NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov—President U Thein Sein clarified programmes for providing assistance to flood victims by the State and agricultural sector transformation processes being undertaken by the State for socioeconomic development of farmers at the meeting with flood victims in Thagara Station of Ottwin Township, Bago region today.

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing reported to the president on providing quality strains and technology to the farmers.

During the meeting the President handed out seeds, rice, edible oil and clothing to flood victims.

Afterwards, Union Ministers U Myint Hlaing and Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin also presented seeds and personal goods to the flood victims.

Then, the President cordially greeted the flood victims.

The President and party flew to Bago via Toungoo by helicopter.

The President held a meeting with townsenders and officials from township development supportive committees at Shwe Wah Tun Hotel. The President touched upon government’s political and economic reforms and undertakings of agricultural sector development. According to people-centered approach, it needs to carry out township-wise development tasks by administrative bodies and township development supportive committees elected by the people in cooperation with development affairs committees in administrative sector, the president said.

The members of TDSC reported on development of agricultural, livestock breeding and fisheries sectors.

C-in-C receives Malaysian Chief of Army

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Malaysian Chief of Army General Datuk Raja Mohamed Affandi Bin Raja Mohamed Noor who arrived in Mandalay to attend the 14th ASEAN Chiefs of Army Summit, at the Yangyiung Yeiktha of the Central Command Headquarters today.

At the meeting, they had a cordial discussion on further cementing friendly ties between the two armies and cooperation in training and medicine.

Also present at the call were Lt-Gen Myint Soe, Lt-Gen Aung Than Htut, Maj-Gen Mya Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Nyo Saw and senior military officers.

The Malaysian General was accompanied by Malaysian Chief of Staff (Army) Major-General Dato Azizan Bin Md DeLin, senior military officers and Military Attaché from the Malaysian Embassy to Myanmar Colonel Gan-seung Lock.

MNA

President U Thein Sein cordially greets locals in Thagara Station, Bago Region.—MNA

INSIDE

East Timor president to visit Japan next week for talks with PM Abe

President U Thein Sein meets flood victims in Ottwin Township

C-in-C receives Malaysian Chief of Army

Russian rocket takes Sochi Olympic torch to space
Two workers injured after scaffold falls

Three injured in Pakokku traffic accident

Knowledge about security measures shared

Three gardens in mid-November

Myanmar golfers hope gold medals in individuals

"South East Asian Heroes" music album introduction as SEA Games awareness campaign

Midwifery course opened in Myaungtaw Township

Inpin Station Hospital completed by 90 percent

National Sports

Local News
**East Timor president to visit Japan next week for talks with PM Abe**

**Tokyo, 7 Nov —** East Timor’s President Taur Matan Ruak will visit Japan next week for talks with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the Foreign Ministry said on Thursday.

Ruak is also expected to meet with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko during his five-day visit through 17 November, which the ministry said would be an occasion to further deepen friendly ties between Japan and the Southeast Asian country.

The former guerrilla fighter was sworn in as president of the former Portuguese colony in May 2012 and is currently serving a five-year term. East Timor formally won independence in 2002 after decades of annexation by Indonesia.

**Powers seek ‘first-step’ nuclear deal with Iran in Geneva talks**

**Geneva, 7 Nov —** World powers will seek to hammer out a breakthrough deal with Iran to start resolving a decade-old dispute over its nuclear program in two-day talks that begin on Thursday, although both sides say an agreement is far from certain.

The United States and its allies say they are encouraged by Tehran’s shift to a more conciliatory stance after years of hostility since the June election of President Hassan Rouhani, who has pledged to repair ties with the West and win sanctions relief. But they stress Iran needs to back its words with action and take concrete steps to scale back its atomic work, which they suspect has covert military aims, a charge Tehran denies.

“Whatever we’re looking for is a first phase, a first step, an initial understanding that stops Iran’s nuclear programme from moving forward and rolls it back for the first time in decades,” a senior US official told reporters on the eve of the talks.

That would help buy time needed for Iran and the six powers—the United States, Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany—to reach a broader diplomatic settlement in a dispute that could otherwise plunge the Middle East into a new war.

The six nations want Iran to suspend its most sensitive uranium enrichment efforts, reduce its stockpile of such material and diminish its capacity to produce it in the future. In return for any concessions, Iran wants the powers to lift painful economic sanctions that have slashed its daily oil sales revenues by 60 percent in the past two years and devalued its rial currency by more than half.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif told French daily *Le Monde* a deal was “not that far off,” although it might not be struck at the talks in Thursday and Friday in Geneva. “We can conclude (a deal) this week in Geneva, and if that’s not the case, it’s not a disaster, as long as things are moving forward,” he was quoted as saying.

**UK spy chiefs to be quizzed in public for first time, on Snowden**

**London, 7 Nov —** Britain’s intelligence chiefs will give their first ever public testimony on Thursday when they are cross-examined together in parliament about the case of former US spy agency contractor Edward Snowden. The evidence-gathering session comes amid calls for the government to step up oversight of its three main intelligence agencies after documents that Snowden leaked to the press exposed Britain’s role in secret mass surveillance programmes. The disclosures detailed Britain’s close cooperation with the US National Security Agency (NSA), embarrassing Prime Minister David Cameron and angering lawmakers in his ruling Conservative party who said they harmed national security.

The director of Britain’s electronic eavesdropping agency GCHQ, the head of the domestic security service M15, and the chief of the Foreign Secretary’s Intelligence Service, otherwise known as MI6, will all attend Thursday’s hearing, which will be televised, albeit with a short delay for security reasons.

In the past, such hearings have been behind closed doors. “(The intelligence chiefs) have traditionally operated behind a veil,” a government spokesman said. “But they are more publicly available than they have been in many years. This is a step forward in terms of transparency. People familiar with the agenda said the officials would be asked whether mass surveillance programmes were a violation of privacy, and what impact the Snowden leaks had had on their work.

They will not, however, be asked to discuss operational matters—again, for security reasons—or to elaborate on the functioning of the surveillance programmes. Civil liberties groups, parts of the media and lawmakers from all parties have argued that Snowdon’s disclosures about the scale of GCHQ’s monitoring activities show that it has become too powerful and needs to be reined in.

**IAEA experts observe Japan’s marine radiation monitoring activities**

**Tokyo, 7 Nov —** Two International Atomic Energy Agency experts on Thursday began observing Japan’s marine radiation monitoring activities off the coast of Fukushima Prefecture, home to the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex.

According to the IAEA, the experts came to lay the groundwork for another IAEA mission planned later in the month to review the process toward decommissioning four severely damaged reactor units at Tokyo Electric Power Co’s Fukushima plant.

As countries neighbouring Japan remain concerned about the impact of radiation leaks from the crippled plant, the involvement of the UN nuclear watchdog in monitoring is expected to boost the credibility of the data Japan is releasing. Hundreds of tanks have been set up at the plant to store the massive amounts of radioactive water produced as a result of continuing water injections into the three damaged reactors.

But leaks have occurred frequently. Some of the groundwaters, which is flowing through the plant’s premises toward the ocean, is also believed to be contaminated.

David Osborn, director of the IAEA Environment Laboratories in Monaco, and Hartmut Nies, head of the IAEA Radiometrics Laboratory, left Onahama port in the city of Iwaki, Fukushima, at around 5:40 am Thursday aboard TEPCO’s ship used for water sampling.

The ship is expected to take water samples at more than 10 points within 15 kilometers of the Fukushima plant. After observing the sea water sampling activity on Thursday, the experts will visit a building at the Fukushima plant where water is analyzed on Friday. They will also hold talks with officials of Japan’s Nuclear Regulation Authority during their weekend visit through Tuesday, according to Japanese officials.

**IAEA experts observe Japan’s marine radiation monitoring activities**

**Tokyo, 7 Nov —** Two International Atomic Energy Agency experts on Thursday began observing Japan’s marine radiation monitoring activities off the coast of Fukushima Prefecture, home to the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex.

According to the IAEA, the experts came to lay the groundwork for another IAEA mission planned later in the month to review the process toward decommissioning four severely damaged reactor units at Tokyo Electric Power Co’s Fukushima plant.

As countries neighbouring Japan remain concerned about the impact of radiation leaks from the crippled plant, the involvement of the UN nuclear watchdog in monitoring is expected to boost the credibility of the data Japan is releasing. Hundreds of tanks have been set up at the plant to store the massive amounts of radioactive water produced as a result of continuing water injections into the three damaged reactors.

But leaks have occurred frequently. Some of the groundwaters, which is flowing through the plant’s premises toward the ocean, is also believed to be contaminated.

David Osborn, director of the IAEA Environment Laboratories in Monaco, and Hartmut Nies, head of the IAEA Radiometrics Laboratory, left Onahama port in the city of Iwaki, Fukushima, at around 5:40 am Thursday aboard TEPCO’s ship used for water sampling.

The ship is expected to take water samples at more than 10 points within 15 kilometers of the Fukushima plant. After observing the sea water sampling activity on Thursday, the experts will visit a building at the Fukushima plant where water is analyzed on Friday. They will also hold talks with officials of Japan’s Nuclear Regulation Authority during their weekend visit through Tuesday, according to Japanese officials.
Russian rocket takes Sochi Olympic torch to space

Tokyo, 7 Nov — The Japanese government aims to boost its transfer of energy-saving technologies to developing countries to earn emissions credits in return under a bilateral scheme, government sources said on Wednesday. Tokyo will announce its goal on Monday in Poland, the sources said. Japan will also offer financial aid to developing countries to help curb greenhouse gas emissions and raise the efficiency of thermal power generation.

The country will also express its readiness to host an annual international meeting on the development of innovative green technologies.

The first such conference, to be modeled after the World Economic Forum annual meetings in Davos, Switzerland, will be held in Tokyo in October next year. Japan’s bilateral offset mechanism is similar to the Clean Development Mechanism under the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which provides emissions rights to countries that implement emissions reduction projects in developing countries.

