angels fly high?

It is no doubt that Myanmar people are wild about football. On weekends, some of us are Chelsea fans while some support M an U, some Barcelona and so forth. But, we all turn ardent fans of national football team once there is football match against them.

Nevertheless, it has been a long time Myanmar football fans dared not expect much from successional national football teams. It is rather like a myth that Myanmar was once a football giant in the region. We have constantly criticized Myanmar football teams, especially the national one, but we still can’t help watching their matches either in person or through television.

It is interesting to see what tactics Park Sung-hua uses as Myanmar boys play their opening match of AFF Suzuki Cup 2012 this evening against Vietnam’s strong squad which presented a humiliating defeat to Myanmar side, thrashing 7-1 in 2010 Suzuki Cup.

It has not been an easy task for Park to satisfy the Myanmar football fans thirsty for victory. To restore the glorious days in 1960s is easier said than done for the national football team which is now far behind the local and Philippines, none of which seem weaker than Myanmar squad which had little trouble with finding the net in qualifiers. Park has but to leave five important players out of the squad because of injuries. He could not bring the best team but he is hopeful to lead his team into semi-finals, saying his team now has fighting spirit unlike the last year’s competition in which Myanmar lost two matches and had one draw, and ended at the bottom of group table.

“In my opinion, our fighting spirit is our best strength. We’ll be fighting till the end for 60 million people”, says Park.
Genuine democracy begins with free and fair election: UEC Chairperson

The opening ceremony of Representative Office of Siam Commercial Bank PCL (SCB) in progress.—MNA

Donations for earthquake victims

Chairperson of UEC U Tin Aye and trainees from certificate course for social entrepreneurship & leadership (E-002-17) of Myanmar Egress Capacity Development Centre pose for documentary photo.—MNA

Workshop on capacity building for management of cultural heritages held

The check and balance framework in a democratic state is in place, says Finance Ministry official

The opening ceremony of Representative Office of Siam Commercial Bank PCL (SCB) in progress.—MNA

Siam Commercial Bank PCL (SCB) opens representative office in Myanmar

Chairperson of Yangon Region, families of Khin Aye Kyi (family) and Htayyi, K 100,000 by Daw Khaymar Bhaddanta  Sandawara, K 2,000 by Daw Khin Myo Kywe Hla (family), K 100,000 by Daw Than Than, U Maung Aung Win and Daw Ohnmar Lwin (family), K 100,000 by U M Aung M Lwin, packages of clothes by U M yint T h e i n and Daw Yi Y i Ta r (family), clothes by Daw Su Su (family) and K 100,000 by Daw K hin T h e t M u (family) in the memory of late father U K yaw M in Oo.—MNA

The relief fund of Yangon Region, families of late mother Daw Mya Mya Hlaing Maha Si Sayadaw, K 100,000 by Daw Khin Khin Han and Dr Daw Tin Tin Co, K 500,000 by U Thein Myint Myint (family) each, and U Tha Tun Oo and Daw Khin Aye K yi (family) and M.V. DELTA PRIDE and sailors each, K 550,000 by U M y o A un g and Daw K h i n Y i M on, Daughter M a E i N a da Aung, Ma y u t y i Th in, Son M au ng A un g Z e y a (family), K 50,000 by Daw K wan T in and daughter D a w K h i n H i n K y a i n g (family), K 200,000 by Daw Th an T h a n, U Maung Aung Win and Daw Ohnmar Lwin (family), K 100,000 by U M aung M au ng L w i n, packages of clothes by U M yin t T h e i n and Daw Yi Y i T a r (family), clothes by Daw Su Su (family) and K 100,000 by Daw K h i n T h e t M u (family) in the memory of late father U K yaw M in Oo.—MNA

Donations for earthquake victims

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Pyu paper reading session...
(from page 16) 354 (a & d) prescribes fundamental rights of citizens.

