Translate challenges into golden opportunity that can bring about historical event of the State

Tanggal Township. The Vice-President and party then watched training sessions of selected Myanmar cane ball athletes and selected Myanmar weightlifters.

On arrival at Theinbyu Tennis Court, the Vice-President was welcomed by the president of Myanmar Tennis Federation and the head coach and viewed selected Myanmar players undergoing training.

On arrival at Dagon University, the Vice-President heard reports submitted by Union Education Minister Dr Mya Aye and Rector of Dagon University Dr Hla Hay on preparations of the university to host the games and attended to the needs.

They then proceeded to the shooting range of Myanmar shooting federation of Dagon Myothit (North) and inspected the repairs of the shooting range. Union Minister U Tint Hsan, the president of the Myanmar shooting federation and officials conducted the Vice-President round the shooting range.

The Vice-President and party enjoyed demonstration of Karatedo and Taekwondo players at Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium (1).

They then proceeded to Youth Training Camp (Thuwunna) and cordially greeted Myanmar Track and Field athletes and coaches.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun then inspected repair and extension of stand at Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna). He then met presidents of sports federations at Ruby Hall in National Indoor Stadium (1) Thuwunna.

Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the XXVII SEA Games Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan said about 30 out of 42 sports federations in Myanmar are preparing to take part and secure victory in the SEA Games.

Patron of the Leading Committee for Organizing XXVII SEA Games Vice-President U Nyan Tun called for rejuvenating the glorious days in Myanmar sports history. He said that sports largely contributes fitness and wellness of individuals and is a major facilitator to life quality of a society, citing the interrelationship between sports activities, public trust and well-being in a nation.

Every nation, therefore, is placing emphasis on high standard of sports and encouraging active participation of the public in sports. Myanmar is also striving for promotion of sports standards as a national history. He said that sports largely contributes fitness and wellness of individuals and is a major facilitator to life quality of a society, citing the interrelationship between sports activities, public trust and well-being in a nation.

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Summary of observations at 9.30 hr MST on 2-12-2012

- Significant night temperatures (2-12-2012)
  - Haka: 3°C
  - Putao: 8°C
  - Katha: 8°C

Field athletes and coaches. Vice-President U Nyan Tun then inspected repair and extension of stand at Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna). He then met presidents of sports federations at Ruby Hall in National Indoor Stadium (1) Thuwunna.

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Jalalabad, 2 Dec—At least 11 people were killed when Taleban militants armed with suicide vests and weapons stormed an Afghan-NATO base in Jalalabad, the capital city of Afghanistan’s eastern province of Nangarhar, Sunday morning.

A total of 11 people including nine attackers and two civilians were killed in Sunday morning’s attack in the joint base, local media Tolo News reported.

The attack began at around 6:00 am local time when two suicide bombers hit their explosive-laden vehicles into separate entrances of the base, sparking a gunfight between the militants and security forces, the report said, citing unknown sources.

No casualty reports on Afghan and NATO forces were immediately available. However, it is said that at least one Afghan soldier was killed and several other foreign and Afghan soldiers were wounded in the incident in the city, some 120 km east of the Afghan capital Kabul.

NATO helicopters were hovering over the area and fired on the attackers, a witness told Xinhua, adding that the blasts caused a plume of grey smoke above the scene. It was not known whether the attackers breached the base which is the main base in eastern provinces.

Government troops immediately cordoned off the area shortly after the blasts.

Xinhua
Women’s vocational training course concludes in Lahe

NAV PVI TAW, 2 Dec — A closing ceremony of advanced tailoring course No (17/2012) and basic vocational training course No (221/2012), organized by Women’s Vocational Training School of Naga Self-Administered Zone, was held at the training school in Lahe on 30 November.

First, the Chairman of the leading body of Naga Self-Administered Zone spoke on the occasion, and presented a set of sewing machine each to two outstanding trainees. So far, the school has produced 512 trainees through various training courses.

Meiktila celebrates floating lotus-shaped oil lamp ceremony

MEIKTILA, 2 Dec — As a gesture of celebrating the Tazaungdine Festival, Meiktila dwellers organized a ceremony to set their lotus-shaped oil cup adrift on the lake near Moegaung Pagoda from 27 to 29 November.

On the Fullmoon Day of Tazaungmon, merry-makers thronged to take part in the ceremony.

“The ceremony is annually held in Tazaungdine Festival since 21 years ago. Even those who have been away from their native town participate in the ceremony without fail. This is the festival of all of dwellers, urban and rural alike”, a vendor said.

In the ceremony, participants set their boat-shaped and lotus-shaped paper cups adrift on the lake.

Umbrella-hoisting ceremony of Thakyamarazein Pagoda in Kayan

KAYAN, 2 Dec — To mark the successful completion of renovation tasks, a ceremony to hoist a Shwehtidaw (golden umbrella), a Hngetmyatnadaw (pennant-shaped vane) and a Seinbudaw (diamond orb) atop of the pagoda was held at the compound of the pagoda on Fullmoon Day of Tazaungmon, attended by members of the Sangha and members of the board of trustees of the pagoda.

Firstly, a merits-sharing ceremony took place at the Sasana Beikman of the pagoda. Next, Honourable Patron of the board of trustees of the pagoda Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Maung Maung Thein supplicated on religious matters to the members of the Sangha and explained the purpose of donation.

Then Shwehtidaw Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw were hoisted atop of the pagoda. While hoisting ceremony was in progress, Mandalay Thein Zaw and vocalists sang Dhamma songs. After the ceremony, the congregation enjoyed breakfast and refreshment.

Yangon Railway Station sees book corner

YANGON, 2 Dec — The opening of a book corner on the No-1 Platform of Yangon Railway Station was held at 1 pm on 30 November.

Mr. Aung Naing, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Public Relations Department, U Oo of Myanmar Martial Art Federation arrived back here from Singapore.

This year’s championship in the world championship of Martial Arts in Singapore was held from 19 to 27 November. — Kyemon

Urn of singer Khin Maung Toe set adrift in the water

SAGAING, 2 Dec — A ceremony to float the urn of well-known singer U Khin Maung Toe in the water was held at Mingun Village of Sagaing Township on the Fullmoon day of Tazaungmon. He died on 15 November while receiving medical treatment on 15 November while receiving medical treatment on 15 November while receiving medical treatment at Dhamma Nada monastery in Mingun Moemelik region in the morning on that day. In the evening, they floated the urn down the Ayeyawady river upstream of Pahtodawgyi.

Singer U Khin Maung Toe was born in Mawlaik of Sagaing Region in 1950. He became famous for his own tune songs. He died at the age of 63, leaving his wife Daw Wai Wai Khine and three children. — Kyemon

Pencak Silat athletes make triumphant return to home

YANGON, 2 Dec — After taking part in 15th World Pencak Silat Championship 2012 held at Ching Rai of Thailand from 19 to 27 November, the victorious Myanmar sports team was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by member of Myanmar Olympic Committee Vice-President of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation Daw L. Khin Yi, MWSF Vice-President Daw Yt Hsai Eine, Patron of MMAF Daw Nu Nu Htwe and officials and family members of athletes.

Myanmar martial art team comprising nine men and five women competed in the championship. Ma Thin Myat Aye (Agriculture & Irrigation) won gold medal in 65-70 kilo women’s Tanding event bagged bronze medals respectively. Myanmar team won a gold and three bronze medals, standing sixth among 24 countries from Europe, Asia and Southeast Asia. Myanmar had participated in the world championship for three times and won three silver and two bronze so far. This year’s championship brought Myanmar’s medal tally to nine—a gold, three silver and five bronze. Four Myanmar referees acted as international ones at the championship. — Kyemon

Mulitpurpose stoves for Kuni model village

NAV PVI TAW, 2 Dec — As a drive for implementing rural region development and poverty alleviations scheme initiated by the State, Arid Zone Greening Department of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry distributed multipurpose-use stoves to the local people and conducted educative talks on environmental conservation at Kuni Village in Mahlaing Township of Meiktila District in Mandalay Region on 27 November.

A ceremony to launch a campaign to raise public awareness of environmental conservation, the deputy commissioner of the District General Administration Department and township administrator spoke on the occasion. Then Deputy Director of Meiktila District Arid Zone Greening Department U Soe Tint (1) gave talks on knowledge about environmental conservation activities, and gave away 80 multipurpose-use stoves to locals. The Mahlaing Township Staff officer explained how to designate a village as a model village.