So far, eight countries including Mongolia and Ethiopia have signed accords with Japan to participate in the bilateral scheme.

Tokyo has decided not to join an eight-year second commitment period from 2013 for the Kyoto Protocol, saying the framework lacks effectiveness as major gas-emitting countries such as the United States and China are not part of the reduction efforts.

Brain-machine interface lets monkeys move two virtual arms with minds

Washington, 7 Nov — US researchers said on Wednesday that monkeys in a lab have learned to control the movement of both arms on an avatar using just their brain activity.

The findings, published in the US journal Science Translational Medicine, advanced efforts to develop bilateral movement in brain-controlled prosthetic devices for severely paralyzed patients, said researchers at Duke University, based in Durham, the state of North Carolina. To enable the monkeys to control two virtual arms, the researchers recorded nearly 500 neurons from multiple areas in both cerebral hemispheres of the animals’ brains, the largest number of neurons recorded and reported to date.

Millions of people worldwide suffer from sensory and motor deficits caused by spinal cord injuries. Researchers are working to develop tools to help restore their mobility and sense of touch by connecting their brains with assistive devices.

The brain-machine interface approach holds promise for reaching this goal. However, until now brain-machine interfaces could only control a single prosthetic limb.

“Bimanual movements in our daily activities — from typing on a keyboard to opening a can — are critically important,” senior author Miguel Nicolelis, professor of neurobiology at Duke University’s School of Medicine, said in a statement. “Future brain-machine interfaces aimed at restoring mobility in humans will have to incorporate multiple limbs to greatly benefit severely paralyzed patients.”

Brain-machine interface lets monkeys move two virtual arms with minds. — Xinhua

US joins anti-mercury pollution Minamata Convention

Washington, 7 Nov — The United States signed an anti-mercury pollution convention on Wednesday named after a Japanese city where industrial emissions of the toxic substance caused a poisoning disease affecting thousands of people.

“The Minamata Convention represents a global step forward to reduce exposure to mercury, a toxic chemical with significant health effects on the brain and nervous system,” the State Department said in a statement. The convention was adopted at a UN Environment Programme-led conference on 10 October in the Japanese city of Kumamoto.

A staff member presents a Samsung 4G mobile phone at Xichimen business hall of China Mobile in Beijing, on 6 Nov, 2013. The Beijing company of China Mobile officially released its 4G mobile phones on Wednesday. — Xinhua

Japanese astronaut Koichi Wakata (top) and Russian cosmonaut Mikhail Tyurin, board the Soyuz TMA-11M spacecraft with the torch of the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympic Games at the Baikonur cosmodrome on 7 Nov, 2013. — Reuters

Japanese government says that it will not send a delegation to the conference the same day the convention will take effect with ratification by 50 signatory countries. The convention seeks to decrease the discharge of mercury into the air, water and land, to promote proper storage and disposal of mercury, and reduce the use and discharge of mercury in the process of gold mining in developing countries.

Kyodo News

Colorado an energy battleground as towns ban fracking

Denver, 7 Nov — Three Colorado cities have rejected oil and gas production work that relies on so-called fracking, unofficial election returns showed on Wednesday in a setback for an industry that won other battles this year in Democratic strongholds like California. Boulder, Lafayette and Fort Collins passed measures with solid margins to suspend or ban the technique formally known as hydraulic fracturing. But a fourth community, Broomfield, about 12 miles east of Boulder, narrowly rejected a fracking moratorium.

In Fort Collins, near the growing Niobrara field, 56 percent of voters approved a five-year ban on fracking, despite a resolution its city council passed urging voters to reject it. A dozen states including California have clear rules for fracking, but the practice is banned in New York and some think Colorado could be a battleground in the US energy boom. There is “possibility of a state-wide ban finding its way onto the 2014 Colorado ballot,” said Paul Enockson, a lawyer with BakerHostetler in Denver who has represented oil firms.

Hydraulic fracturing, done after horizontal drilling, pumps pressurized water, sand and chemicals underground to crack shale rock to release oil or gas. Environmental groups say fracking can contaminate water supplies, but the industry says it is safe and that boosting gas output will create jobs and help states replace dirty coal-burning power plants with ones fueled by cleaner gas.

Study says brain-machine interface lets monkeys move two virtual arms with minds. — Xinhua

International Space Station (ISS) crew members, Japanese astronaut Koichi Wakata (top) and Russian cosmonaut Mikhail Tyurin, board the Soyuz TMA-11M spacecraft with the torch of the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympic Games at the Baikonur cosmodrome on 7 Nov, 2013. — Reuters

Bilateral Offset Credit countries participating in the programme, dubbed the Bilateral Offset Credit Mechanism, over the next three years at a 12-day UN conference starting on Monday in Poland, the sources said. Japan will also offer financial aid to developing countries to help curb their carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions.

The government is making final arrangements on the amount and other details of the assistance, they added. The envisioned bilateral scheme is similar to the Kyoto Protocol, which provides emissions rights to countries that implement emissions reduction projects in developing countries.

To boost green tech, Japan’s city council passed a law earlier this year with the goal of doubling the number of technologies by pledging total emission cuts of 11 trillion yen over a five-year period from both the public and private sectors for research and development on projects such as fuel cell development and raising the efficiency of thermal power generation.

The first such conference, to be modeled after the World Economic Forum annual meetings in Davos, Switzerland, will be held in Tokyo in October next year. Japan’s bilateral offset mechanism is similar to the Clean Development Mechanism under the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which provides emissions rights to countries that implement emissions reduction projects in developing countries.

So far, eight countries including Mongolia and Ethiopia have signed accords with Japan to participate in the bilateral scheme.

Tokyo has decided not to join an eight-year second commitment period from 2013 for the Kyoto Protocol, saying the framework lacks effectiveness as major gas-emitting countries such as the United States and China are not part of the reduction efforts.

Kyodo News

Russian rocket takes Sochi Olympic torch to space

Japanese astronaut Koichi Wakata (top) and Russian cosmonaut Mikhail Tyurin, board the Soyuz TMA-11M spacecraft with the torch of the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympic Games at the Baikonur cosmodrome on 7 Nov, 2013. — Reuters

Bilateral Offset Credit countries participating in the programme, dubbed the Bilateral Offset Credit Mechanism, over the next three years at a 12-day UN conference starting on Monday in Poland, the sources said. Japan will also offer financial aid to developing countries to help curb their carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions.

The government is making final arrangements on the amount and other details of the assistance, they added. The envisioned bilateral scheme is similar to the Kyoto Protocol, which provides emissions rights to countries that implement emissions reduction projects in developing countries.

To boost green tech, Japan’s city council passed a law earlier this year with the goal of doubling the number of technologies by pledging total emission cuts of 11 trillion yen over a five-year period from both the public and private sectors for research and development on projects such as fuel cell development and raising the efficiency of thermal power generation.

The country will also express its readiness to host an annual international meeting on the development of innovative green technologies.

The first such conference, to be modeled after the World Economic Forum annual meetings in Davos, Switzerland, will be held in Tokyo in October next year. Japan’s bilateral offset mechanism is similar to the Clean Development Mechanism under the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which provides emissions rights to countries that implement emissions reduction projects in developing countries.

So far, eight countries including Mongolia and Ethiopia have signed accords with Japan to participate in the bilateral scheme.

Tokyo has decided not to join an eight-year second commitment period from 2013 for the Kyoto Protocol, saying the framework lacks effectiveness as major gas-emitting countries such as the United States and China are not part of the reduction efforts.

Kyodo News

Brain-machine interface lets monkeys move two virtual arms with minds

Washington, 7 Nov — US researchers said on Wednesday that monkeys in a lab have learned to control the movement of both arms on an avatar using just their brain activity.

The findings, published in the US journal Science Translational Medicine, advanced efforts to develop bilateral movement in brain-controlled prosthetic devices for severely paralyzed patients, said researchers at Duke University, based in Durham, the state of North Carolina. To enable the monkeys to control two virtual arms, the researchers recorded nearly 500 neurons from multiple areas in both cerebral hemispheres of the animals’ brains, the largest number of neurons recorded and reported to date.

Millions of people worldwide suffer from sensory and motor deficits caused by spinal cord injuries. Researchers are working to develop tools to help restore their mobility and sense of touch by connecting their brains with assistive devices.

The brain-machine interface approach holds promise for reaching this goal. However, until now brain-machine interfaces could only control a single prosthetic limb.

“Bimanual movements in our daily activities — from typing on a keyboard to opening a can — are critically important,” senior author Miguel Nicolelis, professor of neurobiology at Duke University’s School of Medicine, said in a statement. “Future brain-machine interfaces aimed at restoring mobility in humans will have to incorporate multiple limbs to greatly benefit severely paralyzed patients.”

Xinhua

US joins anti-mercury pollution Minamata Convention

Washington, 7 Nov — The United States signed an anti-mercury pollution convention on Wednesday named after a Japanese city where industrial emissions of the toxic substance caused a poisoning disease affecting thousands of people.

“The Minamata Convention represents a global step forward to reduce exposure to mercury, a toxic chemical with significant health effects on the brain and nervous system,” the State Department said in a statement. The convention was adopted at a UN Environment Programme-led conference on 10 October in the Japanese city of Kumamoto.

A staff member presents a Samsung 4G mobile phone at Xichimen business hall of China Mobile in Beijing, on 6 Nov, 2013. The Beijing company of China Mobile officially released its 4G mobile phones on Wednesday. — Xinhua
More evidence e-cigs may help in quitting tobacco

New York, 7 Nov — Electronic cigarette users followed over a year reduced or quit using tobacco cigarettes in large numbers and were less prone to resume smoking, at least in the short term.

Experts continue to debate whether or not “e-cigs” are smoking-cessation tools or just leisure products. The electronic vaporizers use cartridges of liquid nicotine to deliver a flavoured nicotine-laced vapor without the byproducts of burning tobacco in traditional cigarettes.

