

Myanmar, Brunei focus on strengthening bilateral relations, further cooperation on mutually beneficial basis in future

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec— The Myanmar delegation led by President U Thein Sein attended the meeting between the two countries held at Cheradi Ratna Kenchana Hall of Istana Nurul Iman Palace in Bandar Seri Begawan of Brunei Darussalam at 1 pm local time yesterday.

Firstly, the King of Brunei Darussalam said he cordially welcomed the second visit of the Myanmar President who paid a visit to Brunei in 2008 for the first time.

The King said that the two countries are friendly nations and he was glad to see progress in health and education sectors which are under cooperation. He wished to cooperate in other sectors. He had seen Myanmar was in the process of economic reform for economic growth and development, inviting investments.

He disclosed now was the time to grab the niche of economic cooperation with Myanmar as there was no bilateral trade between the two countries, urging more connectivity between the

officials concerned of the two countries for further economic cooperation.

He proposed to hold discussions on signing of double taxation avoidance agreement between the two countries. He added that there would be prospects for cooperation in energy sector, saying that he would like to discuss with the ministry concerned for energy cooperation.

Regarding the cooperation in education sector, he vowed to increase the number of scholarships for Myanmar citizens. Regarding the health sector, he made a vow to continue to cooperate with WHO and INGOS.

President U Thein Sein expressed thanks for the invitation of the King. He was glad to see the development of Brunei under the leadership of the King. He would like to invite the King and royal family to pay a state visit to Myanmar at an opportune time. He believed that challenges would be overcome thanks to support of regional and international partners.



President U Thein Sein meets with Brunei King Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah at Cheradi Ratna Kenchana Hall of Istana Nurul Iman Palace in Bandar Seri Begawan of Brunei Darussalam.—MNA

He would like to give an account of Rakhine State at the opportune moment. The incident was an unexpected challenge. It stemmed from a criminal case which has nothing to

do with race and religion. Necessary assistance was being given to meet the basic needs of homeless victims daily, adding that he had already explained the Rakhine incident to

ASEAN leaders at ASEAN Summit.

The President expressed thanks for supports of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia on Rakhine incident while OIC said the case was to be discussed in international meetings including UN. Myanmar was fulfilling humanitarian needs for more than 100,000 displaced

persons in cooperation with UN agencies. Plans were underway to overcome the challenges as Rakhine incident was the internal affairs of Myanmar. Although Myanmar was rich in natural resources, the country lagged behind in development in the areas of investment, technology and

(See page 9)

Typhoon kills at least 283, hundreds missing, in Philippines

NEW BATAAN, 5 Dec— Blocked roads and severed communications in the southern Philippines frus-

trated rescuers on Wednesday as teams searched for hundreds of people missing after the strongest typhoon



A man carries his wife on his back along a flooded destroyed road after Typhoon Bopha hit Compostela Valley, southern Philippines on December 5, 2012.

REUTERS

this year killed at least 283 people.

Typhoon Bopha, with central winds of 120 kph (75 mph) and gusts of up to 150 kph (93 mph), battered beach resorts and dive spots on Palawan island on Wednesday but it was weakening as it moved west.

Hardest hit was the southern island of Mindanao, where Bopha made landfall on Tuesday. It triggered landslides and floods along the coast and in farming and mining towns inland. Interior Minister Manuel Roxas said 300 people were missing.

"Entire families were washed away," Roxas, who inspected the disaster zone, told reporters. Most affected areas were cut off by destroyed roads and collapsed bridges and army search-and-rescue teams were being

flown in by helicopter.

Power was cut and communications were down.

According to tallies provided by the military and disaster agency officials, 283 people were killed.

Thousands of people were in shelters and officials appealed for food, water and clothing. Dozens of domestic flights were suspended on Wednesday.

The governor of the worst-hit province, Compostela Valley, in Mindanao said waves of water and mud came crashing down mountains and swept through schools, town halls and clinics where huddled residents had sought shelter. The death toll in the province stood at 160. In nearby Davao Oriental province, where Bopha made landfall, 110 people were killed.

Reuters

Mobile medical teams provide health care to national races

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec— Mobile medical teams of Defence Services provided health care services to the local national races in Kayah State from 5 to 16 October and Chin State from 29 October to 10 November.

The mobile medical teams left Yangon by

Tatmadaw aircraft yesterday morning for Sittway by taking necessary medicines and medical equipment to be able to give health care services to the local national people in Rakhine State and started their health care tasks.

MNA

Significant night temperatures (5-12-2012)

Loilem	2°C
Namhsam	4°C
Pinlaung	5°C
Putao	6°C
Heho	6°C

Myanmar-Brunei relations and cooperation promoted through ASEAN, regional and multilateral organizations



President U Thein Sein speaking at dinner hosted by Brunei Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah at Istana Nurul Iman Palace.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec— Brunei Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah hosted a dinner to visiting Myanmar delegation led by President U Thein Sein at Istana Nurul Iman Palace on 4 December.

The Brunei Sultan speaking on the occasion expressed his satisfaction for improving ties between Brunei and Myanmar over past years, noting tremendous potential for promoting bilateral trade and investment. He mentioned potential for great progress in joint ventures, especially in oil exploration. He cheered up the efforts of the Myanmar President for progress of the region and facing the ongoing challenges for future interests

of Myanmar. He wished the Myanmar President success of his constant efforts for maintaining peace to bring prosperity to Myanmar people.

He said he paid a goodwill visit to Myanmar in 1998 five years after the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two nations in 1993, adding ministries and personnel of the two nations have maintained long-term relationship and exchanges since then. He said he hoped the exchange of visits would bring about closer ties between the two people and promote interaction between private sectors of the two countries.

He expressed thanks for contribution of

academicians, intellectuals and intelligentsia, medics, nurses and workers from Myanmar toward development of Brunei. He said he believed that at a time ASEAN member countries are accelerating their efforts for establishment of ASEAN

Community by 2015, Brunei and Myanmar as good partners in ASEAN together with fellow ASEAN nations would be able to accomplish the objective.

He said he was glad to hear Myanmar authorities would closely cooperate with

regional and multilateral organizations.

He expressed special thanks to the Brunei Sultan and people for their continued support for Myanmar's democracy transition, affirming his commitment to closer cooperation for promotion of stability and prosperity at international level.

He vowed to strengthen cooperation in every single step for the sake of the two peoples. He briefed the efforts of his government for national reconciliation and creation of favourable investment climate.

The Brunei Sultan and Myanmar President then had a dinner together. The Myanmar delegation went back to Empire Hotel & Country Club where they were lodging.—MNA

President's State visits to Australia, New Zealand postponed

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec— The scheduled State Visits of U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, to the Commonwealth of Australia and New Zealand have been postponed to a mutually convenient date which would be coordinated by the two sides.

MNA

Brunei during its ASEAN Chairmanship in coming year, adding that it would present a lot of opportunities to Myanmar to be able to handle overall duties of ASEAN.

The Myanmar President expressed thanks for kind hospitality of the Brunei government and people. He said Myanmar always attaches importance to relationship with Brunei which he said has been strengthened through frequent exchange of visits between high-level delegations of the two countries.

He said his visit would foster the existing ties and push forward wider bilateral cooperation, adding that the bilateral relations and cooperation have been promoted through ASEAN,

President U Thein Sein back from Brunei

President U Thein Sein being welcomed back by Vice-President U Nyan Tun at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.

MNA



NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec— Myanmar delegation led by President U Thein Sein of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar left the Bandar Seri Begawan International Airport in the Brunei Darussalam for Nay Pyi Taw by Myanmar Airways Special Flight at 2pm local time after paying a goodwill visit.

The Myanmar

delegation was seen off at the Airport by Minister of Industry and Natural Resources of Brunei Mr Pehin Haji Yahya, Chief of Protocol of Foreign Affairs and Trade Ministry Dato Paduka Haji Mohd Nor and the Brunei Ambassador to Myanmar, Myanmar Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam Daw Yin Yin

Myint and embassy staff.

They arrived back here at 4 pm and were welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Vice-President U Nyan Tun, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Lt-Gen Wai Lwin, U Aung

Kyi, U Thein Nyunt, Thura U Myint Maung, U Myint Hlaing, U Nyan Tun Aung, U Aye Myint, Dr Myint Aung and U Aye Myint Kyu, Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander Maj-Gen Maung Aye, departmental heads, Charge d' Affaires' ai Syamin Nabilah Daud from Brunei Embassy to Myanmar.—MNA

Utility jade, gems and pearl sales 9 Dec

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec — In his address at the first work coordination meeting of central committee for organizing utility jade, gems and pearl sales-2012 held at Mani Yadana Jade Hall of Myanma Gems Museum, here, this afternoon, Parton of the central committee Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung called for collaboration between work committees and officials concerned for successful holding of the sales.

Next, officials of the work committees reported on ongoing tasks and work progress and tasks to be done respectively, and those present held discussions on

general matters.

The utility jade, gems and pearl sales-2012 will be held from 9 to 13 December.

It is learnt that only Grade C or D jades are being mined on a wider scale in the jade mining of local entrepreneurs, instead of Grade A or B jades.

The purpose of organizing the sales is to fulfill the raw material requirements of entrepreneurs who are manufacturing finished gems and contributing to development of gems and jewellery sector through the sales of utility jade in local currency.

MNA

WORLD

NATO warns Syria not to use chemical weapons

BRUSSELS, 5 Dec— NATO told Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on Tuesday that any use of chemical weapons in his fight against encroaching rebel forces would be met by an immediate international response. The warning from NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen came as US government sources said Washington had information that Syria was making what could be seen as preparations to use its chemical arsenal.

Syrian forces meanwhile bombarded rebel districts near Damascus in a sustained counter-attack to stem rebel gains around Assad's power base as the insurgency may be entering a decisive phase.

International concern over Syria's intentions has been heightened by reports that its chemical weapons have been moved and could be prepared for use.

"The possible use of chemical weapons would be completely unacceptable for the whole international community and if anybody resorts to these terrible weapons I would expect an immediate reaction from the international community," Rasmussen told reporters at the start of a meeting of alliance foreign ministers in Brussels. The chemical threat made it urgent for the alliance to send Patriot anti-missile missiles to Turkey, Rasmussen said.

The French Foreign Ministry referred to "possible movements on military bases storing chemical weapons in Syria" and said the international community would react if they were used. Britain has told the Syrian government that any use of chemical weapons would have "serious consequences", Foreign Secretary William Hague said.



NATO foreign ministers meet at the Alliance's headquarters in Brussels on 4 Dec, 2012. NATO foreign ministers will agree on Tuesday to send Patriot missiles to beef up Turkey's air defences and calm Turkey's fears that it could come under missile attack, possibly with chemical weapons, from Syria, diplomats said.—REUTERS

US President Barack Obama on Monday told Assad not to use chemical weapons, without saying how the United States might respond. The Foreign Ministry in Damascus said it would never use such weapons against Syrians.

The US has collected

what has been described as highly classified intelligence information demonstrating that Syria is making what could be construed as preparations to use elements of its extensive chemical weapons arsenal, two US government sources briefed on the issue said.—Reuters

Far left outsider "winner" in Korean presidential debate

SEOUL, 5 Dec— Sounding at times like a mouthpiece for hostile North Korea, a candidate with no chance of winning South's presidential election made the biggest impact in a televised debate and may have scuppered the chances of the main opposition candidate.

Lee Jung-hee of the pro-North Korea United Progressive Party is polling less than one percent ahead of the 19 December election, but her strident performance in the debate on Tuesday evening may well have fatally damaged the mainstream left-wing candidate Moon Jae-in, whose party is allied with hers in parliament.

Lee topped searches on South Korea's main Internet portal Naver after the debate in which she labeled the administration in Seoul the "government of the South", a term usually employed by North Korea's propaganda machine.

Lee outraged support-

ers of conservative contender Park Geun-hye by using the Japanese name of her father who ruled the South for 18 years until his assassination in 1979, a reference to Korea's colonial past and an effort to portray Park as a collaborator.

"Takaki Masao wrote a pledge of patriotism with his own blood so that he could become an officer in the Japanese army, you will all know who that is," Lee said during the debate late on Tuesday. "His Korean name is Park Chung-hee."

Park appeared to ignore the attack during the debate. Her father's harsh rule saw political repression accompany rapid economic development and still divides South Koreans. Park has held a small but steady lead over Moon Jae-in for most of the campaign, but her advantage has been within the margin of error for most polls.

Reuters



South Korea's presidential candidate Lee Jung-hee (C) of opposition Unified Progressive Party, talks with a staff member of a TV station before a televised debate in Seoul on 4 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

Australian school evacuated after student brings hand grenade

SYDNEY, 5 Dec— A school in Australia's New South Wales (NSW) has been evacuated after a student brought a hand grenade for "show and tell", the NSW Police said on Wednesday.

Students from Hunter Christian School at Mayfield in Newcastle were taken to a nearby park on Wednesday morning, police said.

Specialists from the police and Australian Defence Force are examining the World War II "pineapple" model grenade believed to be inert.

Police have assured

parents that all students are safe and accounted for.

The school principal called police on Wednesday morning when the year five student brought the World War II "pineapple" model grenade to the school.

"We have our bomb appraisal technicians from the police rescue squad locally here," Inspector Gerard Lawson told the Australia Broadcasting Corporation.

"We're just now waiting for munitions experts to come from Sydney to evaluate the risk of whether there is still potential for people to be hurt."

Xinhua

UN launches 1.3-billion-dollar appeal for humanitarian needs in Somalia

UNITED NATIONS, 5 Dec—The United Nations on Tuesday launched a 1.3-billion-US-dollar humanitarian appeal to address the immediate needs of the Somali people over the next year and enhance resilience in the country, which has for decades been mired in conflict, drought, floods and food insecurity.

