NAY PYI TAW, 29 Nov—A ceremony to confer Honorary Doctoral Degree of Philosophy in Public Administration by Mae Fah Luang University and Honorary Doctorate in Political Science by Naresuan University of Thailand on President U Thein Sein, took place at the Presidential Palace here this morning.

The ceremony was attended by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, the Union ministers, University council chairmen from Mae Fah Luang University and Naresuan University, chancellors, rectors and professors, students and officials from Yezin Agricultural University, University of Forestry and University of Veterinary Science.

Dr Vanchai Sirichana, President of Mae Fah Luang University delivered an honourable speech on the occasion. Later, General Sampao Choosri, Chair of Mae Fah Luang University conferred Honorary Doctoral Degree of Philosophy in Public Administration on the President.

On the occasion, Dr Krasae Chanawongse, Chairman of Naresuan University Council gave an honourable speech. Later, Honorary Doctorate in Political Science was conferred on the President by Dr Sujin Jinahyon, President of Naresuan University.

President U Thein Sein spoke words of thanks. He said he believes the conferring of these Honorary Doctorate Degrees is the recognition of the endeavors of the entire people and his efforts in striving to fulfill the political, economic and social aspirations of the Myanmar people, taking into consideration the history of Myanmar, current political conditions and anticipating the challenges ahead.

He continued that today, they are advancing on the road to democracy with strategic goals to build a new democratic nation. In doing so, we are undertaking political, economic and people-centered development reforms, and promotion of the private sector.

In transforming from a centralized system to a democratic one, we are shifting smoothly from a centralized economic system and from a centralized administrative system to people-centered one.

The main objective of our government is to achieve peace and tranquility in the country and to attain socio-economic development of the people.

In order to achieve political stability in the country, political prisoners were released on many occasions to enable them to participate in the political process.

Moreover, we are striving our utmost in carrying out peace-making activities to bring to an end to the armed conflicts with ethnic armed groups, he added.

As politics and socio-economic development are closely intertwined, in the political reform process, we are also carrying out economic reforms. Our nation has been under economic sanctions for nearly 20 years. Poverty rate is the highest in rural areas where the majority of the people are residing. So we are now drawing up work plans for rural area development and poverty alleviation as a national priority.

(See page 8)
Myoma High School marks 93rd Anniversary of National Day

YANGON, 29 Nov—The 93rd Anniversary of National Day was marked at No. 2 Basic Education High School (Myoma Kyaung) in Dagon Township, on 27 November.

On the occasion, students of the school sang Pyi Myanmar song.

Dagon Township Administrator U Nay Myo Than read out the National Day message sent by President U Thein Sein.

Next, Patron Maj-Gen Sein Htwar (Retd) of the school board of trustees explained the accommodation, health care and rights of students of the school.

The ceremony came to an end with the song titled “national prestige” of students.

Kyemon-Ye Ye Thant

Legel Affairs

Kayah State Judge inspects custody of Dimawhso Myoma Police Station

DIMAWHSO, 29 Nov—Dimawhso Myoma Police Station on 26 November.

Patron Rear-Admiral Kyemon-Tun Hlaing (Retd) of the school board of trustees expressed words of thanks.

Commander of Police Station U Tin Soe and Headmaster U Aye Thin presented prize of honour to Headmaster U Aye Than who is carrying out development tasks of the school.

Patron Rear-Admiral Kyemon-Tun Hlaing (Retd) of the school board of trustees expressed words of thanks.

The ceremony came to an end with the song titled “national prestige” of students.

Kyemon-Ye Ye Thant

Traffic rule breakers taken action in Taikkyi

TAIKKYI, 29 Nov—A combined team comprising members of police force, Fire Services Department and ward administrators led by Deputy Staff Officer U Khin Zaw Lin of General Administration Department from Township Traffic Rules Supervisory Committee were taking action against the motorcyclists in breach of traffic rules and do not wear helmet in front of Fire Services Department on Yangon-Pyay Road in Taikkyi Township of Yangon Region yesterday morning.

It is learnt that the arrested traffic rule breakers will end up in court.

Kyemon-Tun Hlaing (Myaing)

Main suspect and three others charged in Nyaunglebin murder

NYAUNGLEBIN, 29 Nov—Nyaunglebin police have charged a main suspect and three others three days after a 20-year-old young man was stabbed to death following a brawl at a roadside food stall in Myoma ward-2 of Madauk in Nyaunglebin Township, Bago Region on 19 November.

Although his three friends fled the scene, Zaw Waing of Seikkalay village in Shwekyin died from a single stab wound to his left chest in the fist fight with four men at the food stall while Madauk celebrated Tazaungdine festival on that day.

Police investigations revealed that Chit Ko who is believed to have stabbed the victim and three accomplices, Pyaung Gi (a) Kyaw Min Thein, Po Thingyan and Pe Thar Tun got involved in the fatal incident. They were taken into police custody and are needed to bring them to trial.—Kyemon-Nay Lin-Nyaunglebin

Sawmill owner, accomplices face charges in cutting teak logs illegally

MYINMU, 29 Nov—Myinmu Police said acting on a tip-off, a combined force led by Head of Myinmu Township Forest Department U Tin Soe and Police Captain Ohn Lwin seized 6.1789 tons of illegal teak together with six sawmill workers in a compound in Kantha ghetto of Myinmu on 26 November.

Main suspect and three others have faced the charges in cutting teak logs illegally.

Investigations revealed that the owner of the seized teak was U Chit Ngwe who ran a sawmill in the compound.

Myinmu police station filed lawsuits against the sawmill owner and his workers.—Kyemon-Ko Ko Naing (Myinmu)

58 grenades found in Waibargi ward

YANGON, 29 Nov—A total of 58 rusty grenades in earth were found while earth were taken from the truck at the house of Daw Aye Aye Mon (a) Daw Pyone, 52, in Waibargi of North Okkalapa Township on 27 November morning.

According to the information of the owner about the findings, township officials rushed to the house and made investigations on the grenades and handed them over to Inyaung Ordnance Detachment. The driver of the truck is under investigation.—Kyemon-035

World AI DS Day

GETTING TO ZERO


1st December, 2013

Locals happy with Lakekanchaung culvert’s building

MYAW, 29 Nov—Lakekanchaung culvert has been destroyed by torrential rain at the end of October and 20 acres of farmlands near the bridge also got ruined.

The bridge is situated between mile post Nos (67 and 68) on Nay Pyi Taw-Kanpya motor road, Pholyalone Village in Magway Township.

As the 75 foot wide Lakekanchaung culvert is above the river, it will have to endure the continuous flow of the river water. Therefore, the farmlands near the bridge have flooded and crops also destroyed.

“When the bridge crossing the river emerges, we will really be happy and most travelers and farmers also get satisfaction,” said a local.

Kyemon- Magway Hla Myint

Rural road upgraded to concrete facility in Taikkyi Tsp

TAIKKYI, 29 Nov—The road that links Okponsu Ward with Hsinku Village in Taikkyi Township is being concreted by Staff Officer (Technical) Assistant Engineer Daw Su Su Hlaing of Yangon North District Rural Development Department for all season use. One mile and one furlong long, 10 ft wide and 7 ft thick Okponsu Ward-Hsinku Road will be upgraded to concrete facility with the use of K 116 million funded by the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development.

Kyemon-Tun Hlaing (Myaing)
Police find 18 male corpses shot in head near Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 29 Nov — Iraqi police have discovered the bodies of 18 men who were abducted from their homes and killed execution-style in a town near Baghdad, two police sources said on Friday.

The corpses were found grouped together and shot in the head in Meshalbda, a predominantly Sunni Muslim area, around 32 km (20 miles) north of Baghdad, police and a source at the capital’s morgue said.

It was the deadliest in a series of execution-style killings which are on the rise in Iraq, alongside a growing insurgent campaign of bomb and gun attacks targeting security forces and civilians.

The victims were taken from their homes early on Friday by men wearing military uniforms and driving around six SUVs, the sources said. It was not clear who was behind the attack, but this area of Iraq has seen frequent abductions by militants dressed as soldiers. The men’s families went to local police to report their relatives missing and police later found their bodies in an orchard.

This year has been Iraq’s most violent since 2006-7, when tens of thousands of people died at the height of sectarian strife between Sunnis and Shi’ites.

Reuters

Senior METI official to be named 1st female secretary to premier

Tokyo, 29 Nov — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has decided to appoint a female senior official at the economy ministry as his secretary, making her the first woman to serve as a prime ministerial secretary in postwar Japan, a government source said on Friday.

The appointment of Makiko Yamada, 53-year-old deputy director general for IT strategy at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, apparently reflects Abe’s commitment to tap the potential of women in the workforce, one of the pillars of his growth strategy.

Abe is scheduled to announce the appointment in the afternoon.

Kyodo News

Abe asks S Korean lawmakers to promote dialogue with Japan

Tokyo, 29 Nov — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Friday asked South Korean lawmakers to cooperate in promoting dialogue between the two countries that have seen their relations seriously deteriorate over territorial and other issues.

