Nay Pyi Taw, 27 Dec—The third Planning Commission Meeting continued for second day at Government Meeting Hall in Presidential Palace here this morning, attended by Chairman of Planning Commission President U Thein Sein, Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Muak Kham and U Nyan Tun, Union ministers, the Attorney-General of the Union, the Auditor-General of the Union, the Chairman of Union Civil Services Board, chief ministers of regions and states, deputy ministers, chairperson of Self-administered division/regions and states, deputy Board, chief ministers of Union Civil Services of the Union, the Chairman Union, the Auditor-General Nyan Tun, Union ministers, Dr Sai Muak Kham and U Thein Sein, Vice-Presidents Commission President U Thein Sein, and President U Thein Sein delivers an address at second day session of third Planning Commission Meeting.—MNA

The President called on Union ministries to make close supervision at the grass root level for the rightness of the statistics and job creation is a sine qua non. In education sector, upgrading of teachership training schools is needed. Health sector calls for high standard. It is necessary to reduce infant and under-five mortality rate. Health education, acquisition of prevention methods and encouragement for private sector in health care service are needed. Realization of rule of law could not be achieved by the government alone. Eduative talks on laws are to be organized for ensuring the public adherence to law. It is required to organize the people to follow the existing law. The President called for taking necessary measures for welfare and convenience of the service personnel.—MNA

The meeting approved the third Planning Commission on 26-12-2012

Industrialization is a must to improve economic performance of the nation

President U Thein Sein delivers an address at second day session of third Planning Commission Meeting.—MNA

Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin presents the report at third Planning Commission Meeting. —MNA

Basic framework for economic and social reforms approved at the third meeting of Planning Commission on 26-12-2012

1. Finance and taxation reforms
2. Monetary sector reforms
3. Relaxation of regulations on trade and investments
4. Undertakings for private sector development
5. Health and education sectors reforms
6. Plan for food sufficiency and agricultural sectors development
7. Plan for governing system and transparency
8. Plan for upgrading of mobile communication service and internet system
9. Infrastructural development programme
10. Programme for emergence of effective and efficient governing system

development committees are to be formed with the participation of the people. Likewise, in townshipl level, township development committees are to be formed for development of the respective townships.

While placing special focus on production, employment and increasing income, emphasis would be placed on improvement of public health care service delivery directly beneficial to people, social security, access to electricity, and better communication service. It is essential to export own products into international market industrializing the nation through special projects, without relying on agro-economy alone. Moreover, urbanization project must be implemented in parallel to ensure better living standards of the citizens. It is required to take measures to ease traffic congestion in Yangon by building overpass, expanding rail service, and parking lots. In implementing development plans inclusive of establishment of industrial zones and urbanization, it would be considered from various aspects such as systematic economic impact assessment (EIA) and social impact assessment (SIA) and resources exploitation management to be able to adopt the least environmentally harmful policies. Intranslating the nation into developed one, success could not be achieved by the government alone. Mass participation is needed. Thus, it is required to form government committees. In doing so, it is necessary not only to form committees comprising members of government organizations but also to form committees with the people. Ward/ village/township/ district
Pakokku, 27 Dec — Pakokko Township with a population of about 500,000 had seen successful election of ward administrators for 15 urban wards and Shwechaung, Myothit and Industrial Zone. A local said election of ward administrator started early December and a woman ward administrator emerged in ward-6. The Ward-6 is a large one. The name of new ward administrator elected by the ward dwellers is Daw Win Win Maw who is head of disciplinary committee of free education centre. She is 43 years old. Being a woman, the new administrator vowed to promote women affairs and life of women and to advance better transport in the ward in cooperation with townswelders. Kyemon

National Objectives of 65th Anniversary Independence Day for 2013

1. All the national people to live together in the Union through thick and thin
2. All the national people to constantly safeguard non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
3. All the national people to participate in the tasks for bringing about genuine, eternal peace putting an end to the armed conflicts
4. To make relentless efforts, in building a modern, developed and democratic nation, in order to better serve public interest, to ensure poverty reduction and bring about righteous legislative, administrative and judicial pillars

Tamu on the fast track to development

TAMU, 27 Dec — Tamu is 605 feet above sea level and it is situated on the area of 1311.70 square miles. Indian Government built 82-mile tarred road from Tamu to Kalay as an India-Myanmar friendship road. Plans are underway to upgrade Tamu-Kalay-Kalewa-Yargyi road as an all-weather road by the Indian government.

Fire breaks out in Paungde Township

YANGON, 27 Dec — A fire had started at a pile of paddy straw at Field No (1090 A), four furlong east of Byatgyi village in Paungde Township of Bago Region at about 2.30 pm on 20 December.

Fire and Mandalarian literati in Yunnan

Mandalay, 27 Dec — A delegation comprising writers in Mandalay led by Natmauk Tun Shein left here at 2 pm on 20 December to study literature, culture and regional development of Kunming and arrived at Kunming Airport at 4 pm where they were welcomed by cultural troupe of Yunnan province.

Kyondo of Kayin State celebrates annual bonfire festival

KYONDO, 27 Dec — Kyondo is a small town situated on the bank of Haunghayaw river, formerly called Zeya river, 15-mile west of Kawkareik. The town is sandwiched between Hpa-an and Kawkareik of Kayin State and it is accessible by land and water. Thanks to emergence of Jaing-Kawkareik river crossing bridge, locals are able to travel from Kyondo to Kawkareik-Myawady border, from Hpa-an of Kayin State to Kyaikmaraw and Mawlamyine of Mon State and other parts of the country by car.

YCDC dredges drains, creeks in Dagon Myothit (East) Township

YANGON, 27 Dec — Engineering Department (Road/Bridge) of Yangon City Development Committee on 24 December carried out dredging of drains and creeks at ward-2 in Dagon Myothit (East) where floods cause due to heavy rains in low-lying areas of the wards in the rainy season.

Unidentified man found dead in Thakayta Township

YANGON, 27 Dec — A man in his forty was found dead at Dekkhinmayon Prayer Hall in the compound of a 108-elbow Pagoda in Thakayta Township of Yangon Region at about 4 pm on 20 December. Chairman of the board of trustees of the pagoda U Aung Myint informed No (2) Police Station of the death of the unidentified man who was reclining on the floor.

Police officers were on the scene and the dead body was taken to Yangon People’s Hospital in a car of Thakayta Township free funeral service association. Medical examination revealed that the man died of a heart attack.

A bicycle was found near the scene and it is being kept at the police station. According to the further investigation, the unidentified man was there to earn his living as a bicycle taxi driver from other place.
WASHINGTON, Dec—It is one of those occasions that is quintessential Washington: the inauguration of a president, a multi-day festival of patriotism, politics, optimism and self-congratulation. All of that will be on display on January 21, when President Barack Obama is publicly sworn in for his third four-year term. But this inauguration will be far less grand than Obama’s first in 2009, when a record 1.8 million visitors flooded the city to see the nation’s first black president take office. This time the celebration is likely to attract no more than 800,000 or so guests, city officials estimate. As a result, some luxury hotel rooms and coveted tables at high-end restaurants are still available, less than a month before the inauguration.

