Yangon, 10 Dec—The Union level Peace-making Work Committee and the Chin National Front held peace negotiation for the second time at Myanmar Peace Center from 7 to 9 December in the presence of international observers. The negotiations concluded with 27 out of 31 proposals of the Chin National Front agreed and, four recorded for further talks.

The discussion mainly focused on ceasefire, political dialogue and holding of a conference to be attended by all national races people as directed by the President.

The Union level Peace-making Work Committee and the Chin National Front reaffirmed promotion of democracy, equality and points that can guarantee self-determination as basic principles apart from non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty while building the genuine Union as the ultimate goal.

Among the 27 points finally signed on 9 December are agreements on Chinese affairs for designation of Chin National Day and Chin State Day.

In addition, the agreement also covers national integration, human rights and environmental conservation, military affairs, development of Chin State, and cooperation of the Union government, the State government and the Chin National Front in social and cultural affairs.

At the press conference, General-Secretary of the Chin National Front Pu Zing Cung said that Kachin issue was also talked in discussion on nationwide ceasefire and the Union government attached great importance to ceasefire and peace in Kachin State.

Political party members, academicians and international observers also attended the second-round talks between the Union level Peace-making Work Committee and the Chin National Front. The signing of agreement and press conference ended at 1 pm yesterday.—MNA

Utility Jade, Gems and Pearl Sales continues

Nay Pyi Taw, 10 Dec—The second day of Utility Jade, Gems and Pearl Sales continued at Mani Yadana Jade Hall, here, today and the sales was crowded with observers.

Local and foreign gems merchants examined utility jades which will be sold in Myanmar currency and gems and pearl lots which will be sold in foreign currency, and put proposals into the tender boxes.

For the convenience of local and foreign merchants in the competitive biddings, Secretary of organizing committee Managing Director of Myanmar Gems Enterprise U Thein Swe and party supervised the sales. Myanma Posts and Telecommunications installed auto-exchanges phones and top-up cards sale counter at the sales.

Up to date, a total of 2731 local merchants and 40 foreign merchants took part in the sales.

The Utility Jade, Gems and Pearl Sales will continue tomorrow.

MNA

Bay Inference

Bay Inference

Weather is partly cloudy in the South Bay and generally fair in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
Shwedagon Pagoda sees more tourist arrivals

YANGON, 10 Dec—
According to the records, the number of globetrotters thronging to Shwedagon Pagoda has increased day by day.

From 1 to 28 November, arrival of tourists to Shwedagon Pagoda reached 45,029, earning the board of trustees US$ 214,568 and FEC 10577 as admission fee and US$ 66195 and FEC 73 as donation.

Thai visitors stood first with the number of 7488 followed by Chinese and Koreans with the number of 2726 and 2247 respectively. Kyemon

First ILDEX-M yangon 2012 brings together people from livestock and fishery industry

YANGON, 10 Dec—
Jointly-organized by ILDEX Company of Vietnam and Myanmar Fisheries Federation, ILDEX-M yangon 2012 took place at MFF Building in Insein Township, here, on 8-9 December. The primary objective of this international expo is to bring new technologies related to livestock and fishery industry for market expansion and allow Myanmar people the right to choose quality products.

A total of 40 foreign booths were on display, showcasing equipment related to livestock and fishery field, feedstock and medicines and machines.

Dan Bred Company took part in the expo to distribute a quality breed of sows for livestock breeders in Myanmar. A responsible person of Thailand branch of Denmark-based DanBred Company said that they would mainly import sows which are in the range of 30 kg to 50 kg in weight.

Thailand branch of Holland-based M O B A Company introduced its products to be used in packaging service for coffee shops, bakeries and egg distributors. A responsible person of the company said they would distribute packaging machines with the capacity of 100,000 eggs per hour and grinding machines.

A responsible person of US-based All Tech Company said that they would distribute medicines extracted from organic compounds to be used in livestock breeding.

Apart from display of products related to livestock field, six foreign experts gave talks at the expo make local breeders aware of the improvements which are taking place in the livestock and fishery sector.

U Aung Moe of Shwe Sabei livestock breeding farm said that the educative talks was beneficial to people from the livestock and fishery industry.

Kyemon

Massive influx of tomatoes brings down prices to the delight of shoppers

YEZAYO, 10 Dec—
A mass of tomatoes is available at Myoma Market and morning bazaars in Yezayyo Township of Pakokku District.

A through the price of a viss of tomatoes had reached K 700 last months, the price went down to K 300 or 350 in the early of this month. Since 6 December, there was a massive influx of locally-produced tomatoes, and the price of tomatoes has fallen sharply in the market, reaching K 150 per viss.

Thanks to a bumper harvest of tomatoes in Magyiboke and Magyigwa, 15-mile far from Yezayyo, tomato growers sent their produce to the market at the same time.

The massive influx of tomatoes in the market led to shoppers enjoying cheap price. — Kyemon

Conveyance of Buddha Tooth Relic in Hsipaw on 12 December

HSIPAW, 10 Dec —
A conveyance ceremony of Buddha Tooth Relic for public obeisance will be held in Hsipaw from 12 to 28 December. Buddha Tooth Relic conveyed from Sri Lanka by Chieftan Sao Kya’r’haing more than 120 years ago is being kept at Aung Mingala Bodaw M onastery in Hsipaw of Shan State (North).

The Buddha Tooth Relic will be conveyed from the monastery in Hsipaw to the Dhammayon of Kyaukme market on 12 December and made an overnight stop there. Then the Tooth Relic will be taken place in the livestock and fishery sector.

U Aung Moe of Shwe Sabei livestock breeding farm said that the educative talks was beneficial to people from the livestock and fishery industry.

Kyemon

Motorcyclist killed in head-on collision

MAHLING, 10 Dec —
A motorbike collided head-on with a light truck at about 10 am on 4 December in Mahaling of Mandalay region, leaving the motorcyclist dead.

The road accident occurred at a place near the home for the aged between mile post Nos (20) and (21) on Mahaling-M elikta road while a light truck driven by Tint Hsan (47 years) of Wunzin-3 in Meiktila was in collision with a motorbike driven by Nyo Win (46 years) of a village in Mandalay Township.

The head-on collision left Nyo Win with serious injuries. He died when he was transported to Meiktila hospital.

Kyemon
Ghana’s Mahama wins election, opposition cries foul

Accra, 10 Dec—Ghana’s electoral authorities said on Sunday incumbent president John Dramani Mahama won a new term as president in the West African state in an election the opposition claimed was marred by tampering.

Mahama, who replaced former president John Atta Mills after his death in July, took 50.7 percent of the ballots cast—just enough to avoid a run-off with his chief rival Nana Akufo-Addo.

“Based on the results, I declare President John Dramani Mahama president elect,” Ghana Electoral Commission President Kwadwo A fari-Gyan told a news conference in the capital Accra.

In a brief speech at his residence following the results, an exhausted- looking Mahama said his win was a “victory for all Ghanaians”, and urged the leaders of rival parties to “respect the voice of the people”.

Supporters of Mahama drove through the streets of the sprawling seaside capital playing loud music, shouting, and honking their horns after the results.

The election is seen as a test of whether Ghana can maintain more than 30 years of stability and progress in a region better known for coups, civil wars and corruption.

A cliff-hanger election in 2008, in which Akufo-Addo lost by less than 1 percent, pushed the country to the brink of chaos, with disputes over results driving hundreds of people into the streets with clubs and machetes. This year’s election was fraught with delays after hundreds of newly-introduced electronic voting machines broke down.

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Parliamentary elections, as some 57.5 percent of the over 18 million voters supposed to cast their ballots for the ruling coalition, according to the exit polls results released soon after voting.

The Social Liberal Union took 54.56 percent of votes for the Chamber of Deputies and 55.58 percent of votes for Senate.

The ruling coalition is followed far away by the presidential Right Romania Alliance with 18.12-19 percent for the Chamber of Deputies and 18.87-19.6 percent for the Senate.

The populist People’s Party created by media mogul Dan Diaconescu got 10-13.8 percent and 10-14.1 percent for the two houses of the parliament respectively.

Romania’s ruling coalition poised for overwhelming victory in parliamentary elections

Bucharest, 10 Dec—The ruling Social Liberal Union is poised to have won an overwhelming victory in Romania’s quadrennial parliamentary elections, as some 57.5 percent of the over 18 million voters supposed to cast their ballots for the ruling coalition, according to the exit polls results released soon after voting.

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Russia prepared to normalize ties with Georgia on conditions

Moscow, 10 Dec—Russia is prepared to take “sensible steps” toward normalizing relations with Georgia, but on conditions, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Sunday.

“We told that Georgia wishes to normalize relations with Russia, we are prepared for sensible steps, meeting the interests of citizens, but we wish to understand first in what context.” Lavrov said.

Meanwhile, Russia was ready to consider resuming regular air traffic between the two countries.

Georgian cut off diplomatic relations with Russia after a brief armed conflict between them in August 2008 over the control of the Georgian breakaway region of South Ossetia.

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said earlier that Moscow would resume contacts with Tbilisi only if Georgia recognized the independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, another breakaway region.

