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## President U Thein Sein congratulates US President Barack Hussein Obama on his re-election

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to the Honourable Barack Hussein Obama on his re-election as President of the United States of America.—MNA

## President U Thein Sein arrives back in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov—President U Thein Sein and party left Doung Chanh Guest House by car this morning after attending 9<sup>th</sup> Asia-Europe Meeting Summit held in Vientiane, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and arrived at the Wattay International Airport.

The President and party were seen off at the airport by Health Minister Prof Dr Eksavang Vongvichit, Natural Resource and Environmental Conservation Minister Mr Noulin Sinhbandith, Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Minister Mr Hiem Phommachanh, Agricultural and Forestry Minister Mr Vilayvanh Phomkhe, Vice Mayor of Vientiane Mr Soukanh Muhuluth, Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nilahath Sayarth, Myanmar Ambassador to Lao PDR U Kyaw Soe Win, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Win Myint, staff from the embassy and military attaché office and their families.



The opening of 9<sup>th</sup> Asia-Europe Meeting Summit in progress.—MNA

The Myanmar delegation left Vientiane by special flight and arrived back here at 11.15 am.

The President left for Laos to attend 9<sup>th</sup> ASEM Summit on 4 November.

On evening of 4 November, the President received Prime Minister of Finland Mr Jykri Katainen

and Prime Minister of Luxembourg Mr Jean Claude Juncker respectively at Doung Chanh.

On 5 November, the President held talks with Australian Prime Minister Ms Julia Gillard, at Doung Chanh. In the afternoon, the President attended the welcoming ceremony of

new members of ASEM and opening session of 9<sup>th</sup> ASEM at National Convention Centre in Vientiane, together with Heads of State/Government from ASEAN countries, Asia and Europe.

In the evening, the President attended 9<sup>th</sup> Plenary ASEM Summit,

and then received German Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Guido Westerwelle. He attended a dinner hosted by Laotian President Mr Choummaly Sayasone and wife. On 6 November, the President delivered an address at 9<sup>th</sup> ASEM Summit. In the morning, He received Italian Prime Minister Mr Mario Monti and Deputy Finance Minister Mr Andreas Schiender of Austria, at Doung Chanh Guest House.

The President held talks with Laotian President Mr Choummaly Sayasone and wife at Presidential Palace. In the evening, he attended the closing ceremony of 9<sup>th</sup> ASEM summit and then met with Prime Minister of Denmark Mrs Helle Thorning Schmidt.

The President met with staff and families of Myanmar Embassy and Military Attaché Office at Doung Chanh Guest House this morning.—MNA

## Obama wins re-election as US president

WASHINGTON, 7 Nov—Television networks projected that President Barack Obama won re-election as US president over Republican Mitt Romney in Tuesday's election despite a sluggish economy and high unemployment.

Obama rode signature first-term accomplishments including the auto industry bailout and the killing of 9/11 terrorist attack mastermind Osama bin Laden to another four years in the White House.

His victory ensures continued implementation of signature health care and financial sector reform laws and could bring higher taxes



US President Barack Obama appears with tears on his cheek during remarks at his final presidential campaign rally in Des Moines, Iowa, on 5 Nov, 2012, on the eve of the US presidential elections.—REUTERS

for the wealthy as part of deficit-cutting efforts.

Reuters



President U Thein Sein being seen off by Laotian ministers at Wattay International Airport in Vientiane.—MNA



## Health Ministry upgrading rural health centres that satisfy criteria: Union Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov— The Health Department of the Ministry of Health is upgrading rural health centres to station hospitals if the centres meet the criteria set by the department, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin said at the Amyotha Hluttaw regular session today.

He said Singu rural health centre in NyaungU Township would be upgraded to station hospital

in 2013-2014 fiscal year and rejected the proposal of Hanza rural health centre in Thazi Township.

The minister made the above comment while answering to the question raised by U Aye of Mandalay Region Constituency (7) and U Htay Maung of Mandalay Region Constituency (12) who demanded the upgrading of the rural health centres to the station hospital.

NLM

*Amyotha Hluttaw representatives signing attendance book.—MNA*

## Proposal to bring back the remains of late King Hsipaw and queen in Yadanagiri of India put on record

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov— At today's session of Amyotha Hluttaw, Deputy Minister for Industry U Thein Aung responded to the question on more establishments of industrial zones in Thingannyinaung of Myawady District, Phayar Thonesu Sub-Township of Kawkaik District in Kayin State raised by U Aung Myint Thein of Kayin State Constituency (9) that land surveys is being carried out for setting up Myawady Industrial Zone on 1301 acres near Trade

Zone in Thingannyinaung of Myawady District and site to be chosen for the establishment of Industrial Zone in Phayar Thonesu sub-Township is underway.

Next, U Mann Kan Nyunt of Kayin State Constituency (2) discussed Amyotha Hluttaw-approved Anti-Bribery Bill sent back by Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments. Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee decided to hold discussions on the bill.

Then 12 representatives held talks on the proposal

urging the Union Government to bring back the remains of late King Hsipaw and queen in Yadanagiri of India submitted by U Than Swe of Taninthayi Region Constituency (2).

Regarding the proposal, Union Minister at President Office U Soe Maung replied that it would be the best to maintain the status quo due to the historical situations and the situation that calls for a coordination to be made in accord with the attitude

of Indian government, friendship between the two countries and attitudes of lineages in India; and the proposal should be put on record.

U Tin Shan seconded the proposal urging the Union Government to open Arts and Culture College in each and every state in the country submitted by U Maung Saw Pyu of Rakhine State Constituency (4).

As the majority were in favour of it, the Hluttaw decided to discuss the proposal. —MNA



*Union Minister at President Office U Soe Maung. MNA*

## CPT Ministry promises 24-hour telephone services in Shan State (North)

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov— The Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs would negotiate with the state manager and the state government to ensure sufficient power supply, transmission and security to ensure round-the-clock availability of telephone services, Deputy

Minister U Win Than said. He said GSM/WCDMA towers would be erected in Lwepinye mountain of Kunlong district in Shan State (North).

The deputy made the comment in his answer to the query raised by U Sai San Min of Shan State Constituency (3).—NLM



*Deputy Minister U Win Than.—MNA*

## Cooperatives Ministry does away with management of cooperative buildings

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov— Cooperatives Ministry has no hands in lease and sale of cooperative buildings, Deputy Cooperatives Minister U Than Tun said at today's Amyotha Hluttaw session.

U Thet Naing Oo of Bago Region Constituency (6) asked whether the cooperative and public building would be managed.

The cooperatives societies managed the buildings and lands owned by the societies and the ministry only enforced the law. The public buildings are handled by the privatization commission which has auctioned 138 apartments. More nationalized buildings will be handed over to the privatization commission.—NLM



*Deputy Cooperatives Minister U Than Tun. MNA*

## Myanmar Taekwondo athletes win victory

YANGON, 7 NOV— The selected Myanmar Taekwondo athletes achieved victories from the 7<sup>th</sup> Korea Invitational Taekwondo Tournament (Open) and the 9<sup>th</sup> International Invitational

Taekwondo Tournament, which were held in the Republic of Korea from 25 October to 4 November.

They arrived back here at 7 pm yesterday.

They won eight golds, seven silvers and

seven bronzes in the two tournaments.

Besides, athlete Win Tun Lin got the best player award and coach U Kyaw Than Oo was awarded the best coach prize. About 1500 Taekwondo athletes from 40 countries in Europe, Asia and ASEAN competed in the tournaments.

MNA

## Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Region under maintenance

NAY PYI TAW, 7 NOV— Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu inspected the maintenance of Bagan Ancient Research Museum and renovation of Shwechantha Pagoda

in Ananda Pagoda being undertaken by archaeological survey of India under Myanmar-India Friendship Programme yesterday morning.

MNA

*The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.*

WORLD

Obama says looking forward to working with S Korean gov't welcomes Obama's re-election

US

Republicans

CHICAGO, 7 Nov—US President Barack Obama early Wednesday morning said in his victory speech he looked forward to solving the country's problems with Republicans. Speaking at his Chicago campaign headquarters after winning Tuesday's presidential elections against Republican challenger Mitt Romney, Obama said he was returning to the White House more determined and inspired, promising to work with leaders of both parties to reduce deficit, fix tax code and work on immigration reform.



US President Barack Obama gives a victory speech at an Election Night rally in Chicago, Illinois on 6 Nov, 2012. Media projections showed that Obama won a second term in the White House in Tuesday's presidential election.

XINHUA

Obama also said he wanted to meet the former Massachusetts governor to discuss ways to "move this country forward." Before Obama spoke, Romney conceded defeat at his Boston campaign headquarters. Romney said in this "time of

great challenges for America," Republicans and Democrats should work together to avoid "partisan bickering and political posturing," saying leaders should reach across the aisles to solve the nation's myriad of problems. "We look to Democrats and Republicans in government at all levels to put the peo-

ple before the politics," said Romney.

After the election results were known, House Speaker John Boehner said in a statement that the mandate of the reelection of Obama and a GOP majority in the House is "a mandate for both parties to find common ground and take steps together to help our economy grow and create jobs.—Xinhua

SEOUL, 7 Nov—South Korea's presidential office on Wednesday welcomed the re-election of US President Barack Obama, voicing hope for closer policy coordination between the allies. Obama was re-elected Tuesday to a second term in the White House, defeating Republican challenger Mitt Romney. The US leader is projected to have won a string of key swing states including Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Iowa, Nevada and New Hampshire, which gave him at least 290 electoral votes out of 538.

"The South Korean government welcomes the re-election of US President Barack Obama," the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said in a statement. "We noted that President Obama has valued coordination with South Korea on North Korea's nuclear issues, and we hope to continue our close cooperation for peace

and stability on the Korean peninsula and in North-east Asia," Cheong Wa Dae added, referring to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)'s nuclear programme.

Facing its own election in December, South Korea's center-left Democratic United Party also congratulated Obama on winning the second four-year term. "We hope that the re-election of Obama will help draw up a peaceful resolution to nuclear issues of North Korea (DPRK)," the main opposition Democratic United Party said in a statement. The liberal opposition party said its standard-bearer Moon Jae-in will be a suit-

able partner of Obama if he is elected president in the 19 Dec election.

"Obama's win gives us a crucial chance to achieve peace on the Korean peninsula," the liberal party said. "We hope that Moon will win the South Korean election so that peace will take root on the Korean peninsula."

Late presidents Kim Dae-jung and Roh Moo-hyun, both affiliated with the Democratic United Party, advocated reconciliation and cooperation with the DPRK in what was often dubbed the "sunshine policy." Moon, a liberal, is widely expected to inherit this policy when he takes power.—Xinhua

Slovenia not to seek EU aid for troubled banks Slovenia

VIENNA, 7 Nov — Slovenia will not apply for European Union (EU) funding for the financial renovation of its troubled banks, Slovenian Minister of Economic Development and Technology Radovan Zerjav said here on Tuesday.

Slovenia would like to send a signal to companies that it was open to new direct investment, Zerjav said after a meeting with his Austrian counterpart Reinhold Mitterlehner, the APA reported. The Slovenian government plans to cut corporate tax from 20 percent to 18 percent, Zerjav said.

Despite national debt at 53 percent of GDP, an unemployment rate of 12 percent, and an expected 2012 budget deficit of up to 3.7 percent of GDP, Zerjav said Slovenia's predicament was not "as bad as represented."

He said his government would reduce the budget deficit to below 3 percent in 2013 and achieve a balanced budget by 2015.

