SMEs development could enable the country to achieve all inclusive economic growth pattern

Vice-President U Nyan Tun delivers an address at Small and Medium Enterprises Development Work Committee meeting. — MNA

The Committee for SMEs development could enable the country to achieve all inclusive economic growth pattern

**NAY PYI TAW, 1 Nov—Small and Medium Enterprises Development Work Committee meeting (2/2013) was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Industry here this morning, with an address by Vice-President U Nyan Tun.**

It was also attended by Union Ministers U Maung Myint, U Win Myint, U Win Shein and Dr Ko Ko Oo, the deputy ministers and departmental officials.

An inclusive move that can bring about economic growth is a key to poverty alleviation. Giving more encouragement to SMEs development could enable the country to achieve all inclusive economic growth pattern.

The President gave guidance on drawing law, bylaws and procedures for establishment of SMEs.

The Committee for SMEs drafting the SMEs Development Law (bill) has drafted the SMEs Bill in accord with international SMEs laws in cooperation with experts from UMFCCI, Myanmar Development Resources Institute (MDRI) and International Development Association. He called for swift action for passing the bill at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Myanmar sees few SMEs compared with those of ASEAN countries, and market competitiveness remains weak due to a lack of SMEs law. SMEs accounts for 99.4 % in the total number of industries and factories in Industrial Zones. These factories and industries have been run in accord with the Private Industrial Enterprise Law promulgated in 1990.

He called for smooth functioning of SMEs establishment and registration. It needs to carry out the formation of mobile registration team, opening of one-stop service center, access to online registration.

The Vice-President stressed the need to encourage investors and developers and to form management committees systematically, saying that establishment of industrial apartments for SMEs and cluster industries and upgrading of infrastructures in the industrial zones are needed. It is required to establish microfinance institutions and make necessary arrangements including establishment of mobile banking system for business transactions, he added.

He highlighted the development of SME database to ensure smooth flow of market information and easy access to the market and research works for promotion of SME. It is necessary to develop electronic trading system and industries encouraging foreign direct investment.

He continued that relaxation of customs and trade rules and regulations in an attempt to boost the quality of goods and services, acquisition of proper technologies and gaining access to global supply chains are necessary. He pointed out the importance of opening technical training schools and colleges for human resources development and taking measures for capacity building of staff.

He stressed the need to make quick steps to developing SME, calling on those present to put more efforts in production of goods and services capable of competing with others in prices and quality.

Next, Deputy Minister Daw Lei Lei Thein, joint-secretary of work committee and Deputy Minister U Myo Aung reported on work progress, ongoing tasks for the development of SMEs and SME development Law (draft). Then, the meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by the Vice-President. — MNA

**Japan provides US$ 6.9 million for Myanmar IDPs**


According to the aid program in cooperation with JICA, the funds provided by the Japanese government will help UNHCR provide reliefs to IDPs across the country including the border areas with Thailand, Rakhine State and Kachin State. This donation is the largest received by UNHCR this year.

Mr. Ayaki Ito, UNHCR deputy resident representative, said that the funds will be of great benefit to affected persons numbering about 220,000, providing them with accommodation and health care services. It is estimated that there are currently more than 430,000 IDPs in Myanmar.

Zagowah
LOCAL NEWS

Mann Creek in Myanmar Oilfield Bridge on slopes down, embankment breaks due to incessant rains in Minbu

Minbu, 1 Nov—A pier of Mann Oilfield Bridge on Mann Creek in Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise in Minbu Township of Magway Region slipped down and an embankment between Kyauksan and Thankantan Villages suffered a breach due to incessant rains recently.

So, except people and motorcyles, vehicles were not allowed to pass the bridge, said a local.

The bridge built in 1975 measuring 14 ft wide and 360 ft long can withstand 40-ton of load.

As an embankment between Kyauksan and Thankantan Villages was broken, tomato plantations grown by Kyecha and Mannkkyo Villages were damaged, said a local.


Mandalay Min express bus collides with a Toyota Mark II car at Junction of NyaungU-Kyaupadaung road.

Sittoung River inundates Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway

Yedashe, 1 Nov—Water level of Sittoung River exceeded its danger level and Yangon-Mandalay Highway on exit of Thagara in Yedashe Township was inundated by above two feet on 30 October commencing 28 October night.

It was learnt that efforts are being made for smooth passing of vehicles without any danger by erecting water posts and members of Fire Brigade are giving a helping hand to the travellers round the clock.—Kyemon-(578)

One dead, one injured in NyaungU car accident

NyaungU, 1 Nov—One was dead and one injured in traffic accident at the junction of NyaungU Airport Road on 29 October. The accident occurred when Mandalay Min express bus driven by U Kyi Soe, 42, of Gyokechaung Village, collided with a Toyota Mark II clubbed with a Toyota Mark II driven by U Khin Maung Yin, 66, of Thiriptyitsaya Ward-4 in NyaungU Township at the junction of NyaungU-Kyaupadaung road.

Co San Hwe (a) Pae Hlaw from Mark II Toyota women’s chess event; the team, one bronze in blind men’s chess event and Yan Pa, one silver, Zee Ma Sar, one bronze and Ar Kite, one bronze in blind women’s singles chess event.—Kyemon-Tin Maung Oo(Ahlon)

Myanmar para sports team wins one gold, four silver, four bronze medals

Yangon, 1 Nov—Myanmar Para Sports team secured one gold, four silver and four bronze medals in the 3rd Asian Youth Para Sports Meets from 26 October to 30 October in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Myanmar athlete Tin Myo won one gold medal in backstroke event (100 meters); Aung Phone, bronze in breaststroke event (100 meters); Nanda Lin, two silvers in 100 and 200 meters women’s track and field event; the team, one silver in blind women’s chess event; the team, one bronze in blind men’s chess event and Yan Pa, one silver, Zee Ma Sar, one bronze and Ar Kite, one bronze in blind women’s singles chess event.—Kyemon-Tin Maung Oo(Ahlon)

Myanmar U-23 Team plays a 1-1 draw with Chotum University

Myanmar U-23 Team held a 1-1 draw with Chotum University Team at Mokojo International Football Training Center yesterday morning as last friendly match of Korean Tour.

At the first half of the match, Myanmar U-23 tried for getting goals but Chotum team controlled the match with much football possession. At 37 minutes, No. 19 player from Chotum Team introduced the opener with net by passing Myanmar defenders. Kyi Lin and Aung Thu threatened opponent’s goal side with their long kicks.

Myanmar footballers could control the match at the second half and Chotum’s goalkeeper saved the volley kick of David Dunn at 59 minutes. At 62 minutes, Kyi Lin equalized the ball crossed by David Dunn into the net. Later, Myanmar U-23 team got many chances to achieve winning goals through the efforts of striker Kaung Si Thu and the match ended at 1-1 draw.

Kyemon-Maung Maung Zaw

Myanmar U-19 football team to compete in BIDC Cup

Myanmar U-19 football team would participate in BIDC Cup to be held in Phnom Penh of Cambodia from 2 to 10 November. While Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam are in Group (A) of BIDC Cup, Cambodia, Laos and Malaysia are in Group (B). BIDC Cup is mainly sponsored by Bank for Investment and Development of Cambodia and organized by Football Federation of Cambodia. Myanmar plays against Vietnam in the first match of the Cup.

Pier of Mann Oilfield Bridge slopes down, embankment breaks due to incessant rains in Minbu

Myanmar U-19 football team comprises manager coach U Nyi Nyi Latt, a German chief coach, assistant coach U Than Wai, goalkeeping coach U Mya Ko Min, goalkeepers Soe Arkar and Pyi Hlyan Aung, defenders: Nanda Kyaw, Naing Lin Tun, Naung Naung Latt, Myo Ko Tun, Htike Htike Aung, Aung Hein Soe Oo, Kyaw Kyaw Soe, midfielders: Shine Thura, Sai Nay Win, Aung Myat Soe, Yan Naung Oo, Soe Min Tun, Zin Phyoo Aung, Nyein Chan Aung, forwards: Maung Maung Soe, Than Paing, Maung Maung Lwin and Khant Ko Ko Soe. As Myanmar U-23 football team are now on the visit to the Republic of Korea and Japan, Myanmar U-19 football team competes in the Cambodian cup aiming at grounding for AFC U-19 Championship-2014 to be hosted by Myanmar.—Kyemon-Sai Nyi Lay, Photo: Shine Htet Zaw

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Indonesia summons Australian Ambassador over US-led spying claims

JAKARTA/PERTH, 1 Nov — Indonesia summoned Australia’s Ambassador on Friday to explain media reports of his embassy in Jakarta was used to spy on Southeast Asia’s biggest country as part of a US-led global spying network. Indonesia this week called in the chief US diplomat in Jakarta over similar allegations, while China on Thursday demanded an explanation from the United States after the Sydney Morning Herald newspaper reported Australian embassies across Asia were part of the US spying operation.

