President U Thein Sein meets Vietnamese President

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Nov—President U Thein Sein and visiting Vietnamese President Mr Truong Tan Sang vowed to strengthen the bond between the two countries during meeting at Credentials Hall of Presidential Palace, here, this evening.

Also present on the occasion were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing Thin, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung, Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu, Myanmar Ambassador to Viet Nam U Thet Oo and Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chu Cong Phung.

The two sides shared frank views on political developments in Myanmar, peace process, domestic economic reforms, and further bilateral economic cooperation between the two countries. —MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein cordially shakes hands with visiting President of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Mr Truong Tan Sang at Credentials Hall of Presidential Palace. —MNA

President U Thein Sein rolls out red carpet for Vietnamese President

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Nov—President U Thein Sein rolled out red carpet for the visit of President of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Mr Truong Tan Sang and wife on the lawns of Presidential Palace, here, this evening.

The two Presidents took the salute of the Guard of Honour while the State band was playing national anthems of Viet Nam and Myanmar. The two Presidents then inspected the Guard of Honour.

Myanmar needs to harness energy resources to power growth — ADB

MANILA, 29 Nov—Myanmar needs to develop its vast energy resources to promote growth and reduce high poverty incidence, the Asian Development Bank said. The Manila-based lender released on Tuesday its initial assessment of Myanmar’s energy sector.

The report showed that the country has abundant energy resources which can be tapped for power generation and oil and gas exploration. The most notable of these resources are hydropower and natural gas.

The hydropower potential of the country’s rivers is estimated to be more than 100,000 megawatts. The country also has a proven gas reserves amounting to 11.8 trillion cubic feet and is supplying natural gas to Thailand. With Myanmar opening up, it’s possible to use domestic energy resources to power the country’s development. But this can only be possible through enforcing environmental and social safeguards.

The ADB said international investment in Myanmar’s energy sector could focus on medium- and long-term planning. —MNA/Xinhua
**M
da
de
Mada
M

ady Mai Thi Hanh visits Uppatasanti Pagoda

On 29 November 2012, Madame Mai Thi Hanh, wife of President Mr. Truong Tan Sang of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and party accompanied by Professor Dr. Dang Kinh Swe Myint, wife of Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu, visited Uppatasanti Pagoda here this evening.

Madame Mai Thi Hanh and party offered flowers, water and joss sticks to Buddha PaninaMasaje and images and viewed round carved sculptures depicting the life of Buddha in the cave of the pagoda.

She made cash contribution for the pagoda and signed visitors’ book before being taken documentary photos.

Mynar

**Traffic island plants moved for expansion of roads**

As early paddy has been harvested in Hinthada District of Ayeyawady Region, 100 baskets of paddy can be sold for K 280,000 in Ingaupu Township and K 290,000 in Hinthada Township.

A farmer said, “This year’s early paddy is sold in regular. From the harvesting time to date, one basket of paddy weighing 50 pounds can be sold for K 3500. The prices of Palethwe, Hsinthukha and Manawthukha paddy strain are higher than that of Yadana Aung paddy strain. We all are pleased for getting reasonable benefit from paddy.” Farmers in some village-tracts of Bago Region are now-winning monsoon paddy so as to plough their farmlands for cultivation of cold season crops in time.

The farmers produced 70 baskets of paddy per acre on average. They are now making preparations to grow green gram as cold season crops in addition to groundnut and mung bean.

**Traditional products cotton wares marketable in Inlay region**

Cotton textile weaved from traditional looms in Inlay Region is high demand in the market during the Tazaungdine Festival.

At present, women’s wares and men’s Shan traditional trousseaux are marketable. The Shan traditional trousseau is sold for K 2500-K 6000 per piece, short pan K 2000-K 2300 and women’s sweater K 4500-K 6000.

The traditional clothes are in conformity with regional weather, so the products are marketable.

“Now is Tazaungdine festival. Local and foreign guests buy the products as gifts for their friends. Likewise, the local people buy clothes but adults women’s sweaters,” said a seller from Inn traditional cotton ware shop.

**Traditional products cotton wares marketable in Inlay region**

Cotton textile weaved from traditional looms in Inlay Region is high demand in the market during the Tazaungdine Festival.

At present, women’s wares and men’s Shan traditional trousseaux are marketable. The Shan traditional trousseau is sold for K 2500-K 6000 per piece, short pan K 2000-K 2300 and women’s sweater K 4500-K 6000.

The traditional clothes are in conformity with regional weather, so the products are marketable.

“Now is Tazaungdine festival. Local and foreign guests buy the products as gifts for their friends. Likewise, the local people buy clothes but adults women’s sweaters,” said a seller from Inn traditional cotton ware shop.

**Traffic island plants moved for expansion of roads**

As early paddy has been harvested in Hinthada District of Ayeyawady Region, 100 baskets of paddy can be sold for K 280,000 in Ingaupu Township and K 290,000 in Hinthada Township.

A farmer said, “This year’s early paddy is sold in regular. From the harvesting time to date, one basket of paddy weighing 50 pounds can be sold for K 3500. The prices of Palethwe, Hsinthukha and Manawthukha paddy strain are higher than that of Yadana Aung paddy strain. We all are pleased for getting reasonable benefit from paddy.” Farmers in some village-tracts of Bago Region are now-winning monsoon paddy so as to plough their farmlands for cultivation of cold season crops in time.

The farmers produced 70 baskets of paddy per acre on average. They are now making preparations to grow green gram as cold season crops in addition to groundnut and mung bean.

**Traditional products cotton wares marketable in Inlay region**

Cotton textile weaved from traditional looms in Inlay Region is high demand in the market during the Tazaungdine Festival.

At present, women’s wares and men’s Shan traditional trousseaux are marketable. The Shan traditional trousseau is sold for K 2500-K 6000 per piece, short pan K 2000-K 2300 and women’s sweater K 4500-K 6000.

The traditional clothes are in conformity with regional weather, so the products are marketable.

“Now is Tazaungdine festival. Local and foreign guests buy the products as gifts for their friends. Likewise, the local people buy clothes but adults women’s sweaters,” said a seller from Inn traditional cotton ware shop.

**Traffic island plants moved for expansion of roads**

As early paddy has been harvested in Hinthada District of Ayeyawady Region, 100 baskets of paddy can be sold for K 280,000 in Ingaupu Township and K 290,000 in Hinthada Township.

A farmer said, “This year’s early paddy is sold in regular. From the harvesting time to date, one basket of paddy weighing 50 pounds can be sold for K 3500. The prices of Palethwe, Hsinthukha and Manawthukha paddy strain are higher than that of Yadana Aung paddy strain. We all are pleased for getting reasonable benefit from paddy.” Farmers in some village-tracts of Bago Region are now-winning monsoon paddy so as to plough their farmlands for cultivation of cold season crops in time.

The farmers produced 70 baskets of paddy per acre on average. They are now making preparations to grow green gram as cold season crops in addition to groundnut and mung bean.

**Traditional products cotton wares marketable in Inlay region**

Cotton textile weaved from traditional looms in Inlay Region is high demand in the market during the Tazaungdine Festival.

At present, women’s wares and men’s Shan traditional trousseaux are marketable. The Shan traditional trousseau is sold for K 2500-K 6000 per piece, short pan K 2000-K 2300 and women’s sweater K 4500-K 6000.

The traditional clothes are in conformity with regional weather, so the products are marketable.

“Now is Tazaungdine festival. Local and foreign guests buy the products as gifts for their friends. Likewise, the local people buy clothes but adults women’s sweaters,” said a seller from Inn traditional cotton ware shop.
events and war of 1986-1988 between Iran and Iraq, which ended in the victory of Iran.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (2nd L) visits the Natanz nuclear enrichment facility, 350 km (217 miles) south of Tehran, on 8 April, 2008. — Reuters

DUBAI, 29 Nov — Iran will go on refining uranium “with intensity” and the number of enrichment centrifuges it has operating will rise substantially in the face of international sanctions, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Wednesday.

Ahmadinejad was quoted as saying on state television: “There is no ... have been helping a Swiss investigation into a Russian mafia scandal that has strained Moscow’s ties with the West. Alexander Perepilichnyy, 44, sought refuge in Britain three years ago and had been helping a Swiss money-laundering scheme, spoken woman said. “A post-mortem examination was carried out which was inconclusive. So further tests are now being carried out.”

Police — dubbed as Britain’s ‘Beverly Hills’ and ringed by neatly trimmed golf courses — launched frequent attacks, for the local health office usually gather killed another person, a spokesman for the local health office said.

The diplomat said Iran’s position, which is that Mosocw is concerned about the possible deployment of the missiles, fearing it will add tensions to the border region. W ednesday’s meeting of the NATO-Russia Council, the first at ministerial level since Rogozin’s departure, paves the way for a ministerial-level meeting next week.

Residents gather at the site of a bomb attack in Hilli, 100 km (60 miles) south of Baghdad, on 29 November, 2012. Bombs in two majori Shii’ite Muslim cities in southern Iraq killed 28 people on Thursday, police and hospital sources said. — Reuters

HILLA, 29 Nov — Bombs in two majori Shii’ite Muslim cities in southern Iraq killed 28 people on Thursday, police and hospital sources said.