Despite lack of diplomatic contacts, humanitarian and cultural exchanges went on between the two countries, said M. Medvedev.

Serbian Army called in to help with snow storm

Belgrade, 10 Dec—The Serbian Army was ordered into action on Sunday, clearing roads and rescuing stranded travellers in northern and central regions of the country that have been paralysed by drifting snow, reported Radio Television Serbia (RTS).

The Arctic temperatures and continuous snowfall for 30 hours that have gripped the entire region have lead to state of emergencies and school closures in municipalities north of the capital Belgrade.

The government would take the “necessary measures to help citizens,” many of whom have been abandoned on snowbound roadways, Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dacic said. A estimated 45 cm of snow, with drifts up to two metres, have been recorded. The Serbian Army used heavy equipment to extract a bus that had been snowbound for 20 hours; an estimated 665 people have been rescued thus far throughout the country.

A expectant mother on the way to hospital gave birth to a baby girl in a stranded truck on the road near the town of Zrenjanin. Local media have reported both are in good condition and the baby will be named “Snow White”.

Meanwhile, a number of mountainous and remote villages south of Belgrade have been cut off due to the heavy snowfall and impassable roads. The main highway toward the Hungarian border was blocked for 17 hours, snarling freight and passenger traffic.

Soldiers attend a disaster drill held by Indonesia’s Disaster Management and Mitigation Agency in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 9 Dec, 2012.—Xinhua
Lenovo Group’s parent plans China IPO as early as 2014

SHANGHAI, 10 Dec—Legend Holdings, the parent company of personal computer maker Lenovo Group, plans to list in China’s A-share market sometime between 2014 and 2016, China Business News quoted the firm’s chairman as saying.

PC maker reported last month a 12.6 percent rise in quarterly net profit, its slowest profit growth in more than a year, as its revenue manstacy, PC, cede ground to tablets. ($1 = 6.2301 Chinese yuan)

Russia, China alliance wants greater government voice in Internet oversight

DUBAI, 10 Dec—A Russia-led proposal calling for sweeping new governmental powers to regulate cyberspace could galvanize countries to block websites or shut control of Internet addresses from US-based bodies.

The proposal, co-signed by Russia, China, Saudia Arabia, Algeria, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates, seeks to formalize the global expanded from US research.

Russia and its supporters, which include many African and Arab states, seek to expand the remit of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to govern many aspects of the Internet. The United States, Europe and other allies including Australia and Japan insist the treaty should continue

British TV astronomer Patrick Moore dies

LONDON, 10 Dec—British astronomer Patrick M. Moore, who helped map the moon and inspired generations of star gazers with decades of television broadcasts, died on Sunday aged 89.

M ore presented BBC television’s landmark “The Sky at Night,” a programme for more than 50 years, making him the longest-running presenter of a single show in broadcasting history. And old-fashioned appearance and rapid-fire delivery endeared him to television viewers and captured the imagination of futurologists who would be the presenter and prolific author.

“Patrick would just sit in front of the camera, in a chair, and tell you about a constellation, about the stars, their names, their history,” British astronomer David Whitehouse told Sky News. “It was captivating communication and an expert sharing his enthusiasm that I have now over experienced.”

A space enthusiast from early childhood, Moore’s television career coincided with the start of the space race between Russia and the United States.

“He was broadcasting before we actually went into space and he saw a change in our understanding of the universe,” British space scientist Maggie Aderin-Pocock told the BBC.

Moore, rarely seen without his trademark monocle, was also an enthusiastic musician and xylophone player and once accompanied aviolin-playing Albert Einstein on the piano.

He never studied for a degree, building up his expertise through his own single-minded enthusiasm, constructing an observatory in the garden of his southern England home. His television shows marked many astronomical landmarks, and he was broadcasting live when the first picture of the far side of the moon were returned by a Russian satellite.

Television schedules were not always sympathetic to the significance of developments in space.

British astronomer Sir Patrick Moore attends a news conference as it is announced that the Beagle 2 lander craft has separated from the mother ship Mars Express on its way towards Mars, in London, on 19 Dec, 2003. Reuters

In giant “garage sale”, Japan’s TV giants hawk 3 billion of assets

TOKYO, 10 Dec—Panasonic Corp, Japan’s struggling maker of Viera brand TVs, owns more than 10 million square metres of office and factory space.

As it battles for innovation in household appliances, Panasonic would raise about $1.3 billion from the sale of assets it has long been using to pay off debts and maintain its crucial operating margin. Those sales could start as soon as April.

Panasonic’s fixed assets of $2 billion are around 30 percent more than those of Apple Inc, and are almost double the Sony Corp’s market value. The company, founded almost a century ago as a small television maker, trades at about half its book value— which includes intangible assets such as patents. Sony trades at 39 percent of book, Sharp at 30 percent.

The fixed assets—buildings, land and machinery— of the three companies that were not so long ago a byword for innovation in household gadgetry total around $4 billion, while their combined market value is $22 billion.

A man looks at Panasonic TV sets at an electronic shop in Tokyo on 22 Nov, 2012. —Reuters

Japanese marketing firms reported last month they were committed to sell or sell businesses operating at below 5 percent margin. Those sales could begin as soon as April.

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China exports rise much weaker than expected

The data represented the weakest performance for exports and imports since August.

"The export slowdown shows external demand faces uncertainty due to concerns and Tokyo’s Nikkei share average. N225 both gained 0.3 percent. T"

"The MSCI index rose more than 1 percent last week, its third successive weekly gain, taking it to levels not seen since early August 2011, and there was a further boost for regional markets on Sunday when China reported a pick-up in factory output and retail sales growth to eight-month highs. "We had some really good economic data coming out from China," said Juliana Roadey, market analyst at Commonwealth Securities. "Over the last few years, you had the Chinese government pulling back on growth and trying to control things so that it didn’t over-boil. Now it looks like all that good work has been done.""

"Hopes that China’s economy is reviving up again after seven straight quarters of slowing growth also boosted riskier assets such as oil and copper. An Asian “risk” markets took in their stride China trade data on Monday that showed both imports and exports below forecasts. "The export slowdown shows external demand faces uncertainty due to concerns over the fiscal cliff in the US," Zhang Zhiewei, chief economist at Nomura in Hong Kong, said. "Nonetheless it does not change our view that growth is on track for a strong recovery in Q4, as (growth) is mostly domestically driven.""

"On Wall Street, the Dow Jones and S&P 500 have risen modestly on Friday after an unexpected fall in the US unemployment rate. S&P 500 futures were up 0.1 percent on Monday, offering some relief."

"It is crucial that we continue to push the boundaries and this new plan will mean we are the first country in the world to use DNA codes in the mainstream of the health service.” The government said building a database of DNA profiles will give doctors more advanced understanding of a patient’s genetic make-up, their illness and their treatment needs. This should help those who are sick get access to the right drugs and more personalised care more quickly. The database should also help scientists develop new drugs and other treatments which experts predict could significantly reduce the number of premature deaths from cancer within a generation”, Cameron’s office said in a statement.

"By unlocking the power of DNA data, the NHS will lead the global race for better tests, better drugs and above all better care,” Cameron said.

“If we get this right, we could transform how we diagnose and treat our most complex diseases not only here but across the world, while enabling our best scientists to discover the next wonder drug or breakthrough technology.”

Britain launches genome database for patients’ DNA

Fears for emerging markets as euro zone woes depress lending: BIS

Reuters

Britain’s Prime Minister David Cameron speaks at The Electric City Conference in London on 6 Dec, 2012.

Reuters

"The euro zone crisis triggered a $70 billion collapse in cross-border lending to emerging market economies in just six months, as international banks battened down the hatches and dealt with crises on their home turf."

"The massive fall is revealed in a new study from the Bank of International Settlements (BIS), which sought to explain a $1 billion contraction in international lending to 40 emerging markets in the second half of 2011."

"Our findings confirm policy concerns that international banks might transmit financial shocks from advanced to emerging economies,” the reports authors said, noting that some emerging economies were exposed to country-specific shocks because their financial systems were so dependent on one foreign country.

The report found more than 70pc of the late 2011 fall stemmed from euro area banks paring back their international activity because of “home country factors” — preference to the steps taken by banks to repair their balance sheets in the face of massive losses and higher regulatory capital demands.

Greece mulls repeating debt buyback invitation

Greece’s Prime Minister Antonis Samaras said: “The procedure went very well.” "I believe that by Monday or Tuesday, I will be able to say with great certainty that things went very well,” he said on a visit to Munich, Germany.

The buyback accounts for about half of a 40-billion euro EU/IMF debt relief package for Athens agreed in November. Its success would help Greece’s debt fall to 124 percent of GDP by 2020, ensuring that the IMF stays on board in the rescue.


Reuters

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Reuters
China to protect 1,000 minority villages
BEIJING, 10 Dec—One thousand minority villages will be protected and improved during 2011 to 2015, the State Ethnic Affairs Commission (SEAC) announced on Monday.

According to a SEAC guideline, the minority villages should have at least 50 households with more than 30 percent of residents from an ethnic minority background.