It had been arranged to distribute 640 stoves in the district in 2012-2013 fiscal year, and a total of 480 stoves have been distributed up to date. — Kyemon

Photo shows new arrival of onions from Yawchaung and Kyawchaung in Yesagyo Township of Myaomye Market of Pakokku on 30 November. — Kyemon

Women’s vocational training course concludes in Lahe

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First, the Chairman of the leading body of Naga Self-Administered Zone spoke on the occasion, and presented a set of sewing machine each to two outstanding trainees. So far, the school has produced 512 trainees through various training courses. — MVA
Iraq's Ahmadinejad gives new job to aide seen as possible heir

**Iran**

DUBAI, 2 Dec—Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has moved his chief of staff, seen as a potential successor and a target of criticism from hardline conservatives, to another job, according to the president's official website on Saturday.

Esfandiar Rahim Mashaei has provoked the ire of Ahmadinejad's conservative rivals, who accuse him of trying to undermine Iran's theocratic system. Ahmadinejad has defended his closest aide throughout the attacks. In a statement on Saturday, Ahmadinejad thanked Mashaei for his service, appointing him to a position in the Non-Aligned Movement, the 120 member bloc of countries whose rotating chair is held by Iran.

“I consider knowing and working with you to be a divine gift and great honor,” Ahmadinejad wrote in the statement addressed to Mashaei.

Ahmadinejad, who has faced criticism from conservative rivals in parliament over his economic performance, is finishing his last year in office and by law cannot run again in presidential elections due in June 2013. Some analysts, and Ahmadinejad's rivals, believe he has been grooming Mashaei to succeed him. Conserva-
tive politicians and allies of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei have accused Mashaei of leading a "deviant" current bent on undermining the political role of the clergy, the ultimate authorities in Iran. He has been criticized for em-
phasizing the nationalist strain of Iranian history and culture over religion. —Reuters

Syria rebels bombarde as open to peacekeepers

BEIRUT, 2 Dec—Syrian jets bombarded rebel areas of Damascus on Saturday, as residents said, as the opposition indicated it could accept an international peacekeep-
ing force if President Bashar al-Assad is forced from power.

Warpplanes attacked the Damascus suburbs of Kafar Souss and Darraya, accord-
ging to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition-linked group. The air strikes follow intensified rebel activity in the capital, Assad's seat of power, as well as successful stormings of government military bases in recent weeks.

Syrian regular forces are trying to control the areas surrounding the capital, the Observatory said. Bombings targeted the residential areas of the rebel presence in the cap-
it's outer districts from the northeast to the southwest.

Activists reported clashes and air strikes in the prov-
ses of Homs, Deir al-Zor, Idlib and in Aleppo, where they said 14 rebel fighters were killed during an as-
sault on an army base in the town of Khanasser early on Saturday.

It is difficult to verify such reports due to govern-
ment restrictions on media access to Syria.

Syria’s Internet con-
nections began working again on Saturday after a two-day blackout, the worst communications out-
age in the 20-month-old uprising against Assad in which 40,000 people have been killed and hundreds of thousands forced to flee the country.

Opposition umbrell

a group the Syrian National Coalition might allow an international peacekeeping force into Syria if Assad and his allies leave power, coalition spokesman Wadi al-Bunni said on Saturday.

Some opposition mem-

bers have argued against international intervention, saying their arrival could serve as a rallying call for Assad loyalists in an area near the Mediterranean where many of his minority Alawite sect live.

Assad, whose family has ruled autocratically for four decades, draws much of his support from the sect, an offshoot of Shiite Islam. Most of the rebels are Sunni Muslims.

Bunni said the coalition was open to any proposal provided it was not accompanied by measures that would prevent the government from regaining control of the good-neighbourly relations and enhancing regional stability, the coalition's statement said.

South Korean sailors freed by Somali pirates after 19 months

SEOUL, 2 Dec—Four South Korean sailors ab-
ducted by Somali pirates 19 months ago were released on Saturday, South Korea's Foreign Ministry said.

The MT Gemini, a tank-
er operated by Singapore-

based Glory Ship Manage-

ment, was hijacked by the pirates on 30 April, 2011, with the four sailors, along with 21 non-Korean crew members, while heading to Malaysia from Kenya.

The pirates freed the vessel seven months later along with the non-Somali sailors, but kept the four Koreans captive, breach-
ing an earlier agreement to release all crew members.

“All four (South Kore-
an) sailors have been freed on Saturday,” a ministry statement said.

It added the sailors, now on a South Korean navy destroyer, would return to Seoul by air once health checks and other pro-
ceedures were completed.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency and other me-
dia quoted Seoul officials as saying the sailors appeared to be in good health and that the government backed the Singapore company in ne-
gotiations with the pirates.

There was no information on whether a ransom had been paid.

South Korea has de-
ployed a navy destroyer with about 300 troops in the Gulf of Aden since early 2010 to comply with a US-
ed multinational campaign to quell frequent piracy by the Somalis, a legacy of the country's two-decade civil war.

UN Security Council hails continued Iraq-Kuwait cooperation in resolving bilateral outstanding issues

UNITED NATIONS, 2 Dec—The UN Security Coun-

cil on Saturday welcomed "the continued cooperation of the govern-
ments of Iraq and Kuwait" in resolving their bilateral outstanding issues after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

The 15-nation council, in a press statement issued here, said, "The members of the Security Council welcomed the continued cooperation of the govern-
ments of Iraq and Kuwait, and Iraq's continued com-
mitment to full implementa-
tion of its obligations under the res-
evant Chapter VII Security Council resolutions."

The Security Council "caused its members to continue to act in a spirit that builds further confi-
dence and cooperation, which should contribute to the strengthening of their good-neighbourly relations and enhancing regional sta-
-

The two countries recently made tangible strides that might contribute to solving is-

The members of the Security Council recog-
nized Kuwait's cooperation to support the Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Maintenance Project and called on Iraq to complete the field mainte-
nance work in a timely man-
ner," the statement said.

Kuwait Deputy Pre-
mer and Foreign Minis-
ter Sheikh Sabah Khaled al-Hamad al-Sabah said Kuwait is ready to end the outstanding issues with Iraq in accordance with the international resolutions issued after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, the Iraqi state-
run al-

The Security Council "caused its members to continue to act in a spirit that builds further confidence and cooperation, which should contribute to the strengthening of their good-neighbourly relations and enhancing regional stability," the statement said.

The two countries recently made tangible strides that might contribute to solving issues, including striking a 500-million-US dollar deal for the standoff with the Iraqi Airways, which prevented the Iraqi planes from flying to destinations in the West.

Belgian Prime Minister Elio Di Rupo (2nd L) talks with young volunteers during a rally to mark the 25th World AIDS Day in Brussels, capital of Belgium on 1 Dec, 2012. (Xinhua

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ner," the statement said.
Twitter in legal spat over data clampdown

Twitter Inc's steadily tightening grip over the 140-character messages on its network has set off a spirited debate in Silicon Valley over whether a social media company should or should not lay claim over its user-generated content.

That debate has now landed in court.

A San Francisco judge on Wednesday granted a temporary restraining order decreeing Twitter to continue providing access to its "Firehose" — the full daily stream of some 400 million tweets — to PeopleBrowsr Inc, a data analytics firm that sifts through Twitter and resells that information to clients ranging from technology blogs to the US Department of Defence.

As part of a broader revenue-generating strategy, Twitter in recent months has begun clamping down on how its data stream may be accessed, to the dismay of many third-party developers who have built businesses and products off of Twitter's Firehose.

PeopleBrowsr, which began contracting Firehose access in July 2010, has continued to buy Twitter data on a month-to-month basis until this July, when Twitter invoked a clause in the agreement that allowed for terminating the contract without cause. The court's decision to extend the two San Francisco-based companies' contract has not settled the legal spat; a judge will hear PeopleBrowsr's arguments for a preliminary injunction against Twitter on 8 January. —Reuters

A Twitter page shows an entry from European Council President Herman Van Rompuy in Brussels on 11 March, 2011.—Reuters

NASA probe reveals organics, ice on Mercury

Mercury, the planet closest to the sun, has ice and frozen organic materials inside permanently shadowed craters in its north pole, NASA scientists said on Thursday.

Earth-based telescopes have been compiling evidence for ice on Mercury for 20 years, but the finding of organics was a surprise, say researchers with NASA's MESSENGER spacecraft, the first probe to orbit Mercury.

Both ice and organic materials, which are similar to tar or coal, were believed to have been delivered millions of years ago by comets and asteroids crashing into the planet.

"It's not something we expected to see, but then of course you realize it kind of makes sense, you see this in other places," such as icy bodies in the outer solar system and in the nuclei of comets, planetary scientist David Paige, with the University of California, Los Angeles, told Reuters.