The swanky Mandarin Oriental Hotel, with its sweeping views of the National Mall, initially required invitation guests to make reservations for four nights. Now it has relaxed that requirement to three nights to try to fill its rooms. But the “inauguration markup” still applies: The Mandarin’s least expensive room, normally available for $295 a night, starts at $1,195 a night during the long inauguration weekend. Even so, the demand for hotel and restaurant reservations for this inauguration pales compared with the rush that followed Obama’s first election.—Reuters

For Obama’s second inauguration, a subdued, less crowded Washington

WASHINGTON, Dec—Nicaragua’s tallest volcano has belched an ash cloud hundreds of metres (feet) into the sky in the latest bout of sporadic activity, prompting the evacuation of nearby residents, the government said on Wednesday.

The 5,725-foot (1,745-metre) San Cristobal volcano, which sits around 85 miles (135 km) north of the capital Managua in the country’s northwest, has been active in recent years, and went through a similar precautionary measure. A bellowing grayish cloud could be seen drifting sideways from the volcano’s peak. The volcano also stirred in mid-2008, when it expelled gas and rumbled with a series of small eruptions.—Reuters

Nicaragua volcano spews ash cloud, residents evacuated

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ALMATY, Dec—Rescue teams have recovered a flight recorder from a plane which crashed in Kazakhstan on Tuesday, killing all 27 people on board in the country’s worst military air disaster since independence.

The twin-engine Antonov An-72 transport jet disappeared from radar screens at about 1900 local time (1300 GMT) as it was circling in a raging blizzard, trying to land at the city of Shymkent, the capital of the South Kazakhstan Region.

It crashed into an open-cast mine, littering the area with mangled, burning fragments. The plane belonged to the border troops of Kazakhstan’s KNB security service. Those killed included the commander of the country’s border guard, Turganbek Stambekov, and his wife.

President Nursultan Nazarbayev ordered a national day of mourning on Thursday, his Press Service said. “Most probably, the black box (flight recorder) will give us clues about what caused this catastrophe,” KNB chief Nurtai Abykayev told a news conference in Shymkent, according to local media.

“Special commissions that are investigating will look into various possible causes. These can include weather conditions, the human factor or the plane’s technical condition. Anything.”—Reuters

KHOST, Dec—A suicide bomber killed three people in an attack on a US base in Afghanistan on Wednesday, the same base that is believed to be used by the CIA and which a suicide bomber attacked three years ago killing seven CIA employees.

The Afghan Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack in the eastern town of Khost, saying they had sent a suicide bomber driving a van packed with explosives to the base.

“The target was those who serve Americans at that base,” said Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid.

Afghanistan’s NATO-led force said the bomber did not get into the base nor breach its perimeter. Police said the three dead were Afghans who were outside the base, which is beside a military airport.

Three Afghans dead in new blast at US base in Afghan east

SYRIA TO DISCUSS BRAHIMI PEACE PROPOSALS WITH RUSSIA

BEIRUT, Dec—Syrian President Bashar al-Assad sent a senior diplomat to Moscow on Wednesday to discuss proposals to end the conflict convulsing his country made by international envoy Lakhdar Brahimi, Syrian and Lebanese sources said. Brahimi, who saw Assad on Monday and is planning to hold a series of meetings with Syrian officials and dissidents in Damascus this week, is trying to broker a peaceful transfer of power, but has disclosed little about how this might be done.

More than 44,000 Syrians have been killed in a revolt against four decades of Assad family rule, a conflict that began with peaceful protests in March last year, but which has descended into civil war.

A video posted by rebels on Wednesday showed the bodies of dozens of soldiers executed by a roadside. At least one of them appeared to have been beaten to death. The United Nations and rights group say the military and rebels have both committed war crimes, but have so far placed most of the blame on the army.

Past peace efforts have floundered, with world powers divided over what has become an increasingly sectarian struggle between mostly Sunni Muslim rebels and Assad’s security forces, drawn primarily from his Shi’ite-rooted Alawite minority.

Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad (R) meets International peace envoy for Syria Lakhdar Brahimi in Damascus on Dec 24, 2012 in this handout photograph released by Syria’s national news agency SANA. Reuters

Syria to discuss Brahimi peace proposals with Russia

For Obama’s second inauguration, a subdued, less crowded Washington

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The swanky Mandarin Oriental Hotel, with its sweeping views of the National Mall, initially required invitation guests to make reservations for four nights. Now it has relaxed that requirement to three nights to try to fill its rooms. But the “inauguration markup” still applies: The Mandarin’s least expensive room, normally available for $295 a night, starts at $1,195 a night during the long inauguration weekend. Even so, the demand for hotel and restaurant reservations for this inauguration pales compared with the rush that followed Obama’s first election.—Reuters

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Syria to discuss Brahimi peace proposals with Russia
Ministry of Information
Myanmar Radio and Television
Invitation for open tender for purchase of Machinery

1. Myanmar Radio and Television under the Ministry of Information will buy the following Machinery.

2. News Networking System 1 Lot

3. The tender applications are to be taken out from the Office No 7 of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw from 09:30 hr to 16:30 hr during the period from 27-12-2012 to 8-1-2013 during the office hours.

4. The tender applications are to be submitted in front of the members of the tender committee at the Office No 7 of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw from 09:30 hr to 16:30 hr on 9-1-2013. The tenders submitted after the designated date will not be considered.

5. The form of open tender and detailed information may be enquired at the following address.

Procurement Committee Ministry of Information Office No. 7, Nay Pyi Taw Tel: 1412377, 79474

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New York, 27 Dec— An outage at one of Amazon’s web service centers hit users of Netflix Inc’s streaming video service on Christmas Eve and was not fully resolved until Christmas Day for many customers, according to the company.

The outage affected Netflix subscribers across Canada, Latin America and the United States, and affected various devices that enable users to stream movies and television shows from home, Netflix spokesman Nate曙s Evers said. Such devices range from gaming consoles like the Nintendo Wii and PlayStation 3 to Blu-ray DVD players.

Netflix, which is based in Los Gatos, California, has 30 million streaming subscribers worldwide, of which more than 27 million are in the Americas region that was exposed to the outage. Netflix said it could have potentially been affected, Evers said.

Evers said the issue was the result of an outage at an Amazon Web Services cloud computing centre in Virginia and started at about 12:30 pm PST (2030 GMT) on Sunday and was fully restored before 8:00 am PST on Tuesday morning, although streaming was available for most users by 11:00 pm PST on Monday.

The event is the latest in a series of outages from Amazon Web Services, with one occurring in April of last year that knocked out such sites as Reddit and Foursquare.