Mitterlehner said the economic relationship between the two countries was prospering despite the difficult financial and economic situation in Slovenia. Austria has so far invested 5.8 billion euros (7.4 billion US dollars) in Slovenia, accounting for half of all foreign investment in the country, Mitterlehner said.—Xinhua

Four journalists die in car crash in central Peru

LIMA, 7 Nov — Four Peruvian journalists, three of them women, were killed early on Monday after their vehicle skidded off the highway and plummeted over a cliff in central Peru, a journalist association confirmed on Tuesday.

The accident occurred at 6:30 am local time (1130 GMT) along the Central Highway in the region of Carapata.

The four were heading from the capital of Lima to Chontabamba in the Chanchamayo Valley some 280 km away to cover a story.

Their vehicle skidded out of its lane along the stretch of highway between the towns of Tarma and Chanchamayo and fell some 35 meters before landing on the riverbed of the Tarma River, sources said, adding that the cause of the accident was still under investigation.—Xinhua



A flock of migratory swans swim on the Luohe River in Luoyang City, central China's Henan Province, on 5 Nov, 2012.—XINHUA

Bombings rock Damascus, brother of parliament speaker

Syria killed

DAMASCUS, 7 Nov—Bombs exploded in three districts of the Syrian capital Damascus on Tuesday, killing and wounding dozens, and gunmen shot dead the brother of the parliament speaker in the latest rebel attack on a figure associated with the ruling elite. The opposition said at least 100 more people were killed elsewhere in the civil war, and Britain suggested offering President Bashar al-Assad immunity from prosecution as a way of persuading him to leave power.

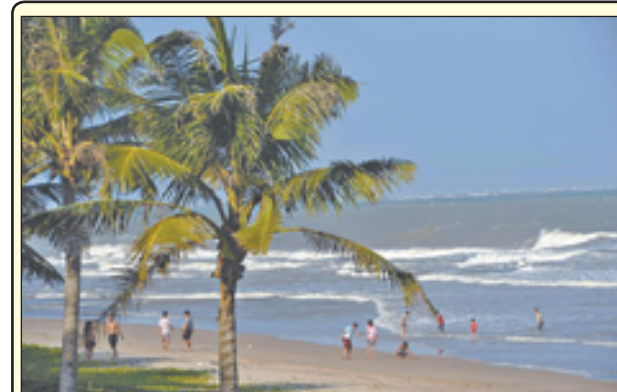
Abu Dhabi before flying on to Saudi Arabia.

Opposition activists said three explosions were heard in Hai al-Wuroud and at least 15 people killed. A car bomb also detonated near a shopping mall in the mixed neighborhood of Ibn al-Nafis, killing and injuring several people, they said.

"Anything, anything, to get that man out of the country and to have a safe transition in Syria," British Prime Minister David Cameron told Al Arabiya news network in

On Tuesday evening, activists reported another car bombing, this time near a mosque in the Sunni working-class district of al-Qadam in south Damascus, causing dozens more casualties. Buildings were damaged and bodies buried under debris that clogged the streets, the activists told Reuters.

Reuters



Tourists enjoy themselves on a seashore resort in Boao City, south China's Hainan Province, on 6 Oct, 2012. Chinese government has approved local maritime zoning plans submitted by Shanghai Municipality and the southern provinces of Guangdong and Hainan, respectively, for the 2011-2020 period. The State Council, or China's cabinet, issued a document instructing local governments in the three regions to control reclamation projects, protect fishermen's livelihoods and the development of modern fishery, curb oceanic pollution and make efforts to improve the marine environment.—XINHUA

Some NYC evacuations in face of new storm; construction halting

Disaster

NEW YORK, 7 Nov—New York City ordered the evacuation of hundreds of nursing home residents on Tuesday and the closure of parks and beaches ahead of a threatening new storm as the region struggles to recover from Superstorm Sandy's deadly flooding and high winds.

With a strong "Nor'easter" forecast to strike the devastated area late on Wednesday, Mayor Michael Bloomberg said residents in the city's lowest-lying and hardest-hit areas would also be evacuated to shelters on Wednesday.

"We just don't need to

send our first responders into the ocean to save someone who is being foolish," Bloomberg said.

Outside construction work must stop at noon on Wednesday and parks and beaches will also close then for 24 hours.

Bloomberg ordered the evacuation on Tuesday of over 600 people from four healthcare centers in the ravaged Rockaways section of Queens.

"These four facilities are in the most heavily-impacted area of the Rockaways and have been successfully operating on generator power. A Nor'easter storm surge could compromise their generators, putting

elderly residents at risk," Bloomberg said.

Former hurricane Sandy was a rare hybrid superstorm when it lashed the US Northeast, swamping seaside towns, flooding the New York subway and knocking out power to millions of homes. It killed at least 120 people in the United States and Canada.

There are also 91,000 households in New York City that lost power during Sandy and were still waiting for it to be restored.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said the power restoration efforts were disappointing at best. "I am unsatisfied with the performance of all the

utilities .. I don't think their performance has been adequate - period," Cuomo said. The additional crews brought in from around the country to help get New York back on its feet after Sandy will be held until the region recovers from the second storm in as many weeks, he said.

"I am directing the utility companies not to release any of those crews" until we get through the next storm, Cuomo said.

He warned that the new front could further complicate a gasoline shortage that has created long lines at the pumps, which Cuomo blamed on "panic buying."—Reuters

## Amazon to win EU e-book pricing tussle with Apple



A customer looks over the iPad mini after the device went on sale at Apple's retail store in Palo Alto, California on 2 Nov, 2012. — REUTERS

BRUSSELS, 7 Nov — European Union regulators are to end an antitrust probe into e-book prices by accepting an offer by Apple and four publishers to ease price restrictions on Amazon, two sources said on Tuesday. That decision would hand online retailer Amazon a victory in its attempt to sell e-books cheaper than rivals in the fast-growing market publishers hope will boost revenue and increase customer numbers.

"Faced with years of court battles and uncertainty

I can understand why some of these guys decided to fold their cards and take the whipping," said Mark Coker, founder of Smashwords, an ebook publisher and distributor that works with Apple. "It's certainly another win for Amazon," he added. "I have not seen the terms of the final settlement, but my initial reaction is that it places restrictions on what publishers can do, slowing them down just when they need to be more nimble."

A spokesman at the EU Commission said its

investigation was not yet finished. Amazon and Apple declined to comment. In September, Apple and the publishers offered to let retailers set prices or discounts for a period of two years, and also to suspend "most-favored nation" contracts for five years. Such clauses bar Simon & Schuster, News Corp. unit HarperCollins, Lagardere SCA's Hachette Livre and Verlagsgruppe Georg von Holtzbrinck, the owner of German company Macmillan, from making deals with rival retailers to

sell e-books more cheaply than Apple.

The agreements, which critics say prevent Amazon and other retailers from undercutting Apple's charges, sparked an investigation by the European Commission in December last year. Pearson Plc's Penguin group, which is also under investigation, did not take part in the offer. The EU antitrust authority, which in September asked for feedback from rivals and consumers about the proposal, has not asked for more concessions, said one of sources. "The Commission is likely to accept the offer and announce its decision next month," the source said on Tuesday.

Antoine Colombani, spokesman for competition policy at the European Commission, said: "We have launched a market test in September and our investigation is still ongoing." Amazon declined to comment, while Apple did not respond to an email seeking comment. Companies found guilty of breaching EU rules could be fined up to 10 percent of their global sales, which in Apple's case could reach \$15.6 billion, based on its 2012 fiscal year.

Reuters

## Morgan Stanley seeks to halt Facebook arbitration case

NEW YORK, 7 Nov — Morgan Stanley is trying to halt a securities arbitration case filed by a Facebook investor who blames the firm and other companies for losses she suffered in the social media giant's botched initial public offering and is seeking \$1.9 million in damages. Morgan Stanley, a lead underwriter for the IPO, says the investor is not its customer, and lawyers for the bank filed a complaint in federal court in Manhattan on Monday seeking an order to stop the arbitration as it relates to its firm.

The complaint, filed in US District Court for the Southern District of New York, alleges the investor is not a Morgan Stanley customer because she ordered the Facebook shares through Vanguard Financial Group Inc. The investor, Uma Swaminathan of East Brunswick, New Jersey, did not return a call requesting comment. Swaminathan, according to an arbitration complaint she filed with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, said Morgan Stanley did not



The headquarters of Morgan Stanley is pictured in New York on 1 June, 2012.—REUTERS

inform all investors that it was downgrading its outlook on Facebook just before the IPO and said she was unable to cancel her order for shares.

In addition to Morgan Stanley, Swaminathan also named Vanguard, Facebook, NASDAQ OMX Group Inc and the NASDAQ stock exchange in her arbitration request. Facebook and NASDAQ do not have FINRA licenses, and therefore are not required to arbitrate in its forum. Several units of Vanguard are licensed through FINRA,

the securities industry's self-regulator. A Facebook spokesman did not respond to a requests for comment. Spokesmen for Vanguard and Nasdaq declined to comment.

A successful outcome for Morgan Stanley could be precedent for preventing other investors from using FINRA's arbitration unit as a path to resolve Facebook-related legal disputes with certain entities, said Steven Caruso, a New York-based securities arbitration lawyer.

Pushback from firms

involved in the IPO could leave investors who seek arbitration with only costly, longer court cases as a way to resolve any disputes, Caruso said. Facebook's 18 May debut was marred by trading glitches and confusion.

The IPO also became mired in controversy as shareholders, in more than a dozen lawsuits, accused Facebook and its underwriters of obscuring the company's weakened growth forecasts ahead of the stock offering.

Reuters

## Amgen experimental drug lowers cholesterol in mid-stage trial

LOS ANGELES, 7 Nov — Amgen Inc's experimental drug AMG145 reduced levels of bad cholesterol by as much as 55 percent in combination with statin drugs in patients genetically predisposed to high cholesterol, according to data from a midstage trial presented on Monday.

The new drug, given by injection every four weeks, is part of a promising new class of biotech medicines known as PCSK9 inhibitors designed to target a protein that prevents the body from removing artery blocking LDL cholesterol from the bloodstream. Statins, such as Pfizer Inc's Lipitor and AstraZeneca's Crestor, work by preventing the liver from making cholesterol.

The Phase II trial found that after 12 weeks, patients treated with a low dose of AMG145 had a 43 percent reduction in LDL, while those given a higher

dose had a drop of 55 percent. Patients treated with a placebo saw a 1 percent increase in LDL cholesterol.

The trial, presented here at the annual scientific meeting of the American Heart Association, included 168 patients with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia, in which a defective gene inherited from one parent impairs the ability to properly metabolize LDL. The disorder is estimated to affect about one in 500 people and causes extremely high cholesterol.

The most common side effects seen in the trial were injection-site reactions, cold-like symptoms and headache. AMG145, along with other PCSK9 inhibitors being developed by companies like Pfizer, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc in partnership with Sanofi and Roche, is a man-made antibody.—Reuters

## More subsidies for electric vehicles in Shanghai

BEIJING, 7 Nov — Officials from Shanghai's economic planning authority said on Sunday that the city has submitted a proposal for incentive policies for green cars to the National Development and Reform Commission, the *Oriental Morning Post* reported.

If the proposal is approved, buyers will get as much as 100,000 yuan (\$15,800) in subsidies when they buy an electric car.

The city authority also plans to give out 20,000 free license plates to owners of green cars. Some owners will receive a free Shanghai license plate, which costs almost 60,000 yuan.

The Roewe E 50, the country's first mass produced electric car, was put on the market on Monday. China expects production and sales of electrical vehicles to reach 500,000 units in 2015, and to be five million by 2020.

Xinhua

## Amazon's offers monthly option on Prime, challenging Netflix

SAN FRANCISCO, 7 Nov — Amazon.com Inc is testing a new monthly option for its popular Prime video-streaming service as the world's largest Internet retailer steps up competition with Netflix Inc. Prime typically costs \$79 a year in the United States for free two-day shipping, free video streaming and access to Amazon's Kindle e-book lending library. The company is now offering the service for \$7.99 a month on its website, which works out to \$95.88 a year, but at that rate it can be purchased strictly on a month-to-month basis.

