Infrastructural development cannot cover every township due to lack of financial resources

Syria jets bombard rebel targets on airport road

The country would be able to keep abreast of neighbours following the decentralization with more executive power and financial autonomy to sub-national governments. He called for coordination at Union level and region/state level in drawing more fruitful budget for 2013-2014 fiscal year depending on experiences in 2012-2013 fiscal year, assessment reports of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee, Joint Public Accounts Committee, and Planning and Financial Development Committee, recommendation of Hluttaw representatives. He then invited recommendations for proportionate ratio of income and expenditures of the Union and region/state, tax differentiation in line (See page 7)

Syria jets bombard rebel targets on airport road

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham extending greetings at finance and revenue coordination meeting of the Union government and region/state governments.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addressed finance and revenue coordination meeting of the Union government and region/state governments at the Union government office here this afternoon.

He said the infrastructural development could not cover every township due to lack of financial resources of the government. He urged the region/state governments to levy Aqraba and Babilla Districts on the southeastern outskirts of the Damascus which lead to the international airport.

Internet connections and most telephone lines were down for a second day, the worst communications outage in a 20-month-old uprising in which 40,000 people have been killed, hundreds of thousands have fled the country, and millions have been displaced.

The monthly Sunni Muslim rebels who are battling Assad, from Syria’s Alawite minority linked to Shi’ite Islam, have been making gains around Syria by overrunning military bases and have been ramping up attacks on Damascus, his international flights to the capital.

Activists said security forces clashed with rebels trying to topple President Bashar al-Assad around 10 hrs 23 min 19 sec.

Nay Pyi Taw, 30 Nov—A slight earthquake of Magnitude 4.3 Richter scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about 74 miles Northwest of Myitkyina) about 265 miles North of Mandalay Seismological Observatory was recorded at 10 hrs 23 min 19 sec MST today, announced Meteorology and Hydrology Department. MNA

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Significant night temperature (30-11-2012)

Haka 7°C
Putao 8°C
Pinyaung 9°C

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a British-based-opposition monitoring group, said jets were bombarding targets in rural areas around Aqraba and Babilla, where rebels clashed with Assad’s forces. Reuters

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham extending greetings at finance and revenue coordination meeting of the Union government and region/state governments.—MNA

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**MOHA issues statement on appointment of ward or village-tract administrators in December 2012**

Nay Pyi Taw, 30 November

1. Section 289 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar stated that administration of ward or village-tract shall be assigned in accordance with the law to a person whose integrity is respected by the community. In line with the provisions, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw enacted the ward or village-tract administrator law under the 2012 Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No. 1 in order to be effectively carry out the administration of ward or village-tract.

2. Exercising the authority vested by the Ministry of Home Affairs under section 36, sub-section (A) of the ward or village-tract administration law, the ward or village-tract administration bylaw has been issued under the Order No. 386/2012 with the agreement of the Union Government. Therefore, the ward or village-tract administrators shall be chosen and appointed in December 2012 in accordance with the law and the bylaw.

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**Myanmar, Vietnamese businessmen sign joint ventures agreements**

YANGON, 30 Nov—President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Mr Truong Tan Sang attended Myanmar-Viet Nam Business Forum.—MNA

President and wife Madame Mai Thi Hanh visited the Shwedagon Pagoda in the evening.

Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Blamo Saydaw Abhidhaja Agga Maha Rahta Guru Abhidhaja Aggamaha Sadhmajotika Dr Bhadanta Kumara Bhivamsa presented jade Buddha Image and Deputy Minister of Religious tje Affairs U Soe Win painting of Shwedagon Pagoda to the Vietnamese President and wife who then attended the dinner hosted by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife at Sedona Hotel.—MNA

**Indian goodwill delegation tours across Myanmar**

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov—The visiting Indian goodwill delegation led by Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee of Indian Armed Forces Air Chief Marshal Nak Browne, PVSM, AVSM, VM, ADC and wife laid wreath at Martyrs Mausoleum in Yangon on 26 November. The delegation then visited the Tomb of Bahadur Shah Zafar and offered flowers, water and light at Shwedagon Pagoda.

On 27 November, the delegation flew to Nay Pyi Taw and visited National Defence College. Mrs Kiran Browne, wife of the Indian Air Chief Marshal also visited National Landmark Garden and Gems Museum.

The delegation on 28 November flew to Mandalay and visited Myanmar’s gems and traditional handicrafts showrooms and Mya Nan San Kyaw Golden Palace there. The delegation went to Heho on 29 November and visited Heho Command and General Staff College. They then visited Inlay Lake in Nyaungshwe.

The delegation visited U Ba Nyein Lacquer-ware Manufacturing in NyaungU today. The delegation went back home this evening by special flight of Indian Air Force and Commander of Namhsan Air Base Brig-Gen San Oo Hlaing and senior military officers, Indian military attaché to Myanmar Col Rajesh Kumar saw off them at NyaungU Airport.

**Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Fundamental Rights of the Citizens, Democracy and Human Rights Committee receives foreign guests**

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov—Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Citizens’ Fundamental Rights, Democracy and Human Rights Committee U Htay Oo received a delegation led by Mr. Benjamin Zawacki, representative of Bangkok based-International Development Group of Rome in Italy, at the Hall-1 of Hluttaw Building, here, this evening. Also present at the call were Secretary of the committee U Tin Maung Win and officials of Hluttaw Office.

They discussed matters related to human rights, legislation suitable for new system, activities being carried for human rights in and out of the Hluttaw, national unity and peace and stability and international relations.—MNA

**Wife of Vietnamese President and party visit Gems Museum (Nay Pyi Taw)**

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov—A goodwill delegation led by Madame Mai Thi Hanh, spouse of President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Mr Truong Tan Sang together with Professor Daw Khin Swe Myint, spouse of Union Minister of Culture U Aye Myint Kyu visited Gems Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) this morning. They were welcomed by Director-General U Thein Swe of Myanmar Gems Enterprise and officials.

The goodwill delegation led by the spouse of the President of the Republic of the Viet Nam looked around the booths of jewellery displayed in the museum.

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov—A goodwill delegation led by Madame Mai Thi Hanh, wife of President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Mr Truong Tan Sang viewing booths of jewellery.—MNA
**France**

French court clears Continental Airlines of crime over Concorde air crash

PARIS, 30 Nov — A French court in Versailles on Thursday overturned the involuntary homicide conviction against US Continental Airlines over the Concorde crash that killed 113 on 25 July, 2000, near Paris, local channel BPM reported.

Continental Airlines was blamed for triggering the disaster at Genoa (Val d’Oise) near Paris’ Charles de Gaulle Airport, as a metal strip falling off a DC-10 airliner on to the runway that burst the Concorde’s tyre, causing the crash.

The verdict in 2010 ruled the American company to pay a fine of 200,000 euros (250,400 US dollars) and 1 million euros for the damage to the operator Air France.

By clearing Continental Airlines of any crime over the crash on Thursday afternoon, the French court also overturned the associated 200,000-euros fine. (1 euro = 1.25 US dollars)—Xinhua

**UN General Assembly grants upgraded status for Palestine**

UNITED NATIONS, 30 Nov — The United Nations General Assembly on Thursday voted overwhelmingly to grant an upgrade of Palestine’s status from “entity” to “non-member state”, which is an implicit and symbolic recognition of Palestine’s statehood at the UN.

The 193 UN member states voted 138 to 9, with 41 abstentions, to support a draft resolution co-sponsored by about 70 countries, including China, Algeria, Angola, Brazil, Cuba, Jordan, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Senegal, South Africa, Tajikistan, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

Countries like Canada, the Czech Republic, Israel, Panama and the United States voted against the draft resolution.

Albania, Barbados, Bosnia, Fiji, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, and were still only about 100 al Qaeda militants in Afghanistan, Reuters

**Syria**

Al-Qaeda battle in Afghanistan to stretch for years

WASHINGTON, 30 Nov — Al-Qaeda fighters are still trying to make inroads into Afghanistan, US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta said on Thursday, cautioning that battling the group would be a core US mission there for years to come.

Panetta made the comments as the United States weighs how large a military force to keep in Afghanistan when the NATO combat mission ends in 2014, ending a war that, at that point, will have stretched for over 13 years.

There are approximately 66,000 US troops in Afghanistan, but the residual force may number less than 10,000, President Barack Obama could decide in the coming weeks, although no deadline has been set.

Commenting on the scope of 2014 counter-terrorism mission, Panetta did not mention al-Qaeda and allies or Taleban militants battling US forces.