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New Delhi, 27 Dec—There have been plenty of leaked photos and videos available for the touchscreen BlackBerry 10 smartphone and now the QWERTY BlackBerry 10 smartphone has surfaced online. Two blurry photos of what appears to be the N-Series BlackBerry 10 smartphone have been posted on the Chinese website cnetba.com.

From the leaked images, it appears that the QWERTY BlackBerry 10 smartphone will have curved corners and will not be radically different from the current range of QWERTY handsets being offered by the Canadian handset maker.

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Dubai, 27 Dec—An Internet virus attacking computers at industrial sites in southern Iran, in an apparent extension of a covert cyber war that initially targeted the country’s nuclear facilities, an Iranian official said. Iran, the world’s No 3 oil exporter, has tightened its online security since its uranium enrichment centrifuges were hit in 2010 by the Stuxnet worm, which Teheran believes was planted by arch-enemies Israel or the US.

The unit tasked with fighting cyber attacks, the Passive Defence Organisation, said a virus had infected several sites in Hormozgan province in recent months but was neutralised.

“Enemies are constantly attacking Iran’s industrial units through Internet networks in order to create disruptions,” Ali Akbar Akhavan, head of the Hormozgan branch of the organization, was quoted as saying by the Iranian Students’ News Agency on Tuesday. “This virus has even penetrated some manufacturing industries in Hormozgan Province, but with timely measures and the cooperation of skilled hackers in the province, the progress of this virus was halted,” Akhavan said.

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DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, Dec. 27 (UP) — Internet virus attacking computers at industrial sites in southern Iran, in an apparent extension of a covert cyber war that initially targeted the country’s nuclear facilities, an Iranian official said.

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Officials at Amazon Web Services were not available for comment.

Evers, the Netflix spokes-

man, declined to comment on the company’s contracts with Amazon.
Japan’s incoming PM keeps up pressure on BOJ to attack deflation

**Tokyo, 27 Dec—** Incoming Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe kept up his calls on Tuesday for the Bank of Japan to drastically ease monetary policy by setting an inflation target of 2 percent, and repeated that he wants to tame the strong yen to help revive the economy.

Abe, a security hardliner who will be sworn in as premier on Wednesday, when he is also expected to appoint his cabinet, is prescribing a mix of aggressive monetary policy easing and big fiscal spending to beat deflation and rein in the strong yen.

“The economy, diplomacy, education and rebuilding in the northeast (hit by the 2011 tsunami, quake and nuclear disaster) are in a critical situation. I want to create a cabinet which can overcome this,” he told a meeting of Japan’s major business lobby, Keidanren, Abe reiterated Japan’s incoming prime minister and the leader of Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), speaking during a meeting at the LDP headquarters in Tokyo on 29 Dec, 2012.—**Reuters**

**Shinzo Abe, Japan’s incoming prime minister and the leader of Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), speaks during a meeting at the LDP headquarters in Tokyo on 29 Dec, 2012.—**Reuters

The dollar rose to a 20-month high of 84.965 yen early on Tuesday in Asia, as Japanese markets caught up with global investors who had reacted overnight to incoming Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s weekend comments that raised the pressure on the Bank of Japan.

During a meeting on Tuesday with officials from Japan’s major business lobby, Keidanren, Abe reiterated calls on the BOJ to conduct bold monetary easing to beat deflation, correcting the strong yen and achieving economic growth during the election, so we must restore a strong economy,” he said, adding that the stagnant economy was also undermining Japan’s diplomatic clout.

Abe, who quit abruptly as Prime Minister in 2007 after a troubled year in office, repeated that his new government hopes to sign an accord with the BOJ to aim for 2 percent inflation, double the central bank’s current target.

“Once I become prime minister, I will leave it up to the BOJ to decide on specific measures on monetary policy,” Abe told a meeting with officials from major business lobby, Keidanren.

“I hope the BOJ pursues unconventional measures, including bold monetary easing,” he added, maintaining pressure on the central bank to expand monetary stimulus more forcefully in order to tackle the deflation that has dogged Japan for more than a decade. Abe’s predecessor, Naoto Kan, sought to deal with the BOJ law was unlikely to be necessary since the central bank would probably give in to Abe’s pressure to adopt the 2 percent target.—**Reuters**

Yen on defensive as US fiscal worry, helps Nikkei

**Tokyo, 27 Dec—** Uncertainty over whether US lawmakers will strike a deal by the end-of-year deadline to avert a severe fiscal retrenchment undermined the yen and bolstered Japanese shares on Tuesday in low volume, with many participants away on Christmas holiday.

The dollar rose to a 20-month high of 84.965 yen early on Tuesday in Asia, as Japanese markets caught up with global investors who had reacted overnight to incoming Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s weekend comments that raised the pressure on the Bank of Japan.

The dollar was expected to stay firm this week as investors repatriate dollars, and as the US fiscal impasse is likely to continue to sap investor appetite for risky assets and raise the dollar’s safe-haven appeal.

“The dollar is seen relatively well bid, with all focus on the fiscal cliff,” said Yui Saito, director of foreign exchange at Credit Agricole in Tokyo. “Negotiations may be carried over the weekend, but markets still expect a deal to be struck by 31 December. It is undeniable that the US will risk driving its economic growth sharply lower by not agreeing to a deal.”

A US lawmaking and President Barack Obama were on Christmas holiday and talks were unlikely to resume until later in the week. House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner failed to gain support for a tax plan at the end of last week, raising fears that the United States may face the “fiscal cliff” of some $600 billion in automatic spending cuts and tax increases set to start on 1 January.—**Reuters**

Chevron to buy stake in Kitimat LNG from Encana, EOG

**Calgary, 27 Dec—** Chevron Corp said on Monday it will enter the Canadian liquefied natural gas (LNG) business with the purchase of the 50 percent stake in the Kitimat LNG project held by Encana Corp and EOG Resources Inc. Chevron will take Encana’s and EOG’s 30 percent stakes in the LNG export project for an undisclosed price as the US oil company looks to jumpstart North American natural gas exports.

It will also buy the two companies’ interest in a pipeline serving the project, at Kitimat, 650 kilometres (400 miles) north of Vancouver, and will pay $550 million for a half stake in 64,000 hectares of exploration lands in the Horn River and Liard shale-gas fields owned by Apache Corp. Apache will then pay Chevron $150 million to raise its stake in the British Columbia project and associated lands to 50 percent, netting the US independent oil and gas producer $400 million from the transaction.

