President U Thein Sein attends ceremony to lay cornerstones for the place where the Buddha attained Nibbana

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Nov — A ceremony to lay cornerstones for the construction of the place where the Buddha attained Nibbana was held at the four Samvejaniya places in Ottarathiri Township, here, this morning. Also present on the occasion were members of the Sangha led by Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Nay Pyi Taw, 2

Dr. Bhaddanta Kumarabhidamna, President U Thein Sein, Vice-President Dr Sai Maik Kham and U Nyan Tun, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior-General Soe Win, Chairman of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Mya Thein, the Union ministers, the Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air), senior military officers, the deputy ministers, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council, departmental heads and wellwishers.

The congregation led by the President received the Nine Precepts from Agga Maha Saddhammojikadaja Bhaddanta Kusala, Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abbot of Manawha Monestary in Hleseik Township, Yangon Region at Sasana Beikman.

President U Thein Sein lays cornerstones for place where the Buddha attained Nibbana.

MNA

Ngwehsaung ready for SEA Games yachting event

Now is the time when monsoon is going to end and winter is approaching. Now I am in a room of Emerald Sea Resort hotel fronting the sea in Ngwehsaung. I felt fresh cool wind passing through the sea and saw row after row of sea waves reaching the beach.

Ngwehsaung is a natural scenery beach. It is situated in Pathein District of Ayeyawady Region and it is 114 miles from Yangon. With nine miles in length, Ngwehsaung is the longest coastal beach in Myanmar. The government opened Ngwehsaung beach resort in 2000 and now it has 20 hotels with 1000 rooms in total, hosting around half a million local and foreign visitors a year.

Thanks to its transformation to a recreational beach since last 13 year, the seaside village was upgraded into a town with necessary infrastructures in education and health and a 16-bedded hospital, a high school and concrete roads emerged. As one of sports venues for the upcoming the 27th SEA Games, Ngwehsaung beach will be served as SEA Game’s yachting event. All hotel rooms and reserve rooms are ready to host 25 VIPs and VIPs from Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines, 20 referees and judges at Aureum Palace Hotel and media persons, observers and athletes at Aureum Palace Hotel, Bay of Bengal Resort Hotel, Yuzana Hotel, Myanmar Treasure Hotel and Sunny Paradise Hotel, Central Hotel, Ocean Paradise Hotel and Yomonar Oo Hotel. Room fees and food prices determined by the government will be charged there, U Aung Thaik, vice-chairman of Ngwehsaung Hoteler Association, said.

All in all, Ngwehsaung is ready to host the SEA Games yachting event, making the visitors known not only Myanmar’s natural beauty but also hospitality of its people.

ESIA report on Latpadaungtaung copper mining project to be made public soon

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Nov — A committee to implement the report of the investigation commission on Latpadaungtaung copper mining project held a three-day session at Mount Pleasant Hotel, here, from 19 to 21 November to explain an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) (draft) compiled by Knight Picsold Pty. Ltd in accord with the commission’s report to an environmental conservation team and officials of ministries concerned.

At the session on 19 November, Deputy Minister for Mines U Than Tun Aung, leader of environmental conservation team, stressed the need for greater transparency while implementing the mining project without harming the environment and socio-economy of local people and to implement the project in accord with the international standards as it is a project serving the interests of the country and its people as well as the next generation. He also called for coordination and collaboration between the organizations.

Next, Mr. Brett Loney, expert of Knight Picsold Pty. Ltd, gave the accounts of ESIA report, environmental management plan, social management plan, evaluation and monitoring process and those present held discussions on the draft report.

Storm News

Bengal downgraded into cyclonic storm and has crossed Andhra Pradesh coast near Machillipatnam, India.

According to the observations at (15:30) hrs MST today, the severe cyclonic storm “Helen” over West Central Bay of
Self-reliant electrification undertaken in rural areas of Yaksawk, Pindaya

Alechaung Village located in Kaungboh Village-tract of Yaksawk Township in Taunggyi Township, Shan State (South), is now enjoying electricity on a self-reliant basis as of 20 November.

Taunggyi, 22 Nov—Chief Minister of Shan State U Sao Aung Myat switched on the supply of electricity for Alechaung Village.

Shan State Minister for Electricity and Industry U Sai Tun Yin, Pyithu Hlutaw MP U Khin Maung Myint, Shan State Electrical Engineer U Thein Hay, Managing Director U Ohn Myint of Maga Myint Co and village electrification committee U Aung Than Po opened the ceremony.

The Chief Minister made an opening address. The state minister explained electrification matters.

The chairman of village electrification committee presented commemorative pennants to the Chief Minister and officials.

On arrival at Mongin Village of Pindaya, Danu Self-Administered Zone, the Chief Minister heard reports on electrification of three village-tracts presented Chairman of the committee U Tin Shwe.

Chairman of the Leading Committee of the Danu Self-Administered Zone U Htoo Ko Ko and the State minister reported on arrangements for ensuring electrification in the region.

The Chief Minister gave instructions on supply of electricity to Mongin Village of Pindaya Township. While in Pindaya, the Chief Minister and party looked into progress of electrification matters.

Cash assistance provided to schools in Hsipaw

Hsipaw, 22 Nov—A ceremony to donate cash to the education fund was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department on 20 November.

Chairman of Township Development Supportive Committee U Aung Khin made a speech.

Deputy Township Education Officer U Tun Htaik explained academic matters.

On behalf of the wellwishers, U Yan Tin explained purpose of donation and presented K 2 million to Township Development Supportive Committee and K 2.3 million to the schools through officials.

In memory of late U Yyan Chun Pha, the wellwishers donated cash to monasteries, Sitagu free eye hospital, health and social tasks.

The ceremony was attended by the deputy township administrator and officials, members of the school boards of trustees and school heads and guests.

Kyemon-Myo Myint

Loans disbursed to vendors by Hsipaw DAD

Hsipaw, 22 Nov—Hsipaw Township Development Affairs Department manages Rural Development Bank to disburse loans to vendors.

The third time disbursement for the vendors was held at the town hall in Hsipaw on 20 November.

Chairman of Township Development Affairs Committee U Aung Khin made a speech. Chairman of Microfinance Service Committee Executive Office U Sai Win Myint of Township Development Affairs Committee explained matters related to loans.

Next, the executive officer issued K 16.4 million to 63 vendors. On behalf of the vendors, Vendor Committee member U Zaw Min Htaik spoke words of thanks. Kyemon-Hsipaw Ko Latt

Rural health centre handed over in Nyaunglebin

Nyaunglebin, 22 Nov—Japanese government and people donated one-storey building of rural health centre, 70 feet long and 50 feet wide in Yedwingon Village of Nyaunglebin Township.

Kyemon-Hsipaw Ko Latt

Next, the executive

Chief Minister of Shan State U Sao Aung Myat views devices and equipment used in development tasks of rural areas in townships of Shan State.

Census taking process explained in Mingin Tsp

Mingin, 22 Nov—An educative talks was given at the Dhammayon of Kyaynin Village monastery in Mingin Township of Sagaing Region on 18 November.

The Kyaynin Village administrator made a speech.

Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Hay Su Hlaing explained raising of reading habit and development of human resources, 41 points in taking census to be undertaken across the nation in 2014.

Assistant Head of Township Immigration and National Registration Department Daw Aye Aye Mon explained population, households and laws.

U Muang Maung Soe of village development supportive committee spoke words of thanks.

The talks was attended by local people from Kyaynin, Htangechaung, Po opened the ceremony.

Kyemon-Hsipaw Ko Latt
Typhoon Haiyan, earthquake render 5.2 million Filipino workers jobless

MANILA, 22 Nov—Around 5.2 million workers are now jobless after an earthquake and typhoon Haiyan, locally named “Yolanda,” struck central Philippines, the International Labour Organization (ILO) said on Friday.

ILO Country Director for the Philippines Lawrence Jeff Johnson said many of these workers are at risk of losing their livelihoods permanently.

“Of today, over 5.2 million workers were affected and have lost their livelihoods either temporarily or permanently. This is close to the entire population of the Philippines,” Johnson said in a statement.

He noted that even before the typhoon battered the central Philippines, 2.3 million workers in “vulnerable” employment are already living in poverty—accepting or creating what ever work is available in order to survive.

