

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

THE MOST RELIABLE NEWSPAPER AROUND YOU

Volume XX, Number 229

7<sup>th</sup> Waning of Tazaungmon 1374 ME

Wednesday, 5 December, 2012

## President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to King of Thailand

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—On the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej which falls on 5 December 2012, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of the Kingdom of Thailand.

MNA

## President U Thein Sein to pay State Visits to Australia, New Zealand

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—At the invitation of Her Excellency Ms. Quentin Bryce, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia and His Excellency The Rt Hon. John Key, Prime Minister of New Zealand, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will pay State Visits to the Commonwealth of Australia and New Zealand in the near future.—MNA

## President U Thein Sein receives 21-gun salute in Brunei

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Dec—A ceremony to welcome President U Thein Sein by Brunei King Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih Muizzaddin Waddaulah, took place at Istana Nurul Iman Palace, at 11.30 am today.

The President was cordially welcomed by Foreign Affairs Minister of the Brunei Darussalam HRH Prince Mohammad Bolkih, at Empire Hotel & Country Club. When the president arrived Istana Nurul Iman Palace in a motorcade, he was welcomed by the Brunei King.

After that, the State band played two countries' national anthems and a 21-gun salute was fired and national flags of the two countries were flying at the top of the mast while both leaders were taking the salute of the Guard of Honour from the dais.

Afterwards, both leaders inspected the Guard



of Honour. After taking position on the dais they again took the salute of the Guard of Honour while the State band played two

countries' national anthems. After that, the Brunei King introduced members of royal families, ministers, high-ranking officials and

heads from foreign embassies to the president. And President U Thein Sein also introduced his entourage to Brunei King. MNA

*President U Thein Sein and Brunei King Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih Muizzaddin Waddaulah inspect the Guard of Honour.*

MNA

## US Navy denies Iran drone capture claim

DUBAI 4 Dec—Iran said on Tuesday it had captured a U.S. intelligence drone in its airspace over the Gulf in the last few days, but the U.S. military quickly denied having lost any unmanned

aircraft in the Middle East.

The incident highlighted tensions in the Gulf as the Islamic Republic and the United States demonstrate their military capabilities in the vital oil exporting region

in a standoff over Iran's disputed nuclear program.

Iran has repeatedly threatened to close the Strait of Hormuz - through which about 40 percent of the world's seaborne crude oil is shipped - if it comes under attack. US commanders have said they will not let that happen.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) said on its website that the ScanEagle drone had been flying over the Gulf in the last few days and was "captured" when it strayed into Iranian airspace.

A spokesman for U.S. Naval Forces Central Command in Bahrain said no US drone had gone missing in the region.

"The US Navy has fully accounted for all unmanned air vehicles (UAV) operating in the Middle East region. Our operations in the Gulf are confined to internationally recognized water and air space," Commander Jason Salata said.

"We have no record that we have lost any ScanEagles recently."

Reuters

## Aids for quake victims transported

YANGON, 4 Dec—Relief aids for quake victims provided by Japanese Government, ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Centre (AHA Center) headquartered in Indonesia and Department of Relief and Resettlement were transferred from Botahtaung warehouse of Myanmar Railways to Mandalay and Sagaing Regions by the

train No. 931 of Myanmar Railways yesterday.

The cargo train carried 800 mattresses, 40 bales of waterproofs, 600 blankets, 40 small generators, 250 make-shift tents, 70 reels of tarpaulin, 35 bales and four packages of cloth, one package of traditional medicine and 170 packages of bottled water.

MNA

## Significant night temperatures (4-12-2012)

Loilem	4°C
Heho	6°C
Mogok	6°C
Putao	7°C



A general view of the Bushehr nuclear power plant, some 1,200 km (746 miles) south of Tehran on 26 October 2010. —Reuters

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker receives RFA president and party

*Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint meets President Ms. Libby Liu from Washington-based Radio Free Asia of USA.—MNA*



NAY PYI TAW, 4 Dec—Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint received a delegation led by President Ms. Libby Liu from Washington-based Radio Free Asia in United States of America at Amyotha

Hluttaw Hall at 3 pm today. At the meeting, they discussed measure taken by Myanmar parliaments, conditions of Myanmar's reform process, poverty alleviation and promotion of education and health sectors in Myanmar to ensure

flourishing of democracy culture. Present at the meeting together with the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker were Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein, Amyotha Hluttaw Committee Chairmen U Zaw

Myint Pe, U Aung Nyein, Col Maung Maung Htoo and responsible personnel from Hluttaw Office. RFA president and party were accompanied by RFA's Myanmar In-Charge U Kyaw Aung.

MNA

## Union Foreign Minister felicitates Deputy Prime Minister, FM of Thailand

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—On the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej which falls on 5 December 2012, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand.—MNA

## Ambassador Daw Yin Yin Myint presents her Credentials to King of Brunei

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—Daw Yin Yin Myint, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Brunei Darussalam, presented her Credentials to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah

Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, on 29 November 2012, in Bandar Seri Begawan.

MNA

## Ambassador U Min Lwin concurrently accredited as Ambassador to Timor-Leste

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Min Lwin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic

of Indonesia, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

MNA

## Ambassador U Soe Nwe concurrently accredited as Ambassador to Czech

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Soe Nwe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to

the Federal Republic of Germany, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Czech Republic.

MNA

## Ambassador U Soe Nwe concurrently accredited as Ambassador to Finland

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Soe Nwe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to

the Federal Republic of Germany, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Finland.

MNA

## LOCAL NEWS

### Public service book corner arrives in Muse

MUSE, 4 Dec—The opening of a public service book corner took place in

front of the office of all bus-line control committee in the bus terminal in Muse on 2



December. Head of Muse District Information and Public Relations Department U L Soe Htan Tu, Chairman of Muse Township Writers Association U Ohn Maung (Shwe Nyathar Myat Min) and members, readers, chairman of the all bus-line control committee U Soe Myint and member attended the opening ceremony.

Daily newspapers, monthly magazines, weekly journals and other publications are available at the book corner.

Kyemon

### Yamethin Township sees cotton output growth

YAMETHIN, 4 Dec—Cotton fields can be seen in villages of Yamethin Township of Mandalay Region. Enough rain in August and September contributed to thriving cotton plantations in the township. Among species such as triple six, Israel and F 1, Ngwechi (6) cotton species is widely used in the township. The price of Ngwechi (6) cotton species is cheaper than that of other species. The harvest time of cotton plantations with

double- and mix-cropping grown in Tagu and Kason is Tawthalin, and the plantation started in second Waso can be harvested in Thadingyut and Tazaungmon. "If an acre of cotton produces about 500 or 550 viss of cotton, farmers will earn about K 400,000 to K 500,000," cotton grower U Soe Win said.

With a bumper harvest in the township, there arises more jobs for daily wage earners in spraying pesticide and taking care of the cotton plantations.—Kyemon

### Sandpainting artists doing a brisk trade in Bagan

BAGAN, 4 Dec — With increased tourist arrivals in the ancient archaeological region, Bagan, business of painters who create sand paintings is booming.

"This year is very good. I earned K 4000 at the minimum and K 7000 at the maximum for a painting. My customers are mostly foreigners," a painter said.

"The art of sandpainting was introduced by Pyu U Soe Myint Kyaw in 2003. There are about 80 vendors who are dealing with sales

of paintings including sand paintings at Htilo Minlo and Dhammayangyi Pagodas. There are only five in other pagodas," another painter said. The process of sandpainting begins spreading glue on the surface of plain cloth with the frame, and then sprinkling sands on the two-time glue-coated surface. When it is

dry, spreading glue is made one more time followed by drawing design and painting work start. During the period from November to December, tourist arrivals in Bagan is highest, and March, April and May see a decrease in arrival of tourists.

Kyemon



### R&D of Myanmar's Inland and Coastal Fisheries project signed

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Dec—Worldfish Center and the Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries signed an agreement over the Improving Research and Development of Myanmar's Inland and Coastal Fisheries project today.

Deputy Minister for

Livestock and Fisheries U Khin Maung Aye expressed delight for signing the agreement and the meeting for the project held at the ministry here today.

During the meeting, Dr Chris Barlow, Project Manager of Australian Center of International Agricultural Research

(ACIAR) and Mr Mike Philips, Director of the Worldfish Center, clarified the research and development of fishery sector in Myanmar.

U Khin Ko Lay,

Director-General of the Fisheries Department and Mr Mike Philips, signed the minutes of the meeting on the project and exchanged notes.

MNA

WORLD

Republicans reject tax hike, push cuts in "fiscal cliff" offer

Landmines kill 41 Cambodians, injuring 121 others in 10 months

WASHINGTON, 4 Dec—Republicans proposed steep spending cuts on Monday but gave no ground on President Barack Obama's call to raise taxes on the wealthiest in their first formal proposal to avert a "fiscal cliff" that could push the US economy into recession.

After days of stalemate, the Republican offer shows deep differences with President Barack Obama as the two sides work to head off across-the-board spending cuts and tax increases due to take effect in January.

The White House dismissed the proposal and said it contained no new ideas. But it could allow negotiators to begin work in earnest as both sides now have outlined their visions in concrete terms. Analysts say the talks will have to show progress this week to ensure that a deal can be signed into law before the end of the year.

"The American people expect their leaders to find fair middle ground



US House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) speaks during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, on 28 Nov, 2012.

to address the nation's most pressing challenges," House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner of Ohio and several other top House Republicans wrote in a letter to Obama.

Both the Republican and White House plans would rely on spending cuts and increased tax revenue to trim budget deficits by more than \$4 trillion over the coming 10 years. According to the Republicans, their plan would save \$240 billion more than Obama's

proposal. Beyond the headline numbers, the two plans reveal deep philosophical divisions about how the country should balance tax increases and spending cuts to put the country's finances on a sustainable course.

Republicans envision \$1 trillion more in spending cuts than Obama has proposed, while Obama wants \$800 billion more in tax increases and \$200 billion in measures to boost the sluggish economy.

The Republican pro-

posal would overhaul the complicated US tax code to raise \$800 billion in new revenue. Boehner tentatively agreed to that much in new tax revenue, presumably from closing loopholes in deductions, in failed talks with Obama in the summer of 2011. Monday's proposal marks the first time his party has floated a budget plan that departs from the anti-tax stance that has defined the party for decades.

But the Republicans said they would oppose raising tax rates on the wealthiest 2 percent of US households, which is a central element of Obama's proposal.

"Until the Republicans in Congress are willing to get serious about asking the wealthiest to pay slightly higher tax rates, we won't be able to achieve a significant, balanced approach to reduce our deficit," White House communications director Dan Pfeiffer said in a prepared statement.

Reuters

PHNOM PENH, 4 Dec—Cambodia on Monday recorded 162 landmine casualties in the first ten months of this year, down 4 percent from 155 casualties at the same period last year, showed a report from the Cambodian Mine and Explosive Remnants of War Victim Information System.

The report said that from January to October this year, 41 people were killed, up from 34 deaths at the same period last year. In addition, 121 others were injured or amputated, down from 119 at the same period last year.

It said that 51 percent of the victims were men, 27 percent were boys, and 22 percent were women and girls. Since 1979 to October 2012, landmines had killed 19,660 people and injured or amputated 44,519 others.

Cambodia is one of the world's worst countries affected by mines as the result of almost three decades of war and internal conflicts from the mid-1960s until the end of 1998.

The country needs an estimated 30 million US dollars a year until 2020 to totally eliminate mines and explosive remnants of war.