The monthly option is more comparable to Netflix's streaming video subscription,

which also costs \$7.99 a month but does not come with free shipping and an e-book library. Another streaming rival, Hulu, also charges \$7.99 a month. An Amazon spokesman said the monthly Prime option was a test and declined to comment further.—Reuters



Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos demonstrates the Kindle Paperwhite during Amazon's Kindle Fire event in Santa Monica, California on 6 Sept, 2012.

REUTERS

Tech

## BUSINESS &amp; HEALTH

## Washington, Wall Street misreading each other again as cliff nears

WASHINGTON, 7 Nov — Exit presidential elections. Enter looming budget crisis. And once again, a disconnect between how Washington and Wall Street see the world could cause pain for investors if the two get their signals crossed. At the beginning of next year, \$600 billion in tax increases and spending cuts—known as the fiscal cliff—will automatically become law unless Congress acts. Such dramatic moves could hammer consumer and business spending, push the US economy back into recession and send markets reeling.

However, there is a sense that neither the financiers and investors in New York nor the lawmakers in Congress are taking each other seriously enough. Many in Washington believe Congress could do nothing, and the market reaction would be relatively sanguine. Plenty on Wall Street say the fiscal cliff,

one way or another, will be dealt with. It raises the possibility that Congress will sail over the cliff, and markets will freak. "The markets have been way too sanguine on the fiscal cliff," said Greg Valliere, chief political strategist for Potomac Research Group, which tracks Washington for institutional investors.

The fiscal cliff's automatic triggers were built into law as a way to force lawmakers to tackle huge US budget deficits. Wall Street banks, investors, and financial industry lobbyists have coalesced around the view that after the elections Congress will reach a short-term deal to avert the worst of the cliff. In short, they believe Congress will kick the can down the road for several more months. "They'll have to do some sort of short-term extension to buy some time to develop the larger component of addressing the fiscal cliff, which is a



A sign for Wall Street is seen with a giant American flag in the background across from the New York Stock Exchange on 5 Nov, 2012. — REUTERS

large-scale fiscal plan," said Ken Bentsen, head of the Washington office for financial industry group SIFMA, who sees that happening.

As SIFMA's chief lobbyist, Bentsen is essentially Wall Street's eyes and ears in the nation's capital. He was a congressman himself—a Texas Democrat who served in the House of Representatives from 1995 to 2003. But Wall Street and Washington have misread each other in the past, and it has not been pretty for markets. One of the ugliest examples of that

was in September 2008, two weeks after Lehman Brothers collapsed, when the House rejected a \$700 billion financial bailout plan. Markets plunged; that shock was enough to galvanize lawmakers to pass a revised plan a few days later.

There is some concern that poor assumptions are being made about each side. In Washington, there are Tea Party-backed Republicans who anticipate a market shock but believe the pain is worth it if it changes what they see as a culture of spending in Washington.

Reuters

## China's Bright Food completes acquisition of majority holding of UK's cereals manufacturer

LONDON, 7 Nov — Bright Food Group, one of China's largest food groups, announced on Monday that it had completed the acquisition of 60 percent of the share capital of British Weetabix Food Company. With an Enterprise Value of 1.2 billion pounds, including company shares and debt, the transaction marks the largest overseas acquisition by a Chinese company in the food and beverage sector.

This transaction is an important move by Bright Food in its overseas expansion strategy, allowing it to enter into both the UK and global food markets through the acquisition of a premium global brand.

Bright Food is committed to driving the global growth and success of the Weetabix business, with a focus on the potential in Asia and especially in China. China's cereal market is growing at 20 percent annually as a result

of a growing appetite in the country for packaged and convenient healthy foods. The Weetabix brand will now have access to all of Bright Food's channels, including over 100,000 retail outlets, allowing it to access Chinese households more rapidly. In addition, Weetabix is conducting research on the diet and taste preferences of Chinese consumers to support the launch of new products for the Chinese market.

Commenting on the completion of the acquisition, Wang Zongnan, Chairman of Bright Food, said "This is a landmark acquisition for Bright Food, signalling its entry into both the UK and global food markets through the iconic Weetabix brand." "Bright Food will increase the level of investment in Weetabix brands and product innovation to facilitate its development in the international markets.

Reuters



China's Bright Food completes acquisition of majority holding of UK's cereals manufacturer. XINHUA

## Eating in restaurants tied to higher calorie intake

NEW YORK, 7 Nov — In study findings that may not surprise many people, kids and teens ate more calories — including more fat and more sugar — on days when they had a meal from a fast-food or sit-down restaurant. "Parents (should) realize that restaurant consumption is not a straight-off substitute for eating at home. Restaurant consumption and fast-food consumption should not be the norm," said lead researcher Lisa Powell from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

"The additional calories and the additional sugar and saturated fat and sodium that are taken in and then consistently taken in will have some longer-term consequences," she told *Reuters Health* — such as an increased risk of obesity and diabetes. For their new study, Powell and her co-author Binh Nguyen used data from nationally-representative health surveys conducted in the United States between 2003 and 2008. On two different occasions, more than 9,000 teens were asked to recall everything they'd had to eat or drink in the past 24 hours. — Reuters

## AT&T's Nokia Windows phone prices to undercut rivals

SAN FRANCISCO, 7 Nov — AT&T set a \$50 starting price for Nokia's latest Windows smartphones, on which the struggling Finnish phone maker is pinning its hopes for a turnaround. The No 2 US mobile provider said on Tuesday that it will sell the Nokia Lumia 820 for \$49.99 and the flagship Lumia 920 phone for \$99.99 compared with its \$199.99 pricing for the HTC Corp Windows Phone 8X device.

Nokia, which has lost out hugely to Apple Inc and Samsung Electronics Co in recent years, is hinging its entire future on Microsoft's mobile software. HTC mostly sells phones based on Google Inc's Android software but is hoping to diversify with

Windows Phone 8. The three devices are key for Microsoft which is banking on its Windows Phone 8 software to challenge Apple's iPhone and Android phones from vendors like Samsung.

The low Nokia price shows that volumes are more important to the company than profits as it is hoping to re-build a US customer base, Current Analysis analyst Avi Greengart said. And with such aggressive pricing, the only reason these phones could fail to sell well is if consumers decide they are not interested in the Microsoft software, Greengart said. "It's almost a referendum on Microsoft's operating system," said the analyst.

AT&T is also offering a free wireless charging plate with the purchase of the Lumia 920, which is worth about \$80 according to an estimate from Greengart, who used previous wireless chargers as a benchmark.

"This is a valuable accessory that AT&T and Nokia are throwing in the box for free," Greengart said. "I would think this will make it more difficult for HTC because they have a product with a smaller display and less unique features." The prices are for customers who sign a two-year wireless contract with AT&T. The phones, which are available beginning 9 November, can be pre-ordered starting Wednesday. — Reuters



Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer displays a Nokia Lumia 920 featuring Windows Phone 8 during an event in San Francisco, California on 29 Oct, 2012. — REUTERS

## Donated stem cells may work best for heart patients

NEW YORK, 7 Nov — Stem cells culled from the bone marrow of healthy donors work as well or even better as cells harvested from patients themselves as a treatment for damaged hearts and are more convenient to use, according to new research. The 13-month trial was the first to compare the safety and effectiveness of so-called mesenchymal, or bone marrow-derived, stem cells taken from patients themselves versus those provided by donors. Such adult stem cells that renew themselves and mature into specific cell types have been used for 40 years in bone marrow transplants.

Scientists are now exploring their use as treatments for ailments such as heart disease and inflammatory conditions, some of the biggest markets in medicine. The rationale behind using patients' own stem cells to treat disease is that they do not trigger an attack by the body's immune system. Mesenchymal stem

cells, however, are also not recognized as foreign tissue. Researchers from the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, funded by the National Institutes of Health, found that previously prepared cells from a healthy donor were comparatively safe and may offer the most convenience since it takes up to eight weeks to grow the amount of stem cells needed for the treatment.

The study involved 30 patients whose hearts were damaged by an earlier heart attack. Half received heart-muscle injections of their own cells, while the other half received donor cells. Scar tissue was reduced by 33 percent in both groups, a result researchers called "very, very significant." Improvements in heart function were seen in 28 percent of those receiving donor cells, and in 50 percent of patients receiving their own cells. After a year, five patients in the donor cell group and eight who received their own cells suffered serious adverse events. — Reuters

## Lakapon village gets electricity supply

YANGON, 7 Nov — Availability of electricity is very important for every nook and cranny of the country, thereby contributing towards remarkable progress in each and every sector including



## Ayeyawady Bank to open Pyinmana branch soon

PYINMANA, 7 Nov — Plans are underway to open a branch of Ayeyawady Bank in Pyinmana of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Construction of Pyinmana Branch of Ayeyawady Bank is undertaken near the Statue of Horse on Sibinyone street

## Photo Show to mark Myanmar-Japan Friendship

YANGON, 7 Nov — A photo show to mark Myanmar-Japan Friendship that enables pilgrims to observe famous Buddhist edifices in some Southeast Asian countries is being kept open at Chanthargyi prayer hall at the north archway of Shwedagon Pagoda from 3 to 18 November.

Photos of Buddhist edifices from Bodh Gara in India, China, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and

Cambodia are on display at the show.

Photos displayed at the show are works of Myanmar photographer U Than Zaw and Japanese photographer Mr Iwao Sekiya. The photo show to mark Myanmar-Japan friendship is aimed at strengthening the area of promotion and propagation of Sasana and cementing friendship between Myanmar and Japan.

*Kyemon*

## Tollgate under construction in Nay Pyi Taw Dekkhinathiri

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov — A new tollgate is under construction at the intersection between C-Junction of Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw expressway and Mandalay-Nay Pyi Taw expressway and Shwe Pyi Tawwin road, the entrance to Nay Pyi Taw Dekkhi-

nathiri.

Upon completion of the toll gate built by Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, motorway tolls will be charged at the tollgate and the collected money will be spent on developmental tasks.

*Kyemon*



better socioeconomic status. Although only urban areas have access to electricity in the past, border areas and villages later enjoy electricity. Thanks to availability of electricity in far-flung and

underdeveloped areas, it is sure that there will be development and better living standard in these areas. Now, local people of Lakapon village in Twantay Township of Yangon Region are happy with the electricity.

Main sponsor Agga Maha Thiri Thudhama Manijotadhara Wunna Kyawhtin Dr Khin Shwe and officials opened the ceremony to mark the availability of electricity in the village held on 4 November. Next, Dr Khin Shwe handed over necessary documents to responsible persons.

*Kyemon*

in Ward-2. Construction works started from 26 October. Ayeyawady Bank is headquartered at Ywama in Insein Township. Max Myanmar Company-run Ayeyawady Bank has 28 branches across the nation.

*Kyemon*

## Concrete drains for proper flow of water



YANGON, 7 Nov — Engineering Department (Road and Bridge) of Yangon City Development Committee on 3 November built concrete drains for proper flow of water along Strand Road with heavy traffic in Botahtaung Township to be able to avoid road damage caused by heavy rain in monsoon season. "As there is always

## On-arrival visas available at Mandalay Int'l Airport



MANDALAY, 7 Nov — On-arrival visas are available at Mandalay International Airport starting from 1 November.

On-arrival visas are also granted to visitors from 26 countries who are allowed to be granted on-arrival visas in Yangon International Airport. Arrangements have been made for non-immigrant visa, business

visa and transit visa to be included in on-arrival visas.

