President U Thein Sein receives Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee of India Chief of Air Staff and party

President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee of India Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal NAK Browne, PVSM, AVSM, VM, ADC at the Credentials Hall of Presidential Palace, here, this afternoon.

Nay Pyi Taw, 27 Nov—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received an Indian delegation led by Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee of India Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal NAK Browne, PVSM, AVSM, VM, ADC at the Credentials Hall of Presidential Palace, here, this afternoon.

Also present at the call together with the President were Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Myat Hein, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Koe Ko, U Winna Maung Lwin and U Soe Maung and officials. The visiting Indian delegation led by the Chairman of Chiefs of Staff of India was accompanied by Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr. Vilur Sundararaja Seshadri.

At the call, they held comprehensive discussions on enhancing bilateral cooperation through further promotion of bilateral friendship and fine traditions between the two countries, boosting investments, ensuring peace and stability of border region between the two countries and sector-wise cooperation between the two armed forces.

Experts dig up Arafat’s remains, samples taken

Ranallah, 27 Nov—The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on Tuesday finalized digging up remains of late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, as Russian, Swiss and French experts took samples of the remains to inspect the reason behind his death.

Arafat's tomb was opened early Tuesday morning in the West Bank city of Ramallah amid intensive Palestinian security presence and media coverage, with the presence of foreign inspectors.

Tawfik Tirawi, chief of the Palestinian Committee to probe circumstances of Arafat's death, told Xinhua that samples were taken without taking the remains out of the tomb.

"Everything has been done as scheduled," said Tirawi, adding that he would brief the media on the details of the exhumation of Arafat’s tomb. A well-informed Palestinian source, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Xinhua that "the procedures of opening the grave and taking samples of the remains lasted for several hours," adding that a presidential music band played the national Palestinian anthem when the grave was opened.

"Taking parts of the remains was very complicated due to the architectural design of the tomb. The tomb was opened using manual digging tools and the digging was so soft and gentle because the site is holy and it is the grave of the historic leader of the Palestinian people," said the source.

Xinhua

Euro zone, IMF secure deal on cutting Greek debt

BRUSSELS, 27 Nov—Euro zone finance ministers and the International Monetary Fund clinched agreement on reducing Greece’s debt on Monday in a breakthrough to release urgently needed loans to keep the near-bankrupt economy afloat.

After 12 hours of talks at their third meeting in as many weeks, Greece’s international lenders agreed on a package of measures to reduce Greek debt by 40 billion euros, cutting it to 124 percent of gross domestic product by 2020. In a significant new pledge, ministers committed to taking further steps to lower Greece’s debt to "significantly below 110 percent" in 2022 — the most explicit recognition so far that some write-off of loans may be necessary from 2016, the point when Greece is forecast to reach a primary budget surplus.

To reduce the debt pile, needed to recapitalize Greece’s teetering banks and enable the government to pay wages, pensions and suppliers on December 13. Greece will receive up to 43.7 billion euros in stages as it fulfills the conditions. The December installment will comprise 23.8 billion for banks and 10.6 billion in budget assistance.

The IMF’s share, less than a third of the total, will only be paid out once a buy-back of Greek debt has occurred in the coming weeks, but IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde said the Fund had no intention of pulling out of the program.

They promised to hand back 11 billion euros in profits accruing to their national central banks from European Central Bank purchases of discounted Greek government bonds in the secondary market.

They also agreed to finance Greece to buy back its own bonds from private investors at what officials said was a target cost of around 35 cents in the euro.

European Central Bank President Mario Draghi said on leaving the talks: “I very much welcome the decisions taken by the ministers of finance. They will certainly reduce the uncertainty and strengthen confidence in Europe and in Greece.”

Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras welcomed the deal. “Everything went well,” he told reporters outside his mansion at about 3 am in the morning.

Reuters
Chinese delegation led by Legal Affairs Committee Chairman arrives in Yangon

YANGON, 27 Nov — A Chinese delegation led by Member of Standing Committee of National People’s Congress of the People’s Republic of China Mr. Hu Kangsheng arrived in Yangon by air this afternoon. They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Speaker of Yangon Region Hlutaw U Sein Tin Win, Deputy Speaker U Tin Aung, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Li Jinhua and officials. Mr. Hu Kangsheng and party visited Shwedagon Pagoda in the evening.

Statement 7/2012 of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission on its admission as member of Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions

1. The Business Meeting of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF) decided to admit the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission as an associate member of the APF which is the Asia Pacific regional group consisting of the National Human Rights Institutions in the Asia Pacific region. The Business Meeting of the Asia Pacific Forum was held during the 11th International Conference of the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC), which was held in Amman, Jordan from 4 to 7 November 2012.

2. At the invitation of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the National Center for Human Rights (NCHR) of Jordan, which is the Chair of the ICC, a three-member delegation headed by the Chairman of the MNHRC, attended the 11th International Conference of the ICC. The overall theme of the Conference is “The Human Rights of Women and Girls. Gender Equality: The Role of National Human Rights Institutions” and the current situation, challenges and advances relating to the human rights of women in light of the international human rights standards were discussed with the objective to eliminate discrimination against women and to empower women towards gender equality. Regarding the human rights of women and girls and the promotion of gender equality, the 11th Conference of the ICC adopted the Amman Declaration and Programme of Action.

3. During the Conference, the regional groups of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) from Africa, the Americas, Asia Pacific and Europe respectively met on 5 November 2012.

4. At its meeting on 5 November, APF members accepted the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission as an associate member, pending its application to the ICC for membership. The APF procedure requires that an applicant is entitled to apply for associate status before it is accredited by the ICC. Accordingly, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission will work to apply to the ICC for accreditation.


Press release of Ministry of Home Affairs

(The following is an unofficial translation of the Press Release No 7/2012 — Ed)

1. Daw Khin San Hlaing of Pale Constituency submitted an important proposal at 15th day fifth regular session of first Pyithu Hluttaw, advocating the Union government to form an independent State level committee with reliable persons to investigate whether Latpadantuang copper mining project and Kyayzintaung, south of Sabetang copper mining project should be allowed or not and how it should be done after informing the public of findings, assessments and suggestions. The Union Minister for Defence made clarifications at the Pyithu Hluttaw regular session the same day.

2. The Pyithu Hluttaw decided to approve the proposal.

3. The proposal requires to “form an independent State level commission with reliable persons”. The commission will be formed soon and it will visit the project area.

4. Due to strike at six camps in the project area where Section 144 is declared, the project activities are suspended since 18 November, 2012.

5. The commission will not be able to look into the project as usual if the project activities are suspended. The commission will be able to independently investigate and correctly assess the project only when it is running as usual.

6. The protesting organizations around the project area are to break away not later than 12 pm on 27 November, 2012, to enable the commission conduct independent investigation.

7. If not, the measures will be taken under the existing laws in line with the constitution.

Installation of main pipeline with a budget of K 21 billion

YANGON, 27 Nov — According to Yangon City Development Committee, a budget of K 21 billion will be spend on installation main pipeline for the increased supply of 45 million gallons of water to Yangon from Ahtayu water-purifying plant , a second phase of Ahtayu water-purifying project, in the middle of the year 2013.

Yangon City Development Committee is supplying 160 million gallons of water for Yangonites daily. Presently, there is not enough of water in some townships at the edge of the water supply main pipe, and dwellers encounter drinking water stress in summer.

To be free from the shortage of water there, installation of HDPE pipeline is being carried out from Thimgangyun Township to Ahtayu water-purifying plant of Nyaungmbain in Hmawby Township starting from February 2012. So far, installation of pipeline has been completed by 55 per cent, and more than 95 per cent of construction of water-purifying plant has been completed. Upon completion, Yangonites will be supplied with 45 million gallons of drinking water in the middle of the year 2013.

