Government working hard to achieve electrification of rural areas, provision of clean water to rural people

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 Dec—The following is the full text of the speech delivered by President U Thein Sein through radio programmes to the entire people on 1 December.

My fellow citizens,

In this month’s radio speech, I would like to start with an explanation of my positions on some of the ongoing political changes in the country.

Over the last two years, political changes have come to Myanmar in the form of a new political process. It is undeniable that our nation has achieved tangible results. It is also undeniable that the whole of Myanmar society has worked very hard to get to where we are today amidst a plethora of difficulties, problems and challenges. That said, much more is to be done. The level of achievement we have attained so far is comparable to a sprout that has just come out of a seed. It is our national duty to work hard without any reservation to make sure that the sprout will grow strong and healthy over time. There is no other alternative for us than devoting ourselves to sustaining the political reforms that have taken place and to keep the political transition on the right track. It is the duty of all citizens to do everything they can to make sure that the current political process will move forward. I am calling for such action mainly because I believe that my administration alone could not have attained the level of success we have achieved so far with the political reforms and the political transition; our progress is a result of the collective contributions made by the government, Hluttaws, political parties and associations, civil society associations, business enterprises and associations, the Tatmadaw and individual citizens over the last two years.

Cooperation of civil society and community-based organizations is vital in building a peaceful country amidst difficulties and challenges: President U Thein Sein

Nay Pyi Taw, 30 Nov—“It is important and essential to restore the long-weakened trust between the government and the people, between institution and the people, and between citizens,” said President U Thein Sein in his address to the forum on peaceful nation-building and the role of civil society held at the Diamond Jubilee Hall of Yangon University in Yangon this morning.

The forum which is aimed at enabling the government and the civil society to effectively carry out Myanmar’s reforms took place at the Diamond Jubilee Hall at 9 am. It was attended by the Union ministers, the Yangon Region Chief Minister, the deputy ministers, local and foreign NGOs, Inter Faith Groups and over 100 civil society organizations.

The President said: This is the time our administration is undertaking all necessary reforms with the aim to turn the country into a new peaceful and developed nation. In so doing, we have regularly consulted with the general public. As we continue to undertakre more reforms, civil society organizations will need to play an increasingly crucial role in state and peace building activities.

Myanmar Airways to operate new domestic flights

Mandalay, 30 Nov—Based at Chanmyathazi airport where there were no airport services and flight operations for more than one decade, Myanmar Airways will operate flights from Mandalay to other towns in upper Myanmar soon.

An official of Myanmar Airways said that Cessna Grand Caravan Ex small aircrafts with a seating capacity of 12 each will be used in the domestic flights that will be operated prior to the SEA Games. He continued that it is planned to start flight operations with two aircrafts before the SEA Games.

Myanmar Airways will make public detailed flight information soon, it is learnt.
Health Care Activities

Specialists from Mawlamyine General Hospital make field trips

Mawlamyine, 30 Nov—A 53-member specialist team led by Medical Super-intendent Dr Kyaw Zeya of Mawlamyine General Hospital of Mon State made a field trip to Asin Village of Ye Township on 28 November. They provided 957 patients of villages at rural health centre in Asin Village.

Management course 2/2013 concludes

The opening ceremony (Seikkan) Township on 28 November and Dagon Myothit courts were held at the Kanbawza Sports Ground for construction of new buildings of township courts. The opening ceremony was formally opened by Region Hluttaw, the Region Minister for Security and Region Advocate-Affairs (Yangon Mayor), the deputy speaker of the Yangon Region Hluttaw, the Region Court, the Yangon Region High Court, the chief justice of the Yangon Region High Court, the deputy speaker of Shan State Hluttaw, the Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs, the Region Supervisor Committee, the management course 2/2013 concluded at the office of Region Hluttaw, here, recently.

Patron Daw Khin Thet Htay presents prize to an outstanding trainee.

On the opening day, on 28 November, Ceremonies to drive stakes for construction of new courts were held at the respective sites in Thaylin and Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township on 28 November. The Chief Justice of the Yangon Region High Court, the deputy speaker of Region Hluttaw, the Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs, the Region Director for Development Affairs (Yangon Mayor) and Region Advocate-General drove stakes at the designated places.

Stake driven for construction of new buildings of township courts

Yangon, 30 Nov—Ceremonies to drive stakes for construction of new courts were held at the respective sites in Thaylin and Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township on 28 November. The Chief Justice of the Yangon Region High Court, the deputy speaker of Region Hluttaw, the Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs, the Region Director for Development Affairs (Yangon Mayor) and Region Advocate-General drove stakes at the designated places.

Hi Ace vehicle, commercially used in transport of globetrotters

Yangon, 30 Nov—Hi Ace cars are used in transport of tourists, said an automobile importer recently.

Due to relaxation of the policy on importation of cars, Hi Ace is useful in transportation of globetrotters at local areas. In the past, the tour agencies used modern express buses. Thanks to the import policy, the 12-seat Hi Ace are imported on a larger scale.

Kamanat Village of Bago Township on 28 November

Free clinic opened in Bago Township

Bago, 30 Nov—A free clinic was opened in Kamanat Village of Bago Township on 28 November. The medical team plans to give medical treatment to local people in Kyaungywa Village of Ye Township and Lamaing Sub-Township.

Patron Daw Khin Thet Htay presents prize to an outstanding trainee.

Hi Ace vehicles flow into the local market. Tour agencies now seldom use the express buses for tourist transportation,” said a car importer.

“Hi Ace vehicles are used in transport of globetrotters, said an automobile importer recently.

Due to relaxation of the policy on importation of cars, Hi Ace is useful in transportation of globetrotters at local areas. In the past, the tour agencies used modern express buses. Thanks to the import policy, the 12-seat Hi Ace are imported on a larger scale.

At present, the12-seat Hi Ace cars flow into the local market. Tour agencies now seldom use the express buses for tourist transportation,” said a car importer.

Organized by Myeik District Sports and Physical Education Department of Taninthayi Region, the Actor Star FC comprising artistes from film and dramas played a friendly football match with Myeik District women’s team at Township Sports Ground in Myeik on 28 November.

Inter-Basic Education School Sports Festival held in Shan State

Taunggyi, 30 Nov—The opening ceremony of Shan State Inter-Basic Education School Sports Festival was held at Kanbawza Sports Ground in Taunggyi recently. Speaker of Shan State Hluttaw U Sai Lon Hsaing, Shan State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myo Tun and Shan State Education Director U Chit Shwe formally opened the festival. A total of 401 students from Taunggyi Zone, Kalaw Zone, Loilem Zone, Mongkai Zone and Langkho Zone and 468 students form nine bands, totalling 869 participated in the festival.

The final match of the U-16 men’s football tournament of the festival took place on 24 November. TaunggyiZone clinched the title with 3-1 victory over Kalaw Zone. Shan State Education Director U Chit Shwe presented prizes to the champion team and best player awards to the respective players.
Security tightened as Thai protesters seek PM’s downfall

BANGKOK, 30 Nov — Police tightened security in Thailand’s capital on Saturday as about 2,000 protesters rallied outside a state telecommunications group and vowed to occupy Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra’s office to paralyze her administration.

Faced with dwindling support, demonstrators have started to up the ante and briefly occupied the headquarters of the national and city police, along with the heavily barricaded Government House and even a zoo on Sunday. “We need to break the law a little bit to achieve our goals,” said Suthep, a deputy prime minister under the previous government that Yingluck routed in a 2011 election.

The threats heighten a nearly decade-long conflict that broadly pits Thailand’s traditional establishment of top generals, royals and the urban middle class against the mostly rural, northern supporters of Thaksin.—Reuters

Chemical weapons watchdog considers destroying Syrian chemicals at sea

VIENNA, 30 Nov — The global watchdog tasked with the elimination of Syria’s chemical weapons stockpile is poised to adopt a proposal by the United States to dispose of the weapons at sea, according to diplomatic sources.

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons has already decided to move the weapons out of Syria, currently in a state of civil war, but no countries have volunteered to host the weapons’ destruction. Major candidate Albania, as well as Norway, Belgium and France, have either refused or indicated they will not take the weapons.

This is the first time chemical weapons have needed to be removed from a country possessing them under the framework of the Convention on Chemical Weapons, and few precedents exist for the transport of such dangerous materials by ship.

According to the sources, OPCW Director General Ahmet Uzumcu told a meeting of the OPCW Executive Council at The Hague on Friday that the watchdog had received the proposal for destruction at sea from the United States.

Kyodo News

Radio journalist shot dead in S Philippines

DAVAO CITY, (Philippines), 30 Nov — A Filipino radio journalist was shot dead by two unidentified gunmen in southern Philippines, local police said on Saturday.

Joas Dignos, a commentator for dGTV Radyo Abante was killed by motorcycle-riding gunmen along the national road in Valencia, a city in Mindanao’s Bukidnon Province. About 11 a.m. Friday, Bukidnon provincial police chief Glenn dela Torre said.