Secretary of Amyotha Hluttaw Government’s Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee U Khin Maung Htay proposed to the Hluttaw to accept the committee’s report on questions raised, proposal’s put forward and non-answered questions sent by Amyotha Hluttaw representatives at the fourth regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw. The Hluttaw approved his proposal.

Four parliamentarians discussed the proposal of U Ohn Tin of Rakhine State Constituency urging the Union government to recombine arts and science subjects at basic education high schools and prepare only one question for the matriculation examination for the entire nation without preparing different questions for different regions and states.

Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu discussed that frequent change of syllabus can make it difficult for students to learn and students can turn guinea pig unfortunately and there is no plan to recombine the subjects for the time being.

Regarding the second part of the proposal, as the current system is better and more secure than preparing only one question for the entire nation, there is no plan to change it, said the deputy minister.

The proposal was put to vote and rejected by the Hluttaw as the majority voted against it.

Two MPs discussed U Sai Kyaw Zaw Than of Shan State Constituency urging the Education Ministry to relax regulations for proposals to upgrade basic education schools in villages in townships in Regions or States.

Deputy Education Minister U Aye Kyu discussed that the ministry has planned to upgrade 4295 schools across the nation adopting a four-year plan from 2011-2012 to 2015-2016 academic year.

354 basic education schools of different levels have been upgraded nationwide from 1 April 2011 to 17 October, 2012, 1434 more in comparison with 2140 schools over three years from 2008 to March, 2011.

The proposal should be put on record as 739 schools had been upgraded so far and arrangements had already been made for more opening of schools by 20 per cent of the number of schools to be upgraded into primary level.

As the majority was in favour of the proposal, the Hluttaw approved it.

Deputy Minister for Culture U Kyaw Htein made clarifications on the proposal urging the Union government to open Arts and Culture College in each and every state of national races in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar submitted by U Maung Saw Pyu U Thiri State Constituency No (4).

He explained that it would be better for the lessons about traditions and cultures of national races to be on the curriculums of National Culture and Arts Universities, instead.

Arrangements had been made for opening of Arts Universities, instead.

Talks on scholarship programme
YANGON, 23 Nov.— BCA Academy will organize an educative talk on scholarship in competition in which they performed their beauty, personal qualities and skills. At the final stage, first prize went to Ma Khin Thanda Aung representing Toungoo Township, followed by Ma Chit Thway and Ma Nway Jutin who won second and third prize respectively.

M yanma Alinn

Local News

Khaytumati (Toungoo) beauty pageant contest
TOUNGOO, 23 Nov.— To mark the 502nd Founding Anniversary of Kayhtumati (Toungoo), a Kayhtumati Toungoo beauty pageant contest was held at Bayinnaung Hall of Kayhtumati Hotel, here, at 6 pm on 21 November.

A total of 13 beauty pageants in Toungoo era costumes competed in the contest in which they performed their beauty, personal qualities and skills. At the final stage, first prize went to Ma Khin Thanda Aung representing Toungoo Township, followed by Ma Chit Thway and Ma Nway Jutin who won second and third prize respectively.

M yanma Alinn

Officials of Myanmar Olympic Committee and National Olympic Committee of Thailand meet
YANGON, 23 Nov.— Plans are underway with added momentum for successful holding of the XXVII SEA Games in Myanmar after the only year left to host the games. Vice-Chairman of National Olympic Committee of Thailand Mr. Charoen Wattanapis and party observed sports stadium and buildings in Nay Pyi Taw on 19 November. The meeting between Mynnmar Olympic Committee and National Olympic Committee of Thailand took place at Padamya hall in National Indoor Stadium No (1) in Thuwunna at 3 pm on that day. It was attended by Deputy Minister for Sports U Than Htaik and officials, the vice-chairman of National Olympic Committee of Thailand and party. The meeting focused on the matters related to the XXVII SEA Games.

Next, both sides exchanged gifts and posed for a documentary photo. In the evening, Thai delegation attended dinner address by Chin State Chief Minister U Hong Naing.

