

## President U Thein Sein and wife attend Kathina robe-offering ceremony



NAY PYI TAW, 26 Nov —The Kathina robe-offering ceremony of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held at Sasana Maha Beikman in the compound of Nay Pyi Taw Uppatasanti Pagoda, here, this morning. President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win attended the ceremony and presented robes and offertories to members of the Sangha.

It was also attended by member Sayadaws of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Satiyahitakara Sayadaw, Tipitakadhaja Tipitakakawvidha Sayadaws, Ovadacariya Sayadaws of Board of Trustees of Uppatasanti Pagoda and members of the Sangha from monasteries in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area led by SSMNC Chairman Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Bhamo Monastery in Mandalay

Abhidhaja Maharahttaguru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddham-majotika Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa, Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nann Shwe Hmon and U Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Service Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, the Union ministers and their wives, Pyithu Hluttaw representatives, the Nay Pyi Taw Command

President U Thein Sein offering alms to Buddha Image.—MNA

deputy ministers and their wives, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council and officials of President Office and the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

First, President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win and the congregation received the Nine Precepts from the SSMNC Chairman Sayadaw.

Next, President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win presented Kathina robes and offertories to State Ovadacariya Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Maha Withutaya Monastery of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Abhidhaja Maharahttaguru Bhaddanta Kavisara and the SSMNC Chairman Sayadaw.

Then Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe

Mann, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and UEC Chairman U Tin Aye offered robes and provisions to members of the Sangha led by SSMNC Secretary Sayadaw.

The Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services the Commander-in-Chief (Army), the Union ministers, Pyithu Hluttaw representatives, the commander and the deputy ministers presented Kathina robes and offertories to members of the Sangha.

Next, President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win received a sermon delivered by State Ovadacariya Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Maha (See page 7)



## In Pursuit of Peace Award Dinner: Peace, Prosperity and the Presidency

New York, NY | 26 Nov 2012

This article is also available in *Burmese, Portuguese* and *Indonesian*.

The International Crisis Group will honour President **Thein Sein** of Myanmar and former President **Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva** of Brazil at its annual *In Pursuit of Peace Award Dinner* in New York City on 22 April 2013.

Crisis Group's Award Dinner is an opportunity to celebrate inspirational figures from government, diplomacy and public policy whose visionary leadership has transformed the lives of millions and brought forth the promise of a world free of conflict.

"At a time when so much of the world seems to be headed in the wrong direction, Myanmar and Brazil stand out as clear examples of presidents working for a better path for their people", said Thomas R. Pickering, Chair of the International Crisis Group.

"Both President Thein Sein and President Lula are worthy recipients in this regard, having helped Myanmar and Brazil take significant steps forward and encouraged a greater role for them in promoting regional and international diplomacy following years of isolation".

Crisis Group President Louise Arbour said, "Myanmar has initiated a remarkable and unprecedented set of reforms

since President Thein Sein's government took over in March 2011, including freeing hundreds of political prisoners, liberalising the press and promoting dialogue with the main opposition party".

Of course, Myanmar still needs to build on this political liberalisation to date. It must urgently find ways to address communal violence between the Rakhine and the Rohingya (as Crisis Group noted back in *June* and again in a *report published earlier this month*), which continues to devastate people's lives, particularly those in minority Muslim communities. Still, the country has seen very significant progress: for the first time in almost fifty years, all but one of the ethnic armed groups have signed preliminary ceasefires with the government, and it is hoped that an agreement will also soon be reached with the Kachin (See page 2)

## In Pursuit of Peace Award....

(from page 1)

Independence Organisation (read more about Crisis Group's work in Myanmar).

As President of Brazil from 2003 to 2010, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, known as Lula, propelled his country into a new economic and political era, taking millions out of poverty. Upon this solid foundation, his government became a critical regional and world player with a social agenda and bringing a South-South approach to international cooperation and global development.

President da Silva offered its regional neighbours a partnership, making integration a

concrete reality. Brazilian diplomacy also helped its South American neighbours to face their own internal crises.

Brazil's solidarity towards Africa was also notable with the country opening 17 new diplomatic missions there during President da Silva's government.

Brazil also took charge of the peacekeeping operation in Haiti and the naval part of the UN's mission in Lebanon.

Lula's government developed an autonomous diplomacy, in harmony with the demands of globalisation and its development projects. Variable alliances enabled the nation to exercise a

worldwide presence and deepen its influence. Brazil's coalitions, strategic partnerships and new alliances enabled the country and its partners to fill a power vacuum in the international field.

Now in its eighth year, Crisis Group's *In Pursuit of Peace Award Dinner* recognises the outstanding accomplishments of individuals working to prevent and resolve deadly conflict worldwide. Previous recipients of the awards include: U.S. Presidents William Jefferson Clinton and George H.W. Bush; Nobel Peace Prize laureates Martti Ahtisaari and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and financier and philanthropist George Soros.

## Daily wage earners paid around K 3000 for half day in NyaungU



NAY PYI TAW, 26 Nov — Being an agro-based township, most of dwellers deal with agriculture business and there is a small number of daily wage earners in NyaungU Township.

Local farmers are facing shortage of manual

labours during the harvest when they are very urgent to transport the agriculture produce from the farmland to their homes to be free from the threat of untimely rainfall. The demand of manual workers who are to work in the farmland from 12 noon to 5 pm is also high

at the workplace of beating the crop to be divided into pods and weeds in the scorching heat. A strong man can earn about K 3000 a day. As the working time starts at 12 noon, manual workers earn a daily wage for half day.

Kyemon

## Gilded robe-weaving competition in Shwephonepwint Pagoda

YANGON, 26 Nov — The 22<sup>nd</sup> Matho gilded robe-weaving competition of Shwephonepwint Pagoda in Pazundaung Township of Yangon East District will be held at Sasanajotika Dhammayon in the precinct of the pagoda at 5 pm tomorrow.

Altogether 12 looms will be competed in the contest, and prize-giving ceremony will be held at 3 am the following day. Handsome prizes will be presented to winners including first prize of K 150,000.

A gilded robe offering ceremony will be organized

at 4 am on 28 November, and the gilded robes will be offered to the Pagoda, encircling zedis and Buddha images in the prayer halls. There will be entertainment of Maha Yangon Sanpya Mya Sithu Myanmar traditional orchestra troupe on the occasion. —Kyemon

## Tax education essay, cartoon contests in Mawlamyine

MAWLAMYINE, 26 Nov — With the aim of increasing the awareness of tax among the public through students, the essay and cartoon contests were held at Basic Education High School No

(9) in Mawlamyine of Mon State on 17 November.

A total of 70 students in Mawlamyine district took part in the middle school level tax education essay and cartoon contests organized

by Mon State Internal Revenue Department.

Next, Head of Mon State IRD U Tun Tun Aung presented K 100,000 for the school through school head Dr Hla Hla Maw. —Kyemon

## Warehouse fire in Amarapura Township

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Nov — A fire broke out at a warehouse, where more than 100 oil barrels and oil tanks are being kept, on Yangon-Mandalay motorway in Swedaw ward in Natyekan village-tract in Amarapura Township of Mandalay at about 4.30 pm on 23

November.

The fire swept through the warehouse and gutted three nearby huts. More than 100 fuel oil barrels and land-based oil tanks with the capacity of 800 gallons of petroleum worth more than K 11 million were burnt in the fire.

No casualty in the fire as the warehouse is far from the local residences. A total of 53 fire engines rushed there and were able to put out the fire at about 5.20 pm. Myitnge Police Station is investigating the fire at the warehouse. —Kyemon

## School fire in Pyay

PYAY, 26 Nov — A fire broke out at basic education primary school (Hsinsu) at the corner of Tikyit and Kan streets in Shinsu ward, one-mile north of No-2 Police Post in Pyay of Bago Region (West) at about 10.30 pm on 21 November. A water cooler, wooden floor, furniture, a water pump and stationery worth K 300,000 in the school building were destroyed in the fire that started by the

overheated running water cooler that caused a electric shock.

Firefighters accompanied by nine fire engines managed to bring the fire under control in cooperation with members of auxiliary fire brigade and local people at 10.45 pm.

While the building was in flame, there was no one inside and the fire did not spread to nearby houses. —Kyemon

## Car crash leaves two dead on Yazaharni Road

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Nov — A car crash between a light truck and a lorry occurred at Pann Khin traffic light beyond Hninzi roundabout on Yazaharni Road on the edge of Nay Pyi Taw Pobbathiri Township and Pyinmana Township at about 4.15 pm on 24 November.

A light truck with the vehicle plate No. 8C/... driven by U Tun Aung from Pyinmana to the side of Uppatasanti Pagoda hit a lorry at the Pann Khin traffic light. Due to the crash, the car caught fire and U Tun Aung and another person who were on the driver seat were killed in the fire as they could not manage to escape from the burning car. The fire engulfed the whole car.

The crash left Ma Ni Ni Than, Ma Zar Zar Hline

and Ko Tun Win out of five passengers on board the light truck injured. Officials of administrator's offices of Pyinmana and Pobbathiri Townships and the head of

Pyinmana Township Fire Services Department and members arrived at the scene, and the fire was put out at about 4.40 pm.

Kyemon



## Neem trees to be grown for commercial use

YANGON, 26 Nov — "An agro-business of FMI Co., Ltd, arrangements are being made to commercially grow neem trees", Chairman of the company U Thein Wai said.

A MoU had already been signed to jointly implement the growing of neem trees with Chinese Taipei-based Potomac International Ltd which is very experienced in growing of neem trees and production process. The demand for neem tree is high in international market as it can be used as a raw material to manufacture antibiotic drugs. To export locally-grown coffee to the international market, coffee

growing will be carried out in partnership with ED & F Man Asia Pte Ltd. Plans are underway to extend pepper plantation from currently-grown 300 acres to 1000-acre plantation coming year. A 1160-acre physic nut plantation in Mawtin is under well conservation.

"We are trying hard to meet the goal of our agro-business. EDF Company that made a contract with our company for coffee growing is operating coffee growing and trading with 3600 staff in 60 countries. The company was established in 1783", U Thein Wai said.

Kyemon



**WORLD**

**Syrian rebels take airbase in slow progress toward Damascus**

AMMAN, 26 Nov— Syrian rebels said on Sunday they had captured a helicopter base east of Damascus after an overnight assault, their latest gain in a costly battle to unseat President Bashar al-Assad that is drawing nearer to his seat of power.

The Marj al-Sultan base, 15 km (10 miles) from the capital, is the second military facility on the outskirts of the city reported to have fallen to Assad's opponents this month. Activists said rebels had destroyed two helicopters and taken 15 prisoners.

"We are coming for you Bashar," a rebel shouted in an internet video of what activists said was Marj al-Sultan. Restrictions on non-state media meant it could not be verified.

The rebels have been firming their hold on farmland and urban centres to the east and northeast of Damascus while a major battle has been underway for a week in the suburb of Daraya near the main highway south. Assad's core forces, drawn mainly from his minority Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shi'ite

Islam that has dominated power in Syria for nearly five decades, are entrenched in the capital.

They also have devastating air superiority although they have failed to prevent rebels increasing their presence on the edge of the capital and in neighborhoods on the periphery. Syria has called the missile request "provocative", seeing it as a first step toward a no-fly zone over Syrian airspace which the opposition is seeking to help them hold territory against an enemy with overwhelming firepower from the air. Most foreign powers are reluctant to go that far.

NATO has said the possible deployment of the missiles was purely defensive. The US-led Western alliance has had some talks on the request but has yet to take a decision.

Turkey fears security on its border may crumble as the Syrian army fights harder against the rebels, some of whom have enjoyed sanctuary

in Turkey in their 20-month-old revolt against Assad's rule. Ankara has scrambled fighter jets and returned fire after stray Syrian shells and mortar bombs from heavy fighting along the border landed in its territory.

More than 120,000 Syrian refugees are sheltering in camps in southern Turkey and more are expected with winter setting in and millions of people estimated to be short of food inside Syria.

Abu Mussab, a rebel operative in the area of Hajar al-Aswad in south Damascus, said the opposition fighters had given up expecting a no-fly zone. "The bet is now on better organization and tactics," he said. The video said by activists to have been filmed at the Marj al-Sultan base showed rebel fighters carrying AK-47 rifles.

Reuters

**11 killed, 30 injured in Nigerian military church attack**

LAGOS, 26 Nov. — The Nigerian Army on Sunday said twin explosions rocked the St Andrew Military Protestant Church in Jaji in central north Kaduna State, killing 11 people and injuring 30 others.

Spokesperson for the Nigerian Army Brig.-Gen. Bolaji Koleosho disclosed this to Xinhua reporter on phone, saying that the first explosion occurred at about 12:05 p.m while the second went off 10 minutes later.

He said the injured had been taken to the 44 Reference Hospital and the Nigerian Air Force Hospital, both in Kaduna.

Koleosho told Xinhua that investigations had begun into the incident.

Earlier, a military source at the scene of the incidents told Xinhua that about 10 persons may have lost their lives in the explosions.