Visas on arrival are being issued at once at Mandalay International Airport with the collaborative efforts between Immigration and National Registration Department, Customs Department, and Myanmar Police Force and departments concerned.

50 US dollars will be charged for business visa (70 days), 40 US dollars for those who are going to participate in meetings and workshops. If a person spends more days than his/her visa is allowed, 3 US dollars will be charged for every extended day, but 5 US dollars for visa more than 90 days.

*Kyemon*

## Ancient shoulder-yoke and colonial-era rupes

YEDASHE, 7 Nov — It is learnt that there are interesting ancient items at a monastery, 18-mile west of Po Kyar Elephant Camp which is situated 10 miles away from Yedashe Township of Bago Region on Thagara-Koebin road.

The first interesting ancient item is a shoulder-yoke made of hardwood. It is assumed that it was used in carrying lacquered bowl. It is about four feet and five inches in length. The bow-shaped shoulder-yoke is decorated with floral motifs on its both edges.

The second interesting things are two Indian rupee banknotes of colonial period. Two Five Rupees banknotes bear a painting depicting King George on its right side and a signature of the governor-general at the bottom. The colour and type of the banknotes are different. One is red with a picture of a dancing peacock

in its centre and another is green. The words on the back of the two banknotes read: "Five Rupees". The number is in the bottom right of the red banknote with a picture of an elephant in the forest in its centre. There is no picture on the front and back of the green banknote.

*Kyemon*



## Insecticide-spraying group ready to perform its duty

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov — A group of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee conducted spraying of insecticide at staff quarters

of the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Dhannatheikdi Ward of Zabuthiri Township on 1 November.

Anyone from staff

quarters, wards and villages in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area may inform Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee if it is necessary to spray insecticide at their places.

*Kyemon*

LOCAL NEWS

**Private sector charged with electricity distribution in Mawlamyine**

MAWLAMYINE, 7 Nov — With the aim of ensuring 24-hour electricity in Mawlamyine of Mon State, Myanmar Lighting Co., Ltd is conducting field survey to be able to engage in generating and distributing electricity in Mon State, after applying a licence for distribution of electricity to the officials concerned. The work is set to start in December. Although the government allows private entrepreneurs to deal with electricity distribution, there will be no changes in electricity charges. Household use of electricity will be charged at 35 kyats per unit and commercial use at 75 kyats per unit. It is learnt that electricity will be generated by two natural gas-fired 50 KVA generators.

*Kyemon*

**Myanmar swimmers under intensive training**

YANGON, 7 Nov — Athletes of all sports federations are in intensive trainings for XXVII SEA Games which will be hosted by Myanmar in 2013 with the aim of achieving success in the upcoming event. Athletes of Myanmar Swimming Federation are in training for grabbing medals in the competitions.



**MWAF to open make-up course**

YANGON, 7 Nov — Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation has invited applications for make-up course to be conducted in conjunction with Wah Wah Than beauty parlour. The course will be opened in Kyauktada Township as of 20 November. The duration for only-for-lady course is two months.

The application may be addressed to Wah Wah Than beauty parlour at the corner of Anawrahta Road and Bo Aung Kyaw Street in Kyauktada Township not later than 19 November. Details may be available at Ph: 245493 and 373498.—*Myanma Alinn*

**Extended Strand road to be opened soon**

YANGON, 7 Nov — It is learnt that new extended Strand concrete road will be put into service soon. The four-lane concrete road was built in the late 2010 by Asia World Co., in cooperation with Yangon City Development Committee for container trucks, lorries and trucks carrying logs to be able to use the road. The concrete road runs parallel with Strand road from Htidan jetty in Kyimyindine Township to Botahtaung Market Road. Finishing touches are being put to the road. Upon completion, the volume of traffic on Strand Road

The application may be addressed to Wah Wah Than beauty parlour at the corner of Anawrahta Road and Bo Aung Kyaw Street in Kyauktada Township not later than 19 November. Details may be available at Ph: 245493 and 373498.—*Myanma Alinn*

**New private airline to operate domestic and int'l flights soon**

YANGON, 7 Nov — Enabling each and every person to take air travel and emerging an airline with cheaper air fares, a new private airline will be making its maiden flight in January 2013.

The name of the airline is Shwe Myanmar Airways. It will operate domestic and international flights can be reduced to a certain extent, and container trucks, lorries and trucks carrying logs will be allowed to run freely from Htidan jetty to Botahtaung Market road, thereby contributing towards swift flow of commodities between Ayeyawady Region and the remaining parts of the country.—*Kyemon*

**MWA opens creative writing course**

YANGON, 7 Nov — Myanmar Writers Association opened basic creating writing course at the hall of the association on Merchants road here yesterday noon.

A total of 97 trainees are attending the one-month course. Chairman of MWA U Tin Hlaing (Ledwinthar Saw Chit) said veteran writers would give lectures on writing poem, novel and article.—*Myanma Alinn*

Myanmar Swimming Federation is nurturing the new faces for long-term plan. Now 27 athletes have been chosen for the coming XXVII SEA Games. For young athletes to have more experiences, it is planned to take joint training in China or Singapore in the early 2013. "We try our best to secure medals", MSF General Secretary U Myo Wunna Tun said. Chinese coaches and former selected swimmers are giving intensive training to the athletes.

*Myanma Alinn*

**Myanmar officials visit Japan to brief on FDI law**

YANGON, 7 Nov — A Myanmar delegation left for Tokyo of Japan on 4 November to elaborate on the recently enacted foreign investment law to more than 200 small and medium-scale enterprises.

The delegation is



An official of Mandalay Region Information and Public Relations Department giving an account of the book corner displayed at the No-1 platform of Mandalay Railway Station on 1 November.—*MYANMA ALINN*

**Paddy output growth makes Ayeyawady dwellers happy**

YANGON, 7 Nov — Out of targeted acreage of 3.689 million in Ayeyawady Region, 3.631 million acres have been put under monsoon paddy so far. A total of 93901 acres have been harvested with the per acre yield of about 80 baskets. So far, about 7.5 million baskets of paddy have been produced.

A farmer said that per acre production cost was K 150,000 and 60 baskets of paddy are left after the stage

of winnowing was over.

Thanks to favourable weather condition, Ayeyawady Region has seen monsoon paddy output growth for 2012-13 harvest season. It is glad to see smiling faces of paddy growers as a basket of monsoon paddy (dry) is expected to fetch about K 3000-3700 and the price of a bag of monsoon rice is about K 12000-14000 in the market.—*Kyemon*

**Myaungmya celebrates monsoon paddy harvest**

MYAUNGMYA, 7 Nov — Myaungmya township celebrated monsoon paddy harvest on 4 November at Hsinthukha paddy plantation of farmer U Thein Hsai Tun in Myaungmya.

The high-yield paddy was cultivated in the township with the assistance jointly provided by Myanma Agriculture Service and Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Fifty farmers participated in the test cultivation.

According to the harvest record of the model plot, the paddy yielded 106 baskets per acre. The seeds will be provided to farmers who want to put their farmland under the Hsinthukha.

*Myanma Alinn*

**Myanmar billiard players in training**

YANGON, 7 Nov — Myanmar billiard and snooker players are undergoing trainings for XXVII SEA Games to be hosted by Myanmar in 2013.

Billiard players Kyaw Oo (Carom), Nay Thway Oo, Aung Htay, Pauk Sa, Sithu and Aung San Oo and snooker players Ko Htet, Win Ko Ko, Zaw Aung, Zaw Than

Htaik, Ye Zaw Htet (Mon), Phone Myint Kyaw and Aung Moe Thu are camped training.

*Myanma Alinn*

**Crash involving three cars on Min Nanda Road**

YANGON, 7 Nov — A crash involving three taxi cabs occurred at a place between Min Nanda Road bus-stop and Myayni bus-stop in Thakayta Township at 3 pm on 4 November.

A taxi driven by U Aye

Tun collided a head-on with a car driven by U Thein Zaw on Min Nanda Road, and crashed again into the back of a car driven by U Yan Naing Tint.

A woman sustained minor injuries in the collision.

Traffic police, auxiliary fire brigade members, the head of township development committee and members arrived at the scene and carried out traffic measures and the clean-up.

*Kyemon*

**Book corner at Dawei Airport**

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov — A public service book corner was opened at the airport longue in Dawei of Taninthayi Region on 5 November.

With the aim of broadening the horizons of the people, it is arranged to provide the passengers with

various kinds of publications by Taninthayi Region Information and Public Relations Department.

It is learnt that travellers and those in the airport longue read daily newspapers, weekly journals and books on display at the book corner.

*Kyemon*



## PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 8 November, 2012

## A matter of time

A legislator recently raised a question in the lower house how “decadent music, dance and dress” of the youth would be banned, saying these would endanger the country’s own culture. But, Mr. Legislator himself did not even use the Myanmar word for “dance” in his mixed-language enquiry. He transliterated the word.

The culture issue is subtle, sensitive and sometimes surreal. Popularity of the western culture doesn’t reflect that the country is not preserving its own culture. It seems these are connected but actually are not.

Japan and South Korea are examples that the westernization will not affect the culture of the host. The two developed countries experienced the influence of western culture decades ago as a result of improved living standards. Can any say that the cultures of Koreans and Japanese are swallowed by the western ones? In contrary, Korean cultures are even exported to all corners of the world. Most of the people around the globe know what “Kimchi” is now and we even have started to say “Kimchi!” instead of “Cheese!” before the camera. Japan also could manage to preserve its own characters. Japanese is one of the most learnt languages in the world.

It isn’t because they introduced strict regulations to love their own culture but because they have matured into the established democracies. And they know what to preserve and how to do it.

We need to establish the society where freedom, transparency and justice flourish. We won’t be fair that our young people are destroying our own cultures because they are in short skirts, enjoying western music and taking to the floor.

The abovementioned question of the lawmaker is a reminiscence of the traditional fashion that most of Myanmar parents have followed to nurture their children. The clever boys or girls are the ones who hanged on every word of their parents without taking anything into their own consideration. It has killed the creativity of the children. Let our young people apply their independent and creative thinking since their tender ages. Our country should afford the next generation the freedom as long as they respect the law. They will then become mature enough. Nobody will think of attending a meeting in Hawaii shirt.

## Mangrove forest conservation stepped up

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov—Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Aye Myint Maung assisted in mangrove forest conservation in Ayeyawady Delta during his tour of inspection from 2 to 4 November.

The Deputy Minister called on locals in Pyapon District for conserving mangrove forests and systematic extraction.

The Deputy Minister

addressed the workshop on conservation of Myanmar’s coastal and marine ecosystem with the use of sustainable ways held at the Sedona Hotel in Yangon on 5 November. The workshop was jointly organized by Myanmar Environmental Conservation Network from Myanmar, the Mangrove for the Future based in Thailand and IUCN based in Switzerland.

MNA

## PYITHU HLUTTAW

## Everybody can get access to the courts with the permission of judges



Pyithu Hluttaw regular session in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov—Pyithu Hluttaw regular session continued for 10<sup>th</sup> day this morning, attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 387 representatives.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Daw Su Su Hlaing answered two questions raised by MPs.

In her answer to the question raised by U Moe Zaw Hein of Katha constituency about salaries for teachers at youth development philanthropic schools and monastic schools, she said the government would not pay for the teachers as they are volunteers.