“This, however, is not just a matter of numbers. We talk about people living in uncertainty,” Johnson said. He called for the need to increase funding for programs aimed at increasing livelihood. The ILO is currently coordinating with the Philippine government in the implementation of an emergency employment program for those severely affected by typhoon Haiyan. Johnson said ILO has deployed six teams to Tacloban City in Leyte, Roxas City in Panay, Northern Cebu, Negros Occidental, and Bohol in central Philippines which was struck by a 7.2-magnitude earthquake on 15 Oct. An ILO team has also been sent to Busuanga in the western Philippine Province of Palawan.

Johnson said the Philippine government needs help considering the massive reconstruction work that needs to be undertaken.—Reuters

Rescue services say 32 dead after Latvia supermarket roof collapse

RIGA, 22 Nov—Rescue services said on Friday that 32 people had died after the roof of a supermarket collapsed in the capital, Riga, the previous day.

“Up to 6 am (local time) 12 people have been found dead, three of them were state fire and rescue service officials,” Latvian rescue services spokeswoman Viktorija Sembele said.

“Overall eight firefighters have been injured,” Sembele said.

The roof of the building collapsed around 6 pm on Thursday. Firefighters who responded were caught in another collapse.—Reuters

US military to set up 13 economic zones to attract foreign investment

BEIJING, 22 Nov—North Korea said on Thursday it plans to set up 13 economic zones as part of its efforts to attract more foreign investment.

The zones, which will offer preferential treatment such as tax breaks, are planned to be established in wide areas in North Korea, including Chongjin in North Hamgyong Province and Wonsan in Kangwon Province, according to the plan released by the country’s official Korean Central News Agency.

Sinopec oil pipeline blast kills 22 in eastern China

QINGDAO, 22 Nov—An explosion in a Sinopec Corp oil pipeline killed 22 people in Qingdao in eastern China on Friday, causing a blaze that took several hours to bring under control and halting the city’s port, state media and ship brokers said.

The explosion in the underground pipeline caused a huge hole to appear in the roadway above and state television showed a truck that had fallen into it, with a residential apartment block in the background.

The local government said on its microblog that the blast happened at 10:30 a.m. (0230 GMT) as workers were trying to repair leaks in the pipeline. It said oil had spilled into the port, which had also caught fire.

Ship brokers said Qingdao oil terminal had stopped operations.

Qingdao is one of China’s largest crude oil import terminals, supplying at least two major Sinopec refiners -- the Qingdao plant and Sinopec Qilu Petrochemical Corp -- as well as many small independent refineries.

The newest maritime patrol aircraft, the P-8A Poseidon, for its first deployment in Japan.

Besides, the DDG-1000 Zumwalt-class stealth destroyer will join in the Pacific Fleet and the Litoral Combat Ship will rotate near Singapore. MH-60 maritime helicopters and Virginia-class attack submarines in Hawaii are also on the list of latest weapons. Harris called this move as a “physical manifestation” and said the US government’s budget cut on the military policy will not affect its rebalance commitment toward Asia and the Pacific.

“Maintaining stability, peace and prosperity is what the US rebalance to the Pacific is all about. And a key component to that policy is strengthening our regional alliances and partnerships,” said Harris.—Xinhua

Japan MSDF relief ship arrives near typhoon-hit island in Philippines

CEBU, (Philippines), 22 Nov — A Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force vessel carrying the bulk of SDF personnel to join emergency response and relief operations teams in the typhoon-hit Philippines arrived Friday near the worst-hit island of Leyte.

Cdr. Takashi Inoue, deputy director of public affairs for the MSDF, told reporters that the Ise escort vessel has arrived at Leyte Gulf carrying the majority of the 1,180 SDF personnel sent to the Philippines in addition to relief goods.

Japan has sent a total of three vessels to the Philippines, with the Osumi transport vessel and Towada supply vessel expected to arrive in Leyte shortly.

The ships will be used to provide medical services and transport relief supplies. The death toll from Typhoon Haiyan has risen to over 4,000 with thousands reported missing, and hundreds of thousands of people displaced, mainly in the central part of the country.—Kyodo News

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Microsoft sues Acacia over smartphone patents

NEW YORK, 22 Nov — Microsoft Corp. filed a lawsuit against Acacia Research Corp on Wednesday, charging that Acacia broke a contract to license various smartphone and mobile computing technologies to the software company. The lawsuit, filed under seal in New York federal court, follows a number of patent infringement lawsuits brought by Acacia subsidiaries against Microsoft in Texas, Delaware and Illinois.

In 2010, Microsoft agreed to pay an Acacia subsidiary to license a portfolio of patents related to smartphones and tablets, more than 800 pounds a year on its network infrastructure in a programme to put it in pole position for when the economy recovers.

The British government estimates that they would spend an extra 7 billion pounds ($11.3 billion) on its network in the next two years to put it in pole position for when the economy recovers.

The current plan is to do a big boost then return to the normal level. “But we could come down at a higher level (after the two years). Also if tomorrow there is a new macro crisis ... and we think this (investment) was necessary for four years down the road and not two years, then we could go lower.”

“Only a few examples of the ‘extinction by infection’ phenomenon exist,” said Andrew Cunningham, from ZSL’s Institute of Zoology. “Although not entirely conclusive, the possibility of chytridiomycosis being associated with the extinction of the northern Darwin’s frog gains further support with this study.” The scientists’ findings were published online on Wednesday in the journal PLOS ONE.

A Nike Duet Max 820 smartphone with Microsoft logo on the screen is shown in a photo illustration taken in the central Bosnian town of Zenica, on 3 Sept. 2013. —Reuters

Reuters

Panasonic to launch fewer digital cameras in fiscal 2014

BANGALORE, 22 Nov — Japanese consumer electronics firm Panasonic Corp will launch about five compact digital cameras next year, half of this year’s number, as it looks to return the business to profitability by fiscal 2014, the Nikkei reported.

Panasonic has been shifting its focus to products for businesses, such as automotive systems and housing fixtures, as it steps back from struggling operations in TVs and other consumer gadgets.

The new cameras, with features such as high-magnification zoom, will cost at least 30,000 yen ($300). Panasonic will focus on mirrorless single-lens models, the business daily said.

The company expects its digital camera business to report losses for the second straight year, Nikkei said. Global digital camera sales will likely fall by more than 2 million units this fiscal year to about 4 million, the newspaper reported.

Reuters

A man browses a Panasonic camera at an electronics shop in Tokyo on 10 May, 2012. —Reuters

Dueling dinosaur fossils fail to sell at New York auction

NEW YORK, 22 Nov — Fossils of two dinosaurs locked in a death match failed to sell at auction on Tuesday despite predictions they would fetch a record $9 million. The top bid for the dinosaur fossils was $5.5 million and did not meet the reserve price, Bonhams auction house said. Pre-sale estimates had had to sell at auction on Tuesday despite predictions they would fetch a record $9 million. The top bid for the dinosaur fossils was $5.5 million and did not meet the reserve price, Bonhams auction house said. Pre-sale estimates had been $7 million to $9 million.

The dueling dinosaurs, which were discovered in Montana in 2006, were two of the most well-preserved dinosaur remains ever unearthed and included pieces of skin, Bonhams said. One of the skeletons belongs to a ceratopsian, which is similar to a triceratops, but there is debate about its opponent. Scientists are unsure if the second animal is a juvenile Tyrannosaurus Rex or a new species. The remains could help settle the question.

The most expensive dinosaur fossil ever sold at auction is a Tyrannosaurus Rex skeleton discovered in the desert of Montana in 1997. Thomas Lindgren, co-director of natural history for Bonhams, said he is confident that the dueling dinos will sell in the future. “We’ve had museums mention that they had difficulty coming up with the funds this quickly. It should be a stone in the coffin, which of course occurred, they want us to be in negotiations immediately,” Lindgren said.

The skeleton of a Nanotyrannus lancensis is displayed as part of the “Montana Dinosaurino and Disunctified Fossil” collection at Bonhams auction house in New York, on 14 Nov, 2013. —Reuters

A Rhinoderma darwini frog is seen in an undated handout photo from the Zoological Society of London. A frog named after Charles Darwin has gone extinct because of a deadly amphibian skin disease, scientists believe. —Reuters

London, 22 Nov — A frog named after Charles Darwin has gone extinct because of a deadly amphibian skin disease, scientists believe. —Reuters

They are notable for having evolved to escape predators by looking like a dead leaf, with a pointy nose, and the fact that the males carry young tadpoles around inside their vocal sacs.

Researchers think the northern Darwin’s frog, one of two species, has been killed off completely by a fungal disease called chytridiomycosis that infects their skin. Numbers of the related southern species have plunged dramatically.

An analysis into the spread of the disease by a team from the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and Chile’s Universidad Andres Bello found that habitat loss contributed to the decline, but this alone could not explain the animal’s demise.