Scores were wounded in the blasts, which struck during a month Ashura, a holy month for Shi’ites who are often targeted by al-Qaeda’s Iraqi affiliate and other Sunni Muslim insurgents.

One explosion near a restaurant in the city of Hilli, 100 km (62 miles) south of Baghdad, killed 26 people.

In the city of Kerbala, a car bomb near a bus termin al where Shii’ite pilgrims usually gather killed another two people, a spokesman for the local health office said.

Violence in Iraq has eased since the carnage of 2006-2007, but Sunni still launch frequent attacks, seeking to reignite sectarian strife and undermine the Shii’ite-led government’s efforts to provide security.

On Tuesday, car bombs targeting Shi’ites in mourning processions killed 14 people in Baghdad.
British company claims biggest engine advance since the jet

European Space Agency (ESA) after completing key tests on its novel engine technology. Reaction Engines Ltd believes its Sabre engine, which would operate like a jet engine in the atmosphere and a rocket in space, could displace rockets for space access and transform air travel by bringing any destination on Earth to no more than four hours away.

A small British company with a dream of building a reusable space plane has won an important endorsement from the European Space Agency (ESA) after completing key tests on its novel engine technology. Reaction Engines Ltd believes its Sabre engine, which would operate like a jet engine in the atmosphere and a rocket in space, could displace rockets for space access and transform air travel by bringing any destination on Earth to no more than four hours away.

While it’s not the first to market, the company’s financial and marketing clout suggest it could be the biggest threat to Japanese domination of a digital camera industry which research firm NPD Group. Senior imaging analyst at research firm NPD Group, says, “As a brand known more in the connected electronic device arena, Samsung has a unique opportunity to transfer strength from adjacent categories into the dedicated camera world,” the Korean group, says, “As a brand known as a leader in technology, mobile and camera business, Samsung has a unique opportunity to transfer strength from adjacent categories into the dedicated camera world.”

A man takes a picture of a Samsung Galaxy Camera, which went on sale in Europe, at a launch event in Tokyo this month but not publicized until Wednesday. “RIM has to pay royalties and damages to Nokia for its ... sales of any subscriber terminals (handsets or tablets) ... compatible with the WLAN standard,” the arbitrator said in the ruling, issued on 6 November but not publicized until Wednesday. “RIM has not contested that it manufactures and sells products using WLAN in accordance with Nokia’s WLAN patents,” it added.

The decision is a boost for Nokia which is trying to increase its royalty income as its phone business slides, and the group said it had filed cases in the United States, Britain and Canada to enforce the arbitrator’s ruling.

A man looks at a giant “Kuratas” robot at an exhibition in Tokyo on 28 November. A man looks at a giant “Kuratas” robot at an exhibition in Tokyo on 28 November. “A prototype robot comes equipped with an operating system that also allows remote control from an iPhone as well as optional “guns” that shoot plastic bottles or BB pellets.”

BlackBerry maker RIM loses patent dispute with Nokia

Helsinki, 29 Nov — RIM, BlackBerry maker Research In Motion Ltd (RIM) has lost a dispute over the use of Nokia Oyj patents, in a case which could halt the sale of RIM products if it were to extend to a new royalties deal with the Finnish company, the Swedish arbitrator ruled. RIM was not entitled to make or sell mobile devices which can hook up to WiFi networks — using technology known in the trade as WLAN or wireless local access network systems — without first agreeing to royalties with Nokia.

“RIM is liable to pay royalties and damages to Nokia for its ... sales of any subscriber terminals (handsets or tablets) ... compatible with the WLAN standard,” the arbitrator said in the ruling, issued on 6 November but not publicized until Wednesday. “RIM has not contested that it manufactures and sells products using WLAN in accordance with Nokia’s WLAN patents,” it added.

The decision is a boost for Nokia which is trying to increase its royalty income as its phone business slides, and the group said it had filed cases in the United States, Britain and Canada to enforce the arbitrator’s ruling.

“RIM has to pay royalties and damages to Nokia for its ... sales of any subscriber terminals (handsets or tablets) ... compatible with the WLAN standard,” the arbitrator said in the ruling, issued on 6 November but not publicized until Wednesday. “RIM has not contested that it manufactures and sells products using WLAN in accordance with Nokia’s WLAN patents,” it added.

The decision is a boost for Nokia which is trying to increase its royalty income as its phone business slides, and the group said it had filed cases in the United States, Britain and Canada to enforce the arbitrator’s ruling.

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. 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. "The robots we saw in our generation were always big and always had people riding them, and I don’t think they have much meaning in the real world,” said Kura, a 39-year-old artist. “But it really was my dream to ride in one of them, and I also think it’s one kind of Japanese culture. I kept thinking that it’s something that Japanese had to do.”

"This core piece of technology solves one of the constraints that limit jet engines to a top speed of about 2.5 times the speed of sound, which Reaction Engines believes it could double. With the Sabre engine in jet mode, the air has to be compressed before being injected into the engine’s combustion chambers."

WMO reports high temperatures, extreme weather, record Arctic ice melt in 2012

Geneva, 29 Nov — The first ten months of 2012 witnessed high temperature, a number of extreme weather and climate events as well as unprecedented melting of Arctic sea ice, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said on Wednesday. "2001 to 2011 were the warmest such period since records began in 1850, and 2012 could be even warmer," the WMO said in its provisional annual statement on the state of the global climate. It said that the January-October period this year was the ninth warmest such period since records began in the mid-1960s.

The global land and ocean surface temperature for the period was about 0.45 degrees higher than the 1961-1990 average of 14.2 degrees, according to the statement. During the first ten months of 2012, average temperature of the globe’s land surface areas, except for Australia and parts of northern China, was above average conditions in Australia was a typical effect of a La Nina event. The Australian Bureau of Meteorology said the influence of La Nina at the end of last year could be seen in parts of northern China as well as in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean.

"Notable extreme weather and climate events were observed worldwide, but some parts of the Northern Hemisphere were affected by multiple extremes, including heat waves, drought, floods, snow and extreme cold, said the statement. — Xinhua"
N.Y., 29 Nov -- Lockheed Martin Corp (LMT.N) and the Defense Department are nearing agreement on a long-delayed contract for a fifth batch of F-35 fighter jets, the Pentagon's chief weapons buyer told Reuters on Wednesday.

"I think we're getting close," Defense Undersecretary Frank Kendall told Reuters after a speech to an investor conference hosted by Credit Suisse.

Kendall said he had "a very positive meeting" on Tuesday with new Lockheed Martin CEO Marillyn Hewson about a range of issues, including the $396 billion F-35 programme, the Pentagon's largest weapons programme.

Hewson will become the company's CEO in January after the company forced out Christopher Kubasik, who admitted to having an affair with a subordinate.

Hewson spokeswoman Jen Allen declined comment on Hewson's meeting with Kendall. "We do not discuss customer meetings and consider them proprietary," she said. Lockheed, the Pentagon's largest contractor, and its suppliers are already building the fifth batch of planes under a preliminary agreement with the US government.

The two sides have been arguing over what the plane should cost for the better part of a year. It appears they have now agreed on a price that is midway between their original goals, which means a significant reduction in the cost of each plane from the previous contract," said defence consultant Loren Thompson, who has close ties to Lockheed.

Thompson said Hewson's increased engagement in the F-35 negotiations had helped defuse tensions that had mounted between the company and the Pentagon in the past year.

The September, Air Force Major General Christopher Bogdan, who is moving up to head the F-35 programme next week, said ties between Lockheed and the US government were "the worst" he had ever seen in his years working on big acquisition programmes.

US bans BP from new government contracts after oil spill deal

The US government banned BP PLC on Wednesday from new federal contracts over its "lack of business integrity" in the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, possibly impacting its ability to play a role as a top US offshore oil producer.

Some experts call for mental illness screening for children.

LONDON, 29 Nov -- Leading mental health experts are calling for school children to be screened for risk of mental illnesses such as depression and have devised a test that reliably identifies those at high risk. The test can be done on planes that should cost for the better part of a year. It appears they have now agreed on a price that is midway between their original goals, which means a significant reduction in the cost of each plane from the previous contract," said defence consultant Loren Thompson, who has close ties to Lockheed.

Thompson said Hewson's increased engagement in the F-35 negotiations had helped defuse tensions that had mounted between the company and the Pentagon in the past year.

The September, Air Force Major General Christopher Bogdan, who is moving up to head the F-35 programme next week, said ties between Lockheed and the US government were "the worst" he had ever seen in his years working on big acquisition programmes.

US bans BP from new government contracts after oil spill deal

The US government banned BP PLC on Wednesday from new federal contracts over its "lack of business integrity" in the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, possibly impacting its ability to play a role as a top US offshore oil producer.

Some experts call for mental illness screening for children.

LONDON, 29 Nov -- Leading mental health experts are calling for school children to be screened for risk of mental illnesses such as depression and have devised a test that reliably identifies those at high risk. The test can be done on a computer and could be used to alert doctors and psychologists to intervene early, said Barbara Sahakian, a professor of clinical neuropsychology at Britain's Cambridge University.