The guideline said that living conditions in the villages should be improved and the basic infrastructure should be ensured, including water, electricity, roads and telecommunication.

China will also help villages to increase personal income and further construct the public service system. More than 95 percent of school age children should be in schools, and over 60 percent of the labor force should receive skills training, the guideline said.

It noted to preserve ethnic culture and protect minority characteristics, as well as further develop national harmonious relationships. —Xinhua

Al-Qaeda bombs Yemen’s LNG export pipeline
SANAA, 10 Dec—Al-Qaeda militants on Sunday blew up a pipeline that transfers Yemen’s liquified natural gas (LNG) to the Gulf of Aden export terminal, an interior ministry official told Xinhua. The explosion took place in Asilan area of the southeast province of Shabwa, neighboring to the oil-rich province of Marib, where the country’s main crude oil export pipeline was attacked by unidentified gunmen on Friday for the fifth time in less than a month.

“Al-Qaeda fighters exploded a section of the LNG export pipeline in Asilan this morning,” the official told Xinhua Sunday on condition of anonymity. Local media confirmed the attack on the gas line in Asilan area.

The French-led LNG company resumed exporting gas last month after the pipeline was repaired following the previous attack on 30 Oct. Meanwhile, the Yemeni army in Marib launched a fierce offensive on Sunday against suspected hideouts of militants of Wadi Abida, whom the local authorities accused of repeatedly attacking the oil pipeline and killing senior military officials in an ambush on Saturday. Independent Almasdaronline cited local tribesmen in Wadi Abida as saying that fighter jets struck several houses and farms in the Wadi Abida area and killed a man identified as Saleh Maely. Local tribesmen said Maely has no links to any militants.

The Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) said Saturday in a statement obtained by Xinhua that it ambushed a military convoy near the oil fields of Safer Saturday afternoon, killing commander General Nasser Mahdi Farid and several others. The defence ministry reported that the death toll from Saturday’s attack in Marib against the military convoy increased to nine, including Farid, chief-of-staff of the central military command in Marib.

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. Yemeni President Abdu-Rabbu Mansour Hadi said fighting the AQAP tops his fighting the AQAP tops his daily agenda when he was elected in February. —Xinhua

Six Patriot batteries, 600 foreign troops to be deployed in Turkey
ANKARA, 10 Dec—Around 600 foreign troops are expected to accompany six Patriot missile systems to be deployed in Turkey to reinforce the NATO member country’s air defence and calm its fears of coming under a possible missile attack from neighboring Syria, local newspaper Today’s Zaman reported on Sunday. The surface-to-air batteries, able to intercept ballistic missiles, are expected to be transported to Turkey by sea within four or five weeks, and will be sited in Turkish military bases, according to the report.

A team of NATO experts recently visited Turkey to survey the possible sites for the deployment, and have submitted their report to Ankara and NATO’s Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR).

The team reportedly surveyed sites in the Provinces of Elazig, Malatya, Diyarbakir, Batman, Sanliurfa, Gaziantep, Adana, Mersin and Kahramanmaras, said the report. The United States, Germany and the Netherlands, the only three NATO nations with the most modern type of Patriots, have all agreed to send missiles to protect their ally.

Germany and the Netherlands have each said they will send two Patriot batteries with multiple missile launchers. Although it is still not certain, the United States is also expected to send two Patriot systems to Turkey, increasing the number of batteries to be deployed in Turkey to six.

Each battery to be sent to Turkey reportedly has four to six missile launchers and each launcher has the capacity of launching 16 missiles. —Xinhua

Colorado students accused of sickening class with pot-laced brownies
BOULDER, 10 Dec—Two University of Colorado at Boulder students are accused of bringing marijuana-laced brownies to a college class, sickening their unsuspecting教授and five classmates, police said on Sunday.

Thomas Cunningham, 21, and Mary Essa, 19, were arrested on Saturday on suspicion of second-degree assault, fraudulently inducing the consumption of a controlled substance and conspiracy charges, university police spokesman Ryan Huff said.

Huff said the students were hospitalized, suffering from the effects of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the active property in marijuana.

“If someone views this as a prank, it’s no laughing matter,” Huff told Reuters. “These (charges) are all felonies which carry potential prison time.”

According to Huff, police were summoned to a classroom building on Friday morning on a report that a female professor was complaining of dizziness and was drifting in and out of consciousness. The instructor, who was not identified, was transported to hospital.

Later Friday, the mother of a student in the class notified police that her daughter also was hospitalized after suffering “an anxiety attack.”

The family of a third student also notified police that their daughter felt like she was going to black out after attending the class, and that they took her to a hospital. All three have since been released from the hospital.

Huff said the students brought the brownies to class as part of a “bring food to class” day, and those who ate the brownies were unaware that they were laced with pot. Five students and the instructor fell ill after eating the brownies, police said.

Investigators questioned the instructor and 11 of the 12 students who attended the class and determined that Cunningham and Essa baked the brownies and served them to the unsuspecting class. Huff said, both remain in the Boulder County jail pending a bond hearing.

Last month, Colorado voters approved the recreational use and possession of small amounts of marijuana. —Reuters

Two police officers wounded by armed attack in Turkey’s Istanbul
ISTANBUL, 10 Dec—Two police officers were slightly wounded on Saturday night in an armed attack on a police station in Istanbul of Turkey, local media Hurriyet News reported.

Two militants threw a grenade, which failed to explode, at the police station, and then opened fire with assault rifles at the police officers.

The police captured a female suspect, while the other managed to escape.

The police conducted a controlled explosion of the grenade after the attack. An investigation is undertaken to identify those responsible for the attack. —Xinhua

People dressed as Santa play football during the annual Santacon 2012 in Vancouver, Canada, on 8 Dec, 2012. SantaCon is an annual mass gathering of people dressed in Santa Claus costumes parading publicly in cities around the world. —Xinhua

Children play with a sledge on a frozen road in Pyongyang, North Korea, on 9 Dec, 2012. —Kyodo News
Koreans donate cash and foodstuff to quake victims

THAILAND. 10 Dec.—At the invitation of Shwebo Township Writers Association, Shwebo Bamhart Khin Aung and writer May Kha Ya of Yangon, Sagaway Co owner U Nyunt Win, U M Aung Maung of South Korea and South Korean women arrived in Kyaukmyaung Sub-Township, 17 miles from Shwebo, on 29 November to donate foodstuffs to 1550 earthquake victims from five villages.

On 30 November and 1 December, the Korean well wisher group donated 1550 bags of rice, 1550 viss of edible oil and 1550 viss of salt to 680 households from Nwenyein, 190 households from Malar Village, 154 households from Shwehtak Village, 186 households from Shwegun Village, 328 households from Yadaw Village and other 12 households.

They made donations amounting to K 20 million. Their donation ceremony was attended by Sagaway Region Minister for Transport U Tin Ngwe, Hlutaw Representative Dr U Aung Hsan, Hlutaw Representative U Tun Ko Soe Aung, Shwebo District Deputy Commissioner U Hla Oo and Shwebo Township Administrator U Thet Lwin Tun.

“We are pleased for our donations. Surprisingly we saw Myanmar people courageously overcome the difficulties in the natural disasters. Despite suffering from miseries, they greeted us with beautiful smiles. We will come back here again to donate medicines to them,” said a Korean lady.

M yanna A linn

Exportable musk melon under cultivation in Budalin

MONYWA. 10 Dec.—Musk melon plantations are being grown in villages of Budalin Township. It was reported that the fruits are marketable in the foreign countries.

The local farmers cultivate Hsinmanit, Shweshin and Paikkwet strains of musk melons. Hsinmanit and Shweshin are golden colour and Paikkwet green with shapes of net.

The plants are generally grown in September and October depending on the foreign market. Around 75th day after cultivation, one acre of farmland can be put under 6000 plants. One fruit is being nurtured at each plant. So, one acre of plantation can produce about 5000 fruits. Musk melons can be exported to Shweli and other major cities of China via Muse. The fruits can be sold at K 700 to K 1000.

The cultivation of the plantation and market distribution cost over K 2 million and the fruits produced from one acre can fetch K 2 million, said musk melon grower Ko Soe Aung.

M yanna A linn

Displaced students under care in Momauk Township

MOMAUk, 10 Dec.—Kachin State Government, District and Township administrators, departments concerned, INGOs and wellwishers provided assistance to displaced persons who moved to Momauk Township due to local security.

Momauk Township has one Basic Education High School, one BEMS and five BEPSs. A total of 1657 students are learning at BEHS, 302 at BEMS and 602 at BEPSs.

Deputy Head of Momauk Township Administration Department U Aye Hlaing said, “We have arranged continuous learning of over 500 displaced students at BEHS, BEMS and BEPSs in the town. We provided school uniforms and stationery to the students. The State, INGOs, NGOs and departments concerned also gave umbrellas, slippers and stationery to them. Moreover, UNICEF and social organizations also provided stationery and sports gear to the students.”

At present, i Love Myanmar family donated K 5 million to upgrade present school buildings of BEPS No 1 and BEPS No 2 and Post-Primary School (Telegraph). K aruna Foundation donated 100 CI sheets each to BEPS No 1 and No 2 and 150 sheets to BEPS No 3.