The Herald said its reports were based on US whistle-blower Edward Snowden and a former Australian intelligence officer. Snowden leaks to other media have detailed vast intelligence collection by the US National Security Agency (NSA) on allies, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, prompting protests and a US review of intelligence gathering.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa addresses the 68th United Nations General Assembly at UN headquarters in New York, on 27 Sept, 2013.—Reuters

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro said an image of his political idol and predecessor, the late socialist leader Hugo Chavez, had appeared miraculously in the wall of an underground construction site.

In the latest of a series of accusations since taking office in April, Maduro also accused US-based social network Twitter of colluding with his foes in a “massive attack” on his and other prominent government members’ accounts.

Since his death from cancer earlier this year, Chavez has taken on mythic proportions for supporters, and Maduro has spoken of seeing his former mentor’s spirit several times, including in the shape of a bird.

In the latest incident, Maduro said Chavez’s face briefly appeared to workers on 31 Oct, 2013.—Reuters

Zelaya’s wife to seek IMF deal if elected in Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA, 1 Nov — The wife of ousted Honduran president Manuel Zelaya will seek a deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to resolve a mounting debt crisis if she wins next month’s presidential election, her running mate said on Thursday.

Juliette Handal, the vice-presidential candidate of Zelaya’s wife Xiomara Castro, said their leftist party had prepared a plan to attain IMF financing.

“In Tegucigalpa as her party presented its plan for governing the country,” Handal told Reuters

The election will be held on 24 November, and latest polls show Castro and her conservative rival Juan Hernandez, head of Honduras’ Congress, are running neck-and-neck.

Caracas, 1 Nov — Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro said an image of his political idol and predecessor, the late socialist leader Hugo Chavez, had appeared miraculously in the wall of an underground construction site.

In the latest of a series of accusations since taking office in April, Maduro also accused US-based social network Twitter of colluding with his foes in a “massive attack” on his and other prominent government members’ accounts.

Since his death from cancer earlier this year, Chavez has taken on mythic proportions for supporters, and Maduro has spoken of seeing his former mentor’s spirit several times, including in the shape of a bird. In the latest incident, Maduro said Chavez’s face briefly appeared to workers building a subway line in Caracas in the middle of the night.

“My hair stands on end just telling you about it,” Maduro said on state TV late on Wednesday, showing a photo of a white-plaster wall with marks that appear like eyes and a nose.

“Who is that face? That gaze is the gaze of the Fatherland that is everywhere around us, including in inexplicable phenomena,” added Maduro, who won an April election to replace Chavez after his 14-year presidency.

Maduro’s reverence for Chavez plays well with government supporters, who treat the charismatic former leader’s memory with religious adoration. The 50-year-old Maduro, who mixes Catholic beliefs with a penchant for Asian spirituality, has been a devoted personal follower of Chavez since first meeting him at a jail in 1993.

Lower house passes bill for SDF rescue operations on land abroad

Tokyo, 1 Nov — The House of Representatives on Friday passed a bill to allow the Self-Defense Forces to engage in rescue transportation of Japanese and foreign nationals by land during emergency situations abroad.

The bill to revise the SDF law, crafted in response to a hostage crisis in Algeria in January that resulted in the deaths of 10 Japanese among other expatriate victims, will be sent to the House of Councillors for approval and is expected to clear the Diet before the extraordinary Diet sessions ends 6 December.

At present, the law allows the SDF to transport Japanese nationals overseas only by sea and air. A revised law will also enable the SDF to transport relatives and colleagues of Japanese nationals caught in trouble abroad, as well as government officials and medical staff in rescue missions.

The government submitted the bill to the Diet in April, but it was carried over to the current session for further deliberation. Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera and his Russian counterpart Sergey Shougu on Friday, are aimed at preparing the ground for negotiations to resolve a long-running territorial dispute between the two countries.—Kyodo News

Japan, Russia to agree to launch high-level talks on cyberattacks

Tokyo, 1 Nov — The foreign ministers of Japan and Russia plan to agree later Friday to launch high-level consultations to share information on countering cyberattacks, while confirming plans to strengthen political dialogue between the two countries.

Fumio Kishida and his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov sat down for a meeting in Tokyo in the evening ahead of the first “two-plus-two” meeting of defence and foreign ministers between Japan and Russia on Saturday. The series of ministerial meetings, including one between Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera and his Russian counterpart Sergei Shoigu on Friday, are aimed at preparing the ground for negotiations to resolve a long-running territorial dispute between the two countries.—Kyodo News

Former Honduras president Manuel Zelaya leaves the funeral ceremony for Venezuela’s late President Hugo Chavez, at the Military Academy in Caracas, on 8 March, 2013.—Reuters

Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa addresses the 68th United Nations General Assembly at UN headquarters in New York, on 27 Sept, 2013.—Reuters

Indonesian President Manny Murti (L) and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shake hands prior to holding talks at the prime minister’s office in Tokyo on 31 Oct, 2013.—Kyodo News

Former Honduran president Manuel Zelaya leaves the construction site.
**Oman reports first confirmed new coronavirus infection to WHO**

**GENEVA, 1 NOV — The World Health Organization (WHO) on Thursday said Oman reported its first laboratory-confirmed case of respiratory syndrome coronavirus. The patient, 68, from Al Dakhliya region, became ill on 26 Oct and was hospitalized on 28 Oct. Preliminary epidemiological investigations revealed that he did not recently travel outside the country, said the WHO.**

**However, investigations are currently ongoing to determine what exposures might be responsible for his infection, it said. Saudi Arabia has reported three additional confirmed cases, including one death. The three patients, a woman and two men, are aged from 49 to 83. Of one them is a healthcare worker, according to the WHO.**

**All three patients reported having no contact with animals prior to their illness, while one patient was reported to have been in contact with a previously laboratory-confirmed case, it said. Globally, from September 2012 to date, WHO has been informed of a total of 149 laboratory-confirmed cases of the new coronavirus infection, including 63 deaths. —Xinhua**

**Panasonic raises full-year operating profit forecast**

**TOKYO, 1 NOV — Panasonic raised its full-year earnings forecast as expected, with strong sales of its automotive systems and eco-friendly technology powering its transformation into an industrial components supplier from a consumer electronics brand.**

**Panasonic Corp increased its operating profit forecast for the year to March to 270 billion yen ($2.75 billion) from a previous forecast of 250 billion yen. That compares with expectations of 268.2 billion yen, the average of 19 analyst estimates according to Thomson Reuters Starmine.**

**After a round of heavy restructuring that has seen Panasonic pull out of plasma TVs, smartphones and downsizing its nanotechnology segment, the Japanese company posted a net profit of 61.5 billion yen for the three months to September. That compares with the mean estimate of 60.92 billion yen, according to five analysts surveyed by Thomson Reuters IBES/TS.**

**Panasonic said on Wednesday it would sharply increase its supply of lithium batteries to US carmaker Tesla to nearly 2 billion cells in the four years to 2017, a big step up from the 200 million cells it is supposed to have provided over the two years to this December.**

**The deal is testament to the speed with which Panasonic has spun around its business after skipping its dividend a year earlier for the first time in six decades. It had suffered $15 billion in net losses over the previous two years.**

**The company has also been active in selling off assets, agreeing recently to the sale of 80 percent of its healthcare unit to US buy-out firm KKR & Co for 165 billion yen. On Thursday, Panasonic also raised its full-year net profit forecast to 100 billion yen, against an average estimate of 75.52 billion yen, according to Thomson Reuters Starmine.**

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**US to allow expanded electronic device use on flights**

**WASHINGTON, 1 NOV — Airline passengers will soon be able to use certain electronic devices throughout their entire flight after the US Federal Aviation Administration ended a long-standing ban on Thursday. Mobile phone calls remain barred under Federal Communications Commission rules. But fliers will be free to keep smartphones, tablets and e-readers running in “airplane” mode.**

**Sony suffers TV relapse as Japan peers change channel**

**TOKYO, 1 NOV — Sony Corp CEO Kazuo Hirai’s determination to stick to the consumer electronics that made the company’s fame will be put to the test in the months ahead as domestic rivals step up a shift to more profitable industrial technology.**

**On Thursday the home of gadgets from the walkman music player to the Cybershot camera warned it won’t meet previous full-year profit targets after sliding to a net loss of 19.3 billion yen ($197 million) for July to September. Its TV plasma TVs, smartphones and automotive electronics business, said Makoto Kikuchi, CEO of Myojo Asset Management based in Tokyo, speaking after Sony announced its earnings.**

**“On the other hand Panasonic, which is shifting its business away from consumer electronics, is reporting better-than-expected results. The contrast is like night and day.”**

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**Google launches “KitKat” software, sweetens features on range of phones**

**SAN FRANCISCO, 1 NOV — Google Inc on Thursday unveiled the newest version of its Android smartphone software, aiming to allow more smartphone users access to its evolving menu of online services such as driving directions voice-activated search.**

**The new “KitKat” version of Android will be able to run on inexpensive, low-end smartphones as well as the most advanced devices, Sundar Pichai, Google Senior Vice President of Android, Chrome and Apps said at a press event in San Francisco on Thursday. “Now you have one version of the operating system which will run across all versions of Android smartphones,” Pichai said, noting that smartphones sold in “emerging markets” often come loaded with older versions of Android, that lack many key features and capabilities.**

**The move could help Google ensure that more users have access to the growing selection of profitable online services. It also could make the Android software more attractive to third-party app developers, who have been frustrated by what they call the “fragmented” nature of Android devices. Google’s Android software runs on 80 percent of the world’s smartphones, according to industry analysts.**

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**Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Administrator Michael Huerta discusses the agency’s response and recommendations from the Portable Electronic Devices Aviation Rulemaking Committee at Reagan National Airport in Washington on 31 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS**

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**Google logo**

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**A man looks at Panasonic Corp’s Viera televisions displayed at an electronics store in Tokyo on 31 Oct, 2013. —REUTERS**
Enrollment in Obamacare very small in first days

WASHINGTON, 1 Nov — Enrollment in health insurance plans on the troubled Obamacare website was very small in the first couple of days of operation, with just 248 Americans signing up, according to documents released on Thursday by a US House of Representatives committee.