Unlike NASA's Mars rover Curiosity, which will be sampling rocks and soils to look for organic materials directly, the MESSENGER probe bounces laser beams, counts particles, measures gamma rays and collects other data remotely from orbit.

"The discoveries of ice and organics, painstakingly pieced together for more than a year, are based on computer models, laboratory experiments and deduction, not direct analysis. The explanation that seems to fit all the data is that it's organic material," said lead MESSENGER scientist Sean Solomon, with Columbia University in New York. —Reuters

A man's journey to Seoul

A desperate HP suspended disbelief for Autonomy deal

San Francisco/New York/London, 2 Dec.—For Leo Apotheker, the former Hewlett-Packard CEO, a July 2011 meeting with Autonomy founder Mike Lynch at a chic seaside resort in France was pivotal to his effort to remake a storied technology giant.

In the nine months since taking the helm at HP, Apotheker had tried furiously to find a way to move the lumbering company away from its low-margin computer hardware business and into the lucrative computer software and services arena.

Apotheker was looking for a big, transformative acquisition, two people familiar with the situation said, and after overtures to several companies went nowhere, he set his sights on Autonomy.

After two months of negotiations on what was known at HP as "Project Tesla," Apotheker sat down with Lynch at a hotel in Deauville on the Normandy coast — and shook hands on what would become an $11.1 billion deal. The Autonomy takeover was indeed a bombshell — but not in the way that Apotheker had hoped.

When it was announced in August 2011, HP's stock plummeted amid withering criticism of the price tag. Within weeks, Apotheker was out of a job. Within months, Lynch and his new masters at HP were at war.

Insiders say, Lynch had been forced out and HP was investigating allegations of major accounting irregularities at Autonomy. That culminated in HP saying last week it was writing off more than three-quarters of the value of Autonomy, and telling US and UK regulators about alleged accounting fraud.

How a desperate HP suspended disbelief for Autonomy deal

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A Twitter page shows an entry from European Council President Herman Van Rompuy in Brussels on 11 March, 2011.—Reuters

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A woman walks past the Hewlett Packard logo at its French headquarters in Issy le Moulineaux, western Paris, in this 16 Sept, 2005 file photograph. —Reuters

Solar cell cloth

Samsung says to fix outsourcing issues, but keep most production inhouse

Seoul, 2 Dec—Samsung Electronics Co plans to keep the bulk of its manufacturing inhouse but reiterated a pledge to improve working conditions at its suppliers after admitting excessive overtime and fines for employees in China, a senior executive said on Friday.

New York-based China suppliers in China.

"We're working with them to change these practices and introduce a better work environment," Mok, vice president of human resources, told Reuters in an interview.

"There were indeed some cases of excessive overtime work. When workers have to work weekends, for example,

An employee of Samsung Electronics walks past the company main office in Seoul April 6, 2010. —Reuters

Labour Watch (CLW) said employees at one of Samsung's suppliers sometimes worked up to 16 hours a day, with only one day's rest a month.

That prompted an investigation in September by Samsung of its suppliers in China.

"There was common use of a system of penalties (at our suppliers in China) for being late or producing faulty products, which is improper practice under global standards but somewhat general practice under local regulations," said Mok Kangkyun, who led the team of over 100 auditors to inspect Samsung's 105 facilities in orders, overtime work reached 32 hours a week or 100 hours a month," he said.

"We've recommended they hire more workers, introduce automation and improve production processes to fix this. We are also working on guidelines to gradually reduce overtime work hours."

Samsung produces more than 40 percent of its goods in China including its popular Galaxy S smartphones, home appliances and chips. But most of that is in its own plants, with outsourcing accounting for less than 10 percent of total production.
Wall Street ends flat as "fiscal cliff" focus lingers

NEW YORK, Dec—The S&P 500 wrapped up its fifth positive month in the last six on Friday, although it ended the day flat as politicians remain at odds about how to avoid the so-called fiscal cliff.

Trading had been choppy in the last two weeks as investors react to statements from policymakers on the state of discussions on how to avert a series of tax hikes and spending cuts that could pull the economy back into recession.

The S&P 500 was up 0.29 percent in November even as it suffered a slide of more than 6 percent from the month’s high to its low. “Given the ‘on again, off again’ fiscal cliff (negotiations), it’s rather surprising how resilient this market has been,” said David Rolfe, chief investment officer at St. Louis-based Wedgewood Partners.

Between now and the end of the year, there’s going to be an information vacuum outside the fiscal cliff, and I believe that resiliency will be tested.”

In contrast to the apparent calm in equities, the CBOE Volatility Index VIX, a gauge of market anxiety, jumped 5.4 percent, its largest daily gain in two weeks.

The VIX also rose for the week, posted a 14.7 percent decline for November.

On Friday, President Barack Obama accused a “handful of Republicans” in the US House of Representatives of holding up legislation to extend tax cuts for middle-class Americans in order to try to preserve them for the wealthy.

Speaking shortly after the president, House Speaker John Boehner, an Ohio Republican, said: “There is a stalemate; let’s not kid ourselves.”

Despite the divisive language, many market participants are betting that a deal will be struck—if only at the eleventh hour.

Corporations continue to react to what is expected to be a harsher tax regime next year. Whole Foods Market (WFM.O) was the latest to announce a special cash dividend—of $2.00 per share in this case— ahead of expected higher tax rates in 2013.

The Dow Jones Industrial average DJI rose 3.76 points, or 0.03 percent, to 13,025.58 at the close. The S&P 500 SPX gained a mere 0.23 of a point, or 0.02 percent, to finish at 1,416.18.

But the Nasdaq Composite IXIC dipped 1.79 points or 0.10 percent, to end at 3,010.24.

For the month of November, the S&P 500 rose 0.29 percent, its smallest monthly variation since March 2011.—Reuters

AMR wants keep control over bankruptcy through 11 March

NEW YORK, Dec—American Airlines’ bankrupt parent has asked a judge to extend by six weeks, through 11 March, the period in which it has the exclusive right to propose a plan to exit bankruptcy.

The request, made jointly with its creditors’ committee, was filed on Friday in US Bankruptcy Court in Manhattan. The current exclusive window is set to end on 28 January. AMR Corp (AAMRQ.PK) filed for bankruptcy last year in hopes of preserving them for the future.

The work, while

Investment limit in govt, corporate bonds to be raised

MUMBAI, Dec—The government will raise the limit on foreign investments in government and corporate bonds by $5 billion each, said a finance ministry official, who declined to be named, in a move intended to attract more funds into the country.

India currently caps the total amount that foreign institutional investors can buy in domestic debt at $65 billion, which is distributed through categories of government, corporate and infrastructure bonds, some of which include tenor or lock-in restrictions.

The increase in limits will be effective in the next seven to ten days, the official said on Friday.

That day, during exclusive discussions with creditors on how to bring AMR out of bankruptcy,American Airlines confirmed the plan to extend by six weeks, through 11 March, the period in which it has the exclusive right to propose a plan to exit bankruptcy.

The exclusive window is set to end on 28 January. AMR Corp (AAMRQ.PK) filed for bankruptcy last year in hopes of preserving them for the future.

The work, while

Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, on 27 Nov, 2012.—Reuters

An employee sorts Indian currency notes at a cash counter inside a bank in Agartala on 18 Feb, 2010.—Reuters

An American Airlines passenger jet glides in under the moon as it lands at LaGuardia airport in New York, on 28 Aug, 2012.—Reuters

Activists from a non-governmental organization (NGO) light candles during an AIDS awareness campaign on the eve of World AIDS Day in Agartala, capital of India’s northeastern state of Tripura on 30 Nov, 2012.—Reuters

American Airlines has asked a judge to extend the period in which it has the exclusive right to propose a plan to exit bankruptcy, from six to eight weeks. The current exclusive window is set to end on 28 January. AMR Corp (AAMRQ.PK) filed for bankruptcy last year in hopes of preserving them for the future.

The work, while
Kansas City Chiefs’ Belcher in fatal double shooting

KANSAS CITY, 2 Dec—Kansas City Chiefs starting linebacker Jovan Belcher shot his girlfriend to death, then drove to the team training facility and killed himself in front of the coach and general manager in a burst of violence on Saturday that stunned the NFL and its fans.

There was no immediate indication from police or others what prompted the 25-year-old Belcher to shoot Kasandra Perkins, 22 with whom he had a 3-month-old child, in the house they shared in Kansas City about 2 miles from the Chiefs’ home field at Arrowhead Stadium.

Police spokesman Dan, Snap said Perkins’ mother witnessed the killing and called police. Perkins had suffered multiple gunshot wounds and was pronounced dead at a hospital.

The mother told investigators that Perkins and Belcher had quarreled just before the shooting but that Belcher had never before been physically abusive with her daughter, Snapp added.

