

## Infrastructural development cannot cover every township due to lack of financial resources



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham extending greetings at finance and revenue coordination meeting of the Union government and region/state governments.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov— Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addressed finance and revenue coordination meeting of the Union government and region/state governments at the Union government office here this afternoon.

Also present at the meeting were Vice-President U Nyan Tun, Union ministers, the attorney-general of the Union, the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, chief

ministers of region and state governments, deputy ministers and departmental heads.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham highlighted infrastructural development in his address.

He said the infrastructural development could not cover every township due to lack of financial resources of the government. He urged the region/state governments

to fill the gap for equitable economic development.

He continued to say that the collection of fund by the region/state governments in lawful means would help them fulfill the requirements of each area.

All the eight rural development and poverty alleviation schemes depend on financial background, he said.

He urged the region/state governments to levy

Aqraba and Babilla districts on the southeastern outskirts of the Damascus which lead to the international airport.

Internet connections and most telephone lines were down for a second day, the worst communications outage in a 20-month-old uprising in which 40,000 people have been killed, hundreds of thousands have fled the country, and millions been displaced.

The mostly Sunni Muslim rebels who are battling Assad, from Syria's Alawite minority linked to Shi'ite Islam, have been making gains around Syria by overrunning military bases and have been ramping up attacks on Damascus, his

taxes that these governments are entitled to as the budget of the State is shared to them at a limited percent.

There are taxes that need coordination between the Union government and region/state governments, he said.

Some regions and states proposed the amount of taxes which enter into the Union budget that they think they are entitled to, he said.

He called for cooperation seat of power.

A resident of central Damascus told Reuters he could see black smoke rising from the east and the south of the city on Friday morning and could hear the constant boom of shelling.

"Airlines are not operating to Damascus today," said a Dubai-based airline official. EgyptAir and Emirates suspended flights to Syria on Thursday.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a British-based opposition monitoring group, said jets were bombarding targets in rural areas around Aqraba and Babilla, where rebels clashed with Assad's forces.

Reuters

and coordination between the Union government and region/state governments.

He said the coordination on how the region/state governments collect is needed.

The revenue income of the Union is 96 percent while that of regions and states is four percent. The expenditure of the Union is 93 percent and that of the regions and states is seven percent.

The income ratio of some countries with central and regional governments is 19-65 percent while the expenditure ratio is 35-70 percent.

He called for seeking ways to increase budgets for local governments of the country, citing the high ratio of overall income and expenditure of local governments in developing countries.

The country would be able to keep abreast of neighbours following the decentralization with more executive power and financial autonomy to sub-national governments.

He called for coordination at Union level and region/state level in drawing more fruitful budget for 2013-2014 fiscal year depending on experiences in 2012-2013 fiscal year, assessment reports of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee, Joint Public Accounts Committee, and Planning and Financial Development Committee, recommendations of Hluttaw representatives.

He then invited recommendations for proportionate ratio of income and expenditures of the Union and region/state, tax differentiation in line

(See page 7)



Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein replies to questions. MNA

## Syria jets bombard rebel targets on airport road



BEIRUT, 30 Nov—Syrian air force jets bombarded rebel targets on Friday close to the Damascus airport road and a regional airline said the violence had halted

international flights to the capital.

Activists said security forces clashed with rebels trying to topple President Bashar al-Assad around

### Significant night temperature (30-11-2012)

Haka	7°C
Putao	8°C
Pinlaung	9°C

### Slight earthquake jolts inside Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov— A slight earthquake of Magnitude 4.3 Richter scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about 74 miles Northwest of Myitkyina) about 265 miles North of

Mandalay Seismological Observatory was recorded at 10 hrs 23 min 19 sec MST today, announced Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

MNA



**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2012

“Removing barriers to create an inclusive and accessible society for all”

Nay Pyi Taw

3-12-2012

### Wife of Vietnamese President and party visit Gems Museum (Nay Pyi Taw)

**NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov**—A goodwill delegation led by Madame Mai Thi Hanh, spouse of President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Mr Truong Tan Sang together with Professor Daw Khin Swe Myint, spouse of Union Minister of Culture U Aye Myint Kyu visited Gems Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) this morning. They were welcomed by Director-General U Thein Swe of Myanmar Gems

Enterprise and officials. The goodwill delegation led by the spouse of the President of the Republic of the Viet Nam looked around the booths of jewellery displayed in the museum. *MNA*



*A goodwill delegation led by Madame Mai Thi Hanh, wife of President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Mr Truong Tan Sang viewing booths of jewellery.—MNA*

### Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Fundamental Rights of the Citizens, Democracy and Human Rights Committee receives foreign guests

**NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov**—Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Citizens' Fundamental Rights, Democracy and Human Rights Committee U Htay Oo received a delegation led by Mr. Benjamin Zawacki, repre-

sentative of Bangkok based-International Development Group of Rome in Italy, at the Hall-1 of Hluttaw Building, here, this evening. Also present at the call were Secretary of the committee U Tin Maung Win and officials of Hluttaw Office.

They discussed matters related to human rights, legislation suitable for new system, activities being carried for human rights in and out of the Hluttaw, national unity and peace and stability and international relations. —MNA

### MOHA issues statement on appointment of ward or village-tract administrators in December 2012

**Nay Pyi Taw, 30 November**

1. Section 289 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar stated that administration of ward or village-tract shall be assigned in accordance with the law to a person whose integrity is respected by the community. In line with the provisions, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw enacted the ward or village-tract administrator law under the 2012 Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No. 1 on 24 February 2012 in order to be able to effectively carry out the administration of ward or village-tract.

2. Exercising the authority vested by the Ministry of Home Affairs under section 36, sub-section (A) of the ward or village-tract administration law, the ward or village-tract administration bylaw has been issued under the Order No. 386/2012 with the agreement of the Union Government. Therefore, the ward or village-tract administrators shall be chosen and appointed in December 2012 in accordance with the law and the bylaw.

*Daw Kyin Sein and family residing in Ward 41 on U Ngwe Kai street in Dagon Myothit (North) donated K 650,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Vice-Chairman U Aung Than of Executive Committee recently.*

NLM

## Myanmar, Vietnamese businessmen sign joint ventures agreements



*President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Mr Truong Tan Sang attends Myanmar-Viet Nam Business Forum.—MNA*

**YANGON, 30 Nov**—President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Mr Truong Tan Sang attended Myanmar-Viet Nam Business Forum at the head office of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Lanmadaw Township here this afternoon.

UMFCCI President U Win Aung extended greetings and Deputy Prime Minister of Viet Nam Mr Nguyen Thien Nhan delivered an address.

The Vietnamese President replied to queries of Myanmar businessmen and Chairman of Vietnam

Chamber of Commerce and Industry Dr Vu Tien Loc spoke words of thanks.

The businessmen of two sides signed agreements on housing project, quartz mining, brick production, shipbuilding and sea transportation as joint ventures and exchanged notes. The Vietnamese President and party then visited Bank for Investment and Development of Viet Nam on Pyay Road. Governor Mr Tran Bac Ha explained functions of the bank. The Vietnamese President called for promotion of trade and investment between the two countries.

The Vietnamese

President and wife Madame Mai Thi Hanh visited the Shwedagon Pagoda in the evening.

Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Bhamo Sayadaw Abhidhaja Agga Maha Rahta Guru Abhidhaja Aggamaha Sahnmajotika Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa presented jade Buddha Image and Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs U Soe Win painting of Shwedagon Pagoda to the Vietnamese President and wife who then attended the dinner hosted by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife at Sedona Hotel.—MNA

## Indian goodwill delegation tours across Myanmar

**NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov**—The visiting Indian goodwill delegation led by Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee of Indian Armed Forces Air Chief Marshal Nak Browne, PVSM, AVSM, VM, ADC and wife laid wreath at Martyrs Mausoleum in Yangon on 26 November.

The delegation then

visited the Tomb of Bahadur Shah Zafar and offered flowers, water and light at Shwedagon Pagoda.

On 27 November, the delegation flew to Nay Pyi Taw and visited National Defence College. Mrs Kiran Browne, wife of the Indian Air Chief Marshal also visited National Landmark Garden and Gems Museum.

The delegation on 28 November flew to Mandalay and visited Myanmar's gems and traditional handicrafts showrooms and Mya Nan San Kyaw Golden Palace there. The delegation went to Heho on 29 November and visited Heho Command and General Staff College. They then visited Inlay Lake in Nyaungshwe.

The delegation visited U Ba Nyein Lacquer-ware Manufacturing in NyaungU today. The delegation went back home this evening by special flight of Indian Air Force and Commander of Namhsan Air Base Brig-Gen San Oo Hlaing and senior military officers, Indian military attaché to Myanmar Col Rajesh Kumar saw off them at NyaungU Airport. *MNA*



MNA

WORLD

**France**  
*French court clears Continental Airlines of crime over Concorde air clash*

PARIS, 30 Nov — A French court in Versailles on Thursday overturned the involuntary homicide conviction against US Continental Airlines over Concorde crash that killed 113 on 25 July, 2000, near Paris, local channel BFM reported.

Continental Airlines was blamed for triggering the disaster at Gonesse (Val d'Oise) near Paris' Charles de Gaulle Airport, as a metal strip falling off a DC-10 airliner on to the runway that burst the Concorde's tyre, causing the crash.

The verdict in 2010 ruled the American company to pay a fine of 200,000 euros (250,400 US dollars) and 1 million euros for the damage to the operator Air France.

By clearing Continental Airlines of any crime over the clash on Thursday afternoon, the French court also overturned the associated 200,000-euro fine. (1 euro = 1.25 US dollars)—Xinhua



A general view of a building damaged by an air strike at a besieged area in Homs on 28 Nov, 2012.

REUTERS

BEIRUT, 30 Nov—Syrian rebels battled forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad just outside Damascus on Thursday, cutting access to its international air port, and Dubai-based Emirates airline and EgyptAir stopped flights to the Syrian capital.

The Internet and some

telephone lines went down across Syria. Rebels and the government traded blame for the blackout, the worst communications outage in 20 months of conflict.

Rebels fighting to topple Assad have been making gains around Syria by overrunning military bases

**Al-Qaeda battle in Afghanistan to stretch for years**

WASHINGTON, 30 Nov—Al-Qaeda fighters are still trying to make inroads into Afghanistan, US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta said on Thursday, cautioning that battling the group would be a core US mission there for years to come.

Panetta made the comments as the United States weighs how large a military force to keep in Afghanistan when the NATO combat mission ends in 2014, ending a war that, at that point, will have stretched for over 13 years.

There are approximately 66,000 US troops in Afghanistan, but the residual force may number less than 10,000. President Barack Obama could decide in the coming weeks, although no deadline has been set.

Commenting on the scope of a post-2014 counter-terrorism mission, Panetta did not mention al-Qaeda allies or Taliban militants battling US forces.

He said fighting the core al-Qaeda group to prevent it from re-establishing a safe haven in Afghanistan was

**Fighting cuts access to Damascus airport, Syria flights suspended**

and have been ramping up attacks on Damascus, his seat of power. A rebel fighter who identified himself as Abu Omar, a member of the Jund Allah brigade, told Reuters that insurgents fired mortars at the airport's runways and were blocking the road linking it with the capital.

Speaking from the scene of the fighting, he said insurgents were not inside the airport but were able to block access to and from it.

A spokesman for a rebel Military Council in Damascus, Musaab Abu Qitada, said an artillery round was fired at a military site inside the airport and that fighting was now less than a kilometre (mile) away from

the complex. "We want to liberate the airport because of reports we see and our own information we have that shows civilian airplanes are being flown in here with weapons for the regime. It is our right to stop this," he told Reuters on Skype from Damascus.

US and European officials said rebels were making gains in Syria, gradually eroding Assad's power, but said the fighting had not yet shifted decisively in their favour.

Two Austrian soldiers in a UN peacekeeping force deployed to monitor the frontier with the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights were wounded when their

convoy came under fire near Damascus airport, Austria's defence ministry said. Syria state television said the soldiers were wounded by gunfire when rebels attacked an army position near the airport road. The Information Ministry later said the highway to the airport was safe after security forces cleared it of "terrorists." Rebels said fighting in the area was continuing. The ministry said the airport was operating regularly, but there were no flights scheduled to land in the evening.

The accounts of fighting could not be verified immediately because of tight restrictions on media access to Syria.—Reuters



US Secretary of Defence Leon Panetta speaks during a change of command ceremony at the United States Southern Command in Doral, Florida, on 19 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

"going to be the fundamental thrust of the (counter-terrorism) effort."

A narrow focus could help limit the size of the mission.

"Although we clearly have had an impact on (al-Qaeda's) presence in Afghanistan, the fact is that they continue to show up," Panetta told reporters at the Pentagon.

"And intelligence continues to indicate that they are looking for some kind of capability to be able to go into Afghanistan as

well." A US defence official, speaking on condition of anonymity, estimated

there were still only about 100 al Qaeda militants in Afghanistan.

Reuters

**US gives Iran until March to cooperate with IAEA**



Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad speaks during a ceremony at the Natanz nuclear enrichment facility, 350 km (217 miles) south of Teheran, on 9 April, 2007.—REUTERS

VIENNA, 30 Nov—The United States set a March deadline on Thursday for Iran to start cooperating in substance with a UN nuclear agency investigation, warning Teheran the issue may otherwise be referred to the UN Security Council.

