Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham extends New Year greetings to Shan national race

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Dec— Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham wished Shan New Year, sharing his wish for a year of a wide range of freedoms and social and economic development meeting international standards that will be born together with peace in his greetings to Shan nationalities at Hsin Shweli theater in Lashio where the Shan New Year Festival that welcomes Shan year 2108 was celebrated today.

Now is the time when peace process is progressing to a certain extent and it is expected to translate the process into a success soon, he added.

Next, the Vice-President observed traditional cultural stage performances, departmental and cultural booths and cordially greeted local people.

This is the 17th time as the festival has been held since 1996. This year’s Shan New Year Festival was organized by Shan Literature and Culture Association. Shan New Year falls on 1st waxing of Nadaw according to Myanmar calendar, it is learnt.

Then, the Vice-President offered provisions and cash assistance to eye patients at Lashio hospital.—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presents cash assistance to eye patients at Lashio hospital.—MNA

Technical Cooperation Project regarding 27th SEA Games clarified

YANGON, 3 Dec— A press conference on the Technical Cooperation Project regarding the 27th SEA Games between Myanmar and China was held at Se dona Hotel, here, this evening.

It was attended by Union Minister U Aye Myint Kyu, Deputy Minister U Thaung Htike, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Li Liyan, and Chinese officials and media men.

China has helped Myanmar implement the project in four parts: athletes training, game management system, training and competition equipment and technological assistance for opening and closing ceremonies. In addition, based on Paukphaw Friendship, it has provided Myanmar with technical assistance worth Yuan 212 million.

Byline: Zin, July, Theint, Phyo
Photo: Thura (Toungoo)

Myanmar Wushu to sweep gold medals in SEA Games

Selected athletes from Myanmar Wushu Federation are undergoing intensive training at Indoor Stadium of the Wunna Theikdhi sports ground here. The Myanmar team is ready to secure the gold medals in the 27th SEA Games, according to coach U Sein Win.

The federation is providing necessary assistance to each sportsperson in coordination with the coaches and doctors. The Wushu event of the SEA Games includes San Shou and Taolu events. Altogether ten countries— Myanmar, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei, Laos, Cambodia, Singapore, Vietnam and Thailand—will participate in the Wushu events of the SEA Games. The events will be held at the Wunna Theikdhi sports complex (B) from 6 to 10.

Myanmar Alinn: 2-12-2013

Byline: Zin, July, Theint, Phyo
Photo: Thura (Toungoo)
**Prizes awarded to winners in essay, poem recitation and extempore talks contest in Tachilek**

TACHILEK, 3 Dec—With the sponsorship of Myanmar Libraries Foundation, Shan State (East) Information and Public Relations Department organized extempore talks, poem recitation contest and prize presentation ceremony for development of the school libraries at Aung Myat Hall in Tachilek recently.

At the ceremony, Deputy Commissioner U Thaung Tin Htwe and State IPRD Deputy Director U Sai Hsam Tit made speeches.

Then, the extempore talks followed. The students from Basic Education High School No (5) took part in the extempore talks and poem recitation contest. Ma Hnin Ei Wai of Hsan Hsaing BEHS stood first in the extempore talks and Maung Aung Myo Oo from Hong Leik BEHS in poem recitation contest. Deputy Commissioner U Thaung Tin Htwe, Deputy Director U Sai Hsam Tit, Assistant Director Daw Myint Myint Khaing and officials awarded prizes to the winners.

Afterwards, Deputy Director U Sai Hsam Tit presented certificates of honour to the wellwishers.

**Keeping town pleasant, neat and tidy inspected in Myeik**

MYEIK, 3 Dec—Deputy Commissioner of Myeik District General Administration Department U Lwin Ko Oo, Township Administrator U Thein Win and Chairman of Township Development Affairs Committee U Gwan and members supervised the construction of the roads recently.

Next, they viewed maintenance of the roads such as 1060 feet long Lower Ypeno Road, 1000 feet long Upper Ypeno Road, 800 feet long Naukle Ward Padauk Shewah Road and 800 feet long School Road to Basic Education High School No (5). They also looked into stockpiling of construction materials for the construction of the roads.

**Agricultural machinery introduced in NyaungU to solve shortage of labourers**

NYAUNGU, 3 Dec—Under the instruction of Mandalay Region Chief Minister, the Agricultural Mechanization Department of NyaungU Township organized the demonstration on use of agricultural machinery at the farmlands of Daw Ngwe Yno of Taungba Village in the township.

It was attended by Region Hluttaw representatives, district and township level departmental officials, members of Township Development Supportive Committee, staff of Agriculture Department, agricultural coordination committee members and local people.

Staff of AMD explained the use of machinery and demonstrated their usage.

The demonstration was aimed at solving the shortage of labourers and undertaking speeded farmlands works. If the climate changes, the farmers will have the skills for windrowing and threshing paddy in time.

As NyaungU people are engaged in cultivation of groundnut as main business, the demonstrated agricultural machinery will be suitable for the local people.

The farming equipment includes New Horland power tillers and DongFang power tillers for local farmers.

**Visitors to pay homage to image of Alaungdaw Kassapa**

MONYWA, 3 Dec—Anybody may go to Alaungdaw Kassapa Image along Monywa-Yargyi-Kalewa Road, Tayawkynin-Kyaunggaing-Kapaing Road and Yinmabin-Zeedaw-Kapaing Road. The road from Kapaing Village to Alaungdaw Passapa Image is 21 miles distance.

The torrent rains eroded the road to be damaged in the rainy season. Thus, the road is repaired with the use of heavy machinery in every open season.

**Construction**

Meiktila-Thaphan rural road needed to be repaired for regional development

MEIKILA, 3 Dec—Meiktila-Thaphan Road is four miles and two furlongs long from Irrigation Department Junction to Thaphan Village.

The road had been filled with gravel since 10 years. Due to lack of maintenance, impacts of weathers and drives of vehicles, the road is damaged.

Indeed, Meiktila-Thaphan road contributes to development of the rural areas. “Local people from Thaphan, Nyaungzauk, Omatway, KanU Sanpya, Pankyang villages rely on the road. They use the road in transport of crops and purchase of goods from urban areas. Actually, the damaged part of the road is a half long. That is why the local people wish repairing of the road by authorities,” said a local of Pankyang Village.

People of Thaphan Village send their products to the market via Meiktila.

The local people use the road in taking the goods and materials for the production,” said a local people.

**Ko Min Ko Chin Road in Bago upgraded**

BAGO, 3 Dec—Road construction workers led by Assistant Engineer U Lay Lwin of Bago Development Affairs Committee Office carried out repairing of road along Ko Min Ko Chin Road, west of Lakepya Lake, the significant place of the town with the fund allotted in 2013-2014 FY. The road is always busy with road users as it is the main one in Bago.
NATO says Karzai failure to sign pact would end Afghan mission

BRUSSELS, 3 Dec — NATO would have to pull all its troops out of Afghanistan by the end of 2014 if Afghan President Hamid Karzai does not sign a security pact with the United States, alliance chief Anders Fogh Rasmussen said on Monday.

An assembly of Afghan elders, the Loya Jirga, last month endorsed the security pact intended to shape the US military presence in the country beyond 2014. But Karzai said he might not sign it until after elections in April.

The NATO-led force currently has around 80,000 troops in Afghanistan, the majority American. NATO is winding down combat operations, handing responsibility for fighting Taliban insurgents to the Afghans, before most foreign combat forces pull out by the end of 2014.

NATO plans to leave a training mission, expected to number 8,000 to 12,000 soldiers, in Afghanistan after 2014.

The United States has already warned it could withdraw all its forces by the end of next year, the so-called “zero option”, if Karzai does not sign the pact.

Without the US-Afghan accord, NATO will not be able to finalize its own agreement with the Afghan government setting the terms for troops from other NATO and partner nations to remain in Afghanistan after 2014, Rasmussen told reporters. “In that case, we don’t have a proper legal framework in place and it will not be possible to deploy a ‘train, advise, assist’ mission to Afghanistan after 2014,” Rasmussen said. —Reuters

US troops, part of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), arrive at the site of a suicide attack in Maidan Shar, the capital of Wardak Province, on 8 Sept, 2013.—Reuters

Iran to reassert authority at OPEC after nuclear deal

VIENNA, 3 Dec — Bijan Zanganeh returns this week to the same Vienna hotel suite he last occupied eight years ago as Iranian oil minister, ready to prepare OPEC for what Teheran hopes will mark its return as the cartel’s second biggest producer.

Emboldened by its nuclear deal with the West, Iranian oil negotiators led again by industry veteran Zanganeh, will seek to reassert Teheran’s authority in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries at a Wednesday meeting.