The Obama administration on Wednesday night provided enrollment figures from HealthCare.gov because it doesn’t have the numbers. The federal website, where residents of 36 states can buy new health-care plans under President Barack Obama’s law, was launched on 1 October.

“We do not have any reliable data around enrollment, which is why we haven’t given it to date,” Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius told lawmakers on Wednesday. But the documents, which are labeled “war room” notes and appear to be summaries of issues with the problematic website beginning on 2 October, indicate a mere six enrollments had occurred by that morning — the day after the website was launched and almost immediately crashed.

“High capacity on the website, direct enrollment not working,” the 2 October notes said. By later that day, “approximately 100” enrollments had taken place.

“As of yesterday, there were 248 enrollments,” said the notes from the morning of 3 October. The documents were released by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, which has been demanding information from the Treasury and the insurance industry.

AIG earnings point to room for improvement

New York, 1 Nov — American International Group Inc reported earnings nearly in line with expectations on Thursday, but the stock fell after hours as analysts still saw room for improvement in the insurer, which almost went under during the financial crisis.

AIG, which saw sour derivative bets threaten the company’s future five years ago, saw stronger commercial lines business. Analysts said they expected better results in its consumer lines business.

The company also matched its 10-cent dividend of the second quarter and said that it bought back $192 million in stock in the three months ended 30 September. AIG “is becoming a normal company,” Sanford C Bernstein & Co analyst Josh Stirling said. “They’re making great progress in fixing their underwriting in their commercial lines business, but still have more room to make in consumer lines. They really need to get margin improvements in both,” he said. Commercial underwriting saw net premiums earned edge down 2 percent to $5.142 billion from the year-ago quarter, but the combined ratio improved to 102.0 from 106.0.

A combined ratio below 100 indicates an underwriting profit, meaning an insurer is receiving more in premiums than it is paying out in claims. In its consumer underwriting, AIG saw a 6 percent dip in net premiums earned to $3.27 billion. That combined ratio rose to 99.3 from 98.3 in the third quarter of last year.

And the company also benefited from factors beyond its control, such as a favourable tax rate, noted Mervyn Shields of Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, Inc. “I think the stock’s going to have a tough day tomorrow.” He said BMO Capital Markets analyst Charles Sebaski pointed to stalled progress in the property and casualty unit, “We did not see any meaningful improvement in the P&C underwriting,” he said.

Net premiums earned in the company’s property casualty unit fell 4 percent to $8.43 billion in the quarter ended 30 September, while the combined ratio improved 3.4 points to 101.6, indicating the business is still not booking an underwriting profit.

Asia factory sector upbeat, led by China

BEIJING, 1 Nov — Asian manufacturing activity picked up in October led by China, where factory sector growth hit its fastest pace in 18 months off the back of new orders, purchasing managers’ reports showed on Friday.

To pick up gradually and domestic demand growth remaining solid, we expect GDP growth to comfortably exceed the government’s bottom line in the coming quarters,” Louis Kuijs, an economist at RBS, said of the China PMI in a client note. The China PMI offered some support to weak Asian markets on Friday and data elsewhere in Asia also pointed to brighter economic prospects.

The HSBC/Markit PMI for South Korea showed factory activity expanded for the first time in five months and separate data showed the country’s exports in October handled half way better than in September, which had raised fresh concerns about the health of the global economy.

China’s official purchasing managers index (PMI) rose to 51.4 in October, up from 51.1 in September and above expectations for a reading of 51.2. A PMI reading above 50 suggests expansion from the previous month, while a figure below 50 points to contraction. “With global demand momentum likely to pick up gradually and domestic demand growth remaining solid, we expect GDP growth to comfortably exceed the government’s bottom line in the coming quarters,” Louis Kuijs, an economist at RBS, said of the China PMI in a client note. The China PMI offered some support to weak Asian markets on Friday and data elsewhere in Asia also pointed to brighter economic prospects.

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Mexico Congress passes watered-down tax reform

MEXICO CITY, 1 Nov — Mexico’s Congress on Thursday passed a package of measures aimed at bolstering the country’s weak tax revenues, but only after watering down a plan that is expected to have a moderate impact at best. The bill, which included higher taxes on the rich as well as levies on junk food and stock market gains, is a central plank of an economic program spanning energy to telecoms that aims to ramp up growth.

Facing a Thursday deadline, the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) pushed the package through with the help of leftist lawmakers, making final tweaks in the Senate to pare back a planned income tax increase.

The lower house then gave final approval to the bill that President Enrique Pena Nieto is now expected to sign into law.

Mexico has the lowest tax revenue in the 34-nation Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), restricting its ability to spend on health, infrastructure and social programs needed to boost living standards and growth.

Before the bill was presented last month, senior PRI officials said it would seek to raise the tax take by 4 percent of gross domestic product. Yet even before the Senate changed the bill, the government was admitting it was likely to bring in added revenues of barely 2.7 percent of GDP by 2018. “The (reform) was reduced to a simple tax code focused on more, bigger taxes for those who have the ability,” said Alfredo Coutino, Latin America director for Moody’s Analytics.—Reuters

Xi stresses gender equality

BEIJING, 1 Nov — Chinese President Xi Jinping Thursday underlined the importance of gender equality, calling for full play to be given to the role of women in order to help achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Xi made the remarks while meeting with the newly elected leadership of the All-China Women’s Federation.

The president also expressed his congratulations and greetings to the new leadership following the 11th National Women’s Congress, which concluded in Beijing’s Great Hall of the People on Thursday.

Xi said that China has attached great importance to gender equality in different periods of development over recent decades.

Noting that China is facing a more arduous task in economic and social development, he said that the country needs more contributions and wisdom from women than ever before.

Xi urged authorities at all levels to attach more importance and offer more assistance to women’s federation, to improve the environment for women to develop livelihoods, and to severely punish those who infringe on women’s rights.

Shen Yueyue, vice chairwoman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, China’s top legislature, was reelected president of the All-China Women’s Federation on Wednesday.

Taiwan’s prosecutor-general indicted in probe of leaked secrets

TAIPEI, 1 Nov — Taiwan Prosecutor-General Huang Shih-ming was indicted Friday by a court after he leaked classified information about the investigation into the influence-peddling case of the Taipei District Parliament Speaker Wang Jin-yu.

Lo Chih-chang on their roles in the alleged leaking of details of the investigation into the Wang case.

Wang faces a maximum sentence of three years if convicted. Ma is the second sitting head of state to testify before prosecutors as a witness. Then President Chen Shui-bian was summoned to attend a hearing as a witness in an alleged vote-buying case in eastern Hualien County in January 2004.

China’s 11th National Women’s Congress concludes

BEIJING, 1 Nov — The 11th National Women’s Congress concluded in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Thursday, calling on China’s women and women’s organizations to contribute more to the country’s development.

For every five years, the four-day congress passed a work report delivered by the 10th Executive Committee of the All-China Women’s Federation (ACWF), deliberated on and adopted amendments to the federation’s constitution and elected the 11th ACWF Executive Committee.

Vice Premier Liu Yongdong conveyed congratulations on the success of the congress on behalf of the State Council, urging enhanced policies to promote gender equality and ensure that women have equal opportunities in the sectors of the economy and education.

Shen Yueyue, newly elected chairwoman of the ACWF, said at the closing ceremony that women from all ethnic groups in the country should make more contributions to the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Final report on Syria’s chemical weapons expected in early December

UNITED NATIONS, 1 Nov — A UN fact-finding group is expected to present its final report on Syria’s chemical weapons in early December as a number of samples from Syria are still being studied in designated laboratories, UN spokesman Martin Nesirky said here Thursday.

“The final report is expected to be finalized in early December, after all information gathered by the UN Mission has been evaluated,” Nesirky said at a daily briefing here.

“A number of samples are still being analyzed by the designated laboratories and the results are expected to be provided to the UN Mission early next week,” he said.

On 16 September, Ake Sellstrom, head of the UN team to investigate the alleged use of chemical weapons in the Syrian conflict, presented an initial report to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, confirming that sarin gas was used outside the Syrian capital of Damascus on 21 August.

The UN team is mandated to find out whether chemical weapons were used in the Arab country, but not who used them.

