

Our Three Main National Causes

* **Non-disintegration of the Union**

* **Non-disintegration of National Solidarity**

* **Perpetuation of Sovereignty**

President U Thein Sein meets Polish Senate Speaker

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct—President U Thein Sein received Speaker of Polish Senate Mr Bogdan Borusewicz and party at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here this morning.

Also present at the call were Union Ministers at the President Office U Soe Maung and U Soe Thein, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw, Polish Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Jerzy Bayer and high-level officials from both sides.

The meeting focused on amity between two countries, cooperation in all sectors beyond parliamentary cooperation, capacity building tasks and Poland's assistance in follow-up tasks of peace process.—MNA

President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Speaker of the Senate of Poland Mr Bogdan Borusewicz.—MNA



Talks on regulatory compliance given in Kyaikto Township

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct—Kyaikto Township Police Commander Office of Mon State organized a talk on reduction of crimes at Gangaw ward administrator's office on 20 October, with an opening address by Mon State Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Htay Lwin.

Township Police

Inspector Soe Kyi and members disseminated knowledge on crime reduction, rule of law and assistance of townsenders in serving the country joining hands with the police.

Similar talks will be held in 30 villages and wards in the township.

MNA

Ninth monsoon forum focuses on more effective weather forecast

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct—Department of Hydrology and Meteorology under the Ministry of Transport and Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) jointly organized the ninth monsoon forum at Myat Taw Win Hotel here this morning.

Department of Hydrology and Meteorology discussed weather condition,

flood and agricultural weather report during monsoon 2012, comparison of weather forecast and actual condition, and weather predict for cold season, representatives of respective departments utilization of weather forecast and warning in respective fields and made suggestions for acquirement of more effective weather forecast.—MNA

Books and cash contributed to village libraries

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct—Members of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation yesterday made donations to Panthabye Library in Thayetchaung Village, Myosethit Library in Chaukgon Village and Pyinya Ahman Library in HsintheinTatkon Township. They totally contributed 400 publications and K 150,000 to them.

President Daw Mya

Mya of MAAF clarified the aims of the federation and the tasks beneficial for women. Books donor Social and Cultural Working Group Leader Dr Daw Khin Swe Myint explained the purpose of donating books and discussed reading habit and intellectual development, libraries development and increase in number of readers.

MNA

Suicide bomber kills 40 at Afghan mosque during Eid

MAIMANA (Afghanistan), 26 Oct—A suicide bomber killed at least 40 people in a mosque in Afghanistan's relatively peaceful north on Friday as worshippers gathered for prayers marking the Muslim Eid al-Adha holiday, police officials said.

The attack in Maimana, capital of Faryab province, also wounded 40, regional police chief General Abdul Khaliq Aqsai said, pinning the blame on the Taliban. A Taliban spokesman said they were investigating to find out who was responsible.

"The suicide bomber detonated explosives when our countrymen were congratulating each other on the Eid holiday," said Lal Mohammad Ahmadzai, spokesman for the police in the Afghan north, adding

that almost half of the dead were police.

He said Aqsai appeared to be the target. "As soon as the police chief got in his vehicle, the bomber detonated his explosives," Ahmadzai said.

About 20 bodies, some in police uniform, lay in front of the mosque's gates as smoke billowed above.

The attack, at around 9 am local time on the first day of Eid, came just before President Hamid Karzai repeated his call for the Taliban to join the government.

"If you (Taliban) want to come to the government, you are welcome. You have rights as an Afghan and as a Muslim," he said in a speech marking Eid in the capital, Kabul.

Reuters



Afghan policemen carry the body of a civilian after a bomb blast in Faryab Province on 26 October.

REUTERS



Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung addresses the Fourth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Labor and Employment Ministers' Conference (ASEM LEMC 4) in Hanoi, capital of Vietnam, on 25 Oct, 2012.

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Iranian players hold the trophy at the awarding ceremony of the 40th Asian Schools Football Championship in Teheran, Iran, on 25 Oct, 2012.

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Li Na keeps WTA semifinals hope alive



PAGE 14

e-Government system moves forward, seeking the prompt

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct—A coordination meeting to develop e-Government, information and telecommunication tasks was held at the President Office here, this afternoon, attended by Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing Thein. He then pointed out that people would surely meet the difficulties in turning points, especially not only good governance and clean government but in every situation, and in implementing e-Government system. The president has already given guidelines how to overcome these problems,

he noted. That is why the authorities concerned are responsible for fulfilling the requirements of the entire people without delay, said the Union Transport Minister.

Union Ministers U Thein Tun and Dr Kan Zaw called for the ministries concerned to move forward the e-Government system smoothly, seeking the prompt.

Then the work procedures on implementing e-Government system, information and telecommunication sector, future tasks and website were discussed by the ministries concerned.—MNA

Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing Thein addresses coordination meeting to develop e-Government, information and telecommunication tasks.—MNA



TATA International Ltd to invest in Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct—As Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint held a meeting with a delegation led by Mr. B. Muthuraman, Chairman of TATA International Ltd, a multinational one, at the Ministry of Commerce, here, this morning, the Union Minister invited the company to make investments in fertilizer

plants, steel mills, computer and chemical factories in the country with mutual interests, giving them an advice on establishment of agricultural equipment factories and rice mills.

During the meeting, TATA International Ltd Chairman and officials concerned replied to them that TATA group formed with over 100 companies

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct— Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun received a delegation led by Chairman of TATA International Ltd of the Republic of India Mr. B. Muthuraman at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 3 pm today.

Present together with the Vice-President were Deputy Ministers U Thant Kyaw and U Myo Aung and officials of the President Office.

At the call, they discussed matters related to cooperation in industrial, energy, mining, steel, hotels and tourism industry and technical services sectors between the two countries on a wider scale.

MNA

Vice-President U Nyan Tun shakes hands with Chairman of TATA International Ltd of India Mr. B. Muthuraman.
MNA



Entrepreneurs urged to breed cattle on commercial scale

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct—A large number of cattle is being bred in Kyaukpyu, Manaung, Maungtau and Kyauktaw townships. Especially, least number of animal diseases breaks out in Manaung likes on island, so animals can be bred on a commercial scale by easily taking control of outbreak of animal diseases, said Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint in meeting with

departmental officials, local people and breeders at the hall in Manaung on 22 October.

The Union Minister urged local people and entrepreneurs to form groups and public companies to implement public private partnership (PPP) and kept promise to provide necessary pedigrees, technology and assistance to the breeders.

He stressed the need to produce finished goods from

coconut and develop fishery industry and attended to the needs.

On 23 October, the Union Minister arranged the market for surplus cows at the ground in Minbyin Ywama Village of Manaung Township. After feeding milk to students at Village Primary School, the Union minister viewed surplus cows in Kinte Village.

MNA

Conference on Myanmar's Economic Reform held

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct—Jointly organized by Myanmar Development Resources Organization under the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and Southeast Asia Studies from the Republic of Singapore, the Conference on Myanmar's Economic Reform was held at Myanmar International Convention Centre (MICC) yesterday and today.

At the conference, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw clarified Myanmar's endeavors for participating in ASEAN's only one market according to ASEAN Economic Community, activities to create job opportunities in line with market economic system and the circumstances to invest in Myanmar. Deputy

Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Hset Aung discussed matters related to progress of Myanmar's economic. The professors, scholars from Harvard Kennedy School, JICA, MacQuarie University, Kyoto University, Institute of Southeast Asian Study (ISEAS), OECD Development Centre, University of Kaiserslautern, World Bank and UMFCCI read out their papers on Myanmar's development, Japan's industrialization way, financial system reform and bank and currency system reform, poverty alleviation and agricultural sector development, small and medium enterprises development, trade and investment convenience and private sector reform and those attendees cordially took part in the discussions.—MNA

Attorney-General of the Union receives IMF and UNAIDS officials

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct—Dr Tun Shin, Attorney-General of the Union met a delegation led by Mr Barend Jansen of Legal Department of IMF at international hall of the Union Attorney-General Office at 11 am

today. He then also met Mr Michel Sidibe, Executive Director of UNAIDS and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and party at the same venue at 12.30 pm on the same day.

MNA

U Win Naing and wife Daw Than Than Swe of Insein Township in Yangon Region donated K 300,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Joint-Secretary of the Executive Board U Maung Maung Gyi recently.

NLM



WORLD



US navy soldiers walk inside the US aircraft carrier USS George Washington docked in Manila Bay, the Philippines, on 25 Oct, 2012. The US nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS George Washington arrived in the Philippines for professional exchanges between the US and Philippine Navy counterparts.—XINHUA

Obama votes early in Chicago US

WASHINGTON, 26 Oct—US President Barack Obama cast his ballot early in Chicago at his home state of Illinois on Thursday afternoon. It was the first time that a sitting US presidential nominee voted early in person. With only 12 days left in the presidential race, Obama stepped into a polling station at around 4:20 pm local time, signed forms, showed his driver's license and made his choice at a touch-screen machine, according to White House Press Office.

"I can't tell you who I voted for, but I very much appreciate everybody here," said Obama after he cast early ballot, an effort to encourage the early voting drive

of the president's reelection campaign. "But all across the country we're seeing a lot of early voting.. If something happens on Election Day, you will have already taken care of it," said Obama. The Obama campaign has embarked on an early voting drive, as dozens of states have started early voting procedures. The president has used his campaign appearances to call on supporters to do so. "The President will be early voting today in Chicago. This is the first time a sitting President is early voting in person," said Jen Psaki, spokeswoman for the Obama campaign, during Thursday's press gaggle aboard Air Force One en route Richmond Virginia.

said early voting has been crucial to its get-out-the-vote efforts, trying to outperform the Republican presidential ticket on the ground particularly in key swing states. "This is a major part of our on-the-ground programme and focus, and we hope that having the President do this today will send a message to people across the country, in states where early vote is an option, that this is something they should do, too," said Psaki. "This afternoon, I'm casting my ballot in my hometown of Chicago," wrote an email by the Obama campaign sent to supporters earlier Thursday, "I'm told I'll be the first sitting president to take advantage of early voting."

The Obama campaign

Reuters

Damascus shelled hours before scheduled truce

BEIRUT/GENEVA, 26 Oct —Damascus residents reported artillery barrages by Syrian troops hours before Friday's scheduled start of a ceasefire to mark the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha. They said that on Thursday night troops stationed on a mountain overlooking the Syrian capital targeted Hajar al-Aswad, a poor neighbourhood inhabited by refugees from the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. There were no immediate reports of casualties. "Consecutive artillery volleys from Qasioun shook my home," said Omar, an engineer who lives in al-Muhajereen district on a foothill of the mountain. On Thursday a Free Syrian Army commander gave qualified backing to the truce, proposed by UN-Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi, but he demanded that President Bashar al-Assad free detainees. An Islamist group said it was not committed to the truce, but may halt operations if the army

did. Brahimi proposed the temporary truce to stem, however briefly, the bloodshed in a conflict which erupted as popular protests in March last year and has escalated into a civil war which activists say has killed more than 32,000 people. The fighting pits mainly Sunni Muslim rebels against Assad, from the Alawite faith which is linked to Shi'ite Islam, and threatens to draw in regional Sunni Muslim and Shi'ite powers and engulf the whole Middle East,

Brahimi has warned. "On the occasion of the blessed Eid al-Adha, the general command of the army and armed forces announces a halt to military operations on the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, from Friday morning ... until Monday," an army statement read on state television said.

It reserved the right to respond if "the armed terrorist groups open fire on civilians and government forces, attack public and private properties, or use car bombs and explosives". It would also respond to

any reinforcement or resupplying of rebel units, or smuggling of fighters from neighboring countries "in violation of their international commitments to combat terrorism". Qassem Saadeddine, head of the military council in Homs province and spokesman for the FSA joint command, said his fighters were committed to the truce. "But we not allow the regime to reinforce its posts. We demand the release of the detainees, the regime should release them by tomorrow morning," he said.

