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Vice-President receives Brazilian Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec— Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham received Brazilian Ambassador Mr. Jose Carlos da Fonseca Junior at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 1 pm today.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein, Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myint Zaw, Deputy Minister for Energy U Htin Aung, Deputy Minister for National Planning and

Economic Development Dr Daw Khin San Yi and departmental officials.

At the meeting, they had a cordially discussion on aviation, trade, investment, energy and infrastructural development sectors between the two countries.

MNA

Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham and party pose for a documentary photo together with Brazilian Ambassador Mr. Jose Carlos da Fonseca Junior.—MNA



Nay Pyi Taw welcomes ASEAN-India Car Rally



ASEAN-India Car Rally-2012 reaches Nay Pyi Taw.—PHOTO AYE MIN SOE

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec— The 2nd edition of the ASEAN-Indian Car Rally -1012 was warmly welcomed by sports athletes and staff of the Ministry of Sports as they reached here

this evening.

They were also welcomed by Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan and diplomats.

Eight participants including four celebrities

from Myanmar participated in it.

“It’s is a wonderful journey and very enjoyable. We received warmly welcome and enjoyed hospitality of the local



Myanmar celebrity Hsu Pan Htwar sits behind the wheel as she arrives Nay Pyi Taw.
PHOTO AYE MIN SOE

An athlete holds a miniature flags of ASEAN-India Car Rally.
PHOTO AYE MIN SOE

people along the trip,” said Jyoti Kalash, the team leader for India Car No.9 as he was relaxing strolling out the Zabuthiri Hotel where they will stay for a night.

Myanmar celebrities who took part in the rally also won the Friendship Award in the rally, bringing the pride to the country as they are showing their social friendship spirit. “We got the Friendship Award presented by Indonesia and we were very happy to accept that prize,” said movie star Hsu Pan Htwar.

The Thailand-Myanmar leg of the rally was flugged off on the Friendship Bridge in Myawady at the border of

Myanmar wins Friendship Award in ASEAN-India Car Rally-2012

By Aye Min Soe

Thai and Myanmar at 9 am yesterday.

They stopped over at Hpa-an in Kayin State yesterday evening. Along the trip in Myanmar local ethnic people, students and the people welcomed them as they wave miniature flags of the ASEAN countries and the rally.

The 2nd ASEAN-India car rally had commenced from November 26 to

December 20, 2012 to celebratethe 20th Anniversary of the ASEAN and India relationship.

A total of 103 men and eight women from ASEAN countries took part in the rally which started from Jakarta, Indonesia since November 26, driving across ASEAN countries before arriving India.



Trishaw ride for globetrotters in Magway



MAGWAY, 12 Dec — RV Orient Pandaw tripple dekker carrying globetrotters made a stop at Magway for a sightseeing tour of the town recently.

It is an eight-day trip from Pyay to Mandalay. Tourists visit Magway Myathalon Pagoda, the Statue of Bogyoke and Kantha market and tour around Magway by trishaw.

“There are 45 trishaws offering trishaw service to tourists. Tour operators gave us uniforms.

The ship carrying tourists makes a stop there at least twice a week. More tourist arrivals have been seen at the moment. Before their arrival, our leader U Myint Thein received a phone call and we are asked to be ready. The tour agency

pays the trishaw fares. It cost K 3000. Visitors gave us a generous tip. More tourist arrivals make us convenient,” a trishaw driver who gave them a ride said.

Their trip includes overnight stops at Sale, Chauk and Bagan after Magway.

After that, they proceeded to Mandalay.

Kyemon

Elephantiasis vaccine for locals in Kyauktan Township

KYAUKTAN, 12 Dec — A vaccine for elephantiasis will be given to those in urban wards and villages in Kyauktan Township of Yangon South District from 18 to 24 December.

However, pregnant

women, children under age of two and those with diabetes, kidney failure and other diseases will be excluded in the vaccination programme. The elephantiasis vaccines are to be taken for five successive years.

For children, the vaccine can protect them against elephantiasis and help improve brain development.

That’s why, parents should provide their children with the vaccine.

Kyemon

Historic monastery in Inlay Lake in need of repair

NYAUNGSHWE, 12 Dec — Inlay Lake is situated in Nyaungshwe Township which is an auspicious ground for ancient historic pagodas and religious edifices. Inlay Phaungdaw U Pagoda built by King Alaungsithu, Shwe Intein and Alopauk Pagodas built by King Thiri Dhamma Asoka, Yadana Mannaung Pagoda, Tarkhaung Pagoda and Shwe Thantaung Pagoda are among ancient pagodas.

Nyaungshwe Township is made up of 23 village-tracts including villages near Inlay Lake. Ngapechaung village, one of 23 village-tracts, has an ancient historical monastery called Ngapechaung Monastery. It was built in accord with the guidance of Nyaungshwe Chieftain Sir Saw Maung.

The Ngapechaung Monastery includes eight three-tier buildings, one one-tier building, a balcony, 27 altar rooms, six lacquered Buddha Images, 66 Buddha

Images, 654 wooden pillars, 200 gold-pained pillars and five stairways.

Tourists visit there whenever they arrived in Inlay Lake. Tourists are very pleased to see the brilliant performance of clever cats there.

Now, the weather-beaten monastery sees damages to its some parts.

So locals are expecting to preserve the ancient building by the Archaeology Department.

Kyemon

Availability of electricity to be realized in Hsedwin, Gwaykon villages in Yamethin Township

YAMETHIN, 12 Dec — Mandalay Region Electrical Engineer U Pyu Win and party made an inspection tour of Yamethin to oversee the already-installed self-reliant transformer and power lines at Hsedwin and Gwaykon villages in the township recently.

Now skilled employees are installing meter boxes and service power lines at houses in the two villages.

The electricity availability scheme was launched with the spending of K 90 million under the

leadership of U Mya Win and U Mya Hsan.

According to the township electrical engineer, the scheme has been

completed 95 per cent.

Villages are happy as electricity will be available in their villages soon.

Kyemon



Low rainfall disrupts paddy output

KAWLIN, 12 Dec — There has been low rainfall in Kawlin, Wuntho and Pinlebu in Sagaing Region this year.

A sharp drop in paddy output has caused a major headache for local paddy merchants.

Although Kawlin,

Wuntho and Pinlebu were once recognized as granaries of the Region each year, unfavourable weather patterns, outflow of torrent water and flooding led to the fall in paddy output and closure of rice mills in the areas.

Moreover, although rice of Kawlin, Wuntho and Pinlebu were once transported to Myitkyina, Tanai and Phakant, transport of rice came to a halt when those regions lack peace and security this year.

Kyemon

Thriving chilli plantations in Monywa

MONYWA, 12 Dec — Local farmers in Monywa chose growing of chilli for this year’s winter crops cultivation season as chilli is Myanmar-India border trade’s marketable commodity. Now the region has seen thriving chilli

plantations which are grown on a wider scale.

A chilli grower said that onions were grown in previous years in accord with the border market demand. This year’s first priority was growing of chilli; that Chilli growing was easier than

onion growing; and that there was no significant difference between the two winter crops. Chilli plantations are thriving at Monywa Myauklak and Taunglak regions where chillies are commercially grown.

Kyemon

Commercial signpost blocking the view of Bogyoke statue in Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 12 Dec — The whole Myanmar admire of Independence architect national leader Bogyoke Aung San. After his death in 1947, statues of Bogyoke were built around the country. Pictures of Bogyoke hang in offices and houses. A bronze statue of Bogyoke Aung San was built near Kandawgyi in Yangon.

Several of Bogyoke statues stand in public areas like intersections or parks in some townships as a remembrance of Bogyoke Aung San.

There is a standing statue of Bogyoke Aung San built in 1990 in front of a park on Meiktila-Kyaukpadaung road in Nandawkon ward in Meiktila. But it is unpleasant to see that a commercial signpost was set up in front of the statue.

According to the locals, they are expecting to remove the signpost blocking the view of the statue.—Kyemon



Head-on collision claims six lives, including three-year-old girl

MAWLAMYINE, 12 Dec — A head-on collision between a passenger bus and a light truck occurred on the approach road to Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) on the bank of Mottama at about 12 noon on 10 December, leaving six dead including a girl at age of three and 16 injured.

A passenger bus driven by Than Zaw (a) Anyarthar from Mawlamyine to Kyaikto collided a head-on with a light truck driven by Maung Zaw on the opposite direction on the bridge. Six women and a three-year-old girl died on

the spot in the incident. The other 16 injured passengers were admitted Mawlamyine General Hospital. Mon State ministers, the commander of Mon State Police Force and officials were at the scene and comforted the bus crash victims.

Mottama Police Station filed a lawsuit against the suspects.

Kyemon



WORLD

Syrian Alawite village attacked, rebels fight around capital

DAMASCUS, 12 Dec—Up to 200 members of President Bashar al-Assad's Alawite minority were injured or killed in an attack on their central Syrian village on Tuesday, activists said, while to the south rebels and state forces battled for the outskirts of Damascus.

With a broad grouping of governments opposed to Assad meeting in Morocco on Wednesday, an official in the Syrian Muslim Brotherhood criticized the United States for designating an Islamist rebel group as a terrorist organization, meaning it

would get no American help in the fight against Assad.

Casualty counts varied for the attack on the village of Aqrab in Hama Province, but several activists said they could confirm 10 dead. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the casualties came during a series of explosions in the town.

Opposition activists posted videos on YouTube in which survivors said pro-Assad militias had used children as human shields in the village. However, the accounts could not be

independently verified and the events remained unclear.

Sectarian bloodshed has previously hit both Hama Province, where Aqrab is located, and neighbouring Homs Province. Both witnessed massacres of hundreds of Sunni residents but Tuesday's incident, if confirmed, would be the first known large-scale attack on Alawites. The opposition-linked Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 125 had been hurt or killed but said it was still trying to find out what happened. There were no reports on Syria's

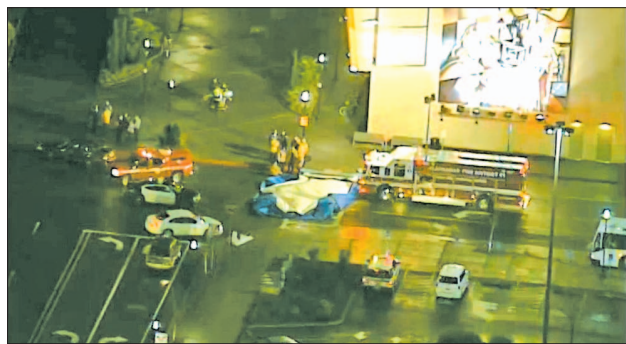


Syrian refugees warm themselves by a fire at a refugee camp in Atimeh, on the Syrian-Turkish border of the Idlib Governorate on 10 Dec, 2012. Picture taken on 10 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

state media.

An Alawite resident of a nearby village said the violence began in Aqrab when rebels attacked a checkpoint run by pro-Assad militiamen, known as shabbiha. "We

don't believe there was a massacre but we think there are a number of hostages being held. Clashes began when rebels started shelling the shabbiha checkpoint," he said by Skype.—Reuters



A still image taken from video courtesy of KATU-TV shows first responders at a shooting scene at Clackamas Town Centre in Portland, Oregon, on 11 Dec, 2012.