The appeal, which is part of a three-year strategy, will go to 369 humanitarian projects targeting 3.8 million Somalis in need, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The strategy will be implemented

by 177 national and international non-governmental organizations and UN agencies operating in Somalia.

"While the humanitarian situation in Somalia remains critical, the improvement in the food security situation and the new security and political landscape present opportunities to break the cycle of recurring crises brought on by drought and conflict," said the UN humanitarian coordinator in the Horn of Africa country, Stefano Porretti. "By strengthening Somalis' ability to cope with droughts and floods we can prevent future shocks from developing into a humanitar-

Obama to fill key posts in weeks, Hagel on Pentagon short list

WASHINGTON, 5 Dec— President Barack Obama is expected to announce his nominees for secretaries of state and defence in the next two weeks, with former Republican Senator Chuck Hagel on the short list of potential choices to head the Pentagon, senior administration officials said on Tuesday.

Hagel, whose appointment would give Obama's reshuffled second-term Cabinet a bipartisan cast, met the Democratic president at the White House this week to discuss a post on his national security team. But there was no sign that Obama had decided on any of the key nominations he will put forth. Obama is still deliberating whether to unveil his top national se-

Other top contenders to replace Defence Secretary Leon Panetta are believed to include former senior Pentagon official Michele Flournoy, Deputy Defence Secretary Ashton Carter and Democratic Senator John Kerry.

Complicating matters, Obama is also deciding whether to nominate Kerry as secretary of state to replace Hillary Clinton, or to go with Susan Rice, embattled US ambassador to the United Nations. If Obama nominates Kerry for State, he could the risk opening up a safe Democratic Senate seat in Massachusetts, which Senator Scott Brown, the Republican who just lost his seat to Elizabeth Warren, could run for in a special election.



US President Barack Obama (D-IL) (L) smiles next to US Senator Chuck Hagel (R-NE) during a news conference at the Amman Citadel, an ancient Roman landmark, in Amman, Jordan, on 22 July, 2008.

REUTERS

curity appointments, likely to include a new CIA director, in a single high-profile package this month or to name them one-by-one, according to an administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Obama, in an interview with Bloomberg TV on Tuesday, reiterated that Rice is "highly qualified" for the job, but said, "I haven't made a decision about secretary of state."

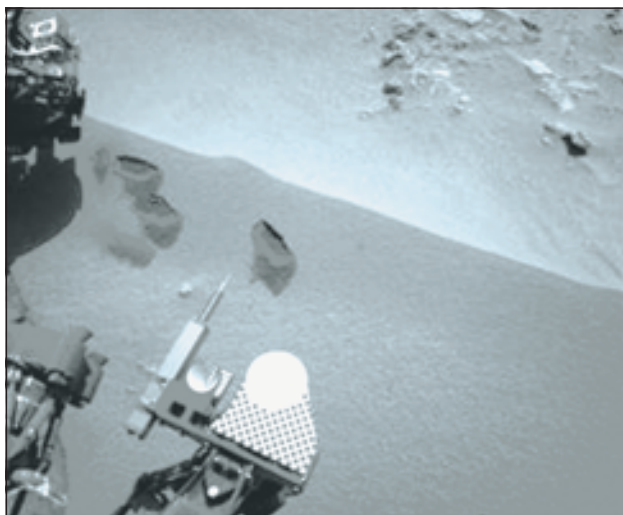
Reuters

NASA's Mars rover finds traces of carbon — one essential for life

SAN FRANCISCO, 5 Dec — NASA's Mars rover Curiosity, dispatched to look for the chemical ingredients and environments for microbial life, has found hints of carbon, though whether this building block for life on Earth has played a similar role on Mars is unknown, scientists said on Monday. "Just finding carbon somewhere doesn't mean that it has anything to do with life, or the finding of a habitable environment," lead scientist John Grotzinger, with the California Institute of Technology, told reporters at the American Geophysical Union conference in San Francisco.

"If you have organic carbon and you don't have any water, you don't have a habitable environment," he said. Even with carbon and water, life needs other chemicals, such as sulfur, oxygen, phosphorous and nitrogen, to form and evolve.

"It's not unexpected that this sand pile would



Three bite marks left in the Martian ground by the scoop on the robotic arm of NASA's Mars rover Curiosity are pictured in this 15 Oct, 2012 NASA handout photo obtained by Reuters on 20 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

not be rich in organics. It's been exposed to the harsh Martian environment," added planetary scientist Paul Mahaffy, with NASA's Goddard Space Flight Centre in Greenbelt, Maryland.

"It's really going to be an exciting hunt over the course of this mission to find early environments that might be protected from

this surface Mars environment and see what we can add to the carbon story," Mahaffy said.

The rover, which in August touched down on the floor of a 93-mile wide (150-km) impact crater near the Martian equator, has already turned up evidence that its landing site was once covered in water.

Science

Scientists do not know if the carbon compounds in the soil are contamination from Earth, arrived on the surface of Mars via comets or asteroids, or, if they are indigenous, whether they came from geological or biological activities on Mars.

"It tells us that we have a lead into a measurement of one of the important ingredients that adds to a habitable environment," Grotzinger said. "We still have a lot of work to do to qualify and characterize what it is."

The rover is expected to reach a richer slice of Martian history next year when it begins examining layers of sediment in a mountain rising from the floor of the crater.

"We're starting to find the spices that make a stew tasty. There are the basic ingredients that you expect to be there, but it's how you combine them and the minor ingredients that really turn out to be interesting," he said.

Reuters

On the run, software guru McAfee says left Belize, won't surrender



A dog sits outside of the home of anti-virus software pioneer John McAfee in San Pedro on 14 Nov, 2012.

REUTERS

MEXICO CITY, 5 Dec — US anti-virus software guru John McAfee said on Monday he has left the Caribbean country of Belize where police want to question him in connection with a neighbour's murder, and will not turn himself in.

"I am not in Belize. That is all I will say," McAfee told Reuters by tele-

phone from an undisclosed location. "Every bordering country around Belize, for political, financial, legal reasons, is pretty much like Belize and our plan is ... to arrive in a safe country."

McAfee has been in hiding for three weeks since police in Belize said they wanted to question him as "a person of interest" about

the murder of fellow American Gregory Faull, with whom McAfee had quarreled. McAfee says he believes authorities in Belize would kill him if he turned himself in for questioning. Belize's prime minister has denied the claim and called the 67-year-old paranoid and "bonkers".

"They have killed many people who've turned themselves in. The last one was a gentleman ... who turned himself in. They just wanted him for questioning. They handcuffed his hands behind his back and shot him 14 times," McAfee said.

"They did say he tried to grab a gun and escape, he was surrounded by a dozen GSU (Gang Suppression Unit) people. I don't imagine he'd have had much

chance, and he was a smart man, so I do not intend to turn myself in," he said.

Residents of the Caribbean island of Ambergris Caye where McAfee lives and others who know him describe as an eccentric, impulsive man who quit a career as a successful entrepreneur in the United States for a life of semi-seclusion in the former pirate haven of Belize.

McAfee has been posting updates from hiding on his blog www.whoismcafee.com, saying he is accompanied by two journalists from Vice magazine and a woman called Sam.

McAfee said on his blog he had sent a body double to the Belize-Mexico border to act as a smoke-screen and help him elude authorities.—Reuters



The Facebook "thumbs up" icon and logo are displayed in a window at the offices of JP Morgan in New York, on 4 May, 2012.—REUTERS

which had carried out an investigation after europe-v-facebook filed numerous complaints.

"The Irish authority is miles away from other European data protection au-

Reuters

Voyager 1 probe leaving solar system reaches "magnetic highway" exit

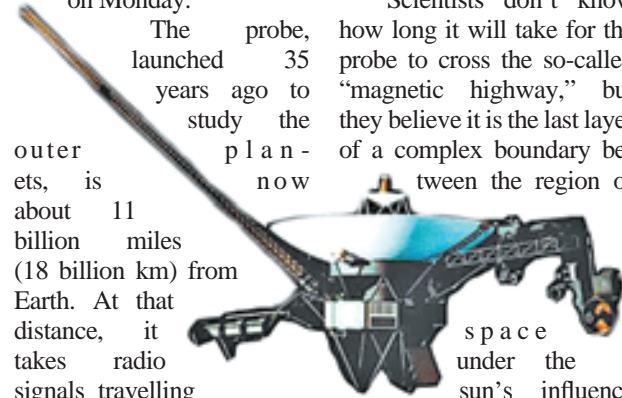
SAN FRANCISCO, 5 Dec — NASA's long-lived Voyager 1 spacecraft, which is heading out of the solar system, has reached a "magnetic highway" leading to interstellar space, scientists said on Monday.

The probe, launched 35 years ago to study the outer planets, is now about 11 billion miles (18 billion km) from Earth. At that distance, it takes radio signals travelling

particles exit.

"It's like a highway, letting particles in and out," lead Voyager scientist Ed Stone told reporters at an American Geophysical Union conference in San Francisco.

Scientists don't know how long it will take for the probe to cross the so-called "magnetic highway," but they believe it is the last layer of a complex boundary between the region of



Undated image of the Voyager 1 spacecraft which is reaching the end of our solar system after a 27-year journey.—REUTERS

at the speed of light 17 hours to reach Earth. Light moves at 186,000 miles per second).

Voyager 1 will be the first manmade object to leave the solar system.

Scientists believe Voyager 1 is in an area where the magnetic field lines from the sun are connecting with magnetic field lines from interstellar space. The phenomenon is causing highly energetic particles from distant supernova explosions and other cosmic events to zoom inside the solar system, while less-energetic solar

and interstellar space.

"Our best guess is it's likely just a few months to a couple years away," Stone said. Voyager 1 hit the outer sphere of the solar system, a region called the heliosphere, in 2004 and passed into the heliosheath, where the supersonic stream of particles from the sun — the so-called "solar wind" — slowed down and became turbulent.

That phase of the journey lasted for 5.5 years. Then the solar wind stopped moving and the magnetic field strengthened.—Reuters

Henry Romero Ericsson seeks US import ban on Samsung products



The exterior of Ericsson's headquarters is seen in Stockholm in this 30 April, 2009 file photo.—REUTERS

STOCKHOLM, 5 Dec — Swedish telecoms gear maker Ericsson has filed a request with the US International Trade Commission to ban US imports of products made by South Korean group Samsung. The request from Ericsson, which said on Monday the products infringe on its patents, came after it sued Samsung for patent infringement in a US court last week.

"The request for an import ban is a part of the process. An import ban is not our goal. Our goal is that

they (Samsung) sign license agreements on reasonable terms," spokesman Fredrik Hallstan said.

Ericsson said last week it was suing Samsung after talks failed to reach agreement on terms that were fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory (FRAND) over patents.

Samsung said it would defend itself against the lawsuit, adding that Ericsson had asked for "prohibitively higher royalty rates to renew the same patent portfolio".

Reuters

Student group plans to sue Facebook in Ireland

VIENNA, 5 Dec — Facebook Inc privacy campaign group europe-v-facebook plans to sue the social network in Ireland, where the company has its international headquarters, it said on Tuesday.

The Austrian student group has been campaigning for better data protection by Facebook for over

a year and has won some concessions, notably pushing the world's biggest social network to switch off its facial recognition feature in Europe.

But the group said on Tuesday the changes did not go far enough and it was disappointed with the response of the Irish Data Protection Commissioner,

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Business



A logo of Sharp Corp is pictured at CEATEC JAPAN 2012 electronics show in Chiba, east of Tokyo, on 2 Oct, 2012. —REUTERS

Qualcomm to invest \$120 million in Japan's Sharp

TOKYO, 5 Dec—Qualcomm Inc will invest \$120 million in Sharp Corp, making the US company one of the biggest shareholders in the struggling TV maker, and will partner it in developing new displays, the Japanese firm said on Tuesday.

Qualcomm will make

an initial investment of 4.93 billion yen (\$59.91 million) by the end of the year, with the timing and amount of the remainder of the 9.9 billion yen (\$120 million) investment yet to be decided, Sharp said in a release. (\$1 = 82.2850 Japanese yen)

Reuters

Ford seeking remedy for Escape, Fusion engine fire risk

Business

DETROIT, 5 Dec—Ford Motor Co (F.N) is still working on a remedy for a defect that raises the risk of an engine fire in almost 90,000 just-launched Escape and Fusion models, an executive at the second-largest US automaker said on Monday.

This is the fourth recall of the 2013 Escape crossover since July. The Escape and the 2013 Fusion sedan are considered Ford's two most critical launches this year.

The problem, which affects models equipped with the turbocharged 1.6-liter engine, has triggered nine fires in vehicles owned by customers, Ford said in a document filed with US safety regulators on Friday.

"We are working on the fix for the vehicles," said Ken Czubay, vice president of Ford's US sales, marketing and service, told reporters and analysts on Monday.

"It's because of an overheating situation, which can result in certain circumstances in an engine fire, but we have had very few of those," he said during a call about November auto



A pair of 2013 Ford Fusions make their debuts on the first Press preview day for the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Michigan, on 9 Jan, 2012. —REUTERS

sales. The 1.6-liter engine can overheat, leading to a fluid leak. If the fluid contacts the vehicle's hot exhaust system, this may cause a fire, Ford said in documents filed with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration on 30 November.

The latest recall involves 73,320 Escapes and 15,833 Fusions.

The Escape has been recalled twice before for problems with its 1.6-liter turbocharged engine. Two other recalls, both issued in early July, involved potentially defective brakes and mispositioned

LONDON, 5 Dec—European shares consolidated their recent rise on Tuesday after a surprise drop in US manufacturing added to worries about stalled budget negotiations, while the euro hovered at a six-week high on optimism over Greece's plan to buy back debt.

