Vice-President visits utility jade, gems and pearl sales

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Dec— Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visited sales of utility jade in Myanmar Kyat and sales of gems and pearl in foreign currency at Mani Yadana Jade Hall here this morning.

The Vice-President attended the sales together with Patron of Central Committee of Myanma Gems Emporium Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung, central committee members, gems entrepreneurs and officials.

Each subcommittee reported on lots of jade and gems for sales and undertakings of the committees.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and party inspected round the jades on display on the upper floor of the hall and lots displayed in the compound of the hall and lots of pearls which would be put out to tender at Myanma Gems Emporium.

MNA

Muse, Myanmar, 9 Dec— The three-day 12th Myanmar-China Border Trade Fair opened in Myanmar’s Muse 105th Mile Border Trade Zone in Northern Shan State on Sunday.

With about 218 standard booths, including 123 booths from the Chinese side, 93 booths from the Myanmar side, and two booths from Thailand, the exhibitors mainly display agricultural products, marine products, gems and jade, traditional handicrafts, traditional medicine, furniture, electronics and household goods.

At the opening ceremony, Myanmar Deputy Minister of Commerce Dr. Pwint Hsan said the Muse 105th Mile Trade Zone is one of Myanmar’s most important border crossings and accounts for 70 percent of the trade volume in border trade with neighbouring countries.

The Myanmar government pays attention to border region development and border trade and economic cooperation with China.

Gao Shuxun, vice governor of China’s Yunnan Province, which shares border with Myanmar, said Myanmar is the largest foreign trade partner of his province. In 2011, total import and export between Yunnan and Myanmar reached 2.071 billion US dollars, increasing by 17.8 percent from the previous year and accounting for more than 30 percent of the total China-Myanmar trade.

From January to October 2012, two-way trade stood at 1.722 billion US dollars, up 2.2 percent year on year, and the trade volume this year is expected to exceed last year.—Xinhua
FIFA-MA Grassroots Festival 2012 kicks off

Tatkon Township marks 92nd National Day

First year (Hons) courses rejuvenate Mandalay University

MAI extends domestic flights with two Embraer 190s

Cash donated to quake victims

Talks on traffic rules given

Local News
Ghana's two leading political parties say sure of victory

Accra, 9 Dec—Ghana's two leading political parties, the ruling National Democratic Congress (NDC) and main opposition New Patriotic Party (NPP), said at separate Press conferences here Saturday they were on course of winning Friday's presidential and parliamentary elections.

Speaking to the media at the Acrca International Press Centre, Campaign Coordinator for President John Dramani Mahama, Elvis Afriyie-Ankrah, expressed confidence the ruling NDC was on course to be re-elected, and so urged their supporters to be law-abiding. He appealed to party supporters who could not exercise their franchise on Friday due to the breakdown of the biometric verification devices (BVDS) to vote on Saturday.

Saturday's voting, the first time in Ghana's history for elections to be extended to the next day, followed a directive by the country's Electoral Commission (EC) to allow affected voters to cast their ballot, meaning the voting will officially end at 5 pm. Afriyie-Ankrah, who is also the deputy minister for Local Government and Rural Development, appealed to the EC to take steps to remedy the situation.

Ghana Friday faced challenges posed by the malfunctioning of biometric machines being used for the first time in the country's elections at many polling stations hence the decision of the EC to permit all eligible Ghanaians to cast their votes. The Campaign Coordinator rejected allegations that the ruling NDC was engaging in falsification of figures in the collection of results.

Meanwhile, Boakye Agyarko, Campaign Manager for the opposition New Patriotic Party (NPP) leader, Nana A Do Dankwah Akufo-Addo, also predicted a first round victory for the party.

"Based on all the data being received, Nana Akufo-Addo is on course to win a first round victory with an uncontestable margin. NPP parliamentary candidates are winning seats that we had never won before. This is happening across the country and is a clear indication of an NPP victory, which will produce a parliamentary majority as well; the general expectation of our parliamentary candidates is exceeding expectation," he stated.

Agyarko said most of their candidates had upset sitting Members of Parliament (MPs) and MPs in States, which, according to him, was an indication that the party's vision of change and transforming the country had resonate well with voters.

Italy's PM says he intends to resign

Rome, 9 Dec—Italy's Prime Minister Mario Monti said on Saturday he intended to resign, according to a statement from the presidential office.

After a two-hour meeting with Italian President Giorgio Napolitano, who has the power to dissolve parliament, Monti said he will step down after checking to see if parliament can pass his government's budget law. Should the budget law be passed "soon," Monti said he would immediately "formalize his irrevocable resignation in the hands of the president," according to the statement.

Monti's emergency cabinet of unelected technocrats has lost the support of former premier Silvio Berlusconi's center-right People of Freedom (PDL) party. Earlier this week, the government appeared to risk collapsing when the PDL withdrew its support for two confidence votes in parliament.

The PDL lawmakers, the biggest group in parliament, abstained in a Senate vote on an economic-development bill and in another vote in the House on measures to reduce the costs of the political system.

According to local press reports, Monti's expected resignation will result in the second political crisis in Italy in five months. Monti's government was formed in April after a coalition of centrist parties failed to win a parliamentary majority.

US forces free American medic abducted by Taliban

Kabul, 9 Dec—The US forces on Sunday freed an American medic kidnapped by the Taliban four days ago in Sarobi, a suburban area some 50 km east of capital Kabul, the US forces confirmed in a statement issued here.

"United States Forces-Afghanistan (USFOR-A) rescued a US citizen, Dr. Dilip Joseph, today during an operation in eastern Afghanistan," the statement said.

Joseph was abducted on 5 Dec by Taliban insurgents in the vicinity of Sarobi District in Kabil Province, it said.

"Today's mission exemplifies our unwavering commitment to defeating the Taliban," said Gen. John R. Allen, the top US and NATO commander in Afghanistan.

Cuban leader vows to boost ties with China

Havana, Cuba, 9 Dec—Cuban leader Raul Castro pledged Saturday to further develop the relations between his country and China when meeting with a senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

"Today's mission was an indication that the party's vision of change and transforming the country had resonate well with voters.

Cuba is willing to learn the experience of China on development and elevate the Cuba-China ties to a higher level," he added.

Li said the CPC and the Cuban Communist Party (CCP) and the two countries have been supporting each other in building socialism, safeguarding world peace and promoting common development. The new CPC leadership with Xi Jinping as general secretary values the traditional friendship between the two countries and is committed to developing the China-Cuba friendly cooperation, he said.

On Friday, Li met with CCP Second Secretary-General and Cuban First Vice President of Council of State and Council of M insters Jose Ramon Macho V entura, and attended the ginging ceremony of an agreement on exchanges and cooperation between the two parties. —Xinhua

Romans vote in parliamentary elections

Bucharest, 9 Dec—Over 18 million Romanians went to the polls on Sunday to elect a new bicameral parliament for the next four years.

The polling stations opened at 7:00 am local time (0500 GMT) and will close at 9:00 pm (1900 GMT). As many as 13,000 polling stations -- 18,456 in Romania and 295 abroad -- have been set up for the elections.

More than 2,400 candidates from 30 parties and 12 independents are running for 315 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and 137 in the Senate, according to the Central Electoral Bureau.

The polls pit the ruling Social Liberal Union, a coalition composed of the Social Democratic Party, the National Liberal Party and the Conservative Party, against the Right Romania Alliance, whose senior partner is the opposition Liberal Democratic Party led by President Traian Basescu.

Two other parties likely to enter the new parliament are the Popular People's Party created by media tycoon Dan Diaconescu and the Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania representing the minority Hungarians.

A party has to pass a 5-percent threshold to win seats in either chamber of the parliament, while in the case of political or electoral alliances, 8 percent for alliances of two parties, 9 percent for three and 10 percent for four or more parties. The voters are polarized following a change of the majority coalition and appointment of Social Democrat Victor Ponta as prime minister in May.

Local elections in June gave a significant victory to the new ruling coalition with 36 of the 41 council seats won by the Social Liberal Union.

Opinion polls suggested an overwhelming win for the ruling coalition.

Romanians vote in parliamentary elections

Havana, Cuba, 9 Dec—Cuban leader Raul Castro pledged Saturday to further develop the relations between his country and China when meeting with a senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, in Havana, capital of Cuba, on 8 Dec, 2012. —Xinhua

Cuban leader Raul Castro (R) meets with visiting Li Yuanchao, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, in Havana, capital of Cuba, on 8 Dec, 2012. —Xinhua

Romanians vote in parliamentary elections

Bucharest, 9 Dec—Over 18 million Romanians went to the polls on Sunday to elect a new bicameral parliament for the next four years.

The polling stations opened at 7:00 am local time (0500 GMT) and will close at 9:00 pm (1900 GMT). As many as 13,000 polling stations -- 18,456 in Romania and 295 abroad -- have been set up for the elections.

More than 2,400 candidates from 30 parties and 12 independents are running for 315 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and 137 in the Senate, according to the Central Electoral Bureau.

The polls pit the ruling Social Liberal Union, a coalition composed of the Social Democratic Party, the National Liberal Party and the Conservative Party, against the Right Romania Alliance, whose senior partner is the opposition Liberal Democratic Party led by President Traian Basescu.

Two other parties likely to enter the new parliament are the Popular People's Party created by media tycoon Dan Diaconescu and the Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania representing the minority Hungarians.

A party has to pass a 5-percent threshold to win seats in either chamber of the parliament, while in the case of political or electoral alliances, 8 percent for alliances of two parties, 9 percent for three and 10 percent for four or more parties. The voters are polarized following a change of the majority coalition and appointment of Social Democrat Victor Ponta as prime minister in May.

Local elections in June gave a significant victory to the new ruling coalition with 36 of the 41 council seats won by the Social Liberal Union.

Opinion polls suggested an overwhelming win for the ruling coalition.