The source said the first explosion occurred after the Church had closed when the leadership of the Church were still present, adding that the second explosion occurred moments after the first as people rushed to rescue those left in the Church.

Military sources and rescue workers could not confirm whether the casualties and wounded were all military personnel.

Meanwhile, the army has restricted movement into the Jaji facility.

Xinhua



Members of the Free Syrian Army gather as gunfire is heard between them and the armed Kurds of The Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD) in the northern Syrian town of Ras al-Ain, on 25 Nov, 2012. —REUTERS

**New Zealand Air Force calls off search for missing Kiribati fishermen**

WELLINGTON, 26 Nov— New Zealand search and rescue officials said on Monday that an air force aircraft was returning home after finding no sign of three Kiribati fishermen missing for four days in the Pacific.



Pakistani soldiers stand guard on a street during an Ashura procession in southwest Pakistan's Quetta on 25 Nov, 2012. At least five people were killed and 83 others injured when a blast hit a Shia Muslim procession to mark Muharram, the first month of the Islamic calendar, in Pakistan's northwest District of Dera Ismail Khan on Sunday morning, said a senior official.—XINHUA

The Royal New Zealand Air Force P3 Orion was deployed Sunday to search an area south of the Kiribati island of Tarawa after a request from Kiribati search and rescue authorities.

The Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand (RCCNZ) said the aircraft covered a search area of 21,000 square kilometres, based on modeling of currents and weather conditions, on Sunday.

The aircraft stayed on Tarawa overnight and an extended search area, totalling around 42,000 square km, was covered Monday.

RCCNZ search and rescue coordinator Dave Wilson said in a statement that the Orion had thoroughly investigated the search area.

"Search conditions on Sunday were described as ideal, and while rain showers today reduced visibility the Orion crew are confident that if the men were in the search area they would have been found," he said.

The men, aged 33, 41, and 30, failed to return from a day's fishing on 21 Nov.

A decision on the next stage of the search would be made by search and rescue authorities in Kiribati and the rescue coordination centre in Fiji, he said.—Xinhua

**Bicycle bomb kills two, wounds 18 Afghans**

KHOST, 26 Nov— A bomb planted in bicycle went off in Khost City the capital of Khost Province, 150 km southeast of Kabul killing two people and injuring 18 others on Monday, a local official said.

"The terrorists planted the bomb in the cavities of

a bicycle and detonated it by a remote control in Sargardan Choak area, Khost City at around 11:00 am local time today, killing two people and injuring 18 others, mostly civilians," the official told Xinhua but declined to give his name, saying authorized officials

would brief the media after investigation.

Nevertheless, he blamed Taliban militants for organizing the attack, but the outfit fighting the government and largely relying on suicide and roadside bombings has yet to comment.

Xinhua

**China willing to step up exchanges in legislature, women affairs with Algeria**



Chen Zhili (L Front), vice chairwoman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress and president of the All-China women's Federation, shakes hands with Mohamed-Larbi Ould Khelifa, speaker of the National Assembly of Algeria, after their meeting in Algiers, capital of Algeria, on 25 Nov, 2012.—XINHUA

ALGIERS, 26 Nov — A senior Chinese legislator said on Sunday China would like to work with Algeria to step up bilateral exchanges in women's affairs and between the two countries' legislative bodies.

Chen Zhili, visiting vice chairwoman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress (NPC), made the remarks while meeting with Mohamed-Larbi Ould Khelifa, president of Algeria's People's National Assembly (the lower house of parliament) in the capital city of Algiers.

She said the relations between the two countries have seen a healthy and stable development since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1958. China has always attached great importance to

its relationship with Algeria, and is willing to work with the northern African country in strengthening their high-level exchanges, she said.

Chen also briefed Ould Khelifa on the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. Ould Khelifa said Algeria and China are trustworthy brothers and friends. Over the recent years, the two nations have conducted intensive high-level exchanges, strengthened political mutual trust, deepened cooperation in trade and other sectors, and maintained mutual trust and coordination in international affairs, he said.

He also hoped the two countries would further promote their trade and technological cooperation, and promote parliament-to-parliament exchanges.

Xinhua

**European lawmaker Strasser on trial for corruption**

VIENNA, 26 Nov— Disgraced Austrian politician Ernst Strasser goes on trial on Monday in a corruption case that has undermined trust in European and Austrian institutions.

The former Austrian interior minister and European lawmaker could face 10 years in jail if convicted, after being caught on camera offering to propose amendments to European laws in exchange for 100,000 euros (\$130,000 a year). Strasser, 56, was exposed last year by undercover journalists from Britain's Sunday Times posing as lobbyists. He resigned while denying wrongdoing, saying he wanted to protect his party, the Austrian conservative OVP. "Of course I am a lobbyist," he told the journalists in a secretly filmed video. "This is a wonderful opportunity to learn all the people, to have my own network, and to use this network for my, for my companies. It's a very good combination."

Strasser, one of several once-mighty Austrian politicians brought down by recent corruption scandals, told the journalists he already had five such clients.

He later said in an interview he went along with the "lobbyists" because he believed they were secret service agents and he wanted to follow their trail.—Reuters

## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY



Combination photo taken on 25 Nov, 2012 shows a Long March-4C carrier rocket carrying the Yaogan XVI remote-sensing satellite blasting off from the launch pad at Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in Jiuquan, northwest China's Gansu Province.

XINHUA

## China successfully launches remote sensing satellite

Science

JIUQUAN, (Gansu), 26 Nov — The Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre confirmed that China successfully launched the Yaogan XVI remote-sensing satellite into space at 12:06 am on Sunday.

The satellite, launched from the centre in northwest

China's Gansu Province, was boosted by a Long March-4C carrier rocket and sent into a predetermined orbit.

The Yaogan XVI remote-sensing satellite was developed by an affiliate research institute of the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation.

It has been designed for a variety of uses, including technological experimentation, land resource surveying, agricultural yield estimation and disaster prevention and reduction.

The launch marked the 172th of the Long March series carrier rockets.—Xinhua

## Professor finds profiling in ads for personal data website

LAS VEGAS, 26 Nov — Dr Latisha Smith, an expert in decompression sicknesses afflicting deep sea divers, has cleared criminal background checks throughout her medical career.

Yet someone searching the Web for the Washington State physician might well come across an Internet ad suggesting she may have an arrest record. "Latisha Smith, arrested?" reads one such advertisement. Another says: "Latisha Smith Truth... Check Latisha Smith's Arrests."

Instantcheckmate.com, which labels itself the "Internet's leading authority on background checks," placed both ads. A statistical analysis of the company's advertising has found it has disproportionately used ad copy including the word "arrested" for black-

identifying names, even when a person has no arrest record.

Latanya Sweeney is a Harvard University professor of government with a doctorate in computer science.

After learning that her own name had popped up in an "arrested?" ad when a colleague was searching

for one of her academic publications, she ran more than 120,000 searches for names primarily given to either black or white children, testing ads delivered for 2,400 real names 50 times each. (The author of this story is a Harvard University fellow collaborating with Professor Sweeney on a book about the business



A computer keyboard is seen in Bucharest on 3 April, 2012. — REUTERS

## Sea snails show impact of more acidic ocean

Science

LONDON, 26 Nov — The shells of some marine snails in the seas around Antarctica are dissolving as the water becomes more acidic, threatening the food chain, a study published in the journal *Nature Geoscience* said on Sunday. Oceans soak up about a quarter of the carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere each year and as CO2 levels in the atmosphere increase from burning fossil fuels, so do ocean levels, making seas more acidic.

Ocean acidification is

one of the effects of climate change and threatens coral reefs, marine ecosystems and wildlife.

The shell of the pteropod sea snail in the Southern Ocean was severely dissolved by more acidic surface water, the researchers from the British Antarctic Survey, Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and other institutions found.

And although the snails did not necessarily

die, it increased their vulnerability to predators and infection which could affect other parts of the food chain.

"The corrosive properties of the water caused shells of live animals to be severely dissolved and this demonstrates how vulnerable pteropods are," said lead author Nina Bednaršek, from the NOAA. "Ocean acidification, resulting from the addition of human-induced carbon dioxide, contributed to this dissolution."

Reuters

## Apple seeks to add more products to Samsung patent lawsuit

Tech

NEW YORK, 26 Nov — Apple Inc has asked a federal court to add six more products to its patent infringement lawsuit against Samsung Electronics Co, including the Samsung Galaxy Note II, in the latest in move in an ongoing legal war between the two companies.

The case is one of two patent infringement lawsuits pending in the US-District Court in San Jose by Apple against Samsung. An earlier lawsuit by Apple that related to different patents resulted in a \$1.05 billion jury verdict against Samsung on 24 August.

Apple is also seeking to add the Samsung Galaxy S III, running the new Android "Jelly Bean" operating system, the Samsung Galaxy Tab 8.9 Wifi,



Apple's iPhone (L) and Samsung Galaxy Note are displayed at a shop in Tokyo in this 31 Aug, 2012, file photo.—REUTERS

the Samsung Galaxy Tab 2 10.1, the Samsung Rugby Pro, and the Samsung Galaxy S III Mini, to its lawsuit, according to a court filing on Friday.

"Apple has acted quickly and diligently to determine that these newly-released products do infringe many of the same claims already asserted by Apple," the company said in the filing. Samsung representatives did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Apple filed the second lawsuit in February, alleging that various Samsung smartphone and tablet products including the Galaxy Nexus infringed eight of its patents.

Samsung denied infringement and filed a cross-complaint alleging that Apple's iPhone and iPad infringed eight of its patents. A US judge on 15 November allowed Samsung to pursue claims the iPhone5 also infringes its patents.—Reuters

Tech

of personal data.)

Ebony Jefferson, for example, often turns up an instantcheckmate.com ad reading: "Ebony Jefferson, arrested?" but an ad triggered by a search for Emily Jefferson would read: "We found Emily Jefferson." Searches for randomly chosen black-identifying names such as Deshaun Williams, Latisha Smith or Latanya Smith often produced the "arrested?" headline or ad text with the word "arrest," whereas other less ethnic-sounding first names matched with the same surnames typically did not.

"As an African-American, I'm used to profiling like that," said Dr Smith. "I think it's horrendous that they get away with it." Instantcheckmate.com declined to comment.

Reuters



Visitors view a dancing robot during a robot show held in Qingdao University, Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, on 25 Nov, 2012. The robot show, the first kind of this exhibition in Shandong, showcased the latest achievement of robot-related technology, involving over 100 exhibits from home and abroad.

XINHUA

## Saudi regulator suspends Mobily from selling SIM cards

Tech

RIYAD, 26 Nov — Etihad Etisalat Co (Mobily), Saudi Arabia's second-biggest telcoms operator, has asked to meet the industry regulator after it was suspended from selling pre-paid SIM cards, a company spokesman said, describing the ban as "astounding". Mobily's sales of pre-paid, or pay-as-you-go SIM cards will remain halted until the company "fully meets the pre-paid service provisioning requirements," the firm said in a statement.

"We're not sure when we can resume selling

pre-paid SIM cards," said a company spokesman. We've requested a meeting with the CITC governor today to find out what's going on," he added, in reference to the regulator.

In an earlier order the Communication and Information Technology Commission said that from 28 September all pre-paid SIM users must enter a personal identification number when recharging their accounts and this number must be the same as the one registered with their mobile op-

erator when the SIM card was bought. This applies not only to Mobily but also to rival operators Saudi Telecom Co (STC) and Zain Saudi. "This isn't just about Mobily — other operators also haven't complied and so we're astonished we've been singled out," said Mobily's spokesman. "We've done a huge campaign to inform customers about the ID requirement." The company has yet to comply with the order because not all customers have updated their details, he said.—Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Asian shares edge higher on hopes for Greek deal

TOKYO, 26 Nov — Asian shares inched up on Monday on hopes that Greece can avoid a near-term bankruptcy, with the market focusing on a euro zone finance ministers meeting later in the day, but a regional Spanish vote favouring separatist parties capped gains.

It was the sixth day in a row of advances for MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan. MIAPJ0000PUS and comes after the euro and global shares climbed on Friday on expectations that an agreement will be reached soon to disburse aid for Greece, and on a rise in Germany's Ifo business climate index.

"There is optimism around in regards to the euro area's ability to achieve a deal on Greece," said Emma Lawson, senior currency strategist at the National Australia Bank. But worries about the Spanish vote and the implications for Madrid's push for fiscal austerity, helped the euro slip 0.2 percent to \$1.2954, pulling back from a three-week high of \$1.2991 reached on Friday. Against the yen, however, which has been weakening on expectations of further monetary policy easing with the likely advent of a new Japan government, the single currency hit a seven-month peak of 107.13.

The dollar .DXY

inched up 0.1 percent, after falling to a three-week low of 80.128 against a basket of major currencies on Friday as risk appetite gained. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS was up 0.1 percent after earlier rising to a two-week high. The index ended its best week in more than two months with a 2.5 percent gain on Friday. Australian shares .AXJO rose 0.2 percent on gains in energy and mining stocks, but South Korean shares .KS11 gave up earlier gains to fall 0.2 percent. Hong Kong .HSI and Shanghai .SSEC shares also eased.

