Myanmar, Brunei focus on strengthening bilateral relations, further cooperation on mutually beneficial basis in future

NAVPYTAWN, 5 Dec—The Myanmar delegation led by President U Thein Sein attended the meeting between the two countries held at Cheradi Ratna Kenchana Hall of Istana Nurul Iman Palace in Bandar Seri Begawan of Brunei Darussalam at 1 pm local time yesterday.

Firstly, the King of Brunei Darussalam said he cordially welcomed the second visit of the Myanmar President who paid a visit to Brunei in 2008 for the first time.

The King said that the two countries are friendly nations and he was glad to see progress in health and education sectors which are under cooperation. He wished to cooperate in other sectors. He had seen Myanmar was in the process of economic reform for economic growth and development, inviting reform for economic growth in the process of economic development of Brunei under cooperation. He wished to cooperate with WHO and INGOs.

President U Thein Sein expressed thanks for the invitation of the King. He was glad to see the development of Brunei under the leadership of the King. He would like to invite the King and royal family to pay a state visit to Myanmar at an opportune time. He believed that challenges would be overcome thanks to support of regional and international partners.

He disclosed now was the time to grab the niche of economic cooperation with Myanmar as there was no bilateral trade between the two countries, urging more connectivity between the two countries, urging more

He would like to give an account of Rakhine State at the opportune moment. The incident was an unexpected challenge. It stemmed from a criminal case which has nothing to do with race and religion. Necessary assistance was being given to meet the basic needs of homeless victims daily, adding that he had already explained the Rakhine incident to flown in by helicopter. Power was cut and communications were down. According to tallies provided by the military and disaster agency officials, 283 people were killed.

Thousands of people were in shelters and officials appealed for food, water and clothing. Dozens of domestic flights were suspended on Wednesday.

The governor of the worst-hit province, Compostela Valley, in Mindanao said waves of water and mud came crashing down mountains and swept through schools, town halls and clinics where huddled residents had sought shelter. The death toll in the province stood at 160. In nearby Davao Oriental province, where Bopha made landfall, 110 people were killed.

Mobile medical teams provide health care to national races

NAVPYTAWN, 5 Dec—Mobile medical teams of Defence Services provided health care services to the local national races in Kayah State from 5 to 16 October and Chin State from 29 October to 10 November. The mobile medical teams left Yangon by Tatmadaw aircraft yesterday morning for Sittway by taking necessary medicines and medical equipment to be able to give health care services to the local national people in Rakhine State and started their health care tasks.

Significant night temperatures (5-12-2012) NAYPYITAW

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**President’s State visits to Australia, New Zealand postponed**

**NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec** — The scheduled State Visits of U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, to the Commonwealth of Australia and New Zealand have been postponed to a mutually convenient date which would be coordinated by the two sides.

MNA

**Myanmar-Brunei relations and cooperation promoted through ASEAN, regional and multilateral organizations**

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec — Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddadulah hosted a dinner to visiting Myanmar delegation led by President U Thein Sein at Istana Nurul Iman Palace on 4 December.

The Brunei Sultan speaking on the occasion expressed his satisfaction for improving ties between Brunei and Myanmar over past years, noting tremendous potential for promoting bilateral trade and investment. He mentioned potential for greater progress in joint ventures, especially in oil exploration. He cheered up the efforts of the Myanmar President for progress of the region and facing the ongoing challenges for future interests of Myanmar. He wished the Myanmar President success of his constant efforts for maintaining peace to bring prosperity to Myanmar people.

He said he paid a goodwill visit to Myanmar in 1998 five years after the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two nations in 1993, adding ministries and personnel of the two nations have maintained long-term relationships and exchanges since then. He said he hoped the exchange of visits would bring about closer ties between the two people and promote interaction between private sectors of the two countries.

He expressed thanks for contribution of academicians, intellectuals and intelligentsia, medics, nurses and workers from Myanmar toward development of Brunei. He said he believed that at a time ASEAN member countries are accelerating their efforts for establishment of ASEAN Community by 2015, Brunei and Myanmar as good partners in ASEAN together with fellow ASEAN nations would be able to accomplish the objective.

He said he was glad to hear Myanmar authorities would closely cooperate with Brunei during its ASEAN Chairmanship in coming year, adding that it would present a lot of opportunities to Myanmar to learn to be able to handle overall duties of ASEAN.

The Myanmar President expressed thanks for kind hospitality of the Brunei government and people. He said Myanmar always attaches importance to relationship with Brunei which he said has been strengthened through frequent exchange of visits between high-level delegations of the two countries.

He said his visit would foster the existing ties and push forward wider bilateral cooperation, adding that the bilateral relations and cooperation have been promoted through ASEAN, regional and multilateral organizations. He expressed special thanks to the Brunei Sultan and people for their continued support for Myanmar’s democracy transition, affirming his commitment to closer cooperation for promotion of stability and prosperity at international level.

He vowed to strengthen cooperation in every single step for the sake of the two peoples. He briefed the efforts of his government for national reconciliation and creation of favourable investment climate.

The Brunei Sultan and Myanmar President then had a dinner together. The Myanmar delegation went back to Empire Hotel & Country Club where they were lodging.—MNA

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**Utility jade, gems and pearl sales 9 Dec**

**NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec** — In his address at the first work coordination meeting of central committee for organizing utility jade, gems and pearl sales-2012 held at Mani Yadana Jade Hall of Myanmar Gems Museum, here, this afternoon, Parton of the central committee Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung called for collaboration between work committees and officials concerned for successful holding of the sales.

Next, officials of the work committees reported on ongoing tasks and work progress and tasks to be done respectively, and those present held discussions on general matters.

The utility jade, gems and pearl sales-2012 will be held from 9 to 13 December. It is learnt that only Grade C or D jades are being mined on a wider scale in the jade mining of local entrepreneurs, instead of Grade A or B jades.

The purpose of organizing the sales is to fulfill the raw material requirements of entrepreneurs who are manufacturing finished gems and contributing to development of gems and jewellery sector through the sales of utility jade in local currency.

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**President U Thein Sein back from Brunei**

President U Thein Sein being welcomed back by Vice-President U Nyan Tun at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport. MNA

**NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec** — Myanmar delegation led by President U Thein Sein of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar left the Bandar Seri Begawan International Airport in the Brunei Darussalam for Nay Pyi Taw by Myanmar Airways Special Flight at 2pm local time after paying a goodwill visit.

The Myanmar delegation was seen off at the Airport by Minister of Industry and Natural Resources of Brunei Mr Pehin Haji Yahya, Chief of Protocol of Foreign Affairs and Trade Ministry Dato Paduka Haji Mohd Nor and the Brunei Ambassador to Myanmar, Myanmar Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam Daw Yin Yin Myint and embassy staff.

They arrived back here at 4 pm and were welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Vice-President U Nyan Tun, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief(Army) General Soe Win, Union Ministers Li-Gen Ko Ko, Li-Gen Wai Lwin, U Aung Kyi, U Thein Nyunt, Thura U Myint Maung, U Myint Hlaing, U Nyan Tun Aung, U Aye Myint, Dr Myint Aung and U Aye Myint Kyu, Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Aye, departmental heads, Charge d’ Affaires’ ai Syamin Nabialah Daud from Brunei Embassy to Myanmar.—MNA
NATO warns Syria not to use chemical weapons

BRUSSELS, 5 Dec—NATO told Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on Tuesday that any use of chemical weapons in his fight against encroaching rebel forces would be met by an immediate international response. The warning from NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen came as US government sources said Washington had information that Syria was making what could be seen as preparations to use its chemical arsenal.

“The possible use of chemical weapons would be completely unacceptable for the whole international community and if anybody resorts to these terrible weapons I would expect an immediate reaction from the international community,” Rasmussen told reporters at the start of a meeting of alliance foreign ministers in Brussels. The chemical threat made it urgent for the alliance to send Patriot anti-missile missiles to Turkey, Rasmussen said.

The French Foreign Ministry referred to “possible movements on military bases storing weapons in Syria” and said the international community would react if they were used. Britain has told the Syrian government that any use of chemical weapons would have “serious consequences”, Foreign Secretary William Hague said.

Australasian school evacuated after student brings hand grenade

SYDNEY, 5 Dec—A school in Australia’s New South Wales (NSW) has been evacuated after a student brought a hand grenade for “show and tell”, the NSW Police said on Wednesday.

Specialists from the police and Australian Defence Force are examining the World War II “pineapple” model grenade to the school.

“We have our bomb appraisal technicians from the police rescue squad locally here,” Inspector Gerard Lawton told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

“We’re just now waiting for munitions experts to come from Sydney to evaluate the risk of whether there is still potential for people to be hurt.” —Xinhua

UN launches 1.3-billion-dollar appeal for humanitarian needs in Somalia

UNited Nations, 5 Dec—The United Nations on Tuesday launched a 1.3-billion-US-dollar humanitarian appeal to address the immediate needs of the Somali people over the next year and enhance resilience in the country, which has for decades been mired in conflict, drought, floods and food insecurity.

The appeal, which is part of a three-year strategy, will go to 369 humanitarian projects targeting 3.8 million Somalis in need, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The strategy will be implemented by 177 national and international non-governmental organizations and UN agencies operating in Somalia.