Tourists view a rainbow over the Hukou Waterfalls, a section of the middle reaches of the Yellow River, in Linfen, north China's Shanxi Province, on 8 Dec, 2012. Icicles have been formed on the Hukou Waterfalls recently due to low temperature. Hukou Waterfalls are located on the border of Shanxi and northwest China's Shaanxi Province. —Xinhua

"I'm proud of the American and African forces that planned, rehearsed and successfully conducted this operation. Thanks to them, Dr. Joseph will soon be rejoining his family and loved ones," he said.

"I am expressing our deep appreciation to President Obama, the US military commanders and the personnel who conducted this operation," he added.

"I am deeply grateful to the US president for his personal efforts and leadership in ensuring the safe return of Mr. Joseph," Akinci said.

"We are also extremely grateful to the United States for the logistics and technical support that made the rescue possible," he added.

"We on behalf of the Turkish government would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to the US government, US forces and about 100,000 NATO forces stationed in the country," Akinci said.
San Francisco, 9 Dec—Apple Inc plans to move some Mac production to the US, as part of a move to return manufacturing giant BlackRock, said in an interview with Bloomberg Businessweek, published on Thursday.

“Two months ago we announced that we were going to bring some Mac production back to the US,” Cook said. He added that this was in response to a request from Apple to return some Mac production to the US

Cook said that Apple would not disclose the exact number of Macs being produced in the US, but that the effort is expected to go well beyond simple final assembly of product lines. The move is part of Apple’s strategy to increase its manufacturing footprint in the US, as well as to reduce its reliance on foreign suppliers.

Apple’s decision, however, is not without controversy. Some analysts have warned that the move could lead to higher costs and slower production times, especially if it affects a tiny fraction of Apple’s overall output.

Apple’s move is likely to be viewed as a positive step for the US manufacturing sector, as well as for the company’s overall profitability. However, it remains to be seen whether the move will have a significant impact on Apple’s bottom line.
**Business & Health**

**Factories show UK economy on verge of shrinking again**

London, 9 Dec—Britain’s industrial production unexpectedly fell in October after factory output posted its biggest drop since June, reinforcing fears that the economy will shrink again at the end of this year. It combined with weak trade data earlier in the week to cast doubt on lingering government hopes of export-led recovery. Britain has suffered two recessions in the past four years, the last one of which ended barely three months ago, at least partly thanks to a boost from the Olympics. Chancellor George Osborne warned on Wednesday of far slower economic growth ahead than previously thought, and official forecasts signalled another contraction in the final quarter of this year.

In Friday’s figures, manufacturing output dropped 1.3 percent in October after stagnating in September and was down 2.1 percent lower than a year earlier, the Office for National Statistics said. The broader measure of industrial output, which accounts for over 13 percent of Britain’s gross domestic product, also fell both on the month and the year in October, after oil and gas extraction posted the sharpest yearly fall since records began in 1998.

“Very disappointing, trips dip here we come,” said Alan Clarke, economist at Scotabank. “Manufacturing was diabolical. Sadly, I think there is not a lot to suggest that it is temporary. Survey data has been fairly downbeat.”

Industrial output, which includes energy production and mining as well as manufacturing, fell 0.8 percent on the month, compared with forecasts for a rise, after a 2.1 percent decline in September.

“Oil and gas extraction plunged by well over a quarter on the year, partly as maintenance which led to a temporary shutdown of the largest oil field in the North Sea. Greater than usual maintenance as well as a long-term decline in Britain’s North Sea oil reserves have sapped output in the past months,” said the ONS.

Both the monthly and annual manufacturing declines were the steepest since June, when extra public holidays dented production, and were far worse than predicted by economists.

The production of food, beverages and tobacco was particularly low, with demand for beer down, the ONS said. David Cameron has described Britain’s troubles as a “balance of payments” problem. The Bank of England also attributes the problems to a large drop in China’s demand for British manufactured goods.

The report also showed a 0.9 percent monthly decline in construction output, the ONS said.

The accommodation and food service sector also fell 0.7 percent month on month, but was up 2.1 percent on the year. The hotel and restaurant sector was up 0.6 percent on the month and 2.3 percent on the year.

“Manufacturing was diabolical,” said economist at Scotabank. “Sadly, I think there is not a lot to suggest that it is temporary. Survey data has been fairly downbeat.”

**Workers sew shoes at a shoe factory in Northampton, central England, on 25 April, 2012.**—Reuters

**Should breast cancer patients skip the pre-op MRI?**

New York, 9 Dec—A new review of existing evidence suggests that using magnetic resonance imaging to “stage” a woman’s breast cancer before surgery might do more harm than good.

MRI produces a much clearer image than X-rays and ultrasound, and is recommended for detecting early tumours in women at increased risk for breast cancer. But routinely using the technology once any woman is diagnosed with a tumour may lead to more radical surgery without any benefits, says a team of Australian and US researchers. They found that about 26 percent of women who had a pre-operative MRI to help determine the extent and severity of their tumour ended up having their entire breast removed, compared to about 18 percent of those whose surgeons only used traditional methods of characterizing the cancer.

“I wasn’t surprised by the results at all. What I am surprised by was the strength of the data,” said Dr Monica Morrow, the study’s senior author and the chief of breast service at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre in New York.

“Because MRIs are more sensitive than mammograms, some doctors think they are a good tool for identifying the precise outlines of cancerous tissue. Others, however, have begun to question whether the imaging led surgeons to remove more breast tissue than necessary.

Moreover, women who have MRIs before breast surgery seem to be no less likely to need a second surgery to remove additional cancerous tissue.

A study published in September by the journal Breast Cancer Research and Treatment found that among more than 300 women who underwent breast cancer surgery, just 39 percent had an MRI before the first surgery ended up having a repeat operation.

**Standard Chartered settlement to come Monday—source**

London, 9 Dec—Standard Chartered, (STAN.L) a British bank, is expected to announce on Monday a $330 million settlement with US law-enforcement agencies, a deal that would conclude an investigation that examined whether the bank violated sanctions with Iran, people familiar with the situation said.

The settlement, which is expected to include the US Justice Department and the Manhattan district attorney, follows a $430 million settlement that the bank reached in August with the New York Department of Financial Services.

That settlement came after the New York regulator analyzed whether Standard Chartered had improperly concealed transactions tied to Iran. As a result of the settlement, the bank agreed to install a monitor to evaluate anti-money laundering systems. The bank said on Thursday it expects to pay $330 million in the latest settlement, but did not offer specific timing, saying only that an announcement would come “very shortly.”

A Standard Chartered spokeswoman declined comment on Friday.

**E Europe economic recovery seen mid-2013 - ECB**

Santiago, 9 Dec—Europe’s troubled economies will begin to recover by mid-2013, and while the recuperation will be more significant for core countries, all nations will see some growth by 2014, European Central Bank Vice President Vitor Constancio said on Saturday.

The ECB considered an interest rate cut on Thursday, but held rate stable, and predicted the euro zone economy would shrink again in 2013, leaving the door open to a possible reduction in its borrowing costs early next year.

The bank slashed its forecasts for the euro zone economy on Thursday, showing a contraction next year was very likely before a return to growth in 2014.

“We see a recovery of positive growth in 2014, which indicates that we consider that as of 2013 we’re going to see a recovery of the real economy,” Constancio told a Press conference after a central bankers’ meeting in Santiago. He was flanked by Bank of Spain governor Luis Maria Linde and Chilean central bank chief Rodrigo Vergara.

ECB cut its estimate of gross domestic product (GDP) for next year to between a decline of 0.9 percent and growth of just 0.3 percent. In their first forecasts for 2014, ECB staff forecast GDP growth of 0.2 to 2.2 percent.

“The recovery will be more significant for core countries because the countries under stress will continue next year their adjustment policies. Those adjustments are working,” he added.

**Chinese group in talks to buy AIG air lease arm**

Hong Kong, New York, 9 Dec—A group of Chinese companies, including Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), is in talks to buy nearly all of American International Group Inc’s (AIG) aircraft leasing unit for about $5.5 billion, AIG said on Friday.

The deal is expected to be announced as soon as early next week, a source familiar with the matter said on condition of anonymity.

AIG, which has been servinig a loss and is trying to pay back a $182 billion US government bailout from 2008, has long been hoping to float its ILFC aircraft leasing unit through an initial public offering, but poor market conditions forced it to delay those plans. An IPO was expected to value the company at $6 billion to $8 billion, according to previous reports on the plans. AIG Chief Executive Robert Benmosche said last month that he was waiting for markets to improve to take ILFC public.

It is in talks to sell a 90 percent stake in the unit to a consortium including trust company New China Trust Co Ltd, China Aviation Industrial Group, and an investment arm of ICBC, China’s largest bank.

Shares in AIG rose 2.6 percent to $34.13 on the New York Stock Exchange, after touching their highest level in more than five weeks earlier in the day.

“We view this news positively, since we think a sale of ILFC is the last large transaction AIG needs to do as it continues its turnaround,” S&P Capital IQ analyst Cathy Seifert said in a research note.

The capital may come at a good time for AIG. Late Friday, it said it expects after-tax losses of at least $1.3 billion from Superstorm Sandy. It said it would contribute $1 billion to its US property insurance units to help cover the losses.

**The logo of American International Group Inc (AIG) on the outside of their corporate headquarters in New York, on 10 Nov, 2012.**—Reuters
Venezuela’s Chavez says cancer back, operation in days

CARACAS, 9 Dec—Venezuela’s Hugo Chavez said Saturday that his cancer had returned and he would undergo another operation in the coming days, and for the first time the president named a successor if anything happened to him.

The news was a big blow for supporters of the 58-year-old socialist leader, who elected him in October to a new six-year term in office. Twice since mid-2011 Chavez has said he was cured, and then had to have more surgery.

