Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife enjoy Fondamentus Concert Dream Event-2013

On their arrival at 7:10 pm, the Vice-President and wife were welcomed by French Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Thierry Mathou and wife. The Vice-President and wife enjoyed performance of France’s Le Khloros Concert with songs and melody by French vocalist Odile Perceau at the Fondamentus Concert Dream Event-2013. Next, the Vice-President and wife presented bouquets to the performers who posed for documentary photo together with them. It was attended by Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyaw and wife, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung and wife, Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyaw and wife, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife, Deputy Ministers U Pike Htwe and U Thant Kyaw, regional ministers, departmental heads, the ambassador to Myanmar, the charge d’affaires of the foreign embassies and invited persons.

The Fondamentus Concert Dream Event-2013 will be held at Mandalay National Theatre at 6:30 pm on 23 November.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nunn Shee Hmon pose for documentary photo with those present at Fondamentus Concert Dream Event-2013.—MNA

Nourishment foods providing ceremony held in Mental Health Hospital

The opening of the third Green Economy Green Growth Forum took place at Diamond Jubilee Hall of Yangon University, here, this morning, attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Sein Tin Win, region ministers, the chairman of Green Economy Green Growth (Myanmar) and members, departmental officials, the Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar and diplomats and guests.

In his address, the Region Chief Minister welcomed the forum, expressing his belief that desired outcomes of the forum could contribute towards greening and cooperation in the realization of sustainable development in Myanmar society, moving forward and faster.

Next, Pro Rector of Yangon University Dr Kyaw Naing and the chairman of Green Economy Green Growth (Myanmar) spoke on the occasion and the agendas of the forum followed.

MNA
Use of various ways and means for mass participation in census-taking procedures urged

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Nov—Educative talks are being conducted with added momentum to be able to make the public know census-taking procedures widely, Chairman of Census-taking Commission Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi said at a meeting on conducting educative talks on census-taking 2014 at the ministry, here, yesterday morning. He stressed the need for the use of various ways and means for encouraging mass participation in the procedures.

Also present were Deputy Ministers U Kyaw Kyaw Win and U Win Myint, chairmen and members of information subcommittees, supportive teams, UNFPA Resident Representative Ms. Janet E. Jackson and officials.

First, the UNFPA Resident Representative and Mr. David Madden, public education expert, made suggestions on measures to be taken. Next, the deputy director-general of Population Department explained progress of information works and follow-up tasks.

Then, the UNFPA Resident Representative and officials answered the queries raised by those present.

MNA

Workshop on Commercial Law kicks off

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Nov—A workshop on Commercial Law, jointly organized by the Office of the Attorney-General of the Union and USAID, was held at Thingahite Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone, here, this morning.

Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin delivered an address on the occasion.

The Attorney-General of the Union assured that the workshop’s findings bring benefits to investment sectors of the country.

Facts about taking census disseminated in Myawady Tsp

MYAWADY, 21 Nov—Talks on census-taking process and population in 2014 took place in Myawady Township from 13 to 18 November.

Deputy Director U Aung Win Thein, Staff Officer U Myint Thein Htay and members of Immigration and National Registration Department shared knowledge on census-taking process and population in 2014 and distributed pamphlets to the people from ten wards of two villages in Myawady Township.

A total of 2869 people attended the talks.

Kyemon-District IPRD

Union S & T Minister meets Governor of Kanagawa Prefecture of Japan

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Nov—Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo received Mr. Yuji Kuroiwa, Governor of Kanagawa Prefecture of Japan, here, yesterday afternoon.

He continued that international technical assistance and investments are being invited for promoting of science and technology sector. He thanked the Japanese Governor for allowing five trainees from the Myanmar Government Technical High Schools to pay a study tour of Kanagawa Technical High School of Japan.

MNA

Meeting on conducting educative talks on census-taking 2014 in progress.—MNA

Traffic Rules Enforcement

BADLY PARKED VEHICLES REMOVED IN MAYANGON TSP

YANGON, 21 Nov—A combined team comprising members of Special Investigations Unit of Yangon Region All-Bus Lines Control Supervisory Committee and township departments announced with the use of hand-speaker for removal of badly parked stopped vehicles on Kyekwai Pagoda Road in Ward-3 of Mayangon Township about 20 minutes on 18 November.

After the announcement, they removed the undisciplined stopped vehicles with the use of crane.

Kyemon-Zaw Gyi (Pannita)

BADLY PARKED VEHICLES REMOVED IN MAYANGON TSP

Photo shows removal of a badly parked taxi.

Mandalarians proud of hosting 27th SEA Games

Mandalay, 21 Nov—Revelers vandalized vinyl boards for the 27th SEA Games put up on lamp-posts on the main roads and around the most in Mandalay on the fullmoon day of Tazaungmon.

Hosting the 27th SEA Games is of the national concern. Manpower has to be used for putting up the boards. During SEA Games days, ASEAN member

Torch for relay lit

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Nov—The 27th SEA Games will kick off at Wunna Theikdi Stadium on 11 December.

The torch will be lit and then conveyed to Nay Pyi Taw and a Myanmar victorious athlete will shoot an arrow to the main torch of the SEA Games.

The torches to be used countries’ sports men, coaches, fans and guests come to host Myanmar for their participation of the Games. If they found such destructive acts, they would look down Myanmar.

Southeast Asia Women’s Football Tournament would be held in Mandalay.

Mandalarians take pride of prestige of Mandalay.
Obama’s official visit to Japan eyed in April

WASHINGTON, 21 Nov — The Japanese and US governments are set to arrange an official trip by US President Barack Obama to Japan in April, people familiar with bilateral relations said on Wednesday.

During the trip, Obama and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe are expected to affirm their commitment to strengthening the bilateral alliance in light of the growing regional presence of China and North Korea’s nuclear development programme, they said.

It would be Obama’s first official visit to Japan since November 2010, when he attended a summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Yokohama.

Japan and the United States have bilateral challenges such as how to implement the stalled plan to relocate a US Marine Corps base in Okinawa, a key component of the US review of its military posture in the Asia-Pacific region. Plans for the visit come as the Abe government is working on setting up the country’s first national security council as part of its efforts to improve the policymaking process on security matters.

Attention, meanwhile, will be focused on whether Obama, who has called for a world without nuclear weapons, will visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki during his trip to Japan.

Obama’s pledge to focus on Asia in foreign policy in his second term has been in doubt since he canceled a trip to Southeast Asia in October due to the partial US government shutdown in the month.

Car bomb in Iraq kills 25

BAGHDAD, 21 Nov — A car bomb exploded in a busy market in northeastern Iraq on Thursday, killing at least 25 people and wounding more than 30, the town’s mayor and medical sources said.

Iraq is suffering its worst wave of violence in at least five years, with insurgents targeting mainly Shi’ite Muslim civilians in attacks on public places such as shopping areas and cafes.

Thursday’s attack took place in Saday, 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad.

“I was sitting in my store when I heard a huge explosion. I could not recognize anything because dust engulfed the place. Shattered glass was everywhere,” grocery store owner Suhair Gadhban told Reuters by telephone, adding that he had been wounded in the leg.

Suhair said he had seen dozens of people lying near the scene of the explosion as he was being taken for medical aid.

“Some of them had been killed and others were seriously wounded and were screaming for help,” he said.

Hundreds of Iraqis have been killed each month in 2013 and the frequency and severity of bomb attacks has raised fears that Iraq could descend once more into the kind of sectarian bloodshed of 2006-2007, when tens of thousands died.

Nearly two years since US troops withdrew from Iraq, security forces are struggling to combat violence across the country. Insurgents, some linked to al-Qaeda, have also benefited from the civil war in neighboring Syria.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai speaks during the opening of the Loya Jirga in Kabul 12 Nov, 2013. REUTERS

Karzai says Afghanistan needs US security deal, but little trust

KABUL, 21 Nov — Afghan President Hamid Karzai told a meeting of tribal elders and political leaders on Thursday they should support a security pact with the United States, but acknowledged there was little trust between the two nations.

A Loya Jirga, or grand council, involving about 2,500 delegates convened a day after Karzai and Washington reached agreement on a pact defining the shape of the U.S. military presence after a 2014 drawdown of a multinational NATO force.

