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Union level Peace-making Work Committee and Chin National Front hold peace talks

Rays of peace lightens Chin State

YANGON, 10 Dec—The Union level Peace-making Work Committee and the Chin National Front held peace negotiation for the second time at Myanmar Peace Center from 7 to 9 December in the presence of international observers. The negotiations concluded with 27 out of 31 proposals for further talks.

The discussion mainly focused on ceasefire, political dialogue and holding of a conference to be attended by all national races people as directed by the President.

The Union level Peace-making Work Committee and the Chin National Front reaffirmed promotion of democracy, equality and points that can guarantee self-determination as basic principles apart from non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and

perpetuation of sovereignty while building the genuine Union as the ultimate goal.

Among the 27 points finally signed on 9 December are agreements on Chin national affairs for designation of Chin National Day and Chin State Day.

In addition, the agreement also covers national integration, human rights and environmental conservation, military affairs, development of Chin State, and cooperation of the Union government, the State government and the Chin National Front in social and cultural affairs.

At the press conference, General-Secretary of the Chin National Front Pu Zing Cung said that Kachin issue was also talked in discussion on nationwide ceasefire and the Union government attached great importance to ceasefire and peace in Kachin State.

Political party



Union level Peace-making Work Committee Vice-Chairman U Aung Min cordially greets Chin National Front General-Secretary Pu Zing Cung after exchanging notes of agreement at second meeting.—MNA

members, academicians and international observers also attended the second-round talks between the Union level Peace-making

Work Committee and the Chin National Front. The signing of agreement and press conference ended at 1 pm yesterday.—MNA

Bay Inference

(09.30 hr MST on 10-12-2012)

Weather is partly cloudy in the South Bay and generally fair in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Utility Jade, Gems and Pearl Sales continues

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec —The second day of Utility Jade, Gems and Pearl Sales continued at Mani Yadana Jade Hall, here, today and

the sales was crowded with observers.

Local and foreign gems merchants examined utility jades which will be sold in

Myanmar currency and gems and pearl lots which will be sold in foreign currency, and put proposals into the tender boxes.

For the convenience of local and foreign merchants in the competitive biddings, Secretary of organizing committee Managing Director of Myanmar Gems Enterprise U Thein Swe and party supervised the sales.

Myanma Posts and Telecommunications installed auto-exchanges phones and top-up cards sale counter at the sales.

Up to date, a total of 2731 local merchants and 40 foreign merchants took part in the sales.

The Utility Jade, Gems and Pearl Sales will continue tomorrow.

MNA



Gems merchants observe utility jade lots displayed at Utility Jade, Gems and Pearl Sales at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA

Shwedagon Pagoda sees more tourist arrivals

YANGON, 10 Dec— According to the records, the number of globetrotters thronging to Shwedagon Pagoda has increased day by day.

From 1 to 28 November, arrival of tourists to Shwedagon Pagoda reached 45029, earning the board of trustees US\$ 214,568 and FEC 10577 as admission fee and US\$ 66195 and FEC 73 as donation.

Thai visitors stood first with the number of 7488



followed by Chinese and 2726 and 2247 respectively. Koreans with the number of

Kyemon

Massive influx of tomatoes brings down prices to the delight of shoppers

YEZAGYO, 10 Dec — A mass of tomatoes is available at Myoma Market and morning bazaars in Yezagyo Township of Pakokku District.

Although the price of a viss of tomatoes had reached K 700 last months, the price went down to K 300 or 350 in the early of this month. Since 6 December, there was a massive influx of locally-produced tomatoes, and the price of tomatoes has fallen sharply in the market, reaching K 150 per viss.

Thanks to a bumper



harvest of tomatoes in Magyiboke and Magyigwa, 15-mile far from Yezagyo, tomato growers sent their produce to the market at the

same time.

The massive influx of tomatoes in the market led to shoppers enjoying cheap price. —Kyemon

First ILDEX-Myanmar 2012 brings together people from livestock and fishery industry

YANGON, 10 Dec— Jointly-organized by ILDEX Company of Vietnam and Myanmar Fisheries Federation, ILDEX-Myanmar 2012 took place at MFF Building in Insein Township, here, on 8-9 December. The primary objective of this international expo is to bring new technologies related to livestock and fishery industry for market expansion and allow Myanmar people the right to choose quality products.

A total of 40 foreign booths were on display, showcasing equipment related to livestock and fishery field, feedstuff and medicines and machines.

Dan Bred Company took part in the expo to

distribute a quality breed of sows for livestock breeders in Myanmar.

A responsible person of Thailand branch of Denmark-based Dan Bred Company said that they would mainly import sows which are in the range of 30 kg to 50 kg in weight.

Thailand branch of Holland-based MOBA Company introduced its products to be used in packaging service for coffee shops, bakeries and egg distributors. A responsible person of the company said they would distribute packaging machines with the capacity of 100,000 eggs per hour and grinding machines.

A responsible person of US-based All Tech Company said that they would distribute



medicines extracted from organic compounds to be used in livestock breeding.

Apart from display of products related to livestock field, six foreign experts gave talks at the expo make local breeders aware of the improvements which are

taking place in the livestock and fishery sector.

U Aung Moe of Shwe Sabei livestock breeding farm said that the educative talks was beneficial to people from the livestock and fishery industry.

Kyemon

Dagon Challenge Myanmar Traditional Boxing

Competitions on 16 December

YANGON, 10 Dec — A press meet on Dagon Challenge Myanmar Traditional Boxing Competitions, organized by Myanmar Media Group with the sponsorship of Dagon Beverages and under the supervision of the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Traditional Boxing Federation, was held at Central Hotel on Bogyoke Street, here, recently.

The competitions will take place at Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium-1 at 2 pm on 16 December 2012 (Sunday). At the quarter-finals for third class Dagon Shwe Aunglan, boxing matches between Saw Htoo Zaw (Taungalay) and Asia Muay boxing gold medalist Kanyaw Poe (Shwe Kokko), Region/State gold medalist Ye Myint Aung (Aphyuyaung Thwaythit) and Golden Belt Champion

Moethee (Shwephu), Hmyar Htet Aung (Mya Htet Kyaw) and Gyt Tu (Tiger), and Kyawgyar (Zwe Zarni) and Golden Belt Champion Naing Win (Cement Plant) will be included.

Quarter-finalists Asia Muay gold medalist Tu Tu (Nagar Mahn) and Region/State gold medalist Kyan Sit Aung (YCDC), Region/State gold medalist Htet Aung Oo (Taungalay) and Po Thar Gyi (Mandalay), Kanyaw Htoo (Shwe Kokko) and Region/State gold medalist Thabye Nyo (Cement Plant), Region/State gold medalist Daung Thechae (Waso) and Region/State gold medalist Golden Belt Champion Lone Chaw Lay (Thaton) will compete for the second class Dagon Shwe Aunglan.

It is Dagon Shwe Aunglan winner Golden Belt Champion Twae-ma-shaung (Myanmar) versus World

Delivery room of Tamway Township MCWA upgraded



YANGON, 10 Dec— The upgrading ceremony of the delivery room of Tamway Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association

Muay Boxing Champion Marsut (Iran) in the semi-final for first class Dagon Shwe Aunglan.

As a special program, Taw Paw and Law Paw who are only about four feet tall will perform their skills in the boxing circle. —Kyemon

took place at the room on 7 December.

CEC member of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Sao Nun Khun Sam, wife of the Union Minister for Home Affairs, Daw Aye Aye Mya, wife of Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker, Chairperson of Yangon Region Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Aye Aye Kyi formally opened the

room, and Patron of Yangon Region MCWSC Daw Khin Thet Htay, wife of Yangon Region Chief Minister, unveiled the signboard of the room.

The ceremony was also attended by patrons and members of Yangon Region Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and members of district/township/ward Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

Kyemon

Conveyance of Buddha Tooth Relic in Hsipaw on 12 December

HSHIPAW, 10 Dec — A conveyance ceremony of Buddha Tooth Relic for public obeisance will be held in Hsipaw from 12 to 28 December. Buddha Tooth Relic conveyed from Sri Lanka by Chieftain Sao Kyar Khaing more than 120 years ago is being kept at Aung Mingala Bodaw Monastery in Hsipaw of Shan State (North).

The Buddha Tooth Relic will be conveyed from the monastery in Hsipaw to the Dhammayon of Kyaukme market on 12 December and made an overnight stop there. Then the Tooth Relic will be

conveyed from Kyaukme to Hsipaw Kontha village on 13 December, from the village to Lashio Manhsu Hnee Buddha Image Dhammayon on 14 December, from Lashio to Namt-aum village on 15 December, from Hsipaw to Hsaungkyal village on 16 December, from the village to Namtlan village on 17 December and from the village to Hsipaw on 18 December.

The conveyance of the Buddha Tooth Relic for public obeisance in 11 wards of Hsipaw will be held from 24 to 27 December. Religious associations will take part in the conveyance ceremony of the Buddha Tooth Relic. During the festive period, Shan drama, Shan traditional variety shows and concerts will be organized. —Kyemon

Motorcyclist killed in head-on collision

MAHLAING, 10 Dec — A motorbike collided head-on with a light truck at about 10 am on 4 December in Mahlaing of Mandalay region, leaving the motorcyclist dead.

The road accident occurred at a place near the Home for the Age between mile post Nos (20) and (21) on Mahlaing-Meiktila road while a light truck driven by Tint Hsan (47 years) of Wunzin-3 in Meiktila was in collision with a motorbike driven by Nyo Win (46 years) of Ashae village in Mahlaing Township. The head-on collision left Nyo Win with serious injuries. He died when he was transported to Meiktila hospital to Mahlaing hospital due to his critical condition. —Kyemon

WORLD

Ghana's Mahama wins election, opposition cries foul

ACCRA, 10 Dec— Ghana's electoral authorities said on Sunday incumbent leader John Dramani Mahama won a new term as president in the West African state in an election the opposition claimed was marred by tampering.

Mahama, who replaced former president John Atta Mills after his death in July, took 50.7 percent of the ballots cast—just enough to avoid a run-off with his chief rival Nana Akufo-Addo.

"Based on the results, I declare President John Dramani Mahama president

elect," Ghana Electoral Commission President Kwadwo Afari-Gyan told a news conference in the capital Accra.

In a brief speech at his residence following the results, an exhausted-looking Mahama said his win was a "victory for all Ghanaians", and urged the leaders of rival parties to "respect the voice of the people".

Supporters of Mahama drove through the streets of the sprawling seaside capital playing loud music, shouting, and honking their

horns after the results.

The election is seen as a test of whether Ghana can maintain more than 30 years of stability and progress in a region better known for coups, civil wars and corruption.

A cliff-hanger election in 2008, in which Akufo-Addo lost by less than 1 percent, pushed the country to the brink of chaos, with disputes over results driving hundreds of people into the streets with clubs and machetes. This year's election was fraught with delays after hundreds of newly-introduced electronic



Supporters of National Democratic Congress (NDC), the party of the late Ghanaian President John Atta Mills, celebrate the victory of their candidate, John Dramani Mahama, along a street in Accra on 9 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

fingerprint readers — used to identify voters — failed on Friday and forced some

polling stations to reopen on Saturday to clear the backlog. Reuters

DR Congo gov't, M23 rebels start talks in Uganda

KAMPALA, 10 Dec— Talks aimed at ending fighting in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on Sunday opened in the Ugandan capital Kampala with warring parties, government and M23 rebels committing themselves to peace.

DRC's foreign minister Raymond Tshibanda is heading the government side while M23's Executive Secretary Francois Rucogoza is heading the rebel side in the Ugandan mediated talks.

Tshibanda told the meeting that their interest is to end the fighting in eastern DRC which he said has caused wanton suffering to the Congolese in the region.

He said although they come to the negotiation table with an open mind, they would not compromise on issues that violate the Congolese Constitution. "We are going to listen, we are going to loyally discuss to find a solution to end the fighting," he said. M23's Rucogoza told the meeting that all the suffering that the people of eastern DRC were going through was because of the poor governance by the DRC government.—Xinhua

Romania's ruling coalition poised for overwhelming victory in parliamentary elections

the exit polls results released soon after voting.

The Social Liberal Union took 54-56.96 percent of votes for the Chamber of Deputies and 55-58.3 percent of votes for the Senate.

The ruling coalition is followed far away by the pro-presidential Right Romania Alliance with 18.12-19 percent for the Chamber of Deputies and 18.87-19.6 percent for the Senate. The populist People's Party created by media tycoon Dan Diaconescu got 10-13.8 percent and 10-14.1 percent for the two houses of the

parliament respectively.

The Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania is the last to enter the parliament with about 5 percent of the vote for the both chambers of the parliament, according to the exit polls.

As many as seven institutes have been accredited by the Central Electoral Bureau to carry out the exit polls in parliamentary elections on Sunday.

The first partial results will be announced Monday morning, at 10:00 am (0800 GMT), by the Central

Electoral Bureau.

Romanians vote in the parliamentary elections Sunday to elect a new parliament for the next four years, with 18.25 million people registered for the vote. Voting began at 7:00 am (0500 GMT) and is to end at 9:00 pm (1900 GMT).

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.

Xinhua



Cristian Antonescu (C), co-president of the Social Liberal Union, speaks during a press conference in Bucharest, capital of Romania, on 9 Dec, 2012.

XINHUA

BUCHAREST, 10 Dec— The ruling Social Liberal Union is poised to have won an overwhelming victory in Romania's quadrennial

parliamentary elections, as some 57 percent of the over 18 million voters supposed to cast their ballots for the ruling coalition, according to

Sun Jiazheng, vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and chairman of China Federation of Literary and Art Circles, shakes hands with delegates before attending the 8th National Congress of China Photographers Association (CPA) in Beijing, capital of China, on 9 Dec, 2012.

XINHUA



Serbian Army called in to help with snow storm

BELGRADE, 10 Dec— The Serbian Army was ordered into action on Sunday, clearing roads and rescuing stranded travellers in northern and central regions of the country that have been paralyzed by drifting snow, reported Radio Television Serbia (RTS).

The Arctic temperatures and continuous snowfall for 30 hours that have gripped the entire region have led to state of emergencies and school closures in municipalities north of the capital Belgrade.

The government would take the "necessary measures to help citizens," many of whom have been abandoned on snowbound roadways, Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dacic said. An estimated 45 cm of snow, with drifts up to two metres, have been recorded. The Serbian Army used heavy equipment to extract a bus that had been snowbound for 20 hours; an estimated 660 people have been rescued thus far throughout the country.

An expectant mother on the way to hospital gave birth

to a baby girl in a stranded truck on the road near the town of Zrenjanin. Local media have reported both are in good condition and the baby will be named "Snow White".

Meanwhile, a number of mountainous and remote villages south of Belgrade have been cut off due to the heavy snowfall and impassable roads. The main highway toward the Hungarian border was blocked for 17 hours, snarling freight and passenger traffic.

Xinhua

Russia prepared to normalize ties with Georgia on conditions

Moscow, 10 Dec— Russia is prepared to take "sensible steps" toward normalizing relations with Georgia, but on conditions, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Sunday. "When we are told that Georgia wishes to normalize relations with Russia, we are prepared for sensible steps, meeting the interests of citizens, but we wish to understand first in what context," Lavrov said.

Meanwhile, Russia was ready to consider resuming regular air traffic between the two countries, Lavrov told President Vladimir Putin's election agents.

Currently, only charter flights are operating between the two countries.

Russian officials will meet Zurab Abashidze, a special representative of Georgian Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili, in the near future, said Lavrov.

It was not Russia that

severed relations with Georgia, he said. Russia had always worked positively toward facilitating relations between Russian and Georgian citizens, he said.

Georgia cut off diplomatic relations with Russia after a brief armed conflict between them in August 2008 over the control of the Georgian breakaway region of South Ossetia.

Russian Prime Minister

Dmitry Medvedev said earlier that Moscow would resume contacts with Tbilisi only if Georgia recognized the independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, another breakaway region.

Despite lack of diplomatic contacts, humanitarian cooperation and cultural exchanges went on between the two countries, said Medvedev.

Xinhua



Soldiers attend a disaster drill held by Indonesia's Disaster Management and Mitigation Agency in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 9 Dec, 2012.—XINHUA

Lenovo Group's parent plans China IPO as early as 2014

Tech

SHANGHAI, 10 Dec—Legend Holdings, the parent company of personal computer maker Lenovo Group, plans to list in China's A-share market sometime between 2014 and 2016, *China Business News* quoted the firm's chairman as saying.



Customers talk to a salesperson about a new laptop at a Lenovo shop in Shanghai on 17 Feb, 2011.—REUTERS

Legend Holdings, which also owns private equity fund Hony Capital, venture capital firm Legend Capital and real estate firm Raycom, will invest around 20 billion yuan (\$3.2 billion) by 2014 to develop its businesses, Chairman Liu

Chuanzhi told the paper.

Legend Holdings is 36 percent owned by the Chinese Academy of Sciences, an institution under the State Council, while private investment firm China Oceanwide Holdings Group owns 20 percent.

Lenovo, which is on track to become the world's largest

PC maker reported last month a 12.6 percent rise in quarterly net profit, its slowest profit growth in more than two years, as its revenue mainstay, PCs, cede ground to tablets. (\$1 = 6.2301 Chinese yuan)

Reuters

Russia, China alliance wants greater government voice in Internet oversight

Tech

DUBAI, 10 Dec—A Russia-led proposal calling for sweeping new governmental powers to regulate cyberspace could enable countries to block some Web locations and wrest control of allotting Internet addresses from a US-based body.

The proposal, co-signed by Russia, China, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates, added to fears in some Western countries of a stalemate midway through a 12-day conference in Dubai to rewrite a longstanding treaty on international communications.

Russia and its supporters, which include many African and Arab states, seek to formally extend the remit of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to govern many aspects of the Internet. The United States, Europe and other allies including Australia and Japan insist the treaty should continue to apply only to traditional telecommunications such as international wireline and wireless calls.

Countries can opt out of parts of the revised treaty when it emerges or refuse to sign it altogether.

"If we have no agreement it will create political tension

around the Internet," said Markus Kummer, vice president for public policy at industry think tank The Internet Society.

A leaked draft of the Russia-led proposals would give countries "equal rights to manage the Internet including in regard to the allotment, assignment and reclamation of Internet numbering."

This could allow governments to render websites within their borders inaccessible, even via proxy servers or other countries. It also could allow for multinational pacts in which countries could terminate access to websites at each others' request.

Such moves would undermine ICANN, a self-governing nonprofit organization under contract to the US Department of Commerce, which is ultimately responsible for making sure that people trying to reach a given website actually get there.

"Much of the Internet was developed from US research funding, and the US has kept a residual role, so many other governments say it's not right that one government 'controls' the Internet," said Kummer.

Reuters

British TV astronomer Patrick Moore dies

LONDON, 10 Dec—British astronomer Patrick Moore, who helped map the moon and inspired generations of star gazers with decades of television broadcasts, died on Sunday aged 89.

Moore presented BBC television's landmark "The Sky at Night" programme for more than 50 years, making him the longest-running presenter of a single show in broadcasting history. His old-fashioned appearance and rapid-fire delivery endeared him to television viewers and captured the imagination of future astronomers who paid tribute to the presenter and prolific author.

"Patrick would just sit in front of the camera for a whole episode ... and just tell you about a constellation, about the stars, their names, their history," British astronomer David Whitehouse told Sky

News. "It was captivating and the best example of communication and an expert sharing his enthusiasm that I have ever experienced."

A space enthusiast from his early childhood, Moore's television career coincided with the start of the space race between Russia and the United States.

"He was broadcasting before we actually went into space and he saw a change in our understanding of the universe," British space scientist Maggie Aderin-Pocock told the BBC.

Moore, rarely seen without his trademark monocle, was also an enthusiastic musician and xylophone player and once accompanied a violin-playing Albert Einstein on the piano.

He never studied for a degree, building up his expertise through his own,



British astronomer Sir Patrick Moore attends a news conference as it is announced that the Beagle 2 lander craft has separated from the mother ship Mars Express on its way towards Mars, in London, on 19 Dec, 2003.

REUTERS

single-minded enthusiasm, constructing an observatory in the garden of his southern England home. His television show marked many astronomical landmarks, and he was broadcasting live when the first picture of the far side of the moon were returned by a Russian satellite.

Television schedulers were not always sympathetic

to the significance of developments in space.

During the NASA Apollo 8 mission, Moore told viewers they were about to hear the voices of first men round the Moon in "one of the greatest moments in human history," only to be interrupted by BBC switching the broadcast to a daily children's show.

Reuters

In giant "garage sale", Japan's TV giants hawk \$3 billion of assets

Tech

TOKYO, 10 Dec—Panasonic Corp, Japan's struggling maker of Viera brand TVs, owns more than 10 million square metres of office and factory space, dormitories for its workers and sports facilities for its rugby, baseball and women's athletics teams.

As it battles for Christmas shoppers' wallets in the year-end holiday season, the sprawling electronics conglomerate is also seeking buyers for some of those properties to trim its fixed costs and improve cashflow at a time of intense competition, particularly from South Korean rivals such as Samsung Electronics Co.

Japan's other troubled TV makers, Sony Corp and Sharp Corp, are also selling buildings and businesses in a giant 'garage sale' that could raise a combined \$3 billion.

Panasonic plans to raise \$1.34 billion from offloading property and shares in other Japanese companies by end-March, the group's chief financial officer Hideaki

Kawai told Reuters.

"We have a lot of land and buildings in Japan and overseas," he said in an interview at the company's



A man looks at Panasonic TV sets at an electronic shop in Tokyo on 22 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

head office in Osaka, in western Japan. He declined to list which properties would go on the block, but said most are in Japan.

Included is a 24-storey central Tokyo block - built in 2003 with more than 47,300 square metres and housing 2,000 Panasonic workers — a source familiar with the plan told Reuters.

Kawai added that Panasonic would raise about a quarter of the sell-off funds by getting rid of shares it owns in other companies — a

common practice of cross-shareholdings in Japan. The proceeds would help bolster free cashflow to 200 billion yen (\$2.43 billion) for the business year to March, Kawai said, and allow Panasonic to reduce its debt and maintain its crucial research and development effort as it revamps its business portfolio.

It will sell more assets in the year starting in April if cashflow dips below 200 billion yen, Kawai added. Panasonic President Kazuhiro Tsuga has promised to shut or sell businesses operating at below a 5 percent margin. Those sales could start as soon as April.

Panasonic's fixed assets of \$21 billion are around 30 percent more than those of Apple Inc, and are almost double the company's market value. The company, founded almost a century ago as a small electrical extension socket maker, trades at around half its book value — which includes intangible assets such as patents. Sony trades at 39 percent of book, Sharp at 30 percent.

The fixed assets — buildings, land and machinery — of the three companies that were not so long ago a byword for innovation in household gadgetry total around \$42 billion, while their combined market value is \$24 billion.

Reuters

TSMC November on-year sales up 24 percent

Tech

TAIPEI, (China), 10 Dec—TSMC, the world's biggest contract chipmaker, said on Monday that its sales in November rose 23.9 percent from a year earlier, though they fell 11.4 percent from a month ago.

Taipei Semiconductor Manufacturing Co Ltd (TSMC) said unconsolidated

sales totaled T\$43.64 billion (\$1.50 billion) last month, compared with T\$35.2 billion a year earlier and T\$49.3 billion in the previous month.

Consolidated sales totaled T\$44.3 billion, up 23.4 percent a year earlier.

The company did not give further details.—Reuters



People stand behind a sign with a TSMC logo during TSMC's third quarter earnings conference in Taipei on 25 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Asian shares firm as China, US data brighten outlook

Business



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

SINGAPORE, 10 Dec—Asian shares clambered to a 16-month high on Monday as investors took heart from economic data from China and the United States that raised hopes about the outlook for growth in the world's top two economies.

The euro was under pressure, having been knocked by the prospect of a recession in Germany and political uncertainty in Italy after Prime Minister Mario Monti, an investors' favorite, said at the weekend he intended to resign early.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS

and Tokyo's Nikkei share average .N225 both gained 0.3 percent. .T

The MSCI index rose more than 1 percent last week, its third successive weekly gain, taking it to levels not seen since early August 2011, and there was a further boost for regional markets on Sunday when China reported a pick-up in factory output and retail sales growth to eight-month highs.

"We had some really good economic data coming out from China," said Juliana Roadley, market analyst at Commonwealth Securities. "Over the last few years, you had the Chinese government

pulling back on growth and trying to control things so that it didn't over-boil. Now it looks like all that good work has been done."

Hopes that China's economy is revving up again after seven straight quarters of slowing growth also boosted riskier assets such as oil and copper.