“The humanitarian situation in Somalia remains critical, the improvement in the food security situation and the new security and political landscape present opportunities to break the cycle of recurring crises brought on by drought and conflict,” said the UN humanitarin coordinator in the Horn of Africa country, Stefano Portelli.

“By strengthening Somalia’s ability to cope with droughts and floods we can prevent future shocks from developing into a humanitarian catastrophe,” he said. After decades of factional fighting and lawlessness, the East African country has been undergoing a peace and national reconciliation process, with a series of landmark steps in past months that have helped to bring an end to the country’s nine-year political transition period. However, it is still facing one of the largest humanitarian crises in the world, with 1.1 million people who have been internally displaced and more than one million that live outside the country’s borders.

“The road to resilience will be long and difficult,” Portelli said. “There is an absolute imperative to continue supporting the humanitarian work in Somalia. The new three-year humanitarian appeal allows for greater continuity in programming and aims at responding to the existing emergency needs of the population in a crisis in a sustainable manner.”

The 2013-2015 appeal, which was launched in the Somali capital of Mogadishu, was presented by Porrelli, along with Somali Minister of Interior and National Security Abdirahman Hussein Guleid, who is responsible for humanitarian affairs. —Reuters

Obama to fill key posts in weeks, Hagel on Pentagon short list

WASHINGTON, 5 Dec—President Barack Obama is expected to announce his nominees for secretaries of state and defence in the next two weeks, with former Republican Senator Chuck Hagel on the short list of potential choices to head the Pentagon, senior administration officials said on Tuesday.

Hagel, whose appointment would give Obama’s reshuffled second-term Cabinet a bipartisan cast, met the Democratic president at the White House this week to discuss a post on his national security team. But there was no sign that Obama had decided on any of the key nominations he will put forth. Obama is still deciding whether to unveil his top national security appointments, likely to include a new CIA director, in a single high-profile package this month or to name them one-by-one, according to an administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Other top contenders to replace Defence Secretary Leon Panetta are believed to include former senator Chuck Hagel, former Deputy Defence Secretary Ashton Carter and Democratic Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts.

Complicating matters, Obama is also deciding whether to nominate Kerry as secretary of state to replace Hillary Clinton, or to go with Susan Rice, embattled US ambassador to the United Nations. If Obama nominates Kerry for State, he could risk the opening up a safe Democratic Senate seat in Massachusetts, which Senator Scott Brown, the Republican who just lost his seat to Elizabeth Warren, could win in a special election.

US President Barack Obama (D-IL) (L) smiles next to US Senator Chuck Hagel (R-NE) during a news conference at the Amman Citadel, an ancient Roman land­mark, in Amman, Jordan, on 22 July, 2008. —Reuters

Obama, in an interview with Bloomberg TV on Tuesday, reiterated that Rice “is highly qualified and able” to succeed Rice, he said, “I haven’t made a decision about secretary of state.” —Reuters

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NASA’s Mars rover finds traces of carbon — one essential for life

SAN FRANCISCO, 5 Dec — NASA’s Mars rover Curiosity, dispatched to look for the chemical ingredients and environments for microbial life, has found hints of carbon, though whether this building block for life on Earth played a similar role on Mars is unknown, scientists said on Monday.

“Just finding carbon somewhere doesn’t mean that it has anything to do with life, or the finding of a habitable environment,” lead scientist John Grotzinger, with the California Institute of Technology, told reporters at the American Geophysical Union conference in San Francisco.

“If you have organic carbon and you don’t have any water, you don’t have a habitable environment,” he said. Even with carbon and water, life needs other chemicals, such as sulfur, oxygen, phosphorous and nitrogen, to form and evolve.

“It’s not unexpected that this sand pile would not be rich in organic compounds.” It’s been exposed to the harsh Martian environment, added planetary scientist Paul Mahaffy, with NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.

“It’s really going to be an exciting hunt over the course of this mission to find early environments that might be protected from this surface Mars environment and see what we can add to the carbon story,” Mahaffy said.

The rover, which in August touched down on the floor of a 93-mile wide (150-km) impact crater near the Martian equator, has already turned up evidence that its landing site was once covered in water.

The probe, launched 35 years ago to study the planet now, is about 11 billion miles (18 billion km) from Earth. At that distance, it takes radio signals travelling about 17 hours to reach a richer slice of space under the sun’s influence.

Scientists do not know if the carbon compounds in the soil are contamination from Earth, arrived on the surface of Mars via comets or asteroids, or if they are indigenous, whether they came from geological or biological activities on Mars.

“It tells us that we have a lead into a measurement of one of the important ingredients that adds to a habitable environment,” Grotzinger said. “We still have a lot of work to do to qualify and characterize what it is.”

The rover is expected to reach a richer slice of Martian history next year when it begins examining layers of sediment in a mountain rising from the floor of the crater.

“We’re starting to find the spices that make a stew tasty. There are the basic ingredients that you expect to be there, but it’s how you combine them and the minor ingredients that really turn over to be interesting,” he said.

On the run, software guru McAfee says left Belize, won’t surrender

VIENNA, 5 Dec — US anti-virus software guru John McAfee said on Monday he has left the Caribbean country of Belize where police want to question him in connection with a neighbour’s murder, and will not turn himself in.

“I am not in Belize. That is all I will say,” McAfee told Reuters by telephone from an undisclosed location. “Every bordering country around Belize, for political, financial, legal reasons, is pretty much like Belize and our plan is ... to arrive in a safe country.”

McAfee has been in hiding for three weeks since police in Belize said they wanted to question him as “a person of interest” about the murder of fellow American Gregory Faull, with whom McAfee had quarreled. McAfee says he believes authorities in Belize would kill him if he turned himself in for questioning.

Belize’s prime minister has denied the claim and called the 67-year-old paranoid and “bonkers”.

“They have killed many people who’ve turned themselves in. The last one was a gentleman ... who turned himself in. They just wanted him for questioning. They handcuffed his hands behind his back and shot him 14 times,” McAfee said.

“They did say he tried to grab a gun and escape, he was surrounded by a dozen GSU (Gang Suppression Unit) people. I don’t imagine he’d have had much chance, and he was a smart man, so I don’t intend to turn myself in,” he said.

Residents of the Caribbean island of Ambergris Caye where McAfee lives, and others who know him, describe him as an eccentric, impulsive man who quit a career as a successful entrepreneur in the United States for a life of semi-seclusion in the former pirate haven of Belize.

McAfee has been posting updates from hiding on his blog www.whismcafee.com, saying he is accompanied by two journalists from Vice magazine and a woman called Sam.

McAfee said on his blog he had sent a body double to the Belize-Mexico border to act as a smoke screen and help him elude authorities.

Henry Romero Ericsson seeks US import ban on Samsung products

STOCKHOLM, 5 Dec — Swedish telecommunications gear maker Ericsson has filed a request with the US International Trade Commission to ban US imports of products made by South Korean group Samsung. The request from Ericsson, which said on Monday the products infringe on its patents, came after it sued Samsung for patent infringement in a US court last week.

“The request for an import ban is a part of the process. An import ban is not our goal. Our goal is that they (Samsung) sign a license agreement on reasonable terms,” spokesman Fredrik Hallstan said.

Ericsson said last week it was suing Samsung after talks failed to reach agreement on terms that were fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory (FRAND) over patents.

Samsung said it would defend itself against the law suit saying it had asked for “prohibitively higher royalty rates to renew the same patent portfolio”.

On the rover, software guru McAfee says left Belize, won’t surrender

A dog sits outside of the home of anti-virus software pioneer John McAfee San Pedro on 14 Nov, 2012. REUTERS

Student group plans to sue Facebook in Ireland

MEXICO CITY, 5 Dec — US anti-virus software guru John McAfee said on Monday he has left the Caribbean country of Belize where police want to question him in connection with a neighbour’s murder, and will not turn himself in.

“I am not in Belize. That is all I will say,” McAfee told Reuters by tele
A logo of Sharp Corp is pictured at CEATEC JAPAN 2012 electronics show in Chiba, east of Tokyo, on 2 Oct, 2012. — Reuters

**Qualcomm to invest $120 million in Japan’s Sharp**

**Tokyo**, 5 Dec — Qualcomm Inc will invest $120 million in Sharp Corp, making the US company one of the biggest shareholders in the struggling TV maker, and will partner it in developing new displays, the Japanese firm said on Tuesday.

Qualcomm will make an initial investment of 4.93 billion yen ($59.91 million) by the end of the year, with the timing and amount of the remainder of the 9.9 billion yen ($120 million) investment yet to be decided, Sharp said in a release. ($1 = 82.285 Japanese yen) — Reuters

**Ford seeking remedy for Escape, Fusion engine fire risk**

**Detroit**, 5 Dec — Ford Motor Co (F.N) is still working on a remedy for a defect that raises the risk of an engine fire in almost 90,000 just-launched Escape and Fusion models, an executive at the second-largest US automaker said on Monday.

This is the fourth recall of the 2013 Escape crossover since July. The Escape and the 2013 Fusion sedan are considered Ford’s two most important vehicles this year.

The problem, which affects models equipped with the turbocharged 1.6-liter engine, has triggered nine fires in vehicles owned by customers, Ford said in a document filed with US safety regulators on Friday.

