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Vice-President visits utility jade, gems and pearl sales

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Dec— Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visited sales of utility jade in Myanmar Kyat and sales of gems and pearl in foreign currency at Mani Yadana Jade Hall here this morning.

The Vice-President attended the sales together with Patron of Central

Committee of Myanmar Gems Emporium Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung, central committee members, gems entrepreneurs and officials.

Each subcommittee reported on lots of jade and gems for sales and



Photo shows a lot of gems at Utility Jade, Gems and Pearl Sales.—MNA



A lot of pearl displayed at Utility Jade, Gems and Pearl Sales.—MNA



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham views utility jade to be sold in Myanmar Kyat at Utility Jade, Gems and Pearl Sales at Mani Yadana Jade Hall.—MNA

undertakings of the committees.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and party inspected round the jades on display on the upper floor of the hall and lots displayed in the compound of the hall and lots of pearls which would be put out to tender at Myanmar Gems Emporium.

MNA

Merchants observe gems at Utility Jade, Gems and Pearl Sales.

MNA



Picture taken on 9 Dec 2012 shows a scene of the 12th Myanmar-China Border Trade Fair opening ceremony in Muse, Myanmar. The three-day 12th Myanmar-China Border Trade Fair opened in Myanmar's Muse 105th Mile Border Trade Zone in Northern Shan State Sunday.

XINHUA

12th Myanmar-China Border Economic and Trade Fair opened in Myanmar

MUSE, MYANMAR, 9 Dec— The three-day 12th Myanmar- China Border Trade Fair opened in Myanmar's Muse 105th Mile Border Trade Zone in Northern Shan State on Sunday.

With about 218 standard booths, including 123 booths from the Chinese side, 93 booths from the Myanmar side, and two booths from Thailand, the exhibitors mainly display agricultural products, marine products, gems and jade, traditional handicrafts, traditional medicine, furniture, electronics and household

goods.

At the opening ceremony, Myanmar Deputy Minister of Commerce Dr. Pwint Hsan said the Muse 105th Mile Trade Zone is one of Myanmar's most important border crossings and accounts for 70 percent of the trade volume in border trade with neighbouring countries.

The Myanmar government pays attention to border region development and border trade and economic cooperation with China.

Gao Shuxun, vice governor of China's Yunnan

Province, which shares border with Myanmar, said Myanmar is the largest foreign trade partner of his province. In 2011, total import and export between Yunnan and Myanmar reached 2.071 billion US dollars, increasing by 17.8 percent from the previous year and accounting for more than 30 percent of the total China-Myanmar trade.

From January to October 2012, two-way trade stood at 1.722 billion US dollars, up 2.2 percent year on year, and the trade volume this year is expected to exceed last year.—Xinhua

FIFA-MA Grassroots Festival 2012 kicks off



MANDALAY, 9 Dec — Jointly-organized by FIFA, Myanmar Football Federation and Mandalay Region No (2) Basic Education Department, the opening of FIFA-MA Grassroots Festival 2012 was held at Myanmar football Academy, here, on 4 December.

It was attended by

Tatkon Township marks 92nd Anniversary National Day

TATKON, 9 Dec — Tatkon Township observed the 92nd Anniversary National Day at the meeting hall of Basic Education High School No (1), here, yesterday morning.

The ceremony was opened with the song entitled

Mandalay Region Social Affairs Minister Dr Win Hlaing, Mandalay Mayor U Aung Moun, MFF President U Zaw Zaw and officials and trainees. The MFF president spoke on the occasion and introduced trainees one by one to those present.

A total of 20 fitness instructors from basic education schools in

Chanayethazan, Aungmyethazan, Mahaaungmye, Pyigyidagun, Amarapura and Shwebo Townships of Sagaing Region and 12 instructors from MFF totaling 32 trainees are taking in the course supervised by Inspector Mr. Samuel of FIFA and Technical Director U Win Moe Thu of MFF.

Kyemon

“Pyi Myanmar” sung by schoolgirls.

Next, Tatkon Township Administrator U Aye Lu read out the message on the 92nd Anniversary National Day sent by the President of the Republic of the Union of

Myanmar. Then the prize presentation ceremony followed.

Winners of essay and painting contests in commemoration of the 92nd Anniversary National Day were awarded. — *Kyemon*

MAI extends domestic flights with two Embraer 190s

YANGON, 9 Dec — Plans are underway to replace the overage airplanes of Myanmar Airways International with new ones by the Ministry of Transport. Managing Director U Than Tun of Myanmar Airways and party received the newly-bought Embraer 190 aircraft on 16 November, and now the new aircraft was flying from Rome in New York of the United States of America to Myanmar. It will arrive in Yangon on 12 December. A team led by the general manager of MAI will receive the second Embraer 190 aircraft on 18 December, and it is expected that the second one will arrive in Yangon during the first week of January 2013.

These two new Embraer 190 aircrafts developed by EMBRAER 190 Aviation Company in Sao Jose Jos of Brazil were hired from General Electric (GE) of USA. The performance

of the engines fitted in 100-passenger Embraer 190 is excellent. These GE-CF 34-8 Engines are supplied by

the market can be fitted in Embraer 190 model aircrafts. Spare parts for Embraer 190 can be bought at reasonable



GE of USA. Furthermore, the Embraer 190 offers passengers more spacious seating than Airbus A320 and it has more under seare storage space than other Regional Jets. 90 per cent of spare parts which were already available in

prices and maintenance cost is cheap. International airlines eye on Embraer 190 aircraft as there was only one flight accident in its aviation history. So Republic Airways, Air China, Jet Blue Airways and Compass Airlines are

Talks on traffic rules given

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Dec — Organized by Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Committee, an educative talks on traffic rules took place at Bandoola Transportation

Co., Ltd in the compound of Bawgathiri Bus Terminal in Pyinmana Township on 2 December.

Police Inspector Win Myint of Nay Pyi Taw Traffic

Police Corps gave talks on dos and don'ts for all road users to be free from danger of road accidents, and distributed pamphlets outlining traffic rules. — *MNA*

SR International College to run MBA course

YANGON, 9 Dec — Jointly-organized by Silicon Valley International University of the United States of America and SR International College of Myanmar, Master of Business Administration Course will be opened for businessmen in January 2013 for the first time.

According to a responsible person of the college who spoke on the press meets on 4 December,

arrangements have been made to deliver series of lectures in accord with curriculum of Silicon Valley International University of the USA by Veteran teachers who have a lot of experience in teaching MBA courses with the help of well-established Support Centre.

The college will run the 18-month course every Saturday and Sunday. Any

graduates with the knowledge of English language may take the course that includes 12 subjects. Admission fee for the very first course will be reduced by a half.

After the course, the trainees will be conferred on Master of Business Administration certificate.

Kyemon

First year (Hons) courses rejuvenate Mandalay University



MANDALAY, 9 Dec — Although MA, MSc and doctorate courses were being kept open at the University of Mandalay since 1990, first year BA and BSc (Hons) courses will be kept open starting from 2012-13 academic year. Only 20 students each who got highest marks in their majors — Myanmar, English, Geography, History, Oriental

Studies, International Relations, Anthropology, Archaeology, Chemistry, Physics, Geology, Biochemical and Nuclear Physics — will be eligible for first year (Hons) courses started on 3 December.

Shwe Mann, Thitsar, Yadanabon, Shwepyiaye, Aungmingalar and Nadi streets in the campus are under repair. Now teachers

are staying at Shwe Mann Thitsar and Mya Tamar, Shwepyiaye, Aungmingalar and Yadanabon student hostels which were used to be bustling with life. Now the hostels lay silent and deserted. U Razak library had already been rebuilt. Alumni are expecting to see rejuvenation of Mandalay University. — *Kyemon*

Cash donated to quake victims

YAMETHIN, 9 Dec — A ceremony to donate cash to the quake victims of Mandalay and Sagaing Regions where earthquake hit on 11 November morning was held at the hall of Yamethin District General Administration Department on 4 December.

Yamethin Township Bus Line Control Committee donated K 500,000, Ywatangate (Thitsa Yadana) K 300,000, Township Merchants Association K 200,000 and Petro Green fuel trading K 100,000. Deputy Head of Township GAD U Nyunt Hsan Tun accepted the donations.

After that, officials spoke words of thanks for donations. — *Myanma Alinn*

customers of Embraer. MAI will use these two new aircrafts to operate the flights to Gaya of India, Chiang Mai of Thailand and local airports where Fokker F-28 was used to be landed. With the aim of substituting overage F-28

aircrafts with the new ones, MAI hired new Embraer 190 aircrafts. Now pilots and engineers are under training with simulators at FSI in France to be able to operate Embraer 190.

Kyemon

WORLD

Ghana's two leading political parties say sure of victory

ACCRA, 9 Dec—Ghana's two leading political parties, the ruling national Democratic Congress (NDC) and main opposition New Patriotic Party (NPP), said at separate Press conferences here Saturday they were on course of winning Friday's presidential and parliamentary elections.

Speaking to the media at the Accra International Press Centre, Campaign Coordinator for President John Dramani Mahama, Elvis Afriyie-Ankrah, expressed confidence the ruling NDC was on course to be re-elected, and so urged their supporters to be law-abiding. He appealed to party supporters who could not exercise their franchise on Friday due to the breakdown of the biometric verification devices (BVDs) to vote on Saturday.

Saturday's voting, the first time in Ghana's history for elections to be extended

to the next day, followed a directive by the country's Electoral Commission (EC) to allow affected voters to cast their ballot, meaning the voting will officially end at 5 pm. Afriyie-Ankrah, who is also the deputy minister for Local Government and Rural Development, appealed to the EC to take steps to remedy the situation.

Ghana Friday faced challenges posed by the malfunctioning of biometric machines being used for the first time in the country's elections at many polling stations hence the decision of the EC to permit all eligible Ghanaians to cast their votes. The Campaign Coordinator rejected allegations that the ruling NDC was engaging in falsification of figures in the collation of results.

Meanwhile, Boakye Agyarko, Campaign Manager for the opposition New Patriotic Party (NPP)

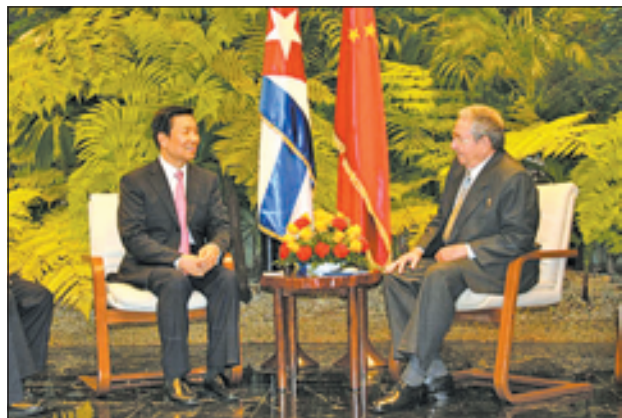
leader, Nana Adu Dankwa Akufo-Addo, also predicted a first round victory for the party.

"Based on all the data being received, Nana Akufo-Addo is on course to win a first round victory with an incontestable margin. NPP parliamentary candidates are winning seats that we had never won before.

"This is happening across the country and is a clear indication of an NPP victory, which will produce a parliamentary majority as well; the general performance of our parliamentary candidates is exceeding expectation," he stated. Agyarko said most of their candidates had upset sitting Members of Parliament (MPs) and Ministers of State, which, according to him, was an indication that the party's vision of change and transforming the country had resonated well with voters.

Reuters

Cuban leader vows to boost ties with China



Cuban leader Raul Castro (R) meets with visiting Li Yuanchao, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, in Havana, capital of Cuba, on 8 Dec, 2012.

XINHUA

HAVANA, 9 Dec—Cuban leader Raul Castro pledged on Saturday to further develop the relations between his country and China when meeting with a senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Briefed by Li Yuanchao, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, on the 18th CPC National Congress which was concluded last month, Castro said the congress has set a blueprint for China's future development.

Cuba is willing to learn the experience of China on development and elevate the

Cuba-China ties to a higher level, he added.

Li said the CPC and the Cuban Communist Party (CCP) and the two countries have been supporting each other in building socialism, safeguarding world peace and promoting common development. The new CPC leadership with Xi Jinping as general secretary values the traditional friendship between the two countries and is committed to developing the China-Cuba friendly cooperation, he said.

On Friday, Li met with CCP Second Secretary-General and Cuban First Vice President of Council of State and Council of Ministers Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, and attended the signing ceremony of an agreement on exchanges and cooperation between the two parties. —Xinhua

seats in either chamber of the parliament, while in the case of political or electoral alliances, 8 percent for alliances of two parties, 9 percent for three and 10 percent for four or more parties. The voters are polarized following a change of the majority coalition and appointment of Social Democrat Victor Ponta as prime minister in May.

Local elections in June gave a significant victory to the new ruling coalition with 36 of the 41 county councils won by the Social Liberal Union.

Opinion polls suggested an overwhelming win for the ruling coalition.

Xinhua

Italy's PM says he intends to resign

ROME, 9 Dec—Italy's Prime Minister Mario Monti said on Saturday he intended to resign, according to a statement from the president office.