Belcher then drove his car to the team’s training facility near the stadium, where he encountered head coach Romeo Crennel and general manager Scott Pioli, then shot himself in the head just as police arrived.

“As officers pulled up and were getting ready to get out of their car, then heard gunshot,” Snap said. “The individual, it appears, took his own life.”

Snap said Belcher had made no threats to Crennel, Proli or other employees when he arrived. “He was just talking to them and thanking them for everything they had done for him,” the police spokesman said.—Reuters

Death toll in Brazzaville plane crash rises to 32

BRAZZAVILLE, 2 Dec—The death toll in the cargo plane crash that occurred on Friday evening in capital of the Republic of Congo has risen to 32, according to an official from the Congolese Red Cross on Saturday.

The official who does not want to be named told Xinhua that among the deaths, there are six crew members and a number of other people aboard the plane.

Earlier, Rodolph Adada, minister of the Republic of Congo’s Transport, told Xinhua that among the victims were two Congolese, who arrived at the scene of the accident on Saturday morning, said that the provisional death toll was 22, including seven crew members.

On Friday night, rescuers told Xinhua that 14 others were injured in the accident and were sent to hospitals nearby for treatment.

The aircraft crashed at around 5:30 local time (1630 GMT) on Friday during landing in a thunderstorm in Brazzaville. The spokesman for the Congolese police, Allison, said Saturday that due to a thunderstorm, the cargo plane failed to land successfully at the airport wounds and was smashed against the ground when the pilot tried to take it back.

The plane crashed into a residential area in the Mbovu district of Brazzaville, about four kilometers away from the Maya-Maya Airport.

Aimé, a woman resident of Brazzaville whose house is located in the same area where the plane crashed, told Xinhua that everyone was scared. “We were shocked to see the plane coming down on some houses and all the people shouted and ran away.”

My uncle and nephew were killed,” she said.

The ill-equipped aircraft, registered with a local company, Aero-Service, took off as a Flight to Pointe Noire, a port city about 500 km southwest of Brazzaville, to the capital city.

UAE govt. seeks popular participation

DUBAI, 2 Dec—The Gulf State will continue to gradually broaden the popular participation in political decision-making, said United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahyan, according to local news agency WAM.

In his greeting message for the UAE’s 41st National Day, the president said the UAE’s political model was “truly nationalistic,” preserving national identity and protecting established principles.

He said the UAE shall continue its efforts to reach a viable political model which reflects the Gulf state’s realities and play in harmony with the nature of its own society.

In recent years, the UAE has expanded the powers of the 40 deputies, comprising Federal National Council (FNC). Since 2006, half of the UAE’s FNC members are elected, and the remaining 20 council members are appointed by the rulers of the seven emirates which composite the UAE.

During the last election in September 2011, some 30 percent of all Emirati citizens were eligible to vote, representing an increase from 2.3 percent in 2006 when half of the FNC deputies were ever elected in the history of the UAE.

Doha climate talks end first half with no consensus

“Parties’ stands are not very clear at the initial stage of the negotiations,” he said, adding that “we hope the ministerial meetings next week can lead to some consensus and solutions that can be accepted by all.”

Up to now, developed countries are still reluctant to make further emission cuts pledge as urged by developing countries.

The European Union (EU) has pledged to reduce its emissions by at least 20 percent by 2020, but set conditions for a further 30 percent cut.

The United States, despite President Barack Obama’s pledge to lead in climate in his second term, is blocking progress towards a longer-term global deal; while Canada, Japan, New Zealand, among others, are still keeping away from the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.

Parties also divide on the length of the second period. The EU and the BASIC countries, including China, India, Brazil and South Africa, propose it should be eight years as it could be linked with the existing 2020 targets; while some small, developing island states prefer a five-year period so as to push developed countries to take faster actions.

“As the second period is to launch on 1 Jan, 2013, we must reach some consensus on the issue as soon as possible,” Su said.

It took eight years for some countries to ratify the first commitment period and it is not clear how long it needs to get the green light for the second period.

Whether the surplus emissions allowances, or “hot air,” from the first commitment period should be retired is also a controversy at Doha talks.

The G77 and China opposed trading carried over hot air in the second commitment period. Europe is deeply split on the issue, while some other countries, including Russia, propose to profit from their surplus carbon dioxide allowances.

At the same time, the financial aid promised by developed countries to help the world’s most vulnerable countries cope with climate change has not been fully delivered.

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A couple walk into a hall during a group wedding in Beijing, capital of China, on Dec, 2012. Seven couples who are about 126-centimeter-tall from a Beijing shadow play troupe attended the group wedding on Saturday. Xinhua

Many Pakistanis say the strikes are a violation of national sovereignty and that civilian casualties encourage families seeking revenge to join the insurgency.

But the US says civilian casualties are limited and the drones operate in areas outside of Pakistani government control.

A Yemeni fighter called Abdul Rehman, allied to al-Qaeda, was among the dead, government and intelligence sources said.

It is difficult for journalists to verify the casualties from drone strikes since the government forbids foreign journalists from travelling to the area without a military escort and the Taliban often seal off the sites of strikes.

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But the US says civilian casualties are limited and the drones operate in areas outside of Pakistani government control.

Reuters

Pakistan drone strike dead Yemeni amid four "Al-Qaeda-linked" Yemeni among four Pakistan drone strike dead

PESHAWAR, 2 Dec—A missile fired from a drone killed four people, including a Yemeni fighter linked to al-Qaeda, when it hit their car in northern Pakistan on Saturday evening, intelligence and tribal sources said.

The strike at Sheen Warsak village in South Waziristan followed another drone attack in the same area two days earlier.

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Monks at Monywa People’s Hospital comforted by deputy ministers

Deputy Ministers Dr U Win Myint and Dr U Maung Maung Htay today comforted monks and two men receiving treatment at Monywa People’s Hospital for injuries during the Lapaduangtaung copper mine issue.

The deputy ministers discussed the matters related to the medical treatment at the hospital and provided the medicines for the hospital.

The deputy ministers viewed the monks undergoing treatment at the hospital and provided the medical superintendent of the hospital with K 1.2 million for the medical treatment at Monywa People’s Hospital by U Win Swe and Daw Khin San Lwin of Mandalay, owner of the Chit Swe Furniture family at the office of the medical superintendent of the hospital.

Towards a Strong Future for Myanmar Movies workshop continues

The workshop on Towards a Strong Future for Myanmar Movies, jointly organized by the Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise and the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization and sponsored by Forever Group, continued at the Kandawgyi Palace Hotel, here this morning.

Dr Aung Tun Thet clarified the arrangement of its day and the scholars of home and foreign field, supervisors and attendees exchanged their views, which brought the workshop to a close.

At night, the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization hosted a dinner to the attendees at Royal Garden restaurant in Bogoke Aung San Garden.

Traffic accident occurs on Thanthuma Road

A Collora van driven from Thwunna park to Thingangyun bus terminal with high speed turned over between Waiwula and Chanaye bus stops on Thanthuma Road in Thingangyun Township.

Due to out of tight rod, the van hit nine pieces of traffic island in the centre of the road and then turned over.

In the incident, the driver was injured and rushed to Thingangyun Sanpya Hospital.

Sales of land plots in Thilawa Tatyagon Block clam down

Most of the plot owners are waiting for getting preferable prices.

The local authorities clarified the arrangement here, this morning.

Two traffic accidents occur at junction of Ahlon, Strand Roads

A local said, “It is a point to entrance and exist of new Strand Road. So, traffic jams and blocks cause here severely.

Although there are traffic lights and traffic police station, traffic policemen are not assigned here permanently. We wish at least one traffic policeman should be assigned duty here at the traffic police so as to reduce traffic jams and blocks.”—Myanma Alinn

Narcotic drugs seized in Momauk

Momauk, 2 Dec—Members of Bhamo Anti-Drug Special Squad and Momauk Police Station seized what suspected to be heroin from a passenger near the concrete bridge at the entrance to Momauk of Kachin State.

The Momauk mobile squad led by IP Aung Ko Naing and the squad by SIP Tun Tun Win of Momauk Police Station at 1 pm on 23 November searched Hilux driven by U Kyaw Win from Lwejel to Bhamo near the concrete bridge.

They seized 16 grams of suspected heroin from the box场所 hidden in candy packets in the polyethylene bag and 7.6 grams of heroin of Ko Win Naing, totaling 23.6 grams.

Momauk Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against Ko Win Naing, 40, of Magyigon village in Mawlu Village-tract in Indaw Township under Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.