“Our results may not be generalizable to all vapers,” Jean-Francois Etter said, using the slang for vaporizer users. “We had a majority of ex-smokers at baseline whereas in the general population, most vapers are current smokers,” he told Reuters.

Etter led the study at the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine, and published a paper in the journal Addiction and Behaviour.

The researchers posted a questionnaire on a French stop-smoking website and asked sites selling e-cigs to link to the questionnaire. Most “vapers” buy their e-cigs online. The e-cig users recruited answered a baseline questionnaire, another one a month later and a third one year later. Questions covered e-cigarette use, tobacco use and the date of quitting tobacco, if one applied. Of more than 1,000 original respondents, 367 responded to all three surveys.

For those who had quit smoking already and were using e-cigarettes instead, six percent had relapsed to tobacco after one month. That number was stable after one year.

Of those who were smoking and using e-cigs when the study began, 22 percent had quit smoking tobacco after a month and 46 percent had quit after a year. That group averaged 11.3 tobacco cigarettes daily at the beginning of the study and six cigarettes per day after one month. This was just an exploratory study and will need follow-up studies, Etter said. “This suggests that e-cigs may help them quit, but our results need to be interpreted with caution, because of the dropout rate at follow-up and the fact that our sample is not representative of all vapers,” he said.

In the short-term, e-cigs appear not to carry any health risks of their own, he said. But researchers still don’t know the long-term health effects of inhaling the common solvent glycol and food flavouring over many years.

E-cigarettes don’t need to be 100 percent safe, he said, they only need to be significantly safer than tobacco cigarettes because they are primarily used by cigarette smokers. Of the three studies that have investigated e-cig users, none of the daily vapers were non-smokers. Even though the evidence is still thin, Etter believes smokers should use e-cigarettes as quit-smoking aids, and doctors should recommend them. But the products should not be treated as medical devices or drugs, even though they may have therapeutic benefit for patients, he said.—Reuters

Asian economies faced with key challenges in next decade: Australian economist

Canberra, 7 Nov — Asian economies are confronted with challenges in four key areas if they want to maintain growth in the next decade, a senior economist from the Australian Treasury warned on Wednesday. David Gruen, executive director of the Treasury’s Macroeconomic Group, made the remark at an economic forum entitled “Asia’s Economic Challenges and Policy Choices” held by the Australian National University’s East Asian Bureau of Economic Research.

Gruen said in the past decade, Asia has accounted for over half of the world’s economic growth. Even if excluding the advanced economies of Asia, the contribution of emerging economies of Asia, China and India, has accounted for almost a half. Australian Treasury predicted that Asia will continue to contribute half of the world’s economic growth at least in the coming decade and possibly beyond. But the growth will finally slow down to reflect the factors of slowing population growth and the maturing of technological catch-up, Gruen said. To achieve the Phase 1 scenario, Asian economies have to overcome a number of substantial challenges. “The first is enhancing trade remains inclusive and open,” he said.

The export-led growth model has served Asia’s development well because, among others, technological transfer coming from trade helps drive productivity growth. “In economies of scale, exports can help growth. The import of world-class institutions and ideas from integrating with the rest of the world is crucial,” he said.—Reuters

Mitsubishi Motors to raise up to 210 billion yen in public offering

Tokyo, 7 Nov — Mitsubishi Motors Corp. said on Wednesday it will raise up to 210 billion yen in a public offering as part of efforts to revitalize its business, which deteriorated following revelations of its concealment of vehicle defects in 2000.

The automaker will use the funds to buy back preferred shares worth some 381 billion yen held by the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ and other Mitsubishi group companies.

Mitsubishi Motors is expecting to post a record group operating profit in the current business year, marking a turnaround from a business slump in the past decade, and it is planning to resume dividend payment for the current business year, after skipping it for 15 years.

The company raised a total of roughly 630 billion yen by issuing preferred shares with the relatively high dividends from 2004 to 2005 to a total of 14 companies. It took the automaker nearly 10 years to rebuild its finances and reduce the company’s debt.

“I wish we had been able to turn business around much earlier,” President Osamu Masuko said at a press conference in Tokyo. Mitsubishi Motors also announced its medium-term business plan through fiscal 2016. It will aim to post a consolidated operating profit of 135 billion yen in fiscal 2016, compared with 100 billion yen projected for the current business year, and sales of 2.6 trillion yen, compared with 2.13 trillion yen, by focusing its resources in the fast-growing Asian emerging markets.

For fiscal 2016 through March 2017, it has set a group vehicle sales target of 1.43 million units, up around 30 percent from a projected sales volume in fiscal 2013.—Kyodo News

As far as Asia’s economies are concerned, Gruen said, “Our results may not be generalizable to all vapers,” Jean-Francois Etter said, using the slang for vaporizer users. “We had a majority of ex-smokers at baseline whereas in the general population, most vapers are current smokers,” he told Reuters. 

The researchers posted a questionnaire on a French stop-smoking website and asked sites selling e-cigs to link to the questionnaire. Most “vapers” buy their e-cigs online. The e-cig users recruited answered a baseline questionnaire, another one a month later and a third one year later. Questions covered e-cigarette use, tobacco use and the date of quitting tobacco, if one applied. Of more than 1,000 original respondents, 367 responded to all three surveys.

For those who had quit smoking already and were using e-cigarettes instead, six percent had relapsed to tobacco after one month. That number was stable after one year.

Of those who were smoking and using e-cigs when the study began, 22 percent had quit smoking tobacco after a month and 46 percent had quit after a year. That group averaged 11.3 tobacco cigarettes daily at the beginning of the study and six cigarettes per day after one month. This was just an exploratory study and will need follow-up studies, Etter said. “This suggests that e-cigs may help them quit, but our results need to be interpreted with caution, because of the dropout rate at follow-up and the fact that our sample is not representative of all vapers,” he said.

In the short-term, e-cigs appear not to carry any health risks of their own, he said. But researchers still don’t know the long-term health effects of inhaling the common solvent glycol and food flavouring over many years.

E-cigarettes don’t need to be 100 percent safe, he said, they only need to be significantly safer than tobacco cigarettes because they are primarily used by cigarette smokers. Of the three studies that have investigated e-cig users, none of the daily vapers were non-smokers. Even though the evidence is still thin, Etter believes smokers should use e-cigarettes as quit-smoking aids, and doctors should recommend them. But the products should not be treated as medical devices or drugs, even though they may have therapeutic benefit for patients, he said.—Reuters

Japanese imported vehicle sales grow 2.4% in October

Tokyo, 7 Nov — Sales of new imported vehicles in Japan, including those made abroad by Japanese automakers, grew 2.4 percent in October from the previous year to 24,172 units, an industry body said on Thursday.

Sales of foreign-brand cars climbed 28.2 percent to 20,013 units, while those of Japanese-brand vehicles fell 47.9 percent to 4,159 units, according to the Japan Automobile Importers Association.

By brand, Volkswagen claims the top rank by selling 4,671 units for a 19.32 percent market share, after being overtaken the previous month by Mercedes-Benz, whose latest monthly sales grew 66.1 percent to place second at 3,922 units.

Mitsubishi logged the largest fall among major brands reporting an 81.3 percent decrease to 573 units.—Kyodo News

Study: eating disorders 17.9 percent among US male teenagers

Bethesda, 7 Nov — People rarely associate eating disorders with male teenagers. However, a recent study in the US may challenge the belief.17.9 percent of adolescent boys were found to be eating about their weight and physical appearance, according to Boston Children’s Hospital researchers.

These boys may engage in risky behaviors, including drug use and binge drinking. According to the survey tracking 5,527 male teenagers from 1999 to 2011, about 9 percent reported a high level of concern with their body’s masculinity, and about 2 percent had used supplements to enhance, including hormone derivative or anabolic steroid. Researchers warn that eating disorders with males may not be noticed as their desires are different than females in terms of physiques. —Xinhua

Osamu Masuko, president of Mitsubishi Motors Corp, speaks at a press conference in Tokyo on 6 Nov, 2013, at which he announced the company will raise up to 210 billion yen in a public offering as part of efforts to revitalize its business.—Kyodo News

Osamu Masuko, president of Mitsubishi Motors Corp, speaks at a press conference in Tokyo on 6 Nov, 2013, at which he announced the company will raise up to 210 billion yen in a public offering as part of efforts to revitalize its business.—Kyodo News

A window display with different colour models electronic cigarettes is seen in a shop in Paris on 8 Oct, 2013.—Reuters

A Senior Australian economist says Asian economies faced with key challenges in next decade. —Xinhua

A window display with different colour models electronic cigarettes is seen in a shop in Paris on 8 Oct, 2013.—Reuters
Japan, US, S Korea repeat call on N Korea to scrap nuke programmes

WASHINGTON, 7 Nov — Chief nuclear envoy from Japan, the United States and South Korea repeated their call on North Korea on Wednesday to abandon all nuclear weapons and related programmes, a US State Department said. The officials, each of whom will represent their respective country if the deadlocked six-nation talks resume, met in Washington to discuss how to deal with the North Korean nuclear issue and a possible resumption of the multilateral talks on them.

The trilateral meeting was held after the Chinese chairman of the six-nation talks visited Pyongyang earlier this week in an apparent bid to break the impasse.

Olyn Davies, special US representative for North Korea policy, plans to meet with his Chinese counterpart Wu Dawei in Beijing later this month to discuss on Wednesday’s proceedings as well as Wu’s trip to North Korea. Davies met with Junichi Ibara, who heads the Japanese Ministry’s Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, and Cho Tae Yong, South Korean special representative for Korean Peninsula peace and security affairs.

The officials from the three countries “reiterated their call on North Korea to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner,” the department said in a statement. The trilateral meeting took place as key players in the multilateral talks are divided over whether to reconvene, with North Korea calling for an unconditional resumption and the United States remaining reluctant over the idea. The United States has urged North Korea to take action and convince the other five countries of its commitment to abandoning its nuclear programmes in a 2005 agreement reached in the six-party framework.