In an emotional television broadcast from the Miraflores presidential palace, Chavez was flanked by ministers and looked ruffled. He even sang, briefly. And in his first comments on a possible successor, he said supporters should vote for Vice President Nicolas Maduro. Speculation about Chavez’s health had grown during a three-week absence from public view that culminated in his latest trip for medical tests in Qatar—where he has undergone three cancer operations since June 2011. He returned to Venezuela on Friday.

“Unfortunately, during these exhaustive exams they found some malignant cells in the same (pelvic) area... It is absolutely necessary, absolutely essential, that I undergo a new surgical intervention,” the president said.

“With God’s will, like on the previous occasions, we will come out of this victorious. I have complete faith in that,” Chavez, who has dominated Venezuela’s politics since taking power 14 years ago, said he would return to Cuba on Sunday, and that the operation would take place there in the next few days.

He said he had rejected the advice of his doctors to have the surgery sooner, on Friday or this weekend, telling them he needed to fly back to Venezuela to seek the permission of lawmakers to return for the operation.

“I decided to come, making an additional effort, in truth, because the pain is not insignificant,” Chavez said. “But with treatment and painkillers, we are in the pre-operation phase.”

Chavez has been receiving treatment at the tightly guarded Cimex hospital in Havana as a guest of his friend and political mentor, former Cuban leader Fidel Castro.—Reuters

Al-Qaeda gunmen kill three Yemeni military officials in Marib

SANAA, 9 Dec—Al-Qaeda militants killed three Yemeni military officials in an ambush Saturday in the country’s oil-producing Province of Marib, officials said.

“General Nasser Mahrdi Farid, the chief-of-staff of the central military region in Marib, and two other military officers were killed when their convoy was intercepted and attacked by militants of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP),” an interior ministry official told Xinhua in condition of anonymity.

About 11 soldiers who escorted the convoy were seriously injured with gunshots in the attack, said the official.

The AQAP confirmed the attack in a statement obtained by Xinhua, saying that “the Mujahideen set up an ambush in al-Dhameen area against a military convoy en route to Safer area, killing the convoy’s commander General Nasser Mahrdi Farid and several others.”

The al-Qaeda fighters also seized two vehicles of the military convoy, it said.

The attack, which took place near Wadi Baida area of the same area bombed the country’s main oil export pipeline for the fifth time in less than a month. The army on Friday launched a major assault on the area’s tribesmen whom the local authorities accused of repeatedly attacking the main crude line, according to the officials.

The government has failed to repair the line due to continuing conflicts in Marib, highlighting the persistent insecurity in the country even one year after a political upheaval.

US drones and Yemeni warplanes have regularly targeted the Yemen-based al-Qaeda wing, which exploited security vacuum during Yemen’s unrest last year. Yemen President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi said fighting the AQAP tops his daily agenda when he was elected in February.—Xinhua

Chinese delegation to Doha talks presents climate documentary to UN official

DOHA, 9 Dec—Head of Chinese delegation to the ongoing UN climate conference in Doha, Xie Zhenhua, presented China’s first climate documentary to top UN climate official Christiana Figueres.

The documentary, named “Warm and Cold, We Share Together,” describes in 12 episodes the relationship between the change of ecological environment and human civilization from both historical and realistic perspectives.

It calls on the mankind to take the responsibility to deal with the consequences of environment degradation and adopt a path of sustainable development.

Figueres, executive secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, hailed China’s climate actions in recent years and expressed confidence that China will meet and even exceed its anti-warming ambitions set in the new five-year-development plan (2011-2016).

Hundreds of scientists, experts and officials were interviewed during the filming of the documentary. On Saturday, the Doha climate conference entered an extra day due to deep divisions among delegates on the draft texts produced by previous negotiations.

Amitting the texts are not satisfactory to everyone, president of the conference, Abulahin bin Hamad Al Attiyah, urged the delegates to work in a spirit of compromise and reach a balanced package of agreements by the end of the day.

Father fatally shoots son outside Pennsylvania gun store

PITTSBURGH, 9 Dec—A seven-year-old boy was shot to death by his father on Saturday in the parking lot of a gun store in western Pennsylvania in an apparent accident, state police said.

A seven-year-old boy was shot to death by his father in a gun store parking lot Saturday, authorities said.

The AQAP confirmed the attack in a statement obtained by Xinhua, saying that “the Mujahideen set up an ambush in al-Dhameen area against a military convoy en route to Safer area, killing the convoy’s commander General Nasser Mahrdi Farid and several others.”

The al-Qaeda fighters also seized two vehicles of the military convoy, it said.

The attack, which took place near Wadi Baida area of the same area bombed the country’s main oil export pipeline for the fifth time in less than a month. The army on Friday launched a major assault on the area’s tribesmen whom the local authorities accused of repeatedly attacking the main crude line, according to the officials.

The government has failed to repair the line due to continuing conflicts in Marib, highlighting the persistent insecurity in the country even one year after a political upheaval.

US drones and Yemeni warplanes have regularly targeted the Yemen-based al-Qaeda wing, which exploited security vacuum during Yemen’s unrest last year. Yemen President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi said fighting the AQAP tops his daily agenda when he was elected in February.—Xinhua

Three children die in house fire in northern Greece

ATHENS, 9 Dec—Three children died early Saturday in a fire which broke out at a farmhouse in northern Greece, authorities announced. The boys, aged 15, 7 and 5, got trapped inside the wooden house at a small village in the outskirts of the city of Kavala, while their three other siblings, their mother and grandparents survived.

Experts investigating the cause of the shocking tragedy found that the wood stove used by the family.

The blaze started as the family was asleep. Once the house began to fill with smoke, the teenager rushed outside. But he realized that two of his younger brothers had stayed behind and returned to save them.

Investigators believe that he lost consciousness and choked on the smoke, like his brothers, before the roof collapsed. Their mother and grandmother were slightly injured.

According to local media, the mother, a teacher, was spending the weekend at the village with six of the family’s 10 children, while the father was staying at their home in Kavala for work.—Xinhua

People dressed in ancient uniforms of pikemen perform during the L’Escalade (the act of scaling defensive walls) celebrations in Geneva, Switzerland, on 8 Dec, 2012. L’Escalade is an annual festival held in December in the city of Geneva. Xinhua

A villager does the washing beside the Erhai Lake in Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture, southwest China’s Yunnan Province, on 6 Dec, 2011. Erhai Lake, covering 253 square kilometers and being the second largest fresh water lake in Yunnan Province, is named as the “mother lake” by local people. Xinhua

A visitor looks at a painting by Chinese painter Liu Haisu at the Nanjing University of the Arts (NUA) in Nanjing, capital of east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 8 Dec, 2012. NUA celebrated its 100th anniversary on Saturday. Xinhua
**Prizes awarded in Inter-Region/State Aerobics Contest**

**Yangon, 9 Dec—** The prize presentation for the 13th Inter-Region/State Women’s Aerobics Contest 2012 was held at National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thuwunna Township on 6 December afternoon. On behalf of the Chairman of the Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports, General Secretary of MWSF on behalf of the Chairman of MWSF, Co Ltd, was kicked off under the supervision of the Ministry of Sports. President of the Myanmar Badminton Federation U Mung Mung Nwe greeted the contest teams before the tournament. The players then took sports oaths.

A total of nine teams such as Aye Ya Wady, Aung, Shan State, Mogok, New-Y, Lubyandaw, M BF, Shwesunnyo and Nay Pi Tyaw took part in the tournament from 5 to 9 December. 

Myanma Alinn

**Narcotic drugs seized in Pyay**

**Yangon, 9 Dec—** A combined anti-drug squad of Bago Region, acting on tip-off, searched suspect person Myint Soe (a) Yan Sin Sha, who was walking along Bogoke Street, near Pan Cherry Apartment Building in Hsan Daw Ward of Pyay at 11.30 am on 5 December. The squad together with witnesses seized 0.3 gram of suspected heroin in a pen-cil-pinch bottle from left pocket of trouser, one HTC brand mobile phone and K 18850 in cash.

According to the investigation, Myint Soe confessed that he bought heroin from Min Min (a) Win Myint from Koethau (Shanusa) Ward of Pyay through telephone. The squad searched the house of Min Min (a) Win Myint at 1.30 pm but Min Min escaped from there. The combined team searched one more house of Min Min in on Khaing Road in Aung San Pyithu Ward. But, Min Min managed to escape from there. IP Kyaw Htay submitted that drug possessor Myint Chinsu Taryo Road in Aung San Pyithu Ward. But, Min Min managed to escape from there.

Myanma Alinn

**Environment-friendly tea plantation nurtured in Mount Popa reserve**

**Nay Pi Tyaw, 9 Dec—** With the aim of ensuring sufficiency of green tea and dried tea in central area of Myanmar, tea plantations were grown as test in the area of Popa forest reserve. If the plantations do not thrive, they would be substituted with perennial crop cultivation, said Tea Plantation Manager U Hlay Ngwe of Tim Win Tun Co that has got 30-year guarantee of land.

"This tea plantation was grown in 2008. Our company got 300 acres of farmland under 30-year guarantee. At present, we test cultivation of tea on 50 acres of land. If it cannot secure success, we will shift cultivation of perennial crops such as sandalwood," he continued.

An official of Forest Department said, "the company was allowed to establish the tea plantation because it cannot harm the environment as it is located in the forest reserve. The department urged the company to focus on avoiding deforestation. We allow it to clear the bushes for cultivation of tea. The plantation will not cause deforestation. The trees have been marked under the arrangements of the Forest Department."

It is necessary to wait and see whether the tea plantation will meet success or not within three years. A plan is underway to manage 50 acres of tea plantation only and not to extend the plantation.

Tea plantation should be grown between 60°F and 89°F and 60 inches of rainfall on soil with PH 4.5-5. Tea plantation should be grown at an altitude of above 2500 feet. The tea plantation in Mount Popa area is at an altitude of 2720 feet with 43.45 inches of rainfall, PH 6.4 and PH 6.9.