The victim was standing near an establishment along the Sayre highway when two gunmen on a motorcycle stopped and one of them shot him several times, killing him instantly, according to the police chief. The assailants then fled to an unknown direction. An investigation into the incident was now being conducted, he added.

The Philippines’ National Union of Journalists said while authorities have yet to determine the motive of Dignos’ killing, “if work-related, Dignos would be the 19th case of work-related media killing under the administration of President Benigno Aquino III.” Dela Torre said Dignos had been receiving threats in the past due to his alleged stinging commentaries against local influential personalities.

The Philippines has been tagged as one of the worst places for journalists in the world with close to 20 media workers murdered since the restoration of democracy in 1986. —Xinhua

Emperor, Empress leave for India

TOYO, 30 Nov — Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko departed on Saturday on a weeklong trip to India at the invitation of the Indian government to commemorate the 60th anniversary last year of bilateral diplomatic ties.

The visit, 53 years after the imperial couple’s official trip to India in 1960 as crown prince and crown princess, marks the first to the country by a Japanese emperor and empress.

It is their first overseas trip since last year, when they visited Britain to attend Queen Elizabeth II’s Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

On Monday, the imperial couple will attend a ceremony at the official residence of President Pranab Mukherjee in New Delhi and visit Raj Ghat, a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, according to the Imperial Household Agency. Later in the day, the president will hold a state banquet for the imperial couple. On Tuesday, the emperor and the empress will visit the India International Centre, where they attended a cornerstone-laying ceremony in 1960.

During their stay in the southern city of Chennai from Wednesday, the imperial couple will visit a traditional arts school, before returning home on Friday.

Prior to their departure, the emperor released his thoughts on the visit, saying, “I hope that this visit will be an occasion to further deepen the understanding of India.”

Kyodo News

Fatalities feared as police helicopter crashes into busy Scottish pub

GLASGOW, 30 Nov — At least six people were feared dead on Saturday after a police helicopter crashed into a packed Glasgow pub.

Witnesses said the helicopter dropped from the sky like a stone onto the Clutha Pub in the Scottish city at 10:25 on Friday night, trapping those inside in choking dust and debris.

Police said they could not confirm any deaths but that 32 people had been taken to hospital and that others might still be trapped inside. Sky News, citing unidentified sources, said there were at least six fatalities. There were three people aboard the helicopter.

“A full investigation is now under way. However, at this early stage it is too early to provide details on why the helicopter came down,” said Deputy Chief Constable Rose Fitzpatrick.

“We are working hard to recover people still inside the building and we will make further details available when we have them.”

As dawn broke, emergency workers were still labouring to free any people trapped in the ruins. The mangled helicopter was embedded in the pub’s roof.

“We are in the process of making the building safe, it’s very unsafe,” said Assistant Chief Officer Lewis Ramsay, adding that rescue workers had been in contact with those trapped inside.

Witnesses described scenes of horror as the 12-metre (40 ft) helicopter carrying two police officers and a civilian pilot spiraled into the pub in a busy area of Scotland’s biggest city, destroying part of the roof.

Reuters

State minister Masako Mori answers a question on a controversial bill to toughen penalties for leakers of state secrets at a House of Concillors panel in Tokyo

The threats heighten a nearly decade-long conflict that broadly pits Thailand’s traditional establishment of top generals, royals and the urban middle class against the mostly rural, northern supporters of Thaksin.—Reuters

Kyodo News

An exhibition begins at the India International Centre in New Delhi on 29 Nov, 2013. The exhibition held to mark the 60th anniversary last year of bilateral diplomatic ties.

WORLD

Radio journalist shot dead in S Philippines

Security tightened as Thai protesters seek PM’s downfall

Chemical weapons watchdog considers destroying Syrian chemicals at sea

Emperor, Empress leave for India

Fatalities feared as police helicopter crashes into busy Scottish pub
India to investigate Ericsson in smartphone patent row

STOCKHOLM, 30 Nov—India’s Competition Commission of India (CCI) is to investigate Swedish telecoms equipment maker Ericsson in regard to a dispute over charges levied on Indian group Micromax for the use of Ericsson’s patents.

Ericsson had sued Micromax in March 2013 for patent infringements and the Indian company responded by filing a complaint to the CCI, Ericsson said.

“The CCI has now decided to refer the case to the director general for an in-depth investigation,” Ericsson said in a statement, adding it would fully cooperate with the probe. According to a document on the CCI’s website, it will investigate whether Ericsson charges Micromax too much in royalties to use its patents. In its complaint to the commission, Micromax said that royalties for Ericsson patents related to mobile phones should be based on the value of the technology used, not on the sale price of a phone. The latter method makes royalties paid for smartphones much higher than standard phones. Ericsson said it had tried several times to sign a license agreement with Micromax on fair, reasonable and nondiscriminatory terms.

No sign of comet after pass around sun

BOCA RATON, (California), 30 Nov—A comet’s 5.5-million-year journey to the inner solar system apparently ended during a suicidal trip around the sun, leaving no trace of its once-bright tail or even remnants of rock and dust, scientists said on Thursday. The comet, known as ISON, was discovered last year when it was still far beyond Jupiter, raising the prospect of a spectacular naked-eye object by the time it graced Earth’s skies in December.

Comet ISON passed just 730,000 miles (1.2 million km) from the surface of the sun at 1:37 pm EST/1837 GMT on Thursday. Astronomers used a fleet of solar telescopes to look for the comet after its slingshot around the sun, but to no avail. “I’m not seeing anything that emerged from the behind the solar disk. That could be the nail in the coffin,” astrophysicist Karl Battams, with the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, said during a live broadcast on NASA TV.

“It’s sad that it seemed to have ended this way, but we’re going to learn more about this comet,” he added. At closest approach, the comet was moving faster than 217 miles per second (350 km per second) through the sun’s atmosphere. At that distance, it reached temperatures of 5,000 degrees Fahrenheit (2,760 degrees Celsius)—hot enough to vaporize not just ices in the comet’s body, but dust and rock as well. If the comet or any large fragments survived the close encounter with the sun, they would be visible to the naked eye in Earth’s skies in a week or two.

The comet was discovered last year by two amateur astronomers using Russia’s International Scientific Optical Network, or ISON.

Comets are believed to be frozen remains left over from the formation of the solar system some 4.5 billion years ago. The familiar of comets that ISON belongs to resides in the Oort Cloud, located about 10,000 times farther away from the sun than Earth, halfway to the next star.

Dutch privacy watchdog says Google breaks data law

AMSTERDAM, 30 Nov—Google’s practice of combining personal data from its many different online services violates Dutch data protection law, the country’s privacy watchdog said on Thursday after a seven-month investigation. The Dutch Data Protection Authority, or DPA, asked Google to alter a number of practices to discuss its concerns, after which it would decide whether to take any action against the cloud services, Internet search and advertising giant, which could include fines.

Google, responding to the Dutch authority’s findings, said it provided users of its services with sufficiently specific information about the way it processed their personal data. “Our privacy policy respects European law and allows us to create simpler, more effective services,” Google said in a statement.

The Dutch decision reflects concerns across Europe about the volume of personal data that is held in foreign jurisdictions in so-called “cloud” storage services, where data is stored remotely via the Internet instead of on-site, giving individuals little control over their personal information.

Privacy campaigners have also pointed to documents leaked by the former CIA technician and National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden that suggest US intelligence services have access to material stored in US-based cloud services. Google spins an invisible web of our personal data, without consent,” said Jacob Kohnstamm, the chairman of the DPA.

“That is forbidden by law.” In March 2012, Google voluntarily imposed new terms of service on users of all its cloud services, which include the YouTube video streaming site, the Gmail email service, and the ubiquitous Google search engine.

The following is the reproduction of Myanmar Hotels & Tourism Guide 2013. Visit www.tourismguide.com.mm for further information.—Ed

Shan State

Capital

Shan

Population

Over 5.1 million

Language

Shan, Myanmar

How to get there

Car, Bus, Air, Train

Traditions and Culture:

The Shan are devout Buddhists and extremely charitable and hospitable. Most of them prefer to live simple lives far from the bustle of crowded cities.

Taunggyi

The Shan State capital is high on a mountain: Taunggyi literally means Big Mountain. It was not a hill station but a busy trade centre.

Kekku Pagoda Complex

Hidden for centuries in the wooded hills near Taunggyi, the Kekku Pagoda Complex has pagodas that seem to be from the 16th century. Legends say there are 7,662 pagodas, almost all decorated with floral designs or figures of celestial beings or birds.

Heho

Heho is the point of arrival by air for southern Shan State, with roads winding through the hills to such destinations as Pindaya, Inlay Lake, Kalaw and Taunggyi. Visitors can enjoy ancient pagodas, the rich culture of the Shan and other national races and trekking tours through the beautiful, rolling hills.

Hopong

The residents of Hopong are devout Buddhists and the town has many pagodas and monasteries. The most famous religious site is the Shwe Chanthat Pagoda. There are natural springs to water crops such as garlic, potatoes, chillies, maize, rice, peanuts, coffee and oranges.