Western sanctions imposed in 2012 on Iran for its nuclear programme have cost it dearly, losing it billions of dollars in oil revenues and market share in OPEC — largely to its main regional political rival Saudi Arabia, and neighbour Iraq.

With its exports still shackled by sanctions for at least another six months, Iran poses no immediate threat to the status quo. Oil ministers are widely expected to roll forward until June an agreement to hold their output near 30 million barrels daily for one year. But a 12 member countries. But oil traders will be watching closely for signs of cooperation, or otherwise, between the big three producers in OPEC, knowing that Riyadh and Baghdad will need to find room for Iran should its inter-im nuclear deal be verified and sanctions lifted.—Reuters

Japanese emperor, empress attend welcoming ceremony in India

NEW DELHI, 3 Dec — Japan’s Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko attended a welcoming ceremony on their official visit to India at President Pranab Mukherjee’s official residence in New Delhi on Monday.

After being greeted by Mukherjee and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, the imperial couple met with Singh at Hyderabad House, where the Indian government holds banquets and meetings with foreign dignitaries.

In their meeting, Singh expressed his gratitude for Japan’s cooperation on Indian infrastructure projects. The emperor said he is pleased to hear about Japan’s contribution to India.

The emperor and empress also offered flowers at Raj Ghat, where Mahatma Gandhi was cremated following his assassination in 1948.

They visited the memorial during their first official trip to the country 53 years ago.—Kyodo News

Indonesian president urges WTO members to open market for poor countries

BANDUNG, Indonesia, 3 Dec — Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono appealed here on Tuesday that members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) should open their market wider to support the development of the poor countries.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the 9th WTO ministerial conference kicked off Tuesday afternoon in the Indonesian resort island of Bali, Yudhoyono said giving the least developed countries an opportunity to trade gives them an opportunity to develop.

“Despite our progress, 1.2 billion people continue to live in extreme poverty,” the president said.

A rules-based multilateral trading system works for developing countries is needed, he added, pointing out that helping the weak grow strong will bring benefits too and it will contribute to regional and global stability.

The three-day WTO ministers’ meeting, struggling to revive the long-stalled Doha Round by reaching a possible trade deal, was attended by trade chiefs of the organisation’s 159 members and other 10,000 diplomats from more than 160 countries and regions.—Xinhua

An anti-government protester looks for shelter during a clash outside the Government House in Bangkok, Thailand, on 2 Dec, 2013.—Xinhua

Thai anti-gov’t protesters end street unrest, allowed entry into Government House, police bureau

BANGKOK, 3 Dec — Thai anti-government protesters stopped a two-days street unrest in the heart of the capital as police allowed them to enter the compounds of the Government House and the metropolitan police headquarters on Tuesday.

Hundreds of anti-gov’t government protesters were allowed passage to get inside the compounds of the Government House and the metropolitan police headquarters after two previous days of struggling to get in and occupy those places. Bull-dozers and garbage trucks were used to ram the wires and barricades to give way to the angry demonstrators, but the police fired tear gas and managed to keep them at bay.

While the police had fired tear gas, the protesters hurled plastic bombs, giant firecrackers and rocks at those government premises.

Over the last two days, they had cut barbed wires and dismantled concrete barricades which divided them from the policemen as they intended to enter and occupy those places. Bull-dozers and garbage trucks were used to ram the wires and barricades to give way to the angry demonstrators, but the police fired tear gas and managed to keep them at bay.

Centre for the Administration of Peace and Order spokesman Pol Maj Gen Piyal Uthayo confirmed that the protesters had not caused any turbulence or damage to government property as they entered those government premises.

Syria death toll hits nearly 126,000: monitoring group

BEIRUT, 3 Dec — The death toll in Syria’s civil war has risen to at least 125,835, more than a third of them civilians, but the real figure is probably much higher, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said on Monday.

The pro-opposition monitoring group also appealed to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and “all people in the international community who have a conscience” to increase their efforts to end the 2-1/2 year war. The conflict began as peaceful protests against four decades of rule by President Bashar al-Assad’s family, but under a fierce security force crackdown, turned into an armored insurgency whose sectarian dimensions have echoed across the Middle East. The Observatory, based in Britain but with a network of activists across Syria, put the number of children killed in the conflict so far at 6,627.

It put the death toll among rebels fighting the Assad government at least 27,746 rebels, including more than 6,000,000 categorized as foreign fighters or unknown combatants. —Reuters

Syrian Army fighter listens to music as he sits beside a rocket launcher, on a damaged street in the Jabar neighbourhood of Damascus on 30 Nov, 2013. —Reuters
How Israel keeps a Blue eye on the world’s water

Electro-optic systems from Israel are keeping municipal and food production water supplies as well as pools, from contamination.

By Rikka Borochov

What do international companies like Yoplait, Coca-Cola, General Electric and the chemical giant BASF have in common? Along with Barcelona and several American cities, they are now relying on the Israeli water-monitoring company Blue I (“blue eye”) to keep an eye on their water.

The Israeli company, with millions of dollars in turnover, provides a real-time monitor that can test for chlorine and clarity in factory or municipal water.

Coca-Cola can’t have impurities or any added taste in its secret recipe. And Yoplait’s world-famous yogurt production must abide by strict taste and security standards that customers expect.

Stella Diamant, the CTO of Blue I, says her company is the “gatekeeper for the food industry.”

Security is a growing concern for city officials. While there is currently no test on the market that can sniff out anthrax poisoning in municipal water, if something looks suspicious in the water supply, Blue I’s spot boxes can send out alerts to suspend operations until the problem is solved.

The extreme sensitivity of its turbidity and chlorine monitors, run by electro-optics, can detect the faintest of changes that can affect test parameters, says Diamant.

Putting pool boys out of business

The company recently used in part to enter the Latin American market. Blue I is already testing 20 of its units at condo pools in Brazil. Previously, the company helped make sure that pools were safe and clean during the Beijing 2008 Olympics.

Blue I was founded in 2003 and is now controlled by the Shaked Global Group, Docor International Management and Tene Investment Funds. This investment group is also helping the Israeli company enter Asia. One of the latest deals is for the Guangdong region of China.

“We are on the verge of being huge,” Diamant promises.

The case of Coca-Cola

While new water monitoring companies are connecting to smart water networks, the Internet cloud and smartphones, Blue I was one of the first to define this space.

The Coca-Cola bottling plant in India uses Blue I.

This Prizma pool purification is working in Germany.

“Dr. Diamant is a visionary who is really saying we need to think about the entire water cycle,” says Michelle Lill, head of technology and security at Coca-Cola’s sister company, Mapal Oil Refineries.

The company’s independent bottling sites need to be 100 percent sure that no chlorine gets into the world’s favorite drink, and Blue I can give them that guarantee, she says.

Blue I employs 25 people in Israel, based in Rosh Ha’Ayin’s Afek Industrial Park. The company was located in Kibbutz Ramat Rachel on the southern border of Jerusalem until it split from its sister company, Mapal Pools, to form its own entity. It offers about a dozen products.

Within Israel, Blue I clients include Israel’s national water carrier, Mekorot, as well as Israel’s Oil Refineries.

Deutsche Telekom plans new packages after Internet cap blocked

FRANKFURT, 3 DEC — Deutsche Telekom plans to repack its Internet offering rather than appeal against an October court ruling that blocked it from capping connection speeds when customers exceed data limits on flat-rate contracts.

After announcing its decision not to launch an appeal, the former German monopoly said on Monday that it will introduce new deals with flat rates or fixed data volumes.

The telecoms operator’s head of German operations, Niek Jan van Damme, told reporters that the company aims to be more transparent, adding: “We want to win back customer confidence we have lost.”

Public outrage this year prompted Deutsche Telekom to water down plans to cap data speeds over fixed broadband lines.

It had said that, from 2016, customers who sign up for flat-rate Internet deals and who exceed their monthly data download limit would see their surfing speed capped at 2 megabits per second (Mbps).

The Cologne district court ruled in favor of the consumer lobby group Verbraucherzentrale NRW, which had brought the case to court. Deutsche Telekom’s Van Damme declined to indicate how much customers will have to pay for the new packages, but he said that the new flat-rate packages would be more expensive than the contracts with fixed data volumes.

He added that it is unlikely that the new tariffs would be introduced in the next 12 months.

Reuters

US online startup makes going solar as easy as booking travel

LOS ANGELES, 3 DEC — In a first on Monday, an online marketplace will allow US homeowners to weigh options for going solar as easily as they can compare prices for airline tickets.

Geostellar, a startup backed by power producer NRG Energy Inc, is seeking to become the Expedia or Orbitz of the solar industry — a one-stop shop where consumers can not only compare the benefits of leasing solar panels versus buying them outright, but ultimately sign up to install a system.