“My trust with America is not good. I don’t trust them and they don’t trust me,” Karzai told the assembly.

“During the past 10 years I have fought with them and they have made propaganda against me.”

Delegates at the five-day Loya Jirga, many of them bearded men with elaborate turbans but with bearded men with them and they have made propaganda against me.”

Karzai made no reference in his speech to the question of jurisdiction over U.S. troops, which two years ago, prompted the United States to pull most forces out of Iraq. Instead, he focused on a letter sent by U.S. President Barack Obama promising the pact would in Afghanistan’s best interest.

“We want this pact in order to move out of this sticky situation if the foreigners leave unhappy, it will be very dangerous for us,” Karzai told the gathering. — Reuters

Nepal’s Maoists set to suffer crushing defeat in election

KATHMANDU, 21 Nov — Preliminary results of vote counting suggest Nepal’s Maoists are on course to suffer a crushing defeat in Tuesday’s Constituent Assembly elections, in stark contrast to their resounding victory in the previous elections in 2008.

Among the 140 constituencies where vote counting is underway, the Maoists are leading in just 19, according to the results. The centrist Nepali Congress party is leading in an impressive 74 constituencies, while the left-of-centre Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist Leninist) is ahead in 47.

In a clear rebuke to the Maoists, the party’s chairman Prachanda lost by a wide margin in a constituency in the capital Kathmandu, though he is leading in another constituency in southern Nepal.

Upset by the preliminary results, the party has recalled its representatives from vote-counting centers throughout the nation.

The election was unfair. There had been a national and international conspiracy to defeat us,” Maoist party spokesman Agni Sapkota told Kyodo News.

Despite the recall, the vote counting is continuing throughout the country. The Nepali Congress party, which dominated most elections held since 1990, seems to be reemerging as the largest political force in Nepal.

French police arrest suspect in Paris shootings

PARIS, 21 Nov — French police have arrested a man suspected of shooting and seriously wounding an employee of the left-wing newspaper Liberation and firing a shotgun at the headquarters of a major bank, Interior Minister Manuel Valls said on Thursday.

In a separate case, Abdelhakim Dekhar, had ties with a couple involved in a Paris shootout with police in 1994 that killed five people, including three officers, Valls told a news conference.

That incident became known as the Rey-Maupin affair.

Dekhar was arrested late on Wednesday in a semi-conscious state in his car in the parking lot of the northeastern Paris suburb of Bois-Colombes. Police had received a tip-off of his whereabouts from someone with whom he had recently stayed.

“Everything suggests that he tried to commit suicide,” said Valls, who added that the suspect’s motive for the shootings remained unknown.

Dekhar mounted a massive manhunt for the gunman after he wounded a 23-year-old photographer’s assistant in the lobby of Liberation before fleeing.

Shortly afterwards, he fired at least three shots into the lobby of the headquarter of Societe Generale in the La Defense business district. There were no casualties.

The gunman then vanished into the crowded streets of Paris’ Champs-Elysees boulevard after forcing a driver at gunpoint to take him there.

Police were able to identify Dekhar using DNA traces found on spent cartridges and in the car he used to get to the Champs-Elysees.
Nokia shareholders approve sale of mobile business to Microsoft

Helsinki, 21 Nov — Nokia shareholders approved the 5.4 billion euros ($7.4 billion) sale of the company’s mobile phone business to Microsoft, deciding the deal’s financial benefits outweighed any objections to a loss of a Finnish national asset. Investors holding more than 99 percent of Nokia voting rights supported the deal, according to a final tally at Tuesday’s shareholders meeting in Helsinki. The sale is expected to close in the first quarter of next year after regulatory clearances.

Nokia had in September agreed to sell its devices and services business and license its patents to Microsoft after failing to recover from a late start in smartphones. “I think it’s a fair price if you think about the situation right now,” said Matti Pirkola, a 58-year-old Nokia shareholder who attended the meeting in Helsinki’s Ice Hall arena.

Pirkola had been a Nokia shareholder since the early 1980s, when he worked for the company for a few years. “I think Nokia could have chosen another option a few years ago, but now there are no other alternatives,” he said. The sale is set to boost Nokia’s net cash position to nearly 8 billion euros from around 2 billion in the third quarter — a windfall likely to help it regain investment-grade status from credit rating agencies and allow it to return cash to shareholders.

Nokia earlier this year suspended its annual dividend for the first time in its 148-year recorded history in an attempt to preserve cash. Billionaire activist investor Daniel Loeb said in October he had taken a position in Nokia and expected a “meaningful portion of the excess” cash from the Microsoft deal to be returned to investors. Without the loss-making handset business, the remaining company will derive more than 90 percent of its sales from telecom equipment unit Nokia Services and Networks. It will also include a navigation software unit and a trove of patents. — Reuters

Samsung Electronics says Gear smartwatch shipments hit 800,000 in two months

Seoul, 21 Nov — Samsung Electronics Co said on Tuesday its Galaxy Gear has become the world’s most popular smartwatch with shipments reaching 800,000 since its debut two months ago, defying some market concerns the accessory would fail due to a lack of compelling features.

The company’s statement referred to sales of the smartwatch, but Samsung later clarified that it was basing its figures on shipments to retailers and mobile operators.

The South Korean firm said Gear sales have been better than its own expectations and it would expand “inconsistent and frustrating” and recommended nobody buy it. The product marks Samsung’s latest attempt to prove that it is more than just a fast follower in innovation behind Apple Inc. The Cupertino California-based firm is widely speculated to be working on wearable device. Priced at around $300, the Gear works as an accessory to its market leading Galaxy smartphone, with a small OLED screen offering basic functions like photos, hands-free calls and message notifications.

Market expectations on the device have been so strong, as it has only around 70 dedicated applications. UK retailer Phones4U offered the Gear for free to consumers buying the Galaxy Note3 on contract earlier this month, while earlier media reports said the device was suffering some 30 percent return rates in US stores of Best Buy.

A man tries out a Samsung Electronics’ Galaxy Gear smartwatch at the company’s headquarters in Seoul on 21 Oct, 2013.— Reuters

T-Mobile US eyes airwaves buy from Verizon Wireless

New York, 21 Nov — T-Mobile US is looking to buy wireless airwaves from larger rival Verizon Wireless to bolster its mobile network capacity for data services, a source familiar with the matter said on Tuesday. While T-Mobile has approached Verizon about buying the spectrum, the process is still in the early stages, according to the source, who asked not to be named. The source was not authorized to discuss the matter.

T-Mobile, the No 4 US mobile service provider, might have to pay as much as $3 billion for the airwaves, which are not being used by Verizon, according to one analyst estimate.

The airwaves would give T-Mobile additional network capacity to help it catch up with its bigger rivals in delivering high-speed wireless services. T-Mobile declined to comment on Tuesday.

Representatives for Verizon Wireless, which is owned by Verizon Communications Inc and Vodafone Group Plc, were not immediately available for comment.

T-Mobile, which is majority owned by Deutsche Telekom, had said on Tuesday in its announcement of an equity offering to raise money for spectrum deals, that it was considering buying airwaves from a private party but did not name the potential seller.

Verizon Communications, the majority owner of Verizon Wireless, had recently indicated that it could consider selling so-called A Block airwaves in the 700 mega-hertz frequency band as it is not using these airwaves.

The company had already tried to sell the same spectrum last year but Verizon CEO Shahmooz said that the company would not conduct a “fire sale” and that if it did not reach a deal that made sense, Verizon Wireless would instead use the airwaves.

Signage for a T-Mobile store is pictured in downtown Los Angeles, California March 31, 2011.— Reuters

Car, tech firms must work together to provide Internet, ‘apps’

Los Angeles, 21 Nov — Automakers and technology companies need to cooperate more closely to ensure the rapid and smooth development of cars that are fully connected to the Internet, a top Ford Motor Co (F.N) executive said on Tuesday.

Ford global marketing chief Jim Farley told reporters at the Los Angeles Auto Show that the automotive and technology sectors are “at a tipping point” where they need to work together better than they have in the past. “ Ford is working on wearable devices and said it was planning to launch an Internet-connected device that would allow consumers to drive safely and interact with their favorite apps or other technologies.