REUTERS

Gunman kills at least two at US Oregon mall

SAN FRANCISCO, 12 Dec—At least two people were killed and more injured on Tuesday when a gunman opened fire at a mall in the US state of Oregon.

The shooting occurred Tuesday afternoon at the Clackamas Town Centre Mall, about 17.7 km southeast of downtown Portland, the most populous city in Oregon.

Local police said the shooter "has been neutralized," but declined to say whether it meant the suspect was dead, immobilized or in custody.

According to local newspaper *The Oregonian*, preliminary reports to the emergency dispatches said a man with a semiautomatic rifle opened fire near a Macy's department store in the mall

at 3:29 local time.

The gunman, who may have been wearing body armor and camouflage clothing, was also seen near the mall's food court, said the newspaper.

A witness told *The Oregonian* that as many as 60 shots were fired and crowds of shoppers were seen running from the mall.

Xinhua

Cayman Islands Premier McKeewa Bush speaks during a jobs rally in Seven Mile Beach outside Georgetown in this 25 June, 2011 file photo. The leader of the Cayman Islands was arrested on suspicion of corruption on 11 Dec, 2012 in connection with a series of police investigations in the Caribbean offshore financial centre, authorities said.

REUTERS



Cayman Islands leader arrested in corruption probe

GEORGETOWN, 12 Dec—The leader of the Cayman Islands was arrested on Tuesday on suspicion of corruption in connection with a graft investigation in the Caribbean offshore financial centre, authorities said.

Premier McKeewa Bush was detained at his home by members of the Financial Crime Unit of the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service, a police statement said.

The 57-year-old premier is suspected of theft, alleged misuse of a government credit card and abuse of office over the alleged importation of explosive substances without valid permits, it said.

"It would be inappropriate ... to make any further comment in relation to these matters at this time," the statement

said. "Further updates will be made available in due course."

A police spokeswoman declined to elaborate on the arrest.

Leonard Dilbert, Bush's chief of staff, said the premier had been detained on suspicion of wrongdoing pending an investigation but had not been formally charged with any crime.

"It is important to remind the people of the Cayman Islands not to rush to judgment," he said. "Being suspected of having done something is far from it having been proven that you did that thing."

Bush was elected in 2009 as premier of the island chain, a British Overseas Territory with a population of 55,000 people and a leading global tax haven.

The islands are home

Mexico's ruling party chooses new leader

MEXICO CITY, 12 Dec—Mexico's ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) picked a new chairman on Tuesday, handing the task of steering the centrist party through a series of key reforms to a close ally of President Enrique Pena Nieto.

Cesar Camacho, like Pena Nieto a former state of Mexico governor, will lead the party that recaptured the presidency after 12 years on the sidelines, pledging to curb drug violence and enact economic reforms in Latin America's second biggest economy.

"We decide to be guided by principles, not obedient to dogmas," Camacho said in speech to party members in Mexico City following his selection.

The PRI ruled Mexico from 1929 to 2000, often becoming a byword for corruption and heavy-handed governance.—Reuters

China advocates building, maintenance of harmonious maritime order: UN envoy

UNITED NATIONS, 12 Dec—China advocated the building and maintenance of a harmonious maritime order under which the international community must put emphasis on both the proper protection of the ocean and its rational utilization, a Chinese UN envoy said here on Tuesday.

Li Baodong, China's permanent representative to the United Nations, made the statement at a meeting of the 67th session of the General Assembly on commemorating the 30th anniversary of the opening for signature of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Li said China advocates enhanced international cooperation and coordination in line with the spirit of the Convention in order to safeguard peace, security and openness of the ocean and promote the common development of all countries.

China highly commends Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) for its contribution to a balanced handling of the legitimate rights and interests of coastal states and the overall interests of the international community, Li said.

"We support the

Commission in continuing to fulfill its mandate in accordance with the Convention and its own rules of procedure in order to maintain the quality and professionalism of its consideration of submissions," he said.

While congratulating the International Seabed Authority (ISA) on its achievements over the past year, Li said China has all along strongly supported the work of the ISA and promoted the effective and full participation of developing countries in international seabed affairs.

"China values and supports the important role of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in the peaceful settlement of maritime disputes, the maintenance of international maritime order, and the dissemination of the law of the sea," Li said.

China also supports the adoption by the General Assembly of the concrete working recommendations by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group on marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, said Li.

"The relevant work should proceed in an incremental manner

and fully accommodate the legitimate needs of all countries, especially developing countries, for marine biological resources."

The Chinese diplomat stressed that the key to addressing the question of greenhouse gas emissions from ships is to uphold the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities." He said China also commits itself to strengthening of the conservation and management of fishery resources.

Xinhua



Visitors pass by colourful illuminations on the street in Amsterdam, the Netherlands on 11 Dec, 2012. The "cultural festival of light and water" will last until middle of January, 2013.—XINHUA

Israeli archaeologists unearth “elite” Stone Age society

JERUSALEM, 12 Dec—An excavation of an ancient village in the north of Israel has unearthed hundreds of artifacts linking the residents’ upper class to Mesopotamia and other distant civilizations.

Archaeologist Yair Milevski, who headed the excavation together with Nimrod Getzov at the Ein Tzupori site, near Nazareth, told *Xinhua* on Monday that this discovery helps understand Stone Age upper class society and commerce in the area.

“We discovered some kind of elite part of society that lived in this village and who were in contact with other cities in the northern Levant — even in Anatolia and Mesopotamia,” Milevski said. The artifacts unearthed belong to the Calcolithic period, over seven millennia ago, and have been identified as a part of the local Wadi Rabah culture.

The find revealed that this culture had strong commercial ties with other cultures as distant as Mesopotamia and Anatolia, in current Turkey.

“This kind of commerce was not uncommon, but what’s special is that we have a large collection of items in the same place, and most probably they were conducting these exchanges through terrestrial means,” Milevski said. “We think that they had barter deals, because they didn’t have money, and sometimes this exchange was coming from faraway sites since we also found items made from Obsidian coming from Anatolia and other parts of Turkey, as well as other items from Syria and northern Levant region,” the researcher stressed.

Archaeologists believe that the luxury items discovered in Ein Tzupori were for the upper class’s consump-

tion and that the site was not a religious or affluent commercial settlement.

Among the artifacts are bowls containing hundreds of colored flint beads, engraved earthenware and palettes decorated with ostriches, showing influence from Mesopotamia and Syria. “We know that there are few cases in the southern Levant with such patterns on palettes or other artifacts, even in the Near East. We believe there was a common background of ideas or beliefs that reflects continuous commercial activity,” Milevski said.

However, this part of the Ein Tzupori site that spans 200 square meters will be covered by a road in less than a year. “That’s why we call it a salvage excavation, because we dug to find what we could before it’s covered by road 79, which leads to Nazareth,” Milevski said.

Xinhua

Japan’s Renesas secures \$1.8 billion government-led bailout

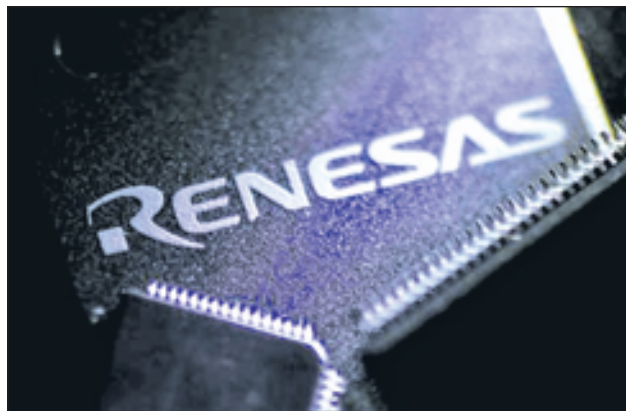
Tech

TOKYO, 12 Dec—Japanese chipmaker Renesas Electronics Corp, hit by slumping orders and competition from rivals like Samsung Electronics Co Ltd, secured a 150 billion yen (\$1.8 billion) lifeline from a government-led bailout on Monday.

The taxpayer-funded Innovation Network Corp of Japan (INCJ), will provide 138.4 billion yen in exchange for a two-thirds stake in Renesas, the world’s biggest maker of microcontroller chips for cars.

Eight key manufacturing clients including Toyota Motor Corp, Nissan Motor Co, Canon Inc and Panasonic Corp will provide roughly 12 billion yen. The bailout was put together to counter an earlier bid by U\S private

equity firm KKR & Co LP amid worries the firm’s technology could fall into foreign hands, sources familiar with the talks have told *Reuters*.



Renesas Electronics Corp’s chips are pictured at the company’s office in Tokyo on 23 Oct, 2012.

REUTERS

Renesas, battling to avoid the fate of fellow chipmaker Elpida Memory Inc which was driven into bankruptcy earlier this year, said it would spend 60 bil-

lion yen of the total support on research and development and capital spending related to its core microcontroller business. The company said

ing whether to agree to the request but if it did supply the extra money, Renesas could use it to expand abroad through mergers and acquisitions. “The fact that clients are putting up money is positive since it means Renesas will be able to gain some business from them,” said Akira Minamikawa, vice president and principal analyst at IHS iSuppli in Tokyo. “But domestic firms’ influence over the company could prevent the firm from expanding abroad,” he said. Renesas president Yasushi Akao denied that clients-turned-shareholders would exert influence over the company’s products. “I don’t see this becoming a problem. We have the government fund holding a two-thirds stake and this means they will take leadership on this matter,” said Akao.—*Reuters*

Global climate change predictions on target

Science

WELLINGTON, 12 Dec—Predictions of global climate change made to a United Nations-organized panel more than 20 years ago have proved to be accurate, a New Zealand-US academic study has found.

The study compared predictions of global temperature rises to 2030 from the first Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessment Report published in 1990, with global climate change data gathered over the past 20 years.

Authors Professor David Frame, director of the New Zealand Climate Change Research Institute at Victoria University, and Dr Daithi Stone, of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California, found the global climate was responding largely as predicted by the first IPCC report.

Two decades later, data showed the actual global mean surface temperature increase was 0.35 to 0.39 degrees Celsius, which was in

reasonable agreement with the 1990 predictions, Frame said in a statement.

This was in spite of unforeseen climate-altering events, such as the eruption of the Philippines’ Mount Pinatubo in 1991, the collapse of the Soviet bloc industry in the 1990s, and the recent rapid, fossil-intensive growth in economies such as Asia. They concluded that natural variability alone seemed highly unlikely to account for recent changes, even if the forecasting systems significantly underestimated natural variations.

Xinhua



Tech

Customers use computers at an internet cafe in Sao Paulo. REUTERS

Russia backs down on proposals to regulate the Internet

DUBAI, 12 Dec—A Russia-led coalition on Monday withdrew a proposal to give governments new powers over the Internet, a plan opposed by Western countries in talks on a new global telecom treaty.