Ian Goodyer, a child and adolescent psychiatrist who worked with Sahakian on a study published on Wednesday, said screening 11- to 12-year-old children could reveal those who have "low resilience" — putting them at higher risk of developing mental illnesses such as depression. Mental health problems are common in young people, and gas producer and the No 1 military fuel supplier. The suspension, announced by the Environmental Protection Agency, comes on the heels of BP's 15 November agreement with the US government to plead guilty to criminal misconduct in the Gulf of Mexico disaster, the worst offshore oil spill in US history. The British energy giant agreed to pay $4.5 billion in penalties, including a record $1.256 billion criminal fine.

BP and its fuel affiliates were barred from new federal contracts until they demonstrate they can meet federal business standards, the EPA said. The suspension is "standard practice" and BP's existing US government-wide suspensions generally do not exceed 18 months, but can continue "if there is a risk of ongoing legal cases. In a statement, BP said it has been in "regular dialogue" with the EPA, and that the agency has informed BP that the draft agreement will be available soon, BP said.

US operations accounted for more than 30 percent of BP's pre-tax profits in the third quarter, and the United States accounts for a fifth of BP's global production. The US military has been a reliable customer of BP's jet fuel and other refined products.

BP is the largest investor in the Gulf of Mexico, possibly the world's largest single oil tract and hopes for further growth. BP is also the top fuel supplier to the US military, the largest single buyer of oil in the world.

Suspension of analysts earlier this month that the F-35 programme would be one of her top priorities in her new job. "We won't miss a beat on F-35," she said at the time. Hewson is due to speak at the Credit Suisse conference on Thursday. Agreement on the terms would free up additional funding for early work on a sixth set of planes, which the company has been funding on its own for some time.

"The two sides have been arguing over what the plane should cost for the better part of a year. It appears they have now agreed on a price that is midway between their original goals, which means a significant reduction in the cost of each plane from the previous contract," said defence consultant Loren Thompson, who has close ties to Lockheed.

Thompson said Hewson's increased engagement in the F-35 negotiations had helped defuse tensions that had mounted between the company and the Pentagon in the past year.

The September, Air Force Major General Christopher Bogdan, who is moving up to head the F-35 programme next week, said ties between Lockheed and the US government were "the worst" he had ever seen in his years working on big acquisition programmes.

US bans BP from new government contracts after oil spill deal

The US government banned BP PLC on Wednesday from new federal contracts over its "lack of business integrity" in the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, possibly impacting its ability to play a role as a top US offshore oil producer.

Some experts call for mental illness screening for children.

LONDON, 29 Nov -- Leading mental health experts are calling for school children to be screened for risk of mental illnesses such as depression and have devised a test that reliably identifies those at high risk. The test can be done on a computer and could be used to alert doctors and psychologists to intervene early, said Barbara Sahakian, a professor of clinical neuropsychology at Britain's Cambridge University.

Ian Goodyer, a child and adolescent psychiatrist who worked with Sahakian on a study published on Wednesday, said screening 11- to 12-year-old children could reveal those who have "low resilience" — putting them at higher risk of developing mental illnesses such as depression. Mental health problems are common in young people, and gas producer and the No 1 military fuel supplier. The suspension, announced by the Environmental Protection Agency, comes on the heels of BP's 15 November agreement with the US government to plead guilty to criminal misconduct in the Gulf of Mexico disaster, the worst offshore oil spill in US history. The British energy giant agreed to pay $4.5 billion in penalties, including a record $1.256 billion criminal fine.

BP and its fuel affiliates were barred from new federal contracts until they demonstrate they can meet federal business standards, the EPA said. The suspension is "standard practice" and BP's existing US government-wide suspensions generally do not exceed 18 months, but can continue "if there is a risk of ongoing legal cases. In a statement, BP said it has been in "regular dialogue" with the EPA, and that the agency has informed BP that the draft agreement will be available soon, BP said.

US operations accounted for more than 30 percent of BP's pre-tax profits in the third quarter, and the United States accounts for a fifth of BP's global production. The US military has been a reliable customer of BP's jet fuel and other refined products.
Magway sees more tourist arrivals

Magway, 29 Nov — As there has been an increase in arrival of tourists from various countries in Myanmar that offers the warm hospitality and unspoilt natural beauty to globe trotters, Magway has become a tourist destination. Tourists arrive in Magway by water. Trishaw drivers dressed in uniforms take them to go for a trishaw ride around Magway. At the end of the trip, tourists have photos taken together with trishaw drivers who show their friendly and generous behavior towards guests. On 26 November, 41 American tourists paid a visit spending the night there. — Kyemon

Car at speed crashes into locomotive in NyaungU

NyaungU, 29 Nov — A car hit a train near Tuyin mountain in NyaungU Township on 25 November. At the level crossing of NyaungU-Kyaukpadoung motorway and railroad near mile post No. 391.13-14 in NyaungU Township, a light truck driving from NyaungU to Kyaukpadoung went out of control and crashed into the railway barrier, and ran into the side of the locomotive of Nay Pyi Taw-Bagan 107-up train which was passing through the level crossing. The crash caused no damage to the locomotive, but the front part of the light truck was destroyed, causing minor injuries to the driver. His wife escaped with no injury. NyaungU Police Station filed a lawsuit against the driver of light truck who lives in Phonelaw Village of Taungzin. — Kyemon

Rubber growers hoping to achieve market share

Nay Pyi Taw, 29 Nov — An increased international connectivity with the country allows rubber growers in Thaton of Mon State to have high hopes for a niche in the domestic rubber market. “Rubber is a global use. As global countries have an interest in Myanmar, there will be a growing market for rubber in the not too distant future. Being a useful thing, it will be in good demand,” an owner of rubber farmland in Thaton Township said. A land with fifty rubber plants which is grown systematically can produce fifty pound of sap. The fall in output is due to poor technique. A species of rubber locally called ‘bat’ is widely grown in the region. Cultivation of wild rubber plants makes up 20 per cent of the total rubber plantation. The ‘bat’ species can be produced through propagation. The luxuriant rubber plant means an increase in latex yield. This year saw a reduction in latex yield compared with the last year as the area had a high rainfall in last May, June and July. “The ‘bat’ species of rubber can produce ranging from 20 to 25 pounds a day while producing about 10 pounds by a wild species of rubber from a plot, with about 350 rubber plants,” the landowner explained.

Latex production starts when a rubber tree attains an age of six. Although it is better to produce latex from a rubber tree with a girth of 20 inches, uncertain weather condition forces to produce latex from a rubber plant which is 16 inches in girth. It takes six years to get a rubber plant with a girth of 18 inches. For a rubber farm which is under systematic growing methods, latex production can be made during the period of four years. A rubber tree can produce latex till thirty years old. The tree is cut down when it is 30 years old and it is sold as rubberwood. “A landowner in Theinsike district of Mon State said that rubber was useful for a variety of purpose. Rubber growing was a traditional business. The development of rubber growing sector rested on technology that could enable domestic rubber market to achieve a market share. A pound of rubber fetched about K 1300 last year. This year’s market price is about K 1100. The price of rubber has been in decline since two month ago. That’s why, the increased connectivity between the country and global nations provides a hope for rubber price to go up again. — Kyemon

Community-based mobile health care services for locals

Nay Pyi Taw, 29 Nov — Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association performs community-based health care services, making field trips to the villages in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area starting from the year of 2010. Opening of community-based mobile clinics, conducting educative talks and providing the pregnant women and the elderly and necessary assistance are being carried out monthly.

On 24 November, a mobile medical team comprising the secretary and executives of the association, doctors and nurses led by the in-charge of Myittha Sannyay free clinic and the medical superintendent of Tatkon Township 100-bed Hospital and doctors performed mobile health care services at Kyahsakton village. They gave health care, vitamins and refreshment to the aged and expectant mothers and delivered health education pamphlets.

They gave health care, vitamins and refreshment to the aged and expectant mothers and delivered health education pamphlets.
President U Thein Sein and wife host dinner to Vietnamese goodwill delegation

Nav Pyi Taw, 29 Nov—President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win hosted a dinner to visiting Vietnamese delegation led by Vietnamese President Mr Truong Tan Sang and wife Madame Mai Thi Hanh at the presidential palace here this evening.

Present at the dinner were union ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko, U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Aung Kyi, U Thein Nyunt, U Tin Aung Thein, U Myint Hlaing, U Nyan Tun Aung, U Aye Myint, U Win in Myint, U Aye Myint Kyu, U Win Shin, Dr Kan Zaw and U Htay Aung, deputy ministers U Zin Yaw, U Htin Aung, Daw Sandra Khin and U Soe Tint, Myanmar ambassador to Viet Nam U U Soe Tint, Myanmar trade commissioner at the Ministry of Commerce depending on Vietnam, ministers U Zin Yaw, U Htay Aung, U Aye Myint, U Win Myint Hlaing, U Nyan Tun Aung, U Thein Sein, Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of President, the Vietnamese goodwill delegation, and wife of President U Thein Sein, Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of the President.