Asian "risk" markets took in their stride China trade data on Monday that showed both imports and exports below forecasts.

"The export slowdown shows external demand faces uncertainty due to concerns over the fiscal cliff in the US," Zhang Zhiwei, chief China economist at Nomura in Hong Kong, said. "Nonetheless it does not change our view that growth is on track for a strong recovery in Q4, as (growth) is mostly domestically driven."

On Wall Street, the Dow .DJI and S&P 500 .SPX had risen modestly on Friday after an unexpected fall in the US unemployment rate. S&P 500 futures were up 0.1 percent on Monday.

Reuters

China exports rise much weaker than expected

BEIJING, 10 Dec—China's exports rose in November at a much weaker pace than expected and imports were flat compared with a year earlier, taking some shine off weekend data that suggested a revival in the world's second-biggest economy was deepening.

Exports rose 2.9 percent from a year earlier, well below expectations for a 9.0 percent increase and October's 11.6 percent pace, customs figures showed on Monday. Imports were unchanged on the year, weaker than forecasts for a 2.0 percent increase.

The data represented the weakest performance for exports and imports since August.

"The export slowdown shows external demand faces uncertainty due to concerns



A general view of a container port in Shanghai June 24, 2009.—REUTERS

over the fiscal cliff in the US," said Zhang Zhiwei, chief China economist at Nomura in Hong Kong.

"Nonetheless it does not change our view that growth is on track for a strong recovery in Q4, as (growth) is mostly domestically driven."

The trade data follows government figures on Sunday that showed industrial output rose a higher-than-expected 10.1 percent in November from a year earlier, the fastest pace since March.

The weekend figures also showed consumer inflation

Greece mulls reopening debt buyback invitation

ATHENS, 10 Dec—Greece may ask for additional offers from bondholders in a debt buyback plan that forms part of its international bailout, Greek officials said on Sunday, but the country's prime minister said the transaction was running smoothly.

The invitation might be renewed on Monday to top up the offers already received, three officials

close to the proceedings told Reuters. "It's possible," a senior government official told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

Another government official and a banker confirmed the move was under consideration.

Athens plans to buy back bonds with a face value of about 30 billion euros at deeply discounted prices to lower its debt load. A

deadline for bondholders to submit offers expired on Friday. A Greek government official said on Saturday that Athens had received offers of about that sum.

Asked late on Sunday to comment on the success of the buyback, Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras said: "the procedure went very well."

"I believe that by Monday or Tuesday, I will

be able to say with great certainty that things went very well," he said on a visit to Munich, Germany.

The buyback accounts for about half of a 40-billion euro EU/IMF debt relief package for Athens agreed in November. Its success would help Greece's debt fall to 124 percent of GDP by 2020, ensuring that the IMF stays on board in the rescue.

Reuters

Britain launches genome database for patients' DNA

Health

LONDON, 10 Dec—Up to 100,000 Britons suffering from cancer and rare diseases are to have their genetic codes fully sequenced and mapped as part of government plans to build a DNA database to boost drug discovery and development.

Prime Minister David Cameron said on Monday he wanted Britain to "push the boundaries" of scientific research by being the first country to introduce genetic sequencing into a mainstream health service.

His government has set aside 100 million pounds for the project in the taxpayer-funded National Health Service (NHS) over the next three to five years.

"Britain has often led the world in scientific breakthroughs and medical innovations, from the first CT scan and test-tube baby through to decoding DNA," he said in a statement.

"It is crucial that we continue to push the boundaries and this new plan will mean we are the first country in the world to use DNA codes in the

mainstream of the health service." The government said building a database of DNA profiles will give doctors more advanced understanding of a patient's genetic make-up, their illness and their treatment needs. This should help those who are sick get access to the right drugs and more personalised care more quickly.

The database should also help scientists develop new drugs and other treatments which experts predict "could significantly reduce the number of premature

deaths from cancer within a generation", Cameron's office said in a statement,

"By unlocking the power of DNA data, the NHS will lead the global race for better tests, better drugs and above all better care," Cameron said.

"If we get this right, we could transform how we diagnose and treat our most complex diseases not only here but across the world, while enabling our best scientists to discover the next wonder drug or breakthrough technology."—Reuters



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron speaks at The Electric City Conference in London on 6 Dec, 2012.

REUTERS

Business

Fears for emerging markets as euro zone woes depress lending: BIS

bounced off a 33-month trough, but remained at relatively low levels, and that retail sales growth picked up.

"The Chinese economy is now in a sweet spot and can stay in the sweet spot through the first half of 2013," Ting Lu, an economist at Bank of America-Merrill Lynch, said before the trade figures were released. "Beijing will be happy to sustain the current policy stance."

Hurt by wilting export growth and lackluster domestic demand partly owing to measures to cool down a hot property market, growth hit a three-year low of 7.4 percent in the July-September quarter and is poised this year for its weakest expansion since 1999.—Reuters

LONDON, 10 Dec—The euro zone crisis triggered a \$70 billion collapse in cross-border lending to emerging market economies in just six months, as international banks batted down the hatches and dealt with crises on their home turfs.

The massive fall is revealed in a new study from the Bank of International Settlements (BIS), which sought to explain a \$1 billion contraction in international lending to 40 emerging markets in the second half of 2011.

"Our findings confirm policy concerns that international banks might

transmit financial shocks from advanced to emerging economies," the reports authors' said, noting that some emerging economies were exposed to country-specific shocks because their financial systems were so dependent on one foreign country.

The report found more than 70pc of the late 2011 fall stemmed from euro area banks paring back their international activity because of "home country factors"—a reference to the steps taken by banks to repair their balance sheets in the face of massive losses and higher regulatory capital demands.

Reuters

Business



An elderly man walks outside the Bank of Greece in Athens on 9 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

WORLD

China to protect 1,000 minority villages

BEIJING, 10 Dec—One thousand minority villages will be protected and improved during 2011 to 2015, the State Ethnic Affairs Commission (SEAC) announced on Monday.

According to a SEAC guideline, the minority villages should have at least 50 households with more than 30 percent of residents from an ethnic minority background.

The guideline said that living conditions in the villages should be improved and the basic infrastructures should be ensured, including water, electricity, roads and telecommunication.

China will also help villages to increase personal income and further construct the public service system. More than 95 percent of school age children should be in schools, and over 60 percent of the labor force should receive skills training, the guideline said.

It noted to preserve ethnic culture and protect minority characteristics, as well as further develop national harmonious relationships.—Xinhua



People dressed as Santa play football during the annual SantaCon 2012 in Vancouver, Canada, on 8 Dec, 2012. SantaCon is an annual mass gathering of people dressed in Santa Claus costumes parading publicly in cities around the world.—XINHUA

Al-Qaeda bombs Yemen's LNG export pipeline

SANAA, 10 Dec—Al-Qaeda militants on Sunday blew up a pipeline that transfers Yemen's liquefied natural gas (LNG) to the Gulf of Aden export terminal, an interior ministry official told Xinhua. The explosion took place in Asilan area of the southeast province of Shabwa, neighboring to the oil-rich province of Marib, where the country's main crude oil export pipeline was attacked by unidentified gunmen on Friday for the fifth time in less than a month.

"Al-Qaeda fighters exploded a section of the LNG export pipeline in Asilan this morning," the official told Xinhua Sunday on condition of anonymity. Local media

confirmed the attack on the gas line in Asilan area.

The French-led LNG company resumed exporting gas last month after the pipeline was repaired following the previous attack on 30 Oct.

Meanwhile, the Yemeni army in Marib launched a fierce offensive on Sunday against suspected hideouts of militants of Wadi Abida, whom the local authorities accused of repeatedly attacking the oil pipeline and killing senior military officials in an ambush on Saturday. Independent Almasdar online cited local tribesmen in Wadi Abida as saying that fighter jets stroke several houses and farms in the Wadi Abida area and killed a man identified as Saleh Maely. Local tribesmen said Maely has no links to any militants.

The Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) said Saturday in a statement obtained by Xinhua that it

Six Patriot batteries, 600 foreign troops to be deployed in Turkey

ANKARA, 10 Dec—Around 600 foreign troops are expected to accompany six Patriot missile systems to be deployed in Turkey to reinforce the NATO member country's air defence and calm its fears of coming under a possible missile attack from neighboring Syria, local newspaper Today's Zaman reported on Sunday. The surface-to-air batteries, able to intercept ballistic

missiles, are expected to be transported to Turkey by sea within four or five weeks, and will be sited in Turkish military bases, according to the report.

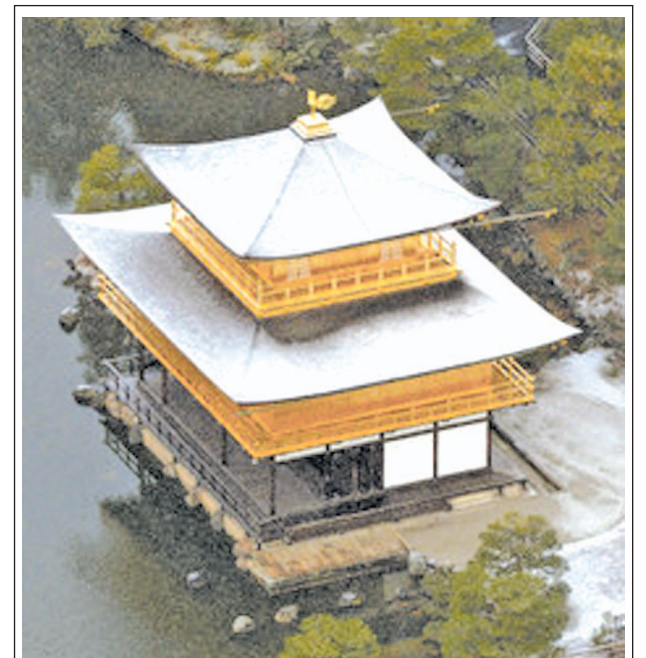
A team of NATO experts recently visited Turkey to survey the possible sites for the deployment, and have submitted their report to Ankara and NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR).

The team reportedly surveyed sites in the Provinces of Elazig, Malatya, Diyarbakir, Batman, Sanliurfa, Gaziantep, Adana, Mersin and Kahramanmaraş, said the report. The United States, Germany and the

Netherlands, the only three NATO nations with the most modern type of Patriots, have all agreed to send missiles to protect their ally.

Germany and the Netherlands have each said they will send two Patriot batteries with multiple missile launchers. Although it is still not certain, the United States is also expected to send two Patriot systems to Turkey, increasing the number of batteries to be deployed in Turkey to six.

Each battery to be sent to Turkey reportedly has four to six missile launchers and each launcher has the capacity of launching 16 missiles.—Xinhua



Kinkakuji, or the Golden Pavilion, a Zen Buddhist temple in Kyoto, western Japan, is dusted with snow in this photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter on 10 Dec, 2012.—KYODO NEWS

Colorado students accused of sickening class with pot-laced brownies

BOULDER, 10 Dec—Two University of Colorado at Boulder students are accused of bringing marijuana-laced brownies to a college class, sickening their unsuspecting professor and five classmates, police said on Sunday.

Thomas Cunningham, 21, and Mary Essa, 19, were arrested on Saturday on suspicion of second-degree assault, fraudulently

inducing the consumption of a controlled substance and conspiracy charges, university police spokesman Ryan Huff said.

Huff said three of those who ate the brownies were hospitalized, suffering from the effects of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the active property in marijuana.

"If someone views

this as a prank, it's no laughing matter," Huff told Reuters. "These (charges) are all felonies which carry potential prison time."

According to Huff, police were summoned to a classroom building on Friday morning on a report that a female professor was complaining of dizziness and was drifting in and out of consciousness. The instructor, who was not identified, was transported to a hospital.

Later Friday, the mother of a student in the class notified police that her daughter also was hospitalized after suffering "an anxiety attack."

The family of a third student also notified police that their daughter felt like she was going to black out after attending the class, and that they took her to a

hospital.

All three have since been released from the hospital.

Huff said the students brought the brownies to class as part of a "bring food to class" day, and those who ate the brownies were unaware that they were laced with pot. Five students and the instructor fell ill after eating the brownies, police said.

Investigators questioned the instructor and 11 of the 12 students who attended the class and determined that Cunningham and Essa baked the brownies and served them to the unsuspecting class, Huff said. Both remain in the Boulder County jail pending a bond hearing.