Phaung-daw-oo Pagoda

Devotees have covered the five images countless thousands of times with gold leaf, transforming them into golden lumps. The 18 days festival at this pagoda is the most important and joyous event of Shan State, held in September. There are shops on the lower level of the shrine selling Shan fabrics and lacquerware.

Indain Pagoda Complex

On the western bank of Inlay Lake is this a cluster of over five hundred shrines reached by a boat along a pleasant stream. The ruined 17th century pagodas include mythical and celestial beings beautifully carved in stone.

Taung To Pagoda Complex

Taung To Village has a pagoda complex smaller than its contemporary Indain but no less beautiful. It lies further south on the west bank.

Sagar

Sagar is a ruined royal capital with ancient monasteries and pagodas at the southern end of Inlay Lake, in a beautiful, isolated setting far from villages.

Shwe Yan Pyay Kyaung

The Shwe Yan Pyay Kyaung, just outside Nyaungshwe, is a fascination wooden monastery built in the early 19th century. The architecture has traditional motifs such as oval windows and tiered roofs.

Five Day Market

It is a roving market that takes place every five days, making a round of the villages. This is not to be missed and provides opportunities to see members of national races, such as the Danu, PaO and Palaung, coming to trade.
**BUSINESS & HEALTH**

**6,000 companies apply for Shanghai FTZ**

Shanghai, 30 Nov — About 6,000 companies have applied to register in Shanghai’s free trade zone (FTZ) within two months of its launch, the administrative committee of the FTZ said on Thursday.

As of 22 November, a total of 1,434 companies have already registered in the FTZ. Of this number, 38 are foreign-funded with an average registered capital of 15 million US dollars, and 1,396 are domestically funded with an average registered capital of 25 million yuan (about 4.07 million US dollars), according to the committee.

“The free trade zone has inspired people’s enthusiasm for entrepreneurship,” said Dai Haibo, deputy director of the administrative committee. “The general quality of the registered companies is good, judging from their average registered capital,” Dai said.

Regarding the fact that less than 3 percent of the registered companies are foreign funded, Ai Baojun, head of the administrative committee, dismissed the view that it had been a disappointing start.

Ai said foreign companies have shown great interest in the FTZ and he has received many visits from companies, including Goldman Sachs, who are interested in setting up office there. “It’s normal to have fewer foreign companies at the beginning, because they tend to do thorough research before making a final decision,” according to the official. — Xinhua

**Cardiologists strongly back Obamacare, worry over rocky start**

Dallas, 30 Nov — American cardiologists appeared staunch in their support for President Barack Obama’s healthcare reform, although some fear that its rocky launch could derail efforts to improve preventive care for needy patients.

The broad support for the Affordable Care Act, popularly known as Obamacare, emerged in interviews last week in Dallas with more than 20 cardiologists at the annual scientific sessions of the American Heart Association. The group has set an aggressive goal of reducing heart disease and deaths from heart disease and strokes in the United States by 20 percent by 2020.

Heart specialists say the key to achieving that goal is a greater focus on preventive care and access to medical services for more Americans. They view anything that gets more people tested and treated for high blood pressure, high cholesterol and atherosclerosis as a major improvement over treating heart attacks and strokes on an emergency basis. The Affordable Care Act’s emphasis on preventive care and increased access, as well as its ban on denying health insurance due to pre-existing conditions, accounts for much of the support in US cardiology circles.

Some 7.3 million Americans with a history of cardiovascular disease are uninsured. They are expected to have access next year to treatment and preventive care under the new government-subsidized healthcare reform, said Dr. Elliott Antman, President elect of the American Heart Association. “Individuals who have had a stroke who are uninsured, they’re at 56 percent higher risk of dying from that stroke than patients who are insured,” said Antman, a cardiologist at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston. — Reuters

**Some breast cancers linked to cholesterol byproduct**

Washington, 30 Nov — A byproduct of cholesterol may function like the hormone estrogen to fuel the growth of breast cancer in mice, and perhaps in people, according to a US study. The study, which was released on Thursday, shed light on the link between high cholesterol and breast cancer for the first time, especially in post-menopausal women.

A lot of studies have shown a connection between obesity and breast cancer, and specifically that elevated cholesterol is associated with breast cancer risk, but no mechanism has been identified,” said senior author Donald McDonnell of Duke University, in a statement. “What we have now found is a molecule — not cholesterol itself, but an abundant metabolite of cholesterol — called 27HC that mimics the hormone estrogen and can independently drive the growth of breast cancer.

According to the researchers, the hormone estrogen feeds an estimated 75 percent of all breast cancers, and they found that 27 — hydroxycholesterol, or 27HC, behaved similarly to estrogen in animals. Using mouse models that are highly predictive of what occurs in humans, McDonnell and colleagues demonstrated the direct involvement of 27HC in breast tumor growth, as well as the aggressiveness of the cancer to spread to other organs. They also found that the activity of this cholesterol metabolite was inhibited when the animals were treated with antiestrogens or when supplementation of 27HC was stopped.

To further explore the role of 27HC in tumor growth, the researchers turned to human breast cancer samples and found that the most aggressive tumors had the highest levels of the enzyme that converts cholesterol to 27HC. They also noted that 27HC could be made in other places in the body and transported to the tumor. McDonnell said the findings suggest there may be a simple way to reduce the risk of breast cancer by keeping cholesterol in check, either with anti-cholesterol drugs such as statins or a healthy diet.

The next steps for research include clinical studies to verify those potential outcomes, as well as studies to determine if 27HC plays a role in other cancers. McDonnell added. The findings were published in the US journal Science. — Xinhua

**Versace may get new investor by Christmas**

Milan, 30 Nov — A new investor is likely to buy a minority stake Italian fashion house Versace by Christmas, Chairman and core shareholder Santo Versace said on Thursday.

The luxury group plans to sell a stake of around 20 percent ahead of a possible market listing in three to five years. “(The arrival of a new investor) is likely by Christmas but if it turns out to be January 15 nothing,” he said. “There is no hurry. The door remains very much open.”

Sources close to the deal have told Reuters that potential buyers for the minority stake include Italy’s state-controlled fund FSI, private equity firms Permira, Ardian, KKR & Co (KKR.N), CCMP Capital, Blackstone (BX.N), and Bahrain-based Investcorp. — Reuters

**China’s Huawei signs cooperation deal with Lebanon**

Beirut, 30 Nov — The Lebanese telecommunications ministry and the Chinese Huawei signed Thursday a cooperation agreement aiming at training 10 Lebanese students in communication engineering for 5 to 8 weeks in 2014.

In a Press conference held at the ministry, caretaker telecommunications minister Inna Sehnaoui said “this cooperation will be a model that we shall generalize on all telecommunications companies operating in Lebanon.”

He also noted that the students will majorly benefit from this project as Lebanon will benefit from his citizens’ expertise in this field. For his part, Ban stressed the commitment of Huawei to the Lebanese market, pointing to its ambition to take over the role of main provider in the telecommunications sector in Lebanon. — Xinhua

**A man fills out an information card during an Affordable Care Act outreach event hosted by Planned Parenthood for the Latino community in Los Angeles, California on 28 Sept, 2013. — Reuters**

**A sign is seen for high-end retail store Versace along 5th Avenue in New York on 19 May, 2013. — Reuters**
Cooperation of civil society...

(from page 1)

The government is holding this civil society forum primarily because it wishes to intensify its cooperation with civil society organizations.

I would like first to say that the government takes the role played by civil society organizations in the ongoing reform process in Myanmar seriously. The cooperation of civil society and community-based organizations is vital in building a peaceful country amidst difficulties and challenges, he said.

The past experience of our country has raised mutual suspicion and distrust among members of our society. This situation has posed a major challenge to our effort to sustain and intensify the current political reforms, and implement a new political process. It is true that other political forces like the NLD, political parties and associations, business enterprises and associations have worked very hard on the successful implementation of reforms and the implementation of the new political process. However, I believe that in the process of undertaking reforms and building the new political process, civil society organizations can and will do more than others in enhancing trust among the general public. We continue to do this.

This is because only civil society organizations can accomplish political, economic and social objectives by adopting society-based methods and build social capital with a clear conscience and in good faith.

Here, I would like to comment on some important attributes of social capital.

The problems one finds in low trust societies are that: people give priority mainly to their own self-interests; they negatively project the extreme other people’s good work to suit their own interests; they refuse to accept new ideas and values that can help them to have vibrant lives; they lack the true conservative ideas; they are always negative and pessimistic about the weaknesses of other people’s effort to develop the country; they try to gain the upper hand over others by not sharing information with them. Such problems hamper finding solutions through trans-
Interview with responsible persons of Myanmar Archery Federation

Interviewer: Zaw Myo Naing

ZMN: May I know your name and position in the federation?

U Thant Kyaeing, Manager of Myanmar Archery Federation:
I am Thant Kyaeing and manager of Myanmar archery team.

ZMN: Let me know about the team’s preparation for coming SEA Games?