Kachin State Government, district and township administrations concerned, INGOs, NGOs and wellwishers donated rice, edible oil, salt, gram, stationery and other assistance to the displaced people. The Health Department gave health care services to them.

In addition, officials disbursted capital to them for doing businesses, and sank lakes and wells. The combined team comprising departmental officials counselled them and provided vaccination to animals. Except Lojwej and Dawaphyan sub-townships, Momauk has five relief camps accommodating 2357 displaced people of 656 households.

E examination held for selection of over-all outstanding students

MONYWA, 10 Dec.—Seven rivers crossing ferry boats equipped with life safety equipment

MONYWA, 10 Dec.—Musk melon plantations are being grown in villages of Budalin Township. It was reported that the fruits are marketable in the foreign countries.

The local farmers cultivate Hsinmanit, Shweshin and Paikkwet strains of musk melons. Hsinmanit and Shweshin are golden colour and Paikkwet green with shapes of net.

The plants are generally grown in September and October depending on the foreign market. Around 75th day after cultivation, one acre of farmland can be put under 6000 plants. One fruit is being nurtured at each plant. So, one acre of plantation can produce about 5000 fruits. Musk melons can be exported to Shweli and other major cities of China via Muse. The fruits can be sold at K 700 to K 1000.

The cultivation of the plantation and market distribution cost over K 2 million and the fruits produced from one acre can fetch K 2 million, said musk melon grower Ko Soe Aung.

M yanna A linn

International Day of Persons with Disabilities observed

LOIKAW, 10 Dec.—The International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2012 was observed via the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Thaketa Township, Bago Region.

Next, the Chief Minister and officials presented prizes to disabled persons and outstanding students in the contests.—M yanna A linn

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The overall outstanding student selection contest (township level) was held in all townships across the nation from 1 to 3 December. The basic Education M iddle and High Schools sent their students to take part in the contest.

The candidates sit for M yanmar, English, General Knowledge, viva and physical exercises. The chosen students are allowed to take part in the district level contest from 7 to 9 January 2013.

They will sit for the district level contest with same subjects of the township level.

The questions will be issued from the overall outstanding student selection central committee.

The winners in the district contest will have the opportunity to join the camp in Nay Pyi Taw and take relaxation in summer vacation.

The relaxation camps for outstanding students are designated at Inlay Lake, Ngapali Beach, Sebe Beach, Chaungtha Beach, PyinOoLwin, Bagan, Popa and Y yangon.

Students from eighth, ninth and matriculation standard students will be selected to the camps depending on respective levels.

The Nay Pyi Taw camp period will be in Thingyan festival.—M yanna A linn

Communication devices handed over for installation of rural PCOs

T AMU, 10 Dec.—Under the arrangements of Sagaing Region rural social-economic development plan, a ceremony to provide equipment for installation of rural PCO in Tamu Township was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department on 30 November afternoon.

Deputy Commissioner of the district U Kyaw Zaw Lin, Township A dministrator U Maung Zaw and in-charged of the communication U Aung Swe Tint handed over three fixed CDMA s, SIM cards, K 10000 Top-up cards, 12V battery, 20 solar panels and three sets of 100 inverters to chairmen of village committee.

Thanks to CDMAs and solar panels, batteries and inverters, the local people are delighted for use of communication devices at any time.—M yanna A linn

River crossing ferries equipped with life safety equipment

we have equipped the ferry with 15 sets of life safety equipment. Moreover, we will facilitate life jackets for the passengers. We assigned experienced coxswains and sailors on board,” said in-charged of the ferry U Aung M in Htwe.—M yanna A linn
Misleading is a serious offense

Since it took office, the new government has been undertaking democratization and reforms, making the history of comprehensive development within the short period time. Meanwhile, it is experiencing big challenges on its tough path to democracy.

Unprecedented challenges in the political process have been successfully tackled with the cooperation of the people.

One of its challenges that arose unexpectedly is the fighting between two communities in Rakhine State in May and June, and also in October 2012, causing hindrances to the path of reforms of the government.

Myanmar government has taken action to cease violence and restoring the role of law in accordance with the law. An independent Investigation Commission has also been formed to carry out detail investigation of the incidents.

However, the media across the world use misleading photographs. Fake photos and false information have been spread with an intention.

Again, as a second blow to Myanmar, Qatar based Al Jazeera Television is airing a documentary relating to so-called “Rohingyas” from December 8 to 12 in Arabic and from December 9 to 13 in English languages. The TV Station said that the documentary includes alleged genocide against the so-called “Rohingyas”. That were totally contrary to the truth and to the actual situation of the people.

What motive behind the fake photos and fabricated news and documentary is it? Is the role of media to be fair and free from bias in reporting. Media should carefully assess and carefully observe backgrounds and basics, should review whether it would benefit all the people and would help to settle out the conflict for the long run.

Those who love peace and respect human rights should value their profession and should avoid provoking the communities in the country.

Whatever motive behind those news and documentary aided with exaggerations and fabrications on the incidents in Rakhine State, we, all the people and all international communities should not be misled by them.

International Law standard defines that every country in the world must be equipped with four following characteristics.

Only then, that country would have internationally recognized characteristics and a country should have. These characteristics are

1. (territory) 2. (population) 3. (government) 4. (sovereignty).

There are a flood of countries in the world that have territory and population. These countries have governments. But, the countries without sovereignty are not independent ones. Those countries’ governments cannot be called the national governments that do not include the citizens of those countries. Those countries’ governments are not capable to be the colonized ones. The countries that had been under control of about ten western colonialists had to face similar events.

Myanmar had to surrender Rakhine and Taninathyi after the first Anglo-Burma War in 1824 and Tounghoo and lower Myanmar again after the second Anglo-Burma War in 1852. After, the Third Anglo-Burma War in 1885, Myanmar had been under the Colonial rules as Myanmar had to cede the upper Myanmar. Not only 77 percent of the country, China, Africa, South and North America and the Middle East including Myanmar but also 75 percent of world population had fell under Colonial rules. About the first half of 20 century, the countries had struggled for national independence. And they had to suffer the bitterness. The intruders became richer as they took all natural resources and agricultural products of those countries. But local people had to face difficult life.

The cause of industrial development in the western part of the world helps increased production of quality personal goods, household appliances and materials. But, the world welcomed industry rather than feudalism. After industrialism had passed the stages of monopoly and financialism, they paid attention to the benefit, greed and ego. As a result, greed, anger and ego became big and bigger. There is no reason to emerge imperialism, system and imperialist wars in the world if they purchase necessary industrial raw materials and fuels at current prices, sell finished goods to customers at fair prices and employ staff at their manufacturing, services, commercial and logistics businesses with favorable salaries.

As they want to get raw materials and workers became big and bigger, they invade other countries by ways of invasions, interference and sanctions. They should study the cause of the outbreak of World War II. Over the past two decades, Western industrialized countries have taken advantage of selling goods and buying at their disposal put the industrialism on the unfair way.

Following in the steps of other industrialized countries, fascist leader Hitler (Germany), Mussolini (Italy) and Yamamoto Togyo (Japan) made attempts to invade other countries in the world. But their attempts had failed as there were no any regions to be invaded left. So, three countries seized the countries colonized by the old imperialists after forming an alliance. Colonization between old and new imperialists had led to the outbreak of World War II. During the WWII, 60 million people were killed. Especially, small colonized countries had to suffer the consequences of it.

Therefore, over 100 colonies regained independence through independence struggle. The United Nations established on 24 October 1945 with 51 countries has now reached 193 member nations as the new independent nations have joined it. The freedom and equality of all nations, the recognition of their own fate and free from external interference are enshrined in the UN Charter which every UN member has to sign. Bloody wars like World War II are collaboratively forbidden.

The UN also has abolished colonialism (old form) which made one nation and/or one person enslaved another. This story shows that Myanmar national people with unyielding spirit repulsed the British intruders in the first, second and third Anglo-Burma Wars. Patrons of various national races such as Khakh, Kayah, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine, Shan and so on taking whatever weapons available fought back the imperialists out of individual conscience on their own volition.

Since the defend-and-repel measure was operationally impossible in 1990s (early 20th century), actions were initiated through own, political means of Myanmar national people and public efforts. Under the leadership of Aung San Suu Kyi, Aung Dokatat, Aung Hwayet Ayawon, Aung Bwayet Gaying, Fa-Ta-Pa-La, Fa-Sa-Pa-La in the struggle for independence, public forces, students, workers, farmers, intellectuals and intelligentsia and national races rallied to fight tooth and nail for Independence and as a result Myanmar could regain complete Independence on 4 January, 1948, back on the global stage with her head held high as an independent nation.

Blessed with fertile soil and temperate climate and thanks to rivers and small like Ayeyawady, Sittoung and Thanlwin, creeks and lakes, wells and springs, man-made dams and reservoirs, irrigation and drinking water are more than enough in Myanmar whose half of the area is covered with invaluable forests where world-famous Myanmar’s teak makes their home. Myanmar is rich in various kinds of natural resources ranging from such minerals like gold, silver, bauxite, iron, zinc, lead, tungsten, antimony to oil and gas.