“We are working on the fix for the vehicles,” said Ken Czubay, vice president of Ford’s US sales, marketing and service, told reporters and analysts on Monday.

“It’s because of an overheating situation, which can result in certain circumstances in an engine fire, but we have had very few of those,” he said during a call about November auto sales.

The 1.6-liter engine can overheat, leading to a fluid leak. If the fluid contacts the vehicle’s hot exhaust system, this may cause a fire, Ford said in documents filed with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration on 30 November.

The latest recall involves 73,320 Escapes and 15,833 Fusions.

The Escape has been recalled twice before for problems with its 1.6-liter turbocharged engine. Two other recalls, both issued in early July, involved potentially defective brakes and mispositioned carpeting.

Ford has not yet seen any “derogatory showroom traffic” on the vehicles as a result of the recalls, Czubay said. He said Ford is taking “all measures” to handle the recalls smoothly.

Escape sales dropped 4 percent in November, while total Ford vehicle sales rose 6.5 percent.— Reuters

**Honda’s car sales in China fall 29.2% in Nov**

**Beijing**, 5 Dec — Honda Motor Co said on Tuesday its new car sales in China fell 29.2 percent in November from a year earlier to 41,205 units, as it gradually recovers from the fallout of anti-Japanese protests in China this summer.

The rate of decrease narrowed from the 53 percent decrease in October and 40.5 percent in September.

Kyodo News

**US worries subdue shares, Greek deal lifts euro**

In a sign that US manufacturing may also be struggling to gain traction, the Institute for Supply Management’s index of national factory activity in November hit its softest level since July 2009, possibly hit by the impact of superstorm Sandy.

Berkeley Futures associate director Richard Griffiths said worries over the US budget situation were causing many traders to err on the side of caution by selling shares to take profits after recent rallies.

“There’s a lot of doubt about it at the moment, hence stock markets are drifting lower. Sentiment has just turned a bit negative recently,” said Griffiths.

The US Federal Reserve extended its recent rally, hitting a fresh six-week high of $1.3077 as markets were reassured by news that Greece was planning to buy back bonds to cut its debt, which first triggered the euro zone crisis three years ago.

The European single currency’s rise helped push the dollar to a one-month low against a basket of currencies, with its index .DXY falling to 79.761. In global markets, German government bonds were steady, as concerns over US budget talks supported safe-haven assets even as better than expected terms for Greece’s buy-back underpinned higher-yielding euro zone bonds.

In Asian trading, MSCI’s broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPX lost 0.2 percent, while Australian shares .AXJO lost 0.6 percent and Japan’s Nikkei fell 0.3 percent.— AX. T.

**Merck becomes bigger Alzheimer’s player, with new trial**

**New York**, 5 Dec — Merck & Co Inc has moved to the forefront of Alzheimer’s disease research by starting a mid-stage study of a drug from a new class of oral medicines that aim to shut down production of a protein associated with the memory-robbing disease.

The drugmaker said Monday it had started the trial to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of its so-called beta secretase blocker, which will compare the drug with a placebo, is a Phase III trial.

The Phase II trial, which will compare the drug with a placebo, is a global, multi-centre study that includes a group of 200 patients to test safety. The study is expected eventually to enroll up to 1,700 patients in the main Phase III trial.

Darryle Schoepp, head of neuroscience at Merck, said drugmakers have been trying for a decade to develop treatments that arrest Alzheimer’s disease by blocking beta secretase, an enzyme involved in production of toxic beta amyloid protein that forms plaque in the brain believed to be a contributor to Alzheimer’s disease.

By blocking beta secretase in earlier Phase I trials, the Merck drug slushed by more than 90 percent the levels of beta amyloid protein circulating in cerebrospinal fluid.

“It’s like shutting the faucet so nothing comes out,” Schoepp said in an interview. Merck hopes that by preventing production of beta amyloid — the main component of brain plaque — its drug will prevent a worsening of symptoms among patients with mild-to-moderate stages of the disease.

Should the Merck drug prove safe in the Phase III studies, Solanezumab that has shown hints of effectiveness in Phase II safety trials, Schoepp said the medicine could eventually be tested in “prodromal” patients, or those with the very earliest signs of Alzheimer’s. They would include people with very mild memory problems who have also been shown by blood tests or brain scans to have worrisome initial buildup of amyloid plaque or who have other “bio markers” associated with the progressive memory-robbing disease. A successful Alzheimer’s treatment could reap billions of dollars in annual sales. But many experts believe treatment must be delivered before patients show signs of dementia because once that happens, brain damage may be irreversible.

US drugmaker Eli Lilly is also testing a beta secretase inhibitor, as well as another experimental drug called solanezumab that has shown hints of effectiveness in Phase II trials. Solanezumab also targets beta amyloid protein, but through a different mechanism than beta secretase blockers.

“In addition to solanezumab, which is currently in Phase III clinical development, in July 2012 Lilly advanced our homegrown beta secretase inhibitor into Phase II clinical development for its potential to slow the progression of this devastating disease,” a Lilly spokesperson said.

Griffiths said worries over a US budget deal proposal from President Barack Obama’s pledge to raise taxes on the rich.

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Kyodo News

**A general view of the German stock exchange in Frankfurt on 7 Nov, 2012. — Reuters**

**A logo of Sharp Corp is pictured at CEATEC JAPAN 2012 electronics show in Chiba, east of Tokyo, on 2 Oct, 2012. — Reuters**
Bloody new photo of Trayvon Martin’s killer released

George Zimmerman is seen in this 26 Feb, 2012 police photo provided by the George Zimmerman legal defense fund. —Reuters

Boeing 787 in emergency landing as inspections ordered

NEW YORK, 5 Dec—On the same day one of its new Dreamliners made an emergency landing because of a mechanical problem, Boeing said US regulators had ordered the entire fleet of 787 jets to be inspected for a possible fuel line problem.

The twin mechanical issues, while not necessarily uncommon, were yet another headache for Boeing, a company still working to overcome the negative perception of production problems that delayed delivery of the 787 by 3-1/2 years.

Its latest problem involved a brand new United Airlines 787 Dreamliner with 184 people aboard, which was forced to make an emergency landing in New York on Monday after an oil leak was reported to the FAA.

The airline said the carrier found the fuel leak on 23 October. He said the airline completed inspections of all 16 ANA Dreamliners on Sunday, and that the work did not interrupt scheduling.

Non-US carriers experienced more than 40 fuel leaks. Boeing declined to comment on Tuesday.

Arizona border agent arrested for alleged on-duty drug smuggling

PHOENIX, 5 Dec—A US Border Patrol agent has been arrested after he was spotted accepting bundles of marijuana from a suspected Mexican smuggler at an international border fence in Arizona, authorities on Tuesday said.

Aarón Anaya, 25, was taken into custody early on Monday by federal agents who seized 147 pounds (66.6 kg) of marijuana inside three duffel bags from his border patrol vehicle, authorities said in a criminal complaint in US District Court in Phoenix.

Anaya, a US Border Patrol agent since 2010, was charged with possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute and firearm possession during a drug trafficking offense, according to the criminal complaint. Anaya had his service weapon with him at the time.

The controlled substance count carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and the firearms count is punishable by up to 5 years behind bars.

Anaya’s federal public defender could not immediately be reached for comment on Tuesday.

Stephen Martin, the Border Patrol’s sector chief for Yuma, Arizona, said the agency was “sorely disappointed by the alleged conduct of one of our own.”

I appreciate the efforts by our law enforcement partners and our own agents to uncover those that violate their oath of office, and hold them accountable for their actions,” Martin said in a statement released on Tuesday.

Anaya was arrested by agents from the FBI-led Southwest Border Corruption Task Force who were conducting surveillance with the help of aircraft in an area between Yuma and Wellon, about 185 miles southwest of Phoenix.

According to a probable cause statement filed with the complaint, agents say they watched as Anaya stopped his patrol vehicle along the border and picked up bales of marijuana tossed over the fence into Arizona from a man on Mexican side.

Anaya was then seen by the agents placing the load into his vehicle before he continued patrolling, the probable cause document said.

The US Department of Homeland Security reports that 129 agents were arrested on corruption charges from 2003 to 2009. —Reuters

New commander faces challenge of winding down Afghanistan war

WASHINGTON, 5 Dec—Marine Corps General Joseph Dunford, who takes over as head of international forces in Afghanistan next year, faces the challenge of winding down a war in a country where he has little experience using a strategy he did not devise.

Dunford, whose nomination was confirmed by the Senate on Monday night, will be the fifth commander of the International Security Assistance Force since President Barack Obama took office, a leadership churn that worries Afghan war analysts.

Friends and colleagues describe Dunford, the Marine Corps assistant commander, as a calm and thoughtful leader who earned the nickname “Fighting Joe” on the battlefield of Iraq by creating conditions for success with careful planning and harmonious execution.

But analysts expressed mixed views on his selection to execute the strategy he has been given, and his vocal support for President Barack Obama’s plan to withdraw most US troops from Afghanistan by the end of 2014. That could make him reluctant to ask for more time and troops if conditions on the ground in Afghanistan do not stabilize.