UTK: Myanmar archery team was allowed to enjoy one-month holiday after 2011 SEA Games in Indonesia. When the holiday was over, archers were given training at Myanmar Archery Federation in Kyakktawan sports ground in Yangon under the supervision of foreign coach Lee Song Boon. Myanmar coaches Daw Myat Thu Zaw Myint, U Ye Min Aung, U Aung Naing Oo and U Thura.

ZMN: When did the archery team move to Nay Pyi Taw Gold Camp?


Training program continued there. The team was sent to the Republic of Korea for a month training in July. Monthly trial matches were held for the team.

ZMN: How many archers are there in the team?

UTK: There are 21 archers in total.

ZMN: How many events will be included in the archery competition?

Technical Officer Daw Myat Thu Zaw Myint (Police Inspector of the Ministry of Home Affairs): There are two events, Recurve and Compound.

ZMN: May I know the names of archers for Recurve event?

DMTM: There are eight archers, four boys and four girls. They are Zaw Win Htaik, Nay Myo Aung, Aung Myo Thu, Nyein Sithu, Thin Khine, Sanu Yu Htwe, Thazin Aung and Zar Chi Win.

ZMN: I would like to know how many events in Recurve?

DMTM: There are two events, individual and team.

Nay Pyi Taw, 30 Nov—SEA Games Transportation Committee is making arrangements for convenience of sportspersons who will come to the 27th SEA Games, according to the officials from the committee. The Committee under which nine sub-committees are formed has arranged 831 cars including 29-seated Forton cars, 49-seated Hyundai-Aero City for transportation of heads of State and sportspersons in Yangon, Mandalay and Ngwehsaung.

Shuttle buses will transport media men free of charge to three routes: (1) from Sports village to Ngalyeik Dam; (2) from Sports village to Gems Museum, IBC and hotel zone (3) from sports village to Gems museum, Myint Mo Naing Hotel, Mount Pleasant Hotel, Ottawa Thai Hotel Zone, Zeyathiri Sports Ground.

For the convenience of sports fans, more bus lines will run in coordination with Nay Pyi Taw All Bus lines Supervisory Committee.

Bus fares will be undercharged for the bus lines running centered in Pyinma-na Paunglaung sports ground, Zeyathiri sports ground, Winn Ma Theikdi Sports Complex and Ngalike Dam, which rowing contests will be held, said director U Thant Myat Thu of Shuttle Bus/Hiway No (3) Office of the committee and assistant director U Sein Win Hlaing.

Myanmar archers undertaking training at the archery field to achieve success in the 27th SEA Games.

Photo shows a Myanmar player in action in a hockey event.
Government working hard ...

(from page 1)

If a credible political transition is to emerge out of the positive political changes we have witnessed, we must all continue to make firm commitments to common goals. The common goals we set should be pragmatic and we all must work hard to achieve them. Then we will be able to lay the foundation for a better and credible political future for current and future generations.

I also want to brief you all about the political and peace-related developments that have taken place during the month of November. The EU-Myanmar Task Force was held successfully in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon in November. We have taken many other actions that allow us to create an environment in which to improve an economic system that contributes to long-term development of the country and improves the welfare of the people and to achieve national unity through the peace process. If these endeavours are to be successful, there must be a consolidated democratic system; there must be equality and mutual respect among diverse members of our society; the majority will have to pay attention to the needs of the minorities; the political process should be open, free and stable; all citizens should be able to play a role in politics; there should be more job opportunities; and the country’s economy must be integrated into the world economic system through various means including foreign direct investment.

The EU-Myanmar Task Force was established in order to be able to cooperate with members of the European Union effectively toward all of these goals. Actions are underway in order to build relationships between various levels of ethnic groups. I view all the recent actions taken by ASEAN nationality representatives as indicators of their positive attitudes towards the collective peace process. I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on how far the negotiations to end armed strife have come. I invited all ethnic groups to the peace table on August 18, 2011. Although there was some distrust of our intentions during the initial period, the peace process has moved forward step by step with concrete achievements such as the signing of ceasefire agreements. This progress has resulted from the dedication and genuine will of peace shapers from all sides. I would like to affirm that the government is determined to put to rest suspicion, distrust and worries and discuss without prejudice the needs of ethnic nationalities through political negotiations. The point I would like to reiterate is that the invitation to the peace table is extended with the genuine will to hold genuine political dialogues. In trying to resolve problems politically, we will need to take step-by-step approaches ranging from the conclusion of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, developing jointly a framework for political dialogues and starting political dialogues. Another important event of this month was the meeting between representatives of some political parties and ethnic armed groups. I would like to note that we wholeheartedly welcome such a meeting. I also want to hope that at the Hpa-an meeting that is scheduled to be held in December, all parties will try to attain positive results through negotiations and discussion and without resorting to any extreme approaches.

I also want to inform you that we are working hard to achieve the electrification of rural areas and provision of clean water to rural people; these are critical components of the rural development program which is one of the priority areas of the current administration. I want to emphasize that the government has adopted the provision of clean water to rural areas as a priority in the national plan. The availability of clean water is a fundamental requirement of national healthcare. As such, we will continue to look for assistance to the Philippines, not just offering our goodwill, but also to encourage all political leaders to approach the issue in a mature and objective manner and in ways that will consolidate the success of the political reforms we have undertaken so far.

The tenth Waning Day of Tazaungmgon is the 93rd National Day. On this occasion of National Day, we should remember that there was a time when national awakening gave rise to political consciousness and the will to participate in the political process among the citizens of Myanmar. Nationalism bred political consciousness, which in turn shaped the contours of the political process and nation-building from the conclusion that our country’s independence, the current administration. We have to work hard for the national unity, a fundamental building block of peace and an open society.

The country will have an open and free society only if the ongoing political reforms continue. Only then will the political transition move forward step by step. I would therefore like to encourage the wholehearted support of all leaders to consolidate a democratic system on the basis of our national unity.

In conclusion, I would like to say that during my term, I have dedicated all my efforts to bringing peace to the country, to improving the social and economic status of the citizens, and to creating a better future for the younger generation. May you all have peace of mind and good health.
U Maung Wai presents Credentials to Swiss President

NAV PYI TAW, 1 Dec—U Maung Wai, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Swiss Confederation, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Ueli Maurer, President of the Swiss Confederation, on 21 November 2013, in Bern, Switzerland.—MNA

Human rights to be taken into consideration while tackling challenges of terrorism

NAV PYI TAW, 30 Nov—Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin read out a message titled “International Terrorism and Human Rights” sent by President U Thein Sein to International Conference of Jurists held in New Delhi, India from 30 November to 1 December at the first day session of the conference on 30 November. In the message, the President said the world is encountering utter modernity, economic interdependency, remarkable progress in the area of information and communication technology while it is in the globalization process. He highlighted international cooperation to overcome such challenges in which terrorism and human rights issues are included as a certain country alone cannot achieve. He called for participation of all in a fight against the global issue of terrorism that knows no boundaries as any country alone cannot win the fight against terrorism. Myanmar is a signatory to 11 conventions among conventions and related treaties on terrorism and formulation of a law is in progress in Myanmar.

ASEAN Business Advisory Council Chair handed over

YANGON, 30 Nov—A ceremony to hand over ASEAN Business Advisory Council’s rotating chair was held at Parkroyal Hotel, here, yesterday evening. At the ceremony, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw and Ms. Fauziah DSP Talib, ASEAN BAC rotating chair for 2013 from Brunei extended greetings. Then, Ms. Fauziah DSP Talib, ASEAN BAC chairman for 2014 from Brunei handed over ASEAN Business Advisory Council Chair for 2014 to President of UMFFCI U Win Aung. It was also attended by Union Minister for Commerce U Win Aung, Deputy Minister Dr Pwint Hsan, the executives of UMFFCI and delegates from eight ASEAN countries. MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets with Japanese PM

Pyidaungsu and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe at Japanese Government House.—MNA

Action to be taken against protestors who use banner assaulting faith

—Action would be taken against those protestors who were using a banner assaulting faith in a demonstration in mid-November in Bahan Township. During the protest against the OIC and its delegation members on 15 November, protestors held the banner without obtaining a prior approval from the local authorities though they were allowed to stage protest peacefully. MNA

Panasonic donates solar-powered lamps ...

(from page 16) Panasonic,” MRC Presi- dent Dr Tha Hla Shwe said. He continued that he is glad this solar-power lamp is not only good for security but also to avoid crimes in areas without electricity. It can also serve as a best companion for children and women at night. Starting from early 2014, a solar-power lamp will be sold at retail price of 50 USD per unit at supermarkets in big towns and retail shops in rural areas. Sve Swei Naing (MNA)
Road sections on Taunggyi-Kengtung-Tachilek Union Highway damaged in erosion of creeks

KENGUTUG, 30 Nov—Creeks eroded some road sections on Taunggyi-Kengtung-Tachilek Union Highway.

Pankwe-Yankha Creek that originates at Loimwe Mountain Range flows the villages between mile posts 34 and 35 of the Union Highway at the end of Kengtung Township. Whenever there are heavy rains, the creek erode the banks as landslides.

Erosion caused landslides at the villages. In consequence, vehicles overturned there yearly, leaving dead and injured, it was learnt.