Negotiations on the treaty mark the most sustained effort so far by governments from around the world to agree on how, or whether, to regulate cyberspace. The United States, Europe, Canada and other advocates of a

hands-off approach to Internet regulation want to limit the new treaty’s scope to telecom companies.

But Russia, China and many Arab states, which want greater governmental control, have been pushing to expand the treaty beyond traditional telecom operators.

Representatives from about 150 countries — members of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) — have been negotiating for the past eight days in Dubai on the new treaty, which was last revised in 1988, before the advent of the World Wide Web.

The Russia-led proposal could have allowed countries to block some Internet locations and take control of the allocation of Internet addresses currently overseen by ICANN, a self-governing organization under contract

to the US Department of Commerce. An ITU spokesman said this plan had now been scrapped. “It looks like the Russians and Chinese overplayed their hand,” said American cyber security expert Jim Lewis of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

US Ambassador Terry Kramer welcomed the decision to withdraw the Russia-led plan. But he also said: “These issues will continue to be on the table for discussion in other forms during the remainder of the conference.” China, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates had co-signed the aborted proposal. The UAE insisted the document had not been withdrawn. “It may come down to the wire,” said a Western delegate on condition of anonymity.—*Reuters*



File photo of a view of the corporate sign outside the Honeywell International Automation and Control Solutions manufacturing plant in Golden Valley, Minnesota, on 28 Jan, 2010.—REUTERS

Honeywell sees slow 2013, to buy Intermec for \$600 million

Tech

GOLDEN VALLEY, 12 Dec—Diversified US manufacturer Honeywell International Inc forecast a fiscal 2013 profit mostly below Wall Street’s estimates on Monday as sales cool in the aerospace and transportation sectors.

The company, whose many industrial products include cockpit electronics and automotive turbochargers, also said it would buy mobile computing device maker Intermec for \$600 million, or \$10 per share. The subdued forecast was not unexpected

on Wall Street, where shares of Honeywell were down 0.2 percent to \$61.86 in midday trading on Monday.

Chief Executive Officer Dave Cote, known for his strong views on the perils of the US “fiscal cliff” of automatic tax increases and government spending cuts, did not mention it as a reason for the weaker-than-expected forecast in a statement on Monday morning. Cote did not participate in a conference call with investors on Monday to discuss the deal

and forecast.

The new forecast was released a week earlier than expected due to the Intermec deal, which gives Intermec shareholders a 25 percent premium from Friday’s closing stock price. Honeywell expects the deal to dent its 2013 earnings by 3 cents to 4 cents per share. The company forecast a 2013 profit of \$4.75 to \$4.95 per share, excluding items, while analysts on average expect \$4.95, according to *Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S*.—*Reuters*

BUSINESS & HEALTH

HSBC to pay record \$1.9 billion US fine in money laundering case

NEW YORK, 12 Dec—HSBC Holdings Plc has agreed to pay \$1.92 billion (1.19 billion pounds) to settle a multi-year US criminal probe into money-laundering lapses at the British lender, the largest penalty ever paid by a bank. HSBC admitted to a breakdown of controls and

different organization from the one that made those mistakes,” said Chief Executive Stuart Gulliver.

“Over the last two years, under new senior leadership, we have been taking concrete steps to put right what went wrong and to participate actively with government au-

transactions. No bank or bank executives, however, have been indicted as prosecutors have instead utilized deferred prosecutions. The deferred prosecution agreement, when detailed by US Justice Department officials later on Tuesday, could yield new information about a failure at HSBC to police transactions linked to Mexico, sources familiar with the matter said. Details of those dealings were reported this summer in a sweeping US Senate probe. HSBC’s settlement also includes agreements or consent orders with the Manhattan district attorney, the Federal Reserve and three US Treasury Department units: the Office of Foreign Assets Control, the Comptroller of the Currency and the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network.

HSBC said it would pay \$1.921 billion, continue to cooperate fully with regulatory and law enforcement authorities and take further

action to strengthen its compliance policies and procedures. US prosecutors have agreed to defer or forgo prosecution.

The settlement is the third time in a decade that HSBC has been penalized for lax controls and ordered by US authorities to better monitor suspicious transactions. Directives by regulators to improve oversight came in 2003 and again in 2010. Last month, HSBC told investors it had set aside \$1.5 billion to cover fines or penalties stemming from the inquiry and warned costs could be significantly higher. Analyst Jim Antos of Mizuho Securities said the statement on Tuesday indicates an extra \$420 million for the settlement costs, calling it a “trivial” figure in terms of the company’s book value. “But in terms of real cash terms, that’s a huge fine to pay,” said Antos, who rates HSBC a “buy”.—Reuters



European Economic and Monetary Affairs Commissioner Olli Rehn addresses a news conference at the EU Commission headquarters in Brussels on 14 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

EU’s Rehn says euro zone must pursue structural reforms

Business

LONDON, 12 Dec—Europe must continue with its “far reaching structural reforms” that have helped to rebalance the euro zone economy and rebuild confidence, EU’s top economics official, Olli Rehn, said in an opinion piece in the *Financial Times* on Tuesday.

“In order to overcome the crisis and restore confidence, we must continue to remove structural obstacles to sustainable growth and employment; pursue prudent fiscal consolidation; and turn bold thoughts into convincing actions when redesigning and rebuilding our economic and monetary union,” he said. “In short, we need to stay the course and pursue decisive reforms in our member states and deeper integration in the euro zone.”

He said decisions made so far have begun to rebuild confidence, calm markets and counter fears of a

collapse of the euro.

“Far-reaching structural reforms are helping to rebalance the euro zone economy. Progress is tangible,” said Rehn, who is vice-president of the European Commission, responsible for economic and monetary affairs and the euro.

Euro zone sentiment improved for a fourth consecutive month in December, as investors took heart from pledges by the European Central Bank and politicians to stand by the euro. Rehn also said the European Commission intends to “explore further ways” to accommodate public investment in its assessment of national fiscal plans.

Last week, Rehn urged European finance ministers and leaders meeting in Brussels this week to reach an agreement on plans for pan-EU banking supervision. Reuters



A view shows the entrance to a HSBC Bank branch in New York on 1 Aug, 2011. REUTERS

apologised in a statement on Tuesday announcing it had reached a deferred-prosecution agreement with the US Department of Justice, as was first reported by Reuters last week. “We accept responsibility for our past mistakes. We have said we are profoundly sorry for them, and we do so again. The HSBC of today is a fundamentally

different organization from the one that made those mistakes,” said Chief Executive Stuart Gulliver. “Over the last two years, under new senior leadership, we have been taking concrete steps to put right what went wrong and to participate actively with government au-

Diageo weighs on FTSE after

Cuervo talks founder

Business

LONDON, 12 Dec—The FTSE 100 edged lower on Tuesday, consolidating 9-month closing highs, with beverages group Diageo weighing after it called off long-running acquisition talks with Jose Cuervo.

Shares in Diageo fell 1.2 percent on the news—bringing to a close its plan to buy the world’s number 1

tequila brand—and knocked 2.1 points off the FTSE 100, which was down 7.58 points, or 0.1 percent at 08:06 am.

The index reached its highest closing level in nearly nine months on Monday and is now capped by technical resistance at 5,930, an intraday high hit in September. Reuters



The outside of the London Stock Exchange building is seen in the City of London.—REUTERS

Iron may prevent behavioural issues in small babies

Health

NEW YORK, 12 Dec—Iron supplements may help boost brain development and ward off behavioural problems in babies who are born a bit on the small side, a new study from Sweden suggests.

Low birth-weight babies are more likely to end up iron deficient, researchers said. They need more of the nutrient for catch-up growth and haven’t stored as much as other babies if they’re also born premature.

For that reason, very early-term and very small babies are often put on iron—but less research has looked at babies born just shy of normal weight, to see if they are also at risk.

“I think this further solidifies the evidence that it’s a very good idea to give these (marginally low birth-weight) children iron supplements,” said

Dr. Magnus Domellof, from Umea University, who worked on the study. The research was led by his colleague, Dr Staffan Berglund.

Their team followed 285 infants born between 4 pounds, 7 ounces and 5 pounds, 8 ounces. When the babies were six weeks old, the researchers randomly assigned them to get iron drops—either one or two milligrams per kilogram of body weight—or iron-free placebo drops each day until their six-month birthday.

Then at age three and a half, Domellof’s team brought the kids back for IQ tests and surveyed parents about their behavioral issues. The researchers compared kids in the iron- and placebo-drop study groups with another 95 children who were born at normal weight.

There were no IQ differences based on whether the smaller-than-average babies had been put on an

iron regimen. All three low birth-weight groups had average scores between 104 and 105. (“Cognitive impairment” in this study was considered an IQ under 85.)



Children are dressed after a mass baptism ceremony in the town of Mtskheta outside Tbilisi.—REUTERS

However, significantly more babies given placebo drops had behavioral problems, as reported by their parents.

The issues included problems managing emotional reactions, anxiety and depression, as well as sleep and attention problems.

Almost 13 percent of

the placebo-group babies scored above the cutoff for clinical behavior problems, versus about 3 percent of kids who’d taken iron drops and kids from the normal-

weight comparison group. That suggests iron deficiency in infancy may be a direct cause of behavioral problems later in childhood, the researchers wrote Monday in the journal *Pediatrics*. They are continuing to monitor the same group of kids as

they get older, to see if new cognitive or behavioral problems develop or old ones get better as the children head into grade school.

Domellof said he and his colleagues didn’t see any extra stomach problems in kids or delayed growth linked to the use of iron drops. Some research has suggested giving excessive iron to young kids who aren’t deficient may stunt their development.

But, “I would not be afraid of recommending this to all children (born) below 2,500 grams (5 pounds, 8 ounces) at this dose,” Domellof told Reuters *Health*. “Here’s where an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,” said Dr Michael Georgieff, a child development researcher at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis who had reviewed the study as part of Berglund’s dissertation committee.

He told Reuters *Health* that it’s important for all parents to know their baby’s

iron requirements when they leave the hospital.

“The issue with these marginally low birth-weight infants is, people really haven’t paid a lot of attention to them, but the evidence is accumulating that they are at risk for behavioral problems and less than ideal cognitive function,” said Dr Betsy Lozoff, who studies the effects of iron deficiency in infants at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

For most babies in the United States, extra iron is recommended starting at four to six months, either through supplements if the mother is breastfeeding or through formula. Very small or premature babies typically have their iron monitored from birth.

But Lozoff, who wasn’t involved in the new research, said that in many places, there are no recommendations for how to treat babies who are just below a normal birth weight.—Reuters

WORLD

Florida judge keeps GPS monitor on Trayvon Martin's killer

SANFORD, (Florida), 12 Dec— A Florida judge on Tuesday denied a request from accused murderer George Zimmerman to let him remove his GPS monitoring device and travel freely in the state pending his trial next June in the shooting death of unarmed black teenager Trayvon Martin.

Zimmerman, 29, has been confined to Seminole County under a \$1 million bond since July, when a judge concluded that he had presented false information about his assets and was a flight risk. Zimmerman and his wife, Shellie, who is charged with perjury for allegedly lying to the judge about the couple's finances, live

in hiding and "in fear of violence," according to a 74-page motion filed by his lawyer, Mark O'Mara.