“Prof. Sellstrom is currently working on the final report in coordination with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and World Health Organization experts that were part of the UN Mission,” Nesirky said.

Samples collected by the UN team in Syria were transferred from The Hague to laboratories for analyses on Sept. 2. They were gathered from the site of the alleged use of chemical weapons in the Ghouta area of Damascus, which allegedly killed more than 1,000 people.

The UN said the analyses would be conducted in laboratories in Europe “strictly adhering to the highest established standards of verification recognized by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.”

The fact-finding group, which was created in March at the request of the Syrian government, was initially set to investigate the alleged March 19 chemical attacks on Khan al-Asal in the northern province of Aleppo and two other undisclosed sites.—Xinhua

Xi called for the process of China’s development to be integrated with promotion of gender equality, which will ensure women to exercise their rights of democracy in accordance with law, take part into economic and social development and share the fruits of reform.

The president asked women’s federation officials at all levels to learn more about the situation at grassroots level in order to better help women.

Xi urged authorities at all levels to attach more importance and offer more assistance to women’s federation, to improve the environment for women to develop livelihoods, and to severely punish those who infringe on women’s rights.
LOCAL NEWS

ROK’s Asiana Airlines donates Eco Solar Light

YANGON, 1 Nov—A ceremony to donate Eco Solar Light by Asiana Airlines of Republic of Korea was held at Theingoktara Gardens pavilion at the west archway of Shwedagon Pagoda this morning. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe said the donation would contribute not only to local people but also to foreigners.

Next, CEO Mr Yoon Young Doo of Asiana Airlines explained the purposes of the donation. CEO Mr Yoon Young Doo and Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myint Swe then exchanged notes after signing it.—MNA

Myanmar, India sign MoU on enhancement of information technology skills

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Nov—A ceremony to sign Memorandum of Understanding on Strengthening India-Myanmar Centre for Enhancement of Information TechnologySkills-IMEICTS between the governments of Myanmar and India took place at the Ministry of Science and Technology, here, yesterday afternoon.

Director-General U Kyaw Swa Soe of Advanced Science and Technology Department and Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Gautama Mukhopadhaya signed the MoU.

The MoU is aimed at conducting more training courses at IMCEITS, turning the centre into an Authorized Training Centre for Development of Advanced Computing—CDAC in India to be able to present internationally-recognized joint certificates to trainees and making contributions to the development of ICT sector in Myanmar.—MNA

Relief camps opened for flood victims due to rising Sittoung River water level

YEDASHE, 1 Nov—As water level of Sittoung River rises on 29 and 30 October, people from 51 villages are facing floods along the bank of the river in Yedashe Township.

Authorities concerned open four relief camps in Thagara, two in Swa and three in Yedashe.

The flood victims from Wedaunt, Kyauk pong, Chaungkyo, Kyauzaung, Ayethukha and Letpankhon villages are accommodated at the relief camps.

A total of 277 flood victims of 55 households are taking shelter at the Dhammayan of Thadawya Pagoda, 151 from 48 households at Zaydan Ward monastery, 301 people from 62 households of the school at No. 84 Infantry Regiment and 345 people from 87 households at Ngakho mma Chaungma Dhammayon.

Likewise, 909 people from villages along Swa Creek are being accommodated at two monasteries in Bodawgon and over 100 at the Dhammayan of Myoyeke and can be produced from the mine in Pathein.

“Tatmadawmen and people carry out evacuation of flood victims in Yedashe Township.”

Dhammayan of Pariyatti Monastery of Sway and 331 at Uymaing Tharly Monastery. As of 30 October morning, the water level of Sittoung River is still rising, so people from East Kyweyai villages were evacuated to the safer places. A total of 426 people were given shelters at the Dattaw Phayagyi Dhammayan, 242 at the

Deputy Sports Minister meets individuals of sports federations

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Nov—FIFA/MA Football Festival-2013 was launched at Kyauktaing Sports Ground in Pathein yesterday. At the launch, FIFA Grossroots Instructor Dato’ Yap Nyim Keong presented a football with the signatures of his trainees to journalists of Thai Wunna Theikdhi Sports Ground at Pathein yesterday.

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Precious gems mine found in Chin State

FALAM, 1 Nov—A chrysoprase mine was found by En-Jin Company in Falam of Chin State.

It is a semi precious stone. The departments concerned approved the semi precious stone, said Dr Lal Ram Panna of En-Jin Co.

“We have informed the authorities of our findings. We hope to receive the permission of mining soon.”—MMAL-Htan Ngar

said the director. According to the findings through photos, the chrysoprase is green colour and can be used at home decoration. The semi precious stone can be produced from the mine on a hill of Falam Township in Chin State, and it can be sold at K 20000 per viss. MMAL-Htan Ngar

Mining

MMAL-Phyo Lwin Aung (Falame)

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Peace and progress
A little over two years ago, to end the decades-long internal armed conflict was mind-boggling, but now with leaders of ethnic armed groups holding talks on nationwide ceasefire pact, hopes are high that lasting peace can be finally built in the country.

The President said that the government is holding nationwide ceasefire pact signing ceremony because it is being conducted with the demands of ethnic armed groups, reaffirm all existing agreements and carry out the tasks required to start the peace dialogue process immediately after the signing the peace deal.

After years of mistrust and suspicion, it would normally be difficult and take time to rebuild trust between the government and ethnic armed groups but the fact that the new era has resurrected the long-lost practice of finding solutions through negotiation plus political tolerance is undeniable.

When we talk about peace in Myanmar’s context, it should not be about who wins or who loses between the government and ethnic armed groups, it should be about the people’s will. The most important thing is to bring all kinds of hostilities to an end on Myanmar’s soil as soon as possible so that people can restart a normal life.

Peace and progress are the two sides of the same coin. At a time when foreign investments are being invited to spur the national economic growth, we need to take into account that investors crave stability and peace more than anything else.

The analysis of the recent political discussions and debates on the constitution indicates that democratic practices have begun to take shape in our country, which is undoubtedly an encouraging sign for national reconciliation. It is our national duty for all of us to do everything we can to make sure that these democratic practices are consolidated and become deeply rooted in our society.

A A Study on the Anandacandra Stone Inscription

The Anandacandra Stone Inscription is named after its engraver, a powerful devoted Buddhist Rakhine king who reigned in the latter part of Vesali Period, which is believed to have been contemporary with the time which flourished between the 4th and the 9th centuries A.D. It is now kept on the 40-foot high Mound of the Shitthaung Temple about half a mile north of the Mound of MraukU Palace. At the southern tip of the mound, there is a flight of stair-case, which is 8 feet in width and 35 feet in length, leading from the foot of the mound up to the first levelled ground about 16 feet high above the foot.

The Anandacandra Stone Inscription occupies a shed on the left side of the top of the stair-case. It contains a long list of the names of ancient Rakhine kings who had ruled in Rakhine from 373 A.D. before the birth of Christ up to the 9th year after the accession of King Anan-
dacandra who ruled at the beginning of the 8th cen-
tury A.D. Two distinctions of it are that it is engraved in three types of ancient Indian scripts belonging to three different eras and that it bears the regal years of all the kings recorded.

The Anandacandra Stone Inscription is an elongated fine-grained sandstone monolith measuring 9 feet and 7 inches in height and 2 feet and 4 inches in width. It is said that King Min-
bagyi (r. 531-1553) of MraukU Dynasty shifted it to the Mound of the Shitthaung Temple from Letkhat Hill south of the Mound of Vesali Palace about 5 miles north of MraukU. The eastern, western and northern faces of it are inscribed in Sanskrit with three different North Indian scripts belonging to three different eras which are separated from each other by a lapse of 200 years. The scripts written on the eastern face are considered the oldest. Although there are about 100 lines, most of them are damaged and consequently illegible. Very few lines are legible. Paleographically, these scripts are tentatively assigned to the 3rd and the 6th centuries respectively. There are four lines written in the scripts belonging to the A.D. 6th cen-
tury in the upper part of the northern face. Under these lines are found 69 lines in inscriptions which are thought to belong to the 10th century A.D. Most of them are erased due to weathering. But the remnant scripts suggest that they might be the proto-Bengali scripts.

On the western face are found 71 lines written in proto-Nagari script. As these scripts remain nearly intact, they are clearly legible. This face records the names of ancient Rakhine kings with their regnal years and the eulogy on King Anan-
dacandra in 65 verses and an epigraph. (Although the engravers of the scripts on the eastern and northern faces are unknown, it is known according to the stone inscription that those on the western face were inscribed by King Anan-
dacandra. The times of the accession of King Anan-
dacandra and of engraving the Anandacandra Stone Inscription are available to us. Out of them, the coins struck by King Devacandra and King Yasovamam can be paleographically assigned to the beginning of the 5th century A.D and to the beginning of the 7th century A.D respectively. The stone inscription mentions that King Devacandra reigned for 22 years and that the interregnum between the demise of King Devacandra and the accession of King Dhammavijaya was 177 years. King Dhammavijaya reigned for 36 years. King Ananda-
candra ascended the throne of Vesali 19 years after the passing away of King Dhammavijaya. When he inscribed this stone inscription, he had attained the thirteenth regnal year. The interregnum between the times of striking the coins by King Devacandra and King Dhammavijaya was 235 years. The time lapse between the coin of King Dhammavijaya and the Anandacandra Stone Inscription was 64 years. So it is hard to date this stone inscription later than the 5th century. Again, if the
National Sports

Township Administrator’s Cup wraps up

Uttar Village football team celebrates victory uplifting championship trophy.

