Myanmar, India to promote sector-wise development, bilateral relations

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India Mr Salman Khurshid at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 4 pm today.

Also present at the call together with the President were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Tin Naing Thein, U Than Hay and Dr Ko Ko Oo, and departmental heads.

The Indian External Affairs Minister was accompanied by Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Villur Sundararajan.

At the call, they had a cordial discussion on ongoing undertakings for bilateral cooperation in energy, construction, electric, border region development, education and health sectors in Myanmar, further cooperation in soonest completion of building the India-Myanmar-Thailand Tripartite Highway, promotion of friendly relations between the two countries, cordial relations between the peoples of two countries and raising investment matters.

More investors invited to work in Dawei Special Economic Zone

Myanmar-Thai Joint Coordination Committee holds 2nd meeting on Dawei SEZ

In his address, Union Minister U Aye Myint stressed the need for investors to complete the projects and reaffirmed the agreement between Myanmar and Thailand to cooperate in implementing the special economic zone at the 21st ASEAN Summit.

He also invited foreign investors to work in the Dawei Special Economic Zone, he said.

The Union Minister also expressed his belief that ways for successful implementation of the zone would be found at the 2nd work coordination meeting of Myanmar-Thai joint committee.

Mr Niwatthumrong Boonsongpaisan, Minister at the Thai Prime Minister’s Office, also reaffirmed that Thailand would continue its cooperation in implementing the zone.

As part of the first phase of the zone, Dawei deep sea port and Dawei-Thai Highway is scheduled to complete in 2015.

(See page 10)

Formation of Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative Leading Authority

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, under the economic and social reforms framework, has formed the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative Leading Authority with the following persons. The leading authority is meant to ensure better management for extractive industries of natural resources, develop good investment environment, create opportunity for a frank and transparent discussion between private investors and the people and join hands with the public-based societies of the private sector so as to be able to affectively deal with the tasks of extractive industry transparency initiative on behalf of the State.

(a) U Soe Thein
   (b) U Aye Myint
   (c) U Than Hay
   (d) Dr Myint Aung
   (e) U Win Shein
   Chairman
   Union Minister
   President Office Ministry (3)
   Member
   Union Minister Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry
   Member
   Ministry of Energy
   Member
   Union Minister Ministry of Mines
   Secretary
   Union Minister Ministry of Finance and Revenue

2. Following are the tasks of the committee:
   (a) To form a working committee committed to EITI tasks between a private sector and public-based societies which will join hands with the State in EITI tasks.
   (b) To formulate the draft for tasks to implement the extractive industry transparency initiative.
   (c) To take necessary measures for applying for a member of the international Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative and for reaching the status of a Candidate Member.
   (d) To assign the Centre for Economic and Social Development of the Myanmar Development Resource Institute as Coordinator.
   (e) To lay down and take the reform processes of the extractive industry so that it can bring about the sustainable development of the country and economic development and give guarantee the sustainable development for the future generation.

3. The above tasks are to be carried out by 31, December, 2013.
Mandalay to reduce traffic congestion with digital help

Mandalay, 14 Dec — With economic growth and increase in vehicle use, main roads in Mandalay see more traffic congestion than ever before. A plan is underway to reduce traffic jams by setting up a pair of digital traffic lights which is 200 feet tall at the intersection between Yangon-Mandalay Highway and Sagaing road at the corner of 66th and 26th streets near Sedona Hotel.

The traffic lights are different in size and type with already-installed ones in Mandalay and are suitable for roads comprising motor lanes and bike lanes. Tender price for the pair was K 63 million and they were imported from China. There are 468,636 motorbikes and 124,319 vehicles. According to the Mandalay City Development Committee, 27 traffic lights have been installed in Mandalay, and arrangements have been made to put up more traffic lights on busy roads. — Kyemon

Two men arrested with herd of cows

Mektita, 14 Dec — According to a tip-off that a herd of cattle was being illegally transported from Thazi to Aungban of Shan State, Inspector Tin Ko Ko and police members from Yinnabin Police Station of Thazi Township in Mektita District together with Nyaungbin village administrator U Nyo and members seized 38 cows and a dead cow while conducting a search of six-wheeled Nissan truck driven by Kyaw Min of Thedaw ward-3 and conductor Tun Tun Aung who carried a herd of cows without having official permission at Pyinyaung village on Mektita-Taunggyi road on 3 December. Yinnabin Police Station filed a lawsuit against the driver and the conductor. — Kyemon

Winter fire engulfs three houses in Taunggyi

Taunggyi, 14 Dec — A fire broke out at a house on Myatlaing lane in Region-15 of Nyaungpyu Sakham ward of Taunggyi, southern Shan State, at about 11.30 am on 10 December. The fire swept towards another two houses.

Firefighter in cooperation with locals managed to bring the fire under control at about 12 noon. Daw Than of the house the fire started was under investigation.

During the houses were on fire, firefighters struggled to control the fire amongst a flood of people and motorcyclists who thronged to the fireplace. — Kyemon

Mawlalmyine to observe 65th Anniversary Independence Day-2013

Mawlalmyine, 14 Dec — A coordination meeting on organizing the 65th Anniversary Independence Day-2013 on a grand scale in Mawlalmyine took place at Aung San Hall of Mon State government office, here, at 3 pm on 10 December.

Mon State Social Affairs Minister U Hla Oo spoke on the occasion. "We rushed there together with one ambulance, two administrative vehicles, 12 firemen and 39 members of auxiliary fire brigade at about 11 am. Some members prepared jumping sheet while others were conducting a consultation with the man. After one-hour consultation, the attempted suicide failed", an official said. — Kyemon

Take fire preventive measures

Firefighters from Kyauktada Township Fire Services Department fought to bring the blaze under control. — Kyemon

Mandalay Mayor’s mini-marathon contest on 7 January

Mandalay, 14 Dec — With the aim of enjoying healthy lifestyle among the people, cementing friendship among national races and nurturing sports generation for the success to be achieved in international marathon contests, Mandalay Mayor’s mini-marathon contest will be organized on 7 January 2013.

The contest includes men’s and women’s open and amateur events. Handsome prizes will be presented to outstanding athletes in the 13-mile marathon contest. Application forms are available at Bahtoo Stadium office of Mandalay City Development Committee and offices of township administrator since 3 December. — Kyemon

Turtles and tortoises rescue centre handed over to Bantbway Nursery

Lashio, 14 Dec — A ceremony to hand over turtles and tortoises rescue centre from Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA) of WCS to Bantbway Nursery at Bantbway village in Lashio township of Kayankho Township of Kyaukme District in Shan State was held at the nursery on 6 December. Deputy Director U Myint Soe of Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry spoke on the occasion. TSA Director Mr. Rick Hudson explained purpose of handing over the centre to the nursery. WSC Country Coordinator U Than Myint clarified matters related to environmental and wildlife conservation jointly implemented by WSC and the ministry.

Next, Mr. Rick Hudson handed over documents related to the centre to Nayngkhio Township Administrator U Te Toe Aung.

A failed suicide bid occurs in Mandalay

Mandalay, 14 Dec — Firefighters rescued a 35-year-old man of Taryedan ward in Mahaaungmyay Township, Mandalay from an attempt of suicide on 11 December.

It took about one hour to save the man who had attempted suicide to jump from an open-air balcony on the fifth floor of Plaza and balcony on the corner of 78” and 33” Streets in Kissanamahi Ward in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay. The man gave up his suicide attempt at about 12 noon after one-hour consultation with some members of fire services department.

It is learnt that divorce initiated by his wife led to his suicide bid to jump to death from 92-ft high fifth floor of the Plaza. “We rushed there together with one ambulance, two administrative vehicles, 12 firemen and 39 members of auxiliary fire brigade at about 11 am. Some members prepared jumping sheet while others were conducting a consultation with the man. After one-hour consultation, the attempted suicide failed”, an official said. — Kyemon

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During the houses were on fire, firefighters struggled to control the fire amongst a flood of people and motorcyclists who thronged to the fireplace. — Kyemon

A car destroyed in blaze

Yangon, 14 Dec — A vehicle driving from north to south along Theinbyu road was caught in a fire started by an electric shock near a traffic light at the corner of Theinbyu and Maha Bandooola Streets in the afternoon. — Kyemon
Dubail, 14 Dec—Iran said progress was made in Thursday’s talks in Teheran with senior UN nuclear inspectors but gave no details other than they would meet again in mid-January.