“I will keep trying to deepen cooperation through dialogue at various levels, while keeping doors for dialogue at various levels, and other issues,” Abe told a meeting in Tokyo of Japanese and South Korean lawmakers.

He said the countries have faced “difficult problems” as a result of their geographical closeness. But he also underscored the importance of the relationship, saying, “Current Japan-South Korea relations were not achieved overnight.”

As the countries will mark in 2015 the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties, Abe said both the Japanese and South Korean people must “step up efforts toward expansion of the relationship in order to celebrate together this significant historical milestone.”

The remarks came as the two Asian neighbors have faced growing tensions over a territorial dispute in the Sea of Japan as well as problems that stem from Japan’s wartime aggression in the region.

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Kyodo News

Huge Bangladesh fire destroys key garments factory

Dhaka, 29 Nov — A huge fire on Friday destroyed a Bangladesh garment factory supplying key Western brands, authorities said, in a blaze touched off by workers angered over rundown of a colleague’s death in police firing.

Garments are a vital sector for the South Asian nation, whose low wages and duty-free access to Western markets have helped make it the world’s second-largest apparel exporter after China.

But a series of deadly incidents, including an April building collapse that killed more than 1,100 people, has triggered global concern over workers’ safety standards in the $22-billion garment industry.

There were no initial reports of casualties in Friday’s fire, which gutted a ten-storey building at Gazipur, 40 km (25 miles) from the capital, Dhaka.

Firefighters were battling to put out the fire in four adjacent buildings.

“We are still struggling to control the flames,” said fire official Mahbubur Rahman, adding that 12 fire service and civil defence units from Dhaka and nearby areas were scrambled to fight the fire.

A Reuters photographer who was on the scene said garment workers streamed on the floors bore brand names from US retailers such as American Eagle Outfitters Inc, Gap Inc and Wal-Mart Stores Inc.

Other brands on the clothes included Li and Fung Ltd, Marks and Spencer Group PLC, Sears Canada Inc, Fast Retailing Co Ltd’s Uniqlo and Inditex SA brand Zara. The factory was among the ten biggest in the country, said Mustafizur Rahman, president of industry body the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

Reuters

Nepali Congress party in lead as vote counting concludes in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 29 Nov — Vote counting from last week’s constituent assembly election in Nepal concluded on Thursday, with results showing the Nepali Congress party winning the most seats, though no political party is expected to have a majority.

Nepali Congress, the country’s oldest party, won 105 of the directly elected 240 seats and over 2.4 million votes in proportional representation voting, in which a total 335 seats in the assembly will be allotted on the basis of the number of votes each party gets, the Election Commission results show.

The Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) came in second place with 91 directly elected seats and over 2.2 million votes in proportional voting.

Kyodo News
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

**China’s Huawei to roll out 4G service in Ethiopian capital**

Addis Ababa, 29 Nov — Ethiopia’s state-run Ethio Telecom said on Thursday it had picked Hua-wei Technologies Co Ltd, the world’s second-largest telecom equipment maker, to roll out a high-speed 4G network across the capital Addis Ababa. The introduction of the service is part of a $1.6 billion deal signed in July and August between the Ethiopian firm, Huawei and ZTE, China’s second-biggest telecoms equipment maker, to expand mobile phone infrastructure throughout the Horn of Af-rica country.” In terms of allocation, Huawei will be responsible for the expansion of 4G in Addis Ababa, including other mobile services - the 2G, 3G, IP and the like,” Abdurahim Ahmed, Ethio Telecom’s head of communications, told Reuters. Abdurahim said the allocation plan was finalized on Wednesday. “It is expected to benefit more than 400,000 subscribers. Within an eight-month period, the expansion project of Addis Ababa, including 4G, will be completed.” The deal, signed by ZTE in Au-gust and Huawei a month before, will enable Ethio-pia to double subscribers to more than 50 million by 2015 and expand 3G ser-vice throughout the country. Both firms will split their work along 13 expansion areas. The contract was awarded under a long-term loan package to be paid over a 13-year period with an interest rate of “less than 1 percent”, Abdurahim said.

**OCZ gets offer from Toshiba to buy assets in bankruptcy sale**

New York, 29 Nov — Solid-state hard drive mak-er OCZ Technology Group Inc said it had received an offer from Toshiba Corp to buy the company in a planned bankruptcy pro-ceeding. OCZ shares tum-bled as much as 80 percent on Wednesday after trad-ing of the stock resumed on the Nasdaq. The stock had fallen 69 percent so far this year through Tues-day’s close. OCZ, which has a market capitalization of $43 million, said it had “substantially completed” negotiations with Toshiba on an asset purchase agreement.

The company said it expected to file a petition for bankruptcy shortly after-ward completing final docu-mentation with Toshiba and Hercules Technology Growth Capital Inc, one of its lenders. OCZ, which has not posted an annual profit in five years, said if it failed to agree on a deal with Toshiba it would imme-diately file for bankruptcy and liquidate.

The company has been battling a shortage of NAND flash memory chips, used in solid state drives, for about a year.

**Microsoft blocks censorship of Skype in China**

Beijing, 29 Nov — Microsoft Corp has made it harder to monitor calls and chats over its Skype phone service in China, a freedom of expression ad- vocacy group said, as the Chinese government steps up censorship of the Inter-net. Skype said on Monday it had ended an eight-year joint-venture with Hong Kong-based TOM Group — 51 percent owned by Hong Kong billionaire Li Ka-Shing — and found a new partner in China. “After careful analy-sis of the new Skype, we believe that Microsoft has lifted all censorship restrictions on their China product,” the advocacy group, GreatFire, said on Wednesday. “All user calls, chats and login information are encrypted and being communicated directly to Microsoft via HTTPS. This is a complete about-face for Microsoft from the TOM-Skype era, when all infor-mation was processed by TOM and stored by TOM on servers located in China with absolutely no privacy controls in place.” A Mi-crosoft spokeswoman in China declined to comment and a public relations offi-cial at Skype’s Asia-Pacific regional office could not immediately be reached.

Skype’s new partner in China is Guangming Found-er (GMF), a joint-venture of Beijing-based newspaper Guanying Daily and the Founder Group, a Beijing technology conglomerate established by Peking University, according to the new GMF-Skype web-site.

**Judge drops SIM cards case against ex-Telecom Italia managers**

Rome, 29 Nov — A Rome judge has decided to drop a criminal case against three former Telecom Italia managers accused of hav-ing inflated the number of mobile phone cards in use because there was no case to answer, a judicial source said on Wednesday.

The three executives are former Telecom Italia chief executive Riccardo Ruggiero and two former managers at the company’s mobile unit, TIM, Massimo Castelli and Luca Luciani. The investigation, transferred to Rome from Milan a few months ago, was looking into allega-tions that client data for 5.3 million SIM cards had been tampered with in the period 2006-2008.

**Apple consumer lawsuit over data privacy**

San Jose, 29 Nov — A California federal judge has dismissed a consumer lawsuit over data privacy against Apple Inc, saying the plaintiffs had failed to show they had relied on any alleged company misrepresentations and that they had suffered harm.

The four plaintiffs claimed in 2011 that Apple had violated its privacy policy, saying the iPhone maker had designed its iOS environment to easily trans-mit personal information to third parties that collect and analyze such data without user consent or detection. They also alleged that they suffered damages by pay-ing too much money for their iPhones and by losing storage space, among other things, according to court documents.

US District Judge Lucy H Koh in San Jose, California dismissed the case. “Plaintiffs must be able to provide some evi-dence that they saw one or more of Apple’s alleged misrepresentations, that they actually relied on those misrepresentations, and that they were harmed thereby,” Koh said in the 23 Novem-ber ruling. Lawyers for the plaintiffs and Apple either did not respond to requests for comment or declined to comment. The case is one part of nationwide litiga-tion Koh is overseeing that consolidates 19 related law-suits.

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**BUSINESS & HEALTH**

**US jobs picture improving, manufacturing may be slowing**

WASHINGTON, 29 Nov — The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment aid unexpectedly fell last week, but continued weakness in business spending on capital goods suggested slower economic growth in the fourth quarter. Initial claims for state jobless benefits fell 10,000 to a seasonally adjusted 316,000, the Labour Department said on Wednesday. The second straight week of declines defied economists’ expectations for a rise in claims to 330,000 and raised hopes for strong payroll growth in November.

“We are at a level that, if sustained, would point to solid job gains ahead. There is also a good chance the October payroll gain may not have been an aberration,” said Joel Naroff, chief economist at Naroff Economic Advisors in Holland, Pennsylvania.

But while the labor market picture is firming, businesses appear to be cautious about investment spending. A separate report from the Commerce Department showed non-defense capital goods orders excluding aircraft, a closely watched proxy for business spending plans, dropped 1.2 percent last month. It was the second monthly decrease in these so-called core capital goods. The data surprised Wall Street economists who had expected a gain, partly because private surveys of national factory activity had shown strength in October.