Solar players including NRG, No 1 US installer SolarCity Corp, Boston-based solar loan provider Admirals Bank, manufacturer and financier Conergy, East Coast installer Roof Diagnostics and Connecticut’s Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority will feature their products on the site, www.geostellar.com. Geostellar hopes its platform will allow installers and financiers to lower the cost of acquiring new customers — a major goal in the fiercely competitive rooftop solar industry.

Solar companies are focused on slashing costs so that they can deliver on their promise to save customers money on power bills by going solar.

Reuters

80 skulls found in China’s neolithic city

X’ian, 3 DEC — Archaeologists in northwest China’s Shaanxi Province said they had excavated over 80 skulls in the ruins of the largest Neolithic Chinese city ever discovered.

The skulls were found in groups and their limb bones could not be retrieved elsewhere at the Shima Ruins in Shenmu County, Yulin City, said Sun Zhongyang, deputy head of the Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Archaeology, on Sunday.

Two groups of skulls were firstly found in two pits, with 24 of the grizzly finds in each, in front of the east gate of the city ruin while others were later uncovered along the eastern city wall, Sun said.

Archaeologists deduced that these skulls are likely to be related to the construction of the city wall, suggesting that ancient religious activities or foundation ceremonies were launched before construction of the neolithic city began.

Sun said anthropologists identified most of the skulls as belonging to young women, which suggested the outbreak of mass violence or ethnic conflict in the region since ancient people were prone to use their enemies or captives as sacrifices.

These skulls will serve as important materials for research on the religious thinking, construction concepts and cultural activities of people living along the Yellow River Basin over 4,000 years ago, according to Sun.

The Shima Ruins were first found in 1976 in the form of a small town, and archaeological authorities identified the ruins as the largest of their kind from neolithic times in 2012 after measuring the exact size of the ancient stone city. — Reuters
The victims of Syria’s war finding care in Israel

By Kevin Connolly

In the maternity unit at the Sieff Hospital in the Israeli city of Tzfat, the safe arrival of every baby feels like a minor miracle.

But on the day we visited, there was one little boy among the row of newborns who will one day have quite a story to tell. That is, if his parents ever decide to tell him.

The child’s name has to be withheld: publishing any kind of information which could identify him might put him in danger when he goes back to his home village — which is in Syria.

His mother’s name or any personal information that might identify her can’t be published either. She looked tired but happy when we met her, quick to praise the kindness of the Israeli medical staff who had treated her.

She was already in labour when she went to her local clinic in her home village in Syria — but they told her that they could not treat her.

Her worried husband knew that it was possible to get her treated in Israel — and so the couple began a dangerous race to the frontier in a country at war and a desperate race against time.

She had to be taken to a point inside Syria from where she could be seen by Israeli soldiers patrolling the fence that marks the old ceasefire line between the two countries that dates back decades.

A military ambulance then took her to hospital — she made it on time.

System of transfer

The humanitarian chain that got the woman from her home village under heavy shellfire to the border, to hospital links guides in Syria to Israeli Army paramedics on the frontier, to the doctors and nurses in Tzfat.

For the woman, every step in the process worked perfectly, perhaps because it has become a well-trodden path.

She was the 177th person to make the journey to the emergency room in what has become one of the most extraordinary subplots of Syria’s agonising civil war.

Syria and Israel regard each other as enemies. A state of war has existed between them for decades.

And yet, since the first peace agreement around nine months ago, the informal system of patient transfer has become so well-established that some patients have even arrived with letters of referral written by doctors in Syria for their Israeli counterparts.

The Israelis say they are treating everyone who needs treatment. That often means women and children who would attack Israeli targets if they could.

Cyber Monday sales set to hit record

New York, 3 Dec — US online sales are expected to hit $2 billion on “Cyber Monday,” for the first time since the data firm comScore has been tracking such information.

A 20 percent increase is expected to come even after many consumers shopped earlier when retailers started offering their “Cyber Monday” deals on Sunday. As of 12 pm EST, online sales were up 21.4 percent on “Cyber Monday,” according to IBM Digital Analytics Benchmark.

The growth is not just a boon for online retailer Amazon.com Inc. Bricks-and-mortar chains that have successfully integrated their e-commerce and in-store businesses also stand to gain from the online growth. Wal-Mart Stores Inc, Target Corp, Toys “R” Us, Macy’s Inc, JC Penney Co Inc and Best Buy Co Inc were among the brick-and-mortar chains that started their online deals early.

“All of them are behind Amazon, but some are starting to catch up,” said Edward Jones analyst Brian Yarbrough. “Cyber Monday” is the busiest day of the year for online sales and follows the Thanksgiving weekend that kicks off the peak holiday shopping season.

Apple buys startup Topsy; gets rich Twitter data

SAN FRANCISCO, 3 Dec — Apple Inc has acquired social media search and analytics startup Topsy, an unusual purchase for a hardware-focused company that has made few forays into social networking.

Apple confirmed the acquisition but would not say why it bought the company, which specializes in analyzing Twitter data and providing insights into current sentiment on a variety of topics. The Wall Street Journal, which reported the news earlier, cited people familiar with the deal as saying Apple paid over $200 million.

“Apple buys smaller technology companies from time to time, and we generally do not discuss our purpose or plans,” spokeswoman Kristin Huguet said. Topsy did not respond to requests for comment.

The iPad and iPhone maker often does what it calls “bolt-on” acquisitions, small deals to acquire technology that then gets integrated into existing or future products.

Many of its acquisitions in recent years have been angled toward improving hardware.

This year, it paid a reported $530 million for Israeli 3D chip developer PrimeSense Ltd, perceived as an effort to incorporate gesture technology into its devices. And in 2008, it paid a reported $280 million for a semiconductor designer that eventually yielded the power the iPhone and iPad.

Apple’s main effort in social media has revolved around Ping, a music-centered social sharing network that was at one point integrated into its iTunes app. The service, which lets users post music tracks they liked to a news feed, didn’t catch on and was shut down.

Global factory growth picks up but Europe diverging

LONDON, BEING, 3 Dec — Increasing demand for manufactured goods drove a global factory activity higher last month but the spurt in the euro zone masked a widening disparity among some of the bloc’s key members. As year-end approaches, the global economy is showing signs of a more solid recovery, with encouraging signs from some economies, particularly Britain, of an acceleration.

But growth in Europe’s 17-nation currency union remains weak and Markit, compiler of the monthly Purchasing Managers’ Indexes, said on Monday that there was evidence of a renewed downturn in France and Spain. Markit’s Eurozone Manufacturing PMI rose to 51.6 last month from October’s 51.3, a two-year high, just pipping an earlier flash reading of 51.5, and the fifth consecutive month showing growth. The output index nudged up to 53.1 from 52.9.

“It is coming from a pretty low level,” said Ben May at Capital Economics. “Signs of weakness in France is clearly a worry and suggests that the divergence between it and Germany remain firmly in place.”

It would raise more concerns if it were to continue or intensify. Germany’s PMI fell to a five-month low of 48.4 from 49.1, climbing up its 21st month below 50, while Spain’s sank back below the 50 break-even mark after spending the last three months in growth territory. By contrast, data from Germany, Europe’s biggest economy, showed factories there had their best month since mid-2011.

Italian figures showed manufacturing there also picked up speed.

The euro zone escaped from its longest-ever recession earlier this year, supported by better-than-expected growth in Germany, but a Reuters poll last month suggested the bloc’s economy will grow only moderately though next year.

A worker operates a machine to cut a pipeline at a factory in Qingdao, Shandong Province on 29 Nov, 2013. — Reuters

A pharmaceutical company Shire said on Monday it had agreed to supply an authorized generic version of Adderall XR, its drug to treat hyperactivity, to Sandoz.

Adderall, an amphetamine, is available in instant release and extended release formulations. Shire now only produces the extended version, for which it retains patent rights, and sales of the drug have been falling since a generic version became available in 2009.

However, the drug still generated sales of $81.4 million for Shire in the third quarter of the year. Under the agreement, Sandoz, the generic arm of Novartis, will exclusively sell the authorized generic version of Adderall XR supplied by Shire from July 1, 2016 in the United States, Shire said, adding it would receive a royalty on sales.
Nay Pyi Taw, 3 Dec—“Today’s donation reflects the Tatmadaw’s goodwill to the development of Rakhine State. Tatmadaw is also willingly on the track towards democracy. Only when peace and stability, can the rule of law be ensured. Our goal is to see peaceful and prosperous Union. This goal can be achieved through united efforts”, said Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the commissioning ceremony of Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Thura Thet Swe and wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Khin Aung Myint and wife, senior military officers of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, Rakhine State Prime Minister U Hla Maung Tin and wife, Rakhine State Hluttaw Speaker U Htay Lin, the commander of Northern Command and wife, officials, hluttaw representatives and town elders.