The FTSEurofirst 300 index. FTEU3 of top European shares opened steady at 1121.46 points, with a 0.1 percent fall on London's FTSE 100. FTSE balanced by small gains on Frankfurt's DAX .GDAXI and Paris's CAC-40 .FCHI.

Worries about a looming wave of US spending cuts and tax hikes intensified on Monday, after the White House dismissed a budget deal proposal from Republicans, saying it did not meet President Barack Obama's pledge to raise taxes on the rich.

In a sign that US manufacturing may also be struggling to gain traction, the Institute for Supply Management index of national factory activity in November hit its softest level since July 2009, possibly hit by the impact of superstorm Sandy.

Berkeley Futures associate director Richard Griffiths said worries over the US budget situation were causing many traders to err on the side of caution by selling shares to take profits after recent rallies.

"There's a lot of doubt about it at the moment, hence stock markets are drifting lower. Sentiment has just turned a bit negative recently," said Griffiths.

The euro extended its recent rally, hitting a fresh six-week high of \$1.3077 as markets were reassured by news that Greece was

US worries subdue shares, Greek deal lifts euro



A general view of the German stock exchange in Frankfurt on 7 Nov, 2012. —REUTERS

planning to buy back bonds to cut its debt, which first triggered the euro zone crisis three years ago.

The European single currency's rise helped push the dollar to a one-month low against a basket of currencies, with its index .DXY falling to 79.761.

In debt markets, German government bonds were steady, as concerns over US budget talks supported safe-haven assets

even as better than expected terms for Greece's buy-back underpinned higher-yielding euro zone bonds.

In Asian trading, MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS dipped from a nine-month high falling 0.2 percent, while Australian shares .AXJO lost 0.6 percent and Japan's Nikkei fell 0.3 percent. .AX.T.

Reuters

Merck becomes bigger Alzheimer's player, with new trial

Health

NEW YORK, 5 Dec — Merck & Co Inc has moved to the forefront of Alzheimer's disease research by starting a mid-stage study of a drug from a new class of oral medicines that aim to shut down production of a protein associated with the memory-robbing disease.

The drugmaker said on Monday it had started the trial to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of its so-called BACE inhibitor, named MK-8931, in patients with mild-to-moderate Alzheimer's disease.

The Phase II trial, which will compare the drug with a placebo, is a global, multi-centre study that includes a group of 200 patients to test safety. The study is expected eventually to enroll up to 1,700 patients in the main Phase III trial.

Darryle Schoepp, head of neuroscience at Merck, said drugmakers have been trying for a decade to develop treatments that arrest Alzheimer's disease by blocking beta secretase, an enzyme involved in production of toxic beta amyloid proteins that form plaque in the brain believed to be a contributor to Alzheimer's disease.

By blocking beta secretase in earlier Phase I trials, the Merck drug slashed by more than 90 percent the levels of beta

amyloid protein circulating in cerebrospinal fluid.

"It's like shutting the faucet so nothing comes out," Schoepp said in an interview. Merck hopes that by preventing production of beta amyloid — the main component of brain plaque — its drug will prevent a worsening of symptoms among patients with mild-to-moderate stages of the disease.

Should the Merck drug prove safe in the Phase

treatment could reap billions of dollars in annual sales. But many experts believe treatment must be delivered before patients show signs of dementia because once that happens, brain damage may be irreversible.

US drugmaker Eli Lilly is also testing a beta secretase inhibitor, as well as another experimental drug called solanezumab that has shown hints of effectiveness in Phase



A view of the Merck & Co campus in Linden, New Jersey on 9 March, 2009, after Merck & Co Inc said it would acquire Schering-Plough Corp in \$41.1 billion deal, widening Merck's pipeline and diversifying its portfolio of medicines. —REUTERS

II safety trials, Schoepp said the medicine could eventually be tested in "prodromal" patients, or those with the very earliest signs of Alzheimer's. They would include people with very mild memory problems who have also been shown by blood tests or brain scans to have worrisome initial buildup of amyloid plaque or who have other "bio markers" associated with the progressive memory-robbing disease. A successful Alzheimer's

III studies. Solanezumab also targets beta amyloid protein, but through a different mechanism than beta secretase blockers.

"In addition to solanezumab, which is currently in Phase III clinical development, in July 2012 Lilly advanced our homegrown beta secretase inhibitor into Phase II clinical development for its potential to slow the progression of this devastating disease," a Lilly spokesperson said.

Reuters

Honda's car sales in China fall 29.2% in Nov

BEIJING, 5 Dec—Honda Motor Co said on Tuesday its new car sales in China fell 29.2 percent in November from a year earlier to 41,205

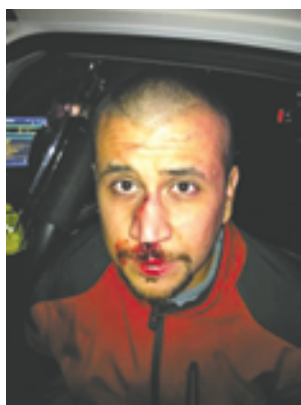
units, as it gradually recovers from the fallout of anti-Japanese protests in China this summer.

The rate of decrease

narrowed from the 53 percent decrease in October and 40.5 percent in September.

Kyodo News

Bloody new photo of Trayvon Martin's killer released



George Zimmerman is seen in this 26 Feb, 2012 police photo provided by the George Zimmerman legal defence fund.

REUTERS

ORLANDO, 5 Dec—A colour photograph of George Zimmerman with a bloody,

swollen nose taken on the night he shot and killed unarmed black teenager Trayvon Martin last February was posted on the Internet on Monday by Zimmerman's legal defence team.

As the photo began to be circulated widely by the news media, lawyers on both sides disagreed about its significance to the second-degree murder case against Zimmerman

"It's not a game changer," Zimmerman lawyer Mark O'Mara told Reuters. But O'Mara said the photo was significant in that it shows vividly the injuries Zimmerman incurred during his confrontation with Martin at a condominium in the

central Florida town on Sanford.

On 26 February, Zimmerman, who was a neighbourhood watch volunteer, shot and killed 17-year-old Martin who was walking to the home in Sanford where he was staying with his father.

Zimmerman's murder trial is set for June 2013.

Zimmerman claims he shot Martin in self defence during a struggle.

"Does it really show what happened that night to George? Yes," O'Mara said.

Attorney Ben Crump, who represents Martin's family, however said the photo adds nothing new to the case. Previously released

evidence has indicated Zimmerman was hit in the nose during the fight with Martin.

"Trayvon Martin was defending himself. He had every right to stand his ground to defend himself," Crump said.

O'Mara told Reuters that prosecutors in May had given him a grainy black-and-white photocopy of the image which was taken in the back seat of a Sanford police cruiser. O'Mara said he received the digital image from prosecutors after repeated demands by his office and he posted it Monday on Zimmerman's defence website.

Reuters



Marine Corps General Joseph Dunford testifies at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing in Washington, on 15 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

New commander faces challenge of winding down Afghanistan war

WASHINGTON, 5 Dec—Marine Corps General Joseph Dunford, who takes over as head of international forces in Afghanistan next year, faces the challenge of winding down a war in a country where he has little experience using a strategy he did not devise.

Dunford, whose nomination was confirmed by the Senate on Monday night, will be the fifth commander of the International Security Assistance Force since President Barack Obama took office, a leadership churn that worries Afghan war analysts.

Friends and colleagues describe Dunford, the Marine Corps assistant commandant, as a calm and thoughtful leader who earned the nickname "Fighting Joe" on the battlefields of Iraq by creating conditions for success with careful planning

and harmonious execution. But analysts expressed mixed views on his selection to replace Marine Corps General John Allen.

Some worry about the No 2 Marine's lack of experience in Afghanistan and his vocal support for President Barack Obama's plan to withdraw most US forces by the end of 2014. That could make him reluctant to ask for more time and troops if conditions on the ground are not right for a stable transition, they say.

But others contend that after a dozen years of war, Dunford's job is to execute the strategy he has been given, not reinvent it. And while he may be able to suggest some adjustments to the plan, he has very little room for maneuver as members of the 46-nation coalition edge toward departure.

Reuters

Boeing 787 in emergency landing as inspections ordered

NEW YORK, 5 Dec—On the same day one of its new Dreamliners made an emergency landing because of a mechanical problem, Boeing said US regulators had ordered the entire fleet of 787 jets to be inspected for a possible fuel line problem.

The twin mechanical issues, while not necessarily uncommon, were yet another headache for Boeing, a company still working to overcome the negative perception of production problems that delayed delivery of the 787 by 3-1/2 years.

Its latest problem involved a brand new United Airlines 787 Dreamliner with 184 people aboard, which was forced to make an



The Boeing 787 Dreamliner airplane is seen in Long Beach, California on 14 March, 2012.—REUTERS

emergency landing in New Orleans due to an undefined mechanical issue.

Boeing also said on Tuesday the US Federal Aviation Administration was requiring inspections of all 787s in service to confirm

that fuel line connectors had been properly installed.

The checks were recommended after two non-US carriers experienced fuel leaks. Boeing declined to name the carriers.

Japan's All Nippon

Airways, Boeing's Dreamliner launch customer, said on Wednesday it had reported the leak to the FAA and Boeing.

ANA spokesman Yoichi Uchida said the carrier found the fuel leak on 23 October. He said the airline completed inspections of all 16 ANA Dreamliners on Sunday, and that the work did not interrupt scheduling.

Local rival Japan Airlines Co said they too had inspected their six 787s and that flights were unaffected by the checks. It said it had not found any fuel leaks prior to the inspections.

Air India owns three Dreamliners.

Reuters

Arizona border agent arrested for alleged on-duty drug smuggling

PHOENIX, 5 Dec—A US Border Patrol agent has been arrested after he was spotted accepting bundles of marijuana from a suspected Mexican smuggler at an international border fence in Arizona, authorities said on Tuesday.

Aaron Anaya, 25, was taken into custody early on Monday by federal agents who seized 147 pounds (66.6 kg) of marijuana inside three duffel bags from his border patrol vehicle, authorities said in a criminal complaint in US District Court in Phoenix.

Anaya, a US Border Patrol agent since 2010, was charged with possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute and firearm possession during a drug trafficking offense, according to the criminal complaint. Anaya had his

service weapon with him at the time.

The controlled substance count carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and the firearms count is punishable by up to 5 years behind bars.

Anaya's federal public defender could not immediately be reached for comment on Tuesday.

Stephen Martin, the Border Patrol's sector chief for Yuma, Arizona, said the agency was "sorely disappointed by the alleged conduct of one of our own."

"I appreciate the efforts by our law enforcement partners and our own agents to uncover those that violate their oath of office, and hold them accountable for their actions," Martin said in a statement released on Tuesday.

Anaya was arrested

by agents from the FBI-led Southwest Border Corruption Task Force who were conducting surveillance with the help of aircraft in an area between Yuma and Wellton, about 185 miles southwest of Phoenix.

According to a probable cause statement filed with the complaint, agents say they watched as Anaya stopped his patrol vehicle along the border and picked up bales of marijuana tossed over the fence into Arizona from a man on Mexican side.

Anaya was then seen by the agents placing the load into his vehicle before he continued patrolling, the probable cause document said.

The US Department of Homeland Security reports that 129 agents were arrested on corruption charges from 2003 to 2009.—Reuters



Shinya Yamanaka, a professor of Kyoto University, enters a hotel after arriving in Stockholm, Sweden, on 4 Dec, 2012. Yamanaka plans to attend an award ceremony as he and John Gurdon of Britain have jointly won the 2012 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for the discovery that mature cells can be reprogrammed to develop into other cell types.—KYODO NEWS

US diplomat meets UN-AL envoy on Syria

WASHINGTON, 5 Dec—The US State Department said on Tuesday that Deputy Secretary of State William Burns met with UN-Arab League Joint Special Representative for Syria Lakhdar Brahimi and discussed with him the current situation in Syria in Washington.

During their meeting on Monday at the State Department, Burns reiterated the strong US support for Brahimi's mission, according to a written statement issued by the department.

The two noted the "deteriorating security and humanitarian conditions in Syria and the threat to regional security from Syria's continued instability," it added. Brahimi on Friday urged the UN Security Council to act to save Syria from becoming a failed

state. In a briefing to the UN General Assembly on the prolonged Syria crisis, Brahimi said that despite previous difficulties of the 15-member council to reach a resolution on the crisis, "I nevertheless feel that it is here and only here that a credible, implementable process can be put together."

Meanwhile, the United States has ratcheted up its pressure on the Syrian government. President Barack Obama on Monday warned Syrian President Bashar al-Assad of "consequences" in using chemical weapons in the Arab country's 21-month conflict. "The use of chemical weapons is and would be totally unacceptable, and if you make the tragic mistake of using these weapons there will be consequences and you will be held accountable," he said.—Reuters

NATIONAL & LOCAL NEWS

Political reform serves...

(from page 16)
taken into account of the interest and concerns of all stakeholders to ensure that it is beneficial to all parties. Under this new Law, potential investors are not only accorded with varying degrees of privileges related to income, commercial tax, and duties, but also protection of the property, and the profits.

And so foreign investors are warmly welcome to make investments in the Thilawa, Dawei and Kyauk Phyu deep-sea port projects and also in the special economic zones throughout the country.

As Myanmar's economy is an agro-based economy, promoting the manufacturing and service sectors to agriculture are also greatly anticipated.

We believe that we have resources to enrich the region and the world, too.

Our country is endowed with agriculture, marine, forest, oil and gas and minerals that could significantly contribute towards food and energy needs of the region. We also have young work force to take part in different roles in the regional labour market.

Our rich history, diverse culture and different landscapes are good basis for promoting tourism and hospitality services in the region. With that we are looking forwards to seeing increased numbers of tourists from ASEAN and from many other countries in the coming years.