Myanmar’s rivers and creeks produce such water right which control source of water and water palm and her ocean water salt water fish and prawn while the seaboard serves as the abundant source of oil and natural gas as well as fine pearls. Myanmar’s ruby, sapphire, feather, pearl, jade have set the world’s record of the biggest of their kind.

The jade called “jade dragon” measures 70 feet in length, 35 feet in height, 16 feet in breadth and weighs more than over 3000 tons. It is of superior quality, the world’s biggest and unrivalled.

Such a God-given nation is also the one facing least the threats of natural disasters nowadays. Despite of the worst ever global climate change affecting every corner of the world, Myanmar could establish a sovereign Union of over 100 national races amidst divide-and-rule plot and oppressive regime of the colonialists. The unity of national people and national prestige and integrity is really brilliant.

Just after Myanmar regained independence in 1948, the Union was established in which national races have co-existed for better or worse, sharing laughter and tears. The states were then established according to the wish of the majority of national people. The Constitution 2008 prescribes that different national races reside equally and harmoniously in the Union constituted with seven states of national races and six autonomous regions. Moreover, every race that accounts for 0.5 per cent of national population has the right to run for election and to be able to enjoy the fruits of independence to the full extent of the citizens of 60 million, 35 feet in height, 16 feet in breadth and weighs more than over 3000 tons. It is of superior quality, the world’s biggest and unrivalled.
Cessation of hostilities alone is not enough to bring about peace: Union Minister U Aung Min

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec — Union Minister at the President Office U Aung Min made a speech at the ceremony to mark the International Human Rights Day, held at Inya Lake Hotel in Yangon this afternoon. He said that Myanmar would do its honour for me to speak to you on this important day to celebrate human dignity. It is a day to rejoice in a universal idea—an idea that binds people regardless of where they are from, the colour of their skin, their gender, or what their faith it. It is a day to celebrate an idea that requires no commentary to be better—an idea that requires all of us to better it. For Myanmar transitions to a more genuinely inclusive society.

Today, as I stand before you and reflect on the past year, I am proud of the reforms President U Thein Sein Government has carried out to improve human dignity in Myanmar, but at the same time mindful that the kind of society the people of Myanmar envisions requires all of us to strive harder.

I would like to take this opportunity to share some of the steps the Myanmar government has taken to improve the rights of Myanmar people to have their voices heard in public life and be included in the political decision-making process. I would like to take this opportunity to share some of the steps the Myanmar government has taken to improve the rights of Myanmar people to have their voices heard in public life and be included in the political decision-making process. I would like to take this opportunity to share some of the steps the Myanmar government has taken to improve the rights of Myanmar people to have their voices heard in public life and be included in the political decision-making process. I would like to take this opportunity to share some of the steps the Myanmar government has taken to improve the rights of Myanmar people to have their voices heard in public life and be included in the political decision-making process.

Steel trusses reinstalled on Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadana Theinga)

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec — The 11/11 earthquake caused much damage to steel trusses of A yeawady Bridge (Yadana Theinga) being built by Public Works of the Ministry of Construction in Sagaing Region.

Reinstalation of steel trusses on the bridge started today on the bank of Singu in Mandalay Region while the clearing up of fallen steel trusses were in progress.

Patients at Mandalay General Hospital recovered from injuries

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec — Dr Tin Myo Win, a surgical specialist from Australian Embassy, viewed the patients who sustained burn injuries during the Latpadaungtaung Copper Mine incident at the invitation of the medical superintendent of the Mandalay General Hospital and specialists on 8 December.

Dr Tin Myo Win and the Australian doctor inspected injured monks and men at Mandalay General Hospital and at the Kantaw Nadi Hospital and talked to the doctors and the patients.

They suggested that most of the patients should be discharged from the hospital as the condition of their injuries has improved.

They also expressed their satisfaction for the treatment and management and will report the situation to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

They also suggested the patients who have recovered from the injuries to discharge from the hospital.

Similarly, under the arrangement of the Phaungdaw Oo Monastery in Mandalay Region, a doctor from Thailand also examined the patients.

He met with the medical superintendent and specialists of the hospital and expressed his delight that he witnessed the good medicines and treatment for the patients and improvement of the condition of the patients.

He also said that the treatment at the hospital is the same with the treatment in Thailand.

Tuesday, 11 December, 2012
Suspect dead after three killed on California Indian reservation

NEW YORK, 10 Dec— The man suspected of a shooting rampage in California at the Tule River Indian Reservation in which three people were killed and three others wounded, including two young daughters of the suspect, has died, county officials said on Sunday.

Hector Celaya, 31, who lived on the central California reservation, fled the scene of the shooting with his daughters and was shot during a low-speed car chase as authorities attempted to take him into custody, the Tulare County Sheriff’s Department said. They later declared him deceased.

The two girls, ages 5 and 8, also suffered gunshot wounds. One of the girls was being treated for life-threatening injuries, police said.

“During the preliminary investigation, detectives learned the suspect had shot the children,” the sheriff’s office said in a statement.

The incident began on Saturday night when the Tulare County Sheriff received a 911 call saying shots had been fired on the reservation, roughly 60 miles north of Bakersfield, in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains.—Reuters

High winds, storm batter Montenegro

BELGRADE, 10 Dec— High winds and sub-zero temperatures closed anumber of roads in Montenegro on Sunday, as the tiny Balkan country is battered by a storm that has dumped considerable snowfall on the Balkan country is battered by a storm that has dumped considerable snowfall on the Balkan region, while strong winds coupled with freezing rain and snow closed roads leading to the Montenegrin capital of Podgorica. The Montenegrin automobile association has advised people not to travel.

A number of remote villages are reportedly cut off electricity as high winds and snow closed roads leading to the Montenegrin capital of Podgorica. The Montenegrin automobile association has advised people not to travel.

“Tragically, we lost one of our special operators in this effort. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family, just as we must always honour those and military families,” the statement said.

The NATO-led forces in Afghanistan said that the rescued American citizen, who was a doctor named Dilip Joseph, was abducted on Sunday. A White House statement said that the US special forces in Afghanistan rescued an American citizen in a mission that showed “extraordinary courage, skill and patriotism.”

“The research was referring to veteran politicians like Uskuf Alla, Megawati Soekarno Putri, Prabowo Subianto and the likes, which have recurrently competed in presidential elections.

“After the 2014 elections, those old figures will be gone. Then, eventually, each party will have to provide fresh young faces,” Mochtar said.

The institute conducted its survey between 16 Nov and 4 Dec in 33 provinces across the country. It used multistage random sampling to choose its respondents.

Indonesia is to hold direct presidential and legislative polls in 2014.

US and Russia still back Syria settlement: UN envoy

BERLIN, 10 Dec— US and Russian officials have given their commitment to a political solution for the deepening Syrian conflict, a United Nations envoy said on Sunday, but Moscow dismissed speculation it was preparing for President Bashar al-Assad’s exit.

With rebels now fighting on the doorsteps of Damascus, Assad’s forces kept up their now daily artillery strikes and air raids on eastern suburbs as well as some rebel-held districts on the capital’s outskirt, the UN special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi met the US and Russian deputy foreign ministers in Geneva for the second session of tripartite talks in less than a week, apparently in response to rising violence that now threatens to engulf Damascus.

“All three parties reaffirmed their commitment to a political solution for the deepening Syrian conflict, a United Nations envoy said on Sunday, but Moscow dismissed speculation it was preparing for President Bashar al-Assad’s exit.

The rebels have gained ground in recent weeks, capturing a series of military sites across the country often with the help of radical Islamists. However, some activists believe the opposition is still far from toppling Assad, whose army has largely held together and who has many heavy weapons.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported army shelling and clashes across the country on Sunday, with 60 counted dead before the day ended. Death tolls have averaged at around 100 per day in recent weeks.

In the north, the radical Islamist group Jabhat al-Nusra, linked to al-Qaeda in Iraq, led other rebels in seizing on Sunday a regional command center in Aleppo province, which borders Turkey.

The British-based Observatory, which has a network of activists across the country, said the centre’s commander fled along with 140 soldiers. Five troops soldiers were captured.

Damascus has become a focal point of battles over the past week, as rebels effectively shut the international airport by clashing with Assad’s forces near there. Foreign flights have been suspended and residents say the airport road is closed.

The rebels have called their campaign “Operation Opening the Road to Damascus,” uploaded video on Sunday that showed heavy gunfire and explosions rocking several rural towns around the capital.—Reuters

Indonesian young politicians hardly compete in 2014

JAKARTA, 10 Dec— The young politicians in Indonesia are still unable to gain recognition to lead the country in 2014, local media reported on Monday, quoting a recent survey.

The survey by the Indonesian Survey Institute showed that around 80 percent of the 1,070 respondents are still clueless when offered a list of young politicians, between 35 and 55 years of age, to be a presidential candidate in the 2014 presidential election.


“Indonesians are still clueless when they have to choose young politicians who could be the next president,” researcher with the institute Mochtar Oetoeno said.

The researcher, echoing several other political analysts, doubted that young politicians would not be competing in the 2014 presidential election.