After a two-hour meeting with Italian President Giorgio Napolitano, who has the power to dissolve parliament, Monti said he will step down after checking to see if parliament can pass his government's budget law. Should the budget law be passed "soon," Monti said he would immediately "formalize his irrevocable resignation in the hands of the president," according to the statement.

Monti's emergency cabinet of unelected technocrats has lost the support of former premier Silvio Berlusconi's center-right People of Freedom (PdL) party. Earlier this week, the government appeared to risk collapsing when the PdL withdrew its support for two confidence votes in parliament.



File photo taken on 11 May, 2012, shows Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti attends a Press conference in Rome, Italy. Italy's Prime Minister Mario Monti said on 8 Dec, 2012 he intended to resign, according to a statement from the president office. After a two-hour meeting with Italian President Giorgio Napolitano, who has the power to dissolve parliament, Monti said he will step down after checking to see if parliament can pass his government's budget law.—XINHUA

The PdL lawmakers, the biggest group in parliament, abstained in a Senate vote on an economic-development bill and in another vote in the House on measures to reduce the costs of the political system.

According to local

experts, the fraying of the political picture added up to the fragility of a restoration of public finances almost solely through austerity risks to generate "a general standstill" in the recession-hit country.

Xinhua

US forces free American medic abducted by Taleban

KABUL, 9 Dec—The US forces on Sunday freed an American medic kidnapped by the Taleban four days ago in Sarobi, a suburban area some 50 km east of capital Kabul, the US forces confirmed in a statement issued here.

"United States Forces-Afghanistan (USFOR-A) rescued a US citizen, Dr Dilip Joseph, today during an operation in eastern Afghanistan," the statement said.

Joseph was abducted on 5 Dec by Taleban insurgents in the vicinity of Sarobi District in Kabul Province, it said.

"Today's mission exemplifies our unwavering commitment to defeating the Taleban," said Gen. John R. Allen, the top US and NATO commander in Afghanistan.

"I'm proud of the American and Afghan forces that planned, rehearsed and successfully conducted this operation. Thanks to them, Dr. Joseph will soon be rejoining his family and loved ones," he said.

Allen ordered the mission when intelligence showed that Joseph was in imminent danger of injury or death, the statement said, adding "Joseph is now undergoing evaluations."

The Taleban insurgent group, which has been waging an insurgency of more than one decade, launched in May this year an annual rebel offensive against Afghan security forces and about 100,000 NATO forces stationed in the country.—Xinhua

Romanians vote in parliamentary elections

BUCHAREST, 9 Dec—Over 18 million Romanians went to the polls on Sunday to elect a new bicameral parliament for the next four years.

The polling stations opened at 7:00 am local time (0500 GMT) and will close at 9:00 pm (1900 GMT). As many as 18,751 polling stations — 18,456 in Romania and 295 abroad — have been set up for the elections.

More than 2,400 candidates from 30 parties and 12 independents are running for 315 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and 137 in the Senate, according to the Central Electoral Bureau.

The polls pit the ruling Social Liberal Union, a coalition composed of the Social Democratic Party, the National Liberal Party and the Conservative Party, against the Right Romania Alliance, whose senior partner is the opposition Liberal Democratic Party backed by President Traian Basescu.

Two other parties likely to enter the new parliament are the populist People's Party created by media tycoon Dan Diaconescu and the Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania representing the minority Hungarians.

A party has to pass a 5-percent threshold to win



Tourists view a rainbow over the Hukou Waterfalls, a section of the middle reaches of the Yellow River, in Linfen, north China's Shanxi Province, on 8 Dec, 2012. Icicles have been formed on the Hukou Waterfalls recently due to low temperature. Hukou Waterfalls are located on the border of Shanxi and northwest China's Shaanxi Province.—XINHUA

SEC wrestles with Internet age in Netflix case

WASHINGTON, 9 Dec—A regulatory probe of Netflix Inc over disclosures made on its chief executive's Facebook page could prove an important test of whether a rule designed to prevent leaks to analysts can translate to the social media age.

The movie and TV streaming service revealed on Thursday that it may face action from the Securities and Exchange Commission if the agency determines the comments from CEO Reed Hastings violate a rule that requires information to be disclosed to investors at the same time.

Hastings' Facebook page had more than 200,000 subscribers, including reporters and analysts, when he told them on 3 July that the company had hit 1 billion hours viewed in June.

By comparison, cable financial news network CNBC had 175,000 viewers and Fox Business News had 59,000 viewers on 6 December, according to the website TV by the Numbers, citing Nielsen data.

But the case may not hinge on whether Hastings' Facebook page qualifies as a public dissemination. Instead, it may come down to two other issues. One, whether the information was material to investors.

And two, if it was material, whether investors knew that Hastings' Facebook page was a venue to release important company news.

As evidence of materiality, the SEC could point to statements Hastings made earlier in the year highlighting milestones, including hours streamed, as metrics investors should watch.

But the company contends the 3 July comments were not material. It says that the company posted a blog entry a few weeks earlier that said the company was approaching that milestone.

Also, Netflix General Counsel David Hyman testified before a US House of Representatives committee on 27 June, and said at the beginning of his testimony that Netflix "delivers close to a billion hours of streaming movies and TV shows to its consumers every month." Such prior disclosure could hurt any SEC case. "Whether what he said is materially different from what the company has already disseminated, that may be a real challenge for the commission to maintain that position in court," said former SEC lawyer Eugene Goldman who is now with McDermott Will & Emery.

But movements of the company's stock price



A sign is shown at the headquarters of Netflix in Los Gatos, California on 20 Sept, 2011.—REUTERS

could bolster an SEC case if the agency can prove the stock jumped on the news. Netflix attributed the jump in its stock price to a positive analyst report released the night prior to Hastings' Facebook post.

The stock closed at \$67.85 on 2 July, and opened one percent higher the next day at \$68.49, on a positive report from Citigroup.

The stock closed at \$72.04 on 3 July, a six percent jump that would be unusual from an analyst report alone.

The second issue of whether Hastings' Facebook page was a known source of material company news goes to the heart of whether the SEC's rules—and its interpretation of them—are outdated.

SEC adopted the rule at issue, Regulation Fair Disclosure, or Reg FD, in 2000 over concerns that companies were meeting with

small groups of analysts or institutional investors and disclosing material information to them.

The concern was that "shortly after these types of meetings, trading would take place on the basis of such information," Goldman said. "This seems a lot different from that."

The new potential action raises questions about whether the rule was designed to address disclosures like the one made by Hastings.

"There's a huge divide between CEOs living in the real world and the financial industry, which lives behind regulatory walls. Reg FD is built for the old way of communicating from behind these walls," said Howard Lindzon, a hedge fund manager and founder and CEO of StockTwits, a social network for traders and investors to share real-time ideas and information about stocks.—Reuters

Satellite captures "black marble" view of Earth at night

Science

SAN FRANCISCO, 9 Dec—Almost 40 years to the day after the *Apollo 17* crew snapped the famed "blue marble" image of Earth floating in space on 7 December, 1972, NASA has unveiled "black marble" video views of the planet by night.

The cloud-free pictures, taken with a high-resolution visible and infrared imager aboard a NASA and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration satellite, capture the night lights of Earth in unprecedented detail.

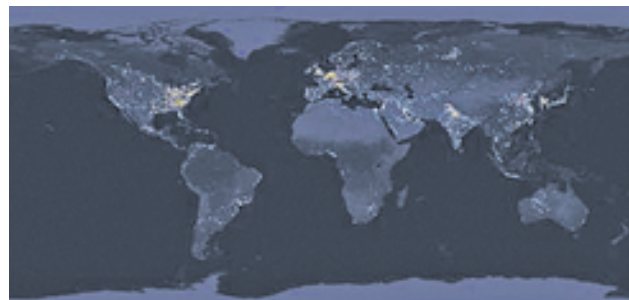
The sensor can capture the equivalent of three low-light images simultaneously, giving researchers the opportunity to study Earth's atmosphere, land and oceans at night.

"It's very high-quality data," NOAA scientist Christopher Elvidge told

reporters at the American Geophysical Union conference in San Francisco. "I rate it six times better spatial resolution."

The so-called day-night band of the Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite, or VIIRS, can distinguish the night-time glow of Earth's atmosphere as well as a light from a single ship at sea. The resolution is far sharper than what has been available previously. VIIRS is aboard the Suomi NPP satellite, which orbits about 500 miles above Earth's poles.

Scientists used the day-night sensor to watch the superstorm Sandy, illuminated by moonlight, hit the New Jersey shore on 29 October. It also captured the power outages that plunged the area into darkness as the storm tore into populated areas.—Reuters



Lights across the earth are pictured in this NASA handout satellite image obtained by Reuters on 5 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

Apple to return some Mac production to US in 2013

Tech

SAN FRANCISCO, 9 Dec—Apple Inc plans to move some production of Macintosh computers to the United States from China next year, Chief Executive Tim Cook said in remarks published on Thursday, in what could be an important test of the nascent comeback in U.S. electronics manufacturing.

Apple makes the majority of its products, from Macs to the iPhone and iPad, in China, the world's factory floor for electronics. But like other US corporations, it has come under fire for relying on low-cost Asian labor and contributing to the decline of the US manufacturing sector.

Cook did not say which Macintosh products will be produced in the United States. But the effort is expected to go well beyond simple final assembly of devices, with Apple and unnamed partners building most or all of the components in the United States as well.

The company will spend more than \$100 million on the US manufacturing initiative, Cook said in an interview with Bloomberg Businessweek, published on Thursday.

"This doesn't mean that Apple will do it ourselves, but we'll be working with people and we'll be investing our money,"

Cook said. He told NBC's "Rock Centre" programme, in an interview to be aired later Thursday, that only one of the existing Mac product lines would be manufactured exclusively in the United States.

Apple declined to comment beyond the interview.

Apple's decision, hailed by some analysts as an important first step even if it affected a tiny fraction of its overall output, was dismissed by others who saw it as an opportunistic public relations ploy with little effect on jobs.

Some Apple suppliers were struggling to assess its impact.

"At the end of the day, Apple knows moving production to the US means lower profits for Apple," said a senior executive at Taiwan's Quanta Computer Inc who declined to be named because of the companies' business relationship.

Reuters

HP, RIM take flak from nervous financial industry customers

NEW YORK, 9 Dec—JPMorgan Chase & Co and BlackRock Inc voiced concerns about Hewlett-Packard Co and Research In Motion Ltd this week, saying business and opera-



A logo of HP is seen outside Hewlett-Packard Belgian headquarters in Diegem, near Brussels, on 12 January, 2010.—REUTERS

tional struggles may affect the reliability of two of the biggest technology service providers. "We are concerned about some of the players that we have relied on to provide material services and equipment," Scott Condron, chief technology officer of asset management giant BlackRock, said

at an information technology conference in New York sponsored by Waters magazine. Hewlett-Packard is BlackRock's preferred provider for its server farms and a major vendor for its

personal computers. "I like their equipment and I would like them to continue being a supplier, but I need them to be a better company," Condron said in an interview.

Richard Anfang, chief information officer at JPMorgan Chase's securities services division, also ref-

erenced HP's problems as a risk factor banks should consider in dealing with suppliers. "You really want to understand what your reliance on vendors is and how that puts delivery service at risk," he said at the conference. "Where do you have single points of failure, where do they not have resiliency—everything from a Verizon central office switch flooding during the hurricane to accounting scandals with HP. You need to think about your vendors and manage the execution risk."

The comments may in part reflect negotiating stands as strained banks and financial companies scrutinize all parts of their operations to cut costs when renegotiating contracts, said some Wall Street observers. They noted, however, that the comments were made to other securities industry technology professionals in the spirit of honest communication.—Reuters



An Apple logo is seen at the Apple Worldwide Developers Conference 2012 in San Francisco, California on 11 June, 2012. REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Factories show UK economy on verge of shrinking again

LONDON, 9 Dec—British industrial production unexpectedly fell in October after factory output posted its biggest drop since June, reinforcing fears that the economy will shrink again at the end of this year.

It combined with weak trade data earlier in the week to cast doubt on lingering government hopes

ending barely three months ago, at least partly thanks to a boost from the Olympics. Chancellor George Osborne warned on Wednesday of far slower economic growth ahead than previously thought, and official forecasts signalled another contraction in the final quarter of this year.

In Friday's figures,

2.1 percent lower than a year earlier, the Office for National Statistics said.

The broader measure of industrial output, which accounts for over 15 percent of Britain's gross domestic product, also fell both on the month and the year in October, after oil and gas extraction posted the sharpest yearly fall since records began in 1998.

"Very disappointing, triple dip here we come," said Alan Clarke, economist at Scotiabank. "Manufacturing was diabolical. Sadly, I think there is not a lot to suggest that it is temporary. Survey data has been fairly downbeat."

Industrial output, which includes energy production and mining as well as manufacturing, fell 0.8 percent on the month, confounding forecasts for a rise, after a 2.1 percent decline in September.

Oil and gas extraction

plunged by well over a quarter on the year, partly due to maintenance which led to a temporary shutdown of the largest oil field in the North Sea. Greater than usual maintenance as well as a long-term decline in Britain's North Sea oil reserves have sapped output in the past 12 months.

Both the monthly and annual manufacturing declines were the steepest since June, when extra public holidays dented production, and were far worse than predicted by economists.