Kyemon-513

Vocational courses conclude in Monghsat

MONGHSAT, 30 Nov—Advanced tailoring course No 32 and basic domestic science course No 39 concluded at Women’s Vocational Training School in Monghsat of Shan State (East) on 29 November.

Chairman of the District Management Committee U Khin Maung Cho delivered an address. Next, the chairman presented first, second and third prizes to Ma May Thu Aye Cho, Ma Than Than Soe and Ma Khin Nyein Chan respectively in the advanced tailoring course.

Chairman of Township Management Committee U Aye Naing and officials also gave first, second and third prizes to Ma Nan Mie Mie Aung, Ma San San Nwe and Ma Yi Yi San.

A trainee spoke words of thanks.

HRD

HRD

Construction

INRD U Kyaw Hsan Oo explained participation of people in taking census process in 2014. The talks was attended by local people from villages of Ingyintaung Village-tract.

Head of Township Chindwin Thar (IPRD)

Taking census process disseminated in Mingin

MINGIN, 30 Nov—Jointly organized by Township Information and Public Relations Department and Immigration and National Registration Department, the talks on taking census process was given at Wimottiyattha Monastery in Ingyintaung Village of Mingin Township, Sagaing Region, on 26 November.

Staff Officer U Dai Cin Pao explained advantages of reading habit and durability of libraries.

Head of Township INRD U Kyaw Hsan Oo.

Transport Facilities

SIM cards on sales through draw lots in Myanmar

MYANMAR, 30 Nov—GSM low-priced SIM cards were sold to the local people of 69 wards and villages in Myanmar Township of Ayeyawady Region for November 2013.

The sales of SIM cards were practised through draw lot system.

Communications

The personnel planned to issuance of CSC to local people once more, said Head of Township INRD U Aung Naing Oo.

Ko Myo (Shwe Paungm)

People pleased for completion of inter-village bridge

TWANTAY, 30 Nov—Mintawu Creek Bridge was inaugurated in Mintawu Village of Kyunbat-kayinchaung Village-tract in Twantay Township of Yangon Region on 27 November.

Chairman of Township Aung, Ma San San Nwe and Ma Yi Yi San.

People pleased for completion of inter-village bridge

The highway will be expanded to 50 feet wide on both sides in the municipal area and 75 feet wide to outside the municipal area.

According to the instructions, the first warning has been issued to the squatters on 27 November, said residents of Okkyuttan Ward of Toungoo.

“Due to growing vehicle numbers, it needs to expand the highway to be four-lane road. After issuing notices three times, action will be taken against those offenders.

The task will be coordinated,” said the senior engineer. The residences may move back their buildings 5 to 7 feet from the highway area.—Kyemon-Kyaw Hsan (Toungoo)

Public Works urges squatters to move from area of Yangon-Mandalay Highway

TOUNGOO, 30 Nov—For expansion of four-way road project of Yangon-Mandalay Highway, the squatterhouses and shops are to be moved out the highway area, and their move will be carried out in line with the laws of the survey works of Settlement and Land Records Department, said District Senior Engineer U Mya Tha Than of Toungoo District Public Works.

The highway will be expanded to 50 feet wide on both sides in the municipal area and 75 feet wide to outside the municipal area.

According to the instructions, the first warning has been issued to the squatters on 27 November, said residents of Okkyuttan Ward of Toungoo.

“Due to growing vehicle numbers, it needs to expand the highway to be four-lane road. After issuing notices three times, action will be taken against those offenders.

The task will be coordinated,” said the senior engineer. The residences may move back their buildings 5 to 7 feet from the highway area.—Kyemon-Kyaw Hsan (Toungoo)

Coordinated,” said the senior engineer. The residences may move back their buildings 5 to 7 feet from the highway area.—Kyemon-Kyaw Hsan (Toungoo)
S Korea to hold talks on joining trans-Pacific trade accord

SEOUL, 30 Nov—South Korea intends to hold talks to explore the possibility of joining a US-led Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal by holding bilateral discussions with countries currently participating in the regional trade negotiations, Seoul’s finance minister said on Friday.

Although Hyun Oh Seok, deputy prime minister and minister of strategy and finance, said the country’s move is not permitting participation in the free trade agreement, this marks a shift from the country’s previous stance of downplaying the need to join TPP when Seoul has already struck a free trade accord with the United States and is working on bilateral deals with other economies in the region.

The 12 TPP participating countries are currently negotiating to strike a deal by the end of the year. South Korea’s admission into the group will require approval of the negotiating countries.

Before deciding on whether to take part in the TPP, the country must first gather information related to the negotiations and carefully review conditions for its participation,” Hyun was quoted as saying in a weekly meeting of economy-related ministers, according to Yonhap news agency.

“There is a need for the government to first express interest in joining the TPP and hold preliminary bilateral talks with countries already ready taking part,” he said.

Japanese Economy, Trade and Industry Ministry Akira Amari said on Friday, “We should welcome an increase in the number of participants.”

US Trade Representative Michael Froman said, “The United States welcomes Korea’s expression of interest in joining TPP,” adding that “the possible entry of any new country would be expected to occur after the negotiations among the current members are concluded.”

The South Korean Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy said the country would express its interest in TPP at a ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization scheduled to start in Indonesia on 3 December. A decision to join in the TPP talks will require further analyzing potential impact on the domestic economy and listening to views of relevant organizations by March, according to the ministry.

With many of the TPP participants already maintaining free trade agreements with South Korea, joining TPP would effectively mean for Seoul to strike a free trade deal with Japan. In South Korea, some trade officials voiced concern that such action could open up its market further to Japanese goods and result in increased trade deficits with Japan. South Korea registered $25.5 billion in trade deficit with Japan last year.

Seoul’s interest in TPP was apparently triggered by Japan joining the TPP talks in July. The South Korean government held its first public hearing on 15 November to take pros and cons about joining TPP.

The trade ministry also released an estimate that TPP participation would boost South Korea’s economic output, measured by gross domestic product, by 2.5-2.6 percent in 10 years after the deal takes effect.

Kyodo News

Vietnam concludes parliament meeting, constitution amended

HANOI, 29 Nov — The sixth session of the 13th National Assembly (NA) of Vietnam closed in the country’s capital Hanoi on Friday after 32 days of working with a series of important decisions made, including the passing of a constitution amendment.

With the passing of the amended 1992 Constitution, the session marked an important milestone in the socio-economic development of the country, said Nguyen Sinh Hung, chairman of Vietnam’s NA at the closing ceremony.

With 97.59 percent of the votes in favor, the revised charter reaffirmed the leading political and economic role of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV). It also stipulated that the state must play a leading role in the national economy, said NA Vice Chairman Uong Chu Lai after the amended constitution was approved on Thursday.

During the session, deputies also passed eight law bills, including Law on Land, which is seen as one of the most important law bills affecting lives of millions of people. —Xinhua

China regulates teachers’ conduct

BEIJING, 29 Nov—Chinese educational authorities have moved to further regulate teachers’ conduct, vowing to punish those who use corporal punishment, molest students, accept bribes or earn additional money by giving lectures outside school. A draft document issued by the Ministry of Education on Friday solicits public opinion before 18 December specifies a code of conduct for primary and middle school teachers.

The 10 offences for which teachers will face action include corruption or actions against Party and state policies; refusing to take care of students’ safety in emergencies; treating students unfairly; cheating or seeking personal gains in student enrolment, teaching assessment, promotion or academic studies; using corporal punishment; humiliating or discriminating against students; molesting students; accepting bribes; seeking profits by forcing students to buy teaching materials; giving paid lectures outside school. Penalties include giving the warning, demerits, demotion or dismissal, according to the draft, which regulates teachers working in kindergartens, primary and middle schools, vocational schools, children’s activity centers and other educational institutions.

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China’s Siem Reap, Cambodia’s Jiangxi ink cooperation deal

PHnom Penh, 30 Nov—Cambodia’s cultural Siem Reap Province and China’s eastern Jiangxi Province have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation in a number of fields, according to a copy of the MoU on Saturday.

The deal was inked on Friday afternoon between Khim Bunsong, governor of Siem Reap Province, and Xie Ru, vice-governor of Jiangxi Province.

“Under the five-year cooperation deal, both sides will cooperate in agriculture, education, health, culture, trade, and tourism,” the MoU says. “A joint working group will be formed to implement the deal.” Leaders and concerned institutions in the two provinces have to maintain good relations in order to facilitate cooperation in these fields, it says.

“The MoU will give opportunities for the two provinces to build cooperation in these sectors, particularly tourism, agriculture, trade and investments,” Khim Bunsong said after the signing ceremony. “I believe that the peoples of the two provinces will get benefits from this cooperation.”

Xie said the two provinces have similar potentials in tourism and agriculture, pledging to encourage more Chinese tourists and investors to Siem Reap Province.

“The deal will contribute to deepening the comprehensive strategic partnership of cooperation between China and Cambodia,” she said.