Germany to examine ways to question Snowden in Russia

BERLIN, 7 Nov — The German government will look for ways to question whistleblower Edward Snowden in Russia on US spying that included alleged monitoring of Chancellor Angela Merkel’s mobile phone. Interior Minister Hans-Peter Friedrich said on Wednesday that the minister said after a meeting of the parliamentary committee overseeing the secret services that Berlin will examine how and under what conditions it would be possible to question Snowden and obtain information from him on the spying.

Friedrich also reiterated the German government’s position that Snowden has no right to asylum in Germany because he is not politically persecuted, though German opposition has been calling for granting asylum to Snowden so that the former US spy agency contractor could travel to Germany to testify. Snowden has said he is willing to help the German government in its probe into US spying after his meeting with opposition Green party lawmaker Christian Stroebele who met the whistleblower last week in Moscow.—Xinhua

Former Pakistani president Musharraf released

ISLAMABAD, 7 Nov — Pakistan’s former president Pervez Musharraf was freed on late Wednesday two days after a court granted him bail in the murder case of the deputy chief of Islamabad’s Red Mosque, who was killed in a military raid in 2007, his lawyer said. Musharraf had already got bail in three cases including the 2007 assassination of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto.

Additional Session Judge in Islamabad, Wajid Ali, earlier issued written orders for Musharraf’s release after his defence lawyers deposited two surety bonds, each of one hundred thousand rupees.

Musharraf, 70, was formally arrested in the murder case of Abdul Rashid Ghazi, the senior cleric of the Red Mosque, on 10 October, weeks after Ghazi’s son Haroon Rashid registered the murder charge against him with police in Islamabad. Police was removed from the Islamabad farmhouse of Musharraf, where he had been detained since April, as the written release order was delivered to the jail officials deployed there. The farmhouse was declared as a sub-jail over security concerns. Musharraf’s lawyer, Ahmed Reza Kasuri, contended on media that the former President has been set free.

Talking to reporters outside Musharraf’s home, Kasuri denied any call for the release of Musharraf and said he has been freed through legal process. He said Pervez Musharraf is likely to speak at a news conference on Thursday to chalk out his future strategy.—Xinhua

Tajikistan holds presidential vote, Rahmon set to win 4th term

DUSHANBE, 7 Nov — The Central Asian country of Tajikistan on Wednesday held a presidential election, with President Emomali Rahmon all but certain to win a fourth seven-year term due to an opposition boycott.

There are five relatively unknown candidates running against Rahmon, but they have avoided criticizing the incumbent and have even praised his policies.

Preliminary election results are reportedly expected on Thursday.

The only genuine opposition candidate, Onhol Bobonazarova, representing a coalition of Tajik opposition groups, was forced to drop out of the race last month after failing to collect the required number of signatures.

Bobonazarova, who would have been the first woman to run for president in the country’s history, has accused the authorities of interfering with her campaign, such as by threatening people who had signed petitions in favor of her candidacy.

According to international rights body Human Rights Watch, Tajik authorities have over the last year widened a crackdown on the political opposition and activists, imprisoning or intimidating several opposition party leaders and stepping up efforts to extradite political opponents from abroad.—Kyodo News

Palestinian leader Arafat was murdered with polonium

PARIS, 7 Nov — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was poisoned to death in 2004 with radioactive polonium, his widow Suha said on Wednesday after receiving the results of Swiss forensic tests on his husband’s corpse. “We are revealing a real crime, a political assassination,” she told Reuters in Paris. A team of experts, including from Lausanne University Hospital’s Institute of Radiation Physics, opened Arafat’s grave in the West Bank city of Ramallah last November, and took samples from his body to seek evidence of alleged poisoning.

“This has confirmed all our doubts,” said Suha Arafat after the Swiss forensic team handed over its report to her lawyers and Palestinian officials in Geneva on Tuesday. “It is scientifically proved that he didn’t die a natural death and we have scientific proof that this man was killed.” She did not accuse any country or person, and acknowledged that the historic leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization had many enemies, although she noted that Israel had branded him an obstacle to peace.

She told Reuters the polonium must have been administered by someone “in his close circle” because experts had told her the poison would have been put in his coffee, tea or water. “I’m so angry at what happened and I feel that I’m mourning him all over again. This was an act by cowards.” Arafat signed the 1993 Oslo interim peace accords with Israel and led a subsequent upris- ing after the failure of talks in 2000 on a comprehensive agreement.

Suha Arafat, wife of late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, speaks with Reuters in Doha on 6 Nov, 2013.—Reuters

Japan to scrap nuke programmes

Japan, US, S Korea repeat call on N Korea to scrap nuke programmes

WASHINGTON, 7 Nov — Chief nuclear envoy from Japan, the United States and South Korea repeated their call on North Korea on Wednesday to abandon all nuclear weapons and related programmes, a US State Department said. The officials, each of whom will represent their respective country if the deadlocked six-nation talks resume, met in Washington to discuss how to deal with the North Korean nuclear issue and a possible resumption of the multilateral talks on them.

The trilateral meeting was held after the Chinese chairman of the six-nation talks visited Pyongyang earlier this week in an apparent bid to break the impasse.

Olyn Davies, special US representative for North Korea policy, plans to meet with his Chinese counterpart Wu Dawei in Beijing later this month to discuss on Wednesday’s proceedings as well as Wu’s trip to North Korea. Davies met with Junichi Ibara, who heads the Japanese Ministry’s Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, and Cho Tae Yong, South Korean special representative for Korean Peninsula peace and security affairs.

The officials from the three countries “reiterated their call on North Korea to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner,” the department said in a statement. The trilateral meeting took place as key players in the multilateral talks are divided over whether to reconvene, with North Korea calling for an unconditional resumption and the United States remaining reluctant over the idea. The United States has urged North Korea to take action and convince the other five countries of its commitment to abandoning its nuclear programmes in a 2005 agreement reached in the six-party framework.

Russia is the sixth member. China has proposed restarting the multilateral talks soon and Wu last month in Washington discussed with Davies the possibility of the six countries reconvening.

Kyodo News

China’s largest freshwater lake, Poyang Lake, has seen decreasing water level in recent days. —Xinhua
Mandalay, 7 Nov—Director-General U Tin Moe of Fire Services Department inspected fire preventive measures and preparations for rescue works at Mandalay Thiri Sports Complex already built in Ward 1 of Chanmyathazi Township of Mandalay on 31 October.

At the hall, Head of Mandalay Region Fire Services Department U Kyi Toe reported on fire preventive measures being taken at the stadium and rescue works preparation in retail.

The director-general and party inspected lifts, generator rooms, ordinary class stands and grand stands at the stadium. The stadium is of three-storied RC building with grand stand. The facility has two emergency exists with 20 feet wide and four gates for fire trucks.

While holding the sports meets, six fire engines and four ambulances will be ready to be used at the stadium. About 400 members of Fire Brigade will discharge duty of fire prevention, rescue and security and flag hoisting ceremony.

The stadium and its surrounding areas are facilitated with 12 water taps, 54 reels of fire hoses, 21 counters for hydrants, 160 fire extinguishers, 32 fire alarms, 28 heat detectors, 32 smoke alarms and 26 CCTVs.

At present, members of fire brigade are taking practices in groups for fire preventive measures at the stadium.—MMAL-040

Fire Preventive Measures

Fire fighters at fire drill at Mandalar Thiri Sports Complex in Chanmyathazi Township.

Rural bridge repaired in Singu Township

Singu, 7 Nov—A rural bridge on Gyopin-Ywathitgyi Road in Singu Township was destroyed by the erosion of creek in torrent while there was heavy rains recently.

Head of Township Rural Region Development Department U Tun Min Lwin and officials inspected damaged bridge on 31 October. They manage repairing of the bridge as quickly as possible.—MMAL-433

Construction

A half number of horse carriages decline in PyinOoLwin

PyinOoLwin, 7 Nov—PyinOoLwin is located at an altitude of 3538 feet. The town, a pleasant hill station, is situated on Muse-Lashio-Mandalay highway. Five names of Maymyo, PyinOoLwin, Taung-blaykha City, Snow City and Flower City are famous among the people. Not only the local people but the foreigners love the hill station. Marry-makers and picnickers take relaxation at various beautiful sites such as Pwekauk waterfall and Kandawgyi Lake in PyinOoLwin.

Those wishing to observe the colonial era’s buildings must visit PyinOoLwin. They may take coaches for visiting the town conveniently.

Those who had visited the town will remember PyinOoLwin together with clock tower and coaches.

Over 100 coaches run along the roads of PyinOoLwin in the past. Now, the number of horse carriages in the town declined to a half.

“Coach is a symbol of PyinOoLwin. Now the town has only 70 coaches compared with 153 in the past. Tuk-tuk and motorcycle taxis take places of transportation in the town. Township authorities do not give priority to coaches. They allow three coaches in front of the market. So, the coaches take stands at the market, clock tower, Dagon photo house and small market traffic light. In cold season and summer, they can earn K 8000-K 10000 daily. But, they have to cost K 3000 for feeds stuff of horses,” said a coach owner.

Larger number of motorcycle taxis is one of the points to decline number of coaches, said a local.

MMAL-Maung Maung Soe (Myintgine); Photo: Sein Myint

Swiss citizen Mr Tony built a 200 feet long steel cable suspension bridge linking Nampok and Pinyehla villages in Mohnyin Township.

Mr Tony donated 30 steel cable suspension bridges across the nation including two in Mohnyin and one in Mogaa township.

MMAL-001

Thongwa quality seed farm staff demonstrate use of combine harvester

Thongwa, 7 Nov—A demonstration on removal of different paddy strains from the qualify strain plantation was held at the qualify paddy seed production farm of Agriculture Department (Seed Branch) in Thongwa Township of Yangon Region for 2013-2014 fiscal year on 5 November.

Head of Yangon Region Agriculture Department U Win Myint explained use of quality paddy strains for boosting production of paddy per acre, systematic production and distribution of paddy seeds, use of quality paddy seeds suitable for the region, operating of agricultural machinery in harvesting, threshing and winnowing paddy in time, use of paddy dryers, cultivation of cold season crops after harvesting monsoon paddy and growing of crops on the dykes to earn increased income.