Abu Moaz, spokesman for Ansar al-Islam, said the Islamist group doubted Assad's forces would observe the truce, though it might suspend operations if they did. "We do not care about this truce. We are cautious. If the tanks are still there and the checkpoints are still there then what is the truce?" he said of the organization, which includes several brigades fighting in the capital and Damascus Province.—Reuters



A member of the Free Syrian Army runs along a street to avoid sniper fire during fighting against pro-government forces in Harem town, Idlib Governorate, on 25 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS



An exterior view of the US consulate, which was attacked and set on fire by gunmen in Benghazi, on 12 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

US knew too little to deploy troops to Benghazi: Pentagon US

WASHINGTON, 26 Oct The Pentagon defended its decision not to deploy forces to Benghazi, Libya, as soon as the US mission came under attack on September 11th, saying it would have been irresponsible to put forces in harm's way without better information. President Barack Obama's response to the attacks in Libya has been a contentious issue in the hard-fought US presidential race, with Republican opponents raising questions about his administration's truthfulness and competence. Obama supporters have in turn accused Republicans of making unfounded accusations in an effort to score political points from the death of a US ambassador and the three others killed in the Benghazi attack.

lized?" Boehner asked. Defence Secretary Leon Panetta told Pentagon reporters that US forces were on a heightened state of alert already because of the 11th anniversary of the 11 Sept, 2001, attacks on New York and Washington by al-Qaeda. But he said there simply wasn't enough information to responsibly deploy forces to Libya at the time of the attack.

"You don't deploy forces into harm's way without knowing what's going on, without having some real-time information about what's taking place," Panetta said. Lacking that information, Panetta said he, General Martin Dempsey, chairman of the US military's Joint Chiefs of Staff, and General Carter Ham, head of the US military's Africa Command, felt they couldn't "put forces at risk in that situation." "This happened within a few hours and it was really over before, you know, we had the opportunity to really know what was happening," Panetta said. In the aftermath of the attack, Panetta reminded reporters that the Pentagon deployed a Marine fleet anti-terrorist security team to Tripoli and had Navy ships off the coast.—Reuters

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Republican John Boehner, asked in a letter to Obama on Thursday about whether military options and assets were offered "during and in the immediate aftermath of the terrorist attack." "Can you explain what options were presented to you or your staff, and why it appears assets were not allowed to be pre-positioned, let alone uti-

Al-Qaeda militants assassinate two Yemeni counter-terrorism officers Yemen

SANAA, 26 Oct—Al-Qaeda gunmen shot dead two Yemeni counter-terrorism officers south of the capital of Sanaa on Thursday, a police official said, for which the terrorist network claimed responsibility. The intelligence officers, Ali al-Yemeni and Abdullah al-Saidy, were gunned down by "two al-Qaeda gunmen on a motorcycle" in Dhamar Province, some 100 km south of Sanaa early on Thursday, the official told Xinhua by phone. The assailants escaped the scene, he said on

condition of anonymity. Meanwhile, the Yemen-based al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) claimed responsibility for assassinating the two intelligence officers. "We successfully assassinated Colonel Ali al-Yemeni of the Yemeni Political Security Agency and Major Abdullah al-Saidy of the National Security Agency," the AQAP said in a brief statement obtained by Xinhua. In February, the AQAP claimed responsibility for assassinating Major Saleh al-Jabri, the prison

warden of the Sanaa-based Political Security Agency, while he was on vacation in Dhamar Province.

Earlier this month, al-Qaeda militants assassinated an Iraqi counterterrorism adviser to the Yemeni Defence Ministry and a security coordinator between the Yemeni government and the US embassy in Sanaa, according to the Yemeni Interior Ministry's final investigation reports. In a separate incident, the state Saba news agency reported that Mayor of Sanaa, Abdulkader Ali Hilal, narrow-

ly escaped an assassination attempt by a gunman on a motorbike on Wednesday. "Hilal survived unharmed from an assassination attempt when he was inspecting the streets of the old city in preparations for the Muslim festivities of Eid," Saba quoted an unnamed security official as saying.

Hilal's bodyguards chased and captured the gunman, alongside the driver of the motorbike, and handed them to the police for investigation, the agency said.

Xinhua

Tech focus now on Microsoft Windows 8, Surface tablet

SEATTLE, 26 Oct—Firm sales numbers for Microsoft Corp's Windows 8 and its new Surface tablet will not be available for three months, but it may be clear long before then if it has a hit on its hands.

"We can definitely gauge it by chatter," said Emily Chan, an analyst at Bernstein Research. "There is a slight learning curve, so I don't think

website, which will challenge Apple's iPad head on. "I'd want to know the sales - and return rate - of the Surface," said Sarah Rotman Epps at tech research firm Forrester. "But those numbers will be hard to get since Microsoft is the only retailer."

Early reviews of the Surface have been mixed, generally praising the slick

are already on back order, suggesting strong demand, but it is not known how many Surfaces Microsoft has manufactured.

"The fact it's back ordered is indicative that there's consumer interest," said Michael Gartenberg, an analyst at tech research firm Gartner. "How Microsoft introduces it, evangelizes it

Technology

year later, he waited only 10 days to report record-breaking sales of the Kinect, the motion-sensing add-on for the Xbox. But Microsoft has never shared the sales of Windows-powered phones, which have a lowly 3 percent of the market.

If Ballmer stays silent about Windows 8 sales, it might indicate a less than stellar performance.

"I would definitely take it a sign that it's not super, super strong, but I won't take it as something negative," said Chan at Bernstein, who is expecting 8.3 million Surface sales by the middle of next year. That averages out at about 1 million a month, a third the rate of the iPad, which notched up its first million sales in 28 days and has now sold more than 100 million units, averaging about 3.2 million a month.

Gartner forecasts that Surface and other tablets running Windows RT will sell about 2.3 million units this year and 9.3 million next year, grabbing about 2 percent and 5 percent of the worldwide tablet market, respectively.

Retail activity will be closely watched. Microsoft will have more than 60 brick and mortar stores open for the release of Windows 8 on Friday, half of them 'pop-up' stores that will stay open for the holiday shopping season.

Reuters



Apple's Mac flies in under the radar

SAN FRANCISCO, 26 Oct—Amid the fanfare accompanying the noisy launch of the iPad mini this week, Apple Inc also took the wraps off new Mac computers.

The facelift may help revitalize an important lineup that — while seeing growth tail off in the early part of 2012 — yields 14 percent of revenue and still racks up sales growth numbers that are the envy of a flagging PC world.

On Tuesday, Apple took the lid off a slimmed-down iMac and a 13-inch laptop with a vastly improved screen, setting the stage for a potential revival in sales even as Hewlett-Packard and Dell Inc struggle just to stay level.

Earlier this year, Apple had also launched an updated MacBook Air — a product analysts say spawned over 20 touch-enabled designs from rivals called "Ultrabooks," which run Microsoft Corp's upcoming Windows 8 software.

Apple remains No 3 in US market share behind

HP and Dell. But the Mac's premium pricing, at \$1,000 and above, and its subsequent outsized margins mean a spike in revenue growth can give its bottom line a significant boost.

"The pricing and feature set of the refreshed iMac present an attractive combination, and I would not be surprised to see the new iMac stimulate desktop sales in the December quarter and beyond," Barclays analyst Ben Reitzes said.

The decades-old Macintosh line that helped set a stumbling computer company back on its feet — today overshadowed in both revenue and media appeal by the popular iPhone and iPad — saw growth drop to single-digit percentages in the first two quarters of 2012 for the first time since 2009.

Yet sales outgrew the PC market, overall, by more than seven times over the 12 months to June, according to CEO Tim Cook, and has outpaced PC growth over the last six years.

Reuters



New Surface tablet computers by Microsoft are displayed at its unveiling in Los Angeles, California, on 18 June, 2012.—REUTERS

we will see that big pop that iPad saw."

Microsoft is desperate for the new-look, touch-friendly Windows 8 to grip customers' imaginations, as it looks to regain ground lost to Apple Inc and Google Inc in mobile computing and shake up the moribund PC market.

Perhaps more important is its new own-brand tablet called the Surface, available only through its own stores and

hardware, but faulting battery life and the limited software and applications available.

Some worry that the first Surface model, which runs on a stripped-down version of Windows 8 called RT that is not compatible with old Windows programs, will cause some confusion and dissatisfaction among customers.

The three models for sale on Microsoft's US website

and explains it will determine long term success."

Microsoft has not said if it will reveal sales figures for Windows 8 or of the Surface before its next scheduled earnings on 24 January.

The company tends to trumpet good news and stay silent otherwise. After the launch of Windows 7 three years ago, CEO Steve Ballmer waited only a month to announce strong sales. A

Sprint unveils new data plans for 4G LTE tablets

Technology

NEW YORK, 26 Oct—US wireless carrier Sprint Nextel Corp said it will introduce new rate plans for 4G tablets that offer customers up to 20 percent more data than rivals for the same price.

Competition is heating up among wireless carriers to meet growing customer demand for data as more people buy handheld devices with Internet browsing capabilities.

Sprint, the No 3 US mobile service, also said in a statement that it is waiving for a limited time the activation fee on all 3G and 4G LTE tablets.

The wireless carrier said it will offer four monthly plans designed specifically for 4G LTE tablets, starting at \$14.99 for 300 megabytes (MB) of data, \$34.99 for 3 gigabyte (GB) of data, \$49.99 for 6GB, and \$79.99 for 12GB.

The new rate plans will

be available for all Sprint 4G LTE tablets and require no contract.

Sprint also said its smartphone customers can add a tablet to their account with a discounted rate plan that includes 1 GB of data for \$15 per month, or as little as \$10 per month for 100 MB of data on the company's network.

Unlike its major rivals Verizon Wireless and AT&T, Sprint does not offer family plans for data.

Earlier this month, Japanese mobile operator Softbank Corp said it would buy about 70 percent of Sprint Nextel for \$20.1 billion, the most a Japanese firm has spent on an overseas acquisition.—Reuters



A woman walks past a Sprint store in New York's financial district, on 15 October, 2012.—REUTERS

US military hypersonic aircraft trial set for 2013

Science

WASHINGTON, 26 Oct—The last of four unmanned experimental US military aircraft designed to fly at six times the speed of sound is expected to be tested next year, the program manager said on Wednesday, months after its predecessor broke up during a trial.

The third test flight of the craft, known as the Waverider or X-51A, broke apart over the Pacific Ocean seconds into a test flight in August. US Air Force officials said at the time they did not know if or when their fourth aircraft would fly.

Preliminary results from an investigation into what went wrong during the August flight indicate that a "random vibration issue" caused one of the control fins to deploy early, the X-51 program manager at the Air Force Research Laboratory, Charlie Brink, told reporters on a conference call.

"I can't say conclusively that's it, but it's looking more and more like the cause," Brink said, adding that investigators quickly ruled out a software or power malfunction as a cause of the aircraft's break up.

The Waverider was designed to reach speeds of Mach 6 or above, six times the speed of sound and fast enough to zoom from New York to London in less than an hour.

Analysts say the military has its eye on using the Waverider program to develop missiles with non-nuclear warheads that could strike anywhere in the world within an hour.

Results from the investigation into the third aircraft's failed test flight are expected to be complete in mid-December, Brink said.

"I'm fairly confident that in the next couple of months we'll have the investigation

complete and we'll move on. We're already preparing the fourth flight vehicle. We're doing those things in parallel," he said. Engineers are already modifying the final test X-51A to be ready in late spring or early summer of 2013, he said.

The aircraft is known as the Waverider because it stays airborne, in part, with lift generated by the shock waves of its own flight. The Boeing Co's Phantom Works division performed design and assembly on the aircraft, according to the military.

Four X-51A aircraft were built for the military, one of which flew for more than three minutes at nearly five times the speed of sound during a 2010 test flight, the Air Force said. The experimental aircraft are expected to crash at the end of test flights in any case, and are not considered retrievable.—Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

US sues Bank of America over "Hustle" mortgage fraud

Business

NEW YORK, 26 Oct—The United States filed a fraud lawsuit against Bank of America Corp, accusing it of causing taxpayers more than \$1 billion of losses by selling thousands of toxic mortgage loans to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Wednesday's case, originally brought by a whistleblower, is the US Department of Justice's first civil fraud lawsuit over mortgage loans sold to the big mortgage financiers, which

were bailed out in 2008.

It also compounds the legal problems that Bank of America Chief Executive Brian Moynihan faces over the second-largest US bank's disastrous July 2008 purchase of Countrywide Financial Corp, once the nation's largest mortgage lender.

According to a complaint filed in Manhattan federal court, Countrywide in 2007 invented and Bank of America continued a scheme known as the "Hustle" to speed up

processing of residential home loans. Operating under the motto "Loans Move Forward, Never Backward," mortgage executives tried to eliminate "toll gates" designed to ensure that loans were sound and not tainted by fraud, the government said.

This led to "defect rates" that approached 40 percent, roughly nine times the industry norm, but Countrywide concealed this from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and even awarded bonuses to staff to "rebut" the problems being found, it added.

Defaults and foreclosures soared, yet the bank has resisted buying back many of the defaulted loans from the scheme, which ran through 2009, the government added.

