Nay Pyi Taw, 3 Dec—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein arrived in Brunei Darussalam today to pay a state visit.

The Myanmar delegation led by President U Thein Sein left here this morning by air and arrived at the Bandar Seri Begawan International Airport of Brunei at 2.15 pm local time.

They were welcomed at the airport by Minister for Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam Prince Mohammad Bolkiah, the Minister for Industry and Primary Resources and high ranking officials, the ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to Myanmar, and staff of Myanmar embassy in Brunei.

Afterwards, the delegation proceeded to the Empire Hotel & Country Club.

MNA

Plan under way to publish three dailies in colour in Yangon as of 5 Dec

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 Dec—The Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon (the Mirror) and the New Light of Myanmar dailies are being printed in colour with new form and content as of 18 October. Although three newspapers are being published in colour in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay daily, the trial publishing of Myanmar Alinn and the Mirror is being carried out in colour in Yangon every other week.

Moreover, people have been informed that all dailies will be in circulation in colour as of mid-December.

At present, one new press has been bought for extending printing works in Yangon. Thanks to concerted efforts of workers and staff, printing of three newspapers in colour had been tested successfully in Yangon beginning 1 December. The three dailies in colour will be published in Yangon starting from 5 December.

MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
Notification No. 95/2012
5th Waxing of Tazaungmon 1374 ME
3 December 2012

Reconstitution of Investigation Commission

1. Regarding the urgent proposal on Letpadaungtaung Copper Mining Project in Salingyi Township, Monywa District, Sagaing Region submitted in the Pyithu Hluttaw session on 23 November 2012, “Investigation Commission” is reconstituted with the following persons to go through whether copper mining should be continued.

(a) Daw Aung San Suu Kyi
Chairperson
Pyithu Hluttaw representative
Yangon Region, Kawkhin Township Constituency

(b) U Lun Thi
Pyithu Hluttaw representative
Yangon Region, Kungyangon Township Constituency

(c) U Than Myint
Pyithu Hluttaw representative
Sagaing Region, Salingyi Township Constituency

(d) Daw Khin San Hlaing
Pyithu Hluttaw representative
Sagaing Region, Pale Township Constituency

(e) U Zaw Myint Pe
Amyotha Hluttaw representative
Mandalay Region, Constituency No. 5

(f) U Maung Maung Aye
Senior Consultant on Social Assessment
Myanmar Environmental Institute

MNA

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr M.S.T on 3-12-2012

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 Dec—During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershower have been isolated in Mandalay and Bago Regions, Shan, Rakhine, Kayah and Mon States and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Eastern Shan, Rakhine and Kayin States, (5°C) to (6°C) above December average temperatures in Magway Region, Southern Shan, Kayah and Mon States and about December average temperatures intheremaning Regions and States.

NLM
**Speaker of Pyidaungsu, Amyotha Hluttaws receives Member of CPPCC**

**NAY PYI TAW, 3 Dec—**

Speaker of Pyidaungsu and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received a delegation led by Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference Mr Xu Zhennuan at the hall of the Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw at Hluttaw Complex, here, at 2 pm today.

Also present at the call were Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyin, Chairmen of Amyotha Hluttaw Committees U Zaw Myint Pe, U Aung Nyin and Col Maung Maung Htoo, Amyotha Hluttaw Government’s Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee Secretary U Khin Maung Htay, Member of International Affairs Committee U Khin Maung and responsible persons from Hluttaw Office. Both sides mainly focused on promoting mutual friendship between two peoples and uplifting bilateral cooperation between two Parliaments. **MNA**

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### Reconstitution of Investigation Commission

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<td>Director-General, Ministry of Mines</td>
<td>Director-General, Settlement and Land Records Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation</td>
<td>Deputy Director-General, General Administration Department, Ministry of Home Affairs</td>
<td>Deputy Director-General, General Administration Department, Ministry of Home Affairs</td>
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**Ambassador (Retired)**

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

2. The investigation commission shall find out the true situation on the following cases and submit assessment for ensuring the rule of law along with comment.

(a) whether the copper mine project adheres to international norms and employs appropriate technologies for environmental conservation;

(b) impacts and profits of the copper mine project on social and natural environments;

(c) whether the copper mine project will be profitable for the State, people and generation;

(d) suggestions on development of the country and the rule of law;

(e) regarding the project, facts that should be under investigation deemed by the commission

(f) general reviews and suggestions of the commission.

3. Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tan is responsible for administrative matters of the investigation commission while assuming duties. The President Office and the Sagaing Region Government under the guidance of the Union Minister shall fulfill the security and administrative requirements of the investigation commission in action. Local authoritative organizations are to cooperate with the investigation commission.

4. The investigation commission, if necessary, can assign duties to skilled persons and intellectuals and inteligentia under the arrangement of the President Office.

5. The investigation commission shall conduct investigation in accord with code of criminal procedure and evidence act, summoning witnesses, asking for documents and visiting necessary sites. The investigation interim-report shall be submitted to the President by 31 January 2013, and works to be continued in accordance with the report.

6. This notification overrides Notification No. (92/2012) dated 1-12-2012 issued by the President Office.

**MNA**

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### Reconstitution of Investigation Commission

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**MNA**

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**Pyidaungsu, Amyotha Hluttaws Speaker holds talks with former Vice-President of Senate of France**

**NAY PYI TAW, 3 Dec—**

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint held a discussion with Ambassador to Asia Region Cooperation and former Vice-President of the Senate of France Mr Jacques VALADE at the hall of the Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw at Hluttaw Complex, here, at 2.30 pm today.

It was also attended by Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyin, Chairmen of the Committees U Zaw Myint Pe and U Aung Nyin and officials from Hluttaw Office. The visiting former Vice-President of the Senate of France was accompanied by French Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Thierry, MATHOU.

They had a cordial discussion on bilateral cooperation of two parliaments and Myanmar’s Hluttaw matters. **MNA**
New Delhi, 3 Dec—India’s stuttering economic reform programme faces a key parliamentary test this week on whether to let foreign supermarket chains such as Wal-Mart Stores set up shop, in a vote that could pave the way for further measures to revive the economy.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh’s minority government bowed to opposition pressure last week in agreeing to a vote, ending days of deadlock in parliament and cheering investors who saw it as a sign of a renewed policy momentum to come.

News that the government agreed to a non-binding vote helped Indian shares climb to their highest in nearly 19 months and bolstered the rupee. But defeat for the ruling Congress party could see the currency tumble to 56 to the dollar from about 54, said Abhishek Goenka, chief executive at India Forex Advisors.

The government opened its doors to foreign retailers in September as part of a package of measures to stave off a looming credit rating downgrade, cut a swelling fiscal deficit and revive the country’s investment climate.

While it doesn’t need parliament’s approval, defeat would be embarrassing and the government would come under pressure to roll back a policy that critics say would squeeze existing retailers and cost jobs.

Whether or not the policy survives the vote will be a measure of the minority government’s agility in pushing its legislative agenda in the time it has left before a general election due in just over a year.

If Singh loses, it could also put at risk other reforms pending in parliament, including measures to inject foreign cash into the struggling pension and insurance industries. If he wins, it could hasten their passage and embolden the government to move ahead with plans including simplifying the tax system.

Russia has been key as reviving investment and slashing the fiscal deficit, one of the widest among major emerging economies. At 5.9 percent of GDP last year, India’s deficit earned it a warning from global ratings agencies that it could lose an investment grade rating for its sovereign debt.

Bersani wins big in Italian centre-left primary

Rome, 3 Dec—Pier Luigi Bersani won a run-off primary election by a huge margin on Sunday to become the Italian centre-left candidate for prime minister in national elections early next year.

In his victory speech, Bersani promised to tackle Italy’s economic crisis and high unemployment if elected and said his Democratic Party would have to win by telling Italians “the truth, not fairy tales” about the grave situation.

Bersani has said repeatedly that in power he would stick to tough budget commitments by technocrat Prime Minister Mario Monti, but seek to soften the impact on workers and the poor and put more emphasis on economic growth.

