President U Thein Sein felicitates Cambodian King, PM

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Nov—The Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia Mrs. Quentin Bryce and her spouse left here by air this morning.

The Governor-General and her spouse were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sandra Khan, the Australian ambassador to Myanmar and officials of the embassy. MNA

Governor-General of Commonwealth of Australia concludes visit

YANGON, 8 Nov—Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia Mrs. Quentin Bryce and her spouse and party left here by air this morning.

The Governor-General and her spouse were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sandra Khan, the Australian ambassador to Myanmar and officials of the embassy. MNA

Super typhoon Haiyan slams into Philippines, at least three dead

MANILA, 8 Nov—The strongest typhoon in the world this year and possibly the most powerful ever to hit land battered the Philippines on Friday, forcing more than a million people to flee, cutting power lines and blowing apart houses.

Haiyan, a category-5 super typhoon, scoured the northern tip of Cebu Province and headed west towards Boracay island, both of them tourist destinations, after lashing the central islands of Leyte and Samar with 275 kph (170 mph) wind gusts and 5-6 meter (15-19 ft) waves.

Three people were killed and seven injured, national disaster agency spokesman Rey Balido told a news briefing at the national disaster agency headquarters. Authorities warned that more than 12 million people were at risk, including residents of Cebu City, which has a population of about 2.5 million, and areas still reeling from a deadly 2011 storm and a 7.2-magnitude quake last month.

“The super typhoon likely made landfall with winds near 195 kph. This makes Haiyan the strongest tropical cyclone on record to make landfall,” said Jeff Masters, director of meteorology at U.S.-based Weather Underground.

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“The super typhoon likely made landfall with winds near 195 kph. This makes Haiyan the strongest tropical cyclone on record to make landfall,” said Jeff Masters, director of meteorology at U.S.-based Weather Underground.

“Power is off across the island and the streets are deserted,” said Lionel Dosdosa, an international organization for Migration coordinator across the island and the streets are deserted,” said Lionel Dosdosa, an International Organization for Migration coordinator at the United Nations Center in Los Angeles of the United States.—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham receives Rabbi Abraham Copper of Simon Wiesenthal Center

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Nov—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham received a delegation led by Rabbi Abraham Copper from Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles of the United States at the hall of Presidential Palace at 5 pm today.

At the call, they discussed matters related to peaceful coexistence between all faiths and races and building of trust.

Present at the call together with the Vice-President were Deputy Ministers U Tin Oo Lwin and U Soe Win and departmental officials.—MNA

UK spy chiefs emerge from shadows to blast Edward Snowden

Kerry warns of violence if peace talks fail

Singapore Prime Minister’s Office web page hacked

FDA seeks to ban trans fats in processed foods due to health risks

Super typhoon Haiyan hits Cebu city, central Philippines on 8 Nov, 2013.—Reuters

A mother takes refuge with her children as Typhoon Haiyan hits Cebu city, central Philippines on 8 Nov, 2013.—Reuters

Volume XXI, Number 207 7th Waxing of Tazaungmon 1375 ME Saturday, 9 November, 2013
**LOCAL NEWS**

**National Sports**

**Surprise check on bus drivers, conductors during 27th SEA Games period**

Lots were drawn for fixtures of football, Futsal, volleyball, Sepak Takraw, archery and Chinlone teams to be included in the 27th SEA Games at Wunna Theikdi Sports ground, here yesterday.

Among the six teams in Men’s futsal tournament, host Myanmar, Malaysia, Indonesia are in Group (A) while Thailand, Laos and Vietnam are in Group (B). Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia partly take in the Women’s futsal round-robin tournament.

While Thailand, Malaysia, Myanmar, Cambodia are in Group (A), Indonesia, Vietnam and Laos are in Group (B) of Men’s Volleyball Tournament. Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia will compete in Women’s Volleyball Tournament. Indonesia, Vietnam, Brunei and Laos are in Group (A) of Sepak Takraw men’s doubles tournament while Myanmar, Singapore, the Philippines and Cambodia are in Group (B).

**Myanmar boxers makes joint-training with Kazakhstan boxers**

As part of preparation to achieve success in XXVII SEA Games, a Myanmar boxing team led by Chief Coach U Thin Maung Pe of Myanmar Boxing Federation (MBF) left here for Kazakhstan on 5 November for four-week joint-training with those of Kazakh-stan. They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by U Tin Hlaing, MBF General Secretary and officials.

**Sittoung Houses eroded by evacuated**

YEDASHE, 8 Nov—As the water level of Sittoung River in Yedashe Township of Bago Region receded, the river bank in Shwegazaung Village, 4th mile away from Sittoung Houses eroded by landslides due to rising water. The bank could face more difficult conditions than the conditions on landslide of the river bank. The houses were evacuated due to continued landslides of the river within a few days. “We have no place to live and can’t afford to buy any places. So we ask for permission to live in a safe places,” said U Bo Tu. No sooner did the water level of the river subsided than the conditions on landslide of the bank reached 40 ft in width. The houses the landslide area could face more difficult situations.

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**GROUP FIXTURES OF SPORTS TEAMS FOR 27TH SEA GAMES**

**Group A**
- Myanmar
- Thailand
- Laos
- Vietnam

**Group B**
- Malaysia
- Indonesia
- Cambodia
- Philippines

**The Free Clinic will be held on 4th November at Mahawithu Monastery**

Three suspects arrested with stolen items in Pazundaung Township

**Suspects arrested with stolen items in Pazundaung Tsp**

**Yangon, 8 Nov—**

Three suspects were arrested for a burglary case in Pazundaung Township, here, on 5 November.

U Maung Kyaw, owner of the house in No. 7 Ward in Pazundaung Township, noticed that the backdoor remained open and the things were strewn on the floor. When he checked his property, he found that 27 items of jewellery, K 10 million in cash and one cell-phone with SIM card had been stolen.

Capturing the wild elephant in Bogale made local residents interesting. Although it was difficult to catch the elephant and brought it to the truck, the vet and an elephant capture team could manage it well.

The elephant capture team carrying the nine and a half feet high wild elephant left Bogale. —Kyemon-Shine Htaw Naing (Bogale)
Singapore Prime Minister’s Office
web page hacked

SINGAPORE, 8 Nov — The official website of the Prime Minister’s Office of Singapore was hacked late Thursday by apparent members of international hacker group Anonymous, the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore said on Friday. The attack came after Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong vowed to hunt down culprits who launched cyber-attacks on Singapore.

The Infocomm Development Authority said early Friday that “a subpage for search on the PMO (Prime Minister’s Office) website was reported to be compromised” at 11:17 pm on Thursday. “A vulnerability in that subpage was exploited to display pages from other sources. This vulnerability is known as cross-site scripting,” it said. The subpage of the website once showed a mocking headline “It’s great to be Singaporean today” next to a Guy Fawkes mask, a symbol of anti-establishment defiance. The main website of the Prime Minister’s Office is still working, the authority said.

It added that it is working to restore the page that has been compromised and that investigation is on going. Apparent members of Anonymous recently uploaded a video message threatening to attack the information infrastructure of the Singapore government, urging it to reconsider a regulatory framework that requires influential news portals to be licensed. The websites of local daily Straits Times and a secondary airport were hacked.

Lee said on Wednesday that Singapore authorities will “spare no effort” to track down culprits who launch cyber-attacks even though they think they can hide behind the Internet’s veil of anonymity. “It is not a laughing matter. It’s not just anything goes, and you’re anonymous, therefore there’s no responsibility. You may think you are anonymous, we will make that extra effort to find out who you are,” he said.

Lee acknowledged that no cyber security precautions are perfect, but the government is making efforts to boost the systems to reduce vulnerability. — Xinhua

Kerry warns of violence if peace talks fail

AMMAN, 8 Nov — US Secretary of State John Kerry said here on Thursday that talks between the Palestinians and Israelis have been difficult so far, warning that if they fail there will be violence in the region.

Speaking at a Press conference in Amman, Jordan, Kerry told reporters there is no alternative to peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis, stressing that the alternative to peace will be more conflict in the region. “Palestinians and Israelis need to take peace talks seriously... In spite of obstacles, talks have been difficult but also productive,” said the US official, who is charged with mediating between the two sides.