"The fraudulent conduct alleged in today's complaint was spectacularly brazen in scope," US Attorney Preet Bharara in Manhattan said. "Countrywide and Bank of America made disastrously bad loans and stuck taxpayers

with the bill."

Wednesday's lawsuit seeks civil fines, as well as triple damages under the federal False Claims Act, which the government has used several times in recent years against Wall Street.

Lawrence Grayson, a bank spokesman, said in response to the lawsuit: "Bank of America has stepped up and acted responsibly to resolve legacy mortgage matters. The claim that we have failed to repurchase loans from Fannie Mae is simply false. At some point, Bank of America can't be expected to compensate every entity that claims losses that actually were caused by the economic downturn."

In February, Bank of America agreed to a \$1 billion settlement of False Claims Act allegations over home loans submitted for insurance by the Federal Housing Administration, in a case from the US Attorney's office in Brooklyn, New York.—Reuters



People walk next to a Bank of America's branch in New York on 24 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

Hormone therapy may cut Alzheimer's risk in menopausal women

Health

CHICAGO, 26 Oct—The latest data from a long-running study of hormone therapy suggests women who started taking hormone replacements within five years of menopause were 30 percent less likely to develop Alzheimer's disease than women who started years later.

The findings, reported on Wednesday in the journal *Neurology*, add to evidence suggesting that taking hormone treatments around the time of menopause may be doing more than just helping women cope with hot flashes and night sweats.

"Our results suggest that there may be a critical window near menopause where hormone therapy may possibly be beneficial," Peter Zandi of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, one of the study leaders, said in a statement.

The findings come as menopausal women and their doctors continue to parse out the risks and benefits of hormone replacement therapy.

Most researchers agree that hormone replacements do not protect women from diseases of aging, and taking these drugs for long periods of time are associated with significant risks, including

breast cancer, heart disease and gall bladder disease.

Earlier this week, the US Preventive Services Task Force reaffirmed its 2005 guidelines recommending against the treatment as a way to prevent chronic disease.

But the influential advisory panel did not weigh in on the use of hormones to treat symptoms of menopause, a practice many professional societies endorse as long as the drugs are prescribed at the lowest possible dose for the shortest period of time.

The most definitive study on hormone replacement therapy to date comes from the Women's Health Initiative

study, a large, randomized trial that was stopped early in 2002 when it became clear that women who were taking a combination of estrogen and progestin for five years had higher rates of ovarian cancer, breast cancer, strokes and other health problems.

A related study known as the Women's Health Initiative Memory Study also showed an increased risk of Alzheimer's disease in women who took hormone therapy.

The findings came as a shock to many doctors and their patients, who thought the study would show a protective benefit.

Reuters

Hyundai quarterly profit up 13 percent, but long-term growth concerns

Business

SEOUL, 26 Oct—South Korea's Hyundai Motor Co (005380.KS) increased its quarterly net profit by 13 percent to \$2 billion, as it squeezed overseas capacity to keep sales going despite damaging labor strikes at home, where it produces close to half the vehicles it sells worldwide.

Hyundai, which with affiliate Kia Motors (000270.KS) is the world's fifth-biggest car maker, said its total shipments rose less than 1 percent in July-September—hit by the industrial action that cost the company lost production of more than 82,000 cars worth \$1.5 billion.

Hyundai started a new plant in China in June, and added a third shift at a US factory last month, helping ease some of its capacity constraints. July-September net profit rose to 2.17 trillion won, a touch above the average forecast for 2.13 trillion won, and beating last year's 1.92 trillion won.

"Hyundai will return to record earnings in the current quarter," said Kim Seung-hwan, analyst at Golden Bridge Investment & Securities. "But the problem is next year. Investors are concerned that Hyundai's growth momentum will stall, which is reflected in the recent share price slump." Hyundai shares have dropped more than 13 percent

this month to Wednesday's close, underperforming both the benchmark KOSPI index .KS11 and Japanese rivals Honda Motor Co Ltd (7267.T), Nissan Motor Co

Ltd (7201.T) and Toyota Motor Corp (7203.T). After the results on Thursday, Hyundai stock closed up 3.9 percent at 226,500 won each.

Reuters



The logo of Hyundai Motor is seen on the on a car as a worker sweeps a floor at a Hyundai dealership in Seoul on 25 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

Health



The logo of Swiss drugmaker Novartis is seen on the top of an office building at the company's plant in Basel on 28 Jan, 2009.—REUTERS

Novartis sales disappoint as Diovan patent loss bites

ZURICH, 26 Oct—Swiss drugmaker Novartis posted lower-than-expected third quarter sales on Thursday, dragged down by the loss of a US patent on its top-selling blood pressure drug Diovan and lower sales at its Sandoz unit. Third-quarter net sales fell 2 percent to \$13.807 billion, falling short of the average forecast in a Reuters poll of \$14.032 billion, while core earnings per share fell 6 percent to \$1.34, in line with consensus.

Novartis is facing headwinds from a wave of patent expiries sweeping through the global pharmaceutical industry. Sales of Diovan, which went off patent in the United States on 21 September, fell 32 percent in the third quarter to \$969 million.

The drugmaker is banking on sales of its newest products, such as multiple sclerosis pill Gilenya and breast cancer drug Afinitor to offset declines in Diovan. Recently launched products accounted for 29 percent of group net sales in

the quarter, up from 25 percent a year ago.

Sales at its generics division Sandoz fell 6 percent to \$2 billion hit by growing competition for generic enoxaparin, a copycat version of blood thinner Lovenox originally produced by Sanofi. Lingered manufacturing problems at the Lincoln manufacturing site in Nebraska, which has annualised sales of \$1 billion, continued to weigh on the Consumer Health division, where sales fell 16 percent to \$938 million.

Novartis has been beset by a raft of manufacturing problems this year. The firm said it was taking longer than originally anticipated to restart commercial production at Lincoln. On Wednesday, Italy banned the sales and use of four anti-influenza vaccines produced by Novartis pending tests for possible side effects. Novartis said it was confident that two vaccines manufactured in Italy were safe and had seen no safety concerns to date.—Reuters

China says 2011 R&D spending up 23 percent on year

Business

BEIJING, 26 Oct—China's spending on research and development (R&D) grew an annual 23 percent in 2011 to 868.7 billion yuan (\$139 billion), the National Bureau of Statistics said on Thursday. That was equivalent to 1.84 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), up from 1.76 percent in 2010, the bureau said in a report on its website: www.stats.gov.cn

Chinese industries spent 599.4 billion yuan on R&D in 2011. The spending was led by makers of computers, electronics and telecommunications equipment, which poured 94.1 billion yuan into R&D,

followed by chemicals producers' outlay of 46.9 billion. Most research and development spending came from rich provinces and cities such as Guangdong, Jiangsu and Beijing, according to the bureau.

Government spending on science and technology rose to 490.3 billion yuan in 2011, up 19.2 percent from a year earlier. China has pledged to boost its R&D as it moves toward higher skilled manufacturing and help local companies move up the global value chain. China plans to boost its research and development spending as a share of GDP to 2.2 percent by 2015.—Reuters

Increased number of vehicles causes traffic congestion in Mandalay



MANDALAY, 26 Oct — With economic development and urbanization, use of cars and motorbikes is on the increase in Mandalay.

Thanks to the increase in number of vehicles, undisciplined vehicles

stopped on the main road, shopping centers near the junctions are crowded with the buyers their vehicles and reckless driving and irresponsible drivers, there is much traffic on the main roads of Mandalay.

Measures are being taken for road safety by Mandalay City Development Committee, widening and upgrading downtown roads, designating some roads as one-way traffic, setting up road signs and traffic lights and placing safety barriers at the junctions.

The morning rush hour is from 8 to 10 am and the evening rush hour is from 4 to 7 pm.

It is learnt that the long traffic delay near 84th street and near Zaygyo is due to lack of traffic polices there while more traffic polices are assigned to traffic lights.

Kyemon

e-Pension Card to put into service



Parami ready for blood donation in Nyaungshwe

NYAUNGSHWE, 26 Oct— Regardless of race and religion, Parami blood donation association in Nyaungshwe is ready for those who are in need of blood. Ko Phone Myint Win of the association which was established on 5 April 2012 in accord with the instructions of the members of Sangha in Nyaungshwe said that they made necessary arrangements for availability of blood at any time through phone contacts and quick transport by motorbikes.

Blood donors and those who are in need of blood may contact Ko Pann Hmwe (Ph: 081 209599), Maingli Copier Shop (Ph: 081 20905), Thar Zaw (Ph: 09 428310583), Shwe Brothers (Ph: 09 428310587), U Soe Min Latt (Ph: 09 428310589), Travel Services (081 209797), Po Lapyae (Ph: 09 428310589) and U Than Kyaw Htay (Ph: 09 42831590). —*Kyemon*

MEIKTILA, 26 Oct — Starting from next month, E-Pension Card is going to put into service for pensioners who are drawing their pensions at Myanmar Economic Bank in Meiktila.

An e-Pension Card costs K 3500, and pensioners are allowed to pay it in four monthly installment, K 1000 each for first three month and K 500 for the last month. It is not required to submit a letter of demand for pension while using the card. The pensioner's representative needs to show a letter of

representation together with the card. For pensioners who are applying card are to be interviewed in person. The cards of the deceased pensioners are to be put back to the bank. Thanks to e-pension card, pensioners will be able to enjoy the comfort and convenience of the new system without waiting their turn in the queue. E-pension cards of the bank in a certain region are not allowed to draw pensions at the banks of other regions.

Kyemon

Free parking lots in Yangon to reduce traffic congestion



Pajero at speed skids and turns over

MANDALAY, 26 Oct — A Pajero driven by a young



man from south to north on 80th Street between 14th and 15th Streets turned over on the platform after skidding out of control and going straight to the lamppost on 21 October afternoon.

The incident occurred while trying to go past a moving cart ahead. The driver got minor injuries in the crash that caused damage to the front part of the car and the lamppost. With regard the incident, No (4) Police Station in Mandalay filed a lawsuit against the driver.

Kyemon

Substitution of new PVC pipelines for ageing water pipelines

MANDALAY, 26 Oct — For supply of safe and clean water to the people in Mandalay, the ageing water pipelines buried in the earth more than 20 years ago were replaced with new PVC pipelines starting from 9 October. Under the supervision of the Water and Sanitation Department of Mandalay City Development Committee in cooperation with ward administrators and local people. The installation of new pipelines was carried out at Kanthayar

ward between 56th and 57th streets and (kaka) ward in Chanmyathazi Township

and Mahamyine (2) (Pa) ward in Mahaangmyay Township.—*Kyemon*



MANA, MMPO meets for drive against drug abuses

YANGON, 26 Oct— Jointly organized by Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association and Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, a coordination meeting for launching anti-

narcotic drugs and education campaign was held at the hall of the association, here, on 24 October. MANA Chairman U Khin Maung Tun extended greetings and officials explained

ongoing tasks for risk reduction of narcotic drugs abuse. U Lu Min, vice-chairman of MMPO gave an account of work for cooperation between the two associations. Officials concerned answered the queries raised by those present.—*Kyemon*

Health care services for the elderly

KALAW, 26 Oct — A total of 12 doctors, 21 nurses, seven midwives and 10 health staff are providing the aged with health care on Wednesdays at Kalaw People's Hospital.

It is required to make payments of about K 150,000 a week for the medicines necessary for

the aged. Since 2004, the fund was set up to give free medical treatment to the aged by raising the contributions of the head of district health department, wellwishers and health staff.

The health care services for the aged is being operated with the donation of more than K 3.7 million donated

by departments, social organizations, townsenders and relatives of the aged.

Wellwishers who are willing to donate cash and kind to the health care services for the aged may contact Kalaw People's Hospital (Ph: 0810133 and 09 47312091).

Kyemon

YANGON, 26 Oct— An official of Engineering Department of Yangon City Development Committee said that five free parking lots would be built in order to reduce traffic congestion and solve the problem of car park shortage in Yangon.

Five free parking lots—a place between Bagaya Street of Upper Kyimyindine in Kyimyindine Township and Hanthawaddy Street, a place between Anawrahta Street and Maha Bandoola Street on Botahtaung Pagoda Road, a place in front of Yangon general Hospital on Bogyoke

Street, a place on upper Pazundaung Road and a container yard on Strand Road in Ahlon Township—are under construction. A container yard on Strand Road can hold many containers, trucks and log trucks and garages and public toilets will be built there. Upon completion it will be the biggest parking lot in Yangon. "Thanks to construction of more free parking lots and widening of roads, it is expected to reduce traffic congestion by early 2013," he said.