U Tin Maung Oo of Shwepyitha constituency asked about fund for the persons with disabilities, formation and employment of associations, employment of the disabled persons as staff. The deputy minister answered that the fund used for the disabled persons is K 461.898 million. She said the ministry does not handle the formation and registration of the associations. The bill for the disabled persons is being drafted, she said. The legislation will set the ratio of the appointment of the disabled persons, she added.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Police Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun said that work is underway to form National Road Safety Council (NRSC) and the organizational setup of the traffic police corps would be extended in his answer to the question raised by U Tun Thein (a) U Tun Tun of Mansi Constituency, on behalf of U Myo Swe of Tanai Constituency. He said fines would be used in beautifying

The Deputy Minister said in his answer to the question of Daw Nan Wah Nu about issuance grants of houses in regions and states that the grants are issued with the approval of the director-general of the General Administration Department and the Union Minister for Home Affairs. He added the land disputes are settled by the GAD (Head Office) and the appeal could be submitted to the Union Minister for Home Affairs.

Judge of the Supreme Court of the Union U Soe Nyunt answered two queries raised by Hluttaw representatives. In his answer to the query raised by U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency about inspection tours to prisons and detention centres by judges of the Supreme Court of the Union, he said the judges did not visit the prisons and detention centres. The judges are trying to pass verdicts for delayed cases, he added. The Correctional Department is responsible for some prisoners who did not enjoyed the remission.

With respect to the question of U Than Tun of Depaeyin Constituency on “if there is law, bylaws, procedures, orders and directives that prohibit media’s access to the courts, “Judge of the Supreme Court of the Union U Soe Nyunt said that as the judges who are in charge of fairness of judicial system and security and disciplinary action in courts, do not allow media to enter into the courts, the assumption that there would be corruption, lack of transparency and wrong decisions in the courts, ignoring the dignity and human rights of defendants,

plaintiffs and witnesses, amount to the defamation of the courts. So, it is not appropriate.

Every body can get access to the courts with the permission of judges. There is no reason to misunderstand not allowing of photos and video recordings that can disrupt the trial. In fact, there have not been any problems between media and the courts till now.

U Saw Thein Aung of Hlaingbwe Constituency submitted the proposal on designation of departmental procedures as a special matter if tribes and national races in remote areas are disqualified for pursuing education in vocational training schools. With respect to the proposal, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin, Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo and Deputy Minister for Education U

Aye Kyu discussed that it should be put on record as it has being undertaken by ministries. U Kyi Tha of Gwa Constituency submitted the proposal urging the Union Government not to hand over current and future hydro power projects being implemented with the State’s investment for the con-sideration of practicing JV/BOT and BOT system. With respect to it, Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe and Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Daw Khin San Yi discussed that they don’t want to give any comment on it as being a perfect one. Hluttaw agreed to put it on record.

These two proposals were put on record. The meeting came to an end at 1.10 pm and will continue at 1 pm tomorrow.—MNA



Shwe Min Tha



ARTICLE

**THE HERBS ARE MORE POTENT ON TAZAUNG MONE FULLMOON DAY**

The next month in Myanmar calendar after Thadingyut is Tazaungmone. It is said to be the clearest of all months; the skies are clear of menacing dark rain clouds and millions of stars twinkle in the heaven above.

Myanmar believes that when Prince Siddhatha renounced his worldly attachments to go in to the forest to later emerge as Lord Buddha he stopped at the banks of the Anorma River and cut off his hairs. These hairs were received

last Myanmar Konbaung Dynasty as celebrated at Mandalay. Apart from the description of the various celebrations in Mandalay during their reigns we find one funny episode described here. The competitors were mainly the spouses of the various court officials. Presumably, they had to collect the cotton at the signal, spun them into yarn and start weaving. But the wife of Myin Su Wun (cavalry officer) was devious. She brought along spun yarn from her house and was discovered. As

and Buddha Images to be followed by offering of lunch to the monks and the invited guests.

The Kahtein is also another important Buddhist ceremony during this time. Lord Buddha had given permission to offer new robes to the monks to replace the old and the one that were used during the monsoon period and devotees take advantage of this to organize Kahtein Holy Robes Offering Ceremonies at the monasteries in their localities. Some Kahtein ceremonies are private



*Sulamuni Pagoda at Taunggyi.*

before being carried to the monasteries that had been allotted for the particular bamboo tree of plentiful with much merriment.

A little known ceremony that has disappeared is

Pagoda there. On his way he met the next embryo Buddha Areinmadeya who requested him to preach about Lord Gautama Buddha's unselfish donations as retold in the Waithantaya Jataka stories. Shin Mar Le preached the humans about the selfish donations of Prince Waithataya, which consisted of 1000 verses, every Tazaungmone Fullmoon Day. The

now.

The Taunggyi Kahtein Holy Robes Offering Ceremony and the Taunggyi Hot Air Balloon festivals are two of the most notable festivals for foreign tourists to visit. Ma Thoe Thingan Holy Robes Weaving Competitions are held at Shwedagon Pagoda and many well known pagodas in Myanmar while the Sa Ye



*Ma Thoe Thingan Weaving Competition in progress at Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon.*

by Sakra (or King of the Celestials) and enshrined in the pagoda he built in the Abode of Celestial - the Sulamuni Pagoda. So during the Fullmoon night of Tazaungmone people all over Myanmar celebrate the Tazaungdine Lights festival. They would light up their houses and also organize street celebrations. Hot air balloons are sent up to pay homage to the Sulamuni Pagoda in the Abode of the Celestials.

The Myanmar Encyclopedia also described this month as the month when candles or fire brands are lighted. It also goes on to describe the Tazaungmone Festival of Lights and the Ma Thoe Thingan Holy Robes Weaving during the time of King Bagyidaw and King Thibaw of the

punishment she was then commanded to dance around the palace accompanied by a Myanmar traditional doebat music troupe.

One of the most important religious ceremonies of Tazaungmone is the weaving of Ma Thoe Thingan Holy Robes. This is to weave the Holy Robes in one night before the sun comes out (ma thoe in the Myanmar language means "still fresh"). Hence the Robes must be finished before the break of the new day. Many pagodas in Myanmar organize these Ma Thoe Thingan Holy Robes Weaving Competitions where teams of young maidens would sit and weave the Robes on their traditional looms with much friendly spirit. At the break of dawn, these Holy Robes are offered to the pagodas

affairs, sponsored by a particular individual or family but most are collective efforts.

It is not surprising to see collection stalls set up at many places in towns and villages or even highways, soliciting donations for these ceremonies. But as these offerings of Kahtein Robes are permitted for only one month, the Fullmoon Day of Tazaungmone is chosen by the majority to hold these ceremonies.

On the day after the Fullmoon of Tazaungmone there is another Buddhist ceremony. It is called the "Sa Ye Dan Mae Ceremony" People donate necessary victuals and other items for the monasteries on this day. The offerings are hung on decorated bamboo frames or Trees of Plentiful and are paraded around the residential quarters

*Hpone Thant*

Myanmar monarchs, during their times, had a large barge made and put up as offerings one thousand fruits, one thousand flowers, one thousand rice packets and one thousand candles to commemorate this event.

One particular activity that is not practised today is the "Kye Ma Noe Pwe". Literally it translates as "Before the Crows Are Up"! This is because youths will try and take away anything not tied down to another place just for fun or as a practical joke while everybody is still fast asleep. Just imagine a sign saying "beauty parlour" in front of the local grog shop! But this prank is dying out

Dan Mae Ceremonies are also held at many towns and cities across Myanmar.

Many in the rural areas rely on traditional medicine for their health and it is the belief that native herbs are more potent if gathered during the Fullmoon Day of Tazaungmone, especially the local flower buds and leaves from a tree known as mezali (Cassia spp).

They are collected during this month, made into salad and soup and eaten accompanied with steaming rice on the Fullmoon day of Tazaungmone. And so the Myanmar saying.

"(The Night When The Herbs Are Most Potent)!"



*Hot air balloon lift off at Taunggyi Hot Air Balloon Competition and Festival.*

## PYITHU HLUTTAW

## Pyithu Hluttaw committees, commission meet



NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov— Pyithu Hluttaw committees and commission met at Zabuthiri Hall in Hluttaw Complex here this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, chairpersons and secretaries of committees and commission, commission members and personnel of Hluttaw Office.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker delivered an inaugural speech and chairpersons and secretaries of Pyithu

Hluttaw committees explained ongoing works of the committees concerned.

Next, members of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission explained amended, abolished and new laws, followed by discussions of committees and commission members on renewed budget for 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Next, participants discussed miscellaneous matters and the meeting came to an end with concluding remark of the Speaker.

MNA

18<sup>th</sup> plenary session of sixth 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee on 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Dec

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov— The 18<sup>th</sup> plenary session of the sixth 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee will be held on 4 and 5 December (6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Waning of Tazaungmon, 1374 ME) at Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township, Yangon.

The invitation letters have already been sent to the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Sayadaws. Even if the letters are not received in time, the Sayadaws are invited to come there on the same day, said the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

MNA

*Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann gives a speech to committee and commission members.—MNA*

## Union Foreign Affairs Minister meets Hungarian Foreign Affairs Minister, Special Representative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

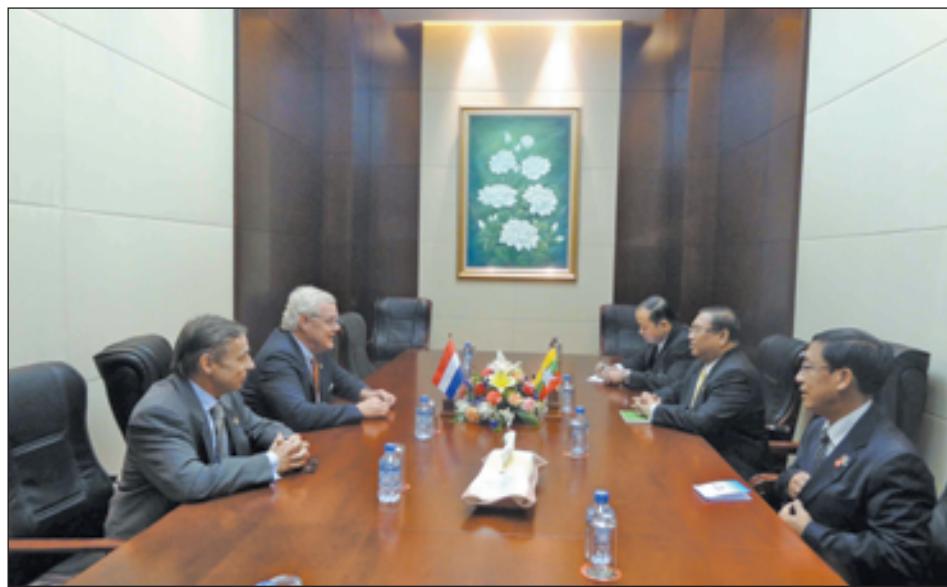
NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov— Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin who accompanied the President during the latter's visit to Lao People's Democratic Republic met Hungarian Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Janos Martonyi at National Convention Centre in Vientiane on 5 November.

They held discussions on democratic transition in Myanmar, mutual cooperation between the two countries, establishment of connection between Myanmar and International Centre for Democratic Transition in Hungary, establishment of parliamentary relations, suggestions and support for Myanmar which is to chair ASEAN in 2014, Hungary's experience of EU chairmanship in 2011, fully lifting of EU-imposed sanctions against Myanmar and granting GSP to Myanmar as soon as possible.

Next, Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin received Special Representative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands Mr. Bob Hiensch at National Convention Centre the following day. They held discussions on assistance for Myanmar's reform process and economic development, food security and agricultural development and water

resources management, support for the Netherlands in its bid to alternate membership of UNSC for 2017-2018 and opening of the representative's office of the Netherlands in Yangon as soon as possible.

MNA

9<sup>th</sup> Steering Meeting & Symposium of "water management for Paddy field Irrigation and Impact of climate change" kicks off

YANGON, 7 Nov— Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing called for seeking good ways for benefiting the human being country-wise and for building sustainable green growth economy and green environment at the 9<sup>th</sup> Steering Meeting & Symposium of "water management for Paddy field Irrigation and Impact of climate change" in Yangon yesterday.