China is the largest investor in Cambodia. According to the Cambodian government’s figures, from 1994 to 2012, total Chinese investment in Cambodia reached 9.17 billion US dollars. —Xinhua

First Prize: “Curves and Lines,” taken by George Doupas from Greece. The final results of the 2013 “Beautiful Beijing in the Eyes of Foreign Friends” photo contest have come out recently. The photo contest was jointly organized by the Beijing People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and Foreign Affairs Office of Beijing Municipal People’s Government, Information Office of Beijing Municipal People’s Government and some other organizations. —Xinhua

Several injured in train derailingment in N India

NEW DELHI, 30 Nov—Several passengers were injured when a train derailed in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh Saturday morning, said police.

Ahilabad-bound Haridwar Express train derailed on the outskirts of Lucknow, the state capital of Uttar Pradesh, at about 03:30 am, police said.

However, traffic has been restored.—Xinhua

Students visit the Cambodia Book Fair at the National Library of Cambodia in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 29 Nov, 2013. Cambodia’s first National Book Fair is aiming to promote book publishing and reading among students and organizers, officials said.—Xinhua
Kenya, Israel to resume direct flights

Nairobi, 30 Nov — Direct flights between Kenya and Israel could resume in 2014. Israel’s Ambassador to Kenya Gil Haskel said on Thursday, Haskel told journalists in Nairobi that the direct air links will boost commercial and economic between the two countries. “Negotiations between the two governments are ongoing and we hope that direct flights will commence in 2014,” Haskel said during a media briefing on the upcoming Kenya-Israeli expo which will run from 8 to 12 December. “However, the flights will have to be commercially viable before they commence,” he said. Haskel added that the direct flights will bring business from both Israel and Eastern Europe to Kenya. Direct flights between the two countries stopped in 2002. Haskel noted that over 10,000 Israeli tourists come to Kenya last year. According to the envoy, bilateral trade between Kenya and Israel reached 150 million US dollars in 2012. “Israel exported goods worth 120 million dollars while Kenya’s exports were 30 million dollars,” he said. Haskel said that his country will work closely in order to reduce the huge trade imbalance in favour of Israel. “Israel is committed to improving the welfare of Kenya economically,” he added. Israel’s key exports included agricultural technology products, home security and fertilizer while Kenya exported artifacts and food products. The envoy said that devolution will provide an opportunity for Kenya to bring services closer to the people. National Economic and Social Council Director Leonard Kimani said that Kenya is exploring products that it can export to Israel. “The Middle East country is very much interested in our cultural products,” he said. Kimani noted that Kenya will collaborate with Israel in the technology sector.—Xinhua

Three soldiers killed in eastern Libya

Tripoli, 30 Nov — Three Libyan army soldiers were killed and four others injured on Thursday in a new wave of violence near the Libyan eastern city of Benghazi, local security and medical sources told Xinhua. Three men from the Mushat — a branch of the Special Forces — were killed and four others injured in clashes in the area of Sidi Khalfa, near the capital of the eastern region of Cyrenaica.

The spokesperson of Jalaia Hospital in Benghazi, Fadil Al Barghati, told Xinhua. “The hospital had received at least three dead soldiers and another three wounded in the ranks of the Libyan army belonging to the Marine Corps.” A security source on conditions of anonymity said “the soldiers were killed during the clashes between the army and armed group after the militia tried to enter the city of Benghazi from the south-eastern region of Sidi Khalifa.” Colonel Nasser Bousmina, commander of Al Amoudi Brigade based in Benina Airport in Benghazi, said “reconnaissance planes currently flying in the area did not monitor any queues trying to enter the city.” On Thursday morning, a Libyan soldier of First Infantry Brigade was shot dead in Benghazi, while in the previous day, five soldiers of the Libyan Army Special Forces were killed and another one seriously wounded in assassination operations scattered in the Libyan eastern cities of Benghazi and Derna. The clashes came after the Libyan army launched attacks against the salafi militia Ansar Al Sharia on Monday in Benghazi, in which seven people were killed and 70 others wounded.

5.1-magnitude quake hits 196km NNW of Sola, Vanuatu

HONG KONG, 30 Nov — An earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale jolted 196km NNW of Sola, Vanuatu at 16:39:10 GMT on Thursday, the US Geological Survey said. The epicentre, with a depth of 220.55 km, was initially determined to be at 12.2408 degrees south latitude and 166.8676 degrees east longitude. — Xinhua

Five Peruvians sentenced to five years in Morocco for cocaine trafficking

RABAT, 30 Nov — A court in Marrakech, the Moroccan resort, sentenced on Thursday five Peruvian nationals to 5 years in prison for possession of cocaine and international drug trafficking, the official news agency MAP reported. The five culprits were arrested last October with 1.9 kg of cocaine, after one of them filed a complaint with a European air company for lost luggage. He was arrested when he went to claim his suitcase which contained 1.33 kg of cocaine. Investigators identified his accomplices, including one who was arrested in Marrakech and the others near Casablanca with 600 grams of cocaine. — Xinhua
Los Angeles, 30 Nov — Action film “The Hunger Games: Catching Fire” led the North American box office with ticket sales of $35.6 million over the first two days of the long U.S. Thanksgiving weekend that began on Wednesday, while Disney’s animated “Frozen,” sold a hefty $26.3 million.

“Catching Fire,” the second instalment of the “Hunger Games” franchise, grossed $14.9 million on Thursday’s Thanksgiving Day holiday according to BoxOfficeMojo. The film is projected to earn upwards of $40 million at the domestic box office ac- cording to BoxOfficeMogop.com.

Superhero film “Thor: The Dark World,” part of Disney’s Marvel universe, had ticket sales of $4.3 million between Wednesday and Thursday, bringing its cumulative domestic total to $175.6 million since its release on 8 November.

Disney’s “Frozen,” inspired by “The Snow Queen” fairytale, is the story of a Scandinavian princess who has the power of freezing anything into ice with her hands and accidentally sets off a long winter that is destroying their kingdom. The film was also selected for the Fes- tival and Berlin Film Festi- val and Miami Film Festi- val and went to school but one day a terrible earthquake occurs and they leave their home to go on to the city streets,” he said, explaining the film’s plot.

The director said that the Haitian-Belgian film has made it to three other prestigious film festivals.

“The new season is going to be the most exciting yet and offer some great conversations with Bollywood celebrities. “The new season is going to be the most exciting yet, with a host of new guests, a fantastic set and some great conversations,” Karan said here today.—PTI

Manish Paul has previ- ously hosted TV serials like ‘Dance India Dance Li’l Masters’ and ‘Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa’.—PTI

“Catching Fire,” ‘Frozen’ heat up Thanksgiving film box office in US

Salman Khan to appear on ‘Koffee With Karan’

Mumbai, 30 Nov — Filmmaker Karan Johar, who is getting ready with the new season of his popular talk show ‘Koffee With Karan’, says the TV programme which will feature Salman Khan for the first time, will be the most exciting yet and offer some great conversations with Bollywood celebrities.

Mumbai, 30 Nov — Actor Manish Paul bagged the Best Debut award for his recently released move- ie ‘Mickey Virus’ at the Masala Awards, Dubai.

The 32-year-old actor also danced with the veteran actress Zeenat Aman at the award ceremony which was held in Dubai on 28 November. “I won the best debut award for my film at the Masala Awards Dubai. I am thrilled. Thanks for all the love. Love you all loads,” Paul wrote on Twitter. He also posted a picture with Aman on the micro-blogging site.

Paul, who has previously hosted TV serials like ‘Dance India Dance Li’l Masters’ and ‘Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa’ season 5, also anchored the award cer- emony.—PTI

2013 special year for music composer Gopi Sundar

Chennai, 30 Nov — Indian music composer Gopi Sundar feels that it has been a special year for him as his song in Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan starrer ‘Chennai Express’ drew appreciation from the superstar himself.

Sundar had pro- grammed a track with com- poser duo Vishal-Shekhar and they asked him to sing it just for fun.

“I was surprised when he (Shekhar) said he liked my rendition, and was overjoyed when SRK himself appreciated it and asked it to be retained—that is how ‘Titi’ (duet with Chinmayi Sripada picturised on Khan and Padukone in the film) happened,” he said.

“I have also committed myself to three upcoming projects with John Abra- ham, one is titled ‘Shahi Ka Ghar’, where I will be doing the background score alone,” Sundar told PTI. He will be doing the music for the other two pro- jects.

Sundar has previ- ously been associated with popular compositions like ‘Ankhon mein teri’ (Om Shanti Om) and ‘Ek Main Aur Ek Tu Hai’ (Bluffmas- ters). Between his busy schedule, he got do a cameo as singer in the upcoming movie ‘Satara Mobiles’, starring Mammootty’s son Dulquer Salma and Naz- riya. He is also doing its background score.

Adept at playing the tabla, he was keen on music from his younger days.

Then veteran music director Ouseppachan took him under his wing. He worked as an associate for 14 years.