Markets have expressed some wariness over an alliance between Bersani, who is head of the centre-left Democratic Party and a former communist, and a party called Left, Ecology and Freedom.

With more than 80 percent of the 9,200 polling places reporting, Bersani had 60.9 percent of votes to 39.1 percent for Renzi. The results were in line with two exit polls.

“I was always confident and tranquil but I did not expect to win this much,” Bersani told a victory rally after his rival, Florence mayor and fellow Democratic Party member Matteo Renzi, conceded defeat. Bersani, 61, will now stand in national elections, likely in March, against a still-to-be-chosen centre-right candidate to take over from Monti.

“It won’t be simple but we can’t ignore the fact that we are facing the greatest crisis of the post-war period and the greatest problem of all is jobs,” he said of Italy’s economic situation.

Italy’s unemployment stood at 11.1 percent in October and its public debt is equivalent to 126 percent of national output.

During the campaign, the contrast was marked between the bald, slow-speaking Bersani and Renzi, who bounced around platforms at rallies in open shirts and jeans.

Renzi had painted himself as a Kennedy-esque reformer, saying Italy’s largest centre-left party needed to focus on growth. He had accused the older generation of the Democratic Party of failing to present a credible alternative, allowing former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi’s centre-right to govern for so long.

Despite the big victory, commentators said Bersani would now have to woo back some 40 percent of the party’s voters, many of them young, who voted for Renzi.

Monti, favourite of the business community, has said he will not be a candidate next year but might come back if the election does not provide a clear winner.—Reuters

More than 50 killed in Afghan violence in 2 days

KABUL, 3 Dec—More than 50 people with majorities of them militants have been killed in Afghanistan since Saturday morning, authorities said on Sunday. A total of 14 people were killed when Taleban carried out multiple suicide bombings and armed attack against an Afghan-NATO military base locating in a local airport in Jalalabad City, the provincial capital of eastern Nangarhar Province early Sunday morning.

“Nine anti-government militants, three Afghan security personnel and two civilians were killed in Sunday morning’s attack at Jalalabad Airport,” the provincial government said in a statement.

The attack began at about 6:30 a.m. local time when two Taleban suicide bombers blew their explosive-laden car into the entrance of the base, sparking a gunfight between militants and the security forces in the base running by Afghan and US forces in the city 120 km east of Afghan capital Kabul, the statement added.

Three other suicide bombers detonated their suicide vests shortly after the car bombings, according to the statement while four other militants were shot dead by the security forces. Up to 11 Afghan soldiers and three civilians were also wounded in the blasts and the fighting lasted for two hours, the statement said, adding “the attackers were using Afghan army uniforms to mask themselves but their efforts to enter the base was failed.”

The statement did not say whether foreign soldiers were wounded in the incident. —Xinhua

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton answers questions from the audience at the 2012 Saharan Forum on US-Israel relations gala dinner in Washington, on 30 Nov, 2012.—Reuters

Clinton in Prague to lobby for Westinghouse nuclear bid

PRAGUE, 3 Dec—US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will seek to convince Czech leaders of the advantages of picking US firm Westinghouse over a Russian rival as the contractor for a $10 billion nuclear reactor project in meetings in Prague on Monday.

US officials travelling with Clinton to Prague said the Temelin nuclear power project could bring as many as 9,000 jobs to the United States and would help diversify the Czech Republic’s energy supply away from Russia. Majority state-owned Czech firm CEZ, which is bidding for the contract with a US-Russian owned Czech group.

US officials said formal negotiations between the two bidders and the Czech government are expected to start in December, but with a decision on the contractor expected in the spring. Clinton is due to meet Prime Minister Petr Necas and Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg on Monday morning.

“There will be the opportunity for the Secretary to support ... Westinghouse,” a senior State Department official told reporters. “It could be great in lots of ways — for American companies, for energy security and diversity in the Czech Republic, for jobs in the Czech Republic and for a scientific and innovation partnership with the United States.”

Clinton would stress Westinghouse’s safety record given concerns about nuclear reactors after the Fukushima disaster in Japan last year, he said.

Afghan and US forces in the city 120 km east of Afghan capital Kabul, the statement added.

Clinton in Prague to lobby for Westinghouse nuclear bid
**Science**

**Kouros, 3 Dec—**A Russian-made Soyuz rocket blasted off from French Guiana on Saturday and placed into orbit an Earth observation satellite for France, space officials said.

It is the fourth time that Soyuz, which first flew in 1966 and traces its roots back even further to the earliest Cold War intercontinental ballistic missiles, has been launched from outside its former Soviet bases.

The rocket lifted off at 11.02 p.m. (0022 GMT on Sunday) from a launch pad at Europe’s space base near Kourou, French Guiana, on the northeast coast of South America.

A first launch attempt on Friday was scrubbed due to a technical problem.

After a 55-minute flight, the Pleiades 1B, a one-ten observation satellite ordered by the French Space Agency (CNES) that will be used extensively by the French defence ministry, separated from the rocket.

It will also be used by Spain’s defence ministry as well as by civilian and commercial customers.

CNES said “a significant improvement in technology over previous generation satellites.”

Pleiades 1B is designed to relay to Earth high-resolution images as small as 70 centimeters (27 inches) from a 25-km (12-mile) wide Earth scan.

“It (Pleiades) is an innovative concept in the share resources but we are able to separate the content for confidentiality,” Lionel Peret, head of the Pleiades program for CNES, told Reuters.

It is the second of two satellites in the Pleiades series. The first was launched in December 2011.

European aerospace giant EADS Astrium was the prime contractor for the satellite.

**New Dallas museum offers hands-on exploration of nature, science**

**Dallas, 3 Dec—**At a new, $185 million science and natural history museum that opens in Dallas on Saturday, visitors will have the chance to touch a funnel cloud, program a robot and examine their own cells under a microscope.

The 180,000-square-foot Perot Museum of Nature and Science — filled with the latest in high-tech gadgetry — is named in honor of Dallas billionaire businessman and two-time US presidential candidate Ross Perot and his wife, Margot.

“Our goal here is to tell stories differently,” said Steve Higdon, the museum’s vice president of programs. “Everything is very visual and very hands-on. It’s intended to captures people’s imagination and build an appreciation of nature and science.”

From the clear elevator shafts that show the operating mechanism to the musical staircase, there is something around every corner meant to dazzle visitors. They can feel the rumble of an earthquake, marvel at the vastness and ferocity of a dinosaur and run a virtual race against an NFL running back.

“There is something for everybody, children and adults,” said Jane Seibolt of the Dallas suburb of Richardson, who enjoyed a preview tour for museum members this week.— Reuters

**Facebook, Zynga revamp partnership**

**San Francisco, 3 Dec—**Facebook Inc and social network Zynga Inc said they agreed on Thursday to merge some of their business functions, a move that will help Zynga compete better against rival gaming companies.

It is seen as a major shift for Zynga, which has struggled to keep up with Facebook’s rapid growth and to retain the popularity of its game developers.

Zynga will turn to Facebook as its go-to source for growth targets and schedules for game development, and will base hiring decisions on Facebook visits, Chief Executive S.D. Shibulal said.

“Facebook is a much bigger platform than Zynga,” Shibulal said.

Zynga’s CEO and chairman, Mark Pincus, said he expects that the collaboration will allow Zynga to respond more quickly to changes in the gaming industry.

Source: Reuters

**Traffic flies by the entrance sign to Facebook headquarters in Menlo Park, California before the company’s IPO launch, on 18 May, 2012.**—Reuters

**Newwave apps like Wavii and Summly serve news on the go**

**San Francisco, 3 Dec—**Silicon Valley mobile software developers represent the future of information technology, but they’ve yet to come up with a slick and comprehensive way to read and process news. A growing group of technology entrepreneurs hopes to change that.