“With the addition of a deep-pocketed partner increases the likelihood that the multi-billion dollar Kitimat LNG — the most advanced of a number of projects — will happen sooner than it otherwise would have,” said Michael Dunn, an analyst with FirstEnergy Capital. The project is slated to begin shipping gas to Asian markets by 2017. No other news was given, Robert Morris, an analyst with Canaccord Genuity, estimated that Encana and EOG each received about $450 million for their stakes and the exploration lands. Kitimat LNG was last year set to be approved there, but is now likely to be approved at some other level. No other news was given, Robert Morris, an analyst with Canaccord Genuity, estimated that Encana and EOG each received about $400 million from the transaction. No other news was given, Robert Morris, an analyst with Canaccord Genuity, estimated that Encana and EOG each received about $450 million for their stakes and the exploration lands. Kitimat LNG was last year set to be approved there, but is now likely to be approved at some other level.
Bangladesh destroys 150,000 birds, 300,000 eggs after flu virus detection

DHAKA, 27 Dec—Bangladesh’s authorities decided to destroy 150,000 birds and 300,000 eggs as the season’s major outbreak of bird flu was detected last week in a firm in Gazipur, outskirts of capital Dhaka, officials said on Wednesday. A field level official of Bangladesh’s Fisheries and Live Stock Department told Xinhua from Gazipur that “Since 23 Dec more than 100,000 birds in Gazipur have been culled.”

The official who preferred to be unnamed said, “Nearly 280,000 eggs have also been destroyed.” He was going to cull and destroy another about 50,000 birds and about 50,000 eggs by next few days.” He said culling process is taking time as they are breeding birds each weighing 45 kg which were reared in the commercial farm for the production of hatching eggs. Md Giasuddin, in charge of the National Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza, told Xinhua that “Bird flu has been confirmed in a flock of about 150,000 hens in a commercial farm of Gazipur last week.”

“We’ve asked for culling all the birds and destroying all the eggs at the earliest,” he said.

According to officials, risky factors of bird flu disease usually rise with the fall in temperature during January and February in Bangladesh. The South Asian country is considered a high-risk nation with respect to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) as the impoverished state of over about 153 million people is especially vulnerable to virus perpetuation because of insufficient biosecurity, rearing of chickens and ducks together, selling of live birds, and deficient disease surveillance.

In the backdrop of the season’s major outbreak, Bangladesh’s Fisheries and Live Stock Department has strengthened its surveillance to contain further spread of the infectious disease — H5N1. “We’re well prepared to contain outbreak and bring the disease under control,” said Mosaddique Hossain, chief veterinary officer. He said restriction has been imposed on human movement in the poultry firm surrounding areas.

“We’ve strengthened surveillance as Gazipur is home to many of the country’s largest poultry farms,” he said, adding steps have already been taken for decontamination and prevention of bird flu in the affected farm surrounding one km areas.—Xinhua

EU to increase pressure on Israel over two-state solution

JERUSALEM, 27 Dec—The European Union (EU) will increase pressure on Israel in 2013 in order to settle Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on the two-state solution, said an internal report of the Israeli foreign ministry published on Wednesday. According to the report, published by Ha’aretz daily newspaper, Israel is expected to face “heavy pressure” from the EU over the Palestinian cause, and the EU will focus on finding a solution based on the two-state solution rather than having the parties engaged in direct peace talks.

“The understanding of the ineffectiveness of the current process with the Palestinians...is accompanied by repeated calls to find new channels of progress,” the report read. “The emphasis from their perspective is not on actual direct negotiations...but rather on the essential need to move ahead quickly to a permanent-status solution, because the EU recognizes that without a solution things could go downhill on the ground,” it said.

“European attempts to strengthen the Palestinians’ hold over the areas of their future state by continuing to challenge Israeli control on the ground in the Areas B and C,” added the report. The report was drafted amid the wide condemnation as Gazipur is home to many of the country’s largest poultry farms, he said, adding steps have already been taken for decontamination and prevention of bird flu in the affected farm surrounding one km areas.—Xinhua

Iran never to allow foreigners to decide on Syria

TEHERAN, 27 Dec—Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi said on Wednesday that the Islamic republic will never allow “foreign prescription” for the Syrian issue, semi-official Mehr news agency reported.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting, Salehi said that although the situation concerning the Syrian crisis is very tense, Iran’s proposals to settle the Arab state’s issue can be the only way to move out of the current situation.

“Syrian-Syrian approach” is the only way to overcome the crisis in Syria, he said, implying the direct talks between Syrian opposition groups and the government.

The Syrian people suffer from the crisis in the country and those who are persisting in the confrontations should know that they will not be able to rule the country, which is “the sea of blood,” Salehi was quoted as saying.

A two-day meeting on Syria concluded in the Iranian capital of Teheran on 19 November, with the participations calling for a ceasefire and an end to armed conflicts in the crisis-ridden country.

Xinhua

One killed, 40 injured in Nigeria’s market explosion

LAGOS, 27 Dec—Nigeria’s National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) on Wednesday said one person was killed and 40 others were injured from a cracker that sparked a major fire outbreak in the Jankara area of Lagos Island, the country’s commercial hub.

Spokesperson for the agency in Lagos Ibrahim Farinloye told Xinhua that the massive fire gutted more than eight houses and injured 40 people.

“We recovered just a body so far and the body was burned beyond recognition, but we have treated 40 injured persons,” he added.

A Xinhua reporter at the scene said the explosions from the knockouts caused panic amongst residents of the area.

Monsurat Isaq, a merchant woman had told Xinhua through phone that more than 10 apartments were damaged after firesworks stored in a warehouse in Jankara market area on Lagos Island exploded.

Jankara market is the largest market in Lagos and sells everything from tie-dyed cloth, trade beads and jewelry to pirate cassettes, pottery and clothing. The use of knobout and fireworks during festive periods in the state is rampant.

Nigerian police recently banned fireworks during the Christmas and New Year celebrations, especially in northern part of the country where fundamentalists had laid a siege with incessant bomb explosions and killings, forcing residents to flee to other parts of the west African country believed to be safe.—Xinhua

LA holds gun buyback in wake of school shooting

LOS ANGELES, 27 Dec—The city of Los Angeles has collected more than 1,800 guns from residents who traded in their firearms for gift cards in a gun buy-back programme.

LA city and its police usually hold the buy-back program every May. But the event was moved to Wednesday in the wake of the school shooting in Connecticut that killed 20 children and 6 adults.

Residents lined up in their cars at 2 drop-off locations in the city to give up their guns.

Police officers took the guns, made sure they weren’t loaded, and offered gift cards in exchange.

The amount of the gift cards differed according to the type of gun being traded in. Shotguns and pistols were traded for 100 dollars and more lethal assault weapons for 280 dollars. Authorities say they collected more than 1,800 guns, of which 72 were assault weapons that included the same type of rifle used in the Connecticut shooting.

A woman who traded in 4 pistols and 2 rifles said the school shooting prompted her to give up her guns, which her father had bought for self-defence.

A man who handed in several guns said he wanted to prevent the guns from falling into the wrong hands.