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Myanma Alinn
Reader satisfaction

We can say that mass print media came into being after the invention of the printing press in the Holy Roman Empire by Johannes Gutenberg, a German, around 1440. From that time on print media gradually developed till becoming the sole dominant information source and distributor on Earth for many years till the introduction a new technology called radio an effective tool for both information distribution and entertainment. But the radio cannot beat the print media which can be kept as records, and in some cases newspapers tell the history of a nation or the world itself.

As a result of constant technological advancement, the performance, functions and power of printing press grew more and more sophisticated, quality of paper, ink and other related materials further improved, thereby leading to the publication of quality periodicals, especially the newspapers.

After the inauguration of world’s first working television system in Hastings, England, in 1923. TV became the number one enemy of print media. TV has many advantages as it shows moving images, and can broadcast live, current business and other important news, thereby breaking news in real time. Even with these advantages, TV cannot knock out the print media because of the latter’s ever increasing role as a trustful information provider.

But the late comer, the electronic media, especially the Internet has taken the youth audience away from the print media. As we can see especially the Internet has taken the youth information provider. Of the latter’s ever increasing role as a trustful source of information, even the journalists are driven away from the print media. As we can see especially the Internet has taken the youth information provider.

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Now, Korean TV episodes or series are invading almost the whole Asia including Myanmar by storm, and they are gaining strong foothold in our country, especially, among the female population young and old. So what about the Myanmar film industry or Myanmar movies, as we have (I think) no notable Myanmar TV series yet. I have seen parts of Myanmar TV episodes (I think on Channel7) created by local talents but unfortunately they are just the plain imitations of Koreas, or the second or even third class Koreas TV programs in Myanmar version. Sadly, some of our young generation wrongly thinks that by directly imitating or carbon copying the Koreans, they can gain popularity. But in my view, if they even can gain popularity, it will be just for a short while. What matters is the perseverance, dedication, hard work and chance to learn their ways that lifted them to international stage. If Korean TV episodes are only in Korean language without any Myanmar subtitles, nobody will watch them as most of the TV sequences from the East Asian country showing in Myanmar are dramas rather than actions, audience can fully appreciate or feel the artistic essence only through excellent translation.

We Myanmar people are very good at copying other movies. When Indian movies were so popular in Myanmar, we copied them. For example, we have Aradhana in our own style (including radio play), but it’s just a carbon copy and not our own creation. Aradhana an Indian film cast by Rajesh Khanna (deceased) and Sharmila Tagor was admired so much by our people that according to some sources the two film stars were invited to visit Myanmar. And when Japanese movies were popular in our country we copied them. Now, it is the turn of the South Koreans. But silver screen Korean movies are not popular in Myanmar, and most of us even don’t know which Korean movie is famous or is a runaway success. There is no subtitle industry in Myanmar for foreign movies yet. Without the help of competent translators, we will not even know the theme of the story, as all the Korean TV episodes shown on Myawady TV, MRTV, MRTV-4 (fortunately MRTV-3 does not have Korean program), Channel7, SkyNet or Series 5 are subtitled in Myanmar.

But the wonderful thing here is that we can appreciate or enjoy Hollywood movies or Bollywood movies without knowing any English or Hindu. These Hollywood and Bollywood movies were showing on big silver screen without any Myanmar subtitles during the times when TV was not available in our country let alone Series-5, MRTV-4 and SkyNet channels showing every foreign story with Myanmar subtitles, and till now.

So, that ‘s the significance of those movies. But, we will find it hard to enjoy Korean dramas or TV episodes without the help of Myanmar subtitles. Anyhow, we Myanmar people are already familiar with Hong Kong action movies in English or even in Cantonese versions especially films focusing on Jackie Chan or Jet Lee acrobatic stunts. M y a n n a r was dominated by Hollywood movies and some Indian movies in the past. But our onscreen protagonists and even onscreen villains were never the second-class or third-class citizens of those two mighty global film industries.

They were in their own style and creation. Even if the Myanmar movie world copied a Hollywood movie or even in Cantonese versions, they would not the whole script. They skillfully Myanmarized it.

For example, Parent Trap, East Lane, Moment to Moment, and North by Northwest were famous in many parts of the world then. But our artists and technicians were good enough in adapting Parent Trap into Na-tha-mon-a-ah-the.

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to harmonious and combined efforts of the government, sports federations and public participation.

He underscored the need for proficiency and professional human resources as fundamental requirement for promotion of sports standard. He said there would be talented youths who would become internationals in the country.

The requirement for the talented youths would be infrastructure, coaches who dedicated themselves to sports and smart managers. So fulfillment to sports and smart managers. So fulfillment of international standard sales of mobile phones as part of 3G mobile telephone communication network extension project.

He called for application of international standard equipment and timely completion of the project as he addressed the coordination meeting on 3G and 4G (LTE) mobile telephone communication network extension project.

He stressed the need for balance of supply and demand, demanding to open customer care centers to provide after-sale service. As part of the project, 1.26 million 3G mobile telephone lines will be extended in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, and other major cities of regions and states. Moreover, 4G (LTE) mobile network will be proportionately included in the network for the sake of better connectivity in SEA Games to be held in Myanmar.

He stressed the need for sports management in which the recruitment of smart managers and qualified coaches for shaping the future talented youths, job creation for them and the carrot and stick approach are included. He said he was very glad to see strenuous efforts being made by various sports federations, urging them to keep a sense of transforming the weak points into strong ones while their efforts were doomed to failure.

He pointed out three successes — successful holding of upcoming XXVII SEA Games as a host, grabbing of awards and national socioeconomic development through the competitions.

Although challenges come first before achieving success, the ones was on all of them to do their bit for translating those challenges into a golden opportunity that could bring about the historical event of the State. He called for establishment of sustainable relationship characterized by connectivity between government and sports federations and sports organizations and officials concerned, mutual understanding, collaboration, duties and responsibilities of individuals for development of sports sector, responsibility and accountability to be held for financial and technical matters and mutual respects to be able to attend to the needs of both sides.

He vowed that the government, in its part, would fulfill the requirements without delay.

Then the Vice-president cordially greeted presidents of sports federations.

Road works in Magway Region gaining momentum

Nay Pyi Taw, 2 Dec. — Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin looked into progress of construction of new alignment for Nay Pyi Taw-Taungnyo-Myothit-Kanpya (Magway) road, putting a finishing touch on Sonchaung bridge (Taungdwingyi-Myothit) on Taungdwingyi-Myothit-Natmauk road, progress in upgrading of the 18-foot wide Malun-Migyauungye-Thityakauk road and putting a finishing touch on construction of Migyaungye bridge and approach road yesterday.

At Ayeyawady bridge (Malun) construction site, the Union minister oversaw tarmacking of approach road on the bank of Migyauungye, laying of concrete for decking slab joint between PR1 and PR6 of the main structure, installation of steel trusses between PR7 and PR8 and temporary support work for installation of more steel trusses.

Next, he inspected construction of Sitsano-Yayannar-Kyaunkpon-Kantoke road with heavy machinery and condition of Pathein-Monywa and Padan-Minbu roads.
Iran did not support PKK militants: lawmaker
Teheran, 2 Dec—An Iranian lawmaker has dismissed allegations that the Islamic republic supported militants of the Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK). Press TV reported on Saturday.

Mansour Haqipour, deputy chairman of Iran’s Majlis (parliament) National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, made the remarks after recent allegations by Turkish Interior Minister Idris Naim Sahin, who accused Iran of backing the PKK.

"Instead of accusing Iran of having ties with the PKK, Turkey should reconsider its wrong policies of interference in the internal affairs of the neighboring countries," Haqipour was quoted as saying.

He criticized Sahin’s remarks as "psychological projection," adding that "the measures currently taken by the Turkish government in the neighboring countries, including in Syria and Iraq, are by no means acceptable and they are the result of the wrong policies adopted by the Turkish government."

Turkish officials have recently pointed out that Syria and Iran supported PKK in the region as a reprisal for Ankara’s open criticism of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

The PKK, which took up arms in 1984 in an attempt to create an ethnic homeland in southeastern Turkey, has been listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the United States and the European Union.

Fiji urges developed countries to provide climate change financial resources
Suva, 2 Dec—Developed countries must provide scaled up, new, predictable and adequate financial resources to avoid a gap in their funding of adaptation and mitigation activities in developing countries, the Fijian government said on Sunday.

Together with members of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), Fiji was demanding that not only should developed countries deliver on their pledges, they must ensure that the additional climate finance is easily accessible with clear targets on its delivery over the next phase, Fiji’s Ministry of Information said in a statement.