This week, Wavii, a start-up founded by a former Microsoft Corp employee, Adrian Aoun, unveiled a free iPhone app that filters news stories from around the world, crunches them through a natural language processing algorithm and presents them in five- or six-word summaries. Over the past two years in Seattle, Aoun’s team of 22 machine-learning experts secretly developed code that builds a news story into a basic subject-verb-object format, and draws connections between disparate events.

“Wawii’s edge has always been the technology,” Aoun said.

Wavii has been online for several months, and Aoun has noticed that readers spend nine times longer browsing news headlines in his rudimentary prototype smartphone app than on his desktop website.

Wavii’s app lets a user slice and dice a search into something as specific as “employment change in the technology sector.”

Aoun’s app pits his company against the likes of Summly, a mobile news reader headed by Nick D’Aloisio, a 17-year-old who is being backed by Li Ka-Shing, the Hong Kong billionaire; Yoko Ono, the widow of Beatle John Lennon; and Hong Kong billionaire; Yoko Ono, the widow of Beatle John Lennon; and a host of more traditional Silicon Valley investors.—Reuters
Grand jury probing meningitis-linked pharmacy

BOSTON, 3 Dec—A grand jury is investigating the compounding pharmacy at the heart of a deadly meningitis outbreak, the Boston Globe reported on Saturday.

The grand jury has begun issuing subpoenas to people who worked for the New England Compounding Centre, which closed after investigators determined it had produced the tainted injectible steroid that has killed 36 people, the newspaper reported, citing unnamed people who formerly worked for the company.

Grand jury investigations, which are conducted in secrecy, are a step prosecutors take before determining whether to press criminal charges.

Officials at the US Attorney’s office and NECC could not be reached for immediate comment on Saturday. The Globe reported that US officials declined to comment.

After federal officials in October raided the Framingham, Massachusetts-based pharmacy, US Attorney Carmen Ortiz confirmed her office was investigating the company.

A Framingham Motorcycle Unit officer stands by while federal agents search New England Compounding Centre on 16 Oct, 2012. REUTERS

Spain’s Rajoy says it may be difficult to meet deficit target

MADRID, 3 Dec—Spain’s Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy said meeting the country’s 6.3 percent deficit target for 2012 would be difficult and he did not rule out seeking a bailout, in an interview published in La Razón on newspaper on Sunday.

“It is very complicated to reduce the deficit by 2.6 percentage points in the context of a recession, with so many revenue problems and with such high financing costs,” Rajoy said.

The ruling People’s Party, which went back on an electoral pledge to link pensions to inflation last week, is on track to meet Spain plans to cap the amount of tax relief high earners receive on their pension contributions alongside reining in the welfare budget.

Osborne declined to comment on the reports, but did not reject the proposals directly when questioned in the interview.

He also declined to say if the country’s independent fiscal watchdog would show him still on track to eliminate Britain’s underlying budget deficit within the next five years, or to have debt as a share of national income on a downward path by the 2015/16 tax year.—Reuters

Britain’s Osborne says sticking with austerity plan

LONDON, 3 Dec—British finance minister George Osborne said on Sunday that he would stick with his deficit-reduction programme when he presents a half-yearly fiscal statement on Wednesday.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer declined to comment more specifically on whether he would be able to meet debt targets, but stressed he did not believe Britain should borrow more or increase spending.

At his “Autumn statement” on Wednesday, Osborne is expected to defend his stringent economic policies as the only credible way of solving the government’s biggest political problem — its failure to deliver a strong recovery.

“It’s clearly taking longer to recover from the financial crisis than anyone would have hoped, but to turn back now would be a complete disaster for our country,” he said in a BBC television interview.

British media reported on Sunday that Osborne plans to cap the amount of tax relief high earners receive on their pension contributions alongside reining in the welfare budget.

Osborne declined to comment on the reports, but did not reject the proposals directly when questioned in the interview.

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Australia’s tobacco marketing laws give retailers a headache

SYDNEY, 3 Dec—James Yu, who runs the King of the Pack tobaccocon in central Sydney, is indignant about Australia’s stringent anti-tobacco laws making manufactures package cigarettes in drab olive green packs with pictures of ill babies and diseased body parts.

The packages, mandatory from Saturday when the laws take effect, make it hard to tell brands apart, complicating deliveries and adding to costs in his cramped, dark booth.

“The used to take me an hour to unload a delivery, now it takes me four hours,” Yu said, demonstrating how difficult it is to find the brand names. “The government should have just banned them altogether and then we’d go ok, fine, we’re done, we’ll shut up shop,” he said, throwing his hands up in the air.

Australia’s plain packaging laws are a potential watershed for the global industry, which serves 1 billion regular smokers, according to World Health Organization statistics.

While Australia has one of the world’s lowest smoking rates and the changes will have little impact on multinationals’ profits, other countries are considering similar steps.

The government says the aim is to deter young people from smoking by stripping the habit of glamour. It is relying on studies showing that if people have not started smoking by age 26, there is a 99 percent chance they will never take it up.

“Even from a very early age, you can see that kids understand the message that the tobacco company is trying to sell through their branding,” Federal Health Minister Tanya Plibersek told Reuters, citing studies that showed children made linkages such as crown logos and princesses. The potential hitch, experts say, is the popularity of social media with the very demographic the plan is targeting. After a series of Australian laws banning TV advertising and sports sponsorship and requiring most sellers to hide cigarettes from view, online is the final frontier for tobacco marketing.

Australia has banned online advertising by local companies and sites, but the door cannot be slammed at the border.

“If you are a tobacco marketer and you’ve only got this small window left to promote your products, online is the compelling place for you to be,” said Becky Freeman, a public health researcher.

REUTERS | Business

Spain’s Rajoy says it may be difficult to meet deficit target

Party, which went back on an electoral pledge to link pensions to inflation last week, is on track to meet the European Union-agreed deficit target of 6.3 percent of Gross Domestic Product.

But analysts say that local finances and social security costs could derail the government’s efforts. One in four of the work force is jobless in Spain, which is suffering from a second recession in three years.

“Our objective is to do things well and see what happens at the end of the year,” Rajoy said in the interview.

Speculation has grown over the last months that Spain could seek a rescue after it received up to 100 billion euros ($130 billion) in European aid for its crippled financial sector in June, something Rajoy did not rule out.

“I understand that when
Afghan soldiers are seen at the site of an attack in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan, on 2 Dec, 2012. At least 11 people were killed when several 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 on Sunday morning. —Xinhua

Fire interrupts flights at Ankara Airport

ANKARA, 3 Dec—A small fire erupted at Anka-ra’s Esenboga Airport and interrupted flights on Sunday morning, Turkish media reported. The fire caused a cut in the radar system, preventing flight take-offs and landings for over an hour.

According to the report, the fire was brought under control and the airport returned to normal functioning within a couple of hours. —Xinhua

Iran pushes out Afghans as regional power-play heats up

In May, Iran threatened to expel Afghan refugees and migrant workers, in all about 2.4 million people, if Afghanistan signed a strategic security pact with the United States. The deal was struck.

“Afghan refugees and migrants are becoming the victims of big political games played between the Iranian and US powers,” said Abdul Samad Hami, Afghanistan’s deputy minister for refugees.

Few of the migrants, who pay smugglers about $700 to get across the 1,000 km (620 miles) border into Iran, know they have been caught up in a geopolitical power play.

In May, Iran threatened to expel Afghan refugees and migrant workers, in all about 2.4 million people, if Afghanistan signed a strategic security pact with the United States. The deal was struck.

“Suddenly, my life came to an end,” the soft-spoken bricklayer told Reuters. “We are one of 191,121 unregistered Afghans forced migrants from October 2011 onwards. From Iran to January 30 September this year, according to the UN region said field kitchens were operating on the road, but many drivers complained supplies never reached them and they were running out of gasoline to keep their engines running and heating on in subzero temperatures. ‘Drivers help one another and that’s it,’ the woman said.

Syrian forces pound Damascus suburbs, flights to resume

WASHINGTON, 3 Dec—The Pentagon will send hundreds of additional spies overseas as part of an ambitious plan to assemble an espionage network that rivals the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in size, a newspaper report said on Sunday.