Paung, 1 Nov—In the final match of Paung Township Administrator’s Cup U-23 Inter-Village/Ward Football Tournament taking place at Myoma Sports Ground in Paung, Uttart Village emerged champion with a 2-1 win over Thebyugon Village on 30 October.

After the match, Township Administrator U Naing Myint presented championship shield and cash award K 300,000 to first prize winner Uttar Village team.

Mon State Hluttaw representative U Maung Lan and Township Medical Officer Dr Maung Maung Lwin gave best player awards to the respective players in places.

Concrete contractor U Cho presented K 100,000 as special award to the champion team.

Kalay bustling with water way passengers

Jetty in Kalay seen with passengers and vendors relying on water transport.

Kalay, 1 Nov—Kalay is the populous city in upper Sagaing Region and it is a road junction town.

Kalay is a destination for good transport service such as flights, motor roads and water way transport through Kalay-Mandalay-Yangon flight, Kalay-Gangaw rail-road, Kalay-Mandalay-Monywa-Yangon motor road and Kalay-Kalewa-Monywa and Homalin-Hkamti water way transport.

At present, speed boats are giving smooth and swift transportation to the local people along the water way. Up and down ships and speed boats are giving better transport to the passengers along Homalin-Hkamti route and Kalewa-Monywa-Mandalay route along Chindwin River.

For giving shelters to 10846 flood victims from 2701 households.

On foot deep water covered Yangon-Mandalay Highway, and Toungoo-Loikaw motor road was inundated from No 3 police station to 4th miles gate.

Bago Region government provided rice and edible oil to the flood victims and Township Development Supportive Committee, social organizations and well-wishers, packets of rice, rice, edible oil and instant noodle packets to them.

Toungoo District Health Department assigned nurses at the relief camps for providing health care services to the victims.

Due to floods, 33 basic education schools including No 1 Basic Education High School and two BEMSSs in Toungoo were closed temporarily. Likewise, a total of 1259 inmates, teachers and students.

A total of 3500 books, State gazettes, newspapers, weekly news journals, magazines and publications at the book show.

Head of Township IPRD Daw Mu Mya Saw and staff served the visitors for borrowing of books free of charge and giving pamphlets to them.

The book shows run from 29 to 31 October. Myeik-Myeik District IPRD

Natural Disaster

Rural, urban areas in Toungoo in flood

Motor roads in Toungoo inundated in Toungoo Township due to recent heavy rains.

Toungoo, 1 Nov—As Sittoung River rose its water level on record, the low-lying wards of Toungoo and villages along the bank of Sittoung River were flooded unexpectedly.

Higher water level hit Wards 1, 8, 9, 10, 19 and 20 and villages such as Shansugyi, Alekyun and so on along the river bank. According to the statistics on 31 October, a total of 30 relief camps were opened.

Increase of the river level setting a record during 40 years. In 1973, the water level of Sittoung River reached 711 cm, exceeding 111 cm over 600 cm of danger level of Toungoo.

On 20 October, they oversaw Hsibyushin agriculture and livestock breeding work camp in Taninthayi Township, and Myo Ma police station.

They also inspected welfare of the jail and rights of receiving medical treatment. On 30 October, the Chief Justice met district and township judges and instructed them to strive for reclaiming of criminal cases at the courts in Myeik District.

Taninthayi Region Chief Justice inspects jails, police custodies

Myeik, 1 Nov—Taninthayi Region High Court Chief Justice U Myint Win and district level officials inspected Myeik Jail on 28 October.

At the hall, Assistant Director U Nyunt Win of Myan mar Correctional Department reported on convenience of prisoners and inmates, supply of water, health and sanitation at the jail.

The Chief Ministerviewed Myaik Jail, custody of Myeik Myoma Police Force, and temporary custody of the court in Myeik.

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HRD

Book show held in Yaksawk

Yaksawk, 1 Nov—Yaksawk Township Information and Public Relations Department of Shan State (South) held the book show for free borrowing of books from the library of department and raising reading habit on 29 October.

It was attended by departmental personnel, members of Township Development Supportive Committee, ward/village authorities, members of social organizations of 11546 acres of farmlands of 3960 farmers from 14 villages fell under the floods.

According to the observation at 12.30 hr MST, water level of Sittoung River reached 711 cm, exceeding 111 cm over 600 cm of danger level of Toungoo,
Ex-vice governor gets life for graft

BEIJING, 1 Nov—A former vice governor of northeast China’s Jilin Province was sentenced to life imprisonment on Friday for taking bribes.

Tian Xueren pocketed over 19 million yuan (more than $3 million US dollars) in bribes, according to the verdict by Beijing No. 1 Intermediate People’s Court.

Tian had traded jobs and contracts for bribes between 1995 and 2011, taking advantage of his positions as deputy party chief of Changchun city; party chief of Jilin city and Yanbian Korean autonomous prefecture; vice governor of Jilin; and chairman of the board and party chief of the Bank of Jilin.

The ruling confiscates all his personal assets and he is deprived of his political rights for life.

Tian was expelled from the Communist Party of China and dismissed from all his posts for “severe disciplinary and legal violations” in July 2012.

Advancing relations with India priority for Australia

C A N B E R R A, 1 Nov—Advancing relations with India is a priority for the Australian government, Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said Friday, one day after talks with her Indian counterpart Salman Khurshid in Perth, West Australia on ways to enhance the Strategic Partnership between the two countries.

Australia and India agreed to a Strategic Partnership in 2009.

And India is Australia’s fifth-largest export market and a significant investor, the largest source of skilled migrants to Australia and the second largest source of international students.

“The advancing relations with India is a priority for the Australian government...Our discussion followed very productive talks between Prime Minister (Tony) Abbott and Prime Minister (Manmohan Singh) at the annual Leaders’ Meeting in Brussels on Oct. 10,” Bishop said in a statement Friday.

According to her, she and her counterpart reaffirmed the commitment of both countries to finalize a Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement to enable the sale of Australian uranium to India and announced that the third round of negotiations would be held in Delhi in the week of 25 Nov.

She briefed Khurshid on the Australian government’s commitment to open trade and investment policies and welcomed further Indian investment into Australia.

“We agreed that conclusion of a high-quality Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement would underpin a further expansion of the trade and investment relationship to mutual benefit,” she said.

Bishop said they discussed the importance of building a strategic relationship on energy security and indicated that the two sides were working to finalise dates for the second ministerial meeting on energy security.

Indian bombing suspect dies of injuries

NEW DELHI, 1 Nov—A bombing suspect arrested after the serial blasts that hit the eastern Indian city Patna last Sunday had died of the injuries he suffered when he was planting the bomb at the railway station’s public toilet, said police.

“Amul alias Tarique died due to his injuries at a hospital in Patna, late Thursday night,” said a police officer.

Before his identity was disclosed by the police, he was believed to be a victim.

Earlier police reports said another suspect died of injuries but the man turned out to be a victim of the blasts, which took place when Indian opposition Bharatiya Janata Party prime ministerial candidate Narendra Modi was addressing a huge rally of supporters in Patna.

Six people were killed and 83 injured in seven bomb blasts in Patna.

Flight diverted to Phoenix after undisclosed threat

XINHUA

A Pakistani policeman checks a motorbike rider on road due to security high alert after twin bomb blast in southwest Pakistan’s Quetta, on 31 Oct, 2013. At least four people were killed and 14 others injured when a bomb blast followed by a gas cylinder explosion hit Pakistan’s southwestern provincial capital of Quetta on Wednesday, said police officers. —XINHUA

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Xinhua

Xinhua
Japan eyes joining pact on compensation for nuclear damage in 2014

Tokyo, 1 Nov—Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said on Friday that legislation may be introduced to parliament during its extraordinary session from early next year to ratify an international pact on compensation for nuclear accidents.

“We will work to submit (relevant bills) at an appropriate time next year,” Kishida told reporters, noting that the move is aimed at enabling the participation of foreign companies in decommisioning or clean-up efforts at the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. In a meeting in Tokyo the previous day, Kishida conveyed to visiting US Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz Tokyo’s intention to join the 1997 pact, under which compensation for damage resulting from a nuclear accident may be partially paid for with funds contributed by participating countries.

Japan is now seeking to join the accord in part because it would eliminate the risk of foreign firms involved in an accident in the course of their work at the Fukushima plant being sued overseas, where they might face punitive damages.

Moniz welcomed the Japanese move and agreed with Kishida that the two countries should coordinate closely on Japan joining the treaty, according to Japanese officials. The nuclear compensation pact is known formally as the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage. The treaty, with Argentina, Romania and the United States as signatories so far, will enter into force once Japan joins it.—Kyodo News

Crashed Lao Airlines aircraft’s blackbox recovered

Vientiane, 1 Nov — One of the blackbox units has been recovered from the wreckage of Lao Airlines flight QV301 which crashed into the Mekong on 16 October, Yakuka Lopangkao, Director General of the Lao Civil Aviation Department told Xinhua Friday.