“The car companies have to change and the tech companies have to change,” he said to industry officials at the auto show. “For the car companies, it’s pretty clear that the mobile digital economy is not in our hands.”

Farley said automakers must acknowledge that the real value for consumers comes outside the auto industry and they must create an open architecture that allows outside providers. Meanwhile, tech companies need to stop imposing their user interfaces on drivers in a way that makes driving unsafe.

For example, Google Inc’s (GOOG.O) Tarun Bhatnagar, director of Google Maps for Business, speaking after Farley, described using the navigation app on his smartphone that sat in his lap as he drove a rental car in Los Angeles.

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General Motors banking on the Colorado to be player in mid-sized trucks

LOS ANGELES, 21 Nov — General Motors Co (GM.N) is banking on American consumers’ desire for something different from cars and crossover utility vehicles to drive demand for its Chevrolet Colorado when the mid-sized pickup trucks re-enter the US market next autumn.

As part of the No 1 US automaker’s so-called “three-truck strategy” that includes the full-size and heavy-duty Chevy Silverado pickups, the 2015 Colorado and its GMC sibling Canyon are meant to appeal to lifestyle buyers much like Subaru has done with its vehicles, offering space, utility and a refined interior.

GM believes the Colorado next, which will debut at the Los Angeles Auto Show on Wednesday, will be far more successful than its last appearance when US sales peaked in 2005 above 128,000.

However, declining popularity and the company’s need to save money during its 2009 bankruptcy reorganization forced it to exit the US market last year. GM, which never stopped selling the Colorado overseas, envisions a profitable return in a segment that was there wasn’t much of a lot of people looking for mid-sized trucks.

Alan Batey, GM’s global Chevy chief told reporters ahead of the relaunch.

“What happened in the segment was there wasn’t a lot of a lot of choice.” Research firm IHS Automotive, however, does not see sales as strong as GM does, predicting 100,000 annually in the US market from the Colorado and Canyon combined.

“The gap in pricin

between Silverado and Colorado will be key,” IHS senior analyst Stephanie Brinley said. “If price gets too close or fuel economy is not better by at least five to six miles per gallon on the highway, that will hurt the Colorado.”

“The real question is how many people are really sitting in small crossovers wishing they had trucks,” she added. “We don’t know the answer, but GM is betting on that.” It may be difficult to imagine in a market where full-sized trucks like Silverado, Ford’s F-150 and Chrysler’s Ram dominate television ads with images of brawny, haul-anything usefulness, but the mid-sized trucks once rivaled their larger siblings. In 1994, US sales of the smaller pickups topped out at almost 1.2 million vehicles, or 8 percent of the market, compared with more than 1.6 million, or 10.7 percent of the market, for the full-size trucks. Last year, however, smaller pick-ups, mostly the Toyota Tacoma and Nissan Frontier, accounted for fewer than 280,000 sales, or 1.9 percent of the market, while the bigger trucks made up more than 11 percent.

Yahoo increases share buyback authorization by $5 billion

S AN FRANCISCO, 21 Nov — Yahoo Inc said it has increased its share repurchase authorization by $5 billion and that it planned to offer $1 billion in convertible notes. Shares of Yahoo increased 1.6 percent to $55.17 in after-hours trading on Tuesday following the announcement.

Yahoo’s shares roughly 74 percent this year, even as the Web portal’s revenue growth has remained stagnant amid competition from Facebook Inc, Google Inc and Twitter Inc.

Yahoo said the convertible notes will be due in 2018, with interest payable semi-annually in arrears on 1 June and 1 December of each year, beginning on 1 January, 2014. The interest rate and other terms of the senior unsecured notes will be determined at the time of pricing Yahoo said. The company also intends to grant the initial purchasers of the notes the right to buy an additional $150 million in notes.— Reuters

J&J unit to pay $2.5 billion in US hip implant settlement

New York, 21 Nov — A unit of Johnson & Johnson has agreed to pay an estimated $2.5 billion to settle thousands of lawsuits from individuals allegedly injured by the company’s artificial hip implants, the company announced on Tuesday.

The settlement, announced during a hearing in federal court in Ohio on Tuesday, would compensate an estimated 8,000 patients who underwent surgery to replace their hip implants, according to a statement from Johnson & Johnson unit Depuy Orthopaedics Inc and lawyers for the plaintiffs.

The company was defending more than 12,000 lawsuits in US state and federal court over injuries allegedly caused by its metal-on-metal ASR hip replacement systems, according to a regulatory filing. Depuy recalled the ASR hip system in 2010, after data suggested that it failed at a higher-than-expected rate.

At the time, the company had sold about 93,000 systems worldwide. Metal hip implant systems like Depuy’s ASR hips were designed to be more durable, replacing a traditional metal-on-plastic ball-and-socket design. Instead, some patients who received the ASR hips reported experiencing pain, swelling, joint dislocation and sometimes damage to the central nervous system, thyroid and heart.

The settlement would compensate plaintiffs who have undergone surgery to replace their hips as of 31 Aug, 2013, the company said Tuesday. The company estimated that 8,000 plaintiffs would be eligible. There is no cap on the amount of individual claims, according to Peter Flowers, one of the lead lawyers for the plaintiffs. Eligible US plaintiffs can seek compensation for costs associated with their revision surgery, as well as payments of qualified liens by healthcare providers associated with the surgery, Flowers said.

Sharp may get OEM deal with Hewlett-Packard in copiers

Tokyo, 21 Nov—Japan’s Sharp Corp may get an original equipment manufacturing (OEM) deal to make copy machines under the Hewlett-Packard brand, a source familiar with the matter said on Wednesday.

Supply of copiers to the US company could begin as early as the second half of the current business year that ends in March 2014, he said, declining to be identified because a formal deal had yet to be signed.

Shares in Sharp were up 7.9 percent at 300 yen in late morning trade, while the benchmark Nikkei average was roughly flat.—Reuters

Mazda CEO says to begin production at key Mexico plant from January

TOKYO, 21 Nov — Mazda Motor Corp (7261.T) will begin production at its new Mexico factory in January, the carmaker’s chief said on Wednesday, describing the plant as a key foreign base for the Japanese company as it pares its reliance on domestic output.

“I just visited the Mexican plant and all preparations are complete,” Mazda’s head, Masamichi Kogai said at a Press conference at the Tokyo Motor Show. “This factory will become a crucial overseas base for Mazda,” he added.

Selling just over a million cars a year and with most of its vehicles built in high-cost Japan, Mazda has struggled to compete with bigger automakers that are 10 times its size. In the four years to March 2012, the companychalked up combined net losses of nearly 250 billion yen ($2.5 billion).

Since losing the backing of Ford Motor Co (FT.N), which once owned a third of the Hiroshima-based company, Mazda has drawn closer to Toyota Motor Co (7203.T) winning access to its hybrid technology. Mazda will also build cars for Toyota at the Mexico plant.—Reuters
US, Australia back Japan in defence policy review

WASHINGTON, 21 Nov — The United States and Australia on Wednesday expressed support for Japan’s defence policy review in a joint statement released after their ministerial talks on security in Washington.

The United States and Australia “support Japan’s efforts to re-examine its security and defence policies,” the joint communiqué said, apparently referring to Japan’s bid to set up a US-style National Security Council and establish a new legal basis to play a greater role in the United Nations Security Council and establish a new US-style National Security Council and establish a new legal basis to play a greater role in the United Nations.

“Japan’s defence policy must take into account the security challenges and regional trends,” the joint communiqué said.

The United States and Australia also welcomed Japan’s participation in the Pacific Partnership, a bilateral security dialogue between the United States and Japan.

A US official said the joint communiqué reflected the “close and strong” alliance between the two countries.

Cold front sweeping across western China

BRUSSELS, 21 Nov — A cold front sweeping across most parts of western China will cause temperatures to drop and strong winds during the next three days, the national observatory forecast on Thursday.

Many regions in north-west and southwest China provinces as well as Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region in the north and Tibet Autonomous Region in the southwest will see their temperatures fall by up to 10 degrees Celsius during the period, the National Meteorological Centre said.