The ceremony was attended by Defence Services (Defence) Army, Navy, Air) Office, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and Lt-Gen Hla Min of Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office presented K 50 million to the Rakhine State chief minister who also received K 862.8 million and 5000 bags of cement to wellwishers.


The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker and party attended a dinner hosted by Speaker of House of Representatives of Japan Mr. Bunmei IBUKI and wife at their residence yesterday evening.

Mrs. Akie ABE, wife of the Japanese Prime Minister, hosted a dinner, attended by Chairman of Asia Business Leader Association Mr. Sawada HIDEO and members, to Myanmar delegation at Hotel New Otani in Tokyo on 1 December evening.

He met with Economy, Trade and Industry Minister of Japan Mr. Toshimitsu Motegi and discussed matters on amity between the two countries and mutual cooperation.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker and party also held talks with Chairman of KEIDANREN Mr. Yonekura and party, Chairman and CEO of JETRO Mr. Hiroyuki ISHIHARA and officials and responsible persons of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry on investment opportunity in Myanmar and trade cooperation between the two countries.

Union Commerce Minister attends ninth WTO Ministerial Conference

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 Dec—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint attended an informal breakfast meeting of ASEAN Ministers for Trade and Industry on investment opportunities for the LDCs.

The Union Minister said that discussions have achieved success thanks to the cooperation and unity among the LDCs. He also discussed continued cooperation, importance of Aid for Trade for development of infrastructures human resources and economic in the LDCs, fairness and transparency in the allocation of Aid for Trade, sustainable cooperation for development of multi-national trading system.
Tickets for SEA Games opening and closing ceremonies available in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Dec—Tickets for SEA Games opening and closing ceremonies to be held in Nay Pyi Taw will be sold for K50000 for grand stand and K30000 for ordinary stand at Myoma Market, Shop No Pa-112 in Nay Pyi Taw. Entry cards for local sports fans and foreign sportsperson and officials are available at designated places in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon. Ministry of Sport has issued altogether 6500 cards to 30 government ministries including Tatmadaw and the Home Affairs Ministry, with a quota of 200 cards per big department and 150 cards per small department. The Ministry will issue over 10,000 cards to dance and music troupes under the Ministry of Culture and the children. Coordination will be made with the Ministry of Education on the enjoyment of the SEA Games events by about 4000/5000 students in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. Authorities concerned have made arrangements for successful holding of the SEA Games, according to Director U Moe Zaw Htut from the Ministry of Sports.

Ko Myo (Shwe Paukkan)
Let’s march towards our goal in unity

Unity and speed play a leading role in undertaking the activities tied to cooperation. With the two driving factors, goals and objectives can be successfully implemented in a short space of time. But it is uneasy to get off the ground without one of the two driving factors, meaning that unity only could not lead to success and it should inevitably be accompanied by speed.

Myanmar traditional rowing team that is to participate in the upcoming SEA Games has a history of emerging champion with its unity. In this context, it is found that unity and speed are intertwined and cannot be separated from one another. Therefore, we are to be well aware of the fact that whatever we do we are necessary to mainly focus on unity and speed.

However, most of us often fail to follow those key factors that lead to success. In that regard, President U Thein Sein during his tour of Ayeyawady Region, pointed out that unity is a must for successful implementation of national and regional development tasks. And he added that it is required to change mindset and to drop bad behaviors that can undermine a sense of cooperation and common interest.

It’s right. Whatever we do we are to strike a balance between self-interest and interest of others. We are to lend a helping hand to others as much as we can so long as we are in community. Everyone should be endowed with a sense of unity that usually belongs to those who are good-natured. A matter of speed has something to do with wisdom, the ability to make sensible decisions and to give good advice. If everyone is fully equipped with a sense of unity plus speed, will their wishes be fulfilled sooner or later. In that sense, let’s march towards our goal, a modern, developed and democratic nation in unity.

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Dec—An educative talks on nationwide census-taking-2014 took place at a hall in Kutkai of Shan State (North) on 29 November.

U Win Ko, chairman of Muse district census-taking committee, U Hsan Myint, chairman of Kutkai Township census-taking committee, and Head of Kutkai Township Immigration and National Registration Department U Min Min Zaw gave talks instead of the census-taking procedures to be conducted in Kutkai and Tamoeyne Townships to local people.

Aye Thin

If one wants to talk literary awards, one cannot skip Sarsodaw Day and the month of Nadaw. Sarsodaw Nay, or Literati Day falls on the 1st Waxing of Nadaw, the ninth month in Myanmar calendar.

During the time of Myanmar kings, the nation had the tradition of honouring outstanding literati, princes and court officials with titles. In the month of Nadaw, the king held a special audience at the palace and honoured those who had literary accomplishments. In this regard, we cannot help thinking a brief history on Sarsodaw Day compiled by Malikha in “Myanmar Sarpay Abhidhan (2)”. During the Japanese occupation whilst compilation of dictionary and encyclopaedia was being carried out in Kunyangon, a programme to celebrate the memorial day of U Ponnya was adopted. The Pyinnya Daguon Association was informed to do so. Then, men of letters, those from Pyinnya Daguon Association and the Writers Association held a meeting on 8 May, 1944 to observe the Sarsodaw Day, or the Literati Day instead of observing a memorial day that represented only a man of letters. The meeting decided that “Bama Sarsodaw Nay”, or Myanmar Sarpay Abhidhan (2) should be celebrated on 1st Waxing of Nadaw every year to mark the Sarsodaw Day.

The lofty aims of holding the ceremony are to praise the literary virtues of professionals who have served the interest of the nation and the people with the might of pen, to enable the entire people to know and value the precious role of the literati and their works, and, for the people to always keep in their mind the value and benefits of Myanmar literature.

Literati are honoured on the Sarsodaw Day as they have performed the task of developing and handing over literature to the new generation well by inheriting and propaganda of it.

If we talk about the history of National Literary Awards, it dates back to 1968, in the time of the Tatmadaw Government, the Secretary-I gave away the awards and in the time of democratic government, the Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar presented the literary awards. Lifetime Achievement National Literary Awards were introduced in 2001 for excellent performance in the field of Myanmar literature during their lifetime. From 2001 to 2011, one awardee for one year was selected but for this year (for 2012) the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Scrutinizing Committee formed with 36 intellectuals and intelligentsia from the fields of literary, writing, translation and printing and publishing examined 165 manuscripts in three stages to select the winners.

For the first time (for 2012) the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award and Literary Award Committee was established with 36 intellectuals and intelligentsia from the fields of literary, writing, translation and printing and publishing in accordance with the decision of the President, and the Scrutinizing Committee examined 165 manuscripts in three stages to select the winners.

At present, the government holds a grand ceremony to present awards including Lifetime Achievement National Literary Awards, National Literary Awards and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards to the winners. The Pyinnya Daguon Association was informed to hold back on the award presentation ceremonies, the Council of the Burma Translation Society (Sarpay Beikman) chaired by the then Vice-President of National Literature Union U Nu presented the prizes from 1948 to 1962. In the time of the Revolutionary Council, the Minister for Information presented the awards. In the time of the Tatmadaw Government, the Secretary-I gave away the awards and in the time of democratic government, the Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar presented the literary awards.

Sarsodaw Day ceremonies were held on 26 August in 1947 with Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt (Paragu) (deceased) for 2001, Sithu U Hla Kyaw (Paragu) (deceased) for 2000, Sithu Daw Yin Yin (Saw Mon Nyin) (deceased) for 2005, Sithu Daw Kyan (Ma Kyan) for 2006, Sithu U Kyi Aye (Hsinbyukyun Aung Thin) for 2007, Sithu Dr. Kyaw Sein (deceased) for 2008, Sithu Khin Maung Nyunt for 2009, Sithu Dr. Thaw Khu (Hsinbyukyun Aung Thin) and Saygyi U Aung Thin for 2010, U Win Maung (Min Yu Wai) for 2011, and Daw Khin Swe Oo (Khin Swo Oo), Saygyi U Aung Thin (Aung Thin) and Saygyi U Tin Maung (Thae Kyan Hnin Tin) for 2012. The Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award came into being when the manuscripts which were not published for various reasons were invited to competition for awards. Today, the genres have been increased to 13 in number. Under the National Literary Award, First, Second, and Third prizes are set apart for the 13 genres. The 13 genres are novel category, collective short works, collective poems, belles-lettres, Myanmar culture and arts, children’s literature, youth, literary genre, political genre, English language book (general knowledge), and English language book (aesthetic). If we look back on the Sarsodaw Day ceremonies, it is a crowning glory of all the members of the literary profession.********

NATIONAL

SARSODAW DAY AND LITERARY AWARDS

Talks on census-taking procedures given in Kutkai

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U Win Ko, chairman of Muse district census-taking committee, U Hsan Myint, chairman of Kutkai Township census-taking committee, and Head of Kutkai Township Immigration and National Registration Department U Min Min Zaw gave talks instead of the census-taking procedures to be conducted in Kutkai and Tamoeyne Townships to local people.