In-charge of the seeds farm Daw Cho Mar Thet explained cultivation of quality paddy strains such as Ayeya Min, Yadana Toe, Hsin Thuaka, Yezin and Lonthwe paddy strains at the farm.

Officials replied to queries raised by local farmers.

Kyemon-Kyi Soe Lwin (Thongwa)

Moe Thauk Kyei rice and paddy trading launched in Indaw Township

Indaw, 7 Nov—A ceremony to launch Moe Thauk Kyei rice and paddy trading was held at the western wing of Development Market in Indaw Township of Sagaing Region on 6 November.

It was attended by rice mill owners, rice merchants and guests.

On the occasion, Managing Director U Sonny of the trading invited farmers, merchants and brokers to the trading for selling and buying. The trading buys rice and paddy at fair price, he said. The trading plans to sell quality paddy seeds, fertilizer, water pumps, power-tillers and combine harvester to the farmers through installment, he added. Various kinds of rice are available at the trading, he explained.

Kyemon-Ko Min (Indaw)
President meets flood victims in Toungoo District

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov—President U Thein Sein together with the chairman of Union Election Commission, the chief minister of Bago Region, department ministers and officials met with flood victims from five townships in Toungoo District at Khaubang Hall in Toungoo of Bago Region this morning and gave words of encouragement to them.

Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win reported on inundated conditions in Toungoo District, undertaking rescue and relief works in flood-hit areas, assistance for flood victims and preventive measures against flood. Union Minister U Myint Hlaing data collection on damaged farmlands, undertaking of farmland transformation across the nation and distribution of quality strains in Bago Region.

Union Ministers Dr Pe Thet Khin, Dr Daw Myat Ohn Khin, U Win Myint and Acting Union Minister Dr Myo Myint who accompanied the President reported on sector-wise assistance programmes.

President U Thein Sein said that drought hit the central Myanmar and floods hit Kayin and Mon states recently due to the climate change and the government had carried out rescue and rehabilitation in those areas, the president said.

He also stressed the importance of preparedness to decrease the damages caused by disaster, emergency response efforts and taking lessons from the efforts made in the past.

The president also urged the farmers to harvest their crops as soon as possible as the floods receded and to grow winter crops in the place of paddies which were totally destroyed by the floods.

He pledged that the government would provide the flood-hit farmers with seeds and would suspend the loans the farmers received from the government to grow rice.

President U Thein Sein also clarified the reforms in the agricultural sector to improve the socio economic life of farmers, while the government has been carrying out political and economic reforms to bring peace, rule of law and development to the country. He also urged the people to work together with the government to achieve peace and development while the country has laid good foundations.

The President presented K 10 million and seeds of quality strains to farmers from five flood-hit townships in Toungoo District.

After that, Union Minister Dr Pe Thet Khin donated emergency medicines to be used in case of natural disaster and one box of bleaching powder. Union Minister Dr Daw Myat Ohn Khin K 5.5 million for carrying out rehabilitation tasks in five flood-hit townships and CB Bank and Dr Ko Ko Gyi K 100 million each.

The President then cordially greeted the flood victims.—MNA

World Radiography Day

ISRRT urged the radiographers all over the world to celebrate the commemorative day of the anniversary of the discovery of x-rays in 1895 by Professor Wilhelm Konrad Roentgen. The discovery of x-ray was unthinkable phenomenon. On the 8th of November 1895, Roentgen unexpectedly discovered x-rays while working with cathode rays using evacuated glass bulbs. His discovery contributed many benefit to the health care.

ISRRT chosen 8th November as the World Radiography Day and this day is to mark the anniversary of x-ray discovery. The purpose of this day is to raise awareness of radiographic imaging and therapy, which play a crucial role in the diagnosis and treatment of patients and, most importantly, ensuring radiation is kept to the minimum required, hence improving the quality of patient care.

ISRRT adopted a theme for 2013 World Radiography Day celebration is: Radiographers Optimize Radiation Dose.

ISRRT also pledged its support to the ‘Image Gently’ campaign. The goal of this campaign is to ‘change practice through increasing awareness of the opportunities to lower radiation dose in the imaging of children’.

The number of medical radiation technologists is going to celebrate the 2013 World Radiography Day in collaboration with the 2nd. Myanmar Medical Radiation Technologists Meeting, which will be held at Chatrium Hotel, Yangon, on November 10, 2013. The goal of this meeting is to share the latest innovative advances and to implement advanced and safe protocols in radiological practices in Myanmar. Over two hundred medical radiation technologists from all over the country will participate in this meeting. Prominent speakers and colleagues are from many countries around the world.

President U Thein Sein gives words of encouragement to flood victims at Khaubang Hall in Toungoo of Bago Region.

MNA

Friday, 8 November, 2013

Grow short life-span paddy strains in flood-hit regions

Good harvest of a region ensures the food security. It can enable local people to purchase crops and vegetables at affordable prices. Droughts and floods can damage crops and plantations. It needs to make efforts for ensuring the food sufficiency of the region.

Due to floods in September and October, farmlands in some regions were hit by floods. The water level of Sittoung River had remained above its danger level. Farmlands in Toungoo, Yedashe, Ottwin and Htanabbin Townships were under water.

The downpours also flooded some regions in Tanintharyi Region three times. Floods destroyed about 1000 acres of farmlands in Magway Region. At the same time, other regions and states might suffer the same state. Now, the regions have returned to normal as the flood water receded.

Timely growing of paddy in the flood-hit farmlands can ensure the food security of the region. It cannot be solved by the farmers alone but can be achieved through cooperation of local authorities. Paddy strains are being distributed to the farmers in flood-affected regions at a rate of two baskets per acre.

Short life-span quality paddy strain is best suitable for timely growing of paddy in the flood-ruined regions. Theehtkyint, Kyunshewe, Hmawbihsan and other short life-span quality paddy strains should be grown in these regions. The farmers and local authorities are to make cooperation in distribution of paddy strains in order to secure the food security of the regions.

Over the last 80 years the diagnostic technologies available for clinical use have shown such a rapid and impressive development to change quite substantially a situation that seemed firmly established.

Traditional radiology, based on the differential absorption of X-rays by body tissues of varying densities and by contrast media introduced in the body, was revolutionized by the digital recording of such images and their subsequent computer elaboration. This allowed visualization of numerous details that would have escaped detection before.

X-rays, formerly the only available means for looking inside the human body, is now only one of many diagnostic methods, and probably not the most promising one. Hence it is more appropriate to use the phrase diagnostic imaging rather than radiology to indicate the whole range of available techniques.

To have the better health care and the development of medical radiation technology many countries established the society for radiographers and radiological technologists.

There is an international body which is known as International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists. The idea of an International Society was proposed at a meeting during the 1959 International Radiation Congress held in Munich, Germany. Twenty four countries were represented. The objectives of forming the international body were to assist radiographers and to support the development of medical radiation imaging technology. At the moment more than 80 member national societies are registered in the ISRRT.

The Society’s work and achievements in close co-operation with World Organization such as United Nations and World Health Organization, ISRRT was officially granted and recognized as a Non-Governmental Organization.

Friday, 8 November, 2013

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw
Constitutional Review Joint Committee
Press Release (2/2013)
(5th Waxing of Tazaungmon, 1375 ME)
(7th November, 2013)

Date for sending of suggestions on the 2008 Constitution changed

1. The Joint Committee for Reviewing the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar held its meeting (3/2013) on 31-10-2013.
2. It is hereby announced that the Constitutional Review Joint Committee has changed the date for sending of suggestions on the 2008 Constitution which was issued with its announcement No.1/2013 “by 31 December, 2013” in place of “by 15 November”, taking into consideration of people’s wishes and comprehensive reviews of the Constitution.

Constitutional Review Joint Committee
Union Government to assist flood hit farmers in urgent rice harvest, in growing winter crops

President U Thein Sein has pledged that the Union government would provide quality seeds to flood-hit farmers in Toungoo District, urging Bago Region Government to help the farmers to be able to grow crops timely for winter harvest. The president also called on the Bago Region Government yesterday at the meeting in Toungoo to assist the farmers in harvesting the submerged paddy plantations, pledging that the Union Government would spend its specific budget on urgent measures for flood victims.

He continued to say that measures for maintenance of the water course of Sittoung River would be taken and embankments and sluice gates would be built along the river year by year.

Though the new government had taken preventive measures against floods in Bago Region as from 2012, still the Bago Region was not out of the food yet, the President said.

He has urged local authorities and ministries concerned to maintain water courses of the rivers that flow into the Sittoung River, giving a nod for implementing the Bago-Myiymalha project.

The President also stressed the need for maintaining the Bago-Sittoung Canal in cooperation with international organizations to be able to prevent floods of the Bago and Sittoung rivers and to supply irrigation water to farmlands.

Over 150,000 acres of paddy field were submerged in the recent floods in Toungoo District.

For the convenience of farmers, Bago Region Government is making arrangements for helping them to grow crops for winter harvest and to be able to give back agricultural loans to the government, Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win said in his report to the President.

Meanwhile, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has planned to sell quality seeds of maize, muss bean and sunflower and to grant the loans for the winter crops, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing said.

The Union minister also reported to the President on conditions of embankments, river maintenance works and sluice gates and prospects for repairing and maintaining the Bago-Sittoung Canal in cooperation with international organizations.

Getting ADB’s soft loan …

Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway said that plans are under way to take action against three persons who got involved in malpractice case of Myanmar Alinn Daily (Yangon) which occurred in the last financial year. The ministry is closely supervising the divisions and departments under it to avert similar cases in the future. The proposal on concordance for demise of Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Kyi Myint of Latha Constituency was put on record. The meeting came to an end in the evening.