The production of food, beverages and tobacco was particularly low, with demand for beer down, the ONS said. David Tinsley, economist at BNP Paribas, attributed some of the weakness to a drop-off in demand for food and beer after it was boosted by the London Olympics and Paralympics which ended in September.—Reuters

Business



The logo of American International Group Inc (AIG) on the outside of their corporate headquarters in New York, on 10 Nov, 2008.

REUTERS

Chinese group in talks to buy AIG air lease arm

HONG KONG/NEW YORK, 9 Dec—A group of Chinese companies, including Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), is in talks to buy nearly all of American International Group Inc's aircraft leasing unit for about \$5.5 billion, AIG said on Friday.

The deal is expected to be announced as soon as early next week, a source familiar with the matter said on condition of anonymity.

AIG, which has been selling assets to pay back a \$182 billion US government bailout from 2008, had long been hoping to float its ILFC aircraft leasing unit through an initial public offering, but poor market conditions forced it to delay those plans. An IPO was expected to value the company at \$6 billion to \$8 billion, according to previous reports on the plans. AIG Chief Executive Robert Benmosche said last month that he was waiting for markets to improve to take ILFC public.

AIG said it is in talks to sell a 90 percent stake in the unit to a consortium including trust company New China Trust Co Ltd,

China Aviation Industrial Fund, and an investment arm of ICBC, China's largest bank. New China Trust is 20 percent-owned by British bank Barclays Plc. "The talks are reasonably far along," a second source said.

An ILFC spokesman declined comment.

A spokesman for ICBC declined to comment. Reuters was unable to reach New China Trust and China Aviation.

Shares in AIG rose 2.6 percent to \$34.13 on the New York Stock Exchange, after touching their highest level in more than five weeks earlier in the day.

"We view this news positively, since we think a sale of ILFC is the last large transaction AIG needs to do as it continues its turnaround," S&P Capital IQ analyst Cathy Seifert said in a research note.

The capital may come at a good time for AIG. Late Friday, it said it expects after-tax losses of at least \$1.3 billion from Superstorm Sandy. It said it would contribute \$1 billion to its US property insurance units to help cover the losses.

Reuters



Workers sew shoes at a shoe factory in Northampton, central England, on 25 April, 2012.—REUTERS

of an export-led recovery.

Britain has suffered two recessions in the past four years, the last one

manufacturing output dropped 1.3 percent in October after stagnating in September and was

Should breast cancer patients skip the pre-op MRI?

NEW YORK, 9 Dec—A new review of existing evidence suggests that using magnetic resonance imaging to "stage" a woman's breast cancer before surgery might do more harm than good.

MRI produces a much clearer image than X-rays and ultrasound, and is recommended for detecting early tumours in women at increased risk for breast cancer. But routinely using the technology once any woman is diagnosed with

a tumour may lead to more radical surgery without any benefits, says a team of Australian and US researchers. They found that about 26 percent of women who had a pre-operative MRI to help determine the extent and severity of their tumour ended up having their entire breast removed, compared to about 18 percent of those whose surgeons only used traditional methods of characterizing the cancer.

"I wasn't surprised

by the results at all. What I am surprised by was the strength of the data," said Dr Monica Morrow, the study's senior author and the chief of breast service at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre in New York.

Because MRIs are more sensitive than mammograms, some doctors think they are a good tool for identifying the precise outlines of cancerous tissue. Others, however, have begun to question whether the imaging led surgeons to

remove more breast tissue than necessary.

Moreover, women who have MRIs before breast surgery seem to be no less likely to need a second surgery to remove additional cancerous tissue.

A study published in September, for instance, found that among more than 300 women who underwent breast cancer surgery, just as many of those who had an MRI before the first surgery ended up having a repeat operation.—Reuters

Standard Chartered settlement to come

Business

Monday- source

LONDON, 9 Dec—Standard Chartered, (STAN.L) a British bank, is expected to announce on Monday a \$330 million settlement with US law-enforcement agencies, a deal that would conclude an investigation that examined whether the bank violated sanctions with Iran, people familiar with the situation said.

The settlement, which is expected to include the US Justice Department and the Manhattan district attorney, follows a \$340 million settlement that the bank reached in August with the New York Department of Financial Services.

That settlement came after the New York regulator analyzed whether



An exterior view of the Standard Chartered headquarters is seen in London on 7 Aug, 2012.

REUTERS

Standard Chartered had improperly concealed transactions tied to Iran. As a result of the settlement, the bank agreed to install a monitor to evaluate anti-money laundering systems. The bank said on Thursday it expects to pay

\$330 million in the latest settlement, but did not offer specific timing, saying only that an announcement would come "very shortly." A Standard Chartered spokeswoman declined comment on Friday.

Reuters

Europe economic recovery seen

mid-2013 - ECB

Business

SANTIAGO, 9 Dec—Europe's troubled economies will begin to recover by mid-2013, and while the recuperation will be more significant for core countries, all nations will see some growth by 2014, European Central Bank Vice President Vitor Constancio said on Saturday.

The ECB considered an interest rate cut on Thursday, but held the rate stable, and predicted the euro zone economy would shrink again in 2013, leaving the door open to a possible reduction in borrowing costs early next year.

The bank slashed its forecasts for the euro zone economy on Thursday, showing a contraction next year was very likely before a return to growth in 2014.

"(We see) a recovery of positive growth in 2014, which indicates that we consider that as of 2013 we're going to see a recovery of the real economy," Constancio told a Press conference after a central bankers' meeting in Santiago. He was flanked by Bank of Spain governor Luis Maria Linde and Chilean central bank chief Rodrigo Vergara. The ECB cut its estimate of gross domestic product (GDP) for next year to between a decline of 0.9 percent and growth of just 0.3 percent. In

their first forecasts for 2014, ECB staff forecast GDP growth of 0.2 to 2.2 percent.

"The recovery will be more significant for core countries because the countries under stress will continue next year their adjustment policies. These adjustment policies are working," he added.

Reuters

Vice-President of the European Central Bank Vitor Constancio arrives to attend a news conference on the second day of the G20 at a hotel in Mexico City on 5 Nov, 2012.

REUTERS



WORLD

Venezuela's Chavez says cancer back, operation in days

CARACAS, 9 Dec— Venezuela's Hugo Chavez said on Saturday that his cancer had returned and he would undergo another operation in the coming days, and for the first time the president named a successor if anything happened to him.

The news was a big blow for supporters of the 58-year-old socialist leader, who elected him in October to a new six-year term in office. Twice since mid-2011 Chavez has said he was cured, and then had to have more surgery.

In an emotional television broadcast from the

Miraflores presidential palace, Chavez was flanked by ministers and looked resolute. He even sang, briefly. And in his first comments on a possible successor, he said supporters should vote for Vice President Nicolas Maduro. Speculation about Chavez's health had grown during a three-week absence from public view that culminated in his latest trip for medical tests in Cuba—where he has undergone three cancer operations since June 2011. He returned to Venezuela on Friday.

“Unfortunately, during these exhaustive exams

they found some malignant cells in the same (pelvic) area ... It is absolutely necessary, absolutely essential, that I undergo a new surgical intervention,” the president said.

“With God's will, like on the previous occasions, we will come out of this victorious. I have complete faith in that.” Chavez, who has dominated Venezuelan politics since taking power 14 years ago, said he would return to Cuba on Sunday, and that the operation would take place there in next few days.

He said he had rejected the advice of his doctors to

have the surgery sooner, on Friday or this weekend, telling them he needed to fly back to Venezuela to seek the permission of lawmakers to return for the operation.

“I decided to come, making an additional effort, in truth, because the pain is not insignificant,” Chavez said. “But with treatment and painkillers, we are in the pre-operation phase.” Chavez has been receiving treatment at the tightly guarded Cimeq hospital in Havana as a guest of his friend and political mentor, former Cuban leader Fidel Castro.—Reuters

Father fatally shoots son outside Pennsylvania gun store

PITTSBURGH, 9 Dec— A seven-year-old boy was shot to death by his father on Saturday in the parking lot of a gun store in western Pennsylvania in an apparent accident, state police

told Reuters. Craig Allen Loughrey was shot in the chest by a handgun his father, Joseph V. Loughrey, 44, was holding as they were getting into the family vehicle at Twig's Reload-

ing Den in Mercer, about 60 miles north of Pittsburgh, a Pennsylvania State Police spokesman said.

The boy died at the scene of the shooting, which happened at 10:50

a.m. His father was questioned by investigators, but police said the evidence pointed to an accident.

The two were from nearby Fredonia, Pa, police said.—Reuters



A visitor looks at a painting by Chinese painter Liu Haisu at the Nanjing University of the Arts (NUA) in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, on 8 Dec, 2012. NUA celebrated its 100th anniversary on Saturday.—XINHUA

Al-Qaeda gunmen kill three Yemeni military officials in Marib

SANAA, 9 Dec—Al-Qaeda militants killed three Yemeni military officials in an ambush Saturday in the country's oil-producing Province of Marib, officials said.

“General Nasser Mahdi Farid, the chief-of-staff of the central military region in Marib, and two other military officers were killed when their convoy was intercepted

and attacked by militants of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP),” an interior ministry official told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

About 11 soldiers who escorted the convoy were seriously injured with gunshots in the attack, said the official.

The AQAP confirmed the attack in a statement obtained by Xinhua, saying

that “the Mujahideen set up an ambush in al-Dhameen area against a military convoy en route to Safer area, killing the convoy's commander General Nasser Mahdi Farid and several others.” “The al-Qaeda fighters also seized two vehicles of the military convoy,” it said.

The attack, which took place near Wadi Abida area of the northeastern Province of Marib, came one day after tribal gunmen of the same area bombed the country's main oil export pipeline for the fifth time in less than a month. The army on Friday launched a major assault on the area's tribesmen whom the local

authorities accused of repeatedly attacking the main crude line, according to the officials.

The government has failed to repair the line due to continuing conflicts in Marib, highlighting the persistent insecurity in the country even one year after a political upheaval.

US drones and Yemeni warplanes have regularly targeted the Yemen-based al-Qaeda wing, which exploited security vacuum during Yemen's unrest last year. Yemeni President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi said fighting the AQAP tops his daily agenda when he was elected in February.—Xinhua

Chinese delegation to Doha talks presents climate documentary to UN official

DOHA, 9 Dec— Head of Chinese delegation to the ongoing UN climate conference in Doha, Xie Zhenhua, presented China's first climate documentary to top UN climate official Christina Figueres.

The documentary, named “Warm and Cold, We Share Together,” describes in 12 episodes the relationship between the change of ecological environment and human civilization from both historical and realistic perspectives.

It calls on the mankind to take the responsibility to deal with the consequences of environment degradation and adopt a path of sustainable development.

Figueres, executive secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, hailed China's cli-

mate actions in recent years and expressed confidence that China will meet and even exceed its anti-warming ambitions set in the new five-year-development plan (2011-2016).

Hundreds of scientists, experts and officials were interviewed during the filming of the documentary. On Saturday, the Doha climate conference entered an extra day due to deep divisions among delegates on the draft texts produced by previous negotiations.

Admitting the texts are not satisfactory to everyone, president of the conference, Abdullah bin Hamad Al Atiyah, urged the delegates to work in a spirit of compromise and reach a balanced package of agreements by the end of the day.

Xinhua



A villager does the washing beside the Erhai Lake in Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture, southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 6 Dec, 2011. Erhai Lake, covering 253 square kilometers and being the second largest fresh water lake in Yunnan Province, is named as the “mother lake” by local people. Thanks to the efforts of local government in controlling pollution in the famous plateau lake and improving the local environment, the water quality of the lake has been improved.

XINHUA



People dressed in ancient uniforms of pikemen perform during the L'Escalade (the act of scaling defensive walls) celebrations in Geneva, Switzerland, on 8 Dec, 2012. L'Escalade is an annual festival held in December in Geneva, Switzerland, celebrating the defeat of the surprise attack by troops sent by Duke of Savoy during the night of 11 Dec, 1602.

XINHUA

Three children die in house fire in northern Greece

ATHENS, 9 Dec— Three children died early Saturday in a fire which broke out at a farmhouse in northern Greece, authorities announced. The boys, aged 15, 7 and 5, got trapped inside the wooden house at a small village on the outskirts of the city of Kavala, while their three other siblings, their mother and grandparents survived.

Experts investigating the cause of the shocking tragedy point to a wood stove used by the family.

The blaze started as the family was asleep. Once the house begun to

fill with smoke, the teenager rushed outside. But he realized that two of his younger brothers had stayed behind and returned to save them.

Investigators believe that he lost consciousness and choked on the smoke, like his brothers, before the roof collapsed. Their mother and grandmother were slightly injured.

According to local media, the mother, a teacher, was spending the weekend at the village with six of the family's 10 children, while the father was staying at their home in Kavala for work.—Xinhua

LOCAL NEWS

Prizes awarded in Inter-Region/State Aerobics Contest



YANGON, 9 Dec—The prize presentation for the 18th Inter-Region/State Women’s Aerobics Contest 2012 was held at National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thuwunna of Thingangyun Township on 6 December afternoon. On behalf of the Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports, General Secretary of Myanmar Women’s Sports

Federation Daw Nan Aye Khaing presented K 500,000 assistance each to sports teams from Kayah, Rakhine states and Taninthayi Region.

