The New Light of Myanmar

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President U Thein Sein sends felicitations to Bhutani King, Bhutani PM

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein arrived in Dawei, Taninthayi Region, this morning.

He was welcomed there by Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Myat Ko, Speaker of Taninthayi Region Hluttaw U Htin Aung Kyaw, Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Htay, regional ministers, members of the social organizations, teachers, students and local ethnic people at the Dawei Airport. The President met with departmental officials, members of the social organizations and townsenders at the City Hall.

During the meeting, Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Myat Ko reported on plans for building human resources development training school, for building shopping malls, private banks and hotels, power supply to Dawei and towns in Dawei District, a 150-bed private hospital, transportation, industrial zones and border trade camps and maintaining the water course of the Dawei River.

Afterwards, Union Ministers at the President Office U Tin Naing Thein and U Soe Thein reported on opportunities for foreign investment and prospects for economic development in Taninthayi Region.

Speaking on the occasion, President U Thein Sein expressed his hope that Taninthayi Region would achieve development though per capita income of the Dawei is currently lower than those of Kawthoung and Myeik. The nation was transformed into democracy beginning 1 April 2011 and the Constitution came into force together with the convening of the First Hluttaw session. Burgeoning of democratic practices is in good shape with the enforcement of legislation, executive and judiciary.

The two-year-old new government was introducing reform processes for ensuring rule of law reinforced by peace and stability and socio-economic development inspired by 60 million people in the country. So we were moving towards to the emergence of democratic nation in accord with aspiration of the people, he said.

In translating the nation into peace and prosperity, there are two parts—political stability and cessation of armed conflicts. We had taken necessary measures for ensuring all-inclusiveness in the political configuration, setting aside the differences and building a common ground. Union spirit played a pivotal role in non-disintegration of the Union. In spite of being different, peace was witnessed in eastern part and southeast of the country through preliminary peace agreements with national races armed groups. The President said he would like to see political stability and cessation of armed conflicts and socio-economic development of the 60 million people in the country.

He underscored the need of qualified human resources who could harness rich natural resources and the duty lies with the education sector. Foreign investments with substantial capitals and technologies were invited, he said. Lack of regulations in allowing foreign investments could beset more adverse consequences than favourable outcomes, he said. The Foreign Investment Law, which is one of the integral parts of legislation, has been enacted, he said.

He recalled the experiences of 20 years of economic sanctions and said the country is now establishing amicable relations with all world countries through its unbiased foreign policies. Myanmar’s reforms earned support not only of ASEAN but of the wider international community, he said. He said that the best example is the visit of US President Mr Obama. US eased sanctions and EU rewarded generalized system of preference for products from Myanmar.

He said the officials have town plans and city plans ahead of entry of foreign investors. He said that the nation sees good prospects. He urged all to do work on a self-reliant basis. He pointed out that not only departmental personnel but also local people are to take responsibilities for regional development.

Seven regions, seven states and Nay Pyi Taw Council Area are to show off their excellent performances in competitiveness. The authorities of regions and states are to join hands with the local people in their works.

According to the UN Millennium Development Goals, he stressed the need to reduce poverty rate from 26 per cent to 16 per cent by 2015. Eight points of rural development and poverty alleviation are being undertaken. There are over 1200 villages in Taninthayi Region and over 60000 across the nation. The government and the people are to harmoniously carry out rural development tasks.

After the meeting, the President cordially greeted the attendees.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec.—On the occasion of the National Day of Bhutan which falls on 17 December 2012, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, King of Bhutan and His Excellency Lyonchen Jigmi Y. Thinley, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bhutan.—MNA

Political stability, cessation of armed conflicts, socio-economic development a must: President

Thein Sein is ST’s Asian of the Year

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President U Thein Sein views reference books and equipment displayed at Dawei University.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec—The following is the reproduction of the “Thein Sein is ST’s Asian of the Year” appeared on The Straits Times newspaper on 15 December.—NLM
Tourists flood Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 16 Dec — A public drinking water lake at ward-63 in Dagon Myothit (South), was named after Pale Sein drama troupe that performed entertainment to raise the funds for construction of the drinking water lake of 300 square feet on the four-acre farmland donated by villagers U Kyaw Khaing and wife Daw Win Kyi in 1975. Locals named the lake Pale lake.

The lake offers drinking water for local people in nearby villages up to date. During the recent days, the lake has been polluted with household waste of houses and shops which are settled illegally around the lake. So locals relying on the lake for their drinking water are being annoyed by an undisciplined group of people who are dumping waste in the lake.

As the summer comes, the lake is urgently needed to do cleaning up a rubbish dump in the lake for availability of safe water for local people, and clearance of the lakeside calls for measures to be taken for removal of illegal houses and shops around the lake.

Kyemon

Talks on economics on 20 December

YANGON, 16 Dec — An educative talk will be organized on the fifth floor of International Business Centre which is being kept open at No. (228/240) Yangon Region Office of the Ministry of Commerce in Pabedan Township, here, at 9.30 am on 20 December (Thursday).

Professor U Ma Wun, retired rector of the Yangon University of Economics, will give a talk entitled “Capital Market, Public Company and Corporate Governance”. Those interested may take part in the talks and for further information, contact Ph: 01 250871.

Kyemon

Office fire in industrial ward of Thakayta Township

YANGON, 16 Dec — A fire broke out at the office of a company that deals with piling work on Mya Nanda street in industrial ward of Thakayta Township of Yangon Region at 1.50 am on 14 December.

The fire started from an overheated voltage regulator at the office. According to the press meet organized by the board of trustees of Shwedagon Pagoda on 13 December, more than 18000 tourists visited Shwedagon Pagoda during the first period of the month of December.

The number of globotrotters thronging Shwedagon Pagoda has reached 18243 during the period from 1 to 12 December, helping the board of trustees earn US$ and FEC 91215 as admission fee. Thai, French, German and Chinese and Japanese visitors are the greatest in number visiting the Shwedagon. The number of Iranian, South African, Dutch, Israeli and Filipino visitors was low.

A responsible person of the board of trustees said that an average number of tourists were 1500 a day. During the previous month, a total of 47589 tourists arrived there and the board received an entrance fee of 226973 US dollars and 10972 FECs.

On an average day 1586 tourists thronged the Pagoda in the month of November.

According to the records, the number of globotrotters who visited Shwedagon Pagoda from January to the end of November in 2012 was 296486, more than the whole year arrival of tourist in 2011.

Kyemon

Safety measures for Yangon-Mandalay up and down trains

PYU, 16 Dec — For ensuring Yangon-Mandalay up and down trains full safeguard and convenience of train users without delays, automatic track circuits that enable trains to overtake each other safely through a control panel have been fixed at Pyu and Kanyutkwin railway stations.

Moreover, replacement of concrete sleepers in the places of old ones and other railroad works were being carried out at Kanyutkwin station and Pyu railway yard under the supervision of the senior engineer (civil) of Division (6), Yangon, on 12 December.

Kyemon

Philanthropic works see more youth participation

YANGON, 16 Dec — According to a man who led a philanthropic organization, the youth participation in philanthropic organizations has increased significantly more than ever before. He said that those who want to perform philanthropic works had to urge the youth for their contributions in the past.

Now the youth of today are leading the organization and philanthropic works of their own accord.

It was very pleased to see they are interested in community services while their peers were in quest of pleasure going to the movies and concerts. He added that more than half of the total membership of his team was the youth who are making a substantial contribution to the society.

“We started the philanthropic work on a managerial scale in cooperation with other friends while we are at school. We collect K 2000 from each member every month and donate them to the schools for the blind or orphans,” a 20-year-old university student said.

Kyemon

Election of new ward administrators in Pyu Township

PYU, 16 Dec — Election of new administrators for 11 wards in Pyu Township of Bago Region took place at Myoma East Ward and

Pantawan, 16 Dec — A girl was pronounced dead after she was knocked down by a trailer on the village road in Asugi village in Pantawan Township. A trailer driven by Sa Ai Say (25 years) of Thalakhwat village of the township hit Ma Pyae Pyae Phyo (3 years) who was crossing over Mayan-Asugyi village road near Asugyi village at about 1.30 pm on 11 December. The girl was killed in the accident.—Kyemon

Motorbike, bicycle collide head-on on Yangon-Pathein Road

PANTHIN, 16 Dec — A head-on collision between a bicycle and a motorbike occurred on Pathin-Yangon Road. An old man on the bicycle was killed while his bicycle was in collision with a motorbike driven on the opposite direction at about 3 pm on 11 December.

The motorbike driven by Tun Tun Nang (27 years) of Aye village in Nyaungdon collided a head-on with the bicycle of U Kyoe (78 years) of Chaungwa village at a place between mile post Nos (36/3) and (36/4) on Yangon-Pathin Road near Chaungwa village. The road accident left U Kyoe dead with serious injuries.—Kyemon
10 killed, over 40 injured in airport attack in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 16 Dec—At least ten people were killed and over 40 others injured when an airport in Pakistan’s northwest city of Peshawar came under attack on Saturday night, according to hospital and army sources.

The killed include five attackers, local media quoted army sources as saying. Pakistan Taliban later claimed responsibility for the attack.

Both Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif condemned the attack while expressed grief over the loss of lives in the attack.

The attack took place at about 8:30 pm local time when militants coming in an explosive-laden vehicle launched an attack at Bacha Khan Airport in Peshawar.

The attackers rammed the vehicle into the wall surrounding the airport and then tried to enter inside the airport, said Mian Iftikhar Hussain, Information Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province with Peshawar as its capital. Four of the attackers were killed and another during the attack, said the minister.

Another attacker retreated into a building nearby the airport and was later killed by the security forces in the search operation, according to army sources.

All the international and domestic flights were canceled during the attack. Airport officials said the airport will be reopened soon.