Japan's Nikkei stock average .N225 gained 0.7 percent after rising to a seven-month high earlier in the day. Japanese financial markets were closed on Friday for a public holiday.

"Although some investors are cautious about the fast-paced gains in the Japanese market, they will likely stay buyers on the back of the improving trading environment in the global market," said Hiro-ichi Nishi, general manager at SMBC Nikko Securities.

Reuters



A visitor walks near the logo of the Tokyo Stock Exchange in Tokyo on 5 Nov, 2012. — REUTERS

Business

SAN FRANCISCO, 26 Nov — Black Friday retail sales online this year topped \$1 billion for the first time ever as more consumers used the Internet to do their early holiday shopping, comScore Inc said on Sunday.

Online sales jumped 26 percent on Black Friday to \$1.04 billion from sales of \$816 million on the corresponding day last year, according to comScore data.

Amazon.com was the most-visited retail website on Black Friday, and it also posted the highest year-over-year visitor growth rate among the top five retailers. Wal-Mart Stores Inc's website was second, followed by sites run by Best Buy Co, Target Corp and Apple Inc, comScore noted.

Digital content and subscriptions, including e-books, digital music and video, was the fastest-growing retail category online, with sales up 29 percent versus Black Friday last year, according to comScore data.

E-commerce accounts for less than 10 percent of

Black Friday sales online top \$1 billion for first time

consumer spending in the United States.

However, it is growing much faster than bricks-and-mortar retail as shoppers are lured by low prices, convenience, faster shipping and wide selection. ShopperTrak, which counts foot traffic in physical retail stores, estimated Black Friday sales at \$11.2 billion,

down 1.8 percent from the same day last year.

"Online has been around 9 percent of total holiday sales, but it could breach 10 percent for the first time this season," said Scot Wingo, chief executive of ChannelAdvisor, which helps merchants sell more on websites, including Amazon.com and eBay.

GSK to raise stake in Indian consumer products arm via open offer

NEW DELHI, 26 Nov — Plc plans to raise its stake in its Indian consumer products arm GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare Ltd to 75 percent from 43.16 percent through an open offer, the manager to the offer said on Monday.

GlaxoSmithKline Plc along with its units will buy up to 13.39 million shares, or 31.84 percent in GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare, at 3,900 rupees per share, said HSBC Securities, the manager to the offer, in a statement.

As per Indian regula-

Mental activities may help aging brains stay healthy

Health

WASHINGTON, 26 Nov — Mental activities like reading and writing can preserve structural integrity in the brains of older people, according to a new study presented on Sunday at the annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America.

While previous research has shown an association between late-life cognitive activity and better mental acuity, the new study studied what effect late-life cognitive activity might have on the



A GlaxoSmithKline logo is seen outside one of its buildings in west London, on 6 Feb, 2008. — REUTERS

tions, promoters of stock exchange-listed companies can hold up to a maximum of 75 percent stake. If the

promoter shareholding rises beyond 75 percent, then the company has to be de-listed from the bourses.—Reuters

brain's white matter, which is composed of nerve fibers, or axons, that transmit information throughout the brain.

The researchers used MRI to scan the brains of 152 people, average age 81. Participants were without dementia or mild cognitive impairment, based on a detailed clinical evaluation. Researchers asked the participants to rate on a scale of one to five the frequency with which they participated in a list of mentally engaging activities during the last year.

Among the activities were reading newspapers and magazines, writing let-

ters and playing cards and board games.

There was a significant association between frequent mental activities and structural integrity in several areas of white matter in the brain, the investigators found. "Reading the newspaper, writing letters, visiting a library, attending a play or playing games, such as chess or checkers, are all simple activities that can contribute to a healthier brain," said Konstantinos Arfanakis, an associate professor at Rush University Medical Centre in Chicago, in a statement.

Xinhua

German research points way to faster flu vaccines

Health

LONDON, 26 Nov — An experimental vaccine based on a molecule related to DNA protects animals against influenza and may one day offer an ultra-rapid way to develop new shots for humans, German scientists reported on Sunday. Assuming it also works in people, the new approach could allow commercial flu vaccines to be designed and manufactured in weeks rather than months. Making vaccines quickly is critical in fighting flu, particularly during a pandemic when health authorities and drugmakers are in a race to keep up with mutating strains of virus.

Flu vaccines have traditionally been produced in chicken eggs, a tricky and lengthy process. More recently some firms have started using animal cell cultures, with Novartis on 20 November winning the first US approval for such a product. Both approaches, however, still involve virus cultivation, which can result in variable yields and production delays.

The new vaccine developed by Lothar Stitz of Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut and colleagues uses a quicker approach. It is made solely of messenger RNA (mRNA) — a single-stranded molecule that carries information telling cells which proteins to make." The only thing we need is the sequence of the relevant genes," Stitz said. "It's a new option and it doesn't take long to do."

His team vaccinated mice, ferrets and pigs with an mRNA vaccine and found that the immune response was similar or better than that found with conventional vaccines. What is more, the new vaccines showed high efficacy in very young and very old animals, which can be a problem with current flu shots. Reporting their results in the journal Nature Biotechnology, the scientists calculated that a completed vaccine could be produced within six to eight weeks of the genetic code of a flu virus strain being published.

Reuters



Young holiday shoppers interact with the iPad at the Apple Store during Black Friday in San Francisco, California, on 23 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

## Ishihara's party place second after LDP in support rating

TOKYO, 26 Nov—The Japan Restoration Party, led by former Tokyo Gov Shintaro Ishihara and Osaka Mayor Toru Hashimoto, placed second in support rating after the main opposition Liberal Democratic Party and ahead of the ruling Democratic Party of Japan, a preelection *Kyodo News* survey showed on Sunday.

The latest outcome apparently reflects voters' dissatisfaction toward the country's two largest political parties.

The Japan Restoration Party, which was formed by Hashimoto, merged with Ishihara's Sunrise Party on 17 Nov to form a "third force" to challenge the LDP and DPJ.

The nationwide

telephone poll, conducted on Saturday and Sunday, showed that 18.7 percent of the respondents said they intend to vote for the LDP in the proportional representation section of the 16 Dec House of Representatives election, down from 23.0 percent in the previous survey conducted on 17 and 18 Nov.

*Kyodo News*



Osaka Mayor Toru Hashimoto (R) and former Tokyo Gov Shintaro Ishihara hold a Press conference in Osaka on 17 Nov, 2012. They said Hashimoto's Japan Restoration Party and Ishihara's Sunrise Party will be merged ahead of the 16 Dec, 2012, general election to counter major ruling and opposition parties.  
KYODO NEWS

## McCain says UN's Rice could change his mind over Benghazi



Senator John McCain reacts to a remark during the University of Southern California's Schwarzenegger Institute for State and Global Policy inaugural Symposium in Los Angeles, California, on 24 Sept, 2012.

REUTERS

NEW YORK, 26 Nov—Senator John McCain, a vocal opponent of Susan Rice's possible nomination as Secretary of State, said on Sunday that the UN ambassador could change his mind after she explained her

statements on the attack on the US mission in Benghazi.

"Sure. She can — I'd give everyone the benefit of explaining their position and the actions that they took," McCain said on the "Fox News Sunday" programme

when asked if Rice could reverse his opposition.

"I'd be glad to have the opportunity to discuss these issues with her," he said.

In what could become the first ugly nomination fight of Democratic President Barack Obama's second term, Republicans have criticized Rice for appearing on Sunday morning news shows shortly after the 11 September attack in Benghazi that killed four Americans and saying early information suggested it was the result of protests over an anti-Muslim film rather than a premeditated strike.

During the US presidential campaign, supporters of Republican candidate Mitt Romney seized on the issue to attack Obama.

McCain had vowed to oppose any attempt by Obama to put Rice into a

position that would require Senate confirmation, as the president prepares to fill anticipated vacancies in his Cabinet.

Rice had said earlier this week she respected McCain and looked forward to having the chance to discuss the Benghazi situation with him.

The UN ambassador has objected to contentions that she deliberately misled the public in the wake of the Benghazi attack.

McCain was asked whether Rice could get his vote to be Secretary of State, and responded: "I think she deserves the ability and the opportunity to explain herself and her position, just as she said."

Another senior Senate Republican, Lindsey Graham, said on Sunday that Rice would face "a lot of questions" during any Senate confirmation hearing.

Reuters

## Malaysia's navy ship visits Vietnam

HANOI, 26 Nov — Malaysia's navy ship, coded *KD-PKHTH*, anchored Saigon port on Sunday in Vietnam's southern Ho Chi Minh City for a friendly visit, reported Vietnam's state-run news agency on Monday. The visit, which will last through 29 Nov, aims to strengthen friendly relations, cooperation and mutual understanding between the two countries' armies in general and their navy forces in particular, said the report.

During their stay, Rear Admiral Abdul Rahman Bin Hj Ayob, Commander of the Royal Malaysian Navy's submarine force, and 90 sailors on board, will have courtesy calls to leaders of the Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee, the Military Zone 7 and the Navy Command's southern headquarter.

Malaysian sailors will also have sports exchange

with students of the Navy Technical College of Vietnam.

"This funding will not only provide young people and the unemployed with the opportunity to participate in cleaning up and rebuilding communities devastated by the storm, but it will provide valuable work experience and on-the-job training that can be useful in future careers."

In addition, Cuomo announced that the state has partnered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to launch a local hire programme to replace FEMA employees, often from out of state, with New Yorkers. "One of the ways we can help New York recover is to engage New Yorkers themselves in rebuilding their communities," said Federal Coordinating Officer Michael Byrne.—Xinhua

## Congo says no talks with rebels unless they quit Goma

KINSHASA, 26 Nov—Congo said on Sunday it would not negotiate with M23 rebels in the east until they pulled out of the city of Goma, but a rebel spokesman said Kinshasa was in no position to set conditions on peace talks.

Congolese President Joseph Kabila met with M23 for the first time on Saturday after an urgent summit in Uganda where regional leaders gave M23 two days to leave Goma, which the rebels seized six days ago after UN-backed government troops melted away.

Eight months into a rebellion that UN experts say is backed by neighboring Rwanda, the rebels have so far shown no sign of quitting the lakeside city of one million people.

The rebels say they plan to march on other cities in the east, and then strike out across the country to the capital Kinshasa, across 1,000 miles of dense jungle with few roads, a daunting feat achieved 15 years ago by Kabila's father.

Amani Kabasha, a spokesman for M23's political arm, welcomed the meeting with Kabila but questioned the government's resolve to end a crisis that risks engulfing the region.

"Why put conditions on talks? You pose conditions when you are in a position of strength. Is the government really in such a position?" Kabasha told *Reuters* in Goma, which sits on the north shore of Lake Kivu at Congo's eastern border with Rwanda.

Vianney Kazarama, the

rebels' military spokesman, said government forces that had been reinforcing along the shores of the lake were now deploying in hills around the rebel held town of Sake and government-held Minova, both Goma's west.

A UN source in Minova said government soldiers had gone on a looting spree for a second straight night there. The town was calm on Sunday but gunshots rang out overnight, the source said.

"What is real is that the morale of the troops is very low. They've lost hope in

the commanders," the UN source said. The Congolese army has vowed to launch counter-offensives and win back lost territory. The rebels have warned the government against embarking on a "new military adventure".

So far, the unruly and poorly-led army has been little match for the rebels, despite assistance from a UN peacekeeping mission that deployed attack helicopters to support the government before Goma fell.

Reuters



Dancers take part in the Oktoberfest festival celebrations in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 24 Nov, 2012. Sao Paulo celebrated the originally German festival from 23 to 25 November.—XINHUA

## "Night of violence" leaves 15 dead in Sao Paulo

RIO DE JANEIRO, 26 Nov—At least 15 people were shot or stabbed to death and 23 others injured in one of the most violent nights of the year in Brazil's largest city, police sources said on Sunday. In one incident, a father and his five-year-old son were shot dead and 11 others were wounded after four men on two motorcycles

opened fire at a bar. Three people were shot dead at close range by unidentified gunmen, and a firefighter was injured when two men tried to rob a supermarket.

Among the dead were three suspects killed in a shootout with police in central Sao Paulo as they tried to rob a house. Another person was stabbed to death.

Police said most of the night's homicides appeared to be gang related.

The number of homicides that emerged late Saturday and early Sunday has more than doubled the daily average of November 2011, pushing up the wave of violence that has gripped the city since the beginning of October.—Xinhua



People displaced by recent fighting in eastern Congo wait to distribute corn flour in Mugunga IDP camp outside of Goma, on 24 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

## President U Thein Sein and wife attend Kathina robe-offering ceremony

(from page 1)

Withutayama Monastery of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana, and shared the merits gained.

After the ceremony, President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win and party offered day meal to members of the Sangha.

Today's donations amounted to K 9.9 million including 14 Kathina Padaethabins.