Kyemon

NATIONAL

Familiarity with culture and tradition of national brethren vital for nationalistic fervour

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct—In honour of the 19th Myanmar National Races' Traditional Performing Arts Competition, a dinner was hosted at Myanmar International Convention Centre here this evening, attended by Vice-President U Nyan Tun who presented certificates of honour to members of panel of judges.

Also present at the dinner were Union ministers, deputy ministers, members of leading committee and subcommittees for organizing the competition, departmental heads, judges, managers and coaches from regions and states, members of national race cultural exchange teams from states, and invited guests.

In his address of honour, the Vice-President noted the cooperation of senior artistes, contestants, personnel of committee and subcommittees, national

brethren from every corner of the nation with nationalistic fervour for the success of the competition in grandeur. He expressed thanks to all personalities who put heart and soul in the competition with a sense of responsibility. It was grateful, encouraging and the pride for the future nation that and departmental personnel cooperated with might and main out of nationalistic awareness for the competition while discharging departmental duties and senior artistes devoted their time and efforts into the competition despite of tiredness to disseminate cherished arts, noted the Vice-President.

The ancestors also have handed down their fine inheritance to us and our efforts at present are intended to guarantee the future of younger generation. It is required to nurture the younger generation,



Vice-President U Nyan Tun speaking at certificate presentation and dinner of 19th Myanmar National Races' Traditional Performing Arts Competition. MNA

who would take over our responsibilities in the future.

The Vice-President related a sense of value for own national brethren and

nationalistic fervour, urging to make the younger generation familiar with tradition, custom, culture and characteristics of own national brethren,

contributor to nationalistic spirit. Shwe Gu Nan Nwe, on behalf of panel of judges, spoke words of thanks,

followed by entertainment of traditional music and dance and dinner to those present.—MNA

Kyauktaw, Yathedaung, Kyaukpyu, Pauktaw of Rakhine State shaken by violence

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct—Mob arson attacks in Kyauktaw, Yathedaung, Kyaukpyu and Pauktaw Townships of Rakhine State yesterday razed 385 houses to the ground, leaving 10 dead and nine injured.

The similar attacks in Lethsaungkauk village in Kyauktaw Township burnt 18 houses to the ground, leaving six dead and four injured. 41 improvised percussion lock firearms abandoned by the crowd were seized.

Two people were killed and four injured in the similar attacks that set 30 houses ablaze in Nyaungbingyi village in Yathedaung Township.

Mob violence in western ward, Thanpanchaung ward and Taungyin village-tract extended ward in Kyaukpyu killed two and hurt one.

A total of 153 houses and one building were burnt down by the mob in Pauktaw eastern ward and 183 houses and one building in Bawunchaungwasu ward, in Pauktaw.

The death toll in MraukU, Minbya, Myebon, Kyaukpyu, Kyauktaw, Yathedaung and Pauktaw where the violence broke out reached 67 while 95 people were injured, 2818 houses and 18 religious buildings

were burnt down.

Rakhine state government and regional authorities reached out to the scenes and are taking actions to take rescue and resettlement measures, ensure the rule of law and stability and control the violence.

MNA

Turkish aids arrives, plans under way to send them to victims quickly

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct—Under the scheme of Turkish embassy in Myanmar to provide humanitarian aids to both societies in Rakhine State, two C-130 of Turkish military aircrafts with aids arrived at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

The officials systematically received the aids and transported to Sittway with cargo ships of Myanma Airways.

The officials of Rakhine State government systematically received the aids at Sittway airport and are planning to transport them to both societies as soon as possible.

The assistances include 2280 boxes of candy, 960 packages of instant rations, 11000 bags of biscuit, 1000 items of stationary, 500 boxes of slippers, 1000 bales of cloth and 500 boxes of toys.—MNA



Vice-President U Nyan Tun gives certificates of honour to the members of panel of judges.—MNA

Hanthawady car dealers' market cool down

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct—Yesterday morning, an experienced car dealer U Naing Naing Kyaw said that Hanthawady car market is still cold. However, he continued that some old cars for auction were in trading.

At Hanthawady car market, a car dealer said that the car market was very cold there. The dealing of automobiles with alphabets of Bha, La, Tha and Ah

nearly suspended in recent days, he commented.

In Hanthawady car dealers' market, AA taxi (diesel) is sold at K 16/17 million, AA taxi (CNG) at K 20 million, Toyota van at K 12.5 million, and Bell at K 15 million.

Old cars for auctions with Ba, Bha, La, Tha and Ah alphabets are being traded between K 8 million to K 7.5 million.—Myanma Alinn



Relief supplies provided by Turkish Embassy in Myanmar being unloaded from aircraft at Sittway Airport.

MNA

Farmland laws multiplier course kicks off

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct—Organized by Pobbathiri Township Settlement and Land Records Department, the multiplier course on farmland law and vacant, virgin and fallow land

management law and related rules was opened at the hall of Pobbathiri Township General Administration Department in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 24 October. On the occasion,

Township Administrator U Tint Kyaw Lwin made a speech.

Assistant Director of Settlement and Land Records Department U Kyaw Lwin and Head of Township SLRD U Aung Myint Sein explained the laws and rules.

MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 27 October, 2012

What grades really mean

What do you think is more important on report cards, grades on the surface or perception of actual horizon in a deeper sense? For the majority of Myanmar parents, the answer would no doubt still be the grades and it would be no different for most of the students.

Straight a student does not necessarily mean to have certain mental agility in and outside the classroom in our schools. There have been some perceived changes in educational institution, but it seems that the reform does not much affect our educational values and the apparent parrot-learning is still frequent around us, from elementary students to undergraduates.

There is hardly a child who knows clearly where his interests lie and what he wants to be, which is quite usual in most societies. In this regard, parents are obliged to let their children discover his/her dream and point out the right approaches. In case of Myanmar where medical profession has been widely accepted as the most prestigious occupation, medical universities have long been the top choice of parents who if affordable force their offspring to do a degree there.

This has resulted in two undesirable consequences, one who does not want to be a doctor becomes a doctor and one who wants to be a doctor does not become a doctor. The number of a square peg in a round hole is uncountable with no measurable effect on intellectual capital of the nation.

Moreover, most of primary and secondary students in urban schools have no time to play between school and tuition, which have direct impact on their physical development. Unfortunately, physical training has been excluded from the curriculum in most of the schools. Since the cessation of nationwide students sports activities, the country has faced the shortage of outstanding young athletes.

In fact, the marks does not mean anything and examination should be viewed as testing the abilities of a student and not letting them write down the answers they have been told.

Central Census Committee meets

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct—The Central Census Committee held the meeting on 25 October. Chairman of the Central Census Committee Deputy Minister for Immigration

19th Myanmar National Races’...

(from page 16)
level literature and arts to confer degrees and upgrading of previously “music schools and art and sculpture schools” into “fine arts high school” that offer combined curriculum of basic education high school level education and fine arts by the government is indeed laying foundation for “knowledge” infrastructure, a minimum condition for striking balance between traditional cultural fine arts and modern technologies. The Vice-President then awarded first, second and

third prize winners of basic level Maha Gita contest. Then, Union ministers, senior military officers from Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Office, and deputy ministers presented prizes to winners of respective contests.

The Vice-President presented awards to invited prize-winning national race cultural exchange teams from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states, prize-winning troupes in drama, marionette and opera contests and medals and



Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu presents prize to a winner in Performing Arts Competition.

MNA

Those present at prize presentation of 19th Myanmar National Races’ Traditional Performing Arts Competition.

MNA



the prize presentation ceremony.

Present at the concluding ceremony were Union ministers, senior military officers from Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Office, deputy ministers, departmental heads, members of the leading committee for organizing competition, judges, managers and participants for regions and states, national race cultural exchange teams from states, prize winners and contestants.—MNA

and Population U Win Myint made a speech on harmonious efforts of the departments concerned to participate in conducting the national census.

Secretary of the Central Committee Director-General of the Population Department U Myint Kyaing reported on plans for collection of national census. The participants discussed cooperation of departments in collecting the census and requirements.

MNA

Trade Development Meeting held

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct—Trade Development Meeting 6/2012 of Union Commodity Price Stability Committee took place at 1 pm today at the Ministry of Commerce, with an address by Committee Chairman Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint. At the meeting, the Union minister said that entrepreneurs, associations needs to prepare for exporting quality value-added products as Myanmar has chance to trade with Asian countries and the world. Only when Myanmar business-men export high-quality products to the market, can they overpass obstacles to penetrate into the foreign market. To reduce necessary expense as soon as possible for commodities flow, it needs to cooperate with line department and organizations and to form mobile teams to prevent illegal products, he said.

Then, deputy ministers, president of UMFCFI and officials from sister associations and department concerned presented commodity stability, goods production and trade development.

MNA

championship award to Yangon Region which won the largest number of awards.

Next, artistes of Culture Ministry entertained with a song entitled “A song for Unity”, concluding

News in Brief

Firefighting Platoon Commander course commences

The Firefighting Platoon Commander Course No 13/2012 was opened at Anawrahta Hall of Central

Firefighting Training School in Pyin Oo Lwin Township on 23 October, attended by 120 trainees.

New Social Security Board explained

A clarification on implementation of new social security law and extension of social security project was held at the hall of Taninthayi

Region Government on 23 October afternoon. General Manager U Saw Naing of Social Security Board explained the law and future tasks.

Road construction works under inspection

Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint inspected maintenance of Pyay-Aunglan-Magway road and

placing of gravels on Thagara-Koebin road, tarmacking and concrete drain construction on 21 October.

Admission of error

We printed a wrong photo accompanying the report of the meeting between Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and US Deputy

Secretary of Treasury Mr Neal Steven Wolin in our 26 October issue.

The editorial board accepts full responsibility for the error.—NLM



PYITHU HLUTTAW

Five questions answered, one proposal submitted, informing Hluttaw, submitting important proposal carried out



Union Minister at President Office U Soe Maung replies to questions.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct — The seventh day session of Pyithu Hluttaw took place at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building, here, this morning, attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 359 representatives.

Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue U Maung Maung Thein and Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay answered the queries raised by five representatives separately.

In the session of submitting the proposal, Union Minister U Soe Maung replied the proposal of urging the Union Government to issue orders and directives for auspicious days of the States to be set as gazette holidays by the State governments submitted by U Gun Moug of Haka Constituency that there is no plan to extend more gazette holidays and the proposal should be put on record. While seeking the approval of the Hluttaw, it was announced to discuss. In informing the Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw received

the Bill for exchange and trading of securities sent by Amyotha Hluttaw with its approval. In the session of submitting an important proposal, U Mann Maung Maung Nyan of Pantanaw Constituency submitted a proposal urging the Union Government to make quick response to townships where conflicts are ongoing and which are vulnerable to violence by increasing the number of security forces and level of security for ensuring rule of law and tranquility and decisions in accord with the law on matters with regard to violation of law and human rights, and eight representatives took part in discussions.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko



U Gun Moug of Haka Constituency putting proposals.—MNA

replied that the proposal was an appropriate one in accord with the present time. The proposal was approved to put on record by the Hluttaw. The meeting came to an end at 2 pm. The eight-day session of the Hluttaw will be held on 1 November.

NLM

Deputy Health Minister responds to questions of three representatives

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct — Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay responded to the questions raised by U Maung Maung of Thayawady Constituency, Dr Aung Than of Shwebo Constituency and U Khin Maung Shwe of Tamu Constituency on health care matters at the today's Pyithu Hluttaw session.

The Deputy Minister said that arrangements were being carried out to appoint assistant surgeons at the vacant posts of People's Hospital in Thayawady District; that coordination were being made between the ministry and Myanmar Medical Council to ensure the latter's

independent status in its professional matters, except for applying permissions from the ministry in dealing with the matters prescribed in Myanmar Medical Council Law and high priority was being given for emergence of Medical Practitioners Protection Association by Myanmar Medical Association; and that plans were underway for opening of rural health centres in some villages of Tamu Township in 2013-14 fiscal year and two more midwives would be appointed in Tamu Township Maternal and Child Health Department if permission was granted.

NLM

No one with taxable income entitled to income tax exemption

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct — Both government and corporate pensioners are levied the same tax rate, said Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Maung Maung Thein in his reply to the question of Daw Tin Nwe Oo of Dagon Myothit

(North) Constituency at Pyithu Hluttaw session today.

According to the income tax law, individuals with taxable amount of income will be liable to pay income tax.

The government does not waive the income tax if the amount of pension or

allowance of the taxpayer, either corporate or government retiree, goes over K 1,440,000 per year as of 1 April.