“Currently, young politicians still lack political and social capital to run against the ‘old’ politicians in the 2014 presidential election,” he said.

The researcher was referring to veteran politicians like Uskuf Alla, Megawati Soekarno Putri, Prabowo Subianto and the likes, which have recurrently competed in presidential elections.

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Singapore welcomes move to extend Kyoto Protocol

SYDNEY, 10 Dec—Singapore welcomes a decision to extend the life of the Kyoto Protocol, the UN plan that obliges developed nations to cut carbon emissions.

Its first commitment period expires by the end of the year. “Singapore welcomes the decision to adopt an 8-year Second Commitment Period (2CP) following the end of the first Commitment Period of the Kyoto Protocol (KP) at the end of 2012.”

The agreement on the Kyoto Protocol would apply from 2013 till 2020 “Singapore has consistently maintained that this is a global issue that requires concerted multilateral action by all countries, according to their respective national circumstances,” the statement says. The 2CP was reached at the end of the United Nations climate change conference which was held from 26 Nov to 8 Dec in Doha, Qatar.

Typhoon death toll climbs to 647 in Philippines

MANILA, 10 Dec—The Philippine government on Monday reported that the death toll from typhoon Bopha (locally known as Pablo) has climbed to 647.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) also reported that 1,482 people have been injured while 780 people are still missing.

The NDRRMC said the typhoon affected 5.4 million people in 30 provinces, mostly in central and southern Philippines.

The initial report released by the agency said the typhoon damaged infrastructure facilities valued at almost 3.48 billion pesos (84.99 million US dollars).

The agriculture department also said the typhoon destroyed crops valued at 8.6 billion pesos (210.1 million US dollars) in southern Philippines. Hardest hit were banana and corn plantations.

The severe damage inflicted by the typhoon prompted Philippine President Benigno Aquino III to place 50 areas in western, central, and southern Philippines under a state of calamity.

Philippine police ordered to prevent looting in typhoon-hit areas

MANILA, 10 Dec—Philippine President Benigno Aquino has ordered the country’s police forces to prevent any incident of looting in typhoon-hit areas in the southern region, his spokesman said on Sunday.

Aquino issued the directive through Interior and Local Government Secretary Manuel Roxas II.

"We received the report (on the looting incidents) and the police has been instructed by the President through Secretary Roxas to prevent any incident of looting," she said.

Valte acknowledged that it is difficult for the government to send relief goods to some areas due to inaccessible roads, thus, looting could have been taking place.

"So we need to do two things: to speed up, to open access to those areas; and to make sure that the looting incidents do not happen anymore," she explained.

The state-run National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council reported that 11 bridges and eight roads were not passable in southern Philippines due to Typhoon Bopha (local name Pablo).

Philippine rebel group welcomes appointment of new gov’t negotiator

MANILA, 11 Dec—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the largest Muslim rebel group in the Philippines, welcomed on Sunday the appointment of a university professor as the chief negotiator of the Philippine government.

MILF peace panel head Mohagher Iqbal said that Professor Miriam Ferrer-Corazon of the University of the Philippines deserves her appointment.

“I wished her luck and looked up for more strides in the talks under her stewardship,” he added.

Iqbal, who has been in the negotiation for 14 years and MILF chief negotiator for 10 years, has faced all kinds of negotiators from the government ranging from military generals to a diplomat, a scholar and full cabinet member, a lawyer, and now a woman.

Ferrer replaced Marvic Romanot, who was now an associate justice of the Supreme Court. She has been with the government peace panel since 2010.

The MILF has been fighting government troops for decades to establish a self-rule Muslim state in the Philippines.

The government and the MILF formally signed a framework agreement on 15 Oct this year, which serves as a road map for the final political settlement to end the decades-old armed struggle in southern Philippines.

S Korean presidential aspirants to face off in second TV debate

SEOUL, 10 Dec—South Korea’s three presidential candidates are gearing up for their second television debate on Monday, nine days before what polls suggest would be a tight race between the conservative favorite and the liberal challenger.

Park Geun-hye of the ruling Saenuri Party, Moon Jae-in of the centre-left main opposition Democratic United Party and Lee Jung-hee of the left-leaning United Progressive Party are expected to discuss economic issues ranging from job creation to state welfare programmes.

Lee, a leftist running a distant third in all polls, proved an unlikely star during their first debate last week with her acerbic barbs targeted at Park, at one point declaring her aim is to thwart Park’s presidential bid.

Park was visibly shaken by Lee’s accusation of her role as the de facto first lady to late dictator Park Chung-hee, whose 18-year authoritarian rule is still subject to fierce partisan debate.

Moon, a former human rights lawyer who also served as chief of staff to late President Roh Moo-hyun, appeared relatively inanimate during the 100-minute debate that centered on foreign policy.

Sculpition has arisen whether Lee, who is polling less than one percent, will step down before the 19 Dec election to help what is shaping to be an increasingly tight race swing in Moon’s favour.

Moon polls have shown Park having a slight lead over Moon within the margin of error. The latest survey by conservative daily Chosun Ilbo put Park at 47.5 percent compared with Moon at 42.7 percent.
**Sri Lankan parliament agrees to debate report on chief justice**

Colombo, 10 Dec — The Sri Lankan parliament on Saturday agreed to debate a report based on investigations conducted on the country’s Chief Justice Shirani Bandaranayake.

Parliament Speaker Chamal Rajapaksa said that the debate on the report will take place over a period of 10 days next month.

The report on the chief justice was compiled by a committee appointed by the Parliament Speaker after a motion was presented to impeach her on 14 charges.

On Friday however the four opposition members of the 11 member committee resigned just a day after the chief justice herself withdrew from giving evidence before the committee saying she had no faith in the committee which was chaired by a government minister.

Minister Anura Priyadarshana Yapa, who heads the committee, on Saturday, presented the report on the findings of the committee to parliament. There have been demonstrations both in support and against the chief justice from the day the government decided to present a motion to impeach her and eventually seek her removal from office.

The United States and the European Union, among others, have raised concerns over moves to impeach the chief justice.

US State Department Deputy Spokesperson Mark C Toner on Friday urged Sri Lanka to guarantee the rule of law. “These latest developments are part of a disturbing deterioration of democratic norms in Sri Lanka, including reinduction on the independence of the judiciary,” he said.

The spokesman said that the United States, along with its partners in the international community, continues to urge Sri Lanka to uphold the rule of law and democratic governance and to continue to address outstanding accountability and reconciliation issues.

**Two separate factory blasts kill two, injure 17 in east China**

Hangzhou, 10 Dec — Two separate factory blasts in east China on Saturday have left two people dead and 17 others injured, authorities said on Sunday.

An explosion in an iron smelting factory in Zhejiang Province has left one dead and seven others injured, local authorities said.

The accident occurred around 9:30 pm Saturday at the coal feeding workshop of Yuanshun Metal Products Co, Ltd in Quzhou City, according to the government of Quzhou.

Conditions of the injured are not immediately available. The Quzhou government had ordered a work safety check in the city after the accident.

Also on Saturday, a blast in a chemical plant in Anhui Province killed one and injured 10 others, local authorities said.

The blast occurred around Saturday noon at Anhui Hongsifang Holding Company, a subsidiary of China National Salt Industry Corp, in the provincial capital city of Hefei, said company deputy manager Ding Mingzhi. One worker died after being hospitalized and four others suffered minor injuries, Ding said, adding that six workers were also sent to hospitals for observation due to exposure to toxic gas.

**Claim’s Day Notice**

**Claim’s Day Notice**

**Claim’s Day Notice**
Kristen Stewart, Ben Affleck to star in Focus

LOS ANGELES, 10 Dec—
Twilight star Kristen Stewart has confirmed the rumours that she will be starring opposite Ben Affleck in a comedy titled Focus.
The 22-year-old actress has entered talks to appear in the Warner Bros production as an inexperienced con artist who hooks up with the more seasoned Affleck, reported the Huffington Post.
“I can confirm that rumour. It’s a comedy. I’m opposite Ben Affleck in a comedy titled Focus.” Stewart recently finished a world tour promoting Breaking Dawn Part 2, the fifth and final installment in the Twilight series, which turned her into a global superstar.
She is now making the awards-circuit rounds in support of her next film, “On the Road,” an indie adaptation of the famous Jack Kerouac novel, due out on 21 December.

The couple will welcome the third-in-line to the British throne next year.

Robert Pattinson offered USD 100,000 to star in a Girls Gone Wild video

NEW DELHI, 10 Dec—
Robert Pattinson has been offered USD 100,000 to star in a Girls Gone Wild video.

After the Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 actor joked he would love if the movie’s cast could hang out with some of the women featured in the adult entertainment franchise, founder Joe Francis reached out to Robert Pattinson, 26, in an email.

In the correspondence, obtained by E! News, Joe Francis wrote: “I was pleased to hear your mention of Girls Gone Wild and as per your positive comments (would like to give you the) unique opportunity to make those comments a reality.

The beaches are packed with amazing girls during Spring Break and it would be a major bonus not only for us, but for the millions of Twilight fans to see you with a camera in your hands filming alongside our talented crew at some of the biggest beach parties in the country. The action is non-stop and it would definitely be something worth marking of your bucket list.”