Due to higher level of soil, the land was prepared for cultivation of present tea plantation. In the year with least rainfall, the plantation took water from the spring, 14 miles from the plantation. In the event of establishing the plantation, 150 workers worked for the cultivation of tea plants. At present, 15 workers are nurturing the tea plantation.

With regard to rumour spread among the local people, an official of the company said that there is no plan to build hotel as it is an area of forest reserve. The forest law does not allow it. "So, we have no plan to construct the hotel here," said the plantation officer.

Myanma Alinn

**Workshop on anti-modern human trafficking 14 Dec**

**Yangon, 9 Dec—** Under the joint arrangements of Walk Free: The Movement to End Modern Slavery of Asia and Pakistan and the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the workshop on anti-modern human trafficking will be held at the conference hall on the first floor of UMFCCI Office Tower on Minye Kyawswa Road in Linnanndaw Township on 14 December. The workshop is aimed at enabling the people and entrepreneurs to know endeavours of Myanmar in combating human trafficking. Those wishing to attend the workshop may register International Relations Department. For further information, may dial 214344, Ext: 122 and 301.

Myanma Alinn

**Workshop on anti-modern human trafficking 14 Dec**

**Books donated to village library**

On 13 November, Daw Win Myint and staff of Pakokku District Information and Public Relations Department presented books donated by Mynmar Libraries Foundation to the village library.

Myanma Alinn

**Tax educative essay and cartoon contests held**

**Yangon, 9 Dec—** The Joint Arrangements of Ministry of Education Department and Revenue and No. 3 of the Ministry of Finance and Planning, Department of Basic Education in collaboration with MWSF organized the basic education middle school level (district level) tax educative essay and cartoon contests at Basic Education High School No. 1 in Latha, Basic Education High School No. 1 in Botataung, Basic Education High School No. 1 in Thanlyin, Basic Education High School No. 1 in Dala, Basic Education High School No. 1 in Insein and Basic Education High School No. 1 in Mingaladon from 9 am to 11 am on 30 November. A total of 117 students at middle school level participated in the essay contest and 114 in the cartoon contest, totalling 231.

The participation were supervised by district and township education officers, heads of township Internal Revenue Departments, school heads and teachers. The first, second and third prize winners at the district level are to take part in the region level contests at basic Education High School No. 3 in Kyimyindaing on 13 December.

Myanma Alinn

**New Light of Myanmar**

Monday, 10 December, 2012 7
PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 10 December, 2012

Patriotism of a heterogeneous society

Unlike the countries with homogeneous societies, we are a Union where a diversity of races living in harmony and unity. So, when we say something like patriotism or nationalism it will be different from those countries with homogeneous societies.

As we are a heterogeneous society, words like patriotism or nationalism have wider and deeper meanings for all of us. They do not stand for a single or particular race of the Union, but for all the ethnic races of the whole Union.

So, patriotism or nationalismo for the country is the Union spirit or the love of the Union. In fact, our Union is the home to all the national races of our motherland. Every national race has its own freedom to live and prosper, and rights to value and protect his own culture and traditions. And every national race understands well and totally accepts the work of protecting, promoting, propagating and respecting each other’s freedom, rights, culture and traditions. In this way we have been living for centuries, although we have differences or misunderstandings during certain periods between certain races.

What’s more, we all understand that we are kin and kind, and not strangers. We all live and prosper on this soil, which actually is our Union while our populations grow constantly. In fact, no single race owns the Union. Truly, the Union is the mother of all our brethren. So we all must love and cherish our Union.

Hence, we have the will even to sacrifice our lives in safeguarding the Union because it’s our home. We can’t let our home be destroyed or invaded by others. Here we need unity which actually is our strength.

Accordingly, the spirit to love, cherish and safeguard the Union truly is the patriotism or the nationalistic fervor of all the national people of our motherland.

Monday, 10 December, 2012

Multipler librarian course opens

Fal. 9 Dec -- Deekhodar Sub-Township Information and Public Relations Department and Township Library Committee conducted the multiplier librarian course No 1/2012 at the Township General Administration Department on 30th November.

After giving lectures, Head of Township IPRD U Lal Pak Lawm donated 420 books to the library.

Mynna Alinn

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

NATIONAL

Tipitakadhara Tipitakavodika selection exam opened

YANGON, 9 Dec — Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abbot of Bhamo Monastery in Mandalay A Bhuddha A Maha Bhaddanta Kumara-Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dr Bhaddanta Kumara-Bhivamsa delivered a sermon at opening ceremony of 65th Tipitakadhara Tipitakavodika selection examination on Kaba Aye hill here this morning.

The examination was organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs. Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Munt Maung and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe supplicated on religious matters.

Donors donated cash through officials who returned certificates of honour to them. The Union minister, the region chief minister and region ministers offered a day meal to members of the Sangha. The examination will last for 33 days.

MNA


1. One of the most important declarations of humanity, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, was adopted on 10 December, 1948 and the day has been designated as the International Human Rights Day. The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission joins today the international human rights community in celebrating this auspicious day.

2. The Commission is proud to recall on this occasion that Myanmar was the first country to vote for the Declaration when it was adopted by a roll call vote at the United Nations General Assembly held in Paris in December 1948. The Commission is pleased that it was provided with an opportunity to uphold “the inherent value of human dignity” recognized in the Declaration. It is in fact the disrespect for human dignity that leads to violations of human rights in all parts of the world.

3. Today is the most appropriate occasion for the Commission to take stock of what it has been able to do over the past year for the promotion and protection of human rights in the country and to lay out its plan for the future.

4. Regarding the protection of human rights, the Commission has examined most of the over 3,000 complaints received from September 2011 until the end of November this year. Its initiatives with the letters of appeal to the President and statements for granting of amnesty to prisoners, including the “prisoners of conscience” have resulted in the release of thousands of prisoners and finally in a plan for transparent process to examine the cases of remaining prisoners, as announced by the Information Team of the President’s Office. The Commission is gratified that some of those released are currently playing an important role in the country’s democratization process. The experience of the Commission in protection work has vividly underscored the importance of the government’s cooperation and that of other stakeholders.

5. On the promotion of human rights, several workshops have been successfully held in Yangon in cooperation with the United Nations Agencies and other institutions specialised in human rights education. One significant result from these workshops is the commencement of a process to give more emphasis to human rights in the curricula of schools and institutions of higher learning.

6. The Commission has been able to set up strong relations, as tasked by its mandate, with the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in the region. In September 2012 it became a member of the South East Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum (SEANF) and an associate member of the Asian Pacific Forum of NHRIs (APF) in November 2012. As a result, the Commission can now work with these regional NHRIs for the promotion and protection of human rights in the region as well.

7. The Commission has drafted the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Law in collaboration with human rights institutions and it has been submitted to the President for consideration. A letter from the President, the draft will be placed before the Parliament for approval. With the enactment of the Law, the Commission will be able to implement its mandate more effectively.

8. The future plan of the Commission, in particular for 2013, includes the holding of more workshops on such important subjects as Business and Human Rights, the two International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). These workshops are aimed at benefiting the individuals and entities doing business in Myanmar and the relevant ministries in their efforts related to human rights promotion and protection. Furthermore, the Commission will embark in 2013 on a long-term project to translate important human rights materials into Myanmar to enhance public awareness.

9. The mandate of the Commission, as mentioned in Notification No. 34/2011 of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and provided for in the above-mentioned Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Law, entrusts a formidable task to the Commission to improve the human rights situation in the country. In fulfillment of this mandate, the Commission needs the cooperation of all concerned without which, a society where the inherent human dignity is respected will be far from being achieved.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

Date: 10 December 2012
Tachilek Dhamma Thiri Hospital handed over to the State to meet expectations of national races in border areas for health care

**Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Dec**— On his address at the opening of Dhamma Thiri Hospital in Tachilek of Shan State (East) this morning, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing called for interdepartmental collaborative efforts while striving for fulfilling the expectations of national races for health care.

Shan State government, the deputy minister, K 1 million by Manjotikadhaja U Maung Lay and Daw Nann Chein and family, K 30 million by Chairman of Kanbazwa Bank Ltd U Aung Ko Win and wife and family and K 30 million by Chairman of IGE Company U Nay Aung and wife and family.

Afterwards, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party received the sermon delivered by Sayadaw Haddanta Revata and enjoyed the meal shared by the locals and members of cultural troupes.

The five-storey hospital was built with the contributions of K 4985.1 million wellwishers led by President Nayaka Sayadaw of Nagarhnakaung Monastery. The hospital includes reception room, out-patient department, dental room, dispensary room and X-ray room on the ground floor, operation theater, labor room, X-ray room and intensive care unit on the first floor, 24 patient rooms, 24-bed patient hall and doctor and nurses counter on the second and third floors and chamber room and offices on the fourth floor. There are five houses for doctors and staff quarter in the compound of the hospital.

It is learnt that the hospital will provide national races in border areas with health care services to be able to meet their expectations for the health by inviting medical professionals to perform advanced health care services there.

In the afternoon, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party offered provisions to Bhaddanta Paññasami of Maha Myatmuni Phayagyi Sathinkha and the presidenting Sayadaw of Nagarhnakaung monastery separately. — MNA

State Ovadacariya President Nayaka Sayadaw of Nagarhnakaung Monastery A bhidhaja ma-harahttaguru Suddhamajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Dhammasiri, the commander and the deputy minister formally opened the hospital.

Next, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services unveiled the signboard of the hospital, and sprinkled scented water on it. Then the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party viewed round in the hospital.

A fterwards, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services offered day meal to members of the Sangha at the altar room on the top floor of the hospital. Then the ceremony to hand over documents related to the hospital followed. In commemoration of the 84th birthday of the Sayadaw, State Ovadacariya Sayadaw handed over documents related to the hospital to the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

Next, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services handed over documents to the deputy minister.