On Syria, Kerry said the US administration was working closely with Russia to end the crisis in the country. Kerry said he seeks to address the crisis during the Geneva II conference, which will be held within the coming days, stressing that the situation in Syria has serious consequences on the entire Middle East region.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh, who met with Kerry on Thursday, said that commitment to the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative will help ensure security for all including Israel.

The Jordanian official added the international community should expedite efforts to hold the Geneva II conference, calling for increased aid to Jordan so it could more effectively deal with the large number of Syrian refugees who fled their country into the Kingdom. “Jordan needs the international community’s support as the burden of hosting Syrian refugees is immense,” he said. — Xinhua

US envoy on N Korea human rights to visit S Korea

SEOUL, 8 Nov — The United States plans to send its special envoy for North Korean human rights issues to South Korea later this month, Yonhap News Agency reported from Washington on Friday, citing a diplomatic source.

“ Ambassador Robert King is scheduled to visit South Korea in the week starting on 18 November,” the source was quoted as saying.

The State Department will soon make the announcement of his trip, which may also include stops in Beijing and Tokyo. It would be King’s second visit to the region in less than three months. In late August, amid King’s visit to Northeast Asia, the State Department announced his plan to visit North Korea to secure the freedom of Kenneth Bae, a Korean-American Christian missionary arrested in November 2012. However, Pyongyang then abruptly withdrew the invitation. King’s impending visit to South Korea has prompted speculation that he may again try to visit the North to secure Bae’s release on the occasion of Thanksgiving, which falls on 28 November this year.

But the source said it remains unclear whether King will get an invitation from North Korea this time, the report said.

Bae was arrested after arriving as a tourist in the port city of Rason, near North Korea’s borders with Russia and China, and accused of “hostile acts.” He was sentenced in April to 15 years of hard labour.

KIGALI, 8 Nov — Rwanda will deploy 140 police officers to reinforce the UN peacekeeping mission in Mali, an official statement said on Thursday. The main contingent, including 17 female police officers, will serve for one year in the West African nation.

The UN mission’s core task is to support the political process in Mali in close coordination with the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States.

Mali has been in political turmoil since a coup by extremists in early 2012. Rwandan senior military officer Jean Bosco Kazura has been recently appointed as the force commander of the UN mission known as MINUSMA.

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Astronomers find first asteroid with six comet-like tails

WASHINGTON, 8 Nov — Scientists in Utah say they have discovered Tyrannosaurus rex’s “great-uncle,” a massive predator with a thick skull and large teeth dubbed P/2013 P5, resembles a rotating lawn sprinkler, according to astronomers who are puzzled over the space rock’s unusual appearance. “We were literally dumbfounded when we saw it,” lead investigator David jewitt of the University of California at Los Angeles, said in a statement. “Even more amazing, its tail structures change dramatically in just 13 days as it belches out dust. That also caught us by surprise. It’s hard to believe we’re looking at an asteroid.”

P/2013 P5 has been ejecting dust periodically for at least five months. Astronomers said that it is possible the asteroid’s rotation rate increased to the point where its surface started flying apart and the tails are unlikely to be the result of an impact with another asteroid because they have not seen a large quantity of dust blasted into space all at once. Scientists using the Pan-STARRS survey telescope in Hawaii announced their discovery of the asteroid on 27 August.

The multiple tails were discovered when Hubble looked at the asteroid again on 23 September, its appearance had totally changed. It looked as if the entire structure had swung around. “We were completely knocked out,” jewitt said.

Careful modeling by researchers in Germany showed that the tails could have been formed by a series of impulsive dust-ejection events. They calculated that dust-ejection events occurred on 15 April, 18 July, 24 July, 8 August, 26 August and 4 September and that radiation pressure from the Sun stretched the dust into streamers.

So far, only about 100 to 1,000 tons of dust, a small fraction of P/2013 P5’s main mass, has been lost, the researchers said.

NEW YORK, 8 Nov — A computer security firm has uncovered data it says belongs to some 152 million Adobe Systems Inc user accounts, suggesting that a breach reported a month ago is far bigger than Adobe has so far disclosed and is one of the largest on record. LastPass, a password security firm, said on Thursday that it has found email addresses, encrypted passwords and password hints stored in clear text from Adobe user accounts on an underground website that is occasionally accessed by cyber criminals.

Adobe said last week that attackers had stolen data on more than 38 million customer accounts, on top of the theft of information on nearly 3 million accounts that it disclosed nearly a month earlier. The maker of Photoshop and Acrobat software confirmed that LastPass had records stolen from its data center, but downplayed the significance of the security firm’s findings. While the new findings from LastPass indicate that the Adobe breach is far bigger than previously known, a company spokeswoman, Heather Edell said it was not accurate to say 152 million customer accounts had been compromised because the database attacked was a backup system about to be decommissioned.

South Koreans cram for dream jobs at Samsung

SEUL, 8 Nov — In a cram school in the South Korean port city of Busan, 70 college students packed into a classroom, chanting “We can do it!” as they studied for an exam they hope will guarantee them a job for life with Samsung Group. The promise of Samsung, whose sprawling business empire spans consumer electronics to ships, offers not only a good salary and benefits but also holds the key to a good marriage in this Asian country where Confucian traditions run deep.

The twice-a-year recruitment rounds by the “chaebol”, conglomerates such as Samsung and Hyundai, have spawned a cottage industry worth millions of dollars as young Koreans do what they have done from the age of 5 — cram to get ahead. “I came here at 10 this morning and will be preparing for the interview until 8pm,” said 25-year-old Shin Seong-Iwan, whose father is a Samsung employee near Busan. — Reuters

Scientists say new dinosaur found in Utah is relative of T. rex

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Cambodia records 973 critically endangered white-shoulder ibis

PHNOM PENH, 8 Nov — Cambodia has recorded some 973 white-shoulder ibis in its wild, making the country the stronghold for this critically endangered species, the conservationists group said on Thursday. BirdLife International and its partners including Cambodian Forestry Administration, People Resources and Conservation Foundation, A reforest Conservation Society and Worldwide Fund for Nature, implemented a coordinated survey of 59 white-shouldered ibis roosts at sites across Cambodia.

The consortium launched four monthly censuses of this species over the wet season and the September counts produced a staggering 973 individuals, the group said in a press release. “These results once again confirm that Cambodia is the stronghold for the white-shouldered ibis and that it contains the most globally significant population of this critically endangered species,” the release said. It added that the result followed nearly a decade’s conservation work by international and local NGOs and government agencies. “Conservation actions, such as nest protection to improve chick survival, may have contributed to this increasing number but the population increases observed are mainly due to increased survey effort and better knowledge of roost locations,” it said.

Many of the roost locations are either outside of protected areas or in threatened protected areas and the future of this species is far from certain, said Hugh Wright, an expert on this species from the University of Cambridge. “Many of these birds are at risk of losing their habitat from incremental changes in land use and currently more than 79 percent of the birds were censused on roosts outside the boundaries of legally protected areas,” he said. The counts have identified western Siem Pang Proposed Protected Forest as the most important site for this species globally, with 451 individuals — equal to 41 percent of the global population — followed by Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary with 298 individuals. However, both of these sites are threatened by Economic Land Concessions which will destroy key nesting and foraging habitats for this species, he said.

Other key sites in the national census include Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary in Preah Vihear province, Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary in Mondulkiri province and the Mekong Flooded Forest in Kratie and Stung Treng provinces.

With a global population of only between 1,114 and 1,249 birds, Cambodia could hold as much as 97 percent of the world’s white-shouldered ibises and the country is of vital importance for the species’ conservation, the press release said.

Scientists find first asteroid with six comet-like tails

WASHINGTON, 8 Nov — US and German astronomers said on Thursday they have found for the first time an asteroid with six comet-like tails of dust in solar system, according to a study.

Unlike all other known asteroids, which appear simply as tiny points of light in space telescope, this asteroid was discovered using the Pan-STARRS survey telescope in Hawaii announced their discovery of the asteroid on 27 August.

The multiple tails were discovered when Hubble looked at the asteroid again on 23 September, its appearance had totally changed. It looked as if the entire structure had swung around. “We were completely knocked out,” Jewitt said.