While the reforms are implemented, we will be trying hard to use the opportunities offered to us, by the affluent Asian and ASEAN markets. To improve the skills of our young workforce, necessary qualitative and quantitative

measures are being taken.

Furthermore, to improve the efficiency of the public service, the capacity building civil servants programme for are also introduced too.

Programmes to encourage entrepreneurship are being initiated in Small and Medium size enterprises. A suitable environment that will encourage and promote creativity of the people will be built and nurtured, and large scale investment in ICT sector to ensure a greater access to ICT by the people is already underway.

We believe that our reform measures will bring maximum benefits if they are complemented with the support of international community. In this regard, we are seeking the encouragement and support of regional and global partners.

The twenty-first century Asia is providing a



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends a dinner to mark 9th ASEAN 100 Leadership Forum 2012 at Sedona Hotel.—MNA

lot of favourable conditions for all round developments in this country. We will take these opportunities by strengthening and encouraging the process of regional cooperation and regional integration process. At the same time, we are prepared to meet repairing the railroad section by officials concerned, trains smoothly operate regular runs along the railroad as of 4.30 am on 4 December.

all the challenges that will come across, on our road to democracy.

With our strong resolution to achieve success in political and economic reforms, we believe that we will become a reliable partner and an effective contributor for peace and prosperity in the region.

In conclusion, I wish to state that the reform measures currently taking place in Myanmar are gaining momentum with the support of the countries all over the world.

In light of these achievements, Myanmar is prepared to take greater responsibility in ASEAN and beyond. The opportunity to host the XXVII SEA Games in 2013, and to assume the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2014, provides a golden opportunity for Myanmar to demonstrate that, we're

determine to move forward and to be a responsible member of the international community.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the organizers for their excellent arrangements for this extraordinary forum. I would also like to wish, all the best and success to be with you in the years to come.

After that, CEO Mr Dato Timothy Ong of Asia Inc Forum presented gift to the Vice-President. And the Vice-President had a dinner together with those present. It was also attended by the Union Ministers, intellectuals and intelligentsia, world eminent persons from political, economic and social sectors, entrepreneurs, officials from Yangon Institute of Economics, embassies and media and guests.

MNA

KIA (Kachin) group blast railroad between Mohnyin and Nanma

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—As KIA (Kachin) group destroyed the rail tracks on

Mohnyin-Nanma section by planting mine at 11.30 pm on 3 December, about four-foot

rail track was cut off and four sleepers destroyed.

Thanks to quick



Damage of rail tracks in blast of mine planted by KIA (Kachin) group one mile south of Nanma Station.—MNA



Photo shows already-repaired rail track.

MNA

Stoves distributed as environmental conservation

MEIKTILA, 5 Dec—As part of efforts to implement rural development and poverty alleviation adopted by the State, the Dry Zone Greening Department under the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry held the talks on environmental conservation and presented stoves to the local people in Alekan Model Village of Thazi Township.

On 26 November, the talk was attended by Deputy Commissioner U Tin Maung Soe of Meiktila District General Administration Department, Assistant Director U Soe Tint-1 of Meiktila District Dry Zone Greening Department,

Acting Administrator of Thazi Township General Administration Department U Mang Ko Haul, Staff Officer of Thazi Township Dry Zone Greening Department U Zaw Min Htut and officials, together with over 200 local people at Basic Education Middle School Branch in the village.

After the deputy commissioner had given an address, the assistant director of the DZGD gave talks on environmental conservation.

Staff Officer U Zaw Min Htut explained selection of the village as model village and distributed 80 stoves to the local people. A local spoke words of thanks.

Sports trial for swimmers on 3-4 January

YANGON, 5 Dec—Myanmar Swimming Federation will hold the sports trial for swimming and diving events at National Swimming Pool on U Wisara Road in Dagon Township, here, on 3 and 4 January 2013 to choose selected players for the XXVII SEA Games.

The sports event to be put on record will be men's and women's 1500-m, 800-m, 400-m, 200-m, 100-m and

Dry Zone Greening Department plans to distribute 640 stoves to the district. So far, the department has distributed 480 stoves to the local people.—Myanma Alinn

50-m freestyle, men's and women's 200-m, 100-m and 50-m butterfly, 200-m, 100-m and 50-m breaststroke, 200-m, 100-m and 50-m backstroke and 400-m and 200-m single's four strokes respectively.

The men's and women's diving event will be held at the highboard event.

The athletes may take part in the sports trials and submit applications to the office of the federation at National Swimming Pool on U Wisara Road, not later than 24 December.

For further information, dial 01-378550, 09-8300383 and 09-43114947.

MNA

Public service book corners opened in Dawei

DAWEI, 5 Dec—A public service book corner was set up at Dawei Airport of Taninthayi Region by Taninthayi Region Information and Public Relations Department on 5 November as part of efforts for realizing the public service media to be able to broaden horizon of the people across the nation.

One more public service

book corner was opened near the Hi-Fi speed boat ticket booth near Myoma Market and tuk-tuk stand in Dawei on 1 December.

On the opening day, boat ticket buyers, tuk-tuk passengers and shoppers in addition to local people read daily newspapers, various books, magazines, cartoons and novels and weekly news journals.—Myanma Alinn

Talks on taxation given in Labutta

LABUTTA, 5 Dec—The talks on taxation was given at Basic Education High School No 2 in Labutta on 16 November afternoon.

Head of Township

Internal Revenue Department U Aung Moe gave talks on income tax, commercial tax, Aungbalay tax and stamp duty to teachers and students.

Myanma Alinn

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 6 December, 2012

Transparency, all-in-one solution

Myanmar is recognized by the world as a rapidly liberalizing country. As a country trying to rise from years of the deprivation of mismanagement, the resource-rich country will have to work even harder. The country's status being blessed by the nature is both an opportunity and a threat, perhaps neglected by many.

As the country has opened up to the world and the new business-friendly foreign investment law has been enacted, eyes of foreign investors are sweeping across the nation to explore potential investment areas for them. If the country failed to set high values on its natural resources and to deliver regulations to protect the nature from excessive exploitation in time, it will later suffer from the curse of the natural resources. It would be really hard to cope with the hustle and bustle after years of numbness.

The most important thing in reforming the country is inviting the participation of the people in major decisions that could define the future of their own nation. The government needs to release details of its operations around the country and make data accessible to the public. The greater transparency may ward off 'instigators' or 'manipulators' and offer alternatives apart from taking to the street to the public.

There are many options to establish connectivity between the government and the people. The web site of the President Office is the best example where the people can directly send their message to the President.

If the people are not informed all the steps the government is taking, the misunderstanding will continue to endure.

It will also contribute much to the fight against corruption and bribery and help the government implement its ambitious goal for 'Clean Government and Good Governance'.



Cartoon
Maung Maung San Lwin
(GAD)

Beware of Fire

ARTICLE

SARSODAW DAY

BY BA THAN

It was on the 1st Waxing Day of Nattaw 1306 of Myanmar Era, (15th November 1944) that the first ever *Sarsodaw Nai or Myanmar Literati Day or Writers' Day* was inaugurated. Commemoration of the 67th anniversary of the auspicious day which falls on 1st Waxing of Nattaw, 1373 ME (AD 2011) was celebrated by holding the obeisance ceremony towards 162 doyen writers and journalists 80 years and above, beneficiaries of the generous donations by the public sponsored by the State, MWJA and individual donors.

The Sarsodaw Day had its obscure beginning around 1944 in Kungyan-gone town in the Yangon District during the terminal years of the Japanese Occupation. *Pyinnya Tagun Literary Association* was then gainfully engaged on the research and compilation of a dictionary and encyclopedia. The EC members thought of an idea to celebrate U Ponnya Day to honour the famous scholar and poet Salay U Ponnya the following year. The proposal was submitted to the Pyinnya Tagun Association Headquarters at Yangon. The Yangon EC members were of opinion that it would be more proper to notify a particular date to honour the literati in general than to specify one individual. A meeting was held on 8th May 1944 to deliberate on the issue. The meeting resolved to celebrate "Bama Literati Day" instead of the original proposal to honour Scholar poet U Ponnya individually. It was also resolved to notify 1st waxing of the month of Nattaw to be celebrated annually.

The first Sarsodaw Day was held on 1st Waxing Day of Nattaw, 1306 ME (15th November 1944) at Myaing theatre situated at the premise of the Kandawgyi Lake. It was also held in all parts of the country with various literary activities. In 1950 Sarsodaw Day the celebration assumed the role of national significance for wider participation. In addition to the normal activities a traditional ceremony to pay obeisance to the aged scholars was

inaugurated from 1980 with only 10 scholars in attendance. From 1994 the number of scholar beneficiaries was increased to 34 from Yangon Division alone and later expanded to the whole country in 1996 wherein 66 attended. The obeisance ceremony was continued yearly, and the attendance in the 67th anniversary, 1st Waxing Nattaw, 1373 ME (AD 2011) totaled 162 out of whom 28 doyen literati were 90 and above, the oldest alive then being U Aye Pe (Taing-yin May), 98 years, d/b: 23rd November 1913.

It is commonly said that the cultural heritage and legacy of a country depends on the quality of literature, culture, religion, ethics, social mores, codes of conduct, morality discipline, and the general level of literacy among the mass populace at that particular period of time. It is the sublime mission of the author to informally recount the legacy of past generations of Myanmar eminent scholars both venerable monks and lay people more on random commentary of a free lance writer as he is now, and thus commemorate the 68th anniversary which falls on 2012.

The empires of the Middle East, viz: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, etc, and the Oriental empires like India and China, reached the peak of development, prosperity, power and glory, circa 4000 years before Christ leaving behind vestiges of their grandeur and magnificence in many ways for our generations to wonder. Hellenic kingdoms of Athens and Sparta left legacies of astronomy, mathematics and higher science as well as ethics and philosophy propounded by most learned scholars Plato, Aristotle *et al.* The earliest and the foremost rule of the people by direct democracy was the legacy of the Greeks. Then the Roman Empire of Julius Caesar, Mark Antony, and Augustus Octavius followed, overshadowed by the intrigues, wiles and wickedness of enchantress Queen Cleopatra. Over Julius and Mark. Legend lingered "If Cleopatra's nose were an inch shorter, the history of Rome would

have changed." However, viewing the bust of Cleopatra from old coins of Egypt, her face did not attract much impression which made me suspect of her other indiscreet qualities.

Myanmar's "MYA-CETI" stone inscription, (circa 11th century during King Kyinsittha's reign) was chiseled in four ancient oriental languages written in four faces: Pali, Pyu, Mon and Myanmar. Such evidence had attested to the high level of literacy in ancient Kingdoms of Pyu, Sri Kittara and Bagan kingdoms and succeeding dynasties of sovereign rule. Buddhism propounded by Lord Buddha Gautama who attained Enlightenment in BC 563 in Nepal was the main beacon of learning and the language of Buddhism was delivered in the medium of Pali. In India before the advent of Buddhism, Hindi and Sanscrit were the foremost languages of the learned elite. In ancient Myanmar Kingdoms of the early centuries of power and dominance Pyu was the foremost language.

With the rise of King Anuruddha (Anawratha) in the 11th Century AD and propagation of Buddhism as the religion of the entire kingdom there was a rise in the study of Pali, Sanscrit, Pyu and later Myanmar language. Such boom in literary pursuits was recorded by the inscriptions in the *Myacedi* a standing evidence of the anthology of development of Myanmar literature since the ancient years. The legend goes that the Baganites spoke in riddles coined in verse such was the high level of literacy. Monastic education was the highest form of erudition spearheaded by the scholar monks. The main theme was Buddhist canonical teachings in prose and verse.

The foremost scholars of repute in the Bagan and Inwa eras were Ashin Maha Sila Vumsa and Ashin Maha Ratthasara maha hteras. Many notable verse and prose bloomed in the vast universe of literature for posterity to admire and emulate. Next came the four maha Hteras whose missionary rise was

prophesied by the growth of the four "Pay shoots": "Pay lay pin'Shin Lay Par".

In the ensuing dynasties of Myanmar sovereign rule, many learned monk and lay scholars bloomed with prose and poetic compositions, like Ratu. Rakan, Lai-cho, tay htat, Maha Jatakas, ballad, drama, plays, satire and parodies etc. Poetic compositions depicting the life of rural community were composed by champion of the rural poor, poet Minister Padetha Raja, to the like of Williams Wordsworth, poet of the British Rustics. There were two poets who leave lasting impressions on their loyal poetic tribute to their kings even when they were about to be executed. One was Minister 'Ananta Suriya' with his poem "When one prospers one is bound to die." The minister poet sanely composed the poem and gave it to the executioners to submit to his majesty only after his execution. The amnesty order came too late to save him. The other was the famous writer, dramatist poet Salay U Ponnya, favourably compared to Williams Shakespeare of Stratford-on-Avon. Scholar poet U Ponnya was also executed by Mayor of Mandalay due to complicity over a palace rebellion. When King Mindon issued the Stay Order it was too late to save him, making His Majesty groan the memorable words: "the dog had murdered the man." Then there were lady poets with their exquisite and touching art and aestheticism like Nanmadaw Ma Mya Lay, Mai Khway, Princess Hlaing Hteik Khaung Tin.

In the British Colonial Rule many activist writers instigated the anti-imperialist movement to regain sovereignty and right of self determination. Fiery red patriotic literature published by the Red Dragon "Nagani" house emulating Sinn Fein the Irish Revolutionary, was instrumental in instilling the anti colonial movements, the Thakhin

(See page 9)

NATIONAL & ARTICLE

Myanmar, Brunei focus on strengthening bilateral ...

(from page 1)
human resources. Ways and means were being sought for national development as soon as possible with the help of experts.