“This is an exciting milestone for the conservation of the red-coated frog,” said Andrew Cunningham, from ZSL’s Institute of Zoology. “Although not entirely conclusive, the possibility of chytridiomycosis being associated with the extinction of the northern Darwin’s frog gains further support with this study.” The scientists’ findings were published online on Wednesday in the journal PLOS ONE.

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Eating nuts makes people live longer

WASHINGTON, 22 Nov — People who ate a daily handful of nuts were 20 percent less likely to die from any cause than those who didn’t consume nuts, a US study said on Wednesday. The research, published in the US journal New England Journal of Medicine, also found regular nut-eaters were more slender than those who didn’t eat nuts, which would alleviate the widespread worry that eating a lot of nuts will lead to overweight.

“The most obvious benefit was a reduction of 29 percent in deaths from heart disease — the major killer of people in America,” Charles Fuchs, senior author and director of the Gastrointestinal Cancer Center at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, an affiliate of Harvard Medical School, said in a statement. “But we also saw a significant reduction — 11 percent — in the risk of dying from cancer,” added Fuchs, who is also affiliated with the Channing Division of Network Medicine at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. It couldn’t be determined whether any specific type of nuts was crucial to the protective effect, said the researchers. However, the reduction in mortality was similar both for peanuts and for “tree nuts” including walnuts, hazelnuts, almonds, Brazil nuts, macadamias, pecans, cashews, pistachios and pine nuts.

Several previous studies have found an association between increasing nut consumption and a lower risk of diseases such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, colon cancer, gallstones, and diverticulitis. Higher nut consumption also has been linked to reductions in cholesterol levels, oxidative stress, inflammation, adiposity, and insulin resistance. Some small studies have linked increased nuts in the diet to lower total mortality in specific populations. But no previous research studies had looked in such details at various levels of nut consumption and their effects on overall mortality in a large population that was followed for more than 30 years, the researchers said.

In the new research, the researchers looked at the association of nut consumption with total and cause-specific mortality among 76,464 women between 1980 and 2010 in the Nurses’ Health Study and 42,498 men from 1986 to 2010 in the Health Professionals Follow-up Study. Participants in the studies filled out detailed food questionnaires every two to four years. With each food questionnaire, participants were asked to estimate how often they consumed nuts in a serving size of one ounce. A typical small packet of peanuts from a vending machine contains one ounce (about 28 grams). “In all these analyses, the more nuts people ate, the less likely they were to die over the 30-year follow-up period,” said Ying Bao, of Brigham and Women’s Hospital, the first author of the report. Those who ate nuts less than once a week had a seven percent reduction in mortality; once a week, 11 percent reduction; two to four times per week, 13 percent reduction; five to six times per week, 15 percent reduction, and seven or more times a week, 20 percent reduction in death rate.

The researchers noted that this large study cannot definitively prove the cause and effect but the findings are strongly consistent with “a wealth of existing observational and clinical trial data to support health benefits of nut consumption on many chronic diseases.”

Children at risk of AIDS should be tested at birth

NEW YORK, 22 Nov — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has warned that the Australian housing market could “overshoot” due to recent jump in house prices and growing investor expectations. In its latest report card on the Australian economy released on Thursday, the IMF suggested the Australian authorities take preventative actions to ensure banks take a more conservative approach to mortgage lending.

“Attention should be paid to the risk — as in any situation where asset price inflation accelerates — that a prolonged period of rapid price growth could give rise to expectations-driven, self-reinforcing demand dynamics and price overshooting,” the IMF said in the report. “A sudden house price decline, were it to occur — possibly triggered by a shock to household incomes and borrowing costs — could reduce consumer confidence and impact overall economic activity.”

The IMF said features of the Australian regulatory and supervisory approach to property lending would help to limit the impact of a sharp decline in house prices on the financial system.

IMF urges Australia to scrutinize property investment lending

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Honda unveils nameless car, says fuel cell drive to take time

LOS ANGELES, 22 Nov — Honda Motor Co Ltd (7267.T) has high hopes for its hydrogen fuel cell vehicle and its advanced technology to reduce tailpipe emissions, although the Japanese carmaker concedes consumers may take a few years to warm to the concept. Honda unveiled the 5-passenger vehicle at the Los Angeles Auto Show on Wednesday. It doesn’t have a name, for now, and is referred to simply by the acronym for a fuel cell electric vehicle — the FCEV Concept. The fuel cell vehicle is expected to launch in the United States and Japan in 2015, but the odds are the car won’t make an appearance in most US showrooms until well beyond that year.

Adoption of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles has been stunted by their high price and a lack of investment in fueling infrastructure. There are currently just 10 public hydrogen fueling stations in the United States, according to the US Department of Energy. “The beginning of the launch, the timing of 2015, I don’t think we will have a big volume,” Tetsuo Iwamura, chief executive of Honda’s US business, told reporters at the Los Angeles Auto Show. Higher volumes will come gradually, he said. Honda did not say how much it expects the vehicle to cost. “This type of technology can’t happen immediately across the US,” he added, saying adoption of fuel cell vehicles would likely begin to grow in small markets like Southern California.

Carlos Ghosn, the CEO of Renault SA (RENA. PA) and Nissan Motor Co (7201.T), echoed Iwamura’s concerns at the Tokyo Motor Show on Wednesday, saying infrastructure costs could stall the uptake of fuel cell cars. California aims to have 1.5 million zero-emissions vehicles, which would include fuel cell cars, on its roads by 2025. Fuel-cell cars use a “stack” of cells that combine hydrogen with oxygen in the air to generate electricity.
**Venezuela to grant more benefits to university students**

CARACAS, 22 Nov — Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro pledged to give greater benefits to university students on Thursday, which marked National University Student Day.

The benefits announced by Maduro at a celebration rally in Caracas include 10,000-US-dollar scholarships to help students study abroad at the “best universities,” and raise the number of university scholarships to 200,000.

The government will also give each university student a tablet and ensure free Wi-Fi service at all universities, Maduro said.

As students marked the day with marches along the capital’s four main avenues, Education Minister Maryann Hanson underscored education as a constitutional right as well as a free, inclusive and quality public service.

“This public and social service has led to great achievements and progress that the (socialist) revolution can show to the world,” Hanson said, highlighting the role of students in strengthening society to guarantee and defend the country’s independence and sovereignty.

Venezuela has increased university enrollments from 600,000 students in 1998 to more than 2.5 million at present.

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**Safety assessment process for TEPCO’s Kashiwazaki-Kariwa plant begins**

TOKYO, 22 Nov — Nuclear regulators on Thursday began a safety assessment process to decide whether to restart the seven-reactor plant in Niigata Prefecture to improve the toughness of the Nuclear Regulation Authority’s requirements for the China-US high-level Consultation on People-to-People Exchange (CPE) in Washington, the United States, on 21 Nov. 2013. China and the United States reaffirmed on Wednesday the importance of and commitment to deepening practical cooperation and enhancing the people-to-people exchange in ensuring a better future for the China-US ties.—Xinhua

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**Saudi Arabia heavy rains kill 11, while four missing**

RIYADH, 22 Nov — Heavy rains on Thursday killed 11 people as the search continues for four more who are missing, Saudi Civil Defence said.

Among those killed, seven were in Riyadh region, two in the city of Arar, one in Al-Gunfluzu and one in Al-Baha, according to a statement by the Saudi Press Agency.

The statement also highlighted that Civil Defence squads successfully rescued 448 citizens and expatriates from rains and floods that dawn poured on all parts of Saudi Arabia this week. A spokesman of the Civil Defence said his department has received 6,800 distress calls from people stranded or businesses damaged by the flooding. He said the Civil Defence also retrieved 309 vehicles that were trapped underneath strong floods.

Casualties and damage have been attributed to the poor infrastructure, especially the drainage system, according to local newspapers.

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**Afghan Loya Jirga continues discussion on security pact with US for 2nd day**

KABUL, 22 Nov — Members of Afghanistan’s traditional Loya Jirga or grand assembly of tribal elders and notables continued their debate on the controversial security pact known as Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) with the United States for the second day on Friday.

Around 2,500 members of the gathering which divided into 50 working committees have been thoroughly reading the 26-article security pact till Thursday, according to officials and the members of the traditional Jirga.

However, the decision of the Jirga will be referred to the approval for parliament. Washington reportedly wants the security agreement to be signed by the end of this year, but the Afghan president Hamid Karzai said in his opening remarks at the Jirga on Thursday that his successor could ink it after Afghanistans presidential elections slated for 5 April, next year.