“He is my Guru. I learned how to work... do research, think music... It is a continuous learning pro- cess,” he said.—PTI

Manish Paul wins Debut award for ‘Mickey Virus’

PTI

Cast member Jennifer Lawrence attends the premiere of the film “The Hunger Games: Catching Fire” in New York, on 20 Nov, 2013.—Reuters

Film on Haiti quake victims at IFFI

Panaji, 30 Nov — Belgian filmmaker Jonas D’Adesky is thrilled that his debut film ‘3 Kids’, based on victims of the earthquake in Haiti in 2010, is being screened at the on- going International Film Festival of India (IFFI) here.

The director said that the Haitian-Belgian film has made it to three other prestigious film festivals.

“Apart from IFFI, it was also selected for the Toronto International Film Festival, Miami Film Festi- val and Berlin Film Festi- val,” D’Adesky said.

“I made the film when the kids were 12-years-old. They had a normal home and went to school but one day a terrible earthquake occurs and they leave their home to go on to the city streets,” he said, explaining the film’s plot.

The filmmaker also said the children did not let him down during the film- ing.

“It was a great learning experience as the kids did not know we were shoot- ing. In the first part of the film, they are not so good, but later they understood the concept and acted like actors,” D’Adesky said.

PTI

Actor Manish Paul bagged the Best Debut award for his recently released movie ‘Mickey Virus’—PTI

Composer Gopi Sundar

PTI

PTI

PTI
Pellegrini refuses to reveal goalkeeper for Swansea clash

Manuel Pellegrini refuses to reveal who he would select in goal for Manchester City’s Premier League home clash with Swansea on Sunday.

Moyes say best is yet to come from improving United

It was short and sweet on Sunday.

Taking the initiative at the start of his weekly news briefing, Pellegrini praised England international Joe Hart’s performance in City’s midweek Champions League victory over Viktoria Plzen of the Czech Republic. But he would not be drawn when asked if the keeper had done enough to replace Romanian Costel Pantilimon in goal.

“I have a lot to think about, but that is my job,” Pellegrini responded.

The Chilean manager added that Serbian defender Matija Nastasic would be out for three weeks with a calf injury, suffered during City’s 6-0 triumph against Tottenham Hotspur last Sunday.

Pellegrini said England midfielder Jack Rodwell was fit for selection but Spain forward David Silva and Montenegro striker Stevan Jovetic would not be ready to return until next week.

Captian and central defender Belgian Vincent Kompany is back in training but not fit enough to be considered for the match.

Manchester City’s manager Manuel Pellegrini listens to a question during a news conference at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, northern England on 26 Nov, 2013.—Reuters

ZURICH, 30 NOV—The fight against doping costs $300-400 million a year and sporting medical experts at a conference hosted by FIFA on Friday questioned whether it was value for money.

FIFA’s chief medical officer Jiri Dvorak said prevention measures should be tailored according to the perceived risk in each sport, rather than be the same across the board.

“The question of whether this money is invested efficiently is justified. We’re therefore discussing potential cost-effective and deterrent strategies,” he noted in a statement following the anti-doping forum at FIFA headquarters.

“The time may be right for the development of a customised system which takes account of the risk assessment in each different type of sport and also has to be cost efficient.”

Many football players and officials are unhappy about the use of the so-called ‘whereabouts rule’ in football, under which players have to stipulate where they will be for one hour of every day, seven days a week.

Mario Zorzoli, chief medical officer of the International Cycling Union (UCI), agreed that the doping fight needed to be more cost effective but supported the ‘whereabouts rule’.

“We have to find new ways of testing athletes, but also have to strike a better balance between the cost and the effectiveness of the fight against doping,” he said.

Schalke’s Aogo out for season with knee ligament tear

BERLIN, 30 NOV — Schalke 04 defender Dennis Aogo will miss the rest of the season after tearing his cruciate ligament in training on Friday in another injury blow for the Bundesliga club.

A medical examination this evening showed a cruciate and interior ligament tear in the right knee,” Schalke said in a statement.

“The left-footer is expected to miss the rest of the season.”

Already without a string of key players, including striker Klaas-Jan Huntelaar and central defender Kyriakos Papadopoulos, Aogo’s injury could prove to be a defining moment in the season.

United visit Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday when the London club will be anxious to bounce back from the 6-0 mauling they suffered at Manchester City last week.

Moyes has hailed the improvement in his team’s defending this season and the homegrown talent of Patrice Evra said United when we are playing well we need to try to do better and I still think we can continue to improve and progress,” he said.

“We had some little bits of inconsistency at times, which we need to try to do better with, but there have been moments that have shown we are beginning to come right back into form.

“That is what I hope. Midweek certainly showed what we are capable of when we are playing well and the job is to do that week in, week out.”

United could not have come at a worse time for sixth-placed Schalke who are looking to improve their league form.

Cardiff City last week was a jolt, but United responded with a 5-0 thrashing away to Bayer Leverkusen on Wednesday — a result that could prove to be a defining moment in the season.

Scott opens four-shot lead over McIlroy in Sydney

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Most of the crowd were backing Scott’s bid to secure a “triple crown” of marquee Australian titles in a month and they were delighted when he birdied the last to double his overnight lead by reaching 16-under for the tournament.

McIlroy, who missed a shorter birdie putt at the 18th, will resume on Sunday on 12-under, four shots clear of Australians Max McDermott, Matt Jones and Richard Green in a share of third.—Reuters

Australian’s Adam Scott hits a drive on the second hole during the second round of the Australian Open golf tournament at Royal Sydney Golf Club on 29 Nov, 2013.—Reuters

Doping battle must be more cost efficient

Richard Green in a share of the lead with McCardle, Matt Jones and Richard Green in a share of the lead on 12-under, four shots clear of Australians Max McDermott, Matt Jones and Richard Green in a share of third.—Reuters

Jiri Dvorak, Chief Medical Officer of the FIFA poses for photographers as he presents a ball with the lettering “SAY NO! TO DOPING” during a news conference at the training camp of Switzerland’s national soccer team in Crans Montana on 29 May, 2010.—Reuters

Many football players and officials are unhappy about the use of the so-called ‘whereabouts rule’ in football, under which players have to stipulate where they will be for one hour of every day, seven days a week.

Mario Zorzoli, chief medical officer of the International Cycling Union (UCI), agreed that the doping fight needed to be more cost effective but supported the ‘whereabouts rule’.

“We have to find new ways of testing athletes, but also have to strike a better balance between the cost and the effectiveness of the fight against doping,” he said.

Schalke’s Aogo out for season with knee ligament tear

BERLIN, 30 NOV — Schalke 04 defender Dennis Aogo will miss the rest of the season after tearing his cruciate ligament in training on Friday in another injury blow for the Bundesliga club.

A medical examination this evening showed a cruciate and interior ligament tear in the right knee,” Schalke said in a statement.

“The left-footer is expected to miss the rest of the season.”

Already without a string of key players, including striker Klaas-Jan Huntelaar and central defender Kyriakos Papadopoulos, Aogo’s injury could prove to be a defining moment in the season.

United visit Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday when the London club will be anxious to bounce back from the 6-0 mauling they suffered at Manchester City last week.

Moyes has hailed the improvement in his team’s defending this season and the homegrown talent of Patrice Evra said United when we are playing well we need to try to do better and I still think we can continue to improve and progress,” he said.

“We had some little bits of inconsistency at times, which we need to try to do better with, but there have been moments that have shown we are beginning to come right back into form.

“That is what I hope. Midweek certainly showed what we are capable of when we are playing well and the job is to do that week in, week out.”

United could not have come at a worse time for sixth-placed Schalke who are looking to improve their league form.

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Rembrandt, Chinese painters star in Sotheby’s first major China sale

BEIJING, 30 Nov — Sotheby’s will hold its first major auction on the Chinese mainland on Sunday as competition between the New York-based auction house and its long-time rival Christie’s moves into one of the world’s hottest art markets amid a government crackdown on corruption and luxury spending.

Sotheby’s and its local joint venture partner, Beijing Gehua Art Company, are offering a slate of modern and contemporary Chinese works with a total estimated value of more than 123 million yuan ($20.19 million) as part of “Beijing Art Week.” The event will feature more than 100 lots including canvases by some of China’s most renowned oil and ink painters, as well as three selling exhibitions with a selection of diamonds and European furniture and art.

A $50 million Rembrandt, “Portrait of a Man with Arms Akimbo” will be part of one selling exhibition, while the auction’s cover lot, Zao Wou-ki’s “Abstraction,” is expected to pull in anywhere from 35 million to 45 million yuan ($5.74 million to $7.39 million).

“Sotheby’s Art Week is basically our first major move into China,” said Kevin Ching, CEO of Sotheby’s Asia. “But what we’re doing is not just an auction.”

Reuters

China’s 2013 box office breaks 19.3 bln yuan

BEIJING, 30 Nov — China’s box office sales in 2013 have hit 19.3 billion yuan (3.17 billion US dollars) as of 25 November, according to official figures released on Friday.

Chinese films have raked in 10.7 billion yuan in 2013, accounting for 55 percent of mainland box office revenues during the same period, said Tong Gang, deputy director of the State General Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television, at the Ninth National Congress of the China Film Association.