He said fighting the core al-Qaeda group to prevent it from re-establishing a safe haven in Afghanistan was “going to be the fundamental thrust of the (counter-terrorism) effort.”

A narrow focus could help limit the size of the mission.

“Although we clearly have had an impact on (al-Qaeda’s) presence in Afghanistan, the fact is that they continue to show up,” Panetta told reporters at the Pentagon.

“And intelligence continues to indicate that they are, and for some kind of capability to be able to go into Afghanistan as well.”

A US defence official, speaking on condition of anonymity, estimated there were no flights scheduled to Damascus airport, flights suspended

US gives Iran until March to cooperate with IAEA

Iran’s President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad speaks during a ceremony at the Natanz nuclear enrichment facility, 250 km (127 miles) south of Teheran, on 9 April, 2007.—Reuters

VIENNA, 30 Nov—The United States set a March deadline on Thursday for Iran to start cooperating in substance with a UN nuclear agency investigation, warning Tehran the issue may otherwise be referred to the UN Security Council.

The comments by US diplomat Robert Wood to the board of the International Atomic Energy Agency signaled Washington’s growing frustration at a lack of progress in the IAEA’s inquiry into possible military dimensions to Teheran’s nuclear programme.

Iran — which was first reported to the UN Security Council over its nuclear program by the IAEA’s 35-nation board in 2006 and then was hit by UN sanctions — rejects suspicions it is on a covert quest for atomic bomb capability. But its refusal to curb nuclear work with both civilian and military applications, and its lack of openness with the IAEA, have drawn tough Western punitive measures and a threat of pre-emptive military strikes by Israel. A year ago, the IAEA published a report with a troop of intelligence indicating past, and some possibly continuing, research in Iran that could be relevant for nuclear weapons.

The IAEA has since tried to gain access to Iranian sites, officials and documents it says it needs for the inquiry, but so far without any concrete results in a series of meetings with Iran since January. The two sides will meet again in December.

In his statement, Wood requested IAEA Director-General Yukiya Amano to say in his next quarterly report on Iran, likely due in late February, whether Teheran has taken any substantive steps to address the agency’s concerns.

**UN**

UN General Assembly grants upgraded status for Palestine

Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Togo and other 30 countries abstained from voting. After Vuk Jeremic, president of the 67th session of the General Assembly, announced the result of the vote, the applause came from the hall of the General Assembly.

Many ambassadors and diplomats came to shake hands with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to express their congratulations.

“An important vote has taken place today in the General Assembly,” UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told the General Assembly after the vote.

“The decision by the General Assembly to accord Palestine Non-member Observer State status in the United Nations was a prerogative of the member states.”

“I stand ready to fulfill my role and report to this Assembly as requested in the resolution,” Ban said.

**Syria**

A general view of a building damaged by an air strike at a besieged area in Homs on 28 Nov, 2012.—Reuters

The accounts of fighting could not be verified immediately because of tight restrictions on media access to Syria.—Reuters

BAGHDAD, 30 Nov—Syrian rebels battled forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad just outside Damascus on Thursday, cutting access to its international airport, and Dubai-based Emirates airline and EgyptAir stopped flights to the Syrian capital.

The Internet and some telephone lines went down across Syria. Rebels and the government traded blame for the blackout, the worst communications cut so far in the country, state media said.

Speaking from the scene of the fighting, he said insurgents were not inside the airport but were able to block access to and from it.

A spokesman for a rebel Military Council in the Qitaqda area, said an artillery round was fired at a military site inside the airport and that fighting was now less than a kilometre (mile) away from the complex.

“We want to liberate the airport because of reports we see and our own information we have that shows civilian airplanes are being flown in here with weapons for the regime. It is our right to stop this,” he told Reuters on Skype from Damascus.

US and European officials said rebels were making gains in Syria, gradually eroding Assad’s power, but said the fighting had not yet shifted decisively in their favour.

Two Austrian soldiers in a US peacekeeping force deployed to monitor the frontier with the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights were wounded when their convoy came under fire near Damascus airport, Austria’s defence ministry said. Syria state television said the soldiers were wounded by gunfire when rebels attacked an army position near the airport.

The Information Ministry later said the highway to the airport was safe after security forces cleared it of “terrorists.” Rebels said fighting in the area was continuing.

The ministry said the airport was operating regularly, but there were no flights scheduled to land or take off.

**France**

French court clears Continental Airlines of crime over Concorde air crash

311323
Amazon’s cloud chief targets “old guard” tech giants

Amazon Senior Vice President Andy Jassy speaks during a keynote speech at the Re:Invent conference in Las Vegas, Nevada on 28 Nov, 2012. — Reuters

LAS VEGAS, 30 Nov — Amazon.com Inc’s cloud computing division is going after big corporate customers, a new focus that will put the fast-growing unit into direct competition with some of the world’s largest technology companies.

Andy Jassy, head of Amazon Web Services or AWS, criticized the hefty profit margins of what he called “old guard” tech companies on Wednesday and unveiled a new data warehousing service that he said will cost about a tenth of existing solutions.

“The old world of technology has a pricing model which is to charge as much as customers can pay. Customers are tired of it,” Jassy said, during AWS’s first conference in Las Vegas.

South Korean civil rocket launch called off, again

SEOUL, 30 Nov — South Korea’s first launch of its space rocket on Thursday after a glitch in the propulsion system halted the countdown just minutes before the scheduled lift-off. It was South Korea’s third attempt to put a rocket into orbit and the second time this particular mission has failed. October’s scheduled launch was also called off due to a glitch in the Russian-built booster.

South Korean civil rocket launch was also called off due to a glitch in the Russian-built booster.

Thursday’s glitch was in the thrust vector control in the upper second stage of the rocket that guides the propulsion of the vehicle, launch officials said. Launch attempts in 2009 and 2010 also ended in failure. Recent satellite images have indicated that North Korea too may be readying a new rocket launch.

Scientists make wheat genetic code breakthrough

LONDON, 30 Nov — Scientists from Britain, Germany and the United States have unlocked key components of the genetic code for wheat, helping to create varieties that are more productive and better able to cope with disease, drought and other crop stresses.

The identification of around 96,000 wheat genes, and insights into the links between them, comes just two years after UK researchers published the raw data of the wheat genome.

“Since 1980, the rate of increase in wheat yields has declined,” said one of the project leaders, Keith Edwards of the University of Bristol.

Analysis of the wheat genome sequence data provides a new and very powerful foundation for breeding future generations of wheat more quickly and more precisely, to help address this problem,” he added. The research was published in the journal Nature on Wednesday.

“Wheat breeders know that, without genetic diversity, it is very difficult to improve crops, and that we urgently need new genetic material to develop disease-resistant, high-yielding varieties for the world’s growing populations,” said Denis Grisius of the University of California, Davis.

Microsoft Windows 8 makes lukewarm debut: sales tracker

SEATTLE, 30 Nov — Consumer sales of Windows-powered personal computers fell 21 percent overall last month, figures released by a leading retail research firm showed on Thursday, indicating a lackluster debut for Microsoft Corp’s Windows 8 operating system. Many in the industry said Windows 8 might revive slack PC sales, but a report by NPD Group, which tracks computer sales weekly using data supplied by retailers, dampened those hopes.

“We expect tablet users to migrate to their applications to AWS,” he said. “The question isn’t if anymore, it’s how fast it’s going to move and which ones will move first.”

Sprint unveils in-car communications system for automakers

LOS ANGELES, 30 Nov — Sprint Nextel Corp unveiled on Thursday an in-vehicle communications and entertainment system that car owners will adopt as they seek to attract younger, more connected consumers.

Sprint Velocity allows drivers to connect mobile devices to their vehicles through Bluetooth, providing access to a range of applications, including voice-activated texting and email, navigation, news and sports updates and music.

Sprint’s new No. 3 US mobile carrier, is betting that Sprint Velocity will be superior to the products developed by the automakers themselves. “They know how to make great cars. They assemble these vehicles that people love to drive. They know how to make great cars. They themselves. ‘They know how to make great cars,’ said Wayne Ward, Sprint’s vice president of emerging solutions, at the LA Auto Show. “But when it comes to this stuff, they are not in the communications business.”

Sprint Velocity powers Chrysler Group LLC’s Uconnect system already offered on two of its vehicles, the new Ram 1500 pickup truck and SRT Viper. The companies have not disclosed pricing for the system, but Uconnect packages on the trucks range from $465 to $970, depending on the screen size. Some 45 percent of car buyers said navigation systems that help drivers avoid traffic are very important to their purchase decisions, while 35 percent said the same of a car’s ability to respond to voice commands, according to a survey by IBM to be released soon.