The project can contribute towards adequate supply of water to Mingaladon, North Okkalapa, South Okkalapa, Thakay, Mingala Taungnyunt, Thingyangun, Dawbon and Dagon Myothit Townships.

An engineer of Engineering Department (water and sanitation) of YCDC said that people will be able to enjoy clean and safe water supplied through high density polythene pipeline, and nylon pipe makes installation process easy, thereby contributing towards timely completion of the project works.

It is set to complete the whole project in May 2013, and water supply will be put into service in June.

Kymen

Communal celebrations in Tazaungmon

YANGON, 27 Nov — Tazaungmon is the month with many religious and social festivals for Myanmar Buddhists. Matho Shwekyar robe-weaving competitions are held on a grand scale and communal celebrations are organized in each ward and street. According to a vinyl advertising for communal celebration on the wall near YWBA Building, families of Letkan street in Parandaung Township will celebrate a communal festival. An organizer said free food stalls would be kept open in the festival sponsored by 50 wellwishers to serve everyone with various kinds of refreshments. The twentieth eight Buddha Images consecration ceremony would be held on the next two days and it was planned to hold annually, he added.

Kymen

NATIONAL

MINISTRY OF MINES AND METALLURGY

Statement 7/2012 of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission on its admission as member of Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions
Bicycle bomb wounds 26 Afghans

WASHINGTON, 27 Nov—US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta has not yet decided on how he would advise the president about how many US troops should remain in Afghanistan after 2014, Pentagon Press Secretary George Little said on Monday.

“It’s entirely premature to speculate on troop numbers in Afghanistan between now and the end of 2014 or beyond,” Little said. “In September, we completed the full withdrawal of the 33,000 surge troops, and we will soon begin considering how we move forward on further troop level adjustments, which will include planning for our post-2014 military and civilian presence in Afghanistan.”

Little said that Panetta will speak on Tuesday with John Allen, who commands US and NATO forces in the Central Asian country, to discuss a “range of matters on Afghanistan.”

According to agreements between Afghanistan and the United States, the US side can have a presence in Afghanistan after the US President Barack Obama will have the final say, after taking into account recommendations from military leaders and his national security team including Panetta.

US President Barack Obama greets troops at Bagram Air Base in Kabul on 2 May, 2012.—REUTERS

The conference also aims to promote a culture of self-protection on national and regional levels.

The conference also aims to promote a culture of self-protection on national and regional levels.

Residents speak outside a flooded house, close to the River Trent in Willington, central England, on 26 Nov. 2012.—REUTERS

14 killed in fire at German workshop in Black Forest

BERLIN, 27 Nov—At least 14 people were killed on Monday in a fire at a workshop for people with disabilities in the Black Forest of southern Germany. Police said the fire broke out at about 14.00 local time (1300 GMT), injuring two other people.

Police said that smoke did not cease one hour after the fire was extinguished.

Police have asked those who were at the scene whom those who were at the scene when the fire broke out to identify themselves, as 50 of the employees were in the building when the accident occurred.—Xinhua

Shallow quake hits eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA, 27 Nov—An earthquake measuring 5.9 hit eastern parts of Indonesia on Tuesday, the Meteorological, Geophysical and Climate Agency reported here.

The quake jolted at 09:59 am Jakarta time (0259 GMT) with epicentre at 57 km northeast Maluku Tengah of Maluku Province and with the depth at 10 km under sea bed, an official of the National Flood Forum, a charity for communities at risk of flooding.

It just seems ridiculous that we’ve come to this impasse — we need something in place that provides accessible and affordable insurance, and we need an agreement now.—Reuters

“With the fire destroyed live fire, we were not able to bring the flames under control,” said Nick Starling, the ABI’s director of general insurance. Andersen reports that a government refusal to provide a financial backstop had cast doubt over the ABI-backed plan, dubbed Flood Re, after months of talks.

The owners of about 200,000 British homes in areas at risk of flooding can afford insurance only because of a deal under which insurers agreed to cover them at a loss in return for a government pledge to boost spending on flood defences. That agreement expired in July, and the Flood Re scheme had been intended to take its place. Insurers say its successor needs to be agreed at Christmas at the latest to give them time to adapt. The Environment Agency has issued 13 flood warnings, indicating that a flood is expected, as of 1330 GMT on Monday, with central and south-west of England most at risk.

The floods are “really disastrous, traumatic” for those affected, said Paul Cobbing, Chief Executive of the National Flood Forum, a charity for communities at risk of flooding.
Russian, US astronauts selected for year-long space flight

**Science**

MOSCOW, 27 Nov — Russian Federal Space Agency Roscosmos and the US National Aeronautics and Space Agency NASA have picked up crew members for the future year-long mission to the International Space Station (ISS). Roscosmos said on Monday. Russian cosmonauts are to start their training for the record-breaking mission in 2013.

**Privacy groups ask Facebook to withdraw proposed policy changes**

SAN FRANCISCO, 27 Nov — Two privacy advocacy groups urged Facebook Inc Monday to withdraw proposed changes to its terms of service that would allow the company to share user data with recently-acquired photo-application Instagram, eliminate user voting system and loosen email restrictions within the social network. The changes, which Facebook unveiled on Wednesday, raise privacy risks for users and violate the company’s previous commitments to its roughly 1 billion members, according to the Electronic Privacy Information Centre and the Centre for Digital Democracy.

**Nokia unveils two new cellphone models, priced at $62**

Helsinki, 27 Nov — Struggling Finnish cellphone maker Nokia unveiled on Monday two new cellphone models, the Asha 205 and the Asha 206, pricing both models at around $62, excluding subsidies and taxes.

**UN climate change conference opens in Doha**

Doha, 27 Nov — The latest UN climate change conference opened Monday in Doha, Qatar, where delegates from over 190 countries gathered for discussions on major issues relating to global anti-warming efforts, including details of the Kyoto Protocol’s second commitment period. Participants at the conference, known as the 18th Conference of Parties (COP 18) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), expect it to press ahead with what has been achieved in previous years and accomplish substantive results.

**FBI uses Twitter, social media to look for securities fraud**

NEW YORK, 27 Nov — The FBI sees social media as a potential breeding ground for securities fraud, and has agents scouring Twitter and Facebook for tips, according to two top agents overseeing a long-running investigation into insider trading in the $2 trillion hedge fund industry. April Brooks, a special agent in charge of New York’s field office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and David Chaves, a supervisory agent, said it is hard to predict the next wave of securities fraud, but that they will have a lot to do with advances in technology and social media. "I will tell you technology will play a huge part, social media. Twitter. A new kind of technology that’s new and doesn’t exist today, if there is any way to exploit it, these individuals will exploit it," Brooks told Reuters in an interview for the Reuters Investment Outlook 2013 Summit.

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"Facebook’s proposed changes imperil the user privacy and terms of a recent settlement with the Federal Trade Commission," the groups said in a letter to Facebook Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg that was published on its website on Monday. By sharing information with Instagram, the letter said, Facebook could combine user profiles, ending its practice of keeping user information on different services separate. Facebook declined to comment on the letter. In April, Facebook settled privacy claims with the US Federal Trade Commission that it had deceived consumers and forced them to share more personal information than they intended. Under the settlement, Facebook is required to get user consent for certain changes to its privacy settings and is subject to 20 years of independent audits. Facebook, Google and other online companies have faced increasing scrutiny and enforcement from privacy regulators as consumers entrust ever-increasing amounts of information about their personal lives to Web services.

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WASHINGTON, 27 Nov — The Supreme Court on Monday cleared the way for a Christian college to pursue a religious-based challenge against part of President Barack Obama’s healthcare reform, which it claims forces taxpayers and employers to subsidize abortions and contraception.

University of Liberty, based in Lynchburg, Virginia, may now also argue that Congress exceeded its power by requiring big employers to provide healthcare coverage to workers, though legal experts said the argument faces an uphill battle in court.