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A Samsung outdoor advertisement sits atop an office building in Seoul, on 5 April, 2013.— Reuters

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The skeleton of a Lythronax argestes is seen in this handout image from the Natural History Museum of Utah in Salt Lake City, Utah.—Reuters

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FDA seeks to ban trans fats in processed foods due to health risks

The FDA’s proposal is not the first public effort to ban trans fats. New York City banned the use of trans fats in restaurants, including their use for deep-frying foods, and many restaurants and fast food chains, including McDonald’s Corp, have eliminated their use. Some European countries have also taken steps. Denmark, Sweden, and Iceland regulate the sale of many foods containing trans fats.

Products that still contain trans fats include some varieties of crackers, refrigerated dough, coffee creamers and ready-to-use frostings. Some products will be harder to reformulate than others, FDA officials said. “We have shown that technically this is not an insoluble problem,” Hamburg told reporters on a conference call, adding that the use of trans fats has declined dramatically since 2006, when the agency required that trans fat levels be disclosed on package labels.—Reuters

Disney beats Street on higher theme park spending, toy sales

Los Angeles, 8 Nov — Walt Disney Co (DIS.N) reported a 12 gain in profit that beat Wall Street expectations, lifted by higher visitor spending at US theme parks, increased consumer product sales and its summer animated movie hit “Monsters University.” The film generated $743 million in worldwide ticket sales, according to the site Box Office Mojo.

The studio had been saying that the capital expenditures will go toward those funds will go toward increased investment in the Shanghai Disney Resort scheduled to open in late 2015, Rasulo said.

“Disneybeat Street on higher theme park spending, toy sales

Boston/Washington, 8 Nov — The Food and Drug Administration on Thursday proposed banning artificial trans fats in processed food ranging from cookies to frozen pizza, citing the risk of heart disease.

Partially hydrogenated oils, the primary dietary source of the fats, have been shown to raise “bad” cholesterol. Reducing the use of trans fats could prevent 20,000 heart attacks and 7,000 deaths from heart disease a year, the FDA said. While consumption of potentially harmful artificial trans fats has declined over the last two decades in the United States, current intake remains a significant public health concern,” FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg said. Public health advocates welcomed the move.

“Artificial trans fat is a uniquely powerful promoter of heart disease, and today’s announcement will hasten its eventual disappearance from the food supply,” said Michael Jacobson, executive director of the advocacy group Centre for Science in the Public Interest.

Honda’s Fit becomes Japan’s best-selling car in October

Tokyo, 8 Nov — Honda Motor Co’s Fit compact car became the best-selling car in Japan in October for the first time in two and half years thanks to the popularity of its fuel-efficient hybrid version after it was fully updated in September, industry bodies said on Thursday.

The hybrid model of the Fit, such is Japan’s most fuel-efficient car in its class apart from plug-in hybrids, sold 23,281 units, up 149.8 percent from a year earlier, industry bodies said on Thursday.

The US probes electrical steel products from five foreign countries

Washington, 8 Nov — The US Commerce Department announced on Thursday that it initiated trade probes into imports of electrical steel products from five countries, China, Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Sweden. It was sold below the fair value of the products in the US market at dumping margins ranging from 16 percent to 407.52 percent, and those from China and the Republic of Korea received improper government subsidies. The department launched the anti-dumping duty investigations against the products from the above mentioned five countries and countervailing duty inquiries against products from China and the Republic of Korea.

The International Trade Commission (ITC), the US trade authority, was scheduled to make its preliminary inquiry determination around 6 December. The probes will continue if the ITC determines that the imports of electrical steel products from the five countries materially injure or threaten the domestic industry of the States. The Commerce Department will then make its determination of improper dumping or subsidies early next year. The Chinese Ministry of Commerce has kept urging Washington to abide by its commitment against protectionism and help maintain a free, open and just international trade environment. —Xinhua

Preterm children face greater risk of retinal detachment later in life

Washington, 8 Nov — Children born extremely prematurely face up to a 19 times greater risk of retinal detachment later in life than peers born at term, a study in the US journal Ophthalmology said on Thursday. In the first large population-based, long-term investigation of the association between preterm birth and later retinal detachment, researchers determined that birth before 32 weeks is associated with increased risks of retinal detachment in childhood, adolescence and young adult life.

The findings indicate the need for ophthalmologic follow-up in children and adults born extremely and very prematurely, the researchers said. The researchers noted that Swedish nationwide population registries of more than 3 million births from 1973 to 2008 to identify subjects born prematurely, who were then separated into two groups; those born between 1973 and 1986, at which point a national retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) screening programme was established, and those born between 1987 and 2008. —Xinhua
Obama apologizes for Americans losing insurance due to Obamacare

WASHINGTON, 8 Nov — US President Barack Obama on Thursday said sorry to Americans who are losing their current health insurance plans as a result of the president’s signature health care overhaul that is aimed at expanding the country’s health care coverage.

“I am sorry that they are finding themselves in this situation based on assurances they got from me,” Obama said in an interview with NBC News. “We’ve got to work hard to make sure that they know we hear them and we are going to do everything we can to deal with folks who find themselves in a tough position as a consequence of this,” he said.

The Obama administration has been under fire following reports that some Americans, who buy insurance on their own, have received cancellation notices from insurers or are at risk of being forced off their current plans that do not meet the new standards of the Affordable Care Act, often dubbed as Obamacare.

Obama has repeated his assurances that “if you like your health plan, you will be able to keep your health plan” with the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, the country’s largest health care reform in decades.

Obama’s comments also came as the federal government’s health care team has been working around-the-clock to fix the online health care marketplace plagued with technical problems since its debut on 1 October.

The US Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius made her apology last week before lawmakers for the technical problems of the HealthCare.gov, an online marketplace for affordable health insurance plans.

The online marketplace serves as the centerpiece of the Affordable Care Act’s aims at getting millions of uninsured and underinsured Americans enrolled for health care coverage. But after its debut on 1 October, the website has witnessed high-profile failures and almost out of service during the first two weeks. —Xinhua

World powers to consider sanction relief for Iran: White House

WASHINGTON, 8 Nov — The six world powers negotiating with Iran would consider offering limited sanction relief if Iran takes concrete steps to halt its nuclear activities, the White House said on Thursday.

The six countries, namely the US, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany, would consider “limited, targeted and reversible relief” that does not affect their core sanctions architecture in exchange for concrete, verifiable measures to address their concerns about Iran’s nuclear project, said White House spokesman Jay Carney at a daily briefing.

“The core sanctions architecture would be maintained until there is a final, comprehensive, verifiable agreement that resolves the international community’s concerns,” said Carney, who also warned that if Iran does not live up to its commitments, relief would be terminated, and the world powers would ratchet up the pressure even further by adding new sanctions.

Delegates of the six world powers, known as the P5+1 group, started another round of talks with Iran in Geneva, Switzerland, on Thursday.

In the two-day talks, the world powers are expected to seek a “first step” deal with Iran on solving the nuclear problem, though both sides say an agreement is far from certain.

In the previous round of talks, held on 15-16 October, Iran proposed a plan as a basis for negotiation but details of the proposal were not disclosed. —Xinhua

Swiss scientists confirm abnormal presence of polonium in samples of Arafat’s body

LAUSANNE, 8 Nov — Swiss scientists who analyzed samples from the corpse of Yasser Arafat on Thursday confirmed the abnormal presence of radioactive polonium, but poisoning remains a hypothesis, not a certainty. —Xinhua

At the Press conference held in Lausanne, Switzerland, on 7 Nov, 2013, Swiss scientists who analyzed samples from the corpse of Yasser Arafat on Thursday confirmed the abnormal presence of radioactive polonium, but poisoning remains a hypothesis, not a certainty.

At the Press conference which was held on Thursday afternoon and after their test report was hand over on Tuesday to representatives of the late Palestinian leader’s widow Suha Arafat and the Palestinian National Authority, Patrice Mangin, director of the University Centre of Legal Medicine Lausanne- Geneva (CURML), told reporters that the investigations can not exclude that the polonium is the cause of the death of Arafat, but the results can not conclude that Arafat was poisoned.