Then the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services accepted K 10 million donated by Tatsmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) for the health care funds of the hospital. State M inister U Tu Maung accepted K 1 million donated by Shan State government, the deputy minister, K 1 million by Manjotikadhaja U Maung Lay and Daw Nann Chein and family, K 30 million by Chairman of Kanbazwa Bank Ltd U Aung Ko Win and wife and family and K 30 million by Chairman of IGE Company U Nay Aung and wife and family.

The five-storey hospital was built with the contributions of K 4985.1 million wellwishers led by President Nayaka Sayadaw of Nagarhnakaung Monastery. The hospital includes reception room, out-patient department, dental room, dispensary room and X-ray room on the ground floor, operation theater, labor room, X-ray room and intensive care unit on the first floor, 24 patient rooms, 24-bed patient hall and doctor and nurses counter on the second and third floors and chamber room and offices on the fourth floor. There are five houses for doctors and staff quarter in the compound of the hospital.

It is learnt that the hospital will provide national races in border areas with health care services to be able to meet their expectations for the health by inviting medical professionals to perform advanced health care services there.

In the afternoon, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party offered provisions to Bhaddanta Paññasami of Maha Myatmuni Phayagyi Sathinkha and the presidenting Sayadaw of Nagarhnakaung monastery separately. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing offers alms to patient monk at Tachilek Dhamma Thiri Hospital.— MNA

Vice-Chairman of Etnics Affairs Committee and member of Communist Party Central Committee Mr Son Mhin Thang and party of Socialist Republic of Vietnam being welcomed at Yangon International Airport on 9 December. — MNA

92nd Anniversary National Day and opening of No. 3 BEHS centennial ceremony celebrated in Bago

**Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Dec**— 92nd Anniversary National Day and the opening ceremony for Centennial Anniversary of No. 3 Basic Education High School in Bago were held at the school on 7 December morning. At the ceremony, Thayay Sithu Thura U Aye M yint, Region Social Affairs M inister Dr K yaw Oo and an alumnus cut the ribbon to open the arch signboard of the school and Region Chief M inister U Nyan Win pressed the button to open YMBA Hall centennial inscription.

The region chief minister made a speech at YMBA Hall and viewed centennial commemorative booth. The second week of December mass walk activities for Bago Region took place at Shwemawdaw Pagoda in Bago yesterday morning with the participation of region chief minister and wife, region Hluttaw speaker, staff, locals, teachers and students. — MNA

Photo shows newly-opened Tachilek Dhamma Thiri Hospital.— MNA

*New Light of Myanmar*
Pentagon deliberates on improving military ethics

WASHINGTON, 9 Dec—The Pentagon has been considering how to improve senior officers’ ethics, in the wake of a series of scandals that rocked the US military, and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta has briefed President Barack Obama on their recommendations in this regard, Pentagon Press Secretary George Little said on Friday.

According to Little, Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, presented two initial findings that Panetta took to the White House earlier this week.

The first finding is that while there is appropriate ethics training in place for senior leaders, “we need to start earlier and reinforce that training more frequently in an officer’s career,” Little said.

“Second, General Dempsey believes we must look at the level and type of support senior leaders receive in the execution of their duties to ensure it is necessary, and to ensure we are being consistent, sensible and efficient,” Little said.

Dempsey’s intent is to direct consistency of support across the general officer/flag officer cadre and to determine whether it is appropriate, Little said.

“What we’re talking about here is the personnel infrastructure surrounding general and flag officers,” Little said. There are different types of support that general and flag officers receive. For example, generals in command have an aide-de-camp, which is one level of support. They often have additional staff to help with more routine activities.

Little said the findings are an initial set of recommendations, and part of a long-term effort by Dempsey, who has not reached conclusions on ethics training or support to senior military officers. US military has been rocked by a series of scandals lately. William Ward, former chief of US Africa Command, was demoted for misuse of government funds. David Petraeus, a retired four-star general who resigned as the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) director, was found to have an extramarital affair with his female biographer, Paula Broadwell. John Allen, head of the US forces in Afghanistan, is also being investigated for alleged “inappropriate communications” with a socialite in Tampas, the US state of Florida.— Xinhua

Ban hails outcome of UN climate conference

A Chinese worker cleans snow in Changchun, capital of northeast China’s Jilin Province, on 9 Dec, 2012. Most part of the province received a snowfall on Sunday. Xinhua

Harbin, 9 Dec—A theme park in northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province started to collect ice and snow on Sunday for the creation of ice and snow sculptures.

Harbin Ice and Snow World, located in the provincial capital of Harbin, will cover 600,000 square meters, according to the park owner Modern Group.

A total of 180,000 cubic metres of ice and 150,000 cubic meters of snow will be used for the carving of sculptures this year, the group said.

A 48-metre high “ice palace”, carved with over 20,000 cubic metres of ice, will become the landmark artwork of the park.

The theme park is scheduled to open to the public on 24 Dec.

First open to the public in 1999, the theme park has so far attracted about 600,000 tourists from home and abroad.

The theme park, along with a snow expo and an ice lantern show, will herald the opening of the 29th Harbin International Ice and Snow Festival on 5 Jan, 2013. Xinhua

Seven killed in plane collision in central Germany

Berlin, 9 Dec—Two small planes collided and crashed near Frankfurt Germany on Saturday afternoon, at least seven people died, including several children.

The accident happened in around 30 kilometres north of Frankfurt.

The two planes collided in the air and crashed at about 16:15. According to German NTV television, three or four children were among the victims.

Debris were spread over several hundred metres. One of the pilots is still missing. Cause of the accident and other details remained unclear.

Xinhua

Eight missing after boat capsizes in central China

Changsha, 9 Dec—Eight people have been confirmed missing after a boat capsized early on Sunday morning in central China’s Hunan Province, local authorities said.

Eleven people were aboard the flat-bottomed cargo boat when the accident occurred at around 3:40 am in waters near Pingshnan Village, Anhua County, according to the county’s publicity department.

Three people, including the boat’s owner, have been rescued.

Rescuers are continuing to search for the eight missing people.

Four trucks the boat was hauling also sank.

Xinhua

Ban hails outcome of UN climate conference

The United Nations, 9 Dec—UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Saturday welcomed the outcome of the UN climate conference in Doha, capital of Qatar, and called for more international efforts to limit the global temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius.

That was learned from a statement issued here by Ban’s spokesman.

“The secretary-general believes that far more needs to be done and he calls on governments, along with businesses, civil society and citizens, to accelerate action on the ground so that the global temperature rise is limited to 2 degrees Celsius,” the statement said.

The United Nations climate talks in Doha on Saturday adopted a package of drafts of the low-ambitious second period of Kyoto Protocol and weak commitments on climate finance after overnight negotiations on differences between developed and developing countries.

The closure of the two-week meeting in the Qatari capital was delayed for almost a whole day as diplomats from more than 190 countries pressed for any small progress that can be reached.

According to the conference president Abdullatif bin Hamad al-Athihi, the new agreement would apply from 2013 till 2020.

The Kyoto Protocol is the only UN plan that obliges developed nations to cut carbon emissions. Its first commitment period expires at the end of the year. It is a vital step towards a global UN deal to be agreed upon in 2015 and to enter into force in 2020.

Ban said in the statement that “he will increase his personal involvement in efforts to raise ambition, scale-up climate financing, and engage world leaders as we move now towards the global agreement in 2015.”

However, no tougher emission reduction goals were announced by the developed countries in Doha.

The European Union stuck to its target of 20 percent reduction, reiterating that a further step to 30 percent would require other developed countries’ commitment to comparable emission reductions.

Its bargaining position was weakened because it has reportedly met its targets of 20 percent eight years ahead of time and has no plans to put more ambitious cuts on the table.

More disappointing, the United States said it could only cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 17 percent by 2020 from the 2005 levels, which corresponds to a cut of 3 percent to 4 percent below the 1990 levels. Australia proposed a 0.5-percent emission cut from 1990.
Death toll from Typhoon Bopha in S Philippines nears 600

NEW BATAAN, 9 Dec—Rescuers retrieved more bodies in storm-ravaged southern Philippines with death toll from Typhoon Bopha nearing 600 on Saturday, officials said.

Philippine President Benigno Aquino declared a state of national calamity on Friday after he visited disaster areas, vowing to help with reconstruction.

The body of a man made landfall on Tuesday, bringing a state of national calamity Saturday, officials said.

The death toll from Typhoon Bopha in southern Philippines with bodies in storm-ravaged areas was reported.

Residents search for their missing relatives among debris swept by floodwaters at the height of the storm.

“We need years and several billion pesos for rehabilitation,” the governor said. Donations from local organizations as well as from other countries have begun to trickle in, officials said.

An airplane overshots runway at Shonai Airport in Japan

TOKYO, 9 Dec—An airplane overshot the runway at the Shonai Airport in Japan’s Yamagata Prefecture late Saturday and injured no one.

The flight, which belonged to All Nippon Airways Co., was from Tokyo’s Haneda Airport to the Shonai Airport.

The plane’s automatic braking system did not work after landing at the airport. The pilot put on the brake manually, but most of the plane’s body overran the runway, according to the company.

About 161 passengers and six crew members were onboard. None was injured and the plane was also not damaged, said the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

It was snowing at the time of the accident. The plane overshot by more than an hour over the airport before ground crew finished snow removal.—Xinhua

Pakistanis die in mortar shelling from Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD, 9 Dec—A Pakistani was killed and five others were injured in mortar shelling from Afghanistan on Saturday, local media reported.

Dunya TV reported that five mortars were fired from Afghanistan’s border and one landed on a house in North Waziristan tribal region, bordering Afghanistan.

It was not clear who had fired the shells as the foreign and Afghan forces routinely exchange fire with the Taliban fighters along the regions in Pak-Afghan border.