Vice-President of MWSF Daw L Khun Yi accepted K 1 million donated by Treasurer Daw Ja Fan of MWSF on behalf of the President of Myanmar Gymnastics Federation U Thein Win and K 1

million by U Zaw Zaw and Daw Aye Aye Khaing of Ayeyawady Bank. The Yangon Region Minister for Finance and Revenue and patrons of MWSF awarded the prize winning teams. Vice-President Daw L Khun Yi gave the championship shield, cash award and duplicate shield to Yangon Region team.

Myanma Alinn

Workshop on anti-modern human trafficking 14 Dec

YANGON, 9 Dec—Under the joint arrangements of Walk Free: The Movement to End Modern Slavery of Australia and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the workshop on anti-modern

human trafficking will be held at the conference hall on the first floor of UMFCCI Office Tower on Minye Kyawswa Road in Lanmadaw Township on 14 December. The workshop is aimed at enabling the people and entrepreneurs to know

endeavours of Myanmar in combating human trafficking. Those wishing to attend the workshop may register International Relations Department. For further information, may dial 214344, Ext: 122 and 301.

Myanma Alinn

Books donated to village library

PAKOKKU, 9 Dec—Education Primary School is Myinwin Village in Pakokku Township is constituted with 252 houses which are home to 1100 local people. Most of the local people are engaging in cultivation of beans, chilli, tobacco and so on. A Basic

Library stores over 400 copies of books and it is kept open from 12 noon to 1.30 pm and 6 pm to 8 pm daily.

On 13 November, Daw Win May and staff of Pakokku District Information and Public Relations Department presented books donated by Myanmar Libraries Foundation to the village library.—Myanma Alinn

Tax educative essay and cartoon contests held



YANGON, 9 Dec—With the aim of enabling all citizens to pay tax dutifully, the Internal Revenue Department of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue and No. 3 Basic Education Department

jointly organized the basic education middle school level (district level) tax educative essay and cartoon contests at Basic Education High School No. 2 in Latha, Basic Education High School No. 6 in Botahtaung, Basic Education High School No. 1 in Thanlyin, Basic Education High School No. 1 in Dala, Basic Education High School No. 1 in Insein and Basic Education High School No. 1 in Mingaladon from 9 am to 11 am on 30 November.

participated in the essay contest and 114 in the cartoon contest, totalling 231.

Their participations were supervised by district and township education officers, heads of township Internal Revenue Departments, school heads and teachers. The first, second and third prize winners at the district level are to take part in the region level contests at Basic Education High School No. 3 in Kyimyindine on 13 December.

Myanma Alinn

Soe (a) Yan Sin Sha, 44, son of U Yan Min Yaung and drug trafficker Min Min (a) Win Myint, son of U Zaw Naing to be taken action.

Pyay Police Station No 2 opened files of lawsuit against the two persons under the law.

Myanma Alinn

13th National Badminton Tournament held

YANGON, 9 Dec—With the aim of turning out the badminton players who will bring honour to the nation by securing medals in the XXVII SEA Games 2013, the 13th National Badminton Tournament, sponsored by Great Wall Asia Construction

Co. Ltd, was kicked off under the supervision of the Ministry of Sports. President of the Myanmar Badminton Federation U Maung Maung Swe greeted the contending teams before the tournament. The players then took sports oaths.

A total of nine teams such as Ayeyawady, Aung, Shan State, Mogok, New-Y, Lubyandaw, MBF, Shwesunyo and Nay Pyi Taw took part in the tournament from 5 to 9 December.

Myanma Alinn

Narcotic drugs seized in Pyay

YANGON, 9 Dec—A combined anti-drug squad of Bago Region, acting on tip-off, searched suspect-person Myint Soe (a) Yan Sin Sha, who was walking along Bogyoke Street, near Pan Cherry Apartment Building in Hsandaw Ward of Pyay at 11.30 am on 5 December.

brand mobile phone and K 18850 in cash.

According to the investigation, Myint Soe confessed that he bought heroin from Min Min (a) Win Myint from Koethaung (Shansu) Ward of Pyay through telephone. The squad searched the house of Min Min (a) Win Myint at 1.30 pm but Min Min escaped from there. The combined team searched one more house of Min Min on

Chinsu Taryo Road in Aung San Pyithaya Ward. But, Min Min managed escape from there.

IP Kyaw Htay submitted that drug possessor Myint

Myanma Alinn

Environment-friendly tea plantation nurtured in Mount Popa reserve

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Dec—With the aim of ensuring sufficiency of green tea and dried tea in central area of Myanmar, tea plantations were grown as test in the area of Popa forest reserve. If the plantations do not thrive, they would be substituted with perennial crop plantation, said Tea Plantation Manager U Htay Ngwe of Tin Win Tun Co that has got 30-year guarantee of land.

“This tea plantation was grown in 2008. Our company got 300 acres of farmland under 30-year guarantee. At present, we test cultivation of tea on 50 acres of land. If it cannot secure success,

we will shift cultivation of perennial crops such as sandalwood,” he continued.

An official of Forest Department said, “The company was allowed to establish the tea plantation because it cannot harm the environment as it is located in the forest reserve. The department urged the company to focus on avoiding the deforestation. We allow it to clear the bushes for cultivation of tea. Tea plantation will not cause deforestation. The trees have been marked under the arrangements of the Forest Department.”

It is necessary to wait

and see whether the tea plantation will meet success or not within three years.

A plan is underway to manage 50 acres of tea plantation only and not to extend the plantation.

Tea plantation should be grown between 60°F and 89°F and 60 inches of rainfall on soil with PH4.5-PH5.5. Tea plantation should be grown at an altitude of above 2500 feet. The tea plantation in Mount Popa area is at an altitude of 2720 feet with 43.45 inches of rainfall, PH6.4 and PH6.9.

Due to higher level of soil, the land was prepared for cultivation of present tea

plantation. In the year with least rainfall, the plantation took water from the spring, 14 miles from the plantation.

In the time of establishing the plantation, 150 workers worked for the cultivation of tea plants. At present, 15 workers are nurturing the tea plantation.

With regard to rumour spread among the local people, an official of the company said that there is no plan to build hotel as it is area of forest reserve. The forest law does not allow it. “So, we have no plan to construct the hotel here,” said the plantation officer.

Myanma Alinn

Myint Soe (a) Yan Sin Sha seen with heroin, mobile phone and cash.



PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 10 December, 2012

Patriotism of a heterogeneous society

Unlike the countries with homogeneous societies, we are a Union where a diversity of races living in harmony and unity. So, when we say something like patriotism or nationalism it will be different from those countries with homogeneous societies.

As we are a heterogeneous society, words like patriotism or nationalism have wider and deeper meanings for all of us. They do not stand for a single or particular race of the Union, but for all the ethnic races of the whole Union.

So, patriotism or nationalism for the country is the Union spirit or the love of the Union. In fact, our Union is the home to all the national races of our motherland. Every national race has its own freedom to live and prosper, and rights to value and protect his own culture and traditions. And every national race understands well and totally accepts the work of protecting, promoting, propagating and respecting each other's freedom, rights, culture and traditions. In this way we have been living for centuries, although we have differences or misunderstandings during certain periods between certain races.

What's more, we all understand that we are kith and kin, and not strangers. We all live and prosper on this soil, which actually is our Union while our populations grow constantly. In fact, no single race owns the Union. Truly, Union is the mother of all our brethren. So we all must love and cherish our Union.

Hence, every one must have the will even to sacrifice their lives in safeguarding the Union because it's our home. We can't let our home be destroyed or invaded by others. Here we need unity which actually is our strength.

Accordingly, the spirit to love, cherish and safeguard the Union truly is the patriotism or the nationalistic fervor of all the national people of our motherland.



Multiplier librarian course opens

FALAM, 9 Dec— the Township General Deedkhardar Sub-Township Information and Public Relations Department and Township Library Committee conducted the multiplier librarian course No 1/2012 at

the Township Administration Department on 30 November.

After giving lectures, Head of Township IPRD U Lal Pak Lawm donated 420 books to the library.

Myanma Alinn

NATIONAL

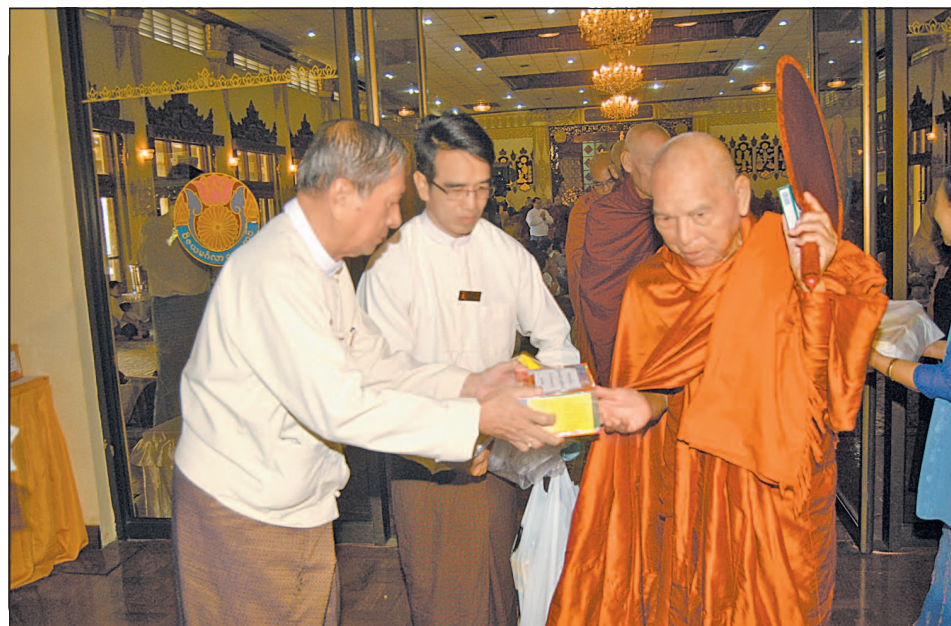
Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida selection exam opened

YANGON, 9 Dec— Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abbot of Bhamo Monastery in Mandalay Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa delivered a sermon at opening ceremony of 65th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida selection examination on Kaba Aye hill here this morning.

The examination was organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe supplicated on religious matters.

Donors donated cash through officials who



Union Minister Thura U Myint Maung donates offertories to Chairman of SSMNC Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa.—MNA

returned certificates of honour to them. The examination will last for 33 days. The Union minister, the region chief minister and region ministers offered a day meal to members of the Sangha. The examination will last for 33 days. MNA

Statement (8/2012) of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission on the International Human Rights Day, 10 December, 2012

- One of the most important declarations of humanity, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, was adopted on 10 December, 1948 and the day has been designated as the International Human Rights Day. The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission joins today the international human rights community in celebrating this auspicious day.
- The Commission is proud to recall on this occasion that Myanmar was the first country to vote for the Declaration when it was adopted by a roll call vote at the United Nations General Assembly held in Paris in December 1948. The Commission is pleased that it was provided with an opportunity to uphold "the inherent value of human dignity" recognized in the Declaration. It is in fact the disrespect for human dignity that leads to violations of human rights in all parts of the world.
- Today is the most appropriate occasion for the Commission to take stock of what it has been able to do over the past year for the promotion and protection of human rights in the country and to lay out its plan for the future.
- Regarding the protection of human rights, the Commission has examined most of the over 3,000 complaints received from September 2011 until the end of November 2012. Its initiatives with the letters of appeal to the President and statements for granting of amnesty to prisoners, including the "prisoners of conscience" have resulted in the release of thousands of prisoners and finally in a plan for transparent process to examine the cases of remaining prisoners, as announced by the Information Team of the President's Office. The Commission is gratified that some of those released are currently playing an important role in the country's democratization process. The experience of the Commission in protection work has vividly underscored the importance of the government's cooperation and that of other stakeholders.
- On the promotion of human rights, several workshops have been successfully held in Yangon in cooperation with the United Nations Agencies and other institutions specialized in human rights education. One significant result from these workshops is the commencement of a process to give more emphasis to human rights in the curricula of schools and institutions of higher learning.
- The Commission has been able to set up strong relations, as tasked by its mandate, with the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in the region. In September 2012 it became a member of the South East Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum (SEANF) and an associate member of the Asia Pacific Forum of NHRIs (APF) in November 2012. As a result, the Commission can now work with these regional NHRIs for the promotion and protection of human rights in the region as well.
- The Commission has drafted the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Law in collaboration with human rights institutions and it has been submitted to the President for consideration. After consideration by the President, the draft will be placed before the Parliament for approval. With the enactment of the Law, the Commission will be able to implement its mandate more effectively.
- The future plan of the Commission, in particular for 2013, includes the holding of more workshops on such important subjects as Business and Human Rights, the two International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). These workshops are aimed at benefiting the individuals and entities doing business in Myanmar and the relevant ministries in their efforts related to human rights promotion and protection. Furthermore, the Commission will embark in 2013 on a long-term project to translate important human rights materials into Myanmar to enhance public awareness.
- The mandate of the Commission, as mentioned in Notification No. 34/2011 of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and provided for in the above-mentioned Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Law entrusts a formidable task to the Commission to improve the human rights situation in the country. In fulfillment of this mandate, the Commission needs the cooperation of all concerned without which, a society where the inherent human dignity is respected will be far from being achieved.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

Date-10 December 2012

NATIONAL

Tachilek Dhamma Thiri Hospital handed over to the State to meet expectations of national races in border areas for health care

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Dec— On his address at the opening of Dhamma Thiri Hospital in Tachilek of Shan State (East) this morning, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing called for interdepartmental collaborative efforts while striving for fulfilling the

Thet Swe, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Myat Hein, senior military officers of Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, the commander of Triangle Region Command, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay, Shan State Minister for Social Affairs U Tu Maung and departmental officials.

hospital. Afterwards, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services offered day meal to members of the Sangha at the altar room on the top floor of the hospital. Then the ceremony to hand over documents related to the hospital followed. In commemoration of the 84th



Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing offers alms to patient monk at Tachilek Dhamma Thiri Hospital.—MNA

requirements of people from border areas in health sector in order to meet their expectations for health care and stressed the need to keep constant maintenance for its durability.