MNA

*President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win offer robes to the Sayadaw of Maha Withutayama Zaykon Monastery in Pyinmana.*

MNA



Vice-President U Nyan Tun presents robes to a Sayadaw.—MNA



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presents robes to a Sayadaw.—MNA



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing offers robes to a Sayadaw.—MNA



Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win presents robes to a Sayadaw.—MNA

## Over 120,000 tourists visited Bagan in November

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Nov—As tourist arrival is on the increase in the open season, hotels are to provide better services for the convenience of tourists while steps are being for ensuring safety and satisfaction of the visitors. Foreign tourist arrival to Bagan Region up to the mid November 2012 has increased by 50 percent when compared with same period of last year which saw 123,552 tourists.

As local people benefited from that, all are necessary to cooperate in the process, said Union Minister U Htay Aung in meeting with local authorities, tour operators and members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees at Ayeayar Hotel in Bagan-Nyaung U on 24 November.

Next, the minister met with Nyaung U Township Cooperatives Syndicate and those from other rural

cooperatives societies and presented loans amounted to K 111.2 million to them.

At Bagan-Nyaung U Airport on 25 November, the minister cordially greeted the globetrotters and looked into the information counter of Myanmar Tourism Service and the exchange counter. He also inspected Mandalay Hill Hotel and Shwe Pyi Tha Hotel in Mandalay.

MNA

## Union Minister calls for continuous learning

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Nov — In his address in meeting with principals, heads of department and faculty members from University of Technology (Hpa-an), University of Computer Studies (Hpa-an) and Government Technical College (Hpa-an) yesterday, Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko

Ko Oo called on faculty members to continue their learning to be proficient in their subjects, to strive to be ideal persons of the students and to teach them practical lessons systematically more.

Next, the Union Minister visited University of Technology (Hpa-an), University of Computer Studies (Hpa-an) and

Government Technical College (Hpa-an).

On his inspection tour of University of Technology (Mawlamyine), University of Computer Studies and Government Technical College in Mon State, the Union Minister met the principals, heads of department and faculty members.—MNA

**PERSPECTIVES**

Tuesday, 27 November, 2012

**A global priority**

Family planning improves maternal health, reduces unintended pregnancies and abortions, prevents the spread of HIV/AIDS, and promotes responsible development and environmental sustainability. Around the world, 215 million women want to prevent pregnancy but need contraception.

The evidence is now overwhelming that enabling women to have children by choice rather than chance not only dramatically cuts infant and maternal deaths, but also improves the health of mothers and children.

Complications around pregnancy remain the greatest killer of teenage girls in the developing world.

But the impact goes far beyond both health and the individual. Studies have shown that investing in voluntary family planning reduces poverty, increases participation in both education and the workforce and gives women a greater say in their households and communities.

The result is higher incomes for families and improved prosperity for countries. Failure to enable women to make free and informed decisions about their own reproduction is a serious brake on social and economic development.

Family planning is sometimes used as a synonym for the use of birth control; however, it often includes a wide variety of methods, and practices that are not birth control.

It is most usually applied to a female-male couple who wish to limit the number of children they have and/or to control the timing of pregnancy (also known as *spacing children*).

Family planning may encompass sterilization, as well as abortion. We also need urgent action to eliminate child marriage and to challenge harmful traditional practices.

Health systems must be strengthened, and extending family planning made a key plank of the global development agenda that will follow the Millennium Development Goals after 2015 so it remains a global priority.

**Kathein Robe Offering Festival of Tazaungmon**

*Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja  
Sithu Dr Khin Maung Nyunt*

The 8<sup>th</sup> month [November] in Myanmar Lunar calendar is Tazaungmon which literally means “Tazaung” lighting by oil lamps and “Mon” [Hmon] embellishment”. Hence Embellishment by illumination of oil lamps. The best month of Myanmar cold season is Tazaungmon. Firstly, the north east wind passing through the icy Himalayans brings winter cold with fragrance of wild flowers. Secondly, the sky is clear blue, free from all pollutants [mist, haze, cloud, mirage, fog, smoke, etc.]. Therefore all heavenly bodies in the night firmament are visible to naked eyes. Thirdly, it is the month with many festivals. One Myanmar folk song epitomises many festivities of this month as:-

အဘိုးကြီးအိုခါးကုန်းကုန်း

မသေပါနဲ့အုံး

နောင်နှစ်ခါတန်ဆောင်မုန်း

ပွဲကြည့်ပါအုံး

Old man bent and double  
Don't die so soon,  
For watch again the pwe (festivals)  
At next Tazaungmon's fullmoon.

Old man bent and double

Don't die so soon,

For watch again the pwe (festivals)

At next Tazaungmon's fullmoon.

Jataka *Netkhat Thabin* was described in full detail as a state festival. Here it is pertinent to narrate Ommardanti Jataka in brief as follows:-

A servant girl in a noble family saved up her money to buy a beautiful dress to wear at her village festival back home. Taking a long leave she returned home with her dress. On the way, while resting in a resthouse near a lake she saw one monk bathing in the lake was in an awkward situation. His robes left on the bank were stolen. He could not come out of the water with bathing robe only. She wished if her dress were robe she would offer it to the monk in difficulty. Suddenly her dress turned robe which she offered to the monk, praying that for that merit “may she be born a very pretty lady, so pretty that all men seeing her beauty shall go crazy about her.”

In the next life she was born a beautiful girl to a wealthy gentry family in a village. When she grew up, the fame of her beauty spread, praising that she was even worthy to be a queen. King Thiwi of Arithapura Kingdom sent his wise Brahmins to her to see if she really had queenly beauty. At the banquet given in their honour at the mansion of Ommardanti, upon seeing her, the Brahmins were so bewitched by her extraordinary beauty that they went out of their mind and made

a mess of everything at the dinner. Annoyed by their ill manners the Lady of the House ordered her servants to throw the doors out of her residence and compound. Ashamed and humiliated the Brahmins reported to the king that Ommardanti was unworthy to be a queen. Ommardanti was married to the king's younger brother Abhiparaka who was the commander general. Ommardanti was faithful and devoted to her husband. But she would never forgive and forget the slight the king had given her. With a feminine pride she harboured a vengeance upon the king.

On the fullmoon night of Tazaungmon, the capital was illuminated to celebrate the royal *Netkhat Thabin*. The king would come out in state in an open coach to make a round in the city and stopping at pandals to receive respect and homage from his relatives and ministers. Abhipanaka the commander general was in charge of the king's security. He told his wife not to come out of the house and show her beauty, when the royal coach passed by and stopped at their house for he knew the evil consequences if his wife was seen by the king. But Ommardanti took this opportunity to turn the king mad by her bewitching beauty.

When the royal coach came up in front of her house, she made her appearance on the balcony and with a captivating smile, she sprayed fragrant flowers at the king in the royal coach who looked up to get just a moment's glimpse of the feminine idol in perfect beauty.

She immediately went into the house and shut the window leaving the king in a state of extreme desire and love mania. The king cut short his city tour, returned to the palace where he shut himself in his chamber refusing all audiences and suffering alone from his amorous craze with Ommardanti. Knowing full well what had happened commander general went to the king and told him that the oracle of the guardian god of the Bannyan tree revealed that his brother was infatuated with Ommardanti and he therefore offered Ommardanti to him.

The king felt ashamed and repented for now his evil

desire was known to the Tree god and his trusted brother the commander general. He came back to his senses and recovered from love mania. He ruled his kingdom justly till his death.

In some areas in the country this pre-Buddhist festival *Netkhat Thabin* is still held on fullmoon night of Tazaungmon.

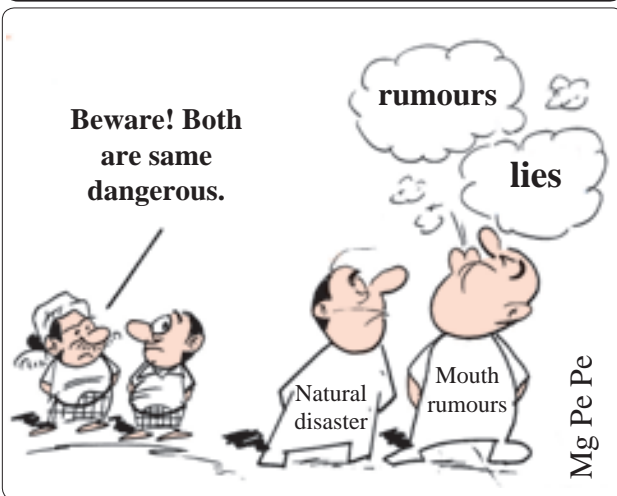
With the introduction of Buddhism to the country Tazaungmon festival assumed Buddhist character. The main festival of the month became Kathein robe offering festival with illumination of lights at Buddhist monuments.

Kathein robe offering to the monks originated in the life time of Lord Buddha. Thirty Buddhavaggi monks from Paveiyaka came to pay homage to Lord Buddha who was residing in Jetavana Vihara in the city of Savatthi. Being a long journey, they could not reach Savatthi before rainy season retreat began. During the retreat, they stayed at a small town on the way, named Thakayta. After the retreat they continued their journey. A heavy rain came down soaking them wet and damaging their robes badly. Since they were practicing the 13 classes of religious austerities, they did not have extra robes to change. On arrival at Jetavana Vihara, Lord Buddha saw their plight and he at once allowed offering and receiving of Kathein robe, laying down rules, procedures and expounding the merits gained from this religious deed.

The word “Kathein” is derived from a Pali word “Kathina” meaning firm or durable. Monks who received Kathein robe and monks who express their appreciation at the offering and receiving of Kathein robe by uttering “Sadu” [well done] three times gain five “durable” merits. Five durable merits are the privileges of enjoying relaxation of certain rules of Vinaya [Priestly Disciplines] governing the monks, such as

(1) Monks can go out to the house of the donor who invites them for offering food, without informing the other monk nearby, even if the donor has inadvertently used improper language in inviting.

(2) Monks who have resolved to practice the Tivara austerity [possessing (See page 9)



1 December 2012

**World AIDS Day**

“Getting to Zero”

“Zero New HIV Infections, Zero Discrimination and Zero AIDS related Deaths”

Ministry of Health

Bjeihsa [Vrischika, Scorpio] is the name of this month in Myanmar astrology and scorpion is its zodiacal sign. The cold breeze and morning dew of this month nourish a creeper plant which grows wild in profusion in this month. It is called *Kha-wei* [angula luffa] with golden coloured blooms sending out its delicate fragrance and pollens and in no time they turn to fruits, a delicious tender vegetable. This plant is cultivated for marketing, fetching good price. The countryside is blanked with these creepers with yellow blooms. It is thus designated flower of this month.

Before the arrival of Buddhism to the country, worship of natural phenomena was one of Myanmar belief system. Heavenly bodies and planets were believed to exercise their influence upon human life and career. So they were propitiated for their favour. In Myanmar astrology there are 27 constellations which your naked eyes can see only at Tazaungmon's nights [especially Fullmoon night]. They are (1) Asavani (2) Barani (3) Kyattika (4) Rohani (5) Migasi (6) Bhadra (7) Pun-naphusshu (8) Phussha (9) Assalissa (10) Magha (11) Pyubhparagunni (12) Ut-taraparagunni (13) Hassada (14) Citra (15) Swadi (16) Visakha (17) Anurada (18) Jettha (19) Mula (20) Prup-



ARTICLE

## Kathein Robe Offering Festival of Tazaungmon

(from page 8)

a robe of three garments only] are permitted to go out without carrying the resolved robe with them.

(3) Robes received can be worn by monks without performing certain religious procedure.

(4) Even when an invitation for food offering comes in an improper manner, at least four monks and above can accept it.

(5) Monks of the monastery where Kathein robes are offered for the Sangha can wear these robes.

The following merits are attained by the donors of Kathein robes:-

(1) There shall be no danger or disturbance wherever the donor travels.

(2) The donor will have plenty of good and healthy food. He will never suffer from food poison.

(3) The donor's property is safe from destruction, robbery, theft or fire.

(4) The donor will recover the long forgotten or lost property. The donor will get wealth without much difficulty.

(5) The donor will have a good happy look.

Generally, there is no restriction regarding the offering of robes to monks. Any time donors may offer one piece or the whole set of three pieces to any monk, at any time of the year. But Kathein robe offering has the prescribed period, strict rules governing the Kathein robe, the donor, the recipient of the Kathein robe and how Kathein robe should be worn. From the first waning moon day of Thidinkyut [October] to the fullmoon day of Tazaungmon [November] is the period allowed for the offering of Kathein robe to the monks. Both donors and recipients must observe this time limit. The donor must have good and sincere intention and must donate Kathein robe out of his voluntary will, not under persuasion nor under compulsion by others. The donor offers Kathein robe not to individual monk or monastery but to the Sangha [all members of the Buddhist Order collectively] as a whole. Monk must never request directly or indirectly anyone, even their parents or relatives to donate them robe. According to Vinaya [Priestly Disciplines] if monks are in need of robe and there is no donation of robe, they must collect discarded clothes, wash them clean, dye them with bark, piece and sew

them together to wear as robe. Recipients of Kathein robe are selected in accordance with the rules regarding Kathein robe. The deserving recipients are those monks who have

(1) observed Purima Wa or the first retreat [the 1st Waning moon day of Waso to the fullmoon day of Thidinkyut

(2) performed the Pawarana [confession of monks' to one another begging pardon for sin, repenting and promising not to commit again]

(3) had no record of breach of retreat vow

(4) shortage or need of robe

(5) being the most senior monk among those who are in real need of robe.