About 30 percent said entertainment services were very important, particularly buyers between the ages 18 and 29. Still, efforts by Ford, General Motors Co and other automakers have been widely panned. Critics in the MyTouch Touch system sent Ford tumbling in Consumer Reports’ annual survey of reliability. The magazine has also called GM’s new CUE system for its Cadillac line-up, “convoluted and frustrating.”

A woman walks past a Sprint store in New York’s financial district, on 15 Oct, 2012. — Reuters

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“Though it’s early to place blame on Windows 8 for the ongoing weakness in the PC market,” said Stephen Baker, vice president of industry analysis at NPD. “We still have the whole holiday selling season ahead of us, but clearly Windows 8 did not prove to be the impetus for a sales turnaround some had hoped for.”

NPD’s data neither includes Microsoft’s first Surface tablet, which is only available in its own stores, nor takes account of sales of PCs to businesses, which has recently been a much stronger market.

A Microsoft Surface tablet PC is displayed on a stand during its launch event with Microsoft Windows 8 in New York on 25 Oct, 2012. — Reuters

A passenger walks past a TV screen broadcasting the news that the launch of Korea Space Launch Vehicle-1 (KSLV-1), or Naro, was cancelled due to a problem in the upper second-stage rocket, at a railway station in Seoul on 29 Nov, 2012. — Reuters

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A passenger walks past a TV screen broadcasting the news that the launch of Korea Space Launch Vehicle-1 (KSLV-1), or Naro, was cancelled due to a problem in the upper second-stage rocket, at a railway station in Seoul on 29 Nov, 2012. — Reuters
Detroit, 30 Nov — For the first time in nearly two decades, GM’s Chevrolet brand will be back in the business of selling rear-wheel-drive sedans in the United States. General Motors Co (GM.N) expects the production version of the Chevrolet SS rear-wheel-drive sedan to act as a low-volume car meant to build excitement around the brand, the head of the automaker’s North American operations said on Thursday.

The car gives GM its first nonluxury rear-wheel-drive sedan since it stopped selling the Pontiac G8 in 2009. When the SS makes its debut, it will be the first time in 17 years Chevy sells a rear-wheel-drive sedan in the United States excluding the police car it currently offers. GM unveiled the NASCAR racing version of the Chevy SS in Las Vegas on Thursday and plans to show the production performance during the Daytona 500 race in Florida in February. The Australian-built car will go on sale in the third or fourth quarter of 2013 as a 2014 model.

“This is going to be a pull on demand from our dealers and customers,” Mark Reuss, head of GM’s North American operations, said in a telephone interview. “This is quite different than a big, high-volume production program with target volume — we added, “It doesn’t have to do anything. We’re using it to race. You have to think of it almost like a marketing halo program for Chevy.” Reuss said he expects GM, which sells the rear-wheel-drive Camaro and Corvette coupes, to sell fewer than 10,000 SS performance sedans annually.

The SS will be built on the same vehicle platform as the Camaro and Holden VE Commodore.

Rear-wheel-drive cars offer better performance attributes than front-wheel-drive models, including acceleration, braking and handling. The starting price for the SS will be determined closer to vehicle launch, but Reuss said it will be higher than the front-wheel-drive Chevy Impala’s base price of $27,555. Reuss said he does not see the SS detracting from sales of other Chevy vehicles because it is so different. The NASCAR version of the SS so closely resembles the production model, something the sport had moved away from in recent years as it pushed to make race cars safer, resulting in more homogenous cars.

NASCAR has worked with GM’s automakers in recent years to reintroduce the individual traits of each brand’s cars, an effort that will be seen next season, — Reuters

Washingto, 30 Nov — Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Thursday unveiled a game plan for achieving a global “AIDS-free generation,” committing the United States to rapidly scaling up medical interventions that are beating back what once was seen as an unquerable disease. Clinton, announcing the next stage of the decade-long US fight against AIDS around the world, said advances in drug treatment and prevention strategies had brought the end of the epidemic within reach.

“IHIV may well be with us into the future but the diseases that it causes need not be,” Clinton declared, saying it was possible to foresee a time when the number of people receiving treatment worldwide outpaces the number of new infections. “That is going to be the tipping point. We will then get ahead of the epidemic, and an AIDS-free generation will be in sight,” she said. The US PEPFAR programme, launched by former president George W Bush in 2003, has been a catalyst for advancing HIV treatment, particularly in Africa. It now supports some 5.1 million people worldwide who are receiving anti-retroviral drugs.

The UN AIDS programme said this month that ending the pandemic was now “entirely feasible” as it released an annual report showing that both deaths from AIDS and new infections with the HIV virus that causes it were falling. Worldwide some 34 million people were living with HIV at the end of 2011, the UNAIDS report said. Deaths from AIDS fell to 1.7 million in 2011, down from a peak of 2.3 million in 2005 and from 1.8 million in 2010. The number of people newly infected with HIV, which can be transmitted via blood and by semen during sex, is also falling. At 2.5 million, the number of new infections in 2011 was 20 percent lower than in 2001.

Despite the good news, not everyone is optimistic that the end of the epidemic is around the corner. — Reuters

US lays out plan for achieving worldwide AIDS-free generation

Drug, alcohol abuse tied to early-life strokes

New York, 30 Nov — Younger adults who suffered a stroke were often smokers or had abused drugs or alcohol, according to a US study that looked at over 1,000 patients. Strokes are often thought of as a condition of the elderly, but researchers said long-term changes in the heart, arteries or blood as a result of drug abuse or heavy drinking may put users at higher-than-average risk earlier in life. “Substance abuse is common in young adults experiencing a stroke,” wrote lead researcher Brett Kissela from the University of Cincinnati in the journal Stroke.

“Patients aged younger than 55 years who experience a stroke should be routinely screened and counseled regarding substance abuse.” It’s also possible that some drugs, particularly cocaine and methamphetamine, may trigger a stroke more immediately, according to S Andrew Josephson, a neurologist from the University of California, San Francisco.

Brett Kissela from the University of Cincinnati in the journal Stroke.

The logo of an extended range electric vehicle Fisker Karma is pictured at the start of an electric car rally from Tallinn to Monte-Carlo in Tallinn on 1 June, 2012. — Reuters

Fisker idles Karma production while waiting for A123 auction

Detroit, 30 Nov — Fisker Automotive Inc said on Thursday that it has temporarily idled production of its Karma plug-in hybrid after its lithium-ion battery supplier A123 Systems Inc (AONEQ.PK) cut its output. A123, which is the sole battery supplier for the Karma, slowed production following for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in October, Fisker spokesman Roger Ormisher said.

Fisker has enough lithium-ion batteries on hand in case an owner needs a replacement, Ormisher said. The company expects to have clarity on its battery inventory after 6 December, when an auction to sell A123 is scheduled. Auto parts suppliers Johnson Controls Inc (JCI.N) and China’s Wanxiang Group Corp are among the potential buyers who will square off to buy A123. Other companies that have expressed interest in A123 include NEC Corp (6701.T) of Japan and Siemens AG (SIEG.DE) of Germany.

The US government said this week that A123 could not be sold without its consent. Fisker and A123 have both received funding under a federal programme designed to create an advanced vehicle manufacturing base in the United States. Bloomberg reported news of the idled production earlier Thursday.

Fisker has faced a series of setbacks this year, including a recall of batteries made by A123 and the US Department of Energy’s decision to block Fisker from accessing a portion of its $529 million loan. — Reuters

Health

US FDA approves new medication to treat rare type of thyroid cancer

WASHINGTON, 30 Nov — The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Thursday approved Cometriq to treat medullary thyroid cancer that has spread to other parts of the body. Medullary thyroid cancer develops in cells in the thyroid gland that make a hormone called calcitonin, which helps maintain a healthy level of calcium in the blood. This type of cancer may occur spontaneously or in families with certain genetic mutations that result in one or more cancers of the endocrine system, including the thyroid gland. The US National Cancer Institute estimates that 56,460 Americans will be diagnosed with thyroid cancer and 1,720 will die from the disease in 2012. About four percent of thyroid cancers are medullary thyroid cancer, making it one of the rarer types of thyroid cancers.

Cometriq is a kinase inhibitor that blocks abnormal kinase proteins involved in the development and growth of medullary cancer cells. The safety and effectiveness of Cometriq were established in a clinical study involving 330 patients with medullary thyroid cancer. Treatment with Cometriq increased the length of time a patient lived without the cancer progressing (progression-free survival) and, in some patients, reduced the size of tumors (response rate). However, treatment with Cometriq did not extend patients’ lives.