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Maung Hlaing

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World countries making efforts for emergence...

(from page 16)

Disseminating the knowledge largely contributes to youth development of a developing country. Innovation and utilization becomes an urgent need not only for individual but also for all work fields. He quoted General Aung San’s definition of education in the autobiography of General Aung San. In conclusion, he urged all literati to make strenuous efforts for knowledge dissemination among the people.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun presented prizes to Life-time Achievement Literary Award winners Daw Khin Swe Oo (Khin Swe Oo), Sayagy U Aung Thin and Sayamagiyo U Sein Tin Win presented belles-lettters, Myanmar culture and arts and child literature genres to winners in Sarpya Beikman Manuscript Award. Acting Union Minister for Education Dr Ko Ko Oo awarded winners in child literature, drama literature and translation literature genres in Sarpya Beikman Manuscript Award. On behalf of the award winners, Life-time Achievement Literary Award winner Sayagyiyo U Aung Thin and party posed for a documentary photo together with the award winners. Although only one person was chosen for Life-time Achievement Literary Award in the past, three persons were selected to receive that award this year. It is learnt that cash rewards were presented from K 1 million to 1.5 million for Life-time Achievement Literary Award, from K 500,000 to K 1 million for National Literary Award and from K 200,000 to K 500,000 for first prize winner, from K 150,000 to K 300,000 for second prize winner and from K 100,000 to K 200,000 for third prize winner in Sarpya Beikman Manuscript Award. Moreover, the prize winners were also awarded medals.

Lands to be handed over to ...

(from page 16)

Then, the Committee Chair- man coordinated the essen- tials. The Chairman also touched upon long-term and short-term measures, meeting of international standards, the rule of law, peace and stability and co- operation between the of- ficials concerned. It was also attended by Union Minister Dr Myint Aung, deputy ministers, Region ministers, Managing Director Maj-Gen Zar Ni Win from UMEHL and responsible persons and Myanma Wenbao Co., Ltd. The Committee President U Nyan Tun and party attended the meetings. At the IAACA meeting, the Deputy attorney-general said that Myanmar enacted anti-corruption law after approving as member in United Nations Convention against Corruption (UN- CAC) in 2012. He clarified matters on undertakings of anti-corruption by forming the committees by the Union Government and parliament and ongoing workplace procedures according to anti-corruption law. During the meeting, he held talks with Mr. Shervan, UNODC Regional Officer for South East Asia and the Indonesian delegation. The deputy attorney- general and party arrived back in Yangon yesterday evening.

Deputy Attorney-General and party back from Panama

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Dec—Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo and party attended the Seventh Annual Conference and General Meeting of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA) and Fifth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UN- CAC) held in Panama from 22 to 29 November. A total of 1520 delegates from 167 countries attended the meetings. At the International Day of Persons with... (from page 16) Games to be hosted by Myan- mar in January next year.

Investigation Commission for Letpadaung- taung Copper Mining Project holds coordina- tion meeting.—MNA
**LOCAL NEWS**

**No smoking signboards at Golden Monastery in Mandalay**

Mandalay, 3 Dec—The Golden Monastery which is one of the tourist attractions in Mandalay is put up with “No Smoking” signboards. It is because the tourists smoke the cigarette while taking a rest at the Golden Monastery. If they forget putting out of cigarette, danger of fire will occur.

In the past, the small signboards of No Smoking had been put up. Now, the larger one are put up there.

Kyemon-Thiba Ko Ko (Mandalay)

**Clock Tower of Zaygyo Market in Mandalay under maintenance**

The clock tower was built in commemoration of the 60th birthday of Her Majesty Queen Victoria of England in 1909.

At about 1970, the clock tower was renovated once. Kyemon-Thiba Ko Ko (Mandalay)

**Field day on high yield of long staple cotton held**

Hsinpaungwe, 3 Dec—Industrial Crops Development Department organised the field day of late-monsoon long staple cotton on five acres of farmlands of farmer U Pauk Seik in Ward 5 of Hsinpaungwe Township, Thayet District, Magway Region, on 29 November morning.

It was attended by Township Administrator U Ko Ko Aung of General Administration Department, Head of Township Industrial Crops Development Department U Soe Tint and departmental officials, members of Township Agricultural Supervisory Committee, responsible persons of Township Development Supportive Committee and cotton growers.

On the occasion, Township Administrator U Ko Ko Aung explained the endeavours of the Union government in agriculture sector for rural development, poverty alleviation and socio-economic development of farmers.

Head of Township Industrial Crops Development Department U Soe Tint reported on cultivation of Ngwechi-6 long staple cotton for boosting 1007 viss of cotton per acre, applying of good agricultural patterns.

During 90-day cultivation period, a total of 13590 Ngwechi-6 long staple cotton plants are thriving on each acre, and these plants bear 32 cotton fruits on average.

That is why the plantation can produce 1007 viss of cotton per acre.

Kyemon-Ko Ko Aung

**Sanitation carried out in Hlinethaya Tsp**

Yangon, 3 Dec—Some children suffer from dengue hemorrhagic fever on Thamaseikta and Aungtanma streets in Ward 19 of Hlinethaya Township of Yangon North District.

Officials of Township Health Department, ward administrative body and responsible persons of Maternal and Child Welfare Association performed fumigation and chlorination in the ward.

Yangon Region Hluttaw representative U Nay Lin of Hlinethaya Township Constituency No 2, Ward administrator U Myint Aye and party and officials of Region Development Supportive Committee carried out dredging of drains in the ward for proper flow of water on 1 December.

Kyemon-Min Heet Paing (Hlinethaya)

**Ant-Narcotic Drives**

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 Dec—Members of No 28 Anti-Drug Squad (Kengtung) together with witnesses, acting on tipoff, searched Li Hsa (a) Aik Lon, 23 of Konyang Village of Kathaik Village-tract of Kengtung Township while he was walking along the road to Wankyan Village recently.

The members of the squad seized 398 stimulant tablets with WY brand worth K 995,000 from his bag and one Nokia brand mobile phone without SIM card.

Kengtung Myoma Police Station opened a lawsuit against Lihsa (a) Aik Lon under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Kyemon-Police Information

**Kyaukse University to admit 50 female boarding students**

Kyaukse, 3 Dec—Kyaukse University (Tawma) admits first year students for 2013-14 academic year as of 2 December. The school opening day was announced for students from the second year to the final one to attend the 2013-14 academic year classes. The classes of first year students will be opened on 5 December.

Arrangements are being made to admit 50 female students out of all the students who will pursue education for 2013-14 academic year.

“Detailed disciplines will be announced after the board meeting. At present, 50 female students will be accepted for boarding system. A plan is underway to provide food and accommodation for the boarding students. A total of 50 female students who came from far areas will be admitted at the boarding this year. Every student from far areas may apply for the boarding. However, the hostels are under construction, the university will admit 50 female students only this year. In the coming academic years, the university will admit more students for the boarding,” said Office Superintendent Daw Khin Mya Thway of the Student Affairs Section of Kyaukse University.—Kyemon-Aung Min (Singaing)
New Zealand, S Korea to resume talks on bilateral FTA in February

SYDNEY, 3 Dec — New Zealand and South Korea have agreed to resume their negotiations for a bilateral free trade agreement, with the next round set for February, the two countries’ trade ministries announced on Tuesday.

The agreement came at a meeting between New Zealand Trade Minister Tim Groser and his South Korean counterpart Yoon Sang-Jick on the sidelines of a World Trade Organization ministerial conference in Bali, Indonesia.

“The resumption of negotiations was discussed by Prime Minister John Key and Korean President Park Geun Hye during the Prime Minister’s recent visit to Korea in July. I am pleased that their shared determination to conclude a free trade agreement has led to this point,” Groser said in a statement.

The talks, which began in 2009, were last held in May 2010 and the next round will be the fifth.

South Korea is New Zealand’s fifth largest trading partner, with two-way trade amounting to $3.5 billion in the year ending June 2013, according to New Zealand government figures.

There has been concern in South Korea about the impact of an FTA on its agricultural sector. New Zealand currently provides only about 3 percent of South Korea’s total agricultural imports.