O'Mara said Zimmerman needed the flexibility to travel for his personal safety and to be available to assist his lawyers in meetings with witnesses.

But Judge Debra Nelson summarily denied the request at a hearing dealing with a series of motions filed by O'Mara, most requesting access to potential evidence.

At the time of the shooting on 26 February, Zimmerman was a neighborhood watch volunteer in a gated community in the central Florida city of Sanford. Prosecutors say he pursued, confronted



George Zimmerman (L) sits with defence counsel at the Seminole County courthouse for a hearing in Sanford, Florida, on 11 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

and killed Martin, a black 17-year-old who was returning with snacks to the townhouse where he was staying with his father to watch the NBA finals. Zimmerman is expected

to claim self-defence under Florida's controversial Stand Your Ground law, which makes it difficult to prosecute a shooter who claims self-defence.

Reuters

Cyprus high court orders retrial over 2005 air crash

NICOSIA, 12 Dec— The High Court of Cyprus on Tuesday ordered a retrial in the case of four former airline executives who had been acquitted of multiple manslaughter charges in a 2005 plane crash, which has been described as one of the most bizarre aircraft accidents ever. The Court upheld by an appeal by the Attorney General against the verdict of a criminal Assize Court a year ago that cleared the now defunct Helios Airline's CEO, executive president, flight operations manager and chief pilot of negligently causing the death of all 121 people aboard the plane.

The Court said the trial court had committed errors and the case must be retried despite being one of the most

complex ever tried in Cyprus. The Boeing 737-300 jet on a flight from Cyprus to Athens crashed near the Greek capital on 14 Aug, 2005, after flying pilotless in circles for about two hours. An inquiry into the accident has concluded that the pressurization system of the aircraft had been left to manual after an overnight inspection, leading to sudden depressurization of the cabin after takeoff, which knocked out all crew members and the passengers.

The report blamed the crew for not checking the pressurization system before takeoff. The plane flew on automatic pilot and crashed a short distance from the Athens airport after it ran out of fuel—Xinhua

Chinese vice premier meets former US president Carter

BEIJING, 12 Dec— Chinese Vice Premier Li Keqiang on Tuesday met former US President Jimmy Carter, calling for the common prosperity of the two countries.

Li recalled the establishment of China-US diplomatic relations in 1979, while Carter served as the US president.

Thanks to the joint efforts of several generations of leaders and people of the two countries, China-US relations have become ma-

ture and gone beyond the bilateral scope, Li said.

The major trend of the ties has remained strengthening China-US cooperation though various problems have cropped up, according to Li. "As long as the two countries respect each other, manage differences and expand common ground, they can seek common prosperity," he told Carter.

Saying China is working toward building a well-off society, Li reaffirmed

the country's commitment to deepening reform, further opening up, promoting sustainable and healthy economic development and promoting social progress.

The vice premier said China's modernization drive will bring more benefits to people and offer huge opportunities for China's cooperation with other nations.

Li called on Carter to make use of his influence and introduce the true China to US statesmen and peo-

ple. He also asked Carter to share with US people the importance of China-US relations to the two countries, Asia and the Pacific and the whole world.

Carter hailed the progress of China and U.S.-China relations over the past decades.

As an old friend of China, Carter said he is committed to boosting US-China cooperation and promoting the growth of bilateral relations.

Xinhua

Egypt's presidential office renews call for absent parties to join in dialogue Wednesday

CAIRO, 12 Dec—Egyptian presidential office renewed its call for the absent parties in the previous national dialogue last Saturday to join in a new one on Wednesday, official MENA news agency reported on Tuesday night.

The presidential office said in a statement that it had called for the absent parties to join in a new round of national dialogue scheduled for Wednesday evening, in order to reach larger participation and agreement among different political forces, and to complete President Mohamed Morsi's call for the dialogue.

During the previous dialogue last Saturday, which was called for by Morsi, the participating parties agreed to modify the disputed constitutional declaration issued on 22 Nov.

The statement added

that a second round of talk was held on Tuesday, which lasted about five hours, during which the participating parties discussed some articles of the draft constitution. Morsi issued early Sunday a new constitutional declaration after a marathon dialogue on Saturday between Morsi and some

national and political forces at the presidential palace in Cairo, ruling that the previous one issued on 22 Nov has been wholly cancelled.

The new constitutional declaration also ruled that the upcoming draft constitution referendum will start as planned on 15 Dec.

Xinhua



Japan and the United States hold a joint nuclear disaster drill at the US Navy's Yokosuka base in Kanagawa Prefecture on 11 Dec, 2012.—KYODO NEWS

Putin needs more than rhetoric to win over weary nation

MOSCOW, 12 Dec— President Vladimir Putin will need to mix fresh ideas with his trademark patriotism and tough-guy image on Wednesday when he lays out his plans to a cynical population weary of corruption and poor state services.

Thirteen years after he rose to power, and more than two decades after the collapse of the Soviet Union, Putin still seems to be searching for an overarching idea to unite Russians. There is no imminent threat to his rule—opposition groups who accuse the authorities of stifling dissent have failed to build enough momentum to pose a serious challenge to the state.

But public confidence is low. While some figures in government have fallen foul of corruption scandals, high-profile probes have not convinced Russians that

Putin will uproot rampant graft.

Pressure is growing on the government to translate sky-high oil and gas income into improvements in roads, schools, police, pensions, housing and healthcare that millions find wanting.

Abroad, Putin has sought to revive Russia's 20th century status as a counter-balance to US hegemony, but political experts say Putin's ideological messages are wearing thin. "There is a gap between the people's pragmatic demands and government attempts to feed them abstract ideologies such as patriotism, anti-Westernism, neo-industrialization," said analyst Pavel Salin. Citizens "want concrete action, concrete success from government institutions they deal with every day."

Putin is likely to cut a confident figure in Wednes-

day's annual Kremlin address, nine months after weathering the biggest opposition protests of his rule and winning a third term as president after four years as prime minister. The speech to lawmakers and a nationwide TV audience comes three days before opponents stage what they hope will be the first big protest in Moscow since September.

"People want to see promises that salaries will be increased, inflation curbed, a solution to problems with housing, medical care and education and answers to the question of corruption raised by the recent scandals," said Lev Gudkov, director of independent polling agency Levada. Putin has not ruled out seeking another six-year presidential term in 2018 and seems determined to put his stamp on Russia for decades to come.—Reuters



Photo released on 11 Dec, 2012 shows Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the CPC Central Military Commission (CMC), visits the residents' committee of a community in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province. Xi made an inspection tour in Guangdong from 7 to 11 Dec.—XINHUA

WORLD

China, Maldives pledge strengthened military ties

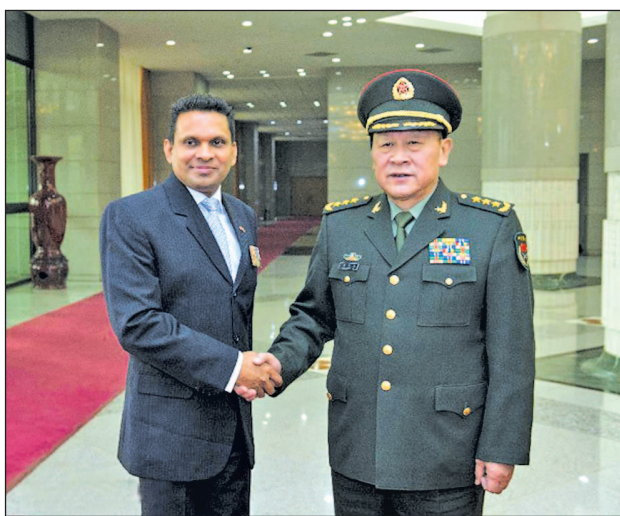
BEIJING, 12 Dec—Chinese Defence Minister Liang Guanglie on Tuesday held talks with Mohamed Nazim, the Maldives' minister of defence and national security, with both sides pledging strengthened military ties.

They exchanged views on regional security as well as relations between the two countries and their militaries.

Liang said during their talks that China and the Maldives enjoy a long history of friendship and sound development of bilateral relations.

He said China will continue to develop friendly, cooperative and mutually beneficial relations with the Maldives under the principle of building a good-neighbourly relationship and non-interference in internal affairs.

"China has always positively developed its military relations with the



Chinese Defence Minister Liang Guanglie (R) shakes hands with Mohamed Nazim, the Maldives' minister of defence and national security, in Beijing, capital of China, on 11 Dec, 2012.—XINHUA

Maldives and hopes to enhance communication and cooperation, promote the construction of both militaries and safeguard regional peace and stability," the defense minister added.

Nazim hailed the two countries' good relations and thanked China for its

assistance to the Maldives.

He said the Maldives will always adhere to the one-China policy and is willing to cement relations between the two countries and their militaries.

Prior to their talks, Liang held a welcoming ceremony for Nazim.—Xinhua

UN to open new office for sustainable energy

United Nations

VIENNA, 12 Dec—Vienna is to become home to a new United Nations (UN) office for sustainable energy, the Austrian Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday.

Michael Spindelegger, Austria's foreign minister, said the office in Vienna was "another important signal toward worldwide affordable and sustainable access to sustainable energy."

"Vienna will thereby become the energy-hub of the United Nations and will be further developed as an important UN seat," he

in Vienna

added.

Spindelegger said sustainable energy was an essential condition for the reduction of global poverty and for the achievement of the eight UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) established in 2000, set to be met by 2015.

Vienna already hosts the "Vienna Energy Forum" every two years, and the "Global Forum on Sustainable Energy" (GFSE) was also launched in the city.

The new UN office

will be headed by current United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Director-General Kandeh Yumkella, who will leave for the new role in mid-2013.

Xinhua

Serbia

BELGRADE, 12 Dec—Four people have died across Serbia in the relentless snow storm that along with frigid temperatures has snarled traffic, closed schools and led to power outages in the country, local media reported on Tuesday.

Hardest hit by the snow storm is the northern Province of Vojvodina, in which four people have died in weather-related incidents and where most of 60 Ser-

Dutch railways under stricter supervision after collision

Netherlands

THE HAGUE, 12 Dec—The Dutch railways companies NS and ProRail are subject to increased supervision of the Inspectorate for Environment and Transport (ILT) in response to a frontal collision earlier this year in Amsterdam.

The ILT is part of the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment and oversees compliance with laws and regulations. It has demanded measures to reduce the risks and therefore both companies are placed under stricter supervision on Tuesday.

According to the ILT, national Dutch railways

NS and ProRail, which regulates the infrastructure, took excessive risks in the schedule during the collision in April this year, where one was killed and 190 others wounded.

Due to maintenance of the railways, the timetable was adjusted and one train missed a red light to end up on the same track as an oncoming train.

According to the inspection, ProRail and NS trusted too much on the red signal as the last safe barrier, despite previous recommendations.

Following the investigation into the train crash

near Amsterdam, the Dutch safety board OVV on Tuesday declared in a report that the NS has not done enough to make the trains as safe as possible. According to the research council, the NS has the legal duty to do so.