Firstly, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party cordially greeted national races leaders, townselders, local people and members of cultural troupes.

It was also attended by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear Admiral Thura

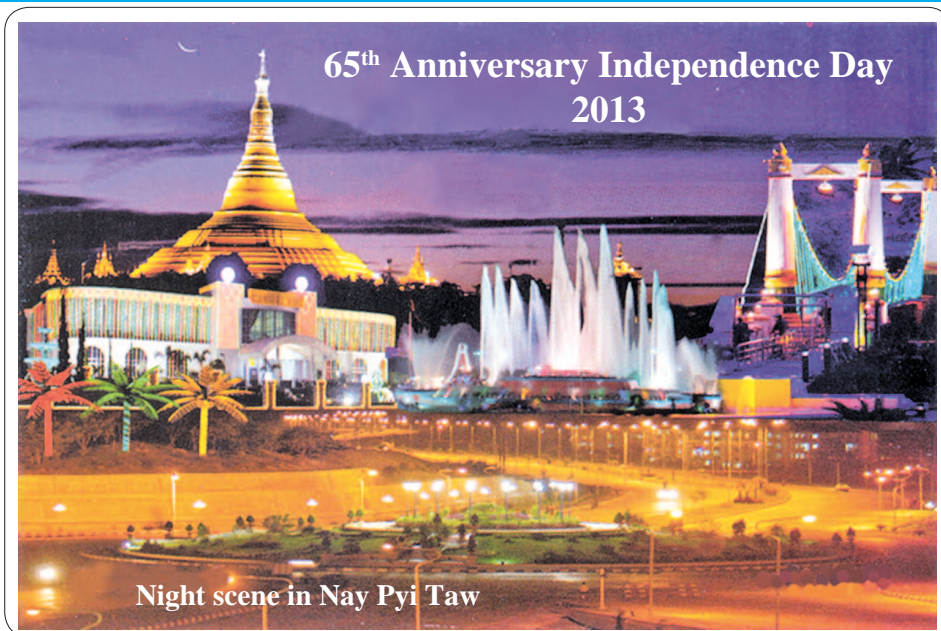
State Ovadacariya Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Nagar-hnakaung Monastery Abhidhaja-ma-harahttaguru Suddhamajotika Bhaddanta Dhammasiri, the commander and the deputy minister formally opened the hospital.

Next, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services unveiled the signboard of the hospital, and sprinkled scented water on it. Then the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party viewed round in the

birthday of the Sayadaw, State Ovadacariya Sayadaw handed over documents related to the hospital to the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

Next, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services handed over documents to the deputy minister.

Then the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services accepted K 10 million donated by Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) for the health care funds of the hospital. State Minister U Tu Maung accepted K 1 million donated by



Night scene in Nay Pyi Taw

Shan State government, the deputy minister, K 1 million by Manijotikadhaja U Maung Lay and Daw Nann Chein and family, K 30 million by Chairman of Kanbawza Bank Ltd U Aung Ko Win and wife and family and K 30 million by Chairman of IGE Company U Nay Aung and wife and family.

Afterwards, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party received the sermon delivered by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Revata, and shared the merits gained.

The five-storey hospital was built with

the contributions of K 4985.1 million wellwishers led by Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Nagarhnakaung Monastery. The hospital includes reception room, out-patient department, dental room, dispensary room and X-ray room on the ground floor, operation theater, labor room, X-ray room and intensive care unit on the first floor, 24 patient rooms, 24-bed patient hall and doctor and nurses counter on the second and third floors and chamber room and offices on the fourth floor. There are five houses for doctors and staff quarter in the compound of

the hospital.

It is learnt that the hospital will provide national races in border areas with health care services to be able to meet their expectations for the health by inviting medical professionals to perform advanced health care services there.

In the afternoon, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party offered provisions to Bhaddanta Paññasami of Maha Myatmuni Phayagyi Sarthintaik and the presiding Sayadaw of Nagarhnakaung monastery separately.—MNA



Photo shows newly-opened Tachilek Dhamma Thiri Hospital.—MNA



Vice-Chairman of Ethnic Affairs Committee and member of Communist Party Central Committee Mr Son Minh Thang and party of Socialist Republic of Vietnam being welcomed at Yangon International Airport on 9 December.

MNA

92nd Anniversary National Day and opening of No. 3 BEHS centennial ceremony celebrated in Bago

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Dec— 92nd Anniversary National Day and the opening ceremony for Centennial Anniversary of No. 3 Basic Education High School in Bago were held at the school on 7 December morning. At the ceremony, Thayay Sithu Thura U Aye Myint, Region Social Affairs Minister Dr

Kyaw Oo and an alumnus cut the ribbon to open the arch signboard of the school and Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win pressed the button to open YMBA Hall centennial inscription.

The region chief minister made a speech at YMBA Hall and viewed centennial commemorative

booth. The second week of December mass walk activities for Bago Region took place at Shwemawdaw Pagoda in Bago yesterday morning with the participation of region chief minister and wife, region Hluttaw speaker, staff, locals, teachers and students.—MNA

NE China theme park to carve world of ice, snow

HARBIN, 9 Dec—A theme park in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province started to collect ice and snow on Sunday for the creation of ice and snow sculptures.

Harbin Ice and Snow World, located in the provincial capital of Harbin, will cover 600,000 square metres, according to the park owner Modern Group.

A total of 180,000 cubic metres of ice and 150,000 cubic meters of snow will be used for the carving of

sculptures this year, the group said.

A 48-metre high "ice palace", carved with over 20,000 cubic metres of ice, will become the landmark artwork of the park.

The theme park is scheduled to open to the public on 24 Dec.

First open to the public

in 1999, the theme park has so far attracted about 600,000 tourists from home and abroad.

The theme park, along with a snow expo and an ice lantern show, will herald the opening of the 29th Harbin International Ice and Snow Festival on 5 Jan, 2013.

Xinhua



Photo taken on 22 Oct, 2012 shows the night scene of Yinchuan, capital of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region. —XINHUA

Pentagon deliberates on improving military ethics

WASHINGTON, 9 Dec—The Pentagon has been considering how to improve senior officers' ethics, in the wake of a series of scandals that rocked the US military, and Defence Secretary Leon Panetta has briefed President Barack Obama on their recommendations in this regard, Pentagon Press Secretary George Little said on Friday.

According to Little, Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, presented two initial findings that Panetta took to the White House earlier this week.

The first finding is that while there is appropriate ethics training in place for senior leaders, "we

need to start earlier and reinforce that training more frequently in an officer's career," Little said.

"Second, General Dempsey believes we must look at the level and type of support senior leaders receive in the execution of their duties to ensure it is necessary, and to ensure we are being consistent, sensible and efficient," Little said.

Dempsey's intent is to direct consistency of support across the general officer/flag officer cadre and to determine whether it is appropriate, Little said.

"What we're talking about here is the personnel infrastructure surrounding general and flag officers,"

Little said. There are different types of support that general and flag officers receive. For example, generals in command have an aide-de-camp, which is one level of support. They often have additional staff to help with more routine activities.

Little said the findings are an initial set of recommendations, and part of a long-term effort by Dempsey, who has not reached conclusions on ethics training or support to senior military officers.

US military has been rocked by a series of

scandals lately. William Ward, former chief of US Africa Command, was demoted for misuse of government funds. David Petraeus, a retired four-star general who resigned as the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) director, was found to have an extramarital affair with his female biographer, Paula Broadwell. John Allen, head of the US forces in Afghanistan, is also being investigated for alleged "inappropriate communications" with a socialite in Tampa, the US state of Florida.—Xinhua



Haitian President Michel Martelly is interviewed by Kyodo News in Tokyo on 8 Dec, 2012.

KYODO NEWS

Ban hails outcome of UN climate conference

UNITED NATIONS, 9 Dec—UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Saturday welcomed the outcome of the UN climate conference in Doha, capital of Qatar, and called for more international efforts to limit the global temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius.

That was learned from a statement issued here by Ban's spokesman.

"The secretary-general believes that far more needs to be done and he calls on governments, along with businesses, civil society and citizens, to accelerate action

on the ground so that the global temperature rise can be limited to 2 degrees Celsius," the statement said.

The United Nations climate talks in Doha on Saturday adopted a package of drafts for the low-ambitious second period of Kyoto Protocol and weak commitments on climate finance after overnight negotiations on differences between developed and developing countries.

The closure of the two-week meeting in the Qatari capital was delayed for almost

a whole day as diplomats from more than 190 countries pressed for any small progress that can be reached.

According to the conference president Abdullah bin Hamad al-Atiyah, the new agreement would apply from 2013 till 2020.

The Kyoto Protocol is the only UN plan that obliges developed nations to cut carbon emissions. Its first commitment period expires at the end of the year. It is a vital step towards a new global UN deal to be agreed upon in 2015 and to enter into force in 2020.

Ban said in the statement that "he will increase his personal involvement in efforts to raise ambition, scale-up climate financing, and engage world leaders as we now move towards the global agreement in 2015."

However, no tougher emission reduction goals were announced by the developed countries in Doha.

The European Union sticks to its target of 20-percent reduction, reiterating that a further step to 30 percent would require other developed countries' commitment to comparable emission reductions. Its bargaining position was weakened because it has reportedly met its targets of 20 percent eight years ahead of time and has no plans to put more ambitious cuts on the table.

More disappointingly, the United States said it could only cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 17 percent by 2020 from the 2005 levels, which corresponds to a cut of 3 percent to 4 percent below the 1990 levels. Australia proposed a 0.5-percent emission cut from 1990.

Xinhua

Seven killed in plane collision in central Germany

BERLIN, 9 Dec—Two small planes collided and crashed near Frankfurt Germany on Saturday afternoon, at least seven people died, including several children.

The accident happened in around 30 kilometres north of Frankfurt.

The two planes collided in the air and

crashed at about 16:15. According to German N-TV television, three or four children were among the victims.

Debris were spread over several hundred metres. One of the pilots is still missing. Cause of the accident and other details remained unclear.

Xinhua

Eight missing after boat capsizes in central China

CHANGSHA, 9 Dec—Eight people have been confirmed missing after a boat capsized early on Sunday morning in central China's Hunan Province, local authorities said.

Eleven people were aboard the flat-bottomed cargo boat when the accident occurred at around 3:40 am in waters near Pingshan

Village, Anhua County, according to the county's publicity department.

Three people, including the boat's owner, have been rescued.

Rescuers are continuing to search for the eight missing people.

Four trucks the boat was hauling also sank.

Xinhua

A sanitation worker cleans snow in Changchun, capital of northeast China's Jilin Province, on 9 Dec, 2012. Most part of the province received a snowfall on Sunday. XINHUA



REGIONAL

Death toll from Typhoon Bopha in S Philippines nears 600

NEW BATAAN, 9 Dec—Rescuers retrieved more bodies in storm-ravaged southern Philippines with death toll from Typhoon Bopha nearing 600 on Saturday, officials said.

Philippine President Benigno Aquino declared a state of national calamity on Friday after he visited disaster areas, vowing to help with reconstruction.

Typhoon Bopha made landfall on Tuesday, bringing 175-kilometre per hour wind that uprooted trees and blew away houses as well as downpour that triggered flood and landslide.

At least 300 bodies have been recovered in

the southeastern Province of Compostela Valley, according to Raul Villocino, provincial disaster officer.

At least 276 people were confirmed dead in neighbouring Province of Davao Oriental as of 5 pm on Saturday, according to Lieutenant Christy Isis Achanzar, communications officer of the army's 701st Infantry Brigade based in the province.

At least 430 people remain missing in Compostela Valley while 61 others are unaccounted for in Davao Oriental, the army's 10th Infantry Division said on Saturday.

The coastal towns of



Residents search for their missing relatives among debris swept by floodwaters at the height of Typhoon Bopha, in New Bataan town in Compostela Valley, southern Philippines on 7 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

Baganga and Cateel had over 120 deaths each as the typhoon lashed seaside communities.

Arturo Uy, governor of Compostela Valley, told *Xinhua* relief supplies have already reached villages that were cut off at the height of

the storm.

"We need years and several billion pesos for rehabilitation," the governor said. Donations from local organizations as well as from other countries have begun to trickle in, officials said.