Reports said that Pakistani troops also returned fire and hit the direction from where the shells were fired into Pakistan.

It is the second incident of mortar shelling into Pakistan’s North Waziristan across the border in a week. Five mortar shells fired from Afghanistan’s Khost Province landed in Bangerd border area of Ghulam Khan in North Waziristan on last Sunday.

Cross-border shelling has heightened tension between Pakistan and Afghanistan as the two countries accuse each other of firing. Islamabad said that Pakistani Taliban, who have fled to Afghanistan in the wake of military operations, have now established bases there and launch attacks on Pakistani border posts and villages.

Kabul claimed that Pakistani forces often fire rockets into its soil, which cause casualties and displacement. Pakistan said it returned fire when its check posts were attacked by the militants in Afghanistan.

A powerful earthquake hit Japan on Saturday, injuring at least 13 people and one still missing after a magnitude 7.3 earthquake jolted off eastern coast of Japan on Friday.

Two seniors were injured in a hospital and two prefectures respectively Saturday morning, local police said. The rest 11 injuries were also reported a day after the quake, which also triggered tsunami up to one meter high along parts of Japan’s Pacific coast.

Local authorities said they are still searching for a senior, who went missing after an evacuation in a boat from Kuri port in the prefecture in response to tsunami alerts.

Japanese nuclear regulator said no abnormalities were detected at nuclear plants in the affected region, including Fukushima Daiichi and Fukushima Daini plants.

Over 20,000 people evacuated and railway services and an airport were suspended temporarily after the quake.

The Japan Meteorological Agency said the quake was probably an aftershock of the catastrophic temblor that hit the region in March 2011.

The agency also warned that there would be an aftershock up to magnitude 6 within a week.—Xinhua

Investment default highlights risks in wealth management market

SHANGHAI, 9 Dec—The investment failure of a wealth management product sold by a bank in Shanghai highlights the potential risks in China’s huge wealth management market. The case came under the spotlight when investors protested after finding that they could not take back their investments late last month when the first batch of the wealth management product matured.

Pu Tingting, an employee at Jiading branch of Huaxia Bank in Shanghai, allegedly sold the product at the bank office, promising annual returns of up to 13 percent.

Pu has been sacked for what the bank said “selling privately,” but investors said that the branch was aware of the wealth management product sales totaling 320 million yuan ($51.4 million US dollars).

Dozens of investors have been protesting in front of Huaxia Bank’s Shanghai and Jiading branches over the past few days, demanding their investment be repaid.

Some of the investors are in their 70s, who invested millions of yuan in the wealth management product sold privately by Pu.

The money raised through the underground private equity went to pawn shops and car dealers in the central province of Henan.

Ma Minghua, 51, planned to buy a wealth management product that comes with an annualized earnings ratio of 5.8 percent, but was persuaded to invest 1.1 million yuan in the illegal fund.

“After the bank’s wealth management managers) said the fund would be invested in high-speed railways and there were no risks at all,” Ma told Xinhua. Police authorities and banking regulators in Shanghai, Beijing and Henan are currently investigating whether this was an illegal fund raising case. —Xinhua
Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan to cooperate on civil defence

Briskiye, 9 Dec.—Kyrgyzstan’s President Almazbek Atambayev on Friday approved ratification of a cooperation agreement with Azerbaijan in the field of civil protection and disaster management.

The agreement, signed on 30 March, 2012 in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, was approved by Kyrgyzstan’s Parliament on 22 October.

Air Berlin seeks 15 percent cost cuts

Frankfurt, 9 Dec.—Germany’s Air Berlin (AB1.DE), partly owned by Abu Dhabi-based carrier Etihad, wants to cut costs by 15 percent, including at least 500 full time jobs. Die Welt newspaper reported on Saturday, citing a letter written by its chief executive to staff.

“The goal is to cut costs by 15 percent in the next two years,” Hartmut M ehndorff’s letter said, according to the daily. A spokesman for Air Berlin declined comment.

Air Berlin, which has not posted an operating profit daily. A spokesman for Air Berlin, which has not posted an operating profit, said the airline planned to cut costs by 15 percent in the next two years, as technical work to determine the number of soldiers to be deployed in Turkey to help the country cope with potential threats from Syria, it will take no less than a month if everything goes as planned,” Turkish diplomatic sources were quoted as saying.

NATO Patriot missiles to be deployed in Turkey

Ankara, 9 Dec.—The deployment of Patriot systems along Turkey’s border with Syria will probably take place in early 2013, as technical work to determine the number of batteries and sites continues, local Hurriyet Daily News reported on Thursday.

“It hard to give a precise date for the deployment of the Patriots. But it could take no less than a month if everything goes as planned,” Turkish diplomatic sources were quoted as saying.

French soldiers guilty in murder of Ivory Coast man

Paris, 9 Dec.—Three French soldiers were found guilty on Friday of murdering a highway gang leader in Ivory Coast in 2005 in a high-profile case that strained relations between France and its former colony. The sentences were suspended, meaning the soldiers will not face jail.

A Paris criminal court handed down the suspended sentences ranging from one to five years for the three soldiers accused of killing Firmin Maha, an Ivory Coast man wanted for murder and rape, in May 2005.

The former commander of the 4,000-strong French peacekeepers in Ivory Coast, Henri Poncet, was suspende after the affair, which hurt relations between France and Ivory Coast, the world’s top cocoa producer. The soldiers, serving alongside United Nations peacekeepers, had been pulling the buffer zone in Ivory Coast that separated the government-controlled south from the rebel-held north.

That civil war ended last year when the same French force helped arrest former President Laurent Gbagbo, who had refused to step down after the conditional 2015 date, provided Iran got enough outside help, for a potential Iranian ICBM capable of reaching the United States, which is at least 10,000 kilometers away.

An ICBM is generally defined as having a range greater than 5,500 km (3,400 miles). Such missiles from Iran could threaten targets throughout Europe and the Middle East. — Reuters

Hester faces three-year grind to finish RBS turnaround

London, 9 Dec.—For Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS.L) Chief Executive Stephen Hester, the biggest turnaround in corporate history is “still some way off.”

Hester, who has shrunk RBS by 700 billion pounds since he began repairing its balance sheet three years ago, can count on at least three years’ work to finish the job.

At the height of the 2008 financial crisis, RBS came within hours of running out of cash, and Britain had to pump in 45 billion pounds to prevent a potentially catastrophic failure of what at the time was the world’s fifth largest bank.

With British taxpayers left holding an 81 percent stake in RBS, which had a meteoric rise thanks to a string of takeovers, Hester’s challenge has been to return the once small Scottish retail bank to being a “normal” lender, with loans matched by its deposits instead of a reliance on wholesale funding.

Past mistakes still haunt RBS. The Blakey report on the bank’s near horizon are impending punishments—likely to be fines for its manipulation of the London interbank offered rate (Libor) and other key interest rates. Hester, who is used to media criticism, is braced for public opprobrium and wants to agree Libor settlements before publication of RBS’s full-year results in February. He has warned of a “miserable day” when the penalties are meted out.

Regulators are examining evidence of wrongdoing by RBS traders up until 2010, a period well into Hester’s tenure. However, unlike Barclays, which lost its chief executive, chairman and chief operating officer in the fallout from the affair, the probe into RBS is not expected to compromise senior figures, according to industry sources.

Morgan Stanley analysts believe RBS will face a worse penalty because Barclays was granted leniency for settling early.

Iran’s long-range missiles said to lag US intelligence fears

An internal report for the US Congress has concluded that Iran probably is no longer on track, if it ever was, to having an ocean-crossing missile as soon as 2015. The study casts doubt on a view long held by US intelligence agencies that Iran could be able to test-fly by 2015 an intercontinental ballistic missile, or ICBM, if it receives “sufficient foreign assistance.”

“It is increasingly uncertain whether Iran will be able to achieve an ICBM capability by 2015,” said the report by the non-partisan Congressional Research Service, which works exclusively for lawmakers.

Iran does not appear to be receiving as much help as would likely be necessary, notably from China or Russia, to reach that goal, according to the 66-page report distributed Thursday.

It is also increasingly tough for Tehran to obtain certain critical components and materials because of international sanctions related to its disputed nuclear programme.

In addition, Iran has not demonstrated the kind of flight test programme generally deemed necessary to produce an ICBM, said the study by Steven Hildreth, a specialist in missile defense who consulted seven external expert reviewers.

The study appears to be the most detailed unclassified look yet at Iran’s controversial ballistic missile and space programmes. It does not address Tehran’s nuclear capability programme, which has prompted international fears that Iran could use atomic weapons at short notice. An effective nuclear-weapons capability requires three things: enough fissile material, a reliable weapons device and an effective delivery system, such as a ballistic missile that can grow out of a space launch programme.

The US intelligence community since 1999 has stuck to the conditional 2015 date, provided Iran gets enough outside help, for a potential Iranian ICBM capable of reaching the United States, which is at least 10,000 kilometers away.

An ICBM is generally defined as having a range greater than 5,500 km (3,400 miles). Such missiles from Iran could threaten targets throughout Europe and the Middle East. — Reuters

Ivory Coast man wanted for murder of 12

Coast man wanted for murder of 12

Reuters

Hester faces three-year grind to finish RBS turnaround

London, 9 Dec.—For Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS.L) Chief Executive Stephen Hester, the biggest turnaround in corporate history is “still some way off.”

Hester, who has shrunk RBS by 700 billion pounds since he began repairing its balance sheet three years ago, can count on at least three years’ work to finish the job.

At the height of the 2008 financial crisis, RBS came within hours of running out of cash, and Britain had to pump in 45 billion pounds to prevent a potentially catastrophic failure of what at the time was the world’s fifth largest bank.

With British taxpayers left holding an 81 percent stake in RBS, which had a meteoric rise thanks to a string of takeovers, Hester’s challenge has been to return the once small Scottish retail bank to being a “normal” lender, with loans matched by its deposits instead of a reliance on wholesale funding.