Xinhua

Japan's general election campaign kicks off



Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda, president of the Democratic Party of Japan, makes a stump speech in Iwaki, Fukushima Prefecture, on 4 Dec, 2012, after official campaigning kicked off for the on 16 Dec, 2012, general election. KYODONews

TOKYO, 4 Dec—Campaign for Japan's House of Representatives election slated for 16 Dec kicked off Tuesday. Some 1,500 candidates from 12 parties are expected to run for the 480-seat Lower House.

As of now, the largest opposition party, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) headed by former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, is leading in poll with a supporting rate of 18.4 percent, according to the latest weekend telephone poll by the Kyodo News Agency.

The newly founded Japan Restoration Party ranked the second with a support rating of 10.4 percent, closely followed by the ruling Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) which gained 9.3 percent of supporters. However, more than 40 percent of respondents have yet to decide on which party they will vote for, according to the poll.

Besides the three parties, the rest are the Japanese Communist Party, the New Komeito Party which is an ally of the LDP, the New Party Daichi, the New Party Nippon, the New

Renaissance Party, the People's New Party, the Social Democratic Party, Your Party and the Tomorrow Party of Japan which merged with the People's Life First Party led by influential political veteran Ichiro Ozawa.

In the election, 300 of the 480 seats will be elected from single-seat districts and the remaining 180 from proportional representation in 11 regional blocks.

Each voter will cast a ballot to a candidate run for the single-seat district and another ballot to a party for proportional representation.

A single-seat district runner can also appear in the candidate list of its party for the proportional representation so as to secure a seat in the House if the candidate's party wins competitions of the proportional representation system.

However, those who gained a seat through this way are required to be a member of a political party which has above five members in the Diet or won above 2 percent of total valid votes in the previous general election.—Xinhua

Quality education access key to social inclusion of persons with disability

UNESCO



Students studying in a special school talk in sign language during a peace rally to mark the World Disabled Day in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 3 Dec, 2012.—XINHUA

PARIS, 4 Dec—The promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities and their inclusion stands at the heart of UNESCO's work and the goals can be achieved by beginning with access to quality education, said Irina Bokova, Direc-

tor-General of UNESCO on Monday.

Bokova's remarks came on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, which is celebrated each year on the 3 Dec, seeking to raise awareness and

mobilize support for the dignity and well-being of persons with disabilities.

According to the UNESCO, around 15 percent of the world's population was estimated to be living with some form of disability and their inclusion in all aspects of social life remained an enormous challenge.

"The 2012 International Day of Persons with Disabilities is an opportunity to renew our commitment to build inclusive and accessible societies, including especially persons with disabilities," Bokova said in a statement.

"Disability is a development issue that we must address to achieve all internationally-agreed goals," she said, adding that "this begins with access to quality

education."

By promoting inclusive approaches in education, UNESCO is working for the transformation of schools and other centres of learning, and for the adaptation of learning and teaching practices to cater for all learners.

"Inclusive education is a foundation stone for more equitable societies. To this end, UNESCO has joined efforts to establish a Global Partnership for Children with Disabilities," Bokova noted.

UNESCO is working also to build inclusive knowledge societies, where persons with disabilities must be included at all levels, thanks also to the development of new technologies.—Xinhua

Equal participation key to success of US Asia-Pacific strategy

BEIJING, 4 Dec—The United States' high-profile strategy of "returning" to the Asia-Pacific region has caused complex changes in the mentalities of Southeast Asians. Many Southeast Asian scholars and officials appear particularly cautious when answering questions concerning the United States' "return" to the Asia-Pacific region, which is a hot and sensitive topic in Southeast Asia.

Southeast Asians' cau-

tious attitude shows their worries that Southeast Asian countries may have to follow the order of the United States, confront their main trading partner China, or choose sides between China and the United States. Southeast Asian experts said that the interests of China and the United States are increasingly overlapped in the region. However, such overlap does not necessarily lead to conflict, and can translate

into integration. The two countries may start their "close fight" in the region, or make positive attempts to build new type of relations between big countries.

The success of these historic and far-reaching attempts depends on the two countries' positioning of themselves: What roles will they play in Southeast Asia? How will they participate in the development of the region?

Southeast Asia wel-

comes China and the United States, but does not welcome or need hegemony. What it wants to see is the two major economies continue to serve as growth engines. Deeper cooperation between China and the United States will benefit the region and provide stronger support for its peace and stability.

These needs of Southeast Asian countries require and deserve more attention. Xinhua

## Explorers to retrace Shackleton's epic Antarctic journey

SYDNEY, 4 Dec—A group of intrepid explorers are readying themselves for the first-ever recreation of the epic voyage made by British explorer Ernest Shackleton on his ill-fated attempt to reach the South Pole in 1914, on an exact copy of Shackleton's lifeboat.

Shackleton's boat, the *Endurance*, became trapped in the Antarctic ice and was eventually crushed and sank. His attempt to raise the alarm is considered by many to be one of the greatest journeys ever made.

Shackleton took a small

party from his crew and rowed 1,287 km (800 miles) on the lifeboat *James Caird* from Elephant Island to South Georgia, where they knew they could get help from a whaling station. Their journey took from 1914 to 1916. The British and Australian team, led by Australian explorer and environmentalist Tim Jarvis, will row the same route and then cross the mountainous, glacial interior of South Georgia to reach the north coast.

They will use no equipment that was not



available in Shackleton's time. The Shackleton Epic team will depart from South

*Ernest Shackleton's hut that was used by his British Antarctic (Nimrod) Expedition of 1907-09.—REUTERS*

Science

## Saban buys control of Israel's Partner Communications

JERUSALEM, 4 Dec—US-Israeli media magnate Haim Saban agreed to buy a controlling stake in Israel's second largest telecoms operator, Partner Communications (PTNR.TA), to expand into the market for bundled phone, internet and television services. Saban Capital will pay Israeli holding company Scailex Corp (SCIX.TA) 250 million shekels (\$65 million) in cash, and take on a \$300 million loan that Scailex owes to Hong Kong conglomerate Hutchison Whampoa (0013.HK), Scailex said in a statement to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

Israel's mobile phone industry was turned upside down this year with the entry of six new operators, sparking a price war and leading to many customers switching companies.

Last month Bezeq Israel Telecom (BEZQ.TA), the country's largest telecoms group, said it will give rivals access to its broadband infrastructure in return for license concessions from regulators. This will enable Partner to provide a bundled service supporting internet, voice, media and TV.

Scailex began talks with Saban last month about a possible sale of Partner, which operates under the Orange brand.

Reuters



Employees walk past the logo of Baidu outside its headquarters in Beijing, on 15 Dec, 2010.—REUTERS

## China's dot-com darlings tap cheap global credit

HONG KONG, 4 Dec—Chinese search engine company Baidu Inc paid a lower interest rate than Google Inc when it sold \$750 million in 10-year bonds last month.

China's three dominant dot-com names — Baidu, Alibaba and Tencent Holdings Ltd — have successfully tapped global funding this year, stockpiling a combined \$6 billion in debt despite investor skepticism about opaque Chinese companies.

The big three plan to use the money to pad their industry advantage at home, to compete better abroad, and perhaps to buy cash-starved rivals.

Ultra-low interest rates on US government bonds, the benchmark against which most debt is measured, have driven down borrowing costs around the world. That has been a boon to corporate borrowers who are finding plenty of yield-hungry investors willing to extend long-term credit.

"The mature guys, Alibaba, Tencent, Baidu, these guys need to fund new growth. They are incredibly dominant in China, so they need to expand into international markets and

create new products," said Sean O'Rourke, an analyst at Shanghai-based Redtech Advisors.

O'Rourke said the money that Baidu raised in November—a total of \$1.5 billion in 5- and 10-year bonds—would be more than enough to buy some of its smaller rivals, and said there were "dozens" of potential takeover targets.

While Baidu said it intends to use this tranche of funds for cross-border acquisitions, it could potentially spend it on buying domestic competitors that have listed abroad.

Baidu's bond sale was notable both for its size and its reception in the market, which has been skeptical of US-listed Chinese companies after a rash of accounting scandals.

The hurdle was especially high for Baidu because it lacks the physical assets bond investors prefer, and it was seeking a 10-year term, which is a lifetime for a technology firm.

Yet it managed to sell the debt at a yield of 3.518 percent, just 185 basis points over the risk-free rate that is normally associated with US Treasury bonds.

Reuters

## Nokia Siemens to sell optical networks unit

Tech

FRANKFURT, 4 Dec—Mobile telecoms equipment joint venture Nokia Siemens Networks, which is focusing on its core business, is to sell its optical fiber unit to Marlin Equity Partners for an undisclosed sum.

Up to 1,900 employees, mainly in Germany and Portugal, will be transferred to the new company, NSN said on Monday.

The company, owned by Nokia and Siemens, has sold a number of product lines since it last year announced plans to divest non-core assets and cut 17,000 jobs, nearly a quarter of its total workforce.

Nordea Markets analyst Sami Sarkamies said he expected more divestments

after the optical unit deal. This disposal was a small surprise, he said, because NSN needed some optical technology — where data is transmitted by pulses of light — for its main mobile broadband business.

The move may hint the company is preparing itself

for further consolidation in the sector by cutting overlaps with other players, Sarkamies said.

The telecom equipment market is going through rough times with stiff competition. French Alcatel-Lucent is also cutting costs.

Reuters



The logo of the telecommunications services company Nokia Siemens Networks is pictured on top their office in Berlin on 9 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

## EBay's double tax base prompts calls for investigation

LONDON, 4 Dec—Britain and Germany may have missed out on a combined \$1 billion in sales tax since online marketplace eBay picked a tiny Luxembourg office as its base for EU sales, a shift that lawmakers say should now be investigated.

EBay's nomination of Luxembourg unit eBay Europe Sarl — with a staff of nine — as its provider of services to EU clients allows it to charge customers in Europe a low rate of sales tax, often known as Value Added Tax, helping it to compete against rivals.

However, the unit doesn't actually receive the money from sales. Instead, eBay said it continues to channel revenues through a Berne-based unit, allowing the company also to benefit from what Swiss tax lawyers say is the most competitive corporate income tax regime

in Europe.

EU rules allow companies to establish subsidiaries in Luxembourg and levy VAT at Luxembourg's low VAT rate on sales to customers across the bloc.

However, the rules also allow individual EU taxmen to challenge any claim to Luxembourg residence, and the right to charge Luxembourg VAT, in their domestic courts, if the taxman feels a Luxembourg-based subsidiary does not have sufficient staff or assets to support its claim to be the true supplier of goods or services.

Tax experts say eBay's arrangement, which appears to give eBay the best of both income and sales tax worlds, could be open to challenge, and lawmakers in the UK and Germany want their taxmen to investigate.

"I hope that HMRC (UK tax authority Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) takes note ... and takes prompt action," said Margaret Hodge, member of parliament and chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), which monitors government finances.

"I will be seeking assurance that they are, next time we take evidence

from HMRC," she added. Officials from HMRC are due to testify to the PAC in early December as part of the committee's investigation into tax matters.

Sven Giegold, member of the European Parliament for Germany's Green Party, said he wanted the German tax authorities to "have a very critical look at this".