Last month, Colorado voters approved the recreational use and possession of small amounts of marijuana.—Reuters



Photo taken on 8 Dec, 2012 shows the Shanghai Tower (C), a skyscraper under construction, in Pudong, east China's Shanghai Municipality. The Shanghai Tower is expected to reach 632 metres in height and start service in 2015.

XINHUA

Two police officers wounded by armed attack in Turkey's Istanbul

ISTANBUL, 10 Dec—Two police officers were slightly wounded on Saturday night in an armed attack on a police station in Istanbul of Turkey, local media Hurriyet News reported.

Two militants threw a grenade, which failed to explode, at the police station, and then opened fire with

assault rifles at the police officers.

The police captured a female suspect, while the other managed to escape.

The police conducted a controlled explosion of the grenade after the attack. An investigation is undertaken to identify those responsible for the attack.—Xinhua



Children play with a sledge on a frozen road in Pyongyang, North Korea, on 9 Dec, 2012.—KYODO NEWS

LOCAL NEWS

Koreans donate cash and foodstuff to quake victims

THABEIKKYIN, 10 Dec—At the invitation of Shwebo Township Writers Association, Shwebo Bamahti Khin Aung and writer May Kha of Yangon, Sagawah Co owner UNyunt Win, U Maung Maung of South Korea and South Korean women arrived in Kyaukmyaung Sub-Township, 17 miles from Shwebo, on 29 November to donate foodstuffs to 1550 earthquake victims from five villages.

On 30 November and 1 December, the Korean wellwisher group donated 1550 bags of rice, 1550 viss of edible oil and 1550 viss of salt to 680 households from Nwenein, 190 households from Malar Village, 154 households from Shwetaik Village, 186 households from Shwegun Village, 328 households from

Yaydaw Village and other 12 households.

They made donations amounting to K 20 million.

Their donation ceremony was attended by Sagaing Region Minister for Transport U Tin Ngwe, Hluttaw Representative Dr U Aung Hsan, Hluttaw Representative U Tun Ko Ko, Shwebo District Deputy Commissioner U Hla Oo and Shwebo Township Administrator U Thet Lwin Tun.

“We are pleased for our donations. Surprisingly we saw Myanmar people courageously overcome the difficulties in the natural disasters. Despite suffering from miseries, they greeted us with beautiful smiles. We will come back here again to donate medicines to them,” said a Korean lady.

Myanma Alinn

Exportable musk melon under cultivation in Budalin



MONYWA, 10 Dec—Musk melon plantations are being grown in villages of Budalin Township. It was reported that the fruits are marketable in the foreign countries.

The local farmers cultivate Hsinmanit, Shwesin

and Paikkwet strains of musk melons. Hsinmanit and Shwesin are golden colour and Paikkwet green with shapes of net.

The plants are generally grown in September and October depending on the foreign market. Around

KATHA, 10 Dec—The 9-10-2012 issued Myanma Alinn daily reported an item of news that ferry boats crossing Katha-Palway Shwe river should be facilitated with life jackets and life safety equipment.

After describing the news, two river crossing ferry boats have been equipped with life safety equipment and life jackets.

“We have no experiences because we are engaged in river crossing ferry works this year. In the past, ferry boat had been equipped with two life safety equipment. Thanks to the Myanma Alinn daily,

Displaced students under care in Momauk Township

MOMAUK, 10 Dec—Kachin State Government, District and Township administrators, departments concerned, INGOs, NGOs and wellwishers provided assistance to displaced persons who moved to Momauk Township due to local security.

Momauk Township has one Basic Education High School, one BEMS and five BEPSs. A total of 1657 students are learning at BEHS, 302 at BEMS and 602 at BEPS.

Deputy Head of Momauk Township General Administration Department U Aye Hlaing said, “We have arranged continuous learning of over 500 displaced students at BEHS, BEMS and BEPSs in the town. We provided school uniforms and stationery to the students. The State Government and departments concerned also



Photo shows a temporary school building donated by i Love Myanmar family in Momauk Township.

gave umbrellas, slippers and stationery to them. Moreover, UNICEF and social organizations also provided stationery and sports gear to the students.”

At present, i Love Myanmar family donated K 5 million to upgrade present school buildings of BEPS No 1 and BEPS No 2 and Post-Primary School (Telegraph), Karuna Foundation donated 100 CI sheets each to BEPS

No 1 and No 2 and 150 sheets to BEPS No 3.

Kachin State Government, district and township departments concerned, INGOs, NGOs and wellwishers donated rice, edible oil, salt, gram, stationery and other assistance to the displaced people. The Health Department gives health care services to them.

In addition, officials

disbursed capital to them for doing businesses, and sank lakes and wells. The combined team comprising departmental officials counselled them and provided vaccination to animals. Except Lwejel and Dawphonyan sub-townships, Momauk has five relief camps accommodating 2357 displaced people of 656 households.

Myanma Alinn

Examination held for selection of over-all outstanding students

MANDALAY, 10 Dec—The overall outstanding student selection contest (township level) was held in all townships across the nation from 1 to 3 December.

Basic Education Middle and High Schools sent their students to take part in the contest.

The candidates sit for Myanmar, English, General Knowledge, viva and physical exercises.

The chosen students are allowed to take part in the district level contest from 7 to 9 January 2013.

They will sit for the district level contest with same subjects of the

township level.

The questions will be issued from the overall outstanding student selection central committee.

The winners in the district contest will have the opportunity to join the camp in Nay Pyi Taw and take relaxation in summer vacation.

The relaxation camps for outstanding students are designated at Inlay Lake, Ngapali Beach, Setse Beach, Chaungtha Beach, PyinOoLwin, Bagan, Popa and Yangon.

Students from eighth, ninth and matriculation standard students will be sent

to the camps depending on respective levels.

The Nay Pyi Taw camp period will be in Thingyan festival.—Myanma Alinn

Communication devices handed over for installation of rural PCOs

TAMU, 10 Dec—Under the arrangements of Sagaing Region rural social-economic development plan, a ceremony to provide equipment for installation of rural PCO in Tamu Township was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department on 30 November afternoon.

Deputy Commissioner of the district U Kyaw Zaw Lin, Township Administrator U Khin Maung Zaw and in-charge of the communication U Aung Swe Tint handed over three fixed CDMA, SIM cards, K 10000-Top-up cards, 12V battery, 20 solar panels and three sets of 100w inverters to chairmen of village library committees.

Thanks to CDMA and solar panels, batteries and inverters, the local people are delighted for use of communication devices at any time.—Myanma Alinn

River crossing ferries equipped with life safety equipment



we have equipped the ferry with 15 sets of life safety equipment. Moreover, we

will facilitate life jackets for the passengers. We assigned experienced coxing and

sailors on board,” said in-charge of the ferry U Aung Min Htwe.—Myanma Alinn

International Day of Persons with Disabilities observed

LOIKAW, 10 Dec—The International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2012 was observed at the city hall in Loikaw on 3 December, with an address by Kayah State Chief Minister U Khin Maung Oo.

Next, the Chief Minister and officials presented prizes to disabled persons and outstanding students in the contests.—Myanma Alinn

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 11 December, 2012

Misleading is a serious offense

Since it took office, the new government has been undertaking democratization and reforms, making the history of comprehensive development within the short period time. Meanwhile, it is experiencing big challenges on its tough path to democracy.

Unprecedented challenges in the political process have been successfully tackled with the cooperation of the people.

One of its challenges that arose unexpectedly is the fighting between two communities "in Rakhine State in May and June, and also in October 2012, causing hindrances to the path of reforms of the government.

Myanmar government has taken action to ceasing violence and restoring the rule of law in accordance with the law. An independent Investigation Commission has also been formed to carry out detail investigation of the incidents.

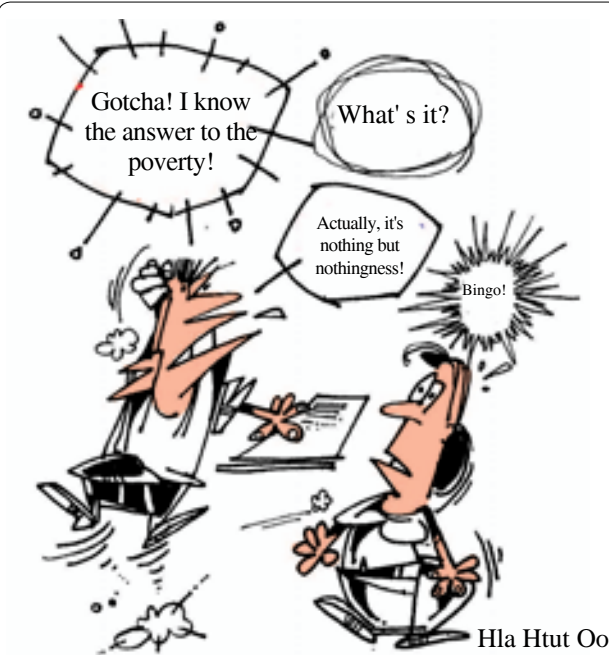
However, the media across the world use misleading photographs. Fake photos and false information have been spread with an ill intention.

Again, as a second blow to Myanmar, Qatar based Al Jazeera Television is airing a documentary relating to so-called "Rohingyas" from December 8 to 12 in Arabic and from December 9 to 13 in English languages. The TV Station said that the documentary includes alleged genocide against the so-called "Rohingyas". That were totally contrary to the truth and to the actual situation in Myanmar.

What motive behind the false photos and fabricated news and documentary is? It is the role of media to be fair and free from bias in reporting. Media should carefully assess and carefully observe backgrounds and basics, should review whether it would benefit all the people and would help to settle out the conflict for the long run.

Those who love peace and respect human rights should value their profession and should avoid provoking the communities in the country.

Whatever motive behind those news and documentary aided with exaggerations and fabrications on the incidents in Rakhine State, we, all the people and all international communities should not be misled by them.



Hla Htut Oo

ARTICLE

It's high time we enjoyed fruits of independence

Myat Sithu

International Law standard defines that every country in the world must be equipped with four following characteristics. Only then, that country would have internationally-recognized character that a country should have. These characteristics are (1) territory (2) population (3) government and (4) sovereignty.

There are a flood of countries in the world that have territory and population. These countries have governments. But, the countries without sovereignty are not independent ones. Those countries' governments can not be called the national governments that do not include the citizens of those countries. Those governments are said to be the colonized ones. The countries that had been under control of about ten western colonialists had to face similar events.

Myanmar had to surrender Rakhine and Taninthayi after the first Anglo-Burma War in 1824 and Toungoo and lower Myanmar again after the second Anglo-Burma War in 1852. After, the Third Anglo-Burma War in 1885, Myanmar had been under the Colonial rules as Myanmar had to cede the upper Myanmar. Not only 77 percent of the countries from Asia, Africa, South and North America and the Middle East including Myanmar but also 75 percent of world population fall under Colonial rules. About the first half of 20 century, the countries had struggled for national independence. And they had to suffer the bitterness. The intruders became richer as they took all natural resources and agricultural produces of those countries. But local people had to face difficult life.

The cause of industrial development in the western part of the world helps increased production of quality personal goods, household appliances and materials. But the world welcomed industrialism rather than feudalism. After industrialism had passed the stages of monopolism and financialism, they paid attention to the

benefit, greed and ego. As a result, greed, anger and ego became bigger and bigger. There is no reason to emerge imperialism, system and imperialist wars in the world if they purchase necessary industrial raw materials and fuels at current prices, sell finished goods to customers at fair prices and employ staff at their manufacturing, services, commercial and logistics businesses with favorable salaries.

As they want to get raw materials and workers free of charges, they invade other countries by ways of invasions, interference and sanctions. We should study the root cause of the outbreak of World War II. Over the past-two decades, Western industrialized countries have taken advantages over selling and buying at their disposal put the industrialism on the unfair way.

Following in the steps of experienced industrialist countries, fascist leader Hitler (Germany), Mussolini (Italy) and Yamamoto Togyo (Japan) made attempts to invade other countries in the world. But their attempts had failed as there were no any regions to be invaded left. So, three countries seized the countries colonized by the old imperialists after forming an alliance. Colonization between old and new imperialists had led to the outbreak of World War II. During the WWII, 60 million people were killed. Especially, small colonized countries had to suffer the consequences of it.

Therefore, over 100 colonies regained independence through independence struggle. The United Nations established on 24 October 1945 with 51 countries has now reached 193 member nations as the new independent nations have joined it. The freedom and equality of all nations, right to control own fate and free from external interference are enshrined in the UN Charter which every UN member has to sign. Bloody wars like World War II are collaboratively forbidden. The UN also has abolished colonialism (old form) which made one nation

and/or one person enslaved another.