Past mistakes still haunt RBS. The Blakey report on the bank’s near horizon are impending punishments—likely to be fines for its manipulation of the London interbank offered rate (Libor) and other key interest rates. Hester, who is used to media criticism, is braced for public opprobrium and wants to agree Libor settlements before publication of RBS’s full-year results in February. He has warned of a “miserable day” when the penalties are meted out.

Regulators are examining evidence of wrongdoing by RBS traders up until 2010, a period well into Hester’s tenure. However, unlike Barclays, which lost its chief executive, chairman and chief operating officer in the fallout from the affair, the probe into RBS is not expected to compromise senior figures, according to industry sources.

Morgan Stanley analysts believe RBS will face a worse penalty because Barclays was granted leniency for settling early.

Iran’s long-range missiles said to lag US intelligence fears

An internal report for the US Congress has concluded that Iran probably is no longer on track, if it ever was, to having an ocean-crossing missile as soon as 2015. The study casts doubt on a view long held by US intelligence agencies that Iran could be able to test-fly by 2015 an intercontinental ballistic missile, or ICBM, if it receives “sufficient foreign assistance.”

“It is increasingly uncertain whether Iran will be able to achieve an ICBM capability by 2015,” said the report by the non-partisan Congressional Research Service, which works exclusively for lawmakers.

Iran does not appear to be receiving as much help as would likely be necessary, notably from China or Russia, to reach that goal, according to the 66-page report distributed Thursday.

It is also increasingly tough for Tehran to obtain certain critical components and materials because of international sanctions related to its disputed nuclear programme.

In addition, Iran has not demonstrated the kind of flight test programme generally deemed necessary to produce an ICBM, said the study by Steven Hildreth, a specialist in missile defense who consulted seven external expert reviewers.

The study appears to be the most detailed unclassified look yet at Iran’s controversial ballistic missile and space programmes. It does not address Tehran’s nuclear capability programme, which has prompted international fears that Iran could use atomic weapons at short notice. An effective nuclear-weapons capability requires three things: enough fissile material, a reliable weapons device and an effective delivery system, such as a ballistic missile that can grow out of a space launch programme.

The US intelligence community since 1999 has stuck to the conditional 2015 date, provided Iran gets enough outside help, for a potential Iranian ICBM capable of reaching the United States, which is at least 10,000 kilometers away.

An ICBM is generally defined as having a range greater than 5,500 km (3,400 miles). Such missiles from Iran could threaten targets throughout Europe and the Middle East. — Reuters

Ivory Coast man wanted for murder of 12

Coast man wanted for murder of 12

Reuters

Ivory Coast man wanted for murder of 12

Coast man wanted for murder of 12

 Reuters

Ivory Coast man wanted for murder of 12

Coast man wanted for murder of 12

 Reuters
Aamir Khan: It’s my dream to make Mahabharata and play Krishna on screen

The 47-year-old actor has even thought that he will play the character of Lord Krishna in it. “I want to make the Mahabharata. It’s my dream and a nightmare too. It will take 20 years of my life to work on such a subject. I am apprehensive about it because people complain that I take three years to make a film,” he said on the sidelines of Afgenda Aaj Tak’s session ‘Dil Chahta Hai’.

“I actually wanted to play K arna because he is my favourite. But I feel, I don’t fit into the character because he was a six feet five inches warrior. So, I think I will be best suited for Krishna’s character. My mom used to call me Krishna when I was a kid and like him, I was also surrounded by girls.” The ‘Talaash’ star has always built a sense of responsibility in the society and his initiative to join anti-corruption crusader Anna Hazare on highlighting social issues through his TV debut ‘Satyamev Jayate’.

“Being an entertainer or a creative person, it’s my social responsibility to build the social fabric and a grace in the society. I am not a political person because I have no interest in politics. I strongly feel that I should contribute for a social change through my craft,” he said.

Recently, a man who spoke about honour killing in one of the episodes of ‘Satyamev Jayate’ was allegedly shot dead by his family members. The actor expressed his grief for this act but said he will not scrap the idea of going ahead with the second season of his show.

“My good wishes will always be with him and wife. But with this, I don’t lose my hope to do something for my society. I will definitely bring the second season of the show.” — PTI

Flu forces La Scala to change opening gala cast

MILAN, 9 Dec—Opera house La Scala was forced to change its cast for Richard Wagner’s “Lohengrin” hours before the opening gala on Friday after German soprano Anja Harteros and her understudy both fell ill with flu.

The theatre said Annette Dasch will sing the lead role at the Bayreuth opera on Monday, known for his penchant for doing things in a unique way, says he wants to adapt of the epic M ahabharata on screen but is scared it may consume 20 years of his life as the subject needs perfect detailing. The 47-year-old actor has even thought that he will play the character of Lord Krishna in it.

“I want to make the Mahabharata. It’s my dream and a nightmare too. It will take 20 years of my life to work on such a subject. I am apprehensive about it because people complain that I take three years to make a film,” he said on the sidelines of Afgenda Aaj Tak’s session ‘Dil Chahta Hai’.

“I actually wanted to play K arna because he is my favourite. But I feel, I don’t fit into the character because he was a six feet five inches warrior. So, I think I will be best suited for Krishna’s character. My mom used to call me Krishna when I was a kid and like him, I was also surrounded by girls.” The ‘Talaash’ star has always built a sense of responsibility in the society and his initiative to join anti-corruption crusader Anna Hazare on highlighting social issues through his TV debut ‘Satyamev Jayate’.

“Being an entertainer or a creative person, it’s my social responsibility to build the social fabric and a grace in the society. I am not a political person because I have no interest in politics. I strongly feel that I should contribute for a social change through my craft,” he said.

Recently, a man who spoke about honour killing in one of the episodes of ‘Satyamev Jayate’ was allegedly shot dead by his family members. The actor expressed his grief for this act but said he will not scrap the idea of going ahead with the second season of his show.

“My good wishes will always be with him and wife. But with this, I don’t lose my hope to do something for my society. I will definitely bring the second season of the show.” — PTI

Poignant films screened on second day ofIFFK

THRIUVA NANTHAPURAM, 9 Dec—Four films dealing with complex and poignant themes, were screened in the competition section of the 17th International Film Festival here Yester day.

The section, featuring Asian, African and Latin American films, showed ‘Sta Nina’, a 105-minute long Filipino film directed by Emmanuel Quindo Palo.

The film revolves around the body dig of two-year-old M arikit, that was dug out years after her death caused by a volcanic overflow, by her father Pol and his co-workers in a quarry.

The fact that the body did not show any signs of decay was considered as a miracle by people and they trooped into Pol’s home to be cured by M arikit.

As people gets healed by the dead child, Pol insists that the child is worthy of being called a saint and begins his crusade to have her beatified.

Exhuming the body dig up unresolved problems in the lives of the living and the film leaves the audience wondering if there was healing a cleansing of sins and a chance to move on ‘Nos Vemos Papai’ (See you, Dad), an 89 minute long Spanish film directed by Luca Carreras is an intimate contemporary story that talks about love, loss and solitude.

Time stops for Pilar, the heroine of the film, the moment she loses the thing which mattered most to her in life. She withdraws into a world of her own and the film takes us through the bitter sweetness of life and the way we deal with it. — PTI

Amitabh honoured at Florence Film festival

MUMBAI, 9 Dec—Megastar Amitabh Bachchan has been honoured at the ongoing River To River 2012 Indian Film Festival in Florence, where he was presented with the keys of the City of Firenze.

The 70-year-old Indian actor said he was overwhelmed with the beauty of the capital city of the Italian region of Tuscany as well as the honour bestowed on him. — PTI
Arsenal midfielder Cazorla’s tumble sparks diving debate

LONDON, 9 Dec—Santi Cazorla became the latest player to be foiled in a diving row when the Spaniard’s tumble earned Arsenal the first of their two penalties in a 2-0 Premier League win over West Bromwich Albion on Saturday.

The Arsenal midfielder, who scored the other penalty, was unable to stop Cazorla after 25 minutes but a theatrical fall to the turf persuaded referee Mike Jones that he had been fouled.

Mikel Arteta converted the spot kick and another much more blatant penalty, also converted by Cazorla’s fellow Spaniard, helped Arsenal arrest their slide down the table.

Cazorla’s contribution drew criticism, however, with former Arsenal defender Martin Keown suggesting the referee had been hoodwinked into pointing to the penalty spot.

“When you see the Arsenal penalty decision from the side, there is no way it is a penalty. But, when you see it from the angle the referee saw it, you can see why the referee gave it against West Brom,” Keown told the BBC. “Cazorla did make the most of Reid’s challenge, it is not good to see. He has conned the referee and has gotten away with it.”

A Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said he would ‘speak’ to Cazorla about the incident once he had watched replays of the penalty decision.

“I haven’t reviewed it. I am sorry if it was not a penalty but I have spoken to Santi and he said he has been touched and lost his balance,” Wenger told the BBC.

“I may be made more of it, I don’t know. It’s a difficult decision, it can go against you, it went for us today. That’s what it is.”

“W What I mean is, when he (a player) is touched, he goes down, the referee can give or give not the penalty. Of course I will speak to Santi if he has not been touched. I will check it at don’t worry.”

Liverpool’s Luis Suarez, Chelsea’s Fernando Torres and Tottenham’s Hotspur winger Gareth Bale have all come under fire for apparent simulation this season.—Reuters

Manziel first freshman to win Heisman Trophy

NEW YORK, 9 Dec—Johnny Manziel was awarded the Heisman Trophy on Saturday, making him the first ‘freshman’ to win college football’s top honour.

Manziel, who is not eligible for the NFL draft for at least another year, also broke the 1969 record held by Archie Manning, father of Peyton and Eli Manning, for total offense in a game with 557 yards against Louisiana Tech.