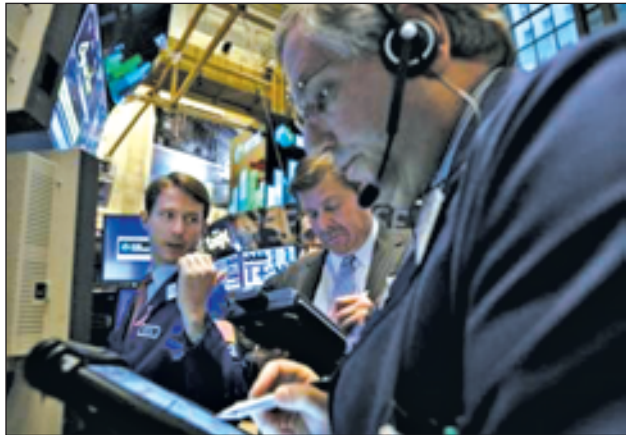
Reuters



Visitors chat next to the eBay logo at the CeBIT computer fair in Hanover on 2 March, 2011.—REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Wall Street to rise on China data, fiscal cliff woes linger **Business**



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, on 27 Nov, 2012.

REUTERS

NEW YORK, 4 Dec—The S&P 500 could rise for a fourth straight day on Monday as US stocks were set to open higher on upbeat factory data from China, but concerns over budget deals in Washington are expected to keep traders cautious.

China's economy picked up in November even

as a broader global recovery remains fragile, with factory activity patchy elsewhere in Asia as demand from the developed world remains weak.

"The good news out of China is encouraging and that's adding to the risk trade this morning," said Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at Rockwell

Global Capital in New York. Commodities priced in US dollars could rise as the greenback weakens against the euro, possibly lifting stocks in the basic materials and energy sectors.

Markets have focused for weeks on negotiations in Washington over some \$600 billion in spending cuts and tax hikes scheduled to kick in next year that could tip the US economy back into recession.

US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner pushed Republicans on Sunday to offer specific ideas to cut the deficit and predicted that they would agree to raise tax rates on the rich to obtain a year-end deal to avoid the "fiscal cliff."

"Right now for both sides it's all about staying firm and determined to go to the very end," Cardillo said about the negotiations.

Reuters

Chrysler, Hyundai US auto sales rise in November **Business**

GAITHERSBURG, 4 Dec—Chrysler Group LLC and Hyundai Motor Co (005380.KS) on Monday both reported strong US new-vehicle sales in November as the industry rebounded from a storm-ravaged October while also benefiting from pent-up demand. The rest of the industry is scheduled to report November sales on Monday. Auto sales are an early indicator each month of US consumer demand.

"We are expecting a strong December as the industry continues to recover from the East Coast hurricane," Chrysler US sales chief Reid Bigland said in a statement.

Several analysts expect US sales of new cars and trucks to rise 11 percent to 13 percent in November, with the annual selling rate for the month finishing in the range of 14.7 million to 15.3 million vehicles.

Superstorm Sandy hurt the last few days of sales in October, when results finished below expectations. In addition, the average age of cars on the road has risen to just above 11 years old, and industry officials say that will continue to drive demand.

Chrysler, majority owned by Fiat (FIA.MI), said sales rose 14 percent to 122,565 cars and trucks, its strongest result since 2007 before a recession pushed the

US automaker and General Motors Co (GM.N) into bankruptcy.

Hyundai said sales increased 8 percent to 53,487 vehicles, an all-time high for the month. It was the first sales results since the South Korean automaker and its Kia (000270.KS) affiliate overstated the fuel economy ratings by at least a mile per gallon on more than 1 million recently sold vehicles.—Reuters



A Jeep Wrangler (R) is shown at the Criswell Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep-Fiat dealership in Gaithersburg, Maryland on 2 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

Murdoch keeps News Corp for new publishing company **Business**

NEW YORK, 4 Dec—Rupert Murdoch is keeping the News Corp name for his new publishing company in a nod to the important role that newspapers have played in building his media empire.

"Many of you know that a belief in the power of the written word has been in my bones for my entire life," Murdoch, News Corp's chairman, wrote in a memo to employees obtained by Reuters. "I witnessed the

hunger people had for well-written, thoroughly observed stories... stories that provide not just information, but insight. That hunger is alive and well today; my personal mission is to serve and satisfy the human need for insight as well as I possibly can."

News Corp announced details of the separation of the two companies on Monday, and confirmed that Robert Thomson will be chief executive of the new publishing company,

effective on 1 January. Thomson is currently the managing editor of the Wall



Robert Thomson speaks at the Reuters Media Summit in New York, in this 4 Dec, 2008 file photograph. REUTERS

Street Journal and editor in chief of its publisher Dow Jones & Co. The company that will encompass the entertainment assets will be called the Fox Group. The details of the proposed split point to a sweep of the executive ranks—including the head of its British newspaper arm—and the demise of News Corp's digital-only newspaper, *The Daily*. The publication of *The Daily's* application for Apple's iPad will end on 15 December, but the brand will "live on in other channels," the company said in a statement.—Reuters

Diabetes may be linked to hearing loss **Health**

NEW YORK, 4 Dec—Diabetes has already been tied to an increased risk of kidney and cardiovascular troubles, nerve damage and vision loss, and now a Japanese study finds diabetics to be more than twice as likely as those without the disease to have hearing impairment.

In a review of past research on the issue, published in the *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism*, scientists found that younger diabetics were at even higher risk than older adults, though they could not explain why.

"Current meta-analysis suggests that the higher prevalence of hearing impairment in diabetic patients compared with nondiabetic patients was consistent regardless of age," wrote lead researcher Chika Horikawa, at Niigata University Faculty of Medicine, and colleagues.

It's not the first time researchers have found a link between diabetes and hearing loss. In 2008, researchers from the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) saw similar patterns in a sample of more than 11,000 people, with people with diabetes twice as likely to have hearing loss as those without.—Reuters

China factories see growth, Europe slump eases **Business**

LONDON, 4 Dec—Chinese manufacturing returned to growth in November for the first time in over a year and the deep downturn in euro zone factories eased slightly, according to business surveys on Monday.

Monday's purchasing managers indexes (PMIs) suggested China, whose economy has misfired this year, is regaining its vigor going into 2013.

If sustained, it could prove vital for the world economy next year since a meaningful recovery in Europe still looks a long way off.

While the decline among the euro zone's embattled factories eased to an eight-month low in November,

the latest PMIs showed the economy is on course for its worst quarter since the depths of early 2009.

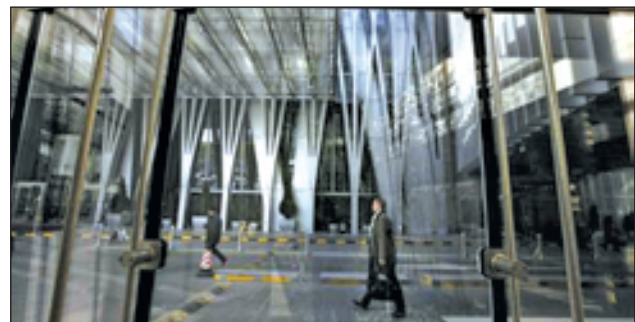
Data due from the United States later on Monday is expected to show manufacturing growth slowed slightly in November.

"They could be worse. We're not in a situation where

all the manufacturing PMIs are heading downwards," said Philip Shaw, chief economist at Investec in London.

He added the Chinese PMIs were encouraging, although their significance, globally speaking, was unclear.

Reuters



People walk at the China World Trade Centre in Beijing's central business district, on 29 Nov, 2012.

REUTERS

Teens may buy less tobacco when displays are hidden **Health**

NEW YORK, 4 Dec—A new study conducted using a virtual reality game suggests teens may be less likely to try to buy cigarettes at convenience stores if they aren't sold in plain sight behind the counter.

Requiring stores to hide tobacco product displays is one option some states are considering to curb teen smoking after the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act of 2009 was passed, according to the study's lead author.

"We know the retail environment is a very important place for tobacco companies to advertise and market their products," said Annice Kim, from the independent research

institute RTI International in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

"They're prominently displayed at the point of sale, and it exposes all customers, including kids."

Kim's team wanted to test the effects of covering up such cigarette displays on teen shopping and opinion. But the researchers couldn't conduct a real-world experiment because as of yet, no states have banned the displays.

So they designed a virtual reality game and sent more than 1,200 youth, between age 13 and 17, into a simulated online convenience store.

Reuters

## Two killed, four injured in armed clashes between Sudanese gov't forces, extremist

### Sudan group

KHARTOUM, 4 Dec — Two people were killed and four policemen injured on Sunday in armed clashes between Sudanese government forces and a religious extremist group in central Sudan, official Sudan radio reported.

“Police and security units have attacked a camp for a group belonging to the extremist Al-Takfir Wal-Hijra (Anathema and Exile) Group, and the attack resulted in the killing of two

members of the group and the injury of four policemen,” the radio quoted Ahmed Abbas, governor of Sinnar State, as saying.

The security forces received information that Al-Takfir Wal-Hijra group has established a camp in a remote area inside Al-Dindir National Park, a natural animal reserve on the border between Sudan and Ethiopia, and have managed to arrest 25 members of the group, including their leader,

according to the governor.

He said the group attacked in October a camp belonging to the Sudanese police at Al-Dindir area and seized arms and military equipment.

Extremist religious groups have been active in various areas in Sudan, which pushed the Sudanese government to establish a special anti-terrorism administration to monitor and combat the activities of these groups.—Xinhua



Children attend a large-scale fund raising public activity at the Xuanwuhu Park in Nanjing City, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, on 2 Dec, 2012. A fund of more than 100,000 RMB yuan (16,000 US dollars), raised in the public activity, will be used to help relieve the difficulty of water drinking of residents in a mountain area of Yuanmou County, southwest China's Yunnan Province.—XINHUA

## Iranian lawmaker says US talk offer with Iran “political deception”

TEHERAN, 4 Dec — An Iranian lawmaker said Sunday that the US recent talk offer with Iran immediately after passing a bill for fresh sanctions against the Islamic republic is a “political deception,” Press TV reported.

“On the one hand they take a step forward and announce their readiness for talks, while on the other hand, they intensify sanctions,” Seyyed Sharif Hosseini, a member of the

Iranian Majlis (parliament) Presiding Board, was quoted as saying.

On Friday, US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton said that the United States was ready for bilateral talks with Iran over the country's nuclear programme.

She said the United States was working with members of the P5+1 (the five permanent members of the United Nations plus Germany), over Iran's nuclear issue, and also

was open to have bilateral negotiations if Teheran was “ever ready.”

Also on the day, the US Senate overwhelmingly approved expanded sanctions on Iran's energy, port, shipping and ship-building sectors.

“The US has always followed this double-standard policy and this is the reason that the Islamic republic, which sees US actions clearly, has not entered the talks with this country,” the

Iranian lawmaker was quoted as saying.

“The US wants to announce to the world that it is ready for talks with Iran and it is the Islamic republic that is not willing to negotiate. The US has long used this kind of political legerdemain,” said Hosseini.

Iran is under a number of unilateral Western sanctions on its oil and financial sectors over its controversial nuclear programme.

Xinhua

## Bolivian president appoints new military chief

LAPAZ, 4 Dec — President Evo Morales on Monday appointed Gen Edwin de la Fuente as commander of the Armed Forces in line with a new policy to renew the top military and police leadership annually.

Morales announced that changes to the army and police commands will be made each December from this year to facilitate manage-

ment and indicated several former commanders could assume new posts.

Besides De la Fuente, Morales named other top new military officials, including Air Force Gen Nelson Torrico as Army chief of staff, Gen Fernando Ceballos as commander of the Army, Gen Walter Montecinos as commander of the Air Force, and Adml.—Xinhua



Middle school students perform during the awarding ceremony of a Chinese opera contest for students at the National Academy of Chinese Theatre Arts in Beijing, capital of China, on 2 Dec, 2012. About 2,000 students participated in the contest.