History shows that Myanmar national people with unyielding spirit repulsed the British intruders in the first, second and third Anglo-Burma Wars. Patriots of various national races such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine, Shan and so on taking whatever weapons available fought back the imperialists out of individual conscience on their own volition.

Since the defend-and-repel measure was operationally impossible in 1990s (early 20th Century), actions were initiated through own political means of Myanmar people and public efforts. Under the leadership of YMBA, GCBA, Doh Bamar Asiayon, Bamar Htweyet Gaing, Fa-Ta-Pa-La, Fa-Sa-Pa-La in the struggle for independence, public forces such as students, workers, farmers, intellectuals and intelligentsia and national races rallied to fight tooth and nail for Independence and as a result Myanmar could regain complete Independence on 4 January, 1948, back on the global stage with her head held high as an independent nation.

Blessed with fertile soil and temperate climate and thankstoriverslargeandsmall like Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Sittoung and Thanlwin, creeks and lakes, wells and springs, man-made dams and reservoirs, irrigation and drinking water are more than enough in Myanmar whose half of the area is covered with invaluable forests where world-famous Myanmar's teaks make their home. Myanmar is rich in various kinds of natural resources ranging from such minerals as gold, silver, bronze, iron, zinc, lead, tungsten, antimony to oil and gas.

Myanmar's rivers and creeks produce such water resources as fresh water fish and prawn and her ocean water salt water fish and prawn while the seabed serves as the abundant source of oil and natural gas as well as fine pearls. Myanmar's ruby, sapphire, feather, pearl, jade have set the world's record of the biggest of their kind. The

jade called "jade dragon" measures 70 feet in length, 35 feet in height, 16 feet in breadth and weighs more than over 3000 tons. It is of superior quality, the world's ever biggest and unrivalled.

Such a God-given nation is also the one facing least the threats of natural disasters nowadays in spite of the worst ever global climate change affecting every corner of the world. Myanmar could establish a sovereign Union of over 100 national races amidst divide-and-rule plot and oppressive regime of the colonialists. The history of the unity of national people and national prestige and integrity is really brilliant.

Just after Myanmar regained Independence in 1948, the Union was established in which national races have co-existed for better or worse, sharing laughter and tear. The states were then established according to the wish of the majority of national people. The Constitution 2008 prescribes different national races reside equally and harmoniously in the Union constituted with seven states of national races, and six autonomous regions. Moreover, every race that accounts for 0.5 per cent of national population has the right to elect a representative to parliament to represent them in legislation, administration and jurisdiction processes. As Kachin, Kayah, Chin, Rakhine, Mon, Pa-O, Kayin and other national races also reside in seven regions apart from Bamar, they could also run for election according to the size of their population.

Now, there is Constitution enshrined with regulatory framework for exercising sovereignty, as well as rich natural resources and favourable climate and fertile soil apart from the multi-party democracy parliament and government. In addition, all the infrastructure essential to economic growth have been constructed. So, let's fulfill our shared duty for the sake of the citizens of 60 million to be able to enjoy the fruits of independence to the full by joining hands together.

Translation: MT+TKK

NATIONAL

Cessation of hostilities alone is not enough to bring about peace: Union Minister U Aung Min

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec—Union Minister at the President Office U Aung Min made a speech at the ceremony to mark the International Human Rights Day, held at Inya Lake Hotel in Yangon this afternoon. He said: It is an honour for me to speak to you on this important day to celebrate human dignity. It is a day to rejoice in a universal idea—an idea that binds people regardless of where they are from, the colour of their skin, their gender, or what their faith it. It is a day to celebrate an idea that requires governments to be better—an idea that requires all of us to be better. This is especially true as Myanmar transitions to a more democratic, open, and inclusive society. Today, as I stand before you and reflect on the past year, I am proud of the reforms President U Thein Sein Government has carried out to improve human dignity in Myanmar, but at the same time mindful that the kind of society the people of Myanmar envisions requires all of us to strive harder.

I would like to take this opportunity to share some of the steps the Myanmar government has taken to improve the rights of Myanmar people to have their voices heard in public life and be included in the political decision-making process. I would like to provide you with a macro picture of these reforms over the past year; specifically I would like to focus on progress in general political liberalization and the ongoing peace process

to ensure not only human security but to build a free and more inclusive society.

Since March 2011, President U Thein Sein Government is committed to the process of general political liberalization within the country. In my role as a Minister, I have been fortunate to participate in these reforms as well as witness history. Important developments related to this process include the release of large numbers of political prisoners, the relaxation of political party registration rules, and ensuring of media freedoms.

In Myanmar today, town-hall meetings are freely organized to discuss labour issues. We must encourage such public mechanisms to take root so as to air grievances relating to land use and ownership, protection of environment, and preservation of local community values and national heritage. Likewise, the success of NLD in the 2012 by-election is a reflection of the government's commitment to such reforms. Today, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is a member of the parliament. Today, former student leaders like U Min Ko Naing and U Ko Ko Gyi lead active lives in the civil society. Today, ethnic leaders like U Khun Htun Oo are able to organize and participate in a recently held Shan National Forum.

The rules regarding censorship of the mass media have also been lifted. At every peace meeting, I look out at a sea of reporters and admire their determination to build transparency and

share information with the general public. With every journal article I read, I marvel at the power of speech expressed freely. I do not think I am alone in saying that media freedom enjoyed in Myanmar meets or exceeds the standards set by our neighbours and partners.

There is also a firm commitment on the part of the government that the process of political evolution should include all the major communities and groups that comprise the nation. The amnesty granted to political exiles and their subsequent return in large numbers in evidence of the success of the government's efforts of reaching out. The empowerment of civil society organizations is part of the Government's broader strategy of winning trust in the society and creating as many stakeholders as possible to further national development.

However, in order for Myanmar to be truly inclusive, it is important for all ethnic nationalities of Myanmar to come together and heal the wounds of division and discord. As many of you may have known already, I have been given the responsibility by President U Thein Sein to lead this peace process. Thus far, the Government has successfully negotiated a total of 11 ceasefire agreements with ethnic armed groups. For the first time in the country's history, agreements were concluded with groups that were previously outside the fold. The largest of these groups is the Karen National



Scene of Mandalay Moat

Union (KNU). A code of conduct regarding ceasefire monitoring has been agreed on in our last meeting and communication channels have been opened for a regular political dialogue. This marks a significant historical development.

Building trust is even harder when mistrust and anxieties are deeply entrenched. The conflict in the Kachin State in northern Myanmar that escalated in June 2011 is a setback in the overall peace process. Following the outbreak of conflict, mutual trust that existed for previous 17 years has all but evaporated. Nonetheless, we have undertaken a number of confidence building measures to stabilize the situation and are trying to regularize the process. We have allowed non-governmental organizations access to provide assistance to internally displaced persons in the State. I will not give up and remain optimistic that we will overcome this challenge also.

Cessation of hostilities

alone is not enough to bring about peace. President U Thein Sein has made it clear that the Government is ready and willing to engage in a political dialogue with all ethnic groups in order to carry over the momentum gained from ceasefire to sustainable peace. The political, economic, social, and cultural issues associated with peace are more complex and sensitive than the issues tackled in the ceasefire negotiations. The questions of devolution of power and equitable sharing of economic resources will require delicate balancing of interests. Likewise, the contours of human dignity and their enjoyment must be carefully unpacked and addressed so that equality among ethnic nationalities can be achieved for the long run.

As a third stage, and in line with the founding Panglong spirit of the country's independence leaders, the government is committed to hosting an inclusive National Conference in Nay Pyi Taw. This National Conference will serve as a forum for the

airing of views and ideas, especially those pertaining to ethnic minority issues. We wish to re-invoke the Panglong spirit and chart a collective path for the future political development of the country.

This is a time for possibilities. What seemed impossible before is now possible under President U Thein Sein's leadership and courage. This is a time to express our individual voices while carving out our collective path. This is a time to restore hope and dream that the kind of society we want live in—one that is open, inclusive, tolerant, and respectful of individual dignity—is within our grasp. As in all transitions, there will be many challenges along the way. It is time for leaders to be leaders and the people of Myanmar to join hands and overcome these challenges together.

I end my speech on the brightest prospects we have had for Myanmar for a very long time and hope that you will join us on this journey. Join us in making our voice count.

Thank you.

Steel trusses reinstalled on Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadana Theinga)

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec—The 11/11 earthquake caused much damage to steel trusses of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadana Theinga) being built by Public Works of the Ministry of Construction in Sagaing Region.

Reinstallation of steel trusses on the bridge started today on the bank of Singu in Mandalay Region while the clearing up of fallen steel trusses were in progress.

MNA



Photo shows steel trusses being installed at Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadana Theinga).—MNA

Patients at Mandalay General Hospital recovered from injuries

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec—Dr Tin Myo Win, a surgical specialist, and a physician from Australian Embassy viewed the patients who sustained burn injuries during the Latpadaungtaung Copper Mine incident at the invitation of the medical superintendent of the Mandalay General Hospital and specialists on 8 December.

Dr Tin Myo Win and the Australian doctor inspected injured monks and men at Mandalay General Hospital and at the Kantaw Nadi

Hospital and talked to the doctors and the patients.

They suggested that most of the patients should be discharged from the hospitals as the condition of their injuries has improved.

They also expressed their satisfaction for the treatment and management and will report the situation to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

They also suggested the patients who have recovered from the injuries to discharge from the hospital.

Similarly, under

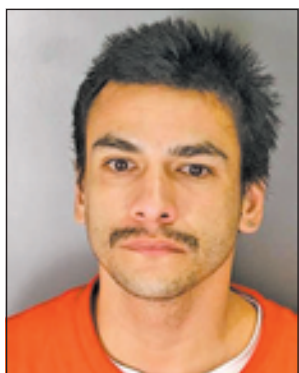
the arrangement of the Phaungdaw Oo Monastery in Mandalay Region, a doctor from Thailand also examined the patients.

He met with the medical superintendent and specialists of the hospital and expressed his delight that he witnessed the good medicines and treatment for the patients and improvement of the condition of the patients.

He also said that the treatment at the hospital is the same with the treatment in Thailand.

MNA

Suspect dead after three killed on California Indian reservation



Hector Celaya, 31, of Tule River Indian Reservation near Porterville, California is shown in this booking photo released by Tulare County Sheriff's Department in Visalia, California on 9 December, 2012.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 10 Dec—The man suspected of a shooting rampage in California at the Tule River Indian Reservation in which three people were killed and three others wounded, including two young daughters of the suspect, has died, county officials said on Sunday.

Hector Celaya, 31, who lived on the central California reservation, fled the scene of the shooting with his daughters and was shot during a low-speed car chase as authorities attempted to take him into custody, the Tulare County Sheriff's Department said. They later

declared him deceased.

The two girls, ages 5 and 8, also suffered gunshot wounds. One of the girls was being treated for life-threatening injuries, police said.

"During the preliminary investigation, detectives learned the suspect had shot the children," the sheriff's office said in a statement.

The incident began on Saturday night when the Tulare County Sheriff received a 911 call saying shots had been fired on the reservation, roughly 60 miles north of Bakersfield, in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains.—Reuters



People carry the Christmas gifts when visiting the Christmas event at Canada Place Plaza in Vancouver, Canada, on 8 Dec, 2012. The 25th Christmas event of Canada Place Plaza shows the antique Christmas window displays and lots of activities to celebrate the Christmas season.—XINHUA

High winds, storm batter Montenegro

BELGRADE, 10 Dec—High winds and sub-zero temperatures closed a number of roads in Montenegro on Sunday, as the tiny Balkan country is battered by a storm that has dumped considerable snowfall on most of the Balkan region,

local media reported on Sunday.

Temperatures dropped to minus 12 degrees Celsius on Zabljak, a mountain resort, while strong winds coupled with freezing rain and snow closed roads leading to the Montenegrin

capital of Podgorica. The Montenegrin automobile association has advised people to avoid travel.

A number of remote villages are reportedly cut off electricity as high winds brought down transmission lines.—Xinhua

US commando killed in Afghanistan rescue mission

WASHINGTON, 10 Dec—A member of the US special forces was killed in Afghanistan in a mission that successfully rescued an abducted American citizen, the White House said on Sunday. A White House statement said that the US special forces in Afghanistan rescued an American citizen in a mission that showed "extraordinary courage, skill and patriotism."