Developed countries in 2009 pledged at the Copenhagen United Nations climate change summit to provide "new, additional resources" of around 30 billion US dollars for the period 2010-2012 commonly called "fast-start finance." A 19-member delegation from Fiji has positioned itself at the negotiations to call on developed countries to address the "funding gap" between the end of fast-start finance this year and the 100 billion US dollars per year pledge by 2020. In Doha, Qatar, the European Union stressed the bloc’s financial support, saying it had contributed 9.3 million US dollars to the fast-start finance.

Marlene Moses, Nauni’s permanent representative to the UN and AOSIS chairwoman, said they remained concerned over the progress of negotiations on finance, said the statement.

"Developed countries have committed to mobilize 100 billion dollars per year by 2020 to fund adaptation and mitigation in developing countries. We need concrete commitments and clarity on finance including a mid-term target to assess the fulfillment of progress towards the achievement of the 100 billion dollar goal," Moses told parties at a stocktaking plenary session in Doha on issues covered so far at the negotiations. "At Doha, developed countries should signal that the Green Climate Fund (GCF) will not be an empty shell by pledging towards its initial capitalization and mandating the Board of the Fund to initiate the Fund’s replenishment process at its first meeting in 2013," Moses was quoted as saying.—Xinhua

Wildfire in Rocky Mountain National Park prompts evacuations
Denver, 2 Dec—A wind-driven wildfire in Rocky Mountain National Park northwest of Denver jumped containment lines overnight, triggering the evacuation of hundreds of people on Saturday, fire officials said.

"We call for sustainable energy technologies should be provided with access to technologies..."—Reuters

"We call for sustainable energy technologies should be provided with access to technologies to enhance their energy sustainability."

MacNaughton also pointed out that with the task of upgrading their economies, developing countries are using lots of energy and therefore should adopt a more sustainable energy approach.

"Efforts to battle the fire continue; there have been multiple explosions in the vicinity of the Jalalabad airfield," the US-led coalition said in a statement. "Currently, ISAF officials are on the scene gathering facts, and as more information becomes available, we will release it as appropriate."

In February, a suicide car bomber killed nine people at the base at an airport, almost exclusively used by NATO and the US military.

The United States and Afghanistan government are scrambling to improve security before most NATO combat troops withdraw at the end of 2014.—Reuters

Explosions, shooting heard at US base in Afghanistan
Jalalabad, 2 Dec—Two explosions and shooting were heard at a US base in the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad on Sunday, a Reuters witness said.

The Taleban said they carried out an attack on the compound and inflicted casualties. NATO officials were not immediately available for comment.

"We can confirm there have been multiple explosions in the vicinity of the Jalalabad airfield," the US-led coalition said in a statement. "Currently, ISAF officials are on the scene gathering facts, and as more information becomes available, we will release it as appropriate."

World Energy Council urges more support to developing countries for sustainability boost
Doha, 2 Dec—The World Energy Council urged on Saturday that more energy technologies should be transferred to developing countries to help them boost their energy sustainability.

"We call for sustainable energy technologies should be provided with access to technologies..."—Reuters

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Photographers take photos of swans in snow at the Yellow River wetland in Pinglu County, north China’s Shanxi Province, on 1 Dec, 2012. Xinhua
**Philippines**

**Two leftist rebels killed in Philippine clash**

**MANILA, 2 Dec—** Government troops and suspected members of the leftist New People’s Army (NPA) clashed on Saturday morning in northern Philippines, Province of Catanduanes, resulting to the death of two rebels, military spokesman said later.

Military personnel from the 83rd Infantry Battalion encountered about 15 leftist rebels at about 9:50 am local time in Calatagan village, Vitac town, said Col Generoso Bolina of the Southern Luzon Command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The firefight lasted for 10 minutes, and the insurgents fled to different directions after the short clash, leaving their two dead members.

"Pursuit operation is ongoing...the encounter was a result of operations due to several reported extortion activities this yuletide season," Bolina said.

The soldiers also found four high-powered firearms from the slain rebels, he added.—**Xinhua**

**Nepal, China commemorate 57-year-long friendship**

**KATHMANDU, 2 Dec—** Nepali Vice President Parmananda Jha attributed the solid foundation of the 57-year-long Nepal-China relationship to deeply rooted friendship between the people of the two countries in a commemorating programme on Saturday.

"Altruistic friendship between the people of Nepal and China has strengthened the national relationship between the two neighbours," Jha said. "The cultural, social and economic relationship between the two nations has become a model for the world."

As part of the "Nepal-China Relationship Year 2012", the programme is organized by World Cultural Net to mark the inaugural ceremony of the Nepal-China Relationship Week.

Various exhibitions, photo galleries and traditional Chinese cultural arts are on display.

In the programme, Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Yang Houlan said that equality, harmony and self-less friendship were the basis for the "historic" Nepal-China relations.

He also remarked that Nepal was an important neighbour for China.

"The relationship between Nepal and China can be traced back to history and the friendship between the two nations has solid foundation. Nepal is an important neighbour for China and both the side should strive to further beef up this relationship," Zhang Juxiang, Director of Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, described the relationship between China and Nepal as "inseparable."

During his welcome speech for the programme, Juxiang said that since the establishment of Nepal-China relationship, both the countries have notably benefited in various sectors of development. "Nepali architect Arniko visited China and shared his skills to build various pagoda-style buildings in China," said Juxiang, adding that his organization will continue to carry out various programmes to further fortify Nepal-China relationship.

During the programme, Vice President Jha launched the Nepali version of a poem collection by Chinese writer Lui Chen.

—**Xinhua**

**16 trapped in flooded colliery in NE China**

**HARBIN, 2 Dec—** A total of 16 miners were trapped underground at NE China’s Heilongjiang Province was flooded at 11:40 pm on Saturday, local government said on Sunday morning.

When the accident happened at Furuixiang Coal Mine in Qitaihe city, 22 miners were working underground. Six miners managed to escape.

Rescuers said they were laying conduits and installing facilities to pump water out of the pit.

Officials from the city’s publicity department said the flooded colliery was a licensed one operated by Furuixiang Coal Co. Ltd.—**Xinhua**

**Suicide bombing, conflicts kill 10 Afghans**

**KABUL, 2 Dec—**Continued militancy and counter-militancy claimed the lives of 10 people including suicide bomber and three civilians in a single day on Saturday, officials confirmed.

In the latest violent incident that took place in the shape of suicide bombing in the southern Urzugan province, 70 km south of Afghan capital, three civilians were killed and four others sustained injuries.

"A terrorist equipped with suicide vest and driving a car blew himself up next to a police van in a bazaar in Deh Rawad district of Urzugan Province at around 04:00 pm local time, killing three civilians, including two children, on the spot, and injuring four more civilians," provincial police spokesman Farid Ayel told **Xinhua**.

There were no casualties on police, he contended.

The bomber was also killed in his blast, he added.

Ayel also blamed Taleban militants for organizing the attack. However, the outfit fighting the government has yet to comment.

Today’s bloody suicide bombing took place just hours after killing and arresting of local Taleban commanders in the neighbouring Charchino District, Urzugan Province.

Security forces raided a Taleban hideout in Urzugan Province in the wee hours of Saturday killing a key commander Mullah Nasir and arrested another commander Mullah Ghazi, Ayel told **Xinhua**.

During the operations, two more Taleban militants were killed and two others arrested, he added.—**Xinhua**

**Seven people missing in collapsed tunnel in eastern Japan**

**TOKYO, 2 Dec—**A government agency of the Yamanashi Prefecture said Sunday that at least seven people remained missing in a collapsed tunnel in the prefecture of eastern Japan, Kyodo News reported.

The four-km-long Sasago Tunnel in the Chou Expressway in Otaki, about 90 km west of Tokyo, collapsed around 8 am on Sunday and caused blaze of cars trapped in the tunnel.

As of now, two people have been taken to hospital and firefighters have controlled the fire which was triggered by a crash of two vehicles after the ceiling and wall collapsed in a 100-meter section of the tunnel.

Earlier, a woman, who managed to get off from the tunnel, told firefighters that she escaped from a car in which five others were trapped.

More policemen have arrived at the scene and firefighters are trying to rescue the trapped people.

The section of the highway between Otaki and Katsumuna has been closed, according to the report.—**Reuters**

**South Korea looks forward to furthering ties with China**

**SEOUL, 2 Dec—** South Korean President Lee Myung-bak said he hoped the country’s next administration and the new Chinese leadership would make efforts to further friendly relations between the two nations.

In a recent written interview with Xinhua and several other news agencies, Lee, who ends his five-year tenure early next year, reviewed the development of South Korea-China relations in recent years.

"Over the past five years, China-Korea relations were upgraded to a strategic and cooperative partnership. In line with this, the two countries witnessed much progress in many areas," he said. "Bilateral cooperation transcends the economic front as seen in the close interaction in culture, people-to-people exchanges, education," he said.