Cometriq is marketed by Exelixis, based in South San Francisco. According to FDA, potential side effects of Cometriq were diarrhea; inflammation; redness, pain, etc.
Colombia, FARC wrap up first round of peace talks

Havana, 30 Nov—Colombia’s Marxist-led FARC rebels said their peace talks with the government were going well, but the lead negotiator for President Juan Manuel Santos was more reserved as the two sides finished the first round of meetings aimed at ending their protracted conflict.

In separate sessions with the press, neither side spoke of breakthroughs in the talks, but nor was there any sign they had hit irresolvable obstacles as happened in previous peace attempts. They will reconvene in Havana on Wednesday.

The country’s bloody guerrilla war, in which tens of thousands of people have died, dates back to 1964 when the FARC, or Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, formed as a communist agrarian movement. It turned later to the illicit drug trade, kidnappings and extortion to sustain itself.

Millions of people have been displaced by the war, which the FARC says is a fight to end Colombia’s long history of social inequality. Dutch national Tanja Nijmeijer, a FARC negotiator, told reporters the talks “are going very well,” with occasional moments of levity.

“Before the atmosphere during the talks is very good. There’s even space for little jokes, for laughing,” she said in response to a question.

Senior FARC leader Andres Paris said the negotiators muddled in the hallways during breaks and were getting to know each other.

“One doesn’t know who is more surprised, them or us,” said the mustachioed guerrilla. “When we sit down to the table, they can observe not barbarians, not savages, but fighters, intellectuals, politicians, the sensible men and women.” Lead government negotiator Humberto de la Calle, who read a statement and took no questions, gave a more muted assessment. Reuters

Eurotunnel services resume after smoke detected

Paris, 30 Nov—Traffic through the tunnel between France and Britain was halted for two hours on Thursday after a freignt train overheated, a Eurotunnel spokesman said.

The train, which was travelling from Britain to France, was diverted to the emergency siding around 1300 GMT after smoke detection alarms went off at the French side of the tunnel.

“All traffic in that tunnel — the north one — was suspended but services are now being re-established and will be back to normal shortly,” spokesman John Koele said in a statement.

There were no injuries and all those on board the carriage were evacuated safely, he said. Reuters

Heavy snow hits Moscow

Moscow, 30 Nov—The Russian capital Moscow is experiencing the largest snowfall of this winter since Wednesday, and is expected to see the biggest November snowfall in 50 years, local meteorological office said on Thursday.

According to the office, Moscow has received one third of the snowfall generally experienced in November in the last 24 hours.

Cumulative snowfall reached 20 centimetres in parts of the city in the 24-hour period through Wednesday afternoon. And the snowstorm is expected to continue until Friday morning, according to the latest weather forecast.

A total of 55 centimetres of snow was expected to fall, which would be the biggest snowfall in 50 years, said the weather forecast.

The municipal government deployed some 12,000 snow plows and 7,000 professional cleaners on Thursday to clear snow from major streets. However, continuous heavy snowfall has made such efforts largely ineffective, one of the cleaners told Xinhua.

Vehicles move on a snow-covered road in Moscow, capital of Russia, on 29 Nov, 2012. A heaviest snow of the season hit Moscow Wednesday and snow on the ground has accumulated to about 20-cm deep Thursday. Xinhua

Heavy snow in the city during breaks and the cleaners told Xinhua. The snowstorm disrupted city traffic, with 20 percent more traffic accidents reported than usual, according to the municipal authorities.

With temperatures expected to rise through Thursday night, the snow could turn into freezing rains and make the roads even more dangerous for drivers, the authorities warned, urging local residents to stay at home or use public transportation instead.

And according to local media reports, some 70 flights have been disrupted at Moscow’s Domodedo airport since Wednesday, though all three airports in the city were still in normal operation on Thursday.

Xinhua

Poland set to host 2013 UN climate summit amid environmentalists’ outcry

Doha, 30 Nov—Poland, a EU member criticised for its climate policy, is set to host the 2013 UN climate summit, according to statements circulated on Wednesday at the ongoing climate talks in Doha, Qatar.

Without a contender, Poland became the selected host of the next UN climate talks on Wednesday right after it officially presented its offer at a plenary session of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. “Poland is a good place to go,” said the head of the UN Climate Change Secretariat Christiana Figueres. “Here in Qatar and in Poland what this conference does is bring the world’s attention to the host country and encourage that country to actually step up to the plate and do more.”

Meanwhile, the choice of host has provoked criticism from environmental campaigners.

“A host country should be firmly committed to climate protection and be able to negotiate compromises and seal deals, but Poland has a bad track record on both counts,” said Irit Jerabek, an expert with Greenpeace.

Prior to the Doha conference, Poland had given other European Union members a hard time during meetings to coordinate their positions on the use of spare Kyoto pollution permits.

Warsaw has also been preventing the EU from raising its emissions-reduction target to 30 percent out of the concerns that a high target would hurt its carbon-intensive economy, Anja Kollmuss with Carbon Market Watch said on Wednesday. Xinhua

Britain’s over-50s ignorant of retirement prospects

London, 30 Nov—Britain’s over-50s are in blissful ignorance of how little their pension pots will grow, and need an urgent financial health check if their retirement are to be as comfortable as they expect, an industry report said.

Workers approaching retirement in the next 15 years need to see their pension pots grow by almost 80 percent to meet their expectations, the National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF) said on Friday.

“Millions of people are within a decade of their state pension but have still not thought about how long their retirement might last,” Joanne Segars, chief executive of the NAPF, said in a statement.

The ushering in of a new tax regime has increased the pressure on people to plan for retirement, with many British retirees buy to ensure a steady income, are meanwhile becoming more expensive, meaning people will expect their savings pots to generate a higher annuity income than it actually does.

Private pension firms have also been accused of failing to disclose some of the costs they levy on customers’ investment funds, leaving people unaware that their pension savings were being eroded by the charges.

The NAPF represents 1,300 pension schemes in the UK with 16 million members and assets of around 900 billion pounds. Reuters

People walk by the River Thames on the South Bank during a warm day in London on 8 Sept, 2012. Saint Paul’s Cathedral can be seen in the background. Reuters
Infrastructural development cannot…

(from page 1)

with provisions in the Constitution, and systematic drawing of 2013-2014 budgets.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun stressed the need to make sure taxation should not be burden to citizens and region/state governments need to make sure what are essential for regional development are included in drawing budget.

Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein elaborated on budgets and taxation of the Union, region and state governments and the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, chief ministers of regions and states on levied taxes and regional development undertakings of respective regions.

Union ministers present on the occasion explained supportive plans of respective ministries and those present made suggestions. Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Maung Khim and U Nyan Tun fulfilled the needs and made concluding remarks. The meeting came to an end in the evening.—MNA

Union Home Affairs

Minister meets UNODC Executive Director

Nay Pyi Taw, 30 Nov—Union Minister for Home Affairs Li-Gen Ko Ko held talks on cooperation matters with Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Executive Director of UNODC Mr. Yuri Fedotov at his office, here, this evening.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Police Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun and officials.

Union Transport Minister meets IAC CEO of ROK

Nay Pyi Taw, 30 Nov—Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung met President of Incheon International Airport Corporation (IIAC) CEO Mr Chea Wook Lee of the Republic of Korea at his office, here, this morning. The meeting focuses on cooperation in airport management in Myanmar, financial and technological cooperation, loans for development of water transportation and aviation sectors, opening of Flying Training School in Myanmar, cooperation and investment of Incheon Airport in construction of World Class Airport.—MNA

Myanmar Ricemill and Value-added

Agricultural Machinery Exhibition 2-5 Nov

Yangon, 30 Nov—The Myanmar Ricemill and Value-added Agricultural Machinery Exhibition 2013 will be displayed from 2 to 5 March.

With the aim of improving paddy production in quantity and quality of Myanmar, the exhibition will be jointly organized by Ministry of Commerce and Myanmar Rice Industry Association.

The entrepreneurs engaged in assembling ricemills and agricultural machinery in industrial zones of regions and states are to join the exhibition so as to put their products on display by applying new agricultural machinery production technology.—Myanma Alinn

Don’t smoke
Help the helpless!

Men come under pincer attack once infected with HIV, on one side he faces certain death, and on another he faces social stigma and discrimination. AIDS has been like a death penalty since its discovery with no treatment for complete recovery. But, this death sentence takes rather a long time to execute the condemned prisoners who have to suffer social discrimination until their last breath.