NS and ProRail reacted that they drew some lessons from the collision. The companies will take measures on safety, planning, technology and the training of drivers.

The NS will also install an additional warning so that alerts will be given to drivers when they are approaching a red signal.

Xinhua



A Hong Kong dragon and lion dance team performs at a Press conference in Hong Kong, south China, on 11 Dec, 2012. The preparatory Committee of Hong Kong Dragon and Lion Festival announced at the Press conference on Tuesday that a dragon and lion dance festival would be held on 1 Jan, 2013.—XINHUA

Snow storm claims four lives in Serbia

bian schools closed due to the snowfall, Radio Television Serbia said.

Although the main international transit route running the length of Serbia remains slow but passable, a section near the Bulgarian border was closed for more than five hours due to an overturned transport truck.

With the exception of trucks carrying food stuffs, all other heavy vehicles have been ordered off main

roads by Serbian police. Traffic on many regional roads has been restricted to passenger vehicles with full winter equipment.

Over the weekend, some travelers were stranded for up to 22 hours on roads before they could be reached by emergency crews. Predrag Maric, head of emergency situations, offered his apology for the "hell" endured by stranded passengers, explaining that a convoy

of 30 transport trucks had blocked the highway and only eight snow removal vehicles were available to deal with the heavy snowfall.

Belgrade Mayor Dragan Dilas also apologized to citizens for the shortage of city transit vehicles on the roads over the past days. Homeless in the Belgrade shelter slept in hallways, as there were insufficient beds to meet the demand.—Xinhua

Pro-secession gunmen kill two soldiers in southern Yemen

ADEN, (Yemen), 12 Dec—At least two soldiers were killed on Tuesday when masked gunmen riding on motorbikes attacked a military checkpoint in Yemen's southern Province of al-Dhalea, a government official told Xinhua.

A group of masked gunmen suspected of belonging to an armed faction of the pro-secession Southern Movement attacked a military checkpoint in al-Dhalea Province, leaving

at least two soldiers killed, the local government official said on condition of anonymity.

"Two soldiers were shot on their chests and died on the spot," the government source said, adding that two others were seriously injured in the armed attack. The attack targeted a key checkpoint near an army base in central al-Dhalea Province, according to the official.

Xinhua



Photo taken on 11 Dec, 2012 shows an icefall in the Taihang Mountains, north China's Hebei Province.

XINHUA



President of Japanese main opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Shinzo Abe (2nd L) delivers a speech during a campaign for December 16 lower house election in Tokyo, capital of Japan, on 11 Dec, 2012.

XINHUA

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 13 December, 2012

Stand up for our beloved farmers

Most Myanmar people used to idolize farmers as great contributors to the society and the nation's breadwinners. Many often address farmers as Uncle Peasant. But it is a pity that the farmers of our country enjoy only meagre living standards. The hardworking farmers lived in rural areas where utility services simply mean just their chores. From dawn to dusk, their faces are always wet with elbow grease. But many of them never figure out how much their hard work is worth and complaint against their less profitable business.

Official figures of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation for more than a decade show constant increases in agricultural production of the country for all kinds of crops. Not even a slight decline. It means the agro-industry is thriving and the peasants are committed themselves to working harder and harder. There should be an answer to the question why they do earn less if they continue to invest more efforts in farming. Farmers who do not have access to the market directly have depended largely on brokerages. Most of the profits of farming went into brokerages as there was no regulation nor mechanism to stand up for farmers. The rich got richer and the poor got poorer. The government which is committed to bringing about development of rural areas to root out the poverty needs to address the issue urgently.

After years of deprivation, farmers now become farm workers, losing their farms out to companies and businessmen who have substantial resources, according to a survey. Some of the farmers abandoned their farms for well-paid overseas jobs. The official figures indicate that "national entrepreneurs" are granted more than 1.3 million hectares to run "large-scale commercial farming" while only 0.01 percent are reclaimed for terrace farming. Due to the nature of business, the bigger companies often swallow the smaller ones.

The agro-industry needs financial, technical and other resources what the companies can offer. But, it would bear more adverse consequences than fruitful outcomes if regulators fail to protect the rights and address the concerns of the farmers.



The State Sanghamahanayaka Committee of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

All the Buddhist people throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar know that the First concrete unity of the Sangha of All Orders in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar could be established within one-hundred year after the First Congregation of the Sangha of All Order had been successfully held in 1980. It was clearly found in the history of Buddhism that it was impossible to carry out the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana without the unity of the Sangha.

It was found that multifarious sects and ganas of the Sangha appeared and separately existed in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar before the First Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders. According to the confuse and contended situation of different sects and ganas of the Sangha of All Orders, many unlawful views (Adhammavadas) which lead to endangers and destroy the true teachings of the Buddha appeared in the Union of Myanmar in those days. A need was felt that the Buddhist people throughout the country worries about this situation. Some farsighted learned monks and devotees of those days tried to establish the unity of different sects and ganas of the Sangha Orders, and but they were not successful because of being not encouraged and supported by the British Colonial Government at that time.

The farsighted learned monks and the authorities concerned tried to hold the very First Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders in order to establish the unity of the Sangha which ever leads to the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana in 1965. However, it was not successful because of unstable political and social situation at that time.

According to the strong wishes of the most of the members of the Sangha, the Buddhist people and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to establish the unity of the Sangha of All Orders for unanimously carrying out the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana (The true teachings of the Buddha), the thorough and systematic necessary arrangements to hold the First Congregation of the Sangha of All orders for the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana were made in advance by the farsighted and learned chief monks and the Government of the Union of Myanmar of that time. And so, the First Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders for the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana was successfully held in 1980. The congregation was attended by the Sangha. Samuti representatives who represented the whole members of the Sangha of All Orders throughout the country. According to the resolutions of the Successful First Congregation of the Sangha of All orders, the very first unity of the Sangha of All Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar could be formed and established within one-hundred year in the history of Buddhism of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

In accordance with the resolutions of the Congregation, the different levels of the Sangha organizations which take office and settle various matters relating to the members of the Sangha could be formed.

They are as follows:-

- (1) The State Sanghamahanayaka Committee.
- (2) The State / Regional Sanghanayaka Committees
- (3) The Township Sanghanayaka Committees and
- (4) The Ward/Village-tract Sanghanayaka Committees.

Of the four different levels of Sangha Organizations, the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee comprising 47 chief members of Sangha Orders, is the highest level of the Sangha Committees of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Functions and duties of the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee

- (1) Taking responsibilities of the unity of the Sangha and carrying out the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana
- (2) Instructing the supervising the Theravada Buddhist monks to behave and dwell in accordance with the Vinaya Rules
- (3) Carrying out its functions and duties in accordance with the adopted and prescribed rules and regulations of different levels of the Sangha Committee, procedures, settlements of Vinayadhammakamma Adhikrana Disputes Act, other decisions and instructions
- (4) According to the above-mentioned sub-para (1) (2) and (3), the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee shall have to supervise and instruct the Sangha Committees at different levels.
- (5) Instructing and supervising the matters relating to the administration of the respective Sangha Committees at different levels.
- (6) Occasionally notifying the Dhammavinaya gazette concerning the whole members of the Sangha
- (7) Being able to make

suggestions, prescribed canonical text and its curriculums relating to the Government Pariyatti examinations, and supervise and amend the systems of the Pariyatti examinations,

(8) Being able to make scrutinization, decision, permission and prohibition regarding different views and opinions on Buddhism

(9) Being able to make scrutinization, decision and prohibition of talks, writings, teachings and displays which are contradictory to and incompatible with the Pitaka Cononical Texts

(10) Being able to make scrutinization, decision and prohibition on practices of Patipatti which are contradictory to and incompatible with the Pitaka Canonical Texts,

(11) If the functions and activities carried out by respective Sangha Committees at different levels were not in agreement with the basic principles of the Sangha Committees, the plenary meeting of the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee shall cancel these functions and activities by approval of at least 75 per-centage of members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee who attend the meeting.

According to the functions and duties of the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee, it is found that various matters relating to the members of the Sangha or Sangha Committees can only be decided and settled by members of the Sangha themselves. Any matters relating to the members of the Sangha cannot be decided and settled by any civil courts or authorities concerned.

Emergency medicines kits distributed to villages in Kayin State

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec—The Ministry of Health provided kits of Myanmar traditional medicines for emergency use to villages in Kayin State on 1 December.

At the ceremony, Kayin State Chief Minister U

Zaw Min, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint and Chairman of Nippon Foundation Mr Sasakawa presented the packages to the village representatives from Hpa-an, Hlaingbwe and Thandaung Townships,

and Speaker of Kayin State Hluttaw U Saw Aung Kyaw Min, State Social Affairs Minister U Chit Hlaing, Director-General of Traditional Medicine Department Dr Tun Naing Oo and State

Government Secretary U Myo Aung Htay, the village representatives from Kawkareik, Kya-in-Seikkyi, Myawady and Phapon Townships. The state chief minister, the deputy minister and the Nippon Foundation chairman visited herbal garden near Hpa-an industrial zone.—MNA

NATIONAL

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham receives Chairman of Petrofac Ltd

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham met a delegation led by Mr Marovenic A. Semaan, Chairman of Petrofac Ltd, at Credentials Hall of Presidential Palace, here, this evening.

At the call, they had a cordial discussion on opportunities for Myanmar's agricultural development in transforming into mechanized farming system,

Myanmar tourism development and investments in Myanmar.

Also present at the call together with the Vice-President were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myint Zaw, Deputy Minister for Energy U Htin Aung, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Daw Khin San Yi and departmental heads.—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham meets Mr Marovenic A. Semaan, Chairman of Petrofac Ltd, at Credentials Hall of Presidential Palace.

MNA



General Hla Htay Win meets Director of Political Department of Chengdu Military Region of PRC

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec — Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win received Director Lt-Gen Chai Shaoliang of Political Department of Chengdu Military Region of the People's Republic of China and party at Zeyathiri Beikman, here, yesterday morning.

Also present together with General Hla Htay Win

were Lt-Gen Aung Than Htut of Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Tin Aung San, Chief of Staff (Air) Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Aye and senior military officers of Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office. Lt-Gen Chai Shaoliang was accompanied by Maj-Gen

Zhang Bing, Maj-Gen Li Jicai and officials, Chinese Military Attaché to Myanmar Sr-Col Xiong Shaowei.

They held comprehensive discussions on strengthening bilateral friendship between the two armed forces and peace and stability in border regions.

After the meeting, they exchanged gifts and posed for a documentary photo.

MNA

Bronze statues cast in honour of Grandma Daw Oo Zun, Myanma Alinn U Tin

YANGON, 12 Dec—In commemoration of the 80th anniversary of Hninzigon Home for the Aged, two bronze statues of Daw Oo Zun who established the Home and Myanma Alinn U Tin who succeeded the tasks of the Home will be opened on 1 January, 2013.