Lee said China was South Korea’s largest trading partner and investment destination, adding the two countries achieved their annual trade goal of 200 billion US dollars and were currently engaged in free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations.

"As such, bilateral trade and economic cooperation are being ever strengthened," he said.

On the current situation of the global economy, the president noted all three major credit rating agencies upgraded South Korea’s standing this year, an outcome which he said showed they highly rated the country’s endeavors to surmount economic crises.

"Due to a high level of interconnectivity and interdependency, the global economy is destined to be influenced by the economic slowdown in Europe," he said. "As of now, Korea’s economy is progressing at a slow pace. Unlike Japan, such slow-paced growth will be short-lived."

He voiced confidence the South Korean economy would recover as soon as the global economy turned around this year.—**Xinhua**
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
National Community Driven Development Project
IDA Grant HB14-MM
Assignment Title : Union Level Technical Assistance
Reference No.: C-3

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the National Community Driven Development Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the hiring of consulting services. The consulting services ("the Services") include:

1. project management: the consultant is expected to assist the project implementation agency for overall coordination and implementation of this project;
2. assist with the achievement of program objectives and performance quality at the village tract, township and Union level through the development of a monitoring and Management Information System (MIS) and evaluation to track and report upon performance Indicators and project progress;
3. provide support on communications on project concept, strategy, procedures and mechanisms targeted at national and local stakeholders;
4. provide on-the-job training and capacity development of the Department of Rural Development (DRD), Project Secretariat Team and Township DRD Staff and Township NGO partners;
5. develop a comprehensive grievance handling system for the project. The contract will cover a period of 52 months starting in March 2013. The Department of Rural Development of Ministry of Border Affairs now invites eligible consulting firms or NGOs ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

1. past experience with community based development activities in similar conditions as in Myanmar, prior experience in Myanmar is preferred;
2. availability of staff with relevant expertise;
3. size of past contracts.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank’s Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers [January 2011] ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on Conflict of interest. Consultants may associate with other NGOs/firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the QCBS or QBS method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from 0900 to 1600, Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by December 20, 2012.

Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Border Affairs
Attn: U Myint Oo, Deputy Director General,
Chairperson of the Procurement Committee
National Community Driven Development Project
Department of Rural Development,
Ministry of Border Affairs,
Office Number 14,
Nay Pyi Taw,
Myanmar
Fax: +95-67-409029
E-mail to all these email addresses: myint.oo.dda@gmail.com, kyaw.ddd@gmail.com, naing.7.koko@gmail.com

New forms of stigmatization haunt Kenyans living with HIV

NAIROBI, 2 Dec—As the world celebrates World AIDS Day on Sunday, the people living with HIV in Kenya are grappling with new forms of stigmatization that are threatening the fight against the disease.

In the past, stigmatization in the East African nation mainly focused on the person living with HIV. However, this has been largely replaced by the reality that stigma is shifting to antiretroviral (ARV) drugs. The drugs are being stigmatized making it difficult for people living with HIV to take them.

The project shows the joint efforts of UN and local authorities. The centre will be run by local decision-makers with the help of foreign specialists, Sergei Simoes said at a UN seminar.

The project will not only improve the disaster prevention system but also provide access to advanced knowledge and international cooperation on dealing with natural disasters, he added.

Brazil to build first UN disaster centre in South America

RIO DE JANEIRO, 2 Dec—Brazil’s Rio state will build the first UN Disaster Prevention Centre in South America as part of efforts to improve the state’s defence against natural disasters, the state’s Civil Defence Secretary Sergio Simoes said on Friday.

"The project shows the joint efforts of UN and local authorities. The centre will be run by local decision-makers with the help of foreign specialists," said Simoes at a UN seminar.

The project will not only improve the disaster prevention system but also provide access to advanced knowledge and international cooperation on dealing with natural disasters, he added.

He also said the Rio state will expand the alarm system to six towns to alert residents in case of mudslides.

UN coordinator David Stevens, who will be the head of the center, said the project was an opportunity for Brazil to speed up its progress on disaster prevention with UN support.
Don’t understand the fuss about Oscars:

Mira Nair

Stevie Wonder cancels show at Israel Defence Forces fundraiser

Los Angeles, 2 Dec— Veteran singer and United Nations Messenger of Peace Stevie Wonder has canceled a planned performance for the Friends of the Israel Defence Forces after several organizations asked him not to perform. The soul singer, 62, was scheduled to sing at a December 6 fundraising gala in Los Angeles hosted by the Friends of the Israel Defence Forces (FIDF), an organization set up to help those serving in the Israeli Defence Forces and families of fallen soldiers.

“Given the current and very delicate situation in the Middle East, the heart that has always cried for world unity, I will not be performing at the FIDF Gala,” Wonder said in a statement sent to Reuters by his spokeswoman.

Wonder said he would make contributions to organizations that support Israeli and Palestinian children with disabilities.

The singer added that as a Messenger of Peace, a title he’s held since 2009, “I am of her film. The Reluctant Fundamentalist is being held here today at the festival’s closing. It is based on Mohsin Hamid’s novel.

“I was interested in making the movie when I first visited Pakistan. The movie tells the other side of the story post 9/11. We have heard the American version but not the other so my aim was to tell the story from a different perspective. It was a difficult project and took five years to make,” she added.

The film has premiered at various international film festivals but Mira says showing the movie in her home country gives her ultimate satisfaction. “I have been to a lot of festivals in London, Toronto, Venice, Doha — but coming back to India and showing the movie here gives a sense of completeness,” Mira added.

Carrie Underwood to star in new “Sound of Music” broadcast

Los Angeles, 2 Dec— Country singer Carrie Underwood will perform “My Favourite Things” and other tunes from the musical “The Sound of Music” when she portrays Maria von Trapp in a live broadcast of the perennial favourite, NBC television said on Friday.

In a production to be aired late next year, the five-time Grammy winner will star as the rebellious would-be nun who married Austrian Naval commander Georg von Trapp and fled the Nazis with him and his children.

NBC did not say where the musical would be staged.

Julie Andrews immortalized the character of Maria in the 1965 Oscar-winning film that was based on the Rogers and Hammerstein musical, which premiered on Broadway in 1959. Both were based on the true story of the von Trapp family.

The musical was inspired by the 1956 German film “The Trapp Family” and its 1958 sequel, “The Trapp Family in America.”

“Speaking for everyone at NBC, we couldn’t be happier to have the gifted Carrie Underwood take up the mantle of the great Maria von Trapp,” Robert Greenblatt, chairman of NBC Entertainment, said in a statement. “She was an iconic woman who will now be played by an iconic artist.”

The musical’s famous songs include “Do-Re-Mi,” “Edelweiss,” and “Climb Ev’ry Mountain.”

The productions were based on Maria von Trapp’s 1949 memoir, “The Story of the Trapp Family,” which recounts the family’s performing years, their escape from Nazi-occupied Austria and their immigration to the United States. Maria died in 1987.

NBC’s broadcast will be produced by Craig Zadan and Neil Meron, who produced the network’s musical drama “Smash.”

Underwood rose to fame after winning Fox network’s musical talent contest “American Idol” in 2005. She made her film debut in 2011’s “Soul Surfer.” Some 15 million of her albums have been sold and her 2005 debut, “Some Hearts,” was voted the top country album of the past decade by Billboard.

Actor Johnny Lewis not on drugs at time of death: coroner

Los Angeles, 2 Dec— Former “Sons of Anarchy” actor Johnny Lewis, who was found dead in September and linked to a suspected homicide, did not have any drugs or alcohol in his body, coroner’s officials said on Friday. A toxicology examination detected no amounts of cocaine, marijuana, hallucinogenic drugs or prescription medications, the Los Angeles County Coroner’s office said in a report.

Lewis, 28, was found dead in the driveway of a home he had been renting in Los Angeles and his 81-year-old landlord was found dead inside.

Investigators initially suspected Lewis was under the influence of drugs or alcohol because he had spent time in rehab and had a criminal drug past. The actor had been released from jail five days prior to his death. Authorities raised Lewis’ death an accident from partial strangulation and head trauma after the actor fell 15 feet from an elevated terrace onto a paved driveway. “We do not have definitive evidence that (Lewis) intended to kill himself,” Los Angeles County medical examiner James R. Rhine wrote in the autopsy report.

Korean pop rides “Gangnam Style” into US music scene

South Korean pop singer Psy poses on the red carpet as he attends the Mnet Asian Music Awards (MAMA) in Hong Kong on 30 Nov, 2012— Reuters

Psy’s vibrant music video, featuring his invisible pony-riding dance, also featured K-pop artists Kim Hyun-jo of girl band 4Minute, and Daesung and Seungri of boy band Big Bang, all of whom are attempting to crack the US market.