Xinhua

An airplane overshoots runway at Shonai Airport in Japan

TOKYO, 9 Dec—An airplane overshoot the runway at the Shonai Airport in Japan's Yamagata Prefecture late Saturday and injured no one.

The flight, which belongs to All Nippon Airways Co, was from Tokyo's Haneda Airport to the Shonai Airport.

The plane's automatic braking system did not work after landing at the airport. The pilot put on the brake manually, but most of the plane's body overran the runway, according to the company.

About 161 passengers and six crew members were on board. No one was injured and the plane was also not damaged, said the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

It was snowing at the time of the accident. The plane hovered more than an hour over the airport before ground crew finished snow removal.—*Xinhua*

China, Argentina pledge to further enhance ties

BUENOS AIRES, 9 Dec—Top Chinese political adviser Jia Qinglin and Argentine President Cristina Fernandez have lauded bilateral relations and pledged to further enhance cooperation.

The current China-Argentina cooperation had enjoyed an all-round, multi-level and wide-ranging development with ever-deepening mutual political trust and fruitful results from pragmatic cooperation in various fields, Jia, chairman

of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), said during their meeting on Thursday.

As both China and Argentina were developing countries and emerging markets, it was of great significance for them to promote the comprehensive and in-depth strategic partnership in the new global environment, Jia said, adding the two countries

had maintained close coordination in international and regional affairs.

China was willing to work with Argentina to intensify all-round exchanges, enhance mutual political trust, strengthen pragmatic cooperation, and realize common development, he said.

The two countries should actively promote the mutually beneficial cooperation in such key areas as energy, power, infrastructure construction, finance and agriculture, Jia said.

He called on the two countries to expand strategic collaboration to safeguard their common interests, and to strengthen cooperation and coordination in the G20 and other international organizations and multilateral mechanisms.

China and Argentina should also enrich people-to-people and cultural exchanges, consolidate their traditional friendship, and encourage and support youth exchanges between the two countries, enabling them to become successors of friendship, Jia said.—*Xinhua*



Jia Qinglin (L), chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), meets with Argentine President Cristina Fernandez in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina, on 6 Dec, 2012.—XINHUA

Pakistani dies in mortars shelling from Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD, 9 Dec—A Pakistani was killed and five others were injured in mortars shelling from Afghanistan on Saturday, local media reported.

Dunya TV reported that five mortars were fired from Afghan side of the border and one landed on a house in North Waziristan tribal region, bordering Afghanistan.

It was not clear who

had fired the shells as the foreign and Afghan forces routinely exchange fire with the Taliban fighters along the regions in Pak-Afghan border.

Reports said that Pakistani troops also returned fire and hit the direction from where the shells were fired into Pakistan.

It is the second incident of mortar shelling into Pakistan's North Waziristan

across the border in a week.

Five mortar shells fired from Afghanistan's Khost Province landed in Bangedar border area of Ghulam Khan in North Waziristan on last Sunday.

Cross-border shelling has heightened tension between Pakistan and Afghanistan as the two countries accuse each other of firing. Islamabad said that Pakistani Taliban, who have

fled to Afghanistan in the wake of military operations, have now established bases there and launch attacks on Pakistani border posts and villages. Kabul claimed that Pakistani forces often fire rockets into its soil, which cause casualties and displacement. Pakistan said it returned fire when its check posts were attacked by the militants in Afghanistan.

Xinhua

Powerful quake injures 13 in Japan, one still missing

TOKYO, 9 Dec—About 13 people were injured and one still missing after a magnitude 7.3 earthquake jolted off eastern coast of Japan on Friday.

Two seniors were found injured in Aomori and Miyagi Prefectures respectively Saturday morning, local police said. The rest 11 injured were reported on Friday after the quake, which also triggered tsunami up to one meter high along parts of Japan's Pacific coast.

Iwate authorities said they are still searching for a senior, who went missing after evacuating in a boat from Kuji port in the prefecture in response to

tsunami alerts.

Japan's nuclear regulator said no abnormalities were detected at nuclear plants in the affected region, including Fukushima Daiichi and Fukushima Daini plants.

Over 20,000 people evacuated and railway services and an airport were suspended temporarily after the temblor.

The Japan Meteorological Agency said the quake was probably an aftershock of the catastrophic temblor hit the region in March 2011.

The agency also warned that there would be an aftershock up to magnitude 6 within a week.—*Xinhua*



Photo taken on 7 Dec, 2012 shows the scene of Japan's Tokyo after an earthquake. A 7.3-magnitude earthquake jolted off the east coast of Honshu of Japan, resulting in a tsunami warning for the country's northeastern coastal areas, according to Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA).

XINHUA

Investment default highlights risks in wealth management market

SHANGHAI, 9 Dec—The investment failure of a wealth management product sold by a bank employee in Shanghai highlights the potential risks in China's huge wealth management market. The case came under the spotlight when investors protested after finding that they could not take back their investments late last month when the first batch of the wealth management product matured. Pu Tingting, an employee at Jiading branch of Huaxia Bank in Shanghai, allegedly sold the product at the bank office, promising annual returns of up to 13 percent.

Pu has been sacked for what the bank said "selling privately," but investors said that the branch was aware of the wealth management product sales totaling 320 million yuan (51.4 million US dollars).

Dozens of investors have been protesting in front of Huaxia Bank's Shanghai and Jiading

branches over the past few days, demanding their investment be repaid.

Some of the investors are in their 70s, who invested millions of yuan in the wealth management product sold privately by Pu.

The money raised through the underground private equity went to pawn shops and car dealers in the central province of Henan.

Ma Minghua, 51, planned to buy a wealth management product that matures in six months with an annualized earnings ratio of 5.8 percent, but was persuaded to invest 1.1 million yuan in the illegal fund.

"They (the bank's wealth management managers) said the fund would be invested in high-speed railways and there were no risks at all," Ma told *Xinhua*. Police authorities and banking regulators in Shanghai, Beijing and Henan are currently investigating whether this was an illegal fund raising case.

Xinhua

NOTICE

This is to inform the public that, we are looking for the descendant (s) of Oh Khuan Sim Neoh who have been immigrated to Yangon, Myanmar in year 1936. She used to have a sister by the name of Oh Khuan Ee in Penang.

If anyone has information regarding the descendant of Oh Khuan Sim Neoh, please contact M/s Shafiq Abdullah And Co., Advocates & Solicitors, No.87 C-2-19, 2nd Floor, University Hight Shoplot, Jalan Sungai Dua, 11700 Gelugor, Penang. Tel: 04-6563312

Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan to cooperate on civil defence

BISHKEK, 9 Dec—Kyrgyzstan's President Almazbek Atambayev on Friday approved ratification of a cooperation agreement with Azerbaijan in the field of civil protection and disaster management.

The agreement, signed on 30 March, 2012 in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, was approved by Kyrgyzstan's Parliament on 22

Nov, the presidential Press service said.

The move aims to establish cooperation between emergency departments of the two countries to deal with issues of emergency management, exchange of experience, information and technology, and to train specialists in the field of civil protection.

Xinhua

Air Berlin seeks 15 percent cost cuts

FRANKFURT, 9 Dec—Germany's Air Berlin (AB1.DE), partly owned by Abu Dhabi-based carrier Etihad, wants to cut costs by 15 percent, including at least 500 full time jobs, *Die Welt* newspaper reported on Saturday, citing a letter written by its chief executive to staff.

"The goal is to cut costs by 15 percent in the next two years," Hartmut Mehdorn's letter said, according to the daily. A spokesman for Air Berlin declined comment.

Air Berlin, which has not posted an operating profit since 2007, has about 9,300 employees.

The cost cutting drive is

part of the carrier's so-called Turbine 2013, which aims to steer the loss-making airline back to profit starting next year. Mehdorn said last month the airline would present details of the plan by the end of December.

In his letter, Mehdorn said the airline planned to cut its fleet to 138 aircraft and would focus on its core markets, which he defined as the short-haul and medium-haul segments. As of end-September Germany's second biggest airline after Lufthansa (LHAG.DE) had 159 planes. It had said out of nine aircraft to be sold, there were still seven remaining.—Reuters

NATO Patriot missiles to be deployed in Turkey in 2013

ANKARA, 9 Dec—The deployment of Patriot systems along Turkey's border with Syria will probably take place in early 2013, as technical work to determine the number of batteries and sites continues, local *Hurriyet Daily News* reported on Thursday.

"It's hard to give a precise date for the deployment of the Patriots. But it could take no less than a month if everything goes as planned," Turkish diplomatic sources were quoted as saying.

"These are large systems. They will be brought to Turkey via ships and they will be uploaded to ships in a few weeks. I cannot give you a specific date about the deployment of Patriots, but it will be shorter than most people's expectation," NATO Allied Land Commander Gen. Frederick Ben Hodges was quoted as saying by the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency.

Also on Thursday, the German cabinet agreed to participate in a NATO

LONDON, 9 Dec—For Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS.L) Chief Executive Stephen Hester, the biggest turnaround in corporate history is not over.

Hester, who has shrunk RBS by 700 billion pounds since he began repairing its balance sheet four years ago, can count on at least three years' work to finish the job.

At the height of the 2008 financial crisis, RBS came within hours of running out of cash, and Britain had to pump in 45.5 billion pounds to prevent a potentially catastrophic failure of what at the time was the world's fifth largest bank.

With British taxpayers left holding an 81 percent stake in RBS, which had a meteoric rise thanks to a string of takeovers, Hester's challenge has been



Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) Chief Executive Stephen Hester speaks to media after appearing at a Treasury Select Committee hearing at Parliament in London in this file photo taken on 8 June, 2011.—REUTERS

to return the once small Scottish retail bank to being a "normal" lender, with loans matched by its deposits instead of a reliance on wholesale funding.

Past mistakes still haunt RBS. The bleakest clouds on the bank's near horizon are impending punishments—likely to be fines

—for its part in the manipulation of the London interbank offered rate (Libor) and other key interest rates.

Hester, who is used to media criticism, is braced for public opprobrium and wants to agree Libor settlements before publication of RBS's full-year results in February. He has warned of

a "miserable day" when the penalties are meted out.

Regulators are examining evidence of wrongdoing by RBS traders up until 2010, a period well into Hester's tenure. However, unlike Barclays, which lost its chief executive, chairman and chief operating officer in the fallout from the affair, the probe into RBS is not expected to compromise senior figures, according to industry sources.

More than a dozen banks are currently under investigation in a global interest rate rigging probe. Barclays was the first to settle, paying 290 million pounds (\$466 million) in fines in June, and some analysts believe RBS will face a worse penalty because Barclays was granted leniency for settling early.

Reuters

Iran's long-range missiles said to lag US intelligence fears

WASHINGTON, 9 Dec—An internal report for the US Congress has concluded that Iran probably is no longer on track, if it ever was, to having an ocean-crossing missile as soon as 2015. The study casts doubt on a view long held by US intelligence agencies that Iran could be able to test-fly by 2015 an intercontinental

ballistic missile, or ICBM, if it receives "sufficient foreign assistance."

"It is increasingly uncertain whether Iran will be able to achieve an ICBM capability by 2015," said the report by the non-partisan Congressional Research Service, which works exclusively for lawmakers.

Iran does not appear to be receiving as much help as would likely be necessary, notably from China or Russia, to reach that goal, according to the 66-page report dated on Thursday.

It is also increasingly tough for Teheran to obtain certain critical components and materials because of international sanctions related to its disputed nuclear programme.

In addition, Iran has not demonstrated the kind of flight test programme generally deemed necessary to produce an ICBM, said the study by Steven Hildreth, a specialist in missile defence who consulted seven external expert reviewers.

The study appears to be the most detailed unclassified look yet at Iran's controversial ballistic missile and space programmes. It does not address Teheran's nu-

clear programme, which has prompted international fears that it could lead to atomic weapons at short notice. An effective nuclear-weapons capability requires three things to work together—enough fissile material, a reliable weapons device and an effective delivery system, such as a ballistic missile that can grow out of a space launch programme.

The US intelligence community since 1999 has stuck to the conditional 2015 date, provided Iran gets enough outside help, for a potential Iranian ICBM capable of reaching the United States, which is at least 10,000 kilometres away.

An ICBM is generally defined as having a range greater than 5,500 km (3,400 miles). Such missiles from Iran could threaten targets throughout Europe and the Middle East.—Reuters



An Iranian long-range shore-to-sea missile called Qader (Capable) is launched during Velayat-90 war game on Sea of Oman's shore near the Strait of Hormuz in southern Iran on 2 Jan 2012.—REUTERS

French soldiers guilty in murder of Ivory Coast man

PARIS, 9 Dec—Three French soldiers were found guilty on Friday of murdering a highway gang leader in Ivory Coast in 2005 in a high-profile case that strained relations between France and its former colony. The sentences were suspended, meaning the soldiers will not face jail.

A Paris criminal court handed down the suspended sentences ranging from one to five years for the three soldiers accused of killing Firmin Mahe, an Ivory Coast man wanted for mur-

der and rape, in May 2005.

The former commander of the 4,000-strong French peacekeepers in Ivory Coast, Henri Poncet, was suspended over the affair, which hurt relations between France and Ivory Coast, the world's top cocoa producer.

The soldiers, serving alongside United Nations peacekeepers, had been patrolling the buffer zone in Ivory Coast that separated the government-controlled south from the rebel-held north.