Until 2000s, we, Myanmar people did not have much knowledge about nor even knew AIDS, one of the major contributors of premature deaths around the world. Globalization has brought in more challenges and threats than opportunities and benefits and AIDS as one of the top killers of the country has been the biggest challenge to national health care system whose expenditure is still low in comparison with the size of national population.

Sex is a taboo subject here, which has thus served as a barrier to prevention of HIV infection since sexual contact with an infected person is the most frequent mode of HIV transmission globally. While there is no sex education at secondary schools and colleges, teenagers now have easier access to internet and videos unlike in the past and when this freedom meets the developing cultures like beer, massage, night club cultures and so forth, it paves the way for spread of AIDS.

Occasional crackdown on sex industry is not a realistic solution but the public must be educated about safe sex otherwise the number of wives and children who fall innocent victims to HIV through their husbands and fathers would continue to be rising. Husbands on their part should bear in mind that his single mistake can ruin the life of two or more others.

In our view, HIV/AIDS is not a matter of death but a matter of dignity. HIV/AIDS means more than a fatal disease and is often associated with womanizing and disloyalty, both of which are unpardonable sin in our society. When we talk about people living with HIV, we often relate them with womanizing or intravenous drug use. But, there are innocent victims who are infected through blood transfusions like in the cases of mother-to-child transmission.

They deserve no blame and discrimination and especially the children should be in safe hands and their future should not be insecure. Furthermore, free medical consultation service should be extended targeting at sex workers, most of whom have here found it as Hobson’s choice for survival.

Meanwhile, new HIV infections must be prevented effectively through comprehensive public education programme though it is impossible to provide life-saving treatments for all people living with HIV. The onus, is thus on all of us to extend a helping hand to people living with HIV to lead a normal life and do our bit for prevention of new HIV transmissions.
Interview about...

(from page 16)

organizations. Therefore, Home Affairs Ministry called on 27 November to all organizations demonstrating around the project area to move from there by 12 pm on 27 November, to enable the commission to start its works, warning against the failure to do so through procedural legal actions under the existing laws in line with the Constitution. The security forces repeatedly requested the demonstrators to disperse with loudspeakers till the deadline and the requests continued beyond the deadline. However, the mob did not leave from there and security forces on 28 November this had

morning as I was on duty. Most of them were suffering from burns. I found the wounds as normal burns as I examined the patients. There were some cases of minor ulcers and the skin of some monks. Heal staff are giving intensive treatment to the monks as in-patients as a special programme. Specialist (Legal Affairs Medical Specialist) Dr Huay Tin Chin said that most of the wounds sustained are burns. Some burns are found to be superficially wide while some wounds are deep packets. Superficially patched wounds are like wounds caused by fire.

There are also rather deep small-patched burns. The wounds are like the ones caused by hot water out of the pipes. Some people have said that when someone who comes into contact with hot plastic burns, burns like that. The wounds produce strange odours. There are no wounds caused something like acid.

Afterwards, the medical superintendent said that nine members of the Sangha had been discharged from the hospital as their conditions improved. Only eighteen patients will be exported as raw material in 2015. Also, the police force in Myanmar was significantly improved. Only eighteen injuries are desirous of maintaining the Myanmar law.

World AIDS Day 2012....

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care (GoC), framework has been developed since 2009. Nationwide comprehensive HIV/ AIDS prevention and care activities including community home-based care for AIDS patients and their families are being implemented with involvement of Basic Health Staff, National NGOs, and communities including PLHIVs. As more PLHIV networks are formed, they are now increasingly participating in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care activities. In hospitals with ART and PMCT services they act as peer counselors for ART adherence.

Working Together for Getting to Zero: Zero new HIV infections, Zero discrimination, Zero AIDS related deaths

Multisectoral HIV prevention, and care activities are being implemented with related Ministries such as Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Home Affairs, and various ministries for workplace, HIV/AIDS prevention Programme, as well as 7 UN Agencies, 1 Bilateral Organization, 21 International NGOs and 11 National NGOs. With JICA support, Donor deferred standard Blood Safety Programme has been introduced and National External Quality Assessment Scheme (NEQAS) of HIV testing has been established. Moreover, Cross Border HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support activities are also being conducted as special intervention activities with neighbouring countries. In September 2010, Myanmar-Thailand joint Workplan on Disease Surveillance, Prevention and Control at the Border Areas for 2011-2012 has been successfully developed.

In Myanmar, ART started since 2005 and has covered 45 hospitals for adult and 28 hospitals for paediatrics. Through coordinated efforts of 15 implementing partners, about 40,000 AIDS patients have been treated for ART in 2011. According to the eligible criteria

CD4 count (>350) in the new guideline, the need for ART in Myanmar is estimated to be more than 125,000 in 2012.

With limited resources, Myanmar is doing with utmost to achieve Universal Access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. Besides the strong National commitment towards the fight against HIV/AIDS and support from three diseases fund, Myanmar has successfully gained Global Fund Round 9 Grants in 2010 for scaling up of activities in the coming years. The next NSP (2011-2015) will also be the National framework to scale up activities to achieve the MDGs and Universal Access goals in time.

We will work closely with regional and international partners for prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in Myanmar. With concerted efforts of all stake holders, community involvement and political commitment, Myanmar can envisage every success in fight against HIV/AIDS Epidemic.
Pragmatic approaches...

(from page 16) nation, saying that there are only over 10000 cooperative syndicates nationwide at present.

The Vice-President called for seeking ways and means to be a reliable micro credits union for all walks of life in rural and urban areas. According to the statistics, the union has a membership of 444176 from 9423 villages in 139 Townships of Regions and States including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. According to the statistics, its disbursement of loan from its capital of K 19.57749 billion is K 20.576 billion and it has a saving of K 4.63722 billion. Only when it cooperates with international and local donor organizations will it develop. So it is necessary to step up its activities with momentum. He said today’s rural region development and poverty alleviation meeting would focus on progress and ongoing tasks in Region and States and difficulties and requirements.

Next, Secretary of Rural Region Development and Poverty Alleviation work committee Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win gave an account of rural region development tasks including development of agricultural production, development of micro finance union and development cooperative societies respectively.

Then Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing explained tasks for development of agricultural production, niches for foreign direct investments in agriculture sector and information necessary for transformation from conventional to mechanized farming system.

Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan elaborated developmental tasks, extended formation of cooperative societies across the country in 2012 and prospects for interdependency between already-formed cooperative societies and local farmers.

Union Minister for Finance and Poverty Alleviation U Win Shein made clarifications on ongoing tasks for development of micro credit unions and follow-up tasks.

Next, Union Minister at President Office Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Thein Nyunt and Region/State Chief Ministers reported on developmental tasks of agricultural production, cooperative societies and micro finance unions respectively.

Union Ministers answered the queries raised by chief ministers.

In his concluding remarks, the Vice-President said detailed discussions would be made in the next meetings and analysis of rural region development and poverty alleviation tasks should be made. He called on ministries concerned to implement their action plans, paying constant attention to the issues of foreign direct investments in agriculture sector and information necessary for transformation from conventional to mechanized farming system.

Mobile phones’ internet access changing into time based charging system declared

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov— With an aim of ensuring wider use of mobile phone internet at reasonable price, the Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications media held a meeting focusing on matters related on what is better than volume based charging system.

The meeting focused on time based charging system to be used in the current situation. The detailed information about new technology will be announced and commenced into public as of 1 January 2013.

Cloud donated: Taiwan monk Ven Hai Tao and party donate K 7.5 million to joint-secretary (3) U Aye Maung Than at Jivitadana Sangha Hospital, Yangon on 22 November 2012 recently.

Regional development tasks in Chaungzon Township

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov— On his inspection tour of Chaungzon Township on 23 November, Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint gave necessary instructions on more establishments of mango groves that enable prevention of bank erosion and the road to be used as an all-weather one.

Next he visited Yawlat Station Hospital where operation theatre, X-ray room and Sangha hospital were inspected. At Yawlat basic education high school, he looked into learning of students, greening and beautifying of the school and growing of flowers and shady trees.

Then, the Chief Minister met village administrators and townsenders at the office of Chaungzon Township General Administration Department and proceeded to Chaungzon Township People’s Hospital. He comforted patients who are receiving medical treatment there.