In June, the Supreme Court by a 5-4 vote upheld most of the healthcare reform, but left open a possibility for groups or individuals to challenge how the law is applied.

Monday’s order allows for oral argument to proceed in the 4th US Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia.

Liberty University cited one of the first private lawsuits against the overhaul, on the day Obama signed the law in 2010. It claimed that forcing individual taxpayers and employers to subsidize abortions and contraception impeded the free exercise of religion under the First Amendment to the US Constitution. The Supreme Court decision in June did not address the employer mandate or the religious freedom claims, according to the university.

Ilya Somin, a law professor at George Mason University in Virginia, said the challenge to the employer mandate would be a ‘‘tough sell’’ based on the June decision, which let Congress require people to buy health insurance under its power to tax.

‘‘If you look at the way Chief Justice John Roberts upheld the individual mandate, and made it a tax, there is considerable reluctance among his other justices to strike down a major portion of this law,’’ Somin said.

In December 2011, the 4th Circuit had said it lacked jurisdiction because challenging the mandates would have violated the federal Anti-Injunction Act’s ban on lawsuits seeking to halt collection of a tax.

Spanish company embroiled in nuclear smuggling scheme with Iran

The company, based in Durango, had been denied a license to export seven fan-manufacturing machines to Iran in September 2009, precisely because of fears they could be used in the nuclear programme.

But it later duped Spanish customs by using an intermediary company set up in Turkey by its Iranian business partner, and shipped the machinery to Istanbul before dispatching it to Teheran.

Spanish’s tax agency said it had raided the company’s premises on 13 November, removing documents and other information it was still analysing.

London, 27 Nov — Two books designed to facilitate better understanding between British and Chinese businesses were launched in London on Monday.

The two handbooks, ‘‘Active Business Travel: Great Britain’’ in Chinese and ‘‘Active Business Travel: China’’ in English, are an initiative of the Chinese Business Association (CBA) of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) to support the growing Sino-British trade and generating electricity.

Union have imposed sanctions on Iran for refusing to halt nuclear enrichment, which Western powers fear is part of a plan to amass the capability to produce nuclear weapons.

Iran argues its atomic work is for use in medicine and generating electricity.

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London, 27 Nov — Greek authorities must urgently step up control of mosquitoes and surveillance of infected people to stop malaria from re-establishing itself in the crisis-hit country, scientists said on Friday.

Writing in online journal Eurosurveillance, they said recent outbreaks of the disease in the southern regions of Lokania and East Attica were worrying.

Tackling malaria requires measures such as insecticide spraying, eliminating standing water and tracking mosquito populations as well as people infected with the disease. ‘‘It is clear that surveillance and vector control programmes should be strengthened and rapidly intensified,’’ the study said.

The survey of 2,162 people was carried out on behalf of bank Citi, and was conducted between 21 November and 23 November, shortly after official data showed consumer price inflation rose to 2.7 percent in October.
Putin sends condolences to Bangladesh over deadly fire

MOSCOW, 27 Nov—Russian President Vladimir Putin has sent condolences to Bangladeshi leaders over a fire in a garment factory that killed at least 112 workers, the Kremlin said on Sunday. Putin expressed condolences to Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in connection with the fire that erupted in a multi-story factory on the outskirts of the capital Dhaka and “resulted in numerous casualties,” the Kremlin said in a statement.

Putin asked to “convey words of deep sympathy to relatives of those killed and wishes for sooner recovery of the injured,” the statement said. At least 112 workers were killed in the blaze that gutted the seven-story Dhaka factory, fire department Operations Director Maj. Mohammad M aboud told The Associated Press.

About 1,000 workers were trapped inside the factory and the remaining 3,000 escaped after the blaze broke out.—Xinhua

French president’s visit to Algeria to give new impetus to ties

ALGIERS, 27 Nov—The Algerian-French relations will be marked by a new impetus during the visit of French President Francois Hollande to the North African nation next month, Algerian Minister of Industry Cherif Rahmani said here on Saturday.

Rahmani said so at a joint press conference with Jean-Pierre Raffarin, the visiting French official in charge of monitoring French partnership projects in Algeria.

“I think, hereafter, about new impetuses to our bilateral relations which is to be confirmed during the summit between the two presidents,” Rahmani was quoted as saying by the official APS news agency.

“We are at a turning point in our bilateral relations, within a changing world and emerging crisis, as we are called to get our economies and policies closer and convergent,” he said.

“I think, hereafter, about new impetuses to our bilateral relations which is to be confirmed during the summit between the two presidents,” Rahmani said.

For his part, Raffarin indicated that he had initiated several projects with Rahmani, as a prelude to Hollande’s forthcoming visit.

Raffarin arrived Saturday night in Algiers for a three-day visit, as boosting economic partnership is high on the agenda. He was here in February, as a special envoy of former French President Nicolas Sarkozy.—Xinhua

New York to hire thousands for Hurricane Sandy clean-up

WASHINGTON, 27 Nov—US lawmakers have made little progress in the past 10 days toward a compromise to avoid the harsh tax increases and government spending cuts scheduled for 1 January, a senior Democratic senator said on Saturday.

The United States is on course to slash its budget deficit nearly in half next year. Closing the gap quickly, which Washington is referred to as going over a “fiscal cliff,” could easily trigger a recession.

“Unfortunately, for the last 10 days, with the House and Congress gone for the Thanksgiving recess ... much progress hasn’t been made,” Dick Durbin, the No 2 Senate Democrat, told ABC’s “This Week” programme.

Serious negotiations are expected to resume this week. Democratic and Republican lawmakers have been trying to convince the public — and financial markets — that they are willing to compromise and can reach a deal before the end of the year.

Durbin indicated Democrats might accept a reform of the government’s Medicare health insurance programme for the elderly that would make higher-income seniors pay more for their care.

Democrats traditionally oppose limiting Medicare benefits according to income, a practice known as “means testing.” Durbin said that the Senate would consider a bill to extend the health insurance programme for the poor, also known as Medicaid.

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Two rural health branches commissioned into service

Mawlamyineegun, 27 Nov—A ceremony to open the rural health branch was held in Nyaunggyi Village in Kyetsha Village-tract in Mawlamyineegun Township on 20 November.

Head of Township Health Department Superintendent of Township Hospital (100-bed) Dr Aye MU to open first year honour classes

Mandalay, 27 Nov—Mandalay University will reopen first year honour classes on Myanmar, English, Geography, History, Philosophy, Psychology, Oriental Studies, International Relations, Anthropology, Archaeology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Zoology, Botany, Geology, Biology, Microbiology, Nuclear Physics and Biotechnology majors for the 2012-2013 academic year at the university as of 3 December.

Vietnam-based communication station opened

Yangon, 27 Nov—With a view to contributing to development of communication sector in Myanmar and creation of investment opportunities, the mobile phone office of Vietnam-based communication station was opened at No 178 on Health care services inspected in Mandalay, Sagaing Regions

Yangon, 27 Nov—Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint held basic health care staff at Lethpaha Village rural health centre in Singu Township on 20 November and stressed the need to uplift health standard of the rural people as they are close in touch with the local people.

On 21 November morning, the deputy minister comforted patients at Kanbula Township Hospital.

Munya Ain

Weighing, quality of gold under new standardization

Yangon, 27 Nov—Entrepreneurs are hoping for exporting gold to the world market officially, according to the gold entrepreneurs society.

“I have learnt that at a time when the mining law would have been promulgated, gold would be exported. Domestic companies are engaging in mining of gold. However, we have no permission to legally export gold. After enacting the law, gold would be included in the export product list,” said a member of Myanamar Gold Entrepreneurs Association of Yangon.

At present, local gold entrepreneurs export gold to neighbouring countries such as China, India and Thailand via Mawlamyineegun Township of Upper Myanmar.

“We need a law to legally export refined gold and gold ornaments. The mining law is being amended at the parliament. After that, we will have the opportunity to export gold legally,” said a gold entrepreneur from Mandalay.