The comments by US diplomat Robert Wood to the board of the International Atomic Energy Agency signaled Washington's growing frustration at a lack

of progress in the IAEA's inquiry into possible military dimensions to Teheran's nuclear programme.

Iran — which was first reported to the UN Security Council over its nuclear program by the IAEA's 35-nation board in 2006 and then was hit by UN sanctions — rejects suspicions it is on a covert quest for atomic bomb capability. But its refusal to curb nuclear work with both civilian and military

applications, and its lack of openness with the IAEA, have drawn tough Western punitive measures and a threat of pre-emptive military strikes by Israel. A year ago, the IAEA published a report with a trove of intelligence indicating past, and some possibly continuing, research in Iran that could be relevant for nuclear weapons.

The IAEA has since tried to gain access to Iranian sites, officials and documents it says it needs for the inquiry, but so far without any concrete results in a series of meetings with Iran since January. The two sides will meet again in December.

In his statement, Wood requested IAEA Director-General Yukiya Amano to say in his next quarterly report on Iran, likely due in late February, whether Teheran has taken "any substantive steps" to address the agency's concerns.

Reuters

**UN General Assembly grants upgraded status for Palestine**

UN

UNITED NATIONS, 30 Nov —The United Nations General Assembly on Thursday voted overwhelmingly to grant an upgrade of Palestine's status from "entity" to "non-member state", which is an implicit and symbolic recognition of Palestine's statehood at the UN.

The 193 UN member states voted 138 to 9, with 41 abstentions, to support a draft resolution co-sponsored by

about 70 countries, including Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Togo and other 30 countries abstained from voting. After Vuk Jeremic, president of the 67th session of the General Assembly, announced the result of the vote, the applause came from the hall of the General Assembly.

Countries like are Canada, the Czech Republic, Israel, Panama and the United States voted against the draft resolution.

Albania, Barbados, Bosnia, Fiji, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary,



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas (C) and the delegation celebrate at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) meeting at the UN headquarters in New York, the United States, on 29 Nov, 2012.—XINHUA

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told the General Assembly after the vote. "The decision by the General Assembly to accord Palestine Non-member Observer State status in the United Nations was a prerogative of the member states."

"I stand ready to fulfill my role and report to this Assembly as requested in the resolution," Ban said.

Xinhua

## Amazon's cloud chief targets "old guard" tech giants

Tech



Amazon Senior Vice President Andy Jassy speaks during a keynote speech at the Re:Invent conference in Las Vegas, Nevada on 28 Nov, 2012. — REUTERS

LAS VEGAS, 30 Nov — Amazon.com Inc's cloud computing division is going after big corporate customers, a new focus that will put the fast-growing unit into direct competition with some of the world's largest technology companies.

Andy Jassy, head of Amazon Web Services or AWS, criticized the hefty profit margins of what he called "old guard" tech companies on Wednesday and unveiled a new data warehousing service that he said will cost about a tenth of existing solutions.

"The old world of technology has a pricing model which is to charge as much as customers can pay. Customers are tired of it," Jassy said, during AWS's first conference in Las Vegas,

Nevada, where more than 6,000 people attended.

He is banking on the division to take direct aim at tech stalwarts Oracle Corp, International Business Machines Corp and Hewlett-Packard Co, among others.

Shares of Teradata Corp, a leading independent provider of data warehouse services, fell 3.7 percent to \$59.27 on Wednesday on concern about competition from AWS.

"A new competitor is entering the space with significantly lower price points," said Derrick Wood, an analyst at Susquehanna Financial Group. "That's the essence of the concern."

AWS, which Amazon started more than six years ago, provides data storage, computing power and other

technology services from remote locations, making it a pioneer in what is now known as cloud computing.

AWS has grown fast because its services are cheap, relatively easy to use and can be shut off or ramped up quickly, depending on companies' needs. Evercore analyst Ken Sena expects AWS revenue to jump 45 percent a year, from about \$2 billion this year to \$20 billion in 2018. The division has traditionally been used by start-up tech companies and other smaller businesses. Large corporations, known as enterprises in the tech world, have dabbled with AWS, but most shun cloud-based services for mission critical applications. Jassy said on Wednesday that is changing.

"We expect enterprises to migrate their applications to AWS," he added. "The question isn't if anymore, it's how fast it's going to move and which ones will move first."

Reuters

## South Korean civil rocket launch called off, again

Science

SEOUL, 30 Nov — South Korea cancelled the launch of its first space rocket on Thursday after a glitch in the propulsion system halted the countdown just minutes before the scheduled lift-off. It was South Korea's third attempt to put a rocket into orbit and the second time this particular mission has failed. October's scheduled launch was also called off due to a glitch in the Russian-built

booster.

Thursday's glitch was in the thrust vector control in the upper second stage of the rocket that guides the propulsion of the vehicle, launch officials said. Launch attempts in 2009 and 2010 also ended in failure. Recent satellite images have indicated that North Korea too may be readying a new rocket launch.

Reuters



A passenger walks past a TV screen broadcasting the news that the launch of Korea Space Launch Vehicle-1 (KSLV-1), or Naro, was cancelled due to a problem in the upper second-stage rocket, at a railway station in Seoul on 29 Nov, 2012. — REUTERS

## Sprint unveils in-car communications system for automakers

Tech

LOS ANGELES, 30 Nov — Sprint Nextel Corp unveiled on Thursday an in-vehicle communications and entertainment system it hopes automakers will adopt as they seek to attract younger, more connected consumers. Sprint Velocity allows drivers to connect mobile phones to their

vehicles through Bluetooth, providing access to a range of applications, including voice-activated texting and email, navigation, news and sports updates and music.

Sprint Nextel, the No 3 US mobile carrier, is betting that Sprint Velocity will be superior to the products

developed by the automakers themselves. "They know how to make great cars. They assemble these vehicles that we all fall in love with," said Wayne Ward, Sprint's vice president of emerging solutions, at the LA Auto Show. "But when it comes to this stuff, they are not in the communications business."

Sprint Velocity powers Chrysler Group LLC's Uconnect system already offered on two of its vehicles, the new Ram 1500 pickup truck and SRT Viper. The companies have not disclosed pricing for the system, but Uconnect packages on the truck range from \$465 to \$970, depending on the screen size. Some 45 percent of car buyers said navigation systems that help drivers avoid traffic

are very important to their purchase decisions, while 35 percent said the same of a car's ability to respond to voice commands, according to a survey by IBM to be released soon.

About 30 percent said entertainment systems were very important, particularly buyers between the ages 18 and 29. Still, efforts by Ford, General Motors Co and other automakers have been widely panned. Glitches in the MyFord Touch system sent Ford tumbling in Consumer Reports's annual survey of reliability. The magazine has also called GM's new CUE system for its Cadillac lineup, "convoluted and frustrating." — Reuters



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

## Scientists make wheat genetic code breakthrough

Science

LONDON, 30 Nov — Scientists from Britain, Germany and the United States have unlocked key components of the genetic code for wheat, helping to create varieties that are more productive and better able to cope with disease, drought and other crop stresses.

The identification of around 96,000 wheat genes, and insights into the links between them, comes just two years after UK researchers published the raw data of the wheat genome.

"Since 1980, the rate of increase in wheat yields has

declined," said one of the project leaders, Keith Edwards of the University of Bristol.

"Analysis of the wheat genome sequence data provides a new and very powerful foundation for breeding future generations of wheat more quickly and more precisely, to help address this problem," he added. The research was published in the journal *Nature* on Wednesday.

"Bread wheat is a complex hybrid, composed of the complete genomes of three closely related grasses.

This makes it very complex and large; in total it is almost

five times bigger than the human genome," said another of the project's leaders, Klaus Mayer of Helmholtz-Zentrum Munchen.

"Because of this, we took a novel approach to analyzing the data and we have been successful in turning it into an accessible and useful resource that will accelerate breeding and the discovery of varieties with improved performance—for example better disease resistance and stress tolerance." Jan Dvorak of the University of California, Davis led the US contribution to the project. The study was

welcomed by other scientists.

"As we struggle to confront the increasing challenges of population increase, land degradation and climate change that are contributing to food insecurity, it will be vital to understand the underlying genetics of staple crops like wheat," said Denis Murphy of the University of Glamorgan.

"The newly published wheat genome will be a vital resource for researchers and crop breeders across the world in their efforts to maintain global food supplies."

Reuters

## Microsoft Windows 8 makes lukewarm debut: sales tracker

Tech

SEATTLE, 30 Nov — Consumer sales of Windows-powered personal computers fell 21 percent overall last month, figures released by a leading retail research firm showed on Thursday, indicating a lackluster debut for Microsoft Corp's Windows 8 operating system. Many in the industry said Windows 8 might revive slack PC sales, but a report by NPD Group, which tracks computer sales weekly using data supplied by retailers, dampened those hopes.

On the same day, Microsoft announced pricing for its latest device designed to break Apple Inc's stranglehold on the tablet and lightweight laptop market.

It is offering the Surface tablet running the full version of Windows 8 from \$899, pitching it somewhere between Apple's latest iPad and MacBook Air laptop. Since the launch of Windows 8

on 26 October, Windows laptop sales are down 24 percent, while desktop sales are down 9 percent compared with the same period last year, making an overall 21 percent dip, NPD Group said.

Usually, a Microsoft release boosts PC sales because many consumers hold off purchases for several months so they can obtain the latest software immediately.

If the NPD's sales trends are borne out over the rest of the holiday shopping season, it would be a huge disappointment for Microsoft and PC makers such as Dell Inc, HP and Lenovo.

"After just four weeks

on the market, it's still early to place blame on Windows 8 for the ongoing weakness in the PC market," said Stephen Baker, vice president of industry analysis at NPD. "We still have the whole holiday selling season ahead of us, but clearly Windows 8 did not prove to be the impetus for a sales turnaround some had hoped for."

NPD's data neither includes Microsoft's first Surface tablet, which is only available in its own stores, nor takes account of sales of PCs to businesses, which has recently been a much stronger market.

Reuters



A Microsoft Surface tablet PC is displayed on a stand during its launch event with Microsoft Windows 8 in New York on 25 Oct, 2012. — REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

GM seeks to build excitement for Chevy brand with SS sedan

DETROIT, 30 Nov — For the first time in nearly two decades, GM's Chevrolet brand will be back in the business of selling rear-wheel-drive sedans in the United States. General Motors Co (GM.N) expects the production version of the Chevrolet SS rear-wheel-drive sedan to act as a low-volume car meant to build excitement around the brand, the head

of the automaker's North American operations said on Thursday.

The car gives GM its first nonluxury rear-wheel-drive sedan since it stopped selling the Pontiac G8 in 2009. When the SS makes its debut, it will be the first time in 17 years Chevy sells a rear-wheel-drive sedan in the United States excluding the police car it currently offers. GM unveiled

the NASCAR racing version of the Chevy SS in Las Vegas on Thursday and plans to show the production model during the Daytona 500 race in Florida in February. The Australian-built car will go on sale in the third or fourth quarter of 2013 as a 2014 model.

"This is going to be a pull on demand from our dealers and customers," Mark Reuss, head of GM's North American operations, said in a telephone interview. "This is quite different than a big, high-volume production programme with target volumes," he added. "It doesn't have to do anything. We're using it to race. You have to think of it almost like a marketing halo program for Chevrolet." Reuss said he expects GM, which sells the rear-wheel-drive Camaro and Corvette coupes, to sell fewer than 10,000 SS performance sedans annually. The SS will be built on the same vehicle platform as

the Camaro and Holden VE Commodore.

Rear-wheel-drive cars offer better performance attributes than front-wheel-drive models, including acceleration, braking and handling. The starting price for the SS will be determined closer to vehicle launch, but Reuss said it will be higher than the front-wheel-drive Chevy Impala's base price of \$27,535. Reuss said he does not see the SS detracting from sales of other Chevy vehicles because it is so different. The NASCAR version of the SS closely resembles the production model, something the sport had moved away from in recent years as it pushed to make race cars safer, resulting in more homogenous cars.

NASCAR has worked with the automakers in recent years to reintroduce the individual traits of each brand's cars, an effort that will be seen next season. — Reuters



The logo of an extended range electric vehicle Fisker Karma is pictured at the start of an electric car rally from Tallinn to Monte-Carlo in Tallinn on 1 June, 2012. — REUTERS

Fisker idles Karma production while waiting for A123 auction

DETROIT, 30 Nov — Fisker Automotive Inc said on Thursday that it has temporarily idled production of its Karma plug-in hybrid after its lithium-ion battery supplier A123 Systems Inc (AONEQ.PK) cut its output. A123, which is the sole battery supplier for the Karma, slowed production after filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in October, Fisker spokesman Roger Ormisher said.

Fisker has enough lithium-ion batteries on hand in case an owner needs a replacement, Ormisher said. The company expects to have clarity on its battery inventory after 6 December, when an auction to sell A123 is scheduled. Auto parts suppliers Johnson Controls Inc (JCI.N) and China's Wanxiang Group Corp are

among the potential buyers who will square off to buy A123. Other companies that have expressed interest in A123 include NEC Corp (6701.T) of Japan and Siemens AG (SIEGn.DE) of Germany.

The US government said this week that A123 could not be sold without its consent. Fisker and A123 have both received funding under a federal programme designed to create an advanced vehicle manufacturing base in the United States. Bloomberg reported news of the idled production earlier Thursday.