Afterwards, the Chief Minister oversaw progress of upgrading of ring road, thriving rubber plantations on both sides of the road, tarmacking of Mudun-Kataungsein village-to-village road and repair works for the 10-foot and 24-foot Kataungsein bridge. — MNA
Indonesian activists push for legally binding results in Doha climate meeting

JAKARTA, 30 Nov — Indonesian environmentalists on Thursday called for legally binding results from the 18th United Nations Conference on Climate Change (UNCCC) in Qatar’s capital of Doha, urging Indonesian negotiators to do their best in achieving such result. “This is a good opportunity to pursue a legally binding convention,” Avi Maharagungtyas, an activist of the environmentalist group of Kemiptaran, told Xinhua.

She said Indonesian negotiators face hard task at the high-profile climate change meeting as developed countries were apparently reluctant to comply with binding obligation after Kyoto Protocol’s first commitment period expires at the end of this year.

The 18 UNCCC is scheduled to end on 10 Dec. Indonesian delegation is tasked to lobby other delegations with an aim to extend the commitment period of Kyoto Protocol. Kyoto Protocol, which was adopted by the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in December 1997 in Kyoto, Japan, set binding targets for 37 industrialized countries and the European Union to cut greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 5.2 percent against 1990 levels over the five-year period 2008-2012. Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has initiated a bold move in addressing climate change by pledging to cut emission by 26 percent on Business As Usual (BAU) basis and 41 percent with foreign assistance by 2020. —Xinhua

Three killed, four injured in US drone strike in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 30 Nov — At least three people were killed and four others injured in a US drone strike launched in Pakistan’s northwest tribal area of South Waziristan on Thursday afternoon, reported local media Geo. According to the report, US unmanned aircraft fired two missiles at a vehicle suspected of carrying militants in the Sheen Warsak area of Wana, capital town of South Waziristan which borders Afghanistan. One local TV channel said that the target was a suspected militant house instead of a vehicle. All the killed are suspected militants of foreign nationalities, said local Urdu TV channel Express. Identities of the killed and wounded are not immediately known.

Thursday’s US drone strike is the 35th of its kind (counted on daily basis) in Pakistan in 2012. According to Xinhua’s tally, at least 257 suspected militants have been killed in such strikes since the beginning of this year. The last US drone strike in Pakistan occurred on 14 October. Over the last few months, there are less US drone strikes in the country as compared with the past. This is probably due to the repeated strong protest by the Pakistani government. Pakistan believes US drone strikes are violative of its sovereignty and counter-productive in the anti-terror war. —Xinhua

Two leftist rebels killed in S Philippines

DAVAO CITY, 30 Nov — Two alleged leftist rebels were killed following an encounter with government troops in southern Philippines early on Friday, the military said on Friday morning.

Major Jacob Obligado, commander of the army’s 10th civil-military operations battalion said the clash occurred on 3 am at Lebanon village, Montevista town in Mindanao’s Compostela Valley Province. He said troops from the army’s 66th Infantry Battalion were conducting combat patrol at the village’s hinterland area when they chanced upon a group of armed men believed to be New People’s Army (NPA) guerrillas. “A firefight ensued which resulted to the death of two rebels,” Obligado told Xinhua in a text message.

The military official said troops also recover an improvised landmine on the scene, and they are now pursuing the fleeing rebels.

The 4,000-strong NPA, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, is fighting a 43-year leftist insurgency in 60 Philippine provinces. —Xinhua

India to continue exporting wheat without restriction

NEW DELHI, 30 Nov — Indian government Thursday approved a proposal for continuing the export of wheat and non-basmati rice without any restrictions, reported Indo-Asian News Service.

The proposal was moved by Commerce Department and was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, which also kept in view of the adequate availability of wheat and non-basmati rice in the domestic market, and according to the report.

The decision would help enhance competitiveness of Indian wheat and rice in international markets and earn foreign exchange for the country, said the report. —Xinhua

Roadside bomb kills 10 Afghan civilians, wounds eight

TRINKOT, 30 Nov — A roadside bomb on Thursday struck a mini-bus in Afghanistan’s Uruzgan Province, 370 km south of Kabul, leaving 10 people dead and eight others injured, a local official said.

“The bloody incident took place in Deh Rawad district at around 10:30 am local time today leaving 10 civilians dead and eight others injured,” Abdullah Humat, spokesman for provincial administration, told Xinhua.

Women and children were also among the victims, he added.

The spokesman blamed the attack on the enemies of peace, a term used against Taleban by Afghan officials. However, the outfit fighting the government has yet to make comment. —Xinhua

Heat wave to strike Australia’s New South Wales

SYDNEY, 30 Nov — Temperatures are expected to reach the early 40s in western Sydney and western New South Wales (NSW) on Friday and Saturday, with fire danger to be high to very high across most of the state, local media reported on Friday.

The Bureau of Meteorology is predicting parts of NSW will be affected by a heat wave over the coming days. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) Weather specialist Graham Creed reported temperatures were already soaring in parts of the state’s north-west before 9:00 am (local time) on Friday.

“Sydney is in for some hot weather but really the worst of the conditions are out through the western half of the state,” he said.

The state’s health authorities are urging people to be cautious during impending heat wave to avoid heat-related illness. —Xinhua

People visit the Second Chinese Trade Exhibition at the International Centre for Fairs and Conventions, in San Salvador, capital of El Salvador, on 28 Nov, 2012. China organized for the second time a trade fair, in which 40 companies showed different products in three days. —Xinhua

Students of Dafa Elementary School enjoy their lunch in Taipei, southeast China’s Taiwan, on 29 Nov, 2012. Food materials are purchased through bidding in order to make sure of the nutrition, low price and taste of lunch for students. —Xinhua


d1353 high-speed train driver Zhang Lihao works on the Harbin-Dalian high-speed rail line in Shenyang, capital of northeast China’s Liaoning Province, on 28 Nov, 2012. The railway linking Harbin, capital of northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, and port city of Dalian in Liaoning will start service on 1 December, making it the world’s first high-speed line running through regions with extremely low temperatures in the winters. The 34-year-old Zhang Lihao is the driver of train D1353. He was selected as a high-speed train driver in 2009 after intense competition.
Cancer patients, especially those who had just had surgery, typically had trouble understanding their treatment options, a study by polar researchers has revealed an ancient community of bacteria able to thrive in the lightless, oxygen-depleted, salty environment beneath nearly 70 feet of ice in an Antarctic lake, giving insight into the unique ecosystem. The research, funded by the National Science Foundation and NASA, provides clues about biochemical processes not linked to sunlight, carbon dioxide and oxygen — or photosynthesis. The authors of the study say it may explain the potential for life in salty, cryogenic environments beyond Earth, where energy in ecosystems is typically fueled by the sun.

The study, published this week in Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, came out of a collaborative effort of polar researchers from a number of institutions, including the University of Illinois at Chicago, Montana State University and the University of Colorado.

The energy driving bacterial life in Lake Vida, a mostly frozen, brine lake below the Antarctic ice shield, may be derived from chemical reactions between the salt water and the underlying, iron-rich rock, researchers said.

Reuters

Ecuador says WikiLeaks’ Assange suffering lung problems

QUITO, 30 NOV — WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is suffering from a chronic lung ailment that could worsen at any time and is being checked regularly by doctors, the Andean country’s ambassador to Britain said on Wednesday.

Assange, 41, whose website angered the United States by releasing thousands of secret diplomatic cables, has been holed up inside Ecuador’s Embassy in London since June to avoid extradition to Sweden for questioning over rape and sexual assault allegations. Assange has denied any wrongdoing.

“He has a chronic lung complaint that could get worse any time,” the Ecuadorian government’s ambassador to London, Martin Palott, was quoted as saying in a British newspaper.

Palott said Assange is being treated for “a reasonable amount” of time.

“The Ecuadorian state is covering Mr Assange’s medical costs and we have arranged for regular doctors to visit him as a personal service,” Palott added.

Ecuador granted Assange asylum in August and said it shared his fears that he could be sent from Sweden to the United States to face charges over WikiLeaks’ activities.

US and European government sources say the United States has issued no criminal charges against him, nor launched any attempts to extradite Assange.

Assange is said to be living a cramped life inside the modest diplomatic mission.

He eats mostly take-out food and uses a treadmill to burn off energy and a vitamin D lamp to make up for the lack of sunlight.

Reuters

Antarctic bacteria a clue to different kinds of life

NEW YORK, 30 NOV — A study by polar researchers has revealed an ancient community of bacteria able to thrive in the lightless, oxygen-depleted, salty environment beneath nearly 70 feet of ice in an Antarctic lake, giving insight into the unique ecosystem. The research, funded by the National Science Foundation and NASA, provides clues about biochemical processes not linked to sunlight, carbon dioxide and oxygen — or photosynthesis. The authors of the study say it may explain the potential for life in salty, cryogenic environments beyond Earth, where energy in ecosystems is typically fueled by the sun.