The selection of the deserving recipient of Kathein robe is carried out by an assembly of monks in the ordination hall of the monastic complex. The Kathein robes are offered to the monks who have the above qualifications entitling them to be deserving recipients. First, the recipient has to discard the piece of the robe he is wearing which is corresponding to that of the Kathein robe offered him. Then he has to utter in Pali the acceptance of the Kathein robe offered him. He makes a mark on the accepted Kathein robe, uttering in Pali that the Kathein robe has been offered and accepted in accordance with the rules of Vinaya laid down by Lord Buddha. Then he requests all monks present to share in the merit by exclaiming the word of appreciation in Pali "Sadu" three times.

Kathein robe can be donated by anyone, lay, or clergy, men or women, adult or youth. But each monastery is entitled to only one Kathein offering a year. Kathein robe must be untainted, clean, new, not borrowed, not second hand one. It is a pure religious offering by voluntary will of the donor.

Old stone inscriptions, chronicles and literature as well as mural paintings in Myanmar bear evidences of Kathein robe offering festival in Tazaungmon. A full account of Kathein robe offering by Myanmar kings is found in Lawka Byu Har Kyan [Treatise on Court Ceremonies and Festivals] compiled by Minister Thiri Uzana of Inwa Period of Myanmar history.

There are other festivals associated with Kathein robe offering. Firstly there is the festival of the weaving of Matho Thingan robe, literally translated "non-stale"

robe. Matho Thingan is a priestly garment made at once within the period of the night of the fullmoon of Tazaungmon. If the weaving and making of this robe takes longer than the prescribed period of time the garment or the robe is regarded as "stale".

In the life time of Lord Gotama Buddha, his foster mother Gotami who became Bhikkuni made a robe for the Buddha. She organized a robe weaving and making party of all master weavers at the court. All female members of the Court including herself participated in the weaving and making the robe to be finished within the period of the beginning of the fullmoon of Tazaungmon and to be completely finished by the dawn next day. The finished robe was ceremonially conveyed to Lord Buddha residing at Nijorda Vihara and offered it to him. This great event set a good precedent for Myanmar Buddhist to perform the weaving of Matho Thingan on the fullmoon night of Tazaungmon and offering it to the Buddha Images at the following dawn till today. Myanmar chronicles and literature have full accounts of Matho Thingan weaving competitions held at the palace of Myanmar kings. Even the last Myanmar king, Thibaw [1878-1885] did not fail to hold this religious ceremony annually. Winners of Matho Thingan weaving competitions were awarded with cash, kind and other prizes.

There are other two types of offering robes to monks such as Kya Thingan and Pant Thaku Thingan. Kya Thingan is a robe woven with threads made out of fibres of lotus stems: Lotus robe or Kya Thingan is warm in winter and cool in summer for the wearers. Lord Buddha had worn Kya Thingan offered by some donors. Today, Kya Thingan are made in Shan, Mon and Rakhine states where lotus grow profusely in natural lakes. Pant Thaku is a derivative from Pali word meaning food, clothing or anything discarded on the ground for anyone to take. During the first twenty ordained years of Lord Buddha there was no donor of robe. Lord Buddha and all monks had to go around to collect clothings discarded on the ground for making robes for themselves. Such robes were called "Pant Thaku" Later Pant Thaku came to have a wider meaning— any offering by an unknown donor to an unknown recipient. Greater merit is gained by

making Pant Thaku offering because no personal attachment is involved as both the donor and the recipient are unknown to each other. The latter Pant Thaku is written on the offering so as to differentiate it from lost property on the ground.

Another religious festival held on the full moon night of Tazaungmon is the festival of Saint Shin Ma Lei. Saint Shin Ma Lei was a saint monk of a village in Ceylon [Sri Lanka]. Legend says that by means of supernatural powers he gained through intense *Samatha* concentration of mind [meditation] he went up to Tavatimsa the celestial kingdom to worship Sulamani Pagoda in which the hairs of Prince Siddhatha and sacred tooth relic of the Buddha were enshrined. There at the pagoda, he met with the deva who was the future Metaya Buddha. The deva requested Saint Shin Ma Lei to preach to the people Vessantara Jataka on every fullmoon day of Tazaungmon. The saint monk promised. So when returned to earth he preached that Jataka with one thousand Pali poems to do dana [giving], for merit. To commemorate this event, tall pagodas were built with shrines of Shin Ma Lei saints. One thousand fruits, one thousand lotus flowers, one thousand fistful of cooked rice, and one thousand lights of oil lamps placed on Hlaw Ka boat are offered to Sait Shin Ma Lei. One thousands represent one thousand Pali poems of Jataka. The Hlaw Ka Boat represents the Ferry Boat [the Buddha's Dhamma] to save all sentient beings from the whirlpool of rebirths cravings and sufferings [Samsara] to the Land of Nivarna [the end of suffering and eternal peace and bliss].

There are two traditional festivals which have social and communal significance. They are *Me Zali* sallad feast and *Kyi Mano* festival and *Kyethar Kalatha* feast. Both are associated with the Net Khet Thabin [the festival of constellations and planets]. Legend has it that on the full moon night of Tazaungmon, when the constellation "Kyattika" and the moon shine together, the guardian gods of all herbal plants and trees come together to attend on the guardian god of Me Zali Tree [Cassia Siamea]. Another version of the legend says that it was on the full moon night of Tazaungmon that the guardian god of Kyattika who is also fire

god [Agni] used to come down to earth and stayed with the guardian god of Me Zali Tree. The guardian gods of all herbal flora come to Me Zali Tree to pay respect to Kyattika god. So it is believed that on this full moon night all creative properties of herbal flora are concentrated in Me Zali tree. Me Zali tree grows wild in any part of Myanmar. Its tender leaves and buds and blooms are edible. Myanmar treatises on herbal medicine prescribe that Me Zali is medicinal. So Myanmar people eat slightly bitter but appetising Me Zali salad made out of its boiled buds, and leaves, seasoned with ingredients like peanut, fried garlic, sesamum, fresh peeled onion and cooking oil and salt. Me Zali soup with fish, pounded roasted rice powder and pepper is the favourite dish of the epicureans.

Kyi Ma-no festival is in fact a traditional prank played by Myanmar youths. Literal meaning of Kyi Ma-no festival is a performance carried out before crows wake up. It is a prank while people and even crows are sound asleep. Sometimes and at some places it is also known as "Thief's Night". Legend says that on the fullmoon night of Tazaungmon, when all heavenly bodies appear, Sawya Net Khat [Thief's constellation] also appears, which exercises, so it is said, its influence upon youths [male youths] who thus suffer temporarily from "kleptomania" on that night. Kleptomania is a psychological disease of the irresistible urge to steal. So at mid night of Tazaungmon's full moon, male youths play their pranks. Individually or in groups they "steal" (pinch) anything found in the house compound or backyard (not from inside the house)— pots, pans, clothings, baskets, chamber pots, skirts, braziers, underwears all odds and ends and leave them at public places and road crossings. Skirts braziers and underwears are hung up on trees. The following morning, everyone is amused and moved to laughter to see the owners searching for their missing properties only to find them at public places. Male youths laugh heartily when old ladies come out to reclaim skirts, underwears and braziers on behalf of their real owners who being young are inhibited by feminine modestly to appear under the glaring eyes of male youths.

On this night, male youths get pocket money from the adults to hold midnight picnic and play pop music and sing love songs the whole night to attract the attention

of girls in the neighbourhood who stayed the whole night to listen to their performance. The midnight picnic is popularly known as *Kyethar Kalatha Chet*, meaning chicken curry picnic cooked by male youths. Live chickens are stolen from neighbourhood and cooked with any vegetable gathered from backyard. No cooking oil, only boiled in a big pot with vegetable youths eat it with cooked rice right from the pots with some very hot chilli seasoned with shrimp paste. Neighbours keep some poultry farms in the backyard. They do not complain about the "stealing" of their live chicken because they themselves had done such kind of midnight picnic when they were young. Today *Kyethar Kalatha Chet*, chicken curry cooked by modern male youths, is one of Myanmar's traditional dishes very popular with foreign tourists. Around Nay Pyi Taw many food stalls are preparing this dish specially ordered by foreign tourists.

Added to the above-mentioned festivals in the month of Tazaungmon is one very important holiday in Myanmar political history which is National Day. On the 10th waning moon of Tazaungmon in Myanmar Era 1282 [1920] that the Yangon University Boycott broke out. The immediate cause of the Boycott was the passing of the Yangon University Act by the British Colonial government regardless of the public demand for some reforms of the Act. But the main motivation of the Boycott was Myanmar dislike of colonial education which only trained Myanmar youths to become servants of British colonial administration. The boycotters set up their headquarters on Shwedagon Pagoda Platform and formed the Council of National Education to set a National College and national schools throughout the country, to teach and train Myanmar youths in national culture, national history and literature and vocational subjects. The British Government later gave in by reforming and amending the Act. The success of this Boycott of 1920 was so important and its effects were so far reaching upon Myanmar struggle for national freedom that the date of the Boycott was designated as "National Day" which Myanmar have been commemorating annually ever since.

Tazaungmon is the most festive month in Myanmar calendar.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Press Release...

*(from page 16)*

- (cc) who has practiced as an Advocate for at least 20 years.
- (v) who is well acquainted with political, administrative, economic and security affairs;
- (vi) who is loyal to the State and citizens.
- (b) The president shall nominate, in his opinion, an eminent jurist even if he/she does not meet qualifications prescribed in Sub-section (a) Sub-paragraph (iv).
- (c) As Section 333 Sub-section (e) requires members not to be member of a political party and Sub-section (f), not to be Hluttaw representative, the member shall not take part in its party activities if he/she is a member of a political party and shall be deemed to have resigned as Hluttaw representative in accord with Section 330 of the constitution. He/she shall be deemed to have retired from the Civil Services.
- (2) **Section 5:** The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker shall submit the name list of members they nominate in accord with Section 4.
- (3) **Section 28:** (a) If the chairman wishes to resign on his own volition from office before the expiry of his term due to any reason, he may do so, after submitting his resignation in writing to the President.  
(b) If a member wants to resign from office in accord with sub-section (a), the member may do so after submitting the written resignation to the President through the Chairperson.
- (4) **Section 30:** If the office of the chairperson or the member becomes vacant due to a particular reason, the President shall appoint the new chairperson or member who has qualifications prescribed in

Section 4 in accord with the provisions of the Constitution.

4. It is learnt that the President is vested duties to carry out the matter regarding the reconstitution of the Constitution Tribunal of the Union in accordance with the following law and provisions.

(a) **Constitution**

- (1) **Section 321:** The President shall submit the candidature list of total nine persons; three members chosen by him, three members chosen by the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw and three members chosen by the Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, and one member from among nine members to be assigned as the Chairperson of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for its approval.
- (2) **Section 327:** The President shall appoint the Chairperson and members of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.
- (3) **Section 328:** The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall have no right to refuse the persons nominated for members of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union by the President unless it can clearly be proved that they are disqualified.

(b) **Constitutional Tribunal of the Union Law**

- (1) **Section 6:** The President shall submit the candidature list of total nine persons chosen in accordance with Section 4, and one member from among them to be assigned as the Chairperson to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for its approval.
- (2) **Section 10:** The President shall appoint the Chairperson and members of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

5. As the Chairperson and all members of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union resigned on 6 September 2012 on their own volition in accordance with the law, the functions of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union came to a halt. It is required to reconstitute the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union in accordance with the law as it is the constitutional supreme court of the State.

## Myanmar-Germany Media Dialogue held

YANGON, 26 Nov — Jointly-organized by Forever Group Co., Ltd of Myanmar and Deutsche Welle Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany, a Media Dialogue in which media men of state- and private-owned media in Myanmar and Germany was held at the hall of Myanmar Media Development Centre in Junction Square in Kamaryut Township, here, this morning.

In his address, German Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Christian-Ludwig Weber-Lortsch said that the dialogue could bring about mutual understanding between the media persons of the two countries, exchanging views and strengthening mutual friendship between the two countries.

He continued that Germany was providing technological assistance for

development of media sector in developing countries and nations in transition. Continued cooperation would be made for conducting media courses, he added.

Next, U Thiha Saw, Chief Editor of Open News Weekly, said that he hoped to acquire more technical assistance and new ideas through the Media Dialogue.

Two objectives of organizing the Media Dialogue is to share views and experiences on mass media between the two countries and to discuss how to exercise the basic principles of journalism.

The Media Dialogue will continue tomorrow. Similarly, the Media Dialogue will be organized in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 November and in Yangon on 30 November.

MNA



## Illegal arms, ammunitions seized in Naungun joint inspection gate

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Nov— Illegal arms and ammunitions were seized at Kengtung (Naungun) joint inspection gate on 22 November, said local police force.