Los Angeles, 2 Dec— “Gangnam Style,” the catchy Korean song by rapper Psy, may have danced its way into the American charts but the Korean pop industry isn’t binging around when it comes to capitalizing on the singer’s phenomenal US success.

With “Gangnam Style” topping the current Billboard Digital Songs chart and becoming the most-watched video on YouTube ever with more than 800 million views, fellow Korean pop or K-pop, artists are positioning themselves for similar US breakthroughs.

Korea’s pop music industry is thriving. Over the past two years, a handful of K-pop acts including girl group 2NE1, boy band Super Junior and nine-piece band Girls Generation have embarked on mini-promotional tours around the United States to build their audience. “Psy has opened doors and is shining a spotlight on K-pop. People are paying attention to what’s being done there,” Alina Moffat, general manager at VY Entertainment group, which manages Psy, told a recent entertainment industry conference in Los Angeles.

Psy’s vibrant music video, featuring his invisible pony-riding dance, also featured K-pop artists Kim Hyun-jo of girl band 4Minute, and Daesung and Seungri of boy band Big Bang, all of whom are attempting to crack the US market.

Reuters

The Asian premiere of her film The Reluctant Fundamentalist is being held here today at the festival’s closing.

Stevie Wonder performs during a tribute to Dick Clark at the 40th American Music Awards in Los Angeles, California, on 18 Nov, 2012.— Reuters

Los Angeles, 2 Dec— Veteran singer and United Nations Messenger of Peace Stevie Wonder has canceled a planned performance for the Friends of the Israel Defence Forces after several organizations asked him not to perform. The soul singer, 62, was scheduled to sing at a December 6 fundraising gala in Los Angeles hosted by the Friends of the Israel Defence Forces (FIDF), an organization set up to help those serving in the Israeli Defence Forces and families of fallen soldiers.

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Real Madrid win derby, Barca stay 11 clear of Mourinho’s men

Valencia sack coach Pellegreno

Real Sociedad grew in confidence after the break and went ahead after 56 minutes before Diego Btran made it 3-1 shortly after the half hour. Soldado’s second of the night made it 2-3 with 18 minutes remaining, but Imanol Agirre’s re-established Real Sociedad’s advantage and Carlos Vela’s 90th minute revitalized the supporters at the Estadio de la Ceramica, which has seen them through a poor return for the side which finished third behind Barcelona and Real Madrid.

Wang Zhizhi ruins T-mac’s first CBA win

Three and defending champion Woods told reporters about McDowell. “The golf course suits his game, he keeps the ball in front of him and he’s a beautiful putter. “His ball flight is, I think, perfect for how the conditions are. He hits it flat and loves to draw it, and that’s going to take a lot of the spin off it, which is great.”

“Tiger Woods” and renowned for using his elbow. By the third, 26-0 (14 KOs) started the bout confidently, keeping Cotto at bay with a long southpaw jab and fluid left hand punches to the body. By the third, however, Cotto began to close the distance and forced Trout to retreat, backing him up against the ropes and digging to the body and head with left hooks. —Reuters

Baskettball

Basketball

Golf

Woods recognizes need to overhaul another Sherwood specialist

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Three dead in Wyoming college attack

LOS ANGELES, 2 Dec — Police said three people were dead in an attack in Casper College in Wyoming on Friday morning.

Casper Police Chief Chris Walsh told local media that two people were dead at the school’s Wold Physical Science Centre and one dead at another location in Casper, although he would not identify the dead or the other location.

He said no suspects are at large and nobody else was injured. He also said that no firearms were used in the attack. But he didn’t identify the weapon or weapons involved.

Local media quoted an anonymous law enforcement official as saying that one of the dead appeared to be a faculty member, and the other the dead appeared to be a male official as saying that one of the dead was the Kimberley Process’s largest supplier, has been building at its own cost for some time.

Lockheed shares closed 0.3 percent higher at $93.30, outperforming the Arca Defence Index, which was down 0.53 percent.

Pentagon spokesman George Little said details on the cost per aircraft would be released once the final contract is signed.

People familiar with the process said both sides expected to sign a final deal before the end of the year, which will safeguard those funds from cuts if Congress is unable to avert the $52 billion in automatic budget cuts to the Pentagon’s fiscal 2013 budget that take effect on 2 January. The contract includes the actual aircraft, but will also pay for manufacturing support equipment, instrumentation for flight testing and other mission equipment needed for the new stealth warplanes.

The Pentagon is negotiating a separate contract with Pratt & Whitney, a unit of United Technologies Corp, which builds the engine for the single-seat, single-engine F-35. The agreement with Lockheed removes a cloud hanging over the $396 billion F-35 programme, the Pentagon’s costliest procurement programme.

Both sides have been trying to reach an agreement on this batch of aircraft since last December.

In September, Major General Christopher Bogdan, who will be the top overseer of the programme starting 6 December, said he was surprised the negotiations were taking so long and described relations between the two sides as “the worst” he had ever seen in decades of working on big acquisition programmes.

Honduran police seize 2 tons of cocaine

Tegucigalpa, 2 Dec — Honduran police on Thursday seized at least 2 tons of cocaine in the country’s north, spokesman of the Public Prosecutor’s Office said.

Melvin Duarte told a Press conference that about 344 drug packages were found in an underground vault in the northern province of Yoro with a sophisticated system to keep the drug’s quality and purity.

There are several tunnels linking the vault, believed to be the cocaine storeroom.

Suspecting that more packages may be found, police remain at the site to continue their search.

The vault was unoccupied, so the police didn’t arrest anybody.

The raid was part of a police operation “Julian Aristides Gonzales,” which began last weekend.

Pentagon, Lockheed agree deal for 32 more F-35 fighters

WASHINGTON, 2 Dec — Lockheed Martin Corp and the US Defence Department have reached an agreement in principle on a fifth batch of 32 additional F-35 fighter planes, the Pentagon said on Friday, bringing nearly a year of negotiations to a close.

The deal is valued at around $3.8 billion, although the two sides are still finalizing details, according to a source familiar with the agreement.

Agreement will also pave the way for talks about preliminary funding for a sixth batch of aircraft that Lockheed, the Pentagon’s largest supplier, has been looking to other forums such as the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) to begin a more honest debate on this issue.

The agreement will also provide $52 billion in automatic budget cuts to the Pentagon’s building at its own cost for some time.

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Philippines issues red alert signal against incoming strong typhoon

MANILA, 2 Dec—The Philippines issued on Sunday a red alert signal for areas to be concerned as typhoon Bopha (local name Pablo) is approaching the country, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said on Sunday.

“We are now on Red Alert so that we’ll be 100 percent prepared at the local and national level,” said NDRRMC executive director and concurrent Office of Civil administrator director and concurrent Astronomical Services Director of the council, Benito Ramos.

Ramos assured that the Visayas and Mindanao are well-prepared for the weather disturbance.

Weather department forecast Bopha is likely to turn into a super typhoon even stronger than the deadly typhoon “Washih” (local name Sendong) that hit the country last year.

As of 10 a.m. Sunday, Bopha was about 1,110 km east southeast of Surigao del Sur in southern Philippines and it is expected to enter the country by 8 p.m. Sunday, according to the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

Ramos said the Bopha is the strongest weather disturbance to hit the country this year.—Xinhua

Regional development tasks undertaken

Chief Minister of Kayin State U Tint Hsan, U Aye Myint, Dr Mya Aye and Dr Pe Thet Khin and deputy ministers participated in the mass walk sport in December together with 8500 people that started 8 a.m. from Myoma Market to the lofty heights of seventh in the table. “Three great perform-ances, each one better than the other one,” added the 48-year-old Swansea City manager Michael Laudrup. “Seven points against Liverpool. Arsenal and West Brom in six days is fantastic,” said Laudrup, who has taken his stylish side to the lofty heights of seventh in the table. “Three great perform-ances, each one better than the other one,” added the 48-year-old Swansea City manager Michael Laudrup.

As Arsenal slipped to 10th in the Premiership and Wenger called for his players to stick together, Swansea’s players were applauded off after ambushing the Londoners.

“The team is playing with a lot of confidence,” said Laudrup, who took over from Brendan Rodgers at the start of the season.

 Rodgers, now manager of Liverpool - also currently trailing in Swansea’s wake, took Swansea up to the Premier League’s top sides after a 2-0 win at Arsenal piled more pressure on Arsenal.” said Laudrup, who took over from Brendan Rodgers at the start of the season.

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