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Reuters

Some 20 percent of women overwhelmed by cancer treatment options

NEW YORK, 30 NOV — More than one in five women with early-stage breast cancer said they were given too much responsibility for treatment-related decisions — and those patients were more likely to end up regretting the choices they made, according to a US study.

The findings, which appeared in the Journal of General Internal Medicine, don’t mean that women should not be fully informed about their treatment options, researchers said, but rather that doctors may need to find new strategies to communicate with patients, especially the less educated.

“They are overwhelmed and burdened by treatment choices, particularly if they are not also given the tools to understand and weigh the benefits and harms of these choices,” wrote research leader Jennifer Livaudais and colleagues.

The majority said they typically had trouble understanding medical information and less than one-third knew the possible benefits of surgery, radiation and chemotherapy, Livaudais and her colleagues found.

Lack of both “health literacy” and knowledge about treatment benefits was common among the 21 percent of women who said they had too much responsibility for decision-making — as well as among the seven percent who felt they didn’t have enough responsibility.

Women who were poor, non-white or did not finish high school were also more likely to feel that they had either too much or too little say in their treatment.

Close to two-thirds of women on both ends of the spectrum had some regret about their original treatment decisions six months down the line. That compared to one-third of women who originally said they had a “reasonable amount” of decision-making responsibility.

Steven Katz, who has studied cancer-related decision-making at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, said that compared to past years, doctors now have better ways to tailor treatment to individual patients. But that also means treatment options are based on more convoluted information.

“Some women may feel overwhelmed or burdened by treatment choices, particularly if they are not also given the tools to understand and weigh the benefits and harms of these choices,” wrote research leader Jennifer Livaudais and colleagues.
Ben Affleck named Entertainer of the Year

NEW DELHI, 30 Nov—Ben Affleck has been named Entertainer of the Year by Entertainment Weekly.

The actor-and-director succeeds Harry Potter star Daniel Radcliffe, who received the honour last year, and was bestowed with the accolade as he has finally reached the “pinnacle” of his career. Appearing on US TV show Good Morning America, Entertainment Weekly editor Jess Cagle explained: “We’ve waited his whole life for the fire with. But when you have a family and children, you kind of see yourself reflected in them. I want to make the kinds of movies that my kids are proud of. I have higher standards, in a way, for them.”

Fellow Hollywood star Ben Affleck, praised Ben for re-emerging on the Hollywood A-list after several rocky years, which included starring in numerous widely panned films and a high profile engagement to singer-and-actress Jennifer Lopez, 43, that was eventually called off. George Clooney said: “Hollywood loves a comeback, and he’s an unbelievable comeback kid.”

Ben Affleck has transitioned from front of the screen to behind it, helming critically-acclaimed films such as Gone Baby Gone, The Town and this year’s Argo, which is being tipped for Oscar contention.—PT

Emma Watson cutting ties with fashion industry

LONDON, 30 Nov—Harry Potter star Emma Watson is cutting her ties with the fashion world in order to focus on her acting career.

The 22-year-old British beauty, who has previously served as the face of fashion firm Burberry and cosmetic company Lancome, has recently teamed up with fair trade corporation People Tree as a creative advisor and helped design two clothing ranges, reported Contactmusic.

Brad Pitt is OK with people mocking his Chanel No 5 ad

NEW DELHI, 30 Nov—Brad Pitt thinks spoofs of his Chanel No 5 advert are “fair play.” The Moneyball star in the fashion house’s latest campaign for their iconic perfume and the clips have been the subject of much ridicule, including an infamous Saturday Night Live skit which saw a lookalike ask directors whether there is a script for him to read from instead of sounding “insane” talking to himself.

However, Brad Pitt admits that he is “blissfully” unaware of the parody videos online and isn’t bothered about the mocking. He said: “I’ve been overseas, so I’ve been blissfully protected. I haven’t seen the parody videos, but I say absolutely fair play, fair play.”

Brad Pitt, 48, was the first male star to head the campaign—taking over from French actress Audrey Tatou and is pleased with the work Chanel put into the final product. He added to ‘Access Hollywood’: “I kind of liked it... I respect what they do. They do some really quality things.”

For his latest role in Andrew Dominik’s film Killing Them Softly, where he plays enforcer Jackie Cogan, he took up smoking and despite having previously quit he found it “great” to puff away at a cigarette again.

Directors Guild to honour Milos Forman with lifetime award

LOS ANGELES, 30 Nov—Oscar-winning director Milos Forman, known for works such as “One Flew Over The Cuckoo’s Nest,” will be honoured with a lifetime achievement award, the Directors Guild of America said on Wednesday.

The Czech-American director won two Academy Awards for best director, one for 1975’s “One Flew Over The Cuckoo’s Nest” and his second for 1984’s “Amadeus.” Both films also won Oscars for best picture.

“No matter what subject or genre he tackles, Milos finds the universality in the human experience in every story, allowing us — his rapt audience—to recognize ourselves within the struggle for free expression and self-determination that Milos so aptly portrays on the silver screen... Taylor Hackford, president of the Director’s Guild, said in a statement.

Forman will be the 34th recipient of the DGA’s lifetime achievement award in the guild’s 76-year history, joining the ranks of Steven Spielberg, Francis Ford Coppola and Stanley Kubrick.

The director was a leading figure of the Czechoslovak New Wave movement, along with directors Ivan Passer, Vera Chytilova and others. Forman’s films such as 1964’s “Black Peter” and the 1967 communist satire “The Quivering Ball” were banned for a time in the former Czechoslovakia.


Adele’s “21” sells 10 million, Rihanna leads Billboard

LOS ANGELES, 30 Nov—British singer and songwriter Adele reached the 10 million sales mark in the United States on Wednesday with her breakthrough album “21” becoming the first British woman to reach the milestone, Nielsen SoundScan said.

“21,” released in February 2011, produced the hits “Someone Like You” and “Rolling In The Deep” and became the top-selling album of 2011. Earlier this year, Adele swept the Grammy Awards with six, including record and album of the year.

“21” became the third album to cross 10 million in 2012, along with Lakin Park’s “Hybrid Theory” and Usher’s “Confessions.” But it is the only album to reach the milestone in less than two years in the last decade, Nielsen said.

“What an incredible honor,” Adele said in a statement. “A huge, huge thank you to my American fans for embracing this record on such a massive scale etc. “21” will receive the diamond certification from the Recording Industry Association of America, marking its 10 million milestone, joining the ranks of albums by artists such as Michael Jackson, The Beatles and Madonna.

“Adele’s unique talent is a gift to music fans, and her success is certainly cause for a celebration of Diamond magnitude,” Cary Sherman, RIAA’s chairman & CEO, said in a statement.

Adele, 24, is enjoying the success of her latest single “Skyscraper,” the official theme song for the James Bond film of the same name. It has sold more than 2 million copies worldwide. The singer also gave birth to her first child earlier this year.

On the Billboard 200 chart this week, R&B star Rihanna scored her first No. 1 album with “Unapologetic,” selling 238,000 copies.

She held off new entries from “American Idol” winner Phillip Phillips, who landed at No 4 with his debut album “The World From The Side of the Moon,” and country-rock singer Kid Rock, who rounded out the top five with his latest album “Rebel Soul.”
Davis could be difference maker for Dynamo

Houston Dynamo midfielder Brad Davis (11) celebrates after scoring against Montreal Impact during the first half of their MLS soccer match in Montreal on 23 June, 2012. RIGHTS: Reuters

Soccer

Los Angeles Galaxy’s David Beckham

CARSON, (California), 30 Nov — David Beckham will end his Major League Soccer playing career on Saturday but has urged LA Galaxy team mate Land- don to stop playing because I believe that he has still got a good few years left in him,” added Beckham, who at 37 is seven years older than the American. Beckham suggested that Donovan might benefit from a brief time away to recharge his batteries. “Whether he needs a break, whether he needs to step away from the game and then come back at 30-years-old, he is still young. “Let’s hope he continues, let’s hope this isn’t his last game and that when he said he didn’t have the hunger like he used to, let’s hope that was just a moment,” he added.