There was no immediate comment from the UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) about the one-day meeting over Iran’s disputed nuclear programme, and no sign its inspectors would gain access to the Parchin military complex as requested.

The agency believes Iran has conducted explosives tests with possible nuclear applications at Parchin, a sprawling facility southeast of Teheran, and has repeatedly asked for access.

The talks were the first between the UN agency and Iran since August and the outcome could give some indication whether Iran—which denies it wants to develop atom bombs—is any more willing to address international concerns over its nuclear work after US President Barack Obama’s re-election last month.

In the latest sign of how Washington is ratcheting up the pressure on Iran, the United States imposed sanctions on Thursday on seven companies and five individuals that it said provided support to the Islamic state’s nuclear programme.

The US Treasury Department said the action would bar those companies and individuals from doing business with US firms or citizens, and freeze any assets they have in the United States.

Reuters

Obama rules out UN ambassador to be next secretary of state

WASHINGTON, 14 Dec—US President Barack Obama said on Thursday that he won’t nominate Susan Rice, the current American ambassador to the United Nations, as his next secretary of state.

“Today, I spoke to Ambassador Susan Rice, and accepted her decision to remove her name from consideration for secretary of state,” the president said in a statement, bowing to opposition from some Republican senators over possible nomination of Rice to the post.

Reuters

Tourists find London unfriendly, dirty and expensive

London, 14 Dec—London may have put on a cheerful face during the Olympics but tourists have still rated the city poorly in terms of friendliness, cleanliness and value for money, a survey showed on Thursday.

Of 40 cities worldwide, London this year ranked second to last for the friendliness of its locals, according to a poll by travel website TripAdvisor.

Only Moscow fared worse, while Mexico’s Cancun ranked highest.

Britain’s capital barely performed better in the nine other categories of the poll, ranking 28th for safety, 26th for cleanliness and 35th for best value for money. On the upside, London was rated fourth best city for shopping—behind New York City, Bangkok and Dubai—and fifth for the quality of taxi services.

The study was based on responses from 75,000 TripAdvisor users surveyed last month.

While London hasn’t ranked particularly highly by those that have reviewed the city this year, it’s important to remember that many of the respondents may have experienced London before major changes were made or post the events of the summer, said Emma Shaw, a spokeswoman for TripAdvisor.

Reuters

Moscow, 14 Dec—NATO has assured Moscow the Western alliance was not planning military intervention in Syria, a senior Russian military official said on Thursday. “This assurance of the head of the NATO Military Committee has satisfied Russian side. It means, if NATO would further build to this position, the bloc will not start military operations against Syria regardless of the developments there and the Libyan scenario will not be repeated in Syria,” head of the Russian Defence Ministry’s Department for International Military Cooperation Sergei Kochelev told reporters.

Chairman of the NATO Military Committee Knud Bartles met the Commander of the Russian General Staff Valery Gerasimov here Thursday.

According to Bartles, NATO shares Moscow’s concerns over the situation in Syria and plans to stay in close contact with Russia over developments there.

Kochelev said Bartles’ visit was “a successful and positive meeting” during a board of governors meeting at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Yukiya Amano reacts as he attends a news conference during a board of governors meeting at the UN headquarters in Vienna on 29 Nov, 2012.

Reuters

Tropical cyclone Evan kills two in Samoa, churns towards Tonga, Fiji

SuVA, 14 Dec—Two people are confirmed dead after Tropical Cyclone Evan hit Samoa on Thursday and caused widespread destruction around the capital of the island country, local media reported so far on Friday.

While the cyclone has moved offshore from Samoa, it has caused major and devastating damages in the capital of Apia, with buildings destroyed and flooding across the city.

A state of disaster has been declared in Samoa, according to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment’s Taulealea Usunai said Evan may change its course back towards Samoa. “At the moment we are coping. But in calling for international assistance during the cyclone, it will be difficult to get help into the country because airports are closed and so are the ports,” Usunai was quoted as saying.

Xinhua

US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta (L) listens as Afghan President Hamid Karzai speaks during their joint news conference at the presidential palace in Kabul on 13 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

Bomber kills American near Afghan base after Panetta visit

KANDAHAR, 14 Dec—A suicide bomber killed one American service member and wounded three other US troops outside a base in southern Afghanistan on Thursday shortly after a visit there by US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta, officials said.

Panetta dismissed the attack, as a desperate and futile attempt by insurgents to sow chaos in Afghanistan.

He announced that Afghan President Hamid Karzai would head to the United States in the week of 7 January for talks with President Barack Obama on the future of the US presence in Afghanistan after the NATO-led mission ends in 2014.

But the attack, which was reported to have wounded more than a dozen Afghans, was a reminder of how insurgent violence is still adding to the death toll in the 11-year war—even as the United States and its allies prepare to hand over security to the Afghans.

“That was the type of attack that we’ve seen throughout the country,” Panetta said. “This is what they resort to in order to try to continue to try to stimulate chaos in this country. They will not be successful at doing that.”

Panetta travelled to Afghanistan in part to firm up options to present to Obama about how many troops to keep in the country once the NATO combat mission ends.—Reuters
As China handset makers upgrade chips, pressure remains on profit margins

HONG KONG, 14 Dec—Chinese mobile phone makers chasing market share with lower prices in the world’s biggest smartphone market will see their margins continue to be pressured as they upgrade to quad-core chips to satisfy demand from users for faster speeds and flashier graphics.

Most smartphones now are equipped with single and dual-core chips, but Chinese handset makers are planning quad-core powered devices as consumers get more picky with the speed of their smartphones, how fast they can download movies, send a photo via WeChat messaging or seal a purchase on Taobao online mall.

US federal agency to test RIM’s BlackBerry 10

TORONTO, 14 Dec—Research In Motion said a US federal agency, which recently outlined plans to move away from BlackBerry in favour of Apple Inc’s iPhone, is now set to begin testing RIM’s new BlackBerry 10 platform and devices.

The US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE), will early next year begin a pilot program on RIM’s new line of BlackBerry 10 smartphones and BlackBerry Enterprise Service 10 (BES 10), which allows corporations and government users to run the new devices on their networks, a RIM spokeswoman said late on Wednesday.

The news, which comes just as shares of the embattled company rallied to their highest level in seven months, signals that RIM’s BlackBerry 10 platform is gaining some traction ahead of its official launch next month.

RIM, a one-time pioneer in the smartphone industry, has lost market share in recent years to the iPhone and devices powered by Google Inc’s market-leading Android operating system, even among the business audience who once used BlackBerry devices exclusively.

Waterloo, Ontario-based RIM is now seeking to persuade both corporations and government users to stick with its smartphones, which have long been valued for their strong security features. It promises that its new line of devices, which will be powered by the BlackBerry 10 operating system, will be both smoother and faster than previous BlackBerry phones.

RIM is betting that these new devices—to be launched on 30 January—will revive its fortunes. But that may well depend to a large extent on the response from enterprise customers, many of whom have recently begun to flee to rival platforms.

As China handset makers upgrade chips, pressure remains on profit margins

“Chinese handset vendors have more than their reach and low-price strategy to the quad-core phone segment,” Lisa Soh, an analyst with Macquarie, said in a report. “This hurts both the Chinese handset makers can improve margins through phones such as Qualcomm and MediaTek, which introduce processors customized with Chinese applications that will make it easier, quicker and cheaper for handset makers to launch new products.

US-based Qualcomm Inc and Taiwan’s MediaTek Inc have unveiled the high-end chips with designs that will help Chinese mobile phone makers launch smartphones in a shorter time at lower costs.

On Wednesday, MediaTek, Taiwan’s biggest chip designer that sells more than 80 percent of its mobile phone processors to Chinese vendors, launched its quad-core chip and expects its partners to unveil handsets early next year, executives said.

Smartphone sales are booming in China, which has more than 1 billion subscribers. Sales will grow to 165-170 million units this year from 78 million a year earlier, research firm Gartner said, helped by the proliferation of Internet use.

Currently, Samsung is the top smartphone brand in China, but Chinese vendors are fast gaining traction. China’s Lenovo, Coolpad and Huawei are now ranked No 2, 3 and 5 respectively in the Chinese smartphone market, IDC said.

“When users don’t understand the concepts and controls and hate surprises, they don’t build the confidence they need,” said Lessin.

Facebook, Google Inc and other online companies have faced increasing scrutiny and enforcement from privacy regulators as consumers express ever-increasing amounts of information about their personal lives to Web services.