Daw Tin Nwe Oo asked whether the corporate retiree would be granted income tax exemption.

NLM

Financial and monetary policy will set interest rates

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct — Financial and monetary policy will be adopted first to designate interest rate of the central bank which will become a parameter for interest rates on deposits and loans of the banks, Dr Maung Maung Thein, Deputy Minister for Finance and

Revenue, said at the Pyithu Hluttaw session today.

The Deputy Minister turned down the proposal to reduce interest rate on loans for local small-scale entrepreneurs, saying it would cause negative interest rate which could burden the bank to pay interests on

deposits if the interest on loans is reduced to 8 percent in 2013-2014 and 6 percent in 2014-2015 fiscal year.

The policy will be drafted in the light of current and future economic condition of the country, and saving, investment and consumption of the people.—NLM

AMYOTHA HLUTTAW

MP asks plan for assuring rights of exploited farmers

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct — As the conflicts between industrialists and farmers have come under the spotlight, parliamentarian U Thein Swe at Amyotha Hluttaw raised a question that if the government has plan to assure rights and ownership of farmland for exploited farmers who tenant on farms procured by companies, organizations and individuals hand in glove with local authorities. Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than replied that the region/

state governments would probe into the reported cases on the ground in line with promulgated laws, bylaws and procedures and settle before the law with justice.

He also replied the question about if there is plan for helping farmers who suffer loss from annual flooding of rice plants within Kyapahmwezaung Island in Pyapon Township that surveys have been conducted and permission and fund would be asked in 2013-2014 fiscal year and works would start upon

receiving of the fund.

Regarding the question about measures for handling of landslide-led torrent in monsoon which damages farmlands in Pinhe Village tract in Mohnyin Township, Kachin State, he replied that Kachin State Settlement and Land Records Department, Irrigation Department and Agriculture Department have been asked to seek ways and coordination has been made with Kachin State government, and practical measures would be taken to address the problem.—NLM

Questions focuses on infrastructural development



U Htay Maung of Mandalay Region Constituency asking questions.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct — As Amyotha Hluttaw session continued for seventh day, Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint replied to queries of five representatives about construction and repair of roads and bridges. Regarding the question about if the ministry would resume constructing Kani-Minkin Myoma Road in Sagaing Region, the deputy minister replied that the road will be upgraded section by section and scheduled to complete in 2013-2014 fiscal year. Regarding the question about if the ministry

has plan to take care of landfalls on Kalewa-Kalay Road in Sagaing Region, he replied that Border Road Organization of India has repaired about 13 miles out of 17 miles long road the remaining four miles long section is scheduled to complete by the end of open season of 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Regarding the question about if there is a plan to construct a bypass (or) a new urban route for Union Highway to pass through Mohnyin due to congestion of urban roads in Mohnyin, the deputy minister replied that the alignment has been chosen for construction of a bypass as the new section of Union Highway passing through Mohnyin and construction would be initiated depending on budget allocation. Regarding the question about if there is plan to repair some damaged sections of Thazi-Nyaungyan Road with State's subsidies, he replied that Mandalay Region government would submit the proposal to the upper level of administrative hierarchy.



Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint responds to questions.—MNA

Regarding the question about if there is plan to upgrade Eakarit-Kyaunggon-Mauktin-Ledwekwe earth road in Sinpaungwe Township for all-season usage, the deputy minister replied that the road is under the control of Sinpaungwe Township DAC and it has first to be upgraded. Regarding the question about if there is plan to repair asphalt entrance road to Ayemyathaya Myothit in Okpo Township, he replied that Bago Region government would take care of the case to ask fund from the national budget.—NLM

Amyotha Hluttaw continues for seventh day

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct — The seventh day regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw took place today, attended by Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and 194 MPs.

Eleven questions were answered, one proposal put forward at today's session during which the Speaker informed the Hluttaw that Pyithu Hluttaw with approval sent back the bill revoking 1964 Myanmar Five Star Shipping Corporation Law, bill revoking Land

Confiscation (Mines) Act, and bill revoking Public Service Protection Act.

U Myo Myint of Mandalay Region Constituency No (6) urged to implement small-scale hydropower development scenario for immediate contribution to electricity security of the country, following the question about plan for electricity supply through wind power to Kayin State and power supply from national grid to Kawkaik. Deputy Minister for Electric

Power U Aung Than Oo replied that agreement has been signed with Gankul Engineering Public Co Ltd for implementation of 1000-megawatt wind power generation in Kayin and Mon states and Taninthayi Region and power would be generated depending on the feasibility report of the project. He regarding the second question replied that measures would be taken for electricity supply to Kawkaik in 2014-2015 fiscal year.—NLM



Ten Taliban fighters stand handcuffed after they were captured with their ammunitions during an operation by Afghan security forces in Helmand Province south of Afghanistan, on 24 Oct, 2012.—XINHUA

Texas opens first 85-mph highway in US, but trucks may shun it

LOCKHART, (Texas), 26 Oct — Everything's bigger in Texas including, as of Wednesday, the speed limit. A new 41-mile (65-kilometre) stretch of toll road between San Antonio and Austin is now open with an 85-mph (137-kph) speed limit, the highest posted speed limit in the United States. State transportation officials hope that the speed limit will be an incentive for motorists to pay the roughly \$12 toll to drive on the 90-mile (145-km) road.

Joe Krier, who is on the board of the private company that built the new road, said there is no reason why motorists should not drive that fast. "This project was designed to support it, and the engineers are confident

with it," he said. Still, the higher speed has some safety advocates concerned. "We all worry about safety. Such high speeds lead to worse accidents and a greater loss of life," said Sandra Helin, president of the Southwest Insurance Information Service.

But some 18-wheel trucks, many of which are hauling items manufactured in Mexico to plants in the United States, may not be keen to take to the new road, according to Darrin Roth of the American Trucking Association. Many trucking companies prevent their vehicles from going faster than 70 mph or 75 mph, he said, and fuel consumption goes up exponentially as speeds increase — potentially cutting into company profits.—Reuters

Sudan blames Israeli air strike hit for munitions plant blasts

KHARTOUM, 26 Oct — Sudan said on Wednesday that an Israeli air strike had caused the huge explosion and fire at an arms factory in Khartoum that killed two people, but Israel's defence minister declined to comment.

Sudan, which analysts say is used as an arms-smuggling route to the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip via neighbouring Egypt, has blamed Israel for such strikes in the past, but Israel has either refused to comment or said it neither admitted or denied involvement. Asked by Israel's Channel Two News about Sudan's accusations, Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak said: "There is nothing I can say about this subject."

A huge fire broke out late on Tuesday at the Yarmouk arms factory in the south of the capital which was rocked by

several explosions, witnesses said. Firefighters took more than two hours to extinguish the fire at Sudan's main factory for ammunition and small arms. "Four military planes attacked the Yarmouk plant ... We believe that Israel is behind it," Information Minister Ahmed Belal Osman

told reporters, adding that the planes appeared to approach the site from the east. "Sudan reserves the right to strike back at Israel," he said, adding that two citizens had been killed and the plant had been partially destroyed. Another person was seriously injured, he said.

Reuters



Onlookers gather to look at a huge fire that engulfed the Yarmouk ammunition factory in Khartoum on 24 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

UN Middle East envoy calls for maximum restraint from Palestine, Israel

Middle East

UNITED NATIONS, 26 Oct — UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Robert Serry on Wednesday called on Palestine and Israel to show "maximum restraint" amid the recent surge of violence. Martin Nesirky, spokesperson for the UN secretary-general, said at a daily briefing that Serry made this appeal during his visit to the UN Gaza Office and a UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) project in Gaza.

During the visit, there was another escalation of violence between Israel

and Gaza. Serry deeply deplored the violence and called on all parties to show maximum restraint, said Nesirky. Palestine reportedly fired dozens of rockets into Israel from Gaza on Wednesday, for which Hamas and Popular Resistance Committee groups have claimed responsibility. Israel retaliated with airstrikes that left at least five people wounded.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Wednesday afternoon that Israel was "prepared for a much wider and deeper operation" to quell

the ongoing rocket salvos by Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip. Serry expressed his concern that "with recurrent violence, as illustrated today, continued closures, and the persistent Palestinian divide, we will lose the race against time to preserve Gaza as a livable place."

"People in Gaza and the West Bank expect their leaders to take tangible steps towards Palestinian reconciliation, and that the United Nations would continue to work with all parties to build confidence," said Serry.—Xinhua

Lifting barriers could unlock Africa food trade:

World Bank

Africa

WASHINGTON, 26 Oct — Africa could avoid food shortages if it reduces the tangled web of rules, fees and high costs strangling regional food trade and by putting large swathes of uncultivated land to productive use, a World Bank report said on Wednesday. Just 5 percent of Africa's cereal imports are now provided by African farmers, according to the report released on the eve of an African Union summit on agriculture and trade in Ethiopia. "Too often borders get in the way of getting food to homes and communities which are struggling with too little to eat," said Makhtar Diop, World Bank vice president for Africa. The bank estimated that 19 million people are in danger of hunger and malnutrition in

West Africa's Sahel region. Yet, removing cross-border restrictions could help avoid food crises if farmers were allowed to trade more easily with each other and get food to communities facing shortages.

In addition, the World Bank estimated that fewer restrictions on food trade could generate an estimated \$20 billion in annual earnings for African governments. Food trade barriers also increase the cost to the consumer and the farmer, the World Bank said. For example, farmers on holdings in Africa who sell surplus harvest typically receive less than 20 percent of the consumer price of their produce, with the rest being eaten up by various transaction costs and post harvest losses. "This clearly

limits the incentive to produce for the market," the World Bank said. Soaring global food prices in 2008, which triggered social unrest in several African countries, highlighted the problem of decades of underinvestment

in agriculture in Africa. It also stimulated interest among investors in Europe, the Middle East and Asia in Africa's untapped farming potential. Fears of land grabbing also increased.

Reuters



Displaced women wait with vouchers at a food distribution centre at a camp for internally displaced persons (IDP) in Abu Shouk on 18 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

Three killed, two wounded in twin shootings near Los Angeles

US

LOS ANGELES, 26 Oct — A gunman opened fire at a small business and a nearby home owned by members of the same family in the Los Angeles suburb of Downey on Wednesday, killing three people and wounding two others before fleeing in a stolen car, authorities said. It was unclear what motivated the gunman to commit the back-to-back shootings, which erupted shortly after 11 am about two blocks apart in a blue-collar neighbourhood, Downey police Lieutenant Dean Milligan said. But the fact that all five victims were believed to be relatives led investigators to suspect that they may have been singled out by the perpetrator, he said.

"We don't believe it's a random act because it's two locations that are tied together, but we can't confirm that at this

time," Milligan told Reuters. He said police have not identified the suspect and were told by survivors that they did not recognize their assailant, who remained at large in Downey, a small city southeast of Los Angeles. Details of the attacks remained murky. But according to authorities' initial account, the gunman walked into a commercial fire-protection business and started shooting, killing a man and woman and wounding a third person, described only as a female. Driving away in a car owned by one of the family members, the suspect then moved on to the house two blocks away, where he killed a female occupant and wounded a 13-year-old boy, police said. Ages of the other victims were not given. The two survivors were listed in critical but stable condition,

Milligan said. There was no sign of forced entry at either location, and investigators have yet to determine whether anything but the stolen car was taken from either the business or the home, police said.

The two survivors, each of whom phoned the 911 emergency number to summon police after they were shot, both told authorities there was a verbal exchange between the gunman and his victims before he opened fire at each location, but police declined to elaborate. Milligan said there was no immediate reason to believe that the shootings were related to street gangs or drugs, and that none of the victims was known to be involved in a divorce or child custody dispute. He said there was no record of any employees being fired recently.—Reuters

REGIONAL

Japan Cabinet OKs 422 bil yen emergency spending to boost economy

TOKYO, 26 Oct — The Cabinet of Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda approved a fiscal stimulus package Friday, with the government spending 422.6 billion yen (about \$5.3 billion) in emergency funds to underpin Japan's economy, which is feared to fall into a recession amid weakening domestic demand.

The policy package, also financed by regional governments and totally valued at over 750 billion yen, came as the first in a series of steps aimed at boosting growth at a time when the world's third-biggest economy has seen a deceleration in its recovery from the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

"We will accelerate our efforts to ensure an early exit from deflation and revitalize the Japanese economy," Noda was quoted by Chief Cabinet Secretary Osamu Fujimura as telling his ministers.