He said the country saw better relations with global nations. Geographically, it had a huge market and strategically, it lied on the place linking South Asia and East Asia. Being a resources-rich country, establishment of SMEs initiated by the King would profitable for both countries. There would be many prospects for energy cooperation. The President agreed to cooperate with Brunei which is well-experienced in oil and gas exploration and production in energy cooperation.

Coordination would be made between the two ministries concerned for singing of double taxation avoidance agreement that would have the benefit of economic cooperation. The President called for direct flight between the

two countries in order to be able to contribute towards better economic cooperation. He urged to start the plan for establishment of joint commission for foreign affairs as quick as possible.

He called for more cooperation in education, health, social and cultural sectors. He expressed thanks for seeing Myanmar students taking courses in Brunei University. He also expressed thanks for a programme that allowed staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to have a joint training that would benefits them in dealing with matters while Myanmar takes the chair of ASEAN.

The President made a wish for well-being and more prosperous of the King, queen and royal family and citizens of Brunei. He said he was looking forwards to seeing you in Myanmar.

Next, Brunei King replied that he expressed thanks for being invited to Myanmar. He would come and visit Myanmar

at an opportune time. He thanked 500 intellectuals and intelligentsia from Myanmar in Brunei for their contributions in development tasks of his country.

He thanked the President for making clarification on recent political and economic changes in Myanmar and Rakhine incident. He said that he understood that it was a complicated issue which has something to do with race and religion. He recognized Myanmar government efforts for restoring peace and stability in the region.

The King vowed to increase closer relations between the ministries concerned of both countries for successful implementation of the tasks of ASEAN Chair.

He thanked the President for having a chance to exchange views on bilateral relations and further cooperation on a mutually beneficial basis in future. Next, the President and delegation members left there for Empire Hotel & Country Club on a motorcade.

MNA

Sumitomo Corp (Nay Pyi Taw branch) opened

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint attended the opening ceremony of Sumitomo Corporation (Nay Pyi Taw branch) from Japan at Thingaha Hotel, here,

yesterday. He felt heartiest congratulations on opening of the branch and would like to join hands with the Corp for development of economic cooperation.

Deputy Minister Dr Pwint Hsan, Senior

Advisor Mr Motoyuki Oka to Sumitomo Corporation, Chairman and CEO Mr Kohei Hirao of Sumitomo Corporation and officials also attended the opening ceremony.

MNA

CPPCC delegation concludes visit

YANGON, 5 Dec—The delegation led by Mr. Xu Zhenhuan of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and Foreign Affairs Committee visited Mobile Switching Center-MSC of Myanma Economic Corporation on Pyay Road,

Mayangon Township, here, this morning. Project Manager Col Khin Maung Soe (Retd) and officials of ZTE Co explained the tasks being undertaken.

After that, the delegation went back home by air this afternoon. They were being seen

off by Amyotha Hluttaw International Relations Committee Member and Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Khin Maung (a) U Aung Kyaw Oo, officials of Hluttaw office and Chinese Embassy to Myanmar at the Yangon International Airport.

MNA



Mr. Xu Zhenhuan of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and Foreign Affairs Committee seen at Yangon International Airport before their departure.

MNA

SARSODAW DAY

(from page 8)
was the founding of the movement, the Dobama Asiayone, and boycott movements. The National Anthem, the peacock flags were emblems of the Myanmar master race. In the same trend, a new literary movement "*Khit San Sarpay*" pioneered by Saya Zawgyi, Minthuwan, Theikpan Maung Wa pseudonym of U Sein Tin ICS *et al* had made bold incursions into modern literature. The rise of Myanmar translation on classic English literary works appeared in the literary spectrum rendered by Myanmar writers well versed in the English and Myanmar, like '*A Thousand and One Nights*', '*East Lynne*', '*Gone with the Wind*', '*Sherlock Holmes*', by the famous literary giants Thakhin Ba Thoung, Sayagyi Shwe Oo Daung etc. Original writings in English by reputable scholars like Dr. Htin Aung made breakthrough with original presentation and commentary on the flaws of Myanmar history by non-Myanmar historians. A laudable contribution of the British Education System in the Rangoon University

was the founding of the *Burma Research Society* around 1911, where in-depth and far reaching research presentations by eminent researchers, academics and scholars were read and regularly published in the *Journal (JBRS)*. In that manner rich legacies were endowed for succeeding generations.

The Japanese Occupation Era (1942-1945) also gave rise to patriotic literature military marching songs, songs extolling heroism, sacrifice for the nation under fascist repression heralding the anti-fascist movements and revolution in 1945, finally routing out the Japanese from Myanmar soil.

The Sarsodaw Day, which was founded in November 1944 during the Japanese Occupation Period has now received a new impetus after Independence in 1948. Momentous strides were boosted to upgrade Myanmar literature, and literary talents commensurate with the national economic, social and educational developments. In 1947 just a year before Independence, the landmark *Sorrento Villa Economic*

Plan was formulated for implementation immediately following Independence. Myanmar Translation Society was also founded for promotion of translation works on classical literature from English and other foreign languages into Myanmar with the motto, "*To Dispel darkness and bring forth Light*", (*A-hmoung Khwin yway A-lin Hsaung Aunt*). Later Sarpay Beikman became the torch bearer of the literary mission. Many pioneering works aimed at development of Myanmar literature was spontaneously activated. The Sarsodaw Day was also celebrated annually to help each other *mutatis mutantis* along parallel tracts.

As a pioneering venture a Literary Award Scheme, in the pattern of Pulitzer Prizes was introduced beginning with National Literary Awards on published books of the previous year. Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award was also introduced to encourage aspiring writers whose manuscripts could not see print due to many difficulties beyond their control. Such award winning manuscripts were printed and published to members and sold to the public, entitling the authors to compete

again in the printed book category in the National Literary Award Scheme in the ensuing years. The cash prizes awarded to the winners in their respective categories were also periodically increased.

In 1992 a pioneering scenario was initiated whereby private literary award foundations came to play a significant role to complement the promotion of literature and literary talents in Myanmar on a national scale. The foremost trailblazer was Pakokku U Ohn Pe, who donated Kyats 76 lakhs and 1279.00 to set up a literary Foundation in 31st May 1992, to be named as "*Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award*". Next to follow in line were: "*Dr. Tin Shwe Literary Award*", "*Tun Foundation Literary Award*", and "*Thuta Swesone Literary Award*".

In effect, Myanmar literary awards are crucial in many ways. They encourage the budding writers to blossom into maturity, achievement and recognition.

They also accredit seasoned writers the incentive and impetus to produce more aesthetic works to benefit the literary world at large. And last but

not the least they encourage the publishers to publish literary works to benefit the society. And the donors who essentially own or run publishing houses are the most integral components to boost the literary endeavours.

With the combined efforts of the State, Sarpay Beikman, and the philanthropic private donor foundations, the yearly literary award competitions are held and fitting prizes and citations in respectable categories including Lifetime Literary Awards are honoured to the deserving writers and journalists in the annual Sarsodaw Month. The Sarsodaw Day also hold an auspicious ceremony to honour seasoned writers and journalists who reach 80 on the respective year of Puja.

The 68th anniversary of the Sarsodaw Day will fall on 1st Waxing Nattaw of 1374 Myanmar Era, (14th December 2012, Friday). The Ceremony to pay obeisance to the doyen literati who reach the age of 80 is already in full swing with profound respect, generosity and dedication.

The new scholars who have reached 80 will join the illustrious assembly and sadly some will no longer be with us, as we the living here

mourn their irreplaceable loss.

It was indeed the heritage of our forefathers and it is also the bounden duty of our successors to propagate and perpetuate this literary and cultural tradition. Maybe, counting by mere numbers, those who were fittingly honoured with prizes and citations, and those doyen 80s who were honoured with respect and gratitude through the successive Sarsodaw Days up to the 67th anniversary ceremony are only just a few.

However there remain many, yet unknown, unacknowledged, unhonoured and unsung in the anonymous multitude. It will have to be recorded with utmost sincerity that these literati rendered their accumulated knowledge, experience and expertise not for favour or pelf, but for sheer joy of doing so. And by itself they already had their rewards, the '*pitti*' of contributing to society.

With this article on the 68th Anniversary of the Sarsodaw Day which falls on 1st Waxing Day of Nattaw 1374, 14th December 2012 the author commemorates this illustrious occasion!

Vice-Chairmen of Union-level Peace-making Committee visits Mongla Special Region (4)



Photo shows Union-level Peace-making Committee holds talks with officials from Mongla Special Region (4) at special region (4) headquarters.
MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—Vice-Chairmen of Union-level Peace-making Committee Union Minister at the President Office U Aung Min and Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw National Races Affairs Internal Peace-making Committee U Thein Zaw and members Union Minister Lt-Gen Thein Htay, U Khin Maung Soe and U Ohn Myint, State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Maung Maung Swe, Commanders Brig-Gen Aung Soe and Maj-Gen Than Tun Oo and officials met Chairman of Mongla Special Region (4) U Sai Lin, vice-chairmen and members at special region (4) headquarters on 3 December and discussed matters related to establishing peace.

Non-disintegration of the national solidarity and Non-disintegration of the sovereignty in 23 years of making peace. He expressed thanks for the government's efforts for the development of Mongla region and reported on necessities of the region.

Vice-Chairman U Aung Min said the peace-making committee has been taking measures based on cease-fire, regional development and participation of all national races. The Union government and the state government would fulfill the needs for the development of the region, he added.

Vice-Chairman U Thein Zaw conveyed wishes of the President, Vice-Presidents and Hluttaw Speakers for well-beings of Chairman U Sai Lin and Mongla people.

He urged the officials of the Mongla Special Region (4) to move forwards with

added momentum as Mongla region has already achieved stability and basic foundation for regional developments. The signing ceremonies between the government and special region-4 were held for two times in Union level and one time in state level. He spoke words of praise for strict adherence to the points agreed in the treaty. He continued that Hluttaw had approved the bills necessary for the people to enjoy all-round development submitted by representatives elected by the people in accord with the Constitution. He called for collaborative efforts towards emergence of a democratic nation as inspired by all national brethren.

Next, Union Minister U Thein Htay explained plans for attending to the needs of Mongla region such as road, school, hospital, agriculture and livestock

breeding, housing and communications. Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe gave an account of technical assistance and manpower for availability of electricity in the region. Commander Maj-Gen Than Tun Oo, Shan State Chief Minister Sao Aung Myat, and Commander Brig-Gen Aung Soe elaborated on plans for development of Mongla region.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Thein Htay presented K 93 million for development of Mongla region and Union Minister U Ohn Myint layers and broilers to Chairman U Sai Lin.

The Vice-Chairman and party visited sugar mill of the special region-4 in Silu region of Shan State. Then they proceeded to Silu Basic Education Middle School where they cordially greeted students and presented cash assistance for the teachers.

MNA

World Economic Forum (WEF) on East Asia-2013 in June

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—A work coordination meeting on convening the World Economic Forum (WEF) on East Asia-2013 in June, 2013, was held at the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism here today.

The meeting was participated by a delegation from WEF led by Senior Director of WEF Mr Sushant Rao.

In his key-note address, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung said it is expected that more delegates from governments and

private sector, entrepreneurs, experts and guests would participate in the upcoming forum in Myanmar than the previous ones and stressed the need for providing detailed information to the WEF delegation.

During the meeting, the WEF delegation asked queries and the Union minister and delegates from ministries concerned answered them.

The WEF delegation will hold discussion with officials from ministries concerned until 6 December.—MNA

Exchange of scholars discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye discussed drawing policy formulation in basic education, primary curriculum revision and strengthening pre-service teacher education in Education College and on-going tasks with Deputy Director General Mr Jun Sakuma of JICA (Japan) at his office, here this morning. The Ministry of

Education and JICA have cooperated in drawing primary curriculum, teacher education and prospects of learning education since 1998.

Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University President and party paid a call to him. They had a cordial discussion on exchanging scholars, sending scholars, teacher education and tourism education today.

MNA

SEA Games liaison officer course concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—Second liaison officer course was conducted by Sports and Physical Education Institute (Mandalay) at its hall in Chanmyathazi Township yesterday.

The course aimed at recruiting young liaison officers for XXVII SEA Games to be hosted in 2013. Director-General

U Myo Hlaing of Sports and Physical Education Department addressed the concluding ceremony.

Deputy Director-General U Naw Taung awarded winners in paper-reading contest.

They also visited construction site of the sports ground for the SEA Games in the township.—MNA

Mega Link Trading Co Ltd wins tender for 8 Camera OB Van, 5 Camera Flyaway Video Kit

- The Ministry of Information put the announcement on the Mirror Daily, the Myanma Alinn Daily and the New Light of Myanmar Daily on 25, November, 2012, inviting companies who want to re-state the tender prices they offered and to compete again for the tender for 8 Camera OB Van and 5 Camera Flyaway Video Kit at 9 am at the Office No 7 of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw on 3 December, 2012.
- In accord with the announcement of the Ministry of Information's Procurement Committee, five companies submitted tenders at 9 am at the Ministry of Information on 3 December, 2012. The five companies and their offers are as follow.