Robert Pattinson recently reconciled with his girlfriend Kristen Stewart, 22, after she cheated on him with director Rupert Sanders.

French film “Amour” named best film by LA critics

LOS ANGELES, 10 Dec—
The French movie about the killing of an aging couple, “Amour,” was the surprise choice for best film of 2012 by the Los Angeles Film Critics Association Sunday, while Joaquin Phoenix was named best actor for his role as a troubled outsider in the cult drama “The Master.”

In a list that broke ranks with early movie award picks in New York, Los Angeles Film Critics Association named Paul Thomas Anderson best director for “The Master” and the film’s Amy Adams best supporting actress.

“Zero Dark Thirty,” the thriller about the killing of Osama bin Laden, took just one award, for best editing.

Last week, “Zero Dark Thirty” picked up two best picture accolades from the New York-based National Board of Review and the New York Film Critics Circle.

Nominations are to be announced later this week for the Screen Actors Guild and Golden Globe awards, in what are likely to be leading indicators for the Oscars in February. —Reuters

William, Kate “cried with happiness” over baby news

LONDON, 10 Dec—
Britain’s Prince William and Duchess Catherine cried with happiness when they discovered they were expecting their first child.
The couple will welcome the third-in-line to the British throne next year and the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge—who tied the knot in April 2011—are over the moon.
Catherine’s friend Jessica Hay said: “William and Catherine are absolutely overjoyed with becoming parents. It’s the most thrilling news to end a wonderful year.”

While the couple only announced their pregnancy this week, Jessica says it wasn’t a shock to their friends as they had been preparing to conceive for some time.

She added to America’s Life & Style magazine: “Catherine’s been steadily putting on weight since April this year and hasn’t been drinking for a good few months—they’ve been preparing all summer. It was decided that they’d try at the tail end of the royal tour in September and that’s what happened.

“The difference in Catherine is already tremendous. Her face is already fuller, she really is glowing.” —PTI

Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie pick up rings; wedding soon?

LONDON, 10 Dec—
Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie have chosen their wedding rings.
The Hollywood couple have sparked rumours they are to tie the knot very soon after an assistant working for Angelina collected the marriage bands for them from top Los Angeles jewellers Neil Lane at the end of last month.

In Touch Weekly magazine reports: “On 27 November, a stylist for the actress picked up wedding rings from Neil Lane jewellers for the couple.”

Neil Lane has previously created jewellery pieces for Angelina and is renowned for his engagement and wedding rings which he has made for a host of stars including, Jessica Simpson and Ellen DeGeneres.

In June, Liam Hemsworth proposed to Miley Cyrus with an engagement ring made by Lane.

Last month, Brad, 48, claimed he is in no rush to marry his fiancée and is happy to wait until the time is right.

Robert Pattinson recently reconciled with his girlfriend Kristen Stewart, 22, after she cheated on him with director Rupert Sanders. —PTI

French film “Amour” named best film by LA critics

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**New Light of Myanmar**

### Sports

#### Messi breaks record with 86th goal of year

MADRID, 10 Dec—Barcelona forward Lionel Messi reached another milestone in his phenomenonal career on Sunday when he set a record for goals scored in a calendar year of 86 with a LaLigadouble against Real Betis, beating Gerd Muller’s 40-year-old tally of 85.

The 25-year-old World Player of the Year equalled the record with his first of the night in Seville when he picked up the ball in a central position in the 16th minute and left the Betis defence standing before sending an angled shot across goal into the bottom right corner.

A ndres Iniesta’s clever back heel set the Argentine up to score again nine minutes later with a sweeping shot to his tally before the end of the year.

Muller, known as the “torpedo” while Messi’s nickname is “the flea,” netted 74 times for Barca and 12 for Argentina in 2012, surpassing Muller’s total for Bayern Munich and Germany in 1972.

Barcelona’s Lionel Messi (R) is challenged by Real Betis’ players during their Spanish First Division soccer match at Benito Villamarin stadium in Seville on 9 December, 2012.—Reuters

#### Van Persie fires United to dramatic derby win

MANCHESTER, 10 Dec—Robin van Persie’s stoppage-time free kick swung the Premier League title race firmly in Manchester United’s favour as they beat champions Manchester City 3-2 on Sunday in a pulsating derby fuelled by aheavey dose of sweet revenge.

Victory in their neighbours’ backyard, at an Etihad Stadium where City had not lost in the league for almost two years, sent Alex Ferguson’s side six points clear of their opponents at the top of the table in what already looks like a two-horse race.

Two first-half goals from Wayne Rooney had put United ahead before City pulled level thanks to Yaya Toure and Pablo Zabaleta, only for Van Persie to shatter their comeback. It was payback time for United, who were denied a 20th English title in the final seconds of last season when City grabbed the championship on goal difference after two stoppage-time goals.

On top of that, their winner came from a player City had courted before his close-season move from Arsenal to the red side of Manchester and it completed a miserable week for Roberto Mancini’s side who crashed out of Europe on Tuesday.—Reuters

#### Jameson clinches playoff win at Mandela Championship

DURBAN, 10 Dec—Scotland’s Scott Jameson clinched his first European Tour International Schedule victory as he beat Steve Webster and Eduardo de la Riva in a playoff to win the inaugural Nelson Mandela Championship on Sunday.

The tournament had been restructured into a 36-hole event after a waterlogged course prevented play over the first two days, and the course had been shortened to a par-65 for the first event of the 2013 European Tour.

The Scot began with a one-over par round of 66 and found himself in a share of 68th place at the halfway point.

Scott Jameson of Britain

#### FIFA project bringing hope to Brazil’s youth

RIO DE JANEIRO, 10 Dec—While Brazil’s World Cup hopes rest on the young shoulders of players like Neymar and Oscar, soccer itself is offering hope to thousands of less fortunate young men who are unlikely to ever play for their country but who could one day have an influence on its future.

Behind Rio’s de Janeiro’s glitzy glamour spots like Copacabana and Ipanema beaches, and Sugar Loaf mountain, lies a starker reality in poorer backwater districts like Curitica, where people make their living as best they can.

Paint peels from shops and electricity wires loop precariously from an old telephone pole to another as dogs sleep in the street in the hot afternoon sun.

There appears to be no sense of resistance to fate though, certainly not among the youngsters at the Instituto Companheiros das Americas, FIFA’s Football For Hope project for people more than 2,500 students have passed through its doors since it opened in 2006.

A round 60 students are enrolled at a time and typically spend four hours a day at the project over a seven month period.

Classrooms and other educational facilities are good and although one grass pitch is patchy and bumpy, it helps produce plenty of good results.

The idea of the project is not to unearth the next Pele, Ronaldo, or Neymar, although of course that would be bonus, as project director Heloisa Andrade explained.

“The idea is very simple. It is to use the game of football as a tool for solving some of the social problems we have,” Andrade told Reuters.

“Use of football as a way of teaching these youngsters about communications skills, about how to interact, to give them confidence.

“Real goals, by using football, to increase their chances of employability, of getting a job.”

The youngsters who come here, aged between 15 and 24, do not even have to have football skills.

“That is not the point really, but it is using football to develop themselves as people and to give them the potential for having better lives than they might have otherwise.”—Reuters

#### Defeated Pacquiao says “fine”, has no plans to retire

LAS VEGAS, 10 Dec—Though bruised and battered, Manny Pacquiao said he felt “fine” on Sunday after his sensational sixth-round knockout by Mexican Juan Manuel Marquez and promised his fans he would return to the ring.

There had been speculation the 33-year-old Pacquiao might consider retirement after losing for a second time in his last three bouts but the Filipino southpaw made it clear he would be back to compete after taking a well-earned break.

“To all my fans, I would like to thank you for your prayers and assure you that I am fine,” Pacquiao said in a statement just hours after his stunning defeat in a non-anticipated title eliminator bout in front of a sellout crowd at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada on 8 Dec, 2012.—Reuters

Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines watches as Juan Manuel Marquez of Mexico is knocked down in the fifth round of their welterweight fight at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada on 8 Dec, 2012.—Reuters

Pacquiao, who won twice and drawn once in his three previous meetings with Marquez, was floored by a thunderous right by the counter-punching Mexican with just one second left in the sixth round of a high-energy bout.

The Filipino was also knocked down in the third round but fears of a possible concussion were put to rest after a precautionary CT (computed tomography) scan at neary University Medical Centre hospital after the fight ended.

“The results were negative,” said Michael Koncz, Pacquiao’s advisor.

“We were in and out in just over an hour and Manny was in excellent spirits.”

Both fighters had much to prove in their heavily anticipated fourth showdown on Saturday.