A new privacy “short-cut” in the top-right hand corner of the website provides quick access to key controls such as allowing users to manage who can contact them and block specific people.

The new controls are the latest changes to Facebook’s privacy settings, which have been criticized in the past for being too confusing.

Facebook Director of Product Sam Lessin said the changes were designed to increase users’ comfort level on the social network, which has roughly one billion users.

Big asteroid flying by, no threat to Earth

CAPE CANAVERAL, 14 Dec—A large asteroid that flies in nearly the same orbit as Earth will make a close pass by the planet, but there’s no chance of an impact—at least for hundreds of years, astronomers said on Wednesday.

The asteroid, named Toutatis, flies by Earth every four years. During its closest approach on Wednesday, the celestial rock will pass about 4.3 million miles (7.0 million km) from Earth, which is about 18 times farther away than the moon.

“There is no danger of a collision with Earth,” NASA astronomer Lance Benner said in a statement.

The 0.6-Fule, Fuku set-

settled privacy charges with consumers and forced them to share more personal infor-
Asian shares rise, yen slips after Fed’s stimulus steps

People are reflected on an electronic board displaying a graph showing the movement of Nikkei share average outside a brokerage in Tokyo on 7 Nov, 2012.—Reuters

Tokyo, 14 Dec—Asian shares extended gains for a seventh day on Thursday, after the US Federal Reserve took new stimulus steps to bolster the economy, pressuring the yen with expectations the Japanese central bank will follow suit with more easing next week.

While stocks gained, oil and gold fell from post-Fed rallies, as investors took profits ahead of the year-end, and concerns over the US budget impasse also weighed on sentiment.

The upside for equities was also contained despite the Fed’s fresh dose of liquidity-pumping measures, as investors were worried the United States would miss a year-end deadline to avert the “fiscal cliff,” some $600 billion of tax hikes and spending cuts scheduled to start in January, US House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner said on Wednesday.

“Serious differences” remain with President Barack Obama on the budget talks.

Failure to reach a compromise by the end of the year risks pushing the US economy into recession and has stoked fears that a fragile recovery trend emerging in China and some other countries would be stifled.

Against this backdrop, European shares were expected to start narrowly mixed, with financial spreaders predicting London’s FTSE 100 FTSE, Paris’s CAC-40 .CAC and Frankfurt’s DAX .GDAXI will open flat to 0.2 percent higher.

A 0.1 percent gain on stock futures hinted at a firm Wall Street open.

LEU

MSCI’s broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares was up.

Japan’s MIPA0000PUS added 0.3 percent to a 16-month peak, having hit successive 16-month highs since 5 September. South Korea’s Kospi .KS11 advanced 0.8 percent to a two-month high.

Reuters

AMR creditors prefer all-stock merger with US Airways: sources

New York, 14 Dec—American Airlines creditors want a potential merger with US Airways Group Inc (LCC.N) to be an all-stock deal rather than one that pays some claims in cash, three people familiar with the matter said, in a move that underscores confidence in a merged airline.

They said Muslims preferred an all-stock deal could be seen as a vote of confidence in the proposal and the potential revenue and cost benefits from a deal that would create one of the world’s largest airlines.

US Airways, in hot pursuit of its bigger rival all year, said on Thursday it was prepared to be paid off before proposing a formal all-stock merger proposal at a meeting with creditors committee in November, the people said.

The merger discussions among US Airways, AMR and its creditors are at an advanced stage, with a decision on whether to pursue a combination or emerge as an independent entity due by early January, they said.

The people asked not to be named because the matter is not public. Representatives for the creditors committee did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

AMR management prefers to exit bankruptcy as an independent airline, but events since US Airways received a final offer late last month indicate a deal looks more likely than before.

Reuters

Europe deepens union with ECB as chief bank watchdog

Brussels, 14 Dec—Europe clinched a deal on Thursday to give the European Central Bank new powers to supervise euro zone banks from 2014, embarking on the first step in a new phase of closer integration to help underpin the euro.

After more than 14 hours of talks and following months of tortuous negotiations, finance ministers from the European Union’s 27 countries agreed to hand the ECB the authority to directly intervene in smaller banks and underpin the euro.

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New York, 14 Dec—Children born via cesarean section are slightly more likely than babies delivered vaginally to become heavy or obese, according to a new review of studies.

The results don’t prove that c-sections cause kids to put on weight, said Liu, one of the authors of the study and a professor at Peking University Health Science Centre in China, said the link between the delivery and obesity is important to keep in mind.

The potential health burden would rise if more cases of diseases associated with c-section births should not be neglected, even if its impact is modest, particularly given “how often births happen that way,” Liu told Reuters Health in an email.

Previous research has tied c-sections to a variety of untoward health outcomes in childhood, including asthma, allergies and diabetes (see Reuters Health reports of February 8, 2009 here: reut.rs/10wCeW and September 18, 2007 here: reut.rs/10BoW8)

Liu said that the relationship between the delivery and obesity may be clear—about 50 percent more likely to be overweight or obese if they were born by c-section, researchers report in the International Journal of Obesity.

Nearly 70 percent of adults in the US are overweight or obese. A 33 percent increase from that number would mean that 93 percent would be overweight.

Reuters

Cashed-up Chinese aircraft lessors spread their wings

Hong Kong, 14 Dec—The sale of one of the world’s top aircraft leasing companies to a Chinese consortium is the boldest signal yet that China’s aviation industry will increasingly look to the cash-rich home market for specialist finance to support its growing fleet.

The world’s second-largest economy will need 5,260 new aircraft worth $670 billion through 2031, according to Boeing Co. About half of these new planes would be owned by leasing firms, adding about $100 billion to the market size which is expected to rise to $268 billion in the next two decades.

Reuters

C-section babies more likely to become overweight

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Reuters

Health

The risk for childhood obesity in particular was somewhat higher—about a 40 percent increase over kids born vaginally. Nearly one in five kids aged six to 11 is obese in the US, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Liu said the increase in risk was modest, but that it persists into adulthood.

When researchers looked just at the studies on adults, they found that those who were born surgically were 50 percent more likely to be obese than those who were born vaginally.—Reuters
**Italy’s Monti faces pressure to run in election**

**Italy**

The European People’s Party (EPP), has been pressuring Prime Minister Mario Monti to stand aside if Monti agreed to stand for president. Silvio Berlusconi repeated the offer to stand aside if Monti agreed to stand for president.

European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso posted on Twitter: “(L) ahead of a European Union leaders summit in Brussels on 13 December,”

Opinion polls suggest Berlusconi has no real chance of winning the election, and markets have calmed. In an auction of three-year bonds on Thursday the Treasury paid the lowest borrowing costs in a decade after a bloody eight-day battle last month and its main market gleams with extra supplies of locally-caught fish. In a low-key move it has yet to know if you’ll be able to pay your rent for the month,” said Vanesa Varveri, a 45-year-old accountant from Athens who has been laid off since the pastel-blue cuts a daily meal and uses fuel prices to about 1.1 euros per litre in December, making them one of the highest in Europe.

**Austerity-hit Greeks swap cars for sluggish trains**

Rail traffic between Greece’s two biggest cities — Athens and Thessaloniki — surged by 33 percent in the first 11 months of 2012, even if the night train plying that route is jokingly called “Karvouniarti” (coal-fired) to suggest it is slow and noisy enough to be a steam engine from a bygone era.

“Life as we knew it has changed. There’s no money for luxuries like a car when you don’t even know if you’ll be able to pay your rent for the month,” said Vanesa Varveri, a 45-year-old accountant from Athens who has been laid off since the pastel-blue cuts a daily meal and uses fuel prices to about 1.1 euros per litre in December, making them one of the highest in Europe.

**Truce brings extra gleam to Gaza marketplace**

The horizon of the claustrophobic Gaza Strip stretches further out to sea after a bloody eight-day battle last month and its main market gleams with extra supplies of locally-caught fish. In a low-key move it has yet to know if you’ll be able to pay your rent for the month,” said Vanesa Varveri, a 45-year-old accountant from Athens who has been laid off since the pastel-blue cuts a daily meal and uses fuel prices to about 1.1 euros per litre in December, making them one of the highest in Europe.

**Plane crash kills two in Texas**

Investigators were yet to find out who owned the aircraft crashed, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) spokesman Lynn Lunsford said.