The departmental joint team of local battalion and Myanmar Police Force searched the light truck with U Sai Tun, son of U Law Ba, at the wheel driving from Tachilek to Kengtung in Shan State on 22 November and seized six slide

action shotguns, six silenced sniper rifles, four 9-mm pistols, two 40-mm grenade launchers, totaling 18 assorted guns and 2004 assorted bullets and 12 assorted magazines from Ma Nan Mon Lin, daughter of U Long Nanni. Those arms and ammunitions were systematically transferred to authorities concerned who are investigating the traffickers to find out those behind the scene.

MNA



## Computer set donated to village BEMS branch

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 26 Nov— A ceremony to donate one set of computer and cash to Basic Education Middle School Branch was held in Ketcho Village of Mawlamyinegyun Township on 23 November with the aim of enabling students to learn computer science.

Wellwisher Sayadaw Bhaddanta Varasami of Maha Shwebo Monastery near the eastern stairway of Shwedagon Pagoda donated K 420,000 for computer set and K 100,000 to the school. The headmaster accepted the donations.

Myanma Alinn



REGIONAL

**China now capable to deploy jets on aircraft carrier: Navy**

LIAONING AIRCRAFT-CARRIER, 26 Nov — Successful aircraft landing exercises on China's first aircraft carrier mean the country is now capable to deploy fighter jets on the carrier, a senior navy officer said on Sunday.

Pilots have mastered key skills to ensure the success of the take-off and the landing, especially under unfavorable conditions such as poor visibility and unstable airflow, said Vice-Admiral Zhang Yongyi, a deputy commander of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy.

"It's like 'dancing on a knife point' as the aircraft have to land on a very

limited space," Zhang said while commenting on the successful flight landing recently conducted on the carrier, the Liaoning.

The aircraft must land precisely over a very short and narrow runway on the carrier at a speed of several hundreds of kilometers per hour, Zhang said in an interview with *Xinhua* on Sunday, after the *J-15* fighter succeeded in the landing tests.

"We have done all these test flights from the very beginning, and finally we mastered the key skills for the landing of carrier-borne aircraft," said Zhang, who is also the commander-in-chief in charge of the tests and

training programme of the flight landing.

Currently, the Chinese pilots have found out the right ways to conduct the landing and they have consolidated their skills, according to the Navy officer, who himself is a meritorious pilot of the Chinese naval air force.

Zhang said the carrier-borne aircraft and special equipment for the landing flight have gone through strict tests, and fighter jets can be deployed on the aircraft carrier.—*Xinhua*



People of Miao ethnic group perform during the celebration of Miao's New Year in Leishan County, southwest China's Guizhou Province, on 25 Nov, 2012. According to the traditional calendar of the Miao ethnic group, on 25 Nov this year marks the first day of Miao's New Year. In 2006, the celebration of Miao's New Year was listed as Chinese national intangible cultural heritage.—XINHUA

**Nearly 200 families flee for gov't-rebel clashes in S Philippines**

MANILA, 26 Nov—Some 200 families in southern Philippines fled their hometown due to fighting between government forces and the New People's Army rebels in Davao del Norte, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said on Sunday.

They have been arranged at village halls by local officials, said council executive director Benito Ramos. The fighting began on Thursday in a number of villages when government troops were responding to a report about the sighting of about 300 rebels.

As of Saturday, Ramos said the military and police "are conducting clearing operation to the war zone to determine the presence of landmine" possibly planted by the rebels who had retreated.

Ramos said the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Council has recommended the declaration of state of calamity in the areas.—*Xinhua*

**13 killed after drinking toxic cough syrup in Pakistan's Lahore**

ISLAMABAD, 26 Nov.—At least 13 people died and several others were in critical condition after drinking toxic cough syrup in Pakistan's eastern City of Lahore over the last two days, local police said on Sunday.

The police said over 20 drug addicts drank a locally-manufactured cough syrup for getting intoxicated on Saturday evening, but fell seriously sick minutes after gulping it. Five people died right on the spot and the remaining were shifted to the state-run Mayo hospital where doctors said that the

medicine was adulterated, causing a serious damage to their internal body organs. Later on Sunday, eight more people died one after another and the remaining seven to ten patients are in a critical condition, the hospital sources said. The syrup costs 40 Rupees (0.42 US dollars) and is available at many medical stores in the city.

Shahbaz Sharif, Chief Minister Punjab took notice of the issue and directed police to seal the syrup manufacturing company and medical stores which sold the contaminated medicine to the affected people.

He also formed an inquiry committee, demanding it to file a report within 72 hours.

The owners of the medical stores have been arrested and samples of the toxic syrup were sent for laboratory testing.

The business of spurious drugs is flourishing in the country and many local pharmaceutical companies are involved in it. In the past, government had arrested some pharmacists for manufacturing sub-standard drugs but due to loopholes in the system none of them got any notable punishment.

*Xinhua*

**S Korea's presidential candidate registration ends**

SEOUL, 26 Nov — South Korean presidential hopefuls are poised to launch their campaigns as the two-day candidate registration for the crucial December poll ends on Monday.

Park Geun-hye of the ruling Saenuri Party and Moon Jae-in of the main opposition Democratic United Party registered with the National Election Commission a day ago, a prelude to the 22 days of fierce campaigning on both sides.

Park, a 60-year-old political veteran and daughter of South Korea's former dictator Park Chung-hee, announced on Sunday she will retire from politics if she loses the presidential election.

"If I fail to earn people's trust, I will end my political journey," Park, who also plans to resign her parliamentary seat, said at a Press conference in Seoul.

Moon, a 59-year-old former human rights lawyer who served as chief of staff to late President Roh Moo-hyun, said his campaign

represents new political voices disempowering the entrenched interests.

Moon called for a broad alliance of liberals and centrists, a move aimed at winning back supporters of independent Ahn Cheol-soo, who bowed out of short-lived talks with Moon over merging their campaigns against conservative favourite Park.—*Xinhua*



Park Geun Hye from the ruling Saenuri Party holds a Press conference in Seoul on 25 Nov, 2012, after she filed her candidacy in the South Korean presidential election.—KYODO NEWS



Photo taken on Nov. 25, 2012 shows the sea of clouds in Luoping County, southwest China's Yunnan Province. XINHUA

**Voters in tsunami-hit zone feel let down as Japan election nears**

TOKYO, 26 Nov — Three weeks before Japan's first national election since the March 2011 earthquake, none of the contenders has managed to win the hearts, and votes, of those hardest-hit by the disaster—with many feeling let down by the entire political class.

Volunteers and donations had poured in after the magnitude 9.0 quake off the northeast coast of Japan's main island Honshu unleashed a deadly tsunami that killed nearly 19,000 and triggered reactor meltdowns at the Fukushima nuclear plant.

But 20 months later, residents of towns and cities ravaged by the country's worst disaster in generations say the nation's biggest rebuilding effort since the aftermath of the World War Two has slipped off the political agenda.

"I am not expecting anything from the election results," said Akio Ono, president of seafood processing firm Ono Foods Co, in Kamaishi, a port with a population of 38,000, where more than 1,000 residents were killed by the tsunami.

"None of the politicians seem to be thinking about Japan seriously, they are not paying attention to the disaster-hit areas."

Lawmakers have signed off 19 trillion yen (\$230 billion) in public funds to cope with the aftermath of the world's costliest natural disaster and the fallout of the Fukushima crisis.

But an audit last month showed only about half has been spent because of bureaucratic inertia and bottlenecks. Some of those funds have also been funnelled to other parts of Japan and projects at best loosely related to reconstruction.

Besides the slow trickle of funds a lack of comprehensive rebuilding plans is another source of frustration. While the second anniversary of the disaster is fast approaching, many businesses operate in provisional facilities and thousands live in temporary housing not knowing whether they will be able to rebuild their homes or have to relocate elsewhere.

Managers such as Masahiko Numari, who runs



Victims of the 11 March earthquake and tsunami observe a minute of silence at a shelter in Kamaishi, Iwate prefecture, in this 11 April, 2011 file photograph, marking the one month anniversary of the deadly quake which triggered the tsunami and nuclear crisis in Japan. Weeks before Japan's first national election on 16 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

a fish processing company in Miyako, who were able to rebuild their factories with government help, say they need more financial aid to expand. The region, long dependent on fishing and farming, also craves new investment that would bring permanent jobs and stop the exodus of young people.

"I would like to vote for someone who would help improve the employment

situation for young people like me," said Ryuhei Toubai, 23, who works nights as a bartender in Kamaishi but is looking for a day job that would pay his healthcare and pension benefits. "I want a stable job when I think about my future."

Many of those in towns and cities hit by the tsunami and the radiation crisis who are still in a limbo feel ignored.—*Reuters*

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

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

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

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

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

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**Dozens feared dead as Al-Shabaab attacks Somali border town**

MANDERA, (Kenya), 26 Nov— Several people are reported to have been killed and scores of others injured on Saturday after fierce gun battle erupted in southern Somali border town of Bula-Hawa following an attack by suspected Al-Shabaab militia. The battle for the control of the Somali border town, which is less than 200 metres from Kenya's northern town of Mandera, has also left two Kenyans, including Mandera

East Water Officer Mohamed Ali, injured.

The fighting which erupted at around 5 pm local time (1400GMT) was pitting suspected heavily armed Al-Shabaab militia and the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) who were in control of the town which was taken over from the insurgents by Somali forces backed by Ethiopian soldiers. Kenya's Mandera County Commissioner Micheal Ole

**THANKS TO ALL FOR ENCOURAGING OUR WEDDING CEREMONY**

**Mr. Liansuankhai Kuntong**  
eldest son of U Vum Cin Thang-Daw  
Ciin Khua Pau  
married to

**Ms. Tual Lam Kim**  
youngest daughter of U Gin Suan-Daw  
Dim Lian Cing

We both sides of parents take pleasure to say our heartfelt thanks to all honourable dignitaries and esteem gentlemen, by the bride and bridegroom signifying their marriage held at Lawibual Baptist Church on 14.11.2012 (Wednesday).

Both sided of Parents and  
**Mr. Liansuankhai Kuntong**  
**Ms. Tual Lam Kim**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (521)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (521) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.11.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
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*Nigerian artists perform at the opening ceremony of 2012 Abuja Carnival in Abuja, the capital city of Nigeria, on 24 Nov, 2012. Art groups from more than ten countries and regions participated in the three-day carnival, with the theme of "Carnival of Peace and Harmony".—XINHUA*

Tialal said huge number of civilians, largely women and children, and Somali soldiers have crossed to Mandera side of the border after they fled from the heavy fighting. "Many civilians and TFG soldiers have crossed to the Border Point One in Mandera town. The TFG soldiers and some civilians have now returned back after the fighting has subsided and the attackers repulsed," Tialal said. "We still have a huge

number of Somali refugees who fled from the fighting who are camping on the Border Point One, but we haven't yet established the number and our chiefs are on the ground to do the count." Hussein Mahat Abdulle, a resident of Bula-Hawa who spoke on phone, said at least he saw 3 killed persons, 2 with TFG uniform and other body who is believed to be the member of Al-Shabaab assailants.—Xinhua

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**Six killed in train crash in Italy**

ROME, 26 Nov—Six workers were killed on Saturday as a train ran over a space wagon in southern Italy, local media said.

According to the ANSA news agency, a regional train slammed into a space wagon as it crossed the tracks at a private level crossing near Cosenza, a city in the southern Calabria region. Six farm labourers from Romania and Bulgaria who were travelling on the space wagon were reported dead after it was knocked off some 200 meters from the rails.

Two other workers were reportedly safe because they had got off the vehicle to open the gate that gives access to the tracks. No one aboard the train was injured, first investigations said.—Xinhua

**Lebanon military arrest five Syrians in bombing attempt**

BEIRUT, 26 Nov—The Lebanese Army Command confirmed on Saturday that the military arrested five Syrians in the southern town of Nabatiyeh after seizing explosives and ammunition from them, the National News Agency reported.

The army issued a statement one day after media reports said five men were arrested in the Nabatiyeh neighbourhood of al-Maslakh as they were planning to detonate explosives during a religious ceremony

to be held in Nabatiyeh on Saturday.

The statement said "As part of security measures taken by military units throughout Lebanese territories and after receiving information about some people carrying out a suspicious security activity in a housing area in the city of Nabatiyeh, a patrol raided the area and arrested the five Syrians."

"The patrol seized explosives, mortar ammunition with Hebrew letters and a detonator," according to the statement.—Xinhua



*Photo taken on 24 Nov, 2012 shows two common squirrel monkeys in Suzhou Zoo, in Suzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province.—XINHUA*

ENTERTAINMENT



Rihanna and Chris Brown were all over each other at Adagio club after his gig.—PTI

### Rihanna, Chris Brown get intimate in Berlin

LOS ANGELES, 26 Nov—Rihanna and Chris Brown were spotted kissing and cuddling in Berlin. The Diamonds singer—who recently claimed she and Chris are just friends—joined the 23-year-old singer on his tour in Germany on Thanksgiving and the pair were all over each other at Adagio club after his gig.