Fisker has faced a series of setbacks this year, including a recall of batteries made by A123 and the US Department of Energy's decision to block Fisker from accessing a portion of its \$529 million loan. — Reuters

US FDA approves new medication to treat rare type of thyroid cancer

WASHINGTON, 30 Nov — The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Thursday approved Cometriq to treat medullary thyroid cancer that has spread to other parts of the body.

Medullary thyroid cancer develops in cells in the thyroid gland that make a hormone called calcitonin, which helps maintain a healthy level of calcium in the blood. This type of cancer may occur spontaneously or in families with certain genetic mutations that result in one or more cancers of the endocrine system, including the thyroid gland. The US National Cancer Institute estimates that 56,460 Americans will be diagnosed with thyroid cancer and 1,780 will die from the disease in 2012. About four percent of thyroid cancers are medullary thyroid cancer, making it one of the rarer

types of thyroid cancers.

Cometriq is a kinase inhibitor that blocks abnormal kinase proteins involved in the development and growth of medullary cancer cells. The safety and effectiveness of Cometriq were established in a clinical study involving 330 patients with medullary thyroid cancer. Treatment with Cometriq increased the length of time a patient lived without the cancer progressing (progression-free survival) and, in some patients, reduced the size of tumors (response rate). However, treatment with Cometriq did not extend patients' lives.

Cometriq is marketed by Exelixis, based in South San Francisco. According to the FDA, the most common side effects of Cometriq were diarrhea, inflammation, redness, pain, etc.

Xinhua



The Chevrolet car logo is seen on a car at the General Motors plant in Asaka on 30 Aug, 2012. — REUTERS

US lays out plan for achieving worldwide AIDS-free generation

WASHINGTON, 30 Nov — Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Thursday unveiled a game plan for achieving a global "AIDS-free generation," committing the United States to rapidly scaling up medical interventions that are beating back what once was seen as an unconquerable disease. Clinton, announcing the next stage of the decade-long US fight against AIDS around the world, said advances in drug treatment and prevention strategies had brought the end of the epidemic within reach.

"HIV may well be with us into the future but the diseases that it causes need not be," Clinton declared, saying it was possible to foresee a time when the number of people receiving

treatment worldwide outpaces the number of new infections. "That will be the tipping point. We will then get ahead of the epidemic, and an AIDS-free generation will be in sight," she said. The US PEPFAR programme, launched by former President George W Bush in 2003, has been a catalyst for advancing HIV treatment, particularly in Africa. It now supports some 5.1 million people worldwide who are receiving anti-retroviral drugs.

The UN AIDS programme said this month that ending the pandemic was now "entirely feasible" as it released an annual report showing that both deaths from AIDS and new infections with the HIV virus that causes it were falling. Worldwide some 34 million

people were living with HIV at the end of 2011, the UNAIDS report said. Deaths from AIDS fell to 1.7 million in 2011, down from a peak of 2.3 million in 2005 and from 1.8 million in 2010. The number of people newly infected with HIV, which can be transmitted via blood and

by semen during sex, is also falling. At 2.5 million, the number of new infections in 2011 was 20 percent lower than in 2001.

Despite the good news, not everyone is optimistic that the end of the epidemic is around the corner.

Reuters



An AIDS ribbon hangs from the North Portico of the White House in Washington in recognition for World AIDS Day, on 30 Nov, 2010. — REUTERS

Drug, alcohol abuse tied to early-life strokes

NEW YORK, 30 Nov — Younger adults who suffered a stroke were often smokers or had abused drugs or alcohol, according to a US study that looked at over 1,000 patients. Strokes are often thought of as a condition of the elderly, but researchers said long-term changes in the heart, arteries or and blood as a result of drug abuse or heavy drinking may put users at higher-than-average risk earlier in life. "Substance abuse is common in young adults

experiencing a stroke," wrote lead researcher Brett Kissela from the University of Cincinnati in the journal *Stroke*.

"Patients aged younger than 55 years who experience a stroke should be routinely screened and counseled regarding substance abuse." It's also possible that some drugs, particularly cocaine and methamphetamines, may trigger a stroke more immediately, according to S Andrew Josephson, a neurologist from the

University of California, San Francisco, who has studied drug use and stroke but was not involved in the study. "We know that even with vascular risk factors that are prevalent...most people still don't have a stroke until they're older," he added.

"When a young person has a stroke, it is probably much more likely that the cause of their stroke is something other than traditional risk factors." According to the US Centres

for Disease Control and Prevention, close to 800,000 people in the United States have a stroke every year, and they are the most common cause of serious long-term disability.

One study of 2007 data found that almost five percent of people who had a stroke that year were between ages 18 and 44. The current study involved people from Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky who'd had a stroke before they hit 55. — Reuters

## Colombia, FARC wrap up first round of peace talks

HAVANA, 30 Nov—Colombia's Marxist-led FARC rebels said their peace talks with the government were going well, but the lead negotiator for President Juan Manuel Santos was more reserved as the two sides finished the first round of meetings aimed at ending their protracted conflict.

In separate sessions with the press, neither side spoke of breakthroughs in the talks, but nor was there any sign they had hit irresolvable obstacles as happened in

previous peace attempts. They will reconvene in Havana on Wednesday.

The country's bloody guerrilla war, in which tens of thousands of people have died, dates back to 1964 when the FARC, or Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, formed as a communist agrarian movement. It turned later to the illicit drug trade, kidnappings and extortion to sustain itself.

Millions of people have been displaced by the war, which the FARC says is a

### Colombia

fight to end Colombia's long history of social inequality.

Dutch national Tanja Nijmeijer, a FARC negotiator, told reporters the talks "are going very well," with occasional moments of levity.

"The atmosphere during the talks is very good. There's even space for little jokes, for laughing," she said in response to a question.

Senior FARC leader Andres Paris said the negotiators mingled in the hallways during breaks and



Colombia's lead government negotiator Humberto de la Calle (C) reads a document as he announces the end of the first round of talks with FARC rebel group, in Havana on 29 Nov, 2012. REUTERS

were getting to know each other.

"One doesn't know who is more surprised, them or us," said the mustachioed guerrilla. "When we sit at

the table, they can observe not barbarians, not savages, but fighters, intellectuals, politicians, the sensible men and women."

Lead government

negotiator Humberto de la Calle, who read a statement and took no questions, gave a more muted assessment, but indicated progress.

Reuters



Workers are suspended from ropes as they paint the Eurotunnel logo at the entrance of the channel tunnel in Coquelles on 1 Dec, 2010 as Eurotunnel celebrates the 20th anniversary of the Channel Tunnel breakthrough.—REUTERS

## Eurotunnel services resume after smoke detected

PARIS, 30 Nov—Traffic through the tunnel between France and Britain was halted for two hours on Thursday after a freight train overheated, a Eurotunnel spokesman said.

The train, which was travelling from Britain to France, was diverted to the emergency siding around 1300 GMT after smoke detection alarms went off at

the French side of the tunnel.

"All traffic in that tunnel — the north one — was suspended but services are now being re-established and will be back to normal shortly," spokesman John Keefe said in a statement.

There were no injuries and all those on board the carriage were evacuated safely, he said.

Reuters

## Britain's over-50s ignorant of retirement prospects

### UK

LONDON, 30 Nov—Britain's over-50s are in blissful ignorance of how little their pension pots will pay out and need an urgent financial health check if their retirements are to be as comfortable as they expect, an industry report said.

Workers approaching retirement in the next 15 years need to see their pension pots grow by almost 80 percent to meet their expectations, the National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF) said on Friday.

"Millions of people are within a decade of their state pension but have still not thought about how long their retirement might last," Joanne Segars, chief executive of the NAPF, said in a statement. The burden of managing a pension at retirement has increasingly fallen on employees, as defined contribution (DC) pensions, rather than final-salary schemes, become the more dominant form of retirement saving.

The introduction of the government-backed auto-enrolment scheme — where people are required to opt out rather than opt into retirement saving — could lead up to 8 million additional workers being signed up for pensions, which will likely be DC pension memberships.

Yet a third of workers aged 52 to 64 remain ignorant about what their private pension income may provide in retirement, while 59 percent of workers have never thought about how many years of retirement they need to finance, a report by the Institute for Fiscal Studies and supported by the NAPF said.

Women in their 50s are living to an average of 88 — four years longer than expected — while men are living to 85, overshooting life expectancy by around two years, when compared with national projections of life expectancy, the report said. Annuities, which many British retirees buy to ensure a steady income, are meanwhile becoming more expensive, meaning people will expect their savings pots to generate a higher annuity income than it actually does.

Private pension firms have also been accused of failing to disclose some of the costs they levy on customers' investment funds, leaving people unaware that their pension savings were being eroded by the charges.

The NAPF represents 1,300 pension schemes in the UK with 16 million members and assets of around 900 billion pounds.

Reuters

### RUSSIA

## Heavy snow hits Moscow

MOSCOW, 30 Nov—The Russian capital Moscow is experiencing the largest snowfall of this winter since Wednesday, and is expected to see the biggest November snowfall in 50 years, local meteorological office said on Thursday.

According to the office, Moscow has received one third of the snowfall generally experienced in November in the last 24 hours.

Cumulative snowfall reached 20 centimetres in parts of the city in the 24-hour period through Wednesday afternoon. And the snowstorm is expected to continue until Friday morning, according to the latest weather forecast.

A total of 55 centimetres of snow was expected to fall,

which would be the biggest snowfall in 50 years, said the weather forecast.

The municipal government deployed some 12,000 snowplows and 7,000

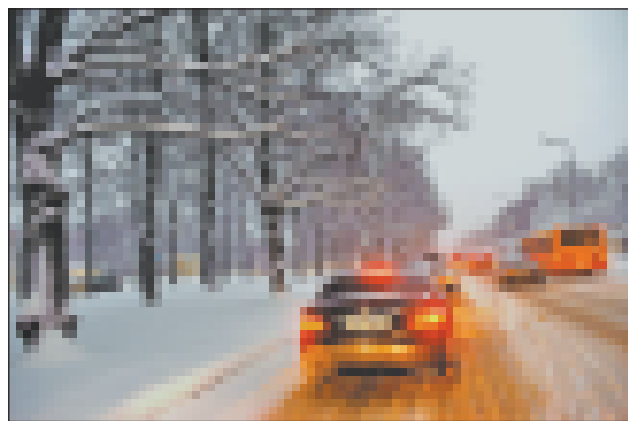
professional cleaners on Thursday to clear snow from major streets. However, continuous heavy snowfall has made such efforts largely ineffective, one of

the cleaners told *Xinhua*. The snowstorm disrupted city traffic, with 20 percent more traffic accidents reported than usual, according to the municipal authorities.

With temperatures expected to rise through Thursday night, the snow could turn into freezing rains and make the roads even more dangerous for drivers, the authorities warned, urging local residents to stay at home or use public transportation instead.

And according to local media reports, some 70 flights have been disrupted at Moscow's Domodedovo airport since Wednesday, though all three airports in the city were still in normal operation on Thursday.

*Xinhua*



Vehicles move on a snow-covered road in Moscow, capital of Russia, on 29 Nov, 2012. A heaviest snow of the season hit Moscow Wednesday and snow on the ground has accumulated to about 20-cm deep Thursday. XINHUA

## Poland set to host 2013 UN climate summit amid environmentalists' outcry

DOHA, 30 Nov—Poland, a EU member criticized for its climate policy, is set to host the 2013 UN climate summit, according to statements circulated on Wednesday at the ongoing climate talks in Doha, Qatar.

Without a contender, Poland became the selected host of the next UN climate talks on Wednesday right after it officially presented its offer at a plenary session

of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. "Poland is a good place to go," said the head of the UN Climate Change Secretariat Christiana Figueres. "Here also in Qatar and in Poland what this conference does is bring the world's attention to the host country and encourage that country to actually step up to the plate and do more."

Meanwhile, the choice

of host has provoked criticism from environmental campaigners.

"A host country should be firmly committed to climate protection and be able to negotiate compromises and seal deals, but Poland has a bad track record on both counts," said Jiri Jerabek, an expert with Greenpeace. Prior to the Doha conference, Poland had given other European Union members

a hard time during meetings to coordinate their positions on the use of spare Kyoto pollution permits.

Warsaw has also been preventing the EU from raising its emissions-reduction target to 30 percent out of the concerns that a high target would hurt its carbon-intensive economy, Anja Kollmuss with Carbon Market Watch said on Wednesday.—*Xinhua*

### Poland



People walk by the River Thames on the South Bank during a warm day in London on 8 Sept, 2012. Saint Paul's Cathedral can be seen in the background.—REUTERS

**NATIONAL**

**Infrastructural development cannot... Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Vietnamese President and party**

(from page 1)  
with provisions in the Constitution, and systematic drawing of 2013-2014 budgets.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun stressed the need to make sure taxation should not be burden to citizens and region/state governments need to make sure what are essential for regional development are included in drawing budget.

Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein elaborated on budgets and taxation of the Union, region and state

governments and the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, chief ministers of regions and states on levied taxes and regional development undertakings of respective regions.