The State bands played the national anthems of two countries before the dinner and artistes from Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture entertained those present with songs before and during the dinner. President U Thein Sein then presented a photo album of the Vietnamese goodwill delegation’s visit to Myanmar to the Vietnamese President. The artistes entertained the Vietnamese goodwill delegation with songs and Myanmar traditional dances. President U Thein Sein, Daw Khin Khin Win, the Vietnamese President and wife presented baskets of flowers to artistes and posed for documentary photos together with them.

Nav Pyi Taw, 29 Nov—Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of President of the Republic of Myanmar U Thein Sein, met a Vietnamese delegation led by Madame Mai Thi Hanh, wife of President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Truong Tan Sang, at the presidential palace, here, at 3:45 pm today.

During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on promoting good relationships between Myanmar-Viet Nam, of socio-economic status of the women, as well as developing barriers to create an inclusive society for all, the sports events for disabled persons, talks on uplifting mentality of disabilities, songs and exhibitions will be held for disseminating life of the disabled persons and their capabilities to the people, said an official of ActionAid Myanmar.

According to the national statistics in 2008-2009, there were 85 per cent of jobless disabled, 46 per cent of skilful disabled, 69 per cent of disabled persons who cannot get opportunities in the market and 53 per cent of unemployed disabled. Myanmar Alinn

Coord meeting on auto manufacturing, importing held

Yangon, 29 Nov—As there are some differences in seat numbers of City Buses imported from Japan to Myanmar, the Ministry of Commerce depending on Vietnam, importers pay fines. If the limited seats in licence are eased, seat numbers will not be different.

Myanmar importers are to apply the import permit at the Ministry of Commerce depending on Vietnam, which is different from the imported seat numbers. Therefore, the number of seats is different from the imported seat numbers. Thus, they pay 10 per cent of bus’s value as fine.

In applying the permit, the application should be prescribed with above 15 seats or 30 seats instead of 15 seats or 30 seats.

Thus, differences in the permit will be eased, discussed by an automobile importer at the coordination meeting of automobile manufacturers and importers at the UMFCCI Office in Lannmadaw Township on 25 November.

Those present at the meeting between fisherwomen and departmental officials was held at Yekyi Hall of Yekyi Township on 21 November so as to solve difficulties and problems in fishery industry.

Ayeawady Region Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Fisheries U San Aung made meeting also participated in the discussions on their requirements.

An official of Customs Department reviewed the discussions for easing process. Myanmar Alinn

Fishery law and rules discussed in Yekyi

Yekyi, 29 Nov—A meeting between fisherwomen and departmental officials was held at Yekyi Hall of Yekyi Township on 21 November so as to solve difficulties and problems in fishery industry.

Ayeawady Region Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Fisheries U San Aung made meeting also participated in the discussions on their requirements.

An official of Customs Department reviewed the discussions for easing process. Myanmar Alinn

Drive Safely

Demonstration marks International Day of Disabilities

Yangon, 29 Nov—The organizations for disabilities in Myanmar, Myanmar women’s organizations for disabilities and ActionAid Myanmar jointly held the pre-capability demonstration in commemoration of the 19th International Day for Disabilities which falls on 3 December at junction Square Shopping Mall on Kyundaw Street in Kamayut Township on 24 November morning.

In accord with the motto of the UN for the 2012 International Day for Disabilities “Removing barriers to create an inclusive and accessible society for all”, the sports events for disabled persons, talks on uplifting mentality of disabilities, songs and exhibitions will be held for disseminating life of the disabled persons and their capabilities to the people, said an official of ActionAid Myanmar.

According to the national statistics in 2008-2009, there were 85 per cent of jobless disabled, 46 per cent of skilful disabled, 69 per cent of disabled persons who cannot get opportunities in the market and 53 per cent of unemployed disabled.
When we visited Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon in the past, we found mostly local pilgrims performing meritorious deeds and foreign tourists were very rare. But when we visited Emarald Buddha in Bangkok during the time, we saw a very large number of tourists hanging around the sacred place with their families or friends. Truly, Thailand is the watchwords of the two regional tourism giants. So, what are we? We Thailand. According to the World Tourism Organization, Thailand is the ninth most visited country of the world, receiving over 24 million arrivals per year.

But now Shwedagon Pagoda, one of the holiest places in Myanmar is also crowded with foreign visitors who find the over 2000-year-old religious edifice much inspiring and interesting. This alone proves that we are now hosting a larger number of globetrotters than ever before thanks to the democratic reforms that are helping mother country further improve her image and win greater global trust. In fact, international confidence and reputation are the most important for the tourist industry that may become one of the principles foreign exchange earners of the country. Other vital factors are security and safety. Myanmar is relatively safe and secure for visitors who can explore more than they expected.

It is also a new frontier for globetrotters, and may be even one of the very few remaining untouched territories on Earth. But we must add value to our natural and historical wonders with quality service as it is the most important part of the industry.

What’s more, we need to publicize our country globally through various kinds of promotional campaigns. The most effective method at present is nation branding which is helping to promote all economies in Asia. Globalization, advancement in information technology, expansion of trade and commerce, development of public welfare services such as human rights and environmental conservation and expanded role of multilateral organizations in national level development have demanded greater public administration capacity to be able to resist increased pressures. Public administration is to make the best use of opportunities presented by globalization while building up and maintaining security network to prevent negative consequences also brought by globalization into the society.

The voices and aspirations of citizens should have more effective representation and the public should be allowed to actively participate in every process of decision-making, implementation and review. This helps improve public trust in government, creating check and balance. The last couple of decades have seen a large number of central governments sharing policy-making and decision-making powers with local governments at sub-national level and financial autonomy was also transferred from central to local governments. Increasing ethnic conflicts, growing demands for recognition of culture, religion and local traditional customs and increased activities of non-governmental organizations are noticeable after the collapse of the Soviet Union. At the same time, there are demands for more control over policy-making process of local governments, greater transparency, increased public services and more participatory in making policy decisions.

Nay Pyi Taw, 29 Nov — In his opening address at a workshop on dissemination of environmental conservation knowledge held at Myanmar Hotel, Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun called for formulation of strategic framework for environmental conservation in Myanmar and said the outcome of the meeting would be a milestone among Universities of Foreign Languages (UFLs) in the country to meet global standards in the area of ensuring sustainable development in environmental and natural resources conservation. The workshop, held at the meeting hall of YUFL Dr Lwin Lwin Soe delivered an opening speech, and Rector Dr Zaw Lin of UFL and Deputy Director-General Dr Zaw Mynn of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) extended greetings. The workshop which some 16 papers would be read out concludes on 30 November. MNA
**Home Affairs Ministry issues statement on anti-corruption**

1. Public participation is essential in eliminating bribery and corruption in ensuring good governance and clean government.
2. It is learnt that the culture of demanding of bribes in the form of cash or gifts as grease money still persists in government departments and private enterprises as well as in interaction between government staff and departments.
3. As such, bribery is an unacceptable and unpardonable misconduct in building the disciplined democratic nation and affects the dignity of the nation and national people and thus must be fought effectively.
4. The government is rewriting a new bill to replace the existing Suppression of Corruption Act 1948 at the parliament to meet the demands of present time and international norms.
5. It is hereby announced that citizens may openly complain about bribery cases to departments mentioned under with evidence and complete information.

(a) Director-General Bureau of Special Investigation Ph: 067-431370 Address: Office No.49, Bureau of Special Investigation

(b) Head of Office Ministry of Home Affairs Ph: 067-412318, 098302601, 067-412439 (Fax) Address: Office No. 10, Ministry of Home Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw

---

**Malaysia organizes Diplomatic Training Course for Myanmar officials**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 29 Nov**—Aimed at fulfilling necessary knowledge and enhancing capabilities in the preparation for Myanmar assuming the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2014 and organizing the ASEAN Summit and related meetings, the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia conducted a diplomatic training course on 22 November under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP). Altogether 50 Myanmar officials are taking the course that will last up to 12 December.

The course is one of the outcomes following the official visit of Malaysian Prime Minister Dato’ Sri Najib Tun Hj Abdul Razak and Foreign Affairs Minister Dato’ Sri Anifah Hj Aman to Myanmar in March 2012.

---

**Joint Statement on State visit of President...**

(from page 16)

for enterprises of both countries to explore the investment environment of each country, hence increasing investment flows between Myanmar and Viet Nam and vice versa.

The two Leaders called for the expeditious implementation of licensed projects from Vietnamese enterprises while accelerating the licensing of other projects. They believed the signing of the Agreement of Cooperation between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (RUMFCCI) and Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) is a significant step towards an enhanced economic relationship between both sides.

8. The two leaders expressed their satisfaction over the new developments in potential areas, such as agriculture, planting of industrial crops, aqua-product cultivation and processing, healthcare, telecommunication, tourism, etc., welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Exchange of Banking Supervision resources for the benefit of each country and the region.

11. The two Leaders reaffirmed the importance of peace, stability and mutual trust in the South China Sea; respect for international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS); support, of the ASEAN Declaration on Six Principles on the South China Sea, including the full implementation of Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC). They welcomed the Joint Statement of the 15th ASEAN-China Summit on the 10th Anniversary of DOC.