**Separate attacks in Iraq**

**Iraq**

**Call for closer cooperation between European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and EU President Herman Van Rompuy:**

European Commission President President Jose Manuel Barroso put the EU on condition of anonymity that gunmen clashed with security forces at a checkpoint near the north of Nineveh province, killing Colonel Khalid Naddawi, the commander of a regiment and wounding two of his guards.

Meanwhile, an unidentified armed group with light and medium weapons, attacked a military convoy in Aljoughchi District in the city centre of Fallujah, killing three soldiers and injuring two others, said the police.

**Gaza**

**US serviceman sentenced 4 years in jail for molesting Japanese woman**

The victim, who is in her 40s, said she has been harassed and her life was threatened.

In the first trial, the misbehaved US serviceman said he wanted to apologize to the woman who was assaulted from behind and was dragged to the ground US marine, ignored human rights of the victim and committed a despicable and violent crime.

The accused was under the influence of alcohol and pleaded to molest the woman who was walking along the street, according to prosecutors. As increasing crimes and offenses have been committed by drunken US soldiers in Japan, the US Forces Japan has imposed curfew and issued other orders to prevent its servicemen from nighttime drinking.—Xinhua

**Baghdad, 14 Dec—**

As many as 11 people were killed, most of whom security force personnel, in a series of attacks on Thursday in several Iraqi cities, said the police.

A police official told Xinhua on condition of anonymity that gunmen clashed with security forces as a by-cordon killed two others. One of the nineveh province, killing Colonel Khalid Naddawi, the commander of a regiment and wounding two of his guards.

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**Palestinians shop at a fish market in Gaza City on 13 Dec, 2012.**

**Gaza**

**Truce brings extra gleam to Gaza marketplace**

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State Chief Minister’s shield football tournaments in Rakhine State

SITTWAY, 14 Dec—The Rakhine State Chief Minister’s Shield Inter-District Men’s and Women’s Football Tournaments are being held at Waithali Sports Ground and Danyawady Sports Ground in Sittway from 9 to 18 December.

The opening matches were held on 9 December and the final matches will be held on 18 December.

Cash donated to displaced families, quake victims

YANGON, 14 Dec—A ceremony to donate cash to Manaw Ahla Band was held at the meeting hall in Kyaikkaesan Grounds in Tamway Township on 10 December.

At the ceremony, wellwishers donated cash and medicines. Myanma Alinn

Plan to build incinerator in Nawngkhio

NAWNGKHO, 14 Dec—Under the leadership of Cetanamon Social Association in Nawngkhio Township of Shan State (North), the local people has donated over K 5.6 million for construction of the incinerator at the cemetery for convenience of funeral services in the town.

The wellwishers may make cash donations for the incinerator and contact Cetanamon Association. Myanma Alinn

Talks on rural development

TATKON, 14 Dec—Writers Maung Kyi Mu (Pynnmana), Maung Tha Cho, Saya Kyi Min and Saya U Phone (Chemistry-Mandalay) gave talks on literary affairs at the monastery in Shadaw Village of Tatkon Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 6 December evening.

Myanma Alinn

FIRE DRILLS EXERCISED: Members of Township Fire Services Department and workers of Myanmar Township Development Affairs Committee of Magway Region jointly took fire preventive measures. On 6 December, they jointly perform joint fire drills at Development Affairs Market in Myohtit Township, Myanma Alinn
Myanmar stands as an independent and sovereign nation since she regained her independence from the yoke of colonialism on 4 January 1948. The 65th Day of January 2013 will be observed as the 65th Anniversary Independence Day.

In Myanmar, Vithano, Hardin, Suwankiri, Tagaung, Vesali and Srikestra stood as feudal states with their own rules since about three BC.

King Anawrahta of Bagan, Myanmar’s third, turned the whole into a first form, followed by King Bayintnaung of Toungoo and King Aung Sanu U Aung Zeya.Thereout the course of history, all national races such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan have been living in relatively thick and thin, mutual understandings and lifelong friendship the Union spirit basis. With sound traditions and a spirit of goodwill, they safeguard and protect the Independence with the sense of non-disintegration of the Union and perpetuation of sovereignty, making supreme sacrifices for the country. Myanmar stands tall as an independent and sovereign state among world nations throughout the course of history.

From the geopolitical point of view, Myanmar plays as a strategically important location. It lies on the mainland Asia, forming an interrupted coastline along the sea and sharing borders with the inland regions of Asia to the north and northwest. It is sandwiched between the populous countries like India and China and bordered by Southeast Asia, South Asia and East Asia countries.

Myanmar possesses a vast area of fertile soil and favourable climate patterns for agricultural output growth. Forests cover about the 50 per cent of the total area of the country. Its moreover rich with the abundance of jade and gems, teak, oil and natural gas. Its wealth of natural resources and strategic location prove why the colonalisans began to cast covetous eyes on it.

During the 19th century, India fell under British rule and then Myanmar was colonized by British colonalisans following three wars. Myanmar lost her independence due to British annexation. British colonalisans had attempted to cause disunity among national races in Myanmar by following the three tactics:-

(a) Sowing discord geographically among national races through divide-and-rule policy.
(b) Sowing discord racially among national races through various administrative systems and unequal rights and privileges.
(c) Sowing discord amind will of life with the help of sycophants to be able to facilitate administrative mechanism.

As all national races equipped with patriotism and national identity with their own tradition and customs, culture, literature and an own land fought back the colonalisans, making final sacrifices, Myanmar regained her independence and sovereignty.

Sovereignty is the lifeblood of a certain country. If its three powers— legislation, executive and jurisdiction — are under the control of an alien influence or a certain foreign country directly or indirectly, it is assumed that sovereignty of country is being indirectly colonized through neocolonialism.

Some countries under the rule of uninvited forces lack security and nationbuilding tasks. Thousands of their own people are killed by indiscriminate gunfire and aerial bombardment. Unpleasant events of the today’s world where might is power are teaching us good lessons.

In the age of power politics, only own strength could safeguard and protect our independence. Only own patriotic spirit, nationalistic fervor and unity could build the own strength. Only unity-driven efforts could lead the nation to be able to keep independence and development with world nations.

Utilization of lessons taken from the past in the real world is the key to success. So the new government formed in accord with the Constitution pay attention on three main national causes— non-disintegration of Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty— for ensuring a harmonious society and perpetual existence of sovereignty and independence.

In accord with the concept that the strength of the State lies within the loyalty of the people and the strength of the government, plans are underway to ensure national consolidation among Union brethren. As a gesture of respecting the people’s demands, construction of Ayeyawady Myitson dam project was suspended and ways and means are being sought to tackle the issue of Lapaungtaung Copper Mining Project in a peaceful way.

Leaders of State themselves are making field trips to solve the Rakhine state’s issues, helping with relief and resettlement tasks in earthquake-hagashed Sagaing and Mandalay Regions. Discussions on peace-making processes with armed groups are being made to reach agreements. Efforts are being made to become an only defence power of the country composed of all national races.

At the mean time, it has witnessed that we see a flood of successes in the government’s all-out efforts for national reconsolidation and eternal peace, taking soft options: “choose the same, setting aside the differences”. A modern, democratic nation can be established only when citizens of the country are blessed with socio-economic developement. So, plans are under way for ensuring poverty alleviations, good governace and clean government.

The government has raised salaries of pensioners who suffer the consequences of the imbalance of income and commodity prices and provided staff with additional assistances.

For ensuring all-inclusion of national races in the national building and effective execution of humanitarian aid, amnesty has been granted to prisoners for several times. Relaxations are being given for the development of media role, the fourth estate. L i k e w i s e , t h e g o v e r n m e n t h a s m a d e strenuous efforts for smooth trade, local and foreign investments, systematic transformation from traditional to mechanized farming system, emergence of modern industries, rapid development of telecommunication, smooth transport, development of Stateacceptably successful land and water air and transports, development of private enterprises, effective utilization of electric power, better health care standards and youth’s better international-standard education system, in cooperation with local and foreign organizations, international organizations and private organizations.

For the development of tourism industry called “smokeless measure”, Myanmar is being a known among all in the world. It is a promising future seeing anincreasing influx of tourists.

Thanks to Myanmar’s foreign policy that follows five peaceful co-existence principles and transparent democratization processes, Myanmar could establish amicable relations with the world’s countries, make mutual-beneficially cooperation, receive a flood of foreign investments, become friends with a number of economic partner countries and bring about the glory.