“The picture of manufacturing strength from survey data is not being captured in the government-collected data on new orders and this divergence is a puzzle,” said John Ryding, chief economist at RDQ Economics in New York.

**Bank of England to take fresh look at securitisation market**

LONDON, 29 Nov — The Bank of England said it may step in to kickstart the securitisation market, which was discredited by the US subprime crisis but which was discredited by the securitisation market, after the collapse of Bear Stearns and other US investment banks in 2007. The Thomson Reuters/ University of Michigan’s final reading on the overall index on consumer sentiment increased to 75.1 for November, up from a final reading of 73.2 in October. The preliminary November reading of the overall index was reported at 72.0 earlier this month.

The Bank of England said it will take a fresh look at the market as it is expected to produce a better functioning market in the United Kingdom,” the British central bank said in its Financial Stability Report on Thursday. It said the availability of cheap central bank money for banks and uncertainty over the final shape of new regulation for the sector partially explained the market’s muted recovery.

There could also be impediments such as lack of standardization in information about how the assets are performing, it added.

**Barclays Capital ordered to pay $2.1 million to NY trader**

BANGALORE, 29 Nov — Barclays Capital Inc has been ordered to pay $2.1 million to a New York-based trader it fired last year in connection with the alleged rigging of the London interbank offered rate, or Libor, according to arbitration documents.

The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority in the United States ordered Barclays Capital to pay Dong Kun Lee $2.1 million in damages in their award dated on 15 November. According to regulatory filings, on 30 July, 2012 Barclays dismissed Dong (Don) Kun Lee, a derivatives trader, for allegedly engaging “in communications involving inappropriate requests relating to Libor”.

Lee accused the company of a breach of contract and violation of New York labour law among other things in a subsequent arbitration claim. A London-based spokesman for Barclays Plc declined to comment. Lee originally asked Barclays to pay about $5.3 million in damages, but later reduced his request to about $2.1 million.

Barclays Capital provides securities brokerage and financial advisory services and operates as a subsidiary of London-listed Barclays Plc.— Reuters

**Cargill recalls poultry feed due to incorrect calcium levels**

CHICAGO, 29 Nov — US agribusiness Cargill Inc said on Wednesday it recalled two of its poultry feeds due to incorrect levels of calcium, a feed additive to promote bone growth.

Cargill’s Nutrena NatureWise poultry feeds were manufactured between 1 May and 21 November at its facilities in Waco, Texas; and Missoula, Montana. Products were sold under the names NatureWise Meatbird NatureWise Chick Starter Grower in 40-lb or 50-lb bags. Details of the recall are available at www.cargill.com/feeds/poultry-feed-recall.

**Bigger bowls prompt kids to want more, waste more**

NEW YORK, 29 Nov — Kids who are given larger bowls will ask for more cereal than when they’re given smaller bowls, and will more than likely overeat or waste the excess food, according to a new study. Researchers have found that adults serve themselves bigger portions when they’re given bigger plates, by as much as 22 percent, said Brian Wansink, a professor of consumer behavior at the Cornell Food and Brand Lab at Cornell University.

Wansink and colleagues wanted to see if bowl size had any influence on the amount of cereal requested by young children, so they carried out two separate studies. The results of both were published in the Journal of Pediatrics.

The first study involved 69 preschoolers and took place at Cornell, in Ithaca, New York. Each child was randomly selected to receive either a small eight-ounce bowl or a large 16-ounce bowl. Researchers asked the children how much cereal they wanted for a morning snack and then poured dry cereal into the bowls until the kids said to stop.

In general, the children who had the larger bowls asked for 87 percent more cereal than the children who were given the small bowls. The results were about the same for both boys and girls and for kids of any weight or body mass index.

The children were not allowed to eat the cereal so it isn’t known how much would have gone to waste. The second study involved 18 elementary school children attending a summer camp, who were randomly assigned either small eight-ounce bowls or larger 16-ounce bowls for breakfast. Cafeteria workers asked the children how much cereal and milk they wanted. The children poured the cereal and milk into the bowls, while scales hidden in the tables measured the amounts of cereal and milk that were served to each child. The scales and remote sensors also allowed the researchers to determine how much cereal was eaten and how much was left behind after breakfast.

**New Light of Myanmar**

Saturday, 30 November, 2013 5

Barclays Capital ordered to pay $2.1 million to NY trader

**Traders gather at the Barclays Capital’s kiosk on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on 7 April, 2010.** — Reuters

**Cargill**

A logo is pictured on the building of Cargill Internati onal SA in Geneva on 4 Aug, 2009. — Reuters

**US jobs picture improving, manufacturing may be slowing**

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**Cargill recalls poultry feed due to incorrect calcium levels**

**Bigger bowls prompt kids to want more, waste more**
Xi stresses reform confidence

VIENNA, 29 Nov — The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will accept an offer from Iran to visit Iran’s Arak heavy-water production plant early next month, IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano told a Press conference here on Thursday.

Amano announced Iran’s invitation to visit the heavy-water plant in the central city of Arak on 8 December in his statement addressing the IAEA Board of Governors.

Talking about possible increasing verification task under the Joint Plan of Action, reached between the P5+1 group and Iran in Geneva over the weekend, Amano said that the IAEA is considering how to put into practice the deal relevant to the agency.

The blueprint is in place, and now the most important thing is to implement it and turn it into reality step by step, Xi said. However, he admitted that it will be a tough and complicated task for the Communist Party of China (CPC) to deepen reform.

“It will be a new test for the Party’s ability to rule and lead the country,” said Xi, also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee.

A key reform plan, listing more than 300 measures, was adopted at the Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee on 12 November.

Xi noted that the reform measures should be implemented precisely according to the plan, cautioning against blindly pushing forward work without understanding the requirements of the central authorities.

Some measures, designed to be carried out under the leadership of the CPC Central Committee, should not be rushed, while some others should not be delayed, he said.

He called on the whole CPC and Chinese society to unite together under the consensus of pushing forward reform, and to understand, support and take part in reform efforts.

The CPC should focus all its work on reform efforts and all Party officials should strive to enhance their ability to mobilize and organize reforms as well as handle complex situations, he urged.—Xinhua

85 injured in HK ferry accident

BEIJING, 29 Nov — 85 people have been injured in a high-speed ferry accident in Hong Kong. Four of them are in a serious condition.

The ferry hit an unknown object near Sunshine Island early on Friday morning on its way from Hong Kong to Macao. It returned to the Hong Kong-Macao Ferry Terminal. A total of 105 passengers and ten staff were on board. 85 injured passengers have been rushed to hospital. Hong Kong Cable TV quoted the ferry operator as saying that passengers were injured because they were not wearing their seat belts.

UN inspectors to visit Arak heavy-water plant in Iran

BEIJING, 29 Nov — A North Korea food security assessment released by two UN agencies on Thursday shows that chronic malnutrition persists in the country even while its food production has increased for a third consecutive year.

“Despite the improved harvest, the food security situation remains similar to previous years with most households having borderline and poor food consumption,” the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Food Programme said in their joint assessment, based on a mission that visited North Korea between 27 September and 11 October. The report says that while North Korea’s production of cereals in 2013 increased about 5 percent over the previous year to about 5.03 million tons, it still needs to import an estimated 340,000 tons of cereals over the next year, or 40,000 tons above the country’s official import target.

The mission met with government officials in nine main food-producing provinces and visited cooperative farms, rural and urban households, food markets and child institutions and pediatric hospital wards.

It noted that although rates of child malnutrition in North Korea have steadily declined over the past decade, rates of stunting caused by malnutrition remain high.

The mission observed “immense logistical challenges for the public food distribution system and expressed concerns about the ‘timelessness and consistency of food distribution’.”

Its report said markets and informal mechanisms of bartering and other forms of exchange are believed to be of increasing importance for access to food by families, particularly in urban areas.—Kyodo News

S Korea, DPRK hold sub-panel talks on Kaesong complex

SEOUL, 29 Nov — South Korea and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) started their first sub-panel talks in more than two months on travel, communication and customs of the Kaesong industrial complex as scheduled, Seoul’s Unification Ministry said on Friday. The ministry said by phone that representatives from Seoul and Pyongyang held the scheduled dialogue as of 10 am local time to discuss the introduction of an electronic system to control passage of businessmen to and from Kaesong through the radio frequency identification (RFID) technology. The usage of mobile phones and the Internet connectivity will also be discussed at the sub-committee meeting for travel, communication and customs, which was first held since the latest talks on 13 September.

Unification Ministry spokeswoman Park Soo-jin said at Wednesday’s press briefing that the meeting planned to discuss the adoption of the RFID within this year along with the Internet connectivity and mobile phone usage. Seoul has made progress without a hitch on preparations for the introduction, but there remained cooperation from the DPRK needed to adopt the system, which will be discussed at the meeting, Park said.