Authorities will dispose of the guns after making sure they weren’t stolen.—NHK

Pakistanis cadets attend a ceremony on the 136th birth anniversary of Pakistan’s founder Mohammad Ali Jinnah at his mausoleum in Karachi on 25 Dec, 2012. XINHUA

High-speed train G502 leaves the Chongsha South Railway Station in Chongsha, capital of central China’s Hunan Province, on 26 Dec, 2012. The Chongsha South Railway Station is one of the stops of the 2,298-kilometre Beijing-Guangzhou High-speed Railway, the world’s longest, which was put into operation on Wednesday. Running at an average speed of 300 kilometres per hour, the high-speed railway will cut the travel time to about 8 hours from the current 20-odd hours by traditional lines between the country’s capital and capital of south China’s Guangdong Province.—XINHUA
Rural clinic built in Indaw Township

Indaw, 27 Dec—The construction of a rural clinic commenced at Myathida Village beside Indaw-Bamauk Road in Indaw Township of Katha District.

The facility is 50 feet long and 28 feet wide.

“We expect to complete construction of the building in 2013. On completion, we wait for assignation of health staff by the government. We will spend K 19 million on construction tasks,” said Myathida Village Administrator U Thein Tun. Myathida Village, 16 miles from Indaw, is constituted with 78 houses. The local people are difficulty to receive medical treatment. So they make concerted efforts for construction of the clinic on a self-reliant basis in the time of the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Myanma Alinn

Bago facilitated with traffic light

Bago, 27 Dec—A traffic light was installed for the second facility at the junction of Yangon-Mandalay Highway and Thanatpin Road in Bago as of 23 December morning for ensuring traffic safety.

At a time when electricity out, traffic police members control traffic rules for vehicles and pedestrians.

In the past, downtown Bago was equipped with only traffic light at the junction of Shwemawdaw Pagoda Road and Shin Saw Pu Road.

As Bago, city of Bago Region is bustling with traffics, the local people heartily welcome traffic rule enforcement plan by erecting solar masts in front of schools so as to clear traffic congestions.

Myanma Alinn

Reading skill contest held in Mayangon

Yangon, 27 Dec—Myanmar Libraries Foundation, Myanmar Writers Association and No. 3 Basic Education Department jointly organized the reading skill contest at No. 5 Basic Education Middle School in Mayangon Township on 17 December. Executive of the foundation Dr Thant Thaw Kaung gave a speech.

Chairman of the Township Writers Association U Khin Zaw (Mayangon) explained the purpose of reading skill contest.

After speaking words of thanks, the headmaster presented prizes to the winner students.

Myanma Alinn

Best traditional cane-ballers wanted for SEA Games

Yangon, 27 Dec—As Myanmar traditional cane-ball event will be held for the first time in the XXVII SEA Games to be hosted in Myanmar, the sports trials for selecting Myanmar athletes will be held as of 26 January so as to secure achievements in the games.

Those wishing to take part in the sports trials are to contact Myanmar Traditional Cane-ball Federation.

The outstanding athletes selected from 2011-2012 basic education sports festival and those from CCC contest will be informed to take part in the sports trials. Athletes are to undergo training in advance so as to participate in the 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 events in the men’s class and 1, 2, 3, 4 events in the women’s class.

The selected players must have fitness and health in good conditions to be undergone training in Nay Pyi Taw.

They must have medical check-up.

The selected players are to contact the federation in groups or individuals, not later than 31 December.

The selected may dial 01-393420.—Myanma Alinn

How to write clearly and correctly Myanmar

Yangon, 27 Dec—A talks on clear and correct writing of Myanmar language and literature was held at Gonhtu Myanmar Hall at 188 on middle block of Seikkantha Street in Kyauktada Township of Yangon Region on 23 December afternoon.

Myanma Alinn

YCDC raises collection of sanitation tax

Yangon, 27 Dec—Yangon City Development Committee collected for sanitation increasing the existing rate.

The Environmental Conservation and Sanitation Department of YCDC will levy K 1800 per quarter as the sanitation tax from the people of Dagon, Bahan, Ahlon, Kyimyindaing, Sanyang, Yan kin, Kamayut, Tamway and Mingala Taungnyunt townships as of January 2013.

The department will rise collection of sanitation tax from K 900 to K 1350 per quarter from those of Thingangyan, Dagon Myothit (South) and (North), South Okkalapa, North Okkalapa, Thakayta, Hlaing Tharyar, Yankin, Kamayut and Hline townships as of 1 January 2013.

An official explained at the press conference said that the tax is to be paid once per quarter.

Due to growing number of population and entrepreneurs, the department amends its collection system in line with the present situation.

Myanma Alinn

Triplet born in Ye Kyi Township

Nay Pyi Taw, 27 Dec—Daw Nilar Htwe of Paukpinkwin Village in Dogon Village-tract in Ye Kyi Township of Ayeyawady Region gave birth to the triplet—two boys and one girl—on 17 December morning with the help of village midwife Daw Mi Hla.

Township health care organizations and Ayeyawady Foundation provided K 50,000 to the mother.

Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and health staff give health care services to the mother and babies. The family of U Khin Maung Myint-Daw Nilar Htwe have two sons, one daughter, one duplet and one triplet, totalling 10.

Myanma Alinn

Action Speaks Louder Than Words.

Eye surgical machine donated to Haka Hospital

Haka, 27 Dec—Sight for All Vision Myanmar from Australia donated a machine to be used in eye surgery to Haka Township Hospital at a ceremony held at the hospital on 18 December morning.

On the occasion, Sight for All Vision Myanmar from Australia donated the machine worth US$ 50,000 to the hospital through officials.

Myanma Alinn
Trust in reform
Min Bahtoo

(Continued from 21 December)

How it can contribute to good governance

The concept of globalization has profound complexity and complication. Globalization refers to processes of social, political, economic and technological changes created by the increased connectivity among the peoples, organizations, companies and governments of the world. Thanks to globalization, the meaning of State seems to be redefined. From the role of producing goods and providing service to the people as a producer and a manager, the government has become a policy maker who lays down strategic plans. It is required to create a better situation, rather than controlling the private-owned enterprises and each individual’s performance in the competitive ground by the government itself. It is necessary to make the country financially and economically strong by creating an economic environment that allows opportunities to exploit foreign investments. The government, at the same time, has to maintain and preserve the soft powers like standards and values of the nations and its people, customs and traditions and rules and regulations and national identity. The emergence of a good government calls for “trust-wealthy culture”. The trust-wealthy culture means the sense of responsibility of each and every citizen to take part in every political process the more or the less. As a result, good government has become an outcome of the trust-wealthy culture.

Trust is essential to democratic administration socially as well as politically. Democratic administration and trust are mutually beneficial each other. Trust can bring about democratic administration or vice versa. High trust of the public on cabinet members and politically responsible persons is of benefit to the entire people including minorities and those who are devoid of opportunity that they should be in the socioeconomic configuration. There are three interrelated mechanisms which are crucially important between trust and good governance. They are social mechanism, economic performance mechanism and political legitimacy mechanism. These three chains between trust and good governance are closely interrelated, and the complexities of the concept of globalization cannot be solved without these chains.