The meeting was participated by altogether 55 experts from Japan, Bangladesh, China, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Nepal, Thailand, Malaysia, Korea, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Egypt and Myanmar.

The meeting runs until 8 November and 12 papers will be read out during the 3-day meeting.

MNA

## Union A &amp; I Minister calls for success of researches

YANGON, 7 Nov— Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing called on his staff to convince the good agricultural patterns.

The Union minister inspected reclamation of land at Cooperatives University (Thanlyin) in Thanlyin Township, here this morning. The Union minister, Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan attended a ceremony to hand over paddy strains at the farm of the

university.

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing called for distribution of quality strains and educating the farmers. Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan called for increased establishment of cooperative syndicates for further success of agriculture industry.

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing also inspected 30-acre physic nut research farm near Wakatoke Dam in Bago.

MNA



REGIONAL

## Falling tax take stretches New Zealand gov't operating deficit

New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 7 Nov—A subdued economy saw New Zealand tax revenues fall below forecast in the quarter ending September, leading to a higher-than-expected government operating deficit, the Treasury announced on Wednesday.

The operating balance before gains and losses (OBEGAL) was 2.1 billion NZ dollars (1.74 billion US dollars) in deficit during the quarter 449 million dollars higher than forecast.

Core government tax revenue of 13.5 billion NZ dollars was 295 million NZ dollars, or 2.1 percent, lower than expected, said a statement from the Treasury. Most major types of tax revenue were below forecast, including the Goods and Services Tax a consumption tax, with the

exception being other individuals' tax revenue, which was higher than expected.

Core expenditure of 17.3 billion NZ dollars was 201 million NZ dollars, or 1.1 percent, lower than forecast, with the most significant under-spending was in welfare, education and finance costs.

Gross debt at 79.3 billion NZ dollars, or 38.8 percent of GDP, was lower than forecast, while net debt was close to forecast at 54.9 billion NZ dollars, or 26.9 percent of GDP.

Finance Minister Bill English said the accounts confirmed that the government was keeping spending under control, but that revenue could be affected by the uncertain global economic situation and its impact on New Zealand.

"This effect will continue," English said in a statement. "As we work to reduce our deficits and meet our target of returning to surplus by 2014-2015, we will need to remain prudent with new spending and ensure existing spending delivers better public services and good value for taxpayers," he said.

"That's important in a world where economic and financial market conditions remain difficult and unpredictable. We need to remain on top of the factors we can control, so we can minimize our debt and have a strong balance sheet."

The government was making progress in reining in debt, but it would need to restrain spending "for some years to come," English said.—Xinhua

## 40th anniversary of World Heritage Convention opens in Japan's Kyoto

OSAKA, 7 Nov—A conference to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention opened in Japan's ancient capital of Kyoto on Tuesday, local Press reported.

More than 600 people, including cultural and natural heritage experts, research analysts from non-government organizations and officials, from around the world attended the event, local Press reported.

The international meeting, held at Kyoto International Conference Centre, was organized by the Japanese government in cooperation with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Heritage Centre with the aim to discuss the significance of World

Heritage to humanity and the future of the Convention reflecting on the founding spirit of the Convention, as well as its achievements and evolution over the past four decades, according to the daily *Asahi Shimbun*.

Presiding over the opening of the Kyoto event on Tuesday morning, UNESCO Director-General

generations. During the three-day conference, a series of sessions and panel discussions on sustainable conservation of World Heritage or tourism management in the heritage area are also scheduled to invite speakers from more than 20 countries. Beside the main conference, children from 33 countries including



UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova delivers an opening address at a forum marking the 40th anniversary of the 1972 adoption of UNESCO's World Heritage Convention in Kyoto on 6 Nov, 2012.—KYODO NEWS

Irina Bokova expressed that the cultural organization would put much emphasis on how to preserve heritage sites consistent with local development in each country or region so that it could continue to act for future

China are going to visit a local elementary school to have a cultural exchange meeting with their Japanese counterparts to learn the importance of preserving the environment and World Heritage sites.—Xinhua

## Cambodia to send 3rd batch of peacekeeping forces to Lebanon

Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 7 Nov—Cambodia will send the third batch of 218 military personnel to Lebanon to replace the second batch who will end a one-year mission later this month, a senior military official said on Tuesday.

Lt Gen Sem Sovanny, director-general of the Cambodian National Centre for Peacekeeping Force, said that 20 leading forces will leave Cambodia on Tuesday night for Lebanon in order to prepare everything in

advance. Cambodia first sent troops to Lebanon in November 2010 under the framework of the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces.

He said that in Lebanon, their work includes demining, constructing roads, bridges and barracks, and humanitarian activities such as producing pure drinking water and providing medical treatment to civilians.

Xinhua



Students receive simulative training for Airbus A320 at the Cabin Attendant College of Civil Aviation University of China in north China's Tianjin, on 2 Nov, 2012.—XINHUA



Visitors take photos of chrysanthemum and the spring in the Baotu Spring Park in Jinan, capital of east China's Shandong Province, Nov. 6, 2012.—XINHUA

## Man dies in crocodile attack at S Philippine resort

Philippines

DAVAO CITY, 7 Nov—Police on Monday said a jobless man has died after being attacked by crocodiles in a southern Philippine resort.

The decomposing remains of 57-year old Sorbello Sonajo was recovered around 7 pm on Friday from a man-made lagoon inside the JK Mercado and Sons Agricultural Enterprises, an inland resort in Sto. Tomas town, in Mindanao's Davao del Norte Province, according to Inspector Zosimo Jose, deputy town

police chief.

Jose said Sonajo, a resident of Luna village in nearby Kapalung town, apparently fell to the farm's crocodile breeding pen for a still unknown reason, and was subsequently attacked by the reptiles.

"Parts of (the victim's) head was ripped away and the arms and right leg were missing, possibly eaten by the crocodiles," the police official said, adding an investigation was now being conducted to ascertain how and why the victim was able to gain entry into the crocodile pen.—Xinhua

## Vietnam, Cuba communist parties hold theoretical seminar to boost ties

Vietnam

HANOI, 7 Nov—The Vietnamese Communist Party and Cuban Communist Party held the first ever joint theoretical seminar in Vietnam's capital Hanoi on Monday, to further boost multifaceted cooperation ties between the two parties and the two countries.

Addressing the seminar, Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, vice chairwoman of the National Assembly of Vietnam said

that the seminar serves as an opportunity for theorists and practical activists to share experiences and discuss the method of communist party leadership in innovation progress.

Innovation is the career of the entire Vietnamese nation, thereby, promoting the role and power of the people and building a strong, healthy and genuine party are among vital issues in innovation progress

in Vietnam, Ngan said. Jose Ramon Balaguer, head of the Commission for External Affairs of the Communist Party of Cuba, said that through the seminar, the two parties will deepen awareness about the socio-economic development principles as well as the leadership of the Communist Party.

Balaguer said in his speech that the key objectives of the Communist Party

of Cuba in the upcoming years include strengthening the national unity, fighting against individualism, discrimination and corruption, and focusing on political duties.

In the context of the unstable international and regional situation, the two communist parties of Cuba and Vietnam's consistency in building a fair and independent society is of great significance, Balaguer said.—Xinhua

## Indonesia seeks to foster cooperation with overseas defence industries

JAKARTA, 7 Nov—Indonesian Vice President Boediono said on Wednesday that the domestic defence industry should cooperate with overseas defence industries.

The vice president made the statement as the

Southeast Asia's largest economy is striving to bolster a minimum essential force to face multiple threats of terrorism, transnational crimes and catastrophes. "Another way to boost defence industry is to cooperate with defence in-

dustry overseas which have been established," Boediono said at the Indo defence 2012 Expo and Forum here.

To reach the goal, he said that Indonesia's defence industry could use opportunities provided in various defence treaties al-

ready signed by the government and parliament with other countries. "I am confident that there are many chances that can be used to build cooperation to build defence industries of each country," said Boediono.

Xinhua

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## Iraqi court issues 3rd verdict of death penalty to fugitive Vice President

### Iraq

BAGHDAD, 7 Nov—An Iraqi court on Sunday issued for the third time death penalty verdict in absentia to fugitive Sunni Vice President Tariq al-Hashimi and his aide over a criminal charge, a judicial source said.

"The Central Criminal Court of Iraq (CCCI) issued verdict of penalties by hanging against Tariq al-Hashimi and his son-in-law Ahmed Qahtan after finding them guilty in the case of bombing a KIA minibus among Shiite pilgrims on the major Shiite ritual of Ashura

last year," The spokesman of the Iraqi Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) Abdul-Sattar al-Biraqdar told reporters.

Sunday's verdict is the third for Tariq al-Hashimi since 9 September when the court sentenced Hashimi and Qahtan, who was also the head of Hashimi's office, to death penalty over terror charges. Three days ago, the court issued the second death penalty verdict against the two over the charge of inciting Hashimi's bodyguards to attach a sticky bomb to the car of an interior ministry officer.

Hashimi and his son-

in-law Qahtan are believed to be living in Turkey. They have been tried in absentia over alleged role in ordering to kill security members, government officials and Shiite pilgrims. On 19 Dec, 2011, an arrest warrant was issued against Hashimi on charges of running death squad. For its part, the Interpol issued an international memorandum in May called "red notice" against Hashimi over alleged terrorist acts. "At the request of Iraqi authorities, Interpol has published a "red notice" for Iraq's Vice-President, Tariq al-Hashimi,

on suspicion of guiding and financing terrorist attacks in the country," the international police agency said in a statement, stressing that the red notice is not an international arrest warrant.

Soon after the US troops fully withdrew from Iraq late last year, Iraq plunged into serious political row as Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki sought to arrest his political rival Hashimi, a leading member of the Sunni-backed political bloc of Iraqia, over terror charges.

Xinhua

## Over 100 rockets hit southern Israel in

### Israel

### October

JERUSALEM, 7 Nov—The Israeli Security Services (Shin Bet) released on Sunday their monthly summary of militant attacks against Israelis, revealing that 116 rockets and 55 mortar shells were fired into southern Israel from Gaza in October.

This figure marks a high escalation in violence from 17 rockets that were fired towards southern Israel and eight mortar shells in

September. According to the report, which was obtained by Xinhua, October saw an increase in the number of militant attacks from the Gaza Strip — from 23 in September to 96 in October.

Meanwhile, the number of attacks against Israelis in the West Bank is 39 — the same with last month.

On the other hand, the amount of attacks in Jerusalem has gone up from

28 in September to 31 in October.

The attacks from the Gaza Strip are in the form of rocket barrages, while in Judea and Samaria (Biblical name for the West Bank), the most popular weapon is firebomb. Other forms of attacks include stabbing and explosives. As for casualties, five Israelis were injured in different militant acts in October.—Xinhua



Photo taken on 4 Nov, 2012 shows an autumn view in Bomi County of Nyingchi Prefecture, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region. —XINHUA

ENTERTAINMENT

Direction happened by chance: Renee Zellweger



The Bridget Jones's Diary star Renee Zellweger

LOS ANGELES, 7 Nov — The Bridget Jones's Diary star Renee Zellweger says she accepted directing duties for new movie 4 1/2 Minutes because no one else in Hollywood was interested. The 43-year-old actress said her directorial debut was never planned, and she had initially envisaged producing and starring in the script by writer Anthony Tambakis, *The Hollywood Reporter* said.