Some local media said that five rockets were fired at the airport during the attack and two of them fell on the runway of the airport. But airport authorities said all airport assets remained safe in the attack.—Xinhua

Clinton sustains concussion; Benghazi testimony postponed

Secretary Clinton became dehydrated and fainted, sustaining a concussion,” State Department spokesman Philippe Reines said in a statement.

“She has been recovering at home and will continue to be monitored regularly by her doctors. At their recommendation, she will continue to work from home next week, staying in regular contact with department and other officials. She is looking forward to being back in the office soon,” Reines added.

Clinton fell ill with a stomach virus, which prompted the postponement of her scheduled congressional testimony on the attack on a US mission in Libya, officials said on Saturday.

“While suffering from a stomach virus, Secretary Clinton became dehydrated and fainted, sustaining a concussion,” State Department spokesman Philippe Reines said in a statement.

“She has been recovering at home and will continue to be monitored regularly by her doctors. At their recommendation, she will continue to work from home next week, staying in regular contact with department and other officials. She is looking forward to being back in the office soon,” Reines added.

Clinton fell ill with a stomach virus last weekend and was forced to cancel a planned trip to the Middle East and North Africa. The virus also hit other members of her staff, who were returning with her from a European trip, and was described as uncomfortable, but not medically serious.

Clinton, 65, has often been cited as a potential candidate for the US presidency in 2016 and frequently refers to her general good health, saying in an interview with ABC broadcast that she has “incredible stamina and energy.”

She has maintained a punishing schedule in her final weeks as the top US diplomat, a position she intends to leave toward the end of January when US President Barack Obama is sworn in for a second term.

Clinton had been expected to testify on 20 December before the House of Representatives and Senate foreign affairs committees on a report on the deadly attack on the US diplomatic post in Benghazi, Libya, that killed the US Ambassador and three other Americans and raised questions about security at far-flung posts.—Reuters

Egyptians narrowly back Islamist-shaped constitution, say rival camps

CAIRO, 16 Dec—Egyptians voted narrowly in favor of a constitution shaped by Islamists and which opponents said was a recipe for deepening divisions in the nation, officials in rival camps said on Sunday after the first round of a two-stage referendum.

The result based on unofficial tallies, if confirmed, was a blow to those hoping for a more inclusive, representative document.

The build-up to Saturday’s vote was marred by deadly protests. Demonstrations erupted last month when Mursi awarded himself sweeping powers and then fast-tracked the constitution through an assembly dominated by his Islamist allies. The vote passed off comparatively smoothly, but Muslim Brotherhood’s Freedom and Justice Party, the main Islamist group, was unhappy with the result.

The Brotherhood and its party, which propelled Mursi to power in a June election, had representatives at almost every polling station across the 10 areas, including Cairo, where this round of voting was held.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said the tally was based on counts from more than 99 percent of polling stations in this round. One opposition official also said the vote appeared to have gone in favor of Islamists who backed the constitution, after the opposition had previously said late on Saturday when voting ended that their exit polls indicated the “no” camp would win.

Another opposition official said the vote was staged because many judges needed to oversee polling staged a boycott to voice their opposition.

But late on Saturday, as polls were closing, Islamists attacked the offices of the liberal opposition Wafd party newspaper, a party that was part of the National Salvation Front coalition that pushed for a “no” vote. “The referendum was 56.5 percent for the ‘yes’ vote,” a senior official in the Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party operations room set up to monitor voting told Reuters.

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US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton addresses a news conference in Brussels on 5 Dec, 2012 file photo.

Policemen gather near the site of a rocket attack at Peshawar's Airport on 15 Dec, 2012. Four people were killed when militants attacked the airport in the northwestern city of Peshawar on Saturday and traded gunfire with soldiers for more than 30 minutes before being repulsed, military and health officials said.—Reuters

NATO-led forces combat mission to end in 2013

KABUL, 16 Dec—The combat mission of NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) will end in 2013 and the Afghan security forces will take the security charge of the entire country, President Hamid Karzai said on Saturday.

Addressing at the conference of Afghan ambassadors and diplomats in his fortified Palace, the Afghan president stated that the NATO-led force leaves Afghanistan in 2014 and there will be change in Afghanistan’s relations with the world.

“There is no need to worry over the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan. You speak with confidence to any country,” President Karzai told the conference, saying that pull out of foreign troops from Afghanistan would not affect the security situation in the country, rather would contribute in stabilizing the situation.

He also asked the NATO-led troops to leave Afghan villages for their bases on the way to their respective countries.

US Senator John Kerry speaks to the media before Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney and President Barack Obama meet in the final US presidential debate in Boca Raton, Florida on 22 Oct, 2012.—Reuters

Obama to nominate Senator Kerry for secretary of state

WASHINGTON, 16 Dec—President Barack Obama has decided to nominate Massachusetts Senator John Kerry to be the next secretary of state, CNN and ABC News reported on Saturday, citing unnamed sources.

Kerry’s nomination will not be announced for a variety of reasons, including the need to finalize the process and out of respect for the national mourning over Friday’s school massacre in Newtown, Connecticut, ABC said. CNN, citing an unnamed Democrat, said the nomination could be made public as early as next week.

Kerry, the Democratic presidential candidate in the 2004 election and chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, would replace Secretary of State Hillary Clinton if confirmed by the Senate.

Clinton has decided to step down from her job in the Obama administration. —Reuters
Banks fend off attacks designed to disrupt online banking access

Microsoft, Motorola file to keep patent case details private

Scientists find new use for cells in human urine

Dutch 4G frequency auction raises more than expected

**NEW Light of Myanmar**

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

A man works at his computer in Virginia Beach, Virginia, on 7 Feb, 2012.—Reuters

**Monday, 17 December, 2012**

**BOSTON/CHARLOTTE, 16 Dec—Bank of America Corp and US Bancorp and other major US banks seem to have stopped a group of hacker activists from seriously disrupting on-line banking operations. A financial services industry organization and several cyber security companies said a group of “hacktivists” that impeded access to some major US online banking sites in September had so far failed to gain traction in a second campaign that began this week.

“There has been no impact to critical financial systems,” the Financial Services Information Sharing and Analysis Centre, or FS-ISAC, said in a statement.

Tom Kelliher, vice president of cyber security at software maker Trend Micro Inc, said the banks had been “very successful.”

“I wouldn’t see any prolonged outages for the major financial institutions in the coming year,” Arbor Networks, which sells equipment that companies can use to protect their websites against attack, said banks had bolstered their defences since the last round of attacks in September. “Everyone has been through this once or twice,” said the group’s chief economist, an Arbor director. “There is just a better level of preparedness.”

On Monday, a group that calls itself Cyber Fighters said on a website called Pastebin.com that it was planning attacks against a group of five banks that also included PNC Financial Services Group Inc and SunTrust Banks Inc. The same group took credit for the disruptions in September.

US Bancorp spokesman Tom Joyce said the regional bank’s website was performing well, but some customers might be experiencing intermittent delays. “We can assure customers that their data and funds are secure,” he said.—Reuters

Seattle, 16 Dec—Microsoft Corp and Google Inc’s Motorola Mobility unit have requested a federal judge in Seattle to keep secret from the public various details from their recent trial concerning the value of technology patents and the two companies’ attempts at a settlement. Microsoft and Motorola, acquired by Google earlier this year, are preparing post-trial briefs to present to a judge as he decides the outcome of a week-long trial last month to establish what rates Microsoft should pay Motorola for use of standard, essential wireless technology licensed under a patent pooling venture between the companies.

The case is just one strand of litigation in an industry-wide dispute over ownership of the underlying technology and the design of smartphones, which has prompted a legal war between Apple Inc, Samsung Electronics Co Ltd, Nokia and others. In a filing with the Western District of Washington federal court in Seattle on Friday, Microsoft and Motorola asked the judge to allow them to file certain parts of their post-trial submissions under seal and redact those details in the public record.

The details concern terms of Motorola’s licenses with third parties and Microsoft’s business and marketing plans for future products. During the trial, which ran from 13-20 November, US District Judge James Robart cleared the court with such sensitive or trade secret details were discussed. “For the same compelling reasons that the court sealed this evidence for purposes of trial, it would be consistent and appropriate to take the same approach in connection with the parties’ post-trial submissions,” the two companies argued in the court filing. The judge has so far been understanding of the companies’ desire to keep private details of their patent royalties and future plans, although that has perplexed some spectators who believe trials in public courts should be fully open to the public.

Two cable companies — Ziggio and UPC, owned by Liberty Global, which already have strong shares in broadband and pay-TV — said they made a joint bid but later pulled out of the auction later because the bidding went too high.

KPN, which is 28 percent owned by Mexican telecom tycoon Carlos Slim, said the cost of the licences meant it would no longer be paying a final dividend for 2012 and would pay out only 0.03 euros per share for 2013, far lower than already revised dividend forecasts. It had already cut its dividend forecast for this year to 0.35 euros from an initial planned payout of 0.90 euros. It has paid an interim dividend of 0.12 euros.

KPN had been planning a payout for 2013 of ‘at least’ 0.35 euros. Traders and analysts have previously expressed concern about the ability of KPN to pay dividends given it has a debt to core profit ratio exceeding its own targets. KPN shares hit a 10-year low of 3.90 euros in November.

Eelco Blok, KPN’s chief executive, later acknowledged on a conference call that KPN was paying a “considerable culture medium to reprice the licence” but said that as the market leader, it could not afford to miss out on the auction. He also said it would produce a good return over its 17-year duration.

KPN, which expects to roll out its new 4G services from February, did retain its outlook for 2012 core profit, cashflow and capital expenditure.

It said it would draw on existing cash and its 2 billion euro revolving credit facility to finance the purchase. The dividend cut will save it 800 million euros.