Groser said the lack of a formal FTA has put his country at a disadvantage in the South Korean market, with its beef and kiwifruit exporters, for example, facing tariffs of 40 percent and 45 percent, respectively.

Last week, South Korea expressed interest in taking part in the US-led Trans-Pacific Partnership, which includes New Zealand.

It already has FTAs with some of the 12 countries involved in the TPP negotiations, including the United States, while it is working to conclude pending negotiations with others such as Canada and Australia.

Kyodo News

Indonesia’s power project gets first loan from ADB-administered fund

MANILA, 3 Dec—The ASEAN Infrastructure Fund Ltd (AIF) said on Tuesday that it has approved a loan of 25 million US dollars for a project that will connect rural households in Bali, Indonesia to the grid.

The power project in Indonesia is the first recipient of the loan under the AIF which is being administered by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The AIF was incorporated in April 2012 in Malaysia and is initially expected to provide loans of up to 300 million US dollars a year for the development of road, rail, power, water, and other critical infrastructure in Southeast Asia.

Shareholders of the AIF are ADB and member-countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) — Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

In addition to its investment of 150 million US dollars, the Manila-based lender also cofinances with and administers the AIF and provides technical support.

ADB said infrastructure needs in ASEAN countries are projected to be 60 billion US dollars a year until 2020.

—the observer

Hong Kong confirms first human case of bird flu

HONG KONG, 3 Dec—Hong Kong confirmed its first case of deadly H7N9 bird flu on Monday in a further sign that the virus is continuing to spread beyond mainland China’s borders.

The case coincides with the 10th anniversary of the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, which killed nearly 300 people in Hong Kong and had a significant impact on the city’s travel and retail industry.

A 36-year-old Indonesian domestic helper with a history of contact with poultry and travel to Shenzhen in mainland China just north of Hong Kong has been confirmed infected by H7N9 and has been hospitalized in critical condition.

Assistant Secretary for Food and Health, Dr. Bernard Chan said on Monday that his country at a disadvantage in the South Korean market, with its beef and kiwifruit exporters, for example, facing tariffs of 40 percent and 45 percent, respectively.

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Kyodo News

34 countries, regions issue travel alert for Thailand

BANGKOK, 3 Dec—A total of 34 countries and regions have issued warning for travel to Thailand where political tension has run high.

According to the Tourism Authority of Thailand, China, the United States, France, Australia and Japan were among those countries and regions issuing travel alert.

Anti-government protests in Bangkok continued on Monday with protesters trying to seize more state offices in their bid to topple the government.

Former Malaysian PM Mahathir quits as adviser to state oil giant Petronas

KUALA LUMPUR, 3 Dec—Former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said on Monday that he had quitte as the adviser to the state-owned oil giant Petronas due to health reason.

Mahathir said he had relinquished the post effective on 1 December as advised by doctors to “slow down.” The 88-year-old was admitted to hospital for treatment after a chest infection last month. He seems to be in good spirit but a little frail when giving a short speech at an international forum here on Monday.

Mahathir was appointed as adviser to Petronas and the national car-maker Proton after stepped down as prime minister in 2003 following 22 years in office. He remains active and vocal on various issues in the country.—Xinhua

Singapore inks deal to buy 2 new submarines from German firm

SINGAPORE, 3 Dec—Singapore has inked a deal with German corporation ThyssenKrupp to purchase two "Type 218SG" submarines which will be delivered from 2020, Singapore’s Ministry of Defence said Monday in a statement posted on its website.

The contract was signed on 29 November and includes a logistics package and the training of local crew in Germany.

According to the statement, the German submarines will have significantly improved capabilities and be equipped with air-independent propulsion which "enables a submarine to operate at low speed without surfacing,” among other tactical benefits.

The Type 218SG submarines, together with two Swedish Archer-class vessels, will replace the four ageing Challenger-class submarines built in Sweden in the 1960s and sold to Singapore in the 1990s.

Singapore bought the Archer-class submarines secondhand from the Swedish Navy in 2005, but the vessels have only been in service for the last two years.

The city-state launched its submarine programme in 1997.
China-Africa Development Fund keen to speed up investment activities in Africa

China-Africa Development Fund (CADFund), which has already invested about 70 projects in Africa, said it is speeding up investment activities on the African continent, including manufacturing, infrastructure, agriculture, industry parks, and resource development.

The two-day summit has already designed business models to help tackle the obstacles of investing in emerging African economies and of reaching consumers, entrepreneurs and policy-makers with a stake in driving growth in Africa, according to the organizers.

Wang said CADFund has invested on three major sectors in Africa which includes agriculture, industry parks and resource development.

Zimbabwe banking sector denies money outflow before elections

Harare, 3 Dec — Zimbabwe’s banking sector on Monday refuted reports that about 70 million US dollars was shipped out just before the country held national elections in July.

Media reports have suggested in recent weeks that the current liquidity crisis bedeviling the sector was exacerbated by the fact that huge amounts of money were shipped out of the country by individuals and investors who were wary about the country’s future after the elections.

Bankers Association of Zimbabwe president George Guvamutanga told reporters such media reports were false. “There is no 70 million dollars that left the market. We don’t know where the media is getting such information from,” he said.

To prove there were no such amounts that left the banking sector, Guvamutanga, who is also the managing director of Barclays Bank of Zimbabwe, gave an account of the banking deposits between May and September, 2013 — Xinhu.

16 people die as bus plunges into river in eastern Zambia

Lusaka, 3 Dec — Sixteen people died as the bus they were traveling in plunged into the Luangwa River in Zambia’s Luangwa district on Saturday night, the police said on Monday.

The accident happened when the bus’ brakes failed as it sped down a meandering road towards the Luangwa River and hit into a hill before plunging into the river, according to a statement released by the Zambia Police Service.

“Seventeen people have died while 54 others sustained injuries after the Scania Marcopolo bus they were in fell into Luangwa River on the Great East Road,” Police Spokesperson Charity Munganga-Chanda said.

She said several police officers were dispatched to the scene of the accident to retrieve the bus from the river using a crane while locals mobilized themselves to retrieve the dead and help the injured.

Wednesday, 4 December, 2013

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1352)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1352) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4-12-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT S’PORE
PTE LTD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV DYNAMIC OCEAN 27 VOY NO (+)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV DYNAMIC OCEAN 27 VOY NO (+) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4-12-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-5 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S G LINK EXPRESS
PTE LTD
Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV GIAN HAI II VOY NO (-)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV GIAN HAI II VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4-12-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Wednesday, 4 December, 2013

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Xinhu
Beyoncé ousts Kim Kardashian as 2013’s most-searched person on Bing

LOUIS VUITTON, 3 Dec — Singer Beyoncé was named the most-searched person in 2013 on Bing, the online search engine said on Monday, edging out 2012’s list-topper reality television star Kim Kardashian, who came in second. Beyoncé, 32, topped the list in a year where she made a carefully choreographed return to the musical spotlight after taking time out to give birth to her first child, daughter Blue Ivy, with rapper husband Jay Z.

The singer performed at President Barack Obama’s inauguration in January, at the Super Bowl in February and kicked off a worldwide tour, The Mrs Carter Show World Tour, in April. The notoriously private singer also revealed glimpses of her life with Jay Z and their baby in a February HBO documentary. Kardashian, 33, dropped to second place after a big year where she gave birth to daughter North West, and got engaged to rapper Kanye West, the father of her child. The “Keeping Up with the Kardashians” personality topped the list in 2012 and 2010.

Paul Walker’s death shocking, tweets Bollywood

MUMBAI, 3 Dec — Hollywood actor Paul Walker’s death has caused a shock for everyone and Bollywood celebrities say that he has “gone far too soon.” Walker, best known for his role as Brian O’Conner in The Fast and The Furious, died in a car accident on Saturday in Santa Clarita, California. He was 40. Celebrities took to Twitter to express their sorrow and grief. Here is what they have to say:

Varun Dhawan: Can’t believe Paul walker is gone. Life is crazy. Don’t know why but this news has really depressed me. RIP Paul Walker

Preity Zinta: So sad to hear that Paul Walker died a fast and furious death in an accident in LA. Life is so short and fragile. May his soul rest in peace

Mika Singh: Very sad to hear about Paul Walker! What a brilliant actor! And an exceptionally good-looking man! Life is so unpredictable, really

Jackky Bhagnani: I am in shock that Paul Walker is no more. I loved him in all the Fast & Furious series. RIP

Sonal Chauhan: RIP Paul Walker. Life is so uncertain. And we take it for granted. Vale it, love it

Aftab Shivdasani: RIP Paul Walker. Sad and tragic.

Prayers for his near and dear ones

Dia Mirza: RIP Paul Walker

Bejoy Nambiar: Brian O’Conner bites the dust.