Myanamar Ain

Men’s and women’s Htoke-hsee-toe contest wraps up

Yangon, 27 Nov—Myanmar Traditional Sports Federation of Ministry of Sports and No 3 Basic Education Department jointly held men’s and women’s htoke-hsee-toe contest at Aung San Gymnasium.

On 21 November, the prize presentation ceremony for the contest took place at the same venue.

Vice-Presidents of the federation U Thant Zin and U Kyaw Shwe, Director of No 3 BED Dr Aye Min, the treasurer of the federation and the secretary awarded the winners.

Next, First prize went to Hlinethaya Township, second prize to Ahlon Township, third prize to Myaynagon Township and fourth prize to Dagon Myothit (South) Township in the women’s team.

After that, Yangon Region Minister for Economic U Than Myint presented the championship trophy to Ahlon Township men’s team.

Myanamar Ain

Winners awarded in Region Inter-School Sports Meet

Monywa, 27 Nov—The prize presentation for the Sagaing Region Inter-School Sports Meet for 2012-2013 academic year was held at the region sports ground in Monywa on 21 November afternoon.

Officials presented the second prizes to players of Katha District women’s team and Hkmitti District men’s team, the first prizes to those of Kalay District women’s team and Schwedo District men’s team.

Myanamar Ain

Monywa College Principal U Khin Maung Aye awarded the best player award for men and best players for respective players to the winners.

Region Auditor-General Daw Khin Maung Aye gave championship trophy to first prize winning Kalay District women’s team.

Sagai Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Sein Win presented championship trophy to Shwebo District men’s team.

Myanamar Ain

Mohynin Thambuddhe Pagoda Pujiyana in Monywa in Tazaungmon

Monywa, 27 Nov—The 54th Buddha Pujiyana of Monyin Thambuddhe Pagoda will be held on a grand scale on fullmoon day of Tazaungmon.

In the morning of the fullmoon day, rice and alms will be offered to 135 members of the Sangha.

“It is the greatest rice offering ceremony around Monywa region. On that day, around the pagoda and all stairways will be crowded with people. Each member of the Sangha can get six baskets of rice in addition other offerings,” said a local of Monywa who has experience of offering of rice to members of the Sangha.

Many festivities and will be performed at the Pujiyana from 11th Waxing of Tazaungmon to the fullmoon day. Various sorts of earthen pots, mats, baskets, bamboo-made fans and farming equipment, textiles and traditional toys are available at the festival. The visitors and pilgrims may purchase the domestic products.

Myanamar Ain
Education protects girls against early marriage

Child marriage most often occurs in poor, rural communities. Many regions, parents arrange their daughter’s marriage unbeknownst to the girl. That can mean that one day, she may be at home playing with her siblings, and the next, and she’s married off and sent to live in another village with her husband and his family - strangers, essentially.

Poverty plays a central role in causing and perpetuating early marriage. Poor countries and families often have few resources to support healthy alternatives for girls, such as schooling. In such families with limited resources, child marriage is often seen as a way to provide for their daughter’s future. However, girls who marry young have an increased chance of being poor and remaining poor.

Once married, a girl is pulled out of school and also separated from her peers. She is more likely to be a victim of domestic violence and suffer health complications associated with early sexual activity and childbearing.

The collective burdens of housework, child care and family pressure can often prevent or prematurely end the education of a child bride. While girls with low levels of education are more likely to be married early, those with secondary education are up to six times less likely to marry as children, and more likely to send their own children to school.

But child marriage is not a serious problem in Myanmar, as we people do not let our children, both boys and girls, marry in their early age. Only after having education and wealth to a certain degree young men and women start thinking about marriage. That’s one of our fine traditions.

Anyhow education is one of the best strategies to protect girls against early marriage and provide them with the opportunity to build a better life for themselves, their families and their communities.

* Education protects girls against early marriage

Nay Pyi Taw, 27 Nov — Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint today talks on trade policies with a delegation led by Senior Economist Mr. Pauvo Eliste of World Bank at his office, here, this morning. In his discussion, the Union Minister said the ministry was formulating a rice policy for better living standard of farmers and development of agriculture sector in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and other associations. He invited technical assistance and suggestions through holding workshops on rice policy in Myanmar. The WB and FAO delegation vowed to cooperate in boosting agro-business and trade sector in Myanmar. Coordination would be made for formulating a rice policy and organizing workshop, they added.

Next, Deputy Minister Dr Pwint Hsan and departmental officials answered the queries raised by members of the delegation.

Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee Chief of Staff Committee Chief of Staff Committee

Nay Pyi Taw, 27 Nov — The Indian delegation led by Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee of India this morning. They were welcomed by Chief of Staff (Air) Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint and

Chief of Staff (Air) took salute of the Guard of Honour, and inspected the Guard of Honour.

Afterwards, they had a cordial meeting at Zeyathiri Beikman.

Fight against pneumonia and diarrhea discussed

Nay Pyi Taw, 27 Nov — Jointly organized by Health Department under the Ministry of Health and Wold Health Organization, Global Implementation Conference for fight against pneumonia and diarrhea which usually occurs under five year children took place at Myat Tawbin Hotel this morning. Dr Samira A boubaker from WHO and Dr Rajesh M elia from South East Asia Department participated in discussions.

At the meeting, Deputy Director-General (Public Health) Dr Nilar Tin of the Health Department said that she was pleased to see the plan for drawing to fight pneumonia and diarrhea diseases for children in far-flung areas. As scholars from the discussion would exchange their experiences, all should do their best, she added.
Security, political and economic stability needed for development

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Indian Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal NAK Browne, PVSM, AVSM, VM, ADC at Zeyathiri Beikman.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 27 Nov—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing thanked India for helping Myanmar’s Tatmadaw and sharing experiences in development of the country and modernizing Myanmar’s Tatmadaw in meeting with Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee of Indian and Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal NAK Browne, PVSM, AVSM, VM, ADC at Zeyathiri Beikman here this morning.

He vowed to strengthen cooperation in various sectors. He said security, political and economic stability are sine qua non for development of a country. He called for coordination between the two countries to ensure the best possible outcomes. He expressed his wish to cooperate with UN peacekeeping forces.

The Indian Chief of Air Staff said he wished to further strengthen the bilateral cooperation. He said Myanmar is an important neighbor for India and also an important nation in ASEAN. He expressed his wish to improve border management. He promised the capacity building between the two armed forces to enhance the exchange of visits to increase assistance.

A lso present at the call were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Thura Thet Swe, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Myat Hnin, Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe of the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army), senior military officers from Indian Armed Forces and Indian Military Attache Mr. Myanmar Col Rajesh Kumar.—MNA

Conveynce of Buddha images in DaikU
29 Nov

DAIKU—The 90th 28-Buddha-image conveyance ceremony and Yadanata ceremony will be held in DaikU at 3.30 pm yesterday.

The Dhammathabin ceremony will take place Myo Myo Sasana Beikman from 11 to 12 November. The ceremony will start at 7 pm daily.

After the 28-Buddha-image conveyance ceremony, the Mahadok alms offering ceremony will follow on 13 December. Wednesday's alms offering ceremony will start at 7 pm daily.

The 28-Buddha-image conveyance ceremony will be held in DaikU on 23 to 24 November. The conveyance ceremony will be held in Myo Myo Sasana Beikman from 11 to 12 November. The ceremony will start at 7 pm daily.

After the 28-Buddha-image conveyance ceremony, the Mahadok alms offering ceremony will follow on 13 December. Wednesday's alms offering ceremony will start at 7 pm daily.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Information Team
Press Release No (9/2012)
27 November 2012
(14th W axing of Tzaunagmon 1374 M E)

Sending of remark by the President to the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw regarding the Bill to amend the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union Law

1. The Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw sent the “Bill to amend the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union Law” approved by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to the President on 18-11-2012 in accord with the Section 106 Sub-section (a). The message of the President stated that the provision enacted, it would have been annulled.