But others contend that after a dozen years of war, Dunford’s job is to execute the strategy he has been given, rather than reinvent it. And while he may be able to suggest some adjustments to the plan, he has very little room for maneuver as members of the 46-nation coalition edge toward departure.

US diplomat meets UN-AL envoy on Syria

WASHINGTON, 5 Dec—The US State Department said on Tuesday that Deputy Secretary of State William Burns met with UN-Arab League Joint Special Representative for Syria Lakhdar Brahimi and discussed with him the current situation in Syria in Washington.

Burns reiterated the strong US support for Brahimi’s mission, according to a written statement issued by the department.

The two noted the “enormous threat to security and humanitarian conditions in Syria and the threat to regional security from Syria’s continued instability,” it added. Brahimi on Friday urged the UN Security Council to act to save Syria from becoming a failed state.

In a briefing to the UN General Assembly on the prolonged Syria crisis, Brahimi said that despite previous difficulties of the 15-member council to reach a resolution on the crisis, “I nevertheless feel that it is here and only here that a credible, implementable process can be put together.”

Meanwhile, the United States has ratcheted up its pressure on the Syrian government. President Barack Obama on Monday warned Syrian President Bashar al-Assad of “consequences” in using chemical weapons in the Arab country’s 21-month conflict. “The use of chemical weapons is and would be totally unacceptable, and if you make the tragic mistake of using these weapons there will be consequences and you will be held accountable,” he said. —Reuters
Political reform serves…

Our country is endowed with agriculture, marine, forest, oil and gas and minerals that could significantly contribute towards food and energy needs of the region. We also have young workforce, necessary qualitative and quantitative measures are being taken. Our country is endowed with agriculture, marine, forest, oil and gas and minerals that could significantly contribute towards food and energy needs of the region. We also have young workforce, necessary qualitative and quantitative measures are being taken. Furthermore, to improve the efficiency of the public service, the capacity building civil servants programme for are also introduced too. Programmes to encourage entrepreneurship are being initiated in Small and Medium size enterprises. A suitable environment that will encourage and promote creativity of the people will be built and nurtured, and large scale investment in ICT sector to ensure a greater access to ICT by the people is already underway.

We believe that our reform measures will bring maximum benefits if they are complemented with the support of international community. In this regard, we are seeking the encouragement and support of regional and global partners. The twenty-first century Asia is providing a lot of favourable conditions for all round developments in this country. We will take these opportunities by strengthening and encouraging the process of regional cooperation and regional integration process. At the same time, we are prepared to meet repairing the railroad section by officials concerned, trains smoothly operate regular runs along the railroad as of 4.30 am on 4 December.

In conclusion, I wish to state that the reform measures currently taking place in Myanmar are gaining momentum with the support of the countries all over the world.

With our strong resolution to achieve success in political and economic reforms, we believe that we will become a reliable partner and an effective contributor for peace and prosperity in the region.

In light of these achievements, Myanmar is prepared to take greater responsibility in ASEAN and beyond. The opportunity to host the XXVII SEA Games in 2013, and to assume the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2014, provides a golden opportunity for Myanmar to demonstrate that, we’re all the challenges that will come across, on our road to democracy.

For further information, dial 01-378550, 09-8300383 and 09-43114947.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends a dinner to mark 9th ASEAN 100 Leadership Forum 2012 at Sedona Hotel.—MNA

Public service book corners opened in Dawei

Dawei, 5 Dec—A public service book corner was set up at Dawei Airport of Taninthayi Region by Taninthayi Region Information and Public Relations Department on 5 November as part of efforts for realizing the public service media to be able to broaden horizon of the people across the nation. Our one public service book corner was opened near the Hi-Fi speed boat ticket booth near Myoma Market and tuk-tuk stand in Dawei on 1 December.

On the opening day, boat ticket buyers, tuk-tuk passengers and shoppers in addition to local people read daily newspapers, various books, magazines, cartoons and novels and weekly news journals. —Myanma Alinn

Talks on taxation given in Labutta

Labutta, 5 Dec—The talks on taxation was given at Basic Education High School No 2 in Labutta on 16 November afternoon. —Head of Township Internal Revenue Department U Aung Moe gave talks on income tax, commercial tax, Aungchal tax and stamp duty to teachers and students. —Myanma Alinn

KIA (Kachin) group blast railroad between Mohnyn and Nanma

Navy Taw, 5 Dec—As KIA (Kachin) group destroyed the rail tracks on Mohnyn-Namna section by planting mine at 11.30 pm on 3 December, about four-foot rail track was cut off and four sleepers destroyed.

Stoves distributed as environmental conservation

Mektila, 5 Dec—As part of efforts to implement rural development and poverty alleviation adopted by the State, the Dry Zone Greening Department under the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry held the talks on environmental conservation and presented stoves to the local people in Ahekan Model Village of Thazi Township.

On 26 November, the talk was attended by Deputy Commissioner U Tin Maung Soe of Mektila District General Administration Department, Assistant Director U Soe Tin-t’l of Mektila District Dry Zone Greening Department, Acting Administrator of Thazi Township General Administration Department U Man Khaung, Staff Officer of Thazi Township Dry Zone Greening Department U Zaw Min Htut and officials, together with over 200 local people at Basic Education Middle School Branch in the village.

After the deputy commissioner had given an address, the assistant director of the DZGD gave talks on environmental conservation.

Staff Officer U Zaw Min Htut explained selection of the village as model village and distributed 80 stoves to the local people. A local spoke words of thanks.

Sports trial for swimmers on 3-4 January

Yangon, 5 Dec—Myanmar Swimming Federation will hold the sports trial for swimming and diving event at National Swimming Pool on U Wisara Road in Dagon Township, here, on 3 and 4 January, 2014, to choose selected players for the XXVII SEA Games.

The sports event to be put on record will be men’s and women’s 1500-m, 800-m, 400-m, 200-m, 100-m and 50-m freestyle, men’s and women’s 200-m, 100-m and 50-m butterfly, 200-m, 100-m and 50-m breaststroke, 200-m, 100-m and 50-m backstroke and 400-m and 200-m single’s four strokes respectively.

The men’s and women’s diving event will be held at the highboard event.

The athletes may take part in the sports trials and submit applications to the office of the federation at National Swimming Pool on U Wisara Road, not later than 24 December.

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Thanks to quick response from the authorities concerned, trains smoothly operate regular runs along the railroad as of 4.30 am on 4 December.

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It was on the 1st Waxing Day of Nattaw, 1306 of Myanmar Era, (5th November, 1940) that the first ever Sarsodaw Na or Myanmar Literary Day or Writers’ Day was inaugurated. Commentators of the occasion mentioned the fine of the auspicious day which falls on 1st Waxing of Nattaw, 1337/ME (AD2011) was Celebrated by holding the obeisance ceremony towards 162 doyen writers and journalists 80 years and above, beneficiaries of the generous donations by the public sponsored by the State, MWJA and individual donors.

The Sarsodaw Day had its origin beginning around 1944 in a provincial town in the Yangon District during the terminal years of the Japanese Occupation. The idea of a central literary association was then gainfully engaged on the research and compilation of a dictionary of Myanmar language. The Yangon EC members thought of an idea to celebrate U Ponnya Day to honour the famous scholar and poet Salay U Ponnya the following day. The proposal was submitted to the Pyinnya Tagun Association Headquarters at Yangon. The Yangon EC members were of opinion that it would be more proper to notify a particular date to honour the literary in general than to specify an individual. The proposal was held on 8th May 1944 to deliberate on the issue. The meeting resolved to celebrate “Ramase Day” instead of the original proposal to honour Scholar poet U Ponnya individually. It was also resolved to notify 1st waxing of the month of Nattaw to be celebrated annually.

The first Sarsodaw Day was held on 1st Waxing Day of Nattaw, 1306/ME (15th November 1944) at Myayng theatre situated at the premise of the Kandawgyi Lake. It was also held in all parts of the country with various literary activities. In 1950 Sarsodaw Day the celebration assumed the role of national significance for wider participation. In addition to the normal activities a traditional obeisance ceremony to the aged scholars was inaugurated from 1980 with only 10 scholars in attendance. From 1994 the number of scholar beneficiaries was increased to 34 from Yangon Division alone and later expanded to the whole country in 2006. The attendance in the 67th anniversary, 1st Waxing Day, 1373/ME (AD2011) totaled 162 out of whom 28 doyen literati were 90 and above, the oldest alive then being U Aye Py (Tang-yin Nay) 98 years, d.d. 23rd November 1913.

It is commonly said that the cultural heritage and legacy of a country leave an imprint in the quality of literature, culture, religion, ethics, social mores, codes of conduct, morality discipline, the language and general level of literacy among the mass populace at that particular period of time. It is the sublime mission of the author to recount the legacy of past generations of Myanmar eminent scholars both venerable monks and lay people more on random or at least of a free lance writer as he is now, and thus commemorate the 68th anniversary which falls on 20th December of every year.

The empires of the Middle East, viz: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, et al., and the Oriental empires in general, left legacies of literature, the lore of the peak of development, prosperity, power and glory, circa 4000 years BC 563 in Nepal was the main beacon of learning and the greatest renaissance of Buddhism was delivered in the medium of Pali. In India before the advent of Buddhism, Hinduism and Sanscrit were the foremost languages of the learned elite. In ancient Myanmar Kingdoms of the early centuries of power and dominance Pyu was the foremost language.