12. H.E. President Truong Tan Sang and wife Madame Mai Thi Hanh expressed their sincere thanks to H.E. President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win for international race damsels of Fine Arts Department at the airport.

**IVT invites proposals for JV transportation**

**President of SRV Mr Truong Tan Sang and wife and party being welcomed by officials at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport—MNA**

The proposal forms are available at Inland Water Transport Head Office of No 50 on Pansodan Street in Yangon, and to submit the proposals at Admin Department of the department, not later than office hours on 6 December. For further information, dial 01-380753, 380757 and 380900.—Myanmar Alinn

---

**Corrigendum**

Please read 26-11-2012 instead of 26-11-2011 in the 11th line of the first paragraph of the Press Release appeared on page 9 of this daily issued on 29 November 2012.—Ed
Afghanistan
Taleban kill five civilians in eastern Afghan province
KABUL, (Afghanistan), 29 Nov—Taleban militants after kidnapping five civilians in Kunar Province, shot them dead and handed their bodies to villagers on Wednesday, provincial police spokesman, Shir Wali Samim said.

"Taleban rebels abducted five members of local development council in Watafur District couple days ago and shot them dead last night," Samim told Xinhua.

The local development council is a government-backed body working with local administration on reconstruction field in rural areas.

He also said that the militants handed over the bodies including a tribal leader Malik Arsala to the villagers on Wednesday morning.

Taleban militants fighting the government and targeted individual serving in Watapur District couple days ago, Samim told Xinhua.

Pakistan foregin minister says US, Pakistan ties fully repaired
ISLAMABAD, 29 Nov—Pakistan and the United States have restored full military and intelligence ties after relations hit a low point last year and the two countries take further steps to support a nascent Afghan peace process, Pakistan’s foreign minister said on Wednesday.

Full cooperation between Islamabad and Washington is critical to US efforts to stabilize Afghanistan before most NATO combat troops withdraw by 2014. “There was a fairly difficult patch and I think we’ve moved away from that into a positive trajectory,” Pakistani Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar told Reuters in an interview, referring to Pakistan-US relations.

“We are coming closer to developing what could be common positions. We wish to see a responsible transition in Afghanistan.”

Relations between the uneasy allies were severely strained by a series of incidents in 2011 the crisis began when a CIA contractor shot dead two men suspected of trying to rob him in the city of Lahore. Months later, US special forces killed Osama bin Laden in a raid and kept the Pakistani military in the dark, humiliating the country’s most powerful institution.

Then a NATO air raid mistakenly killed 24 Pakistani soldiers on the Afghan border in November that year. In response, Pakistan expelled US military trainers and CIA agents and placed limits on the numbers of visas given to US diplomatic personnel. Pakistan, which relies heavily on American aid, also closed supply routes for trucks carrying supplies to US-led NATO forces in Afghanistan.

Now, Kashmir relations were fully repaired, including military and intelligence contacts. “We are having very useful, deep conversations with the US,” she said, as the two countries try to find common ground on Afghanistan ahead of the scheduled 2014 pullout.

Both the United States and Afghanistan have long regarded Pakistan as an unreliable partner in the drive to bring stability to Afghanistan, accusing Pakistan of supporting Afghan insurgent groups.— Reuters

Colombia withdraws from Bogota Pact over world court ruling
BOGOTA, 29 Nov—Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos on Wednesday announced his country’s withdrawal from the 1948 Bogota Pact, which recognizes the authority of the Hague-based International Court of Justice (ICJ) in regional disputes.

“T have decided that the highest interests of the nation demand that the territorial and maritime boundaries be defined through treaties, as has been the legal tradition in Colombia, and not by rulings handed down by the International Court of Justice,” Santos said.

The head of state announced the decision at a recent ruling by the World Court Colombia claims grants some 75,000 square kilometres of its Caribbean waters to Nicaragua — Xinhua

Cuba, Haiti sign collaboration agreements
HAVANA, 29 Nov—Cuba and Haiti signed eight collaboration agreements on Wednesday on health, education, agriculture, food, and iron and steel industries. The agreements’ signing ceremony was chaired by Cuban Vice President Esteban Lazo and Haitian President Michel Martelly, who arrived on Tuesday in Havana for a three-day visit to boost the bilateral collaboration ties.

The agreement on health formalized a 14-year collaboration under which Cuba will provide Haiti with a medical team of 723 members and activities to modernize Haiti’s hospitals and welfare centers.

Cuba is also committed to increase its presence in the literacy campaign performed in Haiti in the education agreement.

The economic agreements included sending Cuban experts to help with the Haitian sugar industry, aquaculture, sanitation inspection, and the control of animal diseases.— Xinhua

Google Italy suspected of tax evasion
ROME, 29 Nov—Italian fiscal police was auditing Google Italy financial records after earlier investigations alleged the company had failed to declare income, local media said on Wednesday.

The probe, launched in 2007, found that the Internet research group had failed to declare 240 million euros (310 million US dollars) of revenue and evaded 96 million euros (124 million US dollars) in taxes according to an Italian economy ministry.

Google was reportedly suspected of developing a system to transfer profits from its Italian operations to Ireland so that it could benefit from a more favorable fiscal regime. In the audit, tax police said that Google Italy had “evaded” taxes and called some of its accounting “unrealistic”.

The company denied all allegations, saying it “respects fiscal regulations in all countries in which it operates” and observes the Italian law as well.

The investigation was Google’s latest entanglement with European fiscal authorities following similar tax avoidance allegations in France and Britain.— Xinhua

Amsterdam auto exhibition cancelled due to financial crisis
THE HAGUE, 29 Nov—The 2013 Amsterdam International Motor Show AutoRAI was cancelled due to the difficult economic circumstances, its organizer announced on Wednesday.

“The reason is the economic situation, importers and suppliers in the automotive industry are under a severe pressure and are required to make the necessary adjustments,” Olaf de Bruijn, director of the RAI, said in a Press release.

“We regret that we have to disappoint the car enthusiasts in the Netherlands,” said AtoRAI exhibition manager Joost ‘t Hooft.

“We know that many people were looking forward to the AutoRAI. For the future we hope a modified structure of the event is possible,” he said. The biennial auto fair for named AutoRAI after the location of the event, was originally scheduled for April 2013. —Xinhua

Children eat pieces of a giant cake, with the Albanian flag symbols and measuring 550 square metres (5920 square feet), prepared for the celebration of Albania’s 100th Year of Independence in Tirana on 28 Nov, 2012.—Reuters

France to launch tax credit for businesses: economic minister
PARIS, 29 Nov—French Economy Minister Pierre Moscovici on Wednesday defended the tax credit for companies that will be launched at the beginning of next year, emphasizing the urgent need for this measure.

The tax credit will start from 1 Jan, 2013, by 4 percent of company’s gross payroll, and then increase to 6 percent in 2014.

“We thought the employment situation was so worrying, the recovery effort was necessary as enterprises expectations are now so high,” the minister said at a Press conference shortly after the cabinet meeting. During the weekly meeting of heads of Ministers, the French minister unveiled the content of the amendment to the tax and employment (CICE), which shall be added to the draft supplementary budget for 2012.

CICE is a measure aimed to help primarily small and medium enterprises (SM Es), and then extend to large companies to reduce labour cost and improve employment.—Xinhua

Amsterdam auto exhibition cancelled due to financial crisis

In the Netherlands," said AtoRAI exhibition manager Joost ‘t Hooft.

“We know that many people were looking forward to the AutoRAI. For the future we hope a modified structure of the event is possible,” he said. The biennial auto fair for named AutoRAI after the location of the event, was originally scheduled for April 2013. —Xinhua

Cuba President Raul Castro met with Maretelly on Tuesday and the two leaders praised the “excellent” state of the bilateral friendship and economic links, and reaffirmed their willingness to defend their common interests and address problems affecting the region, such as the food insecurity and climate change. Cuba and Haiti re-established formal relations in 1996, and two years later, Havana started cooperation with Port au Prince. —Xinhua

Li Junru (3rd L), former vice president of the Party School of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, answers questions during a group interview in New Delhi, India, on 28 Nov, 2012. Li Junru received interview by India mainstream media and Chinese media on Wednesday.—Xinhua

Cheetah jumps on vehicle, face to face with tourists.—Xinhua

France to launch tax credit for businesses: economic minister

PARIS, 29 Nov—French Economy Minister Pierre Moscovici on Wednesday defended the tax credit for companies that will be launched at the beginning of next year, emphasizing the urgent need for this measure.

The tax credit will start from 1 Jan, 2013, by 4 percent of company’s gross payroll, and then increase to 6 percent in 2014.

“We thought the employment situation was so worrying, the recovery effort was necessary as enterprises expectations are now so high,” the minister said at a Press conference shortly after the cabinet meeting. During the weekly meeting of heads of Ministers, the French minister unveiled the content of the amendment to the tax and employment (CICE), which shall be added to the draft supplementary budget for 2012.