2. It should be noted that the President’s remark makes it clear that the constitutional and judicial independence prescribed in Section 19 and Sub-section (a) of the constitution and against the Section 11 and Sub-section (a) of the constitution. The Sub-section should not be added as these provisions need the court to conduct a proper process for the peaceful and democratic society.

(c) As regards Section 3 of the bill, if the Sections 23 and 24 of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union Law are amended, it would be regarded to have already dissolved.

(d) As regards Section 4 of the bill, the Section 25 of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union Law is prescribed to make its power effect on all courts. It is otherwise the interference into the judiciary. It goes against the principle of judicial independence prescribed in Section 19 and Sub-section (a) of the constitution and against the Section 11 and Sub-section (a) of the constitution. The Sub-section should not be added as these provisions need the court to conduct a proper process for the peaceful and democratic society.

3. The Bill amending the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union Law sent by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is returned with comments in accord with Section 106 Sub-section (a) of the constitution.

4. The message of the President stated that the provision of any existing law is valid as long as it complies with good laws and is not in accord with the constitution in Section 444 of the constitution. Lack of ease in enforcing a law could result in unnecessary incidents. The Section 12 of the constitution prescribes requirements in doing so.

5. The remarks of the President sent to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw are aimed at making the law comply with the constitution and flourishing of democratic practice.
Pro-settler Israeli hardliners sweep Netanyahu party vote

JERUSALEM, 27 Nov— Pro-settler hardliners swept a vote on Monday held by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s Likud party, effectively tossing four of its closest allies and backers of Mideast diplomacy off a list of candidates running with him in a 22 Jan election.

Party members ranked candidates on a list for the national poll to determine which of dozens already nominated could actually be elected to parliament.

The top 15 chosen, or those most likely to become orbore-elected as lawmakers, overwhelmingly included ultra-right champions of Jewish settlement on land Palestinians want for a state. Netanyahu is predicted to win re-election in the national election in two months’ time. But being surrounded by more hardline lawmakers than previously could toughen his policies on such issues as Iran’s nuclear programme which Israel has vowed to stop, and diplomacy with the Palestinians, already frozen since 2010.

The main losers on Monday’s vote or those who garnered too few votes from some 100,000 party faithful to guarantee-election were Dan M eridor, Benjamin Begin, son of late Prime Minister Menachem Begin, and A vraham Dichter. In addition to Michael Eitan, a rare civil libertarian in Likud.

Among the winners were ex-general Moshe Yaalon, currently a minister for strategic affairs, seen as a possible successor to the more moderate Ehud Barak as defence minister.

“With such extremes Netanyahu could have problems,” Roni Milo, a former Likud cabinet minister, quipped in a video interview with Ynet’s news Web site.

Netanyahu, though, had no immediate comment.

Likud’s balloting had been fraught with tension, also for technical reasons when computer malfunctions forced the vote to stretch into a second day.

Left-wing and centrist parties in Israel assailed Likud’s candidate rankings. The centrist Kadima party headed by former general Shaul Mofaz charged in a statement the right-wing party he also once belonged to “has now lost its way and been swayed to the extreme margins of the political map”.

REUTERS

New York City mayor to ask Congress for $9.8 billion for Sandy costs

NEW YORK, 26 Nov— New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg said on Monday he will ask Congress to help pay for costs that New York on 26 Nov, 2012. —REUTERS

billion, with Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursements to cover at least an additional $5.4 billion, Bloomberg said in a statement.

The city will still need the additional $9.8 billion to help pay for costs that FEMA does not cover, like hazard mitigation, long-term housing and shoreline restoration and protection efforts, he said.

Bloomberg is scheduled to travel to Washington, D.C. on Wednesday to speak with congressional leaders.

REUTERS

An arrested in Britain over killing of Northern Irish policeman

LONDON, 27 Nov— A man from Northern Ireland was arrested in Britain on Monday in connection with the death of Northern Ireland policeman Ronan Kerr, who was killed in April last year when a bomb exploded under his car, the Police Service of Northern Ireland said.

The 22-year-old man, from Omagh in County Tyrone, was detained in Milton Keynes, England, as police widened their investigation to northwest England. Police said they were conducting searches in Northern Ireland and northwest England.

Kerr, 25, was the first policeman killed in the British-controlled province for two years. — Reuters

REUTERS

India fails to break parliament deadlock over supermarket reform

NEW DELHI, 27 Nov— India’s government on Monday defused a row with the opposition over opening up the supermarket sector to foreign chains, a decision that has thrown parliament into chaos and endangered fresh economic reforms.

Opposition lawmakers have paralysed parliament in the world’s largest democracy, demanding the government roll back its flagship reform, announced in September, to allow foreign supermarkets like Wal-Mart to set up shop in India.

Critics say allowing foreign players into the $450 billion retail sector will destroy the livelihoods of millions of small store owners. The government says the move will increase revenue and help eliminate chronic food wastage by setting up proper cold chain and transport infrastructure.

Parliament Affairs M inister Kamal Nath called a meeting on Monday to try to break the deadlock but opposition parties stuck to their demand for a parliamentary vote on the executive order on supermarket reform.

There can be no compromise on Rule 184,” Sushma Swaraj, leader of the main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party ($P) in parliament, said after the talkies, referring to the parliamentary regulation that would allow the vote. The government has so far refused to accede to the demand, even though the result of a vote would not be binding on it as the reforms can be implemented without parliamentary approval.

If it agreed to and then lost such a vote it would be an embarrassing setback and give its opponents valuable ammunition ahead of state and national elections due by 2014. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh’s shaky coalition lost its majority in parliament in September after its biggest ally, the Trinamool Congress party (TMC), withdrew its support to oppose the reform.

REUTERS

Syrian jets bomb rebel bases near Turkey border

BUKAKEMI, (Turkey), 27 Nov— Syrian warplanes bombed two rebel bases near the Turkish border on Monday sending hundreds of people fleeing across the frontier.

The attacks on the Free Syrian Army’s positions (FSA) in a town and a village near the Bab al-Hawa border crossing came a day before NATO and Ankara were due to start assessing where to station surface-to-air missiles on the Turkish side of the 900-km (560-mile) frontier.

Turkey, a big supporter of rebels fighting to oust Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad, has repeatedly scrambled jets over the border.

It has also responded in kind when shells from the conflict have landed inside Syria, underlining fears Syria’s 20-month-old revolt could spread to destabilize the region.

Ankara has rejected Syrian complaints that the NATO Patriots were “provocative” and stressed they would be used only to defend Turkish territory, not to create a no-fly zone inside Syria that rebels have demanded as a way to neutralize Assad’s massive air power.

Syrian planes dropped around six bombs on a rebel base near the Bab al-Hawa border crossing, said activists.

“There were explosions of people injured...I saw many wounded people on the border before I was brought here,” FSA member Muhamed Ahmad told Reuters after arriving in Turkey for treatment.

Two Syrian jets fired rocket Missiles at an FSA base in Aitama, around 2km (1 mile) from the border, said opposition activist Ahmed, who lives nearby. “There have hit farm areas and another two hit buildings near the base.”

Military jets fired anti-aircraft guns at the jets but they were flying too high to be hit, activists said. “I think the reason for the raid may have something to do with increased weapons movement” (from Turkey),” Ahmed said.

REUTERS
**Int’l cooperation helping to break NZ methamphetamine habit: PM**

**Wellington, 27 Nov —** New Zealand Prime Minister John Key on Tuesday urged law enforcement authorities to maintain cooperation with counterparts in Asian nations to stop the trade in the illegal drug, methamphetamine.

Cross-border cooperation and other measures had helped to more than halve the proportion of New Zealanders using methamphetamine or “P” as it is known on the nation’s streets from 2.2 percent of the population in 2007/2008 to just 0.9 percent of the population in 2011/2012.