Asked about the impact on debt and its financial health, Blok said investors would have to wait until the company reported fourth-quarter results on Feb 5. The Dutch government had counted on raising about 480 million euros from the auction, and the better-than-expected result provides a welcome windfall at a time of austerity measures and budget cuts amounting to 46 billion euros by 2017.—Reuters

**AMSTERDAM, 16 Dec—**The Dutch state raised much more than expected in its auction of fourth generation (4G) wireless frequencies, with prices so high market leader KPN said it would have to cut dividends to afford its licences.

The auction raised a much higher-than-expected 3.8 billion euros ($5.5 billion) and the result will lead to fierce competition in one of Europe’s most lucrative mobile phone markets as the winners roll out faster, fourth-generation services which allow consumers to watch video and surf the Internet on the move.

The Dutch market is currently dominated by KPN, Vodafone and Deutsche Telekom, all of whom won licences, as did new entrant Tele2 of Sweden.

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**GUANGZHOU, 16 Dec—**Chinese scientists have found a new, innovative way to use cells found in human urine that could aid in the treatment of a range of neurodegenerative disorders.

The scientists have discovered a new technique for reprogramming cells shed in human urine into so-called ‘progenitor’ (NPCs) that can grow into multi-functional neuronal subtypes and glial cells.

The technique is expected to be used in the study and treatment of neuropsychiatric disorders such as Parkinson’s disease, Alzheimer’s disease and other neurodegenerative disorders.

Their findings were published online on 9 Dec in a research report in the journal Nature Methods, a monthly publication covering novel findings in life sciences.

Pei Duanqing, a professor at the Chinese Academy of Sciences’ Guangzhou Institutes of Biomedicine and Health, said his research team had combined an episomal system to deliver reprogramming factors with a chemically defined protocol to reprogramme kidney epithelial cells naturally shed in urine into NPCs. These NPCs, normally only found in the human brain, were proven to be transgene-free and self-renewing, he said.

“These neurons and glial cells can survive for up to one month when transplanted into the brain of a newborn rat,” he said.

He said his team was working hard to understand why their experimental condition allowed the urine cells to become NPCs so as to improve the technique and make it more efficient.

Scientists have long sought to treat and study neurodegenerative diseases by obtaining and transplanting nerve cells. However, the previous method of isolating and using cells from either fetal or adult human patients may help us discover new drugs for these diseases.”

“It is a remarkable advance in the stem cell field,” said Fred Gage, professor with the Salk Institute for Biological Studies.

They reprogrammed somatic cells to make non-integrating virus and epithelial-like cells from human urine, a novel, safe and abundant source of cells, he said.

The results and methods derived from this study will be of great value and significance to the field, he said.—Xinhua

**Two saleswomen show white and black Apple’s iPhone 5 mobile phones in Kota Kinabal- lu, capital of Sabah State, Malaysia, on 14 Dec, 2012. Apple’s iPhone 5 was released in Malaysia on Friday. —Reuters**

**Dutch 4G frequency auction raises more than expected**

People attend the iPhone5 launch event in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 13 Dec, 2012. Apple’s iPhone5 launched in Indonesia on Friday.—Xinhua

**Scientists find new use for cells in human urine**

**Science**

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**BUSINESS & HEALTH**

**New York, 16 Dec**— Having twins as a result of in vitro fertilization (IVF) carries higher risks of complications for both mother and babies than having two single babies from separate IVF procedures, according to a new Swedish study.

The extra concerns that come with multiple births are nothing new. But even as many fertility clinics have stopped regularly implating more than one embryo, debate has continued over the having twins through IVF is really a bad thing for couples desperate for children.

"A lot of patients, when they’ve had infertility for a long time, think that it’s a bonus to get two," said Dr Lynn Westphal, a women’s health and fertility specialist at Stanford University Medical Centre in Palo Alto, California. "But we know it’s always safest to have one child at a time," said Westphal, who wasn’t involved in the new study.

Researchers led by Dr Antonina Szonowa of Sahlgrenska University Hospital in Gothenburg analyzed data from fresh and frozen embryo transfers done at Swedish IVF clinics between 2002 and 2006. Those records included 991 women who ultimately gave birth to twins after a double embryo transfer and 921 mothers with two kids born through separate rounds of IVF.

Almost 47 percent of twin babies were born prematurely and 39 percent were considered low birth weight, Saozow’s team reported in the journal Fertility and Sterility. That compared to the seven percent of singleton babies that were preemies and less than five percent born small.

Twins were also likely to have breathing complications, sepsis or jaundice.

**Geneva, 16 Dec**— A surge in trade disputes has forced the World Trade Organization to reallocate staff to cope with a flood of litigation in the pipeline for 2013, according to diplomats and documents at the global trade body in Geneva.

The WTO’s 157 members have launched 26 trade disputes so far in 2012, the most since 2003 and three times more than the new complaints filed in 2011.

According to an internal WTO document seen by Reuters, the WTO decided to reallocate staff to the disputes team to deal with the increasing number and complexity of legal cases.

“We are seeking to move resources from other divisions. It’s happening already," said one WTO source.

As well as moving staff, the trade body also advertised for a senior dispute settlement lawyer, at a starting salary of around 161,900 Swiss francs (108,377 pounds), and is seeking short term candidates to help deal with the caseload.

The boom in litigation comes as the WTO struggles to get back on the path to reforming its rules, after the failure of the decade-long Doha round of trade negotiations last year.

“The less you negotiate the more you litigate, and vice versa," said one trade diplomat.

The resort to the dispute settlement system signifies both trust in the global trade rules and distrust among its members, as they fight for a share of a pie that is not quite shrinking, but expected to grow by a mere 2.5 percent this year. Although the WTO expects global trade growth to quicken to 4.5 percent in 2013, that would remain below the annual average of 5.4 percent over the past two decades.

WTO Director General Pascal Lamy will report to WTO members on the global trade

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**World Trade Organization (WTO) Director General Pascal Lamy speaks during an interview in sidelines of the annual meetings of the IMF and the World Bank Group in Tokyo on 13 Oct, 2012.**—Reuters

**Banking supervisors say Basel accord won’t be derailed**

**London, 16 Dec**— The failure of Europe and the United States to meet next month’s deadline on tougher bank capital rules won’t derail the global accord, regulators said after they themselves were unable to agree changes to one of the new rules.

The Basel Committee on Banking Supervision concluded a two-day meeting on Friday saying 11 countries were ready to start phasing in Basel III bank capital and liquidity rules.

The committee is made up of nearly 30 countries but major financial centres like the European Union and United States are delaying the start of the world’s main regulatory response to the 2007-09 financial crisis.

The accord requires banks to triple their basic capital buffers in set stages over six years, with new mandatory liquidity reserves and a cap on balance sheets added from 2015.

“It is expected that as remaining jurisdictions finalise their domestic regulations during 2013, they will incorporate all the remaining transitional deadlines in line with the original global agreement, committee chairman Stefan Ingves said in a statement.

He said this would be the case even when they have not been able to meet the January 1 start date.

“Hence, by the end of 2013, almost all Basel Committee jurisdictions will be implementing Basel III in accordance with the agreed timetable," added Ingves, who is also governor of Sweden’s central bank.

“This is an absolutely critical step towards strengthening the resilience of the global banking system,” Talks to introduce Basel III into European Union law reached a tentative conclusion on Friday in a deal to delay the start of formal implementation until January 2014.

The United States is also delaying introduction and Brazilian financial newspaper Valor said there were talks at the country’s central bank to delay Basel III there as well.

**Bayer seeks FDA approval for cancer drug radium-223**

**Frankfurt, 16 Dec**— German drugmaker Bayer said on Friday it requested approval from US regulators for an experimental prostate cancer drug that could eventually generate more than 1 billion euros ($1.31 billion) in annual sales.

Radium-223 dichloride, which Bayer used to call Alphaphanor, is designed to target bone metastases from prostate cancer that cannot be treated by standard hormone therapy. Bayer licensed radium-223 from Algeta in 2009, and if approved in the United States, radium-223 will be co-promoted by Bayer and Algeta, the Oslo-based company said on Friday.

Bayer, which on Wednesday said it was requesting EU approval for the drug, will market radium-223 alone in Europe if the treatment is approved there.

Bayer said last year that Radium-223 dichloride could become a “blockbuster” product with annual sales of at least 1 billion euros.

The drug has some properties of calcium, which makes it cling to cancerous bone cells and then destroy them via alpha rays, which is more targeted that the shotgun approach of conventional radiotherapy.

**Business Brussels, 16Dec—** The European Commission is considering whether to hand out more free pollution allowances for the steel sector next year to counter the risk the industry could be driven out of Europe, EU sources said.

The cost of carbon on the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) has collapsed to record low levels under the burden of excess supply. Earlier this month, it hit a new low of 5.61 euros a tonne.

The fall in price has reduced any additional costs for major polluters.

It is, however, expected to rise. Some in heavy industry complain that, in any case, it does not lead to emissions cuts but only to relocation of industry to pollute other nations, where it does not have to buy the permits. “The Commission is planning to draw up a list of sectors most affected by the ETS regulations and that are, therefore, at risk of relocating their activities outside the EU,” a senior Commission official told Reuters on Friday.

“Sectors included in this list should benefit from temporary free emission permits as from 2013,” said the source, who asked not to be named. Steel is the sector most likely to get free allowances, another source added. The Commission has already approved state grants and quotas in the form of free carbon allowances, specifying the money should be used to modernise energy installations and infrastructure.

For the next phase of the carbon market, beginning next year, the system of handing out free allowances changes markedly, and auctioning becomes the rule for the power sector.

The Commission is still collating “wish lists” — officially referred to as National Implementation Measures — of the installations that could be eligible for free allowances, depending on EU criteria.—Reuters

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**A worker controls a tapping of a blast furnace at Europe’s largest steel factory of Germany’s industrial conglomerate ThyssenKrupp AG in the western German city of Duisburg on 6 Dec, 2012.**—Reuters
Obama to join mourning Connecticut families in search for answers

NEWTOWN, 16 Dec—President Barack Obama arrives in Connecticut on Sunday to join in the mourning for 20 children, all 6 and 7 years old, who were slaughtered by a gunman who forced his way into their school and shot them with a rifle at close range.