To sum up, Myanmar is on the true path to a modern, developed democratic nation and has now possessed a fairly-good basic infrastructure. Here, reaching local eternal peace and serving national duties with like-mindedness are of prime need. There is no time like the present for the development of country.

It is impossible to build up a modern, developed nation if the country sees lack of unity, unrest, violence and conflict. It can be built only with Union spirits, unity, patriotic spirits, sacrifice, abstinence, savings, diligence, discipline and encouragement. So, all are urged to make cooperation for perpetual existence of independence and sovereignty and building up a sovereign country with Union spirit and national spirit.

Kyemon : 14-12-2012
Trs: YM+MT
Myanmar wants to establish better relations between two countries and two Armies

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—
“ attendee the graduation on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win, on 30 March 2012, the Tatmadaw has been making constant efforts for ensuring stability of the State and development. He said that he takes pride for the latter’s all-out efforts for better Myanmar-Japan relations as a chairman. Myanmar wants to establish better relations between two countries and two Tatmadaw. Japan’s aid to Myanmar are cooperation between Asian countries. Our new generation army leaders have wishes to make cordial cooperation with partner countries. Myanmar Tatmadaw is formed based on discipline and high morale. It comes from military arts of thirty comrades,” said Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, at a meeting with Chairman of Myanmar-Japan Friendship Association and former MP of House of Councillor Mr Hideo Watanabe, at the hall of Zayathiri Beikman, here, this morning.

Mr Hideo Watanabe said that it can be seen that Myanmar Tatmadaw could do regional stability and peace in the country. He believed that Tatmadaw must play an important role in Myanmar affairs. Efforts were to be made to continue to nurture new generations for Myanmar-Japan relations.

After that, they discussed the prospects for cooperation between two countries.

Also present at the call together with the Vice-Senior General were Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Thura Thet Swe, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Myat Hein, Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe and Maj-Gen Mya Tun Oo from the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army). Mr Hideo Watanabe was accompanied by Charge d’Affaires ai Mr Ichiro Maruyama from Japanese Embassy and Mr Yasuo Miyazawa.

DSTA holds graduation for Intake No. 15

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win addressed the graduation parade of 15th Intake of DSTA.

The graduation dinner of 15th Intake of DSTA was held at the parade ground of DSTA today. It was also attended by Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Myint Soe, Lt-Gen Aung Than Htut and senior military officers of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, the commander of the Central Command, PyinOoLwin Station Commander, Commandant of the DSTA, guests and parents and relatives of the cadets.

In his address, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win stressed the need for building the Tatmadaw in accordance with the current advanced technology to be able to safeguard the country in full capacity.

The General left the Parade Ground after taking the salute of the cadet companies.

After the ceremony, General Soe Win met with three outstanding cadets and their parents at the hall of the DSTA.

General Soe Win awards an outstanding cadet.

General Soe Win attends graduation dinner of 15th Intake of DSTA

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—The graduation dinner of the 15th Intake of Defence Services Technological Academy was held at the parade ground of DSTA this evening, attended by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win, on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

Also present at the dinner were Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Myint Soe, Lt-Gen Aung Than Htut and senior military officers of the DSTA, senior military officers, guests and parents and relatives of the graduate officers.

At first, General Soe Win cordially greeted the graduate officers individually.

Next, General Soe Win and party had dinner together with the graduate officers and their parents and relatives.

After the dinner, they enjoyed entertainment of No. 2 Myawady TV Broadcasting Unit and Myawady Anyeint troupe.

Union Education Minister holds talks with Senior Executive Managing Director of Daiwa Institute of Research Ltd of Japan

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye received a delegation led by Senior Executive Managing Director Mr Sumiyuki Kazama of Daiwa Institute of Research Ltd at his office this afternoon.

Mr Sumiyuki had a cordial discussion on sending System Engineer through JICA, giving educative talks on stock exchange to university students and teachers in cooperation with Central Bank and providing technical assistance for IT user. The Union Minister agreed with him, and arrangements to give lecture on information technology to students and teachers of Yangon University are planned, if Japan side will fill in the blanks of IT field with providing experts as well as other universities.
Myanmar-Thai Joint Coordination…

(from page 1)

Meanwhile, industrial zones, housing complex, hospitals, schools, markets and gymnasium would be established in the zone which plays an important role for development of Dawei region due to its strategic location.

Afterwards, Chairman of Dawei Special Economic Zone Management Committee Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Maung Maung Thein reported on construction works, financing and agreements with developers.

A coordination meeting of Subcommittee for basic infrastructure—upgrade of deep sea port, highway, Dawei road networks and Dawei airport, dam and supply of water, drainage water treatment system and canals, information and establishment of communication networks and construction Sector, between a delegation led by Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein and a delegation led by Transport Minister of Thailand Mr Chadchart Sittipunt was followed.

A delegation led by Deputy Minister for Industry U Myo Aung and a delegation led by Mr Piyawat Niyomonks of Transport Ministry of Thailand and a team led by Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Aung Than and its related projects discussed at a meeting of subcommittee for establishment of heavy industries.

Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister enjoys talent show of students

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—The talent show of student’s sport band troupe from Ayeyawady Region took place at Koethein Ground in Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister Mr Pathein yesterday evening. The chief minister also attended the demonstration enjoyed the demonstration of the students.

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The chief minister also attended the demonstration of students. The demonstration included preliminary implementation of small and medium industries and establishment of factories, workshops and enterprises for implementation of steel and petrochemical industries.

A team led by Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe and a team led by Vice Minister Jullapong Nonsrichai from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand held discussions at a meeting of subcommittee for rural regions humanity and society development that will implement socio-economic development tasks.

A delegation led by Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Maung Maung Thein and a delegation led by Permanent Secretary Mr Areepong Boocha-oom of Ministry of Finance of Thailand held discussions at the meetings of subcommittee for drafting laws and procedures and subcommittee for finance and fund-raising sector.

After that, members of Myanmar-Thai Joint Subcommittee submitted the discussions’ results, and those present gave suggestions on follow-up programme. And they decided to designate the next discussion date.

After the discussions, Minister at Prime Minister Office Mr Niwatthamrong Boonsongpaisan of Thailand gave concluding remarks on the results. Union Minister U Aye CdeBaca said that Dawei Special Economic Zone and its related projects would be implemented in real time through cooperation be tween two countries.—MNA

Union Minister for Defence receives Chairman of Myanmar-Japan Friendship Association

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Ko Ko Oo received Acting US Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Myanmar Mr. Patrick Murphy and US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Derek Mitchell at his office, here, at 9 am today.

The meeting focused on matters related to granting the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit the prisons of Myanmar, providing relief aids to the relief camps in Rakhine and Kachin States, getting supplies for narcotic drugs fighting measures and for rules of law, as well as taking trainings.

Likewise, the Union Minister held a meeting with Ambassador Mr. Luis CdeBaca, State Department’s Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons of the United States of America, at his office, here, at 10 am today.

Both sides concentrated on combating human trafficking, widely cooperation in carrying out rehabilitation tasks for the trafficked victims including matters related to making public about human trafficking combating in a transparency manner.—MNA

Myanmar, US to make cooperation in combating human trafficking

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—Ambassador Luis CdeBaca, State Department’s Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons of the United States of America met Chairman of Myanmar-Japan Friendship Association Mr Watanabe at the hall of his office, here, this afternoon.

They had a cordial discussion on bilateral cooperation.—MNA

National Consultation on Overarching Communications Strategy on Child Survival and Development, Myanmar opens

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—Opening ceremony of National Consultation on Overarching Communication Strategy on Child Survival and Development, Myanmar 2013-2015, jointly organized by Health Department of Ministry of Health and UNICEF, took place at Nay Pyi Taw Thingha Hotel yesterday morning. Director-General Dr Min Than Nyunt of Health Department made an opening speech on the occasion. After that, UNICEF Communication for Development Specialist Mr Suleman Malik delivered an address.

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin. Trafficking in Persons of the United States of America and Myanmar.

The Union Minister also received an Indian delegation led by External Affairs Minister Mr Salman Khurshid this afternoon.

During the meeting the two sides discussed promotion of the existing friendly relations and cooperation between two countries.

36th Blood Donors’ Day

Great thanks to—
Generosity and respectable characters of yours. You make the difference between life and death.
On behalf of those whose lives have been saved by yours.
National Blood Centre
Department of Health
Ministry of Health
The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will help Cambodia for drought, flood mitigation

Cambodia

A statement issued by the Power and Energy Ministry quoted Minister Champika Ranawaka as strongly criticizing American sanctions as they “infringe on the rights of the poor in Sri Lanka.”