“There are still areas of concern for law enforcement agencies, and the need for vigilance is paramount,” Key said in a statement on the release of the latest progress report on the government’s Tackling Methamphetamine Action Plan.

“We also know New Zealand is being increasingly targeted by offshore criminal groups involved in P. New Zealand Police and Customs are working with their counterparts in China and other Asian countries to combat the methamphetamine trade,” said Key.

“It vital Police, Customs and other agencies continue to use intelligence gathering and law enforcement methods to tackle the lucrative P market, where participants go to great lengths to hide their activities.”

The government launched the action plan in 2009 when New Zealand had one of the highest proportions of P users in the world, and progress reports were released every six months.

Last month Customs Minister Andrew Little praised joint efforts with China’s Customs authorities for helping to stem the supply of methamphetamine precursors into New Zealand.

New Zealand and China’s customs had captured more than 1.2 tonnes of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine in 921 seizures in 2009, which was a record high, and in the first nine months of this year just over 300 kg was intercepted in 264 seizures.

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**Some of no-show bus drivers still not back to work in Singapore**

**Singapore, 27 Nov—** About 60 of the Chinese bus drivers working with Singapore public transport operator SMRT did not return to work on Tuesday, the company said.

A total of 102 Chinese bus drivers working with the company did not show up for work on Monday, local media said. Some said they were unhappy mainly because the Malaysian drivers recently received a pay rise of 275 Singapore dollars (225 US dollars) and one month bonus, while the Chinese drivers received only an increase of 75 Singapore dollars without any bonus.

SMRT had said on Monday evening it had agreed to consider the drivers’ demand for an equal pay with other foreign drivers and the drivers had agreed to return to work. The company had said it will give an answer to the demand of the drivers in about one week’s time.

The company also insisted that it has had sound communication channels.

“We reassert that they chose to express their unhappiness about their salaries in this manner, especially when our lines of communication with them are always open,” it said on Monday.

A human resources executive of SMRT, which operates about 25 percent of the bus services in Singapore, was called in to resolve the dispute on Monday.

The police was called when the talks came to a standstill, but they did not interfere as there was order.

News of the no-show incident became a topic of hot discussion on social media. Singapore has had few no-show or strikes over the past decades.

The Ministry of Manpower said in a statement that it took the workers’ actions very seriously and that it was looking into the matter. Labour relations officers from the ministry were at the site during negotiations.

The Chinese Embassy in Singapore said it has been in close contact with Singapore authorities over the incident.

The National Transport Workers’ Union said the union could not represent the affected workers as they were not union members.

It urged the workers involved to return to work immediately and added that the union was prepared to help in negotiations between SMRT management and the workers if both parties welcomed its involvement.

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**Heavy fog causes expressway crashes in E China, killing seven**

**Jinan, 27 Nov—** Seven people died and 35 others were injured in at least 22 accidents on several sections of an expressway in east China’s Shandong Province amid heavy fog on Monday, local government officials said.

Seven crashes occurred at the Tai’an section of the Beijing-Taipei Expressway early Monday morning, leaving one dead and eleven injured, while 15 crashes occurred on the expressway’s Ningyang section, killing six and injuring another 24, the traffic police reported.

Heavy fog shrouded southeastern parts of Shandong early Monday, reducing visibility in some areas to less than 50 metres, according to local meteorological authorities. Parts of the province’s expressways were temporarily closed.

By Monday afternoon, police said the expressways had reopened.

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**Indonesia, Norway aim to seek opportunity on new business cooperation**

**Jakarta, 27 Nov—** Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono met with Prince of Norway Hakon Magnus at the State Palace, pledging to step up business cooperation of the two countries.

The prince and his wife Mette-Marit came to Indonesia along with over 60 businessmen from Norway and sought the possibility to build cooperation with their Indonesian fellow, spokesman of Indonesia President Office Teuku Faizayah told reporters after the meeting.

Norway plans to open a representative office of trade in Jakarta in the near future, according to Faizayah, but he did not elaborate further.

The spokesman said that Norway was convinced that there would be more new opportunity for cooperation between the two countries as both countries economic growth accelerated.

Indonesia’s economic growth averages at over 6 percent recently and Norway about 2.6 percent, according to Faizayah.

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**Nepal’s population rises to 26.4 million**

**Kathmandu, 27 Nov—** The population of Nepal has climbed to 26.4 million, according to national census released on Monday. Nepal’s population increased by 1.35 percent in the last decade, the data read.

Like earlier census data, this time women have outnumbered men.

Nepali female population accounts for 52.5 percent while male 47.5 percent, and 60 percent of women are married under the age of 19, the data read.

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**Traffic jam is seen on the Jinghaol Highways in Jining, east China’s Shandong Province, on 26 Nov, 2012. Several traffic accidents happened on the highway and caused a traffic jam on Monday.**

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**Pakistani men who fell sick after drinking a toxic cough syrup rest at a hospital in eastern Pakistan’s Lahore on 26 Nov, 2012. At least 17 people died and several others were in critical condition after drinking toxic cough syrup in Pakistan’s eastern city of Lahore over the last two days, local media said on Sunday.**

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**Electricity Power Company and Muroran lines.—**

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**Some of the no-show bus drivers still not back to work in Singapore**

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**Traffic jam is seen on the Jinghaol Highways in Jining, east China’s Shandong Province, on 26 Nov, 2012. Several traffic accidents happened on the highway and caused a traffic jam on Monday.**

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BLPL BLESSING VOY NO (1202)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV BLPL BLESSING VOY NO (1202) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.11.2012 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: M/S ORIENT EXPRESS LINE
PTE LTD.
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PINE LEADER VOY NO (1)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV PINE LEADER VOY NO (1) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.11.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (5) 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: EASTERN CAR LINER S’PORE PTE LTD.
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGKHONTHI VOY NO (163)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGKHONTHI VOY NO (163) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.11.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (6) 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: EASTERN CAR LINER S’PORE PTE LTD.
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Australia to host White Ribbon global conference next year

Canberra, 27 Nov—Australia is to host the inaugural global conference of the White Ribbon Movement—a campaign led by men to stop violence against women. Prime Minister Julia Gillard said in a speech in Canberra on Monday.

According to her speech, an Australian government would host the conference on the May 2013 in Sydney, which would bring together experts from academia, government and service providers. “I hope that the lessons from this conference will be shared widely and help inform future White Ribbon initiatives,” she said.

This campaign began in Toronto, Canada, after the massacre of 14 female university students two decades ago. It came to Australia in 2003 and more than 58,000 Australian men have since sworn an oath to reject violence in their own lives and speak up when they encounter it in the lives of others.

Xinhua

Israel says successfully tested new missile defence system

Jerusalem, 27 Nov—Israel says successfully tested a new missile defence system, which can intercept targets with a longer range than those downed by Iron Dome in the recent Israeli-Gaza conflict, the Defence Ministry said on Sunday. A Stunner missile launched by the David’s Sling system “intercepts (the) target in (its) inaugural flight,” the ministry said in a statement.

By conducting the successful interception test, “the Israel Missile Defence Organization and the US Missile Defence Agency completed the first phase of the development of the David’s Sling Weapon System (DSWS),” it added.

“This test included for the first time a successful interception by the Stunner Missile of the DSWS. The US was conducting its Advanced Defence Systems at a test range in the southern part of Israel,” the statement said. Defence Minister Ehud Barak congratulated those involved in the test, adding that David’s Sling would form a significant layer in Israel’s multi-layered missile defence programme. David’s Sling is a missile defense system currently under development by Rafael in Israel and Raytheon in the US and is designed to fill the gap between Iron Dome’s short-range protection and the Arrow 2’s long-range ballistic missile defence programme.

It is also capable of acting as a back-up to the Arrow 2, by intercepting incoming threats that manage to slip through the Arrow’s defences, according to Israeli media reports.