But after the project failed to draw investors and directors to the movie, Zellweger decided to step up to the role, and she is delighted with the project's progress. "Anthony sent the script to me last year, asking thoughts and whether I'd partner with him to produce it. I'm such a fan of his writing. He has an ability to capture worlds with remarkable compassion, humour and

intimacy and the truth of his characters' humanity is felt in every line. "I couldn't get the script out of my head, but we didn't have a director and weren't making any headway. During a work session for (new TV drama) 'Cinnamon Girl' in early 2012, I brought up 4 1/2 Minutes again, Anthony suggested I direct, and it all started rolling from there." *PTI*



Zac Efron

Zac Efron to star opposite Harrison Ford in next

LOS ANGELES, 7 Nov — 17 Again star Zac Efron is in talks to star in a new movie titled You Belong To Me opposite veteran actor Harrison Ford.

the patient's brother James. The psychiatrist and James end up developing a bond, but things turn ugly as James starts seducing the psychiatrist's wife and daughter. David Murray provides the script and serving as the producers are Richard Lewis, Alan Greinsman and Mark Damon.

The movie will be directed by Rob Reiner. Ford is expected to star as a psychiatrist who faces difficulties after one of his female patients commits suicide, reported *Aceshowbiz*. Efron, meanwhile, is poised to tackle the part of

The project is targeted to kick off the production in March 2013. *PTI*

Priyanka Chopra to miss Diwali for work

MUMBAI, 7 Nov — Actress Priyanka Chopra will miss the fun and frolic of the festival of lights as she will be occupied with work in the US.

"Every year we have fixed responsibilities at home for Diwali. My responsibility has always been lighting diyas and making the rangoli, but unfortunately this year I will not be in India," said



Actress Priyanka Chopra

Priyanka. The actress had missed celebrating Diwali last year too, as she was busy preparing for her debut international single In My City. — *PTI*

Kristen Stewart kept Twilight rings

LOS ANGELES, 7 Nov — Actress Kristen Stewart has kept the two rings she got while filming the Twilight series as they are important to her.

The 22-year-old held on to the ring that her character's mother gives her in the beginning of the series and the engagement ring Pattinson's character proposes with, reported *Hollywood Life*.

"I kept the rings, The rings are really important to me," she said. The last film in the series will hit the theatres on 16 November. *PTI*

Arjun Kapoor has a crush on Kareena Kapoor

NEW DELHI, 7 Nov — It's confession time for Arjun Kapoor. The actor reveals he has a huge crush on actress Kareena Kapoor and would do anything to grab a chance to work with her.

The actor, who made a successful debut with Ishaqzaade, made the candid confession during UTV Stars' Live My Life 2 show, which lets a lucky fan be in the shoes of his or her favourite Bollywood celebrity for a day.

Asked by his fan Amulya, as to who would he like to work with from



Arjun said in an interview: "Kareena Kapoor! I have a huge crush on her and will literally give my right arm to work with her! I really, really want to work with her!" *PTI*

3D version of "2012" to hit Chinese screens in November



3D version of the US sci-fi disaster film "2012" is set to arrive in China.

BEIJING, 7 Nov — Competition in China's film market will become more fierce in November, as the 3D version of the US

sci-fi disaster film "2012" is set to arrive in China. The 3D version of the 2009 film is scheduled to debut on 20 November, according to a

report in the Friday edition of the *Beijing News*.

The film will compete with two other blockbusters: Ang Lee's 3D film "Life of Pi" and the homegrown epic "Back to 1942" by renowned director Feng Xiaogang. The former is set to debut on 22 November, while the latter is scheduled to hit screens the following day.

Lee's film, which tells the story of a boy's life at sea on a boat with a tiger, is likely the most anticipated film for next month, according to an earlier report in the *Beijing News*. However, "2012" could repeat its performance in 2009, when the film raked in about 74.5 million US dollars to top the box office at that time, the paper said.—*Xinhua*



Actress Kristen Stewart

Chinese composer wins top int'l musical award

MOSCOW, 7 Nov — Chinese composer and conductor Tan Dun received here on Saturday top musical award named after Russian musician Dmitri Shostakovich. Tan, as one of the most iconic contemporary Chinese musicians, said he was "honoured and so touched" to receive Shostakovich Award in Russia, "the hometown of music." During the Press conference

before the award ceremony, Tan said music was just like a bridge connecting Chinese and Russian people together.

Recalling his early music life, Tan said he has got familiar with works of Shostakovich since a young age and held the Russian musician in high regard. "There is no territory in the world of music. On this common platform, we could connect past with future, share ideas and

thoughts, dig into inner self and pursue our dreams," Tan said.

The laureate then gave a performance to Russian audience in collaboration with the Symphony Orchestra of New Russia, during which Russian musicians using orchestral instruments to simulate Chinese folkloric instruments and natural sounds under the dramatic conducting of Tan. *Xinhua*



Chinese famous composer, conductor Tan Dun gestures during a Press conference on "Shostakovich's music awards" in Moscow, Russia, on 3 Nov, 2012. *XINHUA*

the industry, Arjun said: "Kareena Kapoor! I have a huge crush on her and will literally give my right arm to work with her! I really, really want to work with her!"

The episode featuring Arjun will be aired on Sunday. In the meantime, Arjun has projects Gunday and Aurangzeb in his kitty. *PTI*

## Draw in Kiev takes Porto through to knockout stages



Porto's Jackson Martinez (C, front) falls down on the pitch while Dynamo Kiev's goalkeeper Maxym Koval (C, back) looks at the ball during their Champions League Group A soccer match at the Olympic stadium in Kiev. REUTERS

KIEV, 7 Nov — Twice former winners Porto qualified for the knockout stages of the Champions League after drawing 0-0 with Dynamo Kiev at the Olympic Stadium on Tuesday.

Group A leaders Porto have 10 points from four games, one in front of Paris St Germain and six ahead of Kiev. Dinamo Zagreb are bottom without a point.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic laid on all four goals as PSG beat Zagreb 4-0 in Paris on Tuesday. Having survived some early pressure, Porto

started to take control of the midfield.

Jackson Martinez went close for the 1987 and 2004 champions when he forced keeper Maxym Koval into a stunning save from a header that seemed destined for the bottom corner of the net.

Goal chances were few and far between in the first half but James Rodriguez set up Porto team mate Silvestre Varela early in the second half only for the midfielder to hit the outside of the post.

Kiev carved out two good opportunities midway through the second period.

Andriy Yarmolenko broke down the right and shot weakly straight at Helton and the same player was denied again by the keeper from a header moments later.

The Ukrainians built a promising attack in the closing stages but the move had to be halted when a fan suddenly invaded the pitch and had to be taken off the field by security guards. Kiev coach Oleg Blokhin, who turned 60 on Monday, is still recovering after undergoing surgery a month ago and watched the game from the stands.—Reuters

## Mancini unhappy with referee as Man City held by Ajax

MANCHESTER, 7 Nov—Furious Manchester City manager Roberto Mancini remonstrated with the referee after his side were held to a 2-2 draw at home by Ajax Amsterdam in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Peter Rasmussen disallowed a late effort from Sergio Aguero which incensed Mancini and City's volatile Italian forward Mario Balotelli also had to be restrained by team mates at the end of the match after his late penalty appeal was turned down.

"I said to the referee 'It was a goal, congratulations, it was a goal,'" Italian Mancini said after the enthralling Group C clash at the Etihad Stadium. "I didn't see Mario's penalty (appeal) but the players said it was a penalty."

"I didn't see the late situation with Mario but the referee and his staff were really poor tonight. I think we scored three goals tonight, but we conceded two stupid goals."

The draw kept alive City's faint hopes of reaching the next stage but they

need to win their final two games, at home to Real Madrid and at Borussia Dortmund, while hoping other results go their way - a chain of events Mancini believes is impossible.

"There is no chance," he said. "We can only get eight points. If we finish with eight points and go through, then we can win the Champions League because this will be our destiny."



Manchester City's Yaya Toure (R) challenges Ajax Amsterdam's Christian Poulson during their Champions League Group D soccer match at The Etihad Stadium in Manchester, northern England, on 6 November, 2012.—REUTERS

"If we win our next two games and go to the second stage then it is our destiny to win the Champions League via the Europa League with a victory." Reuters

## Berdych and Stepanek lead Czechs in Davis Cup final

PRAGUE, 7 Nov—World number six Tomas Berdych and Radek Stepanek will spearhead the Czech team when they take on Davis Cup holders Spain in this month's final in Prague.

Spain will be without Rafa Nadal, who led his country to a 5-0 rout over the Czech Republic in the 2009 final when the two sides last met but has long struggled with a knee injury.

The Czech Republic are looking for their first Davis Cup title since Czechoslovakia lifted the trophy in 1980. They are also hoping to follow up the Czech women's Fed Cup final victory last weekend to make the country the first since 1990 to sweep both team tennis titles.

Lukas Rosol and Ivo Minar will back up Berdych, 27, and Stepanek, 33. The team's two best players have teamed up for the doubles match in all of the Czech ties this year.

Team captain Jaroslav Navratil stuck with the same squad that defeated Argentina in Buenos Aires in the semi-final.

"There is not a reason to change the team, it was fantastic in Argentina," he was quoted as saying by CTK news agency. "We are again close (to the title) but also still far away." The 16-18 November final will be played on an indoor hardcourt, which Spain's coach said on Monday favored the Czechs.

Reuters



Tomas Berdych of Czech Republic serves to Andy Murray of Britain during their men's singles tennis match at the ATP World Tour Finals in the O2 Arena in London on 5 November, 2012.—REUTERS

## McLaren unsure how good Perez really is

LONDON, 7 Nov—McLaren have recognised that they do not know just how good Mexican signing Sergio Perez really is. The 22-year-old Formula One driver has failed to score a point in the four races since he was announced in September as successor to departing 2008 champion Lewis Hamilton, who will be racing for Mercedes next season. Before the announcement, Perez had chalked up three podium finishes with Sauber.

"I think he's got a lot of talent but if I'm honest, I don't know," McLaren team principal Martin Whitmarsh

told reporters when asked about his new signing's potential at the weekend's Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

"We wouldn't have signed him unless we thought that he could go to another level, but we don't know," added the Briton. Perez, whose Japanese team mate Kamui Kobayashi has scored 23 points in his last four races, is the same age as Hamilton was when he joined McLaren in 2007 for what was to turn out to be a sensational debut season.

The Mexican has been at Sauber for two years and was seen initially as a 'pay driver', someone who



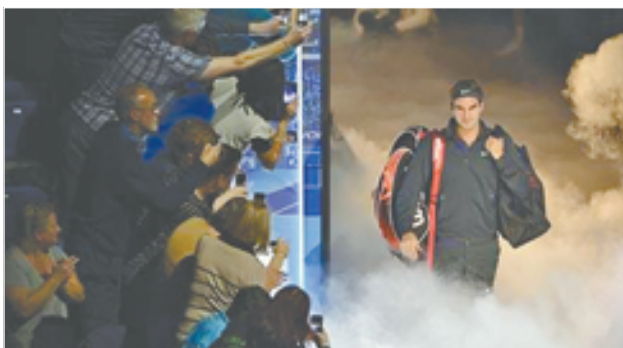
Sauber Formula One driver Sergio Perez of Mexico drives during the first practice session of the Abu Dhabi F1 Grand Prix at the Yas Marina circuit on Yas Island on 2 November, 2012.—REUTERS

owes his seat as much to the financial backing he brings as his talent.

That notion changed this season, with Perez earning considerable praise for the way in which he has managed the tyres and fought for podium

placings. However, moving to McLaren, the second most successful team in Formula One by race wins and one whose drivers are expected to be fighting for the title, brings far more pressure than racing for mid-table Sauber.—Reuters

## Federer trounces Tipsarevic at Tour Finals



Switzerland's Roger Federer walks through smoke as he arrives for his men's singles tennis match against Serbia's Janko Tipsarevic at the ATP World Tour Finals in the O2 Arena in London on 6 November, 2012.—Reuters

LONDON, 7 Nov—Roger Federer reached yet another milestone when victory over Janko Tipsarevic at the ATP World Tour Finals on Tuesday put him top of the list for match wins at the traditional season-ender.