With the rise of King Anuruddha (Anawratha) in the 11th Century AD and propagation of Buddhism throughout the entire kingdom there was a rise in the study of Pali, Sanscrit, Pyu and later modern Myanmar language.

In the British Colonial period there was a rise in literary pursuits. Poems were published by scholars Plato Aristotle et al. with the foremost rule of the people by direct democracy was the legacy of the Greeks. The Roman Empire of Julius Caesar, Mark Antony, and Augustus Octavious followed, overshadowed by the antigues, wiles and wickedness of empresses and queens. Over Julius and Mark. Legend lingered “If Cleopatra’s face were not so short it would change.” However, viewing the bust of Cleopatra from old coins of Egypt, her face did not attract much impression which made me suspect of her other indiscreet qualities.

The foremost of Myanmar’s “MYACETI” stone inscription, (circa 11th century during King Kyinsittha’s reign) was chiseled in four ancient oriental languages written in four faces: Pali, Pyu, Mon and Myanmar. Such evidence had attested to the high level of literary attainments in Myanmar. The youth of that time gained Enlightment in BC 563 in Nepal was the main beacon of learning and the greatest renaissance of Buddhism was delivered in the medium of Pali. In India before the advent of Buddhism, Hinduism and Sanscrit were the foremost languages of the learned elite. In ancient Myanmar Kingdoms of the early centuries of power and dominance Pyu was the foremost language.

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Myanmar, Brunei focus on strengthening bilateral ... 

The President called for economic cooperation. He urged to start the plan for establishment of joint commission for foreign affairs as quick as possible. He called for more cooperation in education, health, social and cultural sectors. He expressed thanks for seeing Myanmar students taking courses in Brunei University. He expressed thanks for a programme that allowed staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to have a joint training that would benefit them in dealing with matters while Myanmar takes the chair of ASEAN.

The President made wishes of well-being and prosperity of the King, queen and royal family and citizens of Brunei. He said Brunei would continue to be a good neighbour in walking together.

Next, Brunei King replied that he expressed thanks for being invited to Myanmar. He would come and visit Myanmar at an opportune time. He thanked 500 companies and intelligentsia from Myanmar in Brunei for their contributions in development tasks of his country.

He thanked the President for making clarification on recent political and economic changes in Myanmar and Rakhine incident. He said that he understood that it was a complicated issue which has something to do with race and religion. He recognized Myanmar government efforts for restoring peace and stability in the region.

The King vowed to increase closer relations between the ministries concerned of both countries for successful implementation of the tasks of ASEAN.

He thanked the President for having a chance to exchange views on bilateral relations and further cooperation on a mutually beneficial basis in the future. Next, the President and delegation members left there for Empire Hotel & Country Club, a motorcade.

SARSODAW DAY

(from page 8)

The movement, the Dobama Asayione, and boycott movements. The National Anthems, the peacock flags were emblems of the Myanmar master race.

In the same trend, a new literary movement “Khti San Saraga” pioneered by Sayo Zawyi, Mithunwun, Theikpaing Maung Wa pseudonym of U Sein Tin ICS, and some other well-known incursions into modern literature. The rise of Myanmar translation on classic English literary works appeared in the literary spectrum rendered by Myanmar writers well versed in the English and Myanmar, like ‘A Thousand and One Nights’, East Lynne, Gone with the Wind, Sherlock Holmes, by the famous literary giants Thakin Tha Thoungh, Saygyi Siha Dwang, etc.

Original writings in English by reputable scholars like Dr.Hin Aung made breakthrough with original presentation and commentary on the flaws of Myanmar history by non-Myanmar historians. A laudable contribution of the Myanmar government in the British Education System in the Rangoon University

Plan was formulated for the implementation immediately following Independence. Myanmar Translation Society was also founded for promotion of translation works on classical literature from English and other foreign languages into Myanmar with the motto, “To Dispel darkness and bring Light”. (A-hmoung Khwin ywaw A-lin Huang Aunt). Later Sarpy Beikman became the torch bearer of literary translation commission. Many pioneering works aimed at development of Myanmar literature was spontaneously activated. The Sarsodaw Day was also celebrated annually to help each other and unsung in the society. And the donors of the Sarsodaw Day up to the 67th anniversary ceremony are only a few. However there remain many, yet unknown, acknowledged, unhonoured and unsung in the anonymous multitude. It has to be recorded with utmost sincerity that these literati rendered their accumulated knowledge, experience and expertise for the people of Myanmar. The Sarsodaw Day is to be named as “Pokokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award”.

As a pioneering venture literary award, the pattern of Pulitzer Prizes was introduced beginning with National Literary Awards on published books of the previous year. Sarpy Beikman Manuscript Award was also introduced to encourage aspiring writers whose manuscripts could not see print due to many difficulties beyond their control. Such award winning manuscripts were printed and distributed to members and sold to the public, entitling the authors to compete in the printed book category in the Literary Award Scheme in the ensuing years. The cash prizes awarded to the winners in their respective categories were also periodically increased.

In 1992 a pioneering scenario was initiated whereby private literary award foundations were introduced into the literary scenario to play a significant role to complement the promotion of literature and literary talents in Myanmar on a national scale. The foremost trailblazer was Pakokku U Ohn Pe, who donated Kyats 76 lakhs and 1279.00 to set up a literary foundation on 31st May 1992, to be named as “Pokokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award”. Next to follow in line were: “Dr. Tin Shwe Literary Award”, “Union Foundation Literary Award”, and “Thaingaw Literary Award”.

In effect, Myanmar literary talents are crucial in many ways. They encourage the budding writers to blossom into maturity, achievement and recognition.

They also accredit seasoned writers the incentive and impetus to produce more aesthetic and artistic works to benefit the literary world at large. And last but not the least they encourage the publishers to publish literary works to benefit the society. And the donors who essentially own or run publishing houses are the main integral components to boost the literary endeavours.

With the combined efforts of the State, Sarpy Beikman, and the philanthropic private donor foundations, the literary yearly award competitions are held and fitting prizes and citations in respectable categories including Lifetime Literary Awards are honoured to the deserving writers and journalists in the annual Sarsodaw Month. The Sarsodaw Day also hold an auspicious ceremony to honor seasonal writers and journalists who reach 80 on the respective year of Pagu.

The 68th anniversary of the Sarsodaw Day will fall on 1st Waxing Nattaw of 1374 Myanmar era, 14th Decem—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Myint attended the opening ceremony of the Myanmar Economic Cooperation (NPC Taw branch) from Japan at Thinghaung Hotel, here.

“Tina Yin” (from page 4)

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“Tina Yin” (from page 4)

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Vice-Chairmen of Union-level Peace-making Committee visits Mongla Special Region (4)

No. (a) Mega Link Trading Co Ltd (USD)
1. Mega Link Trading Co Ltd 3,459,000 2,550,000
2. Myanmar World Distribution Co Ltd (MWD) 2,990,000 2,520,000
3. China Digital Video (Beijing) Co Ltd (CDV) 2,795,833 2,690,000
4. Digital Solution and Service Co Ltd (D2S) 3,000,000 2,780,000
5. TMW Enterprise Ltd 2,930,000 2,770,000

Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe gave an account of technical assistance and manpower for availability of electricity in the region. Commander Maj-Gen Than Tun-Oo, Shan State Chief Minister Sao Aung Myat, and Commander Brig-Gen Aung Soe elaborated plans for development of Mongla region.

The Minstry of Information put the announcement on the Mirror Daily, the MoI's daily, and the New Light of Myanmar, the government's official daily. The MoI's announcement was published on 3 December, 2012, inviting companies who want to re-state the tender prices they offered and follow.

The Procurement Committee hereby announced the selection of tender for 8 Camera OB Van and 5 Camera Flyaway Video Kit.

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World Economic Forum (WEF) on East Asia-2013 in June

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye discussed drawing policy formulation in basic education, primary curriculum revision and strengthening pre-service teacher education in Education College and on-going tasks with Deputy Director General Mr Jun Sakuma of JICA (Japan) at his office, here this morning. The Ministry of Education and JICA have cooperated in drawing primary curriculum, teacher education and prospects of teaching education since 1998.

Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University President and party paid a call to him. They had cordial discussion on exchanging scholars, sending scholars, teacher education and tourism education today.

Exchange of scholars discussed

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SEA Games liaison officer course concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—Second liaison officer course was conducted by Sports and Physical Education Institute (Mandalay) at its hall in Chanmyathazi Township yesterday.

The course aimed at recruiting young liaison officers for XXVII SEA Games to be hosted in 2013.

Mega Link Trading Co Ltd wins tender for 8 Camera OB Van, 5 Camera Flyaway Video Kit

1. The Ministry of Information put the announcement on the Mirror Daily, the MoI's daily, and the New Light of Myanmar Daily on 25, November, 2012, inviting companies who want to re-state the tender prices they offered and follow.

2. In accord with the announcement of the Ministry of Information’s Procurement Committee, five companies submitted tenders at 9 am at the Office No 7 of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw on 3 December, 2012.