It said moderate snow or sleet will hit Xinjiang and some provinces in northwest and north China, with some of these regions expecting heavy snow during the next three days.

The centre also forecast poor air quality in several regions, as smog is expected to blanket the Provinces of Hebei, Shanxi, Shandong and Jiangsu, as well as Tianjin Municipalities on Thursday and Friday.—Xinhua

US says ‘very hard’ to clinch deal as Iran nuclear talks resume

GENEVA, 21 Nov — Major powers resumed talks on Wednesday on a preliminary agreement to curb Iran’s nuclear programme with the United States warning it would be “very hard” to clinch a breakthrough deal this week and Teheran flagging “red lines”. Each side appeared to tempering anticipation of an imminent agreement after the United States, Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany came close to winning concessions from Teheran in the late round of negotiations two weeks ago.

Rouhani’s government from the six governments have said since said an interim accord on confidence-building steps could finally be within reach to defuse a decade-old standoff and dispel the specter of a wider regional war over the Islamic Republic’s nuclear ambitions. British Foreign Secretary William Hague said remaining differences were narrow in the search for an interim deal that essentially would require Iran to limit its contested uranium enrichment program in exchange for limited relief from sanctions.

“It is the best chance for a long time to make progress on one of the gravest problems in foreign policy,” Hague told a news conference in Istanbul.

The Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said: “We hope the efforts that are being made will be crowned with success at the meeting that opens today in Geneva.” A senior US negotiator was more cautious, telling reporters: “I think we can (get a deal). Whether we will, we will have to see because it is hard. It is very hard... If it was easy to do, it would have been done a long time ago.”

The official, with an eye to prominent skeptics of deal-making with Iran, including Israel and hawks in the US Congress, said the vast majority of sanctions — particularly on Iranian oil exports and banking — would remain intact after any initial pact and Washington would “vigorously” enforce them. On the other hand, a Western diplomat said there was still a “very high probability” that foreign ministers would return to Geneva this week to try to nail down an agreement in the negotiations, expected to run through Friday.

A second Western diplomat expressed guarded optimism about a deal, but said “the ball is in the Iranian court.” Western governments suspect Iran has enriched uranium with the covert aim of developing the means to fuel nuclear weapons, which Teheran denies. Refined uranium is used to run nuclear power stations — Iran’s stated goal — but can also constitute the core of a nuclear bomb, if enriched to a high degree.—Reuters

Colombia’s Santos to stand for re-election in 2014

BOGOTA, 21 Nov — Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos said on Wednesday he will seek a second term in next May’s election, a widely expected decision that could offer him another four years to pursue a peace process he initiated with Marxist FARC rebels.

“I’m running because I’ve convinced we have achieved sufficient and finally it is possible to reach that future of prosperity and peace all Colombians deserve,” Santos, 62, said in a televised address to the nation.

“I’m doing it because when you can see the light at the end of the tunnel you don’t turn back.”

Santos, a Harvard-educated journalist and son of one of the nation’s most influential families, will take on opposition candidate Oscar Ivan Zuluaga in a campaign likely to focus on how peace with the rebels would transform Colombian society after five decades of war.

Polls make Santos a clear favourite to win, though probably in a second round of voting.

Neither candidate would be likely to upset investors as both are former finance ministers and seen as market friendly.

Economic growth has slowed in the last year on the back of weak overseas demand for local industrial goods. But output is expected to pick up in the coming months and provide a boost to Santos.

Reuters

Student shot dead at a Cairo protest

CAIRO, 21 Nov — A student was shot and killed in clashes between supporters of ousted Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi and security forces at Al-Azhar University in Cairo, state newspaper al-Ahram reported on Thursday.

Security forces stormed into the university late on Wednesday, state news agency MENA reported, after they were called in to control the protesters who set fire to trees inside the campus.

The student was hit in the head by birdshot during the clashes and five other students were arrested, al-Ahram reported, adding that students threw rocks and bricks at security forces from behind the campus walls.

Supporters of Mursi’s Muslim Brotherhood protest frequently at the university, which is in the same Cairo suburb as the Rabaa al-Adawiya mosque, scene of a pro-Mursi protest camp where thousands were killed when it was stormed by security forces on 14 August.

Mursi was ousted by the army on 3 July after mass protests against his rule. The move set off some of the worst violence the country has seen in decades and led to a government crackdown against the Muslim Brotherhood in which thousands have been arrested.— Reuters
**Basic domestic science course opened in Zeyathiri Tsp**

**7d Anniversary National Day**

**10th Waning of Tazaungmon, 1375 ME**

(27-11-2013)

**Objectives of 93rd Anniversary National Day**

1. Uplift of national prestige and integrity and dynamism of Union spirit
2. Promotion of national educational standard
3. Perpetuation of independence and sovereignty
4. Building of a new modern, developed nation

**Local News**

**Essay contest marks Int’l Day of Disabled Persons**

KENGTUNG, 21 Nov—As a gesture of hailing the International Day of Disabled Persons which falls on 9 November, a high school level essay contest was held at Basic Education Middle School No 5 in Kengtung of Shan State on 9 November.

In the incident, townace was damaged at front parts. The express bus lost a left shell. SIP Aye Naing and members of No 1 police outpost and SIP Kyaw Zeyar Aung of Myeik Myoma Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against reckless driver Thet Zaw Aung, 24, son of Hla Min Aung, of Taw yakyaung Ward, Highway Bus Terminal, Myeik, under the law.

**Accident**

**High speed Townace hits express bus in Myeik**

**HRD**

**Essay contest marks Int’l Day of Disabled Persons**

KENGTUNG, 21 Nov—A high school level essay contest was held at Basic Education Middle School No 5 in Kengtung of Shan State on 9 November.

A total of 15 students participated in the high school level essay contest under the title of ASEAN Paralympic Games, 15 in the middle school level under the title of Disabled and All Inclusive Education and 18 in the primary level under the title of Helping hands to disabled.

**Myanmar cyclists hope four gold in SEA Games**

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Nov—Myanmar selected cyclists are working on all cylinders in their training to be able to secure gold medals in the coming SEA Games, said coach U Than Oo of Myanmar Cycling Federation.

"Cycling event in the SEA Games is categorized as four classes which are Downhill event, Cross-country event, BMX event and Road Race event." Downhill has two classes as men’s and women’s events. Cross-country event will be divided into three classes such as men’s, women’s and mixed doubles event,” he said.

“BMX has men’s and women’s events. Road Race has women’s 30-km singles event and women’s 128-km long range event. Two gold medals will be awarded to the winners. In the SEA Games, 17 gold medals will be presented to the winners in the cycling event,” he explained.

Myanmar cyclists have made their trips to China to take joint trainings. At present, they are undergoing training at Gold Camp in Nay Pyi Taw.

The federation has selected 17 men and 13 women for the games. They are under training of Chinese, Thai and Korean coaches including Myanmar coaches. With regard to cycling event, Thai, Indonesian and Malaysian cyclists are higher in skills than that of Myanmar cyclists. That is why Myanmar athletes are to win more than four gold medals in the games with concerted efforts. Cycling event will take place in Nay Pyi Taw from 12 to 19 December.

**Paddy on model plot harvested in Manauung**

MANAUNG, 21 Nov—The high yield paddy was harvested on model plot in Manauung Township of Kyaukpyu District in Rakhine State in early November. The local farmers and staff of Agriculture Department participated in the harvesting works.

They were supervised by Township Administrator U Lu Maw, departmental officials, ward and village administrators, development supportive committee members, officials and local farmers.

The two acres of farmland produced 126.23 baskets per acre of Palethwe monsoon hybrid paddy.

**National Sports**

**The signboard hailing XXVII SEA Games erected on Pyay Road at 8th-Mile Junction of Mayangon Township in Yangon Region on 19 November.—MMAL-015**
Economy based on nationalistic fervour

The National Day is held annually on 10th Waning Day of Tazaungmon. It is a day on which nationalistic fervour was conceived and in providing financial and technological aids to companies is pivotal. Business and financial institutions are obliged to provide assistance as capital, technological aids and seeking market for the small enterprises without considering solely their own interest. This is an economy based on nationalistic fervour that can bring about national development.