The 17-times grand slam champion cruised to a 6-3 6-1 victory over the Serbian world number nine, taking his haul of victims in the event to 40, one more than Ivan Lendl. Federer, who has won the title a record six times including the last

two editions at London's O2 Arena, seized the initiative when he broke Tipsarevic's first service game and never looked like loosening his grip in a one-sided contest.

"I was striking the ball well today," world number two Federer, who is playing at the Tour Finals for the 11th consecutive year, told reporters. "I hope it's a sign for more to come. I'm happy the first one went so well and it takes the pressure off looking ahead in the next couple of matches."—Reuters

GENERAL

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(8-11-12 09:30 am ~ 9-11-12 09:30 am) MST  
 \* Opening  
 \* News  
 \* Conveying Ceremony of 28 Buddha Images  
 \* News  
 \* Essay Writing Contest for Future Stars  
 \* Tray & Sieve; Essential for Myanmar Housewives  
 \* News  
 \* Thadingyut Lighting Festival in Shwedagon Pagoda  
 \* News  
 \* Reliable Transportation Mode for Suburbanites  
 \* News  
 \* 27th SEA GAMES &

Other Enjoyments 7:40 am  
 \* News 2. Dhamma Puja Song  
 \* Singapore Airline 7:50 am  
 \* News 3. Nice & Sweet Song  
 \* A Glance At A Naga Family Life 8:00 am  
 \* News 4. Health Programme  
 \* 92nd Myanmar Film Festival & 49th respect paying ceremony to aged actors 8:10 am  
 \* Guarantee for Future of Myanmar Migrant Workers 8:20 am  
 \* Myanmar Movie "Matchmarking Wreath" 8:30 am  
 \* Close Down 7. Dance of National Races  
 ■ ■ ■ 4:05 pm  
 ■ ■ ■ 8. Musical Programme  
 ■ ■ ■ 4:15 pm  
 ■ ■ ■ 9. Cute Little Dancers  
 ■ ■ ■ 4:35 pm  
 ■ ■ ■ 10. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - First Year (English)  
 ■ ■ ■ 4:50 pm  
 ■ ■ ■ 11. Songs For Upholding National Spirit  
 ■ ■ ■ 4:55 pm  
 ■ ■ ■ 12. Science and Environment  
 ■ ■ ■ 5:10 pm  
 ■ ■ ■ 13. Song Programme  
 ■ ■ ■ 5:25 pm  
 ■ ■ ■ 14. India Drama Series  
 ■ ■ ■ 6:20 pm  
 ■ ■ ■ 15. Myanmar Series  
 ■ ■ ■ 6:40 pm  
 ■ ■ ■ 16. Approaching Science Discover World  
 ■ ■ ■ 7:00 pm  
 ■ ■ ■ 17. TV Drama Series  
 ■ ■ ■ 8:00 pm  
 ■ ■ ■ 18. News  
 ■ ■ ■ 19. International News  
 ■ ■ ■ 20. TV Drama Series

MYANMAR TV

(8-11-2012, Thursday)  
 7:00 am  
 1. Metta Bhavana By Hilly Region  
 Missionary Sayadaw

Kyaikhtiyoe Pagoda gets new road



YANGON, 7 Nov—A new road to the arch of famous Kyaikhtiyoe Pagoda was constructed with the contribution of the visitors. According to a member of Pagoda board of trustees, the road is safe as the deepest slope is 15 degree. There is also a staff with phone at each site for potential risk. The Pagoda is celebrating seven-month-long festival.  
 Myanmar Alinn

S Korea's IT exports hit new high in October

SEOUL, 7 Nov — South Korea's exports in the information technology (IT) industry hit a new high last month due to solid demand for handsets and semiconductors, a government report showed Wednesday. Exports of locally-manufactured IT products reached 14.55 billion US dollars in October, up 6.1 percent from the same month of last year, according to the Ministry of Knowledge Economy. For the first 10 months of this year, the exports amounted to 127.68 billion dollars, down 2.6 percent from the same period of 2011. The October figure topped the previous record high of 14.1 billion dollars tallied in October 2010, and was up from 14.07 billion dollars in the previous month. The IT exports kept its upward trend for three months in a row. Despite the persistent external uncertainties such as the eurozone debt problems, South Korea shipped a record high of IT products thanks to solid demand for semiconductors and handsets, the ministry said. As for handset shipment, strong demand for locally-made smartphones from Europe and a reduction in the proportion of handsets manufactured in overseas factories contributed to the export rebound. Handset exports jumped 18.1 percent last month, up from 7.6 percent growth for September and 26.6 percent drop for August.  
 Reuters

Cambodia needs more Cambodia Japanese investors, tourists

PHNOM PENH, 7 Nov — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen suggested his Japanese counterpart Yoshihiko Noda to encourage more Japanese investors and tourists to Cambodia in order to further heighten bilateral ties. The suggestion was made during a meeting between the two Prime Ministers in Laos' capital Vientiane on Monday on the sidelines of the 9th Asia-Europe Meeting Summit (ASEM-9). Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary of State at Cambodia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told reporters at the Phnom Penh International Airport when Hun Sen returned from Laos on Tuesday evening. "Prime Minister Hun Sen also urged Japan to consider operating direct flights to Cambodia," he said. "In response, Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda promised to encourage Japanese investors and tourists to Cambodia," said Kao Kim Hourn. Both sides also exchanged views on regional issues and Noda said that he would attend the 21st ASEAN Summit and related Summits in Cambodia, to be held from 18-20 November, he said. Cambodia and Japan have had very good diplomatic ties, but ties in trade, investment and tourism remain small.  
 Xinhua



The rescued Japanese tourist (R) has dinner at a hospital in Huailai County, north China's Hebei Province, on 6 Nov, 2012. Four Japanese tourists, accompanied by a Chinese tour guide, became trapped by a snowstorm on a snow-covered mountain in Hebei on 3 November. Three Japanese tourists who went missing have been confirmed dead, local authorities said on Monday.—XINHUA

NY university faces growing criticism after Sandy kills lab mice

NEW YORK, 7 Nov—After superstorm Sandy flooded New York University's medical research laboratories, first accounts were of Herculean rescue efforts. Animal-care staffers spent the night watching over their furry charges and, the next morning, a bucket brigade of scientists and others hauled dry ice up 15 flights to save tissue samples and human organs kept on ice for research. But a week later a different picture has emerged. Critics are asking whether the laboratories did everything they could—and whether they followed government guidelines—to protect the research animals. Thousands of animals, mostly mice housed in the basement of one NYU Langone Medical Centre building on the East River

in Manhattan, died during the storm. The hospital also evacuated over 200 patients that night when it lost power; none was reported injured. All told, said NYU spokeswoman Jessica Guenzel, the biomedical facility lost 7,660 cages of mice and 22 cages of rats. Each cage houses between one and seven animals, she said. "This happens again and again and (research labs) never learn," said Fran Sharples, director of the Board on Life Sciences at the congressionally chartered National Academy of Sciences (NAS). "Anybody with half a brain knows you do a site-specific analysis" to understand the risk of disasters, she said, "and it's really stupid to put your animals in the basement if you're in a flood zone." It's not as if scientists

didn't have recent lessons in the risk of natural disasters to biomedical research, she said. In 2001, tens of thousands of mice and scores of monkeys and dogs were lost when Hurricane Allison struck Houston; and in 2005, some 10,000 lab animals drowned when hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans. The National Institutes of Health, the nation's primary funder of biomedical research, requires its grantees to follow the NAS animal-care guidelines. Scientists who fail to do so can have their grants revoked. Animal-use committees at universities also make sure scientists adhere to the guidelines, said Paul Locke, associate professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, who served on the NAS panel that wrote the 2011 guide.—Reuters



Photo taken on 16 May, 2012 shows a fishing port in Sanya City, south China's Hainan Province. Chinese government has approved local maritime zoning plans submitted by Shanghai Municipality and the southern provinces of Guangdong and Hainan, respectively, for the 2011-2020 period. The State Council, or China's cabinet, issued a document instructing local governments in the three regions to control reclamation projects, protect fishermen's livelihoods and the development of modern fishery, curb oceanic pollution and make efforts to improve the marine environment.—XINHUA



## President U Thein Sein arrives back from Laos

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov— President U Thein Sein arrived back here from Laos after attending the 9<sup>th</sup> Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) this morning.

The President was welcomed back by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win, Union Ministers U Thein Nyunt, U Soe Maung, U Hla Tun, U Win Myint, Thura U Myint Maung, U Aye Myint Kyu

and Dr Mya Aye, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Aye, departmental heads, and Charge d' Affaires ai of Laotian Embassy Mr Vongpano Sipaseuth at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.

Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Tin Naing Thein and U Kyaw Lwin, Deputy Minister Dr Win Myint and departmental heads, who had accompanied the President, also arrived back on the same flight.

MNA

*President U Thein Sein being welcomed back by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and party.*

MNA

## Myanmar enjoys brotherly, respectful relations with Laos

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov— President U Thein Sein met with staff and families of Myanmar Embassy and Military Attaché Office at Don Chan Palace Hotel in Vientiane this morning.

At the call, he said that ASEM summit between heads and leaders from Asia and Europe and is held every two years. The summit gives him a chance to explain Myanmar's progress, especially to the Western countries. Myanmar has seen less job opportunities due to the economic sanctions. At that time, some countries made investments in Myanmar. At

present He could carry out inviting foreign investors, availability of technology opportunities and mutual cooperation simultaneously.

During that trip, he could say to write off Europe's some debts. Only when the country sees peace and stability, can Myanmar win the respects of world countries and can huge foreign investment flow. Myanmar enjoys brotherly, respectful relation with Laos. It needs to avoid the factors that can damage the relations between the two countries, he added.

After that, Ambassador U Kyaw Soe Win, Military

Attaché Brig-Gen Win Myint and staff and their families from the Embassy and Military Attaché Office, paid respects to the President. Next, the President presented gifts and foodstuff to them through the Ambassador and wife and the Military Attaché and wife.—MNA

*President U Thein Sein presents gifts and foodstuff for staff and families of Myanmar Embassy and Military Attaché Office in Lao PDR.—MNA*



## Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham sends message of congratulations to US Vice-President Joe Biden on his re-election

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov—Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message

of congratulations to the Honourable Joe Biden on his re-election as Vice-President of the United States of America.—MNA

## Vice-President U Nyan Tun sends message of congratulations to US Vice-President Joe Biden on his re-election

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov— U Nyan Tun, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union

of Myanmar has sent a message of congratulations to the Honourable Joe Biden

on his re-election as Vice-President of the United States of America.—MNA



## Union Govt to supervise, coordinate development tasks in regions, states

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov — Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun stressed the need for making endeavors by region/state governments and leading bodies of the self-administered Zones for development of respective regions and states as they all have been given equal rights.

Speaking at the meeting

*Union Ministers U Hla Tun and Dr Myint Aung meet farmers at Pyaw Village.*

MNA

with members of Sagaing Region Government at the office of the government yesterday, he also assured that the Union Government will supervise the development tasks in the regions and states and coordinate with the regional governments in accordance with the rules and regulations. He also stressed the importance of the equitable development of the regions and states for the development of the whole union and pledged that the Union Government

will coordinate with the regional governments for the development of regions and states.

Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung also explained the matters the ministry can fulfil the region and state governments.

After the meeting, the Union ministers and region and state ministers visited the thriving Paletwe hybrid paddy plantation irrigated by river water pumping project at Pyaw Village in Myinmu Township.—MNA