CICE is a measure aimed to help primarily small and medium enterprises (SM Es), and then extend to large companies to reduce labour cost and improve employment.—Xinhua
Indonesia's volcano erupts, warning issued

JAKARTA, 29 Nov—MOUNT Lokon volcano in North Sulawesi erupted on Wednesday, spewing ash up to 3.5 kilometres to the sky, without report of fatality and evacuation, officials said.

Head of National Volcanology Surono said that the eruption took place at 00:10 local time (0205 GMT).

He said that the agency had asked people living near the crater to be alert.

"We issued warning to the people living 2.5 kilometres from the crater," Surono told Xinhua by phone.

Spokesman of National Disaster Management and Mitigation Agency (BNPB) Sutopo Purwo Nugroho confirmed that there was no evacuation after the eruption.

"There is still no need for evacuation," he told Xinhua by phone.

Indonesia's archipelago is home to 129 active volcanoes.

One killed, three injured as office building catches fire in Karachi, Pakistan

A man hangs from a window of a building caught fire in southern Pakistan port city of Karachi on 28 Nov 2012.

Xinhua

ISLAMABAD, 29 Nov—At least one was killed and three others got injured when a multi-storey office building caught fire in downtown Karachi in southern Pakistan on Wednesday morning, reported local media ARE.

The killed is a man in his 20s, who jumped off the building after the fire broke out and he died later after he was shifted to local hospital, confirmed sources, adding that fire also injured three other people.

Pakistan tests nuclear-capable ballistic missile

ISLAMABAD, 29 Nov—Pakistan successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable ballistic missile on Wednesday that can hit targets up to 1,300 km (807 miles) away, the military said.

Pakistan's H-11 is a medium-range ballistic missile, capable of reaching targets in India.

"The test consolidates and strengthens Pakistan's deterrence capability and national security," the military said in a release.

Pakistan and India have been developing missiles of varying ranges since they conducted nuclear tests in May 1998.

US intelligence estimates last year put the number of nuclear weapons developed by Pakistan at 90 to 110. Analysts say its nuclear arsenal is the fastest growing in the world.

Pakistan, like neighbouring India, is not a signatory to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. It says its nuclear weapons capability is a deterrent against India's much larger conventional military.

Yingluck govt’ passes major hurdle in Thai parliament

The Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra has attended a censure debate held at Thai House of Representatives in Bangkok, Thailand, on 28 Nov 2012.

Xinhua

Several MPs of the ruling party, which currently remains in the opposition bloc, also gave their votes of confidence, but the party spokesman categorically dismissed speculation that his party was merely doing so in hopes for the chance to join the coalition government led by the Puea Thai (Thai) Party in the future.

Yingluck who appeared jubilant at the results of the votes said she will continually carry out the government's policies in the interests of the people and the country now that her administration has been given such overwhelming support from the legislative branch.

Pakistan has the nuclear weapons capability is a proliferation treaty. It says its nuclear weapons capability is a deterrent against India's much larger conventional military.

Giant pandas enchant public in Singapore debut

Singapore, 29 Nov—The two giant pandas from China, Kai Kai and Jia Jia, made their debut on Wednesday after a grand opening ceremony of Giant Panda Forest in Singapore's River Safari, their new home for the next 10 years.

It has been almost three months since the two celebrities arrived here nearly September. During this period, the two giant pandas spent one-month long quarantine and some time to settle down in their respective dens.

People who attend the ceremony were able to see and learn about how to feed pandas, how to do researches on them in this Giant Panda Forest.

Zhao Shucong, administrator of China's State Forestry Administration, Wei Xiwang, Singapore's minister of home affairs and trade and industry, attended the opening ceremony.

The boat, with 17 people on board, sank near a fishing port in Dalian at about 2 am on W ednesday. Only one person had been saved, the officials said, adding that search and rescue efforts are under way.

Xinhua

16 missing after fishing boat sinks off NE China coast

China, 29 Nov—The boat, with 17 people on board, sank near a fishing port in Dalian at about 2 am on Wednesday. Only one person had been saved, the officials said, adding that search and rescue efforts are under way.

Xinhua

REGIONAL

Yingluck govt’ passes major hurdle in Thai parliament

Thailand

Rescuers are seen at the port after a fishing boat capsized and sank off the coast of Dalian in northeast China’s Liaoning Province, on 28 Nov 2012. One person was rescued and 16 others went missing after their fishing boat, with 17 people on board, sank near a fishing port in Dalian in the early morning on Wednesday.—Xinhua

16 missing after fishing boat sinks off NE China coast

Singapore

Giant pandas enchant public in Singapore debut

Singapore

A still image from a Pakistan military handout shows a medium range ballistic missile (Hafiz V (Ghauri)) being fired during a test at an undisclosed location in Pakistan on 28 Nov 2012.
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MOROTAI VOY NO (194)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (194) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.11.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M/S P.K.A.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 examined by the staff of the port at the vessel’s cost. Claims Day will be 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 CMA CGM
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

FBI probes possible links among rash of US bomb threats

NASHVILLE, (Tennessee), 29 Nov—The FBI said it was trying to determine if there is a connection among telephone bomb threats to facilities in 30 counties of Tennessee and similar recent incidents in other US states.

Courthouses and public facilities in 30 Tennessee counties were temporarily evacuated on Tuesday following a rash of such calls. Similar threats closed more than a dozen courthouses in Oregon last week and bomb threats were also made in Washington state and Nebraska. All affected facilities in Tennessee had been searched by late on Tuesday.

“There were no devices found,” said Dayla Qualls, spokeswoman for the state Department of Safety and Homeland Security.

The threats were phoned to both urban and rural offices. In Memphis, police spokeswoman Karey Rudolph said communications personnel received a call early on Tuesday from an unknown woman who said someone was going to blow up the Criminal Justice Centre, the Federal Building and the main Post Office. All were evacuated.

“We are working with the other divisions of the FBI in the other affected states to make a determination if there is a connection,” and if that is found the FBI will investigate any violations of federal law, said Joel Siskovic, spokesman for the FBI in Memphis. —Reuters

England tackles fatal floods

LONDON, 29 Nov—Floods in England and Wales have left four people dead, four people missing, four people brought misery to hundreds of home, and seriously disrupted travel and business as the torrential rain heads towards the North Sea.

The body of an elderly woman, the fourth victim to the torrential rain, was recovered by firefighters in the city of St Asaph on Tuesday from her flooded house, local media reported. The current wet weather has followed the wettest April and June on record in all parts of Britain.

Despite the British government’s effort to fund many flood prevention initiatives since the Second World War, flooding seems to have hit the headlines more than it did only a couple of decades ago.

“I think it is a combination of climate change and development... Whether it’s man-made global warming or whatever, the climate is changing, and we are having more extreme weather patterns,” said Mike Tavener, flood risk manager of the Council of York City in northern England, where river waters rose to record levels this year.

Paul Copping, chief executive of the Flood Defence Forum, a nationwide charity focused on tackling the dangers of flooding also said Britain was now getting more violent bursts of rain than in the past as a result of climate change.

“Because weather patterns have changed, places that weren’t at risk in the past now are at risk,” he said.

“Over the past 20 years the number of insurance claims as a result of surface water flooding has gone up significantly,” he added. —Xinhua

Situation remains calm in Gaza, but status quo unsustainable: UN official

UNITED NATIONS, 29 Nov—The situation on the ground remains calm in the Gaza Strip, the centre of the week-long clashes between Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas, but the status quo is unsustainable, a UN official said here on Tuesday.

Robert Serry, the UN special coordinator for the Middle East peace process, made the statement as he was briefing the UN Security Council on what he called the dangerous escalation that took place in the region last week.

Serry told the 15-nation Security Council that Egypt and the parties have commenced intensive discussions following up on the ceasefire agreed to last week, while the calm has largely held on the ground.

“The devastating violence last week, he said, was a stark reminder that the status quo is unsustainable”, Deputy UN spokesman Edward del Buey, told reporters here after the council briefing.

“Mr Serry said that he had visited Gaza on Sunday and witnessed the destruction that resulted from the hostilities, adding that virtually all families have now returned home,” del Buey said. “On the same day, he visited Rishon Letzion, a suburb of Tel Aviv where large parts of an apartment building were destroyed by a rocket from Gaza.”

On Wednesday, Israel and Hamas reached a ceasefire agreement brokered by Egypt after the week-long clashes over Gaza.

Israel airstrikes killed 164 Palestinians, including 43 children, according to Gaza’s Hamas-run health ministry. On the Israeli side, six were killed by rockets fired from Gaza. —Xinhua

Tourists walk past the decorations for Christmas at a shopping mall in Hong Kong, south China, on 13 Nov, 2012. —Xinhua

Police arrests 28 robbery suspects in south western Nigeria

OGUN, (Nigeria), 29 Nov—Nigerian police have arrested at least 28 suspects in the southwestern part of the West African country and recovered eight vehicles in the past month. Police Commissioner Ikemefuna Okoye in Ogun State on Tuesday told reporters that the suspects were involved in various crimes including armed robbery, burglary, obtaining money by pretense, murder and cultism.