The five-year project is aimed at transforming the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA), which has been dominated in the past decade by the demands of the two wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, into a spy service focused on emerging threats and more closely aligned with the CIA and its commando units, The Washington Post said in its report.

Once the DIA expansion is complete, it will have 1,600 “collectors” deployed around the world — something unprecedented for the agency, said the report. In addition to military attaches and others who do not work under cover, more clandestine operations will be deployed overseas. They will be trained by the CIA and often work with the US Joint Special Operations Command, but they will get their spying assignments from the Department of Defense.

“This is a major adjustment for national security,” DIA Director Michael Flynn said at a recent conference while outlining the changes.

The sharp increase in DIA undercover operatives is part of a far-reaching trend: a convergence of the military and intelligence agencies that has blurred their once-distinct missions, capabilities and even their leadership ranks, according to the report.

The DIA overhaul, combined with the CIA’s expansion since the 11 Sept, 2001 terrorist attacks, will create a US spy network of unprecedented size. It reflects the Obama administration’s affinity for espionage and covert action over conventional force, said the report.

Pentagon officials added that sending more DIA operatives overseas would allow the US to focus on what the report said is a strategy for counterinsurgency and helping the governments.

The DIA, which has 20,000 spies and is a third the size of the CIA in terms of personnel and operating budgets, has to date been too hindered by the needs of the conventional wars.

Syrian forces pound Damascus suburbs, flights to resume

PHILADELPHIA, 3 Dec—Federal transportation investigators have begun interviewing the crew of a train that was carrying hazardous materials when it derailed on a railroad bridge in New Jersey, officials said on Saturday.

National Transportation Safety Board Chairwoman Deborah Hersman said the agency would spend the next two weeks preparing a preliminary report on Friday’s accident in the industrial town of Paulsboro.

A bridge collapse derailed seven of the 82 Conrail freight train cars, and a tanker car that fell into Mantua Creek leaked vinyl chloride into the waterway, which feeds into the Delaware River near Philadelphia. More than 12,000 gallons (45,425 liters) of the highly toxic and flammable industrial chemical vinyl chloride leaked from a gash in the tanker car’s side following the derailment on Friday morning.

Twenty-two people were examined at a nearby hospital, but air monitors in the area did not register any problem, officials have said. Exposure to vinyl chloride can cause burning sensation in the eyes or respiratory discomfort.

Investigation under way into New Jersey train derailment, chemical leak

BEIRUT, 3 Dec—Syrian forces pounded rebel-held suburbs around Damascus with fighter jets and rockets on Sunday, opposition activists said, killing and wounding dozens in an offensive to push rebels away from the airport and stop them closing in on the capital.

The army struck hard after a week of rebel advances, including the capture of two military bases near the capital. Rebels had been planning to push farther into Damascus from their strongholds on the outskirts and fighting in the past week has been fierce. A syrian government television report said heavy rocket fire struck towns close to the Damascus airport road, where rebels and the army had been locked in three days of clashes. Some described constant shelling, similar to carpet bombing, in towns like Beit Saham.

“It was frightening because it was the first time we heard continuous shell- ing. Really powerful explosions, one after the other, were shaking the area. I could see fire coming up from the town,” said Samir al-Shami, from the opposition’s Syrian Youth Union, speaking by Skype.

“Today was the worst day in those people’s lives.”

In a sign the government had regained some control over the airport, EgyptAir said it was resuming flights to Damascus and the northern City of Aleppo on Monday after a three-day halt in which Damascus airport was effectively closed due to unrest.

Pentagon to send hundreds of additional spies overseas

WASHINGTON, 3 Dec—The Pentagon will send hundreds of additional spies overseas as part of an ambitious plan to assemble an espionage network that rivals the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in size, a newspaper report said on Sunday.

The five-year project is aimed at transforming the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA), which has been dominated in the past decade by the demands of the two wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, into a spy service focused on emerging threats and more closely aligned with the CIA and its commando units, The Washington Post said in its report.

Once the DIA expansion is complete, it will have 1,600 “collectors” deployed around the world — something unprecedented for the agency, said the report. In addition to military attaches and others who do not work under cover, more clandestine operations will be deployed overseas. They will be trained by the CIA and often work with the US Joint Special Operations Command, but they will get their spying assignments from the Department of Defense.

“This is a major adjustment for national security,” DIA Director Michael Flynn said at a recent conference while outlining the changes.

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MoU on Japan-Myanmar win-win cooperation in transport sectors signed

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 Dec—Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung on 18 November heard reports presented by Senior Vice President Mr. Masaki Saida and Vice-President Mr. Hiroshi Matsuazawa of Narita International Airport Corporation on services of Narita Airport, allocations of duties between the Government and private companies, as well as work process of the control room, as he visited Japan from 17 to 24 November.

He also enjoyed the dinner hosted by Myanmar-Japan Association Chairman Mr. Hideo Watanebe, during which the Union Minister and the Chairman extended greetings.

On 19 November, the Union Minister presented at the report presentation ceremony of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) held at Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Ministry of Japan, which focused on survey of Thilawa Port.

The Union Minister then held a meeting with officials concerned from Toyota Tsusho Corporation, Centralair, All Nippon Airways (ANA), Mitsubishi Corporation, Julux Lnc, and discussed matters related to PPP constructions at Thilawa Port and development of Yangon International Airport and Mandalay International Airport. And the Union Minister and Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Minister signed MoU on win-win cooperation between the two countries in promoting both transport sectors, exchanging views on that.

On 20 November, the Union Minister paid a visit to Tokyo (HENDA) International Airport and Tokyo Seaport.

On his arrival of ISP Shipyard on 21 November, the Union Minister heard reports presented by Director of Shipbuilding and Ship Machinery Division Dr. Shinichiro OTSUBO on progress of vessels that are going to ply from Yangon and Dala for public service as ODA project, plans for replacing 36 vessels with new ones in need of the Inland Water Transport, and gave the officials necessary instructions.

Besides, the Union Minister looked around progress of container terminal construction at Tokyo Wan, doing research on Tsunami forecasting and simulation of water waves at the Port and Airport Research Institute (PARI), surveillance of radars for safety of vessels at Tokyo Wan Vessel Traffic Service Center and NEC Corporation.

On 22 November, the Union Minister went to JICA (headquarters) to ask for sending a JICA expert who would serve in the Ministry of Transports as a joint staff as from early 2013, and to urge JICA to start implementation of its projects under the JICA as soon as possible. The Union Minister held a meeting with the IBIC Deputy Director-General and discussed matters related to achieving loans, rules and regulations of ODA loan. He went on to KAMIGUMI Co, JGC Corporation where he made a discussion about terminal & logistics business matters, facts on tenders in Myanmar including projects under implementation of companies at home and from abroad.

Myanmar movie stars to take part in Second ASEAN-India Car Rally

Yangon, 3 Dec—The second ASEAN-India car rally friendly started on 26 November and it will last up to 11 December.

A press conference on the car rally was held at Traders Hotel in Yangon on 30 November noon. A total of 124 contestants from 11 countries are taking part in the car rally with the use of 31 cars.

The starting point was located in Jakarta of Indonesia on 25 November. These 31 cars arrived in Singapore on 27 November. After that, they arrived in Malaysia on 28 November and in Thailand on 29 November.

They will pass Cambodia on 3 December and re-enter Thailand from 4 to 6 December to proceed to Vietnam. On 6 December, they will pass through Vietnam and then re-enter Cambodia on 7 December for passing Laos.

On 7 December, they will arrive in Laos and then re-enter Thailand on 10 December. On 11 December, they enter Myanmar via Myawady and then spent the night in Hpa-an.

The cars will arrive in Nay Pyi Taw via Hpa-an on 12 December and then stop over for the night in Nay Pyi Taw. They will leave Nay Pyi Taw for Mandalay and spent the night in Mandalay.

On 14 December, they will leave Mandalay for Kalay and spent the night in Kalay. On 15 December, they will pass Tamu and arrive at Guwahati of India as finishing line.