The aircraft, a French made twin engine ATR 72-600, was carrying two blackbox units when it crashed in bad weather kilometres from its destination of Pakse International Airport.

According to Lao Civil Aviation Department Director Yakuka Lopangkao, the unit recovered is responsible for recording performance parameters and inputs sent to the aircraft’s electronic systems. The data will provide officials with insight into the tragic moments of flight QV301.

The aircraft’s manufacturer and the French aviation accident investigation agency will take the unit back to France to collate the data. Full analysis of the blackbox unit’s information could take up to a month.

Officials in Pakse are also closing in on the other blackbox unit, which remains submerged at the crashsite. The second unit is responsible for recording radio transmissions made to and from the plane as well as cockpit conversations and ambient sounds.

Lopangkao previously told Xinhua that the recovery efforts were made extremely difficult by the depth of the river and the strong wet-season current. The murky Mekong water offers almost zero visibility and a dangerous environment for recovery divers who are forced to navigate the riverbed by touch.

The flight took off from Lao capital Vientiane at 2:45 pm (0745 GMT) on 16 October and was scheduled to land at Pakse International Airport in Champassak province a little over an hour and later.

The flooding started shortly after 9 pm on Thursday and continued up to the early hours on Friday as heavy rains pelted many parts of Davao city, said Jed Clamor, spokesperson of the Southern Mindanao regional police.

Local radio reported that floodwater in Agdao and Buhangin Districts were several feet high, almost submerging houses. “The floodwaters started to rise around 9 pm and was already chest-deep when we started to evacuate to a nearby gymnasium hours later,” said Elena Capuyan, a resident of Ubalde village, in Agdao.

Chief Inspector Clamor told Xinhua by text message a 57-year old man identified as Gil Arsena died after being crushed by a concrete wall that collapsed due to the raging flood in Tigatto village, Buhangin District.

Bangladesh PM lays foundation stone of first-ever metro rail project

Dhaka, 1 Nov — Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Thursday laid the foundation stone of the country’s first-ever metro rail project.

The foundation laying ceremony took place in Gazipur on the outskirts of capital Dhaka on Thursday evening.

Bangladesh in February this year signed a loan deal with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to finance the 20.1-km metro rail service project scheduled to be implemented in three phases by 2022.

Of the total cost of $220 billion taka, JICA, a governmental agency of Japan which is responsible for the technical cooperation of its official development assistance programs, will provide about 165 billion taka, while the Bangladesh government will provide the rest.

In the first phase, 11 kilometers would be completed by 2019 and 4.4 kilometers by 2020.

The remaining 4.7 kilometers was expected to be completed by 2022. Japan in 2011 expressed its interest to fund Bangladesh’s first metro rail, which will transport 60,000 passengers an hour, after a feasibility study found overhead construction of Dhaka’s first mass transport system is possible.
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (557)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (557) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.11.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expense and subject by 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MALACAICA HIGHWAY VOY NO (167S)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV MALACAICA HIGHWAY VOY NO (167S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.11.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expense and subject by 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S K LINE SHIP CO LTD.
Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGKACHAI VOY NO (123)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGKACHAI VOY NO (123) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.11.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expense and subject by 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SHANGHAI HENGXIN SHIPPING CO LTD.
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV HAN HONG VOY NO (1314E)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV HAN HONG VOY NO (1314E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.11.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expense and subject by 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN SHIPPING
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

‘Nationalism and xenophobia’ on rise ahead of European elections

BRUSSELS, 1 Nov—European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso has warned against nationalism, xenophobia and racism ahead of European Parliament elections next year, when anti-EU and protest parties are expected to do well.

Opinion polls months ahead of the vote, which takes place in all EU countries on 22-25 May, suggest candidates on the far left and far right will gain support as voters express frustration with Europe after three years of financial turmoil, contracting growth and job losses.

“We have to be honest that the crisis and the rise in unemployment is an occasion for populist forces to become more aggressive and gain some votes,” Barroso, a former center-right prime minister in Portugal, told Reuters in an interview.

“What we don’t like is the discourse that is sometimes behind anti-European slogans, a discourse that is promoting what I call negative values, things like narrow nationalism, protectionism and xenophobia. That is a concern.

“We should not forget that in Europe, not so many decades ago, we had very, very worrying developments of xenophobia and racism and intolerance.

So I think everybody that has European principles should be worried about some of these movements. “

Reuters

Brazil marks 10th anniversary of poverty reduction programme

RIO DE JANEIRO, 1 Nov—Brazil on Wednesday marked the 10th anniversary of a key poverty re-
duction programme, with President Dilma Rousseff vowing to “sweep poverty out of our country.”

The programme, called Bolsa Familia, or Fam-

ily Pocketbook, was introduced by former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who joined Rousseff at a ceremony.

The initiative basically aids poor households with a government cash subsidy, while the recipients have to keep their children in school in return.

Hailing it as a “simple” but effective idea, Rousseff said the effort has not only helped reduce poverty, but also contributed to the country’s economy.

“Never before has a program boosted the economy so much: For each real invested in the programme, the impact on GDP is 1.78 reals,” the president said.

The programme currently aids up to 14 million Brazilian households and, according to Rousseff, has since its launch helped lift 36 million Brazilians out of poverty.

The president dismissed criticism of the program, saying only those who do not understand or do not want to understand how the Bolsa Familia works criticizes the initiative.

She added that the programme will exist as long as there is poverty in Brazil.

Xinhua

Chinese FM calls for new progress in China-Italy ties

ROME, 1 Nov—Visiting Chinese Foreign Min-
ister Wang Yi on Wednesday called for inaugurating a new phase of all-round cooperation between China and Italy.

China and Italy have achieved fruitful results in their comprehensive strategic partnership in the past decade, with great development potential in their relations and broad prospects for cooperation, Wang said on the sidelines of the fifth plenary session of the Sino-

Italian Governmental Committee.

China and Italy should carry out mutually ben-

eficial cooperation and expand common interests, he stressed.

Wang said that the governmental committee should strengthen its func-
tion to fully display its lead-
ership, enhance cooperation in key areas, enrich bilateral cultural exchanges, and consolidate the public opinion basis.

The committee should also improve its operating mechanism to better guide the development of the bi-

lateral ties, said the top Chi-

nese diplomat.

For her part, Wang’s Italian counterpart Emma Bonino hailed the strategic cooperation between Italy and China, noting that both sides should focus on the long-term perspective and promote all-round cooperation in a persistent way to achieve more.

Xinhua

Notice to members of City Golf Resort

1. It is found out that some members (Myanmars/Foreigners) of the City Golf Resort, Yangon City Development Committee, have failed to pay their monthly fees for various reasons.

2. According to paragraph (9) of the rules and regulations of the City Golf Resort, those members (Myan-

armars/Foreigners) who fail to pay their monthly Fees for a period of one year and over shall cease to be a member of the Resort, and so they are intended to come and clear their outstanding dues by (28-2-

2014) at the latest. If failed to do so, it is hereby notified that their membership shall be annulled in accordance with the rules and regulations of the City Golf Resort.

General Manager
City Golf Resort


Xinhua
German-Irish actor Michael Fassbender

Michael Fassbender doesn’t consider himself handsome

LOS ANGELES, 1 Nov— German-Irish actor Michael Fassbender says he never thought of himself as a good looking man.

The 36-year-old, who has worked in movies like Shame and Inglourious Basterds, dealt with acne during his teens, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

“I’ve never really thought of myself as good looking. I think of myself as, you know, alright,” Elle magazine quoted Fassbender as saying.

“I used to have bad acne as a teenager, so all of this is a bonus now, the fact that I don’t have pimples anymore,” he added.—PTI

Lady Gaga: I am not conventionally beautiful

LOS ANGELES, 1 Nov— Pop star Lady Gaga, who has often made headlines for her bizarre costumes and make-up, says she was never conventionally beautiful.

The 27-year-old singer opened about her notions of beauty and personal struggle in an interview, reported Glamour magazine.

“When asked if she considers herself beautiful, she replied, “Not conventionally beautiful.”

“I’ve always been OK with that. I’m not a supermodel. That’s not what I do. What I do is music. I want my fans to feel the way I do, to know that what they have to offer is just as important, more important, than what’s happening on the outside. I’m confident in who I am,” Gaga said.

Katy Perry tops Billboard in worst week for album sales since 1991

LOS ANGELES, 1 Nov— Pop singer Katy Perry shot to the top of the weekly Billboard 200 album chart on Wednesday with her latest album, “Prism,” although overall album sales for the week were the lowest since the publication began charting in 1991.

“Prism,” Perry’s fourth studio album, which features the lead single “Roar,” sold 286,000 copies in its first week, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan, making it the biggest sales week by a female artist this year. It came in ahead of Miley Cyrus’ “Bangerz,” which sold 270,000 copies in its first week earlier this month.

The success of Perry’s latest album has been aided by the popularity of “Roar,” which topped the Billboard Hot 100 singles chart.