Union ministers present on the occasion explained supportive plans of respective ministries and those present made suggestions. Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun fulfilled the needs and made concluding remarks. The meeting came to an end in the evening.—MNA



*Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann presents gift to Vietnamese President Mr Truong Tan Sang.—MNA*

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov—  
Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker

Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation led by President of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Mr Truong Tan Sang

at Zabuthiri hall of Hluttaw Building, here, at 9 am today. Also present at the call together with Pyithu

Hluttaw Speaker were Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu, Chairmen of Pyithu Hluttaw Committees U Maung Maung Thein, U Thein Zaw, Thura U Aung Ko, U Win Sein, U T Khon Myat and U Thura Zaw, members of Pyithu Hluttaw Commission U Than Tun and U Mya Thein, Myanmar Ambassador to Viet Nam U Thet Oo and Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chu Cong Phung.

At the call, both sides had a cordial discussion on promoting relations between Myanmar and Viet Nam, cooperation between the two Parliaments and exchanging views on and enhancement of economic, trade and technical sector.

MNA

**Union Home Affairs Minister meets UNODC Executive Director**



NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov—  
Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko held talks on cooperation matters with Under-

Secretary-General of the United Nations Executive Director of UNODC Mr. Yury Fedotov at his office, here, this evening.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Police Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun and officials.

MNA

**Union Transport Minister meets IAC CEO of ROK**

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov—  
Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung met President of Incheon International Airport Corporation (IAC) CEO Mr Chea Wook Lee of the Republic of

Korea at his office, here, this morning. The meeting focuses on cooperation in airport management in Myanmar, financial and technological cooperation, loans for development of

water transportation and aviation sectors, opening of Flying Training School in Myanmar, cooperation and investment of Incheon Airport in construction of World Class Airport.—MNA

**Myanmar Ricemill and Value-added Agricultural Machinery Exhibition 2-5 Nov**

YANGON, 30 Nov—The Myanmar Ricemill and Value-added Agricultural Machinery Exhibition 2013 will be displayed from 2 to 5 March.

improving paddy production in quantity and quality of Myanmar, the exhibition will be jointly organized by Ministry of Commerce and Myanmar Rice Industry Association.

The entrepreneurs engaged in assembling ricemills and agricultural machinery in industrial zones of regions and states are to join the exhibition so as to put their products on display by applying new agricultural machinery production technology.—Myanma Alinn

**Union Foreign Minister receives newly appointed ASEAN Secretary-General Mr Le Luong Minh**

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov—  
Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin met newly appointed ASEAN Secretary-General Mr. Le Luong Minh at his office this morning. At the call, they exchanged views on implementation of sector-wise respective tasks adopted by ASEAN and the important roles of

ASEAN Secretary-General and ASEAN Secretariat to start establishment of ASEAN Community on 31 December 2015. Moreover, they discussed measures for preparation tasks of ASEAN Chairmanship to be hosted by Myanmar in 2014 and assistance for Myanmar's endeavors. Mr. Le Luong Minh is currently serving

deputy minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. He was appointed to serve responsibility of ASEAN Secretary-General for the term of 2013-2017. He was also a delegation member led by Vietnamese President Mr. Truong Tan Sang who was now on goodwill visit in Myanmar.—MNA

**Attorney-General of the Union receives UNDP resident representative**

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov—  
Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin received Resident Representative Mr. Ashok Nigam together with Assistant Resident Representative Ms. Mascha Johanna Matthews from United Nations Development Programme at his office at

10:30 am today. At the meeting, Resident Representative Mr. Ashok Nigam of UNDP said that UNDP wishes to assist in the rule of law of Myanmar government, they would organize workshop on justice and rule of law with the help of the office

of the attorney-general of the union and he asked for legal system of Myanmar to hold the workshop.

The attorney-general of the union clarified Myanmar's legal system and implementation for achieving development.

MNA

**Over 1m pseudo-ephedrine tablets seized in Tamu District**

TAMU, 30 Nov—A squad led by Commander of 3<sup>rd</sup>-Mile Police Outpost SIP Myo Myint Swe, Leader of District Anti-Drug Squad SIP Tun Lwin, surveillance Police Sgt San Myint Oo, SIP Kyaw Thu of Anti-Drug Special Squad and Station Commander IP Kyaw Ko Ko and party searched the light truck driven by Thein Zaw Oo from Tamu to Kalay in front

of 3<sup>rd</sup>-Mile Police Outpost at 5.40 pm on 16 November. They seized 489,300 Indian-made pseudo-ephedrine tablets and 54.93 kilos of pseudo-ephedrine power from three gas cylinders of the car. Tamu Police Station took action against driver Thein Zaw Oo, 26, Ma Aye Aye Khaing, 25 and U Lyan Na, 50 under the law together with evidences. Likewise, the

authorities seized 324,000 pseudo-ephedrine tablets from Chevrolet driven by Po Byawt in Khampat Sub-Township on 14 November.

Similarly, the authorities seized 543,200 pseudo-ephedrine tablets from Chevrolet driven by Maung Nyunt at 10.30 pm on 15 November. Seizures of pseudo-ephedrine tablets in three cases in Tamu District from 14 to 16 November amounted to 1,356,500 worth K 112,154,000.

Myanma Alinn

**Don't smoke**

## PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 1 December, 2012

## Help the helpless!

Men come under pincer attack once infected with HIV, on one side he faces certain death, and on another he faces social stigma and discrimination. AIDS has been like a death penalty since its discovery with no treatment for complete recovery. But, this death sentence takes rather a long time to execute the condemned prisoners who have to suffer social discrimination until their last breath.

Until 2000s, we Myanmar people did not have much knowledge about nor even knew AIDS, one of the major contributors of premature deaths around the world. Globalization has brought in more challenges and threats than opportunities and benefits and AIDS as one of the top killers of the country has been the biggest challenge to national health care system whose expenditure is still low in comparison with the size of national population.

Sex is a taboo subject here, which has thus served as a barrier to prevention of HIV infection since sexual contact with an infected person is the most frequent mode of HIV transmission globally. While there is no sex education at secondary schools and colleges, teenagers now have easier access to internet and videos unlike in the past and when this freedom meets the developing cultures like beer, massage, night club cultures and so forth, it paves the way for spread of AIDS.

Occasional crackdown on sex industry is not a realistic solution but the public must be educated about safe sex otherwise the number of wives and children who fall innocent victims to HIV through their husbands and fathers would continue to be rising. Husbands on their part should bear in mind that his single mistake can ruin the life of two or more others.

In our view, HIV/AIDS is not a matter of death but a matter of dignity. HIV/AIDS means more than a fatal disease and is often associated with womanizing and disloyalty, both of which are unpardonable sin in our society. When we talk about people living with HIV, we often relate them with womanizing or intravenous drug use. But, there are innocent victims who are infected through blood transfusions like in the cases of mother-to-child transmission.

They deserve no blame and discrimination and especially the children should be in safe hands and their future should not be insecure. Furthermore, free medical consultation service should be extended targeting at sex workers, most of who here have found it as Hobson's choice for survival.

Meanwhile, new HIV infections must be prevented effectively through comprehensive public education programme though it is impossible to provide life-saving treatments for all people living with HIV. The onus, is thus on all of us to extend a helping hand to people living with HIV to lead a normal life and do our bit for prevention of new HIV transmissions.

Donate Blood

## ARTICLE

## World AIDS Day 2012

Dr Aung Tun  
(Ministry of Health)

World AIDS Day is celebrated around the world every year on 1<sup>st</sup> December. This yearly brings together people from around the world to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and demonstrate international solidarity in the face of pandemic. The day is an opportunity for public and private partners to spread awareness about the status of the pandemic and encourage progress in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care in high prevalence countries and around the world.

Between 2011 and 2015, World AIDS Days will have the theme of "Getting to zero: zero new HIV infections, Zero discrimination, Zero AIDS related deaths". The World AIDS Campaign focus on "Zero AIDS related deaths" signifies a push towards greater access to treatment for all; a call for governments to act now.

**The Global Epidemic**

Worldwide, 2.5 million people became newly infected with HIV in 2011. 25 countries have seen a 50% reduction in new HIV infections since 2001. In 2011, 330,000 children acquired HIV infection and new infections in children were 43% lower than 2003, and 24% lower than 2009.

In 2011, 1.7 million people died from AIDS-related causes worldwide- 24% fewer deaths than in 2005. Globally there were more than half a million fewer deaths in 2011 than in 2005.

In 2011, there were 34 million people living with HIV and more than 8 million people living with HIV had access to antiretroviral therapy. However, 7 million people eligible for HIV

treatment do not have access. 72% of children living with HIV who are eligible for treatment do not have access. Of the 54% of people with access to antiretroviral therapy in low- and middle income countries, 68% were women.

TB-related deaths in people living with HIV have fallen by 25% since 2004. However, TB remains the leading cause of death among people living with HIV.

**Trends of HIV/AIDS in Myanmar**

The active surveillance of HIV/AIDS began in Myanmar since 1985. The first comprehensive surveillance system was developed in 1992 and HIV sentinel sero-surveillance survey among target groups has been carried out since then. Trends analysis of the HIV sentinel surveillance data revealed that HIV prevalence levels among low risk populations in 2011 continued the general decline observed since their peak in the late 1990s.

Newly diagnose TB patients has begun one of the sentinel groups since 2005, and the HIV prevalence has been fluctuating round about 1% above and below the 10% level since then. Among high risk population, a significant decline was observed among Men who have sex with Men, Female Sex Workers and Injecting Drug Users in 2011 round of HSS; while the decline for male STI patients was very slightly.

Since early 2010, NAP with the technical support from Strategic Information and M&E working group and inputs from implementing partners has developed Asia Epidemic Model spreadsheet for

Myanmar. With the model, the distribution of new cases (incidence) of HIV among populations was estimated and projected. Myanmar has gained the advantages of the concerted efforts of all implementing partners; the incidence of HIV has been declined yearly following its peak in late 1990s. However, the new infection is leveling out after 2011 indicating the need to intensify the momentum of prevention and control measures as well as to provide interventions tailored to MSM, IDU and female partners of these Most at Risk Populations (MARPs).

Globally 30 years has passed since AIDS was first reported and ten years since the landmark adoption of the 2001 declaration of commitment on HIV/AIDS at the United Nations Special Section on HIV/AIDS (UNGASS). In Myanmar, over 20 years has passed since the first reported case of HIV in 1988, but with limited resources various achievements have been gained with high political commitments also towards 2001 UNGASS declarations. Although Myanmar has successfully gained Global Fund Round 9 Grant for scaling up of activities in the coming years, the next NSP (2001-2015) need to be fully funded by both international and domestic sources for achievement of MDGs, Universal Access and getting to Three Zeros: Zero New HIV infections, Zero Stigma & Discrimination, and Zero Death.

**Current Activities of the National AIDS Programme**

HIV/AIDS prevention and care activities are being implemented in Myanmar as a national concern since 1989 with high political commitment. National response to HIV/AIDS is currently being implemented with guidelines given by the multi-sectoral National AIDS committee which has been formed since 1989, and also in accordance with the National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS (2006-2010) developed in a participatory approach with various stakeholders. The next National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS (2011-2015) has also been developed through coordinated efforts of implementing partners.

There are three strategic priorities:

- (1) Prevention of the transmission of HIV through unsafe sexual contacts and use of contaminated injecting equipment;
- (2) Comprehensive continuum of care for people living with HIV (PLHIV) and
- (3) Mitigation of the impact of HIV on people living with HIV and their families.

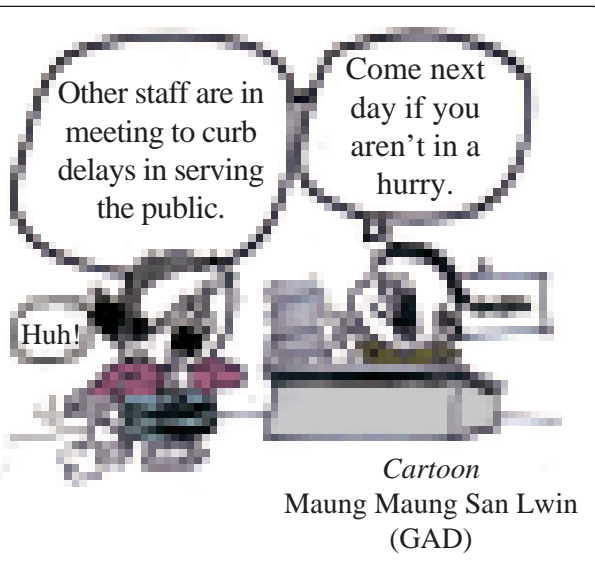
The following ten major activities are being implemented in accordance with 3 Strategic Priorities:

- \* Advocacy
- \* Awareness Raising on HIV/AIDS for various population groups
- \* Prevention of sexual transmission of HIV and AIDS
- \* Prevention of HIV transmission through injecting drug use.
- \* Prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV
- \* Provision of safe blood supply
- \* Provision of care and support
- \* Enhancing the multi-sectoral collaboration and cooperation
- \* Special intervention programmes
  - Cross border programme
  - TB/HIV programme
- \* Supervision, monitoring and evaluation

**To achieve Zero Discrimination**

In order to minimize stigma and discrimination, attitudes towards PLHIV (people living with HIV) and their families as well as to provide basic and correct information on HIV/AIDS, prevention, treatment, care and support activities are being implemented systematically for the community with special emphasis on men and women of reproductive age. For achievement of comprehensive continuum of

(See page 9)



Cartoon  
Maung Maung San Lwin  
(GAD)



NATIONAL

Interview about...