Six men and two women from Myanmar will participate in the car rally. Myanmar drivers are film star Wai Lu Kyaw, Aung Zaw Win, Aung Myo Htet, Wai Phyo Thein and Saw Nyan Lin Kyaw led by U Aung Min Naing and film star Hsu Pan Htwa and Thuza Hwae. The car rally is held on 7610 kilos of length on 22-day route with the aim of cementing friendly relations among the countries.

The first ASEAN car rally was held in 2004 with 60 cars—four cars on average per country.

Hepatitis B vaccine donated to blood donors

Mogaung, 3 Dec—A ceremony to donate Hepatitis B vaccine to Ziwitadana blood donors association of Mogaung in Kachin State was held at the hall of Basic Education High School No 2 in Mogaung on 25 November afternoon.

Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Aung Moe Naing and Assistant Surgeon Dr Win Cho Cho Aung of the Township People’s Hospital made speeches.

Wellwisher U Myo Win and family of East Town in Mogaung donated Hepatitis B vaccine worth K 1,230,000 to Chairman of the association U Myint Aung.

Research works of boosting sugarcane inspected

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 Dec—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing together with Mandalay Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Myint Than inspected tasks of tissue culture farm of Great Wall Co in Hsinbyukan field in Mandalay on 1 December.

They viewed works of tissue culture of Myanmar and foreign agriculturalists at the laboratory.

After clarifying advantages of growing sugarcane, the Union Minister presented a piece each of quality sugarcane to farmers.

At the meeting hall of the ministry, the Union Minister held a discussion with Director Dr Ronie Coffman and Dr Khin Mar Cho of Cornell University of New York of the US and South Asian representative Mr Kamnun Vijayaraghavan of Hyderabad-based Cornell University of India on technological works for development of agricultural tasks and cooperation in conducting research.

Union Industry Minister receives Russian delegation

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 Dec—Union Minister for Industry U Aye Myint met Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation Mr Georgy Kalamanov and party at the ministry here this evening.

The meeting focused on bilateral cooperation in industrial sector.

Plan under way to equip trawlers with GMSs

Yangon, 3 Dec—Arrangements are being made to equip trawlers with GMS for enabling fishing entrepreneurs to control their trawlers from distance and to keep surveillance for dangers in 40 miles radius area, said a responsible person of Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

He continued to say that if the trawlers are equipped with GMS, the controller can see fish in time by saving fuel.

The trawlers directly; the controller can make preventive measures for fishermen against the dangers; moreover, there is no need to worry about illegal fishing works; and in addition to searching fish flocks under water, the GMS can detect routes and feedstuffs of fish, he said.

Thanks to GMS, the trawler can search flock of fish in time by saving fuel. Myanmar Ailinn will participate in the car rally.

Myanmar Ailinn drivers are film star Wai Lu Kyaw, Aung Zaw Win, Aung Myo Htet, Wai Phyo Thein and Saw Nyan Lin Kyaw led by U Aung Min Naing and film star Hsu Pan Htwa and Thuza Hwae. The car rally is held on 7610 kilos of length on 22-day route with the aim of cementing friendly relations among the countries.

The first ASEAN car rally was held in 2004 with 60 cars—four cars on average per country.
The better and the best

Every institute or society has its own principles or rules and regulations for its own existence. There may be also moral conducts for an institution or a society concerned that teach its people how to behave, live and work.

Likewise, our media world also has its own ethics and codes of conduct for shaping and promoting the profession. We now have the interim Press Council and it has adopted press codes of ethics and press codes of conducts that will steer, protect and promote the press by its own people. Actually, the Press Council was formed by members who are totally independent to make decisions.

But these press codes of ethics and press codes of conducts are not only for the state-run dailies which will become public service media in the near future, but also for the private dailies, weeklies and monthlies. Now, we are in the process of promulgating the print media law that will be the backbone, guardian and promoter of the journalism profession.

In the future, not the Ministry of Information or any government organization, but the independent Press Council will address all the problems, disputes and conflicts of the journalism world, with press ethics and press codes of conducts and the print media law as the base.

But if a problem goes beyond the capacity of the Press Council, it will go to the court for judgment. So, the cost will be high, even if the compensation or fees are not added up.

So, the better way is to solve the problems within the power and rights of the Press Council with family spirit rather awaiting the court verdict.

But the best way is the strict observance of the press ethics and press codes of conducts and the law by every press member.

Amyotha Hluttaw FRC Chairman meets with Chairman of Chinese Foreign Affairs Committee of CPPCC

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 Dec—Col Maung Maung Htoo, Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw International Relations Committee and a Chinese delegation led by Mr Xu Zhenhua, Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), held talks at Amyotha Hluttaw with Chairman of Chinese Foreign Affairs Committee of CPPCC.

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 Dec—At the invitation of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win, Union Ministers Li-Gen Ko Ko, U Thein Nyunt, U Thein Tun, U Nyan Tun Aung, U Win Tun and U Kyaw Lwin, Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Aye, departmental heads, Charge d’Affaires ai of Brunei Darussalam Embassy in Myanmar Syamin Nabihal Daud.

President U Thein Sein was accompanied by Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Maung and U Tin Naing Thein, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Htay Oo, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Khat Khin Nian, Li-Gen Thet Naing Win of the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army), Deputy Ministers U Htin Aung, Dr Ba Shwe, Dr Win Myint, U Htet Aung and officials.—MNA

Shan State Government, UNODC discuss elimination of narcotic drugs

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 Dec—Shan State Chief Minister Hall in the Hluttaw complex here this afternoon.

They openly discussed the matters related to the bilateral friendship and cooperation between the Hluttaws of the two countries. Also present at the meeting were U Htay Oo, Amyotha Hluttaw IRC and members U Khin Maung Htay, U Khin Maung and U Win Tint.

After the discussion, the Shan State Government, UNODC discussed cooperation in elimination of narcotic drugs in Shan State and assistance in plantation of poppy-substituted crops in terms of searching the modern methods.

The leader of Myanmar delegation attended ASEAN+3 Financial and Central Bank Deputies’ Meeting held in Seoul of Republic of Korea from 28-30 November.

The leader of Myanmar delegation had a discussion with those attendants about financial reform process of Myanmar, and they then took part in the discussion of implementing of ASEAN Macro Economic Research Group, local Financial Security Network, signing MoU between ASEAN and Japan, ROK and PRC, and Macro Economics of those countries.—MNA

Dy F&R Minister participates in ASEAN+3 Financial and Central Bank Deputies’ Meeting

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 Dec—A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Maung Maung Thein attended ASEAN+3 Financial and Central Bank Deputies’ Meeting held in Seoul of Republic of Korea from 28-30 November.

The leader of Myanmar delegation had a discussion with those attendants about financial reform process of Myanmar, and they then took part in the discussion of implementing of ASEAN Macro Economic Research Group, local Financial Security Network, signing MoU between ASEAN and Japan, ROK and PRC, and Macro Economics of those countries.—MNA
Building of a genuine democracy...

(from page 16)

day when a degree college was upgraded into university for producing cooperative economists for the future of the State and the university.

Since taking office, the government has been making efforts for the political stability and economic development, the two basic needs for flourishing democracy, and meanwhile it has been striving for building an education environment which can be a good ground for development of human resources because the human resource is the main drive for the reform processes, he said. As part of the plan for development of human resources who would take a leading role in the future, the universities have been opened across the country and the Cooperative University (Thanlyin) and the Cooperative University (Sagay) were upgraded on 12 February, 2012 and were opened today, he said.

In Myanmar, the cooperative system started in Myinmu in 1905 and the system which has essence of the self-reliance, taking responsibility, management in favour of the will of majority, equal rights, justice, unity etc and still, the system is in conformity with and can satisfy the needs of the people.

Workshop on important factors in drawing of regional economic development projects held

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Dec.—The workshop will contribute a lot to national all-round development project being drawn by the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development. The government has already laid down four economic policies to be included in the planning. And those present on the occasion are to hold extensive discussions to be able to seek ways for planning which can be practically applied in their regions based on the findings from the workshop. In ensuring progress and equality, urban and rural development, financial support and job creation, ways and prioritized plans need to be laid down, said Dr Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, at the workshop on important factors in drawing of regional economic development projects held at the ministry here at 8 am today.