The premier also said that full-fledged stimulus will follow as early as next month. — *Kyodo News*



Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung addresses the Fourth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Labor and Employment Ministers' Conference (ASEM LEMC 4) in Hanoi, capital of Vietnam, on 25 Oct, 2012. The Fourth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Labour and Employment Ministers' Conference (ASEM LEMC 4) serves as an opportunity to promote cooperation in labor and employment among its member countries for the purposes of sustainable economic recovery and growth, said Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung. Dung made the remarks at the opening of the ASEM LEMC4 held here on Thursday. — XINHUA

Australian PM to launch the Asian Century white paper

CANBERRA, 26 Oct — Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard will launch the Asian Century white paper in Sydney on Sunday.

The document is expected to be predominantly focused on Australia's relations with China, India, Indonesia, Japan and South Korea. After a wait of up to 13 months, the coming 300-

page policy blueprint is expected to set a series of long-term targets for Australia's political, economic and personal ties with the rapidly rising region.

Announcing the paper in September last year, Gillard said the dramatic shift of economic and strategic power to Asia would have a profound and unrivalled influence

on Australia's future prosperity and security.

Ken Henry, chief author of the Asian Century white paper, has said Australia must embrace Asia to stay prosperous. "Asia presents enormous opportunities for Australia but they won't come to us simply because they are geographically next door," he said last month.

Xinhua

China launches another satellite for independent navigation system

China



A Long March-3C carrier rocket carrying a satellite blasts off from the launch pad at the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in Xichang, southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 25 Oct, 2012. — XINHUA

XICHANG SICHUAN, 26 Oct — China successfully launched another satellite into space for its indigenous global navigation and positioning

network at 11:33 pm Beijing Time on Thursday, the launch center said. The satellite, launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in

the southwestern Province of Sichuan, was boosted by a Long March-3C carrier rocket. It was the 16th satellite for the Beidou system, or Compass system.

The network is planned to officially provide services for most parts of the Asia-Pacific region in early 2013 and begin offering global services by 2020. Since it started to provide services on a trial basis on 27 Dec, 2011, the Beidou system has been stable, said a spokesperson of the China Satellite Navigation Office. The system has been gradually used in extended sectors including transportation,

weather forecasting, marine fisheries, forestry, telecommunications, hydrological monitoring and mapping, according to the spokesperson. The newly-launched satellite will play an important role in improving the system's service, the spokesperson said. China started to build up its own satellite navigation system to break its dependence on the US Global Positioning System in 2000. Between October 2000 and May 2003, the country set up a regional satellite navigation system after launching three Beidou geostationary satellites.

Xinhua

Cambodia records 5 percent decline in landmine casualties in 9 months

Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 26 Oct — Cambodia on Friday reported 143 landmine casualties in the first nine months of this year, representing a 5 percent decrease from 151 casualties at the same period last year, according to a report from the Cambodian Mine and Explosive Remnants of War

Victim Information System. During the January-September period this year, 37 people were killed, up from 32 deaths at the same period last year, said the report.

Besides, 106 others were injured or amputated, down 11 percent from 119 at the same period last year. It said

that 54 percent of the victims were men, 27 percent were boys, and 19 percent were women and girls. The two latest remarkable anti-tank mine explosion incidents happened in the country's northwestern Battambang province. One incident occurred on 30 Sept, killing six people and seriously

injuring two others, and the other was on 7 Oct, killing 3 farmers and injured 3 others. Cambodia is one of the world's worst countries affected by mines as the result of almost three decades of war and internal conflicts from the mid-1960s until the end of 1998. — *Xinhua*

New Zealand offers new home to Afghan interpreters

WELLINGTON, 26 Oct — Afghan interpreters working for New Zealand troops and diplomats in the province of Bamyan will be offered the New Zealand government announced on Friday. The offer to 23 interpreters and their families follows New Zealand opposition warnings that Afghans working for New Zealand would face persecution or death if they were left in Afghanistan after New Zealand troops leave in April next year.

Defence Minister Jonathan Coleman and Immigration Minister Nathan Guy announced the offer of resettlement would cover about 73 Afghans if all the interpreters accepted it. The package allowed for interpreters to be resettled in New Zealand with their immediate dependents or opt for a three-year salary payment so they could opt to relocate elsewhere in Afghanistan, said a statement from the ministers.

"The interpreters are playing a critical role in

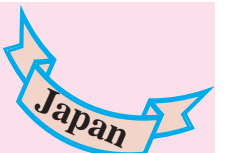
the operation of the PRT (Provincial Reconstruction Team) in Bamyan, enabling the PRT to interact effectively with the local population," Coleman said in the statement. "Offering assistance to current interpreters employed by the government reflects the view that New Zealand should demonstrate a duty of care to this group who have served New Zealand with the work of the Provincial Reconstruction Team," he said.

Immigration Minister Nathan Guy said the interpreters were not "refugees" as defined by the Refugee Convention or had asylum seeker status, but would be granted residence under a discretion offered by New Zealand immigration laws.

"They will not displace refugees offered places under our United Nations High Commissioners for Refugees (UNHCR) quota of 750 people per year," Guy said in the statement.

Xinhua

Two dead, dozens injured in Hokkaido road accident



SAPPORO, 26 Oct — A collision involving two buses and a sport-utility vehicle killed two people, apparently in their 70s, and injured dozens more, with over 30 people rushed to hospital Friday in Hokkaido, local police said. The accident occurred around 7 am on a slippery road in Kimobetsu in the southwest of the prefecture.

Police and local fire department officials believe the sport-utility vehicle veered onto the opposite lane, hit a small bus and then collided with another bus following behind.

The two killed were in the SUV, while the small buses were carrying workers on their way to a food-processing plant in Kimobetsu. — *Kyodo News*



Photo from a Kyodo News helicopter shows the aftermath of a traffic accident involving a crash of two small buses and a sports utility vehicle on Route 230 in the town of Kimobetsu, Hokkaido, on 26 Oct, 2012. At least two people died and more than 40 people were injured. — KYODO NEWS

ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV INAVA VOY NO (31)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV INAVA VOY NO (31) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.10.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.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: NYK LINE**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV HANNA MARIE VOY NO (1244)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HANNA MARIE VOY NO (1244) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.10.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.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 CHINA SHIPPING
(MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV DELIGHT VOY NO (161)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DELIGHT VOY NO (161) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.10.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (1) 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 PHULSAWAT SHIPPING
CO LTD.**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (318)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (318) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.10.2012 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
HOLIDAY NOTICE**

As the wharves warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 30th OCTOBER 2012 (Fullmoon day of Thadinkyut) Goods Shipped or delivered on payment will be received as Holiday Fees.

**Suspected gunman in custody
after Atlanta church shooting**

ATLANTA, 26 Oct — A former employee at a suburban Atlanta megachurch was taken into custody on Wednesday, only hours after he was said to have walked into the church with a gun and opened fire, killing a man leading a prayer service, police said.

Multiple gunshots rang out in the chapel of the World Changers Church International in College Park, Georgia, around 10 am EDT (1400 GMT).

The suspected gunman was identified as Floyd Palmer, a 52-year-old former

church maintenance worker who resigned from his job in August, said Fulton County Police Corporal Kay Lester.

Palmer was arrested in an Atlanta shopping mall, nearly six hours after the shooting, said Jeff Foley, a spokesman for the US Marshals Service.

He did not put up a fight," he said. As many as 25 people were inside the church when Palmer was said to have walked calmly into the service and begin shooting, Lester said. He then turned around and walked out, driving away in a car.—Reuters

**Iran dismisses French
FM's nuclear remarks as
"irresponsible"** Iran

TEHERAN, 26 Oct — Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast dismissed as "irresponsible" the recent remarks by the French foreign minister about the Iranian nuclear program, Press TV reported on Wednesday.

"There is this question that how can the French foreign minister speak of the danger of Iran obtaining nuclear weapons while completely ignoring the inspections of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) over past years that

have rejected any diversion by the Islamic Republic of Iran from peaceful purposes," Mehmanparast was quoted as saying. According to media reports, on Sunday, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said that Iran would obtain nuclear weapons by mid-2013.

Mehmanparast expressed hope that Fabius would not repeat the "mistakes" of some former French officials who had adopted "radical and unrealistic" stances against Iran, according to Press TV.

Xinhua

FSA bans "liar loan" mortgages from 2014

A man is seen behind the entrance door of the offices of the Financial Services Authority (FSA) in Canary Wharf, London, on 19 Nov, 2010.—REUTERS

LONDON, 26 Oct — Most Britons seeking a home loan after next year will be required to get professional advice to establish whether they can afford the repayments, the Financial Services Authority said on Thursday. Only people who earn 300,000 pounds a year, have assets worth three million pounds or only want minor changes to an existing loan will be exempt from a consultation. The aim of the new rules which come into force on 26 April 2014 is to test affordability and end so-called "liar loans"

where the borrower has not been required to give proof of income. The changes seek to end Britain's history of housing booms and busts due to the country's love affair with home ownership, creating rollercoaster rides for the economy.

The home loans market has already cooled sharply compared with the run up to the 2007-09 financial crisis as lenders are far stricter, forcing borrowers to stump up much bigger deposits while turning down others. "We recognize that many lenders are now using a far

more sensible set of lending criteria than before, but it is important that these common sense principles are hard-wired into the system to protect borrowers," FSA managing director Martin Wheatley said in a statement. "At the heart of the new measures is an affordability test to check borrowers can

meet the repayments of the mortgage they want."

Interest-only mortgages can be offered to anybody who shows they have a credible repayment strategy, the FSA said. There are no fixed caps on how much a bank can lend to a first time buyer, or limits on lending to older people.—Reuters

US, ROK defence chiefs focus on joint nuclear deterrence US

WASHINGTON, 26 Oct — US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta on Wednesday met with his Republic of Korean (ROK) counterpart Kim Kwan-jin at the Pentagon, and agreed to focus on a joint deterrence policy against nuclear threats on the Korean Peninsula. The two reached the agreement at the annual Security Consultative Meeting.

According to a joint communique, the two agreed the nuclear and ballistic missile programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) "pose a serious threat to regional stability and global security," and they are "committed to maintaining close consultation to develop

comprehensive alliance capabilities to counter" DPRK's "weapons of mass destruction threats." The two reaffirmed that any DPRK "aggression or military provocation is not to be tolerated and that the US and the Republic of Korea would work shoulder-to-shoulder to demonstrate our combined resolve," said the communique. Panetta reaffirmed to his South Korean counterpart the "continued US commitment to provide and strengthen extended deterrence for the ROK," including using the US nuclear umbrella, conventional strike and missile defence capabilities. The two decided to develop a "tailored bilateral deterrence strategy through



US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta (L) and his Republic of Korean (ROK) counterpart Kim Kwan-jin attend a press conference after their meeting at the Pentagon in Washington DC, capital of the United States, on 24 Oct, 2012.—XINHUA

the Extended Deterrence Policy Committee." They also approved "joint concepts and principles of tailored deterrence." During a press briefing after the talks, Panetta said on Washington is also in

consultations with ROK over its future role in a regional missile defence system. Washington has recently expanded its missile defense system in Japan, adding a new radar.—Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT



Cameron Diaz and Gwyneth Paltrow are close friends

Girls's nightout: Cameron Diaz bonds with buddy Gwyneth Paltrow

LOS ANGELES, 26 Oct— Cameron Diaz enjoyed an evening out with Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin last night (22.10.12). The Bad Teacher actress joined her long-time friend and the Coldplay singer in Los Angeles' upmarket Brentwood neighbourhood as the trio indulged in sushi and drinks while they chatted to each other.

Following the meal, Cameron drove off in her Aston Martin car, while Gwyneth and Chris, who have been married since 2003 and have two children, Apple, eight and six-year-old Moses, drove home in their own motor after a rare night out of being photographed together. Cameron and Gwyneth were spotted laughing and joking with each other when the What to Expect When You're Expecting star had her arm draped over the Iron Man actress' neck while Chris walked behind the pair.

According to reports, Gwyneth and Cameron have grown even closer in recent months as Gwyneth has set her sights on trying to find a perfect man for the 40-year-old beauty.

A source recently explained: "Gwyneth

is a nurturer. Cameron is bummed about being single, so Gwyneth sees her as a project. She's trying to set her up with guys!" —PTI



Actor Tom Cruise

Ex-Britney Spears confidante sobs over death threats

LOS ANGELES, 26 Oct— The former confidante of pop star Britney Spears broke down on the witness stand on Wednesday, saying his villainous portrayal in a book written by the singer's mother triggered a deluge of death threats that drove him into a suicidal depression.