XINHUA

## Over 135,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon:

### UN

BEIRUT, 4 Dec — The UN Higher Refugees Council said in its latest report that the number of Syrian refugees in Lebanon has reached 135,122, an increase of 90,030 since the end of July.

The report said that the registered refugees are

receiving aid through the agency and the collaboration of the Lebanese government and various non-governmental agencies.

It said that the number of registered refugees is 102,369, while there are 32,623 refugees who are

waiting to be registered and are in contact with the agency.

Around 1,300 refugees are registered daily and more than 25,000 have been registered in November alone, the report said.

Xinhua

## China's non-manufacturing sector growth rises in November

BEIJING, 4 Dec — The Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) of China's non-manufacturing sector was 55.6 percent in November, up 0.1 percentage points from

October, an official survey showed on Monday.

The monthly figure, a key economic indicator, was released by the National Bureau of Statistics of China

(NBS). A PMI reading above 50 percent indicates expansion from the previous month, while readings below this mark indicate contraction.—Xinhua



General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Nguyen Phu Trong (R) meets with Li Jianguo, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, and vice-chairman and secretary-general of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, in Hanoi, capital of Vietnam, on 2 Dec, 2012.

XINHUA

## Costa Rican police seize ton of cocaine

SAN JOSE, 4 Dec — Costa Rican authorities have seized 1,081 kg of cocaine hidden in a fishing vessel captured in the country's southern region, the country's public security ministry said on Sunday.

According to the ministry, the ship, identified

as “CP Erson” with local registration number P-271, was intercepted on Saturday by a Canadian warship.

After the vessel was inspected, police found the cocaine in bags hidden in fuel containers. Four Costa Ricans were arrested during the operation.—Xinhua



Visitors pose with a three dimensional painting during an exhibition in Tianjin, north China, on 1 Dec, 2012.

XINHUA

**LOCAL NEWS**

**Shan new year festival 13 December**

HSIPAW, 4 Dec—A coordination meeting on organizing the Shan new year festival and harvesting ceremony was held at Shan literature and culture hall in Hsipaw of Shan State (North) on 1 December afternoon. Chairman of the Leading Committee Chairman of the Shan Literature and Culture Committee U Sai Nghom made a speech and subcommittee officials participated in the discussions.

**Development of school libraries, raising reading habit geared up**



YANGON, 4 Dec—The opening ceremony of development of school libraries and raising reading habit took place at No. 1 Basic Education High School in Mingala Taungnyunt Township on 30 November morning. Director-General U Aung Chein of No. 3 Basic Education Department, Chairman of Myanmar Libraries Foundation U Maung Maung and Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Writers Association U Ohn Maung (Myinmu Maung Naing Moe) formally opened the ceremony. Students sang the song “patriotic spirit”. Chairman U Maung Maung of the foundation donated 300 copies of various books, Vice-Chairman U Ohn Maung (Myinmu Maung Naing Moe) of MWA 150 copies of various books. Headmaster U Aye Kyaw accepted the books. The contest raising reading habit will comprise talks, essay and poem contests.—*Myanma Alinn*

**Essay, extempore talks contests to depict speeches of Bhaddanta Acharalankara**

MANDALAY, 4 Dec—A meeting on holding the essay and extempore talks contests depicting speeches of Ashin Acharalankara was held at Oriental House in Mandalay on 15 November morning, with an address by Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing. Director Daw Aye Mi San of United Pacific Co Ltd and Blue Nile Trading Co Ltd explained the purpose of the contest. The first event comprises essay contest for middle and high school level, university/degree college level. The second event includes extempore talks. Contestants are from Chanayethazan, Aungmyethazan, Pyigyidagun, Maha-aungmye, Chanmyathazi, Patheingyi, Amarapura, TadaU, Singaing, Ngazun, Madaya, Mogok, Singu, Thabeikkyin, PyinOoLwin, Kyaukse, Meiktila, Thazi, Myingyan, Natogyi, Taungtha, Kyaukpadaung, NyaungU, Pyawbwe, Yamethin, Mahlaing, Wundwin and Myittha townships.—*Myanma Alinn*



**Hot-air balloon releasing contest concludes in Taunggyi**



TAUNGGYI, 4 Dec—The closing and prize-presenting ceremony of Tazaungdine festival in Taunggyi was held at the Awaiya hot-air balloon field at 5 pm on 29 November. Chief Minister of Shan State U Sao Aung Myat presented first, second and third prizes to the winning teams. Daw Phyu Phyu Nyunt, wife of the Chief Minister, awarded first, second and

harvested paddy will be donated to members of the Sangha and older persons.

On 14 December, traditional sports such as Shan literature contest, tug-of-war, Keinnayi-Keinnaya, Toenaya, martial arts, extempore talk, debate and traditional and modern dances will be held on a grand scale.—*Myanma Alinn*

**Training courses conclude at vocational school**

MYEIK, 4 Dec—With the aim of ensuring life security of women in border areas and contributing to uplifting their living standard applying the techniques they had learnt, the Advanced Tailoring Course No. 61 and Basic Domestic Science Course No. 61 concluded at Myeik Vocation Training School for the Women of the Ministry of Border Affairs in Myeik on 30 November. Taninthayi Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Zaw Lwin made a concluding remark. Principal of the school Daw Yu Yu Kyi reported on matters related to the training courses. The region minister presented prizes to

**Photo show on Buddhology on 15 Dec**

YANGON, 4 Dec—The ceremony to consecrate sandstone Buddha image with Mudra of preaching Dhammacakka with the size of 16 feet by 12 feet to be donated by Indian Government to Myanmar Government will be held at the western stairway of Shwedagon Pagoda on 15 December. To mark the acceptance of the Buddha image, the Indian Government, Dr Shin Nanissara and professional photographer U Than Zaw will display the photo show on Buddhology at Chanthagyi Prayer Hall. The photo show will commence on 15 December but the photos will be displayed for the public and pilgrims since early 15 December.—*Myanma Alinn*



**Drug possessors arrested in Pinlebu**

PINLEBU, 4 Dec—Members of Township Police Force together with witnesses, acting on a tip-off, searched two persons with a motorcycle driven from Kawlin to Pinlebu near Satet Village on Pinlebu-Kawlin Road at 5 pm on 20 November. The authorities seized nine packets of suspected opium weighing 9.50 viss worth K 19 million from the bags of Aung Aung of East Kala Village in Pekhon Township and Magyigon Village of Banmauk Township. Pinlebu Township Police Force opened a lawsuit against Aung Aung, 23 and Aung Win, 51 under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*MNA*

**Mass walk for December launched in Mandalay**

MANDALAY, 4 Dec—The mass walk for the first week of December was held on 1 December morning. The participants led by Speaker of Mandalay Region Hluttaw U Win Maung, Mandalay Region ministers, departmental personnel from Sports and Physical Education Institute, township administrators, Education College, social organizations and local people joined the mass walk. They started the mass walk from Mingala Bridge at the junction of 73<sup>rd</sup> Street and 26<sup>th</sup> Street and finished at 19<sup>th</sup> Street.—*Myanma Alinn*



**PERSPECTIVES**

Wednesday, 5 December, 2012

**Should Myanmar rely on nuclear energy?**

Nuclear energy is now seen to be far cleaner because it does not cause greenhouse gas as fossil fuels do. The fear is over the disposal of nuclear waste, but this too has now advanced, and today it is possible to reprocess spent nuclear fuel in a way that allows plutonium to be reused for nuclear fuel but not for nuclear weapons.

However, in the end radioactive waste has to be disposed off, and the way it is being done in other countries is to carefully bury it deep in the ground. Previously, activists didn't agree with it but now they do because it neither doesn't cause greenhouse effect nor release carbon dioxide.

Several countries already meet 20-30 per cent of their energy needs through nuclear, notably Japan. South Korea too is generating a large amount of nuclear energy, as is China. France generates the most nuclear energy, with as much as 70 per cent of its needs being met through nuclear plants.

With urbanization plus a great deal of ongoing foreign investments, the electricity demand of the country will surely keep rising but consumer saving and domestic hydropower generation may help considerably at a time when steps are being taken for availability of electricity in all parts of the country.

It would be possible for Myanmar to generate wind power because some parts of the country are extremely windy, and nuclear power generation should be regarded as a last resort when there is no alternative, for the country's hydropower generation is satisfactory but not outstanding.

**Union Religious Affairs**

**Minister meets Chinese guests**

YANGON, 4 Dec—Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung met with members of committee of World Peace Pagoda of the People's Republic of China and abbots from eight Chinese Temples at home at his office, here, this morning. The Union Minister accepted a painting of World Peace Pagoda presented by the guests as a Dhamma gift.

MNA



Shwe Min Tha

**NATIONAL**

**Discussions with experts are being made to seek ways for rapid development**



President U Thein Sein presents gifts to Myanmar families in Brunei Darussalam.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Dec—President U Thein Sein who is in Brunei Darussalam, meet with doctors, nurses, engineers, professors and lecturers from Universities, Myanmar scholars, the ambassador, embassy staff and their families, at Myanmar Embassy in Bandar Seri Begawan in Brunei Darussalam yesterday evening.

In his speech, the President said that he was very happy to meet with them and took pride for them to work there as experts. Brunei was an ASEAN member country and always stood by Myanmar. And she supported Myanmar and had amicable relations with Myanmar. He urged them to work harder.

Only then, would it bring about the good images of the country and the people, he said.

Although Myanmar was a resource-rich country, it lagged behind in development due to the lack of

capital, technology and human resources. Discussions with the experts were being made to seek ways for rapid development.

The country had good relations with the world countries. According to the geographical location, the country had huge market. And the country was located at the strategic location that links South Asia and East Asia as the country can connect from ASEAN to the Middle East via ASEAN Countries. Now Myanmar received financial assistance and development aids from the countries. The country was in a position to enjoy the socio-economic development. He urged Myanmar citizens to extend helping hands in country's development.

The government was taking steps towards the transition in line with democratic practices and making efforts to gain rapid development. He continued to say that in so doing, it

needed to have cooperation between the Government, respective organizations and people. Myanmar citizens who were in foreign countries, were invited to go home during the two years since the new government took office in order that they could join hand in nation building endeavors. In addition, amnesty was granted for seven times to over 30,000 prisoners.

In its effort to make local peace in the time of the new government, cease fires with 10 armed groups were made and some agreements had been reached. Only one armed group that has yet to make peace was KIA/KIO. He said he hoped that peace agreement would be reached soon as the step-by-step discussions were being made with them.

Now, people in the border regions were enjoying the taste of peace. The government was making the efforts for eternal peace. The country had to face difficulties, challenges and

unexpected challenges while building up a new nation. But those difficulties and challenges had to be overcome with the patriotic spirits.

While the country was marching towards the development, Myanmar citizens were to have a hand in nation building activities. Although they were working in foreign countries due to the individual needs, they were to do their bits for national development, he added.

After that, On behalf of Myanmar family, retired child specialist Dr U Aye Maung Han presented a gift to the President. Then, the President met with the Myanmar Ambassador and embassy staff families.

And they paid respects to the President. Afterwards, the President presented gifts to them and cash assistance to six scholars.

After that, President U Thein Sein and party attended a dinner hosted by the Myanmar Ambassador.

MNA

**Stake-driving ceremony of Laboratory for communicable disease held**

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Dec — Jointly-organized by Medical Research Department

(Lower Myanmar) and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), a stake-driving ceremony of laboratory for communicable disease was held at the department on Ziwaka Street

in Dagon Township, here, on 2 December.