"Tragically, we lost one of our special operators in this effort. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family, just as we must always honour our troops and military families," the statement said.

The NATO-led forces in Afghanistan said that the rescued American citizen, who was a doctor named Dilip Joseph, was abducted on Wednesday in Afghanistan's Kabul Province. It added that seven Taliban militants were killed in the rescue operation on Sunday. General John Allen, the top US and NATO commander in Afghanistan, said in a statement that he ordered the mission when intelligence showed that Joseph was in imminent danger of injury or death, adding that "Joseph is now undergoing evaluations."

Xinhua



Pakistani rangers display seized weapons after an operation in southern Pakistani port city of Karachi on 9 Dec, 2012. At least 40 suspects were arrested in the operation on Sunday, local media said.—XINHUA

US and Russia still back Syria settlement: UN envoy

BEIRUT, 10 Dec—US and Russian officials have given their commitment to a political solution for the deepening Syrian conflict, a United Nations envoy said on Sunday, but Moscow dismissed speculation it was preparing for President Bashar al-Assad's exit.

With rebels now fighting on the doorsteps of Damascus, Assad's forces kept up their now daily artillery strikes and air raids on eastern suburbs as well as some rebel-held districts on the capital's outskirts. UN special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi met the US and Russian deputy foreign ministers in Geneva for the second session of tripartite talks in less than a week, apparently in response to rising violence that now threatens to engulf Damascus.

"All three parties reaffirmed their common assessment that the situation in Syria was bad and getting worse," a statement from Brahimi said. "They stressed that a political process to end the crisis in Syria was necessary and still possible."

Notwithstanding his comments, commitment to a political process could be at risk. Western officials were among those who helped rebels to create a unified chain of command at the weekend, and Washington is expected to recognize the opposition as the sole representative of the Syrian people next week.

Russia, Syria's main arms supplier, insisted its position on Assad had not softened and it was not negotiating on the future of the president, whose family has ruled Syria

Indonesian young politicians hardly compete in 2014

JAKARTA, 10 Dec—The young politicians in Indonesia are still unable to gain the public's trust to lead the country in 2014, local media reported on Monday, quoting a recent survey.

The survey by the Indonesian Survey Institute showed that around 80 percent of the 1,070 respondents are still clueless when offered a list of young politicians, between 35 and 55 years of age, to be a presidential candidate in the 2014 presidential election.

The list includes prominent young politicians like Democratic Party chairman Anas Urbaningrum, Golkar Party lawmaker Priyo Budi Santoso, Indonesian

Democratic Party of Struggle politician Puan Maharani and Prosperous Justice Party lawmaker Hidayat Nur Wahid.

"Indonesians are still clueless when they have to choose young politicians who could be the next president," researcher with the institute Mochtar W. Oetomo said.

The researcher, echoing several other political analysts, doubted that young politicians would not be competing in the 2014 presidential election.

"Currently, young politicians still lack political and social capital to run against the 'old' politicians in the 2014 presidential election," he said.

The researcher was referring to veteran politicians like Jusuf Kalla, Megawati Soekarno Putri, Prabowo Subianto and the likes, that have recurrently competed in presidential elections.

"After the 2014 elections, those old figures will be gone. Then, eventually, each party will have to provide fresh young figures," Mochtar said.

The institute conducted its survey between 16 Nov and 4 Dec in 33 provinces across the country. It used multistage random sampling to choose its respondents.

Indonesia is to hold direct presidential and legislative polls in 2014.

Xinhua



A contestant presents a costume of Tibetan ethnic group during the final of Gesang Metok Tibet Tourism Image Ambassador Contest in Lhasa, capital of southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, on 8 Dec, 2012.

XINHUA

Province, which borders Turkey.

The British-based Observatory, which has a network of activists across the country, said the centre's commander fled along with 140 soldiers. Five troops soldiers were captured.

Damascus has become a focal point of battles over the past week, as rebels effectively shut the international airport by clashing with Assad's forces near there. Foreign flights have been suspended and residents say the airport road is closed.

Rebels who have called their campaign "Operation Opening the Road to Damascus", uploaded video on Sunday that showed heavy gun battles and explosions rocking several rural towns around the capital.—Reuters

for 42 years.

The rebels have gained momentum in recent weeks, capturing a series of military sites across the country often with the help of radical Islamists. However, some activists believe the opposition is still far from toppling Assad, whose army has largely held together and who has many heavy weapons.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported army shelling and clashes across the country on Sunday, with 60 counted dead before evening. Death tolls have averaged at around 100 per day in recent weeks.

In the north, the radical Islamist group Jabhat al-Nusra, linked to al-Qaeda in Iraq, led other rebels in seizing on Sunday a regimental command center in Aleppo

REGIONAL

Singapore welcomes move to extend Kyoto Protocol

SINGAPORE, 10 Dec— Singapore welcomes a decision to extend the life of the Kyoto Protocol, the UN plan that obliges developed nations to cut carbon emissions.

Its first commitment period expires by the end of the year. “Singapore welcomes the decision to adopt an 8-year Second Commitment Period (2CP) following the end of the first Commitment Period of the Kyoto Protocol (KP) at the end of 2012,”

says a statement by the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources (MEWR) on Sunday.

“The 2CP includes a commitment to review future increases in emissions reduction targets, for developed countries participating in the 2CP. This continues the good foundation of a multilateral rules-based system laid down by the KP,” adds the statement.

The agreement on the

Kyoto Protocol would apply from 2013 till 2020 “Singapore has consistently maintained that this is a global issue that requires concerted multilateral action by all countries, according to their respective national circumstances,” the statement says.

The 2CP was reached at the end of the United Nations climate change conference which was held from 26 Nov to 8 Dec in Doha, Qatar.

Xinhua

Typhoon death toll climbs to 647 in Philippines

MANILA, 10 Dec— The Philippine government on Monday reported that the death toll from typhoon Bopha (local name Pablo) has climbed to 647.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) also reported that 1,482 people have been injured while 780 people are still missing.

The NDRRMC said the typhoon affected 5.4 million people in 30 provinces, mostly in central and southern Philippines.

The initial report released by the agency said the typhoon damaged infrastructure facilities valued at almost 3.48 billion pesos (84.99 million US dollars).

The agriculture department also said the typhoon destroyed crops valued at 8.6 billion pesos (210.1 million US dollars) in southern Philippines. Hardest hit were banana and corn plantations.

The severe damage inflicted by the typhoon prompted Philippine President Benigno Aquino III to place 50 areas in western, central, and southern Philippines under a state of calamity.—Xinhua



Exchange students perform at Taipei Confucius Temple during their coming-of-age ceremony in Taipei, southeast China's Taiwan, on 9 Dec, 2012. In total 130 exchange students from 18 countries and regions attend their coming-of-age ceremony on Sunday, including capping ceremony for boys and hair-pinning ceremony for girls.

XINHUA

Philippine police ordered to prevent looting in typhoon-hit areas

MANILA, 10 Dec— Philippine President Benigno Aquino has ordered the country's police forces to prevent any incident of looting in typhoon-hit areas in the southern region, his spokesperson said on Sunday.

Deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte, in an interview with a state-run radio station, said that Aquino issued the directive through Interior and Local Government Secretary Manuel Roxas II.

“We received the reports

(on the looting incidents) and the police has been instructed by the President through Secretary Roxas to prevent anymore incident of looting,” she said.

Valte acknowledged that it is difficult for the government to send relief goods to some areas due to inaccessible roads, thus, looting could have been taking place.

“So we need to do two things: to speed up, to open access to those areas; and to make sure that the looting incidents do not happen



File photo taken on 24 Jan, 2012 shows Nuo dance artists giving performance in Changjing Village of Wuyuan County, east China's Jiangxi Province. The Nuo dance, dubbed “the living fossil of the Chinese dance art”, derived from an ancient ritual of the Spring and Autumn period (ca. 771-476 BC). In Wuyuan, the Nuo dance is usually performed on the second day of the Chinese New Year.—XINHUA

Philippine rebel group welcomes appointment of new gov't negotiator

MANILA, 10 Dec— The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the largest Muslim rebel group in the Philippines, welcomed on Sunday the appointment of a university professor as the chief negotiator of the Philippine government.

MILF peace panel head Mohagher Iqbal said that Professor Miriam Ferrer-Coronel of the University of the Philippines deserves her appointment.

“I wished her luck and looked up for more strides in the talks under her

stewardship,” he added.

Iqbal, who has been in the negotiation for 14 years and MILF chief negotiator for 10 years, has faced all kinds of negotiators from the government ranging from military generals to a diplomat, a scholar and full cabinet member, a lawyer, and now a woman.

Ferrer replaced Marvic Leonen, who is now an associate justice of the Supreme Court. She has been with the government peace

panel since 2010.

The MILF has been fighting government troops for decades to establish a self-rule Muslim state in the Philippines.

The government and the MILF formally signed a framework agreement on 15 Oct this year, which serves as a road map for the final political settlement to end the decades-old armed struggle in southern Philippines.

Xinhua



A visitor takes photo for red leaves in Wuxia Gorge of the Three Gorges area in Chongqing Municipality, southwest China, on 8 Dec, 2012.—XINHUA

Xinhua

S Korean presidential aspirants to face off in second TV debate

SEOUL, 10 Dec— South Korea's three presidential candidates are gearing up for their second television debate on Monday, nine days before what polls suggest would be a tight race between the conservative favorite and the liberal challenger.

Park Geun-hye of the ruling Saenuri Party, Moon Jae-in of the centre-left main opposition Democratic United Party and Lee Jung-hee of the left-leaning United Progressive Party are expected to discuss economic issues ranging from job creation to state welfare programmes.

Lee, a leftist running a distant third in all polls, proved an unlikely star during their first debate last week with her acerbic barbs targeted at Park, at one point declaring her aim is to thwart Park's presidential bid.

Park was visibly shaken by Lee's accusation of her role as the de facto first lady to late dictator Park Chung-hee, whose 18-year authoritarian rule is still subject to fierce partisan debate.

Moon, a former human rights lawyer who also served as chief of staff to late President Roh

Moo-hyun, appeared relatively inanimate during the 100-minute debate that centered on foreign policy.

Speculation has arisen whether Lee, who is polling less than one percent, will step down before the 19 Dec election to help what is shaping to be an increasingly tight race swing in Moon's favour.

Most polls have shown Park having a slight lead over Moon within the margin of error. The latest survey by conservative daily Chosun Ilbo put Park at 47.5 percent compared with Moon at 42.7 percent.

Xinhua



Typhoon-affected residents wait for relief food in a heavily damaged town of New Bataan of Compostela Valley Province, the Philippines, on 9 Dec, 2012. The death toll from Typhoon Bopha (locally known as Pablo) has climbed to 647 and 827 others are still missing, official statistics released on Sunday showed.

XINHUA

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV BLPL BLESSING VOY NO (1203)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BLPL BLESSING VOY NO (1203) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ORIENT EXPRESS LINE
PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (322)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (322) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (481)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (481) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV BIENDONG NAVIGATOR VOY NO (003)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BIENDONG NAVIGATOR VOY NO (003) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV LE JIN VOY NO (095)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV LE JIN VOY NO (095) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD**

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV MOROTAI VOY NO (195)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (195) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO
(028)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (028) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Sri Lankan parliament agrees to debate report on chief justice

COLOMBO, 10 Dec—The Sri Lankan parliament on Saturday agreed to debate a report based on investigations conducted on the country's Chief justice Shirani Bandaranayake.

Parliament Speaker Chamal Rajapaksa said that the debate on the report will take place over a period of 10 days next month.

The report on the chief justice was compiled by a committee appointed by the Parliament Speaker after a motion was presented to impeach her on 14 charges.

On Friday however the four opposition members of the 11 member committee resigned just a day after the chief justice herself withdrew from giving evidence before the committee saying she had no faith in the committee which was headed by a government minister.

Minister Anura Priyadarshana Yapa, who heads the committee, on Saturday, presented the report on the findings of the committee to parliament. There have been demonstrations both in support and against the

chief justice from the day the government decided to present a motion to impeach her and eventually seek her removal from office.

The United States and the European Union, among others, have raised concerns over moves to impeach the chief justice.