Obama’s appearance at an interfaith vigil in the once-tranquil town of Newtown will be watched closely for clues as to what he meant when he called for “meaningful action” to prevent such tragedies in the wake of the massacre on Friday.

But politics will take a back seat to grieving, as more details emerge about the 12 girls, eight boys and six adult women that gun- man Adam Lanza killed at the Sandy Hook Elementary School before killing himself.

Olivia Engel had a part in a nativity play at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church. “She was supposed to be an angel in the play. Now she’s an angel up in heaven,” Monsignor Robert Weiss told a standing-room-only crowd at the church before the play on Saturday.

Emilie Parker, another of the child victims, was studying Portuguese with her father. A Facebook memorial page for her already had nearly 147,000 “likes” as of Saturday night. Vicki Leigh Soto, 27, saved her first-grade students’ lives by putting herself between the kids and the gunman. Britain’s Independent on Sunday newspaper splashed her photo on its front page with the caption “The Heroine of Sandy Hook.”

Iran warns against Patriot deployment on Syria frontier

BEIRUT, 16 Dec—Iran’s army chief of staff warned NATO on Saturday that stationing Patriot anti-missile batteries on Tur- key’s border with Syria was setting the stage for world war.

General Hassan Firouzabadi, whose country has been a staunch supporter of President Bashar al-Assad throughout the 21-month uprising against his rule, called on the Western mili- tary alliance to reverse its decision to deploy the de- fence system.

“Each one of these Patriots is a black mark on the world map, and is meant to cause a world war,” Firouzabadi said, according to the Iranian Student News Agency. “They are making plans for a world war and this is very dangerous for the future of humanity and for the future of Europe itself.”

NATO’s US com- mander said on Friday the alliance was deploying the anti-missile system along Syria’s northern frontier because Assad’s forces had fired Scud missiles that landed near Turkish territor-

S African police on high alert ahead of ruling ANC national congress

Bloemfontein, (South Africa), 16 Dec—The South African government on Saturday intensified its security here before the ruling African National Con- gress (ANC)’s national con- gress. The ANC will start the 53rd National Congress on Sunday in Bloemfontein to elect new leadership.

“Security has been beefed up for the conference with about 1,000 police being now on duty,” said a police official.

Bloemfontein is the capital city of the central Province of the Free State and the judicial capital of the nation, with a popula- tion of about 400,000.

Many police cars were patrolling with sirens ring- ing on the main streets, and some police units were car- rying out tasks at the check points around the confer- ence centre. “We have been on alert around the clock in recent days,” a police of- ficer told Xinhua. A high-ranking police official of the Free State told media on Saturday that “safety and security are a priority amid the prevailing politi- cal environment”, and that “police are striving to make Bloemfontein a safer place even preventive measures are now in place to tackle potential troubles.”

It was reported that about 4,500 delegates across the coun- try will participate in the congress to elect the new leadership for all impor- tant positions, including the president. The contest for the new party presi-
dency will be possibly held between President Jacob Zuma and Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe.

The ANC is current- ly in an alliance with the South African Communist Party and the Congress of South African Trade Unions in ruling the country.

Given the ANC’s electoral dominance in the country, the new ANC president will be possible to become the next president of the country in the elec- tions in 2014.—Xinhua

Philippine police kills Malaysian trying to detonate bomb

DAVAO, 16 Dec—Philippine security forces have killed a suspected Malaysian bomber of the regional ter- ror group Jemaah Islami-yah (JI) who reportedly at- tempted to blow a bomb at a public park in the southern Philippine city of Davao on Friday night, police said on Saturday.

The Malaysian suspect, Mohammad Noor Fikrie Bin Abi Kahar, attempted to detonate a homemade bomb inside his bag when he was trapped at the park not far from his hotel, and police shot the suspect, said local police commander Ronald dela Rosa. Davao city police also arrested Kahr’s Filipina wife Annabel Lee, who was with the Malaysian on Friday night, when they were about to check out at the Sam- paguita Hotel. Police said the couple ran but were cornered and a super shot Kahar.

“We shot him immedi- ately because he was trying to detonate his bomb at the park where we cornered them,” Dela Rosa said.—Xinhua

Tunisia arrests seven men belonging to al-Qaeda recruitment ring

TUNIS, 16 Dec—Tun- nesian security units have arrested 7 members of al-Qaeda Maghreb terrorist network, which aimed at recruiting extremist mili- tants to conduct operations in the area, a spokesman for the interior ministry said on Saturday.

He said the seven men had been arrested near the border with Algeria on Thursday and that a search operation was currently un- derway to apprehend others still at loose.

The interior ministry spokesman said that two men arrested last week near the town of Jendouba had admitted being part of a local Salafist Jihadist net- work. Explosives, weapons and electric stun guns were found onboard a rented car they were driving.

On Thursday, secu- rity patrols also arrested 5 members of the same net- work, including a man in possession of a pistol and 25 cartridges, the spokes- man said, adding that com- bat and camouflage gear and maps were also found at the home of one of the fugitives.—Xinhua

Iran’s Foreign Minister Walid al-Moualem (R) meets UN-Arab League peace envoy for Syria Lakhdar Bra- himi in Damascus on 20 Oct, 2012. A portrait of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad hangs on the wall. —Reuters

Syria’s Foreign Minister Walid al-Moualem told UN humanitarian chief Valerie Amos on Saturday that US and EU sanctions on Syria were to blame for hardship in his country and urged the United Nations to call for them to be lifted.
**Sudan’s DM heads to Addis Ababa for talks with South Sudan**

**Khartoum,** 16 Dec—Sudan’s Defence Minister Abdul-Rahim Mohamed Hussein on Saturday headed for Addis Ababa of Ethiopia, to review implementation of the joint cooperation deal signed between Sudan and South Sudan, official SUXA news agency reported.

A delegation of the Sudanese army’s political and security committee between Sudan and South Sudan, headed by Sudan’s Minister of Defence Abdul-Rahim Mohamed Hussein, left here today for the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa to take part in meetings of the committee there to review implementation of cooperation deal signed by the two countries, the report said. Priorities of the Sudanese side to the meetings include immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) from four disputed border areas and stoppage of the support and shelter being provided by South Sudan to the rebel groups in Sudan, according to the report.

Al-Sawarmy Khalid Saad, the Sudanese army’s spokesman, was quoted as saying that the members of the joint political and security committee would continue negotiations for three days on what they have started in Khartoum and Juba regarding the outstanding issues between the two countries.

He added that the talks would also discuss how to implement what the two sides have recently agreed on with regard to the joint defense agreement in the presence of the African Union (AU) mediator Thabo Mbeki who would receive the two sides’ proposals in Addis Ababa.

Khartoum insists on implementing the full security agreement first and demands Juba to demobilize all the northern troops within the SPLA in South Sudan, South Sudan soldiers were holding those from South Kordofan and Blue Nile areas.

On 27 Sept, Sudan and South Sudan signed a package of agreements on various issues during a presidential summit in Ethiopia.

Witnessed by members of the AU High-Level Implementation Panel on Sudan, the two sides inked three deals on cooperation, security and post-secession matters.

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**EU leaders shocked by US elementary school shooting**

**Brussels,** 16 Dec—Leaders of the European Union (EU) on Friday expressed their deep shock on the shooting incident in the US state of Connecticut killing at least 28.

“It is with deep shock and horror that I learned this evening of the tragic event in Connecticut. Your lives have been full of hope have been destroyed,” said European Commission President José Manuel Barroso in a statement. “On behalf of the European Commission and on my own behalf, I want to express my sincere condolences to the families of the victims of this terrible tragedy,” Barroso said.

EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton said in her statement “I would like to express my shock at the tragic shooting at the school in Connecticut today.”

“My thoughts go out to the victims, their families and the American people at this difficult time,” Ashton said.

The shooting incident at an elementary school in Newtown, the US state of Connecticut on Friday morning has left at least 28 dead, with most of them children.

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**US to send troops to Turkey for missile deployment**

**Washington,** 16 Dec—US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta has signed an order to deploy two Patriot missile batteries to Turkey along with 400 troops to operate them, Pentagon Press Secretary George Little said on Friday.

“The purpose of this deployment is to signal very strongly that the United States, working closely with our NATO allies, is going to support the defence of Turkey, especially with potential threats emanating from Syria,” said Little.

Little said the troops would be deployed in the coming weeks once the two Patriot missile batteries are in place but declined to reveal the location.

Panetta issued the order on route to Turkey from Afghanistan, according to the Pentagon.

Panetta told reporters during the trip that the United States and Turkey “share common concerns about the violence in Syria and the threat that it poses to regional stability”.

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**Gunman killed in US hospital after wounding three**

**Washington,** 16 Dec—A gunman was shot and killed by police after opening fire in a hospital on Saturday in US state of Alabama, local newspaper reported.

The shooting came one day after a deadly shooting in Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut which left 28 people dead.

The hospital is affiliated with the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). The university released a statement saying it “does everything it can to keep its patients, visitors and employees safe, including 24-hour security at all entrances to the emergency department and throughout the area provided by UAB’s accredited and armed police department, and having all persons entering the emergency department through the walk-in entrance pass through a metal detector.”

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**China to continue wetlands protection**

**Beijing,** 16 Dec—China will continue efforts to protect wetlands, Vice Premier Hui Liangyu said at a symposium marking the country’s 20th anniversary of joining the Convention on Wetlands. This agreement, also known as the Ramsar Convention, was adopted on 2 Feb, 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar alongside the Caspian Sea, highlighting international efforts to protect wetlands around the world.