Sein Tin Win and 116 Hluttaw representatives. At the meeting, 11 questions were answered, and a budget bill for additional expenditure of the 2012-2013 FY was discussed and approved.—MNA

Yangon Region Hluttaw completes emergency session

YANGON, 3 Dec.—The emergency session of Yangon Region Hluttaw took place at that place, here, this morning. It was attended by Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe, Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Nawn Swe and Chairman of the Office of Yangon Region Hluttaw Maung Maung Ko. The budget bill for additional expenditure of the 2012-2013 FY was discussed and approved.—MNA
Shin Uppagupta chamber set adrift in Dokhtawady River

HSIPAW, 3 Dec — A ceremony to set Shin Uppagupta chamber adrift in the river was held on the bank of Dokhtawady River in Thinchay Teinsan village of Hsipaw Township at 2pm on 28 November (Fullmoon Day of Tazaungmon).

Buddhist people from the village and nearby villages turned up to take part in the ceremony which is annually held in accord with Myanmar traditions and customs.

First, the congregation led by Hsipaw Township Administrator U Myo Tin Zaw and responsible persons received Nine Precepts from the Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Mahadawishwekyayung monastery at the makeshift pandal, and shared the merits gained. Then the Shin Uppagupta chamber was set adrift in Dokhtawady River. The final match between Zeyar Shwemyay FC and Hanthawaddy FC ended at 1-0. Soe Pine Thway of Zeyar Shwemyay FC scooped the winning goal in the injury time at the end of the first-half. Being a hard fought game, both teams used their top players to secure the success in the final match in which Zeyar Shwemyay FC won the Cup. Next, the prize-giving ceremony followed. Myanmar Football Federation President U Zaw Zaw, MFF General Secretary U Tin Aung and responsible persons of the football clubs presented awards. Although it has been announced that the champion will not be presented cash award, Zeyar Shwemyay FC was awarded K 500,000.

Korea-made decorative glass bottles available in Mandalay market

Mandalay, 3 Dec — Many types of decorative glass bottles which are made in Republic of Korea are available in the market in Mandalay. They can be used to store herbs in it. These different types of decorative bottles had been molded in glass through manpower. They are not products of the factory. The lids of the glass bottles are made of harmless silicon.

Mawlamyinegyun Township holds boat race in Tonehlechaung river

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 3 Dec — The first Myanmar traditional boat race of Mawlamyinegyun Township was held in the Tonehlechaung river of the township on 27 November, with the participation of 12 teams in the township.

At the final match of the competition organized in the Tonehlechaung river the following day, Byantgyi (B) team stood first, Laputtalote team second and Daygyayun third in the competition. Maw-lam-yine-gyun Township Administrator U Huay Maung and officials presented K 300,000 to first-prize winning team, K 200,000 to second-prize winning team and K 100,000 to third-prize winning team.

On that day, local people in the township thronged both sides of the Tonehlechaung river to enjoy the boat race to mark the 14th Buddha PujaNiya Festival of Pyidawaye Myo U Pagoda.

Korea-made decorative glass bottles widely used in the US, Hong Kong, Vietnam and China. Now decorative glass bottles distributed by Yongchexo Nature Glass Co are available in the market in Mandalay.

Korean-made decorative glass bottles available in Mandalay market
Indonesia departs first batch of peacekeeping troops to Lebanon

Jakarta, 3 Dec — Indonesia military (TNI) departed the first batch of Garuda Contingent (Konga) to Lebanon, assigned to join the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) mission in that country, a statement released by Konga task force said here on Monday.

Some 241 Indonesian peacekeeping troops joined in the first batch departure were transported to Rafiq Hariri airport in Lebanon on Sunday morning, using particular plane chartered by UN from Halim Perdanakusumah airport in the capital city.

They consisted of mechanical, medical battalions and military police personnel among others. They will be assigned for one-year service period in Lebanon, the statement said.

Indonesia will depart a total of 1,169 peacekeeping troops to join UNIFIL in Lebanon.

S Korea to monitor foreign capital flow by securities

Seoul, 3 Dec — South Korea’s foreign exchange authorities planned to monitor foreign capital flow by securities such as stocks and bonds in a bid to secure more concrete information on such capital flow in and out of the country, the central bank and the finance ministry said on Monday.

Foreigners will be required starting 1 April, 2013 to report their money depositing into and withdrawal from the combined investment accounts by financial products such as stocks, bonds and derivatives, according to a joint statement by Bank of Korea (BOK) and the Ministry of Strategy and Finance.

Under the current regulation, foreign investment into local financial products is reported and managed at the combined investment account, making it difficult for the authorities to secure information on foreign capital flow by financial products. After selling local shares and bonds, for example, foreigners can reinvest the money secured through the sales into the local financial market, or repatriate the money into their homeland. The total capital flow by foreigners can be monitored under the combined investment account structure, but the respective fund flow by securities cannot be monitored.

By getting information on foreign capital flow by respective financial products, the authorities will be able to more closely monitor the possible impact of the foreign capital into the local financial market and take preemptive action against the potential adverse effects, the central bank and the finance ministry said.

Philippines braces for Typhoon Bopha

Manila, 3 Dec — The Philippine government has set aside 42 million pesos (1.02 million US dollars) as standby fund for areas that may be hit by typhoon Bopha (local name Pablo), a senior government official said Monday.

Deputy presidential spokesman Abigail Valte said the amount will be used for relief goods which will be distributed to affected residents.

Valte also said President Benigno Aquino III has called for a meeting in the presidential palace to discuss further preparations for the typhoon.

“The president has given instructions for agencies to submit an inventory of danger areas to be affected by the typhoon,” she said.

The five-day police patrol started in October 2011 suspended in several provinces in central and southern Philippines as authorities prepare for massive evacuation.

As of 12:00 noon Monday, typhoon Pablo was located at 490 southeast of the town of Hinatuan in the southern Philippine Province of Surigao del Sur.

The state weather bureau said the typhoon packs maximum sustained winds of 175 kilometre per hour (kph) near the centre and gustiness of up to 210 kph.

The government said 33 provinces in central and southern Philippines will be affected by the storm.

Typhoon Bopha, the 16th storm to enter the Philippines this year, would make a landfall in the southern Philippine province of Surigao del Sur.

Vietnam welcomes over 6 mn foreign visitors in first 11 months of 2012

Hanoi, 3 Dec — Vietnam welcomed over six million foreign visitors in the first 11 months of this year, an increase of 11.4 percent year on year, reported the Vietnam Administration of Tourism (VAT) on Monday.

Of the figure, 3.6 million arrived for holidays (up 9.4 percent), 1.06 million for business (up 17.1 percent), and 1.05 million for family visits (up 15.5 percent).

The number of visitors from countries and regions increased during the period, mostly from China (with 1.28 million, up 8 percent), South Korea (635,000, up 31.5 percent), Japan (524,000, up 20.8 percent) and China’s Taiwan (380,000, up 17 percent).

VAT set a target to welcome 6.5 million foreign visitors and 32 million domestic tourists in 2012, earning about 150 trillion Vietnamese dong (roughly 7.19 billion US dollars).

Australian farmers feel pessimistic: survey

Canberra, 3 Dec — Australian farmers are more pessimistic on 2013 with bad weather and poor commodity prices biting, according to a latest survey on Monday.

The Rabobank Rural Confidence Survey, which questions 1,200 farmers across Australia every quarter, shows that the dry weather of this spring particularly in the key grain producing states of Western Australia and South Australia, hurting yields in the critical lead-up to harvest and hampering pasture growth for graziers.

It means a greater number of farmers expect conditions to worsen rather than improve over the coming 12 months, up to 35 percent from 31 percent, compared to just 16 percent who were positive about the year (down from 19 percent).