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**Nigeria to support human trafficking victims**

LAGOS, 22 Nov — Nigeria has launched a trust fund to support human trafficking victims in the country, Minister of Justice trợ Mohammed Adoke said on Thursday.

The minister said this at the Afro Caribbean Regional Consultation Meeting on the Rights to an Effective Remedy for Trafficked Persons in Abuja, Nigerias capital.

He said the fund was established in accordance with the Trafficking Persons Protocol.

“At the heart of our anti-trafficking strategy is human rights-based approach, to ensure adequate protection and protection of the rights of trafficked persons,” he added.

In addition, the Federal Executive Council had since 2008 approved the National Policy for the protection of trafficked persons to provide uniform guidelines for all stakeholders in Nigeria, involved in providing assistance to trafficked persons,” the minister said.

He recognized the right to effective remedies for trafficked persons and the need for providing incentives for victims to support law enforcement efforts at tracking down perpetrators of such crime.
Japan eyes boosting trade and investment in Myanmar

Union Attorney-General receives APG Executive Secretary

Crowd management course conducted

National Sports

Vinyl mascots for SEA Games put up in Nay Pyi Taw

93rd 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

Deputy Commerce Minister attends meetings on Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment

Navy Pry Taw, 22 Nov—Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan attended Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Week meetings at United Nations Conference Center in Bangkok of Thailand organized by Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) from 18 to 20 November.

On 18 November, the deputy minister participated in the discussion under title of “Role of aid for trade and investment in integrating Myanmar into a regional trade” in expects-level meeting on aid for trade.

Then, he attended the meeting on read reports 2013 of Asia-Pacific trade and investment.

On 19 November, high level panel talks under title of “Reviving Multilateralism: Road to Bali and Beyond”.

At the talks, six Panelists including the Deputy Minister focused on the necessities of Bali talks to affirm the important role of multi-countries trading system under rules, the attitudes on WTO, seeking ways for successful holding of Bali talks, root causes of delaying Doha meeting, estimated results for Bali talks based on their experience.

On 20 November, the Deputy Minister and party observed Ford Thailand Manufacturing and RMA Group in Laem Chabang City of Chomburi Prefecture.

New Light of Myanmar
LOCAL NEWS

Saturday, 23 November, 2013

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National Sports

Vinyl mascots for SEA Games put up in Nay Pyi Taw

Navy Pry Taw, 22 Nov—Time is approaching to the 27th SEA Games. As motivational activities, vinyl mascots have been set up at Nay Pyi Taw Thapyaykon roundabout as well as on both sides of the roads in Nay Pyi Taw.

The vinyl mascots warm up the sports enthusiasts to participate in the SEA Games. Besides, a poster of welcoming SEA Games by President U Thein Sein, Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Union Sports Minister U Tint Hsan and Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Then Nyunt can be seen as a gesture of hailing the 27th SEA Games.

Moreover, vinyl mascots near Wunna Theikdhi Sports Ground and along both sides of motor roads make foreign sportsmen aspire to clinch victory in the Games. Myanmar’s fantastic sports infrastructures are ready to host the 27th SEA Games.

MMAL-Wai Yan Oo,
Photo; Tin Soe (Myanmar Alinn)
The Lofty Quest of Longevity and Lasting Youth

Tan Myint Maung

Definitions: Aging is defined as the general deterioration of the body with increasing age, while longevity is the success in reaching the maximum life-span of a person.

An Immutable Law of Nature?
All living beings without exception are subject to the cycle of birth, aging, disease, and death (Jati, Jara, Bhaya and Mara). But even though knowing such a certainty, we still crave to live long and stay youthful, as long as possible, which are universal desires among all of us mortals. Thus it is no wonder that many un-successful insolated attempts had been made through the ages, and no doubt some are still going on, to reach for the elusive goal of immortality, for, to attain it, if that is attainable at all. Now, for the first time in the history of mankind, we are traversing a serious and concerted war against a seemingly Immuta- ble Law of Nature.

Program of Longevity
The life-span of a person could be likened to a spring-action clock wound up to tick for a number of years, the length of which varies from individuals to individuals, the maximum being most likely to be around 80 years. For, to cite a prominent figure in the Buddhist Scriptures, even the great philanthropist lady Visa- ka, the monastery donor, who was renowned for her youthful appearance until the very end of her life, lived up to the age of 120 years or so.

May be that is why astrologers cast a horoscope, as a postscript used to add a prayer for their clients to live to be 80 years of age. But the time limit perhaps set by the keen observation of the pro- fession on the mortal nature and limitation of human life (While discussing about the maximum life-span that could be attained, granted here however was a lone exception in the pre-eminent health title during Buddha’s time, who was said to have survived to vigor-rare age of 160 years without suffering from any diseases!) Now, to the model of a pre-programmed life-span, a wound-up spring-life may be broken untimely by the various disease causations, which

Cause of Aging
Many theories have been propounded to explain the causes of aging. Currently the most important ones include:
1. Genetic control
2. Premature aging of the im- mune system.
5. Metabolic and hormonal causes, and
6. Accumulated damage by free radicals, (which are continually being pro- duced inside the body as a result of respiration—Nature’s clever way of an “auto-destruct” mecha- nism reducing the requirement of evolution.)

Out of the above list, the last one i.e. the “Free Radical Theory” seems to be given ground and is in the ascendant.

Some single theory ac- counts for all the observations and’s that suggests that the primary pro- cess is under genetic control, with contributions from the environment and diet, goodness and eating, and these latter will accelerate the degenera- tive changes of aging and de- crease the length of the telom- ers, i.e. the shorter the telom- er length the maximum-life-span.

The Mechanism of Aging
At the gene level the patho-physiology of aging is determined by the length of the telomeres, i.e the tips of the chromosomes within the cells—the shorter the telom- ers, the shorter the life-span of the cell and the faster the body’s deterioration.

The original length of the chromosomes is tightly control- ed by the DNA and by the mecha- nism and serves as extend the youthful vig- nor of the body. But......

There are many sugges- tions and recommendations for life-extending methods, physi- cologists, religious person- nels, etc. on how to stretch the life-span (i.e. adding years to the life), which can Boost the mo- ra:le and this in turn will benefit the immune sys- tem.

But......

Lastly, the simplicity of con- centrating your mind on the process of a focused deep breath- ing (practiced as a mode of meditation by the Buddhists), has a calming effect, reduces stress, and serves to ally anxi- ety, which through the cortico-pituitary-adrenal axis, improve the body’s defense and healing mechanism and thus help to relieve, revive and re- store the balance of life.

The Treatments of Aging

Tips for Healthy Aging
1. Exercise regularly.
2. Get regular health check- ups.
3. Do not smoke.
4. Practice safety habits at home, work and play.
5. Stay in contact with family and friends. Stay ac- tive through work, play and community.
6. Avoid over-exposure to the sun and cold.
7. If you drink, moderation is the key.
8. Keep your personal and financial affairs in order.
9. Keep a positive attitude towards life.
10. (Antioxidants supple- ments: In addition to their free radicals scav- enging action, they are harmless at the recom- mended doses, may have at least a placebo effect, which can boost the mo- rale and this in turn will benefit the immune sys- tem.
11. Last but not least, the relaxa- tion technique of con- centrating your mind on the process of deep breathing in secret in some laboratories.
12. Perform Hope.

Cosmetics:

1. Balanced diet.
2. Exercise regularly.
4. Do not smoke.
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President U Thein Sein holds talks with Thai Deputy Prime Minister

NAV PI TAW, 22 Nov—President U Thein Sein received Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul and party at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 4:30 pm today.

During the meeting, both sides discussed making affirmative resolutions of disputes between the two countries through findings of the Myanmar-Thailand Joint Commission Meetings, making appropriate comment on recognizing Chiang Mai and Kengtung as twin towns, further cementing bilateral ties between the two countries and development of the border areas, bilateral cooperation in implementing of Dawei Deep Sea Port, as well as follow-up plans for emerging Mesauk-Kawkareik road session.

Besides, they concentrated on implementation of economic zones in the border areas and upgrading of Dawei Airport.

Also present at the call together with the President were Union Ministers Lt.-Gen Thet Naing Win, U Wanna Maung Lwin, U Win Myint, Acting Union Minister Dr Myo Myint, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar U Tin Oo and officials concerned.—MNA

ESIA report...

NAV PI TAW, 22 Nov—At the sessions on 20 and 21 November, experts from Knight Pesoild Pte. Ltd, the environmental conservation team and an independent monitoring team held talks on technical matters about the ESIA report and follow-up tasks to approve the report.