China has greatly improved the ecological condition of its key wetlands over the past two decades due to timely protection, according to its vice premier.

The country will further increase investment, promote legislation and strengthen people’s awareness on wetland protection, Hui vowed, noting that there is a relatively low coverage of wetlands on Chinese territory. China is willing to deepen international cooperation with all parties under the framework of the Ramsar Convention and make contributions to wetlands protection, according to Hui. By 2015, China will ensure that 55 percent of Chinese wetlands are under protection, according to the Chinese authorities.

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**Crewman killed as ship wrecked in North Sea tide**

**Edinburgh,** 16 Dec—A crew member has died and 11 others were rescued after a vessel in the North Sea was battered by huge waves, as storms and unusually high tides caused significant damage across north and east Scotland, the local media reported on Saturday.

The vessel named Vox Sailor was stranded 120 miles (about 192 km) off Aberdeen and taking on water, while six other vessels and three helicopters were sent to the scene and non-essential staff have been evacuated from a nearby rig, the online Scotsman newspaper reported.

The body of the man has not yet been recovered due to severe weather but it is believed he was dead when the rest of the crew were rescued, said the report.

The Vox Sailor had suffered “significant damage,” said a local police spokesman, adding that it appeared that one crew member suffered fatal injuries.

Part of the harbour in Balmoral, Ross-shire collapsed under the repeated force of the waves on Friday, showed dramatic pictures.
**Nothing but the Noble Truth**

Buddhism or the Buddha Dhamma is the noble and timeless teachings of Buddha, initially propagated in India, and later spread throughout many parts of the world. In fact, Buddhism or Buddha Dhamma is an invaluable gem of many facets, attracting people of diverse personalities. Every facet of this gem has tested methods and approaches that can benefit the Truth seekers with their various levels of understanding and spiritual maturity.

The Buddha Dhamma has the power to heal the mental wounds and fulfill the spiritual needs of all human beings, while science has no capacity to do so.

Truthfully, the Buddha Dhamma is the fruit resulting from a most intensive search conducted over a long period of time by a compassionate noble prince whose mission was to help suffering humanity.

So, what actually is Buddhism or the Buddha Dhamma? The simple answer is that Buddhism or the Buddha Dhamma is too vast and too profound to be neatly placed in any single category. Of course, it includes philosophy and religion and a way of life. But Buddhism goes beyond these categories.

It has also prevented the decline of moral values and contributed to peace, coherence with the embellishing of patience, loving-kindness, compassion and selflessness.

The source of all Buddhism is the experience of Enlightenment. With this experience of Enlightenment, the Buddha began His Teaching not with any dogmatic beliefs or mysteries, but with a valid, universal truth which He gave to the world as universal truth.

Consequently, the real definition of Buddhism is Noble Truth. Remember that the Buddha did not teach from theories. He always taught from a practical standpoint based on His understanding, His Enlightenment, and His realization of the Truth.

So, on the whole, Buddhism or the Buddha Dhamma is nothing but the Noble Truth.
**New Light of Myanmar**

**NATIONAL**

**President U Thein Sein pays homage to Historic Kyaikthlan Pagoda in Mawlamyine**

YANGON, 16 Dec—President U Thein Sein paid homage to Historic Kyaikthlan Pagoda in Mawlamyine today, viewing from the precinct of the Pagoda. Afterwards, the President and party left there for Dawei by air. MNA

**Mobile clinic opened in Hmawby Township**

YANGON, 16 Dec—Jointly organized by Yangon North District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and Health Department, the mobile clinic was launched in Thebyu Village of Hmawby Township on 10 December morning.

At the opening ceremony, the clinic provided healthcare services to 205 patients from the village and gave medicines and refreshments to 20 older persons and 20 expectant mothers. The ceremony was also attended by Hmawby Township Administrator U Thein Myint, Chairman of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Than Shwe and chairpersons of township Maternal and Child Welfare Associations of the district. Myanna Alinn

**Drug users, traffickers arrested**

BHAMO, 16 Dec—According to the information that motorcyclists in group abused narcotic drugs in the toddy plantation near Kachin mound of Manyut Village of Bhamo Township in Bhamo District, a squad led by IP Maung Maung Lwin of Bhamo District Special Anti-Drug Squad and SIP Kyaw Tha of Bhamo Police Station together with local authorities and witnesses seized the drug users recently.

The authorities seized drug traffickers Hla Ngwe and Tun Tin and 26 drug users together with 28 syringes, and 13 China-made motorcycles. The police station opened files of lawsuits against them under Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanna Alinn

**Knowledge of sugarcane plants for growers**

YANGON, 16 Dec—As it is time to harvest sugarcane plantation in farmer educative sugarcane farm in Nyaunghbingyisu village of Pobbarthiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, K 95/84 sugarcane plants are being harvested as quality strain and distributed to other sugarcane growers on 10 December morning.

The farmer educative sugarcane farm has been grown for 10 months. The strain of such sugarcane is to be grown again for 11 months to be milled as sugar.

In-charge of the farm U Moe Kyaw Hlaing said, “The educative sugarcane farm is cultivated on 10 acres of farmland. Small grafts of sugarcane are to be nurtured for 10 months, thence will be used as strains. The strains are to be put on farmland again for 11 months for production. The grafts from Nyaunghbingyisu farm are distributed to farmers from Ye-dashe sugar mill area of Bago Region for growing them again. The plantations of grafts are to be harvested at 11th month. One acre of sugarcane can produce 60 tons.”—Myanna Alinn

**Gymnastics referee course No. 1 on 17-20 Dec**

YANGON, 16 Dec—The International Gymnastics Referee Course No 1 will be conducted at the Myanmar Gymnastics Federation at Kyaiikasan Sports Grounds, here, from 17 to 20 December for Myanmar gymnastic referees to be able to discharge duties in the XXVII SEA Games and international competitions and turning out outstanding gymnastic referees from the nation.

Mr Anuchit of Thailand will discharge duty as course instructor who will provide training to the trainees in English.

Any enthusiasts of gymnastics may attend the course. Outstanding trainees from the course No 1 are allowed to attend the course No 2.

After that, the FIG referee course will be opened in 2013. Those who passed the second course may attend the FIG referee course together with those of Southeast Asian, Asian and European countries. They will be presented the certificates recognized by FIG. Those who have the certificates of FIG can take out the duties of referees in the international and world gymnastics championships. Myanna Alinn

**Book show marks National Day**

DAWEI, 16 Dec—Basic Education High School on 7 December. After Headmistress Daw Than Than Htay had made a speech, Head of Sub-Township IPRD Daw Nanda Hlaing explained the purpose of book show. Myanna Alinn
**Gunmen kill lawmaker in northern Nigeria**

KANO, 16 Dec—A member of the northwest Nigeria’s Kano State House of Assembly, Danladi Isa Kademi was on Friday shot dead by unknown gunmen.

The lawmaker, who was said to have been shot dead by unknown gunmen at Ring road in Hotoro quarters at about 5:55 pm, local time at the time when motorcycle riders are trying to meet their time of movement at 6:00 pm, local time in the state. Security reports told Xinhua that the Late Kademi was trailed to his guest House at Hotoro Maradun by eastern bye pass in Kano metropolis by two gunmen riding on a motorbike.

The source said the gunmen open fire on the late lawmaker, killing him instantly and escaped from the scene. State Commissioner of Police, Ibrahim Idris confirmed the incident and said he had earlier warned lawmakers in the state to desist from relaxing at popular spots.

The commissioner pointing out that a lawmaker in the state was recently shot dead by unknown gunmen in a similar circumstance. He disclosed that investigations into the incident have begun.

**High-level int’l conference on nuclear safety starts in Fukushima**

KORIYAMA, (Japan), 16 Dec—A high-level international conference on nuclear safety started Saturday in Japan’s northeastern Prefecture of Fukushima, with participants expected to affirm that safety is a prerequisite for using nuclear power and assisting human resources development for countries seeking the energy option is vital.

The three-day event, organized by the Japanese government and the International Atomic Energy Agency, is meant to share the lessons learned from the Fukushima Daiichi plant disaster last year and to discuss the progress in global efforts to strengthen nuclear safety.

The conference, held in the city of Koriyama, brings together officials of IAEA member states, many of whom are represented at the ministerial level, and relevant international organizations.—Kyodo News

**Nigerian governor, ex-security head die in air crash**

LAGOS, 16 Dec—The governor of Nigeria’s volatile Kaduna state and a former national security adviser were among six killed when a helicopter crashed in the southerly oil-producing Bayelsa state on Saturday, officials said.

The helicopter wobbled in the sky before nose-diving into a forest in Ogbia Creek at around 3:30 pm (0830 ET), a local resident who witnessed the crash told Reuters.

“By the time we got to the scene it was in flames,” said Hitler Adumun, a local community leader. “We tried to put them out but it was difficult. We saw the roasted bodies of those inside.”

The Nigerian Navy confirmed that its Agusta helicopter had crashed while carrying VIPs to Port Harcourt but it didn’t give a reason and civilian authorities declined to speculate on the cause. President Goodluck Jonathan ordered an investigation.

Kaduna was quiet on Saturday evening but some residents said they were nervous.

“Just had to rush down to my house because this is Kaduna state and anything can happen, we can’t forget the election crisis when a lot of lives and properties were lost,” local resident Maxuell Danjuma told Reuters.

Island sect Boko Haram has bombed several churches in Kaduna since an uprising in 2009. The sect has killed hundreds this year in its effort to carve out an Islamic state in a country of 160 million split between Christians and Muslims.

The 36 state governors are among the most powerful politicians in Nigeria, Africa’s biggest oil producer, often controlling budgets bigger than those of many African countries.

Azzan had been a close adviser to Jonathan but was sacked in June as Nigeria struggled to stem Boko Haram’s attacks, which focus on politicians, security forces and religious targets.