As we are now working hard for the country to be economically viable with the help of global partners, we must do so with the understanding that nationalistic fervour and patriotism are essential to successfully dealing with changes that will arise. Only then, will we be able to build a modern and developed nation aspired by all the people. And that is physically possible. Nations such as EU, Japan, the United States of America and Norway are engaged in providing financial and technological aids to us and making investment in the country. Making the most of the packages to be provided, we are to make all-out efforts for development of SMEs based on nationalistic fervour and patriotism while striving for economic development of the State.

Recently, I was invited to a short training course conducted by a government department to give some lectures. The course was set apart for capacity building which is the most essential requirement for national development and the task of nurturing young personal to become those who will contribute a great deal towards political, economic and social development. As for me, whenever I am invited to such courses, I never fail to accept the offers as I am eager to give a helping hand to youths who have the thirst for knowledge and constant learning. I believe that the more our youths spend their time in learning, the more it is beneficial to them and to the nation. What I want most is to see our youths devote themselves to learning, particularly reading books.

That is why many readers may have noticed that I have been trying to drive home this point hundreds and at other times not so subtly. Regarding the capacity building of youths, at the Plenary Session of Myanmar-EU Task Force Meeting held at Myanmar International Convention Centre (MICC) in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 November, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein commented: “...A special focus in the following years will be youthful. We want to provide more opportunities to Myanmar’s youths who are eager to learn. We have recently revived the ‘Boy Scout Clubs’ and the ‘outstanding students awards’. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the European partners for supporting these efforts by providing scholarships and other initiatives.”

Besides, in the message sent to the 65th Anniversary Independence Day, the President urged, “It is necessary to nurture youths to become the ones with qualified human resources. ... Only the youths equipped with better health, high education standards and true patriotism could create the developments need peace and stability for the future Myanmar.”

Even from a layman’s point of view, capacity building or human resource development, with the kind of all-round endeavours we have been making is the most natural thing to do. Capacity building is for the uplift of the living standard or the quality of life of all concerned. The more our youths are equipped with capabilities in all spheres of human endeavours, the more successful we will be in what we strive to do.

Nurturing is very encouraging to see that many government departments are conducting the training courses on capacity building. Most of them conduct English language courses, exper-tise courses and multiplier courses in succession as part of plans to enhance human resources development. The courses will help the youth trainees assess the past, present and future, having the opportunity to exchange knowledge and experiences while attending the courses. Having attended the courses, the trainees will be better imbued with the role they must play in various sectors.

What is more, the visiting lecturers who are well-versed in their subjects and those who have experiences in their fields recount history. Then, President Mr. Jeong Ho Kim of DASAN Consultant Co Ltd extended greetings. The experts from DASAN Consultant Co Ltd made clarifications on progress of road, bridge, building and tunnel construction technology for development of road transport sector of Myanmar in the meeting hall of the ministry, here, this morning, with an opening address by Union Minister U Kyaw Lwin.

Maung Hlaing

Maung Hlaing

Korea to assist in road transport sector development of Myanmar

Nav Pyi Taw, 21 Nov—Public Works under the Ministry of Construction and DASAN Consultant Co Ltd of the Republic of Korea jointly conducted a seminar on progress of road, bridge, building and tunnel construction technology for development of road transport sector of Myanmar at the meeting hall of the ministry, here, this morning, with an opening address by Union Minister U Kyaw Lwin.

Nations such as EU, Japan, the United States of America and Norway are engaged in providing financial and technological aids to us and making investment in the country. Making the most of the packages to be provided, we are to make all-out efforts for development of SMEs based on nationalistic fervour and patriotism while striving for economic development of the State.
Mongolian President concludes goodwill visit

YANGON, 21 Nov—A goodwill delegation led by Mr. Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, President of Mongolia, left Yangon by air this morning. They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Region Development Affairs Minister Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA

2015 elections to be held in a free and fair manner

YANGON, 21 Nov—The Union Election Commission, Committee for Drawing Strategic Programme and 24 civil societies held discussions on a strategic plan at Inya Lake Hotel, here, this morning.

The Union Election Commission started drawing of the strategic programme in July this year. It is planned to complete the work in early 2014 after making discussions with political parties and civil societies to hold free and fair 2015 general elections.

Commission member Dr Daw Myint Kyi-led Committee for formulation of Strategic Programme was formed to develop a five-year programme within six months with the assistance of International Foundation for Electoral Systems-IFES.

The strategic programme includes goal, duties and guidelines, 12 specific objectives and responsibilities, work programmes and budget for each section.

Moreover, it will include a sector that monitors electoral process of the commission. As those involved in various fields sent their comments and suggestions to the committee, the commission will review them to complete a strategic plan before January 2014. Regarding the discussions of the responsible persons of civil societies, Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye called on civil societies to participate in making voting lists to be able to hold systematic election in 2015.

The commission staffs are trying hard to make voting lists exactly, taking lessons from the weak point of 2010 general elections, he said. The commission will carry out its tasks in accord with the law and convenience of the people arrested in the combing operations as of 19 November.

Arms and ammunition seized at hideout during combing operations in Monesi region

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Nov—According to a tip-off of local people in Monesi region in Kayin Township, a combined force comprising security members of the local bat-talion and counter-narcotics police conducted combing operations as of 19 November. A fighting between the combined force and a group (under investigation) consisting of about 10 broke out at a place, five-mile south-east of Monesi village on 20 November afternoon and the group left the scene.

Next, the force proceeded to a place, three-mile east of the village, and arrested 11 people while combing a hideout which is believed to be a place where narcotic drugs are produced at about 6 pm. They also seized 22 small arms, 897 rounds of ammunition, 13 grenades, two bombs, 19 magazines, one night-vision goggle, one silencer, one sniper glass, 6.3 kilograms of heroin, 12.7 kilograms of morphone, 0.8 kilograms of raw opium, 3.1 grams of opium paste, 4.5 kilograms of brown powder, 7200 stimulant tablets, equipment used for making narcotic drugs and a small vehicle in the buildings—one two-storey building, one-storey building, one CI sheet-roofed mess building and one makeshift quarter—situated at the environs of the camp where there are one two-storey building, one-storey building, one CI sheet-roofed mess building and one makeshift quarter. The seized narcotic drugs are worth K 237.1 million.

According to the Ministry of Defence, investigation is ongoing regarding the people arrested in the combing operation.—Myawady

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann greets those present at the meeting with supportive committees for ward/village development in Zeyathiri Township.—MNA

Union SWRR Minister meets ADPC Managing Director

YANGON, 21 Nov—Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Settle-ment Dr Daw Myint Myat Ohn Khin received Managing Director Prof. Dr Kra-sawe Chanawon of Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) at Day Care Center for the Aged, here, yesterday.

They held talks on holding of the 11th Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management in Myanmar and further coop-eration in human resources development and risk man-agement measures between the two organizations. MNA

Myanmar’s vision for sustainable development through green economy green growth initiatives

YANGON, 21 Nov—With the aim of realizing green economy through effective utilization of energy, water and food, moving forward and faster, local and foreign scholars took part in the first day session of the Third Green Economy Green Growth in Yangon today.

Scholars from Japan, Thailand and India gave talks on natural resources monitoring and conserva-tion management, focusing on effectual implementa-tion of urban plans, waste management, exploitation of energy sources and hydropower projects without bias.—MNA

Union Election Commission, Committee for Drawing Strategic Programme and 24 civil societies discuss a strategic plan for holding 2015 elections at Inya Lake Hotel.—MNA

Photo shows seized ammunition, grenades, bombs, magazines, heroin, raw opium and related items. MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets ward/village development supportive committees in Zeyathiri Township

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Nov—A meeting between Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hlut-taw Thura U Shwe Mann and supportive committees for ward/village development in Zeyathiri Township took place at the township administrator’s office, here, this morning.

First, the Speaker deliv-ered an address. Next, responsible persons of the committees reported on progress in respective works and administrative of-ficials on works to be done during 2013-2014 FY.