(from page 16)  
 organizations. Therefore, Home Affairs Ministry called on 27 November to all organizations demonstrating around the project area to move from there by 12 pm on 27 November, to enable the commission to start its works, warning against the failure to do so through procedural legal actions under the existing laws in line with the Constitution. The security forces repeatedly requested the demonstrators to disperse with loudspeakers till the deadline and the requests continued beyond the deadline. However, the mob did not leave from there and security forces on 28 November this had



**Dr Than Htut (Medical Superintendent of Monywa People's Hospital).—MNA**

to take actions step by step in line with riot suppression procedures.

Local reporters went to Monywa in Sagaing Region made investigation to find out the real situation.

Medical Superintendent of Monywa People's Hospital Dr Than Htut said "There are 27 monks and one layperson who were wounded in the Letpadunagtaung incident on 29 November and admitted to Monywa People's Hospital. All the patients suffered from burns. Generally, all are burns and some are a little bit deeper burns"

Likewise, surgical Specialist Dr Hla Phone said "Monks were admitted to operation theater that

morning as I was on duty. Most of them were suffering from burns. I found the wounds as normal burns as I examined the patients. There were some cases of minor ulcers as the blazed nylon robes and touched the skin of monks. Heal staff are giving intensive treatment to the monks as in-patients as a special programme."

Specialist (Legal Affairs Medical Specialist) Dr Htay Tin Chit said that most of the wounds sustained are burns. Some burns are found to be superficially wide while some wounds are deed patches. Superficially patched burns are like wounds caused by fire.

There are also rather deep small-patched burns. The wounds are like the ones often caused by hot and burnt materials. For example, when someone in nylon clothes comes into contact with fires he sustains burns like that and when someone who comes into contact with burnt plastics sustains burns like that. **The wounds produce no strange odours. There are no wounds caused something like acid.**

Afterwards, the medical superintendent said that nine members of the Sangha had been discharged from the

hospital as their conditions improved. Only eighteen members of the Sangha and one laity are still under medical treatment. With the assistance of officials concerned and round-the-clock treatment of health staff, the remaining warded patients will soon be able to be discharged from the hospital.

Moreover, Police Lt-Col Thura Thwin Ko Ko of MPF said that protesters and members of the Sangha entered the restricted area of the project where section 144 has been imposed and took position there since 18 November. The police appealed the mob to disperse and leave the area with the use of loudspeaker. They were frequently informed the notification on 27 November. But, despite the appeal, they continued to act unlawfully up to 28 November. As the deadline set was over, the security members unavoidably dispersed them at 3 am on 29 November under the code of procedure 128 with the use of fire hose flowed by tear gas and smoke bombs in line with the riot suppression system being exercised globally in order to prevent the situation from becoming worse. The

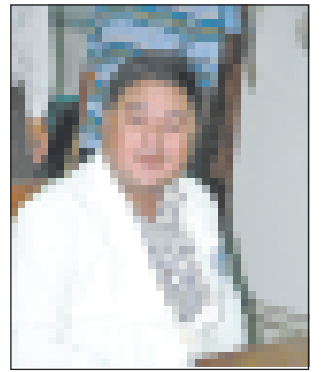
strength of police force used is insignificant. Those who sustained injuries are being provided medical treatment at Monywa People's Hospital.

As regards the incident, NLD Chairperson Daw Aung San Suu Kyi who was at Kankon Village in Salingyi Township said on 29 November that she would like to settle the problem of the region in such a way that could bring dignity to the nation. In the process, people are to give a helping hand. She would like the problem be settled in a peaceful way.

Likewise, in also meeting with the media at Win Unity Hotel, she said that she would like to maintain the relations with neighboring countries, and to settle the problem in



**Dr Hla Phone (Surgical Specialist). MNA**

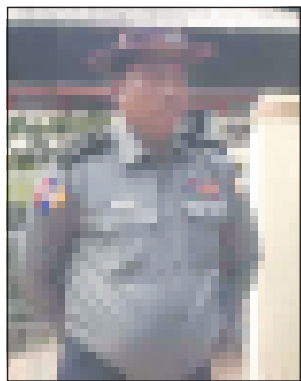


**Dr Htay Tin Chit (Legal Affairs Medical Specialist).—MNA**

the best way. We all are to strive. The Hluttaw has already approved to form a commission soonest to deal with the problem. We are desirous of maintaining relations with neighbors and standing by as good friends. In democratization, we need to try to have a common ground putting aside the differences.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi who is in Monywa this morning met with Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye at Win Unity Hotel in Monywa and held discussions.

The embassy of the People's Republic of China in its statement appealed for creating beneficial conditions to conveniently implement the project on the basis of respecting the Myanmar law.—MNA



**Police Lt-Col Thura Thwin Ko Ko of Myanmar Police Force.—MNA**

World AIDS Day 2012....

(from page 8)  
 care (CoC), framework has been developed since 2009. Nationwide comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention and care activities including community home-based care for AIDS patients and their families are being implemented with involvement of Basic Health Staff, National NGOs, and communities including PLHIVs. As more PLHIV networks are formed, they are now

increasingly participating in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care activities. In hospitals with ART and PMCT services they act as peer counselors for ART adherence.

**Working Together for Getting to Zero: Zero new HIV infections, Zero discrimination, Zero AIDS related deaths**

Multisetoral HIV prevention, and care activities are being implemented with related Ministries such as Ministry of Education,

Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Home Affairs, and various ministries for workplace, HIV/AIDS prevention Programme, as well as with 7 UN Agencies, 1 Bilateral Organization, 21 International NGOs and 11 National NGOs. With JICA support, Donor deferral system for Blood Safety Programme has been introduced and National External Quality Assessment Scheme (NEQAS) of HIV testing has been established. Moreover, Cross Border HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support activities are also being conducted as special

intervention activities with neighbouring countries. In September 2010, Myanmar-Thailand joint Workplan on Disease Surveillance, Prevention and Control at the Border Areas for 2011-2012 has been successfully developed.

In Myanmar, ART started since 2005 and has covered 45 hospitals for adult and 28 hospitals for paediatrics. Through coordinated efforts of 15 implementing partners, about 40,000 AIDS patients have been treated for ART in 2011. According to the eligible criteria

(CD4 count < 350) in the new guideline, the need for ART in Myanmar is estimated to be more than 125,000 in 2012.

With limited resources, Myanmar is doing with utmost to achieve Universal Access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. Besides the strong National commitment towards the fight against HIV/AIDS and support from three diseases fund, Myanmar has successfully gained Global Fund Round 9 Grants in 2010 for scaling up of activities in the coming years. The next NSP

(2011-2015) will also be the National framework to scale up activities to achieve the MDGs and Universal Access goals in time.

We will work closely with regional and international partners for prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in Myanmar. With concerted efforts of all stake holders, community involvement and political commitment, Myanmar can envisage every success in fight against HIV/AIDS Epidemic.

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Installation of CCTVs for reduction in traffic accidents

MANDALAY, 30 Nov— With the aim of enforcing traffic rules to be able to reduce road accidents in Yangon Region, CCTVs are being installed at traffic lights on the roads with heavy traffic by Yangon Region Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee.

"It is good for all of road users as CCTVs are

installed at traffic lights. No one dare to go through the red or yellow lights as CCTVs operate 24 hours. If a car goes through, it will be caught in CCTVs and recorded. CCTVs could bring about reduction in traffic accidents," a driver said.

Recently, road accidents are frequent as some drivers who have no

patience to wait for their turn go through the red light. According to the committee, CCTVs have been installed at 22 traffic lights in the region.

A traffic police said that there has been a decline in road accidents thanks to installation of CCTVs for those who are breaching the law by going through the traffic lights.—Kyemon



Coffee, neem plant to be exported

YANGON, 30 Nov—FDF Man Co and MAGT Co signed an agreement for exporting coffee to the international market.

FMI has signed an MoU with China (Taipei)-based Potomac Company for growing neem plants to be exported as raw material for production of pesticide, said an official at the annual general meeting of FMI.

Myanma Alinn

**Pragmatic approaches...**

(from page 16)  
nation, saying that there are only over 10000 cooperative syndicates nationwide at present.

The Vice-President called for seeking ways and means to be a reliable micro credits union for all walks of life in rural and urban areas. According to the statistics, the union has a membership of 444176 from 9423 villages in 139 Townships of Regions and States including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. According to the statistics, its disbursement of loan from its capital of K19.57749 billion is K 20.576 billion and it has a saving of K4.63722 billion. Only when it cooperates with international and local donor organizations will it develop. So it is necessary to step up its activities with momentum. He said today's rural region development and poverty alleviation meeting would focus on progress and ongoing tasks in Region and States and difficulties and requirements.

Next, Secretary of Rural Region Development and Poverty Alleviation work committee Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win gave an account of rural region development tasks including development of agricultural production, development of micro finance union and development cooperative societies.

Then Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing explained tasks for development of agricultural production, niches for foreign direct investments in agriculture sector and information

necessary for transformation from conventional to mechanized farming system.

Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan elaborated developmental tasks, extended formation of cooperative societies across the country in 2012 and prospects for interdependency between already-formed cooperative societies and local farmers.

Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein made clarifications on ongoing tasks for development of micro credit unions and follow-up tasks.

Next, Union Minister at President Office Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Thein Nyunt and Region/ State Chief Ministers reported on developmental tasks of agricultural production, cooperative societies and micro finance unions respectively.

Union Ministers answered the queries raised by chief ministers.

In his concluding remarks, the Vice-President said detailed discussions would be made in the next meetings and analysis of rural region development and poverty alleviation tasks should be made. He called on ministries concerned to implement their action plans, paying constant attention to neighbouring countries to be able to draw lessons from them. He stressed the need for more efforts in the areas of growing, production, packaging and selling, highlighting the role of scholars to pursue them. He stressed the need for collecting data year by year regarding on poverty alleviation rate in respective regions and states.

MNA

**Honey orange sellers doing a brisk trade in Mandalay**

MANDALAY, 30 Nov — As there is an increased demand for seasonal fruit in Mandalay, seed-free

honey oranges characterized by thin layer, sweet fresh and attractive colour from Nawngkhio, Hsipaw, Kutkai



and Lashio of Shan State arrived in the fruit market in the second week of November. These locally-produced honey oranges are being sold by the viss, not by number.

The price of a one-viss basket of honey orange is K3000, and there are 40 or 60 oranges in a basket according to their sizes. Vendors are doing a lively trade in locally-produced honey oranges at railway station, bus terminal and markets.

Kyemon

**Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker receives Vietnamese President, and party**



NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov — Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received a goodwill delegation led by President of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Mr Truong Tan Sang at Amyotha Hluttaw hall, here, at 9.45 am today.

At the call, they cordially exchanged their views on promoting relations between the Myanmar and the Viet Nam, further strengthening of existing relations between the two Parliaments and the people, bilateral cooperation from Free Trade to Fair Trade in 2015

and cooperation in tourism sector as the two country one destination.

Also present at the call together with the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker were Chairmen of Amyotha Hluttaw Commission and Committees U Aung Tun, U Zaw Myint Pe, U San Tun, Dr Khin Shwe, U Aung Nyein, Col Maung Maung Htoo, U Win Maung, Daw Khin Waing Kyi, secretaries and officials of Hluttaw Office. The Vietnamese President and party were accompanied by Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chu Cong Phung. —MNA

*Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint cordially greets Vietnamese President Mr Truong Tan Sang at Amyotha Hluttaw hall. —MNA*

**Mobile phones' internet access changing into time based charging system declared**

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov — With an aim of ensuring wider use of mobile phone internet at reasonable price, the Myanma Posts

and Telecommunications and media held a meeting focusing on matters related on what is better than volume based charging system.

The meeting focused on time based charging system to be used in the current situation. The detailed information about

new technology will be announced and commenced into public as of 1 January 2013.

MNA

**Myanmar Youth Forum to be held on 10-12 December**

YANGON, 30 Nov — Myanmar Youth Forum will be held for the very first time in Myanmar on 10-12 December on a grand scale. A place for holding the forum is being chosen.

Ko Thet Swe of Myanmar Youth Forum organizing committee said that it was aimed at encouraging the youths to speak out problems they encounter and to express their opinions,

acknowledging the commitments of the youth in the society and setting up a youth network through cooperation.

It was initiated by delegates to ASEAN Youth Forum-2012 and pioneers of My Forum.

A total of about 100 representatives from 49 youth groups took part in a workshop on organizing Myanmar Youth Forum on 18 August. —Kyemon



**CASH DONATED: Taiwan monk Ven Hai Tao and party donate K 7.5 million to joint-secretary (3) U Aye Maung Than at Jivita Dana Sangha Hospital, Yangon on 22 November 2012 recently. —NLM**

**Regional development tasks in Chaungzon Township**

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov — On his inspection tour of Chaungzon Township on 23 November, Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint gave necessary instructions on more establishments of mangrove forests that enable prevention of bank erosion and the road to be used as an all-weather one.

Next he visited Ywalut Station Hospital where operation theatre, X-ray room and Sangha hospital

were inspected. At Ywalut basic education high school, he looked into learning of students, greening and beautifying of the school and growing of flowers and shady trees.

Then, the Chief Minister met village administrators and townsenders at the office of Chaungzon Township General Administration Department and proceeded to Chaungzon Township

People's Hospital. He comforted patients who are receiving medical treatment there.