Mangin noted that several factors such as the long delay between Arafat’s death and the start of investigations made analysis difficult, having said that they had to work on samples partially destroyed, as Arafat died at a French military hospital in 2004 from an undisclosed or unknown condition. No autopsy was performed at the death of Yasser Arafat, and no clear medical information on the cause of death has been released. —Xinhua

UN advisory group sparks debate on Security Council reform

NEW YORK, 8 Nov — The president of the UN General Assembly’s newly appointed advisory board to address Security Council reform sparked off a range of reactions on Thursday during the annual debate on the contentious issue that has plagued member states for decades. The main point of contention is how different camps, who diverge on how to restructure the powerful 15 member council, interpret the group’s objective. General Assem-

bly President John Ashe explained in remarks how efforts to “reinvigorate” the hotly contested debate resulted in forming the new six member group “to assist me in identifying ways by which the process could move forward.”

In a letter to all 193 member states in late October, he explained how the “purpose (of the group) is to produce a basis for the start of the intergovernmental negotiations that reflects the ideas put forward in the negotiations so far, and also identifies available options.” Also in that letter he re-appointed Afghan Ambassador Zahir Tanin, on Thursday, as the chair of the intergovernmental negotiations, a position which he will hold for six years in a row.

Speaking on behalf of the Group of Four — which includes permanent seat aspirants, Japan, Brazil, India and Germany — Japan’s Ambassador Motohide Yoshikawa welcomed Ashe’s new move to include the ambassadors of Belgium, Brazil, Liechtenstein, Papua New Guinea, San Marino and Sierra Leone as his advisors.” We, the G-4, firmly believe that the work of the advisory group will enable the intergovernmental negotiations to move to text-based negotiations,” he said.

Yoshikawa also referred to the G-4 group’s willingness to take part in “collective actions” to search for “common ground.” —Kyodo News

Pakistan Taliban elects Mullah Fazlullah as new leader

ISLAMABAD, 8 Nov — The Pakistani Taliban on Thursday named Mullah Fazlullah as their new leader, a week after former Taliban chief Hakimullah Mehsud was killed in a US drone strike in Pakistan’s tribal area.

Asmatullah Shaheen, who has been leading the Taliban since Mehsud’s death last Friday, held a telephone Press conference telling reporters that a 17-member advisory council of the Tehreek Taliban Pakistan had elected Fazlullah, also known as “Mullah Radio” for his firebrand speeches on clan-based radio in Pakistan’s tribal Valley, to lead the group.

Fazlullah was the driving force in the establishment of an Islamic system in North Swat and led an insurgency there from 2007 to 2009. He fled to Afghanistan in 2009 following an army operation, but was present in Waziristan for Thursday’s election, according to Shaheen.

Sheikh Khalid Haqqani has been appointed deputy leader. Following the advisory council meeting, the Taliban said Mehsud’s death will be avenged in Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif’s home province of Punjab and no peace talks will be held with the government, despite recent efforts by Islamabad to start negotiations. —Kyodo News

Traders work in the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in New York, US, on 7 Nov, 2013. Social network giant Twitter Inc began trading under the symbol “TWTR” on the New York Stock Exchange and closed at 44.9 dollars at Thursday. —Xinhua
Myanmar-Thai Work Coordination Meeting on Implementation of Dawei Special Economic Zone and its related projects

Yangon, 8 Nov—Myanmar-Thai Work Coordination Meeting on Implementation of Dawei Special Economic Zone and its related projects was held here this morning. Myanmar side led by Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Maung Myint and Thai delegation led by Thai Minister of Energy Mr. Pong Sak Ruktapongpisal attended the meeting.

At the meeting, both sides discussed matters on framework agreement signed by Myanma Port Authority and Thai-Thai Co., implementation of procedures that include initial procedures of Dawei SEZ and follow-up programmes.

The meeting was also attended by Chairman of Dawei SEZ Management Committee-Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein, Financial Sub-committee Chairman Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Muang Maung Thein and Chairman of Rules and Regulations Drawing Sub-committee Vice-Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Set Aung. The meeting runs till yesterday.

MMAL-Township (Mandalay)

Paddy strain provided to farmers

Yangon, 8 Nov—Thai-Myanmar friendship association of the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thai Embassy to Myanmar, CP Co and Plantoy Co donated over K 40 million to Myittawadi Parahita Monastery. Officials opened the playground for the children.

MMAL-Mee Mee (Hline)

Furniture warehouse engulfed fire in Dagon (East)

Yangon, 8 Nov—A furniture warehouse engulfed fire in Dagon Township on 6 November.

The fire started from sparks of electric shocks on the mattress in the warehouse.

Firefighters used 57 fire trucks, five management vehicles, three fire extinguishing vehicles and eight supporting vehicles in putting out the fire. The fire was totally put out at 9.15 am. A total of 335 members of Fire Services Department and 140 auxiliary fire brigade participated in the putting out of fire. Cpl Thant Zin Aung of Dagon Myothit (East) Township Auxiliary Fire Brigade was injured in the fire and rushed to Thanganyung General Hospital.

The police station opened a file of lawsuit against U Khin Zaw, manager of the factory, under the law.

In the fire, the furniture warehouse lost property worth K 100 million, said an official of the Fire Services Department.

MNA

Relief camps in Toungoo to taken down

Toungoo, 8 Nov—A total of 33 relief camps were opened in Toungoo due to flooding in some wards and villages of the township as of 29 October.

At Tamon 5 November, the flood victims returned home, so the relief camps were broken.

Ward 8 administrator U Khin Latt who managed transportation of flood victims to homes said, “We shared foods donated by wellwishers to the flood victims for their cooking at home. All the artisan wells have been cleaned for prevention of cholera. Water tanks have been chlorinated. We have made many arrangements for their homes.”

There remains 22 basic education schools to be reopened out of 119 in Toungoo District.

MMAL-Thura (Toungoo)

Primary level student skill contest in third week of November

Mandalay, 8 Nov—The primary level newspaper reading skill contest will be held in the third week of November. The contest is aimed at enabling the students to have good practice of reading and developing their talents.

Primary students are to take out the question forms from Zartiman reading association as of 5 November.

Those wishing to take part in the contest are to contact Zartiman Youth Reading Association, No 212, West Thiri Mingala Ward, Aungmyethazan Township of Mandalay, Tel: 09-444035825.

MMAL-Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Myanmar men’s team to meet Cambodia on 7 Dec

The group fixtures of the men’s and women’s football events of XVIII SEA Games were set at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Myanmar U-23 men’s team is included in the same group of Thailand and Indonesia and Myanmar women’s team and Vietnamese team are in the same group.

In the women’s event, the group (A) comprises host Myanmar, Vietnam, the Philippines and Indonesia and the group (B), Thailand, Laos, Malaysia and Timor-Leste.

Due to group fixtures, Myanmar hopes for sailing to the quarterfinal but it needs to pour out all-out efforts to win over Vietnam for taking the first position of the group. As such, Myanmar needs to secure good results in the matches with Timor-Leste and Cambodia and try hard to overcome powerful Thailand and Indonesia. The group (B) matches will be held in Youth Training Centre (Yangon) and the group (A) matches at Zeyathiri Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw.

The group matches will kick off on 2 December. On 7 December, Myanmar will meet with Cambodia in the debut.

Kyonmon-Chit Ko Ko

Fixtures of Myanmar U-23 men’s team

7-12-2013 Myanmar vs Cambodia
9-12-2013 Myanmar vs Timor-Leste
14-12-2013 Myanmar vs Thailand
16-1-2013 Myanmar vs Indonesia

Fixtures of Myanmar women’s team

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13-12-2013 Myanmar vs Indonesia
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MMAL-Townssns IPRD
Street kids

Either at bus stops, eateries on crowded streets or at stations in Yangon, you can see street kids, whose age range from four to twelve or thirteen, begging money or foods. Some people would give them money without second thought at their request but does it help?

Usually, street kids have a home in slum areas or shanty towns, but the appalling financial hardship of their families compels them to live in the streets all day, doing what they can to earn money, often begging. But not every street kid is a beggar; some older children work as a scavenger to feed themselves or help support their families.

In some cases, homeless and/or abandoned children are fostered and exploited by the minder, who himself has grown on the streets, firstly begging and then doing odd-jobs. Fortunately, the fact that child beggars here have complete body parts indicates that Myanmar does not have gangs that kidnap children and force them to be beggars.