Coord meeting on road/bridge construction in Chin State
NAY PYI TAW, 23 Nov.— A coordination meeting of Chin State Public Works on construction of roads and bridges for 2012-2013 fiscal year was held at the meeting hall of the Chin State Public Works on 21 November, with an address by Deputy Minister for Roads and Bridges U Kyemon.

Deputy Education Minister U Aye Kyu taking part in discussions.— MNA

Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo taking part in discussions.— MNA

Deputy Finance Minister U Htay proposed to the Hluttaw as the majority voted in favour of the proposal. Three representatives held discussions on the proposal submitted by member of Committee for Public Complaints and Appeals U Nyan Lin of Shan State Constituency No (1) urging the Union government to scrutinize and reply the case files submitted through the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker as soon as possible.

As the majority was in favour of the proposal, the Hluttaw approved it.

The 16 proposals—eight was approved and six was put on record.

Hluttaw approved five reports submitted by committees. Nine bills were amended, abrogated, reheard and approved.

Hluttaw speaker announced that First Amyotha Hluttaw fifth regular session concluded successfully.— MNA

 addr by Chin State Chief Minister U Hong Naing.

Chin State Road Transportation Minister U Hugn Hsan Aung and officials reported to the chief minister on ongoing road and bridge construction works.— MNA

hosted by Mynnmar Olympic Committee at Karaweik Nandaw Hotel.— Kyemon
New Zealand seeks to expand links with Australian mining, resources sector

Wellington, 23 Nov—New Zealand Finance Minister Bill English will lead a business delegation to Australia next week with the aim of expanding trade and cooperation in the mining and resources sector. The delegation will include meetings with the premiers of Queensland and Western Australia, as well as mining and resources companies and sector groups.

"As our largest trading partner, taking nearly a quarter of our total exports, the Australian economy is vitally important to New Zealand," English said.

"A large part of Australia’s success story in recent years has been the performance of its resources sector. This visit will give me the opportunity to talk directly to the people who are taking the risk of new developments and learn about their expectations for the future, while also seeing first-hand the scale of some of their operations."

The delegation, including New Zealand business people who were keen to develop and extend relationships with companies operating in Australia’s mining and resources industry, would leave Sunday and return on 1 Dec.

HK says five Iranian ships deflagged, 14 others likely to go

Hong Kong, 23 Nov—Hong Kong has deregistered five Iranian cargo ships and a further 14 are likely to follow after their classification society quit Iran due to sanctions imposed by the European Union and the United States over its nuclear programme.

Tough sanctions have tightened the screws on Teheran, which relies on its shipping trade for imports including food, consumer and industrial goods.

Hong Kong’s marine department has asked the owners of 19 dry bulk carriers, managed by an Iranian firm, to register their ships elsewhere after the Korean Register of Shipping said earlier this year it would not provide the ships safety auditing.

Five of the 19 ships have deregistered under the request of their owners, said Wong Sai Fat, general manager of the department’s shipping register.

The remainder will be deflagged 90 days after a notice issued earlier this month unless they can find a Hong Kong authorised classification society to sign their documents of compliance, he told Reuters in a telephone interview.

These ships would find it difficult to remain flagged in Hong Kong because all of the nine societies authorised by the marine department are members of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS). Some of the 13 IACS members, including the China Classification Society (CCS), had previously provided Iran-related certification work, key to insurance ports access for ships, but have now ended that activity.

Hong Kong had been urged by US pressure group United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI) to deflag the 19 dry bulk ships, which the group said were owned, managed or operated by the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Line (IRSL) and its associated companies.

In a reply to UANI dated 9 November Wong said it was of paramount importance to Hong Kong’s marine department in safeguarding the quality of Hong Kong ships. But Wong denied the moves were related to Iran sanctions. "These ships are neither owned nor managed by IRSL," he said on Thursday.

IRSL, the country’s top cargo carrier, has been on a Western blacklist of sanctioned entities for years. It denies any wrongdoing.