The reviewing committee will scrutinize the ESIA report and it is cooperating with experts of Knight Pesoild Pte Ltd to revise the report. Necessary measures will be taken in accord with rules and regulations of the Environmental Conservation Department of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry for approval of the report. The completed ESIA report meeting international standards will be made public soon.—MNA

Diabetes kills one person in every six seconds: Union Health Minister

NAV PI TAW, 22 Nov—Diabetes killed 5.1 million people in 2013 and every six seconds a person dies from the disease, said Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin at the ceremony to mark World Diabetes Day at the meeting hall of the ministry here yesterday morning.

World Diabetes Day has been annually held on 14 November around the globe and this year theme is "Diabetes: Protect Our Future".

The scholars have estimated that over 600000 people will lose their lives due to diabetes in Myanmar yearly and about 2 million people aged between 20-79 years are estimated to develop diabetes, he said. Every 100 persons, nearly six persons are suffering from diabetes and over 0.9 million men and 1 million women in Myanmar are diabetic patients and about 1.2 million people are estimated that they don’t know themselves that they are living with diabetes.

Diabetic patients need to eat healthy diet and take physical exercise regularly and the State has adopted and is implementing national policies for prevention of diabetes, he added.

He urged those present to actively take part in the task for prevention of diabetes.

The Union minister then viewed educational booth on diabetes.

Then, educative talks about the disease followed. Associate Professor Dr Ko Ko shared knowledge about World Diabetes Day and Professor Dr Tint Swe Latt, knowledge about the disease.—MNA

Take caution when it comes to purchasing and selling land in cultural zones

NAV PI TAW, 22 Nov—The entrepreneurs purchased land plots in the areas of cultural heritage zones of Bagan, Inwa, MraukU, SriKestra and Mingun as their investments. As a result, the price of land plots became very high. In that regard, Director-General U Kyaw On Lwin of the Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library explained rules and regulations to be followed by the people in the cultural zones.

According to cultural heritage site prevention and preservation law 1998, a total of 46 cultural heritage zones across the country are designated and being preserved as ancient buildings zone, ancient site zone and preserved zone. According to the law, construction of hotels, motels and guesthouses is not allowed in ancient buildings zone and ancient site zone. The preserved zones where construction of hotels is not allowed in Bagan include NyaungU in the east, Kyaukku Cave and Moenatgon creek near mile post No (22) on NyaungU-Moenatgon creek road.

In addition, the State has adopted and is implementing national policies for prevention of diabetes, he added.

Since February 2009, the ancient cultural zone of Bagan, the heritages of ancestors have been preserved by enacting the law. Plan is underway to preserve Bagan as National Cultural Heritage Region at present.

The public are urged to make enquiries at archaeological branch offices across the nation in purchasing and selling land plots in the cultural zones not to incur unwanted problems.

(Ko Myo-Shwe Paukkan)

Chief Justice of the Union receives American guests

NAV PI TAW, 22 Nov—Chief Justice of the Union U Tin Tun Oo received first Secretary from US Embassy and Director Ms Jennifer Marie Link from Office of Democracy and Governance of USAID and party at the hall of the Supreme Court of the Union, here, this afternoon.

They had a cordial discussion on cooperation programmes beneficial to Myanmar, China discuss risk management works

NAV PI TAW, 22 Nov—Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Rehabilitation Mr Daw Myat Ohn Kyaw received Economic and Commercial Counselor of China Mr Jiang Yingang and party at her office, here, yesterday afternoon.

They held talks on ongoing humanitarian and risk management works, progress of 350 modular houses donated by the PRC for disaster victims and arrangements for handover of USD 1 million to Myanmar.—MNA
**Al-Qaeda affiliate captures Syrian town on border with Turkey**

An al-Qaeda affiliate has captured a northern Syrian town on the border with Turkey afterousting a moderate Islamist rebel unit and detained its leader, activists said on Thursday.

The fall of the town of Atma, a crossing point for weapons and for Syrian rebels, signals disarray among some of the rebel groups, which are ceding ground to hardline Islamist units.

Some of these groups are now playing a lesser role on the battlefield in the war against President Bashar al-Assad’s forces, opposition sources said.

The rise of al-Qaeda in Syria has helped change the international diplomatic calculus and tempered Western calls for Assad’s removal from power.

They detained Mustafa Waddah, the head of Suqur al-Islam, along with two of his men.

A brief firefight took place at the headquarters and also near a Turkish security post in the town of Bakulmez, which overlooks Atma and its fully terrrain, the sources said.

With its proximity to Turkey, Atma has been largely spared shelling and air raids by Assad’s forces.

But thousands of people who fled bombings elsewhere in the country had taken refuge in the town and surrounding area.

“The ISIL deployed anti-aircraft guns at the main roundabout and took Atma quietly,” said one of the activists, who did not want to be named.

“The Turks have not stopped supplies from crossing into the town and movement across the border fence is normal.”

He said Waddah’s whereabouts were not known, but he may have been taken to the town of Sukur al-Islam where the group had set up a religious court.

Suqur al-Islam is a unit of the Free Syrian Army General Staff, headed by General Selim Idriss, the main opposition military figure, who is based in Turkey. But Suqur al-Islam and the General Staff have fallen out over sharing the weapons crossing through Atma, the activists said.

In the last few days, fighting erupted between Sukur al-Islam and other Free Syrian Army members after Sukur al-Islam seized seven trucks loaded with weapons sent by the General Staff that crossed through Atma.

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**Northern Iraqi oil tied to all Iraqi people**

*ISTANBUL, 22 Nov —* Iraqis have the right to the oil in northern Iraq and the revenue that will be generated from its use, Turkish Energy Minister Taner Yildiz said on Thursday.

Yildiz made the statement at a joint press conference with US Energy Minister Ernest Moniz at the Atlantic Council Energy and Economic Summit which was held in Istanbul.

“Turkey believes in the territorial integrity of Iraq and will continue to act in accordance with Iraqi government interests,” he said.

The most important issue in the process of retrieving the oil from the area is to set up a standardised legal process, Yildiz said.

Iraq and Turkey have both public and private companies located in northern Iraq and has signed contracts for oil fields in Erbil. The money generated from these transactions will be blocked in a state bank and Turkey will send the receipts of each transaction to the central government in Baghdad.

After that Iraqi central government and autonomous Northern Iraq Kurdish Administration will share the money according to the ratio they decide. A total of 19 countries together with 39 companies have been signing agreements and conducting projects in oil fields in northern Iraq for three to four years now.

According to the meeting, Iraq is expected to generate 5 trillion US dollars and become the second largest oil-exporting country by 2035 and is likely to see 45 percent of the total increase of world oil production. During the summit almost 350 representatives from more than 40 countries discussed not only the latest developments in the energy field but also cyber-security issues, world finance, and the revival of the Silk Road.

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**More women officers needed to meet peacekeeping challenges**

*UNITED NATIONS, 22 Nov —* Top UN police officials on Thursday emphasized the necessity of increasing the number of women officers in peacekeeping missions around the world.

“We must have more female police officers among our blue berets,” Stefan Feller, police adviser in the UN’s Department of Peacekeeping Operations, said at a press conference on the participation of women in UN police forces.

Efforts are made to ensure that women are seen not just as victims, but as providers of safety and security, said Feller, who insisted it is also necessary to recruit more women in domestic police forces so as to continue to build women’s representation in peacekeeping forces.

Hester Paneras, police Commissioner for the African Union-UN Mission in Darfur, said that women police officers are particularly critical to mandate implementation in the troubled region of Sudan, where protection of civilians is a priority and women are often left on their own due to conflict.

“We need women who can give attention to the needs of these women,” she added.

Beside their roles in security, they have helped women develop livelihood projects and gain self respect, Paneras added.

The UN in 2009 set a target of increasing the proportion of female police officers to 20 percent in an initiative known as the “Global Effort.” Since then, the number of female officers has increased in many UN missions, most notably in Haiti, Liberia and Sudan.
**Indonesia to hold 1st World Culture Forum in Bali**

**Jakarta, 22 Nov** — Indonesia will host the self-initiated World Culture Forum (WCF) during 24 to 27 November in the country’s resort island of Bali, aiming at digging cultural influence on global sustainable development agenda on post-2015 period, said the country’s cultural minister here on Thursday.

Addressing a cultural discussion prior to WCF, Mohammad Nuh, Indonesian minister of culture and national education, stressed that the forum was initiated by the country’s President Susilo. Moreover, Indonesia plans to build such forum on cultural topics once every two years, same as the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland on economy.