Meanwhile, many missing-child advertisements in newspapers earlier this year suggested a worrying sign for safety of children. Some media outlets tried to present investigative report on the cases of missing children, which then faded away amid more important political issues. Whether they run away or being kidnapped or being trafficked or have been found back is unclear.

Street kids, being on the fringes of the society, are largely excluded from government-provided education and social safety net. There is a free compulsory primary education system in place, but it is clear that many school-age children including street kids do not have access to it.

Giving them a few pennies may alleviate some suffering for a day in the life of a street kid, but what about when those pennies are spent? Again, people view child beggars as part of organized groups, headed by criminals and spent? Again, people view child beggars as part of organized groups, headed by criminals and...
Electric Power Ministry to...

(from page 16)

an assessment of the current situation of the ministry in stead of increasing the price to cover its losses from selling electricity to the people.

During the meeting today, ministries concerned clarified the Joint Public Accounts Committee’s 7/2013 report on findings, objections and actions which have been taken by the Office of the Union Auditor-General over the expenditure of the budget for the first six months of the 2012-13 FY.

Regarding the report, Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry Dr DAW THEI ZIN said the ministry has been working in accordance with the rules and regulations for paying back its remaining debts of K 14.641 million and USD 0.784 million to the State.

Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry’ debt to the State stands at K 3181.959 million and USD 1.392 million up to 30 September, 2012 and it has already paid off K 3167.318 million and USD 0.680 million to the State up to 31 October 2013.

Deputy Ministers from Ministry of Electric Power, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Construction and Ministry of Science and Technology clarified the debts of the respective ministries and plans for paying off their debts to the State.

Regarding the settlement of the issues, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U SHWEE MANN expressed his view that a commission and a committee should be formed to solve the debt issue of the ministries as the issue was related to existing laws, suggesting to amend them.

U WIN THAN of Thabuung Constituency submitted a proposal urging the Union Government to take part in settling the gold debt issue between Ministry of Mines and contractors as the issue of gold debts owed by contractors mentioned in the report of the Office of the Union Auditor-General for the first six months of the 2012-13 FY was not account failures.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw put the proposal record.

AUNG THEIN LIN of South Okkalapa Constituency submitted a proposal urging the Union Government to urgently take actions against complaints after the report 1, 2 and 3 of the land grabbing investigation commission was submitted to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and other reports to the administrative bodies concerned. —MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Nov—

“Enhancing the unity between ASEAN Armies could help further cement unity between the ASEAN countries, contribute towards the emergence of the 2015 ASEAN Community,” said Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Nov—

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addressed the 14th ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral meeting (14th ACAMM) at Amarapura Hall of Sedona Hotel in Mandalay this morning.

It was also attended by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, and Chiefs of Army from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam and officials concerned.

The Senior General and the Vice-Senior General presented gifts for 14th ACAMM to those present. Likewise, bilateral meetings between the Chiefs of Army were held.

In the evening, the Chiefs of Army and their wives enjoyed the beautiful sunset view from the Mandalay Hill.

Myawady

More than 300,000...

(from page 16)

phases based on location and financial status.

As first phase, three TV transmission stations in Nay Pyi Taw Pyimna, Yangon and Sagaing Regions will go digital before the SEA Games. Digitization of twenty-five big stations will be carried out as second and third phases, which can cover 65 percent of country’s total population.

The MTRV invited a tender for purchase of DVB-T2 Set-Top-Box (Free-to-Air) and the Quality Inspection Team inspected the quality of Set-Top-Boxes of 51 companies from 3 to 8 July this year. The Procurement Committee comprising the Information Deputy Ministers, departmental heads, officials and engineers met short listed companies on 17 October. The Ministry selected Kaung Than Kyaw Company out of the short-listed companies and will purchase 335,000 set-top boxes to the ministry at a rate of 14.7 USD per one set-top-box. Altogether 304,944 out of 335,000 sets will be distributed to the people free of charge.

Nation-wide digitization will be carried out systematically 31 December, 2020.

MNA

C-in-C attends 14th ACAMM

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Vice-Senior General Soe Win pose for documentary photo with Chiefs of Army from ASEAN countries.—MNA

The Vice-Senior General led the discussions on “Enhancing ASEAN Armies Unity Towards the 2015 ASEAN Community” and those present followed in alphabetical order.

Chairman of the Committee for holding 14th ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral meeting Maj.-Gen ZARNI WIN reviewed the discussions. Then, they signed the 14th ACAMM Joint Statement.

14th ACAMM held in Mandalay

14th ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral meeting (14th ACAMM) in progress at Amarapura Hall of Sedona Hotel in Mandalay.—MNA

The Vice-Senior General separately held meetings with the Chiefs of Army of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Singapore, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia at the same venue.

Likewise, bilateral meetings between the Chiefs of Army were held.

In the evening, the Chiefs of Army and their wives enjoyed the beautiful sunset view from the Mandalay Hill.

Myawady

Union Foreign Affairs Minister felicitates Dy Prime Minister and FM International Cooperation Cambodia

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Nov—

On the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Kingdom of Cambodia which falls on 9 November, 2013, U WUNNA MAUNG LWIN, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs felicitated the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Hor Nambong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia. —MNA

More than 300,000...
Taunggyi Tazaungdine Festival

As a large number of visitors at home and abroad will enjoy Taunggyi Tazaungdine festival, hotels and lodgings in Taunggyi have been filled with reservations, according to the pilgrimage agencies.

Health care provided to villages in Pakokku Tsp

Pakokku, 8 Nov—As part of efforts to take care of rural people, Health Foundation of Magway Region Government and Australia-based GAIN (Global Aid Network) jointly gave free health care services to 550 patients of Magyithonbin, Thambo, Thitpalwaygon, Gyobyan, Htanaung and Nyaunggon villages at Kanhayama monastery in Thanbo Village in Pakokku Township of Magway Region on 7 November.

Chief Minister of Magway Region U Phone Maw Shwe and officials viewed free medical treatment being provided to the local patients and attended to the needs.

The medical team on 6 November opened a clinic at Shinnmagan Village of Pakokku Township and gave free medical treatment to the local people.

They have many plans to provide free health care services to the people in Middle Sapay Village on 8 November, Magyigan Village of Myaing Township on 10 November, West Nyaungvin Village on 11 November, Nipashaydaw Village of Yezagyo Township on 12 November and Thitgyidaw Village on 13 November.—Kyemon-Tun Oo

“Now, the dream came true. The town has been facilitated with Okkyin Creek Bridge and local roads have been repaved. So, we the Shan nationals are so happy,” said a town’s elder U Sai Thein Maung of Okkyin ward in Mohynin.

Mohynin Township Development Affairs Committee is implementing the project of expanding the asplant road to Mohynin Degree College to three feet each on both sides as 18 feet wide facility in 2013-2014 fiscal year. The asphalt road will be paved in the third quarter of the fiscal year, according to the Township Development Affairs Committee.

Kyemon-K Htai New (Phakant)

Taunggyi Tazaungdine Festival is densely crowded with visitors in Taunggyi.

Kawthoung District GAD celebrates anniversary ceremony

Kawthoung, 8 Nov—Kawthoung District General Administration Department held the annual ceremony at the township GAD office yesterday morning.

Officials offered alms to members of the Sangha.

Deputy Commissioner of the district U Kyaw Swa Tun explained the department’s history. Next, officials awarded outstanding staff for 2012-2013 fiscal year.—Kyemon-Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

Dream comes true for extension of asphalt road to Mohynin Degree College

Mohynin, 8 Nov—MP of Pyithu Hluttaw U Kyaw Soe Lay, MP of Amyotha Hluttaw U Sai Tin Aung of Mohynin Township and departmental officials inspected repaving of asphalt on Okkyin Bridge in Mohynin yesterday morning.

Junior Engineer U Myint Swe explained progress of works. They viewed works for straightening the road in Okkyin and South Nakha Wards and extension of bridges on the road leading to Mohynin Degree College.

“Now, the dream came true. The town has been facilitated with Okkyin Creek Bridge and local roads have been repaved. So, we the Shan nationals are so happy,” said a town’s elder U Sai Thein Maung of Okkyin ward in Mohynin.