Wong would not identify the 14 ships but said they had separate owners and were managed by the same Iranian firm. About 2,000 ocean-going vessels fly the Hong Kong flag and other than the 19 ships mentioned, none of the others are related to Iran, he said.

One killed, three injured as police checkpoint attacked in Peshawar, Pakistan

Islamabad, 23 Nov—At least one policeman was killed and three others injured when a police checkpoint was attacked by a handgrenade in Pakistan’s northwest city of Peshawar on Thursday night.

Firing broke out at about 6:45 pm local time when some unknown people came on a motorbike hurled a handgrenade at a police checkpoint near a Shia mosque in the Pahari Pura area of Peshawar, capital city of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province in northwest Pakistan.

Man with knife holds five people hostage in Japan bank

Tokyo, 23 Nov—A man with a knife demanding that Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda’s government resign was holding five people hostage on Thursday in a small bank, media reported.

A spokesman at the Toyokawa Shinkin Bank in Aichi prefecture in central Japan confirmed that a number of people were being held hostage. He could not give further details.

The man, who entered the bank in the early afternoon, had demanded food, drink and a megaphone. Police were trying to persuade him to give up, public broadcaster NHK said. Violent crime and hostage-taking are very rare in Japan.

Three miners missing after tunnel collapses in N Philippines

Manila, 23 Nov—The authorities have been searching three miners who were reportedly missing and believed to have drowned at the upper part of a mountain in Northern Philippines, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said on Thursday.

Citing a report from the local police, the agency said that the three missing persons were trapped while conducting underground mining operation at Palanas village, Paracale, a town of Camarines Norte on Sunday afternoon. They allegedly drowned in the area, the PCG added.

In a separate report, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said that at around 9:00 pm on Tuesday, an alleged dynamite explosion rocked the mining area.

The incident as well as the sudden influx of water brought about by the hightide, resulting to the collapse of the mining tunnel, it said.
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV HANNA MARIE VOY NO (1248)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV HANNA MARIE VOY NO (1248) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.11.2012 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.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (326N)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (326N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.11.2012 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.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SANG THAI IRIS VOY NO (-)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SANG THAI IRIS VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.11.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (2) 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.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGPAKAEW VOY NO (199)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGPAKAEW VOY NO (199) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.11.2012 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.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV FUKANG SHAN VOY NO (105)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV FUKANG SHAN VOY NO (105) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.11.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV FORE SIGHTER VOY NO (6)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV FORE SIGHTER VOY NO (6) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.11.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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.
Titanic star Kate Winslet and singer Gary Barlow have been awarded with Britain’s highest honour for the Queen for their accomplishments in entertainment field. The 37-year-old star, dressed sharply in an outfit by Alexander McQueen and a hat by Natalie Ellen, received a CBE for services to drama from the Queen at the Buckingham Palace. Winslet said that the Queen had congratulated her, the Daily Mail reported.

“It was such an honour to meet the Queen, it was my first time. She told me she was delighted to be presenting me with my award and then asked whether I liked my job. I told her that I loved it but I love being a mum even more. The Queen said, ‘Y es, that’s the only job which matters’. What a genuinely lovely thing to say! And I couldn’t agree with her more.”

Mr Barlow said he was “deeply proud” to receive the OBE by the Queen.

The 13-year-old star was given the title for services to the entertainment industry and to charity.

I am grateful to have Casper: Jennifer Lopez

LONDON, 23 Nov — Singer-actress Jennifer Lopez is grateful to have her boyfriend Casper Smart on her world tour because he needs his support.

The On The Floor hitmaker says her dancer boyfriend, who has a central part in her Dance Again concerts, always has her best interests at heart, reported Showbizspy.

“We want people around you who genuinely care about you, not people that are just there for a pay cheque. Obviously he does care so... It’s been great to have him there on the road,” Lopez said.

Lopez, 43, is also joined on tour by her mother Guadalupe, who helps keep her four-year-old twins Max and Emme up-to-date with their education.