That civil war ended last year when the same French force helped arrest former President Laurent Gbagbo, who had refused to step down after the election of Alassane Ouattara as president.

The court gave Colonel Eric Burgaud, who had given the order to kill, a suspended sentence of five years, while his adjunct who had admitted to carrying out the murder, Guy Raugel, received a suspended four-year sentence.

Reuters

ENTERTAINMENT

Aamir Khan: It's my dream to make Mahabharata and play Krishna on screen

NEW DELHI, 9 Dec—Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan, known for his penchant for doing things in a unique way, says he wants to adapt of the epic Mahabharata on screen but is scared it may consume 20 years of his life as the subject needs perfect detailing. The 47-year-old actor has even thought that he will play the character of Lord Krishna in it.

"I want to make the Mahabharata. It's my dream and a nightmare too. It will take 20 years of my life to work on such a subject. I am apprehensive about it

because people complain that I take three years to make a film," he said on the sidelines of Agenda Aaj Tak's session 'Dil Chahta Hai'.

"I actually wanted to play Karna because he is my favourite. But I feel, I don't fit into the character because he was a six feet five inches warrior. So, I think I will be best suited for Krishna's character. My mom used to call me Krishna when I was a kid and like him, I was also surrounded by girls."

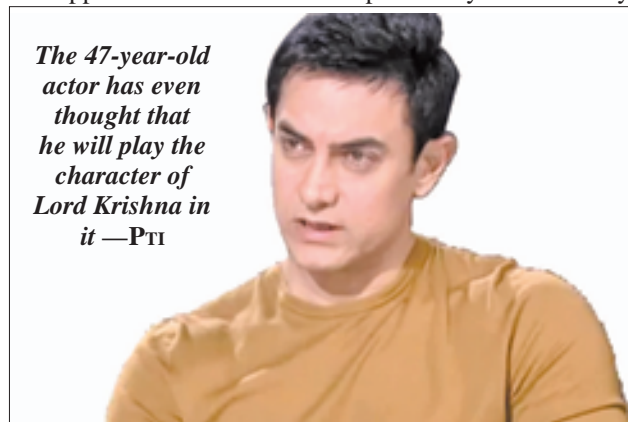
The 'Talaash' star has always built a sense of responsibility in the society

be it his initiative to join anti-corruption crusader Anna Hazare or highlighting social issues through his TV debut 'Satyamev Jayate'.

"Being an entertainer or a creative person, it's my social responsibility to build the social fabric and a grace in the society. I am not a political person because I have no interest in politics. I strongly feel that I should contribute for a social change through my craft," he said.

Recently, a man who spoke against honour killing in one of the episodes of 'Satyamev Jayate' was allegedly shot dead by his family members. The actor expressed his grief for this act but said he will not scrap the idea of going ahead with the second season of his show.

"My good wishes will always be with him and wife. But with this, I don't lost my hope to do something for my society. I will definitely bring the second season of the show." —PTI



The 47-year-old actor has even thought that he will play the character of Lord Krishna in it —PTI



Members of South Korean pop group SHINee perform during their concert in Singapore on 8 Dec, 2012. XINHUA

Poignant films screened on second day of IFFK

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 9 Dec—Four films, dealing with complex and poignant themes, were screened in the competition section of the 17th International Film Festival here Yesterday.

The section, featuring Asian, African and Latin American films, showed 'Sta Nina', a 105-minute long Filipino film directed by Emmanuel Quindo Palo.

The film revolves around the body of two-year-old Marikit, that was dug out years after her death caused by a volcanic overflow, by her father Pol

and his co-workers in a quarry.

The fact that the body did not show any signs of decay was considered as a miracle by people and they troop into Pol's home to be cured by Marikit.

As people gets healed by the dead child, Pol insists that the child is worthy of being called a saint and begins his crusade to have her beatified.

Exhuming the body dig up unresolved problems in the lives of the living and the film leaves the audience wondering if there was

healing, a cleansing of sins and a chance to move on.

'Nos Vemos Papa', (See you, Dad), an 89 minute long Spanish film directed by Luca Carreras is an intimate contemporary story that talks about love, loss and solitude.

Time stops for Pilar, the heroine of the film, the moment she loses the thing which mattered most to her in life. She withdraws into a world of her own and the film takes us through the bitter sweetness of life and the way we deal with it.

PTI

Flu forces La Scala to change opening gala cast

MILAN, 9 Dec—Opera house La Scala was forced to change its cast for Richard Wagner's "Lohengrin" hours before the opening gala on Friday after German soprano Anja Harteros and her understudy both fell ill with flu.

The theatre said Annette Dasch will sing the lead female role of Elsa after arriving in Milan overnight, rescuing the biggest night of the year in the world of opera. Dasch has performed the role at the Bayreuth opera festival.

The Milanese theatre

has come under fire for choosing Wagner over local hero Giuseppe Verdi to open its season.

With opera lovers around the globe preparing to celebrate the 200th birthday of both composers, born a few months apart in 1813, La Scala has been accused of being unpatriotic at a time when Italy battles a recession some blame on austerity policies driven by Germany.

"La Scala puts Verdi in a corner, preferring the German," wrote *il Giornale* newspaper owned by former prime minister Silvio

Berlusconi's family and known for its vitriolic attacks on German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Corriere della Sera said there was unease in the orchestra pit over the choice of Wagner in Verdi's musical home and talked of "a blow to national pride in a moment of crisis."

La Scala general manager Stephane Lissner, a Frenchman, has dismissed the controversy as ridiculous.

"There are more serious problems than this Wagner-Verdi derby," he told reporters this week, pointing

out that the theatre will stage six works by Wagner against eight by Verdi in the 2012/13 season.

Italian President Giorgio Napolitano was careful to clarify that he could not attend the gala opening because of pressing state business in Rome rather than deliver a deliberate snub. In a letter to the theatre, he called the row over Wagner "futile" and "pathetic".

Prime Minister Mario Monti, who replaced Berlusconi just over a year ago as Italy flirted with a Greek-style debt crisis, will be in attendance at one of the global social calendar's most glittering events along with five of his ministers.

For some, the debate reflects the storied rivalry between the two great composers and their supporters. When Verdi attended the Italian premiere of Lohengrin in 1871, he scribbled on a copy of the score: "Mediocre impression."

The romantic opera in three acts, generally considered one of Wagner's most accessible, centres on the doomed love between Lohengrin, a noble knight who cannot reveal his identity, and the daughter of the late ruler in the land of Brabant, Elsa.

Reuters



Artists acknowledge the applause at the end of the Wagner's "Lohengrin" at La Scala opera house in Milan on 7 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

Amitabh honoured at Florence Film festival

MUMBAI, 9 Dec—Megastar Amitabh Bachchan has been honoured at the ongoing River To River 2012 Indian Film Festival in Florence, where he was presented with the keys of the City of Firenze.

The 70-year-old Indian actor said he was overwhelmed with the beauty



of the capital city of the Italian region of Tuscany as well as the honour bestowed on him.—PTI



Chinese director Zhang Yimou receives a lifetime achievement award during the closing ceremony of the 35th Cairo International Film Festival in Cairo, Egypt, on 6 Dec, 2012.—XINHUA

Arsenal midfielder Cazorla's tumble sparks

Soccer

diving debate

LONDON, 9 Dec—Santi Cazorla became the latest player embroiled in a diving row when the Spaniard's tumble earned Arsenal the first of their two penalties in a 2-0 Premier League win home over West Bromwich Albion on Saturday.

There seemed to be no contact when Steven Reid attempted to stop Cazorla after 25 minutes but a theatrical fall to the turf persuaded referee Mike Jones that he had been fouled.

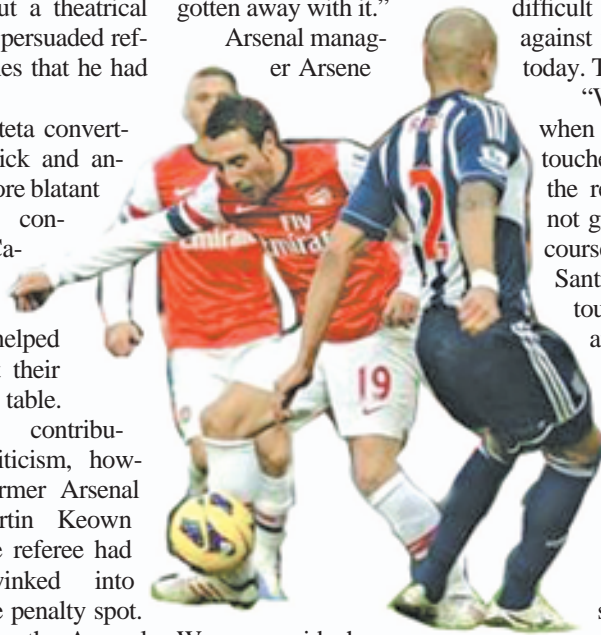
Mikel Arteta converted the spot kick and another much more blatant penalty, also converted by Cazorla's fellow Spanish midfielder, helped Arsenal arrest their slide down the table.

Cazorla's contribution drew criticism, however, with former Arsenal defender Martin Keown suggesting the referee had been hoodwinked into pointing to the penalty spot. "When you see the Arsenal

penalty decision from the side, there is no way it is a penalty.

But, when you see it from the angle the referee saw it, you can see why the referee gave it against West Brom," Keown told the BBC. "Cazorla did make the most of Reid's challenge, it is not good to see. He has coned the referee and has gotten away with it."

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said he



Wenger said he

Arsenal's Santi Cazorla (19) is brought down by West Bromwich Albion's Steven Reid for a penalty kick during their English Premier League soccer match at the Emirates stadium in London on 8 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

Manziel first freshman to win Heisman Trophy

NEW YORK, 9 Dec—Texas A&M quarterback Johnny Manziel was awarded the Heisman Trophy on Saturday, making him the first 'freshman' to win college football's top honour.

Manziel, nicknamed "Johnny Football", beat out Notre Dame linebacker Manti Te'o and Kansas State quarterback Collin Klein at the swanky ceremony in New York.

"This is a moment I've dreamed about since I was a kid running around the backyard pretending I was Doug Flutie throwing 'hail

marys' to my dad," the first-year player Manziel said.

"To be invited into this fraternity, what a pleasure it really is. "I wish my whole team could be up here with me tonight especially my whole offensive line."

The Texan Manziel finished the regular season with 3,419 passing yards and 1,181 rushing yards to set a new total offense record for the Southeastern Conference (SEC) in 12 games.

Manziel, who is not eligible for the NFL draft for at least another year, also

broke the 1969 record held by Archie Manning, father of Peyton and Eli Manning, for total offense in a game with 557



yards against Arkansas.

He later bettered that

with 567 yards against Louisiana Tech.

Marqise Lee from USC was fourth and Braxton Miller from Ohio State was fifth.—Reuters

Texas A&M quarterback Johnny Manziel looks on during a news conference after winning the Heisman Trophy award in New York on 8 Dec, 2012.

Manziel was awarded the Heisman Trophy on Saturday, making him the first 'freshman' to win college football's top honour.

REUTERS

Bulls halt Knicks' hot run

CHICAGO, 9 Dec—The Chicago Bulls have halted the New York Knicks' five-game winning streak with a 93-85 home win on Saturday, continuing their home dominance at the United Centre.

The Bulls have now won 19 of the last 22 home encounters against the Knicks,

who were still without Carmelo Anthony.

Chicago



were led by Luol Deng and Marco Belinelli who scored 22 points apiece, improving to 11-8 and strengthening their lead in the Eastern Conference Central Division. Raymond Felton

notched up a game-high 27 points for the Knicks but couldn't drive his side to victory like he did against the Miami Heat on Thursday.

New York dropped to 14-5 but remain top of the Eastern Conference.

Reuters

Chicago Bulls' Nate Robinson (R) loses the ball as he goes to the basket against New York Knicks' J.R. Smith during the second half of their NBA game in Chicago, on 8 Dec, 2012.

REUTERS

Home win for Pinturault in Val d'Isere

VALD'ISERE, (France) 9 Dec—Frenchman Alexis Pinturault began to fulfil his potential when the exciting young alpine skiing all-rounder won a men's World Cup slalom in Val d'Isere on Saturday.

The 21-year-old had claimed his first World Cup win in a city event in Moscow last winter but it could not compare with beating the world's best at home on the steep Face de Belvalarde slope used for the 1992 Olympics.