Social chain
It is sure that good governance can bring about the trust and it is necessary to remember that trust is a prerequisite for democratic administration alone cannot bring about a rapid development for the civil society with low trust. People do not trust to take part in the meaningful activities of such organizations. Such kind of situation can weaken the political legitimacy of the government and people’s representatives. Moreover, mass participation in the realization of good governance can easily be undermined by corruption.

The e-government system can generate the trust in social chain of the public. The method of communication based on computer system technology allows the public to express their different views and to listen to it. Every citizen can communicate and share each other freely and frankly through modern devices of the advanced technology. Moreover, citizens can make more contact with their political representatives, thereby contributing towards more responsibility for their actions and activities. With the advancement of the system, Government Offices can regularly release their activities in detail through Internet, with the result that greater transparency and accountability can be realized. The e-government and e-participation not only reduce unequal acquisition of information between the government and the mass but also invite more participation of the mass. Matters of the country can be cautiously monitored through these systems.

Chain of economic performance
Boosting social and political trust by pursuing effective economic policies is important for good and effective administration. To become a perfect land, the country needs to develop the open, active and competitive market. It takes time to develop infrastructures for economic competitiveness as it does for trust-building. Despite the fact that the economic growth has a favourable condition for good governance, it is not the adequate cause. The effective economic policy could only merit the political trust for a short period of time. The people will later demand political and social reforms such as fair social community, accountable enterprises and so on. If the economic policy is disastrous and the level of economic stress increases, the poor governance will surely begin to surface. The poor government may not be able to avoid the economic stress.

There is only one way to improve political and social trust and economic performance in an affluent country. It is to initiate security programmes and social security programmes, targeting at the impoverished and unskilled population. The scholars are still arguing whether the globalization by nature economically empowers or harms social security and welfare covering the population including the grassroot people. It is a complicated situation.

Chain of political legitimacy
The chain of political legitimacy is very important in building political trust with the view to good governance. The desire to advance the political system, the reigning government strong is the chief ingredient in legitimacy. If the people think a government stands upright and exercise power correctly, it has political legitimacy. Decisive factors in legitimacy are social trust, economic efficiency and good governance. Trust-building process for political legitimacy makes civil societies move closer to the government. The government also has to try to get closer to them. Regional governance and decentralization are the best tools for this endeavour. The regional government must cooperate with all stakeholders including schools, businesspeople, civil societies and so on. Decentralization and reorganization of the regional governments for sharing administrative power require the cooperation between the ruling class and the ordinary people.

Unless free and fair elections are held regularly, it could not be said as the good governance. If the representatives of the people could not meaningfully represent the interest of the people due to the ignorance of the administration and if the policy-making process of the administration is repeatedly forbidden, the political process of that country will surely be delayed. As the harmonious cooperation between the parliament and the government alone is effective and legitimate in the eyes of the people, such cooperation is essential.

Independent judiciary is the linchpin of the trust of the society. The sound foundation for the rule of law is judiciary implementing the existing laws well as a guardian. It is against the backdrop of the stable law that the rule of law prevails. The unconditional authority must be rejected.

The rule of law, independent judiciary, the free and fair regular election, the legitimate parliament, the strong society, fight against any forms of corruption, decentralization and e-Government could boost the transparency and accountability of the entire political system. They are sine qua non for good governance.

(To be continued next Friday)
To: VM+HKA
World has seen life-threatening diseases because...

(from page 16) Ed uc ati ve talks are conducted in border areas to cover the blanket of the traditional medicine over these fur-flung areas. The free traditional medicine first-aid kits are also distributed to most rural areas far and wide the country. The kits will be distributed to every village of the country.

The cooperation between the Ministry of Health and the Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners is key to efforts to internationalize the Myanmar traditional medicine. The practitioners must guarantee the effectiveness and safety of the drugs the people are taking. The Myanmar traditional medicines must be transformed from the state of experience-based medicine to evidence-based medicine.

The world has seen life-threatening diseases because of changing lifestyle and eating habits one after another on a daily basis nowadays while some diseases have begun resistant to modern medicines. In such situation, I would like to urge traditional medicine practitioners to try to cure these diseases with traditional medicines and hand down their experience to the new generation.

The private sector must be encouraged to open traditional medicine hospitals and clinics systematically and it is needed to import internationally-practiced methods for preserving herbal plants.

A ASEAN Free Trade Area to be established by 2015 is aimed to ensure harmonization among member countries in production and distribution, trading, transportation and service sectors. Traditional Medicine and Health Supplement (TMHS) is one of those sectors to be harmonized among member countries in manufacturing and trading systems.

Myanmar is arranging to host TMHS Meeting and Workshop and traditional medicines conference of ASEAN countries in 2013. So, I would like to invite all traditional practitioners and traditional medicines manufacturers to cooperate in these efforts.

I would like to conclude the speech with a call on Myanmar’s traditional practitioners to work in accord with policies and plans of the State:- to perpetuate Myanmar traditional medicine, - to make Myanmar traditional medicine more comprehensive and internationalize it, and - to cooperate with the practitioners of the western medicine.

Next, Union Minister Dr Pe Thet Khin read out the message sent by President U Thein Sein on the 13th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners’ Conference.

Then the Vice-President cordially greeted those present, and viewed round the booths on display at the centre.

The conference will continue tomorrow at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Health where research papers on Myanmar traditional medicines will be read out. — MNA

Dinner hosted to delegates to 13th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners’ Conference

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Dec— Chairman of National Health Committee Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin hosted a dinner to delegates from Region and State who attended the 13th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners’ Conference, at Myanmar International Convention Center in Nay Pyi Taw Zabuthiri Township this evening.

It was also attended by Union Ministers, deputy ministers, members of National Health Committee, departmental heads, officials from departments under the Ministry, members of Traditional Medicine Council, delegates and guests.

During the dinner, artists entertained songs to the accompaniment of Myanmar Radio and Television Modern Music Band of the Ministry of Information.— MNA

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Dec—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Director-General U Tun Tin of Customs Department under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Dean Joint Secretary U Tin Tun of Yangon City Development Committee as Director-General of the Union Election Commission Office on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Dec—The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Marc Thill as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok.

Mr Marc Thill was born in 1953. He obtained a degree of law from the University of Liege in 1975 and diploma on European Studies from the College of Europe Brugge in 1976. From 1979 to 1983, he had served as First Secretary in Luxembourg Embassy in Paris, Deputy Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the OECD and Liaison Officer of Luxembourg to the UNESCO respectively. He also had served in various capacities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg and at the Court of Justice of the European Committee.

From 2005 to 2011, Mr Marc Thill has served as Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Vienna, Austria.