Then, the Speaker co-coordinated the matters related to effective use of development funds on availability of drinking water, construction of roads and bridges, educa-tion and health sectors and other primary needs of the region with officials con-cerned.—MNA

NATIONAL
An ancient boat namely ZEDI curved in a big log with the measurement of 57 feet in length and 6.5 feet in wide is being maintained downstairs of the monastery in Tagundaing Village of Indaw Township, Sagaing Region.

In the time of King Thibaw, Meza seven villages administrator Sayadaw U Chein (a) U Asabha made trips to his Tagundaing Village by car and motorcycle smoothly.

Signboard on 24th Anniversary of UN Convention on Rights of Child, International Children’s Day unveiled

Meiktila, 21 Nov — The Interfaith Friendship Group held a meeting at the hall of Myanmar Medical Association in Thiri Mingala Ward of Meiktila on 18 November.

It was attended by Bhaddanta Janita (Pahtamagya Dhama-çariya Monastery), Bhaddanta Visuddha (YadanaU Monastery), Bhaddanta Obhasa (Aint Village Monastery), Dr Khin Soe, Dr Tin Sein, Dr Myint Oo, Father U Nyi Nyi Htwe and members, Islamict U San Lwin and members and Township Students Union Chairman Aung Nay Paing totalling 30.

Religious Affairs

Interfaith friendship group meets in Meiktila

Livestock Breeding

Insemination course for livestock breeders

Mandalay, 21 Nov — The insemination course No 1/2013 was opened at the hall of Mandalay Region Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department in Mandalay on 19 November.

It was attended by officials of Mandalay Region and District LBVDs, Fisheries Department and Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation.

Head of Mandalay District LBVD Dr Aung Kyi Oo made an opening speech.

Altogether 30 trainees are attending the course up to 23 November.

Photo shows an ancient boat Zedi made of teak log in Tagundaing Village of Indaw Township.

Roads repaved, expanded in Mandalay for traffic safety

Mandalay, 21 Nov — Mandalay City Development Committee repaved the roads and constructed new ones in its area in respective fiscal years.

The committee upgraded the traffic congested roads such as 12th, 19th, 26th, 30th, 35th, 41st Streets, Sagaing Junction, Manawhari Road, Myawady Mingyi Road, Thayawady Mingyi Road, Tagundaing Shortcut, Sagaing-Mandalay Road, 84th Street, 80th street, 78th street, Yangon-Mandalay Highway, 73rd Road, 66th Street, 62nd Street and so on.

A total of 300,000 bicycles and 500,000 motorcycles are running along the roads of Mandalay daily so the traffic congestions cause one after another. The separate ways for bicycles and motorbikes have been paved along eastern part of Yangon—Mandalay Highway between Myawady Mingyi and Theikpan Street.

Myeik, 21 Nov — A ceremony to unveil the signboard of 24th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Children’s Day was held on the entrance road to the highway bus terminal in Tawyakyang Ward of Kalwin Village-tract in Myeik of Taninthayi Region on 20 November.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Thein Win, Principal of Women’s Vocational Training School Daw Maw Maw Oo and Project Staff U Aung Win of World Vision (Myanmar) for Myeik Region Development Department Office formally unveiled the signboard.

Kyemon-Moe Hein (Myeik)

Construction

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Kyemon-Moe Hein (Myeik)

Culture

area seven villages and to Royal Palace with the use of Min Kyaw, Zaw Pyan and Zedi boats. Zedi boat is shape of Laung Boat. In the time of King Thibaw, Min Kyaw boat which was larger than Zedi boat was destroyed. Even the people of over 90 years old did not know how the boats were used in its time. Boat Zedi is now cracked at the keel, so it cannot be used. Those wishing to observe the boat are invited to view it here,” said Tagundaing Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vilasagga.

Tagundaing Village is constituted with 140 houses and about 1000 people. It is 10 miles distance to Indaw. The visitors may go to Tagundaing Village by car and motorcycle smoothly.

Kyemon-Ko Min (Indaw)

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Photo shows a flock of milk cows at a shed.
TEPCO transfers 1st batch of fuel rods from Fukushima No 4 spent fuel pool

Tokyo, 21 Nov — The operator of the crippled Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Co plans to permanently shut down the two reactors that avoided meltdowns during the 2011 accident. The No 4 unit suffered a reactor meltdown, while the No 6 unit suffered a core melt-through on May 12, 2011. The operator had previously said it would seek to restart the No 5 and No 7 reactors.

A September 2013 file photo shows the No 5 (L) and No 6 reactor units of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station in Fukushima Prefecture. Tokyo Electric Power Co plans to permanently shut down the two reactors that avoided meltdowns during the 2011 accident, company sources said on 20 Nov, 2013. — Kyodo News

Strong gales halt train services in Xinjiang

RUMOI, 21 Nov — Strong gales halted 12 train services on the Southern Xinjiang Railway in northwest China’s Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region on Thursday, the local railway bureau said. A service from Kashgar, three from Korla, three from Aksu and a train from Xi’an to Korla, have been suspended since 3:08 a.m. after winds between Turpan and Yuerqou stations reached 126 km per hour, an official with the Urumqi Railway Bureau said. Another four cargo and passenger trains have been canceled. It is not known when the trains will resume operations, according to the railway bureau. — Xinhua

President praises submarine forces

BEIJING, 21 Nov — Chinese President Xi Jinping commended soldiers of a submarine base for their fighting capacity and spirit of utter devotion. Xi, also chairman of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Military Commission, said in a special instruction that submarine forces have demonstrated faith in the Party’s command, fighting capacity to win battles, and willingness to sacrifice. Vice Chairman Xu Qiliang of the Central Military Commission met Wednesday with representatives of the submarine forces and extended regards to them on behalf of President Xi at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Xu appreciated the troops’ dedication and contribution to the development of China’s nuclear submarines over the past 42 years. Xu also called on the submariners to strengthen their fighting capacity to build powerful naval forces. — Xinhua

China orders combat-oriented reforms in military schools

BEIJING, 21 Nov — China’s military schools have begun reforming curriculum and management of their students to boost real combat abilities, sources with the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) have said. Military academies and universities will foster talent in accordance with the goals of strengthening the army and boosting students’ ideological and political quality, adopting a combat-oriented educational system, according to a statement released on Wednesday by the training department under the PLA headquarters of general staff. “Concrete efforts should be made to cultivate high-quality military talents that are capable of participating in and winning a war,” the statement said. According to the statement, the reform will also unify teaching materials, innovate in teaching methods for combat command and hone a performance-based reward and penalty mechanism for students. — Xinhua

Brunei sends first relief team to Typhoon worst-hit Tacloban, Philippines

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 21 Nov — Brunei has rendered further aid to the Philippines by sending its first relief team of personnel to typhoon-ravaged Tacloban to provide assistance at the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA) in distributing food and water to disaster victims, government sources said Thursday. The relief team left the country Wednesday on board Royal Brunei Armed Forces’ aircraft, CN235 and will remain in the affected area for a week.

Shahbani Hj Abdul Halim, head of the relief team, in an interview said “We will be staying in a makeshift camp for at least a week to provide assistance to the AHA Centre. If required, we may stay longer.”

Brunei has also airlifted humanitarian aid weighing 1,375 kilograms including water and food on the flight.

A communications officer at the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance (AHA) Centre lauded Brunei’s swift response in sending relief goods and supporting ASEAN operations. In fact, among the very first ASEAN responders to the affected area were two members from the ASEAN Emergency Rapid Assessment Team in Brunei.

The relief team will assist in facilitating the distribution of aid from Brunei to the Philippines. Further updates will be monitored from time to time through the AHA Centre and the Brunei Embassy in Manila.

Local media reports said the military is scheduled to continue sending relief aid from Brunei to affected areas in the Philippines by air and sea cargo on Friday. The first two batches of relief was delivered by the Royal Brunei Armed Forces’ military transport aircraft and the Royal Brunei Navy ship respectively on 15 November.

The third batch of relief supplies was transported by another military aircraft on 17 November. Brunei will be sending another batch of humanitarian aids on 22 November. — Kyodo News

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Two killed in Total refinery explosion in Belgium’s Antwerp

BRUSSELS, 21 Nov — Two people were killed Tuesday afternoon in an explosion at a Total refinery in Antwerp, northern Belgium, confirmed the French oil giant.