As of January 1933, silk merchant Daw Oo Zun (a) Nun Daw Sumala of Mandalay established the Daw Oo Zun Home for the Aged in Hninzigon Ward of Thingangyun Township in Yangon Region to accommodate older persons.

In 1943, Manager of Myanma Alinn daily U Tin took the responsibility of Chairmanship of the Home for the first time at No 21 on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Bahan Township due to assignment of Daw Oo Zun. He was the first-ever chairman



Bronze statues of Hninzigon Home for the Aged founder Grandma Daw Oo Zun and her successor Myanma Alinn U Tin.

of the Home.

In honour of the founder and first successor, the museum was established and their statues will be kept there, said Vice-Chairman of the Home Major Aung Than (Rtd).

A four-storey building to mark Grandma Daw Oo Zun and another four-storey

Hninzimyaing Geha Building in honour of Myanma Alinn U Tin have been constructed with the stone plaques.

Since the Home was moved from Hninzigon Ward of Thingangyun Township, there were 45 older persons at the Home. Now, the home accommodates 100 grandpas and 140 grandmas. Since its establishment, the home has given care to 2300 older persons, said the vice-chairman of the Home.

As the 80th anniversary of the Home falls on 1 January 2013, the bronze statues of Grandma Daw Oo Zun, founder of the Home and Myanma Alinn U Tin, successor of founder, will be kept in their honour at the entrance to the Home on a grand scale.—Myanma Alinn

Illegal timber extractions seized in Mawlamyine Township

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec—Concerted efforts are being made for preservation of natural forest resources with momentum and focusing

on searching and arresting those who committed illegal extraction of timber from the natural forests and forest reserves in Mon State.

Myanma Alinn Daily reported recently that as an operation, a departmental team led by Director U Chit Paw of Mon State Forest Department searched and arrested illegal timber extraction along the banks of Attaran and Gyaing rivers from 27 November to 5 December.

The team seized 21 logs of illegal timber and other woods weighing 5.06 tons and arrested two owners.

Action is being taken against the two persons under the Forest Law.

Myanma Alinn



Kanbawza Cup Golf Tourney 15-18 Dec

LASHIO, 12 Dec—The Kanbawza Cup Golf Tournament will be organized at Hsinshweli Golf Course in Lashio from 15 to 18 December.

The golf course is located on Lashio-Namtu Road. The golf course constituted with 18 holes

turns out a lot of golfers who brought prestige of the nation, said a veteran golfer U Ba Khin of over 70 years old in Lashio.

In-charge of the golf course U Than Aung said, "All golfers from the state will take part in the tournament. So far, a total

of 51 golf teams have got registration to take part in the cup. The tournament will be categorised as inter-club scratch event, inter-club handicap, individual scratch event, senior scratch event and individual junior handicap event.

Myanma Alinn

Railroad sections to Myitkyina inspected

MYITKYINA, 12 Dec—Kachin State Minister for Transport U Kaman Tu Naw, accompanied by State Engineer of Myanma Railways, rail track senior engineer and officials, made a trip to inspect the railroad section to Myitkyina by RGC on 4 and 5 December.

The minister looked into rail tracts on Myitkyina-Mohnyin railroad section, maintenance of Nankway Bridge, Bridges No 719 and 715, Bridge No 698, Bridge

No 684, Bridge No 681 and Bridge No 673.

On 5 December, he inspected rail tracks between Mohnyin and Nantsiaung railway stations, prevention of erosion at rail tracts, line clearing points and railway traffic lights at the entrance to the railway stations and bridges. The State minister also viewed the sites for digging of drains along the both sides of railroads where water and swamps are.

Myanma Alinn

Time and Tide Waits for No Man

Ghana police assure post-election security

ACCRA, 12 Dec—Ghana police on Tuesday said they had put in an elaborate programme to ensure peace and stability in the West African country to forestall any acts of violence following the 7 December polls.

Director of Public Affairs for the Ghana Police Service and Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Cephas Arthur told journalists here the comprehensive operational programme was to ensure peace before, during and after the country's presidential

and parliamentary elections. "We have our men on the ground to ensure people do not take the law into their own hands," DSP Arthur said.

Ghanaians went to the polls on Friday and Saturday to elect a president and a 275-member legislature.

According to the Electoral Commission (EC), the presidential election was won by incumbent John Dramani Mahama with 50.70 percent of the total valid votes cast, while his closest challenger, Nana

Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, obtained 47.7 percent of the votes.

The main opposition party New Patriotic Party (NPP), just after the announcement of the election results by EC Chairman Kwadwo Afari-Gyan on Sunday, accused the ruling National Democratic Congress of rigging the election.

Subsequently, the party rejected the outcome and stated its decision to head for the country's Supreme Court.—Xinhua



Relatives celebrate after a couple registered their marriage in Vladivostok in the Russian Far East on 12 Dec, 2012. Many couples registered their marriages to mark the date, which can be written as 121212. KYODO NEWS

UN agency says Syrians refugees keep rising, exceeding half a million

UNITED NATIONS, 12 Dec—Syrian refugees have kept on the rise, with the number exceeding half a million, according to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

The information was disclosed by UN spokesman Martin Nesirky at a daily news briefing held here on Tuesday.

Syria has been suffering from a long-standing crisis which broke out in March 2011, and has sent a large influx of refugees into its neighbouring Turkey,

Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq.

"More than half a million Syrian refugees have now been registered or are awaiting registration in four surrounding countries and North Africa," said Nesirky, quoting statistics given by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). "Since the beginning of November, the number of registered refugees region-wide has risen by about 3,200 a day, including both new arrivals from Syria and those who had already been in the

asylum countries for some time but had not sought help through registration."

UNHCR predicted the number of those who come forward to register would go up as the conflict in Syria continues, resources were depleted and host countries and families could no longer support them.

"According to the agency, only about 40 percent of registered Syrian refugees across the region actually live in refugee camps," said the spokesman. "The majority

live outside camps, often in rental housing, with host families, or in various types of collective centres and renovated accommodation."

"UNHCR is stepping up its outreach activities in the region to provide registration and to help those who need it," he said.

Last week, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon visited refugee camps in Jordan and Turkey to express his solidarity and to help highlight the need for more funding.—Xinhua



Afghan border policemen take part in their training at a training centre in Herat Province, western Afghanistan, on 11 Dec, 2012.

XINHUA

Police arrest suspects in Bonn bomb scare

BERLIN, 12 Dec—Police have arrested two suspects who are believed to have planted explosive devices in Bonn central railway station, local media reported on Tuesday.

Spiegel Online said two Salafist terrorist suspects identified as Omar D and Abdirazak B have already been arrested. Both are reportedly well-known to authorities as extremists who were detained in 2008 due to a terrorist attempt.

On Monday, a bag with no apparent owner was found on a platform of Bonn central railway station, and the authorities shut down the station due to the alarm, causing many delays and cancellations. The station was reopened on Monday evening.

The bag's contents were described by investigators as "potentially explosive material," although no detonator was found. The police conducted a search across the state of North Rhine-Westphalia on Tuesday.—Xinhua

Algeria to help Libya reinforce internal security

ALGIERS, 12 Dec—Algeria will help Libya strengthen security, Algerian Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellal said on Tuesday at the end of a two-day visit of his Libyan counterpart Ali Zaidan.

"Algeria will extend a helping hand to Libya in terms of security to reinforce the authority there," Sellal told reporters at the International Airport of Algiers while

sending off Libyan Prime Minister Zaidan.

Zaidan's visit is "a new beginning for the bilateral relations," Sellal said.

During the visit, the Libyan PM discussed the cooperation with Algeria in the military and security fields. Earlier Monday, after meeting with Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, Zaidan said the two countries have agreed

to boost border security cooperation to thwart arms infiltration.

"Libya and Algeria share convergent visions on most of the issues of common interest, including border security and counterterrorism," Zaidan said. Previously, Algeria agreed to send a delegation of police experts to Libya to help restructure and train Libyan police forces.

Xinhua

Police conduct dawn raids in Sydney as investigation into shooting continues

SYDNEY, 12 Dec—More than 100 police officers conducted dawn raids in Sydney's southwest on Wednesday, arresting six men over a drive-by shooting in July, the New South Wales (NSW) Police said.

Police said they executed search at six homes in Merrylands, Punchbowl

and Bankstown at 6 am (local time) on Wednesday and arrested six men.

The operation relates to a drive-by shooting involving an exchange of gunfire between three men in Broughton Street in Old Guildford in Sydney's west on 21 July, the NSW Police said in a statement.

The shooting resulted in a woman suffering minor injuries after a stray bullet entered her home. The incident is being investigated by the Middle Eastern Organized Crime Squad under Strike Force Sevenoak, police said. Two men remain before the court in relation to the incident.—Xinhua

US now recognizes Syrian opposition coalition

WASHINGTON, 12 Dec—President Barack Obama said on Tuesday that the United States now recognizes a newly formed coalition of Syrian opposition groups, a move aimed at ratcheting up pressure on Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

"We've made a decision

that the Syrian Opposition Coalition is now inclusive enough, is reflective and representative enough of the Syrian population, that we consider them the legitimate representative of the Syrian people in opposition to the Assad regime," Obama said in an interview with Barbara

Walters of ABC News.

The move, which was widely expected, could give new international legitimacy to the rebels fighting to overthrow Assad, but stops short of authorizing US arming of the opposition, something Obama has steadfastly refused to do.—Reuters



Colourful illuminations are seen projected on a building in Amsterdam, the Netherlands on 11 Dec, 2012. The "cultural festival of light and water" will last until middle of January, 2013.—XINHUA

Drunk policemen shoot minibus driver in St Petersburg

SAINT PETERSBURG, 12 Dec—Two drunk police officers are suspected of opening fire at and injured a minibus driver on Monday night, authorities said on Tuesday.

While full details of the incident remain unclear, the pair are believed to shoot at one of St Petersburg's many minibuses on their way back to the base, according to the

authorities.

One of the bullets struck the driver in the arm, causing him to lose control of his vehicle, said the authorities.

The two shooters, a 38-year-old warrant officer and a 25-year-old sergeant, have been taken into custody, and police said they have launched an investigation into the incident.

Xinhua

REGIONAL

SKorea's jobless rate falls to 2.8 pct in November

SEOUL, 12 Dec—South Korea's jobless rate fell to 2.8 percent last month due to strong job creation in the manufacturing sector, a government report showed on Wednesday.

The unemployment rate stood at 2.8 percent in November, down 0.1 percentage point from the same month last year, according to Statistics Korea. From a month before, the rate was unchanged.

After peaking at 4.2 percent in February, the jobless rate has trended down to 2.8 percent that is nearly at a full employment level.—Xinhua

India asks Pakistan to hand over Mumbai attacks mastermind

NEW DELHI, 12 Dec—India will demand that Pakistan hand over the alleged mastermind of the Mumbai terror attacks, Lashkar-e-Toiba founder Hafiz Saeed, during Pakistani Interior Minister Rehman Malik's visit later this week.

"I am quite sure that when he (Malik) will come here, I will discuss with him

this issue," Indian Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde told media on Monday.