But the opening week sales of “Prism” did not come close to the year’s biggest debuts, led by Justin Timberlake’s “The 20/20 Experience,” which opened with 968,000 copies in March. New albums from Jay Z, Kanye West and Daft Punk also opened with bigger sales earlier this year.

Overall album sales for the week ended on 27 October fell to a record low of 4.5 million units.

Album sales have generally been lower this year than last year, partly because of listeners finding new digital platforms to consume music, often for free.

Other new albums in the top 10 of the Billboard 200 chart, which measures physical and digital sales, include girl band Fifth Harmony at No. 6 with its “Better Together” EP, hip-hop DJ Khaled at No 7 with “Suffering from Success,” and rockers AFI with “Bullets” at No 9.

On the Billboard Digital Songs chart, which measures digital single sales, New Zealand newcomer Lorde reigned at No. 1 with “Royals.” Swedish DJ Avicii’s “Wake Me Up” climbed two spots to No. 2 and Lady Gaga’s new single, “Do What U Want,” with R&B singer R Kelly, rounded out the top 3.


Katy Perry also explained the hurdles she faced being a woman in a male-dominated industry.

PTI

Demi Moore, Ashton Kutcher finalise divorce?

LOS ANGELES, 1 Nov— Actors Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher have reportedly signed their divorce papers.

They have come to an agreement to finalise their divorce after a near two-year court battle, and are expected to file the documents imminently, reports femalefirst.co.uk. The duo ended their marriage in 2011 and Kutcher filed for divorce in November last year. “Ashton and Demi have finally signed their divorce agreement. They are about to file paperwork with the court that will formally end their marriage,” New York newspaper quoted a source as saying. Kutcher and Moore ended their six-year-long marriage when the former was caught cheating on her. He is currently in a relationship with actress Mila Kunis.—PTI

Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher ended their marriage in 2011.

Ashton and Demi ended their marriage in 2011.

Ashton Kutcher and Demi Moore ended their marriage in 2011.

Buddy comedy ‘Last Vegas’ hits jackpot with senior star wattage

LAS VEGAS, 1 Nov— Oscar-winning actor Morgan Freeman has a conundrum at 76 years of age: he gets plenty of job offers, but the roles tend to be serious and they only beget more serious roles.

“I would do anything that got me out of gravitas,” said the actor, who has played the likes of a prison inmate in 1994’s “The Shawshank Redemption” and Nelson Mandela in 2009’s “Invictus” over a prolific career.

So when the script for senior buddy comedy “Last Vegas” rolled his way, Freeman snapped it up. And so did three more of Hollywood’s top actors — Robert De Niro, Michael Douglas and Kevin Kline — in what turned out to be an embarrassment of casting riches for a film of somewhat modest means.

It opens in US theaters on Friday.

Incredibly, considering their long and varied careers, the four had never worked together and had barely socialized.

“Between professional screenings and this or that, we know each other and say hi, but we didn’t have the intimacy that you are witnessing,” Douglas said, joking alongside his three co-stars while promoting the film at a Las Vegas casino.—Reuters
Murray will only return in Australia if in the shape to win

**New Light of Myanmar**

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BBC’s website on Thursday. “If I come back I want to be in the shape to win it.”

“I’d be disappointed to miss the Australian Open because it’s a grand slam - it’s a tournament all the players want to play in,” added the 26-year-old. “I can look at this in a lot of positive ways, if I do get myself ready for it I will have had a long lead up and training block to get myself in the best possible shape.”

Murray also missed the French Open with back problems but said surgery had been a tough decision. “It was a hard decision to have surgery, to realise I was going to miss a period of time was frustrating,” he said.

“You realise how much you miss from competition where you’re away from it. It will be hard missing London, but I’ll just have to make the best of it.”

**Wimbledon champion Andy Murray poses with his girlfriend Kim Sears, and his Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) medal after receiving it from Prince William during an investiture ceremony at Buckingham Palace in London on 17 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS**

Pundit was out of line with Woods cheat remarks

**New York, 1 Nov— Golf Channel television pundit Brandel Chamblee was out of order earlier this month when he implied world number one Tiger Woods had cheated, Rory McIlroy said on Thursday.**

In a column, former US PGA Tour winner Chamblee graded golfers for their seasons. Of Woods, he wrote: “He won five times and contended in majors and won the Vardon (Player of the Year) Trophy and ... how shall we say this is a bit of a little cavalier with the rules”.

Woods has threatened to sue Chamblee over his remarks and world number six McIlroy jumped to the defence of the 14-times major champion by urging the Golf Channel to take action against the pundit. “He was out of line and something should be done about it (by) the Golf Channel, that’s who Brandel is employed by and they are the ones that can deal with it,” the Northern Irishman told reporters after taking the first-round lead at the WGC-HSBC Champions Tournament.

“I’ll let the Golf Channel executives think what the right way is,” added McIlroy, referring to Chamblee’s full-time employer although the comments were made on golf.com which is not affiliated to the TV network.

American Chamblee, who has been an outspoken critic of Woods’s swing, has already announced he will stop his golf.com column at the end of the year and instead write only for golfchannel.com.

Woods has been involved in a few rules controversies this season, most notably at the US Masters in April where he dropped his ball in an incorrect spot after taking a penalty from a hazard at the 15th hole. The 37-year-old American was given a retrospective two-stroke penalty.

Organisers allowed the infraction to go unpunished on the day it occurred before a Masters official received a telephone call about the violation from former US Golf Association rules director David Eger.—Reuters

**Rory McIlroy**

Milan losing touch with Champions League spots

**Milan, 1 Nov — AC Milan coach Massimiliano Allegri knows if his team do not start picking up points soon the unthinkable will not start picking up points.**

Allegri told reporters after taking a penalty from a hazard on the lower back and will miss the ATP World Tour finals in London next week.

The world number four has begun his rehabilitation but said he will not be taking any risks. “You don’t come back just to play a match,” Murray was quoted on the next time. “The team played well, created chances and didn’t give anything to Lazio,” he said. “And after we went ahead we had a couple of situations which we should have made more from. We will only get out of this with hard work but, of course, we are getting further away from third place. The teams ahead of us are travelling at an amazing speed and if we carry on like this, it will be impossible to overtake them.

“We must get back to drawing... if we play like this, the team has a good chance of getting good results... There are reasons for not getting results but we have had a lot of injuries.” Milan are 10th in the table with only 12 points from 10 games, including a mere three wins.

They need to finish third to earn a place in the Champions League playoff round, something they did by the skin of their teeth last season with a 2-1 win at Siena in their last game.—Reuters

**AC Milan’s coach Massimiliano Allegri smiles as he walks during a training session at the Milanello training center in Carnago, northern Italy on 21 Oct, 2013.**

Chelsea sign Burkina Faso teenager Traore

**London, 1 Nov— Chelsea have agreed to sign 18-year-old Burkina Faso midfielder Bertrand Traore on a four and a half year contract, the club said on their website (www.chelseafc.com) on Thursday.**

He joins from Burkinabe club Association Jeunes Espoirs De Bobo-Dioulasso, having had a trial spell with Chelsea on their pre-season tour of Asia.

Traore made his international debut in 2011 at the age of 15 and now has 10 caps.

**Bertrand Traore**

Mourinho: I am delighted with the effort the players are putting in

“I am delighted with the effort the players are putting in,” Simeone said at a news conference. “It’s not easy to win, win, win and continue winning,” the former Atlético and Argentina midfielder added. “What really pleases me is that the team knows how to suffer when it has to suffer because we will have to do so to keep fighting at the top of the table.”

**Atletico Madrid’s Diego Costa (R) is challenged by Cardiff City’s Foulsaw during their Spanish First Division soccer match at Nuevo los Carmenes stadium in Granada on 31 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS**

Costa, Villa keep Atletico on Barcelona’s heels

**Madrid, 1 Nov— Atletico Madrid kept pace with leaders Barcelona and restored their five-point lead over third-placed city rivals Real when Diego Costa and David Villa each scored a penalty in a 2-1 win at Granada in La Liga on Thursday.**

Atletico, King’s Cup winners last season, have won 10 of their 11 league games this term, a record only bettered by unbeaten champions Barca, and their only setback was this month’s 1-0 defeat at Espanyol. Transformed into genuine title contenders by Argentine coach Diego Simeone, they have 30 points in second place, with Barca, who won 3-0 at Celta Vigo on Tuesday, on 31 and Real, 7-3 winners at home to Sevilla on Wednesday, on 25. Spain forward Villa won both of Atletico’s penalties at Granada’s Los Carmenes stadium, La Liga top scorer Costa netting the first in the 38th minute for his 12th goal of the campaign.

Villa converted his spot kick in the 78th before Atletico fullback Felipe Luis was shown a second yellow card and sent off and Odion Ighalo pulled a goal back for the home side in the first minute of added time.

**Iago Falque**
Bulgarian Customs seize 73 kg of heroin in car hidden in car entry

SOFIA, 1 NOV — Bulgarnian customs said they had seized 73.38 kg of heroin, the largest haul of the drug found in Bulgaria in recent decades. The drugs were discovered in a car at a checkpoint on the E79 highway near the city of Coimbu. The drugs were split into 140 packets wrapped in carbon paper, hidden in a specially built secret compartment in the back seat, the agency said.