Park said the South Korean government was ready to introduce the RFID system and the Internet connectivity in the inter-Korean factory park within this year.—Xinhua

N Korea crop harvest up for 3rd year but malnutrition persists

Photo taken 15 Nov, 2013, shows the Philippine national flag and signs, surrounded by debris in Tacloban City on Leyte Island in the Philippines, devastated by powerful Typhoon Haiyan.—Kyodo News

Photo taken 6 Nov, 2013, shows Ran, a 33-year-old female zebra, and her keeper at a zoo in Kochi, western Japan. Ran, born in 1982 at a zoo in Miyazaki and brought to Kochi the following year, is the only common zebra in Japan.—Kyodo News

Photo taken 10 Nov, 2013, shows the Philippine national flag and signs, surrounded by debris in Tacloban City on Leyte Island in the Philippines, devastated by powerful Typhoon Haiyan.—Kyodo News

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CCTVs installed for security measures

Tachilek, 29 Nov—Under the leadership of Tachilek Traffic Rules Enforcement Committee of Shan State (East), officials of No 64 Traffic Police Corps IP Than Zaw Lin installed CCTVs at significant points and junctions in Tachileks on 24 November with the assistance of PSC Co of Thailand.
They have installed 52 CCTVs at 13 significant points of the town, and it costs K 15.4 million.

MMAL-Mynt Mo (Tachilek)

High yield wheat strains distributed

Lashio, 29 Nov—With the aim of boosting production of crops of farmers from K Kutkai Township in Shan State (North) and increasing their income, high yield wheat strain Yinkyi-437 was handed over to local farmers of Sunlon Village of Urubum Manpyein Village-tract in Kutkai Township on 25 November.
Staff Officer U Maung Maung Aye of Township Agriculture Department presented 1500 kilos of high yield wheat strains to the village administrator and local farmers.
He then discussed good agriculture patterns.

MMAL-Han Htay (IPRD)

WFP donates over 70000 bags of rice to Rakhine State

Yangon, 29 Nov—WFP donated 72360 bags of rice to people of Rakhine State.

On 26 November, a vessel was loaded with 12600 bags of rice for people of Sittway in Rakhine State at No 1 jetty of Kaingdan Wharf in Seikkan Township of Yangon Region.

MMAL-Kyaw Myint Aye (IPRD)

Continuing Medical Education Programme conducted

Sittway, 29 Nov—The Continuing Medical Education Programme was conducted at Sittway General Hospital on 20 November afternoon.
Organized by Myanmar Medical Association (Sittway), Medical Superintendent Dr Aung Hsan, officials of Rakhine State Health Department, specialists, Head of Sittway Township Health Department Dr Kyawt Tha Sein, medical officers of military hospitals and house surgeons totalling about 150 attended the ceremony.
It was sponsored by AA Medical Products Ltd. The seminar will be held once every month.

MMAL-La/003

Illegal tamalan sawn timber seized

Bhamo, 29 Nov—A combined team comprising Senior Forester U Thaw Maw Khant of Bhamo Township Forest Department of Kayin State, Foresters U Saw Lu The Shwe and U Zaw Oo and Ranger U Thet Zaw Ko, Deputy Township Administrator U Thein Zaw Oo and Ward administrator U Aye Lwin and officials, acting on a tip-off, searched the illegal timber along Shenaygonlan Creek in Shenaygonlan Ward on 25 November evening.
The authorities seized 15 pieces of sawn tamalan timber weighing 0.634 ton.

CRIME

The seized timber pieces have been moved to the compound of the Township Forest Department.

MMAL-Hsimeekhon Nan Yi

Anti-Narcotic Drives

Nay Pyi Taw, 29 Nov—Members of Kawkareik District Police Force, those from Kawkareik Myoma police station and those from Kyondee police station together with witnesses, acting on a tip-off, raided the house of Thet Paing in Chaungphya Village of Kawkareik Township on 24 November.
 They saw Thet Paing and his wife Ma Yi Yi Lwin, 30, together with drug addicts Naing Lin, 23, Win Naing, 39 and Kyaw Myint Zaw, 32 of Kyondee.
The police found 15 WY brand stimulant tablets worth K 45000 from the pockets of Naing Lin’s trousers, 21 tablets worth K 63000 from the house of Thet Paing, one carbine and four rounds of ammunition, one magazine.
Kyondee police station opened files of lawsuit against Thet Paing and four persons under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

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MMAL-Ko Ye

Stimulant tablets, arms seized

MMAL-Ko Ye

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

"Break barriers, open doors: for an inclusive society for all "

Nay Pyi Taw 3-12-2013
Health awareness

Health is wealth, there goes a Burmese saying. But in this modern age which can be best characterized as being fiercely competitive, people tend to exchange health for wealth, pursuing their dream of fame and fortune at the expense of their health.

Anyone, regardless of race, religion, colour, gender or age, can fall prey to diseases which are ever-growing either in terms of number or complexity despite medical breakthroughs and sheer amount of funds being injected into medical research and experiment across the world.

Today, cancer has quietly become one of the largest killers in Myanmar. More and more people are contracting this fatal disease partly due to the irresponsible use of chemical dyes and preservatives in foods and excessive use of fertilizers in agricultural production. No one knows how many lives this “kitchen killer” has already claimed until it has come to spotlight lately.

The unhealthy lifestyle of modern life is also attributed to increased risks of developing diseases, particularly diabetes. Myanmar people tend to give little attention to health and many of us usually do not do exercise on a regular basis. This is partly due to the economic condition of the people but it is obvious that most of Myanmar people lack health awareness. In fact, schools should be the very first place that teaches the younger generations the importance of healthy habits.

The press is obliged to help raise the health awareness of people, especially the rural folk, while serving as a whistle-blower against unhealthy foods. More consumer watchdogs are required to help protect the consumers. It is critically important to make the public realize that prevention is better than cure.

Health education programs should be launched on a wider scale across the country through all possible means that can draw public attention, while increasing the budget for health care. It should be borne in mind that educated people can only create economic growth and sustainable development is something that can only be achieved by educated and healthy generations.

Korea’s KRPA donates OB van to MRTV

YANGON, 29 Nov — Korea Radio Promotion Association has donated a 4 Camera OB Van to the Myanmar Radio and Television today.

The contribution of the OB Van to the MRTV would help MRTV to ensure its extension of broadcasting.

Mr Kim Seon OK, Director-General of the ICT and Future Planning (International Cooperation Bureau) of Ministry of Science of Korea handed over the documents related to the OB Van to the MRTV today.

Thailand’s Universities ...

(for page 1)

For our economy to thrive, we are endowed with natural resources, have a huge work force and large markets in our neighboring countries. We have such opportunities as well as challenges. Our major challenges are capital, technical know-how and human resources. In this respect, we are now inviting foreign investments to obtain capital and technical know-how. In order to develop human resources, we will have to nurture our people. To do so, education plays a vital role. As promoting education is the main means to develop human resources, we are now carrying out education reforms in the basic as well as the higher education sectors, he continued.

We congratulated Mae Fah Luang University and Naresuan University of Thailand for their role in promoting human resources for the development of Thailand. In carrying out education reforms of Myanmar, Myanmar would like some of its universities to work closely with Thailand’s for benefit from their experiences. In conclusion, the President underscored that he highly value the Honorary Doctoral Degree of Philosophy in Public Administration and Honorary Doctorate in Political Science as these will be regarded as a great strength in Myanmar nation building efforts. Afterwards, the President and party had a documentary photo taken.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Nov — The 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee continued its third plenary meeting at Wizaya Mingalar Dhamma Thabin on Kaba Aye Hill here today.

During the meeting, members of the committee discussed the Vinaya, religious and academic matters and made resolutions. Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Dhammapalabhravna, Joint Secretary of the committee, sought approval for a report on the works carried out during the first period of the committee during the meeting.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Hsan Hinto supplicated on vacancy of three seats at the 11-member board of Ovadacariya for the Shwedagon Pagoda.—MNA
**Local News**

**UEC allows formation of political parties**

A 17-member group comprising U Kwam Gaung Aung Kham has applied for registration of Kachin Democratic Party as a political party to UEC. As the registration of the Kachin Democratic Party is in conformity with laws and by-laws, the UEC allowed it to form a political party today. —MNA

**27th SEA Games Transportation Committee meets**

The committee is running their works starting from 25 November. The committee is serving transportation work for foreign guests, sports teams, referees and media teams in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay and Ngewbsaung. Moreover, the committee is coordinating with relevant ministries to run bus lines, taxis and Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay Special Train for convenience of the sports fans.—MNA

**Mobile & Tablet Fair in Yangon from 7 to 9 December**

A famous mobile companies namely HTC, Huawei, LG, Samsung, Sing Tech, Cycle Tech, net, JAS and THL will make a sale at the fair. JayMart, eCity, SkyWav, New Fone Mart, Phone Corner, PAPAYA, KM Mobile, 123t, Time City and Kan Thar retail stores will participate in the show.