Xinhua

Israel successfully tests new missile defence system
Beyoncé to direct documentary about herself for HBO

LOS ANGELES, 27 Nov — Pop superstar Beyoncé is stepping behind the camera to direct a behind-the-scenes documentary about her personal and professional life. US cable channel HBO said on Monday the currently untitled film will debut on 16 February and show the Grammy-winning singer’s life in the recording studio, readying for live performances and running her own TV and music production company. “Everybody knows Beyoncé’s music, but few know Beyoncé the person,” HBO Programming President Michael Lombardo said in a statement. “Along with electrifying footage of Beyoncé on stage, this unique special looks beyond the glamour to reveal a vibrant, vulnerable, unforgettably woman.” The documentary will also feature moments in the “Crazy in Love” singer’s family life and first-person footage Beyoncé captured on her laptop. Beyoncé, 31, who is married to hip hop artist and�� Jay-Z, will headline the Super Bowl halftime show in New Orleans on 3 February. — Reuters

Rolling Stones give satisfaction despite high prices

LONDON, 27 Nov — The Rolling Stones pranced, swaggered and laughed through the first of five concerts, celebrating their golden jubilee with a performance that critics said helped justify high ticket costs.

“Virtual every reviewer at the first of two shows in London’s O2 Arena on Sunday night mentioned the controversy over high prices, but almost all of them said it was worth it.”

The two-and-a-half hour set by one of the biggest acts in rock and roll history took a crowd of 20,000 on a trip down memory lane, opening with the 1961 “I Wanna Be Your Man” hit penned by Beatles John Lennon and Paul McCartney right up to “Be Your Man” hit penned — Mark Sutherland in a review for The Rolling Stone music magazine.

The humble star also revealed

Diana Penty turns down Rs 40 lakh offer

Mumbai, 27 Nov — Diana Penty, who made her B-Town debut in Cocktail opposite Saif Ali Khan, was recently approached by an event agency for her first stage performance.

The model turned a cover girl for US clothing brand Guess, the company said on Monday.

Photos of Dannielynn Birkhead, who was five-months-old when her mother died in 2007, were released as part of a campaign for the brand’s kids line. Smith — best known for marrying rock tycoon J Howard Marshall when he was 89 and she was 26 — famously modeled for Guess in 1992-93 shortly after appearing on the cover of Playboy magazine.

Dannielynn’s father, photographer Larry Birkhead, told television show Entertainment Tonight that his daughter enjoyed herself on the shoot.

“The first thing she asked is ‘When will I be on the shopping bags like Marilyn?’” Birkhead said. “I know that Anna’s looking at this and seeing how great this will be.” Anna Nicole Smith died in Florida at the age of 39 from a prescription drug overdose. Dannielynn was the subject of at least six paternity claims following her birth in September 2006.

Birkhead was later confirmed as Anna’s father following a DNA test. — Reuters

Daniel Radcliffe delighted to be called by real name instead of Harry Potter

LONDON, 27 Nov — Daniel Radcliffe is delighted when people know his real name.

The 23-year-old actor is finally moving past his lead role in the Harry Potter franchise and is relieved fans are starting to recognize him as a person in his own right, and not the troubled teen wizard created by JK Rowling.

He explained: “I’d be lying if I said I didn’t get Harry Potter at all. Of course I do. But you know what? I’d say the split is now rather encouragingly in favour of Daniel Radcliffe, which is rather lovely.”

He walked past two girls on a bench the other day, and I heard them both go, ‘Oh my god, it’s Daniel Radcliffe’, and every time that happens I think, ‘Wow!’. Not because they recognize me, because they use my name.”

The humble star also revealed he hates being invited to showbiz events because he finds them incredibly awkward and, despite having bared all performing naked on stage in Equus in 2007, he still gets nervous when he has to make small talk in a room full of people.

Daniel confessed to Seven magazine: “You can still be self-conscious in my position. And the Shrek displays it differently in me. I think it’s more an awkwardness. Like when I go to those events, like the one where I was invited to this thing called The M et E t A l, and I ended up having a good night because I took a friend, but normally I feel very awkward at event like that.”

B-Town outing meanwhile keeps busy with her endorsement deals. With awards events, meet-and-greets in January, she is among the contenders for the Best Debut award.—PTI

Organizers claim it was the highest amount offered to any debutante for a stage act

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Dannielynn Birkhead, ex-boyfriend of the late Anna Nicole Smith, holds his daughter Dannielynn as he is being interviewed at the opening of The Simpsons Ride at Universal Studios Hollywood in Universal City, California on 17 May, 2008. — Reuters

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**Soccer**

**Barca’s Alves out for three weeks with leg injury**

Barcelona defender Dani Alves has been ruled out for three weeks after injuring his right thigh muscle, the club said on Monday.

The 34-year-old was forced off in the 16th minute of the 4-0 win over Levante on Sunday. Alves is likely to miss a 16 December clash with Atletico Madrid, who are lying second in La Liga just three points behind leaders Barcelona.

**Golf**

**Donald prepares for surgery on sinuses**

Luke Donald of England hits onto the 18th green during the fourth and final round of the DP World Tour Championship at Jumeirah Golf Estates in Dubai on 25 Nov, 2012. — Reuters

Donald said he was affected by the problem over the last two rounds in Dubai, the final event of the European Tour season.

The former world number one wanted to make it clear, however, that his disappointing one-under-par final round of 71 should not be blamed on his physical ailments. “I don’t like to make excuses but the last couple of days I’ve had the sinus issue again,” added Donald. “I felt a little bit flat and unfortunately I couldn’t get things going on Sunday.”

The Chicago-based Englishman went into the last 18 holes sharing the lead with Ryder Cup team mate Rory McIlroy.

Donald went a remarkable 102 holes without carding a bogey in the Dubai tournament, this year and in 2011, but a dropped stroke at the third on Sunday ended that sequence and put him on the back foot for the rest of the round. He finished five strokes adrift of world number one and tour leader Tiger Woods at 20 under par.

**NBA**

**Nets win first battle of New York over Knicks in OT**

**Reuters**

The New Jersey Nets beat the New York Knicks 96-89 in an overtime thriller on Monday in the first battle for New York bragging rights between the teams, the ten- year-olds played out in the new Barclays Centre in Brooklyn.

The victory lifted the Nets (9-4) into a tie with the Knicks (9-4) for first place in the Atlantic Division. Tied 84-84 after regulation, the Knicks scored the first points of the extra period, but the Nets countered with eight points in a row, the last three from hustling plays by Gerald Wallace to surge to a 92-86 lead and were never threatened.

Centre Brook Lopez led the Nets with 22 points, with Deron Williams and Wallace scoring 16 points each. Carmelo Anthony, the Knicks’ scoring leader who was born in Brooklyn, led New York with 35 points, while center Tyson Chandler had 28 points on 12-of-13 shooting with his hoops coming from tip-ins, follow-ups and slam dunks.

The game had been originally set to kick off the New York Knicks forward Kurt Thomas (R) shoots over Brooklyn Nets forward Kris Humphries (2nd R) in the second quarter of their NBA basketball game in New York on 25 Nov, 2012. — Reuters

**Olympic opening ceremony wins UK theater award**

**Reuters**

Film director Danny Boyle won an Evening Standard Theatre Award late on Sunday for the opening ceremony of the London 2012 Olympics, which was warmly praised in Britain but bafﬂed many overseas viewers. The ceremony, a kaleidoscopic romp through Britain’s recent history packed with references to literature and music, was honoured with the Beyond Theatre award by the free London newspaper.

Evening Standard editor Simon Russell Beale, who was also a judge at the annual awards, said the ceremony became a “metaphor for national hope.” “If we could achieve this, we could achieve anything,” she said.

“Boyle managed to find a way of showing us who we are, as if he were poet laureate. He did all this on an austerity budget. He went beyond theatre but stayed within the limits of the Treasury.”