Several high-profile politicians had traveled to Bayelsa, Jonathan’s home state, this weekend for a funeral.—Reuters

**Czech military to resume flying L-159 planes after crash**

PRAGUE, 16 Dec—The Czech military will on Monday resume flying the L-159 subsonic aircraft after one of the planes crashed in November, killing the pilot, a military spokesman said on Friday.

Jana Rudolphova said the investigation of the fatal crash ruled out any technical defect. But the cause of the accident is not yet been announced yet.

The pilot crashed into the ground when routinely training night piloting in Radovesnice, central Bohemia. The L-159 ALCA is a one-seat, one-engine subsonic combat aircraft manufactured in the Czech Republic.

The Czech military has armed its air force with this model since 2003.

In that same year, one of the planes crashed in the Jince military training ground in the central Bohemian region caused by a pilot mistake.

**Family of slain border agent sues federal officials**

PHOENIX, 16 Dec—The parents of a slain U.S Border Patrol agent have filed a wrongful death lawsuit in connection with the botched “Fast and Furious” federal sting operation that saw guns purchased in the United States shipped to suspected criminals in Mexico.

The lawsuit, which names federal officials and a federal prosecutor as defendants, was filed in federal court in Arizona and seeks unspecified damages for Brian Terry’s 2010 death in a shootout with suspected border bands in southern Arizona.

Terry’s slaying set off a political firestorm when it brought to light the botched probe by the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives into gun trafficking that let more than 2,000 weapons slip across the border into Mexico.

The operation had been envisioned as a way to track guns from buyers to senior Mexican drug cartel members. Federal agents who ran “Fast and Furious” focused on building cases against the leaders of a trafficking ring, and did not pursue low-level buyers of those firearms.

Two firearms found at the scene of Terry’s death were traced to the operation, although it was not clear if the bullets that killed him came from either weapon.—Reuters
**Regional News**

### Police arrest five Taleban militants in northern Afghan province

SARIPUL, (Afghanistan), 16 Dec—Afghan Police during cleanup as operations against Taleban militants in Saripul Province 350 km north of Kabul on Saturday, captured five armed Taleban militants including a group commander, a local police officer said.

“The operation conducted against Taleban in Sayad District early today morning during which five armed Taleban rebels including a group commander Mullah Qamar were captured,” Sediq Khan the police chief of Sayad district told Xinhua.

There were no casualties on police personnel during the operations which lasted for a while.

Taleban militants fighting the government are yet to make comment. Xinhua

### Philippine death toll from typhoon Bopha exceeds 1000

MANILA, 16 Dec—The official death toll from super typhoon Bopha (local name Pablo) has already reached 1020 people as the number of missing also rose to 844, a government agency announced on Sunday.

The Philippine National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said a regional response coordination center was built in Davao city for searching more survivors and bodies. The Philippine Navy and the Coast Guard have also mobilized sea and aircraft to assist the rescue operation.

Typhoon Bopha, believed to be the most severe typhoon in the Philippines over the past two decades, made its landfall in Davao Oriental on 4 Dec. The typhoon brought strong winds and flooding, heavily affecting Compostela Valley and Davao Oriental provinces in southern Philippines’ Mindanao region.—Xinhua

### Japan’s lower house election begins

28 kids die of measles in Pakistan over last two weeks

UN chief urges Nepali parties to form broad-based gov’t

PHOTO: Xinhua

KATHMANDU, 16 Dec—United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has expressed his deep concern about continuing political deadlock and has urged the political parties to form a broad-based government without further delay.

Issuing a Press statement on late Friday evening, Ban Ki-moon urged the political parties to set aside differences in the interest of the nation.

Ban’s statement comes at a time when the leaders have failed to nominate a prime ministerial candidate for the last three weeks.

He has also encouraged the main stakeholders to create a conducive environment for the next elections.

“The Secretary-General urges all actors in Nepal to reaffirm their commitment to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and to safeguard the achievements of the past several years in line with the aspirations of the Nepali people,” the statement reads.

The statement reads that President Ram Baran Yadav in Shital Niwas and Bhattarai on Saturday morning called Prime Minister Babrak Bhattarai on Saturday morning.

President Yadav has extended the deadline for another five days which will end on 17 Dec.

The ruling parties have been asking the opposition to come to a package deal on issues including new election date and electoral laws and appointments at the constitutional bodies, but the opposition wants the new government to be formed first. Xinhua

### Japanese ruling party leader visits office he ran

Tokyo, 16 Dec—The 46th Japan’s House of Representatives election began at 7.00 am local time Sunday. A total of 1,504 candidates will run for the 480 seats in lower house election.

The ruling Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) registered 247 candidates while the main opposition party, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) registered 338 runners. The Japan Restoration Party and the Tomorrow Party of Japan, known as third forces, registered 172 and 121 respectively.

About 49,000 polling stations across the country are open to voters and vote boxes will be sealed at 8:00 pm local time. The result is expected on early Monday at earliest.

Japan’s lower house was dissolved by Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda on 16 Nov.

According to the latest polls, the LDP is expected to grab a big win as the party and its ally, the New Komeito Party will together secure more than 300 seats in the election.

However, the ruling party, headed by Noda, is likely to get around 300 seats, compared with its current 230 seats.

The LDP pledged to boost Japan’s economy by setting a 3 percent inflation target to combat the country’s continuous deflation. It will also exert more pressure on the Bank of Japan to adopt currency easing policies.

The LDP also aims at revising the country’s pacifist constitution so as to allow the Self-Defense Forces into a national army and allow the country to use collective self-defence rights.

The DPJ vowed to phase out nuclear energy in the 2030s and will not construct new nuclear power facilities.

It also promised to create more than 4 million jobs in the fields such as new energy and health care and to achieve a two-percent GDP growth rate by the year 2020.

Meanwhile, vote for Tokyo gubernatorial election also kicked off on Sunday, aiming at choosing a successor to Shintaro Ishihara, who recently quit the post as the governor of Tokyo and turned to the general election.

Former Tokyo Vice governor Naoki Inose, who was recommended by Ishihara, was leading in the race against other eight runners, according to polls.

His major rivals include Kenji Usunomiyya, a former head of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, Shigeumi Matsuzawa, former Kanagawa governor and Takashi Sasagawa, a retired lawmaker of the LDP.

Xinhua

### India’s ruling party leader visits office he ran

Takashi Sasagawa, a retired Kanagawa governor and Shigefumi Matsuzawa, former head of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, were leading in the race against Shintaro Ishihara, who was recommended by Ishihara, who recently quit the post as the governor of Tokyo and turned to the general election.

Xinhua

### Voters register at a polling station in Osaka, Japan, on 16 Dec. 2012. Japan on Sunday held the election of the 46th House of Representatives, with a total of 1,504 candidates running for the 480 seats in the lower house.

Xinhua

### Philippine death toll from typhoon Bopha exceeds 1000

Photo taken on 14 Dec, 2012 shows sunset view at Tamsui District of Xinbei City, southeast China’s Taipie.—Xinhua

### 28 kids die of measles in Pakistan over last two weeks

ISLAMABAD, 16 Dec—A six-year-old girl died of measles in Pakistan’s southern Province of Sindh on Saturday, bringing the total death toll across the last two weeks, local media reported.

Local Urdu TV channel Dunya quoted hospital sources as saying that the disease broke out in the children of one to seven years of age during the last week of October in the Upper Sindh areas which were affected by floods earlier in August and September this year.

District Health Officer (DHO), Dr. Abdul Fatah Bughio said that he could not verify the number of deaths, however, over one hundred cases of measles have been reported from Upper Sindh.

He said that insanitation, unhygienic food and poverty topped the causes of measles in the affected areas.

Measles is highly contagious and it spreads by a virus that is preventable by proper immunization but the disease became fatal in the province due to negligence of the health authorities.

Talking to media, family members of the affected kids said that the concerned authorities did not provide any relief to them, and the stagnant rain water is still surrounding their houses even after the passage of three months which is causing diseases among the children.

Professor Dr Saifullah Jamro, a senior medician at the Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Medical University, said that 2,133 cases of measles have been confirmed across the country since 2012.

This is the second major outbreak of the disease in Sindh since the beginning of this year. Earlier in June, World Health Organization (WHO) said that an estimated of 27 children under five years old died due to measles in the province.

Xinhua
Myanmar Technologies and Investment Corporation (MTI) Limited
Submission to People as incorporated

Myanmar Technologies and Investment Corporation (MTI) Limited has been granted as a Public Company by Department of Investment and Companies Administration, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, Republic of the Union of Myanmar under Company Incorporation Certificate No.( 3493/2012-2013 ) according with existing laws.

Myanmar Technologies and Investment Corporation (MTI) Limited, a public company founded with the prominent professional and expatriates of Myanmar ICT industrial and will stand as a qualitative business group keeping abreast to international level in order to provide telecommunication services, investments and technologies for peoples of Myanmar. Myanmar Technologies and Investment Corporation (MTI) Limited will keep giving information about detailed facts concerning shares for those who are interested.

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Email - office@mti.com.mm / info@mti.com.mm

INVITATION FOR QUOTATION (IFQ)

THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT has received the Grant from the International Development Association for National Community Development Project and wishes to purchase:
Lot 1-4 (4x4) vehicles (2 units) and Lot 2 - Pick-up vehicles (6 units) from local and international authorized dealer. The goods must be brand new and required to be supplied with 3 months after contract signing. Interested qualified eligible suppliers are invited to obtain a copy of the Invitation For Quotation (IFQ) free-of-charge from the address given below:
U Ko Ko Naing
Director, Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Border Affairs, Office Number 14, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
Fax:+95-67-409215
E-mail to all these email addresses: naing.7.koko@gmail.com, kaw. dda(a).gmail.com
Quotations must be delivered to the address mentioned above before December 31, 2012, 12.00AM.