During discussions with Iranian and Russian ambassadors to Sri Lanka, Ranawaka pointed out that as many as 1,000 rural electrification projects have been put on hold due to inaccessibility of financing from Tehran. “US sanctions against Iran are infringing on the basic rights of our people. Iran has a right to proceed with its nuclear programme with peaceful intentions to meet its domestic needs. This is something that 45 other countries are also doing and is a right of Iran,” he had told Iranian ambassador Dr Mohammad Nabi Hassani Pour.

He also made similar comments to the Russian ambassador.

Before American sanctions, Sri Lanka imported as much as 90 percent of its oil from Iran and refined it in a plant funded by Iran.

However, even though America has given limited relief, the Sri Lankan government is struggling to utilize it since banks are reluctant to open letters of credit and provide insurance for fear of being blacklisted by the United States.—Xinhua

South Korean soldiers cast absentee ballots for the upcoming presidential election at a polling station in Seoul, South Korea, on 13 Dec. The election will take place on 19 December. Xinhua

Singapore is top infrastructural investment destination

Singapore

Singapore is a top infrastructural investment destination out of 40 markets worldwide, a latest survey has found. The survey by international consultancy EC Harris showed that Singapore scored high in all the key criteria used to rank the 40 markets, especially the maturity of its business

ADB to provide 35 m USD to Cambodia for drought, flood mitigation

Cambodia

Indian state vote may be first step to Modi vs Gandhi face-off

India

Sri Lanka hits out against US sanctions on Iran

Colombo, 14 Dec— A Sri Lankan minister has hit out against American sanctions on Iran that are preventing the government from accepting development financing from Teheran. The Obama administration reissued waivers last week that exempt nine countries, including China, India, Sri Lanka and Turkey, from fully complying with US sanctions targeting Iran’s oil exports.

However these loopholes do little to allow the Sri Lankan government to obtain funding from Iran for poverty alleviation and power distribution programmes financed by Iran. A statement issued by the

Indian Chief Minister Narendra Modi addresses his supporters during an election campaign rally ahead of the state assembly elections at Dokar village in the western Indian state of Gujarat in this on 11 Oct, 2012 file photo.—Reuters

Gujaratis are voting in a staged election with the second vote on 17 December. The results will be published on 20 December. Over 25 percent of House- holds will be able to access grid quality electricity by 2030. “To achieve this target, we need to increase investment in energy sector and promote the efficiency of energy,” he said. He said that currently, Cambodia has consumed the electricity of about 635 megawatts including 400 megawatts in Phnom Penh.—Xinhua

Humans are blamed for deadly ferry crash in Hong Kong

Hong Kong, 14 Dec— Hong Kong’s Commissioner of Inquiry into causes behind the deadly ferry collision on 1 Oct continued its hearing on Thursday, with a British maritime expert saying the accident resulted from human errors.

British Captain Nigel Robert Pryke told the inquiry that the Hong Kong and Kowloon Ferry — “Sea Smooth” — was “primarily responsible” for the collision, local media reported.

Pryke said that “Sea Smooth” captain had taken a port tack around one minute before the collision, which was in clear contravention of international maritime regulations. Related regulations

While analysts warn there is no certainty that either party’s nominee for the top post, many in India are already talking about a potential Modi vs Gandhi clash in 2014 that would pit the charismatic but controversial chief minister against the heir to the country’s first family.

Whoever becomes prime minister will take the helm of Asia’s third-largest economy at a critical juncture in India’s history as it tries to lift millions out of deep poverty and make the leap to become a global economic power.

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By Syam, Minister of Indus- try, Mines and Energy, and UN Resident Coordina- tor Douglas Broderick, was attended by 80 people from various ministries, develop- ment partners, non-govern- mental organizations and civil society. Speaking at the event, Syam Sem said that energy sector was very vital to contribute to social and economic development.

He added that the gov- ernment has set a specific goal to provide all villages with electricity of any type by the year 2020 and at least 70 percent of house- holds will be able to access to grid quality electricity by 2030. “To achieve this target, we need to increase investment in energy sector and promote the efficiency of energy,” he said. He said that currently, Cambodia has consumed the electricity of about 635 megawatts including 400 megawatts in Phnom Penh.—Xinhua

An “injured” person is rescued by a helicopter during the traffic emergency drill in Yangon, Myanmar, 11 Oct. The drill held on Thursday involved over 800 personnel from armed police, fire control, medical rescue and other departments.—Xinhua

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Ministry of Information
Information and Public Relations Department
Invitation for open tender of Information and Public Relations Department to buy Equipment

1. Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information will buy the following equipment:
   1. Nikon 180-2000mm lens EDXII VR II 2 items
   2. NikonSB700 Speed Light Flash Gun 2 items
   3. Nikon Super Wide Lens 10 to 24mm 1 item
   4. Nikon Battery Pack ENEL 3e 8 items
   5. CF Memory Card (small card) 4GB 10 items
   6. SD Memory Card (small card) 4GB 10 items
   7. Aluminum Ladder (three steps) 2 items
   8. Aluminum Ladder (two steps) 2 items
   9. Sony External Flash HVL-F20 AM 1 item
   10. Card Reader All in one 4 items
   11. Sony Lens DT 18 to 250 mm 30 items
   12. Nikon Digital Camera D7000 Only Body 2 items
   13. Nikon 18-55mm lens DT 5 items
   14. Nikon 50mmThai lens F1.8 5 items
   15. Nikon 18-105mm lens 5 items
   16. Nikon 50mm lens 1 item
   17. Nikon 18-105mm lens DT 5 items
   18. Nikon 50mm lens 1 item
   19. Nikon 50mm lens 1 item
   20. Nikon 18-105mm lens 5 items
   21. Nikon 50mm lens 1 item
   22. Nikon 50mm lens 1 item
   23. Nikon 50mm lens 1 item
   24. Nikon 18-105mm lens 5 items
   25. Nikon 50mm lens 1 item
   26. Nikon 50mm lens 1 item
   27. Nikon 50mm lens 1 item
   28. Nikon 18-105mm lens 5 items
   29. Nikon 50mm lens 1 item
   30. Nikon 50mm lens 1 item

2. The open tender applications are to be taken out from the Office No 7 of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw from 09:30 to 16:30 hours during the period from 12-12-2012 to 20-12-2012 during the office days.

3. The open tender applications are to be submitted in front of the members of the tender committee at the Office No 7 of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw from 09:30 to 16:30 hr on 21-12-2012. The tenders submitted after the designated date will not be considered.

4. The form of open tender and detailed information may be enquired at the following address:
   Procurement Committee
   Ministry of Information
   Office No. 7, Nay Pyi Taw
   Tel: 412327, 412323

Claims Day Notice

MV AN SHUN JIANG VOY NO (193)
Consingees of cargo carried on MV AN SHUN JIANG VOY NO (193) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (6) where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

MV MERKUR BRIDGE VOY NO (024)
Consingees of cargo carried on MV MERKUR BRIDGE VOY NO (024) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

MV MATTYS VOY NO (1250)
Consingees of cargo carried on MV MATTYS VOY NO (1250) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

India successfully testfires nuke-capable Agni I missile

New Delhi, 14 Dec — India on Wednesday successfully testfired its home-made, nuclear-capable surface-to-surface Agni-I intermediate-range ballistic missile in the eastern state of Odisha, sources said.

“The missile, a single-stage missile powered by solid propellants, was testfired from a military facility on the Wheeler Island. The testfiring of the missile was successful,” the sources said.

Senior defence scientists and top military officials witnessed the testfiring of the ballistic missile which can carry payloads up to 1,000 kg, they added.

The Agni missile, used by the Indian Army, is a family of short to intermediate range ballistic missiles developed by India under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme.

India’s state-owned Defence Research and Development Organization has developed Agni missile series, including Agni-I with a strike range of 700 km, Agni-II with a strike range of 2,000 km, Agni-III with strike range of 3,000 km, Agni-IV with a strike range beyond 3,500 km and Agni-V with a strike range of more than 5,000 km.
Taylor Swift reclaims top spot on Billboard 200

LOS ANGELES, 14 Dec—Country-pop star Taylor Swift reclaimed the top spot on the Billboard 200 album chart on Wednesday with her hit album “Red,” keeping three new entries from the No 1 position.