Best play was “Constellations”, which premiered at the Royal Court Theatre in January to rave reviews, while best director went to National Theatre director Nicholas Hytner’s modern- day adaptation of the Shakespeare play “Timon of Athens”.

**Sports**

**Argonauts rout Stampeded in CFL’s 100th Grey Cup championship**

The Toronto Argonauts routed the Calgary Stampeders 35-22 to claim the 100th Grey Cup on Sunday, allowing Canada’s biggest city to shed its Louisville reputation and celebrate a Canadian Football League (CFL) championship. The week-long Grey Cup party reached a roaring climax inside Toronto’s domed stadium as 53,208 CFL fans, most of them wearing the Argos double-blue colours, basked in victory 100 years after the University of Toronto Rugby Football Club became the first to hoist the trophy.

The Grey Cup may be Canada’s second most treasured piece of silverware after the National Hockey League’s Stanley Cup, but on Sunday the old battered mug was the toast of a hockey-mad city for the first time since 2004.

**CFL**

**Toronto Argonauts’ Jeff Kelling celebrates with the Grey Cup after the Argonauts defeated the Calgary Stampeders in the 100th CFL Grey Cup championship football game in Toronto, on 25 Nov, 2012. — Reuters**

The victory lifted the Toronto Argonauts of North America’s worst sports city by ESPN magazine. Toronto sports fans have had precious little to cheer for watching their teams stumble through season after season. The Maple Leafs have not paraded the Stanley Cup through the city since 1967 and Major League Baseball’s Blue Jays have not been in the postseason since winning the 1993 World Series. A National Basketball Association title remains a far off dream for the Raptors while the city’s Major League Soccer team has yet to reach the postseason.

“I’m a Toronto boy raised in Canada, we dream about the Grey Cup, not the World Cup, and we’re living our dreams today,” Argonauts defensive end Ricky Foley, who was named the Grey Cup’s outstanding Canadian, told reporters.

“It wasn’t that long ago that Toronto was the city of champions,” Toronto Blue Jays pitcher Ricky Romero tweeted to Chad Owens saying, “congratulations, go get it and with the recent transactions they have done in that organization, if they get the fan support we got today, Toronto is going to have a lot more championship teams.”

Argonauts quarterback Ricky Ray, brought to Toronto during the off-season in a trade that shook the league, opened the game with an interception but ended with 231 passing yards, including touchdowns passes to Andre Durie and Chad Owens, who was named the CFL’s most outstanding player earlier in the week.
Focus Myanmar TV Programme

7:00 am 1. Paritta By:Venerable Ngun Saydaw -Iyi patabandhi Paritta
2. Dhamma Puja Song
7:40 am 3. “Sermon on Thamanya Phala Sutta”
8:40 am 4. Myittha Pawana By: M Ingun Saydaw Phayagy
4:05 pm 5. Dance of National Races
4:10 pm 6. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
4:15 pm 7. University of Distance Education (TV Lecture) -Third Year (Public Policy)
8:00 pm 16. News
17. TV Drama Series

MOSCOW, 27 Nov—Russia needs to reshape its space industry to make it more efficient and target-oriented, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said Monday.

“We need to discuss the final proposals on the reorganization of the entire system of how the industry is managed,” Medvedev told a government meeting on space industry development. The Russian government must decide the direction of the development of the national space programs and how to restore the quality control mechanism and military structures in the industry, he said, adding the space industry had enormous potential. Meanwhile, state financing of the space industry had risen two-fold since 2008, amounting to more than 80 billion rubles (2.6 billion US dollars) in 2011, he said, but the industry still faced many problems.

“There are accidents, emergency situations. So we must continue to work coherently not to let such failures happen in the future,” he said.

Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin told the meeting the government would increase wages in the space industry by 50 percent.

He also said Russia planned to launch more than 100 military and dual-purpose satellites by 2020, which would form part of an early warning system for military reconnaissance, communications and navigation. Russia also planned to launch a large number of commercial satellites, bringing the total number to more than 200, Rogozin said.

Facebook not so fun with a click from boss or mum

LONDON, 27 Nov—Posting pictures of yourself plastered at a party and talking trash online with your Facebook friends may be more stress than it’s worth now that your boss and mum want to see it all.

A survey from Edinburgh Business School released on Monday showed Facebook users are anxious that all those self-published sins may be coming home to roost with more than half of employers claiming to have used Facebook to weed out job candidates. Facebook used to be like a great party for all your friends where you can dance, drink and flirt,” said Ben Marder, author of the report and fellow in marketing at the Business School. “But now with your Mum, Dad and boss there, the party becomes an anxious event full of potential social landmines.”

On average, people are Facebook friends with seven different social circles, the report found, with real friends known to the user offline the most common. More than four-fifths of users add extended family on Facebook, a similar number add siblings.

Three from California family drown in ocean trying to save dog

SAN FRANCISCO, 27 Nov—A California mother and father and their 16-year-old son were swept out to sea over the weekend after a deadly chain of events.

The father jumped into the water to save the son from the water off the Northern California coast. But Howard Kuljian, 50, and Mary Scott, 54, of Eureka died while their 16-year-old son, Gregory Kuljian, remained lost at sea, said Deputy Ariel Guenther of the Humboldt County Coroner’s office.

“The dog was able to get out somehow,” said Dana Jones, a state parks and recreation district superintendent. “It’s very sad, and we just always have to be aware when we’re around the ocean that nature is sometimes out of control.” The tragedy began on Saturday afternoon while the family, including an 18-year-old daughter who was unharnessed, was walking with Gregory’s girlfriend along a steep beach at Big Lagoon, about 270 miles north of San Francisco, Jones said.

Howard Kuljian threw the dog a stick, she said, and a wave, possibly as high as 10 feet, pulled the animal into the water. The son went in first to try to rescue his dog. Jones said.

“Then the father went in to save the son. The mother was swept in at that point,” she said. “The waves are big and powerful, and that’s a very steep beach.

The waves pound the ocean, Jones said.

Xinhua

Credit Suisse to axe 100 UK jobs— FT

The logo of Swiss bank Credit Suisse is seen at the company’s headquarters in Zurich on 9 Feb, 2012.

LONDON, 27 Nov—Credit Suisse will cut about 100 investment banking jobs in Britain as part of a restructuring to find 4 billion Swiss francs (2.7 billion pounds) of savings by 2015, the Financial Times reported on Tuesday. The newspaper, citing a person familiar with the situation, said the job losses will occur over the next 90 days, mainly affecting the investment bank’s equities, fixed income and advisory businesses.

In January, Switzerland’s second-largest bank by assets was targeting savings of 2 billion Swiss francs by the end of 2013, but it has since added another 2 billion Swiss francs and extended its time frame by two years. Credit Suisse could not be reached for immediate comment.— Reuters
Noteworthy amounts of rainfall

(27-11-2012)

Yangon (Hmaubvy) 1.30 inches
Cocogyun 0.90 inch
Yangon (Mingaladon) 0.63 inch

obarra to meet executives, go to Pennsylvania for fiscal push

WASHINGTON, 27 Nov — President Barack Obama will launch a push this week to garner support for his proposals to solve US fiscal problems, meeting with business executives at the White House and visiting a small business in Pennsylvania to press his case. Obama has sought to go on the offensive since his re-election on 6 November in the fight with Republicans for control of Congress. The president will meet with a group of small-business owners. On Wednesday he will host an event with business leaders, something he has done previously.

The president will travel to Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, to continue making the public case for action by visiting a business that depends on exports, and could be impacted if tariffs go up on 98 percent of Americans at the end of the year,” the official said.

Moderate earthquake hits outside Yangon

A moderate earthquake of magnitude 5.0 Richter scale with its epicenter at Andaman Sea about 260 miles Southwest of Kaba-Aye Seismological observatory was recorded at 5 hrs 44 min 30 sec MST on 27 November 2012. MNA