Currently, he is Ambassador of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to the Kingdom of Thailand. He is married with two children. — MNA

Subject-wise research paper reading session held

YANGON, 27 Dec—“Twenty of 82 research papers submitted by the universities under Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) of the Ministry of Education, were chosen for 20 subjects.

The universities must be interrelated with researches,” said Director-General U Zaw Htay of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) at subject-wise research paper reading session held at Yangon University Art Hall this morning.

Resource persons submitted fifteen best research papers today and the remaining papers will be read out tomorrow. The prize-presenting ceremony will follow.— MNA

PETRONAS grants scholarships to outstanding Myanmar students

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Dec—Under the socioeconomic development programme of PETRONAS in company of Malaysia which is dealing with oil and gas exploration and production in Myanmar in cooperation with the Ministry of Energy, a ceremony to grant scholarships to outstanding Myanmar students to attend PETRONAS University of Technology in Malaysia was held at Yadana Hall of the ministry yesterday afternoon.

Deputy Minister for Energy U Thin Aung and Country Chairman Mr. Ahmad Lutpi Haron of PETRONAS Oil Company spoke on the occasion. The deputy minister awarded 10 outstanding students who won the scholarships. PETRONAS Oil Company has granted scholarships to outstanding students since 2004. After they graduated from the university, they will be assigned duties at the Ministry of Energy and PETRONAS Company. So far, 48 students have been granted scholarships.— MNA

Scholarship-granting ceremony of Petronas oil company in progress. — MNA
KBZ BANK LTD. is pleased to inform all that we have successfully opened Thamine Branch Mayangone Township, Yangon Division, as 91st branch to date-effective 28.12.2012 All honored persons are kindly requested to come and enjoy our cordial banking services at our newest branch.

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Class 28: “Games and playthings; gymnastic and sporting articles not included in other classes; decorations for Christmas trees; apparel and accessories of the kind generally used in connection with the sport of golf; apparatus used in connection with the sport of golf; apparatus for use with external devices to support the sport of golf; golf balls; golf shoes; golf bags; golf lamps; heat accumulators; heaters for baths, heat pumps; hot plates; electric kettles; kitchen ranges [ovens]; lamps; lighting apparatus for vehicles; lighting apparatus for air vehicles; microwave ovens; pocket searchlights; electric pressure cookers; electric radiators; roasters; sanitary apparatus and installations; sockets for electric lights; stoves; ventilation hoods; wash-hands basins; water purifying apparatus and machines; water supply installations.”
Ukraine pick Fomenko over Eriksson as manager

Kiev, 27 Dec—Ukraine have named Mykhalio Fomenko as national team coach, picking him over Swede Sven-Goran Eriksson in a unanimous vote, the country’s football federation said on Wednesday.

Fomenko, 64, played for Dynamo Kiev as defender in the 1970s and has managed a number of Ukrainian clubs including Metalist Kharkiv, as well as the Ukrainian national team in 1994. Former England manager Eriksson, who visited Kiev last week with his agent and laid out the terms of a potential contract, was not present at the meeting on Wednesday.

Ukraine’s previous manager Oleg Blokhin resigned in late September after failing to lead the team out of the group stages at the European Championship, which Ukraine co-hosted this year, and accepted the job of head coach at Dynamo Kiev.

Ukraine approached Englishman Harry Redknapp about the job but he decided to join Premier league club Queens Park Rangers.—Reuters

Tender invitation for establishment of joint ventures

1. Pollution Control and Cleansing Department of Yangon City Development Committee is collecting and transporting 1500 tons of waste collected from 33 townships in YCDC area and discarding the following tons of waste at the two final disposal Sites daily:

(a) 800 tons of waste at Heinbin final disposal site in Hlaingthaya Township,
(b) 600 tons of waste at Daweichaung final disposal site in Dagon Myothit (North) Township.

2. It is now planning to take the following measures in order to produce scavenging energy through waste to energy process at the above mentioned dumping grounds:

(a) Electricity generation by generator fuelled by Methane extracted from the dump,
(b) Production of 98 percent pure gas (CNG-substitute gas) by transforming Methane extracted from the dump into Compressed Biomethane.
(c) Electricity generation through Incinerated Process. (Incineration Plant)

3. Local companies or foreign companies or joint ventures of local and foreign companies which are willing to establish joint ventures to operate the above mentioned schemes are to submit tender proposals to Pollution Control and Cleansing Department of Yangon City Development Committee by 28-2-2013. fully mentioning the following facts:

(a) The proposed process and period of feasibility study,
(b) The proposed final dumping ground and the estimated timeframe for completion of the construction,
(c) The proposed system (e.g. Build-Operate-Transfer system, Build-Own-Operate system or Public-Private-Partnership system), mentioning the term of the joint venture,
(d) The detailed process (investment rate, share ownership, annual maintenance cost, dividend, project timeframe, breakeven point and others),
(e) Land requirement,
(f) The agreement of daily waste requirement (whether it requires tipping fees or not),
(g) The usage of water,
(h) The rate of the generated electricity for consumption/sale,
(i) Plan for selling and sharing Carbon Credit (Certified Emission Reduction),
(j) Other information and documents attached.

Remarks: (1) Letterheads with companies’ logos are required in tender proposals.

(2) Detailed information and figures regarding the tender are available at Pollution Control and Cleansing Department of Yangon City Development Committee at 38th street market (upper floor), nine-storied building; third floor, No. 8 ward, Kyauktada Township, Yangon (Ph: 01246571, 095087221 and 095187854). Pollution Control and Cleansing Department Yangon City Development Committee

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PEACE SKY VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PEACE SKY VOY NO ( are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO (019)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO (019N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

Veteran keeper Friedel extends Tottenham contract

Tottenham Hotspur goalkeeper Brad Friedel salutes the fans after their English Premier League soccer match against Reading at Madejski Stadium in Reading on 19 Sept. 2012.—Reuters

LONDON, 27 Dec—Veteran goalkeeper Brad Friedel has signed a new contract with Tottenham Hotspur through to 2014, the Premier League club said on Wednesday. The 41-year-old American, Tottenham’s first choice goalkeeper since joining the north London club from Aston Villa in 2010, has found himself edged out by France international Hugo Lloris in recent weeks but remains a popular figure.

Friedel is the only player in Premier League history to make more than 300 consecutive starts, reaching 310 before his incredible run was ended in October when Lloris started the home match against Aston Villa.—Reuters
Manchester United win seven-goal thriller while Man City lose

LONDON, 27 Dec—Manchester United thrashed three times before a last-gasp goal from Javier Hernandez sealed a rip-roaring 4-3 victory over Newcastle United that opened a seven-point lead at the top of the Premier League on Wednesday.

Manchester City were undone by former winger Adam Johnson as he scored the only goal in a 1-0 win for Sunderland which left the champions second in the table, four points ahead of Chelsea who beat Norwich City 1-0 thanks to a 20-metre strike from Juan Mata.