US State Department Deputy Spokesperson Mark C Toner on Friday urged Sri Lanka to guarantee due process, and to ensure that all investigations are conducted transparently and in accordance with the

rule of law. "These latest developments are part of a disturbing deterioration of democratic norms in Sri Lanka, including infringement on the independence of the judiciary," he said.

The spokesman said that the United States, along with its partners in the international community, continues to urge Sri Lanka to uphold the rule of law and democratic governance and to continue to address outstanding accountability and reconciliation issues.

Xinhua



Denmark's Crown Prince Frederik (3rd R front) and Crown Princess Mary (4th R front) view a fashion show held at the Danish Embassy in Beijing, China, on 8 Dec, 2012. The Danish royals made a tour in China's Hong Kong and Beijing from 5 to 9 Dec.
XINHUA

Two separate factory blasts kill two, injure 17 in east China

HANGZHOU, 10 Dec—Two separate factory blasts in east China on Saturday have left two people dead and 17 others injured, authorities said on Sunday.

An explosion in an iron smelting factory in Zhejiang Province has left one dead and seven others injured, local authorities said.

The accident occurred around 9:30 pm Saturday at the coal feeding workshop of Yuanli Metal Products

Co, Ltd in Quzhou City, according to the government of Quzhou.

Conditions of the injured are not immediately available. The Quzhou government has ordered a work safety check in the city after the accident.

Also on Saturday, a blast in a chemical plant in Anhui Province killed one and injured 10 others, local authorities said.

The blast occurred

around Saturday noon at Anhui Hongsifang Holding Company, a subsidiary of China National Salt Industry Corp, in the provincial capital city of Hefei, said company deputy manager Ding Mingzhi. One worker died after being hospitalized and four others suffered minor injuries, Ding said, adding that six workers were also sent to hospitals for observation due to exposure to toxic gas.—Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

Kristen Stewart, Ben Affleck to star in Focus

LOS ANGELES, 10 Dec—Twilight star Kristen Stewart has confirmed the rumours that she will be starring opposite Ben Affleck in a comedy titled Focus.

The 22-year-old actress has entered talks to appear in the Warner Bros production as an inexperienced con artist who hooks up with the more seasoned Affleck, reported *the Huffington Post*.

“I can confirm that rumour. It’s a comedy. I’m really excited about it. We start shooting in April,” she said.

The film will be written and directed by Glenn Ficarra and John Requa, who previously teamed up



on *Crazy, Stupid, Love*.

Stewart recently finished a world tour promoting *Breaking Dawn 2*, the fifth and final installment in the Twilight series, which turned her into a global superstar.

She is now making the awards-circuit rounds in support of her next film, “On the Road,” an indie adaptation of the famous Jack Kerouac novel, due out on 21 December.

PTI

The 22-year-old actress has entered talks to appear in the Warner Bros production as an inexperienced con artist who hooks up with the more seasoned Affleck.

PTI



William, Kate “cried with happiness” over baby news

LONDON, 10 Dec—Britain’s Prince William and Duchess Catherine cried with happiness when they discovered they were expecting their first child.

The couple will welcome the third-in-line to the British throne next year and the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge—who tied the knot in April 2011—are over the moon.

Catherine’s friend Jessica Hay said: “William and Catherine are absolutely overjoyed with becoming parents. It’s the most thrilling news to end a wonderful year on.”

While the couple only announced their pregnancy this week, Jessica says it

wasn’t a shock to their friends as they had been preparing to conceive for some time.

She added to America’s Life & Style magazine: “Catherine’s been steadily putting on weight since April this year and hasn’t been drinking for a good few months—they’ve been preparing all summer. It was decided that they’d try at the tail end of the royal tour in September and that’s what happened.

“The difference in Catherine is already tremendous. Her face is already fuller, she really is glowing.”—PTI

The couple will welcome the third-in-line to the British throne next year.



Robert Pattinson offered USD 100,000 to star in a Girls Gone Wild video



NEW DELHI, 10 Dec—Robert Pattinson has been offered USD 100,000 to star in a Girls Gone Wild video.

After the Twilight Saga: *Breaking Dawn Part 2* actor joked he would love if the movie’s cast could hang out with some of the women featured in the adult entertainment franchise, founder Joe Francis reached out to Robert Pattinson, 26, in an email.

In the correspondence,

obtained by E! News, Joe Francis wrote: “I was pleased to hear your mention of Girls Gone Wild and as per your positive comments (would like to give you the) unique opportunity to make those comments a reality.

The beaches are packed with amazing girls during Spring Break and it would be a major bonus not only for us, but for the millions of Twilight fans to see you

with a camera in your hands filming alongside our talented crew at some of the biggest beach parties in the country. The action is non-stop and it would definitely be something worth marking of your bucket list.”

Robert Pattinson recently reconciled with his girlfriend Kristen Stewart, 22, after she cheated on him with director Rupert Sanders.

PTI

French film “Amour” named best film by LA critics

LOS ANGELES, 10 Dec—The French movie about an aging couple, “Amour,” was the surprise choice for best film of 2012 by the Los Angeles Film Critics Association on Sunday, while Joaquin Phoenix was named best actor for his role as a troubled outsider in the cult drama “The Master.”

In a list that broke ranks with early movie award picks in New York, the Los Angeles Film Critics Association named Paul Thomas Anderson best director for “The Master” and the film’s Amy Adams

best supporting actress. “Zero Dark Thirty,” the thriller about the killing of Osama bin Laden, took just one award, for best editing.

Last week, “Zero Dark Thirty” picked up two best picture accolades from the New York-based National Board of Review and the New York Film Critics Circle.

Nominations are to be announced later this week for the Screen Actors Guild and Golden Globe awards, in what are likely to be leading indicators for the Oscars in February.—Reuters



Director Michael Haneke (2ndL), actress Emmanuelle Riva (L) and actor Jean-Louis Trintignant (2ndR) react after receiving the Palme d’Or award for the film “Amour” (Love) during the awards ceremony of the 65th Cannes Film Festival, on 27 May, 2012.—REUTERS

Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie pick up rings; wedding soon?

LONDON, 10 Dec—Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie have chosen their wedding rings.

The Hollywood couple have sparked rumours they are to tie the knot very soon after an assistant working for Angelina collected the marriage bands for them from top Los Angeles jewellers Neil Lane at the end of last month.

In *Touch Weekly* magazine reports: “On 27 November, a stylist for the actress picked up wedding rings from Neil Lane jewellers for the couple.”

Neil Lane has previously created jewellery pieces for Angelina and is renowned for his engagement and wedding rings which he has made for a host of stars including, Jessica Simpson and Ellen DeGeneres.

In June, Liam Hemsworth proposed to Miley Cyrus with an engagement ring made by Lane.

Last month, Brad, 48, claimed he is in no rush to

marry his fiancée and is happy to wait until the time is right for both him and Angelina, 37, even though he popped the question back in April and has been with her for seven years.

He said: “We don’t have a date yet. I don’t know what’s going to happen in two weeks never mind the New Year. We’re such migratory workers that it’ll be a matter of convenience location wise.”

However, the couple’s six kids—Maddox, 11, Pax, eight, Zahara, seven, Shiloh, six, and four-year-old twins Knox and Vivienne—are keen to see their parents tie the knot and keep asking him when the wedding is going to happen.

The *Killing Them Softly* star said: “I am getting more pressure from my kids, and it is something I want to do ... The time is nigh. It’s soon. I got a good feeling about it.” This would be Angelina’s third marriage after previously being wed to British actor Jonny Lee Miller between 1996 and 1999 followed



by musician Billy Bob Thornton from 2000 to 2003. Brad was married to ‘Friends’ star Jennifer Aniston but he separated from her in 2005.

PTI

Last month, Brad claimed he is in no rush to marry his fiancée and is happy to wait until the time is right.

PTI

Messi breaks record with 86th goal of year

Soccer

MADRID, 10 Dec—Barcelona forward Lionel Messi reached another milestone in his phenomenal career on Sunday when he set a record for goals scored in a calendar year of 86 with a La Liga double at Real Betis, beating Gerd Mueller's 40-year-old tally of 85.

The 25-year-old World Player of the Year equalled the record with his first of the night in Seville when he picked up the ball in a central position in the 16th minute and left the Betis defence standing before sending an angled shot across goal into the bottom right corner.

Andres Iniesta's clever back heel set the Argentine up to score again nine minutes later with a sweeping shot from a similar position just inside the penalty area that flew into the same corner of

the goal.

"I always say the same, it's nice for what it means but the victory is more important as it maintains our lead over the other teams," a typically modest Messi said in a post-match interview with Spanish TV broadcaster Canal Plus.

"My goal when the year began was to try to achieve everything again, with the team, in the league, the (King's) Cup, the Champions League," he added. "I always start with that idea in mind."

Favourite to secure a fourth successive World Player award when the winner is announced next month, Messi has netted 74 times for Barca and 12 for Argentina in 2012, surpassing Mueller's total for Bayern Munich and Germany in 1972.



Barcelona's Lionel Messi (R) is challenged by Real Betis' players during their Spanish First Division soccer match at Benito Villamarin stadium in Seville on 9 December, 2012.—REUTERS

He has scored 56 in La Liga, 13 in the Champions League, three in the King's Cup and two in the Spanish Super Cup and still has two league matches and one King's Cup game to add to his tally before the end of

the year.

Mueller, known as the "torpedo" while Messi's nickname is "the flea", netted 72 for Bayern and 13 for Germany in 1972 and was 27 when he set the record.

Reuters

Van Persie fires United to dramatic derby win

MANCHESTER, 10 Dec—Robin van Persie's stoppage-time free kick swung the Premier League title race firmly in Manchester United's favour as they beat champions Manchester City 3-2 on Sunday in a pulsating derby fuelled by a heavy dose of sweet revenge.

Victory in their neighbours' backyard, at an Etihad Stadium where City had not lost in the league for almost two years, sent Alex Ferguson's side six points clear of their opponents at

put United ahead before City pulled level thanks to Yaya Toure and Pablo Zabaleta, only for Van Persie to shatter their comeback. It was payback time for United, who were denied a 20th English title in the final seconds of last season when City grabbed the championship on goal difference after two stoppage-time goals.

On top of that, their winner came from a player City had courted before his close-season move from Arsenal to the red side of



Manchester United's Robin van Persie (L) celebrates after scoring during their English Premier League soccer match against Manchester City at The Etihad Stadium in Manchester, northern England on 9 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

the top of the table in what already looks like a two-horse race.

Two first-half goals from Wayne Rooney had

Manchester and it completed a miserable week for Roberto Mancini's side who crashed out of Europe on Tuesday.

Reuters



Scott Jamieson of Britain

Jamieson clinches playoff win at Mandela Championship

DURBAN, 10 Dec—Scotland's Scott Jamieson clinched his first European Tour International Schedule victory as he beat Steve Webster and Eduardo de la Riva in a playoff to win the inaugural Nelson Mandela Championship on Sunday.

The tournament had been restructured into a 36-

hole event after a waterlogged course prevented play over the first two days, and the course had been shortened to a par-65 for the first event of the 2013 European Tour.

The Scot began with a one-over par round of 66 and found himself in a share of 68th place at the halfway point.

But a sensational round of 57 on Sunday morning including an outward nine of 26 lifted him level with Webster and de la Riva on a seven-under score of 123. The trio were then forced to wait more than five hours to find out if their efforts would be good enough for a place in a playoff.—Reuters

FIFA project bringing hope to Brazil's youth

RIO DE JANEIRO, 10 Dec—While Brazil's World Cup hopes rest on the young shoulders of players like Neymar and Oscar, soccer itself is offering hope to thousands of less fortunate youngsters who are unlikely to ever play for their country but who could one day have an influence on its future.

Behind Rio de Janeiro's glitzy glamour spots like Copacabana and Ipanema beaches, and Sugar Loaf mountain, lies a starker reality in poorer backwater districts like Curicica, where people make their living as best they can.

Paint peels from shops and electricity wires loop precariously from one old telegraph pole to another as dogs sleep in the street in the hot afternoon sun.

There appears to be no sense of resignation to fate though, certainly not among the youngsters at the Instituto Companheiros das Americas, FIFA's Football for Hope project, where more than 2,500 students have passed through its doors since it opened in 2006.

Around 60 students are enrolled at a time and typically spend four hours a day at the project over a

seven month period.

Classrooms and other educational facilities are good and although the one grass pitch is patchy and bumpy, it helps produce plenty of good results.

The idea of the project is not to unearth the next Pele, Ronaldo, or Neymar, although of course that would be a bonus, as project director Heloisa Andrade explained.