The minister also called for greater global consideration on the contributive role of culture on economy, politics and environment.

Themed “The Power of Culture in Sustainable Development,” the maiden forum will be officially opened by Susilo and Irina Bukova, Director General of UNESCO, and attended by government officials, experts, non-government organizations from various nations, including China, Turkey, Japan, Brazil and India, according to the minister.

President Susilo had expressed commitment on promoting the power of culture on sustainable economic development under the framework of post-2015 Millennium Development Goals when addressing the UN General Assembly forum earlier this year.—Xinhua

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**Vietnam, Mongolia to boost bilateral ties**

**HANOI, 22 Nov** — Vietnam and Mongolia vowed here on Thursday on boosting bilateral ties, particularly in the fields of trade, defence, security and combating crime. The consensus was reached by Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang and his visiting Mongolian counterpart Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj.

During their talks, the two leaders agreed to maintain exchanges at all levels and sectors, strengthening the people-to-people exchanges in culture and education.

Truong Tan Sang proposed that Mongolia should create favorable conditions for Vietnamese investments to accelerate trade investment. Mongolian President welcomed Vietnamese investments in oil and gas exploitation, as well as mining in his country.

Meanwhile, the two presidents expressed their pleasure at bilateral coordination on regional and international arena, including the United Nations, Non-Aligned Movement, ASEAN, World Trade Organization and the Asia-Europe Meeting.

After talks, the two leaders witnessed the signing of bilateral agreements in the fields of defence, public security, foreign affairs and energy development. On the same day, Elbegdorj also met Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, during which the two sides expressed their willingness to further promote the bilateral ties in the favour of both nations.—Xinhua

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**Sharp mulls supplying LCD panels to manufacturers other than Apple**

**OSAKA, 22 Nov** — Struggling electronics maker Sharp Corp is considering supplying liquid crystal display panels that are now made at its Kameyama plant in central Japan specifically for Apple Inc to other manufacturers including a Chinese firm, sources close to the matter said on Friday.

The Osaka-based company currently produces LCD panels for Apple’s iPhone 5s and iPhone 5c smartphones at its Kameyama Plant No 1, but it is seeking to diversify its customer base for the panels due to uncertainty about how long the popularity of the new handsets will last, the sources said.

In order to procure LCD panels stably for iPhones, the US technology giant has invested a little less than 100 billion yen in the plant, with the operating rate of around 80 percent currently, according to the sources.

Sharp has been holding talks with Apple to obtain understanding over diversifying its supply destinations, the sources said.

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**Suspected Zambian poachers flee after shootout with Zimbabwe rangers**

**HARARE, 22 Nov** — Game rangers in Zimbabwe recently engaged three poachers who had crossed into the country from Zambia, leading to the recovery of two rifles, one of them an AK 47 and several rounds of ammunition, the wildlife authority said on Wednesday.

The Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority said in a statement that the shootout with the Zambian poachers took place in the Shara general area of Kafra in the Zambezi Valley on 13 November.

“They (rangers) tracked for a short distance and came across a place where the poachers had camped. The poachers fired at the rangers who also fired back. This led to the poachers fleeing from their camp,” the wildlife authority said.

Apart from the rifles and ammunition, the rangers also recovered cooking pots, maize meal with a Zambian label, cooking oil with a Zambian label, a hand axe and ripping knife, a lighting torch, various tablets and water purifying liquid and an assortment of clothing, among others.

But it seemed the poachers had not yet shot anything as they had just entered the country on the poaching expedition the previous night, the statement said.

The authority warned that it would be suicidal for poachers to enter areas under its jurisdiction as its rangers would be “proactive in order to remain on top of the situation.”

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**Tourists walk past a bell tower in Galle, Sri Lanka, on 18 Nov, 2013. Founded in the 16th century by the Portuguese, Galle reached the height of its development in the 18th century, before the arrival of the British. It is the best example of a fortified city built by Europeans in South and South-East Asia, showing the interaction between European architectural styles and South Asian traditions. Old town of Galle and its fortifications was listed as one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 1988.—Xinhua**

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**Malaysian police believe kidnapped Taiwanese tourist still alive**

**KUALA LUMPUR, 22 Nov** — Malaysian police said Thursday that the information they got suggested the Taiwanese tourist who was abducted at an island resort last week remains alive.

National police chief Khalid Abu Bakar said police believe that the 58-year-old Chang An Wei was still safe based on a recording of a conversation between the kidnappers, without disclosing further details on the recording. Malaysian police also believed that Chang was brought to the neighboring southern Philippines by the kidnappers.

The police earlier declined to confirm reports that the kidnappers had asked for ransom, saying that the intense media coverage would threaten Chang’s safety. Chang was abducted from the Pom Pom Island Resort on Malaysia’s Borneo state of Sabah on Nov. 15 when her husband was shot dead during the assault by unknown gunmen.—Xinhua
**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV E R TURKU VOY NO (031)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E R TURKU VOY NO (031) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.11.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H P T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S EVER GREEN SHIPPING Phone No: 256908/378316/376797**

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**NEW YORK, 22 NOV —** One child died and four others were seriously injured when the car they were riding in slid into a near-freezing pond in suburban Minneapolis on Thursday, police said.

Zenzavia Rennie, 5, was killed after the vehicle she and the four other children, ages 1 to 7, were in veered off a rain-slicked highway ramp and plunged into the pond in St. Louis Park, Minnesota State Patrol spokesman Eric Roese said.

They were rescued about a half hour after the car went into the water.

The children were unresponsive after being pulled from the car, which slid 40 feet down an embankment into a retention pond, said Jamie Zwilling, spokesman for St. Louis Park, a suburb west of Minneapolis.

The children were seriously injured, according to the Minnesota State Patrol website, and were treated at Hennepin County Medical Center and University of Minnesota Amplatz Children’s Hospital. The hospitals would not release further information.

The driver, 23-year-old Marion Guerrero of Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, is the mother and stepmother of the children, Roese said.

Witnesses said they heard Guerrero, who was apparently uninjured, calling for help.

“I could see someone screaming, ‘Help me! Help me!’” said Jeffrey Robertson, 40, of St. Louis Park, who was in a nearby second-story apartment and called emergency services.

Robertson, who said Guerrero was standing knee deep in the water, could not see the car from his vantage point.

When he learned there were children in the water, “My heart just sank,” he said. A passerby, Joel Oine, also of St. Louis Park, tried to rescue the children but could not, according to Roese. Initially, emergency responders also were unable to reach the children, he said.

A water rescue team would not release the children, and a tow truck pulled the car from the water.

Roese said police were investigating what caused the car to go off the ramp, which does not have guardrails, and whether the children were in seat belts or car seats.

An emergency call was received at 6:10 a.m. and the last victim was retrieved at 6:55 a.m. The water was about nine feet deep where the car sank, Roese said.

The four other children were identified as Aliyana Rennie, age 1; Zariana Rennie, 6; Alarion Coleman-Guerrero, 7; and Amani Coleman-Guerrero, 5, all of Brooklyn Center, according to the Minnesota State Patrol website.

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**Fiji, Burkina Faso establish diplomatic ties**

**SUVA, 22 NOV —** Fiji and Burkina Faso established diplomatic relations Friday, the Fijian government announced.

Peter Thomson, Fiji’s permanent representative to the United Nations, and his Burkina Faso counterpart Der Kogda signed the joint communiqué establishing diplomatic relations between the two states at the UN, according to Fiji’s Ministry of Information.

The communiqué expresses the desire of Fiji and Burkina Faso to establish diplomatic relations in accordance with the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, guided by the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter and international law.

It calls for the promotion of mutual understanding and the strengthening of friendship and cooperation between Fiji and Burkina Faso in political, economic, humanitarian and other fields.

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**Kazakhstan elected to UNESCO World Heritage Committee**

**ASTANA, 22 NOV —** Kazakhstan has been elected to the 21-member World Heritage Committee of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), local media reported on Thursday.

Currently, three Kazakhstani cultural and natural heritage sites — the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasavi, Petrgryphs within the Archaelogical Landscape of Tamgaly and Korgalzhyn & Nauryzumsky reserves — are on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

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**Actor Hugh Jackman reveals skin cancer scare on Instagram**

**Los Angeles, 22 Nov** —Australian actor Hugh Jackman said on Thursday that he had a skin cancer scare when doctors diagnosed a mark on his nose as cancerous cells.