Mobile applications including GoThereMyanmar, Putet Comic and Bagan Inov-
Field Day of Ngwechi-6 long staple cotton plantation

YINMABIN, 29 Nov—Organized by Industrial Crops Development Department of Yinmabin Township, Yinmabin District, Sagaing Region, the ceremony to clarify use of Ngwechi-6 long staple cotton for boosting production and technical demonstration was held at quality cotton strain plantation on three acres of model plot of farmer U Hla Win from Tarwa, Nyaunggaing, Sathilya and Kapaing villages totalling 95. Head of Township ICDD U Zaw Min Tun explained quality of Ngwechi-6 long staple cotton and good agriculture patterns and prevention against pests in practical works.—Kyemon

Security troops, personnel assigned at XXVII SEA Games

YANGON, 29 Nov—Security personnel have been assigned duties at the places and routes for the XXVII SEA Games, said Yangon Region Security and Border Affairs Ministry. Yangon Region will host seven sports events in six sports venues of Yangon Zone for the XXVII SEA Games.

Body-building event will take place at Myanmar Convention Centre-MCC, shooting event at Dabon Myothit (North) Township shooting range, football event at Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna, wrestling and Kampo events at National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thuwunna of Thingangyun Township, weightlifting event at Thibinbyu Gymnasium and hockey event at Thibinbyu Turf Hockey Pitch respectively.

The training grounds were designated for the athletes of sports contestants at Aung San, Salin, Padomma and Padetha grounds.

Sports fans and foreigners will go to Nay Pyi Taw Zone, Mandalay Zone and Ayeyawady Zone from Yangon Zone.

With regard to the security measures, Yangon Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Tin Win said, “Arrangements have been made for accommodation of the athletes, referees, jury members at hotels. Security measures have been taken at the sports venues and routes and accommodations of the athletes.”

He continued, “As Myanmar is host, the sports fans are to cheer the sports events prestigiously.

If there is some suspicions, the fans are to inform the security subcommittees concerned of suspicious things.” Security personnel have been assigned at railway stations, jetties, airports and highway bus terminals. Action will be taken against those who disturb the people and discredit the prestige of the nation under existing laws, according to the Yangon Region Security and Border Affairs Ministry.

Kyemon-Soe Win (MLA)

Motorbike, car in collision leave two dead

INYANGLEBIN, 29 Nov—The collision between motorbike and car caused death to motorcyclist and another two on back seats near Heinbint Village of Nyaunglebin Township on 26 November morning.

The vehicle hearing for Nyaunglebin from Peinzalok driven by U Hla Myint, 63, son of U Tin of Ward 18 in Toungoo bumped against a motorcycle driven by Soe Moe Kyaw, 22, son of U Htau of Kanyinkyo Village of Kyaukdaga Township together with Myo Myint Win, 32, son of U Mya Maung of Kanyinkyo Village of Kyaukdaga Township.

The motorcycle overturned. In the incident, Soe Moe Kyaw and Myo Myint Win from the back seat died on the spot due to injuries.

Sgt Kyi Win of Peinzalok Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against the driver. Peinzalok Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against driver U Hla Myint under the law.

Kyemon-Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)

Training for human resources and job opportunities for youth conducted

PATEIN, 29 Nov—Under the supervision of Ayeyawady Region Government, Nai Khei Oo Group of Company conducted the Youth Human Resources Development and Job Opportunities Raising Training at Koethein Gymnasium in Patein on 25 November.

Ayeyawady Region Minister for Social Affairs Daw Khin Saw Mudelivered an address.

Cash donated to fund of Taungwaing Home for the Aged in Mawlamyne

MAWLAMYINE, 29 Nov—Col Aung Myint (Rtd) Daw Ohnna (Kaba Yadana Bank, Managing Director) and family donated cash to the fund of Taungwaing Home for the Aged in Mawlamyne on 24 November.

Col Aung Myint (Rtd) explained the purpose of donations and presented K 1 million to the fund through Chairman of the Home and executives.

After accepting the cash donations, Chairman of the Home U Khin Aung spoke words of thanks and presented a certificate of honour to wellwishers.

The donor family had provided 124 cakes of coap, 49 blankets, 71 pieces of towel, 35 sarongs for female and 20 sarongs for male. They had donated K 4.3 million to the fund of the Home.

Taungwaing Home for the Aged is taking care of 522 older persons.

Those wishing to donate cash and kind to the Home may dial 057-27263 and 09-49805838.—Kyaw Than (Mawlamyne)

93rd Anniversary National Day observed in Sagaing

SAGAING, 29 Nov—The 93rd Anniversary National Day was observed at No 2 Basic Education High School in Sagaing on 27 November.

Chairman of Sagaing District Management Committee U Myint Wai read the message sent by President U Thein Sein on the occasion of the National Day.

The chairman of District Management Committee, District Education Officer U Min Oo, Chairman of Town’s Elders Committee U Zaw Win, Township Management Committee U Tun Win Aung and Township Education Officer U Nyunt Lwin awarded the winners in essay contests.

The ceremony was attended by district and township level officials, schoolheads and students.—Kyemon-Htwe Myint Naing (Sagaing)

Accident

Motorbike, car in collision leave two dead

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Labour Affairs

Pathein, 29 Nov—It was attended by Deputy Commissioner U Khin Maung Lay of Pathein District General Administration Department, Township Administrator U Chi Ko, members of social organizations, philanthropic enthusiasts, incharge of Parahtia Works of Nai Khei Oo Group of Companies U Myint and instructors, totalling 158.

The course was aimed at creating job opportunities for the youth and developing human resources of youth.

On completion, the company will seek jobs for the youths through its related business groups.

The training course will be run up to 9 December.
Singapore moves to restrict remote gambling

SINGAPORE, 29 Nov—Singapore authorities are moving to restrict remote gambling activities carried out via the Internet or devices such as smart phones, Second Minister for Home Affairs S Iswaran said on Thursday.

The measures to be considered include blocking access to gambling websites and making it unlawful under penalties to remote gambling operators and prohibiting advertisements promoting remote gambling.

There will be a public consultation exercise over the next few weeks to get stakeholders to weigh in on the issue. The new laws are expected to be in place by early next year.

Remote gambling “can potentially become a source or conduit of funds for other illegal activities and syndicated crime,” he said.

Enforcement agencies will also be able to act against facilitators, intermediaries and providers of such services, Iswaran, who is also minister in the Prime Minister’s Office, said at a symposium.

He acknowledged these measures “may not be foolproof,” but nevertheless said that they will impede access to remote gambling platforms and send a clear signal of the regulatory stance in Singapore.

Local media said that the proposed measures could be one of the most comprehensive undertaken by any jurisdiction.

Shen Yueyue (L), vice-chairwoman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC) of China, meets with Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, speaker of National Assembly of Pakistan, in Islamabad, capital of Pakistan, on 28 Nov, 2013. A Chinese NPC delegation led by Shen Yueyue arrived in Islamabad on Thursday on a visit to Pakistan. —Xinhua

Taipei a transshipment point for illicit drugs to Japan

TAIPEI, 29 Nov—Taipei’s customs authorities seized 229 kilograms of heroin at Taoyuan International Airport in the northern part of the island last week.

With a street value estimated at NT$7 billion (about $2.4 billion), the seizure was the largest in Taipei since 1993. Authorities are still investigating if the illicit drugs were meant for domestic consumption or transshipment. Either way, the seizure is indicative of the problem Taipei faces in a globalization era where the flow of goods becomes freer and easier. The drug trade is becoming more sophisticated, drug traffickers are taking advantage of Taipei’s geological location and modern transit facilities to ship to neighbouring countries such as Japan.

The island’s Justice Ministry told Kyodo News in an e-mail interview that the majority of drugs smuggled into Taipei are for domestic use, while only a small portion goes elsewhere, although it is unclear what quantity of drugs remains in the country only long enough to be reprocessed before being shipped out.

The US government tells a different story, however. While Washington removed Taipei from its list of major drug-production or drug transit sites to North America in 2000, the State Department in its 2013 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report identifies Taipei as still one of the major sources of precursor or essential chemicals used in the production of illicit narcotics bound for Japan.

The CIA World Factbook also describes Taipei as a “regional transit point for heroin, methamphetamines, and precursor chemicals.” About 55 percent of illicit substances smuggled into the US from mainland China and Hong Kong, mainly due to their geographical proximity and despite efforts by China to better regulate its chemical industry.

Kyodo News

Philippines sends 336 peacekeepers to Golan Heights

MANILA, 29 Nov. —A new contingent of peacekeepers consisting of 336 officers and enlisted personnel will be leaving for Golan Heights in Syria starting on Friday, a Philippine military official said on Thursday.

The new batch of peacekeepers will replace the 332 Filipino peacekeepers who extended their term of duty several times in the troubled territory.

Philippine Army chief Lt Gen Noel Cobaltes said the peacekeepers will be transported in three batches, of which the first one will leave on Friday, and the second batch will leave on Saturday and the last one will depart for Golan Heights on 7 December. The Philippine government earlier said it decided to continue sending troops to the troubled area following assurances given by the United Nations to ensure the safety of Filipino peacekeepers. Twenty-five members of the 322-man peacekeeping contingent were abduced earlier this year, prompting the government to review its deployment to Golan Heights. —Xinhua

TEPCO transfers batch of spent fuel from Fukushima

TOKYO, 29 Nov. — The operator of the disaster-stricken Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant said on Friday that it transferred a batch of spent fuel rod assemblies from the No 4 unit spent fuel pool for the first time to a more stable storage space.

Plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co started removing spent fuel from the pool earlier this week after successfully transporting about 20 less risky unused fuel assemblies to another pool in a different building about 100 meters away.

The work will continue through the end of next year, until TEPCO finishes taking out over 1,000 fuel assemblies, including unused ones, from the spent fuel pool.

The fuel removal work marks a key step toward decommissioning the Nos 1 to 4 reactors that have been largely affected by the nuclear crisis, triggered by a huge earthquake and tsunami in March 2011.

The Nos 1 to 3 reactors, all in operation at the time of the quake, experienced core meltdowns. The No 4 reactor, offline for periodic maintenance work, had all of its fuel stored in the spent fuel pool and avoided a meltdown, but concerns have remained over the continued storage of the fuel in the building weakened by a hydrogen explosion.

Kyodo News

Thai PM calls for talks to end political conflict

BANGKOK, 29 Nov — Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra on Thursday called on anti-government demonstrators to hold dialogue with the government to find a way out of the political tumult.

In a televised address, the embattled premier urged the protesters to end their street rallies which have lasted almost a month in the capital city, saying “the government will adhere to peaceful means in dealing with the protesters and will ensure public services continue without disruption.”

“The government does not want to play a political game because doing so will only cause the economy and the country to step backward,” she said.

In a escalating bid to oust the so-called “Thaksin’s regime,” allegedly carried out by the Yingluck government, the protesters have occupied the compound of government agencies in Jangwattana area in Bangkok’s suburbs since Wednesday and the Finance Ministry in the heart of the capital since Monday. —Xinhua
**UN calls for immediate action after reported killings of children in DR Congo**

United Nations, Nov. 28 — The United Nations on Wednesday called on the authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to take immediate action in light of reports of disappearances and assassination of young men and children in the capital Kinshasa.

"According to information received, which is currently being verified, at least 20 people, including 12 children, have been reportedly killed," said a news release issued by the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the UN peacekeeping mission in DRC (MONUSCO). "Investigations must be undertaken by judicial authorities so that responsible for these acts are brought to justice, in accordance with the Congolese Criminal Code," it said.

The two organizations said the “alarming reports” coincide with the start of the Operation Likofi (Punch in Lingala) undertaken from 15 November to 15 February next year by Congolese authorities to curb urban de-linquency, according to the Press release.

"UNICEF and MONUSCO call for immediate steps to be taken by Congolese authorities to put an end to such acts," it added.

They recalled that the state must in all circumstances ensure that human rights are protected and that children receive special protection, in line with Congolese laws and international treaties and conventions.

"The United Nations reiterates its willingness to support the Congolese government in its search for durable solutions to problems regarding the social reintegration of children and youths," it added.

**Police seizes two tons of marijuana in southwestern Colombia**

Bogota, Nov. 29 — Colombian police seized on Wednesday two tons of marijuana that were hidden inside a truck parked within a property in Corinto township in the country’s southwestern Caquetá department, officials said.

According to a police report, the drugs were found thanks to an informant and they allegedly belonged to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrillas that has a strong presence in Caquetá. The drugs were sent to be seized in the neighbouring Cali city for retail, police said. The Colombian government is negotiating with the FARC, with a agenda including a solution to the illicit drug problem as the rebel group makes profits out of the illegal activities to fund themselves.

**Haitian president mourns migrant deaths**

Santo Domingo, Nov. 29 — Haitian President Michel Martelly Wednesday, said he was “deeply affected” by the deaths of at least 30 undocumented Haitians whose boat capsized on Monday in the Bahamas.

According to a statement from the US Coast Guards, they called the Haitian migrants drowned when their overloaded boat overturned off Staniel Cay, in the Bahamas.

In a statement posted on the official Facebook account of Haitian government, Martelly expressed his condolences to the families of the victims and discouraged Haitians from endangering their lives in a desperate bid to look for work abroad.

"The president of the republic reaffirms his commitment to maintaining stability in the country in order to promote investment and job creation and reduce these dangerous practices," the statement said.

Another 110 people who were on board of the vessel were rescued by the Coast Guard and members of the Bahamas Defence Forces.

"The Coast Guard statement said the survivors ‘were clinging to the hull of the grounded 40-foot (12-meter) sailboat’ when they were rescued Monday night 28 km southwest of Staniel Cay. According to Haitian daily Nouvelliste, in recent months the US Coast Guard has reported several similar incidents.

**UNSC hopes to see early conclusion of Yemen’s National Dialogue Conference**

United Nations, Nov. 29 — The UN Security Council on Wednesday voiced its hope to see an early conclusion of Yemen’s National Dialogue Conference, which plays an important role in the nation’s constitution drafting and electoral preparations.

In a statement read to the press here, Liu Jieyi, the Chinese UN ambassador who holds the rotating council presidency for this month, said, “The members of the Security Council expressed concern, however, about the significant delays in concluding the National Dialogue Conference and emphasized the importance of concluding the National Dialogue Conference as soon as possible to move to constitutional drafting and electoral preparations, as the next steps in the transition.” The statement was issued here after the council’s closed-door consultations on the current situation in Yemen.

"They called on all parties to engage constructive-ly in a spirit of compromise to address the remaining critical issues necessary to conclude the dialogue, in particular those concerning the southern question and the structure of the State,” the statement said. Yemeni factions started the comprehensive reconciliation dialogue in March as part of the West-backed power transition launched after the 2011 mass protests. It was designed to last six months but some disagreements on key issues have been delaying its conclusion.

**Ukraine sends humanitarian aid to typhoon-hit Philippines**

Kiev, Nov. 29 — Ukraine delivered 58 tons of humanitarian aid to the Philippines on Thursday in the wake of a devastating typhoon. "Assistance to affected regions is our professional and human duty," Deputy Prime Minister Olehlik told reporters.

He said a cargo plane carrying food, blankets, electricity generators, water filters and medical supplies has took off from the Boryspol international airport.

Vilkul added that Ukraine is ready to provide a field hospital and rescue personnel to assist the Philippine authorities in the relief efforts.

**Typhoon Haiyan rips through the Philippines on Nov. 8, killing over 5,200 people and wounding around 26,000 others.** According to the Philippine government, another 1,700 people are still missing.
Bob Dylan whips up tempest in return to 1966 London venue

LONDON, 29 Nov — Bob Dylan played London’s Albert Hall this week for the first time since his fabled and tumultuous concerts there in 1966, his vitality and mystique intact five decades on since he revolutionized popular music.

This time round there were no boos and catcalls prompted by his use of electric instruments, just ovations as he led his crack band through a set that drew heavily from his latest album “Tempest” but also reached back into earlier stages of his career.

True to form, Dylan said not a word to the audience, letting the music speak for itself.

He kicked off on Wednesday night with the Oscar-winning “Things Have Changed” following it with “She Belongs to Me”—the only song which had also featured in the 1966 shows. An early highlight was “What Good Am I” from 1989’s “Oh Mercy”. He also offered up gentle, almost jazzy versions of “Tangled Up in Blue” and “Simple Twist of Fate” from “Blood on the Tracks.

But there was still plenty of fire and brimstone in the 72-year-old - I’ll pay in blood, but not my own he snarled in “Pay in Blood”, a track from “Tempest”.

Further evidence he was not going soft was a bitter “Love Sick” from “Time Out of Mind”, the 1997 album which ushered in a new creative era for Dylan which shows no sign of stopping.

Dressed in a gambler’s coat and mariachi pants, Dylan either sat at a grand piano center stage or sang at the microphone.—Reuters

Bieber gets clean-up request after painting Australia hotel wall

SYDNEY, 29 Nov — Justin Bieber has been asked to clean up his mess by the mayor of the Gold Coast in Australia after the Canadian pop star spraypainted the wall of a hotel during his “Believe” tour.

The abstract graffiti was painted in the tennis court area of the QT Hotel on the Gold Coast, 80 km (50 miles) southeast of Brisbane, and posted on Bieber’s Instagram page, where it has attracted more than 545,000 “likes”.

The images are of one-eyed blob with teeth in bright pink, various monsters in splashes of color, Pac-Man ghosts and a take on Spongebob Squarepants with crosses as eyes.

“This eyesore has no place in the city,” a spokesman for Mayor Tom Tate told Reuters. “If that’s the example Justin wants to set, it’s really unfortunate. But at the end of the day it’ll get cleaned up, whether or not he decides to.”

The mayor’s office sent a “graffiti removal kit” to Bieber at the hotel but the singer had already left for Sydney for his concerts on Friday and Saturday.

The mayor also sent a tweet directly to Bieber saying “Glad you had a great time on Australia’s #goldcoast. Hope to see you back soon to clean up your mess. Make me a #belieber”.