"The idea is very simple. It is to use the game of football as a tool for solving some of the social problems we have," Andrade told Reuters.

"We use football as a way of teaching these youngsters about communications skills, about how to interact, to give them confidence.

"Our real goal is, by using football, to increase their chances of employability, of getting a job."

The youngsters who come here, aged between 15 and 24, do not even have to have football skills.

"That is not the point really, but it is using football to develop themselves as people and to give them the potential for having better lives than they might have otherwise."—Reuters

Defeated Pacquiao says "fine", has no plans to retire



Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines watches as Juan Manuel Marquez of Mexico is knocked down in the fifth round of their welterweight fight at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada on 8 Dec, 2012. REUTERS

LAS VEGAS, 10 Dec—Though bruised and battered, Manny Pacquiao said he felt "fine" on Sunday after his sensational sixth-round knockout by Mexican Juan Manuel Marquez and promised his fans he would return to the ring.

There had been speculation the 33-year-old Pacquiao might consider retirement after losing for a second time in his last three bouts but the Filipino southpaw made it clear he would be back to compete after taking a well-earned

break.

"To all my fans, I would like to thank you for your prayers and assure you that I am fine," Pacquiao said in a statement just hours after his stunning defeat in a non-title welterweight bout in front of a sellout crowd at the MGM Grand Garden Arena.

"I am looking forward to a nice rest and then I will be back to fight. On behalf of (his wife) Jinkee and our family we would like to wish everyone a joyous Christmas and a happy and healthy new year."

Pacquiao, who had won twice and drawn once in his three previous meetings with Marquez, was floored by a thunderous right by the counter-punching Mexican with just one second left in the sixth round of a high-energy bout.

The Filipino was also knocked down in the third round but fears of a possible concussion were put to rest after a precautionary CT (computed tomography) scan at nearby University Medical Centre hospital after the fight ended.

"The results were negative," said Michael Koncz, Pacquiao's advisor. "We were in and out in just over an hour and Manny was in excellent spirits."

Both fighters had much to prove in their heavily anticipated fourth showdown on Saturday.

Marquez was determined to set the record straight after firmly believing he had been "robbed" by judges' verdicts in their three previous fights while Pacquiao was eager to prove his powers had not diminished with age.

Reuters



Brazil's Neymar celebrates after scoring the winning penalty shot during a penalty shootout in their Clasico de Las Americas international friendly soccer match against Argentina in Buenos Aires on 21 Nov, 2012.

REUTERS

GENERAL

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

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

- * News
- * Getaway for Beautiful Nature
- * News
- * The Marionette Drama "Human, Bird, Dragon and Mouse" (Yangon Region)
- * News
- * World AIDS Day
- * News
- * The Holy Day with an Air of Festivity
- * News
- * Fascinating Myanma Tapestry
- * My Golden Dancers and Artist U Lun Gywe

- * News
- * Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr. Kan Zaw meets the press
- * News
- * Those who never give up (Aung Thamardi Jewellery Shop)
- * News
- * Book Launching Ceremony by U Win Htein (Hotel & Tourism)
- * Myanmar Movie "Page 15"

MYANMAR TV

(11-12-2012, Tuesday)

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
- 8:10 am
- 6. Songs Of Yester Years
- 8:20 am
- 7. Documentary
- 8:35 am
- 8. Song of National Races
- 8:40 am
- 9. International News
- 8:45 am
- 10. Musical Programme
- 4:00 pm
- 11. Martial Song
- 4:25 pm
- 12. The Mirror Images of

- The Musical Oldies
- 4:35 pm
- 13. Teleplay (Traffic)
- 4:50 pm
- 14. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (Philosophy)
- 5:05 pm
- 15. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:30 pm
- 16. Sweet Melody
- 6:35 pm
- 17. Sing A Song
- 7:00 pm
- 18. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- 19. News
- 20. Bakery World
- 21. TV Drama Series
- 22. India Drama Series

Monterrey threat lurks for Chelsea in Japan



Cesar Delgado (R) of Mexico's Monterrey shoots to score against South Korea's Ulsan Hyundai during their Club World Cup soccer match in Toyota, central Japan on 9 Dec, 2012.

REUTERS

TOYOTA (Japan), 10 Dec—Argentine forward Cesar Delgado scored twice for Mexico's Monterrey in a 3-1 win over South Koreans Ulsan Hyundai on Sunday to set up a Club World Cup semi-final against European champions Chelsea.

African champions Al-

Ahly beat Japan's Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2-1 in blizzard-like conditions in the second quarter-final and will face Brazil's Corinthians in the last four. Slick-passing Monterrey dominated Asian Champions League winners Ulsan in snow-sprinkled Toyota and showed to

enough to suggest they will be no pushovers for Chelsea.

"If we can play like we did today against Chelsea we will have a chance," Monterrey coach Victor Vucetich told reporters.

Jesus Corona opened the scoring after nine minutes, finishing a superb three-man move from close range before his back-heel fell for Delgado to tap home in the 77th minute.

They play Brazil's Corinthians, holders of the Libertadores Cup, in the tournament's first semi-final on Wednesday.

"It was a very tough match," said Al-Ahly coach Hossam El Badry said. "Hiroshima were very organized but we had done our homework and I think we deserved to win."

Chelsea, under pressure to lift the trophy in Japan after

becoming the first holders to exit the Champions League at the group stage, face Monterrey in Yokohama a day later.

Elsayed Hamdi put the Egyptians ahead in the 15th minute, only for Hisato Sato to equalise with a fierce right-foot drive with snow falling heavily in Toyota.

J-League champions Hiroshima lost goalkeeper Shusaku Nishikawa after three minutes, stretched off with blood stains on his jersey after catching a knee in the face.

Ahly captain Hossam Ghaly was then carried off with a knee injury with conditions rapidly deteriorating to be replaced by Aboutrika, famous in his home country for scoring the goal that won Egypt the 2008 African Cup of Nations.

Reuters

Wilson fires Giants to 52-27 rout of Saints

EAST RUTHERFORD, 10 Dec—The Super Bowl champion New York Giants, powered by a dynamic performance by rookie David Wilson, preserved their one-game lead in the tight NFC East race by routing the visiting New Orleans Saints 52-27 on Sunday.

Bolstered by a huge coming-out party by Wilson, who gained 227 yards on four kickoff returns including a 97-yard touchdown dash, the Giants improved to 8-5 while dropping the sloppy Saints to 5-8.

Wilson scored from six yards out and capped a spectacular day with a 52-yard touchdown burst from

scrimmage in the fourth quarter that gave him 100 yards rushing, which he celebrated with a back-flip in the end zone.



New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning (10) throws a pass during the third quarter against the New Orleans Saints in their NFL football game in East Rutherford, New Jersey, on 9 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

The total 327 yards amassed by the rookie, who had taken a background role after fumbling in the first game of the season, was

a team record for a single game.

The Giants also set a franchise mark for kickoff return yardage and had safety Stevie Brown, who picked off two Drew Brees passes and returned one 70 yards, set a team season record for interception return yardage.

Along with four touchdown passes from quarterback Eli Manning, the Giants took their score past 50 points for the first time since the 1986 season.

"We did a lot of good things today but we've got a lot more to get done," Giants coach Tom Coughlin told reporters.

Reuters



Photo shows white elephant motifs carrying gold foils for Shwedagon Pagoda at the 70th gold foil offering ceremony of Kyimyindine Township religious association recently. Up to date, 667 gold foils weighing 20 viss and four ticals have been donated to the Pagoda. — KYEMON

Thousands march to commemorate death of Dutch linesman

AMSTERDAM, 10 Dec—Thousands of Dutch mourners walked in silence Sunday to commemorate the fatal beating of a volunteer football linesman, whose

football pitch. "On Sunday evening some 12,000 people, many of them youth football players whose own games were cancelled, marched in silence, Dutch news agency ANP agency reported.



Participants place flowers on the pitch of the soccer club Buitenboys after attending a silent march to commemorate linesman Richard Nieuwenhuizen in Almere on 9 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

death last week shocked the Netherlands. Richard Nieuwenhuizen, 41, was attacked by a group of football players while refereeing an under-17 match. He died shortly after being kicked repeatedly by the youth players, who were 15 and 16 years old.

His death, which led to the arrest of four players, at least two of them of Moroccan origin, has sparked an national debate about violence on the

Nieuwenhuizen's son was among them.

"We will miss you dad. Rest in peace," he told the crowd as he broke down in tears. The group walked in rain through neighbourhoods of Almere, a satellite city near Amsterdam, to the stadium where Nieuwenhuizen was attacked, laying flowers on the field. In comments following his weekly cabinet meeting Friday, Prime Minister Mark Rutte said he disagreed.—Reuters



Myanmar, Vietnam sign deal for closer ties

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec—Closer ties resulted from Amendment to the agreement between the Ministry of Border Affairs and Vietnam's Ethnic

Minorities Committee would contributed to stronger friendship between the two countries through exchange of experiences, Union Border Affairs Minister Lt-Gen Thein Htay said at the signing ceremony of Amendment to the Agreement of Cooperation between Ministry of Border Affairs and the Committee for Ethnic Minorities of SRV this afternoon.

rural areas.

The Vice-Chairman of the Vietnamese committee explained benefits of the new agreement and spoke words of thanks. Deputy Minister Lt-Gen Thein Htay said at the signing ceremony of Amendment to the Agreement of Cooperation between Ministry of Border Affairs and the Committee for Ethnic Minorities of SRV this afternoon.

The Union Minister then met the Vietnamese delegation at his office and exchanged views on further strengthening cooperation.

The mutual cooperation between the two institutions started since 1994 and supported regional stability and world peace efforts.

MNA

Signing ceremony of Amendment to Agreement of Cooperation between Myanmar and SRV in progress.—MNA

He also said the ministry is conducting capacity building tasks and cooperating with UN agencies, NGOs, and respective region/state governments and departments for development border and

Summary of weather observations (09.30 hr MST on 10-12-2012)

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec—During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin State, weather has been partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions and Mon State and generally

fair in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were 3°C below December average temperature in Bago Region and Kayah State and about December

average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperatures were 1°C in Loilem, 2°C in Haka, 3°C in Pinlaung and 4°C in Namhsam.

LIFT organizes workshop on agricultural development of Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Dec — In his address at the National Knowledge Forum and Seminar on Priorities in Agriculture Development of Myanmar organized by Livelihood and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT) at the assembly hall of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation this morning, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing said Myanmar was also facing natural disasters as a serious threat posed by climate change while striving for development of agriculture sector and rural region and poverty alleviation scheme. The Union minister pointed out potentials for agriculture development as 18 per cent of the total area of the nation had been utilized as arable farmlands.

Next, Union Minister for Environmental Conser-

vation and Forestry U Win Tun said that spotlighted degradation of land resources due to excessive and reckless farming.

Then Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw, Swiss Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Christoph Burgener, FAO Resident Representative Ms. Bui Thi Lan and LIFT Fund Chairperson Ms. Veronique Lorenzon gave accounts of matters related to agricultures sector, livestock and fishery industry and environmental conserva-tion. Afterwards, a documentary video about the inspection tours made by President U Thein Sein and Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun was shown. The Union ministers and guests observed agricultural booths displayed by FAO



Union Minister U Myint Hlaing and party pose for a documentary photo at National Knowledge Forum and Seminar on Priorities in Agriculture Development.—MNA

and LIFT Fund at the hall. Then resource persons read out papers respectively,

and answered the queries raised by those present.

It was also attended

by Union Ministers U Tin Naing Thein and U Ohn Myint and deputy ministers

and officials of UN agencies and departments concerned.

MNA

Union minister calls for market competitiveness of domestic products

YANGON, 10 Dec— Union Minister for Industry U Aye Myint has called for quality and reasonable price to embrace competitive market.

Union Minister for Industry U Aye Myint views excavators at No 15 Heavy Industry (Thagara).

MNA

The Union Minister met general managers of heavy industries in Thagara, the director of the Research and Development Centre and the principal of the technical training school on 7 December demanded a consistent focus on research and development.

He then viewed central lab of the research and development centre, production process of diesel engines at No. 14

Heavy Industry (Thagara), progress in construction of facilities for diesel engine manufacturing as joint venture with Shangdong Puli Construction Engineering Co Ltd of China.

He also viewed production of excavators at No. 15 Heavy Industry (Thagara) and turbines and generators at No. 26 Heavy Industry (Thagara).

MNA