Jackman, 45, posted a photo of his face and a bandage on his nose on his Instagram page, saying his wife, Deborra-Lee Furness, told him to get his nose checked, and he was diagnosed with basal cell carcinoma, cancerous cells that grow on the surface of the skin.

"Please don't be fool-ish like me. Get yourself checked. And USE sun-screen!!" the "Les Miséra-bles" actor said in the Insta-gram caption.

Representatives for Jackman had no updates on the actor's condition beyond his Instagram post.

The online medical site WebMD.com said basal cell carcinoma is the most common form of skin cancer and accounts for more than 90 percent of US skin cancer patients. The basal cell carcinomas rarely spread but if not removed can damage and disfigure surrounding tissue.

Jackman is one of Hol-lywood's leading action stars, best known as su-perhero Wolverine in the "X-Men" films. He was nominated for a best ac-tor Oscar this year for his role as prisoner-turned-businessman Jean Valjean in the film adaptation of "Les Miserables." He also starred alongside Jake Gyl- lenhaal in this fall's gritty drama "Prisoners." —Reuters

**Leonardo DiCaprio waves to support-ers as his arrives for a photocall to promote the movie "Shutter Island" at the Berline Interna-tional Film Festival in Berlin on 13 Feb, 2010. **Reuters

**Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation gives $3 m grant to save tigers**

**New York, 22 Nov** — Actor Leonardo DiCaprio’s conservation foundation has awarded a $3 million grant to the World Wildlife Fund to help Nepal increase its tiger population.

The WWF said on Thursday that the money from the Leonardo DiCap- rio Foundation, set up by the 39-year-old star of “The Great Gatsby” and the up-coming film “The Wolf of Wall Street,” will be used for an initiative to dou-ble the number of tigers in Nepal by 2022 — the next Chinese year of the tiger.

"His foundation is all about delivering real results for conservation on the ground and empowering lo-cal communities; nowhere is that more evident than in Nepal," Carter Roberts, the president and CEO of the WWF, said in a statement.

Nepal’s tigers, known as the Panthera tigris, have been classified as endan-gered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, with numbers de-clining over the years. —Reuters

**Steve Coogan brings comic relief to sorrowful story of ‘Philomena’**

**Beverley Hills, 22 Nov** — When British comedic actor Steve Coogan first read the mournful story be-hind his new film “Philom-ena” in a newspaper, he noticed that the two people in the accompanying picture were laughing.

The photo showed Philomena Lee, an elderly Irish woman looking for the son she was forced to give up as a teenage girl, and for-mer BBC journalist Martin Sixsmith who had compa-nied her on her search and written a book about it in 2009.

The photograph "struck me as being at odds with the tragic nature of the story," said Coogan. "I wondered if I could tell a story like this, a tragic and moving story, and find the way to make people smile at the same time."

That musing led Coo-gan to co-write, co-produce and co-star as Sixsmith in "Philomena," opposite vet-eran British actress Dame Judi Dench in the title role. The film directed by Brit-ain’s Stephen Frears opens in US theaters this weekend.

The film is a step up in the serious department for a man whose name alone makes people chuckle in Britain. There he is best known as Alan Partridge, the buffoonish and political-ly incorrect regional BBC broadcaster he portrays to parody TV talk shows and commentators.—Reuters

**Sony says to make fewer films as it shifts to television**

**New York, 22 Nov** — Sony Pictures Entertain-ment will produce fewer films as it makes a “signifi-cant” shift from motion pictures to higher-margin television production and to operating TV channels, Sony Corp executives told investors gathered at the company’s Culver City, California, studio lot.

The declaration came as Sony battles to win in the movie business, which includes its film and television op-erations, will have revenues of $8.4 billion in fiscal year 2015, and an operating margin of 7.4 percent. In its music business, the compa-ny expects revenue of $4.8 billion with a 9.5 percent operating income margin.

Sony studio chief Amy Pascal said the studio will cut the numbers of films it makes, and next year will release fewer than 20 films, down from the 23 it released in prior years. It will release four films in the summer, compared to nine this summer, she said.

Sony had a mixed year at the box office, with hits like “Grown Ups 2” and “Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2,” but also flops like “White House Down,” which was made for $150 million but generated just $205 million in worldwide ticket sales that it shares with theater owners, ac-cording to the site Box Of-fice Mojo.—Reuters

**'Jersey Shore' cast member under federal investigation**

**Newark, 22 Nov** — Former “Jersey Shore” cast member Mike ‘The Situation’ Sorrentino is facing a federal investiga-tion into his finances, his publicist said on Thurs-day.

The probe centres on his businesses, which in-clude MPS Entertainment, Situation Productions and a clothing line, Situation Nation, according to the website TMZ, which first reported on it.

Sorrentino’s publicist confirmed that he is under investigation by federal prosecutors in New Jersey. “Michael Sorrentino is fully aware that the US At-torney’s office has issued subpoenas for records re-lating to several businesses he owns,” publicist Cindy Guagenti said in a state-ment.

He is cooperating and providing the requested re-cords, she said.

“Although the nature and the scope of the in-vestigation is not clear at this time, Sorrentino fully expects that when all the facts are revealed, no further action will be taken,” she added.

Former “Jersey Shore” main character and co-star Mike Sorrentino, better known as "The Situation," is under federal investigation. — Reuters

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**Television personality Mike Sorrentino arrives at the 2013 MTV Movie Awards in Culver City, California on 14 April, 2013.**

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Former “Jersey Shore” main character and co-star Mike Sorrentino, better known as "The Situation," is under federal investigation. — Reuters
Liverpool’s Jose Enrique (R) challenges Wigan Athletic’s Emmerson Boyce during their English Premier League match in Liverpool, northern England on 17 Nov, 2012.—Reuters

LONDON, 22 Nov — Liverpool’s Spanish defender Jose Enrique will probably need surgery on a long-standing knee injury, manager Brendan Rodgers said on Thursday ahead of the 221st derby against Everton. Enrique has missed the last four matches having failed to completely recover from the injury picked up earlier in the season in a League Cup tie.

“We’re just waiting for clarification on his injury, but it looks like he’ll probably need a small operation,” Rodgers told a press conference on Thursday. “It’s disappointing because he has been out for a couple of months and we’ve tried various ways to get him back fit. But he’s still in pain.”

Striker Daniel Sturridge will face a late fitness test before Saturday’s lunchtime kickoff at Goodison Park after he played 90 minutes for England against Germany on Tuesday despite pain from a dead leg.

Rodgers said defender Kolo Toure was back in contention to start after missing the club’s last game, and that Steven Gerrard was fully fit despite needing an injection for a hip complaint ahead of England’s defeat by Germany. — Reuters

AC Milan’s Robinho shoots and scores against Catania during their Italian Serie A football match at Angelo Massimino stadium in Catania, on 31 March, 2012. — Reuters

Motivated Robinho offers hope in gloom for Milan

ROME, 22 Nov — Massimilano Allegri is again in the spotlight at struggling AC Milan as the tactical machinations at the club rumble on but at least Brazilian striker Robinho is trying to look on the bright side. Milan host Genoa on Saturday having failed to win in their last six games in all competitions and are a lowly 10th after losing five of their 12 league games, collecting a very 13 points in the process.

Failure to beat a Genoa side enjoying a three-match winning streak could hasten the end of Allegri’s rocky relationship with the club’s bosses although Robinho offered an upbeat message for the fans. He scored the winning goal for Brazil against Chile this week and is clearly keen to impress Luis Felice Scolari by scoring goals for his club.

“After every match and every training session I feel better adapted to the role,” Robinho, who is expected to play alongside Alberto Botteletti and Kaka in a front three, said at this week’s gala for the charitable Milan Foundation.

“Slowly my understanding of the way team mates is improving and that means at the same time that I will be able to take situations in hand like a leader.”

Milan are without suspended Italy midfielder Riccardo Montolivo while injured Stephan El Shaarawy is unlikely to be available until the Champions league clash with Celtic in Glasgow next Tuesday. — Reuters

Liverpool’s Enrique set to have surgery on knee injury

Poyet issues Sunderland ultimatum on transfer policy

LONDON, 22 Nov — English Premier League strugglers Sunderland could be looking for their fourth manager of the season if current boss Gus Poyet does not get his way in the January transfer window, the Uruguayan haswarned.

Poyet said he was happy to work alongside director of football Roberto De Fanti and chief scout Valentino Angeloni, providing he had final say on who arrived to try to help his side improve on their 19th position and avoid relegation.

“We talked about a position the other day and considered four players,” Poyet was quoted as saying by British media.