MNA

US$ 6 m for resettlement of IDPs in Kayin, Mon States

Progress of Border Areas and National Races Development Department under the Ministry of Border Affairs signed Record of Discussions with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on “Implementation of multi-purpose development projects for national races in the southeast of Myanmar” at the ministry here this afternoon.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win called for systematic implementation of the project. It was signed by Director-General U Htway Hla of Progress of Border Region and National Races Development Department and Chief representative Mr Masahiko Tanaka from JICA Office (Myanmar).

The department and JICA will jointly implement the project with a fund of USD six million during three years and seven months period from 2013 to 2017. The multi-purposed development project includes resettlement of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Kayin and Mon States and regional development.—MNA
Cash assistance provided to IDPs

BHAMO, 7 Nov—Relief and Resettlement Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement donated eight relief items worth K 2,209,340, Bhamo District General Administration Department K 790,000, Kachin State Red Cross Brigade of Myanmar Red Cross Society five relief items for students

First-aid course concludes in Zabuthri Tsp

NAV PYI TAW, 7 Nov—The basic first-aid course No 2/2013, organized by Zabuthri Township Red Cross Brigade, concluded at the Dhammayin in Mingala Theikdi Ward of Zabuthri Township on 6 November. Secretary of Nay Pyi Taw Council Red Cross Brigade Dr Pe Aung made a speech.

Anti-Ilegal Trade Drives

Mobile Team checks vessels in Myeik

MYEIK, 7 Nov—The Mobile Team of Border Trade Camp (Myeik) from Commercial and Consumer Affairs Department checked importation and exportation works of vessels at the jetties of Asaungkaung Company in Myeik on 5 November for taking action against those who offended rules and regulations of exportation, protecting consumers, promoting trade and minimizing illegal trade.

Mobile Team controls illegal trade

KYEYN-Than Naing

Sand painting from Bagan Region on high demand of globetrotters

MYEIK, 7 Nov—Mobile Team carried out tasks of consumer protection, trade promotion and prevention against illegal trade at Kaingdan 1 jetty in the port area of Sekkan Township in Yangon Region on 6 November morning. The officials of the team check Myeik-Yangon ship Shwe Phyo Aung.

Kathina robe offering ceremony held in Kalay

KALAY, 7 Nov—A total of 35 monasteries and 10 monasteries for student months are located in Kalay, at the foot of Chin hill. There are 150 monasteries, over 200 churches, two Hindu temples and one mosque across the township. Various national races have been residing in the township in unity and amity for many years.

"I think there may be over 1000 members of the Sangha in Kalay Township. We held a Kathina robe offering ceremony to donate eight prerequisites for the monks such as meals, medicines and robes.

"We saw repairing of retaining walls along the collapsed area caused by heavy rain. It should carry out better repairing works for prevention of similar happenings," said a local.

Construction

Bank of Zawgyi River maintained

KYAUKSE, 7 Nov—The bank of Zawgyi River collapsed in Sugon ward of Kyaukse on 19 October due to heavy rains. Now, the river bank is being repaired with the remaining walls.

An artist concentrates creation of sand painting with many works of sand paintings in his background at the gallery.

Moreover, the sand painters create sand painting works with 3D shape. The painting works are made with the sand from Ayeyawady River. They make the works with glue systematically. At present, the tourists are prohibited to take photo of mural paintings in Bagan for long-term durability of ancient cultural works. So, the foreign tourists buy the sand paintings as souvenirs when they arrive in Bagan.

Culture

Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library is preserving the ancient works such as mural paintings at Gubyaukgyi, Winedo pagodas, three pagodas in Minnantha Village and other temple pagodas in Bagan ancient cultural region for their durability.

Bank of Zawgyi River maintained

KYAUKSE, 7 Nov—The bank of Zawgyi River collapsed in Sugon ward of Kyaukse on 19 October due to heavy rains. Now, the river bank is being repaired with the remaining walls.

We saw repairing of retaining walls along the collapsed area caused by heavy rain. It should carry out better repairing works for prevention of similar happenings,” said a local.

Officials supervise reconstruction of the gravel-filled retaining walls in three parts of the river bank.

Photo shows reconstruction of retaining walls with gravels along the collapsed bank of Zawgyi River.

Sand painting from Bagan Region on high demand of globetrotters

A globetrotter visit Bagan ancient cultural region, shops of souvenirs and domestic products have booming businesses. Sand painting is one of the favorite souvenirs for visitors and globetrotters.

As the sand paintings are on high demand in the market, sand painters, traders and shops of sand paintings can enjoy the fruits of such business.

Generally, the artists create sand paintings with the works like mural paintings of Bagan era. They depict works of Budhhology at sand paintings to attract the tourists.

Since early months of this year, the sand painters have been creating and selling the works on scenes of Bagan pagodas and temples, portraits of famous persons of the world, modern arts and funny works in the market.

Morever, the sand painters create sand painting works with 3D shape.

The painting works are made with the sand from Ayeyawady River. They make the works with glue systematically. At present, the tourists are prohibited to take photo of mural paintings in Bagan for long-term durability of ancient cultural works. So, the foreign tourists buy the sand paintings as souvenirs when they arrive in Bagan.

NyaungU, 7 Nov—As globetrotters visit Bagan ancient cultural region, shops of souvenirs and domestic products have booming businesses. Sand painting is one of the favorite souvenirs for visitors and globetrotters.

The sand paintings are on high demand in the market, sand painters, traders and shops of sand paintings can enjoy the fruits of such business.

Generally, the artists create sand paintings with the works like mural paintings of Bagan era. They depict works of Budhhology at sand paintings to attract the tourists.

Since early months of this year, the sand painters have been creating and selling the works on scenes of Bagan pagodas and temples, portraits of famous persons of the world, modern arts and funny works in the market.

Moreover, the sand painters create sand painting works with 3D shape.

The painting works are made with the sand from Ayeyawady River. They make the works with glue systematically. At present, the tourists are prohibited to take photo of mural paintings in Bagan for long-term durability of ancient cultural works. So, the foreign tourists buy the sand paintings as souvenirs when they arrive in Bagan.

An artist concentrates creation of sand painting with many works of sand paintings in his background at the gallery.
Xi stresses military talent, technology innovation

Taipei, Singapore ink economic cooperation agreement

Bangkok, 7 Nov — Several civic groups, academics, students and opposition party supporters continued protests on Wednesday against an amnesty bill that has cleared the lower house of parliament. The protesters gathered in main business areas, at some universities and at the Democracy Monument in western Bangkok even as the ruling Phue Thai party said it will withdraw remaining amnesty drafts from parliament, to respond to public antilibel movements and maintain political order in the country. An angry crowd took over the area, and the ruling party warned it would bring about significant changes.

S Korean students take all-important college entrance exam

Seoul, 7 Nov — The annual college entrance exam was held on Thursday in education-obessed South Korea, with the morning rush hour being rescheduled and early-morning planes being grounded. All was to ensure that test-takers have the best possible chance to do well on the College Scholastic Ability Test (CSAT) given once a year.

This year, a total of 650,747 high school students and graduates headed to 1,257 test sites nationwide to take the exam believed to determine their course of life and future professions. The score a student earns on the exam is a key decider of college entrance. In South Korea society, attendance at a prestigious school is crucial in obtaining a successful job. Under government orders, many businesses and the stock market opened one hour later than usual to alleviate the traffic for students on their way to the test site.

Buses and subway trains extended their rush hour services to help all exam-takers arrive on time. Airplanes were banned to land or take off at local airports during the listening portions of the test as part of the noise control measures, and traffic was restricted within 200 metres of each of the test centres. The exam consists of five sections, including Korean language, mathematics, English, social and natural sciences and a second foreign language. The test began at 8:40 am, will go through 5 pm, including lunch and break times.

Integration offers business potential for Japanese firms:

ASEAN chief

Tokyo, 7 Nov — Japan’s continued support for economic integration among the countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations is vital and paves the way for greater business potential for Japanese companies in the region, Ami Metals Inc. chairman and CEO Le Luong Minh said on Wednesday.

Minh said at a press conference that boosting connectivity among ASEAN members presents “greater opportunities in the interest of Japanese businesses in ASEAN.” He said ASEAN economic integration will not only bolster exchanges between the 10 member countries and Japan but also broaden ties with the group’s other dialogue partners and the whole of East Asia.

The group wants to create an ASEAN Economic Community by 2015. With that in mind, the leaders of ASEAN Secretary General Le Luong Minh said on Wednesday.

Minh said at a press conference that boosting connectivity among ASEAN members presents “greater opportunities in the interest of Japanese businesses in ASEAN.” He said ASEAN economic integration will not only bolster exchanges between the 10 member countries and Japan but also broaden ties with the group’s other dialogue partners and the whole of East Asia.

The group wants to create an ASEAN Economic Community by 2015. With that in mind, the leaders of ASEAN Secretary General Le Luong Minh said on Wednesday.

Minh said at a press conference that boosting connectivity among ASEAN members presents “greater opportunities in the interest of Japanese businesses in ASEAN.” He said ASEAN economic integration will not only bolster exchanges between the 10 member countries and Japan but also broaden ties with the group’s other dialogue partners and the whole of East Asia.
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (349)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (349) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.11.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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: MS ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (084)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (084) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.11.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MLP 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS ORINET OVERSEAS CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANNA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER
(11/2013)

Sr.No Tender No Description Qty Remark
(2) IFB-084(2013-2014) Spare for Main Air Compressor, Oxygen Generator and Oxygen Compressor (10) Items US$500
(3) IFB-085(2013-2014) Roller Chains and Sprockets (18) Items US$35
(4) IFB-086(2013-2014) 2 7/8”x6.5 lb/ft J55 EUE Tubing (5000) Mtr US$35
(5) IFB-087(2013-2014) Bearing and Seals for PZ-7 Rig (6) Items US$500
(6) IFB-088(2013-2014) Pume Ex NAT 55/1 Drilling Rig (1) Unit US$500
(7) IFB-089(2013-2014) Skid Mounted Single Pump Cementing Unit (With Engine Driven) (1) Unit US$500
(8) IFB-090(2013-2014) Welding Machine (400AMP) Mobile Type Diesel Engine Driven (3) Units US$375
(10) IFB-092(2013-2014) BOP Control Accumulator Unit (1) Set US$375
(11) IFB-093(2013-2014) 6x8 R Mixing Pump (3) Sets US$375
(13) DMP/L-040(2013-2014) Hydraulic Oil Light (Hol) (270) Drums Kyat
(15) DMP/L-042(2013-2014) 5 KW Diesel Engine Driven Generating Set (3) Sets & 5HP 3 Phase Induction Motor (1) No Kyat
(16) DMP/L-043(2013-2014) Telephone Cable (3) Items & Cordless Telephone (1) Lot Kyat

-Tender Closing Date & Time - 2-12-2013, 16:30 Hrs.