Tragic. RIP Paul Walker

Sophie Choudry: This news is just so tragic! RIP Paul Walker. Gone far too soon.

Saif and Sonakshi in a still from Bulletta Raja. —PTI

Bullelta Raja misses bull’s eye at box office

MUMBAI, 3 Dec — Film-maker Tigmanshu Dhulia’s latest offering Bulletta Raja may have missed the target at the box office, but it did decent business by earning approximately Rs 12 crores to Rs 13 crores in two days of its release, say trade pundits. The movie, starring Saif Ali Khan and Sonakshi Sinha, was released on Friday. Rajesh Thadani of Multimedia Combines told IANS: “Bulletta Raja is doing a decent business at the box office, but nothing great. The film has approximately collected Rs 12 crore to Rs 13 crore on Friday and Saturday.”

Based in a small town in Uttar Pradesh, Bulletta Raja has been described as a festival of guns, grime, and glory and it has just a week to utilise its potential. “The film will go steady just for a week because next Friday R...Rajkumar will release. It looks very impressive and considering the fact that it’s a Prabhu Deva film, there is a lot of hope from the film. His record has been very strong so far,” said Thadani. R...Rajkumar, starring Shahid Kapoor is a crime thriller as well. Another common thread between the two films is Sonakshi, who is playing the female lead in this movie too.

However, in Rajasthan, Bulletta Raja has got an encouraging response. Sunil Bansal of Yash Raj Pictures Pvt Ltd in Rajasthan said the film collected “around Rs 52 lakh on Friday and around Rs 50 lakh on Saturday.” “So the film has garnered over Rs 1 crore in Rajasthan, which is great,” he said and added that they are now looking forward to the action thriller Dhoom 3 starring Aamir Khan. —PTI

Karisma pays tribute to the Kapoor women in family

MUMBAI, 3 Dec — Actress Karisma Kapur, who is choosy about her performances, bent the rules for the NDTV-Vedanta Our Girls Our Pride Telethon, an initiative to empower the girl child. She said it’s also a “tribute to all the ladies” from her family.

“It was a fabulous day and I strongly believe in the cause. I generally don’t perform. I am quite choosy about it, but today I performed and paid tribute to all the Kapoor ladies, including (late grandmother) Greta Bali, (aunt) Neetu Singh, and my mom Babita and sister Kareena supporting the cause,” Karisma, known for her power-packed performances in Fiza and Zubeidaa, told IANS.

“My contribution was to spread the awareness,” added the actress. Her performance was part of a unique programming initiative of NDTV, which is in association with Vedanta and campaign ambassador and actress Priyanka Chopra, dedicated on 1 December to honour the country’s girls on its network channels with a LIVE telecast from 10 am onwards on Sunday.

“The campaign’s aim is to create awareness about issues related to the girl child and fight for her rights. The actress, also a mother, says her life completely changed after the birth of her daughter Samaira. PTI

Anil Kapoor all set for second season of 24

MUMBAI, 3 Dec — After completing the shoot of the first season of the television series 24, Anil Kapoor is all set to star in the second season. The aim is to create a better product, says the actor-producer. “The second season will start very soon. We will work even harder and will try to create an even better product,” the 56-year-old said here on Saturday at the success party of the show.

Anil says he hasn’t received as much appreciation before, but he believes the best thing about 24 is that the work of all the actors has been appreciated. “It has been good, I have never been appreciated this much. People have liked the show. The best thing is that everyone has been appreciated. Sometimes in films only you (one actor) are appreciated and people say the film ran because of you. But in this show everyone has done really well,” he added. 24 is an adaptation of the hit American TV series of the same name. The show is based on a 24-hour format where one season spans over 24 episodes chronicling 24 hours. Anil plays Jai Singh Rathod, the head of an anti-terrorist unit. —PTI
Barca need quick answers after second straight loss

MADRID, 3 Dec — Barcelona's 2-1 loss at Ajax Amsterdam in the Champions League last week was down to a lack of intensity while Sunday's 1-0 reverse at Athletic Bilbao in La Liga exposed their relative physical frailty. Those were two of the explanations coach Gerardo Martino and the players offered after the Spanish champions suffered their first two defeats of the season during a miserable week that saw them surrender their three-point lead over Atletico Madrid at the top of the La Liga. Argentine Martino, in his first campaign in charge since taking over from Tito Vilanova, will need to quickly identify and fix whatever it is that is ailing his side or risk missing out on major silverware for the first time since the 2007-08 season. Barca are through to the last 16 of Europe's elite club competition and can secure top spot in Group H if they avoid defeat at home to Celtic on 11 December. They also remain top of the domestic league on goal difference but there is a sense that when the season reaches its climax around April the flaws that were evident over the past week will be even more cruelly exposed. On current form, a disaster similar to the 7-0 aggregate drubbing they received at the hands of Bayern Munich in the Champions League semi-finals last term would not be a major surprise. Barca do have a number of key players sidelined by injury, including goalkeeper Victor Valdes and World Player of the Year Lionel Messi, who is not due back until the middle of next month. But with players of the caliber of Neymar, who fluffed a number of chances on Sunday, Cesc Fabregas, Andres Iniesta and Alexis Sanchez, Barca should be winning games against sides like fifth-placed Bilbao comfortably, at the very least avoiding defeat.

Midfielder Sergio Busquets conceded that Bilbao had been more effective at closing the Barca players down in their own half at the San Mames. “They are generally stronger than us, we are not a team like Athletic for example with all the players pressing up the pitch,” the Spain international added. “We have a number of players out injured and there is no need for alarm.” Martino also called for calm and said there had been nothing in Barca’s performance that was a particular cause for concern.

Giants rally to keep playoff hopes alive

Los Angeles, 3 Dec — The New York Giants moved to three points of BBVA Primera Liga leaders, FC Barcelona after the weekend’s round of matches and the striker was confident that Real Madrid could go from strength to strength. “I think we are looking very strong and we are getting better bit by bit. I want to help the team remain in condition until the end of the season, which is when you win titles. We are strong, confident and we want to carry on like that,” said Ronaldo, who has no great secret to his team’s good performances. “The formula to success is work, to keep your concentration in training and in matches. Work hard all of the time,” he said, adding that he had recovered from the muscle problem which has kept him out of the last two matches. “We have to take everything at the right time. We are playing in order to try to win the League and the Champions League,” he said, adding that neighbors, Atletico Madrid could also be rivals for the title. “I am not surprised by them, I have seen them looking strong ever since last year. They are in organization, have a good coach and a very good goalkeeper (Courtois), they are candidates,” he said.

Real Madrid striker Cristiano Ronaldo

Real Madrid striker Cristiano Ronaldo was this Monday awarded by the Alfredo di Stefano handed out by the Spanish sports paper, Diario Marca for the best footballer in the BBVA Primera Liga for 2013 and then said he thought he was in some of the best form of his career. The fact that Ronaldo was given the award, which is voted for by readers of the pro-Real Madrid newspaper, is no great surprise, but it is a fair reward for his incredible season to date in which he not only led Portugal almost single handedly to the World Cup finals, but has also netted 17 goals in the league and Ronaldo himself knows he is at a good moment of his career. ‘I am in good form, I think it is the best start of a season that I have had in my career, but I have always been in very good form in recent years,” said Ronaldo on picking up his award. Ronaldo’s side moved to within three points of BBVA Primera Liga leaders, FC Barcelona after the weekend’s round of matches and the striker was confident that Real Madrid could go from strength to strength. “I think they are looking very strong and we are getting better bit by bit. I want to help the team remain in condition until the end of the season, which is when you win titles. We are strong, confident and we want to carry on like that,” said Ronaldo, who has no great secret to his team’s good performances. “The formula to success is work, to keep your concentration in training and in matches. Work hard all of the time,” he said, adding that he had recovered from the muscle problem which has kept him out of the last two matches. “We have to take everything at the right time. We are playing in order to try to win the League and the Champions League,” he said, adding that neighbors, Atletico Madrid could also be rivals for the title. “I am not surprised by them, I have seen them looking strong ever since last year. They are in organization, have a good coach and a very good goalkeeper (Courtois), they are candidates,” he said.

Los Angeles, 3 Dec — The New York Giants hosted Washington in the first half but showed the kind of resolve that has kept them firmly in the playoff hunt. Eli Manning responded with a pair of scoring drives to end the half with Andre Brown breaking away for a 23-yard touchdown before Brandon Myers caught a 51.5-yard field goal to pull the Giants within 22-14 at the half. Manning’s lone interception in the third quarter led to a Washington field goal, which put the hosts up by three, before New York closed the game with 10 straight points in the fourth. Brown added a second rushing touchdown while Manning finished with 235 passing yards.