A source told HollywoodLife.com: “Rihanna was supporting him for real though, kissed him a few times and you know... she was all about making Chris feel good and being there for him. She made it all about him and took a back seat, so he could do his thing and let the fans [interact with him]. She knows he’s on tour and the club was packed for him, so she was cool with it. Rihanna is loving the tour—she thinks he’s performing well and she’s showing Chris much love. They left together after the club, they’re both enjoying their time together.”

Chris—who is still on probation for beating Rihanna, 24, up in 2009—dumped his girlfriend Karrueche Tran earlier this year because of his feelings for Rihanna and friends say he is thrilled she has decided to support him on tour. The insider added: “Chris knew Rihanna was coming and he appreciates her supporting him on another level. He missed her

and he needed her to come to Berlin and chill. They are there for one another no matter what. They hit up a club just to relax and s\*\*t. Chris was mad happy to have Rihanna there by his side.”

PTI

### Sonakshi tries Kathakali during Dabangg 2 shoot

MUMBAI, 26 Nov—After matching tough dance steps with ace choreographer Prabhudheva in Oh My God!, actress Sonakshi Sinha recently challenged herself with some Kathakali steps on the set of Dabangg 2.

The 25-year-old tried some steps of the classical dance form while shooting for the song Dagabaaz re from the movie.

“There is a sequence in the song where there are Kathakali dancers and when Sonakshi came to know about this, she got really excited! She is an actor who loves learning new things and, in fact, has even learnt some Kathakali and re-



Sonakshi tried some steps of the classical dance form while shooting for the song Dagabaaz re from the movie.—PTI

quested the dancers to teach her a few more steps,” said a source.

Arbaaz Khan is mak-

ing his directorial debut with Dabangg 2, which stars his big brother Salman in the lead role. Sonakshi plays his

wife. The film, also starring Prakash Raj, is slated to release on 21 December.

PTI

## Vampires foil Tooth Fairy, Santa to claim box office win

LOS ANGELES, 26 Nov—Teen vampire film “The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn —Part 2” continued to take a bite out of the domestic box office, drawing \$64 million in ticket sales over the five-day Thanksgiving holiday weekend to finish ahead of James Bond film “Skyfall.” After opening with a massive \$141.1 million last weekend, the finale of the “Twilight” franchise

brought in a holiday swarm of fans to see teen favorites Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart and Taylor Lautner, pushing “Breaking Dawn” to \$227 million in total domestic ticket sales.

“Skyfall,” starring Daniel Craig in the 23rd installment of the James Bond franchise, finished second, collecting \$51 million in weekend ticket sales in the United States and Canada, according to studio estimates compiled by the box office division of Hollywood.com. “Lincoln,” Steven Spielberg’s historical film on the last days of President Abraham Lincoln, grabbed third with \$34.1 million over the Wednesday-through-Sunday period. Making its debut in fourth place with \$32.6 million was the animated film “Rise of the Guardians,” featuring the voices of Chris Pine and Alec Baldwin as the Tooth Fairy, Santa Claus and other childhood favorites who save the world.

“Life of Pi,” based on Yann Martel’s 2001 best-seller about a boy who

survives on a raft with a tiger after his ship sinks, collected \$30.15 million for a strong fifth-place finish.” “Rise of the Guardians,” produced by Dreamworks Animation for roughly \$145 million, had been projected by distributor Paramount Pictures to gross \$35 million in its first five days, according to Box Office Mojo. Based on “The Guardians of Childhood” book series by chil-

dren’s author William Joyce, the film will be the last Paramount will release for Dreamworks, whose films will be distributed next year by News Corp’s Fox studio.

Anne Globe, Dreamworks’ chief marketing officer, pointed to “the great parent reactions we’ve seen” to the film, and noting it was among the few choices for families through the end of year, said the studio was “hoping for very long legs through the holidays.” The Ang Li film “Life of Pi,” on the other hand, performed stronger than expected. “We clearly exceeded our pre-release expectations,” said Chris Aronson, president of domestic distribution for 20th Century Fox. “We’re

Reuters



Cast members Robert Pattinson (R), Kristen Stewart (C) and Taylor Lautner pose for pictures before the German premiere of The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 in Berlin, on 16 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

seeing word of mouth in action, and a remarkably balanced demographic,” including strong ticket sales among those under 25, he said, adding “Many felt it was impossible to film, but Ang Li pulled it off.”

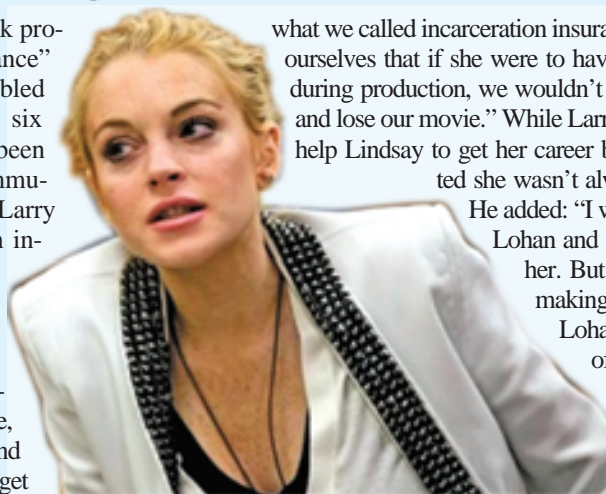


Kareena Kapoor doesn't think marriage is going to make any difference to her career. PTI

### Liz & Dick producers got insurance before hiring Lohan

LOS ANGELES, 26 Nov—Liz & Dick producers had to get “incarceration insurance” before hiring Lindsay Lohan. The troubled 26-year-old actress has been arrested six times, checked in to rehab five times, been jailed and completed 536 hours of community service and executive producer Larry Thompson admitted hiring her was an incredible risk.

He told Entertainment Weekly: “When we first met with her, she had two probations, and when we finally closed the deal with her, there was only one probation. If we couldn’t have gotten insurance, there would have been no movie. We wound up having to go to Lloyd’s of London to get



what we called incarceration insurance.... We had to protect ourselves that if she were to have violated her probation during production, we wouldn’t have had to close down and lose our movie.” While Larry hopes Liz & Dick will help Lindsay to get her career back on track, he admitted she wasn’t always easy to work with.

He added: “I want the best for Lindsay Lohan and anybody who ever hires her. But they have to know that making a movie with Lindsay Lohan is like jumping out of an airplane at 10,000 feet with a bolt of white nylon, a string, and a sewing machine.”

PTI

## Milan ease pressure with gutsy win over Juve



AC Milan celebrates winning at the end of their Italian Serie A soccer match against Juventus at the San Siro stadium in Milan on 25 Nov, 2012. AC Milan won 1-0.

REUTERS

MILAN, 26 Nov—AC Milan eased the pressure on coach Massimiliano Allegri with a 1-0 win over Juventus on Sunday, inflicting the Serie A leaders' second defeat in quick succession thanks to a controversial Robinho penalty.

The Juve loss came three weeks after their

49-match unbeaten record ended with a 3-1 home defeat by arch-rivals Inter Milan.

For AC Milan, the win completed an impressive week in which the Rossoneri also sealed qualification for the knockout stages of the Champions League.

Former Milan striker

Marco van Basten was a guest of honour at San Siro, though not, according to club vice-president Adriano Galliani, with an eye on replacing Allegri.

An unconventional-looking front three of Robinho, Stephan El Shaarawy and Kevin Prince Boateng, pushed up from midfield,

### Soccer

combined well to inspire Milan's win.

Juventus found it difficult to deal with Milan's pressing play and went behind just before the half hour mark when the ball appeared to strike Mauricio Isla's outstretched arm from Antonio Nocerino's header, although replays suggested it hit the Chilean's body.

Robinho stepped up to score, despite keeper Gianluigi Buffon getting both hands to the ball.

The visitors were slow to react, with too many misplaced passes and errors allowing Milan to control the game.

Juve began to turn up the pressure later in the second half, with substitute Sebastian Giovinco, on for Fabio Quagliarella, going close with an overhead kick from Simone Padoin's cross in the 62nd minute, but their lack of physical presence up front made life easier for the Milan back four.

Reuters

## Vettel is F1's youngest triple champion

SAO PAULO, 26 Nov—Red Bull's Sebastian Vettel became Formula One's youngest triple world champion at the age of 25 after a wet and chaotic Brazilian Grand Prix roller-coaster won by McLaren's Jenson Button behind the safety car on Sunday.

The German, needing only a fourth place to join the greats as the first driver to win his first three titles consecutively, finished sixth after fighting back with a damaged car from last on the opening lap.

It proved enough after his sole rival Fernando Alonso, needing victory, crossed the line in his Ferrari in second place with Brazilian Felipe Massa

third.

"You're a triple world champion. You're the man. You are a triple world champion," shouted team principal Christian Horner over the team radio as Vettel crossed the finish line after what he said later was the toughest race of his career.

The team could not hear his reply, or his choked sobs of joy, because the radio was faulty and had been only incoming for most of an afternoon that threw one obstacle after another at the champion.

Vettel ended the season with 281 points to 278 for Alonso, who would have been the youngest triple champion at 31 had



Red Bull Formula One driver Sebastian Vettel of Germany (L) celebrates winning the world championship next to compatriot Mercedes driver Michael Schumacher after the Brazilian F1 Grand Prix at Interlagos circuit in Sao Paulo on 25 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

results fallen his way. Kimi Raikkonen was third overall for Lotus on 207 in his comeback year.

Red Bull had already won the constructors' title for the third year in a row.—Reuters

## Barca equal best La Liga start with homegrown team



Barcelona's Pedro Rodriguez celebrates after his team scored against Levante during their Spanish first division soccer match at the Ciudad de Valencia stadium in Valencia, on 25 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

MADRID, 26 Nov—As well as equalling the best start to La Liga, Barcelo-

na's 4-0 win at Levante on Sunday was an extra source of pride for the Catalan club

as it was achieved playing with an entire team of players developed through their academy for most of the match.

After Martin Montoya replaced injured Brazil full-back Daniel Alves in the 14th minute in Valencia, all 11 team members on the pitch were products of Barca's famed "La Masia" youth academy.

Pearls of the current crop include Argentine World Player of the Year Lionel Messi, Spain playmaker Andres Iniesta and

midfielder Cesc Fabregas, who left for a stint at Arsenal before returning to his boyhood club.

Iniesta turned in a sparkling performance, twice setting up Messi, creating another goal for Fabregas and scoring a brilliant effort of his own as the league leaders racked up 37 points from 13 matches this season.

Their tally equalled the record for the best start to a campaign set by Real Madrid in the 1991-92 season.

Reuters



Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland poses with the trophy after the fourth and final round of the DP World Tour Championship at Jumeirah Golf Estates in Dubai on 25 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

## McIlroy repels Rose's record charge to win in Dubai

Golf

DUBAI, 26 Nov—World number one Rory McIlroy picked up \$2.33 million worth of desert treasure after repelling a record-breaking charge from Ryder Cup team mate Justin Rose to win the DP World Tour Championship on Sunday.

Rose almost spiked the guns of the Northern Irishman, who shared the overnight lead with Luke Donald, when he carved two shots off the previous Earth course record with a breathtaking 10-under final round of 62 containing eight birdies and an eagle.

The Englishman set his target early but US PGA winner McIlroy finished with the flourish of a true champion, birdying the last five holes to clinch victory

by two strokes with a closing 66 and a 23-under tally of 265.

"I just wanted to finish the season the way I think it deserved to be finished," McIlroy told reporters after winning for the fifth time in 2012.

"I didn't want the year to just tail off, I wanted to end it in real style. On the back nine I knew I needed to pull out something special and I somehow summoned up the energy from somewhere to finish with five birdies in the last five holes."

Donald (71) was tied third on 270 with South African Charl Schwartzel (68) in the final event of the European Tour season.

Reuters

## Redknapp back as QPR seek end to winless run

LONDON, 26 Nov—Harry Redknapp, back in the familiar role of trying to resurrect an ailing club's fortunes, swaps easy street for a Premier League survival dogfight when he takes charge of Queens Park Rangers for the first time at Sunderland on Tuesday.

Redknapp has been out of club management since being ditched by Tottenham Hotspur in the summer despite turning Spurs into a force in English football again during his four-year tenure at White Hart Lane.

If things had worked out differently, the 65-year-old might have found himself an international manager and shipping out to leafy Kiev to take charge of

Ukraine, rather than settling into the cramped confines of Loftus Road.

Whether Redknapp would have accepted the Ukraine post will remain unanswered, with the dismissal of Mark Hughes by winless Rangers on Friday coming at an opportune time. The lure of another Premier League role - and no doubt enticing financial reward for saving a dismal Rangers season - proved too good to turn down.