3. Of two companies Myanmar World Distribution Co Ltd (MWD) and Mega Link Trading Co Ltd which offered lower prices for 8 Camera OB Van, the Committee have selected the Mega Link Trading Co Ltd and approved its winning for the 8 Camera OB Van at USD2,550,000, considering that Mega Link Trading Co Ltd was fitted to supply the need of the ministry.

4. The Committee has found that of three companies which competed for the 5 Camera Flyaway Video Kit, materials from the Mega Link Trading Co Ltd and Digital Solution and Service Co Ltd (D2S), which offered lowest prices, fitted them on technology ground. The Committee has selected the Mega Link Trading Co Ltd and approved its winning for the 5 Camera Flyaway Video Kit at the price of USD 870,000, the lowest price.

5. The Procurement Committee hereby announced the selection of tender for 8 Camera OB Van and 5 Camera Flyaway Video Kit.

Procurement Committee
Ministry of Information
Ph: 067-412323, 067-79474; 067-79392

World Economic Forum (WEF) on East Asia-2013 in June

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—A work coordination meeting on convening the World Economic Forum (WEF) on East Asia-2013 in June, 2013, was held at the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism here today.

The meeting was participated by a delegation from WEF led by Senior Director of WEF Mr Sushant Rao.

In his keynote address, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Hua Aung said it is expected that more delegates from governments and private sector, entrepreneurs, experts and guests would participate in the upcoming forum in Myanmar than the previous ones and stressed the need for providing detailed information to the WEF delegation.

During the meeting, the WEF delegation asked queries and the Union minister and delegates from ministries concerned answered them.

The WEF delegation will hold discussion with officials from ministries concerned until 6 December.—MNA

Mega Link Trading Co Ltd wins tender for 8 Camera OB Van, 5 Camera Flyaway Video Kit

1. The Ministry of Information put the announcement on the Mirror Daily, the MoI's daily, and the New Light of Myanmar Daily on 25, November, 2012, inviting companies who want to re-state the tender prices they offered and follow.

2. In accord with the announcement of the Ministry of Information’s Procurement Committee, five companies submitted tenders at 9 am at the Office No 7 of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw on 3 December, 2012.

3. Of two companies Myanmar World Distribution Co Ltd (MWD) and Mega Link Trading Co Ltd which offered lower prices for 8 Camera OB Van, the Committee have selected the Mega Link Trading Co Ltd and approved its winning for the 8 Camera OB Van at USD2,550,000, considering that Mega Link Trading Co Ltd was fitted to supply the need of the ministry.

4. The Committee has found that of three companies which competed for the 5 Camera Flyaway Video Kit, materials from the Mega Link Trading Co Ltd and Digital Solution and Service Co Ltd (D2S), which offered lowest prices, fitted them on technology ground. The Committee has selected the Mega Link Trading Co Ltd and approved its winning for the 5 Camera Flyaway Video Kit at the price of USD 870,000, the lowest price.

5. The Procurement Committee hereby announced the selection of tender for 8 Camera OB Van and 5 Camera Flyaway Video Kit.

Procurement Committee
Ministry of Information
Ph: 067-412323, 067-79474; 067-79392
**CHINA SUPPORTS POSITIVE POLITICAL PROCESS IN YEMEN**

United Nations, 5 Dec—China supports Yemen in continuing to promote peaceful and orderly political process, a Chinese diplomat said here on Tuesday.

China’s deputy permanent representative to the UN, Wang Min, made the remarks at an open UN Security Council meeting on the situation in the Middle East.

Positive progress has been made in politically transitional process in Yemen. The government of Yemen has also drafted transitional plan for national strategy and development, mapping out the blueprint for the future development of the country, said Wang, who stressed that China welcomed the positive development taking place there.

Yemen is still confronted with many challenges, warned Wang, who reiterated that the political process should continue to stick to the principle of the Yemeni people playing a leading role.

“The international community should fully respect the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Yemen, fully respect the right of Yemeni people to choose their own path of national development,” Wang said. “China supports various parties in Yemen, in accordance with relevant resolutions of the Security Council, in implementing the initiative of the Gulf Cooperation Council and its implementation mechanism, solving differences through dialogue and consultations, as well as launching national dialogue conference on time.”

**WOMAN LISTED AS WORLD’S OLDEST PERSON DIES IN UNITED STATES AT 116**

Miami, 5 Dec—A 116-year-old woman listed by Guinness World Records as the oldest living person anywhere around the globe died on Tuesday in a nursing home in the US state of Georgia soon after having her hair done. Besse Cooper died peacefully at the Park Place nursing home in Monroe, Georgia, according to her son Sidney Cooper.

“She looked real good when she passed away,” the 77-year-old Cooper told Reuters, saying his mother died quietly and without suffering.

“She got up this morning, had a big old breakfast and got her hair fixed,” he said. “It’s just like she got up planning to do it.”

He said his mother, who taught school until her first child was born in 1929, had four children. All of them survived her and are still in good health, he added.

“She lived in three centuries. Don’t many people do that,” said Cooper. He added that his mother died after a brief bout of breathing trouble that put her back in bed after lunch.

Besse Cooper was first certified as the world’s oldest person by Guinness World Records in January 2011. The title was stripped from her for a few months when it was discovered that Brazilian-born Maria Gomes Valentim, a fellow super centenarian, was 48 days older. Guinness gave the title back to Cooper after Gomes Valentim died in June 2011.

**CHINESE ARTISTS PERFORM IN A SHOW MARKING THE CLOSING OF THE YEAR OF CHINESE CULTURE IN TURKEY 2012 IN THE NATIONAL OPERA HOUSE IN ANKARA, TURKEY, ON 4 DEC. REUTERS**

**ILLINOIS MOVES TO GIVE DRIVERS LICENSES TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS**

Springfield, 5 Dec—Illinois took a major step on Tuesday toward granting drivers licenses to illegal immigrants, which would make it the most populous US state to allow undocumented migrants to legally drive.

The Democratic-controlled state Senate voted 41-14 to approve licenses for illegal immigrants to rousing cheers from Hispanics in the legislative gallery.

If the measure becomes law, Illinois would join only two other states, Washington and New Mexico, in granting such drivers licenses. Utah allows driving permits.

On 1 January, California will allow immigrants with federal work permits to receive licenses. After taking a drubbing at the polls last month when Democratic President Barack Obama won re-election with 66 percent of Hispanics backing his bid, half of the Illinois Senate’s Republicans who voted on Tuesday supported the proposal.

At a Press conference, Illinois state Senate Republican leader Christine Radogno, and House Republican leader Tom Cross said Illinois could no longer ignore the presence of illegal immigrants, who are driving without licenses and insurance.

“They are here and they are with us, some of them not even of their own volition. But I guess we expect these people to ride their bicycles to work,” Radogno said.

Senate President John J Cullerton, a Chicago Democrat, thanked Republicans for their support on the measure. “Today’s action acknowledges a simple reality: a quarter of a million undocumented drivers are working to drive, dropping their kids off at school and contributing to our economy,” said Cullerton in a statement.

“This legislation will ensure that this population has the opportunity to become trained, tested, licensed and insured drivers.”

**AUSTRIA TO IMPLEMENT AID PACKAGE FOR MANUS ISLAND**

Canberra, 5 Dec—Australia will implement the assistance package for Manus Province, Papua New Guinea, comprising road upgrades, improved education and medical infrastructure, and support for economic development, Immigration Minister Chris Bowen announced on Wednesday.

“When Australia and PNG agreed to open the Manus Island regional processing centre, we said that we wanted to ensure the arrangement would benefit all involved — especially the people of Manus Island,” he said in a statement.

The assistance includes essential medical equipment worth about 230,000 (almost 240,431 USD), a doubling of Australia’s commitment to education and upgrades to roads and other transport infrastructure.

**JIA QINGLIN (L), CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE’S POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE (CPPCC), MEETS WITH COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT LAURA CHINCHILLA IN SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA, ON 4 DEC, 2012. REUTERS**
Two Mexican men charged in death of Coast Guard officer

Los Angeles, 5 Dec—Two Mexican nationals were charged on Monday in the death of a US Coast Guard petty officer who was thrown from his search vessel when it was rammed by a suspected drug-smuggling boat off the California coast. Jose Mejia-Leyva and Manuel Beltran-Higueras were each charged in US District Court in Los Angeles with killing an officer of the United States, US Attorney’s spokesman Thom Mrozek said. Mejia-Leyva and Beltran-Higueras were both held without bond during a brief court appearance on Monday afternoon, Mrozek said. A preliminary hearing was scheduled for 17 December.

Defence attorneys for Mejia-Leyva and Beltran-Higueras could not immediately be reached for comment. Prosecutors say the two men were aboard a 30-foot (9-metre) fishing boat known as a “panga” in an inlet of California’s Santa Cruz Island called Smuggler’s Cove when it was approached by a small, inflatable Coast Guard search vessel early on Sunday morning. According to an affidavit filed by prosecutors, when the Coast Guard boat was about 20 feet away, the panga boat turned and rammed it, throwing Chief Petty Officer Terrell Horne III and Brandon Langdon overboard.

Horne, a 34-year-old, 14-year Coast Guard veteran, was struck in the head by a propeller blade, suffering a traumatic head injury. He was later pronounced dead. Langdon sustained an knee injury. Reuters.