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 4th November, 2013 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph: +95 67-411097/411206

Beijing to cut new car registration quota by 37.5 pct

BEIJING, 7 NOV — The Beijing municipal government will slash its new car registration quota by 37.5 percent starting from 2014 and give more stake to new energy vehicles as part of its efforts to curb air pollution.

According to an interpretation of a five-year vehicle emission reduction plan (2013-2017), the number of newly registered cars will be cut from current 240,000 each year to 150,000 by 2017.A five-year clean air action plan (2013-2017), released on Sept. 12, ruled that the total number of vehicles in the city would be restricted to around 6 million by the end of 2017. The city had 5.4 million vehicles at the end of October, according to figures from the Beijing Traffic Management Bureau.

Beijing mayor troubled by crack scandal, policy advisor resigns

TORONTO, 7 NOV — Toronto Mayor Rob Ford is another man short in his camp after his long-time policy advisor resigned Wednesday, a day after Ford’s stunning confession to using crack cocaine.

Brooks Barnett is just one of at least nine staffers who either quit or were fired since the scandal surfaced in May when some local media revealed they had seen a clear video of the mayor smoking what looked to be crack from a glass pipe, while muttering racist slurs.

A group of roughly 100 protesters were outside the City Hall on Wednesday, calling on the mayor of Canada’s biggest city to step down. An embattled Ford had been dodging the question about drug use for months, denying such a video existed and calling the reports about the video “ridiculous.” But after Toronto police chief Bill Blair confirmed at a press conference last Thursday that a tape that is “consistent” with media reports did exist, a media firestorm ensued, with all eyes on Ford.

The apologetic mayor finally addressed months of speculation and confessed to reporters in a scrum late Tuesday. “Yes, I did smoke crack cocaine. But I am not an addict,” he said. “Have I tried it? Probably in one of my drunken stupors.” Then again at another press briefing on the same day, Ford issued a “sincere” apology, but said he would not be resigning or stepping aside. “For the sake of the taxpayers...we must get back to work immediately...I was elected to do a job and that’s exactly what I’m going to continue doing,” he said.

Toronto mayor troubled by crack scandal, policy advisor resigns

Beijing to cut new car registration quota by 37.5 pct

Beijing, 7 Nov — The Beijing municipal government will slash its new car registration quota by 37.5 percent starting from 2014 and give more stake to new energy vehicles as part of its efforts to curb air pollution.

According to an interpretation of a five-year vehicle emission reduction plan (2013-2017), the number of newly registered cars will be cut from current 240,000 each year to 150,000 by 2017.A five-year clean air action plan (2013-2017), released on Sept. 12, ruled that the total number of vehicles in the city would be restricted to around 6 million by the end of 2017. The city had 5.4 million vehicles at the end of October, according to figures from the Beijing Traffic Management Bureau.
Ashton Kutcher set to propose Mila Kunis?

LOS ANGELES, 7 Nov—Actor Ashton Kutcher is reportedly planning to propose actress Mila Kunis next week after his divorce from Demi Moore is finalised.

The 35-year-old is keen to pop the question to the 30-year-old, whom he has been dating for over a year, reports contactmusic.com. Kutcher filed for divorce from Moore last year, but was involved in a bitter legal battle after the 50-year-old actress reportedly asked for an eight-figure settlement due to Kutcher’s involvement in a venture capital fund worth $100 million.

However, Kutcher has now agreed to hand over a chunk of his multi-million dollar fortune to Moore as well as some shares in his technology business.

“But Demi and Ashton’s divorce has cast a cloud over their relationship because it’s dragged on for so long. Thankfully Demi’s turned a corner. She’s no longer bitter and she wants the divorce over and done with as soon as possible so she can get on with her life too,” a source told The Sun newspaper.

“She’s agreed to a settlement of several million and some shares in Ashton’s various technology start-ups after he persuaded her to attend a tech conference with him to see for herself how much they’ll eventually be worth. They’re all happy and the papers are officially proposed to Mila,” the source added.—PTI

Tom Cruise sues magazines over Suri headline

LOS ANGELES, 7 Nov—Actor Tom Cruise has filed a lawsuit against the publishers of Life & Style and In Touch magazines, defending his parenting skills, reports tmz.com.

The $50 million defama-

Ashton Kutcher and Mila Kunis have reportedly been dating for over a year.

tion lawsuit targets Bauer Publishing Co’s two magazines that published the headlines “Suri in Tears: Abandoned by Her Dad”.

Cruise, 51, filed a two-page description of his relationship with his daughter on Tuesday (6 Nov, 2011) in the case. In the documents, Cruise said: “I have never put Suri out of my life—whether physically, emotionally, financially or otherwise. Even during the times when I was working overseas and was not able to see Suri in person, we were (and continue to be) extremely close.”

Despite shooting two movies back-to-back in 2012, the Oblivion actor maintained close ties with his daughter and was in frequent touch with her mother, actress Katie Holmes.

“As my numerous emails with Suri’s mother during this time period demonstrate, I was a constant presence in Suri’s life. While I’m sure my daughter misses me when I am not with her (as I miss her), she is a very happy child, and we have a wonderful relationship and cheerful phone calls,” he added.

Cruise’s lawyers are demanding the judge order Bauer to confess they had no source material to support these headlines or his parenting role.

Cruise and Holmes were married for six years before parting ways in 2012.—PTI
Patient Arsenal beat Dortmund to take group lead

DORTMUND, 7 Nov.—An Aaron Ramsey header gave patient Arsenal an important 1-0 win at last season’s runners-up Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League on Wednesday, allowing them to take control of Group F with two games left to play.

Arsenal, who averaged a 2-1 loss to Dortmund in London last month, bided their time for more than an hour in pouring rain, soaking up Dortmund attacks before striking with their first effort on goal.

The visitors scored against the run of play with Wales international Ramsey seizing the ball to head home in the 62nd minute.

The result lifts Arsenal to nine points from four games, ahead on goal difference of Napoli who beat Olympique Marseille 3-2. Dortmund drop to third on 10 points.

Arsenal grabbed swift revenge for last month’s 2-1 home loss to Dortmund by snatching a 1-0 win at last term’s runners-up’s 2-1 loss to Porto.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger told reporters. “We got nothing for our effort on goal. We were lucky to have scored,” said Wenger.

“It was a bit like the first game in London where they had one shot in the second half and scored. This time it was us.”

Both teams brought nine points from four games, ahead on goal difference of Napoli who beat Olympique Marseille 3-2.

Dortmund dropped to third on 10 points, ahead on goal difference of Napoli who beat Olympique Marseille 3-2.

“Dortmund fought really well. We were lucky to have scored,” said Wenger.

“Wenger castigated his purple patch of goals to leave Juergen Klopp’s third-placed side suddenly fretting.

Wales midfielder Ramsey, castigated by many Arsenal fans last season for a series of toothless displays, netted his 11th goal of the season when he nodded in after good work by Mesut Ozil and Arsenal are top of Group F but level on points with Olympique Marseille 3-2 and at the San Paolo thanks to Gonzalo Higuain.”

Dortmund’s Robert Lewandowski falls as he tries to control the ball in front of Arsenal’s Per Mertesacker (C) during their Champions League Group F soccer match in Dortmund on 6 Nov, 2013.—Reuters

New Light of Myanmar
SPORTS

Barca and Atletico sail into last 16

LONDON, 7 Nov.—Barcelona and Atletico Madrid led a Spanish Armada into the Champions League last 16 with home wins on Wednesday and in-form Aaron Ramsey steadied Arsenal’s boat with a battling win against rocky Borussia Dortmund.

Barca met seven-times winners AC Milan at the Nou Camp but the stock of the faltering Italians has fallen so much that even an average display from the hosts sealed a 3-1 success in Group H, Lionel Messi scoring a penalty and a cheeky third.

La Liga rivals Atletico put on a better display in their 4-0 cruise past Group G whipping boys Austria Vienna to glide into the knockout stages after four wins from four with two matches to spare.

“Dortmund fought really well. We were lucky to have scored,” said Wenger.

“It was a bit like the first game in London where they had one shot in the second half and scored. This time it was us.”

Both teams brought nine points from four games, ahead on goal difference of Napoli who beat Olympique Marseille 3-2.

“Dortmund fought really well. We were lucky to have scored,” said Wenger.

He pounced on a mistake by Schalke goalkeeper Timo Hildebrand to put Chelsea ahead after 31 minutes and showed composure to add the second in the 54th minute. Demba Ba, who replaced Eto’o after 77 minutes, completed the scoring with a mis-hit volley six minutes later.

The result means Chelsea need just one point from their final two Group G matches to reach the last 16. Schalke remain in second place with the knockout rounds still a realistic target. Mourinho, who made six changes from the side that lost 2-0 to Newcastle United in the Premier League on Saturday, brought in Eto’o because Fernando Torres was injured, and was full of praise for him afterwards.

Australia’s Stosur hires former Murray coach Maclagan

MELBOURNE, 7 Nov.—Former US Open champion Sam Stosur has turned to Andy Murray’s former coach Miles Maclagan to help reverse her slide down the world rankings, Tennis Australia said on Thursday.