"If I went anywhere public, people were assaulting me," Sam Lutfi told jurors at a civil trial in Los Angeles.

"People I knew were shunning me. There were numerous postings online on websites ... that were threats to kill me. People wishing that I was dead," Lutfi said, choking up and beginning to cry. "People wishing harm on my family."

Lutfi, who emerged as Spears' closest friend during her 2007 personal and career meltdown, was testifying for the second day in his lawsuit against the "Toxic" superstar and her parents.

He is suing Britney's mother, Lynne Spears, alleging she libeled him in her 2008 book, "Through the Storm," and made him a scapegoat for the singer's problems.

He is also suing Britney Spears for a chunk of her earnings, claiming she hired him as her manager soon after meeting him in 2007. And he is suing her father, Jamie Spears, for assault.

Lutfi said on Wednesday that Spears' father chased him, punched him and threatened to kill him in her Los Angeles home in early 2008. "(Jamie Spears) was spitting and shouting, yelling at me, telling me that I had hurt his daughter and I had better leave or he was going to beat the hell out of me," Lutfi testified. The trial, which began last week, has offered a glimpse into Spears' private life during her highly publicized crisis five years ago, including a divorce, a bitter child custody battle, head-shaving incident and claims of amphetamine abuse.—PTI



Britney Spears

Tom Cruise files \$50 million lawsuit over claims he abandoned Suri

LOS ANGELES, 26 Oct— Tom Cruise filed a \$50 million defamation lawsuit on Wednesday against a g a i n s t magazines that claimed he had abandoned his daughter, Suri, following his divorce from actress Katie Holmes. The "Mission: Impossible" star filed the lawsuit in US court in Los Angeles against the publishers of celebrity magazines "In Touch" and "Life & Style." Cruise's attorney Bert Fields said in a statement.

"Tom is a caring father who dearly loves Suri. She's a vital part of his life and always will be.

To say he has 'abandoned' her is a vicious lie. To say it in lurid headlines

with a tearful picture of Suri is reprehensible," Cruise's lawyer, Bert Fields, said in a statement

The lawsuit refers to two cover stories published by the magazines in July and September with the headlines "Abandoned by Daddy" and "Abandoned by her dad." The September story from "In Touch" claimed that six-year-old Suri, the only child of Cruise and Holmes, had gone more 44 days without seeing him.

The magazines, owned by privately held German publishing group Bauer Media, did not immediately return calls for comment.

Holmes filed for divorce in June after six years of marriage, seeking sole custody of Suri, in a move that took Cruise by surprise when he was filming in Iceland.

Reuters

Rare James Bond posters hitting auction block in LA

LOS ANGELES, 26 Oct— In line with the 50th anniversary of the James Bond franchise, posters from every Bond movie in the series are hitting the auction block in December, along with stills, lobby cards, scripts and other 007 ephemera.

Auctioneer Profiles in History said the Bond poster collection is expected to take in well over \$200,000, led by a rare "From Russia With Love" special advance Leicester Square world-premiere poster from 1963.

It is one of a handful believed still in existence and is expected to fetch \$10,000 to \$15,000, the auction house said.

"It's such a rare thing when you get every title like this," said Joe Maddalena, the auction house's president, referring to



Actor Daniel Craig

the comprehensive offerings. The posters and other items were assembled over some 25 years by a private British collector, Maddalena told Reuters. "He wanted to build the most comprehensive James Bond movie poster collection," he said.

"It's really a mind-boggling collection," Maddalena added, pointing to examples such as a yellow "Dr No" silkscreen on linen poster from 1962 that is thought to be the very first 007 film poster ever to appear to the public.

Reuters

Naomi Campbell plans Indian bash for boyfriend

LOS ANGELES, 26 Oct— Naomi Campbell is planning a huge Indian bash next month for her billionaire boyfriend Vladislav Doronin's 50th birthday.

The 42-year-old model, who was blamed by her Russian boyfriend's ex-wife for their divorce earlier this year despite being separated for ten years, is throwing a lavish four-day celebration for her beau that will kick off in Rajasthan on 4 November with guests flying in from around the world.

A source told the New York Post's Page Six: "Naomi is flying a lot of people out to India and paying for everything."

The supermodel has reportedly emailed guests invitations that include an image of her boyfriend posing underwater with a Seabob, a hand-held propulsion device



Naomi Campbell is reportedly throwing a lavish four-day celebration for her beau.

- in a James Bond style photo-shoot.

The British style icon has reportedly booked out an entire five-star hotel for the main celebrations but has planned a number of other events that will take place in other parts the scenic city of Jaipur.

She is also said to be working with Paris-based travel expert Omar Cherif, who owns OC Travel, to organize the luxury celebration. Another source said: "No expense has been spared.

Naomi's team is even helping their friends secure visas. It will be the party of the century."

The couple, who have been dating since 2008, celebrated the model's 40th birthday together with a huge party in the south of France two years ago. Guests including the Black Eyed Peas, Grace Jones, Donatella Versace, Kate Moss, Giorgio Armani and Jennifer Lopez helped her celebrate the milestone.

PTI

Li Na keeps WTA semifinals hope alive

ISTANBUL, 26 Oct — Chinese tennis player Li Na kept her hope of reaching the semifinals of the W T A Championships alive on Thursday with a 6-4, 6-3 win over German player Angelique Kerber. Li was going through the gears, taking the ball early and swatting forehands and backhands for winners seemingly at will. She quickly moved a couple of breaks ahead and, despite a late wobble, she gathered herself once more to serve the match out to love.



“I had my first match yesterday but felt much, much better today. I was more focused and concentrated on the court,” Li said. “Angelique is very good in defense. My coach, Carlos, was telling me before the match to use more top-spin and open the court. I knew I had to change the space to win today.”

In her final Red Group match, Li takes on top seed Victoria Azarenka on Friday. The winner will join Serena Williams in the semifinals after she guaranteed top spot with a 6-4, 6-4 win over the Belarussian. Having lost her opening two matches in the tournament, Kerber knew that a comfortable win was required for her to have any chance of reaching the weekend.

Xinhua

Barca and Athletic look to pile pressure on Real Madrid

MADRID, 26 Oct — FC Barcelona have the chance to further pile the pressure on Real Madrid in matchday nine of the BBVA Primera Liga. League leaders Barca travel to the capital to take on struggling Rayo Vallecano in the Vallecas Stadium on Saturday night. With Real Madrid not playing until Sunday, a win in Vallecas would temporarily take Barca 11 points clear of Madrid, who face a difficult trip to play in Mallorca on Sunday. Barcelona will hope to have central defender Gerard Pique available for the trip and his height will be vital for a defense that has struggled to defend set pieces this season. Pique would partner youngster Marc Bartra, who impressed against Celtic in midweek, while Javier Mascherano is suspended. Atletico Madrid are another side that could momentarily go 11 points clear of Real Madrid should Diego Simeone's side win at home to Osasuna. Atletico kick off before Madrid and will fancy all three points against the side that is currently bottom of the table.

Saturday's remaining matches will see Valencia look to maintain their recovery away to a Betis side that recovers Benat Etxebarria following suspension. Valencia are in good

spirits after a 3-0 win away to BATE Borisov in the Champions League and the return of midfielders David Albelda and Ever Banega to the side. Meanwhile the Galician derby between Celta Vigo and Deportivo la Coruna returns to the top flight. Deportivo are currently in the relegation zone and will do well to take a point from a rival that looks solid at home.

Third place Malaga have little time to recover from their European exploits and follow their 1-0 win over AC Milan with a trip to face struggling Espanyol. Malaga coach Manuel Pellegrini will hope to have defender Nacho Monreal available after a back problem. Real Madrid's trip to Mallorca is the highlight of Sunday's matches and Jose Mourinho will have to continue with his makeshift defense

as a result of injuries to full backs Marcelo, Fabio Coentrao and Alvaro Arbeloa. Sami Khedira will also miss the trip to face a tough to beat Mallorca as a result of the muscle injury he suffered during the 2-1 Champions defeat in Mallorca on Wednesday.

Sunday begins with Zaragoza looking to confirm that they are not going to struggle this season which they had in previous campaigns.—Reuters

Soccer

Nadal pulls out of Paris and London

PARIS, 26 Oct — World tennis number four Rafa Nadal has pulled out of the Paris Masters and the ATP World Tour finals in London as he is still recovering from his left knee injury, the ATP said on Thursday. The 11-times grand-slam singles champion has not played since he suffered a shock second-round loss to Czech Lukas Rosol at Wimbledon in June.

“It's disappointing for me to miss the last two



Li Na of China hits a return to Serena Williams of the United States during their match at WTA Championships 2012 in Istanbul of Turkey on 24 Oct, 2012. — XINHUA

tournaments of the season in Paris and London but it doesn't come as a surprise,” the 26-year-old Spaniard was quoted as saying in a statement on the ATP website (www.atpworldtour.com).

“I will hopefully resume my tennis practice soon since I am making good progress with my recovery from injury. I am not ready to compete in time for these events so I will continue my

Tennis

recovery in Mallorca and work hard to be back as soon as possible.”

Nadal, who has been battling knee problems for years, could also miss the Davis Cup final between his country, who are the defending champions, and Czech Republic in Prague from November 16 to 18.

With the Spaniard unable to play in the London finals, which will reunite the year's eight best players from 5 to 12 November, the player ranked ninth in the world will get a berth. Serbian Janko Tipsarevic currently occupies the spot. Nadal told Reuters in an interview last month that he would not rush back into playing before his injury had healed completely.

Xinhua

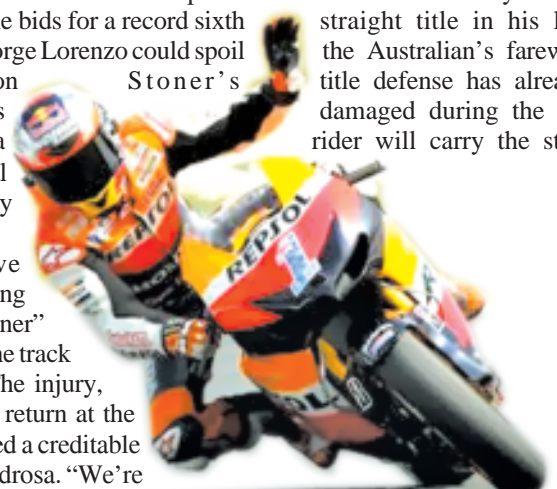
Stoner bids for fairytale farewell at Phillip Island

MELBOURNE, 26 Oct — Record crowds are expected to hail local hero Casey Stoner at Phillip Island this weekend as he bids for a record sixth home Grand Prix, but injury and Jorge Lorenzo could spoil party. Twice MotoGP champion Stoner's title defense has already been dashed by ankle ligaments damaged during the US Grand Prix in July, and the Honda rider will carry the still-painful injury onto the tricky coastal circuit where typically wet and gusty conditions are certain to prevail.

The circuit's owners have honoured the Australian by naming the hairy turn three “Stoner's corner” and the rider has vowed to attack the track with his trademark aggression. The injury, however, has worsened since his return at the Japan Grand Prix, where he finished a creditable fifth behind his team mate Dani Pedrosa. “We're having a lot more trouble with it day-to-day, just getting around on it at all,” Stoner said.

“But I don't think it will affect me any differently on the bike. The biggest moment I'm having at the moment is flexibility on the bike trying to get it working.

“Fortunately on this track there are not too many right hand corners that are so critical, so we should be a little more comfortable riding around here. The



Honda MotoGP rider Casey Stoner of Australia waves during a free practice session ahead of the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix at Phillip Island on 26 Oct, 2012.

REUTERS

main fitness problem I'm having at the moment is endurance.” Despite a career marred by injury and illness, Stoner has enjoyed a long, uninterrupted reign at Phillip Island, and he underlined his mastery of the track on Friday by finishing top of the time-sheets after the first round of practice.

Reuters



Iranian players hold the trophy at the awarding ceremony of the 40th Asian Schools Football Championship in Teheran, Iran, on 25 Oct, 2012. Iran won over Thailand 2-0 in the final match of the championship to claim the title. — XINHUA

Last-gasp win for Inter, Athletic lose again

BERNE, 26 Oct — Rodrigo Palacio snatched an 88th minute win for Inter Milan over Partizan Belgrade in the Europa League on Thursday while Lazio were on the wrong end of some late drama in a 1-1 draw at Panathinaikos.

Napoli produced another poor away performance, losing 3-1 at Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk, and Udinese, the fourth Italian side, suffered a shock 3-1 defeat at Young Boys where

Raul Bobadilla scored a hat-trick.