In his address, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin said the department had conducted research works in cooperation with KOICA since 2001. The recent project aimed at providing technology for conducting

researches on Malaria, TB and liver diseases, nurturing researchers and lab technicians and contributing towards monitoring and surveillance measures.

Next, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar Mr Kim Hae Yong spoke words of praise.

KOICA will finance US\$ three million for construction of the laboratory. Upon completion, there will be more cooperation between the two countries in the areas of conducting medical research and organizing medicine courses.

MNA



## Brunei King grants audience to President U Thein Sein

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Dec— President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein was granted audience with King of Brunei Darussalam Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah at Istana Nurul Iman Palace in Bandar Seri Begawan at 11.45 am today.

Together with President U Thein Sein, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Ministers at the President Office U Soe Maung and U Tin Naing Thein, Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Htay Oo, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Khet Htein Nan, Deputy Ministers Dr Win Myint, U Htin Aung, Dr Ba Shwe, U Set Aung, Myanmar

Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam Daw Yin Yin Myint and officials attended the meeting. The Brunei King was accompanied by royal families, Brunei Crown Prince HRH Prince Mohammad Bolkiah and ministers, Brunei Grown ambassador to Myanmar and high ranking officers.

At the meeting, the Brunei King frankly extended greetings to the delegation led by the President at Guest Hall of the Palace.

MNA

**President U Thein Sein meets Brunei King Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah at Istana Nurul Iman Palace in Bandar Seri Begawan.—MNA**



## Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker holds talks with OCLC Vice-President



NAY PYI TAW, 4 Dec—U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw, held talks with a delegation led by Mr Andrew H Wang, Vice-President of the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) of the Non Profit Online Computer Library Services and Research Organization based in the United States of America today.

During the meeting at Building No 1 of Pyithu Hluttaw Committee, they

**Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa receives Vice-President Mr Andrew H Wang of Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) of Non Profit Online Computer Library Services and Research Organization.**

MNA

exchanged views on provision of IT assistance to the e-library of Hluttaw, building links with international libraries and opportunities for development of libraries in Myanmar.

Also present at the

meeting were chairmen of Pyithu Hluttaw committees U T Khun Myat, U Thurein Zaw and U Win Sein and secretaries U Maung Toe and Dr Soe Yin and officials from Hluttaw Office.

MNA

## First Muay course opened in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Dec— The first-ever Muay coach/referee/athlete training course is being conducted by Sports and Physical Education Department and Myanmar Boxing Federation in Nay Pyi Taw on 4-10 December.

Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan called for opening multiplier courses and recruiting new athletes holding high potential at the opening ceremony held at Nay Pyi Taw Sports Training Camp this morning.

President of Asia Muay Federation Mr Santiphart Intaraphanrtn extended greetings and Marketing Manager Mr Eakgapon of Viva Co Ltd donated sports gears for selected Myanmar Muay team.

MNA

## Sumitomo Corp from Japan eyes to make investment in Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Dec— A delegation led by Senior Advisor Mr. Motoyuki Oka of Sumitomo Corporation from Japan paid a call on Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint at the ministry yesterday noon.

At the call, Japanese

side discussed matters related to implementation of iron and steel construction materials, plastic and personal goods, truck, construction materials, beans and pulses and marine products, garment industry. They also revealed

their wishes to invest in electric power production, transport, communications, automobile production, agriculture and industry sectors in the future and long-term economic cooperation with Myanmar.

MNA

## Union Attorney-General meets IDLO Southeast Asia Regional Representative

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Dec— Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin received Southeast Asia

Regional Representative Mr. Benjamin Zawacki of International Development Law Organization (IDLO)

(Bangkok branch) at the Attorney-General of the Union Office, here, this morning.

At the meeting, Mr. Benjamin said that the IDLO is the one helping the global countries in resolving difficulties on legal affairs, and they had been here for studying how to give a hand to Myanmar about legal affairs.

The Attorney-General of the Union replied on their discussions that the role of the Attorney-General of the Union Office and the Offices of the Advocates-General in states and regions, holding workshops on rule of law and economic development in collaboration with international organizations, as well as future plans to be carried out by the Office of the Attorney-General of the Union.

## 34<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Railway CEOs meets held

YANGON, 4 Dec — In his address at the opening of the 34<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Railway CEO Meeting at Hotel Yangon, here, this morning, Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Zeyar Aung said more investments in transportation sector could bring about significant progress in social and economic sectors as rail transportation of Myanmar play a pivotal role in transporting a great deal of goods and stressed the need for dynamic and active smarter partnership among railway services of ASEAN member countries,

calling for the emergence of railway network in the ASEAN region through collaborative efforts. A total of 50 papers will be read out the meeting that will continue tomorrow. Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister Thura U Thuang Lwin, Yangon Region Minister for Road Transport U Aung Khin, and officials, ambassadors of embassies form ASEAN countries in Yangon and diplomats, and Railway CEOs from Thailand, Brunei, Laos, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam.

MNA

MNA

## Cuban census shows population decline

Cuba

HAVANA, 4 Dec —Cuba's population declined by about 84,000 in less than a year according to the latest census data, confirming the warning that emigration and lower birth rate are cutting the size of the island's population.

The National Population and Housing Census released on Monday shows Cuba has 11,163,934 inhabitants, compared with 11,247,925 reported last year, Vice President of the Council of Ministers Marino Murillo was quoted by

the official daily *Granma* as saying.

The National Statistics Bureau in July warned of population decline due to falling birth rates and the fact that some 38,000 Cubans emigrate each year.

But the good news is that the population is almost evenly split along the sex line, with women making up 50.09 percent and men 49.91 percent, which "confirms the gender balance of the Cuban population," said

Murillo. Among the demographic data were figures on age, with those between 16 and 59 representing 63.3 percent of the total, those aged 60 or more, 18.3 percent, indicating the aging of Cuba's population, and those under 15, 18.4 percent. Officials are still tabulating the results of the census, "reviewing, coding and validating" the numbers, said Murillo, adding the final report won't be out until June 2013.—*Xinhua*



Egyptian tourism minister Hisham Zaazou (R) hands flowers to travelers from Japan at Cairo Airport on 3 Dec, 2012, as EgyptAir's direct flights linking Cairo and Kansai international Airport near Osaka, western Japan.  
KYODO NEWS



People push a car trapped in the snow in Dongfanghong Town, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on 4 Dec, 2012. Blizzard hit eastern Heilongjiang early Tuesday and will continue to sweep northeastern areas in Heilongjiang.—XINHUA

## Venezuela sending 380 tons of aid to hurricane-hit Cuba, Haiti

CARACAS, 4 Dec—Venezuela is shipping 380 tons of humanitarian aid to Cuba and Haiti, both Caribbean islands struck by Hurricane Sandy in October.

"This is part of a series of actions undertaken in recent months and we continue to support our sister countries," Interior and Justice Minister Nestor Reverol said at a ceremony at the Venezuelan Coast Guard dock at

La Guaira, 30 km north of Caracas.

The aid shipment includes 250,000 packages of school supplies, emergency-care items, and heavy machinery for clearing away construction debris, said Reverol.

Venezuela has so far sent some 1.9 tons of humanitarian aid, as part of the international relief effort to the hurricane-struck Caribbean nations.

*Xinhua*

## Ban attends UN climate change conference in Doha

UNITED NATIONS, 4 Dec.—UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon arrived in Doha, Qatar, on Monday to attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference, UN spokesman Martin Nesirky told reporters here.

On Tuesday, the secretary-general will address the opening of the high-level part of the UN conference and then he will give a Press conference with the executive secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Christiana Figueres, Nesirky said at a daily news briefing here.

Ban will also meet with officials from different countries and regional groups attending the talks,

as well as with business and finance leaders, he said.

The Conference of the Parties started on 26 Nov. Figueres has called for governments to work hard so that the meeting can constitute another step forward in the global response to climate change.

The conference is attended by government delegates, representatives from business and industry, environmental organizations, research institutions and the media. More than 100 ministers are scheduled to attend the high-level part of the meeting, which ends on 7 December.

*Xinhua*

## Carbon monoxide leak at Atlanta school sickens nearly 50 people

ATLANTA, 4 Dec—Nearly 50 students and teachers were hospitalized in Atlanta on Monday after becoming ill due to a carbon monoxide leak at an elementary school, officials said.

The 43 students and six teachers from Finch Elementary School were all "conscious and alert" when they were taken to the hos-

pitals, Atlanta Fire Department spokeswoman Marian McDaniel said.

Officials determined a faulty furnace at the 3-year-old school to be the source of the leak, McDaniel said. Carbon monoxide levels inside the school were "the highest we've ever seen," she said. The school doesn't have carbon monoxide detectors, and none are

required by Georgia law, McDaniel said.

Fire officials initially received a call that five people were unconscious at the school as a result of the leak. But first responders determined that although students and teachers were ill, many suffering from headaches and nausea, they did not lose consciousness, McDaniel said.

The students and teachers affected by the carbon monoxide were undergoing examinations at two hospitals, she said.

McDaniel said those not sickened at the school, which has about 500 students, were evacuated to a nearby middle school. Authorities hoped to reopen the elementary school on Tuesday.—*Reuters*

## UK British royals expect baby



In a statement issued on Monday, St. James's Palace in London confirmed Kate Middleton, the 30-year-old Duchess of Cambridge, is expecting her first child with Prince William. The photo taken on 29th April, 2012 shows the couple, Britain's Prince William and his wife Kate Middleton, waving hands to the public on balcony of Buckingham Palace after their wedding ceremony.

*XINHUA*

BEIJING, 4 Dec—There was excitement across the world amongst fans of Britain's royal family on Monday, with the announcement that Prince William and his wife Catherine are expecting their first child.

St. James's Palace said on Monday that the Duchess of Cambridge — formerly known as Kate Middleton — has a severe form of morning sickness and is currently in a London hospital.

The pregnancy is in its "very early stages," with the 30-year-old duchess expected to stay in the hospital for several days. Cabinet Office officials have said that whether boy or girl, the child will be next in line behind William in the line of succession to the throne.

*Xinhua*

## Colombian army kills six FARC rebels

BOGOTA, 4 Dec—At least six members of the rebel Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) were killed in a military bombardment on guerrilla camps in the southwest of the country, the military said Monday.

The victims included Guillermo Pequeno, head of the FARC's "Mariscal Antonio Jose Sucre" division, Gen Leonardo Barrero, chief of the military's southwestern

joint command, confirmed. Some 20 guerrillas could have been killed, but so far only six bodies have been recovered, including those of Pequeno and his radio operator, Barrero added.

During the army operation on Saturday in Ricaurte, Narino department, three guerrilla camps were bombed where there were about 25 guerrillas.

Barrero said Army

troops found chains at one of the sites, leading them to draw a conclusion that the camps were used as safe houses for kidnapping victims. The latest move came after the Colombian government and the FARC held first round peace talks in Havana in late November.

On 19 November, the FARC announced a unilateral ceasefire that would last until 20 January.—*Xinhua*

## US chapter of joint training programme for Afghan diplomats launched

WASHINGTON, 4 Dec—A welcome reception for the US part of the Joint China-US Training Programme for Afghan Diplomats was held on Monday at the US State Department.

US Deputy Secretary of State William J. Burns, Chinese Ambassador to the US Zhang Yesui and Charge d'affaires of the Afghan Embassy in the US Meerwais Nab attended the reception. Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi sent a congratulatory message to the launch of the US chapter of the programme.

All the parties commended the joint training programme, and wished the US programme a great success.

The 15 young Afghan diplomats who joined this programme will receive two-week training in the US, including a visit to the Chinese Embassy. The Chinese side had completed the Chinese chapter of the programme in May 2012.