8 Camera OB Van

No.	Company	Previous Tender Price (USD)	Re-stated Tender Price on 3 Dec. 2012 (USD)
(a)	Mega Link Trading Co Ltd	3,459,000	2,550,000
(b)	Myanmar World Distribution Co Ltd (MWD)	2,990,000	2,520,000
(c)	China Digital Video (Beijing) Co Ltd (CDV)	2,795,833	2,690,000
(d)	Digital Solution and Service Co Ltd (D2S)	3,000,000	2,780,000
(e)	TMW Enterprise Ltd	2,930,000	2,770,000

5 Camera Flyaway Video Kit

No.	Company	Previous Offer Price (USD)	Amended Offer Price on 3 Dec. 2012 (USD)
(a)	Mega Link Trading Co Ltd	1,200,000	870,000
(b)	Digital Solution Service Co Ltd (D2S)	1,000,000	880,000
(c)	TMW Enterprise Ltd	900,000	1,030,000

- Of two companies Myanmar World Distribution Col Ltd (MWD) and Mega Link Trading Co Ltd which offered least prices for 8 Camera OB Van, the Committee have selected the Mega Link Trading Co Ltd and approved its winning for the 8 Camera OB Van at USD2,550,000, considering that Mega Link Trading Co Ltd was fitted to supply the need of the ministry.
- The Committee has found that of three companies which competed for the 5 Camera Flyaway Video Kit, materials from the Mega Link Trading Co Ltd and Digital Solution and Service Co Ltd (D2S), which offered lowest prices, fitted them on technology ground. The Committee has selected the Mega Link Trading Co Ltd and approved its winning for the 5 Camera Flyaway Video Kit at the price of USD 870,000, the lowest price.
- The Procurement Committee hereby announced the selection of tender for 8 Camera OB Van and 5 Camera Flyaway Video Kit.

**Procurement Committee
Ministry of Information
Ph: 067-412323; 067-79474; 067-79392**

WORLD

China supports positive political process in Yemen

UNITED NATIONS, 5 Dec—China supports Yemen in continuing to promote peaceful and orderly political process, a Chinese diplomat said here on Tuesday.

China's deputy permanent representative to the UN, Wang Min, made the remarks at an open UN Security Council meeting on the situation in the Middle East.

Positive progress has been made in politically transitional process in Yemen. The government of Yemen has also drafted transitional plan for national

strategy and development, mapping out the blueprint for the future development of the country, said Wang, who stressed that China welcomed the positive development taking place there.

Yemen is still confronted with many challenges, warned Wang, who reiterated that the political process should continue to stick to the principle of the Yemeni people playing a leading role.

"The international community should fully respect the sovereignty, independence, unity and

territorial integrity of Yemen, fully respect the right of Yemeni people to choose their own path of national development," Wang said. "China supports various parties in Yemen, in accordance with relevant resolutions of the Security Council, in implementing the initiative of the Gulf Cooperation Council and its implementation mechanism, solving differences through dialogue and consultations, as well as launching national dialogue conference on time."

Xinhua



Czech President Vaclav Klaus (Front L) and Hungarian President Janos Ader (Front R) inspect the guard of honour during a welcoming ceremony in Budapest, Hungary, on 4 Dec, 2012.

XINHUA

Australia to implement aid package for Manus Island

CANBERRA, 5 Dec—Australia will implement the assistance package for Manus Province, Papua New Guinea, comprising road upgrades, improved education and medical infrastructure, and support for economic development, Immigration Minister Chris Bowen announced on Wednesday.

"When Australia and PNG agreed to open the Manus Island regional processing centre, we said that we wanted to ensure the arrangement would benefit all involved—especially the people of Manus Island," he said in a statement.

The assistance includes essential medical equipment worth about 230,000 (almost 240,431 USD), a doubling of Australia's commitment to education and upgrades to roads and other transport infrastructure.

Reuters

Xinhua



Jia Qinglin (L), chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), meets with Costa Rican President Laura Chinchilla in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 4 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

Woman listed as world's oldest person dies in United States at 116

MIAMI, 5 Dec—A 116-year-old woman listed by Guinness World Records as the oldest living person anywhere around the globe died on Tuesday in a nursing home in the US state of Georgia soon after having her hair done. Besse Cooper died peacefully at the Park Place nursing home in Monroe, Georgia, according to her son Sidney Cooper.

"She looked real good when she passed away," the 77-year-old Cooper told Reuters, saying his mother

died quietly and without suffering.

"She got up this morning, had a big old breakfast and got her hair fixed," he said. "It's just like she got up planning to do it."

He said his mother, who taught school until her first child was born in 1929, had four children. All of them survived her and are still in good health, he said.

"She lived in three centuries. Don't many people do that," said Cooper. He added that his mother died

after a brief bout of breathing trouble that put her back in bed after lunch.

Besse Cooper was first certified as the world's oldest person by Guinness World Records in January 2011.

The title was stripped from her for a few months when it was discovered that Brazilian-born Maria Gomes Valentim, a fellow super centenarian, was 48 days older. Guinness gave the title back to Cooper after Gomes Valentim died in June 2011.

Reuters

Xinhua

Suspect "implicates" self in death of man pushed onto NY subway track

NEW YORK, 5 Dec—New York police said on Tuesday that a suspect they questioned in the death of a 58-year-old man who had been pushed onto a subway track and killed by a train on Monday has implicated himself in the incident.

The train had crushed Ki-Suck Han in front of horrified commuters after he was shoved onto the track as the southbound Q subway pulled into the station at 49th

Street near Times Square. The assailant's image was captured on subway security cameras.

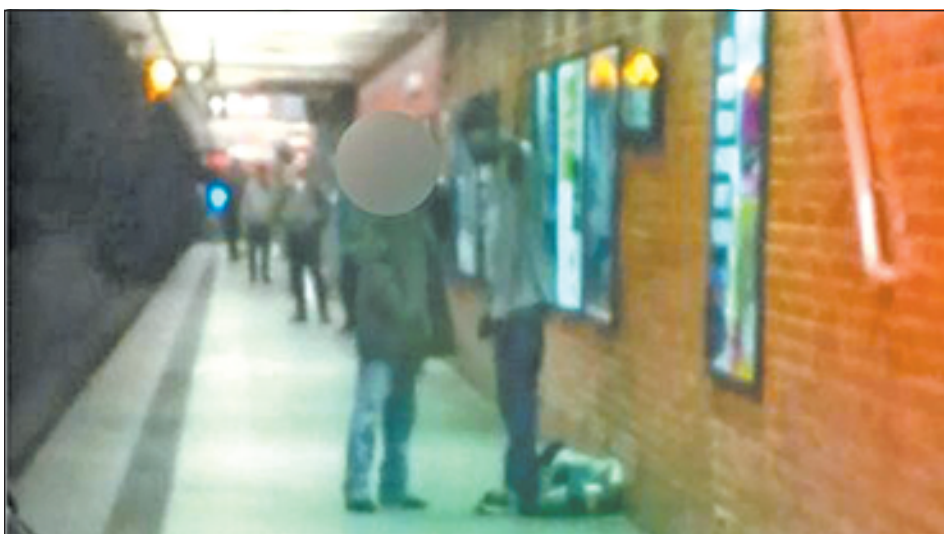
Police spokesman Paul Browne said on earlier Tuesday that detectives were questioning a man who resembles the assailant after locating him near 50th Street and Seventh Avenue, not far from the station where the subway incident occurred.

Browne later said the

man, 30, had "implicated himself in the incident" to detectives. Browne declined to identify the suspect. The *New York Post* identified the man as Niem Davis, a street vendor from the borough of Queens.

Witnesses saw the suspect talking to himself before the altercation, leading to suspicion he may have been mentally disturbed, police said.

Reuters



Two men are seen talking on a New York City subway platform in this framegrab from a video released by the New York City Police Department on 3 Dec, 2012.

REUTERS

Chinese artists perform in a show marking the closing of the Year of Chinese Culture in Turkey 2012 in the national opera house in Ankara, Turkey, on 4 Dec, 2012.

XINHUA



Illinois moves to give drivers licenses to illegal immigrants

SPRINGFIELD, 5 Dec—Illinois took a major step on Tuesday toward granting drivers licenses to illegal immigrants, which would make it the most populous US state to allow undocumented migrants to legally drive.

The Democratic-controlled state Senate voted 41-14 to approve licenses for illegal immigrants to raucous cheers from Hispanics in the legislative gallery.

If the measure becomes law, Illinois would join only two other states, Washington and New Mexico, in granting such drivers licenses. Utah allows driving permits.

On 1 January, California will allow immigrants with

federal work permits to receive licenses. After taking a drubbing at the polls last month when Democratic President Barack Obama won re-election with 66 percent of Hispanics backing his bid, half of the Illinois Senate's Republicans who voted on Tuesday supported the proposal.

At a Press conference, Illinois state Senate Republican leader Christine Radogno, and House Republican leader Tom Cross said Illinois could no longer ignore the presence of illegal immigrants, who are driving without licenses and insurance.

"They are here and they are with us, some of them not

even of their own volition. But I guess we expect these people to ride their bicycles to work," Radogno said.

Senate President John J Cullerton, a Chicago Democrat, thanked Republicans for their support on the measure. "Today's action acknowledges a simple reality: a quarter of a million undocumented drivers are driving to work, dropping their kids off at school and contributing to our economy," said Cullerton in a statement. "This legislation will ensure that this population has the opportunity to become trained, tested, licensed and insured drivers."

Reuters

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (673)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (673) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the by-laws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 8th DECEMBER 2012 (NATIONAL DAY), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

Two Mexican men charged in
death of Coast Guard officer

US Coast Guard Coxswain Petty Officer 2nd Class Terrell Horne (R) points the way as Lt Colonel Rasheed Mansoor R M Al-Borashid, of Qatar's Coast Guard steers a 47-foot Motor Lifeboat through Charleston Harbour in this 15 March, 2004 handout photo courtesy of the US Coast Guard.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 5 Dec—Two Mexican nationals were charged on Monday in the death of a US Coast Guard petty officer who was thrown from his search vessel when it was rammed by a suspected drug-smuggling boat off the California coast. Jose Meija-Leyva and Manuel Beltran-Higuera were each charged in US District Court in Los Angeles with killing an officer of the United States, US Attorney's spokesman Thom Mrozek said. Meija-Leyva and Beltran-Higuera were both ordered held without bond during a brief court appearance on Monday afternoon, Mrozek said. A preliminary hearing was scheduled for 17 December.

Defence attorneys for Meija-Leyva and Beltran-Higuera could not immediately be reached for com-

ment. Prosecutors say the two men were aboard a 30-foot (9-metre) fishing boat known as a "panga" in an inlet of California's Santa Cruz Island called Smuggler's Cove when it was approached by a small, inflatable Coast Guard search vessel early on Sunday morning.

According to an affidavit filed by prosecutors, when the Coast Guard boat was about 20 feet away, the panga boat turned and rammed it, throwing Chief Petty Officers Terrell Horne III and Brandon Langdon overboard.

Horne, a 34-year-old, 14-year Coast Guard veteran, was struck in the head by a propeller blade, suffering a traumatic head injury. He was later pronounced dead. Langdon sustained an knee injury.

Reuters

Ministry of Industry
No(3) Heavy Industries Enterprise
Tendering (Local/ Foreign Enterprises)

1. The following industries/ factories are invited to tender as joint Venture or Leasing or Piece Rate:

(a) Asbestos Cement Plant (Hmawbi)	Leasing
(b) Ceramic Factory (Mawlamine)	Leasing/ Joint Venture
(c) No-36 HI (Kyaukse) Laminate Glass Production	Piece Rate
(d) Glass Factory (Pathein)	Leasing
(e) Available Land (95.25 Acres) owned by Asbestos Cement Plant (Hmawbi)	Leasing
(f) Available Land (18.53 Acres) owned by Ceramic Factory(Mawlamine)	Leasing

2. Private and Foreign Investors are required to submit proposals to No(3) HIE, MOI, Nay Pyi Taw on the last target date of (12-12-2012) and orientation will be held to bidders.

3. Following facts are required to declare during discussion.

(a) Company name/ registration	(c) Production Capacity	(e) Equity
(b) Investment type	(d) Investment amount	

4. The following numbers can be reached for more-details.

No(3) Heavy Industries Enterprise: 067-408296, 067-408208, 067-408160, Fax: 067-408064

Ministry of Information
Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise
Invitation for open tender of
Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise
(branch office, Dawei) to build two
storey RC building

1. Open tenders are invited to build two storey RC building for Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise (branch office, Dawei) under the Ministry of Information.

2. Application forms of open tenders may be taken out from Office No.7, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw from 09:30 hour to 16:30 hour from (7-12-2012) to (20-12-2012) during weekdays.

3. The open tenders are submitted to Office No. 7 Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw, in the presence of the members of the tender committee from 09:30 hr to 16:30 hr on (21-12-2012).

The tenders, later then the designated date, will not be considered.

4. Forms of open tender, Architecture Type and detailed information may be inquired by following address.

Procurement Committee
Ministry of Information
Office No. 7, Nay Pyi Taw
Tel:412327, 534574

Syrian spokesman flees
country, diplomat says

DAMASCUS, 5 Dec—A Syrian foreign ministry spokesman, who was the most public face of Bashar al-Assad's government as it battled a 20-month-old uprising, has fled the country, a diplomat in the region said on Monday.

Jihad al-Makdissi, who is in his 40s, previously worked at the Syrian embassy in London and returned to Damascus a year ago to serve as spokesman for the ministry, defending the government's crackdown on the revolt against Assad's rule.

He had little influence in a system largely run by the security apparatus and the military. But Assad's opponents will see the loss of such a high profile figure, if confirmed, as further evidence of a system crumbling from within.

Lebanon's al-Manar Television, citing govern-

ment sources, said Makdissi was sacked for making statements that did not reflect the government's position.

He was rarely seen in the media in recent weeks. His mobile telephone was switched off and there was no immediate comment in Syrian state media. The pan-Arab news channel *Al Arabiya* said Makdissi had left Beirut and was on his way to London, where he was expected to remain.

The military has been trying to seal off the city, using heavy bombardment and air raids to try to drive rebels back. Over 56 people were killed around Damascus alone on Sunday, with 200 dead across the country.