“I picked two. It was simple. One of the other two (selected by De Fanti) was a definite no. If that one

Everyone has a responsibility.”

Italian Paulo Di Canio started the season as Sunderland boss but was less than impressed by De Fanti’s work, complaining that he had chosen none of the 14 players signed by his compatriot.

The volatile Di Canio failed to mould the new recruits into a squad he barely kept up the previous season and was dismissed in September with the side bottom of the table. Former Sunderland midfielder Kevin Ball then took charge on a caretaker basis before last month’s appointment of Poyet, who has enjoyed a promising start with home wins over northeast rivals Newcastle United and big spending Manchester City.

“Of course you miss a player like Theo Walcott. Theo had a good start to the season, he scored goals, he provided chances and had assists. He can always give you a different option in the team and that is of course vital.”

Wenger said that although the pacy forward had now fully recovered from surgery, his lack of match fitness meant he would be used cautiously against Southampton who are only three points behind Arsenal after a superb start to the season.

Arsenal’s attacking options bolstered as Walcott returns

LONDON, 22 Nov — Premier League leaders Arsenal have received a boost with the inclusion of Theo Walcott in the squad for Saturday’s match at home to his old club Southampton while Lukas Podolski’s return is less than a month away.

Manager Arsene Wenger has hailed the availability of England international Walcott, who he signed as a 16-year-old in 2006, after the forward’s season was interrupted by an abdominal operation in September.

“Strikers who get behind the defenders have a very important quality and Theo has that quality,” Wenger was quoted as saying on Arsenal’s official website (www.arsenal.com) on Thursday ahead of the league leaders’ clash with the third-placed Saints.

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Sharapova takes on Groeneveld as coach

NEW YORK, 22 Nov — Four-time Grand Slam champion Maria Sharapova has hired Sven Groeneveld as her new coach for the 2014 season. The Russian world number four made the announcement on her Facebook page on Thursday after being without a coach since parting ways with Jimmy Connors in August.

Connors lasted just a month after joining the 26-year-old following the Wimbledon tournament in July. “I’m happy to announced my official partnership with Sven Groeneveld.” Sharapova wrote.

“We’ve been working together since I got back on the court and after seeing him on the opposing side for so many years, I’m excited to have him become a part of my team. “It has been a very seamless transition and I have had a lot of fun with the hard work we have put in so far. Looking forward to the year ahead.”

Groeneveld has previously worked with other top players in Monica Seles, Mary Pierce and Ana Ivanovic. Sharapova withdrew from the US Open with a shoulder injury and has not played since.

She is scheduled to return to competition at the Brisbane International tournament as she finalises her preparations for the Australian Open, the year’s first grand slam.— Reuters

Wimbledon’s Maria Sharapova of Russia hits a return to Sloane Stephens of the US in their women’s quarterfinals match at Cincinnati Open in Cincinnati, Ohio on 13 Aug. 2013. — Reuters

England’s Theo Walcott talks during a news conference ahead of their 2014 World Cup qualifying match against Moldova on Friday, at the St George’s Park training complex near Burton upon Trent, on 3 Sept, 2013. — Reuters

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**LatAm officials call for further regional integration**

BRASILIA, 22 Nov — Latin American officials have called for further regional integration toward sustainable and inclusive development.

Integration is a strategic requirement for reducing inequalities in the region in the context of an increasingly competitive international environment, said Miriam Belchior, Brazil’s minister of planning, budget and management, on Thursday.

The political dimension of integration has provided countries in the region with unity needed to confront challenges in the 21st century,” she told her colleagues at a conference co-sponsored by the Brazilian government and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

ECLAC Executive Secretary Alicia Barcena said Latin American countries should adopt a lasting and inclusive model for economic growth and a post-2015 agenda for regional development. Though the region has made great achievements in economic development and poverty reduction over the last two decades, there is doubt over whether the current model can sustain and reduce economic and social segmentation, she said.

**Adidas extends World Cup football sponsorship until 2030**

FRANKFURT, 22 Nov — German sportswear maker Adidas will remain the official partner and sponsor of the FIFA World Cup until 2030 as it defends its official partner and sponsorship model can sustain and doubt over whether the current model can sustain and reduce economic and social segmentation, she said.

Indien sand said in a statement.

...The World Cup is also selling lic-...the four tournaments from...until 2030 as it defends its official partner and sponsor.

...Nike and Adidas are...market for football kit — rep-...the Ligue 1 market...1.5 billion raked in for the last World Cup year.

...In the last contract extension with FIFA was announced in 2005, covering the 2010 World Cup and next year’s tournament in Brazil. That deal was ex-...expected to be worth $350 million. Adidas declined to give financial details of the latest extension.

...Adidas and Nike are...market for football kit — replica shirts, balls and boots — estimated to be worth around 5 billion euros ($6.7 billion) annually. While Adidas was...boosted by last year’s Olympics and European football championships, it has struggled to maintain momentum in 2013, los-...growth in the European market for sports apparel to the larger Nike and warning of smaller than expected growth in profits. But all eyes are already on Brazil, Adidas has forecast...in the last World Cup year.

...It has already kicked off its World Cup football campaign, launching new lines of boots and the jers-...for teams like Germa-...Y, Spain and Argentina in...a very good Portugal team. Of course there is disappoint-...a very good Portugal team.

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Vice-President U Nyan Tun enjoys friendship cultural show

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Nov—Vice-President U Nyan Tun enjoyed the friendship cultural show to commemorate the 65th Anniversary of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Thailand held at MICC, here, this evening.

It was attended by the Union ministers, the deputy ministers, Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, the Thai Ambassador to Myanmar and guests.

On the occasion, the Vice-President, Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin and the Thai Deputy Prime Minister extended greetings.

Next, they posed for a documentary photo together with those present on the occasion.

The Vice-President and those present enjoyed the performances of Thai dance troupes and Myanmar traditional cultural dance troupes from the Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture.

The Vice-President then presented baskets of flowers to the performers.—MNA

UEC Chairman pledges to hold free and fair elections in 2015

YANGON, 22 Nov—Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye addressed a meeting between the strategic programme drawing committee of UEC and political parties at Panda Hotel, here, this morning.

The committee led by UEC member Dr Daw Myint Kyi and representatives from 50 political parties held talks on 12 points included in the strategic programme.

Next, the UEC Chairman made clarifications about the reports submitted by those present.

Then, the UEC Chairman pledged that 2015 general elections will be free and fair and be held in accord with the law calling for participation of political parties in the electoral process. He also called on political parties to perform their works in accord with the law.

After the meeting, the UEC Chairman posed for a documentary photo together with those present.—MNA

Seventh Myanmar-Thailand joint commission meeting held

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Nov—The seventh ministerial level meeting of Myanmar-Thailand joint commission on cooperation took place at Myanmar International Convention Centre-MICC, here, this morning.

After holding a Myanmar-Thailand high-ranking officials meeting, the joint commission meeting, co-chaired by Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin and Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister of Thailand, followed.

The meeting focused on further strengthening friendship and cooperation between the two countries on a mutual basis.

Next, Thai Deputy Prime Minister handed over sports gear and technical equipment to be used at the upcoming 27th SEA Games to the Union minister.

Then, the Union minister and the Thai Deputy Prime Minister attended a stake-driving ceremony for construction of a new school building to mark the 65th Anniversary of diplomatic ties between Myanmar and Thailand at Thabyehla village in Pyimana in the afternoon.—MNA

Assessment on inclusive education discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Nov—Acting Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Myint received a delegation led by UK Parliament’s International Development Committee (IDC) Mr. Michael McCann at his office, here, yesterday evening.

They held talks on free and compulsory primary education, appointment of teacher and capacity building, building infrastructure development, assessment on inclusive education and inspection and evaluation works being carried out by special task forces and working groups numbering 18.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw Expo on 23-27 November

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Nov—Organized by Winner Economics Enterprise Services Co, Ltd, Nay Pyi Taw Expo will be held near Yarza Htarni Road in the compound of Uppatasanti Pagoda in Pobbbathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area from 23 to 27 November with the participation of the companies from Yangon and Mandalay.

Over 250 booths including car showrooms will be showcased at the expo.

Moreover, model show, dancer show, entertainment and Aneyint programme and performing of comedians will be presented to the visitors at the expo.

As a special programme, SkyNet will organize singing contest and present gifts to the visitors, according to Mr. Ei Thandar, an organizer of the expo.

Ko Myo (Shwe Paungkan)

Under the principles of Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) and Asian Football Confederation (AFC), only ticket holders will be allowed to enter the stadium according to the seating plan, said the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Football Federation.