Okoye said arms and ammunition, including six locally made pistols, two cut to size double barrel guns, two black berry phones, one Beretta pistol, 21 live cartridges and 40 live ammunition were recovered from the suspects. The police chief solicited further cooperation from the members of the public, assuring that the command was prepared to combat crime, especially during the Christmas and New Year period.—Xinhua
Lindsay Lohan to act in her own TV sitcom?

NEW DELHI, 29 Nov—The 26-year-old actress is reportedly hoping to get her career back on track by proving her talent on her own sitcom after she received mixed reviews for her latest movie Liz & Dick.

Lindsay feels that the small screen would be a great way for her to revitalize her acting career and that a comedy would be the best bet. Lindsay feels most comfortable doing comedy and it was Charlie Sheen that told her she should do it. Charlie told Lindsay that it was an easy way to make very good money and help her get her movie career back on track. Lindsay is loving the idea of having her own sitcom and would love to play someone in a story based on her crazy life.

The former Two And A Half Men star has been helping the troubled actress a lot recently according to reports.

He is also said to have sent her a cheque of $100,000 to cover almost half of her hefty tax bill after they bonged during filming Scary Movie 5 together in September.

Meanwhile, Lindsay Lohan’s estranged father Michael Lohan has defended her against critics of her performance in her TV movie about Elizabeth Taylor, which aired in the US on 25 November, 2012.

Writing on his Twitter account, he said: “They know nothing about @lindsaylohan talent! She has more talent in her pinky then all of them together. He added, “You proved the critics wrong @Lindsaylohan you are one of the best, so gifted, so amazing! Now apply it ALL! God bless you! And our family!”

Rihanna’s “Unapologetic” tops Billboard album chart

Barbados her best opening sales week to date.

The album’s lead single “Diamonds” landed at the top of the Billboard Hot 100 chart last week, giving Rihanna her 12th No 1 single and tying her with Madonna and The Beatles for the fourth-most chart-topping singles in Billboard history. “Unapologetic” left some critics unsettled by the singer’s harder sound and close-to-home lyrics. One track in particular that had everyone talking is “Nobody’s Business.”

“It’s from Brad Pitt!” He said that he had seen the fundraiser mentioned in the local papers and seen my t-shirt and thought it was a really great cause and was just sorry he couldn’t have been there.

The silver lining is that Zachary is home and alive. “To have Brad assist us is more than we could ever have wished for.” – PTI

Sir Roger Moore’s love for tan led to skin cancer

Mumbai, 29 Nov—Former Bond star Sir Roger Moore says his habit of soaking up the sun to get a Hollywood tan has led to a series of skin cancer scares in the subsequent years. The 85-year-old British actor spent a deep tan throughout his movie career to avoid applying make-up on movie sets, and regularly burned himself in the sun to keep up his look.

However, the veteran star admits he has paid the price for his vanity and has suffered a string of skin cancers, reported Sun online.

“I wish I would... have given myself a warning about having too much sunshine. I’ve had so many skin cancers as a result. No one thought about sun screen or other cancer protection—but it was not my decision to wear a hat or sunglasses.” – PTI

Tom Cruise shuts down London’s Trafalgar Square for shoot

LONDON, 29 Nov—Tom Cruise infuriated thousands of Londoners on Sunday morning (25.11.12) when he brought the heart of the city to a standstill so he could film his new movie.

The 50-year-old actor is currently in the UK capital shooting All You Need Is Kill, a film based on the best-selling novel by Japanese author Hiroshi Sakurazaka.

Residents of London and tourists were given a shock as they walked on the streets for the film’s scenes in the heart of the capital.

“Tom has spent the past few months in the UK filming the movie and last week his six-year-old daughter Doris – who was not expected to travel all the way from New York to be there for the filming — was left at the airport by mistake. The two-year-old twins Knox and Vivienne were in Cambodia while he was in London filming his new movie.

The 48-year-old actor told People magazine: “I didn’t know it was Thanksgiving until like midday, until (the) afternoon. When you’re overseas, they don’t celebrate it in England. And [Angelina Jolie] and some of the kids are overseas in Cambodia this week, working on The [Madonna Jolie-Pitt Foundation] there. It completely escaped me until someone brought me some English pumpkin pie.

But the actor admitted he wasn’t upset about missing out on the annual holiday. He said: “That’s okay, last year we had a big meal and we don’t normally miss things twice.”

But despite forgetting about the holiday, the actor thrilled one English family with his generosity over the weekend. He donated $1,100 to a fundraiser collecting money for the Southampton General Hospital’s neonatal unit, where a friend of his baby boy, Zachary Gallagher, had spent the first nine weeks of his life.

The baby’s mother Karley Gallagher, 23, said: “The fundraiser had finished, and I got a phone call from my best friend, who said, ‘We have had a small donation. I thought she was messing about and was going to say, ‘My dad’s given you a fiver’ or something, then she said, ‘It’s from Brad Pitt!’ He had seen the film mentioned in the local papers and seen my t-shirt and thought it was a really great cause and was just sorry he couldn’t have been there. The silver lining is that Zachary is home and alive. ‘To have Brad assist us is more than we could ever have wished for.’” – PTI

With Angelina and kids away, Brad Pitt forgets to celebrate Thanksgiving

NEW DELHI, 29 Nov—Brad Pitt forgot to celebrate Thanksgiving this year because his young family was elsewhere.

The Killing Them Softly star revealed he unintentionally skipped the US holiday on Thursday (22 November, 2012) because his fiancee Angelina Jolie and their six children—Madox, Pax, eight, Zahara, seven, Shiloh, six, and four-year-old twins Knox and Vivienne—were in Cambodia while he was in London filming his new movie.

The 48-year-old actor told People magazine: “I didn’t know it was Thanksgiving until like midday, until (the) afternoon. When you’re overseas, they don’t celebrate it in England. And [Angelina Jolie] and some of the kids are overseas in Cambodia this week, working on The [Madonna Jolie-Pitt Foundation] there. It completely escaped me until someone brought me some English pumpkin pie.

But the actor admitted he wasn’t upset about missing out on the annual holiday. He said: “That’s okay, last year we had a big meal and we don’t normally miss things twice.”

But despite forgetting about the holiday, the actor thrilled one English family with his generosity over the weekend. He donated $1,100 to a fundraiser collecting money for the Southampton General Hospital’s neonatal unit, where a friend of his baby boy, Zachary Gallagher, had spent the first nine weeks of his life.

The baby’s mother Karley Gallagher, 23, said: “The fundraiser had finished, and I got a phone call from my best friend, who said, ‘We have had a small donation. I thought she was messing about and was going to say, ‘My dad’s given you a fiver’ or something, then she said, ‘It’s from Brad Pitt!’ He had seen the film mentioned in the local papers and seen my t-shirt and thought it was a really great cause and was just sorry he couldn’t have been there. The silver lining is that Zachary is home and alive. ‘To have Brad assist us is more than we could ever have wished for.’” – PTI

Former Bond star Sir Roger Moore says his habit of soaking up the sun to get a Hollywood tan has led to a series of skin cancer scares in the subsequent years.

The 85-year-old British actor spent a deep tan throughout his movie career to avoid applying make-up on movie sets, and regularly burned himself in the sun to keep up his look.

However, the veteran star admits he has paid the price for his vanity and has suffered a string of skin cancers, reported Sun online.

“I wish I would... have given myself a warning about having too much sunshine. I’ve had so many skin cancers as a result. No one thought about sun screen or other cancer protection—but it was not my decision to wear a hat or sunglasses.” – PTI

The silver lining is that Zachary is home and alive. “To have Brad assist us is more than we could ever have wished for.” – PTI

Sir Roger Moore’s love for tan led to skin cancer

Mumbai, 29 Nov—Former Bond star Sir Roger Moore says his habit of soaking up the sun to get a Hollywood tan has led to a series of skin cancer scares in the subsequent years.
**Sports**

**Kaka linked with Corinthians move**

**Soccer**

Rio de Janeiro, 29 Nov. — Brazilians have their eyes on a move to Brazil's Corinthians in the January transfer window.

The Spanish giants are prepared to offload the 30-year-old to meet the new salary demands of Cristiano Ronaldo, Brazil's national team last month, the 2007 FIFA world player of the year continues to be out of favor under Real Madrid boss Jose Mourinho.

He has started just one competitive match for the reigning Spanish champions this campaign and did not even make the substitutes' bench for Tuesday's Copa del Rey clash against Alcoyano, which Real Madrid won 3-0. — Xinhua

**Durant nets 37 as Thunder blast Rockets in Harden's return**

Oklahoma City, 29 Nov. — Kevin Durant greeted former teammate James Harden with 37 points as the Oklahoma City Thunder stayed perfect on the road with a 120-98 win on Wednesday to spoil the shooting guard's return to the Chesapeake Energy Arena.

Harden returned to Oklahoma City for the first time since being traded just before the season and it was a forgettable night for him and the Rockets.

Powered by Durant's hot shooting, the Thunder blew a close game in the second quarter where they led by 18 before keepng the visiting Rockets at bay. Serge Ibaka backed Durant with 23 and nine rebounds and Oklahoma City raced to their second straight rout, having destroyed Charlotte 114-69 on Monday.