Death toll from sunken boat with illegal migrants off Greek island rises to 20

ATHENS, 16 Dec—The death toll from a sunken boat carrying illegal migrants from Turkey to Greece has risen to 20, local authorities at Lesvos island in the eastern Aegean Sea said on Saturday afternoon. Bodies of the victims have been retrieved across the eastern coast of Lesvos, as a rescue operation for survivors in cooperation with Frontex forces continued, according to a Greek coast guard spokesperson. A total of 28 people of unidentified nationalities, including an unclear number of children and a Turkish smuggler, are believed to have been on board the rubber boat which sank on Friday morning, according to the statement of the only survivor so far. The 20-year old man was rescued from Greek coast guard officers on Friday afternoon and is hospitalized at Lesvos, according to an official Press release.

Greek Coast Guard officials verified reports of local media in which the man described the capsize of the overloaded vessel amid strong winds at halfway between Turkey’s coast and the Greek island.—Xinhua

China issues alert for foggy weather

BEIJING, 16 Dec—China’s meteorological authorities on Saturday issued a blue-coded alert for fog in most parts of the country’s central and northern provinces from Saturday night to Sunday morning.

Most parts of north China, southwest China’s Sichuan Basin and areas along the Yangtze, Yellow, Huaihe and Han rivers will be covered in light fog during the period, the National Meteorological Centre (NMC) warned.

The fog will reduce visibility to less than 1,000 meters in Tianjin Municipality and parts of Hebei, Shanxi, Shandong, Henan, Hubei, Jiangsu, Shaanxi and Sichuan Provinces, with visibility as low as 200 metres in some areas, according to the centre.

The alert represents the lowest level in China’s four-tier colour-coded weather warning system.

The NMC has advised residents to protect themselves against possible air pollution. It also told drivers to be aware of road conditions and to slow down to guarantee safety.

The centre also forecast light snow in north China and parts of northeast China from Saturday night to daytime on Sunday, South China, along with the Jianghan Plain and areas south of the Yangtze River, can expect to see rainy weather from Monday to Tuesday.—Xinhua
Singer-songwriter Carole King to receive US Gershwin prize

NEW YORK, Dec—American singer-songwriter Carole King will be awarded the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song, the US national library said on Thursday.

The multiple Grammy Award winner co-wrote her first No 1 hit at age 17 with then-husband Gerry Goffin and was the first female solo artist to sell more than 10 million copies of a single album, with her 1971 release "Tapestry."

The prize honours individuals for lifetime achievement in popular music, the library said. It is named after songwriting brothers George and Ira Gershwin. King, now 70, topped the charts with the song "It's Too Late" in 1971, but is best known for her work performed by others, including "You've Got a Friend" by James Taylor and "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman" by Aretha Franklin.

"I was so pleased when the venerable Library of Congress began honouring writers of popular songs with the Gershwin Prize," King said in a statement. "I'm proud to be the fifth such honouree and the first woman among such distinguished company."

King and Goffin wrote some of the biggest hits of the 1960s before their nine-year marriage ended in 1968. They rose to prominence in 1960 writing "Will You Love Me Tomorrow" for the Shirelles. The duo also scored hits with "Take Good Care of My Baby," performed by Bobby Vee in 1961, "The Loco-Motion," performed by Little Eva in 1962 and "Pleasant Valley Sunday," performed by The Monkees in 1967, among others.

New York-born King did not hit it big as a singer until 1971, when "Tapestry" topped the US album charts for 15 weeks, then went on to win a Grammy.

LOS ANGELES, Dec—Cable shows got more Golden Globe nominations for television than traditional network programmes on Thursday as HBO's political movie "Game Change" and Showtime's psychological thriller series "Homeland" — one of last year's big winners — led the race.

"Homeland" led the TV drama category with four nominations including best drama, best actor for Damian Lewis and best actress for Claire Danes in her role as a bipolar CIA agent tracking down a home-grown extremist.

"Homeland" fans seemed to be a little more split on whether creatively the second season was as successful as the first season so it'll be curious if that ends up impacting the show's chances in terms of taking home the awards," James Hibberd, senior staff writer at Entertainment Weekly, told Reuters. "Downtown Abbey" creator Julian Fellowes told Reuters: "We're up against the big boys now, but the whole thing is very flattering and exciting."

He added: "The themes of the show are pretty international, they're about adjusting to change and being caught out by what life does to you...all of that is common to every country." HBO movie "Game Change," about the surprise selection of Sarah Palin as John McCain's running mate in the 2008 presidential campaign, landed five nods in the miniseries/movie category, including for actors Julianne Moore and Woody Harrelson.—Reuters
BERLIN, 16 Dec—Steve Kiessling scored twice to lead Bayer Leverkusen to a 3-0 win over Hamburg that cut Bayern Munich’s Bundesliga lead on Saturday while troubled Schalke 04 slumped to a 3-1 home defeat to Freiburg.

Jan Rosenthal scored twice, but later became one of five players sent off in Saturday’s six games, as Freiburg came from behind to extend Schalke’s winless run to six league games. The only consolation for their fierce coach, Hub Stevens, was sports director Horst Heldt’s promise on Thursday that the Dutchman’s job is safe for the time being.

Kiessling’s brace made the unsung striker the Bundesliga top scorer with 12 goals. Andre Schuerre was also on target as second-placed Leverkusen cut Bayern Munich’s lead at the top to nine points at the Bundesliga’s halfway mark.

Bayern slipped up on Friday when they were held 1-1 at home by Borussia Moenchengladbach, only the fourth time this season they have failed to win. Promoted Eintracht Frankfurt went third with a 2-0 win after some early drama at VfL Wolfsburg. Alexander Meier and Takashi Inui scored for Eintracht while Wolfsburg had Issoue sent off for a studs-up challenge, all in a six-minute spell before the 20th minute.

Greuther Fuerth and Augsburg both finished with 10 men as they drew 1-1 in a meeting of the bottom two, leaving them level on nine points from 17 games at the 18-team table. Sascha Moeiders gave Augsburg an early lead and Lasse Sobiech levelled after the break for Fuerth, who are in the Bundesliga for the first time and have yet to win at home. Fuerth’s Mergim Mavraj was dismissed for a second bookable offence, and his sending off was followed by that of Augsburg substitute Giovanni Sio, who got a straight red after only four minutes on the field.

Kiessling has been among the Bundesliga’s leading scorers over the past few seasons but has won only six caps for Germany, finding himself overshadowed by Michael Ballack and Mario Gomez. Leverkusen reached the halfway mark with 33 points, compared to Bayern’s 42, with Frankfurt a further three points behind.

Leverkusen’s progress has gone almost unnoticed with Bayern hogging the limelight, and Schuerre said they did not expect to maintain a challenge, despite the Bavarians’ recent tendency to cave in at crucial moments of a campaign.

“Bayern are simply too good this year, we have to accept that,” Schuerre told reporters. “But we want to cut their lead as much as possible and, naturally, we won’t want to give up on second place.” Leverkusen went ahead when Kiesslingfootered past Rene Adler from an unmarked position in the 26th minute after Gonzalo Castro deflected the ball into his path.

The only consolation for the Dutchman’s job is safe for the time being, director Horst Heldt’s promise on Thursday that the Dutchman’s job is safe for the time being.

Andre Schuerre (L) of Bayer Leverkusen is challenged by Hamburg SV’s Michael Mancienne during their German first division Bundesliga soccer match in Leverkusen on 15 Dec, 2012.—Reuters

DENVER, 16 Dec—The Denver Nuggets took full advantage of a Memphis Grizzlies team lacking in confidence by grinding out a 99-94 home win to get back to 300 for the season on Friday.

The Nuggets, who have spent an NBA-high 17 of 24 games on the road this season, improved to 12-12 on their return to Denver, while condemning the Grizzlies to a third consecutive loss.

Andre Iguodala had a big night for the Nuggets with 20 points and seven assists, while benchman Andre Miller contributed 18 points.

“He is amazing with some of the stuff he does and how he gets it done,” Nuggets coach George Karl told reporters of the 36-year-old Miller.

“We don’t win this game without Andre Miller, without a question. “It was a slow-down, drag, pull teeth, punch, grab, hold, kind of an old-school basketball game. “I think it is a really classy win for us. It is a tough-minded win against a team that I think is going to be very, very successful this year.”

Memphis (14-6) had a chance to tie the contest in the closing seconds but top scorer Rudy Gay’s (22 points) three-point attempt failed to drop as the Grizzlies slipped two games behind San Antonio in the Southwest Division.

“Honestly it shouldn’t have gotten to that point,” Gay said of the late shot that went agonisingly close. “I feel like we could have won this game. But whether that shot went down or not it was a couple of crucial possessions happened before, earlier in the fourth quarter.

“But now this is where we show who we are. We’re going to find a way to get out of this.” The win was Denver’s 29th home triumph over Memphis in 33 contests, continuing an impressive dominance in Colorado.—Reuters

Nuggets tame Grizzlies on return to Denver

New Light of Myanmar

Sports

Leverkusen close gap at top, Schalke lose again

Klose fires Lazio to late win over Inter

ROME, 16 Dec—Lazio moved to within five points of Serie A leaders Juventus on Saturday after Miroslav Klose fired them to a late 1-0 win over title rivals Inter Milan.

The German international’s 82nd-minute winner, his 10th goal of the season, lifts Lazio into fourth place on 33 points, level with Napoli, while second-placed Inter missed the chance to close the gap between them and Antonio Conte’s champions to one point.

In Saturday’s other game, Antonio Di Natale rescued a point for 10-man Udinese when he scored an 89th-minute equaliser against Palermo, leaving the Sicilians a point above the relegation zone.

Defenders dominated the first hour in Rome, and the first clear scoring opportunity did not arrive until the 63rd minute, when Freddy Guarin, the best of Inter’s disappointing attacking players, struck the inside of the post with a long-range daisy cutter of a shot.