The On The Floor hitmaker says her dancer boyfriend, who has a central part in her Dance Again concerts, always has her best interests at heart. — PTI

Jodhoo Akbar to be screened at Marrakech film fest

NEW DELHI, 23 Nov — Ashutosh Gowariker’s 4002 epic love story Jodhoo Akbar will be showcased at the Marrakech International Film Festival on 5 Dec. The filmmaker is ecstatic.

“I am extremely happy and would really like to thank the Marrakech International Film Festival for selecting Jodhoo Akbar. This is an honour for me to showcase my film along with the greatest stars and filmmakers presenting their films at the festival,” Gowariker said in a statement.

Jodhoo Akbar, set in sixteenth century, is about a marriage of alliance, which paves way for true love between a great Mughal emperor, Akbar and a Rajput princess, Jodhoo. It featured Hrithik Roshan as Akbar and Aishwarya Rai as Jodhoo. — PTI

Vampires, 007 may set record Thanksgiving sales

LOS ANGELES, 23 Nov — The teen vampire movie “Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 2” continued to lure huge audiences, squeezing off $12.8 million in Wednesday night showings in what could fuel a record box office haul for the five day Thanksgiving Day holiday.

The final film in the “Twilight” series, collected $141.3 million last weekend for the industry’s eighth largest opening weekend. On Wednesday it combined with the Daniel Craig “James Bond” film “Skyfall” to lead a slate of films that generated $44.3 million in total US and Canadian ticket sales for the five day weekend, according to unofficial data from Hollywood.com’s box office division.

That’s 20 percent ahead of last year’s take for the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and, if the pace holds, would put Hollywood on a path to a $278 million holiday weekend, according to Hollywood.com estimates. The 2009 holiday weekend record of $273 million included “The Twilight Saga: New Moon” and the football flick, “The Blind Side.” Hollywood traditionally opens its largest Thanksgiving weekend films on Wednesday, when schools are closed before the Thursday holiday. — Reuters
Mönchengladbach win, Hannover draw in UEFA Europa League

BERLIN, 23 Nov — Igor de Camargo’s brace secured Mönchengladbach’s late win over ten men AEL Limassol whereas Hannover were held to a goalless draw with Dutch side Twente Enschede on Thursday at the fifth match day of the UEFA Europa League. Cypriot outfit AEL Limassol needed a win to maintain their chances and they almost caught the host’s defence flat-footed as Luciano Bebe, a 23 Nov — Three-time world boxing champion Hector “Macho” Camacho is brain dead following a drive-by shooting in Puerto Rico, a doctor said on Thursday. Camacho, 50, whose speed and flamboyance made him a top attraction in the 1980s and 1990s, is in a coma and unresponsive, said Dr Ermesio Torres, director of the Rio Piedras Medical Center. Camacho “is clinically brain dead,” Torres told reporters. “The tests showed a flat line, without any type of activity.”

Doctors will meet with his mother, Marí a Matías, and other relatives on Friday to discuss options, Torres said. They include removing him from life support and organ donation. Two gunmen opened fire on Camacho and a friend, Adrian M ot jica Moreno, 49, late on Tuesday as they sat in a car outside a liquor store in the San Juan suburb of Bayamón, Camacho’s birthplace. Camacho was hit in the jaw and the bullet fractured two vertebrae and lodged in his shoulder. Torres said the bullet damaged three of the four arteries that carried blood to the brain. A police spokeswoman said M ojica Moreno was killed and the gunmen fled in a vehicle. Officers found nine small bags of cocaine in the driver’s pockets and one open in the car.