U Kyaw Tun Naing, boarding entrepreneur of Ywathitgon Ward said, “I welcome expansion of the asphalt roads in Mohynin thanks to the extension of the roads, it is sure for declining the traffic accidents.”

Mohynin Township Development Affairs Committee is implementing the project of expanding the asphalt road to Mohynin Degree College to three feet each on both sides as 18 feet wide facility in 2013-2014 fiscal year. The asphalt road will be paved in the third quarter of the fiscal year, according to the Township Development Affairs Committee.

Kyemon-K Htai New (Phakant)
S Korea, Japan, China to make joint effort for trilateral summit

SEOUL, 8 Nov — South Korea and China agreed on Thursday to make efforts to arrange a trilateral summit at a time their relations remain frosty over contrasting perceptions of wartime history and territorial disputes. The agreement was reached at a meeting in Seoul of senior diplomats from the three countries, according to a statement released by South Korea’s Foreign Ministry. But the three nations failed to agree on when to hold such a summit.

“At today’s meeting, participants recognized the importance of a summit among the three countries and agreed to make joint efforts toward that end,” the statement said. South Korea’s Deputy Foreign Minister Lee Kyung Soo, Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Shinisuke Sugiyama and China’s Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhemin headed their respective delegations to the meeting.

The gathering of the three countries’ high-ranking foreign ministry officials came amid tensions over the Japanese-administered Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea.

China has said it will not hold a summit or other high-level talks with Japan unless Tokyo recognizes there is a “territorial dispute” between the two countries over an uninhabited cluster of islets in the East China Sea that are known as Diaoyu in China and the Senkakus in Japan. South Korea’s ties with Japan have become frostier over their interpretations of wartime history and a dispute over the sovereignty of South Korean-controlled islets in the Sea of Japan known as Dokdo to South Koreans and as Takeshima to the Japanese. At Thursday’s meeting, “the three countries agreed the trilateral cooperative system is an important framework of cooperation needed to preserve peace, stability and common prosperity in Northeast Asia,” the statement said.—Kyodo News

Chinese premier urges protesters to disperse, amnesty bill off agenda

A girl takes a look at the works printed by a 3D printer in a 3D printing experiencing store in Shenyang, capital of northeast China’s Liaoning Province, on 7 Nov, 2013. —Xinhua

BANGKOK, 8 Nov — Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra urged anti-amnesty bill protesters to disperse on Thursday, saying they wish to have peace in the country...the rallies would be appropriate for an aging society experiencing a declining population and urged the government to fully explain about the project to the nation.

The group also requested that stadium capacity be reduced from the planned 80,000 permanent seats to a combination of around 50,000 permanent seats and temporary seating. The government plans to reno...the existing National Stadium into an all-weather facility with a retractable roof. The new stadium will be designed by a British-Iraqi architect chosen through an international competition. It will be built on a 113,000 square meter site, about 1.6 times larger than the current site, and will have a total floor space of 290,000 sq. meters, about 5.6 times larger than the existing stadium.—Kyodo News

Thai premier urges protesters to disperse, amnesty bill off agenda

Yingluck also insisted the government would not use military force to crack down on groups of people gathered at several places to protest the bill. “I assure the government will not use violence against people, we wish to have peace in our country...the rallies would be taken care of by police, not soldiers,” she said.

On Sunday, lawmakers voted to withdraw six drafts of amnesty and reconciliation bills from the agenda, 310 to one, while the Senate postponed its schedule for discussion on the amnesty bill. From March to May 2010, 91 people, including protesters and soldiers, were killed during “Redshirt” antigovernment protests in central Bangkok by people who were mostly supporters of Thaksin Shinawatra who was toppled as prime minister in a bloodless military coup in 2006. —Kyodo News

Architects call on govt to scale back new Tokyo stadium plan

TOKYO, 8 Nov — A group of around 100 people led by architect Fumihiko Maki filed a petition on Thursday with the government to review and scale back the planned New National Stadium for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. The initiative, co-sponsored by art critic Shuji Takashima, political scientist Takashi Mikuriya, anthropologist Shunichi Nakazawa and others, takes issue with the design potentially spoiling the landscape in Tokyo’s Meiji Jingu Gaien area, a major urban green space in Japan.

“Given a total floor space double to triple the past main Olympics venues such as London and Athens, we are also concerned about its costs for safety, maintenance and management,” says the petition presented to the sports ministry and the Tokyo metropolitan government. The group, consisting chiefly of architects, called on the authorities to modify the stadium’s scale to one that would be appropriate for an aging society experiencing a declining population and urged the government to fully explain about the project to the nation.

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Architects call on govt to scale back new Tokyo stadium plan

A girl takes a look at the works printed by a 3D printer in a 3D printing experiencing store in Shenyang, capital of northeast China’s Liaoning Province, on 7 Nov, 2013. —Xinhua

BANGKOK, 8 Nov — Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra urged anti-amnesty bill protesters to disperse on Thursday, saying that the amnesty and related bills have been withdrawn. In a second special televised speech in a week, Yingluck said the amnesty bill and also other related bills were withdrawn from the House of Representatives on Thursday.

“I want to urge the protesters to end the rally...I don’t want the rallies to keep continuing since it could affect our economy, tourism as well as confidence from foreign investors,” she said.

The premier reiterated the bill was aimed at helping those who faced corruption charges was not true.

China’s panda breeding hits record in 2013

CHENGDU, 8 Nov — A total of 49 panda cubs were born in China this year, with 42 surviving, marking a record for giant panda breeding in the country, according to experts at an international panda protection conference on Thursday in southwest China’s Sichuan Province. The number of captive-bred pandas in China this year has doubled the number from last year, said Song Hemin, director of the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda, at the ongoing International Symposium on Giant Panda Conservation Conference, which is scheduled to be held in Chengdu City from 7 to 12 November.

According to a report released in November 2012 by the Committee of Giant Panda Breeding Technologies, 25 giant panda cubs were born in 2012, and 20 of them have survived. With the development of breeding technology, the number of captive-bred giant pandas around the world has risen to 376 in 2013 from 341 last year, an increase of 10.3 percent, according to Zhang.

China will gradually increase the number of captive-bred pandas and continue research on releasing them to the wild, Zhang said.

The conference, sponsored by the State Forestry Administration, has attracted representatives from over a dozen countries’ zoos, government departments, embassies in China, and China’s panda protection organizations to discuss issues concerning giant panda protection. —Xinhua

Leader of notorious extortion group in Philippines arrested

MANILA, 8 Nov — The leader of a notorious extortion group in the southern Philippines that authorities believe had initial links with the Southeast Asian terror group Jemaah Islamiyah has been arrested, police said on Thursday.

Jabidul Abdul of the Al-Khoobar group, which authorities say has been responsible for several extortion-related bombings since 2006 in parts of Mindanao island, was arrested on Tuesday in Mindanao’s Sultan Kudarat, police said in a statement, adding 31 people were killed and 145 were injured in the attacks.

National police chief Alan Purisma said the arrest of Abdul — who had a 3.3 million peso (about $76,750) bounty on his head due to multiple murders and attempted murders — is “a significant development in the continuing campaign against organized crime and terrorism.”

Many of the Al-Khoobar group’s attacks were on buses companies in Mindanao who refused to give in to the group’s threats of blowing up buses unless they would pay money.

The police said, “The group was allegedly created in support of Jemaah Islamiyah and foreign militant groups,” with the particular mission of “concentrating on exploitive component use and extortion schemes across the Cotabato province (in Mindanao).”

“The group eventually transformed into a kidnap-for-ransom gang, and much later, into the extortion group that is it today,” the police added.

Kyodo News

Leader of notorious extortion group in Philippines arrested

A girl takes a look at the works printed by a 3D printer in a 3D printing experiencing store in Shenyang, capital of northeast China’s Liaoning Province, on 7 Nov, 2013. —Xinhua

BANGKOK, 8 Nov — Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra urged anti-amnesty bill protesters to disperse on Thursday, saying that the amnesty and related bills have been withdrawn. In a second special televised speech in a week, Yingluck said the amnesty bill and also other related bills were withdrawn from the House of Representatives on Thursday.

“I want to urge the protesters to end the rally...I don’t want the rallies to keep continuing since it could affect our economy, tourism as well as confidence from foreign investors,” she said.