“Red” landed back at No 1 for the fourth time after selling 167,000 copies last week according to Nielsen SoundScan, ousting Alicia Keys’ “Girl on Fire,” which fell to No 7 this week.

New entries this week include rapper Wiz Khalifa’s sophomore record “O N I F C .” which debuted at No 2 after selling 141,000 copies. Pop star Kesha’s new album “Warrior” landed at No 6 with sales of 85,000 while country band Florida Georgia Line’s debut album “Here’s To the Good Times” came in at No 10.

Ahead of the holidays, festive albums featured heavily in the top 10, with Rod Stewart’s “Merry Christmas, Baby” at No 3, Michael Bublé’s “Christmas” at No 5 and Blake Shelton’s “Cheers, It’s Christmas” at No 8.

Bruno Mars’ latest single “Locked Out of Heaven” topped the Billboard Digital Songs chart for the first time with 197,000 copies sold, coming in ahead of Rihanna’s “Diamonds” at No 2 and will.i.am and Britney Spears’ “Scream & Shout” at No 3.

Chris Hemsworth is a “rock star”:
Zachary Levi

NEW DELHI, 14 Dec—Zachary Levi, Chris Hemsworth’s co-star in Thor 2, thinks that the actor is a rock star.

The Australian actor will reprise his role of the god of thunder Thor in the Marvel sequel Thor 2 and his co-star Zachary Levi thinks Chris is equally as impressive as the superhero.

He told E! News: “He’s an awesome guy. Brand new baby. He’s a new dad, [has] a lovely wife, the whole nine. He’s a rock star.”

Chris and wife Elsa Pataky welcomed their first child, daughter India, seven months ago but Chris insists his family is not impressed by his fame. The actor believes he is the least listened to person in his household and can’t see the situation ever changing.

Speaking after being named Man of the Year by Empire magazine recently, he said: “It’s very nice, what does that mean? Man of the Year? I’d love to be man of the house but with my wife and now my daughter I don’t think I’ll ever hold that title! They certainly run the show.”

At the moment, I love to hang out with my little baby. It’s fascinating watching her; every day there’s something different.”

Priyanka Chopra’s mother chooses her red carpet jewellery

MUMBAI, 14 Dec—They say Mom knows best! And staying true to these words is Priyanka Chopra, who relies on her mum Dr Madhu Chopra to take care of what precious jewels she will wear at all the red carpet events and parties she attends. A source says, “PC’s mother wants her to look effortlessly stylish on all occasions.”

One of the jewellery designers, who Dr Chopra keeps in touch with, is Farah Khan.

Lindsay Lohan refused to film the final scenes for a home improvement series

NEW DELHI, 14 Dec—Lindsay Lohan allegedly refused to film the final scenes for a home improvement series despite receiving $200,000 worth of renovations for free.

The Liz & Dick actress—who is currently trying to pay back a huge tax bill despite reports she was given $100,000 from her good pal Charlie Sheen to cover almost half of the debt—reportedly refused to film a big reveal moment after her home was given an expensive revamp as part of the Bravo series Million Dollar Decorators.

Sources told gossip website TMZ.com that the 26-year-old troubled starlet agreed to take part in the series earlier this year in exchange for her rental home—which costs her $8,000 a month—getting a free makeover worth an estimated $200,000.

The actress was said to have initially cooperated with producers and filmed a furniture-shopping segment in March, along with other footage at the house. But once the renovations were completed, Lindsay allegedly stopped communicating with the show’s team.

Insiders say that the actress is still living in the house but it is now too messy to be filmed and producers are said to be planning to use other clips to cobble together a big reveal moment since Lindsay won’t take part.

The episode is scheduled to hit screens early next year.
Xavi to extend contract with Barcelona

MADRID, 14 Dec—FC Barcelona captain Xavi Hernandez confirmed Thursday he was on the point of extending his contract with the club until 2016. The midfielder, who will be 33 years old at the start of 2013, said he is close to agreeing a deal to keep him at the Camp Nou until the end of his career.

“I am very happy, it is almost done and I hope to announce it in the next few days,” said the Spain international.

“All that needs to be done is to draw up the contract, but I am very happy to be able to stay here until 2016,” he added.

Xavi made his first team debut as an 18-year-old and can be considered to be one of the architects of Barca’s passing game, which has become famous all over the world and which has also been adopted by the Spanish national squad, which has won the last two European Championships and the 2010 World Cup.

Meanwhile Barcelona also announced that 21-year-old winger Christian Tello will sign a new contract with the club next Monday. Tello has agreed a deal until June 2016, the same as Xavi.

The Spain Under-21 winger broke into the first team last season and so far has made appearances in the Primera Liga as well as playing in the Champions League and the Copa del Rey.

One surprise is that he and the club have agreed to maintain his buyout clause of 10 million Euros, which makes his price very accessible and attractive to any major European club interested in buying him.—Xinhua

Watson named US Ryder cup captain for 2014

NEW YORK, 14 Dec—Tom Watson was named captain of the 2014 United States Ryder Cup team on Thursday, a move the Americans hope will end their run of losses against Europe in the biennial competition.

Watson will be 65 when the matches are played at Gleneagles in Scotland, making him the oldest captain in Ryder Cup history, surpassing John Henry Taylor, who was 62 when he captained Great Britain to victory in 1933.

“If I was 20 years to get the call again. I loved it the first time,” said Watson, who led the US to victory in 1993 in his previous stint as captain.

“I’ve been a great fan of the Ryder Cup, always been watching. I get the same gut feeling just watching it at home on TV. It’s a great honour to do it again.”

A winner of eight majors, including five British Opens, Watson became just the seventh man to be named US captain on more than one occasion. The last was Jack Nicklaus in 1987.

“Tom Watson is one of the most respected players and ambassadors in the game of golf, and the PGA of America is excited that he has accepted the task of once again guiding a United States Ryder Cup Team,” PGA of America President Ted Bishop said.

“The 40th Ryder Cup at Gleneagles will mark 21 years since the US has won a Ryder Cup on foreign soil. Tom was the last American captain to accomplish this feat and we hope that he can do it again.”—Reuters

F1 team principals vote for Alonso over Vettel

LONDON, 14 Dec—Formula One team principals have voted Ferrari’s Fernando Alonso their driver of the year, despite Red Bull’s Sebastian Vettel becoming the sport’s youngest triple world champion at 25.

A poll of all the team heads carried out by Britain’s Autosport magazine, with each asked to list their top 10 and award points according to grand prix scoring, placed Alonso first with 269 and Vettel second on 198.

Alonso lost out to Vettel by three points on the track after the season’s finale in Brazil last month.

The team principals’ scores were kept secret but the magazine said eight of the 12 chose Alonso, who had the biggest winning margin in the five years since the top 10 was started, as the best driver.

The Spaniard, who has won his two titles with Renault in 2005 and 2006, was also voted best driver in 2010 when Vettel took his first championship. Lewis Hamilton, who is moving to Mercedes from McLaren, finished third in the poll (177 points) with Kimi Raikkonen fourth for Lotus (176) and McLaren’s Jenson Button fifth (104).

“Fernando Torres continues his recent resurgence. Chelsea confidently brushed aside Mexico’s Monterrey 3-1 to reach the final of the Club World Cup in Yokohama, south of Tokyo on 13 Dec, 2012.—Reuters

Khan focusing on “boring” defence for Molina bout

LOS ANGELES, 14 Dec—British Amir Khan says undefeated Carlos Molina will be in for a surprise when they meet this week in a bout where the normally offensive-oriented fighter plans to veil a new look defence. Khan, who lost his last two fights after some defensive lapses, will get a chance to display his back-to-basics approach when he meets the 27-year-old Mexican American on Saturday at the Los Angeles Sports Arena.

“He’s seen the old Amir Khan,” the Bolton boxer told Reuters in a recent interview. “He doesn’t know what the new one looks like or fights like. He might think he knows what to do, but on Saturday night he’s going to see a completely new Amir Khan.”

It is a change that Khan, 26-3, 18 KOs, says was necessary in the wake of July’s shock light-welterweight title loss to American Danny Garcia, in which he was knocked down three times en route to a fourth-round stoppage.

Khan said the first step to retooling his approach was leaving the famed Wild Card Gym in Hollywood, where he had been working with Manny Pacquiao trainer Freddie Roach, and switching to the gym of Virgil Hunter in quieter Hayward, California. “I got to know too many people in LA. It’s an amazing place, there’s so much to do, but there are a lot of distractions at the same time,” said Khan.