He has yet to hear back from Bieber, who spray painted a wall at a hotel in Rio de Janeiro earlier this month.

The local council has ordered the QT Hotel to paint over the graffiti but the hotel defended the pop star’s actions.

“The piece of artwork will be left for fans to enjoy,” it told Reuters in an email. “We believe it is a wonderful addition to the colorful Gold Coast arts scene.”

Melissa Victor, a publicist for Bieber at Universal Music Group in New York, declined to comment. —Reuters

Corden returns as the presenter for Brit Awards

LONDON, 29 Nov — British actor James Corden is returning for the fifth and the last time as the presenter of 2014 Brit Awards. The 34-year-old star, who would front the show on February 19, said he is going to miss presenting the award function, reported Daily Mirror.

“I really love the Brits. I’m such a fan. I’ll miss not doing it after this one but fully intend to enjoy every second of Brits 2014,” Corden said.—PTI

Mandela film welcomed in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 29 Nov — The film Mandela started to be shown in all cinemas in South Africa on Thursday, attracting many audiences regardless of their races or colours.

Residents flooded into the cinemas as the film Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom, was to be screened in the largest city of Johannesburg.

“Many citizens began to contact us for making the ticket bookings several days ago,” the manager of Rosebank cinema Bottimulo told Xinhua.

“As it is the first day of the national release of the film, we would have 4 screens today,” said the manager.—Xinhua

My daughter is no less than a royal princess: Kanye West

LOS ANGELES, 29 Nov — New father Kanye West has compared his five-month-old daughter, North, to actual British royalty.

The 36-year-old rapper’s fiancee, Kim Kardashian, was pregnant at the same time as the Duchess of Cambridge and both were due to give birth in July. But Kardashian delivered over a month early, reported Us magazine.

“My daughter is in a position of a level of royalty like the prince and princess in London,” he said.—PTI

Mike Tyson would love to own another tiger

LONDON, 29 Nov — Boxer-turned-actor and entertainer Mike Tyson still dreams of owning tigers again after cuddling up to his favourite big cat when he was a super-rich sportsman.

Tyson has made no secret of his financial troubles and admits the one thing he misses most about being a multi-millionaire is being able to afford to keep a tiger, which once roamed around his sprawling Connecticut estate.

Canadian singer Justin Bieber performs in a concert at the Atlantico pavilion in Lisbon on 11 March, 2013. —Reuters

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“The piece of artwork will be left for fans to enjoy,” it told Reuters in an email. “We believe it is a wonderful addition to the colorful Gold Coast arts scene.”

Melissa Victor, a publicist for Bieber at Universal Music Group in New York, declined to comment. —Reuters

Corden returns as the presenter for Brit Awards

London, 29 Nov — British actor James Corden is returning for the fifth and the last time as the presenter of 2014 Brit Awards. The 34-year-old star, who would front the show on February 19, said he is going to miss presenting the award function, reported Daily Mirror.

“I really love the Brits. I’m such a fan. I’ll miss not doing it after this one but fully intend to enjoy every second of Brits 2014,” Corden said.—PTI

Mandela film welcomed in South Africa

Johannesburg, 29 Nov — The film Mandela started to be shown in all cinemas in South Africa on Thursday, attracting many audiences regardless of their races or colours.

Residents flooded into the cinemas as the film Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom, was to be screened in the largest city of Johannesburg.

“Many citizens began to contact us for making the ticket bookings several days ago,” the manager of Rosebank cinema Bottimulo told Xinhua.

“As it is the first day of the national release of the film, we would have 4 screens today,” said the manager.—Xinhua

My daughter is no less than a royal princess: Kanye West

Los Angeles, 29 Nov — New father Kanye West has compared his five-month-old daughter, North, to actual British royalty.

The 36-year-old rapper’s fiancee, Kim Kardashian, was pregnant at the same time as the Duchess of Cambridge and both were due to give birth in July. But Kardashian delivered over a month early, reported Us magazine.

“My daughter is in a position of a level of royalty like the prince and princess in London,” he said.—PTI

Mike Tyson would love to own another tiger

London, 29 Nov — Boxer-turned-actor and entertainer Mike Tyson still dreams of owning tigers again after cuddling up to his favourite big cat when he was a super-rich sportsman.

Tyson has made no secret of his financial troubles and admits the one thing he misses most about being a multi-millionaire is being able to afford to keep a tiger, which once roamed around his sprawling Connecticut estate.

Bieber gets clean-up request after painting Australia hotel wall

Sydney, 29 Nov — Justin Bieber has been asked to clean up his mess by the mayor of the Gold Coast in Australia after the Canadian pop star spraypainted the wall of a hotel during his “Believe” tour.

The abstract graffiti was painted in the tennis court area of the QT Hotel on the Gold Coast, 80 km (50 miles) southeast of Brisbane, and posted on Bieber’s Instagram page, where it has attracted more than 545,000 “likes”.

The images are of one-eyed blob with teeth in bright pink, various monsters in splashes of color, Pac-Man ghosts and a take on Spongebob Squarepants with crosses as eyes.

“This eyesore has no place in the city,” a spokesman for Mayor Tom Tate told Reuters. “If that’s the example Justin wants to set, it’s really unfortunate. But at the end of the day it’ll get cleaned up, whether or not he decides to.”

The mayor’s office sent a “graffiti removal kit” to Bieber at the hotel but the singer had already left for Sydney for his concerts on Friday and Saturday.

The mayor also sent a tweet directly to Bieber saying “Glad you had a great time on Australia’s #goldcoast. Hope to see you back soon to clean up your mess. Make me a #belieber”.

He has yet to hear back from Bieber, who spray painted a wall at a hotel in Rio de Janeiro earlier this month.

The local council has ordered the QT Hotel to paint over the graffiti but the hotel defended the pop star’s actions.

“The piece of artwork will be left for fans to enjoy,” it told Reuters in an email. “We believe it is a wonderful addition to the colorful Gold Coast arts scene.”

Melissa Victor, a publicist for Bieber at Universal Music Group in New York, declined to comment. —Reuters

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**SPORTS**

**Messi recovery progressing well**

MAJOR, 29 Nov — Lionel Messi has completed the first stage of his recovery from a thigh strain and will travel to his native Argentina on Friday as planned to continue treatment, his club Barce- lona said on Thursday. Messi sustained the injury in a La Liga match at Real Betis on November 10 and the World Player of the Year is likely to be sidelined until the middle of January.

Club doctor Ricard Pruna and physio Elvio Paulorosso will join him in Argentina next month to supervise the final phase of his recovery programme, Barca said on their website (www.fcbarcelona.com).

“His development is positive as the latest conducted show,” they said. Messi will miss Barca’s final Champions League Group H match at home to an already eliminated Celtic on 11 December, when the Spanish champions will be looking to secure top spot ahead of Italian side AC Milan.

He could be back in time for the 12 January La Liga game at second-placed Atletico Madrid, who are three points behind leaders Barca after 14 matches.

**Giggs to turn 40 without signs of decline**

LONDON, 29 Nov—Manchester United veteran Ryan Giggs, one of the most durable and deco- rated player of the Premier League, turns 40 on Friday.

His stability of playing shows no signs of decline of his career.

Giggs’ performances remain a high standard and the club’s manager David Moyes believes the Welsh midfielder could continue to play on next season.

His stability of playing shows no signs of decline of his career.

He has also refined his game, playing deeper in midfield rather than on the wings.

He relies on speed of thought rather than the speed of his legs.

His first-team career will continue for next two years if he extends the contract.

It will be Giggs’ 953rd club appearance against Tottenham in the Premier League on Sunday for the United since his debut in 1991.

Xinhua

**World Cup hosts Brazil back in FIFA’s top 10 ahead of draw**

ZURICH, 29 Nov — Brazil clawed their way back into the top 10 when FIFA published the November rankings on Thursday ahead of next week’s World Cup draw.

The World Cup hosts, who slumped to an all-time low of 22nd in June, went back into the top 10 after winning the Confederations Cup in July.

Brazil then slipped to 11th last month but friendly wins over Honduras and Chile have taken them to 10th. Soccer’s ruling body FIFA is using October’s rankings as the primary yardstick for next week’s draw so Brazil’s ups and downs will have no impact on their status among the top seeds for the World Cup.

Brazil, Spain, Argentina, Germany, Colombia, Belgium, South American champions Uruguay and Switzerland.

FIFA will announce the second, third and fourth-ranked seeded nations before the draw in Salvador da Bahia on 6 December.

Top 10 and rankings of World Cup qualifiers outside the leading 10:

Last month’s positions in parentheses:

1. (1) Spain
2. (2) Germany
3. (3) Argentina
4. (4) Colombia
5. (14) Portugal
6. (6) Uruguay
7. (8) Italy
8. (7) Switzerland
9. (8) Netherlands
10. (11) Brazil—(Reuters)

**Headline act McIlroy delighted to finally fit the bill**

SYDNEY, 29 Nov—World number six Rory McIlroy was delighted to finally justify his role as a headline act after tightening up his putting to fire a seven-under-par 65 at the Australian Open on Friday.