Stewart ends 45-year relationship with IMG

London, 3 Dec — Triple world champion Jackie Stewart has ended one of the longest personal business relationships in Formula One by moving to Just Marketing International (JMI) after 45 years with IMG. “I am joining JMI,” the Scot, 74, told Reuters before attending the annual Autosport awards on Sunday night. “I’ve been with IMG since 1968. Mark (McCormack) signed me up and they’ve done very well for me over the years but they are not in Formula One and haven’t been in Formula One now for a good long time.”

The money that Jackie Stewart can deliver is in the grand prix paddock and has long-standing relationships with a number of top brands. He has also been working with Lotus F1 team owners Genii, but that contract runs out at the end of the year. Unlisted JMI, founded by American former professional driver Zak Brown, was acquired by British sports marketing group Chime Communications PLC in October for $71 million. They arrange sponsorship, hospitality and rights deals in F1, NASCAR and IndyCar. Four time NASCAR champion Jeff Gordon is also on their books.
659 people killed in Iraq’s violence in November

BAGHDAD, 3 Dec — A total of 659 Iraqis were killed and 1,737 others were wounded in violent attacks in Iraq in November, according to a statement released by the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) on Sunday.

The statement said that 565 civilians (including 121 police personnel) and 94 members of the Iraqi Security Forces were killed in terrorist and violent acts in November, while 1,186 civilians and 187 Security Forces members were injured.

Baghdad was the worst-affected province with 224 civilians killed and 399 others injured, followed by Ninewa, Salahudin and Diyala, which were the affected province with 224 injured.

Forces members were in the job done,” added the provincial security official.

Meanwhile, the Defence Ministry confirmed the incident in a brief text message obtained by Xinhua. "Armoured vehicles from the incident in a brief text message obtained by Xinhua. "Armed confrontation erupted between the armed forces and al-Qaeda attackers near a military checkpoint at the western entrance of Sayoun city. Six al-Qaeda militants were killed in the exchange of fire," the defence ministry said.

As a matter of urgency, the Iraqi authorities should take immediate steps to find and hold accountable the perpetrators of these crimes and to implement effective measures to ensure the protection of all citizens," he added.

Six al-Qaeda gunmen, three Yemeni soldiers killed in clashes

ADEN, 3 Dec—At least six al-Qaeda militants and three soldiers were killed in clashes in Yemen’s southeastern city of Hadramout Province, sparking a short shootout that left six terrorists and three army soldiers killed, the provincial security official said on condition of anonymity.

"The al-Qaeda assailants attacked a military checkpoint in Sayoun city of Hadramout Province, sparking a short shootout that left six terrorists and three army soldiers killed," the provincial security official said on condition of anonymity.

Majority of Chinese believe traffic order worsened

BEIJING, 3 Dec — Nearly 56 percent of Chinese believe that traffic order got even worse after tightened traffic regulations were adopted at the beginning of 2013, suggest poll results released on Tuesday.

About 26.8 percent of the respondents considered traffic order has been somewhat improved while 14.2 percent see no changes after the strict enforcement of traffic regulations, according to the poll conducted by the China Youth Daily, a national newspaper.

A total of 45,358 respondents were interviewed for the poll, among whom 50.2 percent live in second- or third-tier cities and 13.5 in first-tier cities, with the rest from county-level areas or the countryside.

About 94.2 percent said it’s common to see violations by pedestrians on the road, including running red lights and crossing roads without the use of crosswalks, showed the poll. Some 17.7 percent of the respondents think law enforcement is the leading cause for traffic violations, while 14.8 percent believe it has to do with the public’s lack of awareness about following rules.

Alonso gave up a little bit, says Ecclestone

LONDON, 3 Dec — Formula One supremo Bernie Ecclestone has expressed disappointment with Fernando Alonso’s performance at Ferrari and suggested the Spaniard was a little bit disappointed in himself or because of his team aren’t getting the job done,” added Ecclestone.

Ecclestone, Alonso finished the season as overall runner-up to Red Bull’s Sebastian Vettel who clinched his fourth title in four years to become the youngest quadruple champion. McLaren made no secret earlier in the season that they would jump at a chance to sign Alonso, who had one turbulent year with them in 2007, should he become available. Ferrari, third overall in the constructors’ standings, have described their season as one to forget while praising Alonso for his results in a car that was not even second best. Ferrari president Luca di Montezemolo did, however, reprimand Alonso on the Spaniard’s birthday in July for unflattering comments he made about his car. Ecclestone said he had always predicted Vettel would be ‘what he is’, with the German winning the last nine races of the year and 13 in total to equal seven-times champion Michael Schumacher’s 2004 record.

“You probably have to say he’s number one of the drivers I’ve known,” added the Briton whose involvement with the sport goes back to the 1950s.

He also singled out Kimi Raikkonen, the 2007 champion who will be Alonso’s team mate at Ferrari next season after leaving Lotus. “This year I suppose I have to call Kimi the star driver, with the equipment he has,” said Ecclestone of the Finn who left Lotus after complaining he had not received his wages. “I think he was motivated on hope that he was going to get paid. ‘He’s a good guy to have in a team, good for us, good for the team. He’s super, he’s a racer.’ Preliel, who caused many of the season’s headlines with exploding tyres at Silverstone and complaints about how quickly their rubber wore out, also received a glowing report from Ecclestone.—Reuters
YANGON, 3 Dec—A ceremony to present Lifetime Achievement Literary Award, National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award for 2012 took place at National Theatre on Myoma Kyun Street this morning, with an address by Vice-President U Nyan Tun.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nan-da Kyaw Swa, the Union ministers, Yangon Region chief minister, Yangon Command commander, deputy ministers, members of Pyithu Hluttaw Sports, Culture and Public Relations Committee, the region Hluttaw speaker, diplomats, chairman and executives from Myanmar Writer’s Association, members of award scrutinizing committee, doyen literati, social organizations and guests.

In his address, Vice-President U Nyan Tun said that Nadaw (December) is the month in which Literary Day (Sasodaw Day) is annually held. Since last year Sasodaw Day, Lifetime Achievement National Literary Award, National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award have been conferred on the literati.

Taking a look at country’s history, Myanmar literati have been serving national interests with their pens. It can be said that literature is the taproot that can preserve and develop national culture and various kinds of fine arts of the country. The literature can help the country develop human resources, contributing much to country’s development and national interest.

The Selection Committee has increased the number of awards and the amount of prize money year-on-year based on the condition. The conferment of the Lifetime Achievement National Literary Award has started since 2001 in recognition of the literati. This year, three Lifetime Achievement National Literary Awards were conferred. And the committee has increased to 16 genres of the National Literature Award and 13 genres of Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award.

The National Literary Award Selection Committee is formed with 95 members and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Selection Committee, with 36 members. With the rapid development in all fields, all global countries have recognized the 20th Century as the knowledge age. The world countries have been making the efforts for emergence of intellectual-based society as they have come to know the importance of human capital which can help support the development of the country.

Knowledge dissemination and equal access to the information is a prime task, which can help narrow the gap between the urban and the rural and keep abreast of the globe. In this regard, literati play a crucial role in the knowledge dissemination.

(See page 9)

Lands to be handed over to owners after completion of Letpadaungtaung Project

NAVPITAW, 3 Dec—Implementation Committee of the Report of the Investigation Commission for Letpadaungtaung Copper-Mining Project held its co-ordination meeting at Sagaing Region Government Office yesterday evening, attended by Committee Chairman Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun.

The Chairman called for deeper transparency of the project and close contact with the local people. It needs to have transparency in issuing the facts and figures pertaining to the environmental conservation and let the people know the latest development of the project. And it also needs to explain the fact that the government and the company have to spend money on the project before earning the profits from the project. After completion of the project, lands will be systematically handed over to original land owners, he added.

Later, Vice-Chairman Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye explained follow-up measures and implementation of electric power-pumping project and Union Minister U Win Tun, environmental conservation in the project area.

Afterwards, the deputy ministers and officials from the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited (UMEHL) and Myanmar Wenbao Co., Ltd and those discussed sector-wise works and general matters.

(See page 9)

International Day of Persons with Disabilities for 2013 observed

NAVPITAW, 3 Dec—International Day of Persons with Disabilities for 2013 was observed here today.

Speaking on the occasion at the Thingaha Hotel here, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin called on the people to help all disabled people to be able to take part in the 2014 national census while raising the awareness of the importance of the national census.

She also called on the athletes with disabilities to do training hard to be able to achieve success in the upcoming ASEAN Para Games.

(See page 9)

Low pressure still persists

NAVPITAW, 3 Dec—According to the observations at (15:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over South Bay still persists over Southwest Bay of Bengal, announced the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

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