China’s box office sales in 2010 exceeded 10 billion yuan while the figure in 2002 was less than one billion yuan.

The rapid surge was the result of reform in the film industry, said Yin Hong, professor with Tsinghua University, explaining that the injection of private capital has prompted the growth.

More than 4,500 screens have been built in China’s cinemas in 2013, with the total number of screens across the country surpassing 17,600.

Xinhua

I joined Everton on loan because I needed to play

LONDON, 30 Nov — In-form striker Romelu Lukaku said he chose to join Everton on loan for the season from Chelsea because he needed to play regularly and not because he was not wanted at Stamford Bridge.

“I imagine I was playing for Chelsea now, I would play maybe five games and score one goal or two, now I am playing for Everton and I have eight games and seven goals,” he told the BBC in a television interview to be broadcast on Saturday.

“Everyone in England is talking about me and as a player I am improving. I am having that certainty, that consistency in my game,” the 19-year-old Belgium international was quoted as saying in a preview of the programme on the BBC website.

“It wasn’t the fact that I wasn’t wanted. I think I was wanted but I had to make a decision for myself and analyse what was the best thing for me.”

Lukaku, who has scored seven goals in eight Premier League games for Everton so far this term, said the last time he heard anything from Chelsea was a couple of months ago but “I think they are watching my performances.”

Earlier on Friday, Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho told a news conference Lukaku should explain why he left Chelsea.

“You know, Romelu likes to speak, he’s a young boy, he likes to speak, but the only thing that he did not say is why he went to Everton on loan,” Mourinho said.

“I am a man when asked about the striker.

“That is the only thing he never said and my last contact with him was to tell (him) exactly that. Why (do) you never say why you are not here?” added the Portuguese coach.

Reuters

Workers install Sotheby’s large banner on a wall during Sotheby’s Beijing Art Week in Beijing, on 28 Nov, 2013.—Reuters

China’s Samuel Eto’s grimaces as he is carried off injured during his team’s Champions League Group E soccer match against FC Basel at St Jakob-Park in Basel on 26 Nov, 2013.—Reuters

Chelsea’s Samuel Eto’s grimaces as he is carried off injured during his team’s Champions League Group E soccer match against FC Basel at St Jakob-Park in Basel on 26 Nov, 2013.—Reuters

LONDON, 30 Nov — Striker Samuel Eto’s is likely to be out of the Chelseea line-up for two weeks after being stretchered off in the midweek Champions League defeat in Basel, manager Jose Mourinho said on Friday.

Mourinho told reporters that the Cameroonien had a “grade one muscular injury” to his hamstring.

He added that defender David Luiz returned to full training on Friday after a knee injury but the Premier League match against Southampton on Sunday was too soon for him to be considered.

Chelsea, who are third in the league, face fifth-placed Southampton at home, then Sunderland and Stoke away.

“It is our SSS week,” he joked. “It is the time for everyone,” he said, before adding that he was happy with the strength in depth of his group of players.

Reuters

Belgium’s Romelu Lukaku reacts during a 2014 World Cup qualifying soccer match against Wales at King Baudouin stadium in Brussels on 15 Oct, 2013.—Reuters

Eto’s will be out for two weeks, says Mourinho

Belgium’s Romelu Lukaku reacts during a 2014 World Cup qualifying soccer match against Wales at King Baudouin stadium in Brussels on 15 Oct, 2013.—Reuters

Myanmar TV

Sunday, 1 December, 2013

6:00 am
1. Paritta By Hilly
Region Missionary
Sayadaw
2. Physical Exercises
3. Documentary
7:00 am
7:20 am
5. Business News
7:35 am
6. SEA Games Go For Gold (Divining)
8:00 am
7. News/International News
8:30 am
8. Amazing World
9:00 am
9:10 am
10. (38) Phyr MIngalas
9:40 am
11. Teleplay (Health)
9:50 am
12. Beautiful ASEAN
10:00 am
13. News
10:15 am
14. Documentary
11:00 am
15. Gitadgale
Phwinthuohn
12:00 pm
12:25 pm
17. Round Up Of The Week’s International News

News/Weather Report
News/Weather Report
News/International

8:40 pm
34. Hit Songs of Stars
9:00 pm
35. News
36. Tamytheinar Takwetsar
37. New Melody

Myanmar International

1-12-2013, Sunday

2:40 pm
19. SEA Games Songs
3:00 pm
20. News
3:20 pm
21. Teleplay (SEA Games)
4:00 pm
22. News
4:20 pm
23. Performance With Song
4:25 pm
24. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures)

Third Year (Economic)

4:50 pm
25. Sing & Enjoy
5:00 pm
26. News
5:20 pm
27. Sing & Enjoy
6:00 pm
6:20 pm
29. Cartoon Series
6:50 pm
30. Documentary
7:00 pm
31. News
7:20 pm
32. Teleplay
8:00 pm
8:40 pm
34. Hit Songs of Stars
9:00 pm
35. News
36. Tamytheinar Takwetsar
37. New Melody

Local News
Historic And Mystery
The Caves
World News
Myanmar Harpist
Local News
Making of Nawarat
Rings (Precious Stones & Genre)
World News
Myanmar Movie Review:
Small or Big
Local News
A Trip To The City Of Rakhka, Rakhine
World News
Wholesale Fish
Local News
Myanmar Social & Charitable Association
(Episode-3) (Part-1)
World News
In The Studio: Sunee
Local News
Great Shwedagon: The
Repository Of Buddhist Scriptures & Archives
World News
Distinctive Food Forum
Inlay Lake
Local News
Glorius Marauk & Its
Pagoda Festival
World News
Art Students: Scripture
Local News
Youth Of The Future
(Episode-5) (Hair Designer)
Local News
Independent Filmmaker
A Day Out With Sarah
(Episode-5)
Local News
Creative Costume Of Kayah Nationals

Local News

Phwintbaohn
Amazing World
News/Weather Report
Cartoon Series
News/International
News/Weather Report
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President U Thein Sein visits Ngwehsaung Yacht Club & Marina

**Nay Pyi Taw, 30 Nov**—President U Thein Sein called on the people for making efforts for successful holding of the 27th SEA Games sharing the responsibility lies with the government for the games. During his visit to Ngwehsaung Yacht Club & Marina in Ayeyawady Region where 160 athletes from Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand will compete in 13 events of yachting sports from 15 to 20 December, the President stressed the need for all-out efforts of the people as the 27th SEA Games would offer host Myanmar four opportunities.

Myanmar people would have the chance to dispel the doubts as to the capability of Myanmar people to hold the SEA Games while the country has regained good relations with international community thanks to the democratic reforms.

Secondly, the 27th SEA Games would create opportunity for Myanmar athletes to show their spirit, skills, fairness and bravery, he said.

Thirdly, Myanmar would have the opportunity to show the hospitality, friendship and morality of its people to foreign athletes and guests, he added.

Meanwhile, the country would have the chance to promote the image of the country and the people as foreigners would also have a chance to visit tourist attractions in the country, the President said.

At the meeting with officials concerned at Ngwehsaung Yacht Club & Marina, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung and Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan reported on preparations for the Yacht competitions, training for Myanmar athletes and development of Yachting game.

Myanmar hosted 2nd SEA Games in 1961 and the Yacht Game in the Inya Lake in Yangon.

Myanmar is also a leading country for Yachting in the south-east Asian region.—MNA

Panasonic donates solar-powered lamps for rural areas

**Yangon, 30 Nov**—A ceremony to provide 2000 solar-powered lamp to some parts of the rural region in Myanmar by Panasonic Co., Ltd was held at Chatrium Hotel, here, yesterday.

“It is our earnest effort for fulfilling electricity demand in some rural regions that have no access to electricity power. We are confident that our donation will be of benefit to rural people to a certain extent,” Mr. Hisa Kazu, CEO in-charge of Panasonic Co., to Myanmar said.

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“I am very pleased to see solar-powered lamps donated in this February are being used by children while reading their school books, housewives doing their housework and health staff providing health care services at relief camps in disaster-and conflict-stricken areas. I would like to express my thanks to Panasonic Co., Ltd, and Rayburs Electric Co., Ltd,” President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein said.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister of CP Global Capital, LLC Co., of US, Mr Serenity Wang, Vice-President Miss of CP Global Capital, LLC Co., of US at the government office in Bago Region yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed the matters of investment in Bago Region.—MNA

**Bago Region Chief Minister meets US guests**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 30 Nov**—Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win received a delegation led by Mr Serenity Wang, Vice-President Miss of CP Global Capital, LLC Co., of US against the driver for reckless driving under the influence of alcohol.

**Reckless driving crash in Pakokku**

**Pakokku, 30 Nov**—A road accident happened to a Super Custom wagon of a reckless driver who was under the influence of alcohol while ploughing into the side of a stationary 10-wheeled truck on a downtown road in Pakokku on 26 November.

Police said the crash caused heavy damage to the wagon and they found the driver with head injury in the wrecked car. The injured was taken to a hospital. Pakokku Myoma police station filed a lawsuit against the driver for reckless driving under the influence of alcohol.

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