Bulgaria is a popular transit country for drug trafficking. In the past two months, customs officers have seized 178 kg of drugs in total, including 100 kg of heroin.

Strong quak rattles northern Chile, no reports of casualties

SANTIAGO, 1 NOV — A strong earthquake jolted northern Chile on Thursday with no reports of casualties so far.

The quake was registered 6.4 on the Richter scale, with its epicenter located on the coast 67 km southwest of the city of Coquimbo, about 500 km north of capital Santiago. News reports said telephones lines were knocked down and electricity was cut off, but so far there were no reports of casualties. The Chilean Navy’s Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service ruled out any possibility of a tsunami affecting Chile’s coasts.

Nadal on track for elusive Paris Masters title

PARIS, 1 NOV — World number one Rafael Nadal broke the stubborn resistance of Poland’s Jerzy Janowicz’s to win 7-5, 6-4 and reach the last eight of the Paris Masters on Thursday. In the semi-finals of the Paris event—one of only three Masters titles the Spaniard has yet to win — Nadal faces local favorite Richard Gasquet who, along with Swiss Stanislas Wawrinka, have completed the ATP World Tour finals lineup.

Both players won their third-round matches at Bercy but it was Canadian Milos Raonic’s defeat by Tomas Berdych that sent them into next week’s season-ending showdown in London.

They join Nadal, Novak Djokovic, David Ferrer, Juan Martin del Potro, Berdych and Roger Federer in next week’s showpiece. All eight reached the Paris Masters quarter-finals on Friday. World number two Djokovic and 17-times grand slam champion Roger Federer, who is ranked sixth, also advanced. Nadal, who has yet to win the Miami and Shanghai Masters either, broke decisively in the 11th game of the opening set and, after an early trade of breaks in the second, got the upper hand when he took Janowicz’s serve again in the fifth game.

The Pole, who broke into the first time by reaching last year’s final at Bercy where he lost to Ferrer, contain his frustration but Nadal’s top spin was eventually too much to handle. Djokovic dispensed with his Darsh Vader mask and proved too strong for American John Isner in a 6-7(5), 6-1, 6-2 victory. The Serbians, who entered the Bercy arena last year imitating the infamous Star Wars villain, survived a barrage of aces from the towering Isner before rushing him apart.

Novak Djokovic of Serbia hits a returns to Pierre-Hugues Herbert of France during their second round men’s singles match at the Paris Masters tennis tournament at Bercy stadium in Paris, on 29 Oct, 2013. — Reuters

“I know, I know. It’s my fault. I was not prepared enough... so I’m going to have to be pretending that I’m myself this year. No Darsh Vader,” Djokovic, who watched nine aces fly by him in the opener, told a news conference. Federer showed glimpses of his brilliant best as he overcame German Philip Kohlschreiber 6-3, 6-4 to advance.

A day after securing his place at the World Tour finals, the Swiss won comfortably to set up a clash with Argentine Juan Martin del Potro, who beat him in the Basel final last week. “It wouldn’t be nice to lose once more against him. If it happens I will accept it, but if I win I will have something extra for Lon-don,” Federer told a news conference.

“I have an idea of my tactics, my gameplay. Now it’s important to be able to do it, actually do it on the court.” Compatriot Wawrinka and Gasquet qualified for London after Raonic, who only had a slim chance for London before his back surgery. Third-seed- ed Nadal pulled out of the season finale because of lower back surgery. Third-seeded Spaniard Ferrer confirmed he’ll be the first man to retain the Bercy title by demolishing France’s Gilles Simon 6-2, 6-4. — Reuters
Unlawful Association Act should be amended in conformity with political progress

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Nov—Deputy Minister for Energy U Myint Zaw replied that over K 1200 million as compensation for confiscation of farmlands, horticultural lands and croplands to farmers in Kyaukkyu Township, regarding the question on oil and gas tasks and clearance of water course jointly conducted by CNPC Company of China and the government in Ma-dakyun region raised by U Ba Shein of Kyaukkyu Constituency at today’s Pyithu Hluttaw session.

The deputy minister said that compensation worth over 4020 million kyats have been given to farmers for permanently confiscated farmlands and over K 148 million for temporarily confiscated lands in Rakhine State from 2010 to 2014. Moreover, compensation has been given as over K 85 million for farmlands damaged in 2012 rainy season and over K 63 million in 2013. A total of 209 farmers of An Township have got more than K 57 million for 61.112 acres of farmlands.

Water course was dredged to have 27 metres draught for 300,000-ton vessels that will anchor at the oil port. Clearing the water course did not change condition of water ways and natural fishing blocks.

Questioner U Ba Shein said, “Factories and pipelines were built around Kyaukkyu and jetties constructed at Maday Island. Construction tasks may beget impacts on natural rocks of fish. Anchoring of ocean liners in the water course causes loss of fishing blocks for fishermen.

I would like to know confiscation of farmlands and creation of jobs for people.”

U Sai Bo Aung of Muse Constituency asked whether there is plan to amend or revoke the 1908 Unlawful Association Act.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun replied that deterrent action will be taken against those who committed the terrorist activity that may disrupt the rule of law and peace and stability. As the terrorist activity may occur at any time, the Unlawful Association Act should not be revoked.

In conformity with the progress of political progress, the law should be amended.

The Hluttaw discussed and approved the bill amending the 1954 state memorials act.

Byline: Saw Thein Win

Amyotha Hluttaw approves Myanmar Engineering Council Bill

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Nov—Four Bills including the Myanmar Engineering Council Bill sent back by Pyithu Hluttaw was approved at today’s session of Amyotha Hluttaw.

Regarding the Myanmar Engineering Council Bill, MP U Soe Myint of Magway Region Constituency No.6 said this law is in urgent need. The engineering students are facing difficulties in landing a job and have to wait for getting certificates even after they have got the degree. This is due to lack of that law. This law should be enacted.

Under ASEM Free Trade Agreement, the workers as well as engineers will have opportunities to work freely in the ASEAN countries. Under the bill approved today, certificates will be issued to the engineering students soon after they have completed their course. This certificate will give them a chance to work in any ASEAN countries. In the olden days, they had few employment opportunities due to lack of this certificate. After the enactment of this law, there will be more job opportunities in ASEAN countries, he added.

Union Minister at President Office U Soe Maung replied to the question on systematic appointment of staffmembers in township offices, which is raised by MP U Tun Zaw (a) Ko Paung of Bago Region Constituency No. 12. The Union Minister said Section 257 of the Constitution states that “The Region or State Government may, for enabling the performance of the functions to be carried out in accord with the Union Law for Civil Services and in coordination with the Union Government in advance: (a) form Civil Services organizations relating to the Region or State as necessary; (b) appoint the required number of Civil Services personnel.

The vacant posts of lower division clerk in Okpo Township Law Office, Thayawaddy District, Bago Region have been filled on 30 September, 2013, he added.—MNA

UCSB Chairman attends workshop on Strengthening Social Protection and Gender Mainstreaming

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Nov—After attending the workshop on Strengthening Social Protection and Gender Mainstreaming towards Effective and Efficient Civil Service held at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta of Indonesia on 29 and 30 October, at the invitation of the ASEAN Secretariat in Indonesia, the Myanmar delegation led by U Kyaw Thu, Chairman of the Union Civil Services Board (UCSB) arrived back to Yangon by air via Singapore yesterday.

On 29 October, the UCSB Chairman delivered the opening remarks at the opening session of the workshop and also served as Moderator in one session in which the outcomes of the group discussions were reported.

During the visit, the chairman held cordial and wide-ranging discussions with the Deputy Secretary-General and responsible persons from the ASEAN Secretariat regarding the 17th ASEAN Conference on Civil Service Matters which is being currently chaired by the UCSB during the year 2013-2014 and enhancing efficiency and administrative matters of the Civil Service.

The UCSB Chairman also delivered the closing remarks at the conclusion of the workshop held on the evening of 30 October.

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NAY PYI TAW, 1 Nov—After attending the workshop on Strengthening Social Protection and Gender Mainstreaming towards Effective and Efficient Civil Service held at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta of Indonesia on 29 and 30 October, at the invitation of the ASEAN Secretariat in Indonesia, the Myanmar delegation led by U Kyaw Thu, Chairman of the Union Civil Services Board (UCSB) arrived back to Yangon by air via Singapore yesterday.

On 29 October, the UCSB Chairman delivered the opening remarks at the opening session of the workshop and also served as Moderator in one session in which the outcomes of the group discussions were reported.

During the visit, the chairman held cordial and wide-ranging discussions with the Deputy Secretary-General and responsible persons from the ASEAN Secretariat regarding the 17th ASEAN Conference on Civil Service Matters which is being currently chaired by the UCSB during the year 2013-2014 and enhancing efficiency and administrative matters of the Civil Service.

The UCSB Chairman also delivered the closing remarks at the conclusion of the workshop held on the evening of 30 October.