Damascus itself has not been free of unrest. Rebel-held southern districts have been bombarded heavily, activists say. The

NATO-Russia
discussion on
patriot
missiles in
Turkey

BEIJING, 5 Dec—The 28 NATO allies are set to meet in Brussels on Tuesday and Wednesday. The meetings will focus on whether or not to station Patriot missiles in Turkey.

Unlike the past, the NATO-Russia Council Meeting is to be held first on Tuesday, because NATO expects to communicate with Russia before they make a decision. NATO says it will make it clear to Russia that stationing Patriot missiles in Turkey is completely for the purpose of defence.—Xinhua

Heating
resumes in NE
China city
after three
days

HARBIN, 5 Dec—A heating system malfunction that froze some 23,000 households in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, for three days was corrected on Monday night.

Local resident Wang Ri reported that indoor temperatures had climbed to 18 degrees Celsius on Tuesday morning. Known as China's "ice city," Harbin was hit by two blizzards following Friday's heat disruption, with outdoor temps dropping to almost negative 20 degrees Celsius over a three-day period. The municipal heating supply office said the failure was caused by cracked heating pipes that were in a state of disrepair.

Song Xibin, mayor of Harbin, has urged a thorough overhaul of the city's heating pipeline system as a result of the incident. Wang Xin, general manager of Harbin Heating Supply Co Ltd, said that although the city has already asked heating companies to fix the pipes, many of the companies lack the funds to do so because of increasing costs for thermal power generation. Wang said similar heating failures will likely happen again if no immediate solutions are presented.—Xinhua



Syrians try to cross the border from the Syrian town of Ras al-Ain to the Turkish border town of Ceylanpinar after an air strike on 3 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported fierce clashes around the Tishreen military hospital in the northern Barzeh district and a car bomb in the southern area of Tadamon.

The conflict has grown increasingly bloody in recent months, as rebels began to contest Assad's power around the capital as well as in Aleppo, Syr-

ia's largest city. More than 40,000 people have died in the conflict, with hundreds more killed each week.

The United Nations said on Monday it was withdrawing "all non-essential international staff" from Syria because of deteriorating security, and was restricting remaining staff to Damascus.

Reuters

ENTERTAINMENT

“Wild daro?” wins 2012 buzzword award

TOKYO, 5 Dec—“Wild daro?” (I’m wild, aren’t I?), the signature phrase of



Comedian Sugi-chan utters his signature phrase “Wild daro?” (I’m wild, aren’t I?), which has been selected as Japan’s top buzzword for 2012, at a ceremony in Tokyo on 3 Dec, 2012. —KYODO NEWS

comedian Sugi-chan, has been selected as Japan’s top buzzword this year, the organizer of the award said on Monday.

The top 10 Japanese words and phrases that best define 2012 also included “shukatsu” (preparation for one’s own death) and “Tokyo Solamachi” (shopping mall at the Tokyo Skytree tower).

Chosen from the political world in the top 10 list were “ishin” (restoration) as used in the Japan Restoration Party, “chikai uchini” (sometime soon) as promised by Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda to indicate the timing of the lower house dissolution and “dai sankyoku” (third force) referring to new political forces other than the ruling Democratic Party of Japan and the main opposition Liberal Democratic Party.

The list also included “iPS saibo” (stem cell), on which researcher Shinya Yamanaka won this year’s Nobel Prize in medicine.

Kyodo News

“Twilight” shines in third box office win over Bond

LOS ANGELES, 5 Dec—The “Twilight” teen movie vampires sucked more money out of theaters over the weekend, leading James Bond, Brad Pitt and the rest of box office pack with \$17.4 million in US and Canadian ticket sales and scoring its third weekly win.

Pitt’s new movie, the small-budget gangster film “Killing Them Softly,” bombed with filmgoers who panned it with a rare “F” grade on average in polling by audience survey firm CinemaScore. The movie landed in seventh place with \$7 million in ticket sales at domestic theaters.

The results were much brighter for “Breaking Dawn — Part 2,” the fifth and final film in the “Twilight” vampire and werewolf saga, which has earned \$254.6 million at North American (US and Canadian) theaters since its smash debut on 16 November.

The top rankings were similar to last week’s Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

Bond movie “Skyfall” starring Daniel Craig

as superspy 007 grabbed \$17 million and held on to second place, according to studio estimates compiled by Reuters. Steven Spielberg’s

forecasts. As of Sunday, year-to-date sales were

poker game. The film is set in an unspecified US city marked by abandoned houses, closed shops and petty criminals



Taylor Lautner (R), Kristen Stewart (C) and Robert Pattinson .

Stars tweet congratulations to Prince William and Kate



Prince William

NEW DELHI, 5 Dec—Celebrities have taken to twitter to congratulate Prince William and Duchess Catherine on their baby news.

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge announced on Monday 3 December 2012 they are expecting their first child together and stars including Cheryl Cole and Maria Shriver have sent their congratulations to the couple. Cheryl — who has previously admitted to a crush on William’s brother Prince Harry — wrote: “I’m soooooo excited that we’re having a royal baby !!!! Congratulations to Kate and Wills !!!!! (sic)”.

Meanwhile, after it was revealed Catherine — who was known as Kate

Middleton before her April 2011 marriage — has been admitted to hospital with Hyperemesis Gravidarum [severe morning sickness], Maria revealed she once suffered from the same illness. She tweeted: “Wonderful news for Prince William & Kate Middleton. Kate has Hyperemesis. Had that with my last child. Not fun at all. Hang in there, Kate.”

Other stars to tweet their congratulations include Olly Murs, who wrote: “Cool #royalbaby that’s amazing news!! Dam it how comes they never mentioned it on the XTRA Factor last week haha (sic),” while Katherine Jenkins added: “What lovely news!! Congratulations to the Duke & Duchess of Cambridge!! #PitterPatter (sic).”

The duchess is believed to be less than 12 weeks along but the news was announced early as she was admitted to the King Edward VII Hospital in Central London to deal with her illness.

Prince Harry — who is currently serving in Afghanistan — was informed of the news via email, while Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip only found out on Monday before the announcement.—PTI



Duchess Catherine

JK Rowling adult novel to be adapted for BBC One

LONDON, 5 Dec—British author JK Rowling’s first adult novel “The Casual Vacancy” will be adapted for the small screen, the BBC announced on Monday, unlike her Harry Potter adventures which went on to become one of the biggest film franchises of all time.

Public broadcaster BBC One and BBC Drama have commissioned the exclusive adaptation from The Blair Partnership literary agency which represents the author. The series is expected to air in 2014.

Rowling will collaborate “closely” on the project, with the number and length of

historical drama “Lincoln,” featuring a critically acclaimed performance by Daniel Day-Lewis as the 16th US president, kept the No 3 slot with \$13.5 million.

A week ago, “Breaking Dawn—Part 2” and “Skyfall” helped push the five-day Thanksgiving weekend to a box office record. The success of the two films, plus upcoming releases such as fantasy prequel “The Hobbit” and musical “Les Miserables,” are likely to power 2012 ticket sales to an all-time high, according to industry

running 5.9 percent ahead of the same point in 2011 at \$9.9 billion, box office tracker Hollywood.com said.

Critics were kinder than audiences to Pitt’s “Killing Them Softly.” Seventy-nine percent of reviews collected on the Rotten Tomatoes website applauded the film, which blends a violent but comic gangster story with criticism of politicians’ failure to address the economic crisis.

In the movie, Pitt plays a hitman brought in by mafia bosses to eliminate a group of thieves who raid a high-stakes

and mobsters trying to get by.

The Weinstein Company distributed the movie, which was produced for less than \$20 million by Annapurna Pictures, Inferno Entertainment, and Pitt’s production company, Plan B Entertainment.

In the No 4 slot, family movie “Rise of the Guardians” captured \$13.5 million. The Dreamworks Animation film has taken in \$48.9 million since its Thanksgiving weekend debut, one of the slowest starts for a movie from the studio behind “Shrek” and “Kung Fu Panda.”—Reuters

episodes to be decided once the adaptation has formally begun.

“I always felt that, if it were to be adapted, this novel was best suited to television and I think the BBC is the perfect home,” Rowling said in a statement.

Danny Cohen, controller of BBC One, said the project “highlights the ambition and scale of BBC One Drama, as well as the ability of modern television to attract the world’s biggest talent and most exciting creative ideas.”

The Casual Vacancy, which examines the clash of ideals, classes and

generations in the seemingly sleepy English town of Pagford, has topped the bestseller lists in several

countries, although it did not match the success of the Potter phenomenon.

Reuters



Author JK Rowling poses for a portrait while publicizing her adult fiction book “The Casual Vacancy” at Lincoln Centre in New York on 16 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

McIlroy wins PGA Player of the Year award

Golf

NEW YORK, 5 Dec — Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy was named PGA Player of the Year on Tuesday, capping an outstanding season for the world number one. As expected, the 23-year-old was the popular choice for the annual Jack Nicklaus Award, decided by a vote from eligible tour players, becoming the youngest recipient since Tiger Woods in 1998.

McIlroy won four PGA Tour titles this year, including the PGA Championship by a record eight strokes. Nicklaus held the previous record margin for the last major on the golfing calendar, winning the 1980 PGA Championship by seven shots. "It's always nice to get recognition from your peers, the guys that you're trying to beat week in, week out," McIlroy said on a conference call.

Patriots re-sign Stallworth after losing Edelman to injury

NEW YORK, 5 Dec — The New England Patriots juggled their receiving corps on Tuesday by re-signing veteran receiver Donte Stallworth after losing Julian Edelman to injury, the American Football Conference East division champions said on Tuesday.

Stallworth, who entered training camp with the Patriots but was cut before the start of the season, was signed after Edelman suffered a season-ending foot injury in Sunday's win over Miami that gave New England a fourth consecutive division title.

Edelman had 21 catches for 235 yards and three touchdowns and a 15.5-yard average on punt returns this season, including a 68-yard touchdown



Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland

"I guess it's just a great way to end what has been a great year and my best season so far." McIlroy also won the Honda Classic, Deutsche Bank Championship and BMW Championship and the Vardon Trophy for the lowest scoring average.

He also won the money lists for the PGA and European Tours, making his selection a virtual formality on a final ballot that included Jason Dufner, Brandt Snedeker, Bubba Watson and

Woods. "It's no surprise that Rory McIlroy was voted by the players and his peers as the best Player of the Year," PGA TOUR Commissioner Tim Finchem said. John Huh won the rookie of the year award after becoming the youngest player in more than a decade to qualify for the Tour Championship.

Huh, 22, broke through for his first win at the Mayakoba Golf Classic in February, enduring an eight-hole playoff with Robert Allenby. The youngest player before him to reach the end-of-season championship was Spain's Sergio Garcia, who was 21 in 2001. — Reuters

Basketball



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant stuffs the ball against the Brooklyn Nets in the second quarter of their NBA basketball game in New York, on 4 Dec, 2012. — REUTERS

Lakers' Gasol to sit due to tendinitis in knees

NEW YORK, 5 Dec — The Los Angeles Lakers, still trying to find their way this season, will be without Pau Gasol when they try to snap the Houston Rockets' five-game home winning streak on Tuesday.

Gasol, averaging a National Basketball Association career low in points with 12.6 per game, will take a rest on the bench due to tendinitis in both knees, the Lakers said.

Kobe Bryant and the rest of the Lakers (8-9), struggling to meet lofty pre-season expectations, will try to climb back to the .500 mark against the Rockets (8-8) following a 113-103 home loss to Orlando on Sunday.

"It's not rocket science, it's not solving world

Nadal says he is unlikely to make Australian Open return

Tennis

MADRID, 5 Dec — Spanish tennis star Rafael Nadal on Tuesday confirmed that he was unlikely to be fit in time to compete in the Australian Open, the first Grand Slam of the 2013 tennis season. The 26-year-old, world number four has not played since June, when he partially tore a tendon in his left knee in a second round match at Wimbledon and has been working to recover his fitness ever since. The Mallorcan born player was realistic about his fitness prospects and said he didn't expect to be in condition to compete in the first major event of the season, which is held in January.

"My recovery is going well. This past month I have taken an important step. I feel happy and the doctors are happy too," he said. "Miracles do not exist and I am unlikely to

return and compete for the Australian Open." Speaking on Spanish radio station, Onda Cero,



Spanish tennis star Rafael Nadal

Nadal said his main ambition was to be able to compete in the French Open and to hone his form in Monte Carlo in April for his favorite event, which he will try to win for a record breaking eighth time in May.

"I want to be 100% in Monte Carlo and then pre-

pare well for Roland Garros," said Nadal. "I will only come back when I am fit and I won't come back worrying about my knee. We are in the last stage of the recovery and I want to recover as soon as possible but I will not rush back and then have to stop again in six months or a year's time," he said.

Nadal was also asked about the possibility of tighter anti-doping controls in his sport and said he would be in favor of such a move. "I want to be 100 percent sure that the person I am playing is just as 'clean' as I am," he said, adding that he didn't enjoy the testing process. "Before the test, you have to lift up your shirt, drop your pants and turn around 360 degrees. I don't really like that," he admitted. — Xinhua

Thunder firepower too much for Nets

LOS ANGELES, 5 Dec — The Oklahoma City Thunder cruised to their sixth straight win on Tuesday after an incredible night of shooting earned them a 117-111 victory over the Brooklyn Nets.

The red-hot Thunder made a season-high 60 percent of field goals, Kevin Durant leading the way with 32 points while Russell Westbrook added 25 and nine assists.

Oklahoma City (15-4), the defending Western Conference champions, made 30 of 34 free throws and 7 of 14 three-pointers.

Brooklyn were chas-

ing for much of the game and pulled within 104-102 with about four minutes left, only for Durant to respond with six straight points for Oklahoma City. Thabo Sefolosha padded the lead back to six in the final minute.