The explosion occurred in a steam system of a gasoline production unit. Total said in a statement, declaring the death of two employees of a subcontractor company.

Earlier reports quoting the company as saying that one person died and two others were missing following the incident which happened at about 1400 GMT.

The leakage problem that existed for several days on the valve of a steam turbine should be the cause of the accident, reported local daily Gazet van Antwerpen.

Located in the port area of Antwerp, the refinery is the largest and most complex of the group, the third largest in Europe. It can transform every year 17 million tons of crude oil into fuels and raw materials for the petrochemical industry.

The refinery was “evacuated”, its facilities were “stop” and there was “no impact on the environment,” said Total.—Xinhua
Singer Madonna performs at the Staples Centre as part of her MDNA world tour in Los Angeles, California in this on 10 Oct, 2012 file photo.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 21 Nov—The “Material Girl” still has it. Madonna easily surpassed singer Lady Gaga and veteran rockers Bon Jovi as the highest-paid musician in 2013, Forbes said on Tuesday.

With cotton and corn husks, actress connects to her ‘12 Years a Slave’ character

LOS ANGELES, 21 Nov —In preparing for her first film role as a petite, hard-labouring slave in “12 Years a Slave,” actress Lupita Nyong’o sized herself up against 500 pounds of cotton, which her character Patsey picked every day.

The pike was taller and wider and thicker than me,” says Nyong’o. “And I was presented with this woman’s loftiness.”

Conveying that loftiness proved to be a key to Nyong’o’s performance, one that has generated critical acclaim for the Hollywood newcomer and predictions she will earn a best supporting actress Oscar nomination.

The film itself is considered a heavyweight Oscar contender, having won widespread praise for its brutal depiction of pre-Civil War American slavery. “12 Years a Slave” is based on the 1853 memoir of Solomon Northup, a free black man tricked and sold into slavery who cannot fathom the hell he has landed in on Louisiana plantations. He is played by British actor Chiwetel Ejiofor.

Patsey has the unfortunate lot of not only being a slave but also the object of love and sexual desire of her master, the cruel and conflicted Edwin Epps played by Michael Fassbender.

As it turned out, Patsey proved to be the big casting challenge for British director Steve McQueen.

“Lupita, that was crazy,” McQueen told Reuters at the Toronto Film Festival where the film won the top award. “It was like looking for Scarlett O’Hara, over a thousand women interviewed and finally we got to her. I just couldn’t believe it. Wow. She came from Mars.”

Nyong’o was born in Mexico 30 years ago (hence the Mexican name Lupita) where her Kenyan father was in political exile, but they moved back to Kenya when she was 1. She was educated in the United States and was graduating from Yale University’s School of Drama just as she prepared her first-ever audition tape for McQueen’s film. After a grueling audition with a Hollywood casting director, Nyong’o then auditioned in person for McQueen in Louisiana. He called her the next day.

Madonna earned $125 million, most of which was from her hugely successful MDNA tour, which grossed $305 million, as well as merchandise sold at concerts and a clothing line and fragrance.

“Madonna is living up to her nickname: the Material Girl tops our list of the top-earning musicians by a wide margin,” Forbes said.

Second-place Lady Gaga, 27, earned $80 million and Bon Jovi, came in third with $79 million.

Like Madonna, 55, they all had hefty earnings from tours. Lady Gaga’s latest tour brought in $168 million before it was cut short due to her hip injury that required surgery. Bon Jovi’s concerts gross more than $3 million per city.

Forbes compiled the list of the 25 highest-paid musicians by estimating income for the 12 months between June 2012 and June 2013 using data from the trade publication Pollstar, trade organization RIAA, and information and sales tracking system Nielsen SoundScan.

The magazine also consulted with industry lawyers, managers and some of the musicians.—Reuters

Still the “Material Girl”, Madonna out earns Lady Gaga on Forbes list

Author James McBride gestures during the “Miracle at St Anna” news conference at the 33rd Toronto International Film Festival on 7 Sept, 2008. REUTERS
Barcelona keeper Valdes out till end of year

MADRID, 21 Nov — Barcelona goalkeeper Victor Valdes is likely to be out of action until the end of the year after suffering a calf strain during Spain’s surprise defeat by South Africa on Tuesday, the club said in a statement on their website.

It is another blow for Barcelona, who have a number of injury problems, and for Valdes who plans to leave the club when his contract runs out at the end of the season.

“Injuries never come at a good time and it is unusual for a keeper to get a leg injury but this is the situation and we will have to deal with it,” Barcelona sports director Andoni Zubizarreta told Radio Marca.

The friendly in South Africa began as a night of nostalgia with Spain back at the scene of their 2010 World Cup triumph in Johannesburg but they lost 1-0 with a midfield that struggled to link up and an attack that lacked cutting edge.

Andres Iniesta was one of the few Spanish players to come out of the game with any credit in a team missing a string of other Barcelona men.

Midfielders Xavi Hernandez and Cesc Fabregas were unavailable due to injuries along with defenders Gerard Pique and Jordi Alba. Barca coach Tata Martino also has to deal with the absence of World Player of the Year Lionel Messi while Dani Alves and Javier Mascherano have returned from international duty with strains.

Cristian Tello is also injured so there could be a chance for Pedro Rodriguez, who started for Spain on Tuesday, to stake a claim for a regular.

Valdes’s understudy is the veteran Jose Manuel Pinto who has had little first-team action in recent seasons and is not a player the board have shown confidence in.

His contract runs out at the end of the season and there are no signs at this stage of a new deal being offered to him.

Pepe Reina, on loan at Napoli from Liverpool and who replaced Valdes after 81 minutes against South Africa, and Borussia Moenchengladbach’s Marc-Andre ter Stegen have been linked with a move to Barcelona next year. — Reuters

Ceni ties Pele mark, but Ponte Preta ruin his day

GOALKEEPER Rogerio Ceni of Copa Sudamericana champion Sao Paulo kicks the ball during the Suruga bank soccer championship match against J league Yamazaki Nabisco Cup champion Kashima Antlers in Kashima, east of Tokyo on 7 Aug, 2013.— Reuters

SAO PAULO, 21 Nov — Rogerio Ceni tied Pelé’s mark for most appearance at a Brazilian club on Wednesday but his 1,115th game in goal for Sao Paulo was not to savour as his side went down 3-1 to Ponte Preta in the first leg of the Copa Sudamericana semi-final.

The 40-year old keeper, who made his debut in 1993, takes most of the team’s free kicks and penalties and has scored 113 times, more than any other goalkeeper.

However, he could do little to stop his unfancied opponents, playing in their first international competition from grabbing a crucial first-leg lead.

Paulo Henrique Ganso’s 20th minute goal was cancelled out by an own goal from Antonio Carlos seconds before halftime, and then Leonardo slapped home a loose ball after Ceni could only parry a Fernando Bob shot in the 52nd minute.

Uendel added a third 19 minutes later when his deflected shot wrongfooted the Sao Paulo goalkeeper.

The second leg takes place next week with the winner facing Argentine side Lanus or Paraguay’s Libertad in the final month next.

Before that, Ceni is expected to overtake Pele’s mark when he turns out against Botafogo in the league on Sunday.

Armstrong settles $3 million lawsuit over bonuses

PARIS, 21 Nov — Disgraced cyclist Lance Armstrong has reached a settlement with an insurance company over $3 million in performance bonuses paid to him from 1999 to 2001, his spokesman said on Wednesday.

Nebraska-based Acceptance Insurance had sued Armstrong and his former team’s management company after the American cyclist was handed a life ban by the US Anti-Doping Agency investigation.

Armstrong confessed in an interview with Oprah Winfrey in January that he used performance-enhancing drugs to fuel his way to the Tour de France wins.

The Acceptance Insurance lawsuit, filed in Austin, Texas, said his lies had voided his policy with the insurance company. “It has been settled,” Armstrong spokesman Mark Higgins told Reuters via email without disclosing any further details.