The premier reiterated the bill was aimed at helping those who faced corruption charges was not true.

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Kyodo News
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV GUNKUL 1 VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GUNKUL 1 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.11.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S RK SHIPPING & TRADING PTE LTD
Phone No: 256924/256914

OPEC’s share on world oil market on the wane

VIENNA, 8 Nov — The share of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in the world oil market would decline by almost 8 percent through to the year 2018 due to the rise of the shale energy, a publication by the organization declared on Friday.

The report said that OPEC sees less demand of its crude in the next five years, and the demand for crude of the group, which produces about 40 percent of the world’s oil output, will fall by 1.1 million barrels a day to 29.2 million barrels a day between 2013 and 2018.

Oil production from shale formations in the US and Canada is estimated to climb to 4.9 million barrels a day in 2018, compared with the estimate of 1.7 million barrels a day in last year’s report.

OPEC, however, doesn’t seem to worry about the pressure from shale oil, as it estimates the output of the shale is expected to increase by 2.4 million barrels a day after the year 2020, citing challenges including a rapid output decline from wells, the environmental concerns and rising costs.

Apart from shale, growing non-OPEC crude supplies would also serve as a factor to the organization’s weakened impact in the world oil map. — Xinhua

Japan to be “partner country” at India International Trade Fair

NEW DELHI, 8 Nov — India said on Thursday that Japan will be the “partner country” at this year’s India International Trade Fair to be held for two weeks from 14 November in the capital New Delhi.

Around 260 international participants, including 28 leading Japanese companies, are expected to take part in the fair to showcase their products. The Japanese pavilion will exhibit a wide range of goods from handicrafts to IT equipment, according to Shigemaro Yasui, chairman of the Japan India Industry Promotion Association, who added, “This is the first time Japan will be the partner country in the IITF.”

India Trade Promotion Organization chairperson Rita Menon said that Japan has not only been given “partner country” status at the fair but will also receive a “special” location at IITF 2013. Japan is currently also promoting Japanese cuisine in India, with food-related events taking place until February in New Delhi and in Mumbai as part of the “Oshii Japan” festival. — Kyodo News
Los Angeles, 8 Nov—Television musical series “Glee” on Tuesday led the nominees for the annual fan-voted People’s Choice Awards, while actress Sandra Bullock and pop singer Justin Timberlake each scored five nominations.

The People’s Choice Awards ceremony, set for January 8 in Los Angeles, kicks off the Hollywood awards season, which culminates with the coveted Academy Awards, or Oscars, on March 2. The People’s Choice winners are chosen by fans, who can vote online across 58 categories spanning film, TV and music starting Thursday through 5 December.

“Glee” scored nominations for best network TV comedy, while its stars Chris Colfer, Darren Criss, Jane Lynch and Lea Michele each won nominations in the comedy acting categories. Fan recognition for “Glee” comes four months after series star Cory Monteith died from a heroin and alcohol overdose in Vancouver, causing a delay in production. “Glee” bid farewell to Monteith and his character in a somber episode last month.—Reuters

Sarah Jessica Parker: Eating disorder reports are disappointing

Mumbai, 8 Nov—Actress Renee Zellweger doesn’t like hearing reports about her fluctuating body weight and food habits.

The 44-year-old gained nearly 28 pounds when she starred in the Bridget Jones’s Diary, a movie series based on the books of Helen Fielding, but she quickly dropped the weight once filming was finished by following a strict diet and exercise regime.

When she was snapped at a New York fashion event earlier this month, her slim figure sparked rumors that she is struggling with her weight, but Zellweger insists her trim body is down to hard work in the gym, reports contactmusic.com.

“When you read reports that you are starving or that you are anorexic it’s very unfair and disappointing. It’s not very pleasant to read reports which say you’ve gone too far or this or that. I have a lifestyle that involves keeping my sanity by going to the gym,” she told Britain’s Daily Express newspaper.

Lady Gaga to sing in outer space in 2015?

New York, 8 Nov—Pop sensation Lady Gaga has reportedly signed up to perform one song in space as part of the Zero G Colony high-tech musical festival in 2015.

The mysterious festival will take place over three days at New Mexico’s Spaceport America. The 27-year-old Apollus hitmaker performance is said to be planned for the third day of the concert series at dawn, reported the New York Daily News.

“She has to do a month of vocal training because of the atmosphere. Gaga has taken out a ridiculous life insurance policy!” a source said.

The event will mark the first time that a pop artiste has performed in space.

Gaga, who will be boarding Richard Branson’s ‘Virgin Galactic’ ship, is not the only pop star with plans to explore the final frontier.—PTI

Demi Moore back home after “soul searching” pilgrimage to India

Los Angeles, 8 Nov—After a “soul searching” pilgrimage to India, actress Demi Moore is back here with her guru, Hargopal Kaur Khalsa.

The 50-year-old suffered a public meltdown after her split from husband and actor Ashton Kutcher.

Now Moore, who is set to divorce Kutcher, is in high spirits as she led the Kundalini yoga teacher out of the airport here, daily-mail.co.uk reports.

She was wearing black ensemble with ankle boots and a warm wrap-around cardigan. Her teacher was dressed in white, including a white turban wrapped snugly around her head.

They were spotted earlier this week at McLeod Ganj in Dharamsala, reportedly studying with the Dalai Lama.—PTI

Renee Zellweger to join microblogging site Twitter

The 48-year-old posted her first tweet on Tuesday and so far has 460,246 followers.

In her first message, she promoted her new documentary series about the New York City Ballet, reports femalefirst.co.uk.


Sandra Bullock: George Clooney is not everyone’s cup of tea

Los Angeles, 8 Nov—Actress Sandra Bullock is adamant she doesn’t have a crush on Hollywood heart-throb George Clooney, insisting, “he’s not everyone’s cup of tea.”

The 49-year-old has been close friends with Clooney for 20 years but she has confessed she never falls for him, reports contactmusic.com.

She also declares there are other women who would also turn down the Ocean’s Eleven actor despite his dashing looks.

Bullock, who worked with Clooney in new movie Gravity, tells morning TV show Daybreak,“We’ve known each other for so long, sexy is gone. Not that he’s not sexy because he is very, very handsome. If you like that kind of dashing, charming, smart, talented, successful kind of thing. It’s not everyone’s cup of tea.”—PTI

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Lady Gaga will perform as part of Zero G Colony high-tech musical festival in 2015.

PTI

Paulina Rubio shares her new single

Los Angeles, 8 Nov—Star Paulina Rubio released her new single “Vive la Vida.”

The 47-year-old says she is in love with the new single and it is a message. “It’s a song about love,” she said.

She is also linking the new single with the album “Love & Romance,” which will be released later this year.

“It’s a message about love and it’s about the power of love,” Rubio said.

The new single is a departure from her usual Latin pop sound.

“I like to sing in different languages, different styles, and this is one of those songs,” she said.

Rubio is set to release her latest album “Love & Romance” later this year. The album will feature collaborations with international artists.

“I’m working with some really great artists from around the world,” Rubio said.

The new album is set to be released later this year and will feature collaborations with artists from around the world.

“I’m really excited about the new album,” she said. "It’s going to be a really fresh sound. I’ve been working with some amazing artists and I think fans are going to love it.”

Rubio recently performed at the Latin Grammy Awards and has been performing sellout shows across the United States.

“I’ve been having a lot of fun performing these shows,” Rubio said. "I’m really enjoying the energy of the audiences and I think we’re really going to have a lot of fun on this next tour.”

Rubio is currently working on her new album and is set to release it later this year.

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Ivory Coast call out diomande for world cup play-off

LONDON, 8 Nov — Ivory Coast named uncapped Ismael Diomande as midfielder for this month’s World Cup playoff against Senegal as Sery Die and Cheick Tiote are suspended for the match on 16 November.

Sorry, I'm not sure what you are trying to ask. It seems like you've provided a list of names and sports events. If you have a specific question about any of these events, please let me know! I'm here to help.
Three arrested for kidnapping 12-year-old girl in Tokyo

Tokyo, 8 Nov — Tokyo police have arrested three men for allegedly kidnapping a junior high school girl in Ota Ward on Wednesday evening and asking for a ransom of 20 million yen from her family. The 12-year-old girl was safely taken into police custody after she was found roughly three hours later in a car with two of the suspects that was pulled over in a neighbouring city by a police officer who did not know about the kidnapping but was looking out for cars with stolen number plates.