A yacht is pictured at its booth during Hong Kong International Boat Show 2012 in south China’s Hong Kong, on 2 Dec, 2012. The boat show closed on Sunday.

Seven joint Mekong patrol launched

Kunming, 3 Dec — China, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand on Sunday began a new joint patrol on the Mekong River in the Golden Triangle Region as trade and transportation returns to normal after an attack last year in which 13 Chinese sailors were killed on the river.

The fleet of four patrol ships set sail at 7:30 am on Saturday from Guantai Port, which is located in Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture in southwest China’s Yunnan Province.

The five-day police patrol, the seventh since last December, will include a two-day inspection of the Laos-managed sections of the river, said Wang Bing, an officer in the Yunnan Provincial Border Control Corps. The two-day patrol will send police to check ships, passengers and goods for drugs, weapons and stowaways travelling on the river, according to Wang.

“The joint patrols have been hailed by countries in the region for ensuring transportation safety and deterring criminals on the Mekong River,” the official said, adding, “Thanks to the patrols, navigations on the river has returned to the level before last year’s deadly attack.”

The four-country joint patrol started in October 2011 to tackle safety concerns raised after a gang hijacked two cargo ships and killed 13 Chinese sailors on board in the waters of Thailand on 5 Oct, 2011.

Statistics showed only 10 Chinese ships were navigating the river when the first such patrol was launched. That number had increased to 59 when the fifth patrol was conducted in August.

The fleet of four patrol ships, passengers and goods will send police to check for drugs, weapons and stowaways.
Claims Day Notice
MV Ever Able VOY No (327N)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (327N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Claims Day Notice
MV Nam Viet 08 VOY NO (-)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV NAM VIET 08 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Claims Day Notice
MV Fossia VOY NO (12026)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV FOSSIA VOY NO (12026) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Claims Day Notice
MV Merkur Bridge VOY NO (023)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERKUR BRIDGE VOY NO (023) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Claims Day Notice
MV FS Glory VOY NO (-)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV FS GLORY VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Singapore expects economic growth to slow down to 2-3 pct in future

Singapore, 3 Dec— Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong has said that the government is no longer aiming for “ridiculously high” economic growth like those seen in the past years, but rather a more sustainable rate of about 2 to 3 percent per year, local media reported on Monday. Lee said at a conference of the ruling People’s Action Party that Singapore’s growth rate used to be 7 to 8 percent per year, and 5 percent on average over the last decade.

“Now, if you can do 3 to 4 percent, I think that’s good. As our workforce grows more slowly in future, even 2 to 3 percent will be considered good growth,” Lee said.

Singapore is now one of the world’s richest countries in terms of per capita gross domestic product, compared to its status of a third-world city state only half a century ago.

Nevertheless, Lee, who is also the secretary-general of the ruling party, said that growth remains important and that those who feel that the government over-emphasises growth do not appreciate how a lack of growth would inevitably impact the country. A sustained period of low or zero growth would invariably affect Singapore’s vibrancy, its business sector and its own confidence and the low-wage workers would be likely to be the hardest hit.

“Do we need growth? Yes we do, because we want to generate resources, we want to improve our lives and build a liveable city,” Lee said. Lee reiterated that Singapore need to keep the important values that have made the country successful, including meritocracy.

“If we do not recognize merit, how do people from poor backgrounds rise, improve their lives, and contribute fully to Singapore? Nobody will ever discover them,” he said.

Xinhua

Israel to use drones in Azerbaijan for possible Iran strike

Jerusalem, 3 Dec— Israel plans to use unmanned drones it deployed in Azerbaijan to preemptively strike Iranian missile sites in the event of a war, the London-based Sunday Times reported.

The report comes amid mounting speculations that Israel may launch a military strike on Iran’s nuclear facilities next year, in which case the latter would retaliate by firing Shahab-3 and other long-range missiles at the Israeli state, while Lebanese militia Hezbollah and Gaza militants would follow suit.

Ahead of a possible strike, Heron drones armed with Hellfire missiles would take out the missiles before they leave the ground, the paper said.

According to the report, the Nevatim airbase in Israel’s Negev desert houses a US-made X-band radar capable of detecting Iranian missiles loaded on launching pads 1,000 miles to the northeast, giving the Israelis 13 minutes’ early warning.

“We’ll try to ‘kill’ them at the booster stage, the moment their engines are ignited,” the newspaper quoted “a well-informed” Israeli military source as saying.

“That if happens, and it isn’t as easy as it sounds, then the remaining missiles will be finished off by our Air Defence Command,” the source said. Israel denies having armed UAVs, known in the US military as Predator or hunter-killer drones, but independent experts say it has used such hardware on numerous occasions, including to strike targets far beyond its borders, such as arms convays bound for the Gaza Strip.

Xinhua

Philippines, IRRI to undertake 7 projects on rice sufficiency

MANILA, 3 Dec— The Philippine government on Monday announced that it has partnered with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) to implement seven projects aimed at boosting rice production.

Under the agreement between the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Philippine-based IRRI, a budget of 903.3 million pesos (22.09 million US dollars) will be set aside to implement the projects in the next three years.

The DA and IRRI will establish a Philippine Rice Information System and accelerate the development and adoption of high-yield and climate-change resilient rice varieties.

The Philippine government has declared 2013 as the National Year of Rice in a bid to fast-track the achievement of its rice self-sufficiency goal.

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Producer Katzenberg picks up honorary Oscar for charity work

LOS ANGELES, 3 Dec— Hollywood producer Jeffrey Katzenberg received an honorary Oscar for his charitable work on Saturday at a star-studded gala that kicked off the movie awards season and bestowed film industry gold on three other industry veterans.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences annually hands out its Governors Awards to people who have made an impact on Hollywood.

This year, the honorary Oscars went to Katzenberg, stuntman Hal Needham, documentary filmmaker D.A. Pennebaker and arts advocate George Stevens Jr. They were recognized at a black-tie affair that brought out stars such as Annette Bening, Kirk Douglas and Steven Spielberg.

Katzenberg, a former chairman of Walt Disney Co’s movie division and the founder and chief executive of Dreamworks Animation, was given a Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award for his fundraising efforts for a range of charitable causes.

“Jeffrey has no problem asking you for love, way too much money,” actress Jennifer Lopez joked in a speech honoring him for his generosity of spirit and arts advocacy.

Katzenberg, who has helped raise funds for the Motion Picture & Television Fund and the University of Southern California’s Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education, said he owed his award to the generosity of those in Hollywood who gave alongside him.

“You might say that all of us who work in the film industry live in two worlds,” Katzenberg said as he accepted the award. “There is the imaginary world that we project on the screen and then there is the real world that we live in every day. This award is a recognition of the extraordinary generosity of our industry towards improving the real world that we all share.”

Lindsey Lohan loses her battle

Lindsay Lohan’s assault victim hires celeb lawyer

NEW DELHI, 3 Dec— Lindsay Lohan’s alleged assault victim has hired celebrity civil rights lawyer Gloria Allred.

Fortune teller Tiffany Mitchell — who has already pressed criminal charges against the Liz & Dick actress and claims she hit her in the face and spat on her — has hired the well-known legal expert, who has previously represented one of Tiger Woods’ mistresses and has also taken on alleged sexual harassment cases against Arnold Schwarzenegger, John Travolta and Rob Lowe.

Gloria told gossip website RadarOnline.com: “I can confirm that I am representing Tiffany Mitchell and I have no further comment at this time.”

The 26-year-old actress is accused of assaulting psychic Tiffany in New York’s Avenue nightclub in the early hours of Thursday morning and is allegedly refusing to help her with her case, insisting she had to be booked onto a flight.

Meanwhile, Lindsay will be formally charged with lying to police about being behind the wheel of a car during a crash in June on 15 December, a direct violation of her 2011 probation in connection with her conviction for stealing a necklace.