Luke Donald of England hits a shot onto the 17th green during the first round of the DP World Tour Championship in Jumeirah Golf Estates in Dubai on 22 Nov. 2012. — Reuters

Snooker King Hendry to attend Chinese 8-Ball Pool Master Championships

QINGHAIAN (China), 23 Nov — Stephen Hendry, known as the King of Snooker, will lead other seven international stars to compete the first Joy Cup Chinese 8-Ball Pool Master Championship to be held here from 3-6 Jan, 2013, the organizers announced on Thursday. Hendry, who retired from his snooker career in May, has decided to continue his new profession as the Global Ambassador of the Chinese 8-ball pool for 10 years.

British Kelly Fisher, five-time champion of women’s snookers world, German Ralf Souquet, King of Pool, Irish veteran Ken Doherty, 9 ball stars Chris Riley, Darren Appleton, Gareth Potts and Mike Hill will join legendary Hendry as the international squad to play against top eight Chinese qualifiers from 10-stop series from March to December. The Chinese 8-Ball Pool, which is mixed in its unique billiards since 1980s.

According to the statistics from the China Billiards Association, there are more than 200,000 registered clubs over China with more than 60 million fans while about 85 percent fans playing Chinese 8 ball pool. “I’m looking forward to playing with other my long time international friends in the Chinese 8-ball pool master championships. It will be fun to forget about the snooker, 9 ball and pool, just enjoy the Chinese pool,” Hendry said. — Reuters

Former Puerto Rican welterweight boxing champion Hector “Macho” Camacho poses for photographers during the filming of the upfront programme of Univision TV in Guaynabo, on 14 Oct, 2010. — Reuters

Saturday, 24 November, 2012

Hannover 96 vs FC Twente 0-0 at Europa League

Hannover 96 vs FC Twente 0-0 at Europa League

Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland watches his shot from the third tee during the first round of the DP World Tour Championship at Jumeirah Golf Estates in Dubai, on 22 Nov, 2012. — Reuters

Luke Donald of England hits a shot onto the 17th green during the first round of the DP World Tour Championship at Jumeirah Golf Estates in Dubai, on 22 Nov, 2012. — Reuters
Man detained in Turkish airport after bomb threat during flight

ANKARA, 23 Nov—Turkish police at Istanbul’s airport on Thursday detained a man who had claimed to carry explosives during a flight, local newspaper Today’s Zaman reported.

The man flying on an Onur Air plane from Turkey’s southern province of Antalya to the largest city of Istanbul said that he was carrying explosives but the plane landed safely, according to the report. Turkish police detained the man and found no explosives; a bomb disposal team also searched the plane as a precautionary measure but found nothing, said the report.

An investigation was launched into the incident and Istanbul Governor Huseyin Avni Mutfu said the man is thought to be mentally unstable, added the report.—Xinhua

Two military planes collide in Venezuela, killing pilot

CARACAS, 23 Nov—Two military airplanes on Thursday collided in midair at the Libertador Air Base in Palo Negro, the Venezuelan state of Aragua, killing one of the pilots, a government official said.

Preliminary reports said the collision took place at noon local time while the two planes were practicing for an air show scheduled for 27 November. Minister of Communications and Information Ernesto Villegas later confirmed the death of a pilot via Twitter. “Unfortunately incident in rehearsals of aerial parade for Military Aviation Day. A brave pilot died. Official information soon,” the minister posted on the social networking site.

The accident involving the two military Bronco OV10 aircraft occurred about 100 kilometers west of the capital Caracas. The President of the National Assembly Diosdado Cabello, speaking at an official function, said “condolences (for) today’s accident of two planes. Our sorrow, our words of grief.” Several national news sources reported three soldiers were also injured in the crash.—Xinhua

Four Chinese hostages freed in Colombia

BOGOTA, 23 Nov—Four Chinese hostages who were kidnapped in Colombia by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrilla group last year have been released, the Chinese embassy in Colombia confirmed on Thursday.

The four, whose names are not identified, are in good health, though one was in a wheelchair, and will receive additional physical checkups in the capital Bogota, the embassy said.