The 29-year-old Australian, who has dropped to 15th in the world from fourth in 2011, failed to get beyond the third round at any of the year’s grand slams and split with her long-time coach David Taylor shortly before this year’s US Open.

British coach Maclagan joined Murray’s camp in 2007 and helped the Scot develop into a grand slam contender before parting ways in 2010. He recently split with British women’s number Laura Robson after a four-month stint.

The hard-hitting Queenslander made the semi-finals at Roland Garros in 2009 she broke through for her maiden grand slam title at Flushing Meadows when she humbled Serena Williams in the 2011 final.—Reuters

Eto’o pounces twice as Chelsea close on last 16

Chelsea’s Samuel Eto’o celebrates after scoring a goal against FC Schalke 04 during their Champions League soccer match at Stamford Bridge in London on 6 November, 2013.—Reuters

LONDON, 7 Nov.—Samuel Eto’o rolled back the years to score two different types of goal as Chelsea beat Schalke 04 2-0 at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday to virtually guarantee their place in the knockout rounds of the Champions League.

Eto’o, 32, who has won most of the major honours in the game — including the Champions League with current Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho when they were at Inter Milan — gave his best Chelsea performance yet since his summer move from Russian side Anzhi Makhachkala.

He pounded on a mistake by Schalke goalkeeper Timo Hildebrand to put Chelsea ahead after 31 minutes and showed composure to add the second in the 54th minute. Demba Ba, who replaced Eto’o after 77 minutes, completed the scoring with a mis-hit volley six minutes later.

The result means Chelsea need just one point from their final two Group G matches to reach the last 16. Schalke remain in second place with the knockout rounds still a realistic target. Mourinho, who made six changes from the side that lost 2-0 to Newcastle United in the Premier League on Saturday, brought in Eto’o because Fernando Torres was injured, and was full of praise for him afterwards.
Philippines braces for super typhoon, the strongest this year

MANILA, 7 Nov—Authorities grounded ferry services and called in fishing boats on Thursday as an approaching super typhoon, the most powerful to hit the western Pacific this year, gained strength on a path set for the central Philippines.

With centre winds of 215 kph (133 mph) and gusts of up to 250 kph, typhoon Haiyan, rated a category-five storm, the most severe, was moving west northwest at 30 kph in the Pacific Ocean. It was expected to make landfall at mid-day on Friday between the central islands of Samar and Leyte.

“I have issued a call to prepare for the worst,” said Ben Evardone, a member of Congress representing Eastern Samar Province, one of the areas likely to be hit. “We have mobilized all LGUs (local government units) and all resources for any contingency. There were already forced and preemptive evacuations in some danger areas,” he said. Areas in the path of the storm were already experiencing strong winds and heavy rains, he said.

The coast guard suspended ferry operations, ordered a halt to fishing and warned deep-sea fishing boats to seek shelter or return to port. Schools and some offices were shut down and power and communication lines would be switched off. Officials used bullhorns to tell residents of coastal and upland villages to move to safer areas, while some people were tying their houses on stable posts. Trees were being trimmed and boats dragged onto shore. The state weather bureau raised storm alerts on coconut-growing Samar and Leyte. Officials in a dozen other central provinces also began stockpiling food, water and other relief supplies.

In September, typhoon Usagi with center winds of 205 kph and gusts of up to 240 kph, also a category-five storm, battered the Philippines’ northernmost island of Batanes before wreaking more damage in southern China. An average of 20 typhoons hit the Philippines every year.

In 2011, typhoon Washi killed 1,200 people, displaced 300,000 and destroyed more than 10,000 homes. Bopha, the strongest storm to hit last year, flattened three coastal towns on the southern island of Mindanao, killing 1,100 people and destroying crops, property and infrastructure worth $1.04 billion.—Reuters

GREENHOUSE GAS CONCENTRATION IN AIR ACCELERATES: UN REPORT

GENEVA, 7 Nov — The concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere accelerated and reached a new high in 2012, the UN weather agency said on Wednesday.

The concentration of carbon dioxide reached a record level of 393.1 parts per million, up 2.2 ppm from the previous year, the World Meteorological Organization said in the Greenhouse Gas Bulletin. The 2012 increase outpaced the average annual increase over the past decade of 2.02 ppm, according to the bulletin, which said the 400 ppm threshold is expected to be reached in 2015 or 2016.

In a report released on Tuesday, the UN Environment Programme urged the international community to immediately craft comprehensive measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to achieve the goal of keeping global temperature rise below 2 C this century. The WMO bulletin said CO2 has increased by 41 percent, methane by 160 percent, and dinitrogen monoxide by 20 percent since the beginning of the industrial era in 1750.

IMMORTAL NADAL DIGS DEEP TO SEAL NO 1 RANKING

LONDON, 7 Nov — The year dawned with a cloud hanging over Rafael Nadal’s career but will end with him on top of the world after a win over Stanislas Wawrinka at the ATP World Tour Finals on Wednesday that illustrated why he is in the pantheon of tennis greats.

He has certainly played better during a sensational season that began in Februa- ry after a seven-month injury layoff, but the way he soaked up everything the Swiss could muster to complete a 7-6(5) 7-6(6) victory on Wednesday underlined Nadal’s almost fanatical re- fusal to be beaten.

Wawrinka walked off the cavernous showcourt wondering how is he yet to take a set off Nadal in 2013, but it would be a harsh judge who criticised the world No. 8 for failing to convert the fleeting chance that came and went in the second-set tiebreak.

He was within a whisker of taking a high-calibre open- er too, but Nadal, as he has in winning 74 matches in a season of almost total dominance on all surfaces, proved armour-plated in defence and ruthless when invited to attack.

Nadal arrived in London for the glitzy season-end-der two wins to fend off Novak Djokovic in his bid to end a year as world No 1 for the third time in his career.

After dismantling compatriot David Ferrer on Tues- day, he was stretched to the limit by Wawrinka in his sec- ond Group A match, digging deep to notch up another milestone.

By winning in straight sets he also assured himself of a place in the semi-finals here, and few would bet against the 13-times grand slam champion going on to claim the only significant ti- tle still missing from his CV.

Nadal also finished 2008 and 2010 as world No.1 before winning 74 matches in a season of almost total dominance on all surfaces, proved armour-plated in defence and ruthless when invited to attack.

After sitting out the second half of 2012 because of the knee injury that has dogged his career, Nadal missed the start of this sea- son with a virus and even when he re-surfed on the American claycourts he was still winning through the pain on occasions.

The outlook looked gloomy, but nine months on he has arrived in London with 10 titles from 16 tournaments, reaching the final of three more, and while he has gone to great lengths to insist rankings are no longer his goal, the way he celebrat- ed when Wawrinka struck a forehand into the net after two hours, 12 minutes spoke volumes.—Reuter
66th Anniversary Independence Day to be celebrated on a grand scale

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov — The Union Government will celebrate the 66th Anniversary Independence Day on a grand scale in accordance with four objectives, said Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

Speaking at the coordination meeting held here today for organizing the Independence Day which falls on 4th January, the vice-president said that this year celebration to mark the 66th Anniversary Independence Day would include talks and hoisting the State Flag at factories, offices and schools ahead of the Independence Day, organizing ceremonies to hoist the State Flag to mark the Independence Day, sports activities and independence day celebrations in states, regions, self-administrative regions, areas, districts and townships with offices, schools, buildings, independence monuments and parks illuminated.

The four objectives of the 66th Anniversary Independence Day are: All the national people to live together in the Union forever in weal or woe; All the national people to strive together for genuine peace; and All the national people to participate in efforts for ceasing armed conflicts and gaining genuine peace; and All the national people to work hard in building a developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

Four objectives of 66th Anniversary Independence Day

- All the national people to live together in the Union forever in weal or woe;
- All the national people to strive together for non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty;
- All the national people to participate in efforts for ceasing armed conflicts and gaining genuine peace;
- All the national people to work hard in building a developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham delivers an address at coordination meeting on 66th Anniversary Independence Day. —MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov — Pyidaungsu Hluttaw agreed President’s message on 66th Anniversary Independence Day to be celebrated on a grand scale.

In his address, the vice-president also stressed the need for broadcasting radio plays and historic songs for the independence day to keep up the nationalistic spirit of the children who will become the future leaders of the country. —MNA

Getting ADB’s soft loan of 60 million USD for development of electricity supply agreed in principle

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov — Pyidaungsu Hluttaw agreed President’s message on taking the soft loan of 60 million USD from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the development of Myanmar, Australia eye closer cooperation in higher education sector

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov — A visiting delegation led by Governor of New South Wales of Commonwealth of Australia Ms Marie Bashir and party left here for Mandalay and arrived at the University of Medicine (Mandalay) at 12:50 pm on 6 November.

Rector of the University of Medicine (Mandalay) Professor Dr Tin Maung Han, Rector of the University of Medicine (Mawgyaw) Professor Dr Win Myat Aye and Professor of University of Sydney, Sydney Medical School Bruce Robinson signed the MoU on educational cooperation between University of Sydney, Sydney Medical School and the University of Medicine (Mandalay) and the University of Medicine (Mawgyaw) at the golden jubilee hall of the University.

The MoU included capacity building of teachers, plans for M.Sc and doctoral course students to pursue further studies, doing more researches in cooperation with universities and exchange of information publications.

In the afternoon, the professors participated in discussions about measures for infectious disease control, OGV, maternal and child health care and microbiology at the workshop on infectious disease control and maternal and child health.

After that, the goodwill delegation visited Sutaungpyae Buddha Image on Mandalay Hill and enjoyed the beautiful sunset view.

In the evening, they enjoyed a dinner hosted by the rector of University of Medicine (Mandalay) and the professors.

MNA

Signing ceremony of agreements between Universities of Medicine of Myanmar and Australian Universities in progress. —MNA

Two owl mascots hailing XXVII SEA Games seen at Thabyegon Roundabout on Pyinmana-Taungnyo Road in Zabuthiri Township on 5 November.—KYEMON-MIN MIN LATT (MANN TEKKATHO)