*Xinhua*

REGIONAL

## Indian Army to raise air wing by yearend

NEW DELHI, 4 Dec—The Indian Army will raise its own air wing by this yearend on the lines of the United States, China and Pakistan, local media reported on Monday.

Indian Army chief General Bikram Singh has approved the creation of a permanent cadre for the Army Aviation Corps by the end of December, which will operate light observation and attack helicopters in the short-term and medium-lift choppers and even fixed-wing aircraft in the long-term, *The Times of India* newspaper quoted sources as saying.

The Indian Army's aviation wing currently operates only 250 light helicopters like *Druv*, *Cheetah* and *Chetak*, while attack and medium-lift choppers are the prerogative of the Indian Air Force.

"The overall plan is to enhance the complete capability of Army Aviation Corps, from manpower and training to equipment and infrastructure," the sources were quoted as saying.—*Xinhua*



A three-day Policy Commission meeting of the World Customs Organization begins in the city of Kyoto on 3 Dec, 2012, to discuss the simplification of Customs procedures and other issues to activate international trade.

KYODO NEWS

## Three missing in dam's concrete tunnel

### Accident incident in W Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 4 Dec—Three Cambodian workers are missing and six including a Chinese are injured in a rupture of a concrete tunnel at a hydropower dam under construction in Pursat Province, some 340 kilometres west of Cambodia, police chief confirmed Monday.

The accident occurred on Saturday afternoon at the Atay river hydropower, Sarun Chanthy, Pursat provincial police chief, said.

"Three men are still missing, four were hand or leg broken and two men including a Chinese were slightly injured," he told

*Xinhua* over telephone.

"We concluded for the first phase that the accident was due to the 10-metre-round concrete tunnel was cracked and exploded when heavy water pressure hits it," he said.

The ruptured tunnel flew water from the dam's reservoir to test a turbine, he said, adding that the rupture did not damage the dam. "For the missing men, we cannot say that they die because it is 3 days now, but we do not see their bodies," Suy Sem, minister of Industry, Mines and Energy, told *Xinhua* over telephone on Monday.

He said that it is a "small accident" and does not affect the dam or dam-operated machines. "The blast broke only the dam's tunnel, so the firm just fixes

it, everything is okay."

The minister said that the dam is scheduled to test operations at the end of this year, but due to the rupture, it will be a bit delayed because the water in the reservoir was gone.

Atay river hydropower dam is situated in the jungle in O'Som commune, Veal Veng District, Pursat Province. The project is invested by the China Datang Corporation in the investment value of 255 million US dollars. The construction of the 120 megawatt Atay river hydropower dam has been started in May 2008 and it is expected to entirely complete in May 2013.

It is a concessional contract of a 34-year build-operate-transfer (BOT) with Cambodian government.—*Xinhua*

## 9,000 families evacuated as Typhoon "Bophat" makes landfall in S Philippines

MANILA, 4 Dec—Some 9,000 families have already evacuated to safer places as Typhoon Bophat (local name Pablo) made a landfall at 4:45 am in Banganga town in southern Philippine Province of Davao Oriental, a senior government official said on Tuesday.

So far there was "zero casualty", said National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council Benito Ramos in a television interview.

"The number of evacuees could increase," he said, noting that there are nearly 1,000 identified evacuation centres.

He said that power supply in seven municipalities

in Surigao del Sur have been shut off to prevent any short circuit as strong winds and heavy rains battered the areas.

The highway between Butuan City to Agusan del Sur has been closed to traffic due to high level of flood, particularly in Sta-Josefa town in Agusan del Sur, he added.

At least 7,000 passengers have been stranded in different ports in central and southern Philippines and classes have been suspended in the areas affected, Ramos said.

A total of 80 flights were also canceled due to the weather disturbance, he added.—*Xinhua*



A man looks at a painting displayed during the preview of Beijing Council 2012 Autumn Auction held in Beijing International Hotel Convention Centre in Beijing, capital of China, on 3 Dec, 2012. The preview, which kicked off on Sunday, showcased over 2500 artworks of different varieties such as paintings, chinaware and sculptures. The auction will last from 5 to 7 December.

XINHUA



The organizers of the Kobe "Luminarie" illumination event conduct a rehearsal in Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture, on the night of 3 Dec, 2012, ahead of the 6 December start of the event. The annual event, which will be held until on 17 December, commemorates the victims of the 1995 Great Hanshin Earthquake that devastated Kobe and its vicinity.—KYODO NEWS

## Snowstorm disrupts air traffic, affects 12,000 in NW China

URUMQI, 4 Dec—Snowstorms forced the closure of an airport in Urumqi, capital of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on Monday, leaving 70 flights diverted, cancelled or delayed. Snow continued into Monday night and staff at

the Urumqi International Airport were cleaning the runways, an airport statement said.

Snow wreaked havoc again in the Ili Kazakh Autonomous Prefecture in northwestern Xinjiang. Snowstorms had battered the region for three days to

Saturday. The snowstorms, which brought up to 90 cm deep of snow to some regions, affected 12,718 residents in 72 towns and killed one herdsman and injured another. Meanwhile, 1,786 people have been evacuated.

In addition, the snow-

storms damaged 304 houses and 611 livestock stalls, killing 381 animals and trapping a further 8,302.

Li Xuejun, the party chief of Ili, has ordered rescuers to search remote areas to fully safeguard the safety of local residents' lives and their property.—*Xinhua*

## One killed, five injured as suicide car bomb hits police station in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 4 Dec—At least one was killed and five others got injured when a suicide car bomb hit a police station in Pakistan's northwest Bannu area early on Tuesday morning, local media reported.

Local state-run TV channel PTV said that the suicide car bomb attack

took place at about 6:00 am local time in front of a police station in Bannu, capital town of Bannu district lying next to the militancy-hit North Waziristan bordering Afghanistan.

The suicide bomber tried to ram his explosive-laden car into the police station building through the main gate, but failed

and the car exploded in front of the building, reports said.

All the five injured were policemen and part of the police station building was also damaged.

All the injured have been shifted to nearby hospital. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack.—*Xinhua*

## Worker survey reveals questionable hiring at Fukushima nuclear plant

TOKYO, 4 Dec—A recent survey of workers at the disaster-hit Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station indicated questionable hiring practices, with nearly half saying they received work assignments from companies other than those paying them wages, and some asked to falsely

state their employers.

Masayuki Ono, an official at Tokyo Electric Power Co, which operates the nuclear power plant, said the company "will take the results seriously" and "will take measures such as overseeing contractors."

The survey in September and October indicated

that 47.9 percent of 2,423 workers hired by subcontract companies received payment from firms different to those instructing them at workplaces, while 125 said they were asked to falsely state their employers when writing down their business address in the document.

Kyodo News

## ADVERTISEMENT &amp; GENERAL

## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
National Community Driven Development Project  
IDA Grant H814-MM

Assignment Title : Union Level Technical Assistance  
Reference No.: C-3

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the National Community Driven Development Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the hiring of consulting services. The consulting services ("the Services") include:

- (1) project management: the consultant is expected to assist the project implementation agency for overall coordination and implementation of this project;
- (2) assist with the achievement of program objectives and performance quality at the village tract, township and Union level through the development of a monitoring and Management Information System (MIS) and evaluation to track and report upon performance Indicators and project progress;
- (3) provide support on communications on project concept, strategy, procedures and mechanisms targeted at national and local stakeholders;
- (4) provide on-the-job training and capacity development of the Department of Rural Development (DRD), Project Secretariat Team and Township DRD Staff and Township NGO partners;
- (5) develop a comprehensive grievance handling system for the project. The contract will cover a period of 52 months starting in March 2013.

The Department of Rural Development of Ministry of Border Affairs now invites eligible consulting firms or NGOs ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

- (1) past experience with community based development activities in similar conditions as in Myanmar, prior experience in Myanmar is preferred;
- (2) availability of staff with relevant expertise;
- (3) size of past contracts.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers [January 2011] ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on Conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other NGOs/firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the QCBS or QBS method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from 0900 to 1600, Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by December 20, 2012.

Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Border Affairs

Attn: U Myint Oo, Deputy Director General,

Chairperson of the Procurement Committee

National Community Driven Development Project

Department of Rural Development,

Ministry of Border Affairs,

Office Number 14,

Nay Pyi Taw,

Myanmar

Fax: +95-67-409029

E-mail to all these email addresses: [myint.oo.dda@gmail.com](mailto:myint.oo.dda@gmail.com),

[kzaw.ddo@gmail.com](mailto:kzaw.ddo@gmail.com), [naing.7.koko@gmail.com](mailto:naing.7.koko@gmail.com)

## Three people killed by gunmen in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 4 Dec— Three people were killed by gunmen on Sunday morning in the Iraqi City of Mosul, the capital of Nineveh Province, a provincial police source told *Xinhua*.

A police officer, a physician and an agriculture engineer were shot dead by gunmen while they were leaving their homes in al-Arabi neighbourhood in

northern Mosul, some 400 km north of Baghdad, the source said on condition of anonymity.

Iraqi security forces sealed off the scene and launched an investigation into the incident, the source said.

In a separate incident, Major General Ahmed al-Jubouri, chief of Nineveh's provincial police, escaped

in the afternoon twin roadside bomb explosions near his convoy while travelling near the town of Qayyara, some 60 km south of Mosul, the source added.

The blasts damaged two of the convoy's vehicles without causing human casualties among his bodyguards or civilians at the scene, he said.

*Xinhua*

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

### MV AN XIN JIANG VOY NO (169)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AN XIN JIANG VOY NO (169) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.12.2012 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: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO. LTD.  
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

### MV DELIGHT VOY NO (162)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DELIGHT VOY NO (162) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(2) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S PHULSAWAT SHIPPING CO. LTD.  
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

## Kuwait elects new parliament on record low turnout

KUWAIT, 4 Dec— Kuwaitis elected a new parliament that is expected to be more cooperative with the government than its predecessor after an opposition boycott of the poll and protests that divided the Gulf Arab state. The election was the second this year in the oil-rich state, where a series of assemblies have collapsed due to a long-running power struggle between the elected parliament and the cabinet, in which the ruling family holds top posts.

Turnout was 40.3 percent for the poll on Saturday, according to initial figures cited by the Information Ministry, the lowest since and including the first general election held in 1963. Participation in the past three elections was about 60 percent.

The opposition refused to stand in the election, saying a new voting system introduced by the ruling emir would prevent its candidates winning the majority they secured in the last vote in February.

Kuwait's stock index rallied early on Sunday as



Newly elected member of Parliament Yousef Zalzal (top C), a Shi'ite Muslim, is greeted by supporters after the final results of the election were announced in Kuwait city on 1 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

investors showed confidence the government would be able to follow through on plans to develop the economy now the opposition was out of the National Assembly.

The political turmoil has held up economic reforms and investment, including a 30 billion dinar (\$108 billion) development plan aimed at diversifying the heavily oil-reliant economy and attracting foreign investment.

"It is a pro-government parliament. Now the government can do all the things it wanted to, which it

## Three PKK members killed in eastern Turkey

ANKARA, 4 Dec— At least three Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) members were killed in clashes with Turkish security forces in eastern Turkish Provinces of Elazig and Bingol late Saturday.

Sources said three rebels were killed in clashes in Elazig's Aricak and Bingol's Genc Districts.

Meanwhile, Turkish troops backed by military aircrafts have launched a large-scale operation in districts in southeastern Province of Diyarbakir and eastern Provinces of Mus and Bingol. The army continues to deploy troops to the area.

Listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the United States and the European Union, the PKK took up arms in 1984 in an attempt to create an ethnic homeland in southeastern Turkey. Over 40,000 people have been killed in conflicts fuelled by PKK's separatist campaign in Turkey.

*Xinhua*

said it was prevented from doing. The question now is, will it do it?" said Kuwait University professor of political science Shafeeq Ghabra.

"While it has a parliament that does not oppose it, there is a population which is on the opposition's side," he said, referring to the turnout and protests. "The formula has got more complicated."

More than half of the candidates elected were new to the 50-seat parliament. Shi'ite candidates won about a third of seats, Kuwaiti media reported.—Reuters

ENTERTAINMENT



Actress Catherine Zeta-

**Catherine Zeta-Jones auctions shoes for missing child search**

LONDON, 3 Dec—The Mask of Zorro star donated a pair of gold high heels to be auctioned off for the April's Fund campaign, which was started to help find five-year-old schoolgirl April Jones, who has been missing since October, reported *Daily Star*. The autographed sandals pulled in \$ 656 when they went under the hammer in Zeta-Jones' hometown of MACHynlleth, Powys on Friday. Tyler also pitched in by handing over a diamante-studded denim jacket.

PTI

**Angelina Jolie may quit acting for her children**

LONDON, 4 Dec—Hollywood superstar Angelina Jolie is ready to quit acting to spend more time with her six children.

The 37-year-old actress, who raises six children, Maddox, 11, Pax, eight, Zahara, seven, Shiloh, six, and four-year-old twins Knox and Vivianes, said she would consider turning

her back on Hollywood as her children enter their teens, reported Sun online.

"I think I'm going to have to give up acting as the kids hit the teenage years because there is going to be too much to manage. If it went away tomorrow I'd be very happy at home," she said.

PTI



Angelina Jolie says she would consider turning her back on Hollywood as her children enter their teens.

**Olly Murs tops UK single and album charts**

LONDON, 4 Dec— Singer Olly Murs's single "Troublemaker", featuring US rapper Flo Rida, retained the No 1 spot in Britain's pop charts for a second week in a row on Sunday, the Official Charts Company said.

"Troublemaker" is Murs's fourth No 1 single in the British charts.

The former contestant on the British version of



television talent show 'The XFactor' also nabbed the top spot in the album charts with 'Right Place Right Time', leaving popular boy band One Direction in second place.

Reuters

British singer Olly Murs arrives for the BRIT Music Awards at the O2 Arena in London on 21 Feb, 2012. REUTERS



Paris Hilton

**Paris Hilton dances to Chammak Challo with Mumbai orphans**

MUMBAI, 3 Dec— Socialite Paris Hilton became Santa Claus for children at an orphanage here on Monday and even grooved to popular song Chammak Challo with them.

Hilton, who is on second visit to India, went to Ashray, a part of the

Committed Communities Development Trust (CCDT) in suburban Bandra. The 31-year-old looked radiant in a colourful floral dress with a flower garland around her neck and a blingy hair

band. Hilton made it a point to bring gifts for all the children in the orphanage. She was welcomed with a traditional arti and treated to delightful performances by the children.

"I am so happy to be here and meet you all. It is holiday time and Christmas is coming. I hoped you liked the presents," Hilton said at the event.

"I admire the work done here. It makes me so happy," she added. When the children shook a leg to popular Bollywood dance number Chammak Challo from the movie RA.One, Hilton too joined them for a gig.

Hilton's prime motive for this trip was her performance at the recently concluded India Resort Fashion Week in Goa. She had a stop-over in Mumbai. PTI

**Lindsay Lohan refuses to return to rehab**

NEW DELHI, 4 Dec—Lindsay Lohan, who was charged with assaulting fortune teller Tiffany Mitchell in a New York nightclub last week and also for lying to police about being behind the wheel of a car accident in June, has reportedly told her friends, who are trying to force her to seek help, that she doesn't

Lindsay Lohan



need to return to a treatment facility for the sixth time.

Sources close to the 26-year-old troubled starlet told gossip website TMZ.com that the actress simply doesn't believe she has a problem with alcohol despite reports she has been drinking up to two liters of vodka a day, because she is so stressed about her legal problems and the poor reviews for her performance in the TV movie about Elizabeth Taylor, which aired in the US last week.

Lindsay has allegedly told her friends that the fact she recently completed filming three movies proves that she doesn't have a drinking problem.

The insiders revealed that despite being terrified she will be thrown back into jail, the actress will not check into rehab in a bid to receive a reduced sentence.

Lindsay reportedly feels she was the victim of a well calculated setup because shortly after she turned down Tiffany's offer of a palm reading she noticed some of the psychic's friends gathering around her designer purse at another table and was then informed by several of her other friends in the club that Tiffany's pals were stealing her Celine black leather bag.—PTI

## China wins FINA Synchronized Swimming World Trophy

MEXICO CITY, 4 Dec — China won the FINA Synchronized Swimming World Trophy championship after sweeping all four gold medals at the event here on Sunday. The Synchronized Swimming World Trophy is different

from the ordinary athletic competition, and pays more attention to the ornamental and artistic.

To stimulate creativity and expressivity, FINA allows swimmers to use costumes, props and makeup. Trying their best in the last

three days, swimmers from 10 countries not only demonstrated the cultural characteristics of the participating countries, but also interpreted the culture and custom of Mexico.

The World Trophy includes Highlight, Duet, Solo, Teams and Combination, of which Solo is only for artistic show, not scoring in the final results, and 100 points each for the other four categories. After three days of the competition, the Chinese team, with four gold medals and a total score of 384.625 points, won the World Trophy champion. Japanese team ranked second place with 379.450 points and Ukraine third place, with 378.775 points. The host Mexican team was in fifth place with 371.588 points. — *Xinhua*



Ukrainian players compete in the presentation of routines combined mode combos during the 7th FINA Synchronised Swimming World Trophy 2012 in Mexico City, capital of Mexico, on 2 Dec, 2012. — *XINHUA*

## No risks for Mourinho as Real Madrid face

### Ajax

MADRID, 4 Dec — Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho will introduce changes for his side's Champions League match at home to Ajax on Tuesday night. With his side already qualified for the next stage of the competition but with few options of finishing top of their group, Mourinho's attention will turn to ensuring he is able to field his strongest possible side when the knockout stage of the competition starts in the New Year.

That means midfielder Xabi Alonso and defender, Sergio Ramos, both of whom have picked up two bookings this campaign in Europe, will be rested to ensure they don't pick up a third yellow card and subsequent suspension. That should open the door for young defender Rafael Vane to return at the back

while Luka Modric plays in central midfield, where he has so far struggled to live up to his 40-million-euro price tag.

Mourinho may consider other changes, such as bringing Javier Callejon in for Angel de Maria and even giving young striker Alvaro Morata a chance in place of Karim Benzema as Gonzalo Higuain continues with his recovery from injury. The mood in the club changed for the better following Saturday's 2-0 win over Atletico in the Madrid derby, but failure to defeat an Ajax side who Madrid beat easily in Amsterdam earlier this season, would again set the alarm bells ringing.

The Dutch side have no chance of qualifying for the next phase of the Champions League, but still have a good chance of reaching the



Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho

consolation prize of the last 32 of the Europa League ahead of Manchester City. Coach Frank de Boer has said he will field the same side which played PSV Eindhoven at the weekend and says his side are travelling with the sole aim of trying to win in Real Madrid's home territory.

Malaga are also in action on Tuesday night and coach Manuel Pellegrini

will make wholesale changes to a side that is already assured of qualifying for the last 16 as group winners. Malaga looked tired as they slipped to a 1-0 defeat in Getafe on Saturday and players such as Joaquin Sanchez, Javier Saviola and Izco will all be rested with Roque Santa Cruz and Seba Fernandez starting against Belgian side, Anderlecht. — *Xinhua*

## Soccer

## Yankees' Rodriguez to have hip surgery

NEW YORK, 4 Dec — New York Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez will likely miss the start of the 2013 Major League Baseball (MLB) season because of hip surgery, the team said on Monday.

The 37-year-old Rodriguez, MLB's active home runs leader, must complete a four-to-six week pre-rehabilitation regimen before having a left hip arthroscopy in January that will require four to six months of recovery, the Yankees said in a statement.

That means the 14-times All-Star and three-time American League Most Valuable Player, who was benched in the playoffs after struggling at the plate, will likely miss at least the start of the Yankees' season set to begin on 1 April.

Doctors believe there is a strong possibility that



New York Yankees Alex Rodriguez swings through a pitch during the sixth inning of Game 4 of their MLB ALCS baseball playoff series against the Detroit Tigers in Detroit, Michigan, on 18 Oct, 2012. — *REUTERS*

the hip condition might have had a negative effect on Rodriguez's playoff performance, according to the Yankees. The surgery to repair a torn labrum, bone impingement and the correction of a cyst is similar but not identical to the one performed on Rodriguez's right hip in 2009, according

to the Yankees.

Rodriguez, who has a career 647 home runs, is coming off a disappointing season in which he hit 18 homers, drove in 57 runs and batted .272, and slumped during the post-season with a .120 batting average and no runs batted in. — *Reuters*

## LeBron James wins Sports Illustrated annual award

NEW YORK, 4 Dec — LeBron James of the Miami Heat was named as Sports Illustrated's Sportsman of the Year for 2012, the US magazine announced on Monday. In an outstanding year, the 27-year-old James won his first NBA championship, his third league Most Valuable Player (MVP) award, was named MVP of the NBA finals and a won gold medal with the United States at the London Olympics.

He became just the sixth basketballer to win the award, which began in 1954. The most recent was his

“Did I think an award like this was possible two years ago? ‘No, I did not,’ James said in an interview with the magazine.” “I thought I would be helping a lot of kids and raise \$3 million by going on TV and saying, ‘Hey, I want to play for the Miami Heat.’ But it affected far more people than I imagined.

“I know it wasn't on the level of an injury or an addiction, but it was something I had to recover from. I had to become a better person, a better player, a better father, a better friend, a better mentor and a better leader. I've



Miami Heat's LeBron James goes to the basket against the Cleveland Cavaliers during the first half of their NBA basketball game in Miami, Florida, on 24 Nov, 2012. — *REUTERS*

team-mate Dwyane Wade in 2006. Two years ago, James became a hate figure for many American sports fans after he announced his decision to sign for Miami live on television after his contract with the Cleveland Cavaliers had expired. He was booed at courts across the NBA and received intense criticism for his performance as Miami lost the 2011 NBA finals to the Dallas Mavericks.

changed, and I think people have started to understand who I really am.”

Previous winners of the award include swimmer Michael Phelps (2008), cyclist Lance Armstrong (2002) and golfer Tiger Woods (2000) while the first award was given to British athlete Roger Bannister in 1954 after he became the first person to run a mile in under four minutes. — *Reuters*

## Tennis

## Nadal eyes clay season for return to top form

MADRID, 4 Dec — Rafa Nadal is aiming to be back to his best after injury in time for the claycourt season and the run-up to Roland Garros, the Spaniard said on Monday.

The 26-year-old former world number one has slipped down to fourth in the ATP rankings and has not played since his shock second-round exit at Wimbledon in June.

The Spaniard was diagnosed with a partial tear of the patella tendon and inflammation of the left knee, only returning to hitting

balls on a practice court two weeks ago. “My recovery is going well and the doctors are pleased,” Nadal told Spanish radio.