NATO-Russia discussion on patriot missiles in Turkey

Brussels, 5 Dec—The 28 NATO allies are set to meet in Brussels on Tuesday and Wednesday. The meetings will focus on whether or not to station Patriot missiles in Turkey.

Unlike the past, the NATO-Russia Council Meeting is to be held first on Tuesday, because NATO expects to communicate with Russia before they make a decision. NATO says it will make it clear to Russia that stationing Patriot missiles in Turkey is completely for the purpose of defence. Xinhua

Syrian spokesmen flees country, diplomat says

Damascus, 5 Dec—Syria’s foreign ministry spokesman, who was targeted for the most public face of Bashar al-Assad’s government as it battled a 20-month-old uprising, has fled the country, a diplomat in the region said on Monday. Jihad al-Makkidisi, who is in his 40s, previously worked at the Syrian embassy in London and returned to Damascus a year ago to serve as spokesman for the ministry, defending the government’s crackdown on the revolt against Assad’s rule. He was rarely seen in the media in recent weeks. His mobile telephone was switched off and there was no immediate comment in Syrian state media. The pan-Arab news channel Al Arabiya said Makkidisi had left Beirut and was on his way to London, where he was believed to remain.

The military has been trying to seal off the city, cutting off power, heavy bombardment and air raids to try to drive rebels back. Over 56 people were killed around Damascus alone on Sunday, with 200 dead across the country.

Damascus itself has not been free of unrest. Rebel-held southern districts have been bombarded heavily, activists say. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported fierce clashes around the Tishreen military hospital in the northern Barzeh district and a car bomb in the southern area of Tadamon.

The conflict has grown increasingly bloody in recent months, as rebels began to contest Assad’s power around the capital as well as in Aleppo, Syria’s largest city. More than 40,000 people have died in the conflict, with hundreds more killed each week. The United Nations said on Monday it was withdrawing “all non-essential international staff” from Syria because of deteriorating security, and was restricting remaining staff to Damascus. Reuters

Syrians try to cross the border from the Syrian town of Ras al-Ain to the Turkish border town of Ceylanpinar after an air strike on 3 Dec, 2012.—Reuters

Heating resumes in NE China after three days

Harbin, 5 Dec—A heating system malfunction that froze some 23,000 households in Harbin, capital of northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, for three days was corrected on Monday night.

Local resident Wang Ri reported that indoor temperatures had climbed to 18 degrees Celsius on Tuesday morning. Known as China’s “ice city,” Harbin was hit by two blizzards following Friday’s heat disruption, with outdoor temps dropping to almost negative 20 degrees Celsius over a three-day period. The municipal heating supply office said the failure was caused by cracked heating pipes that were in a state of disrepair.

Song Xibin, mayor of Harbin, has urged a thorough overhaul of the city’s heating pipeline system as a result of the incident. Wang Xin, general manager of Harbin Heating Supply Co Ltd, said that although the city has already asked heating companies to fix the pipes, many of the companies lack the funds to do so because of increasing costs for thermal power generation. Wang said similar heating failures will likely happen again if no immediate solutions are presented. Xinhua.
“Wild daro?” (I’m wild, aren’t I), the signature phrase of comedian Sugi-chan, has been selected as Japan’s top buzzword for 2012 as used in the Japanese words and phrases that best define 2012 also included “shukatsu” (preparation for one’s own death) and “tokyo solamachi” (third floor) at the Tokyo Skytree tower.

Chosen from the political world in the top 10 list were “ishin” (restoration) as used in the Japan Restoration Party, “chikai uchini” (sometime soon) as promised by Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda to indicate the timing of the lower house dissolution and “dai sankyoku” (third force) referring to new political forces other than the ruling Democratic Party of Japan and the main opposition Liberal Democratic Party.

The list also included “IPS saibo” (stem cell), on which researcher Shinya Yamanaka won this year’s Nobel Prize in medicine.

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge announced on Monday 3 December 2012 that they are expecting their first child together and stars including Cheryl Cole and Maria Shriver have sent messages of congratulations.

Stars tweet congratulations to Prince William and Kate

Tokyo, 5 Dec—“Wild daro?” (I’m wild, aren’t I), the signature phrase of comedian Sugi-chan, has been selected as Japan’s top buzzword this year, the organizer of the award said on Monday.

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The Duchess Catherine

Los Angeles, 5 Dec—The “Twilight” teen movie vampires sucked more money out of theaters over the weekend, leaving James Bond, Brad Pitt and the rest of box office pack with $17.4 million in US and Canadian ticket sales and scoring its third weekly win.

Pitt’s new movie, the small-budget gangster film “Killing Them Softly,” bombed with filmgoers who panned it with a rare “F” grade on average in polling by audience survey firm CinemaScore. The movie landed in seventh place with $7 million in ticket sales at domestic theaters.

The results were much brighter for “Breaking Dawn — Part 2,” the fifth and final film in the “Twilight” vampire and werewolf saga, which has earned $254.6 million at North American (US and Canadian) theaters since its smash debut on 16 November.

The top rankings were similar to last week’s Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

Bond movie “Skyfall” starring Daniel Craig

Stars tweet congratulations to Prince William and Kate

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Los Angeles, 5 Dec—British author J.K. Rowling’s first adult novel “The Casual Vacancy” will be adapted for the small screen, the BBC announced on Monday, unlike her Harry Potter adventures which went on to become one of the biggest film franchises of all time.

The series is expected to air in 2014.

Rowling will collaborate “closely” on the project, with the number and length of episodes to be decided once the adaptation has formally begun.

“I always felt that, if it were to be adapted, this novel was best suited to television and I think the BBC is the perfect home,” Rowling said in a statement.

Danny Cohen, controller of BBC One, said the project “highlights the ambition and most exciting creative ideas.”

The Casual Vacancy, which examines the clash of ideals, classes and generations in the seemingly sleepy English town of Pagford, has topped the bestseller lists in several countries, although it did not match the success of the Potter phenomenon.

J.K. Rowling adult novel to be adapted for BBC One

Author J.K. Rowling poses for a portrait while publicizing her adult fiction book “The Casual Vacancy” at Lincoln Centre in New York on 16 Oct, 2012.—Reuters

starring Daniel Craig

“Twilight” shines in third box office win over Bond forecasts. As of Sunday, year-to-date sales were running 5.9 percent ahead of the same point in 2011 at $9.9 billion, box office tracker Hollywood.com said.

Critics were kinder than audiences to Pitt’s “Killing Them Softly.” Seventy-nine percent of reviews collected on the Rotten Tomatoes website applauded the film, which blends a violent but comic gangster story with criticisms of politicians’ failure to address the economic crisis.

In the movie, Pitt plays a hitman brought in by mafia bosses to eliminate a group of thieves who raid a high-stakes poker game. The film is set in an unspecified US city marked by abandoned houses, closed shops and petty criminals.
McIlroy wins PGA Player of the Year award

NEW YORK, 5 Dec — Northern Ireland’s Rory McIlroy was named the PGA Player of the Year as the Tour Woods. “It’s no surprise that Rory McIlroy was voted by the players and his peers as the best Player of the Year,” PGA TOUR Commissioner Tim Finchem said. John Huh won the rookie of the year award after becoming the youngest player in more than a decade to qualify for the Tour Championship. H u h, 2 2 broke through for his first win at the Mayakoba Golf Classic in February, ending an eight-hole playoff with Robert Allenby. The youngest player before him to reach the end-of-season championship was Spain’s Sergio Garcia, who was 21 in 2001.—Reuters

Nadal says he is unlikely to make Australian Open return

MADRID, 5 Dec — Spanish tennis star Rafael Nadal on Tuesday confirmed that he was unlikely to be fit in time to compete in the Australian Open, the first Grand Slam of the 2013 tennis season. The 26-year-old, world number four has not played since he partially tore a tendon in his left knee in a second round match at Wimbledon and has been working to recover his fitness ever since. The Mallorcan born player was realistic about his fitness prospects and said he didn’t expect to be in condition to compete in the first major event of the season, which is held in January. “My recovery is going well. This past month I have taken an important step. I feel happy and the doctors are happy too,” he said. “Miracles do not exist and I am unlikely to return and compete for the Australian Open.” Speaking on Spanish radio station, Onda Cero, Nadal said his main ambition was to be able to compete in the French Open and to hone his form in Monte Carlo in April for his favorite event, which he will try to win for a record breaking eighth time in May. “I want to be 100% in Monte Carlo and then pre- pare well for Roland Garros,” said Nadal. “I will only come back when I am fit and I won’t come back worrying about my knee. We are in the last stage of the recovery and I want to recover as soon as possible but I will not rush back and then have to stop again in six or seven months’ time.” —Xinhua

Thunder firepower too much for Nets

LOS ANGELES, 5 Dec — The Oklahoma City Thunder cruised to their sixth straight win on Tuesday after an incredible night of shooting earned them a 117-111 victory over the Brooklyn Nets. The red-hot Thunder made a season-high 60 percent of field goals, Kevin Durant leading the way with 32 points while Russell Westbrook added 25 and nine assists. Oklahoma City (15-4), the defending Western Conference champions, made 30 of 34 free throws and 7 of 14 three-pointers. Brooklyn were chasing 18-21 through for much of the game and pulled within 104-102 with about four minutes left, only for Durant to respond with six straight points for Oklahoma City. Thabo Sefolosha padded the lead back to six in the final minute.