The settlement came just one day before Armstrong, 42, was scheduled to give sworn testimony in court in the case. Armstrong and his business partners still face a federal lawsuit over charges of defrauding the US Postal Service of endorsement money through Armstrong’s use of performance-enhancing drugs. Former Armstrong team mate Floyd Landis brought the suit in 2010 under a federal law that allows whistleblowers to report fraud committed against the government in exchange for a reward. — Reuters

Injured Messi uncertain about comeback date

BARCELONA, 21 Nov — Golden Boot winner Lionel Messi is uncertain when he will return to action for Barcelona having suffered a series of injuries this season.

It has been a frustrating run for the Argentine who was presented with the Golden Boot trophy in Barcelona on Wednesday for a record third time having hit 46 goals in the 2012-13 La Liga season.

“I am very happy to receive the award even though it isn’t objective. It shows how well the team has been playing and it reflects the group as a whole who have supported me,” said Messi on receiving the award for top goalscorer in the European leagues.

However, Messi conceded it was unclear when he would be fit again after suffering yet another hamstring strain in the first half of Barcelona’s La Liga match against Real Betis on 10 November.

“My target is to get back and enjoying playing again,” Club vice-president Josep Bartomeu has said Messi could be ready with in three weeks but Barca are giving him longer to build up his legs.

This is Messi’s fourth injury, with the first during pre-season, as hamstring strains have returned to plague him.

Teams qualified for the 2014 World Cup

LODZ, 21 Nov — Following are the 32 teams qualified for the 2014 World Cup finals after Uruguay filled the final qualifying berth on Tuesday. Draw for the tournament is on 6 December.

EUROPE
Netherlands, Italy, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, England, Russia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Portugal, France

ASIA
Japan, Australia, Iran, South Korea

SOUTH AMERICA
Brazil (hosts), Argentina, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Uruguay

CONCACAF
United States, Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico

AFRICA
Nigeria, Cote d’Ivoire, Cameroon, Ghana, Algeria

OCEANIA
No qualifiers.—Xinhua
China inaugurates Confucius Institute US Centre in Washington

WASHINGTON, 21 Nov — Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong, who’s visiting the United States, inaugurated the Confucius Institute US Centre in Washington Wednesday.

Liu didn’t give an address, but Ministry of Education Yuan Guiren said in a speech at the ceremony that as the relationship between China and the rest of the world deepens, the global yearning to learn Chinese has experienced rapid growth, noting China has established over 430 Confucius Institutes around the world, with the United States accounting for 98 of them.

However, the growth means the schools and universities hosting the institutes are demanding higher quality services from Confucius Institutes headquarters in Beijing, said Yuan, adding that establishing a regional center in the United States can provide them with a closer-to-home service platform.

It can also offer the US public an open and transparent channel to learn about Confucius Institutes, as well as a way for the institutes to conduct cooperation and resource sharing, he said.

Steve Knapp, president of the George Washington University who is to serve as president of the US centre council, the governing body of the centre, said in his remarks that Confucius Institutes provide a unique platform for invaluable cultural educational opportunities for students and faculties across the United States, bringing together two cultures to create the exchange of knowledge, language and China studies.

“It’s hard to imagine a deeper or richer way to build the partnership between our two great nations,” said Knapp, adding the establishment of the US centre in Washington can make it easier for all universities which hosts Confucius Institutes or have partnerships with them to access its advice and assistance, as well as improving the public understanding of the institutes and their programmes.

Xinhua

Work begins to remove iconic lights at Olympic stadium

LONDON, 21 Nov — The £322.06 million transformation of the 14 iconic triangular floodlights on top of London’s Olympic Stadium began on Wednesday as its transformation into the home of Premier League club West Ham United continued.

The 500 tonne lighting towers, a defining symbol of the 2012 Games and an addition to the east London landscape, will be taken down and replaced with similar-looking lights underneath a new 45,000 square metres roof. Work was controversially accepted as the preferred bidder to become long-term tenants at the stadium last December after a lengthy saga over its future use, and are planning to begin the 2016-17 season at their new home.

“This marks a key milestone in the stunning, 200 million pounds ($322.06 million) transformation of the Olympic Stadium - one that will culminate in an iconic new home for our club, West Ham’s vice-chairman Karren Brady told the club’s website on Wednesday.

“My team and I fought exceptionally hard on behalf of our supporters to ensure these modifications, which have paramount importance to our supporters, took effect.”

The roof is being redesigned to cover all the seats, some of which will be retractable so that the running track can remain in place. The capacity of the stadium, which cost 430 million pounds to build, will reduce from 80,000 to around 55,000 once the expensive re-modelling, some of which is being met by the British taxpayer, is complete.

“It was vital for us that this stadium offers an incredible viewing experience for West Ham fans and I think that will become ever clearer as the conversion progresses,” Brady said.

“We’re wholly committed to delivering a state-of-the-art home for West Ham United by 2016 that will honour the Olympic legacy pledge. Today represents another significant step toward that hugely exciting goal.” Before West Ham move in, the stadium will host some matches in the 2015 Rugby World Cup. The decision to hand West Ham a 99-year lease was met with criticism from former sports minister Richard Caborn saying the deal between the club and the London Legacy Development Corporation, the public body responsible for the stadium, “the biggest mistake in the Olympics.”

Myanmar TV (22-Oct-2013, Friday)

6:00 am 1. Parita By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
6:15 am 2. Physical Exercise
6:50 am 3. Documentary
7:00 am 4. News/Weather Report
7:20 am 5. Hyper Sports
8:00 am 6. News/International News
8:25 am 7. India Drama Series
9:00 am 8. News/International News
9:25 am 9. Mono Classical Songs
10:00 am 10. News
10:15 am 11. Documentary (traffic) (an mv exit special)
10:40 am 12. Clever
11:10 am 13. Performance by State Traditional Orchestra
12:00 pm 14. News/International News/Weather Report
12:25 pm 15. Myanmar Video
12:45 pm 16. Hyper Sports
3:00 pm 17. News
3:15 pm 18. Teleplay
4:00 pm 19. News
7:00 pm 20. The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies
4:30 pm 21. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Physics)
5:00 pm 22. News
5:15 pm 23. Documentary (SEA Games)
6:00 pm 24. India Drama Series
6:30 pm 25. News/Weather Report
6:45 pm 26. Amazing World
6:50 pm 27. Documentary
7:05 pm 28. News
7:20 pm 29. Pyi Thu Ni Ti
8:00 pm 30. News/International News/Weather Report
8:35 pm 31. People Talks
8:45 pm 32. Hit Songs of Stars
9:00 pm 33. News
9:30 pm 34. Hyper Sports
36. Traditional Boxing

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Golden age of Myanmar sports to take shape at upcoming 27th SEA Games

The President of Myanmar Sports Victory Committee, Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Htaih, at Winnath Theikdhi Gymnasium No (2), here, this morning, expressed his belief that sports athletes will make great strides in translating the hopes and dreams of the entire people into a tangible one, bagging numbers of medals at the upcoming historic event, SEA Games, which is going to be hosted in Myanmar after half of century. Now is the time when the people across the country are welcoming the upcoming SEA Games, flying SEA Games flags, lifting SEA Games spirits and expressing their beliefs that Myanmar will be able to hold the regional sporting event on a grand scale and win victories in the competitions, he added.

He stressed the need to dutifully serve as goodwill diplomats among ASEAN countries by competing in the games in accord with the motto “Green, Clean and Friendship”.

Next, the Vice-President handed over the State Flag to Chairman of Myanmar Sports Victory Committee for SEA Games success.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives delegation of APG

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint received a delegation led by Executive Secretary Mr Gordon Philip Hook of Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) at the hall 1-G of Amyotha Hluttaw Building, here, at 10 am today.

MRTV inks MoU with ABC International

MRTV inks MoU with ABC International

18 days to XXVII SEA Games

Myanmar jockeys in Pre-SEA Games Equestrian Test match

The President of Myanmar Equestrian Federation and officials closely supervised the test match for enabling the Myanmar jockeys and horses to sweep the gold medals.

MoU signing ceremony between Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) and Australian Broadcasting Cooperation-ABC International in progress.

Rails toply on Yangon-Bagan-Pakkoku route on 24 Nov

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Minister for Information U Pwe Htwe and officials. The CEO of ABC International was accompanied by Australian Ambassador to Myanmar and officials.