Afterwards, the Chief Minister oversaw progress of upgrading of ring road, thriving rubber plantations on both sides of the road, tarmacking of Mudun-Kataungsein village-to-village road and repair works for the 10-foot and 24-foot Kataungsein bridge. —MNA

**REGIONAL**



**D1353 high-speed train driver Zhang Lihao works on the Harbin-Dalian high-speed rail line in Shengyan, capital of northeast China's Liaoning Province, on 28 Nov, 2012. The railway linking Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, and port city of Dalian in Liaoning will start service on 1 December, making it the world's first high-speed line running through regions with extremely low temperatures in the winters. The 34-year-old Zhang Lihao is the driver of train D1353. He was selected as a high-speed train driver in 2009 after intense competition and strict test.—XINHUA**

**Indonesian activists push for legally binding results in Doha climate meeting**

**Indonesia**

JAKARTA, 30 Nov— Indonesian environmentalists on Thursday called for legally binding results from the 18th United Nations Conference on Climate Change (UNCCC) in Qatar's capital of Doha, urging Indonesian negotiators to do their best in achieving such result. "This is a good opportunity to pursue a legally binding convention," Avi Mahanigtyas, an activist of the environmentalist group of Kemitraan, told *Xinhua*.

She said Indonesian negotiators face hard task at the high-profile climate

change meeting as developed countries were apparently reluctant to comply with binding obligation after Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period expires at the end of this year.

The 18 UNCCC is scheduled to end on 10 Dec.

Indonesian delegation is tasked to lobby other delegations with an aim to extend the commitment period of Kyoto Protocol.

Kyoto Protocol, which was adopted by the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on

Climate Change in December 1997 in Kyoto, Japan, set binding targets for 37 industrialized countries and the European Union to cut greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 5.2 percent against 1990 levels over the five-year period 2008-2012.

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has initiated a bold move in addressing climate change by pledging to cut emission by 26 percent on Business As Usual (BAU) basis and 41 percent with foreign assistance by

2020.—*Xinhua*

**Three killed, four injured in US drone strike in NW Pakistan**

**Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD, 30 Nov— At least three people were killed and four others injured in a US drone strike launched in Pakistan's northwest tribal area of South Waziristan on Thursday afternoon, reported local media Geo. According to the report, US unmanned aircraft fired two missiles at a vehicle suspected of carrying

militants in the Sheen Warsak area of Wana, capital town of South Waziristan which borders Afghanistan. One local TV channel said that the target was a suspected militant house instead of a vehicle. All the killed are suspected militants of foreign nationalities, said local Urdu TV channel Express. Identities of the

killed and wounded are not immediately known.

Thursday's US drone strike is the 35th of its kind (counted on daily basis) in Pakistan in 2012. According to *Xinhua's* tally, at least 257 suspected militants have been killed in such strikes since the beginning of this year. The last US drone strike in Pakistan occurred on 14

October. Over the last few months, there are less US drone strikes in the country as compared with the past.

This is probably due to the repeated strong protest by the Pakistani government. Pakistan believes that US drone strikes are violative of its sovereignty and counter-productive in the anti-terror war.—*Xinhua*



**Technicians monitor the indicating maps of signals at the signal mechanical room of the Baotou East Station of the Baotou electricity section of the Hohhot Railway Bureau in Baotou, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Nov. 29, 2012. Facing the low temperatures, strong winds and snowfalls since winter, the Hohhot Railway Bureau has organized all its departments to guarantee the rail transport in winter, including activities like strengthening vehicle scheduling and security inspection during on-site operations.**

XINHUA

**Two leftist rebels killed in S Philippines**

DAVAO CITY, 30 Nov— Two alleged leftist rebels were killed following an encounter with government troops in southern Philippines early on Friday, the military said on Friday morning.

Major Jacob Obligado, commander of the army's 10th civil-military operations battalion said the clash occurred on 3 am at Lebanon village, Montevista town in Mindanao's Compostela Valley Province. He said troops from the army's 66th Infantry Battalion were conducting combat patrol at the village's hinterland area when they chanced upon a group of armed men believed to be New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas. "A firefight ensued which resulted to the death (of two rebels)," Obligado told *Xinhua* in a text message.

The military official said troops also recover an improvised landmine on the scene, and they are now pursuing the fleeing rebels.

The 4,000-strong NPA, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, is fighting a 43-year leftist insurgency in 60 Philippine provinces.

*Xinhua*

**India to continue exporting wheat without restriction**

**India**

NEW DELHI, 30 Nov— Indian government Thursday approved a proposal for continuing the export of wheat and non-basmati rice without any restrictions, reported *Indo-Asian News Service*.

The proposal was moved by Commerce Department and was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, which also

kept in view of the adequate availability of wheat and non-basmati rice in the domestic market, according to the report.

The decision would help enhance competitiveness of Indian wheat and rice in international markets and earn foreign exchange for the country, said the report.

*Xinhua*



**People visit the Second Chinese Trade Exhibition at the International Centre for Fairs and Conventions, in San Salvador, capital of El Salvador, on 28 Nov, 2012. China organized for the second time a trade fair, in which 40 companies showed different products in three days.—XINHUA**

**Heat wave to strike Australia's New South Wales**

**Climate**

SYDNEY, 30 Nov— Temperatures are expected to reach the early 40s in western Sydney and western New South Wales (NSW) on Friday and Saturday, with fire danger to be high to very high across most of the state, local media reported on Friday.

The Bureau of Meteorology is predicting parts of NSW will be affected by a heat wave over the coming days. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation

(ABC) Weather specialist Graham Creed reported temperatures were already soaring in parts of the state's north-west before 9:00 am (local time) on Friday.

"Sydney is in for some hot weather but really the worst of the conditions are out through the western half of the state," he said.

The state's health authorities are urging people to be cautious during impending heat wave to avoid heat-related illness.

Signs of heat-related illness include dizziness, confusion, vomiting and headaches.—*Xinhua*

**Roadside bomb kills 10 Afghan civilians, wounds eight**

**Afghanistan**

TRINKOT, 30 Nov— A roadside bomb on Thursday struck a mini-bus in Afghanistan's Uruzgan Province, 370 km south of Kabul, leaving 10 people dead and eight others injured, a local official said.

"The bloody incident took place in Deh Rawad district at around 10:30 am local time today leaving 10 civilians dead and eight others injured," Abdullah

Humat, spokesman for provincial administration, told *Xinhua*.

Women and children were also among the victims, he added.

The spokesman blamed the attack on the enemies of peace, a term used against Taleban by Afghan officials. However, the outfit fighting the government has yet to make comment.

*Xinhua*



**Students of Dajia Elementary School enjoy their lunch in Taipei, southeast China's Taiwan, on 29 Nov, 2012. Food materials are purchased through bidding in order to make sure of the nutrition, low price and taste of lunch for students.—XINHUA**

## ADVERTISEMENT &amp; GENERAL

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE****MV BRUSSEL VOY NO (97)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BRUSSEL VOY NO (97) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.11.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: NYK LINE**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE****MV PAC ARIES VOY NO (007)**

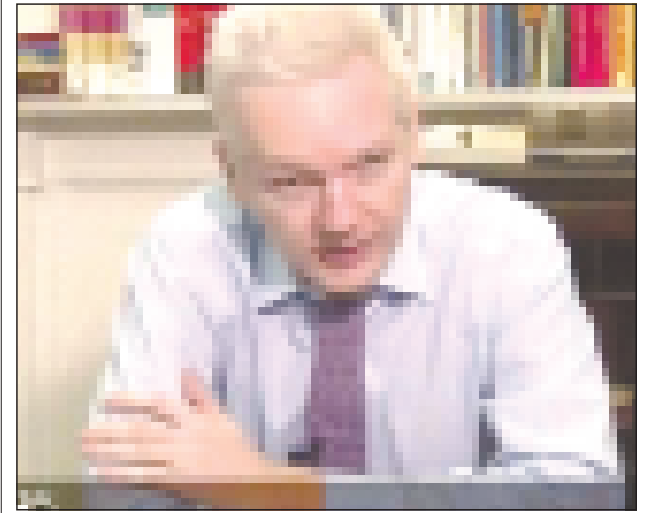
Consignees of cargo carried on MV PAC ARIES VOY NO (007) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.11.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797



*WikiLeaks' founder Julian Assange speaks during a teleconference from the Ecuadorian Embassy in London, in this still image taken from video broadcasted to the United Nations in New York, on 26 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS*

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE****MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (479)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (479) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.11.2012 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.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER  
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE****MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (321)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (321) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER  
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

## Ecuador says WikiLeaks' Assange suffering lung problems

QUITO, 30 Nov—WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is suffering from a chronic lung ailment that could worsen at any time and is being checked regularly by doctors, the Andean country's ambassador to Britain said on Wednesday. Assange, 41, whose website angered the United States by releasing thousands of secret diplomatic cables, has been holed up inside Ecuador's Embassy in London since June to avoid extradition to Sweden for questioning over rape and sexual assault allegations. Assange has denied any wrongdoing.

"He has a chronic lung complaint that could get worse any time. The Ecuadorean state is covering Mr Assange's medical costs and we have arranged for regular doctor visits to check on his health," Ambassador Ana Alban told a local TV network during a visit to Quito. British authorities say Assange will be arrested if he sets foot outside the embassy. The building, located just behind London's famed Harrods department store,

is under constant police surveillance.

Ecuador said last month it is worried about Assange's health and asked Britain to guarantee him safe passage to hospital from the embassy if he needs medical treatment.

That would allow him to return to the embassy after treatment with refugee status.

Assange took refuge in the embassy after running out of legal options to avoid being sent to Sweden. Ecuador granted him asylum in August and said it shared his fears that he could be sent from Sweden to the United States to face charges over WikiLeaks' activities.

US and European government sources say the United States has issued no criminal charges against him, nor launched any attempts to extradite Assange. Assange is said to be living a cramped life inside the modest diplomatic mission. He eats mostly take-out food and uses a treadmill to burn off energy and a vitamin D lamp to make up for the lack of sunlight.

Reuters

## Some 20 percent of women overwhelmed by cancer treatment options

NEW YORK, 30 Nov — More than one in five women with early-stage breast cancer said they were given too much responsibility for treatment-related decisions — and those patients were more likely to end up regretting the choices they made, according to a US study. The findings, which appeared in the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, don't mean that women should not be fully informed about their treatment options, researchers said, but rather that doctors may need to find new strategies to communicate with patients, especially the less educated.

"Some women may feel overwhelmed or burdened by treatment choices, particularly if they are not also given the tools to understand and weigh the benefits and harms of these choices," wrote research leader Jennifer Livaudais and colleagues. Her team from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York surveyed 368 women who had just had surgery for early-stage breast cancer at one of eight New York City hospitals, and again six months later.

The majority said they typically had trouble understanding medical information and less than one-third

knew the possible benefits of surgery, radiation and chemotherapy, Livaudais and her colleagues found. Lack of both "health literacy" and knowledge about treatment benefits was common among the 21 percent of women who said they had too much responsibility for decision-making — as well as among the seven percent who felt they didn't have enough responsibility. Women who were poor, non-white or didn't finish high school were also more likely to feel that they had either too much or too little say in their treatment.

Close to two-thirds of

women on both ends of the spectrum had some regret about their original treatment decisions six months down the line. That compared to one-third of women who originally said they had a "reasonable amount" of decision-making responsibility. Steven Katz, who has studied cancer-related decision-making at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, said that compared to past years, doctors now have better ways to tailor treatment to individual patients. But that also means treatment options are based on more convoluted information.—Reuters

## Antarctic bacteria a clue to different kinds of life

NEW YORK, 30 Nov —A study by polar researchers has revealed an ancient community of bacteria able to thrive in the lightless, oxygen-depleted, salty environment beneath nearly 70 feet of ice in an Antarctic lake, giving insight into the unique ecosystem. The research, funded by the National Science Foundation and NASA, provides clues about biochemical processes not

linked to sunlight, carbon dioxide and oxygen — or photosynthesis. The authors of the study say it may explain the potential for life in salty, cryogenic environments beyond Earth, where energy in ecosystems is typically fueled by the sun.

The study, published this week in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*, came out of a collaborative effort of polar researchers from a number

of institutions, including the University of Illinois at Chicago, Montana State University and the University of Colorado.

The energy driving bacterial life in Lake Vida, a mostly frozen, brine lake below the Antarctic ice shield, may be derived from chemical reactions between the salt water and the underlying, iron-rich rock, researchers said.

Reuters

*A traffic policeman shows the pupils how to direct the traffic at the Wan'an Experimental Primary School in Wan'an County, east China's Jiangxi Province, on 28 Nov, 2012.*  
XINHUA



ENTERTAINMENT

**Ben Affleck named Entertainer of the Year**

NEW DELHI, 30 Nov— Ben Affleck has been named Entertainer of the Year by Entertainment Weekly.

The actor-and-director succeeds Harry Potter star Daniel Radcliffe, who received the honour last year, and was bestowed with the accolade as he has finally reached the “pinnacle” of his career. Appearing on US morning show Good Morning America, Entertainment Weekly editor Jess Cagle explained: “We’ve watched him



The actor-and-director succeeds Harry Potter star Daniel Radcliffe, who received the honour last year.

PTI

grow up. He has really reached his pinnacle.”