Malik is likely to begin his three-day visit to India this Friday. India has given Pakistan at least seven dossiers containing evidence of Saeed's involvement in the 2008 Mumbai attacks in which over 170 people were killed and more than

300 others injured.

India last month executed Mohammed Ajmal Amir Kasab, the only militant caught alive in the Mumbai massacre, after the country's Supreme Court upheld his death penalty handed down to him by a special court which in 2010 convicted him for his role in the attacks.—Xinhua



Community catering staff prepare meal at a community dining room in Donggaodi sub-district of south Beijing, capital of China, on 11 Dec, 2012. Local sub-district office took measures and established 4 community dining rooms and 3 food trucks serving the aged citizens exclusively. Around 2,000 senior citizens benefited from the convenience-for-people measures since 2011.—XINHUA



A soldier from Yancheng border detachment plays with a red-crowned crane which comes here to overwinter at national nature reserve of rare birds in Yancheng, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 11 Dec, 2012. The reserve was set to protect rare birds such as red-crowned cranes since 1980s. Over the past 30 years, soldiers here have been protecting the rare birds and wetlands.—XINHUA

Malaysia makes largest seizure of illegal ivory worth 20 mln USD

PORT KLANG, (Malaysia), 12 Dec—Malaysian Selangor state customs department crippled an attempt to smuggle 24 tones of African elephant tusks worth 60 million ringgit (19.6 million US dollars) in the country's largest seizure of illegal ivory to date, the department said on Tuesday.

The shipment, bound for China from the Lome port in Togo, had berthed at Malaysia's port Klang near Kuala Lumpur on Friday.

Selangor Customs director, Azis Yacub said the tusks were concealed in piles of wood carried in two containers that were declared as Mahogany floor tiles on immigration documents.

The seizure, fourth of such in the country, was made on Monday after authorities received a tip.

The tusks, Azis said, cost 2,500 ringgit per kilo-

gram in the market and are commonly used to produce decorative products like jewelry, chopsticks and belt buckles.

Malaysia has become a transit point for illegal ivory that is being sold in markets in Asia.

Authorities have seized elephant tusks worth more than 14 million ringgit this year alone.

Last year, officials said there were more than 11 shipments detected.

Azis said no detention was made and authorities are investigating a Malaysian shipment company that handled the containers.

Convicted smugglers could be fined not more than 500,000 ringgit or imprisoned for five years or both under the multilateral treaty, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Xinhua

China to open first subway crossing Yangtze

WUHAN, 12 Dec—China's first subway line to cross the Yangtze River, the country's longest waterway, is expected to start test run this month in the central city of Wuhan, local officials said on Tuesday.

Subway trains have run through the 27.73-km tunnel for Wuhan Line 2, which links Wuchang and Hankou — two major areas of the city — over the past three months. But passengers will only be allowed to board the trains on 28 Dec when the test run starts, officials with the Hubei pro-

vincial transportation bureau said.

The subway line has recently passed the experts' assessment, they said.

It will be Wuhan's first subway, which is estimated to transport at least 600,000 passengers daily by 2015.

As a key transportation route, the line is expected to handle half of the city's cross-Yangtze traffic flow, easing gridlock on bridges over the river.

The construction costs around 14.9 billion yuan (2.37 billion US dollars), according to estimates by

previous reports.

The 6,300-km Yangtze River, which originates in northwest China's Qinghai Province and flows through 10 provinces and municipalities before emptying into the East China Sea, is a major transport link between the west and east China. More than 100 bridges across the river are in use.

Wuhan lies at the intersection of the Han and Yangtze rivers. Its city proper is divided into three major areas by the rivers.

Xinhua

15 killed in road accident in SW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 12 Dec—At least 15 people including four soldiers were killed and 25 others injured when a coach collided with a military vehicle in Khuzdar in central Balochistan province of southwest Pakistan on Tuesday afternoon, reported local Urdu TV channel Samaa.

But there is no official confirmation about the figures. Deputy Commissioner of Khuzdar Mansoor Khan earlier told local media that only five people were killed and 16 others were injured in the accident.

All the injured have been shifted to a military hospital in Khuzdar, said rescue workers.

Hospital sources said that some of the injured are in critical condition.

The accident took place on a national highway near Khuzdar when a coach hit

an army vehicle on the way from Quetta to Karachi.

Khuzdar is located roughly in the middle between Quetta and Karachi.

At least two soldiers on the army vehicle were

killed right on the spot, said local media, adding that there were an estimated 70 passengers on the coach.

Traffic police said that overspeed is the main culprit for the accident.—Xinhua



An injured man receives treatment at a hospital in Khuzdar, Pakistan on 11 Dec, 2012.

XINHUA

Vietnamese Deputy PM meets with NASA chief in Hanoi

HANOI, 12 Dec—Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Thien Nhan met in Vietnam's capital Hanoi on Tuesday with the visiting Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States. Nhan welcomed Charles Bolden's visit, saying it marked a new development in space technology cooperation between Vietnam and the United States.

Vietnam is developing a project on building a database and satellite photo processing centre at Ho Chi Minh City High-tech Park, said the Vietnamese official, adding that Vietnam wants NASA to share experience in space technology development, as well as to support the country in training human resources in the fields of satellite and earth sciences.

NASA chief thanked the host for warm welcome and praised initial results obtained by the Vietnam Satellite Centre, adding that in the coming years the two countries should strengthen closer cooperation in space technology.

Bolden also informed the Vietnamese deputy PM outcomes of discussions between NASA and the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology about areas of cooperation and potentials of the space technology, aimed at boosting bilateral ties to a new level.

Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PAC ARIES VOY NO (008N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PAC ARIES VOY NO (008N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.12.2012 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 EVER ABLE VOY NO (328N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (328N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.12.2012 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 EVER GREEN SHIPPING

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Ministry of Information

Information and Public Relations Department

Invitation for open tender of
Information and Public Relations
Department to buy Equipment

1. Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information will buy the following working equipment.

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. Nikon 18to200mm lens EDDX VR II | 2 items |
| 2. Nikon SB700 Speed Light Flash Gun | 2 items |
| 3. Nikon Super Wide Lens 10 to 24mm | 1 item |
| 4. Nikon Battery Packs ENEL 3e | 8 items |
| 5. CF Memory Card(small card) 4 GB | 10 items |
| 6. SD Memory Card(small card) 4 GB | 10 items |
| 7. Aluminium Ladder (three steps) | 2 items |
| 8. Aluminium Ladder (two steps) | 2 items |
| 9. Sony External Flash HVL-F20 AM | 1 item |
| 10. Card Reader All in one | 4 items |
| 11. Sony Lens DT 18 to 250 mm | 30 items |
| 12. Nikon Digital Camera D7000 Only Body | 2 items |

2. The open tender applications are to be taken out from the Office No 7 of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw from 09:30 hr to 16:30 hr during the period from 12-12-2012 to 20-12-2012 during the office days.

3. The open tender applications are to be submitted in front of the members of the tender committee at the Office No 7 of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw from 09:30 hr to 16:30 hr on 21-12-2012. The tenders submitted after the designated date will not be considered.

4. The form of open tender and detailed information may be enquired at the following address.

Procurement Committee
Ministry of Information
Office No. 7, Nay Pyi Taw
Tel: 412327, 412323

MYANMAR VISA ON ARRIVAL			
Date of Commencement - 1 st June, 2012			
Types of Visa	VISA Fee	Service Fee	Duration
* BUSINESS VISA	50	40	70 days
* ENTRY VISA (Meetings / Workshops / Events)	40	40	28 days
* TOURIST VISA	30	40	28 days

Check eligibility for Visa on Arrival at
email : travel.visa@gmail.com

MYANMARVISA.com

Information of Bilateral Roaming
Agreements

As Ministry of Communications and Information Technology is undertaking reforms for the telecommunications sector, international mobile roaming is being extensively expended in order to facilitate smooth communication with international countries.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar will be hosting the SEA Games and World Economic Forum (WEF) on East Asia in 2013 and Myanmar will take over the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2014. In order to make sure that the sports people and visitors especially from ASEAN member states and ASEAN Dialogue Partners for the events can seamlessly use their GSM mobile phones from their respective countries while they are in Myanmar, Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications has been taking necessary measures to enter into bilateral roaming agreements with GSM Mobile operators from other countries including ASEAN Member countries.

In this connection, we would like to inform foreign GSM Mobile Operators who would like to enter into roaming arrangement with Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications to present respective Permanent Reference Document to the following address for roaming agreement -

Chief Engineer (Mobile Department)
Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications
Email-htaywin@mpntgw.net.mm

Drive Safely

New York

The New York case also seemed to initiate a wave of other accusations against Strauss-Kahn, long known as the "great seducer" in French political circles.

Prosecutors initially expressed confidence in the evidence, including DNA that showed a sexual encounter. But they dropped the case in August 2011 after developing concerns about Diallo's credibility, including what they said were inconsistencies in her account of what happened immediately following the incident.

Judge McKeon said a separate lawsuit filed by Diallo against the *New York Post* over the tabloid's report that she was a prostitute had been settled as well. Terms of that were also kept confidential.

The newspaper did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Monday, though it has said in the past that it stood by its reporting. She filed her civil lawsuit just weeks before the charges were dismissed, claiming Strauss-Kahn's "sadistic" attack caused her physical and emotional damage.

Reuters

Photo taken on 9 Dec, 2012, shows the site where the Canterbury Television building used to stand, in Christchurch, New Zealand. The building collapsed, killing 115 people, in the February 2011 earthquake.
KYODO NEWS



Strauss-Kahn, NYC hotel maid settle suit over alleged sexual assault

Former IMF head Dominique Strauss-Kahn leaves his apartment in Paris on 10 Dec, 2012.
REUTERS



NEW YORK, 12 Dec—Dominique Strauss-Kahn and a New York hotel maid who accused the former International Monetary Fund chief of sexual assault on Monday settled her civil lawsuit against him for an undisclosed sum, ending one chapter of a scandal that cost him his job and a chance to become president of France.

At a brief hearing in New York State Supreme Court in the Bronx, Justice Douglas McKeon said the terms of the deal would remain confidential.

Strauss-Kahn, 63, was not required to appear in New York and remained in Paris. His accuser, Nafis-

satou Diallo, was present as the judge had ordered, wearing a green blouse with black pants and a gray and white head scarf.

"I thank everybody, and I thank God," Diallo said in a brief statement outside the courthouse after the hearing.

The scandal forced Strauss-Kahn to resign as head of one of the world's most influential international finance organizations and wrecked his hopes of running for president in France. He was once seen as a front-runner for the Socialists. Instead Francois Hollande became the candidate and unseated President Nicolas Sarkozy.

China calls for comprehensive strategy to address challenges in Sahel

China

UNITED NATIONS, 12 Dec—A China UN ambassador on Monday urged the international community to formulate a comprehensive strategy to deal with the complex challenges facing the Sahel region. Li Baodong, China's permanent representative to the UN, made the statement at an open debate of the Security Council on the situation in the Sahel region, where UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, his Special Envoy for the region, former Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi and other high-level UN officials made their briefings.