The Metropolitan Police Department identified the men as Ryunosuke Taba, 23, and Genki Miyagi, 24, both unemployed and from Okinawa Prefecture, and Hiroaki Hata, a 43-year-old company employee from Saitama Prefecture. The police suspect that Miyagi and Hata forced the victim around 7:05 pm, the police said.

Photo shows an area in Fuchu, western Tokyo, on 7 Nov. 2013, where a kidnapped junior high school girl was rescued by the police earlier in the day. The police arrested three men on suspicion of kidnapping her for a ransom of 20 million yen. —Kyodo News

Prices of 1,000 items in Rakuten mall may have been misleading

Tokyo, 8 Nov — Online shopping mall operator Rakuten Inc said on Thursday that prices on about 1,000 items offered in its marketplace in connection with bargain sales commemorating the Rakuten Eagles professional baseball team’s winning of the Japan Professional Baseball championship that prices on about 360 items in Rakuten Inc said on Thursday were probable or actual price misrepresentations. The company said price indications by more than 20 stores in the past were problematic and that it temporarily closed those stores in the online shopping mall.

For example, a store in Hokkaido claimed in the Rakuten mall that 10 cream puffs are normally priced at 12,000 yen and sold the item at 2,600 yen, indicating it is 77 percent off the regular price, according to sources familiar with the matter. —Kyodo News

Webber in no mood to slow down after Formula One

Sydney, 8 Nov— Mark Webber has no intention of cocking when he calls time on his 12-year career in Formula One at the end of the season and is determined to put Porsche back on top of the podium at Le Mans sooner rather than later. The 37-year-old Australian revealed in June he had signed a multi-year deal to race for the German marque in the World Endurance Championship, which is the centrepiece of which is the 24-hour endurance classic in France.

And while Webber said he would miss Formula One — although not perhaps his Red Bull teammate Sebastian Vettel — his competitiveness nature will not allow him to slow down. “I’ve got those memories, they’re great and I really enjoy having those,” he told Australia’s Channel 10 TV.

“But to look at the next chapter, I can’t put my feet out of bed each morning with no super purpose - I still need to do something. I can’t turn racing off and just finish.”

Webber has twice been entered to race Le Mans but failed to complete a lap. His engine failed in 1998 and in 1999 his Mercedes flipped into the air twice in practice and the team withdrew for safety reasons.

Porsche’s record at the Circuit de la Sarthe is much better with 16 wins, including seven in a row from 1981 to 1987.

“Webber have dominated since the turn of the century, though, and Webber’s new team will have their work cut out on their return to the top class next year. “I am looking forward to this embryonic stage to them returning to the race in which they have been so successful in the past,” Webber said.

“They’ve got the record for the most wins at Le Mans and I am looking forward to working with them in the future and keeping my adrenaline ticking over.”

To add a Le Mans success to his twin triumphs in motorsport’s other great races, the Monaco Grand Prix, would be some achievement, he thought. “I love that circuit, I love driving at night to the limit,” he added.

“It’s human nature to want more, obviously I want to win Le Mans, to put that with the Monaco ... that would be nice.

“Whether one is enough there, maybe I want to grab a few. But of course you’ve got to get the first one done, which won’t be easy. “So that’s the first goal, to win Le Mans, win that outright down the road. And then we’ll go from there. Still enjoy the race”

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Electric Power Ministry to review household electricity rates

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 Nov—The Ministry of Electric Power will bring the issue of household electricity rates increase to the Union Government in order to review its new rates so that it can be satisfied by the people. In his clarification of the issue to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw today, Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Aung Than Oo said the ministry would report the issue to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw after reviewing it. Regarding the rates increase, U Aye Maik, Secretary of Planning and Financial Development Committee, submitted an urgent proposal calling on the Union Government for reviewing the Ministry of Electric Power’s announcement that November’s household electricity rates will increase by about two folds for every unit used over 100 kilowatt hours as the hike has caused troubles for the people and for putting forward the issue to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw after reviewing it. He also suggested the Union Government to increase rates for the 200 to 300 units instead of 100 units and to reduce the rate increase for above 200 units. U Aye Maik also suggested that the ministry should review and carry out (See page 9)

More than 300,000 set-top-boxes to be distributed free of charge

Press conference on Myanma Radio and Television’s shift to digital from analogue and preparations for SEA Games in progress.—SNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 Nov—A press conference on Myanma Radio and Television’s shift to digital from analogue and preparations for SEA Games took place at the Ministry of Information here this morning. MRTV Director-General U Tint Swe explained the facts about the press meet, director U Win Kyi, digitalization process and Deputy Chief Engineer U Hlaing Moe, preparations for the SEA Games. Later, Director-General U Tint Swe replied to the queries raised by the media. DVB-T2 Digital system can transmit at least 15 or 16 channels only from one 8 MHz Bandwidth and one transmitter. Since 15 October this year, the MRTV has started transmitting MRTV, MITV, Farmer Channel, Hluttaw Channel and National Races Channel through DVB-T2 Digital system. Live or delay sport events of the XXVII SEA Games will be transmitted through three free-to-air channels in addition to the above channels. The digitalization process includes five (See page 9)

President of SFCRUM of Russia to pay visit to Myanmar

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 Nov—The Russian Society of Friendship and Cooperation with Republic of the Union of Myanmar (SFCRUM) headed by President Mr. Mikhail A. DMITRIEV will pay a visit to Myanmar to meet governmental officials, parliamentarians as well as representatives of the Myanmar civil societies. The Russian-Myanmar Friendship Society is the successor of the “Soviet Society of Cultural Ties with Burma” established in January 1962. Its first president was a prominent architect Victor Andreyev who designed the Inya Lake Hotel in Yangon. In addition to individual members, a member of leading institutions, including the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences, Institute of Asia and Africa Countries of the Moscow State University, the Department of Oriental Languages of the Leningrad (now Saint-Petersburg) State University joined the Society. It had been engaged in organizing exhibitions, supporting publications, arranging meetings of researchers in the field of Myanmar studies, providing lectures for different audience and hosting bilateral cultural events. Since 1998 the SFCRUM has been acting as a civil society organization aimed at promoting bilateral ties based on traditions of long-standing friendship between the peoples of Russia and Myanmar. Today the society is coordinating activities of a growing number of Russian institutions and companies which are building partnerships with their Myanmar counterparts. As in the past, Society’s priority remains enhancing people-to-people contacts between the two states. Today the SFCRUM is headed by Lt-Gen (Retd) Mikhail A. DMITRIEV. In 1970 he graduated from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2004-2012, he was Deputy Minister of Defence, Director of the Federal Service of Foreign Military and Technical Cooperation.—NLM

Indonesian guests observe preparations for 27th SEA Games

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 Nov—An Indonesian delegation led by Mr. Eko Indrajit Wir Jo No Putro observed preparations being made by Myanmar for hosting the 27th SEA Games at Wunna Theikdi Sports Ground, here, yesterday morning. At the meeting hall of Wunna Theikdi Sports Ground, Deputy Minister for Sports U Zaw Win explained to them about undertakings by the committees for successfully holding the 27th SEA Games, progress of constructing sports grounds and gymnasiums, and plans for holding sports tournaments in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay and Ngwesaung Beach. Next, the delegation looked round the sports ground where opening and concluding ceremonies of the SEA Games would be held. And they enjoyed Chinlone matches of the Pre-SEA Games Chinlone Test Match-2013.—MVA

Myanmar hopes for gold medal in Chinlone sport

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 Nov—The Pre-SEA Games Chinlone Test match took place at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium this morning. Secretary of Myanmar Chinlone Federation U Ye Aung and Chief Umpire U Ko Ko Aung assessed the participation of players from selected Myanmar team and selected (B) team, Upper and Lower Myanmar Chinlone men’s and women’s teams in the test match. As Chinlone event is a Myanmar traditional sport, Myanmar hopes to win gold medals in the SEA Games, said the Myanmar Chinlone coach.

Kyaw Thura
(Nay Pyi Taw)