Lazio’s goalkeeper Federico Marchetti (L) goes to save against Inter Milan’s Diego Milito during their Italian Serie A soccer match at the Olympic stadium in Rome on 15 Dec, 2012.—Reuters

After that the match burst into life, with Antonio Cassano following up Guarin’s effort four minutes later by having his shot from nearly the same position pushed on to the same post by Lazio keeper Federico Marchetti, before Yuto Nagatomo failed to score from the rebound. Inter had their tails up, and Rodrigo Palacio curled another shot just wide.—Reuters

SS Lazio’s goalkeeper Federico Marchetti (L) goes to save against Inter Milan’s Diego Milito during their Italian Serie A soccer match at the Olympic stadium in Rome on 15 Dec, 2012.—Reuters

Asia fight back against Europe in Royal Trophy

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 16 Dec—Bandar Seri Begawan - Asia stormed Europe back into contention at the Royal Trophy on Saturday by taking three points from the four fourball matches against Europe to close the deficit to just one ahead of the final day singles.

Holders Europe have a slender 4 1/2-3 1/2 lead ahead of Sunday’s eight singles matches at the Empire Country Club in Brunei with Jose Maria Olazabal’s side needing more four points to win the annual contest loosely based on the Ryder Cup model.

Asia have won the Royal Trophy only once, in 2009, with Europe winning the four other editions. A fifth win looked odds on after Olazabal’s side had taken three points from the first day.

Ryo Ishikawa of Japan watches his tee on the 17th hole during the Royal Trophy golf tournament between Asia and Europe in Bandar Seri Begawan on 15 Dec, 2012. Reuters

Defenders dominated the first hour in Rome, and the first clear scoring opportunity did not arrive until the 63rd minute, when Freddy Guarin, the best of Inter’s disappointing attacking players, struck the inside of the post with a long-range daisy cutter of a shot.

Singh’s putt also drew a welcome response from the crowd on his 41st birthday. “It was nice to hear the crowd on his 41st birth-

Alpine skiing-American Nyman wins Val Gardena downhill

VAL GARDENA, 16 Dec—American Steven Nyman won a men’s World Cup downhill in Val Gardena on Saturday.

Slovenia’s Rok Perko was second and Canadian Erik Guay was third.

Steven Nyman of the U.S. wins after crossing the finish line of the men’s World Cup Downhill race in Val Gardena, northern Italy, on 15 Dec, 2012. Reuters

Steven Nyman of the U.S. wins after crossing the finish line of the men’s World Cup Downhill race in Val Gardena, northern Italy, on 15 Dec, 2012. Reuters

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Balotelli must work harder if he wants to play - Mancini

London, 16 Dec—Mario Balotelli has a future at Manchester City but he must work harder, manager Roberto Mancini said on Saturday after dropping the Italian for the Premier League champions’ 3-1 win at Newcastle United.

“Yes. Why not? He needs to work and if he deserves to play because he worked well then he will do, but if not he will be in the stands or on the bench like all of the other players,” Mancini told BBC television.

“He needs to train and when he starts to play like his quality he will play again. We won the championship last year because all four of the strikers were scoring goals and we want that again.” Balotelli was hauled off just after half-time in last weekend’s 3-2 defeat to leaders Manchester United, with the striker making a moody departure down the tunnel after a misfiring afternoon.

The 22-year-old has scored just once since this season in the Premier League and was not even on the bench at St James’ Park on Saturday.

Mancini, who had his bust-ups with Balotelli but has generally been a staunch defender of player he signed in 2010, told reporters after last weekend’s derby that his compatriot need to think more about what he was doing.

“He can’t continue to play like today, we wanted more from him,” he said then. “When you have a player with the quality that Mario has, you can’t understand that (he) continues to throw (it) out of the window.”

Leaders Manchester United stay six points clear

London, 16 Dec—Robin van Persie was back on target for Manchester United as the Premier League leaders swept aside Sunderland 3-1 at Old Trafford on Saturday to stay six points clear at the top.

United were 2-0 up after 19 minutes. Van Persie opening the scoring with a left-foot finish from close range for his 12th league goal of the season and Tom Cleverley adding a quickfire second three minutes later.

England striker Wayne Rooney, who had been doubtful due to midweek sickness, made it 3-0 in the 59th minute before substitute Fraizer Campbell pulled one back with a header four minutes after coming on. Champions Manchester City, beaten 3-2 by United in last weekend’s derby after an agonising Van Persie stoppage-time winner, had earlier narrowed the gap to three points after defeating Newcastle United 3-1 at St James’ Park.

Elsewhere, Queens Park Rangers celebrated their first win of the season after beating west London rivals Fulham 2-1 thanks to two-goal Adel Taarabt to end a record run of 16 matches without a victory and move off the foot of the table.

The win stopped QPR becoming the first top-flight team since Bolton Wanderers in 1902-03 to fail to win any of their opening 17 games.

Malaga tighten grip on fourth with Sevilla win

Madrid, 16 Dec—Malaga strengthened their hold on fourth place with a 2-0 win at Sevilla on Saturday, and recorded their first road win in La Liga since the beginning of September.

Martin Demichelis and Eliseu, with a penalty, earned Malaga the points as they were helped by a red card for Sevilla defender Federico Fazio in the 69th minute.

Malaga, who have qualified for the last-16 of the Champions League in their debut campaign, moved on to 28 points from 16 games, four behind third-placed Real Madrid.

Unbeaten leaders Barcelona, with 43 points, host second-placed Atletico Madrid on Sunday, when Real are at home to struggling Espanyol.

Sevilla paid dearly for failing to convert early pressure into goals, in particular striker Alvaro Negredo who rounded the Malaga keeper only to fire against the post in the third minute.

Malaga scored with almost their first attempt just after half-time when Argentine defender Demichelis looped a header back under the bar at a corner, and Sevilla struggled to react.

Fazio brought down Joaquin as he raced into the area and was shown a straight red card, and Portugal’s Eliseu sent Diego Lopez the wrong way from the ensuing penalty. Sevilla lie 12th with 19 points, two behind Athletic Bilbao in 11th.

Bilbao were 1-0 winners at Real Mallorca, Getafe drew 1-1 at home to Osasuna, and Granada drew 0-0 at home to Real Sociedad. Bilbao recovered from their midweek King’s Cup humiliation to increase the pressure on Mallorca coach Joaquin Caparros.

Manchester United’s Robin van Persie celebrates his goal against Sunderland during their English Premier League soccer match at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England, on 15 Dec. 2012.—Reuters

Malaga’s Alvaro Negredo (L) tries to save a goal after Malaga’s Martin Gaston Demichelis (2nd R) heads the ball during their Spanish First Division soccer match at Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan stadium in Seville on 15 Dec, 2012.—Reuters

Photo shows a damaged vehicle as a result of reckless driving after crashing into the blocks in the middle of a main road in Mawlamyine on 12 December. Kyemon
YANGON, 16 Dec — A consecration ceremony of Dhammaçaṅkka Mudra sandstone Buddha Image donated by the Republic of Dhammaçaṅkka Mudra consecration ceremony was held yesterday evening.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs Mr. Salman Khurshid and Indian Ambassador Dr. Villur Sundararajan Seshadri and party consecrate Dhammaçaṅkka Mudra sand stone Buddha Image.—MNA

The Dhammaçaṅkka Mudra Buddha Image with the posture of delivering a sermon on the lotus throne is the replica of Buddha Image built in Sarnath of India in 5 AD. The Buddha Image was handed over to the Union Religious Affairs Minister by the Indian Prime Minister during his visit to Myanmar on 29 May 2012.

Also present at the consecration ceremony were Mrs. Louise Khurshid, wife of the Indian External Affairs Minister, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs U Soe Win, Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister Dr Myint Thein and officials, members of religious associations and guests.—MNA

ASEAN-India Car Rally starts India Leg

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Dec— The car rally will be flagged down in Guwahati of India. The convoy started Myanmar leg on Dec 11 and stopped over in Hpa-an, Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Kalay and travelled about 1405 km journey in Myanmar.

To start the last Myanmar leg, Sagoing Region Social Affairs Minister Dr Myint Thein flagged off the convoy yesterday morning.

The second edition of the car rally (the first was held in 2004) will end in India after passing through eight ASEAN states covering 7610 km in 22 days.—MNA

Shwegondaing Overpass project launched

YANGON, 16 Dec— Almost all the roads in economic hub Yangon are busy with traffic jams daily. Increasing traffic congestion is harmful to smooth transportation and flow of commodities. Accordingly, Yangon City Development Committee is building overpasses one after another so as to reduce traffic jams at the significant points. Of them, Shwegondaing Junction Overpass is being built.

On 12 December, a ceremony to drive stake for launching the construction of Shwegondaing Overpass in Bahan Township was held at the Shwegondaing Junction. The project will be jointly implemented by Yangon City Development Committee and Capital and Development Co Ltd.

The overpass was designed by JFE Co of Japan in order to meet the international overpass standard. After driving the stake, the road shoulders are being expanded and underground water pipelines, power lines and communication cables moved. The tasks above ground and underground are being carried out for timely completion.

Shwegondaing Overpass will be of reinforced concrete. It will be built under the close supervision of experts and technicians. The overpass will have four-way two-lane motor road.

The overpass will be 45.59 feet in width for convenient drives of vehicles. The length of the overpass will be 20059.5 feet. The facility will withstand 60-ton loads. The construction tasks will start from the northern part of the overpass. A plan has been set to complete the overpass for about 11 months.

Nowadays, Hledan Overpass, Bayintnaung Overpass and Shwegondaing Overpass are under construction in commercial hub Yangon for reduction traffic jam to some extent. The YCDC plans to build more and more overpasses at the junctions of the city.

Myanma Alinn