Robin van Persie hit back for Newcastle a 3-2 lead. Papiss Cisse then equalised for the visitors went back in four minutes later as the Manchester United defender put through his own net in the 25th minute before the visitors went back in front in controversial fashion.

Patrice Evra equalised for the home team but Papiss Cisse then gave Newcastle United a 3-2 lead. Robin van Persie hit back for Manchester United before Mexico striker Hernandez, in for the injured Rooney, popped up with the last minute winner.

Manchester United’s 19 league matches this season have yielded a total of 76 goals and their mantra appears to be ‘however many you score, we will score more’.

Had they not steamed back to win a thrilling Boxing Day fixture, arguments over Evans’ own goal would have raged.

Referee Mike Dean initially disallowed it, ruling that Newcastle striker Cisse was offside, but he changed his mind after a lengthy delay during which he consulted his assistant.

The 15 league matches this season have yielded a total of 76 goals and their mantra appears to be ‘however many you score, we will score more’.

Manchester United fell behind early on but even without the injured Wayne Rooney they offered another dazzling display of firepower.

Evans’ own goal would have raged.

Referee Mike Dean initially disallowed it, ruling that Newcastle striker Cisse was offside, but he changed his mind after a lengthy delay during which he consulted his assistant.

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Myanmar’s alternative medicines, handed down by our ancestors, had and still have an influential role in Myanmar’s healthcare

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Dec—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein has sent a message to 13th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners’ Conference. The following is the translation of his message.

I, sworn with pride and joy of unity, friendship and united efforts of practitioners of Myanmar’s traditional medicine, send this message to this reputable 13th Myanmar’s Traditional Medicine Practitioners’ Conference which has been held annually since the year 2000.

I would like to extend my heartfelt greetings to the Myanmar’s traditional medicine practitioners who always devote themselves to healthcare for the people of Myanmar with conventional medicines. I also wish these practitioners have fruitful discussions in unison as they ever did in the previous conferences.

The Myanmar’s traditional medicine practitioners may already be informed of the fact that the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is undergoing the democratic transition as per the desire of the people for modernization today. The onus is on the Myanmar’s traditional medicine practitioners to build up the fitness of the entire people. Only health could make our works possible. Only works could develop our families, ward, village, town and the entire country. The Myanmar’s alternative medicines, handed down by our ancestors, had and still have an influential role in Myanmar’s healthcare. It is an endearing habit of the traditionalist Myanmar people that they want to take traditional medicines when they fall ill.

Since the western medicines can diagnose and cure various diseases and pains of human beings, they are now popular among the people. But the essences of the Myanmar’s traditional medicines that show how to adjust Action, Mind, Climate and Nutrition and how to adapt to the changing temperatures of the nature for healthy living are ultimate truths for healthiness and longevity. Not only the Myanmar people but also the global citizens are living more on alternative medicines and organic food these days. So, it is safe to say that the role of the Myanmar’s traditional medicines has become greater and greater.

The Myanmar’s traditional medicine practitioners still play a key role in healthcare for the people of Myanmar. I wish the Myanmar’s traditional medicine practitioners and Myanmar scholars from related fields share their experiences and expertise with sheer joy at 13th Myanmar’s Traditional Medicine Practitioners’ Conference for wellbeing of the entire people.

World has seen life-threatening diseases because of changing lifestyle and eating habits one after another on a daily basis nowadays while some diseases have begun resistant to modern medicines.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visits booths of Myanmar traditional medicines at Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners’ Conference.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Dec—The opening of the 13th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners’ Conference was held at Myanmar International Convention Centre (MICC), here, this morning, with an address by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

Also present at the conference were Chairman of National Health Committee Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thein Khin and Union ministers, deputy ministers, departmental heads, resident representatives of UN agencies, officials, responsible persons of Traditional Medicine Council and Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners’ Association, traditional medicine practitioners, delegates to the conference from regions and states and guests.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham delivered an address at the ceremony. Starting from 2000, Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners’ Conferences has been held yearly on a grand scale with fine traditions till the ongoing 13th conference with the noble objectives of holding the conference — further raising the potency of Myanmar traditional medicine, improving ethical standards of the practitioners and public healthcare services through traditional medicine. The previous conferences were translated into success thanks to united endeavours of the traditional medicine practitioners. The State benefit from the conference as the practitioners employed outcomes of the conference in practising the traditional medicine.

Myanmar traditional medicine has won international recognition thanks to implementation of the resolutions of the conference.

Myanmar traditional medicine, unlike another traditional medicine of world countries, has distinctive feature. It is a national prestige as well. Myanmar traditional medicine afforded healthiness and longevity to ancient Myanmar people. Good health is the most valued and sought-after prize for all human beings. Healthy, fit and intellectual human resources play a vital role of shaping the nation into modern and developed democratic nation.

The Union government is striving for all-round development of Myanmar traditional medicine sector, seeking comprehensive ways and means. All the traditional medicine practitioners must strive to earn the Myanmar traditional medicine the international recognition and propagate it.

To enhance and propagate Myanmar traditional medicine,

(1) Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners’ conference is held annually;
(2) International-standard traditional medicine university was established;
(3) Workshops and seminars on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) for traditional medicines are held;
(4) Books of applied herbal medicines and therapy are printed;
(5) Herbal parks including National Herbal Park are established across the nation;
(6) Traditional medicine first-aid kits are distributed;
(7) Standard Treatment Guide for traditional medicine practitioners is published and research conference held annually; and
(8) Traditional medicine hospitals and centres are opened in respective regions and states.

In nurturing human resources of Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners, diploma course and degree course in Myanmar traditional medicines and one-year course are taught while producing 6657 registered traditional medicine practitioners who are working as civil servants as well as discharging assigned duties in public health care services.

They are discharging duties of public healthcare as civil servants and freelances. Plans to offer post-graduate and doctorate degrees by the traditional medicine university are under way.

Myanmar traditional medicine courses and (See page 9)

Japan to help Myanmar install second radar system

YANGON, 27 Dec—The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will help Myanmar install the second radar system in early 2013 for upgrading weather forecast work, official media reported Wednesday.

The radar system will be installed in Yangon, Mandalay and Kyaukpyu, western Rakhine state. The first Myanmar radar system had been established in Kyaukpyu with the assistance of the World Meteorology Department and Japanese government.

According to Myanmar’s Meteorology Department, the country experienced lesser storm this year. However, many parts of southern Myanmar were hit by flood, while the northern part was badly affected by drought the whole year, bringing about loss to paddy
cultivation and livestock breeding works.

Earlier reports said that Myanmar would launch a small globe-observing satellite with the assistance of Marubeni Aerospace of Japan for Myanmar Meteorology and Hydrology Department which will use the satellite for broadcasting weather news through one of the satellite channels.

MNA/Xinhua