A disappointing year has sorely tested McIlroy’s natural good humour but he had plenty to smile about after his round of nine birdies and a couple of bogeys saw him jump late-starting Adam Scott atop the leaderboard on 10-under.

Despite local favourite Scott’s brilliant run of form this year, McIlroy’s status as a former world number one and twice major champion ensured his place as a major drawcard.

“Obviously when you come to a tournament where you’re one of the headline acts or main attractions, you want to live up to that billing I guess,” the North- ern Irishman laughed.

“For the most part this year I haven’t, whenever I went. So it’s nice. It’s nice to reward the people that invite you down here and look after you so well.”

**After three hard years, Asada hopes to shine at Sochi**

TOYOTA (Japan), 29 Nov — The first time Japan’s Mao Asada set foot on a skating rink nearly two decades ago she wore a helmet and protective pads on her knees and elbows, wanting only to follow her big sister.

Now she stands as a prime contender for gold at the Sochi Games, where she will once again lock horns with long-standing rival and reigning Olympic figure skating champion Kim Yuna of South Korea.

Yet as recently as 2012 Asada was thinking about quitting.

Her mother’s death the year before, coupled with several uneven seasons of changing her skating style from the bottom up in the wake of losing gold to Kim at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, had sent her into a slump.

“If I hadn’t gone through these tough times, I don’t think I’d have come as far as I have, to being in my current condition.”

Asada, who has said this will likely be her last competitive season, racked up wins in both of her Grand Prix events this year, Skate America and the NHK Tro- phy, despite some trouble with the complicated triple Axel, a jump with 3.5 rota- tions.

At the NHK Trophy she landed five triple jumps for a personal best, her soft-spoken 23-year-old told Reuters in an interview at her home rink just outside the central Japanese city of Nagoya.

“Over the last three years I’ve been through a lot of pain and worry. But it’s because of that pain that I’ve gotten to where I am now.”

REuters
New baby for father who lost family in 2007 Connecticut home invasion

NEW YORK, 29 Nov — A Connecticut man whose first wife and two daughters were murdered in a 2007 invasion of their Cheshire home is now the father of a baby boy born to his new wife, the family announced on Facebook.

Dr William Petit and his wife Christine, a professional photographer, last weekend welcomed baby William, whose portrait was posted on the Facebook page of Christine Petit’s photo studio. “Happiest and sweetest time ever ... our new little son, William. So in love!” the post said.

The couple met through the Petit Family Foundation, a charity Petit created in memory of his wife Jennifer Hawke-Petit and their daughters, Hayley, 17, and Michaela, 11.

Petit was severely beaten in the attack, during which two men held the family hostage for hours, before setting the home on fire. Joshua Komisarjevsky and Steven Hayes were later convicted in the murders and sentenced to death.

In 2012, Connecticut repealed the death penalty, but the punishment remains in place for previous cases, including Komisarjevsky and Hayes.

Reuters

Police detain 120 Italian soccer fans in Warsaw

WARSAW, 29 Nov — Polish police detained about 120 supporters of Italian soccer club Lazio after violence broke out before Thursday evening’s match against Legia Warsaw, a police spokesman said.

“Bottles and stones were thrown from the Italian group in the direction of the police cars,” the spokesman said. Rome team Lazio are due to play the Polish league champions in a UEFA Europa League group match at 7 pm (1800 GMT) in Legia’s 32,000-seat stadium.

Of the 14,000 tickets sold, 750 were bought by Lazio fans, according to the host club.—Reuters

Georgia men used toy helicopter in botched prison smuggling

NEW YORK, 29 Nov — Four men from the US state of Georgia have been arrested after allegedly using a remote-controlled toy helicopter to smuggle contraband into a state prison, officials said.

An official at the medium-security Calhoun State Prison spotted the toy helicopter hovering close to the prison on 21 November, on the eve of a news conference on the eve of his trial, the host lawyer said.

The official sent an air-control for the helicopter, nine mobile phones, and a large bundle of marijuana, the report said.

“I’ve never seen a helicopter (used before). They were in the woods flying it,” Calhoun County Sheriff Josh Hilton told WSB-TV. “They had big noisecaps, evidently, so they could watch it.”

Officials found the helicopter once they searched the vehicle, along with about one to two pounds of tobacco rolled up, Hilton said.

It was unclear what contraband, breached prison walls. The four Atlanta-area men, who made two drops of contraband that were later recovered by prison officials, were arrested and have been released on bail, WSB-TV reported.—Reuters

Real Madrid defence still a concern for coach Ancelotti

CARLO ANCELOTTI levelled some sharp criticism at centre-back Sergio Ramos and Pepe after the game.

While the nine-times European champions have had little trouble finding the net this season, largely thanks to the scintillating form of Cristiano Ronaldo, their defence has been fragile and they have only managed three clean sheets in 14 games in La Liga and one in five Champions League outings.

Ramos got himself sent off midway through the first half at the Bernabeu when he allowed Umut Bulut to get in front of him before felling the Galatasaray forward when he was through on goal.

Pepe was at fault for the Turkish side’s equaliser when he reacted too slowly to a Didier Drogba through ball and Bulut snuck in past keeper Iker Casillas.

If Real are to claim the 10th European crown that has eluded them since their last success in 2002 they will need to tighten up at the back as their opponents in the knockout round are likely to offer a much stiffer challenge than tame Galatasaray.

“The match was made more difficult by the Sergio Ramos sending-off,” Ancelotti said in an interview with Spanish television broadcaster Canal Plus.

“I don’t think the defenders should be taking risks, all they need to do is cover behind them and nothing more,” added the Italian, who was clearly upset with Ramos as the Spain international trudged off the pitch.

“We suffered a sending-off because of that and we must learn from it,” Ancelotti said before the Galatasaray goal when we didn’t cover our backs properly.

“I have told the defenders many times that they have to cover behind them and I don’t need to say it again.” One bright spot in defence in Wednesday’s game was the performance of fullback Alvaro Arbeloa, who scored Real’s second goal and set up Angel Di Maria for the third and was named “man of the match” by Ancelotti.

Reuters
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker arrives in Japan

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Nov—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and party arrived in Tokyo yesterday morning. In the afternoon, they visited the House of Representatives and observed the parliamentary session in progress. During the meeting, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker highlighted further cooperation not only for strengthening friendship and amity between the two nations but also for boosting bilateral trade, investments and technological cooperation. He called for Japanese advice and support for the success of Myanmar’s sweeping reforms. The Japanese Speaker said that implementation of socio-economic development measures is perquisite to Myanmar. He called for promotion of international cooperation in investment and trade sectors based on the market-oriented approach (See page 9)

IFRD to assist in development of irrigated farms

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Nov—Union Minister for Agricultural and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing held talks with Project Manager Dr Omer Zafar from International Foundation for Research and Development (IFRD) and Dr Triheerry F. Maheius (Micro and Finance Specialist) on Farm Project (fostering Agriculture Specialist) on Farm Management Specialist) on World Bank’s effective programme for Myanmar’s five farm reforms. Swift implementation of the Farm Project during 2014 was discussed at the meeting.—MNA

Myanmar Futsal players ready to compete in SEA Games

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Nov—Players of Myanmar Futsal team are under training for the SEA Games. Players of Myanmar Futsal team is under training for SEA Games.

BANGKOK, 29 Nov—About 1,500 anti-government protesters forced their way into the compound of Thailand’s army headquarters on Friday, the latest escalation in a city-wide demonstration seeking to topple Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

“We want to know which side the army stands on,” shouted one protestor, as others broke through padlocked red iron gates in Bangkok’s historic quarter, waving Thai flags and blowing whistles.

In another district, about 1,000 people gathered outside the headquarters of Yingluck’s ruling party, shouting “Get out, get out!”. Hours later, the protesters dispersed peacefully from both places.

The invasion of army headquarters deepens a conflict broadly pitting the military’s role in a country that has seen coups in the past 80 years. The military’s pivotal role in a country that has seen coups in the past 80 years. The protesters accuse Yingluck of abusing her party’s parliamentary majority to push through laws that strengthen the behind-the-scenes power of her self-exiled, billionaire brother. They have rejected her repeated calls for dialogue.

Although the army moved its main command centre to a military camp in Bangkok’s northern suburbs three days ago, the siege of its grounds by protesters is deeply symbolic and highlights the military’s pivotal role in a country that has seen 18 successful or attempted coups in the past 80 years.

After forcing open the compound’s wrought iron front gates, protesters swarmed inside, demanding that Thailand’s generals choose sides. About 100 soldiers stood guard. Hundreds watched from the balconies of the 19th-century cream-colored building.

“We want the head of Thailand’s armed forces to choose whether they stand by the government or with the people,” Uthai Yodmanee, a protest leader, said from the back of a truck.

Yingluck has publicly courted Thailand’s powerful military, which has remained neutral in this bout of protests.