Jennifer Lawrence’s Oscar ambition

NEW DELHI, 3 Dec— Jennifer Lawrence wants an Oscar nomination for Silver Linings Playbook. The 22-year-old actress became the second youngest actress to ever be nominated for the Best Actress Oscar for her role in 2010 film ‘Winter’s Bone’ and she hopes her new romantic comedy, helmed by David O’Russell, will earn her a second nod at the ceremony next year.

She added: “Whenever the first review comes out, it’s like, ‘Yay! S**t!’ It’s always laced with a hint of dread.”

Winter’s Bone was a very stressful time, but it was also an incredible time. I would love that to happen for this movie, so I don’t want David to read, ‘Jennifer doesn’t want to get nominated, don’t vote for her!’”

The Hunger Games star was ex-
Real Madrid make it perfect 10 in ACB basketball league

Florentino Perez was delighted as Real Madrid made it a perfect 10 in the ACB league with a 104-102 win over the traditionally strong club of Valladolid.

Madrid's 10th win in 10 games sets a new record in the league.

AMADEO, 3 Dec — Real Madrid made it a perfect 10 out of 10 as they defeated Blanes Rueda Valladolid 104-102 in an exciting high scoring game to clinch away from the relegation zone.


caja Laboral won their third successive match under new coach Juan Tabak. Andres Nocioni was the star of the show with 21 points and 14 rebounds to help his side a narrow 71-69 win in the Basque derby away to Lagun Aro.

The Blancos Rueda Valladolid -- which is struggling in the relegation zone -- came out all guns blazing during a second half shootout, but the Dallas Cowboys beat the crumbling Philadelphia Eagles 38-33 on Sunday to keep their playoff hopes intact.

Romo tossed all three of his touchdown passes in the final two quarters, where both teams traded scores, finding Dez Bryant on a six-yard score with 5:35 remaining to give the Cowboys a 21-27 lead and their first advantage of the game. The result was all but sealed when Philadelphia running back Bryce Brown then fumbled and Dallas' Morris Claiborne returned it 50 yards to make it 38-27.

The Eagles closed the gap with Damaris Johnson's 98-yard punt return TD in the final minute, but their onside kickoff attempt failed.

Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo scrambles as Philadelphia Eagles defensive tackle Cullen Jenkins is unable to make the tackle in the first half of their NFL football game in Arlington, Texas on 2 Dec, 2012. — Reuters

Despite an early 14-3 lead and strong games from rookie QB Nick Foles and Brown, the visiting Eagles (3-9) dropped their eighth straight game, their longest losing streak since an 11-game slide in 1968.

The roller coaster season for Dallas (6-6) continued as they climbed out of their deficit and caught fire in the second half behind Romo, who finished with 303 yards passing.

Endesa ACB Basketball start to the season in the perfect 10 out of 10 as they maintain Real Madrid's winning ways with a 89-66 win over Blanes Rueda Valladolid.

English scored an incredible 39 points in his sides win.

Mad Croc Fuen-Canarias never recovered as the Blancos Rueda Valladolid -- which is struggling in the relegation zone -- came out all guns blazing during a second half shootout, but the Dallas Cowboys beat the crumbling Philadelphia Eagles 38-33 on Sunday to keep their playoff hopes intact.

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Inter not to force Sneijder, says Moratti

**Wesley Sneijder**

**MILAN, 3 Dec —** Inter president Massimo Moratti has insist there is no way “want to force” Wesley Sneijder into signing a new contract, so the Dutch midfielder could be possibly be released on a free transfer. The Nerazzurri have made it abundantly clear they do not intend to keep paying the Dutchman’s six million euro per season wage. The club announced Sneijder would not play until he had agreed to an extension that would reduce his pay, but the player seems to have no intention of signing. “Our rapport is not frosty as far I am concerned,” assured Moratti. “There isn’t a clear contrast in positions, as we are trying to find a solution that suits both parties. “We do not want to force anything on anyone. It is a situation that will be broken down only by common sense.” Reports are intensifying that rather than attempt a sale in January, Inter will offer to terminate the contract by mutual consent.

**Napoli rout Pescara to pressure Juventus**

**ROME, 3 Dec —** Napoli thrashed Pescara 5-1 on Sunday to keep up their pursuit of Juventus at the top of Serie A. Gokhan Inler and Edinson Cavani both scored twice with Marek Hamso also on target as Walter Mazzarri’s side tore Pescara to shreds. Birirk Bjarnason had given the visitors hope when he reduced the arrears in the first half, but a red card to Antonio Bocchetti capped a day to forget for Cristiano Bergoldi’s men in Naples. Napoli head coach Walter Mazzarri still could not be satisfied with Napoli’s victory and admitted he “got very angry at half-time. The Partenopei surged into a 2-0 lead, then felt the pressure as the Delfini pulled one back. “I got very angry at half-time,” confessed Mazzarri. “We scored two goals and then seemed to rest on our laurels. “We ran a big risk and I cannot see these dips in concentration. At least the experience will help us to grow.

Gian Piero Gasperini was denied any joy on his return to Inter Milan as Santiago Garcia’s own goal gifted the Nerazzurri an undeserved 1-0 victory over Palermo. Gasperini was unceremoniously sacked as Inter boss having overseen just five games last season, but his revenge mission came undone when Rosanero full-back Garcia contrived to put through his own net in the 74th minute. Gasperini was left resigned to the fact “San Siro and Inter represent only “disappointment and regret” in his career. “We gave Inter a big present today. It’s a shame, as we played a decent game,” he said. “This defeat represents disappointment and regret, joining what I felt at being all with Inter for such a short space of time and not being given the chance to work here,” he added. Mattia Destro bagged a brace on his return to Stadio Artemio Franchi as Roma rallied from a goal down to defeat Serie 3-1, Miroslav Klose’s 10th goal of the Serie A season lifted Lazio into fourth place at the expense of Parma with a 2-1 victory. Two goals from Stevan Savic were not enough to earn Fiorentina all three points as they were held to a 2-2 draw by Sampdoria.
International Day of Persons with Disabilities marked in Nay Pyi Taw

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 Dec—Myanmar has been stalwartly striving for further burgeoning of the eternal principles namely, justice, liberty, and equality based on the four cardinal virtues. Article 38 (a) of the Constitution states: “The State shall care for the disabled”. Moreover, Myanmar became a signatory of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities—UNCRPD on 7 December 2011, said Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham at the ceremony to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2012 at Thangaza Hotel, here, this morning.

“With this year’s motto “Removing barriers to create an inclusive and accessible society for all”, all must march in harmony and union towards the Millennium Goals”, said Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham. Out of over 7000 million of world population, about 15 percent are disabled persons. Of them, 80 percent of disabled persons are residing in developing countries. Moreover, only about 30 percent of families are taking care of the disabled persons. Thus, the disabled persons face barriers in the society.

The UN adopted the global process for disabilities in 1982 and idol rules for equal rights of disabilities in 1993. However, opportunities could not be created for the disabled in practical field. Thus, the 61st UN General Assembly prescribed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 13 December 2006. A total of 154 countries of 193 have signed the convention and 126 countries approved it.

About 650 million of the decade goals (1993-2002) for the disabled were adopted. The aims comprise a sector to enact the laws on disabled persons in the second decade (2002-2012) in all countries.

All regional countries performed the fully-inclusive developmental activities for the persons with disabilities based on the rights over the two decades. Myanmar will cooperate with the regional countries to meet the objectives of the developmental activities.

The world recognized the community of 1050 million disabled persons as the largest minority group. As a drive for ensuring the success of millennium goals, fruitful results should be within reach of all mankind. Being a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement played a leading role to draw (See page 9)

Building of a genuine democratic nation blessed with cardinal virtues by the government calls for a large number of highly qualified human resources

Vice-President U Nyan Tun addresses the ceremony to mark International Day of Persons with Disabilities.—MNA

Moderate equake hits 20 miles north of Thabeikkyin

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 Dec—A moderate earthquake of magnitude 5.1 Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar, (about 20 miles north of Thabeikkyin), about 83 miles north of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 18 hrs 24 min 37 sec MST today, announced Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—MNA

Significant night temperature (3-12-2012)

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