Los Angeles Lakers’ Gasol to sit due to tendinitis in knees

NEW YORK, 5 Dec — The Los Angeles Lakers, still trying to find their way this season, will be without Pau Gasol as they try to snap the Houston Rockets’ five-game home winning streak on Tuesday. Gasol, averaging a National Basketball Association career low in points in 12.6 per game, will take a rest on the bench due to tendinitis in both knees, the Lakers said. Kobe Bryant and the rest of the Lakers (8-9), struggling to meet lofty pre-season expectations, will try to climb back to .500 mark against the Rockets (8-8) following a 113-110 home loss to Orlando on Sunday. “It’s not rocket science, it’s not solving world hunger, you just gotta go out there and do your job,” Bryant told reporters on Monday after Los Angeles was outscored 40-26 in the fourth quarter by the Magic. The Lakers have gone 3-4 under new coach Mike D’Antoni’s pick-and-roll system since he took over for the fired Mike Brown and Gasol has not been able to play his usual low-post game. “He might not be posting up as much as he’d like,” said Bryant, leading the NBA with 7.6 points a game. “But he just has to adjust. The reality is I’ve adjusted. I’ve never run this many screen and rolls in my entire life, but I’ve worked on it.” The Lakers have point guard Steve Nash out indefinitely with a small fracture in his right leg, and guard Steve Blake gone for the next six-to-eight weeks with a torn abdominal muscle.—Reuters

Basketball

Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant slaps the ball against the Brooklyn Nets in the second quarter of their NBA basketball game in New York, on 4 Dec, 2012.—Reuters

Golf

Rory McIlroy

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Patriots re-sign Stallworth after losing Edelman to injury

NEW YORK, 5 Dec — The New England Patriots juggled their receiving corps on Tuesday by re-signing veteran receiver Donte’ Stallworth after losing Julian Edelman to injury, the American Football Conference east division champions said on Tuesday. Stallworth, who entered training camp with the Patriots but was cut before the start of the season, was signed after Edelman suffered a season-ending foot injury in Sunday’s win over Miami that gave New England a fourth consecutive division title. Edelman had 21 catches for 235 yards and three touchdowns and a 15.5-yard average on punt returns this season, including a 68-yard touchdown return against the Colts. The much-travelled Stallworth, a 32-year-old veteran of nine NFL seasons, has played with New Orleans, Philadelphia, New England, Cleveland, Baltimore and Washington. Stallworth originally entered the NFL as a first-round draft pick by New Orleans in 2002 out of the University of Tennessee, and has caught 34 career TD passes. In addition, the Patriots (9-3) released offensive lineman Mitch Petrus and signed offensive linemen Tommie Draheim and Colin Miller to their practice squad.

Tennis

Spanish tennis star Rafael Nadal

Nadal says he is unlikely to make Australian Open return

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Green Bay Packers great Starr collapses during speech

MILWAUKEE, 5 Dec—Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame quarterback Bart Starr is recovering comfortably in Madison, Wis., after suffering a stroke in Dallas, Texas, on 2 Feb, 2011. — REUTERS

Karam confirmed as Mexico’s new attorney general

MEXICO CITY, 5 Dec—Mexico’s Senate on Tuesday ratified Jesus Murillo Karam as head of the country’s Attorney General’s Office (PGR), after he was appointed by President Enrique Pena Nieto last week. The 65-year-old new attorney has served as secretary general of Mexico’s centrist Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) since 2007. Pena Nieto took office as Mexico’s new president last Saturday for a six-year term, following the violence-filled term of the PRI to power after a 12-year hiatus. The rule by PRI in the decades before 2000 was marred by corruption and periodic economic crises.

The WFP launched an emergency operation in October 2011 and gradually scaled it up to feed 1.5 million people in all 14 provinces of Syria, where the political crisis and subsequent violence broke out in March 2011. Meanwhile, the assistant high commissioner for protection from the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), Erika Feller, visited refugees in Jordan’s Za’atari refugee camp on Monday.

Violence makes it harder to reach hardest-hit areas in Syria: UN food agency

UNITED NATIONS, 5 Dec—The World Food Programme (WFP) said on Tuesday that the recent escalation of violence in Syria is making it more difficult to reach the Middle East country’s hardest-hit areas, UN spokesman Martin Nesirky told reporters here.

“Food insecurity is on the rise due to bread shortages and higher food prices in many parts of the country,” Nesirky said at a daily news briefing here. “It says that high prices are also affecting neighbouring countries hosting Syrian refugees.”

The WFP adds that road access to and from Damascus, the Syrian capital, has become more dangerous, making it difficult to dispatch food from its warehouses to some parts of the country — particularly to the north, the spokesman said.

“The World Food Programme is prioritizing food distributions to internally displaced Syrians who fled from areas which have seen heavy fighting in recent months — many of them have been displaced twice,” he said. “It is also taking all measures to remain operational, provide assistance and to monitor its operations,” he said.

WFP launched an emergency operation in October 2011 and gradually dropped to 1 degree Celsius. Nesirky said.

Tents are being reinforced and better insulated to protect against the weather, including the addition of ‘porches’ where gas heaters are being placed.”

Some 30,000 high thermal blankets are being distributed, along with winter clothing, he added.

Chinese Tibetologist delegation promotes Tibetan culture in Slovenia

LJUBLJANA, 5 Dec—Tibet has realized leapfrog development since the peaceful liberation of Tibet in 1959, Phurbu Tsering, head of a visiting Tibetan cultural exchange delegation, said here on Tuesday. Phurbu Tsering made the remarks during a meeting with Jozef Horvat, head of a Slovenian parliamentary committee.

He said Tibetans now enjoy full freedom of religious beliefs and that the Chinese government develops and protects the religious freedom of Tibetans in accordance with the law.

During their stay here, the delegation led by Phurbu Tsering also had talks with representatives of Maribor, the second largest city of Slovenia, and held forums and presentations about the development of Tibet.
YANGON, 5 Dec—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham delivered an address at the 9th AASEAN 100 Leadership Forum 2012 at Sedona Hotel, here, at 7 pm today.

Dr Sai Mauk Kham made a speech with regard to Change and Continuity; Challenges and Opportunities for Myanmar. He said: First of all, I would like to congratulate the organizer of the Forum, Dato Timothy Ong, CEO of the Asia Inc. Forum, for his relentless effort in organizing annual dialogues on the future of our region. I am glad that Myanmar is the venue chosen for this year’s Forum.

This forum will be a platform to express different opinions and broad perspectives from leading businessmen, government officials and representatives of the civil society. A wide range of views will enable us to see things from different angles before we can make important decisions.

Myanmar recognizes the opportunities and challenges that are associated with the rise of countries in Asia and in ASEAN. ASEAN and the countries are showing the world how to achieve broad-based economic development by maintaining peace and stability in the region. Asia’s success stories and experience have provided us a great deal of values in determining which is the best way to shape the future of the country.

It is our belief that the regional integration will bring benefit to the country with the increased trade and investment as well as through harmonization of democratic and socio-cultural norms.

The geographical location of Myanmar also plays an important role in connecting the two global key players, China and India, with the Southeast Asian countries. In this respect, we are quite satisfied and proud to have good and friendly relations with our two giant neighbours and the other remaining three neighbours as well.

To bring peace, and prosperity to the region, it is imperative to have political stability, strong and vibrant economy plus harmonious society. Through this way, Myanmar has already initiated socio-economic reforms and has taken a lot of bold steps towards building a new democratic society.

In the political front, reforms are being carried out with the aim of ensuring inclusiveness, participation of all stakeholders, and promoting of democratic principles. Strengthening of rule of law, legal infrastructure and judicial systems are also in the priority list. Now, every policy initiatives is being discussed and debated openly at the Hluttaw (Parliaments).

Not only that, there is an open and responsible free media today, and we are working hard to promote and to protect human rights in the country by establishing a National Human Rights Commission.

The political reform serves as a good basis for success of the economic reform. To be effective and fully functioning market based economy reforms in the finance, commerce and trade sectors were also reviewed and revised accordingly. Moreover, the Parliament has already passed the Foreign Investment Law in November this year. The newly-released Foreign Investment Law has (See page7)

Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao road under major repair

Myitkyina-Putao road?
A: Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao road has the length of 218 miles.

Q: What’s the progress of repair of the road section?
A: The road is under repair since 3-11-2012. Some sections have been repaired and are now available.

Q: Which organizations undertake repair of the road?
A: Groups of Public Works take charge of repairing the road.

Q: When will the repair be completed and how much will it cost?
A: We split four groups and started repair since 3-11-2012. The repair of Yenent bridge was commissioned on 25-11-2012. The repair of main bridge at mile post 4000 being undertaken by bridge special group (15) will be completed on 6-12-2012. The estimated cost of road and bridge repair is K 862.43 million.

Q: When will the repair of the whole road be completed?
A: One-lane motorway of Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao road will be completed on 20-12-2012. The whole road will be completed on 31-12-2012.

The completion of the repair will contribute to higher socio-economic status of the local people thanks to better transportation.

Trs: HKA