Deron Williams carried the home team with 33 points, and Andray Blatche got 19 and 11 rebounds in place of injured centre Brook Lopez, but the Nets (11-6) could not match Oklahoma City's accuracy. Brooklyn finished with 43 percent shooting from the field.

Reuters



New England Patriots' wide receiver Donte Stallworth

TD passes.

In addition, the Patriots (9-3) released offensive lineman Mitch Petrus and signed offensive linemen Tommie Draheim and Colin Miller to their practice squad.

Reuters

hunger, you just gotta go out there and do your job," Bryant told reporters on Monday after Los Angeles was outscored 40-26 in the fourth quarter by the Magic.

The Lakers have gone 3-4 under new coach Mike D'Antoni's pick-and-roll system since he took over for the fired Mike Brown and Gasol has not been able to play his usual low-post game.

"He might not be posting up as much as he'd like," said Bryant, leading the NBA with 27.6 points a game. "But he just has to adjust. The reality is I've adjusted. I've never run this many screen and rolls in my entire life, but I've worked on it."

The Lakers have point guard Steve Nash out in-

definitely with a small fracture in his right leg, and guard Steve Blake



Los Angeles Lakers' Pau Gasol (L) of Spain fights for the ball with Brooklyn Nets' Brook Lopez during the second half of their NBA basketball game in Los Angeles on 20 Nov, 2012. — REUTERS

gone for the next six-to-eight weeks with a torn abdominal muscle. — Reuters

GENERAL

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(6-12-12 09:30 am ~ 7-12-12 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * An Ever-blooming Garden
- * News
- * Discover Europe with Condor Air
- * News
- * Donation Dedicating to Nirvana
- * News
- * Collective Rememberance
- * News
- * Mya Nan San Kyaw Gloden Palace
- * Preparation for

- Myanma Traditional Chinlone Sport to be included (2013) SEA Games
- * News
- * Culture Stage
- * News
- * Creative Costume of Kayah Nationals
- * News
- * Seeking Beauty in Yoga
- * Myanmar Movie "Challenging of Love"

MYANMAR TV

(6-12-2012, Thursday)

7:00 am

- 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:25 am

- 2. To Be Healthy Exercise

7:40 am

- 3. Dhamma Puja Song

7:50 am

- 4. Nice & Sweet Song

8:00 am

- 5. Health Programme

8:15 am

- 6. Dance of National Races

8:20 am

- 7. Documentary

4:00 pm

- 8. Martial Song

4:05 pm

- 9. Cute Little Dancers

4:10 pm

- 10. Musical Programme

4:30 pm

- 11. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Physics)

4:40 pm

- 12. Songs For Upholding National Spirit

4:45 pm

- 13. Teleplay (Forest)

5:00 pm

- 14. Science and Environment

5:10 pm

- 15. Songs Programme

5:30 pm

- 16. India Drama Series

6:20 pm

- 17. Myanmar Series

6:35 pm

- 18. Approaching Science Discovery World

7:00 pm

- 19. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm

- 20. News

- 21. International News

- 22. TV Drama Series

Myanmar product can exhibit at 18th Dakha International Trade Fair-2013

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec— Organized by Bangladesh Ministry of Commerce and Export Promotion Bureau, 18th Dakha International Trade Fair-2013 will host on 1 to 31 January at Dakha. Myanmar product can be exhibit at that show

Germent, leather good machine and machinery , pharmacy product beauty

product, diary product handicraft jewellery and stationary will exhibit at that show. Intrested enterprenure can be listed to Exhibition Committe through respective embassies and Bangladesh Embassy to Myanmar. Details information can be seen at www.ditf-epb.gov.bd.

Myanma Alinn

Drive safely

Green Bay Packers great Starr collapses during speech

MILWAUKEE, 5 Dec— Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame quarterback Bart Starr collapsed on Tuesday after giving a motivational talk at an economic development conference in Wisconsin.

The 78-year-old football legend fell to the floor after his 45-minute keynote speech at the Monona Terrace conference centre in downtown Madison. "After a few minutes, he was feeling better and speaking well," said Kevin Fischer, spokesperson for the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority, the host of the conference.

Starr refused medical care from paramedics and left the conference with his wife, Cherry, in a limousine, Fischer said. "They went to the local airport here



Green Bay Packers legend Bart Starr speaks as he accepts the FedEx Air NFL Player of the Year for Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers at a ceremony in Dallas, Texas, on 2 Feb, 2011. — REUTERS

in Madison to fly back to Alabama," Fischer said. "He rebounded quickly. He's doing fine."

Starr, who lives in Alabama, is Packer royalty, having led the team to seven

titles, including the first two Super Bowl championships. He threw the first touchdown pass in Super Bowl history, a 37-yard strike to Max McGee against the Kansas City Chiefs. — Reuters

Violence makes it harder to reach hardest-hit areas in Syria: UN food agency

UNITED NATIONS, 5 Dec—The World Food Programme (WFP) said on Tuesday that the recent escalation of violence in Syria is making it more difficult to reach the Middle East country's hardest-hit areas, UN spokesman Martin Nesirky told reporters here.

"Food insecurity is on the rise due to bread shortages and higher food prices in many parts of the country," Nesirky said at a daily news briefing here. "It says that high prices are also affecting neighbouring countries hosting Syrian refugees."

The WFP adds that road access to and from Damascus, the Syrian capital, has become more dangerous, making it difficult to dispatch food from its warehouses to some parts of the country —

particularly to the north, the spokesman said.

"The World Food Programme is prioritizing food distributions to internally displaced Syrians who fled from areas which have seen heavy fighting in recent months — many of them have been displaced twice," he said. "It is also taking all measures to remain operational, provide assistance and to monitor its operations," he said.

WFP launched an emergency operation in October 2011 and gradually scaled it up to feed 1.5 million people in all 14 provinces of Syria, where the political crisis and subsequent violence broke out in March 2011.

Meanwhile, the assistant high commissioner for

protection from the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), Erika Feller, visited refugees in Jordan's Za'atri refugee camp on Monday.

She reviewed reception arrangements at Za'atri, which currently has about 32,000 residents.

"Preparations for winter are well underway in the camp, where overnight temperatures are now dropping to 1 degree Celsius," Nesirky said.

"Tents are being reinforced and better insulated to protect against the weather, including the addition of 'porches' where gas heaters are being placed."

Some 30,000 high thermal blankets are being distributed, along with winter clothing, he added.

Xinhua

Karam confirmed as Mexico's new attorney general

MEXICO CITY, 5 Dec— Mexico's Senate on Tuesday ratified Jesus Murillo Karam as head of the country's Attorney General's Office (PGR), after he was appointed by President Enrique Pena Nieto last weekend. The 65-year-old new attorney general was endorsed with 114 votes in favor, one against, and one abstention during the Senate's regular session.

Karam, the former Hidalgo state governor who helped launch Pena Nieto's political career, said he would seek to make the PGR a dependable institution.

The PGR should be "absolutely impartial, blind before the colour of politics, but completely aware to apply justice," said Karam,

who has served as secretary general of Mexico's centrist Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) since 2007. Pena Nieto took office as Mexico's new president last Saturday for a six-year term, returning the PRI to power after a 12-year hiatus. The rule by PRI in the decades before 2000 was marred by corruption and periodic economic crises.

Pena Nieto said it would be his government's priority to fight crime and forge peace in Mexico, following the violence-filled term of outgoing President Felipe Calderon, whose war on drugs has led to the death of more than 60,000 people.

The new head of state also announced more than 10 "decisions" that will serve

to guide policymakers in his administration to tackle such issues as crime, education reform, welfare programmes

Xinhua

Chinese Tibetologist delegation promotes Tibetan culture in Slovenia

LJUBLJANA, 5 Dec— Tibet has realized leapfrog development since the peaceful liberation of Tibet in 1959, Phurbu Tsering, head of a visiting Tibetan cultural exchange delegation said here on Tuesday. Phurbu Tsering made the remarks during a meeting with Jozef Horvat, head of a Slovenian parliamentary committee.

He said Tibetans now enjoy full freedom of

religious beliefs and that the Chinese government respects and protects the religious freedom of Tibetans in accordance with the law.

Xinhua

During their stay here, the delegation led by Phurbu Tsering also had talks with representatives of Maribor, the second largest city of Slovenia, and held forums and presentations about the development of Tibet.

Xinhua



The 2012 Capitol Christmas Tree is lit at the West Front Lawn of the Capitol Hill in Washington DC, capital of the United States, on 4 Dec, 2012. This year's tree, a 65-foot Engelmann spruce, is from the White River National Forest in Colorado. The US Capitol Christmas Tree has been a tradition since 1964.—XINHUA

Political reform serves as good basis for success of economic reform



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham delivers an address at the ceremony to mark 9th ASEAN 100 Leadership Forum 2012 at Sedona Hotel.—MNA

YANGON, 5 Dec—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham delivered an address at the 9th ASEAN 100 Leadership Forum 2012 at Sedona Hotel, here, at 7 pm today.

Dr Sai Mauk Kham made a speech with regard to Change and Continuity; Challenges and Opportunities for Myanmar. He said: First of all, I would like to congratulate the organizer of the Forum, Dato Timothy Ong, CEO of the Asia Inc. Forum, for his relentless

effort in organizing annual dialogues on the future of our region. I am glad that Myanmar is the venue chosen for this year's Forum.

This forum will be a platform to express different opinions and broad perspectives from leading businessmen, government officials and representatives of the civil society. A wide range of views will enable us to see things from different angles before we can make important decisions.

Myanmar recognizes the opportunities and challenges

that are associated with the rise of countries in Asia and in ASEAN. ASEAN countries are showing the world how to achieve broad-based economic development by maintaining peace and stability in the region.

Asia's success stories and experience have provided us a great deal of values in determining which is the best way to shape the future of the country.

It is our belief that the regional integration will

bring benefit to the country with the increased trade and investment as well as through harmonization of democratic and socio-cultural norms.

The geographical location of Myanmar also plays an important role in connecting the two global key players, China and India, with the Southeast Asian countries.

In this respect, we are quite satisfied and proud to have good and friendly relations with our two giant neighbours and the other remaining three neighbours as well.

To bring peace, and prosperity to the region, it is imperative to have political stability, strong and vibrant economy plus harmonious society. Through this way, Myanmar has already initiated socio-economic reforms and has taken a lot of bold steps towards building a new democratic society.

In the political front, reforms are being carried out with the aim of ensuring inclusiveness, participation of all stakeholders, and

promoting of democratic principles. Strengthening of rule of law, legal infrastructure and judicial systems are also in the priority list. Now, every policy initiative is being discussed and debated openly at the Hluttaws (Parliaments).

Not only that, there is an open and responsible free media today, and we are working hard to promote and to protect human rights in the country by establishing a National Human Rights Commission.

The political reform serves as a good basis for success of the economic reform. To be effective and fully functioning market based economy reforms in the finance, commerce and trade sectors were also reviewed and revised accordingly. Moreover, the Parliament has already passed the Foreign Investment Law in November this year.

The newly-released Foreign Investment Law has (See page 7)

TV retransmission station (Tamu) put into service

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—Under extended TV retransmission programme, TV retransmission station (Tamu) in Myothit Sub-township in Sagaing Region was built and has been

completed on 30 November, 2012.

The station starts broadcasting MRTV programme with 50 watt and UHF Channel J 13 as of 1 December.—MNA

Thai Red Cross Society, TICA donate two vehicles to NBC

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Dec—A ceremony to donate two vehicles by Thai Red Cross Society and TICA to National Blood Centre of Health Department under the Ministry of Health, was held at National Blood Centre (NBC) in Yangon on 2 December, with an address by Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin.

In his speech, the Minister expressed his special thanks for Thai Red Cross Society's donation to NBC. Thai Red Cross Society would make

continued cooperation with NBC. After that, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Pisanu Suvanajata extended greetings. Director-General Dr Min Than Nyunt of Health Department accepted the documents related to the vehicles and presented certificate of honour to officials of Thai Red Cross Society and TICA and spoke words of thanks.

Afterwards, the Union Minister, the ambassador and guest looked into two vehicles.—MNA

Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao road under major repair

Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao road is one of the major roads to the people of Kachin State in northernmost part of Myanmar. It is also the lifeblood of health, education and socio-economy of the local people. The road and bridges on it were destroyed in recent incidents. The government is urgently repairing the road. Here is excerpt of interview with chief engineer U Thein Zaw of the Ministry of Construction.

Q: What's the current condition of Myitkyina-Putao road section?

A: Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao road section experienced ravage of landslides. Eight bridges were destroyed by mine blasts and the road link is temporarily disabled. With the aim of enabling locals to reuse the road section as quick as possible, Public Works is repairing the bridges and clearing landslide debris.

Q: What's the length of

Myitkyina-Putao road?
A: Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao road has the length of 218



Construction of Insup Bridge on Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao Road in progress.

miles.

Q: What's the progress of repair of the road section?

A: The road is under repair since 3-11-2012. Some sections have been repaired and are now available.

Q: Which organizations undertake repair of the road?

A: Groups of Public Works take charge of repairing the road.

Q: When will the repair be completed and how

much will it cost?

A: We split four groups and started repair since 3-11-2012. The repair of Yeneint bridge was completed on 26-11-2012. The repair of main bridge at mile post 40/0 being undertaken by bridge special group (15) will be completed on 6-12-2012. The estimated cost of road and bridge repair is K 862.43 million.

Q: When will the repair

of the whole road be completed?

A: One-lane motorway of Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao road will be completed on 20-12-2012. The whole road will be completed on 31-12-2012.

The completion of the repair will contribute to higher socio-economic status of the local people thanks to better transportation.

Trs: HKA

Interview: Myint Maung Soe;
Photo: Kyaw Thu Win