Beckham and Donovan will line up against the Houston Dynamo on Saturday at the Galaxy’s Home Depot Centre as the pair look for a repeat of last year’s title victory. The former England and Manchester United midfielder said he had not noticed Dono- van lacking motivation. “From what I see on the field and the training field, the hunger is still there. I hope a talented player like Donovan might benefit from this team,” — Reuters

Nanjing Youth Olympics mascot unveiled

Nanjing, (East China), 30 Nov —Nanjing’s special product riverstone has been unveiled as the mascot for the 2014 Youth Olympic Games here. The pebble mascot named NANNINGLELE was unveiled on a big ceremony here on Thursday. The word “lele” represents the sound of stones colliding together and is pronounced like the Chinese word meaning happiness or joy, organizers said. Nanjing has been famous for its colourful river stones or Rain-Flower Pebble as Chinese call them. International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge said the mascot design was “inspiring”. — Reuters

Serena Williams named Women’s Tennis Association Player of the Year

Serena Williams of the US celebrates the trophy after her victory against Russia’s Maria Sharapova after their final WTA tennis championships match in Istanbul, on 28 Oct, 2012. — Reuters

Tennis

matches, culminating in the title at the WTA Championships in Istanbul. Williams, who ended the year No 3 in the rankings but clearly the outstanding player, has now won the WTA award four times, having also taken it in 2002, 2008 and 2009.

The award is voted for by international tennis media. — Reuters

Sharp putting keeps Tiger in contention at Sherwood

THOUSAND OAKS, (Califormia), 30 Nov — With his game markedly better than this time a year ago, tourna- ment host Tiger Woods was happy enough after grinding out a two-under-par 70 in Thursday’s opening round of the World Challenge. Though Woods did not strike the ball as well as he did in Wednesday’s pro-am competition, he sank several par putts from around 10 feet to remain contention and ended an overcast day at Sherwood Country Club just three strokes off the lead.

The American world number three has triumphed five times in the elite invitational event and, at a hilly venue he knows bet- ter than anyone else in the 18-player field, he has a good opportunity to claim his fourth vic- tory this year. “I didn’t hit it very good today, so it was nice to scrape out a good score,” Woods told reporters after mixing three birdies with a lone bogey and a total of 29 putts to finish three behind compatriot Nick Watney. “I made a few good par putts to keep the round going. I kept myself in the tournament. Could have easily shot myself out of the tournament but I kept myself in it.”

Tiger Woods of the US tees off on the fifth hole during the first round of the World Challenge golf tournament in Thou- sand Oaks, California, on 29 Nov, 2012. — Reuters

Playing his first tourna- ment since he tied for fourth at the PGA Tour-sanctioned CIMB Classic in Malaysia last month, Woods said he was not at rutsy with his game.”I just felt a little off,” the 36-year-old said. “Even warming up I didn’t quite feel it was where I needed to have it.”

I had a good night when I was hitting golf balls, and that was nice. “Unfortunately I just didn’t have it like I did last night. I’ll do some work here and hope- fully shore it up for tomorrow.”
News

* News
  * Heal the world with the warmth of the kind hands
  * News
  * "Astrology and Astronomy"
  Process of Planet correlated with horoscope for 12 SIGN ascendants
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  * Exclusive Highlight of 21 st ASEAN Summit (Phnom Penh, Cambodia)
  * News
  * Departure and Arrival

**Focus Myanmar TV Programme**

- "Short Story" Doubt
- HIV-AIDS Awareness
- News
- Taste of Myanmar (Lashiio Noodle)
- News
- Launching of State of World Population Report 2012 (Part-1)
- News
- Launching of State of World Population Report 2012 (Part-2)
- Myanmar Movie
  "A Trick on Spinners"

**MYANMAR TV**

- (1-12-2012, Saturday)
  7:00 am
  1. Parita By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 7:00 am
  2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:45 am
  3. Dharma Puja Song
- 8:00 am
  4. Health Programme
- 8:20 am
  5. Poem garden
- 8:35 am
  6. Teleplay (Traffic)
- 11:20 am
  7. Game for children
- 11:45 am
  8. Round up of the week’s TV local news
- 2:05 pm
  9. Documentary
- 4:05 pm
  10. Cultural dance
- 4:15 pm
  11. Songs of Yester Years
- 4:25 pm
  12. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures)
- 4:40 pm
  13. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 4:45 pm
  14. Beautiful “ASEAN”
- 4:55 pm
  15. World AIDS day songs
- 5:35 pm
  16. Game for children
- 6:20 pm
  17. Documentary
- 7:05 pm
  18. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
  19. News
- 20. TV Drama Series

**Pre-Primary School, site for SWD Office inspected in Pyapon Township**

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov—Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin made an inspection tour of self-reliant Pre-Primary School in Ward 11 of Pyapon Township, Office of Pyapon District Relief and Resettlement Department and warehouse in Kyonku Village-tract and the site chosen for construction of the office of Head of District Social Welfare Department on 27 November afternoon.—MNA

**Commissioner Stern riled by Spurs move to rest top players**

NEW YORK, 30 Nov—NBA Commissioner David Stern has vowed to punish the San Antonio Spurs for sending Tim Duncan, Tony Parker, Manu Ginobili and Danny Green home early rather than play in Miami on Thursday against NBA champion Heat. With the second-placed Spurs (13-3) set to take on Southwest Division leading Memphis (11-2) in San Antonio on Saturday, coach Gregg Popovich decided his group of veterans could use an extra day of rest at home after their hectic road stretch.

Stern lashed out at the move, which came before the Spurs’ nationally televised marquee clash against the Southeast leading Miami Heat (10-3).

“I apologize to all NBA fans,” Stern said in a statement. “This was an unacceptable decision by the San Antonio Spurs and substantial sanctions will be forthcoming.”

The Spurs, who had won the first five games of their six-game road trip ending in Miami, were left with just nine active players for the game against the Heat.— Reuters

**Six injured in Boston trolleys collision**

WASHINGTON, 30 Nov—Six passengers were injured and about 20 others have been evaluated after a trolley rear-ended another in the city of Boston on Thursday, said local authorities.

The injured have been taken to the hospital, said Boston Fire Department in an official tweet.

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) spokesman Joe Pesaturo said one trolley “bumped into another” shortly before noon in the Boylston Street station but there was no derailment and no visible damage.

There was no word of any passengers being injured.

In a statement, the Boston Globe cited a witness as saying, “The trolley operators in the front of both cars were seen shaking their heads at each other.”

One man got knocked out of the door onto the concrete platform ending up face down, when the collision took place in the outbound side of the station, the Boston Globe cited a witness as saying. The newspaper’s reporter also saw one man at the scene with a bloody shirt being escorted by rescue workers as he held a cloth to his head.

On its website, the MBTA advised passengers to expect delays in service and use other stations to make downtown subway connections.

In early October this year, three people were injured when two trolleys collided in the city and “human error” was confirmed by the MBTA to be the cause of the accident.

Another driver of a Boston trolley admitted to investigators that he was texting a message at the time of a crash that happened in 2009 and injured 49 people.

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Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses rural development and poverty alleviation work committee meeting.—MNA

**Interview about Letpadaungtaung Copper Mining Project**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 30 Nov**—The government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar under the leadership of the President is striving in cooperation with citizens to build up a modern, developed, new democratic nation in line with the Constitution. In so doing, laws and regulations and procedures were drafted and enacted for respective areas to promote genuine democratic practices within legal framework.

In accordance with provisions in Section 354 (b) of the Constitution, “Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law” was promulgated on 2 December, 2011 with Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No. 15. The legislation is aimed to instill citizens with a sense of respect for democratic practice, enabling them to act within legal framework. Under this law and related bylaws, citizens have been authorized to speak and air their grievances through permitted means.

However, since 18 November protesters of Letpadaungtaung Copper Mining Project had trespassed into project area in which Section 144 was imposed and organized protest camps and disrupted the operation of the project.

Authorities concerned have repeatedly tried to negotiate and coordinate for demands of local people since the outbreak of complaints against Letpadaungtaung Copper Mining Project. However, the negotiations collapsed as demonstrators continuously demanded the end of the entire project.

With regard to ongoing protests, Pyithutaw decided to form an independent national level commission comprised of respected personalities, local and foreign academics and... (See page 9)

**A person who was wounded in riot suppression at Letpadaungtaung Copper Mining Project.** MNA

**Bay bulletin**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 30 Nov**—According to observations at 6:30 hr MST today, a low pressure area over Andaman Sea and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal still persists, said Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—MNA

**Slight earthquake hits 3 miles southeast of Thabeikkyin**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 30 Nov**—A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.1 Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar, (about 3 miles southeast of Thabeikkyin), about 60