The 40-year-old Daredevil star—who burst onto the acting scene 15 years ago in Good Will Hunting—is delighted with the honour, particularly because he wants to make his family, wife Jennifer Garner, daughters Violet, six, and Seraphina, three, and nine-month-old Samuel, proud.

Ben Affleck told Entertainment Weekly: “Being at a place in my life and my career where I know what I’m trying to do, it’s different than being 26. When you’re younger and have the early success that I had—it sounds like the worst

Hallmark cliché—but I didn’t have anyone to share it with. I don’t mean I wanted someone to sit

by the fire with. But when you have a family and children, you kind of see yourself reflected in them. I want to make the kinds of movies that my kids are proud of. I have higher standards, in a way, for them.”

Fellow Hollywood star George Clooney, 51, praised Ben for re-emerging on the Hollywood A-list after several rocky years, which included starring in numerous widely panned films and a high profile engagement to singer-and-actress Jennifer Lopez, 43, that was eventually called off. George Clooney said: “Hollywood loves a comeback, and he’s an unbelievable comeback kid.”

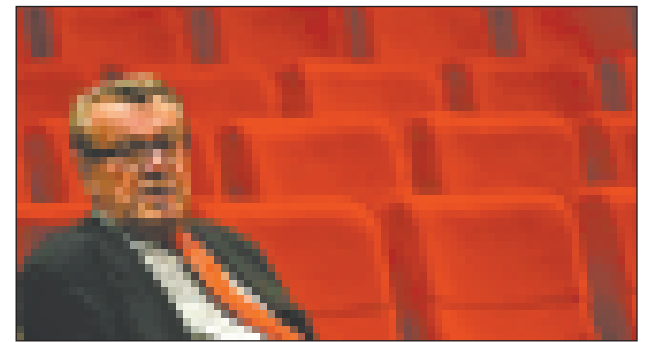
Ben Affleck has transitioned from in front of the screen to behind it, helming critically-acclaimed films such as Gone Baby Gone, The Town and this year’s Argo, which is being tipped for Oscar contention. —PTI

**Directors Guild to honour Milos Forman with lifetime award**

LOS ANGELES, 30 Nov— Oscar-winning director Milos Forman, known for works such as “One Flew Over The Cuckoo’s Nest,” will be honored with a lifetime achievement award, the Directors Guild of America said on Wednesday. Forman, 80, will receive the coveted accolade, one of the guild’s highest honors, at an awards ceremony in Los Angeles on 2 February.

The Czech-American director won two Academy Awards for best director, one for 1975’s “One Flew Over The Cuckoo’s Nest” and his second for 1984’s “Amadeus.” Both films also won Oscars for best picture.

“No matter what subject or genre he tackles, Milos finds the universality of the human experience in every story, allowing us — his rapt audience—to recognize ourselves within the struggle for free expression



Czech director Milos Forman attends the opening ceremony of the 44th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival in Karlovy Vary on 3 July, 2009.—REUTERS

and self-determination that Milos so aptly portrays on the silver screen,” Taylor Hackford, president of the Director’s Guild, said in a statement.

Forman will be the 34th recipient of the DGA’s lifetime achievement award in the guild’s 76-year history, joining the ranks of Steven Spielberg, Francis Ford Coppola and Stanley Kubrick.

The director was a leading figure of the Czechoslo-

vak New Wave movement, along with directors Ivan Passer, Vera Chytilova and others. Forman’s films such as 1964’s “Black Peter” and the 1967 communist satire “The Fireman’s Ball” were banned for a time in the former Czechoslovakia.

Forman’s other films include 1979’s “Hair,” 1981’s “Ragtime” and 1996’s “The People vs Larry Flynt,” starring Woody Harrelson.

Reuters

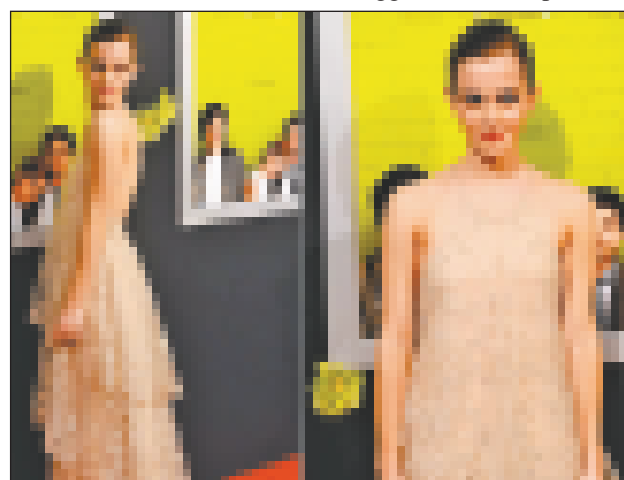
**Emma Watson cutting ties with fashion industry**

LONDON, 30 Nov— Harry Potter star Emma Watson is cutting her ties with the fashion world in order to focus on her acting career.

The 22-year-old British beauty, who has previously served as the face of fashion firm Burberry and cosmetic company Lancome, has recently teamed up with fair trade corporation People Tree as a creative advisor and helped design two clothing ranges, reported Contactmusic.

“It was fun when I was younger, but I don’t think it will be quite as much part of my future, honestly. Now that I know acting is the thing I want to do, that’s more where my passion is and my focus is.

“I still find fashion very interesting, but it’s quite full-on. I am finding more and more that I don’t want to wear a dress and heavy make-up... I want to wear jeans more. It’s quite intense to do it all the time.”—PTI



The 22-year-old British beauty, who has previously served as the face of fashion firm Burberry and cosmetic company Lancome, has recently teamed up with fair trade corporation People Tree as a creative advisor and helped design two clothing ranges.—PTI

**Brad Pitt is OK with people mocking his Chanel No 5 ad**

NEW DELHI, 30 Nov— Brad Pitt thinks spoofs of his Chanel No. 5 advert are “fair play”.

The Moneyball actor stars in the fashion house’s latest campaign for their iconic perfume and the clips have been the subject to much ridicule, including an infamous Saturday Night Live skit which saw a lookalike ask directors whether there is a script for him to read from instead of sounding “insane” talking to himself.

However, Brad Pitt admits that he is “blissfully” unaware of the parody videos online and isn’t bothered about the mocking.

He said: “I’ve been overseas, so I’ve been blissfully protected. I

haven’t [seen the parodies], but I say absolutely fair play, fair play.”

Brad Pitt, 48, was the first male star to head the campaign—taking over from French actress Audrey



Brad Pitt admits that he is “blissfully” unaware of the parody videos online and isn’t bothered about the mocking.—PTI

ally quality things.” For his latest role in Andrew Hoinik’s film Killing Them Softly, where he plays enforcer Jackie Cogan, he took up smoking and despite having previously quit he found it “great” to puff away at a cigarette again.

He mused: “(I’ve quit) several times, I’m really good at it. It’s great, it’s great.”

He knows he won’t carry on though as he doesn’t want to affect his fiancée Angelina Jolie and their children Maddox, 11, Pax, eight, Zahara, seven, Shiloh, six, and four-year-old twins Knox and Vivienne.

He explained: “But you have to know that you’re going to have to quit on the other end and that that ugly day is coming, so you over enjoy it I guess.

I’m very conscious of health now and I want to be around for my kids, I don’t have that drive anymore. I don’t crave it all.” —PTI

**Adele’s “21” sells 10 million, Rihanna leads Billboard**

LOS ANGELES, 30 Nov—British singer and Grammy darling Adele reached the 10 million sales mark in the United States on Wednesday with her heartbreak album “21” becoming the first by British woman to reach the milestone, Nielsen Sound Scan said.

“21,” released in February 2011, produced the hits “Someone Like You” and “Rolling In The Deep” and became the top-selling album of 2011. Earlier this year, Adele swept the Grammy Awards with six, including song, record and the year.

“21” became the third album to cross 10 million in 2012, along with Linkin Park’s “Hybrid Theory” and Usher’s “Confessions.” But it is the only album to reach the milestone in less than two years in the last decade, Nielsen said.

“What an incredible honor,” Adele said in a statement. “A huge, huge thank you to my American fans for embracing this record on such a massive level.” “21” will receive the diamond certification from the Recording Industry Association of America, mark-

ing its 10 million milestone, joining the ranks of albums by artists such as Michael Jackson, The Beatles and Madonna.

“Adele’s unique talent is a gift to music fans, and her success is certainly cause for a celebration of Diamond magnitude,” Cary Sherman, RIAA’s chairman & CEO, said in a statement.

Adele, 24, is enjoying the success of her latest single “Skyfall,” the official theme song for the James Bond film of the same name. It has sold more than 2 million copies worldwide. The singer also gave birth to her first child earlier this year.



Singer Adele

On the Billboard 200 chart this week, R&B star Rihanna scored her first No. 1 album with “Unapologetic,” selling 238,000 copies.

She held off new entries from “American Idol” winner Phillip Phillips, who landed at No 4 with his debut album “The World From the Side of the Moon,” and country-rock singer Kid Rock, who rounded out the top five with his latest album “Rebel Soul.”

Reuters

## Davis could be difference maker for Dynamo



**Houston Dynamo midfielder Brad Davis (11) celebrates after scoring against Montreal Impact during the first half of their MLS soccer match in Montreal on 23 June, 2012.**  
REUTERS

CARSON, (California), 30 Nov — The MLS Cup final between L A Galaxy and Houston Dynamo on Saturday is a repeat of last year's championship game but with one crucial difference — Dynamo will be able to call on their most creative force, midfielder Brad Davis. Davis, whose left foot has provided countless opportunities for Houston strikers in his seven seasons with the club, was injured for the 1-0 defeat last year and Dominic Kinnear's team sorely missed him. However, Davis is keen to avoid the cliché of being "more motivated" by his absence last year.

"I don't want to win that much more because I didn't get a chance last year — I want to win this year because the guys put in another great effort, and this is the fun part that you work for all year," he told the team's website. "I'm just excited to be part of it and be healthy, and I'm looking forward to playing this game strictly for a shot at the Cup." The slightly-built 31-year-old is the man Dynamo turn to for dead-ball situations close to goal and to unlock opposition defences with one of his trademark through balls.

Despite only having five appearances for the US

national team to his name and never having spent time outside of North American soccer, Davis is hugely respected in MLS and Galaxy coach Bruce Arena knows he is the danger man. "We know Davis — he hasn't changed much in the last five to eight years — he is a great passer, great from set-pieces," he told reporters after training on Thursday. It is impossible to avoid the similarity with Galaxy's own set-piece specialist, the departing David Beckham, and the pair are likely to face each other on the same flank on Saturday.

With time having eroded Beckham's pace, he too is now largely reliant on his cross-field passes, free-kicks and corners. With such a key role to play at free-kicks and corners, it would be a surprise if neither Beckham nor Davis had an assist to their name in the final. Beckham though is pleased to see Davis, a player he rates highly, get his chance in the final after last year's disappointment. "I was sad for Brad last year. Missing out on the final, for a player who had an exceptional season, was tough," he said. — Reuters

## Serena Williams named Women's Tennis Association Player of the Year



**Serena Williams of the US celebrates with the trophy after her victory against Russia's Maria Sharapova after their final WTA tennis championships match in Istanbul, on 28 Oct, 2012.** — REUTERS

LONDON, 30 Nov — American Serena Williams has been named WTA Player of the Year after one of the most successful seasons in her career.

The 31-year-old won Wimbledon and the US Open to take her grand-

slam haul in singles to 15 while she also won Olympic gold in singles and doubles in London.

After a relatively slow start to the year, Williams was virtually unstoppable from April to October when she won 48 of her 50 semi-final goal last summer when the US took gold, showed little rust as she wowed the crowd in Portland, Oregon.

"We've been waiting and itching to get out there on the field, I think (this) showed that we wanted to get out there and play," Morgan told reporters. — Reuters

## Morgan hat-trick leads US women in rout over Ireland

LOS ANGELES, 30 Nov — Alex Morgan's first-half hat-trick proved she has not lost her scoring touch as the United States women's soccer team blanked Ireland 5-0 in an international friendly on Wednesday.

Morgan, who netted a game-winning Olympic

### Soccer



**Los Angeles Galaxy's David Beckham**

CARSON, (California), 30 Nov — David Beckham will end his Major League Soccer playing career on Saturday but has urged LA Galaxy team mate Landon Donovan not to do the same. Donovan has said he is considering his future in the game and has talked of the need for a break while suggesting he could even quit the game.

While Beckham is talking of a "new challenge",

## Nanjing Youth Olympics mascot unveiled

NANJING, (East China), 30 Nov — Nanjing's special product riverstone has been unveiled as the mascot for the 2014 Youth Olympic Games here. The pebble mascot named NANJINGLELE was unveiled on a big ceremony here on Thursday.

The word "lele" represents the sound of stones colliding together and is pronounced like the Chinese word meaning happiness or joy, organizers said.

Nanjing has been famous for its colourful riverstones or Rain-Flower Pebble as Chinese call them. International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge said the mascot design was "inspiring".



**Artists hold "Lele", 2014 Summer Youth Olympics' mascot, during the unveiling ceremony in Nanjing, east China's Jiangsu Province on 29 Nov, 2012.**

XINHUA

"The design of NANJINGLELE is truly inspiring and will certainly capture the attention of the world's youth and older generations alike. Not only does it incorporate aspects

of the host city's majestic local stone, the riverstone, but it is bright and vibrant and sets the tone for a fun, colourful and energetic YOG," he said in a letter sent to the organizers. — Xinhua

### Tennis

matches, culminating in the title at the WTA Championships in Istanbul.