Titleholders Atletico Madrid chalked up their third straight group stage win, beating Academica Coimbra 2-1, but Athletic Bilbao, last season's runners-up, were left on the brink of elimination after losing 2-1 at Olympique Lyon. At San Siro, Palacio headed in a cross from fellow Argentine Diego Milito one minute after Partizan's Lazar Markovic nearly scored for

the Serbs on the break.

The win left Inter and Rubin Kazan, who beat Neftci 1-0, level on seven points from three games at the top of Group H.

Lazio were gifted a 25th minute lead in Athens when Giourkas Seitaridis's back pass caught goalkeeper Orestis Karnezis out of position and the ball rolled into the net. Toche equalised for Panathinaikos in stoppage time.—Reuters

GENERAL

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(27-10-12 09:30 am ~ 28-10-12 09:30 am)

MST

- * News
- * Bright Stars for the Future
- * Thadingyut Festival of 9000 Lights: Zalun Pyitawpyan Pagoda Glows Bright
- * News
- * Fad and Fashion in Myanmar
- * News
- * Let's Study the Words
- * News
- * Vibrant and Lively Kyaukse Elephant Dance
- * News

- * Culture Stage
- * News
- * Road to the SEAGAMES "Sepaktakraw"
- * News
- * Wedding Dress and Makeup Fashion Show
- * News
- * Ngapali, Unique Spot To Relax
- * Myanmar Movie "Nay Kyaut Khe (An Undaunted Gyu)"

MYANMAR TV

(27-10-2012, Saturday)

- 7:00 am 1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 7:25 am 2. To Be Healthy Exercise
- 7:30 am 3. Morning News
- 7:40 am 4. Nice & Sweet Song
- 7:50 am 5. Health Programme
- 8:10 am 6. Poem Garden
- 8:30 am 7. Songs of Thadingyut Festival
- 11:00 am 8. Martial Song
- 11:10 am 9. Musical Programme
- 11:20 am 10. Round Up of The Week's TV Local News
- 1:45 pm 11. Teleplay
- 4:15 pm 12. Cultural Dances
- 4:20 pm 13. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - First Year (English)

Inter-Region/State Men's Hockey Tournament continues



YANGON, 26 Oct—The fourth Inter-Region/State Men's Hockey Tournament, jointly organized by Sports Ministry and Myanmar Hockey Federation, continued at Theinbyu Artificial Turf Pitch yesterday afternoon.

In the first match Mandalay Region trounced Kachin State 7-0. Kayah State beat Rakhine State 1-0 in the second match. Mandalay Region and Kayah State sailed into the semifinal.

NLM

Hurricane Sandy menaces US after slamming Cuba

Disaster

Cuba



A local resident clears the damage after Hurricane Sandy hit Santiago de Cuba, Cuba, on 25 Oct, 2012. The hurricane currently on the Caribbean has grown stronger and larger than expected Thursday, and is threatening to affect US East Coast early next week, according to forecast.—XINHUA

HAVANA, 26 Oct—Hurricane Sandy swelled into a major threat to much of the US East Coast on Thursday after lashing Cuba with heavy rains and tree-toppling winds and swirling through the Bahamas, US forecasters said. Strengthening rapidly after tearing into Jamaica and crossing the warm Caribbean Sea, Sandy hit southeastern Cuba early on Thursday with

top sustained winds up to 110 miles per hour that left a trail of destruction, especially in the historic city of Santiago de Cuba.

Images on Cuban television showed downed trees, damaged buildings and debris-clogged streets in the communist-ruled island's second largest city, which suffered a direct hit when the storm came ashore in

the early morning hours. "Everything's destroyed in Santiago. People are going to have to work very hard to recover," Alexis Manduley, a resident of the 498-year-old city, told Reuters by telephone. According to one Cuban radio report from the city of 500,000 people, about 470 miles southeast of Havana, at least one person was killed in Santiago, bringing the Sandy-related death toll to at least three, including fatalities in Jamaica and Haiti.

US government forecasters warned that much of the US East Coast could get swiped by Sandy, with flooding, heavy rains and high winds beginning late Thursday in Florida. By early next week—amid final preparations for the crucial on 6 November presidential election—the storm could hit an area of New England where Hurricane Irene caused severe damage last year.

Reuters

Two children stabbed to death in NYC apartment, nanny arrested

Crime

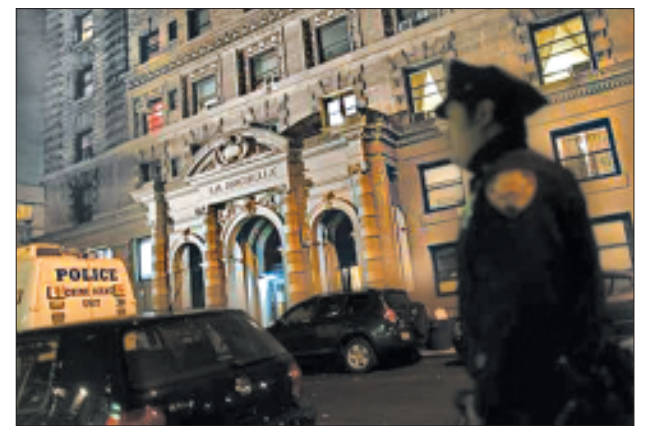
NEW YORK, 26 Oct—A mother returned home to her luxury New York City apartment on Thursday to find two of her young children stabbed to death in the bathtub, and the family's nanny was arrested as the suspect in the killings, police said. The mother discovered the bodies of the little boy and girl at about 5:30 pm in their apartment at 57 West 75th Street, near Central Park, on Manhattan's affluent Upper West Side, police said. New York Police Department spokesman Paul Browne said the children suffered "multiple stab wounds," and were pronounced dead at the scene, he said.

"It's about the worst thing you can hear or imagine," Browne said. The nanny was lying on the bathroom floor and had stabbed herself in the neck, police said. A bloody kitchen knife lay on the floor nearby, police said. The 50-year-old nanny, who was not identified, was

taken to a nearby hospital and was under arrest, police said. She was listed in critical but stable condition, police said. The mother was identified as Marina Krim, 38, police said. The slain children were Leo, 2, and Lulu, 6. Their father is Kevin Krim, a CNBC executive.

The mother had returned home with a third child, 3-year-old Nessie, after the girl's swimming lesson, Police Commissioner Ray Kelly

said at a media briefing. She saw that the apartment was dark and returned to the lobby to ask the doorman if the nanny and kids had gone out, he said. The doorman said no, and she returned to the apartment to make the grisly discovery, he said. A neighbour heard the mother's screams and called 911, police said. A neighbour quoted in *The New York Times* said she could hear "bloodcurdling screams" from a woman in the apartment.—Reuters



A police officer stands in front of a building on 57 West 75th Street in New York on 25 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

Magnitude 5 earthquake hits southern Italy, hospital evacuated

Earthquake

hospital evacuated

ROME, 26 Oct—A magnitude 5 earthquake struck north of Cosenza in southern Italy early on Friday, and police said a hospital had been evacuated after cracks were found in its structure, but there were no reports of injuries.

The quake hit at 1:05 am (7.05 pm EDT on Thursday) about 6.3 km (3.9 miles) underground, north of Cosenza in the Pollino

mountains area on the border of the southern regions of Calabria and Basilicata, according to data from the Italian Geophysics Institute (INGV). It said on its website that at least 14 other tremors followed the initial earthquake.

An Italian police official told Reuters a hospital in the small town of Mormanno had been evacuated as a precautionary measure

because some cracks were found in its structure.

No injuries were reported, the official said. Italian news agencies reported scenes of panic in the hospital and said many inhabitants of Mormanno and surrounding towns had come out in the streets. Police and fire fighters are surveying the area for further damage, officials said.

Reuters

Minivan crashes into Canadian school, injuring several children

Accident

CALGARY, (Alberta), 26 Oct — A minivan veered off a road and plowed into a classroom in western Canada on Thursday, seriously injuring several children, including one who was pinned underneath the vehicle, police said.

Witnesses described a chaotic scene at the school in the town of St. Paul, Alberta, about 200 km (125 miles)

northeast of Edmonton, after the white van sped through a fence, smashed into a window and landed in a classroom where a sixth-grade French class was taking place.

Three students were airlifted to a hospital in Edmonton with critical injuries following the morning incident, which startled children and teachers

throughout Racette School. Two others were being treated at a local hospital, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said.

A 46-year-old man, a resident of St Paul, was in custody as the police investigated the cause of the crash. The man, whose name was not released, suffered minor injuries, police said.

Reuters

19th Myanmar National Races' Traditional Performing Arts Competition concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct—“Cultural image is one of the images that represent a country or a nationality. A country with a long history of flourishing culture will be able to stand tall among international community. Cultural image includes tangible historical and archaeological assets and performing arts that can be measured emotionally,” said Patron of the Leading Committee for Organizing 19th Myanmar National Races' Traditional Performing Arts Competition Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun as he addressed the concluding and prize presentation ceremony of the competition at Myanmar International Convention Centre here this morning.

The Vice-President

and tranquility and liveliness and tenderness. Ramayana Drama, a well-known art work of Southeast Asian countries, is acknowledged as a glorious style of dancing of Myanmar in the world up to date.

The 19th Myanmar National Races' Traditional Performing Arts Competition has succeeded in conveying cultural heritages and fine traditions of Myanmar national races to younger generation. Each awardee today is the one who excels in performing national duties of arts as a citizen and deserves the national level honour. They will have to keep in mind from now on that they have the bounden national duty of arts. I would like to call on judges, who are veteran artistes, and volunteers of the event for getting ready

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham receives UNAIDS Executive Director and UN Under-Secretary-General



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham receives UNAIDS Executive Director and UN

Under-Secretary-General Mr Michel Sidibe.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham received a delegation led by Executive Director of UNAIDS and United

Nations Under-Secretary-General Mr Michel Sidibe at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 10.30 am today. Also present at the call together with Vice-President Dr Sai

Mauk Kham were Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, U Zin Yaw and Dr Win Myint, officials

of the President Office and Union Government Office.

At the call, they discussed assistance of UNAIDS for eradication of HIV/AIDS infection in Myanmar.—MNA



Vice-President U Nyan Tun presents prize of honour to traditional cultural exchange troupes from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States.

MNA

said: These performing arts develop based on nature they exist. Performing arts developed on the land with the beauties of nature reflect pleasant surroundings of Myanmar. It is our social figure or national characteristic of the country.

We gained recognition of international community for our performing arts in combination with harmony

themselves to assume more and more duties proudly as they have made the history.

We would have to extend genres of the performing arts of national races the length and the breadth of the country next year as we have started with performing arts of national races of each state.

Among basic factors to be taken into consideration for long existence and

propagation of Myanmar arts, ensuring further development and peace and stability through mutual understandings and unity is the duty of all our national brethren. Fine art is a melodious voice of the country.

Only when the country sees peace, affluence and delicacy, would melodious voice be heard across the country.

Competitions among the contestants and cultural exchanges become a peaceful and melodious voice for our country. Myanmar arts such as rural songs, national races' songs, classical songs, dance, single talks etc, are played and sang in all walks of life. And then they are put on record from radio, CD, tape, cassette, CD, VCD ages to Internet age.

The world sees the rapid changes in all aspects. Not only we should not assume every change as development but turn a blind eye to changing environments by firmly holding Myanmar tradition alone.

Striking a balance

between modern technology and traditional arts has made it possible to put traditional songs, traditional music and traditional dances on the internet. Finding a right balance calls for employment of a sheer quantity of technologies and visions.

This is the reason behind consideration of technical assistance such as the setting special effects in performance appraisal principle in this year's performing arts competition. The establishment of "national culture and fine arts universities" as a learning centre of higher

(See page 8)

Hurricane Sandy drenches the Bahamas, leaves 21 dead in Caribbean

BAHAMAS, 26 Oct—Hurricane Sandy pounded the Bahamas with battering winds and rain on Friday, sweeping over the island chain after killing 21 people across the Caribbean and posing a menacing threat to the US East Coast.

Forecasters warned the late-season storm is expected to combine with a polar air mass near the United States next week, potentially producing a highly unusual and potent storm that could wreak havoc along the US East Coast.

The US National Hurricane Center early on Friday issued tropical storm warnings for much of the Florida coast and tropical storm watches up through much of North Carolina.

Late Thursday, Sandy weakened to a Category 1 storm as it tore through sparsely populated low-lying southeastern islands in the Bahamas, knocking out power and blowing off rooftops of some homes.

Sandy's torrential rains and heavy winds were blamed for the deaths of 21 people.—Reuters