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos hailed the release of the hostages, saying he had spoken with Chinese Ambassador Wang Xiangyan, “and I want to celebrate the release of the four Chinese nationals. Kidnapping is something that should not happen again ever.” The four were kidnapped in Cauca Department in southern Colombia on 6 June, 2011. They were released on Wednesday night. They slept at a hotel in the town of San Vicente del Caguan, Cauca, and were flown to Bogota on Thursday on a plane chartered by the Chinese embassy. Ambassador Wang said they would be flown to China on Friday.

The four hostages were turned over to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) by “unidentified men” dressed in civilian clothes in a district of San Vicente known as Los Pozos, said Cauca Police Chief Col Carlos Vargas.

Red Cross delegation head Jordi Raich said one of the released captives has “mobility problems,” but “the other three are in general well.”

The four Chinese hostages worked for Emerald Energy oil company, a subsidiary of the Chinese firm Sinochem, but headquartered in London.

The day they were kidnapped, they were travelling by highway from San Vicente accompanied by a Colombian driver. At least seven people who were heavily armed forced them to stop and took them captive, releasing the driver, who reported the kidnapping, hours later.—Xinhua

An ambulance transporting four Chinese workers of an oil company just released from their FARC captors is seen at the airport in Bogota, Colombia, on 22 Nov, 2012. Four Chinese hostages who were kidnapped in Colombia by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrilla group last year have been released, the Chinese embassy in Colombia confirmed on Thursday.—Xinhua

South

Korean team in Seychelles for carbon-free projects

VICTORIA, 23 Nov — A delegation specializing in energy technology from South Korea arrived in the Seychelles on Thursday for a three-day visit to discuss a 3 K.W pilot solar plant and other carbon-free projects in the Indian Ocean island country.

La Digue, the fourth largest and one of the three residential islands in the Seychelles, could become carbon-free in the near future as a result of the bilateral cooperation.

La Digue, home to 3,000 of the 88,000 inhabitants, is world famous for its beaches. The Seychelles is banking on renewable energy, including solar, wind and bio-mass, in its development of a green economy.—Xinhua
Proposal to send large numbers of scholars to foreign countries approved

Fifth regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Nov—Pyithu Hluttaw Session continued for 15th days at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, at 10:30 am today, attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 373 MPs. New Zealand Prime Minister Mr John Key and party, members of Pyithu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission, five teachers and 37 trainees from International Relations Diplomacourse from Yangon University, 15 administrators and 75 trainees from Myanmar Egress Capacity Development Centre and eight teachers and 71 trainees from Soesan Boarding School visited the session.

Deputy Minister for Education Dr Ba Shwe replied to educational questions raised by two representatives. With respect to the question of U Khin Maung Thein of Sagaing Constituency on “if there is any plan to open a basic education high training school in University of Education (Sagaing),” the deputy minister replied that there is no any plan to open a training school for teachers in Sagaing Constituency. However, the deputy minister said that distance education of teachers in far-flung areas has been allowed.

With regard to the question of U Kyaw Win of Pyu paper reading session to be held in Yangon is nothing related with Culture Ministry. Deputy Minister for Culture U Than Swe discussed Pyu paper reading session to be held in Yangon. The statement of the paper reading session is opinion and assumption of the organization that patronizes Pyu paper reading session.

Deputy Minister for Culture U Than Swe discussed the question about whether the actions counter-productive to non-disintegration of national unity should be prevented without making accurate and enough historical research.

Union ministers responded to question of Dr Banya Aung Moe of Mon State Constituency No (7) about whether the actions counter-productive to non-disintegration of national unity should be prevented without making accurate and enough historical research.

Regarding the question of U Gi Phone Sar of Naungmon Constituency on if there is any plan to allow teachers in far-flung areas, the deputy minister said that distance education of teachers in far-flung areas has been allowed.

Regarding the question of U Kyaw Win of Pyu paper reading session to be held in Yangon is nothing related with Culture Ministry. Deputy Minister for Culture U Than Swe discussed the question about whether the actions counter-productive to non-disintegration of national unity should be prevented without making accurate and enough historical research.

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