Williams, who ended the year No 3 in the rankings but clearly the outstanding player, has now won the WTA award four times, having also taken it in 2002, 2008 and 2009.

The award is voted for by international tennis media.

Reuters

## Sharp putting keeps Tiger in contention at Sherwood

THOUSAND OAKS, (California), 30 Nov — With his game markedly better than this time a year ago, tournament host Tiger Woods was happy enough after grinding out a two-under-par 70 in Thursday's opening round of the World Challenge.

Though Woods did not strike the ball as well as he did in Wednesday's pro-am competition, he sank several par putts from around 10 feet to remain in contention and ended an overcast day at Sherwood Country Club just three strokes off the lead.

The American world number three has triumphed five times in the elite invitational event and, at a hilly venue he knows better than anyone else in the 18-player field, he has a good opportunity to claim his fourth victory this year.

"I didn't hit it very good today, so it was nice to scrape out a good score," Woods told reporters after mixing three birdies with a lone bogey and a total of 29 putts to finish

three behind compatriot Nick Watney.

"I made a few good par putts to keep the round going. I kept myself in the tournament. Could have easily shot myself out of the tournament but I kept myself in it."

**Tiger Woods of the US tees off on the fifth hole during the first round of the World Challenge golf tournament in Thousand Oaks, California, on 29 Nov, 2012.**

REUTERS

### Golf

Playing his first tournament since he tied for fourth at the PGA Tour-sanctioned CIMB Classic in Malaysia last month, Woods said he was not at all rusty with his game. "I just felt a little off," the 36-year-old said. "Even warming up I didn't quite feel it was where I needed to have it."

I had it last night when I was hitting golf balls, and that was nice. "Unfortunately I just didn't have it like I did last night. I'll do some work here and hopefully shore it up for tomorrow."

Reuters

GENERAL

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(1-12-12 09:30 am ~ 2-12-12 09:30 am) MST

- \* News
- \* Heal the world with the warmth of the kind hands
- \* News
- \* "Astrology and Astronomy" Process of Planet correlated with horoscope for 12 Sign ascendants
- \* News
- \* Road to 27th SEAGAMES (Yachting)
- \* News
- \* Exclusive Highlight of 21st ASEAN Summit (Phnom Penh, Cambodia) Departure and Arrival
- \* News

- \* "Short Story" Doubt -Uppatasanti Paritta 4:25 pm
- \* HIV-AIDS Awareness 7:25 am
- \* News 2. To be healthy exercise 7:40 am
- \* Taste of Myanmar (Lashio Noodle) 3. Dhama Puja Song 8:00 am
- \* News 4. Health Programme 8:20 am
- \* Launching of State of World Population Report 2012 (Part-1) 5. Poem garden 8:35 am
- \* News 6. Teleplay (Traffic) 11:20 am
- \* Launching of State of World Population Report 2012 (Part-2) 7. Game for children 11:45 am
- \* Myanmar Movie "A Trick on Spinners" 8. Round up of the week's TV local news 2:05 pm

MYANMAR TV (1-12-2012, Saturday)

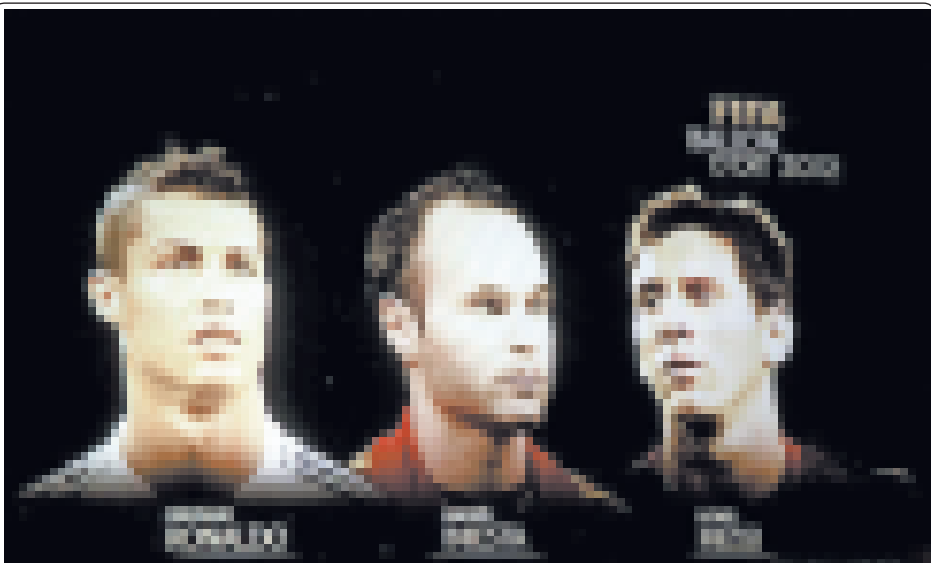
- 7:00 am
- (1-12-2012, Saturday) 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw 11. Songs of Yester Years

- 12. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Fourth Year (Botany) 4:40 pm
- 13. Songs For Upholding National Spirit 4:45 pm
- 14. Beautiful "ASEAN" 4:55 pm
- 15. World AIDS day songs 5:35 pm
- 16. Game for children 6:20 pm
- 17. Documentary 7:05 pm
- 18. TV Drama Series 8:00 pm
- 19. News
- 20. TV Drama Series

Pre-Primary School, site for SWD Office inspected in Pyapon Township



NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov—Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin made an inspection tour of self-reliant Pre-Primary School in Ward 11 of Pyapon Township, Office of Pyapon District Relief and Resettlement Department and warehouse in Kyonku Village-tract and the site chosen for construction of the office of Head of District Social Welfare Department on 27 November afternoon.—MNA



A photo of the three finalists is shown on the screen during the announcement of the finalists of Golden Ball award in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 29 Nov, 2012. FIFA and France Football magazine announced the three finalists for the Golden Ball award: Lionel Messi from Argentina, Cristiano Ronaldo from Portugal and Andres Iniesta from Spain.

XINHUA

Blatter backs Ronaldo for presidency

RIO DE JANEIRO, 30 Nov — FIFA president Sepp Blatter has given his backing to the possible future candidacy of Ronaldo as president of Brazil's Football Confederation (CBF).

The three-time FIFA world player of the year has revealed an interest in football politics and is currently serving as an ambassador for Brazil's 2014 World Cup organizing committee.

"I am always happy Ronaldo, Brazil's former soccer player and member of the local organizing committee for the 2014 World Cup attends a ceremony to announce the nominees for the FIFA Ballon d'Or 2012, player of the year award, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 29 Nov, 2012.—XINHUA

when former stars decide to put their time and energy into working towards the development of football off the pitch," Blatter told Brazil's Terra on Thursday.

"When I last spoke to him he was very happy with the experience of being a part of the World Cup organizing committee and it's a good learning

curve for him. It's a question you should really ask the Brazilian people, if Ronaldo should be president of the country's football confederation."

Current CBF president Jose Maria Marin, who will turn 81 next May, is expected to step down following the World Cup in July 2014.—Xinhua



Commissioner Stern riled by Spurs move to rest top players

NEW YORK, 30 Nov — NBA Commissioner David Stern has vowed to punish the San Antonio Spurs for sending Tim Duncan, Tony Parker, Manu Ginobili and Danny Green home early rather than play in Miami on Thursday against NBA champion Heat.

With the second-placed Spurs (13-3) set to take on Southwest Division leading Memphis (11-2) in San Antonio on Saturday, coach Gregg Popovich decided his group of veterans could use an extra day of rest at home after their hectic road stretch.

Stern lashed out at the move, which came before the Spurs' nationally televised marquee clash against the Southeast leading Miami Heat (10-3).

"I apologize to all NBA fans," Stern said in a statement. "This was an unacceptable decision by the San Antonio Spurs and substantial sanctions will be forthcoming."

The Spurs, who had won the first five games of their six-game road trip ending in Miami, were left with just nine active players for the game against the Heat.—Reuters



San Antonio Spurs point guard Tony Parker (L) and centre Tim Duncan talk on the bench during the second half of their NBA basketball game against the Utah Jazz in Salt Lake City, Utah, on 7 May, 2012.—REUTERS

Six injured in Boston trolleys collision

WASHINGTON, 30 Nov—Six passengers were injured and about 20 others have been evaluated after a trolley rear-ended another in the city of Boston on Thursday, said local authorities.

The injured have been taken to the hospital, said Boston Fire Department in an official tweet.

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) spokesman Joe Pesaturo said one trolley "bumped into another" shortly before noon in the Boylston Street station but there was no derailment and no visible damage.

The driver of the

second trolley was among the injured. None of the injuries were considered life-threatening, said local officials. The station is now closed and rescue workers have set up a triage operation on the sidewalk at the station to evaluate the passengers.

One man got knocked out of the door onto the concrete platform ending up face down, when the collision took place in the outbound side of the station, the Boston Globe cited a witness as saying. The newspaper's reporter also saw one man at the scene with a bloody shirt being escorted by rescue

workers as he held a cloth to his head.

On its website, the MBTA advised passengers to expect delays in service and use other stations to make downtown subway connections.

In early October this year, three people were injured when two trolleys collided in the city and "human error" was confirmed by the MBTA to be the cause of the accident.

Another driver of a Boston trolley admitted to investigators that he was texting a message at the time of a crash that happened in 2009 and injured 49 people. Xinhua

## Pragmatic approaches and systematic reviews needed to ensure success of rural development scheme



*Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses rural development and poverty alleviation work committee meeting.—MNA*



NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov— Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham called for pragmatic approaches and systematic reviews in implementing rural development and poverty alleviation scheme as he addressed the meeting of rural development and poverty alleviation work committee at Ministry of President Office this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win,

Union ministers, region/ state chief ministers, deputy ministers and personnel.

In his address, Chairman of Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation Work Committee Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said rural development and poverty alleviation scheme was initiated in June, 2011 after the new government had taken office. It has been over one year since the scheme came into operation with formation of rural development and poverty alleviation central committee, work

committees, region/ state committees. The central committee outlines disciplines and respective region/state and lower level committees undertake the works with ministries concerned as supportive work committees comprehensively providing technical aid.

He called for pragmatic approaches, demanding to make sure rural people receive actual benefits from

rural development and poverty alleviation scheme. He called for a thorough review to measure the results so that alternatives can be sought if the programmes meet with failure.

Only through the accurate statistics, can the work committees know what should be done for next step, noted the Vice-President demanding accuracy of progress records of the scheme in all 64917 villages

of the country in 15 regions and states including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area to guarantee the success of the scheme.

The Vice-President called for further emphasis on agricultural development works, the first-point of eight-point rural development and poverty alleviation scheme, saying that a farmer only owns five acres of farmland generally and the output is just enough for his and his family's consumption and other social expenses and it is impossible to make fortune through farming. He called for vertical extension/ horizontal extension to generate increased incomes for rural folks and cooperation with them to help them grasp the chances. He called for popularization of complicated technical assistance to farmers, demanding to make sure every household in every village can do integrated farming.

The Vice-President said only integrated farming is introduced in all the villages in the country, can food sufficiency be secured and incomes be increased through sales of surplus, thereby increasing the net income of every household in every village, bringing down the poverty rate. He called on personnel concerned to take a leading part in shifting to marketable, low-cost strains.

The Vice-President called for measures to ensure collective ownership and equitable profit-sharing in agriculture, livestock breeding and fishery, industrial products manufacturing, micro-finance works and socio-economic works in developing rural cooperative works. He called for promotion of trust of rural folks in cooperative works and progress of cooperative associations to expand cooperative works across the

(See page 10)

## Interview about Letpadaungtaung Copper Mining Project

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov—The government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar under the leadership of the President is striving in cooperation with citizens to build up a modern, developed, new democratic nation in line with the Constitution. In so doing, laws and regulations and procedures were drafted and enacted for respective areas to promote genuine democratic practices within legal framework.

In accordance with provisions in Section 354 (b) of the Constitution, "Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law" was promulgated on 2 December, 2011 with Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No. 15. The legislation is aimed to instill citizens with a sense of respect for democratic practice, enabling them to act

within legal framework. Under this law and related bylaws, citizens have been authorized to speak and air their grievances through permitted means.

However, since 18 November protestors of Letpadaungtaung Copper Mining Project had trespassed into project area in which Section 144 was

imposed and organized protest camps and disrupted the operation of the project.

Authorities concerned have repeatedly tried to negotiate and coordinate for demands of local people since the outbreak of complaints against Letpadaungtaung Copper Mining Project. However, the negotiations collapsed

as demonstrators continuously demanded the end of the entire project.

With regard to ongoing protests, Pyithu Hluttaw decided to form an independent national level commission comprised of respected personalities, local and foreign academics and

(See page 9)



*A person who was wounded in riot suppression at Letpadaungtaung Copper Mining Project. MNA*

## Bay bulletin

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov— According to observations at 6:30 hrs MST today, a low pressure area over Andaman

Sea and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal still persists, said Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—MNA

## Slight earthquake hits 3 miles southeast of Thabeikkyin

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Nov—A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.1 Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar, (about 3 miles southeast of Thabeikkyin), about 60

miles north of Mandalay seismology observatory was recorded at 7.27 pm M.S.T today, announced by Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

MNA