Redknapp watched from the stands at Old Trafford on Saturday as rock-bottom Rangers took a second-half lead at Manchester United before conceding three goals in an eight-minute spell.—Reuters



Queens Park Rangers' new manager Harry Redknapp (C)

**GENERAL**

**Focus Myanmar TV Programme**

**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**

(27-11-12 09:30 am ~ 28-11-12 09:30 am) MST

- \* News
- \* A Traditional Dish of Myanmar Lads
- \* Myanmar Moblie Fair YGN 2012
- \* News
- \* Changing Trend of Weaving Industry
- \* News
- \* Taste of Myanmar "papaya Salad"
- \* News
- \* The Romantic Nights at the City of Flowers

- \* News
- \* Topic on Journal Natural Beauty
- \* A more Auspicious Day for the Glory of Buddhism in Myanamr
- \* News
- \* Seminar on Independent Power Production (IPP)
- \* News
- \* Kyaik Htee Yoe Myanmar's Miraculous Marvel (Part-1)
- \* News
- \* Tourism Master Plan Project Myanmar
- \* Myanmar Movie "Miss Arrogant"

**MYANMAR TV**

(27-11-2012, Tuesday)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>7:00 am</b><br/>1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw</p> <p><b>7:15 am</b><br/>2. Dhama Puja Song</p> <p><b>7:25 am</b><br/>3. To Be Healthy Exercise</p> <p><b>7:40 am</b><br/>4. Nice &amp; Sweet Song</p> <p><b>7:50 am</b><br/>5. Health Programme</p> <p><b>8:00 am</b><br/>6. Songs Of Yester Years</p> <p><b>8:10 am</b><br/>7. Joint Performance by State Orchestra</p> <p><b>4:35 pm</b><br/>8. The Mirror Images of The Musical oldies</p> <p><b>4:45 pm</b><br/>9. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -First Year (Maths)</p> | <p><b>5:00 pm</b><br/>10. Songs for Upholding National Spirit</p> <p><b>5:05 pm</b><br/>11. Teleplay (Health)</p> <p><b>5:15 pm</b><br/>12. Sweet Melody</p> <p><b>5:30 pm</b><br/>13. Songs Of Tazaungdaing Festival</p> <p><b>6:20 pm</b><br/>14. Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than</p> <p><b>6:50 pm</b><br/>15. Sing A Song</p> <p><b>7:40 pm</b><br/>16. Documentary</p> <p><b>8:00 pm</b><br/>17. News</p> <p>18. Cartoon Series</p> <p>19. TV Drama Series</p> <p>20. India Drama Series</p> |
|--|---|

**Myanmar Football Team under training in Bangkok**



BANGKOK, 26 Nov— Myanmar Football team takes training at Bangkok stadium, in Bangkok to participate in ASEAN Suzuki Cup.

Myanmar team will meet with host team Thai at second match. Myanmar team prepares training for its best result to play against Thai team. Forward Yan Paing and defender Thein Than Win were injured and Mai Aik Naing, too.

Myanmar and Thai teams will meet at 7:50 pm MST tomorrow.

*Kyemon*



*Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda makes a stump speech in Suita, Osaka Prefecture, on 25 Nov, 2012, ahead of the on 16 Dec general election.*  
KYODO NEWS

**US troops possibly redeployed in Iraq: reports**

BAGHDAD, 26 Nov— Iraqi media has recently circulated unofficial reports about the possible redeployment of unites of US soldiers in Iraq over fears that the Syrian crisis could spill over into Iraq.

Earlier, the private Independent Press Agency (IPA) quoted "a well-informed source" as saying that "Dozens of giant US airplanes C-130 Hercules had carried out successive flights to the once second largest US military airbase al-Aasad in Iraq's western Province of Anbar."

However, On Sunday, a member of Anbar's provincial council told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity that "I have no information about any US troops in the province."

The provincial council member also refused to give his opinion about any possible US troops' presence in the province and said he is not authorized to speak to the media about such sensitive issue.

Another private Iraqi news agency *Buratha*

quoted an earlier US report as saying that the United States is negotiating with Iraq on a deal that would allow the deployment of small US military unites for training purposes.

"A US unit of the Special Operations soldiers has recently deployed in Iraq to provide advice in the fight against terrorism and help provide intelligence," *Buratha News Agency* said.

On 24 Sept, *the New York Times* newspaper quoted Lt Gen Robert L Caslen Jr, an American commander in charge of speeding up weapons sales to Iraq, as saying that Iraq and the United States are negotiating an agreement that could result in the return of small units of American soldiers to Iraq on training missions.

According to Caslen, "A unit of Army Special Operations soldiers was recently deployed to Iraq to advise on counterterrorism and help with intelligence," the newspaper said.

It reported that the US administration is trying to

help Iraqi security forces to defend the country from any possible spillover of Syrian violence to Iraq, as well as preventing Iraq from being pushed closer to Iran by the threat of the Syrian crisis.

However, Ali al-Mussawi, an advisor to Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, denied such reports, saying that such US military deployment will need an approval by the parliament.

"These reports are completely untrue because Iraq has a parliamentary

political system, in which such things can not occur without official legislative and governmental approvals," Mussawi said, adding that "Such things can not be done in secret without announcement."

Iraqi officials frequently expressed their concern that the ongoing Syria conflict could spill over into the neighboring countries, particularly Iraq, which already suffers from sporadic waves of violence by insurgent groups.

*Xinhua*



*A citizen walks in the fog-shrouded Liuzhou City, southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, 25 Nov, 2012.—XINHUA*

**Springfield, Massachusetts, blast blamed on gas company worker**

WASHINGTON, 26 Nov—A utility worker who punctured a natural gas line caused an explosion in a Massachusetts city last week that injured 18 people, a city hall spokesman said on Sunday.

Investigators have found that the Columbia Gas of Massachusetts worker breached the high-pressure line with a probe as he checked for the source of a gas smell on Friday at a downtown Springfield strip club, said Tom Walsh, a spokesman for Mayor Domenic Sarno.

The area rapidly filled with gas fumes and was evacuated. The source of the gas odor and what

sparked the explosion itself were unknown, he said.

More than 40 buildings were damaged in the blast. Eighteen people were hurt, none seriously.

Walsh spoke after a news conference on the source of the blast that included Sarno, State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan, the Springfield bomb squad and the Department of Public Utilities.

Columbia Gas of Massachusetts, a unit of NiSource Inc, will open a claims office in Springfield on Monday, Walsh said.

A Columbia Gas spokesman was not immediately available to comment.—*Reuters*

**Coal mine blast injures seven in Russia**

MOSCOW, 26 Nov— An underground methane explosion injured seven coal miners in Russia's Siberia early Sunday, regional emergency authorities said.

The blast at the Gramoteinskaya mine, took place at 0056 GMT in Belovo of Kemerovo Region. Three miners were slightly injured and four

others got moderate burns, local office of Emergency Situations Ministry said.

The injured were sent to a miners' healthcare center in the city of Leninsk-Kuznetsky while rescuers were still working on site for security checks. The cause of the accident is under investigation.

*Xinhua*

**Seven missing off the coast of Shanghai**

SHANGHAI, 26 Nov—A fishing boat with seven people on board went missing on Sunday off the coast of Shanghai in east China, Maritime Safety Administration (MSA) of Shanghai said in a statement.

The wooden vessel, Lunanyu 400160, lost contact with the monitoring system of the administration when it

was about six nautical miles off the coast of Shanghai's Nanhui County at around 6:57 pm, the statement said.

MSA Shanghai has sent two vessels to search the missing people and the boat.

It has alerted local sea rescue and fishery authorities to send more vessels for the search and rescue efforts.

*Xinhua*

(The following is an unofficial translation of the Press Release No (8/2012).—Ed)

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar

### Information Team

#### Press Release No. 8/2012

26 November, 2012

(13<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Tazaungmon 1374 ME)

### President's message to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker for reconstitution of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union

1. The chairperson and members of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union have handed in their resignations to the President of their own volition on 31 August, 2012 and their resignation was accepted on 6 September 2012. With regard to this, the President sent a message describing the full account with reference to legal provisions as follows:

*"1. The chairperson and members of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union have submitted their resignation letters to me (President) of their own volition on 31 August 2012. Their resignation was accepted in line with Section 331 of the Constitution and provisions in the Section 28 of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union.*

*2. Here, message is sent asking to take action under Sections 332 and 333 of the Constitution and, Sections 4, 5 and 30 of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union."*

2. In addition, another message was sent to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker asking to work with his legal mandate to fill the vacant positions in Constitutional Tribunal of the Union on 16 October 2012. The full context of the message is as follows:

*"1. The chairperson and eight members of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union formed and appointed with order No. 2/2012 and order No. 11/2012 dated 30-3-2011 of the President Office handed in their resignations of their own volition and their resignation was accepted on 6 September 2012.*

*2. Here, message is sent asking to fill the vacancies of the chairperson and members of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union under Sections 332 and 333 of the Constitution and, Sections 4 and 5 of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union."*

3. Provisions that were referred to in two messages are publicized as follows:

#### (a) Constitution

(1) **Section 331:** If a member of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union wishes to resign on his own volition from office before the expiry of his term due to any reason, he may do so, after submitting his resignation in writing to the President.

(2) **Section 332:** If a position of a member of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union is vacant for any reason, the President may appoint a new member of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union in accord with the provisions under

the Constitution.

(3) **Section 333:** The President, the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw shall select from among the Hluttaw representatives or among those who are not Hluttaw representatives with three members each who has the following qualifications:

(a) person who has attained the age of 50 years;

(b) person who has qualifications, with the exception of the age limit, prescribed in Section 120 for Pyithu Hluttaw representatives;

(c) person whose qualification does not breach the provision under Section 121 which disqualify a person standing for election as Pyithu Hluttaw representatives:

(d) (i) person who has served as a Judge of the High Court of the Region or State for at least five years; or

(ii) who has served as a Judicial Officer or a Law Officer at least 30 years not lower than that of the Region or State level; or

(iii) who has practiced as an Advocate for at least 20 years; or

(iv) who is, in the opinion of the President, an eminent jurist;

(e) who is not a member of a political party;

(f) who is not a Hluttaw representative;

(g) who is well acquainted with political, administrative, economic and security affairs;

(h) who is loyal to the State and citizens.

#### (b) Constitutional Tribunal of the Union Law

(1) **Section 4:** (a) The President, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker shall nominate three members each who, either Hluttaw representatives or not, meet the following qualifications:-

(i) who has attained the age of 50 years;

(ii) who meets qualifications of Pyithu Hluttaw representatives prescribed in Section 120 of the constitution except the age limit;

(iii) who is not subject to reasons for disqualification of Pyithu Hluttaw representatives prescribed in Section 121 of the constitution;

(iv) (aa) who has served as region or state high court judge at least five years; or

(bb) who has served as a Judicial Officer or a Law Officer at least 30 years not lower than that of the Region or State level; or

(See page 10)

## Low-priced communication service delivery reaffirmed

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Nov—Union Minister for Communication and Information Technology U Thein Tun reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to low-priced communication and ICT service delivery as he addressed the ICT Investment Forum at Myanmar International Convention Centre here this morning.

He viewed telephone density of the country that covers only eight per cent of the nation as considerable potential for development in ICT and service sectors, saying that his ministry is initiating reform plans

to realize its commitment of delivering low-priced communication service. He added that communication bill would soon be discussed at the parliament. He urged those interested to seek investment potential in the country's ICT market.

CEO of Yatanarpon Teleport Co Ltd U Tin Win extended greetings. Principal of Telecommunications and Postal Training School U Kyaw Soe discussed under the topic of "e-government and ICT opportunities in Myanmar, the CEO of Yatanarpon Teleport "investment opportunities in Yatanarpon Teleport" and

Deputy Director-General of Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration U Tin Ko Win "Myanmar Foreign Investment Law".

The Union Minister and guests viewed round the ICT booths. Present at the forum were Union ministers U Tin Naing Thein, U Aye Myint, and U Win Shein, deputy ministers, personnel from Nay Pyi Taw Council and Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, those from Myanmar Investment Commission, commercial attaches from foreign embassies and those from foreign-based companies. MNA



## Slight earthquakes jolt inside and outside Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Nov—A slight earthquake of magnitude (3.7) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about 30 miles southeast of Thabeikkyin), about 50 miles northeast of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at (10) hrs (21) min (10) sec MST today.

A moderate earthquake of magnitude (5.5) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar (Southern Xinjiang, China), about 1300 miles north-northwest of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at (12) hrs (08) min (28) sec MST today.

A slight earthquake of magnitude (4.6) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about 30 miles east of Singu), about 50 miles northeast of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at (1) hrs (07) min (11) sec MST today, announced the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

MNA

## Indian Air Chief Marshal arrives



NAY PYI TAW, 26 Nov—A goodwill delegation led by the Chief of the Air Staff and Chairman COSC Air Chief Marshal NAK Browne, PVSM, AVSM, VM, ADC of India arrived here by Indian Armed Forces special flight this evening. They were welcomed by Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen

Hsan Oo, Mingaladon Air Base Commander Brig-Gen Thein Naing, senior military officers, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Villur Sundararajan Seshadri and Indian Military Attaché to Myanmar Col Rajesh Kumar at the Yangon International Airport.

MNA