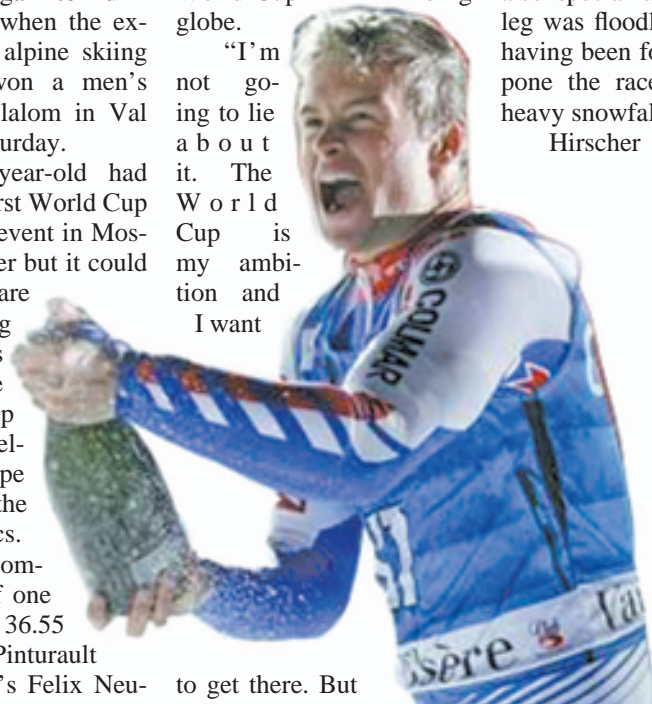
In a combined time of one minute and 36.55 seconds, Pinturault left Germany's Felix Neureuther 0.50 seconds adrift with Austria's overall World Cup champion Marcel Hirscher was third, a further 0.07 behind.

Pinturault is one of the most promising talents produced by French skiing in recent years, having earned podium places in four alpine disciplines since his World cup start two seasons ago.

He made it clear that

his long-term ambition was to win the overall World Cup big globe.

"I'm not going to lie about it. The World Cup is my ambition and I want



Alexis Pinturault of France sprays champagne after winning the men's World Cup Slalom skiing race in Val d'Isere, French Alps, on 8 Dec, 2012.

REUTERS

to get there. But I'm taking my time, and going each step at a time," he said.

His show of strength was all the more impressive as the Frenchman injured his ankle playing tennis in the summer and could not train for three months.

"This does not have the same flavour as Moscow. The conditions were difficult for me because of my ankle. I was short on training and I managed to win at home in France.

"It's a special one, ob-

viously," said Pinturault.

The conditions were also special as the second leg was floodlit, organisers having been forced to postpone the race because of heavy snowfalls overnight.

Hirscher collected his

fourth podium place in succession in technical events and made it back to third in the overall World Cup standings, 120 points behind Norway's Aksel Lund Svindal.

Asked about Pinturault, the Austrian said: "I'm not surprised by his victory. I've known him since the junior ranks and I know what he's worth. It was bound to happen and it's good for skiing to have such young talent," he said.

Reuters

Watson eyes 2014 Ryder Cup captaincy

Golf



Tom Watson of the US

SYDNEY, 9 Dec—Tom Watson is hoping to get the call to return as captain of the United States team for the 2014 Ryder Cup at Gleneagles in Scotland, the eight-times major champion said on Sunday.

Watson, who won four of his five British Open titles in Scotland, played four times in the biennial team tournament and captained the 1993 US team to victory at the Belfry—the last time the Americans won in Europe.

"It would be cool to be Ryder Cup captain again," the 63-year-old told reporters after his final round at the Australian Open.

"I hope so, I hope so. It would be a great honour if I got tapped on the shoulder. I know that '93 was the last time I've been to a Ryder Cup. I'd like to go back as captain. That would be cool."

The United States has not had a repeat captain since Jack Nicklaus got the nod for a second time in 1987.

Europe will go into the 2014 version of the event as holders having staged a remarkable final-day comeback to beat Davis Love III's US team 14 1/2 points to 13 1/2 at Medinah earlier this year.

Reuters

GENERAL

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(10-12-12 09:30 am ~ 11-12-12 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * World AIDS Day, Getting to Zero
- * News
- * Evergreen Classical Music (Part-14)
- * News
- * Nay Pyi Taw Expo 2012
- * News
- * Chin Traditional "Shield" Dance
- * News
- * Artist U Kyaw Tint Second Solo Art Show
- * A Special Gathering Day of Inthar

- * News
- * Tazaungdaing Robes Weaving Competition
- * News
- * The Hills of Phowin Taung and Shwebataung
- * News
- * G.I.Z Workshop on Capacity Strengthening for Trade Association
- * Planetary Posts! What do they serve?
- * Myanmar Movie "Love Triangle"

MYANMAR TV

(10-12-2012, Monday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 7:15 am
- 2. Dhama Puja Song

- 7:25 am
- 3. To Be Healthy Exercise
- 7:40 am
- 4. Nice & Sweet Song
- 7:50 am
- 5. Health Programme
- 8:05 am
- 6. Dance Of National Races
- 8:15 am
- 7. Cute Little Dancer
- 8:25 am
- 8. Documentary
- 8:40 am
- 9. International News
- 8:45 am
- 10. Musical Programme
- 4:00 pm
- 11. Martial Song
- 4:10 pm
- 12. Dance Variety
- 4:35 pm
- 13. University of Distance

- Education (TV Lectures) -First Year (Oriental)
- 4:50 pm
- 14. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:00 pm
- 15. Musical Programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)
- 5:10 pm
- 16. Myanmar Language
- 5:25 pm
- 17. Teleplay (Health)
- 6:20 pm
- 18. Sing & Enjoy
- 7:00 pm
- 19. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- 20. News
- 21. Cartoon Series
- 22. TV Drama Series
- 23. India Drama Series



Caption News: Photo shows giving educative talks on curbing crime and eradication of trafficking in person by Police Major Than Win of Insein Township Police Station at the Myothit (Ga) ward administrator's office on 30 November. A total of more than 70 people in the ward attended the talks.

KYEMON

Anand shocked by Adams in London Chess Classic

LONDON, 9 Dec—World Champion Viswanathan Anand fell prey to an inexplicable blunder in a perfectly balanced position and went down to Michael Adams of England in the sixth round of London Chess Classic at the Olympia here.

After a fine victory in the previous round against Gawain Jones of England, the Indian ace survived some anxious moments in the middle game before equalising completely and just when the experts had given up declaring the game

the gap is only growing between him and Carlsen.

Michael Adams jumped to third spot again following his lucky victory and Hikaru Nakamura dropped to fourth spot with eight points in all. Anand, on six points, is now fifth, a point ahead of Luke McShane, who scored his first win in the tournament by defeating compatriot Gawain Jones. Just three rounds remain in UK's highest category event.

Adams neutralized Anand's opening preparation without much ado and got



a 'sure-draw', Anand lost track, and lost in no time.

Magnus Carlsen of Norway stretched his lead to three points by defeating highest ranked woman Judit Polgar of Hungary. Under the soccer-like scoring system, Carlsen took his tally to a whopping 16 points out of a possible eighteen, and the world number one is sitting pretty with just two games to come for him.

The victory over Polgar also took Carlsen to another peak in live ratings where the chart now reads him at 2864 points. Russian Vladimir Kramnik remained on the second spot following a draw with Levon Aronian of Armenia. Kramnik inched himself up to 12 points and

the pair of bishops to start pressing for more. Anand was precise in defense once under pressure and posting a Knight in the middle of the board, the world champion got counter play.

However, disaster struck soon after the first time control. Anand blundered big time to find his king caught in a check-mate web in merely a couple of moves. Adams thought for quite some time but eventually played the killer sequence.

Judit Polgar's hedgehog setup allowed him to get decent chances as black against Carlsen but the Norwegian is not the one to give up and kept looking for complexities.

PTI

Ibrahimovic strikes again as emphatic PSG rout Evian

PARIS, 9 Dec—Zlatan Ibrahimovic put the title-challengers in front on 28 minutes before Ezequiel Lavezzi — who scored the winner in PSG's midweek Champions League win over Porto — was again on target moments later.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic struck his Ligue 1-leading 14th goal of the season as Paris Saint-Germain secured a much-needed 4-0 victory over Evian on Saturday, easing some of the pressure on under-fire manager Carlo Ancelotti.

Ibrahimovic put the title-challengers in front on 28 minutes before Ezequiel Lavezzi — who scored the winner in PSG's midweek Champions League win over Porto — was again on target moments later.

Thiago Motta and Kevin Gameiro added late strikes as the French capital club secured just a second league

victory in six attempts.

"We played a good match. It was a good performance from the team, with good play, a good attitude and an attacking style. Everything went well today," said Ancelotti.

"After the defeat at Nice (last Sunday), we have played two good matches. Next week, we have two more difficult games, against Valenciennes and Lyon, with this attitude things will be better," he added.

The result moved the Parisians up to second on 29 points, level with arch-rivals Marseille and two adrift of table-toppers Lyon, who are both in action on Sunday.

Bertrand Laquait had to be alert to keep out an early header from Ibrahimovic at Parc des Princes, but there was nothing the Evian goalkeeper could do as the home side went in front on 28 minutes.



Neat interplay between Christophe Jallet and Javier Pastore on the right flank led to the latter crossing for Ibrahimovic, who poked the ball past Laquait from close range to give PSG the lead.

The towering Swede then displayed great strength three minutes later to chest down Jeremy Menez's lofted pass into the path of Lavezzi, who turned past a defender before curling low into the far corner via the inside of

the post.

Lavezzi was denied a second goal of the afternoon as Laquait clawed away the Argentine's header, but it was academic as the hosts asserted their dominance in the second period.

Ibrahimovic was only prevented from adding to his account by the frame of the goal as his prodded effort looped over Laquait but rebounded off the left upright.—PTI

Two-goal Torres inspires Chelsea, record for QPR

LONDON, 9 Dec—Fernando Torres continued to silence his critics by scoring twice for the second

game running as third-placed Chelsea won 3-1 at Sunderland on Saturday to record their first Premier



Chelsea's Fernando Torres (2nd L) celebrates scoring a penalty against Sunderland during their English Premier League soccer match in Sunderland, northern England on 8 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

League victory under Rafael Benitez. The much-maligned Spain forward struck two goals in the first half, his second from the penalty spot, and almost completed a hat-trick shortly after halftime when his ferocious shot rebounded off the woodwork for compatriot Juan Mata to tap home.

The double by Torres, his first goals in the Premier League for two months, came on the back of his double blast in Wednesday's 6-1 rout of Danish team Nordsjaelland in the Champions League.

"Torres was always around but we needed to create more chances for him

because he will always score goals," Benitez told Sky Sports.

The former Liverpool manager, who took charge at Chelsea on an interim basis when Roberto Di Matteo was sacked last month, now takes the European champions to Japan where they will meet Mexicans Monterrey or Ulsan Hyundai of South Korea in Thursday's World Club Cup semi-finals. Bottom club Queens Park Rangers set an unwanted Premier League record when a 2-2 draw at Wigan Athletic meant they had failed to win any of their 16 matches this season.—Reuters

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker attends opening ceremonies of upgraded schools in Pyawbwe Township

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Dec— Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint attended upgrading ceremony of basic education high school and middle school in Pyawbwe Township in Yamethin District of Mandalay Region.

He was accompanied by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, Deputy Education Minister U Aye Kyu, Pyawbwe Township Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Myint Soe, Region Hluttaw Representative U Tin Oo, Mandalay Region ministers and officials.

The Speaker unveiled the signboard of the high school of Yan Aung Village and delivered an address at the upgrading ceremony of the middle school. The



headmistress reported on conditions of the school. Wellwishers donated cash and furnishings through

officials. The Speaker and party formally opened the newly upgraded middle school

in Kyidainggon Village and attended the upgrading ceremony.

MNA

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint formally opens upgraded school in Pyawbwe Township.—MNA

Completion of sports grounds, gymnasiums in Nay Pyi Taw inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Dec— Chairman of Myanmar National Sport Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan together with Deputy Minister U Thaung Htaik this morning looked into completion of sports grounds and gymnasiums being constructed in Nay Pyi Taw for successfully hosting the XXVII SEA Games.

The Union Minister and party inspected the site chosen for construction for arches at No. 2 Gate and No. 1 Gate of Wunna Theikdi sports ground, entrance and

car parking at the grand stand, nurturing of lawns in the pitch, installment of lift, preparation for VIP room, Olympic committee office and meeting room, Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium, construction of swimming pool, undertakings of tracks at the training ground No. 1 in Zabuthiri Township.

Then, the Union Minister and party also inspected construction of arch at Gold Camp, undertakings of pavements at the entrance roads, construction of Cluster, hostels for foreign coaches and installment of washing machines.

MNA

Chairman of Myanmar National Olympic Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan views progress in construction of sports grounds and gymnasiums in Zabuthiri Township.—MNA



Kyaikhtiyoe Shuttle Bus Line Service shuttles 39600 pilgrims free



NAY PYI TAW, 9 Dec — Kyaikhtiyoe Shuttle Bus Line Service shuttling between the Rathedaung Mountain and Kinpun bus terminal provided free ferry service on 5 December to mark the 8th annual founding day of the bus line.

The bus line shuttled a total of 39,600 pilgrims back and forth from the foot of the mountain range to the Rathedaung Mountain near Kyaikhtiyoe Pagoda on that day.

Donors, owners of the trucks of the shuttle service and owners of shops and restaurants at the pagoda also

donated charity food to the pilgrims at the cost of around K 4 million.

During the 8-year period, the shuttle bus line constructed a one-storey reinforced concrete building for Kawchan Basic Education Primary School and two-storey building for Kawsannaing Basic Education Primary School, repaired roads, donated medicines and medical equipment to Kyaikto People's Hospital and built recreation rooms for pilgrims at Kinpun Bus Terminal in Kyaikto.

MNA

Photo shows vehicles carrying pilgrims before departure for Kyaikhtiyoe Pagoda.

MNA