“I have to look at my career with a five-year view. I considered having surgery, but the doctors have

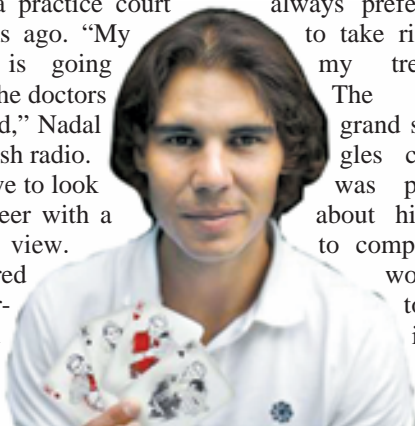
always preferred not to take risks with my treatment.”

The 11-times grand slam singles champion was pragmatic about his return to competition. “I would like to return in January,” he said. “I

don't expect to return and win the Australian Open, I have to be realistic.

The results will not worry me in the first tournaments back.

“I have to take into account my form after so long out. It wouldn't bother me if I slipped down to 15th in the world as long as inside I knew was able to continue. “I want to be 100 percent in time for Monte Carlo and the run-up to Roland Garros.” Nadal won a record seventh French Open title in May. — *Reuters*



Spanish tennis player Rafa Nadal poses with playing cards depicting some of his 11 Grand Slam victories after an interview with Reuters in Madrid, on 18 Sept, 2012. — *REUTERS*

GENERAL

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(5-12-12 09:30 am ~ 6-12-12 09:30 am) MST

- \* News
- \* My Golden Dancers and Artist U Lun Gywe
- \* News
- \* Myanmar Tourism Master Plan
- \* News
- \* Taste of Myanmar "Rakhine Moteti"
- \* News
- \* The Establishment of the Golden Land Education Foundation
- \* News
- \* Myanmar Mobile Fair YGN 2012

- \* Culture Stage
- \* News
- \* Short Trip with Steve (Mon State)
- \* News
- \* Advancing Strength of IT
- \* Myanmar DVD "Rainbow Anyein"

MYANMAR TV

(5-12-2012, Wednesday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Venerable Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 7:15 am
- 2. Dhama Puja Song
- 7:40 am
- 3. Nice & Sweet Song
- 7:50 am

- 4. Health Programme
- 8:00 am
- 5. Performance With Song
- 8:25 am
- 6. Cultural Dances
- 4:00 pm
- 7. Martial Song
- 4:20 pm
- 8. Myanma Radio and Television ByState Traditional Orchestra
- 4:35 pm
- 9. Song of National Races
- 4:40 pm
- 10. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (Botany)
- 5:00 pm
- 11. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:05 pm

- 12. Classical Song
- 5:15 pm
- 13. Teleplay (Health)
- 5:30 pm
- 14. Documentary (Classical Music)
- 5:45 pm
- 15. ASEAN "Programmes"
- 6:20 pm
- 16. Traditional Boxing
- 6:35 pm
- 17. Shwe Yi Chone Than
- 7:35 pm
- 18. Alinka Wut Yi Music Troupe (Part-2)
- 8:00 pm
- 19. News
- 20. TV Drama Series
- 21. MMA YDP Anyient (HIV/AIDS)

Literary contest held in Pyapon



PYAPON, 4 Dec— Pyapon Township Writers Association organized the 1374 ME Literary Day at Saya Zaw Gyi centennial library in Pyapon on 1 December. The contest comprised essay, poem and short story events. The first prize winner will secure K 30,000, the second K 20,000 and the third K 10,000 at the second literary talks that will be held on 16 December. Myanmar Alinn

Congo back in charge of Goma, UN fingers Rwanda again

GOMA, 4 Dec— Congo's government re-established control over the eastern city of Goma on Monday after rebels withdrew, and UN experts made new allegations that Rwandan soldiers took part in the insurgents' capture of the city. The M23 rebel movement pulled its fighters out of the North Kivu provincial capital in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on Saturday after seizing it from fleeing UN-backed government forces and holding it for 11 days.



Government army FARDC soldiers drive in trucks as they arrive at Goma on 3 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

But the situation remained tense and uncertain in the absence of any definitive peace accord to end the eight-month-old insurgency, which has displaced thousands of civilians in a region that is a tinderbox of ethnic and political conflict.

The allegations, made in a 26 November letter

to the Security Council, said RDF units operated alongside M23 fighters in the rebels' advance on Goma. It added that on November 20, "a mixture of M23 and RDF troops clandestinely entered into Goma from the Rwandan town of Gisenyi through small streets situated between the town's two official border crossings".

Security Council diplomats confirmed to Reuters the authenticity of the experts' letter.

Rwanda has strongly and repeatedly rejected previous allegations made by the same UN experts that the Rwandan government has created, equipped, trained and directly commanded the M23 rebellion in Congo's North Kivu. Similar accusations against Uganda's government have also been denied by Kampala.

In Goma on Monday, North Kivu Governor Julien Paluku, who had left when the rebels took over, and

Congolese Interior Minister Richard Muyej were supervising the resumption of government operations and authority over the city.

M23 spokesman Amani Kabasha told Reuters by telephone some rebels were in Monigi, which is on the road north to Rutshuru.

But he said the fighters there would form part of an M23 detachment that would join government troops (FARDC) and a neutral international force to be stationed together at Goma airport - one of the points agreed in the withdrawal deal. The 26 November letter from the UN experts said that when M23 began its offensive on Goma "it benefited from direct RDF support during combat on the frontlines at the village of Kibumba, according to former RDF officers, FARDC officers and local leaders".—Reuters

Ex-baseball star Lenny Dykstra sentenced in bankruptcy fraud case

LOS ANGELES, 4 Dec— Lenny Dykstra, the 1980s World Series hero who pleaded guilty earlier this year to bankruptcy fraud, was sentenced on Monday to six months in federal prison and ordered to perform 500 hours of community service.

The 49-year-old former ballplayer - who is already serving time in state prison for grand theft auto, lewd conduct and assault with a deadly weapon - was also ordered to pay \$200,000 in restitution.

In the federal case, Dykstra pleaded guilty in July to bankruptcy fraud and other charges. According to the written plea agreement, he admitted defrauding his creditors by declaring bankruptcy in 2009, then stealing or destroying furnishings, baseball memorabilia and other property from his \$18.5 million mansion.

He also admitted

giving false or misleading testimony about the property he removed from the Los Angeles-area home, which he had purchased from hockey great Wayne Gretzky, according to the court documents.

Dykstra, nicknamed "Nails" during his playing days, spent 11 years in the major leagues, mostly as an outfielder for the Mets and Philadelphia Phillies.

He is perhaps best remembered by Mets fans for the 1986 season, when he struck a walk-off game-winning home run in Game 3 of the National League Championship Series.

And in Game 3 of the World Series, he hit a key lead-off home run, sparking a comeback by the Mets from a 2-0 series deficit to win the championship over the Boston Red Sox.

But in recent years Dykstra has become embroiled in a series of criminal cases.

Reuters



Former Major League baseball player Lenny Dykstra appears in Los Angeles Superior Court for an arraignment in San Fernando, California on 8 August, 2011.—REUTERS

Canadian think-tank calls for more Asia-related education investment

VANCOUVER, 4 Dec— Canada needs to invest on Asian-related education and skills training to further promote economic ties with Asia, according to results of an opinion poll released Monday by a Canadian think-tank on Asia ties.

Sixty percent of respondents who employ Canadians for Asia-related work say it is difficult to find qualified Canadians with the appropriate level of knowledge and awareness of Asia to help the company or organization succeed in Asia,

said the poll conducted by the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (APF).

"We need to invest in education and skills training programs that reflect the global reality of a rising Asia," said Mr Yuen Pau Woo, president and CEO of APF, an independent, non-profit think-tank on Canada's relations with Asia.

"Canada will not be able to participate fully in Asian business opportunities or have influence in the region unless we build Asia competency into our

education system, and make Asia knowledge a priority for businesses, government and civil society leaders," Woo added.

In the Points of View Asia Pacific survey, Canadians who are engaged in Asia were asked to examine different dimensions of Canada-Asia relations when it comes to education, and the role it might play in helping Canada build closer relations with Asian countries.

The poll showed 8-in-10 practitioners consider education to be the most

critical component of any strategy to build closer relations with Asian countries.

Among various initiatives, strong emphasis was placed on putting a greater priority on the teaching of Asian languages in the country's elementary and secondary schools, as well as creating greater mobility opportunities, such as study abroad, co-op, externships for higher education students, according to the poll.

Xinhua

## Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham discusses closer cooperation with UN

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Dec— Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham held talks with a delegation led by Ms Baroness Valerie Amos, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, 3.10 pm today.

Also present at the call together with Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham were Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Zaw Win, U Zin Yaw, U Kyaw Kyaw Win and Daw Su Su Hlaing, and departmental heads.

The visiting delegation led by the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator was accompanied by Mr Ashok Nigam, UN Resident Coordinator.

At the talks, they held cordial discussions on



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham shakes hands with Ms Baroness Valerie Amos, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator. MNA

providing United Nations humanitarian assistance

to Myanmar and further Myanmar and the United cooperation between Nations.—MNA

## President U Thein Sein felicitates Prime Minister of Thailand

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec— On the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej which falls on 5 December 2012, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand.—MNA

## Summary of observation at 9.30 hr MST on 4-12-2012

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Dec— During the past (24) hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Shan, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C)

above December average temperatures in Magway, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kayah and Kayin States, (5°C) to (6°C) above December average temperatures in Chin and Mon States and about December average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States.

NLM

## Bay Inference

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Dec— Yesterday's the low pressure area over South Bay of Bengal become unimportant.

NLM

## Investigation Commission holds coordination meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Dec — Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Chairperson of the Investigation Commission for Latpadaungtaung Copper Mining Project, pointed out the lack of transparency in the past as the cause for the recent Lapaduangtaung incident and stressed the need for public cooperation and the rule of law to get the answer to the issue in the interests of the State.

During the coordination meeting of the commission held at the Building I-12 in the Hluttaw Complex, here, today, the chairperson of the Investigation Commission said that the commission will carry out an investigation into the incident as soon as possible and she will take responsibilities for conducting investigation into what happened at the camp of protestors and matters related to the members of the Sangha.

The members of the commission will be divided into three groups to conduct the investigation into the following three issues simultaneously:

- whether the copper mining project adheres to international norms and employ appropriate technology to environmental conservation;
- impacts and profits of the copper mining project on social and natural environments;
- whether the copper mining project will be profitable for the State, people and future generations.

Besides, the commission will conduct an investigation into other cases to which it is assigned and will release information on its findings.

All members of the commission except those who have been away participated in the meeting. —MNA

## Vice-President U Nyan Tun receives Japanese guests



Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun receives a delegation led by Senior Advisor Mr Motoyuki Oka to Sumitomo Corporation of Japan.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Dec— Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun received a delegation led by Senior Advisor Mr Motoyuki Oka to Sumitomo Corporation from Japan at the Credentials Hall of Presidential Palace this morning.

Also present at the call together with Vice-President

U Nyan Tun were Deputy Ministers U Thein Aung, U Aung Than Oo, U Thaung Tin and departmental officials.

At the call, the

Japanese corporation made presentation on plans to be carried out in electric power, communications and information, rail

transportation, automobile assembling and manufacturing sectors in Myanmar.

MNA

## Flight Attendant Course No (1/2012) of MAI concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Dec— The closing ceremony of Flight Attendant Course No (1/2012) of Myanmar

Airways International was held at Myanma Airways (Head Office), here, yesterday with an address

by Managing Director U Than Tun.

Next, the managing director and general manager presented prizes to outstanding trainees.

MNA