Reuters
Ye, 14 Dec—The prize awarding of the Lunge Ahman Shield Football Tournament was held at the sports ground of Basic Education High School No. 1 in Ye on 12 December.

In the U-25 event, Ahbyutaung Village emerged champion with a 1-0 win over Kyauk Village.

Township level departmental officials presented prizes to the winning teams and players in respective places. Acting Township Administrator U Soe Lin awarded championship shield to Ahbyutaung Village. Myanma Alinn

Stoke striker Owen nears return to action

LONDON, 14 Dec—Stoke City’s Michael Owen played 70 minutes in a closed-door friendly against Preston North End on Tuesday, but is unlikely to be risked in Saturday’s Premier League clash against Everton.

The 32-year-old former England striker has made just four appearances for the club since joining on a pay-as-you-play contract in September having been hampered by groin and hamstring injuries.

“We have maybe pushed Michael a little bit too hard at times, so we want to give him another week, and maybe fit another game in for him in that time too,” manager Tony Pulis told the club’s website (www.stokecityfc.com) on Thursday.

Lampard says this could be his last season at Chelsea

YOKOHAMA, 14 Dec—Chelsea’s veteran midfielder Frank Lampard wants to play on for two or three more years but says this campaign could be his last at Stamford Bridge.

The 34-year-old England international’s contract comes to an end this season and talks have yet to take place on a new deal. “Nothing has been said,” the Chelsea vice-captain told reporters after Thursday’s 3-1 victory over Mexican side Monterrey in the Club World Cup semi-finals.

“Talks about a one-year extension, a two-year extension, don’t exist. The ball is in Chelsea’s court,” said Lampard. “Whatever happens I’ve had a great time with Chelsea — maybe things don’t last forever.

Although I want it to last forever, you have to be big enough to know what the situation is.” Lampard, who has won everything there is to win in English football and also landed the European Champions League trophy in Munich in May, is desperate to prolong his 11-year stay at Chelsea. “I’m not the kind of player to just see out my time and sit on the bench. I want to be involved,” added Lampard who has just returned to the Chelsea side after a six-week injury layoff.

“Perhaps I will keep trying to do that whatever the circumstances.”

Frank Lampard of Britain’s Chelsea wears a captain armband at the Club World Cup semi-final soccer match against Mexico’s Monterrey in Yokohama, south of Tokyo on 13 Dec, 2012. Reuters

Wenger promises to stick to Arsenal transfer policy

LONDON, 14 Dec—Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has pledged to stick to his policy of developing players within the Premier League club rather than splashing out large sums of money elsewhere.

Wenger, whose team were dumped out of the League Cup on Tuesday by fourth tier Bradford City, faces the possibility of losing England winger Theo Walcott after Cesc Fabregas, Robin van Persie and Samir Nasri left to earn more money elsewhere.

In an interview with FourFourTwo magazine, the Frenchman agreed it was difficult when top players walked away, especially when they were reaching their prime but said he would not make drastic changes to the transfer policy.

“I think we’ll stop that happening (players walking away) because we have a good young generation of English players coming through and we’ll try to build the team around them,” he said.

“I feel confident they will stay and commit to the club. My regret is that we already had great teams in place that could compete at the top. You could feel that the potential was there, but now it feels like we’re starting again and it’s frustrating.

“My vision is to continue to be a club that the club wants to show pressure than usual.

Wenger said he felt something like a guardian figure at the north London club.

“I feel responsible for the evolution of the club. When you have been here for 16 years, you’re part of the history and the guy who is responsible for the values that the club wants to show in all aspects of daily life,” he said.

“For example, if a manager changes every two years and the players stay for 10 years, the player will always have a greater influence. If a manager stays at a club for 15 years, he is ‘a memory’ of the club.”

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(15-12-2012, Saturday)

1. Parrita By Venerable MinGun Sayadaw
2:25 pm

3. To Be Healthy Exercise
5:05 pm

4. Nice & Sweet Song
7:00 am

5. Health Programme
4:25 pm

8:00 am

11. 15th day of the November 15th Moon.
11:00 am

12. TV Drama Series
12:35 pm

13. Song of National Races
1:25 pm

7:00 pm

14. Songs Programme
19. Teleplay

15. Cultural Dance
5:25 pm

16. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Geography)
25. TV Drama Series

17. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
7:00 pm

18. International Science News
8:00 pm

19. Teleplay

7:00 pm

21. Game For Children
8:00 pm

22. Celebrity and Dinner News
11:00 am

23. TV Drama Series
12:35 pm

24. News
12:35 pm

25. TV Drama Series
13:25 pm

7:00 pm

5:25 pm

8:25 am

7:00 pm

8:25 am

1. Parrita By Venerable MinGun Sayadaw

2. Dhama Puja Song

3. To Be Healthy Exercise

4. Nice & Sweet Song

5. Health Programme

8:00 am

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Saturday, 15 December, 2012

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Abolishment of censorship expands press freedom, drive for active participation of men of letters to reach nation’s goal of democracy

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham honours writers

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Dec—A ceremony to present National Literary Life-time Achievement Award, National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award to the winners was held at Myanmar International Convention Centre, here, this morning, with an address by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Khan said: After scrutinizing 2405 books published in 2011, the Literary Award Scrutiny Committee chose awards for 13 genres. Likewise, a total of 31 manuscripts of 185 were chosen for the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award.

The good literature can give correct idea, concept, patriotism. Literature can nationalistic spirit and the nation and fostering and cultural traditions of significant characteristics reader people, preserving and knowledge to the Sarpay Beikman of 185 were chosen for a total of 31 manuscripts for 13 genres. Likewise, Committee chose awards the Literary Award Scrutiny books published in 2011, After scrutinizing 2405 Dr Sai Mauk Khan said:

He expressed his opinion that as the collaborative efforts of the entire people in harmony plays a key role to march towards the new era and system, the literati would contribute to promotion of democratic culture.

He urged literati to create works for flourishing the deterrent principles in the world such as justice, liberty and equality and prevailing peace and prosperity of the entire people and ensuring eternal co-existence of national races in equal term of rights, Union Spirit and perpetual unity. Print media such as books and publications is still playing an important role today though various types of media are developing day by day.

He continued to say that as writers and publishers have easy access to apply the printing and publishing permits through free on-line service, growing number of publications will serve the interests of the nation and people.

He noted that only when those of literary arena abide by ethics of human resources, to strive for development of democratic culture and prosperity of entire nation, and to apply literature in building a new nation.

The Vice-President presented 2011 National Literary Life-time Achievement Award to writer U Win Maung. Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham views prize winning works at literary award presentation ceremony.—MNA

Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi awarded National Literary Award winners in the belle-letter genre, Myanmar culture and fine arts genre and child literature genre. Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Sports, Culture and Public Relations Development Committee

Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye presented National Literary Awards to winners in the general knowledge (applied science), drama, political literature and English literature (knowledge) genres respectively.

Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu, Union Minister for SWRR Dr Daw Myat Myat Oum Khin, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung, member of Pyithu Hluttaw Sports, Culture and Public Relations Development Committee U Khaing Maung Yi, Deputy Minister for Information U Paik Htwe and Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin gave Sarpay Beikman manuscripts awards to winners in the respective genres. On behalf of the winners, writer U Win Maung (Min Yu Wai) spoke words of thanks. Later, the Vice-President posed for documentary photo with literary award winners. MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presents Life-time Achievement Award to U Win Maung (Min Yu Wai).—MNA

Union Minister U Aung Kyi presents prize to Nat Mauk Tun Shein (U Tun Shein).—MNA

Thura U Aye Myint presented prize to U Kyi Myint (Latha).—MNA

Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi presents National Literary Awards to Ye Myat Tin (U Ye Win) in the collected short stories genre and Pyinmana Maung Ni Thin (U Tin Win) in the collected poems genre.

Thura U Aye Myint gave National Literary Awards to winners in translation (general knowledge), genre, translation (aesthetics) genre, general knowledge (arts) and (ordinary science) genres respectively.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham views prize winning works at literary award presentation ceremony.—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presents

press freedom, will they maintain their prestige in the long run. And, they would have respect of new generations in dissemination of knowledge, he said.

In conclusion, the Vice-President urged them to create works for reflecting development of the State and successful realization of democratization process, to broaden horizon of the people for development of human resources, to strive for development of democratic culture and prosperity of entire nation, and to apply literature in building a new nation.

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