Harden, the Sixth Man of the Year last season, has emerged as the lead scorer for Houston but struggled against the Thunder making three of 16 shots for 17 points. It had already been a humbling day for the Rockets who earlier attended the funeral of coach Kevin McHale's daughter who died from an auto-immune disease last week. McHale has been away from the team since 10 November.

**Lions' Suh fined $30,000 for kicking Texans QB Schaub**

New York, 29 Nov. — Detroit Lions' volatile defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh was fined $30,000 for kicking Houston Texans quarterback Matt Schaub in the groin during their Thanksgiving Day game, the National Football League said on Wednesday.

Suh denied on Wednesday that the kick was intentional, telling reporters he was just falling awkwardly when he flung his leg up behind him and caught Schaub in the sensitive area.

The NFL had a difficult time determining intent in the incident, otherwise Suh might have been suspended because of his previous behavior.

Suh was suspended two games last year for stomping on Green Bay Packers guard Evan Dietrich-Smith during their Thanksgiving Day game, and a Sporting News poll of anonymous players this season labeled Suh the NFL's dirtiest player.

**Former boxing champ Mike Tyson to take one-man show on the road**

Los Angeles, 29 Nov. — Former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson plans to take his one-man theater show on the road across the United States early next year.

Tyson, 45, made the announcement on ABC's late-night show “Jimmy Kimmel Live!” on Tuesday.

“Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth” is an autobiographical monologue performed by Tyson in which he reflects upon his tough childhood in Brooklyn, the absence of his father and his self-described “reckless and destructive” behavior.

It premiered in Las Vegas in April and had a run on Broadway.

Tyson, whose reputation was boosted by a cameo in the 2009 hit comedy “The Hangover,” told Kimmel that his inspiration for the show came from a one-man performance of “A Bronx Tale” in Las Vegas.

The 23-date tour, which features the Broadway show directed by Spike Lee, is scheduled to begin on 12 February in Indianapolis, Indiana, the city where Tyson was convicted in 1992 of raping then 18-year-old beauty queen Desiree Washington.

Tyson, who at the age of 20 became the youngest world heavyweight champion, served three years in prison before restarting his boxing career in 1995.

He later became better known for his erratic behavior than for his prowess in the ring. Tyson notoriously bit off portions of opponent Evander Holyfield’s ears in a 1997 bout and publicly said he wanted to eat British champion Lennox Lewis’ children.

Tyson retired from boxing in 2006.

**Scalari set to be named new Brazil coach**

Rio de Janeiro, 29 Nov. — Brazil’s 2002 World Cup-winning coach Luiz Felipe Scolari is set to return to the role as the country prepares for the 2014 World Cup on home soil.

Scolari, 64, is expected to be confirmed as Brazil’s new coach during a Press conference at the Brazilian Football Confederation’s (CBF) headquarters in Rio de Janeiro on Thursday.

Brazil’s 1994 World Cup-winning coach Carlos Alberto Parreira will be named the team’s technical director, O Globo reported on Wednesday. “This is the time to forget all of our problems and focus on the World Cup,” Parreira said. “I have a great relationship with Felipao and it will be a pleasure to work with him. Together we can help Brazil achieve its goal of winning its sixth World Cup.”

The Brazil coaching position has been vacant since the sacking of Mano Menezes last Friday.

CBF president Jose Maria Marin had initially said Menezes’ replacement would not be named until January but it is believed increasing speculation surrounding Scolari changed his mind. Earlier this year Scolari revealed his desire to coach again at international level.

**Ronaldinho: Fans convinced me to stay**

Brazilian soccer star Ronaldinho.

Rio de Janeiro, 29 Nov. — Ronaldinho has revealed his affinity with Atletico Mineiro’s fans convinced him to sign with the club for another season.

The two-time FIFA world player of the year agreed to terms with the Brazilian top-flight outfit on Wednesday, ending weeks of speculation about his future.

“Since the day I arrived at this club I have been made to feel so welcome,” Ronaldinho said. “I have a great relationship with the fans, the president, my teammates, the coaching staff but most of all the fans, who have really won my affection. All of those factors convinced me to stay.”

Ronaldinho had been linked with a move to Rio de Janeiro outfit Fluminense, but the 32-year agreed to stay at Atletico following a meeting with club president Alexandre Kalil on Wednesday afternoon.

“You wanted him. He’s staying,” Kalil wrote on his Twitter account.

The former Barcelona and AC Milan star has re-captured his best form since joining the Belo Horizonte club in June.

His arrival came just days after he was granted a court injunction to rescind his contract with Flamengo, claiming the club owed him 20 million dollars in unpaid wages. In 31 matches for Atletico Mineiro this season, Ronaldinho has scored nine goals and created 11 assists.

Last week he was named in the Brazilian Serie A championship’s team and the year. — Xinhua
Fish will miss Australian Open after heart problem

Fish has not played since the US Open in September when he was forced to pull out before his fourth-round match against Roger Federer because of heart palpitations. Fish began the year ranked eighth but has fallen to 27th after an interrupted season. The American first felt a problem with his heartbeat after an interrupted season. However, Fish was obviously a huge, huge success in North American soccer can also come from astute use of limited resources. Houston coach Dominic Kinnear has proved that possible twice before with MLS Cup, with Beckham their star. While it is Houston’s overall effectiveness as a unit that makes them a threat to Galaxy, they are not without talent themselves. However, with MLS following the tried and tested approach of North American sports leagues, rather than the traditions of international soccer, Kinnear may have again played it smart. Because Ireland is in the play-offs, no-one cares what you did during the seven month long regular season. The Dynamo secured a single game ‘play-in’ win at the Chicago Fire and that followed up with two-leg victories over the top seeds from the Eastern Conference—Sporting Kansas City and DC United. While it is Houston’s overall effectiveness as a unit that makes them a threat to Galaxy, they are not without talent themselves.
Myanmar, Viet Nam to cooperate in economy, sectoral development in ASEAN, GMS

Information between the two banks and Director-General of Energy Planning Department of the Ministry about (120) miles southeast of Kayah and Sayin states and Ayeyawady Region, Shan, Kayah and Sayin states and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states. — NLM

President U Thein Sein meets Vietnamese President Mr. Truong Tan Sang — MNA

The two Leaders explained the details of their discussions to local and foreign media men. — MNA and M On State, isolated in Ayeyawady Region, Shan, Kayah and Sayin states and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states. — NLM

Press Release

At the invitation of His Excellency U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and wife Daw Kyi Maung Win, His Excellency Mr. Truong Tan Sang, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and wife Madame Mai Thi Hanh, an official visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar from 29 November to 1 December 2012, President U Thein Sein held bilateral talks with President Mr. Truong Tan Sang on 29 November 2012 at the Presidential Residence. The Joint Statement on the occasion of the official visit to the Republic of Myanmar of His Excellency Mr. Truong Tan Sang, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, was issued during the visit.

The full text of the Joint Statement is as follows:

Joint Statement between the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of the State Visit of His Excellency Truong Tan Sang, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

(29 November to 1 December 2012)

1. At the invitation of the President of the Republic of Myanmar H.E. U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, H.E. President Truong Tan Sang and wife Madame Mai Thi Hanh accompanied by a high-level delegation of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam paid a State Visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar from November 29 to December 1, 2012. President U Thein Sein held bilateral talks with President Mr. Truong Tan Sang.

2. While in Myanmar, H.E. President Truong Tan Sang held bilateral talks with H.E. President U Thein Sein, and met with H.E. Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw and H.E. U Khin Aung Myint, Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw. The President of Myanmar U Thein Sein and H.E. President Truong Tan Sang took part in the official reception held solemnly at the Presidential Residence on November 29, 2012 in Nay Pyi Taw.

3. H.E. President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein welcomed H.E. President Truong Tan Sang on his State Visit to Myanmar, congratulated Viet Nam on its achievements recorded in all areas, particularly in controlling inflation, improving social security and maintaining sustainable growth. H.E. President U Thein Sein also expressed confidence that Viet Nam would successfully implement the “2011-2012 Socio-Economic Development Strategy” to transform Viet Nam into a modern-oriented industrial country in the near future with an increasing role and position in the region and the world.

4. H.E. President Truong Tan Sang welcomed the ongoing efforts at political, economic and social reforms in Myanmar and congratulated Myanmar on the positive results achieved in the course of reform and expressed confidence that Myanmar would achieve steady growth and prosperity with self-reliance and with the support of ASEAN and its dialogue partners.

5. The two Leaders highly valued the results of the recent high-level visits, including the State Visit to Viet Nam by H.E. President U Thein Sein in March 2012, and reaffirmed the continuation of visits and contacts at various levels and via different channels as well as of existing bilateral cooperation mechanisms.

6. The two Leaders agreed to enhance defence-security cooperation on the basis of the Agreement on Defence Cooperation signed in 2011 and the Agreement on Combating Crimes signed in 2004, and to establish a vice-ministerial security dialogue mechanism between the two sides.

7. The two Leaders recognized the substantive results in bilateral trade and investment cooperation, pledged to bring annual trade volume to US$ 500 million by 2015, and committed to continuously creating favourable conditions.

(See page 9)