Marquez was determined to set the record straight after firmly believing he had been “robbed” by judges’ verdicts in their three previous fights while Pacquiao was eager to prove his powers had not diminished with age.—Reuters

Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines watches as Juan Manuel Marquez of Mexico is knocked down in the fifth round of their welterweight fight at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada on 8 Dec, 2012.—Reuters

Brazil’s Neymar celebrates after scoring the winning penalty shot during a penalty shootout in their Clasico de Las Americas international friendly soccer match against Argentina in Buenos Aires on 21 Nov, 2012.—Reuters

Brazil’s Neymar celebrates after scoring the winning penalty shot during a penalty shootout in their Clasico de Las Americas international friendly soccer match against Argentina in Buenos Aires on 21 Nov, 2012.—Reuters
Monterrey threat lurks for Chelsea in Japan

Cesar Delgado (R) of Mexico’s Monterrey shoots to score against South Korea’s Ulsan Hyundai during their Club World Cup soccer match in Toyota, central Japan on 9 Dec, 2012. 

Reuter

Monterrey dominated Asian Zones for the last four. Slick-passing Monterrey were no pushovers for Chelsea. “If we can play like we did today against Chelsea we will have a chance,” Monterrey coach Victor Vucetich told reporters.

Jesus Corona opened the scoring after nine minutes, finishing a superb three-man move from close range before his backheel fell for Delgado to tap home in the 77th minute.

They play Brazil’s Corinthians, holders of the Libertadores Cup, in the tournament’s first semi-final on Wednesday. “It was a very tough match,” said A-A-H coach Hassam El Badry said. “Hiroshima were very deteriorating to be replaced with conditions rapidly worsening to be replaced with snow falling heavily in Toyota.”

J-L league champions Hiroshima lost goalkeeper Shusaku Nishikawa after three minutes, stretched off with blood stains on his jersey after catching a knee in the face.

Adly captain Hassam Ghaly was then carried off with a knee injury. Elsayed Hamdi put the Egyptians ahead in the 15th minute, only for Hisato Sato to equalise with a fierce right-foot drive with snow falling heavily in Toyota.

If we can play like we did today against Chelsea we will have a chance,” Monterrey coach Victor Vucetich told reporters.

New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning (10) throws a pass during the third quarter against the New Orleans Saints in their NFL football game in East Rutherford, New Jersey, on 9 Dec, 2012. — Reuters

Wilson fires Giants to 52-27 rout of Saints

EAST RUTHERFORD, 10 Dec—The Super Bowl champion New York Giants, powered by a dynamic performance by rookie David Wilson, preserved their one-game lead in the tight NFC East race by routing the visiting New Orleans Saints 52-27 on Sunday.

Bolstered by a huge coming-out party by Wilson, who gained 227 yards on four kickoff returns including a 97-yard touchdown dash, the Giants improved to 8-5 while dropping the sloppy Saints to 5-8.

Wilson scored from six yards out and capped a spectacular day with a 52-yard touchdown burst from scrimmage in the fourth quarter that gave him 100 yards rushing, which he celebrated with a backflip in the end zone.

The total 327 yards amassed by the rookie, who had taken a background role after fumbling in the first game of the season, was the Giants also set a franchise mark for kickoff return yardage and had safety Stevie Brown, who picked off two Drew Brees passes and returned one 70 yards, set a team season record for interception return yards.

Along with four touchdown passes from quarterback Eli Manning, the Giants took their score past 50 points for the first time since the 1986 season.

“We did a lot of good things today but we’ve got a lot more to get done,” Giants coach Tom Coughlin told reporters.

Thousands march to commemorate death of Dutch linesman

AMSTERDAM, 10 Dec—Thousands of Dutch mourners walked in silence with candles and flowers on Sunday to commemorate the fatal beating of a volunteer football linesman, whose death last week shocked the Netherlands. Richard Nieuwenhuizen, 41, was attacked by a group of football players while refereeing an under-17 match. He died shortly after being kicked repeatedly by the youth players, who were 15 and 16 years old.

His death, which led to the arrest of four youth players, at least two of them of Moroccan origin, has sparked a national debate about violence on the football pitch. “On Sunday evening some 12,000 people, many of them youth football players whose own games were cancelled, marched in silence, Dutch news agency ANP agency reported.

New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning (10) throws a pass during the third quarter against the New Orleans Saints in their NFL football game in East Rutherford, New Jersey, on 9 Dec, 2012. — Reuters

Participants place flowers on the pitch of the soccer club Buitenboys after attending a silent march to commemorate linesman Richard Nieuwenhuizen in Almere on 9 Dec, 2012. — Reuters

Photo shows white elephant motifs carrying gold foils for Shwedagon Pagoda at the 70th gold foil offering ceremony of Kyinminda Township religious association recently. Up to date, 667 gold foils weighing 20 viss and four ticals have been donated to the Pagoda. — Kaymon

Ayatollah Khamenei, Iran’s supreme leader, condemned the killing of a Dutch linesman Richard Nieuwenhuizen by a group of youth players in Amsterdam, saying that the killing “was an inseparable part of the problem of national education.”

Nieuwenhuizen was killed on Saturday in a football pitch in the Dutch city of Almere, after he was attacked by young players from an under-17 football team. It was the latest in a string of violent incidents involving young football players in the Netherlands, which has been publicised in recent weeks.

Mourners walked in silence to mark the death of Richard Nieuwenhuizen, who was killed last weekend in a football game in Amsterdam. In the days following the murder, hundreds of Dutch football fans took to the streets to protest against violence in the game.

The linesman’s death has sparked a national debate about violence in Dutch football. Last year, a Dutch football player died after being hit by a car while crossing a pitch in a match.

My Golden Dancers and Fascinating Myanmar News

* World AIDS Day
* News
* Holy Day with an Air of Festivity
* News
* Fascinating Myanmar Tapestry
* My Golden Dancers and Artist U Lun Gywe

NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

MUSIC

The Musical Oldies

4:35 pm
13. Teak Play (Traffic)
4:50 pm
14. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Second Year (Philosophy)
5:05 pm
15. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
5:30 pm
16. Sweet Melody
6:35 pm
17. Sing A Song
7:00 pm
18. TV Drama Series
8:00 pm
19. News
20. Bakery World
21. TV Drama Series
22. India Drama Series

MYANMAR TV

(11-12-2012, Tuesday)
7:00 am
1. Parita By V enerable M Ingun Sayadaw

7:15 am
2. Dhama Puja Song
7:25 am
3. To Be Healthy Exercise
7:40 am
4. Nice & Sweet Song
7:50 am
5. Health Programme
8:10 am
6. Songs Of Yester Year
8:20 am
7. Documentary
8:30 am
8. Song of National Races
8:40 am
9. International News
8:45 am
10. Musical Programme
4:00 pm
11. M Artial Song
4:25 pm
12. The Mirror Images of...
Myanmar, Vietnam sign deal for closer ties

Nay Pyi Taw, 10 Dec—Closer ties resulted from Amendment to the agreement between the Ministry of Border Affairs and Vietnam’s Ethnic Minorities Committee would contributed to stronger friendship between the two countries through exchange of experiences, Union Border Affairs Minister Lt-Gen Thein Htay said at the signing ceremony of Amendment to the Agreement of Cooperation between Ministry of Border Affairs and the Committee for Ethnic Minorities of SRV this afternoon.

He also said the ministry is conducting capacity building tasks and cooperating with UN agencies, NGOS, and respective regional/state governments and departments for development border and rural areas.

The Vice-Chairman of the Vietnamese committee explained benefits of the new agreement and spoke words of thanks. Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Zaw Win and Vice-Chairman of the Vietnamese Committee Deputy Minister Mr Son Minh Thang signed the agreement.

The Union Minister then met the Vietnamese delegation at his office and exchanged views on further strengthening cooperation.

The mutual cooperation between the two institutions started since 1994 and supported regional stability and world peace efforts.

LIFT organizes workshop on agricultural development of Myanmar

Nay Pyi Taw, 10 Dec—In his address at the National Knowledge Forum and Seminar on Priorities in Agriculture Development of Myanmar organized by Livelihood and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT) at the assembly hall of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation this morning, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing said Myanmar was also facing natural disasters as a serious threat posed by climate change while striving for development of agriculture sector and rural region and poverty alleviation scheme.

The minister pointed out potentials for agriculture development as 18 per cent of the total area of the country had been utilized as arable farmlands. Next, Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun said that spotlighted degradation of land resources due to excessive and reckless farming.

Then Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr KanZaw, Swiss Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Christoph Burgher, FAO Resident Representative Ms. Bui Thi Lan and LIFT Fund Chairperson Ms. Veronique Lorenzon gave accounts of matters related to agricultures sector, livestock and fishery industry and environmental conservation. Afterwards, a documentary video about the inspection tours made by Union Minister for Border Affairs and the principal of the Research and Development Centre and the director of the Research and Development Centre and the principal of the technical training school on 7 December demanded a consistent focus on research and development.

The Union Minister met general managers of heavy industries in Thagara, the director of the Research and Development Centre and the principal of the technical training school on 7 December demanded a consistent focus on research and development.

He then viewed central lab of the research and development centre, production process of diesel engines at No. 14 Heavy Industry (Thagara), progress in construction of facilities for diesel engine manufacturing as joint venture with Shandong Pulicol Construction Engineering Co Ltd of China.

He also viewed production of excavators at No. 15 Heavy Industry (Thagara) and turbines and generators at No. 26 Heavy Industry (Thagara).