Manziel was awarded the Heisman Trophy on Saturday, making him the first ‘freshman’ to win college football’s top honour. —Reuters

Home win for Pinturault in Val d’Isere

VAL D’ISERE, (France) 9 Dec—Frenchman Alexis Pinturault began to fulfill his potential when the exciting young alpine skiing all-rounder won a men’s World Cup Slalom in Val d’Isere on Saturday.

The 21-year-old had claimed his first World Cup win in a city event in Moscow last winter but it could not compare with beating the world’s best at home on the Face de Beliveau slope used for the 1992 Olympics.

In a combined time of one minute and 36.55 seconds, Pinturault left Germany’s Felix Neureuther 0.50 seconds adrift with Austria’s overall World Cup champion Marcel Hirscher third, a further 0.07 behind.

Pinturault is one of the most promising talents produced by French skiing in recent years, having earned podium places in four alpine disciplines since his World Cup start two seasons ago.

He made it clear that to get there but I’m taking my time, and going each step at a time,” he said.

His show of strength was all the more impressive as the Frenchman injured his ankle playing tennis in the summer and could not train for three months.

“This does not have the same flavour as Moscow. The conditions were difficult for me because of my ankle. I was short on training and I managed to win at home in France.

It’s a special one, obviously,” said Pinturault.

The conditions were also special as the second leg was floodlit, organised having been forced to postpone the race because of heavy snowfall’s overnight. Hirscher collected his

Arsenalex Pinturault of France sprays champagne after winning the men’s World Cup Slalom skiing race in Val d’Isere, French Alps, on 8 Dec. 2012.— Reuters

Watson eyes 2014 Ryder Cup captaincy

Texas A&M quarterback Johnny Manziel looks on during a news conference after winning the Heisman Trophy award in New York on 8 Dec, 2012. Manziel was awarded the Heisman Trophy on Saturday, making him the first ‘freshman’ to win college football’s top honour. —Reuters

Bulls halt Knicks’ hot run

CHICAGO, 9 Dec—The Chicago Bulls have halted the New York Knicks’ five-game winning streak with a 93-85 home win on Saturday, continuing their home dominance at the United Center.

The Bulls have now won 19 of the last 22 home encounters against the Knicks, who were still without Carmelo Anthony.

Chicago were led by Luol Deng and Marco Belinelli who scored 22 points apiece, improving to 11-8 and strengthening their lead in the Eastern Conference Central Division. Raymond Felton notched up a game-high 27 points for the Knicks but couldn’t drive his side to victory like he did against the Miami Heat on Thursday.

New York dropped to 14-5 but remain top of the Eastern Conference.

Chicago Bulls’ Nate Robinson (R) loses the ball as he goes to the basket against New York Knicks’ J. R. Smith during the second half of their NBA game in Chicago, on 8 Dec, 2012.— Reuters

Sydney, 9 Dec—Tom Watson is hoping to get the call to return as captain of the United States team for the 2014 Ryder Cup at Gleneagles in Scotland, the eight-times major champion said on Sunday.

Watson, who won four of his five British Open titles in Scotland, played four times in the biennial team tournament and captained the 1993 US team to victory at the Belfry—the last time the Americans won in Europe.

“It would be cool to be Ryder Cup captain again,” the 63-year-old told reporters after his final round at the Australian Open.

“I hope so, I hope so. It would be a great honour if I got tapped on the shoulder. I know that ’93 was the last time I’ve been to a Ryder Cup. I’d like to go back as captain. That would be cool.”

The United States has not had a repeat captain since Jack Nicklaus got the nod for a second time in 1987.

Europe will go into the 2014 version of the event as holders having staged a remarkable final-day comeback to beat Davis Love III’s US team 14 1/2 points to 13 1/2 at M edinah earlier this year.

“Hirscher collected his...
Ibrahimovic strikes again as emphatic PSG rout Evian

**Focus Myanmar TV Programme**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL</th>
<th>(10-12-12 09:30 am – 11-12-12 09:30 am) M ST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• News</td>
<td>• Tazaungdaing Robes Weaving Competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• World AIDS Day, Getting to Zero</td>
<td>• News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• News</td>
<td>• The Hills of Phowin Taung and Shwebaung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Evergreen Classical Music (Part-14)</td>
<td>• News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• News</td>
<td>• G.I.Z Workshop on Capacity Strengthening for Trade Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• News</td>
<td>• Planetary Posts! What do they serve?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• News</td>
<td>• Myanmar Movie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Chin Traditional “Shield” Dance</td>
<td>• Love Triangle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Two-goal Torres inspires Chelsea, record for QPR**

**London, 9 Dec**—Fernando Torres continued to silence his critics by scoring twice for the second game running as third-placed Chelsea won 3-1 at Sunderland on Saturday to record their first Premier League victory under Rafael Benitez. The much-maligned Spanish forward struck two goals in the first half, his second from the penalty spot, and almost completed a hat-trick shortly after halftime when his ferocious shot rebounded off the woodwork for compatriot Juan Mata to tap home.

The double by Torres, his first goals in the Premier League for two months, came on the back of his double blast in Wednesdays 6-1 rout of Danish team Nordsjaelland in the Champions League.

“Torres was always around but we needed to create more chances for him because he will always score goals,” Benitez told Sky Sports.

The former Liverpool manager, who took charge at Chelsea on an interim basis when Roberto Di Matteo was sacked last month, now takes the European champions to Japan where they will meet Mexicans Monterrey or US-based Houston of South Korea in Thursday’s World Club Cup semi-finals. Bottom club Queens Park Rangers set an unwanted Premier League record when a draw at Wigan Athletic meant they had failed to win any of their 16 matches this season.

**Anand shocked by Adams in London Chess Classic**


After a fine victory in the previous round against Gawain Jones of England, the Indian ace survived some anxious moments in the middle game before equalising completely and just when the experts had given up declaring the game the gap is now only growing between him and Carlsen. Michael Adams jumped to third spot again following his lucky victory and Nakamura dropped to fourth spot with eight points in all.

Anand, on six points, is now fifth, a point ahead of Luke McShane, who scored his first win in the tournament by defeating compatriot Gawain Jones. Just three rounds remain in UK’s highest category event. A dams neutralized Anand’s opening preparation without much ado and got a ‘sure-draw’, Anand lost track, and lost in no time.

Magnus Carlsen of Norway stretched his lead to three points by defeating highest ranked woman Judit Polgar of Hungary. Under the soccer-like scoring system, Carlsen took his tally to a whopping 16 points out of a possible eighteen, and the world number one is sitting pretty with just two games to go for him.

The victory over Polgar also took Carlsen to another peak in levelling where the chart now reads him at 2864 points. Russian Vladimir Kramnik remained on the second spot following a draw with Leon Aronian of Armenia. Kramnik inclined himself up to 12 points and the pair of bishops to start pressing for more. A nad was precise in defense once under pressure and posting a Knight in the middle of the board, the world champion got counter play.

However, disaster struck soon after the first time control. A nad bungled big time to find his king caught in a checkmate web in merely a couple of moves. A dams thought for quite some time but eventually played the killer sequence. Judit Polgar’s “shedgehog” setup allowed him to get decent chances as black against Carlsen but the Norwegian is not the one to give up and kept looking for complexities.
12th Waning of Tazaungmon 1374 ME Monday, 10 December, 2012

**Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Dec**—

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint attended upgrading ceremony of basic education high school and middle school in Pyawbwe Township in Yamethin District of Mandalay Region.

He was accompanied by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, Deputy Education Minister U Aye Kyu, Pyawbwe Township Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Myint Soe, Region Hluttaw Representative U Tin Oo, Mandalay Region ministers and officials.

The Speaker unveiled the signboard of the high school of Yan Aung Village and delivered an address at the upgrading ceremony of the middle school. The headmistress reported on conditions of the school. Wellwishers donated cash and furnishings through officials.

Then, the Union Minister and party also inspected construction of arch at Gold Camp, undertakings of pavements at the entrance roads, construction of Cluster, hostels for foreign coaches and installation of washing machines.

**Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Dec**

Chairman of Myanmar National Olympic Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan views progress in construction of sports grounds and gymnasiaums in Zabuthiri Township.— MNA

The Ministry of Sports and Tourism and the Mandalay Region Administration have completed the construction of hockey grounds in Zabuthiri Township for the 27th Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games).

The completion ceremony was held at the sewage treatment plant at Zabuthiri Township and the site of the hockey ground.

The groundbreaking ceremony was held in July last year and a total of 24 acres of land was allocated for the construction of the hockey ground. The entire construction work is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

**Chairman of Myanmar National Olympic Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan views progress in construction of sports grounds and gymnasiaums in Zabuthiri Township.— MNA**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Dec**

Kyaikhtiyoe Shuttle Bus Line Service shuttles 39600 pilgrims free

_The New Light of Myanmar_

**Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Dec**—

Kyaikhtiyoe Shuttle Bus Line Service shuttling between the Rathedaung Mountain and Kinpun bus terminal provided free ferry service on 5 December to mark the 8th annual founding day of the bus line.

The bus line shuttled a total of 39,600 pilgrims back and forth from the foot of the mountain range to the Rathedaung Mountain near Kyaikhtiyoe Pagoda on that day.

Donors, owners of the trucks of the shuttle service and owners of shops and restaurants at the pagoda also donated charity food to the pilgrims at the cost of around K 4 million.

During the 8-year period, the shuttle bus line constructed a one-storey reinforced concrete building for Kawchan Basic Education Primary School and two-storey building for Kawsanmaing Basic Education Primary School, repaired roads, donated medicines and medical equipment to Kyaikto People’s Hospital and built recreation rooms for pilgrims at K inpun Bus Terminal in Kyaikto.

**Kyaikhtiyoe Shuttle Bus Line Service shuttles 39600 pilgrims free**

_MNA_