"The various problems existed in the Sahel region are inter-linked and affect each other," said Li. "Therefore, a holistic

and integrated approach is called for."

"We hope the secretary-general will, based on the request of the Security Council, broadly seek the views of the regional countries and relevant organizations and come up as soon as possible with a comprehensive UN strategy for the Sahel with a clear-defined objective and practical measures," he said.

Li noted that the key to realize the lasting peace and development in the Sahel region lies in tackling the fundamental problems, which include poverty and lack of development.

"The international community, particularly the donor countries and international financial institutions, should enhance

their funding and technical assistance to the countries in the region taking the achievement of the social and economic development as priority" Li said.

Further calling for enhanced coordination among the international community, the Chinese ambassador stressed that any effort to solve problems in the Sahel should fully respect the ownership of the regional countries and organizations.

"In providing assistance to the Sahel, the international community should respect the sovereignty and independence of the regional countries, and make full use of the existing initiatives and proposals of countries in the region and regional groups," Li said.—Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

Bond girl Olga Kurylenko was very poor growing up

LONDON, 12 Dec—Olga Kurylenko's mother would make her own clothes because the family was so poor. The Seven Psychopaths actress lived in poverty in Berdyansk, Ukraine, and was raised solely by her mother Marina Alyabusheva after her father Konstantin walked out on them when Olga was just three.

The pair had so little money they could sometimes not even afford to eat and Olga's mother even sacrificed her own clothes to ensure her daughter was warm. In an interview with *The Sun* newspaper, she revealed: "My mum Marina and I were poor and hungry. We could sometimes not afford to eat—seriously. "We lived together in a small town, called Berdyansk, in Ukraine. I was an only child. I don't think we would have survived if there had been more kids."

"My mum made our own clothes and sewed winter coats. She even cut back one of her own to make mine warm. "I did not have a father. It was my mum who chose to

be alone. She felt that she would be better off by herself with me after I was born." However, Olga's life was transformed when she was spotted by a modelling scout at the age of 14 on a trip to Moscow, Russia, which her mother had saved for.

The 33-year-old former Bond girl said: "On that one visit, when I was 14, my life changed forever. I was stopped by a model scout who wanted me to work for an agency."

"A month later, we went back for a meeting. They were mostly women. My mum realised this was not a hoax, but the real thing. She told me, 'This is the kind of luck that comes your way only once. Do not turn your back on this.' "Olga gave up her blossoming modelling career to become an actress in 2004, and after landing the role of sexy spy Camilla Montes in 007 adventure 'Quantum of Solace'—in which she starred opposite Daniel Craig—she returned home to share her joy. She said: "When I was hired for Bond, I could not believe it. I returned to my hometown while promoting the film. It was my proudest moment to go back and see my mum."—PTI



Tom Cruise defends role as "Jack Reacher"

LONDON, 12 Dec—Tom Cruise has defended his role as Jack Reacher in the first of what could be a new action movie franchise, despite being much slimmer and shorter than the character created by author Lee Child in the original books.

Cruise told *Reuters* Television at the world premiere in London on Monday of "Jack Reacher" that he would not have taken the part if British thriller writer Child had been unhappy.

Child's version of Reacher—a military sniper—is 6 foot 5 inches tall and weighs over 200 pounds (91 kilograms). Cruise, 50, is just 5 foot 7 inches tall according to the Internet Movie Database, and has a trim physique.

"You know, he (Child) created the character, I had my own opinion that I didn't say to Lee and then he came back and pretty much reflected what I had felt about it. But had he said 'look I'd rather not', I would not have played the character," Cruise said.

Cruise described Reacher's size as a "characteristic" rather than a "character."

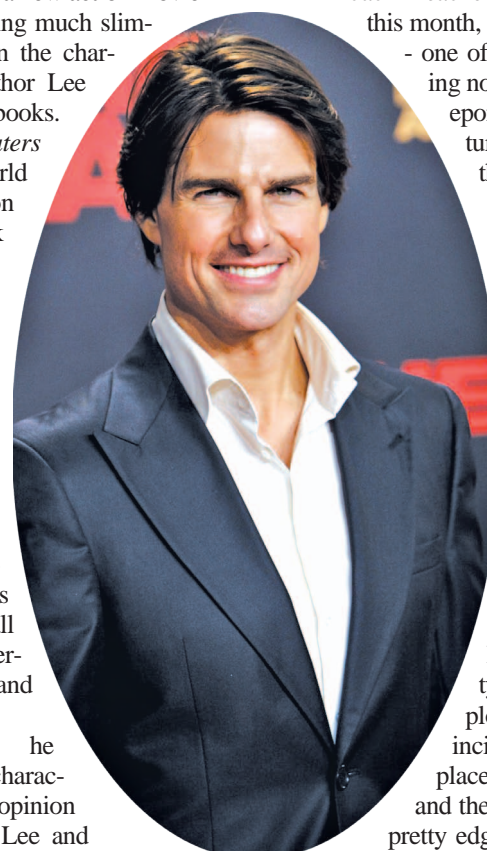
"Jack Reacher," to be released later this month, is based on "One Shot" — one of the series of best-selling novels by Child about the eponymous former soldier turned drifter who travels the United States dealing out his own brand of justice.

British actress Rosamund Pike, who plays the female lead, said she hoped there will be many more Reacher movies.

"We hope this is going to be a great big new franchise for Tom and for Paramount and so to be in the first one is always kind of cool ... It's witty, it's fast-moving, the plot is ... puzzling and incisive and quite dark in places. You know the humor and the violence in this film is pretty edgy and I like that about it," Pike said.

Cruise was also a producer on the Paramount Pictures movie, which is due for release in the United States on 21 December.

Reuters



French actor Gerard Depardieu

French actor Depardieu seeks Belgian residency: mayor

PARIS, 12 Dec—Actor Gerard Depardieu has become the latest Frenchman to look for shelter outside his native country after a series of tax hikes by Socialist President Francois Hollande on the wealthy. The "Cyrano de Bergerac" star has bought a house in the Belgian village of Nechin near the French border, local mayor Daniel Senesael told French media on Sunday, adding he had also enquired about procedures for acquiring Belgian residency.

Senesael said Depardieu would join some 2,800 French living in the same area a few minutes drive from the border, including the Mulliez family, owners of French hypermarket chain Auchan and Decathlon sports stores, who have lived there for years. Belgian residents do not pay wealth tax, which

in France is now slapped on individuals with assets over 1.3 million euros, nor do they pay capital gains tax on the sale of shares.

"I think he wanted to enjoy the atmosphere in Belgium, our identity, the rural, bucolic setting," Senesael told RTL radio.

For Depardieu, best known for his roles as Obelix in the French "Asterix" films and as Cyrano de Bergerac in the 1990 film of the same name, the move will do nothing to improve his image, already tarnished by a series of embarrassing incidents. Just last week, Depardieu was arrested for driving under the influence after falling off his scooter in Paris, while in August a car driver filed a legal complaint for assault and battery against him following an altercation in the capital.—Reuters

Sienna Miller 'horrible' bird attack during the filming of The Girl

LONDON, 12 Dec—Sienna Miller went through a "horrible" bird attack during filming for *The Girl*.

The British beauty plays actress Tippi Hedren in the drama, which explores behind the scenes of Sir Alfred Hitchcock's 1963 film *The Birds*, and in order to get into character, Sienna had birds thrown at her—an experi-



Sienna Miller

ence she describes as "not very nice".

Speaking in an interview with *The Sunday Times Culture* magazine, she said: "I did go through a bird attack—but for two hours, which pales in comparison to what [Tippi] was subjected to."

"But it was pretty horrible—we enacted the whole thing. There were people throwing seagulls and pigeons in my face, and, while I'm not terrified of birds, I don't exactly adore them."

"There's something about that flapping in the face, the claws and beaks and things, which isn't ... very nice."—PTI

Daniel Craig, Judi Dench are Britain's favourite film actors

LONDON, 12 Dec—Actors Daniel Craig and Judi Dench have been voted Britain's most favourite male and female movie stars.

While Craig, 44, has been part of three James Bond movies, the latest being

"Skyfall", Dench was seen as the agent's boss M in seven such movies.

Craig topped the list of favourite actor with 26 percent votes and Dench emerged victorious in favourite female movie star list with 27 percent votes, reported Sun online.

"We know Britain loves Bond and clearly the talents of Daniel Craig and Judi Dench are a key factor," said Ian Lewis, director of Sky Movies.

Actor Johnny Depp is in second place with 11.5 per cent votes, Will Smith in third place with 11.4 per cent, Christian Bale in fourth place with 7 per cent and claiming the fifth place in the list is Robert Downey Jr with 6 per cent votes.

Other actors who made it to

the top ten list are Daniel Radcliffe, Tom Cruise, Colin Farrell, Michael Fassbender and Tom Hardy.

In the female category, Helena Bonham-Carter claimed second spot with 10 per cent votes followed by Cameron Diaz and Mila Kunis both with 6 per cent, Anne Hathaway with 5.7 per cent.

Actresses Jennifer Lawrence, Rachel Weisz, Jennifer Aniston, Nicole Kidman, Emma Watson are also part of the list.

PTI



SPORTS



Serbia's Novak Djokovic celebrates beating Switzerland's Roger Federer in their final tennis match during the ATP World Tour Finals at the O2 Arena in London on 12 Nov, 2012.
REUTERS

Djokovic and Serena Williams named ITF World Champions

LONDON, 12 Dec—Serbia's Novak Djokovic has beaten Andy Murray to the International Tennis Federation's (ITF) annual men's World Champion award with American Serena Williams taking the women's prize for a third time.

Djokovic, who ended a second successive year on top of the ATP rankings, successfully defended his Australian Open title, reached the final at the French Open and US Open and claimed five other titles including the season-ending Tour Finals.

Britain's Murray was a strong contender for the honour after beating Djokovic at the US Open to win his first major title after four losses in finals and claiming Olympic gold at Wimbledon, just weeks after reaching the grand slam final there in which he lost to an inspired Roger Federer.

"I am proud to have

been named ITF World Champion for the second successive year," Djokovic, who dominated 2011 with three of the four grand slam titles, said in a statement on Tuesday.

"It was very difficult to follow up such a successful season in 2011, but it was extremely satisfying to win another grand slam title, reach two other major finals and finish the year at number one." The 31-year-old Williams was unstoppable in the second half of 2012, winning Wimbledon, singles and doubles gold at the Olympics and the US Open.

"It means a lot to be named ITF World Champion for the third time. It has been such an amazing experience this year to win the Olympics and two Grand Slam tournaments, and I look forward to having an awesome 2013," said the 15-times major winner.

Reuters

Ibrahimovic treble helps PSG thrash Valenciennes

PARIS, 12 Dec—Zlatan Ibrahimovic continued his devastating run of scoring form when he netted his maiden Ligue 1 hat-trick to inspire Paris St Germain to a clinical 4-0 win at Valenciennes on Tuesday.

Ibrahimovic, who has now netted 17 goals in 14 league appearances, helped second-placed Paris St Germain cut Olympique Lyon's lead to two points

before the seven-times French champions travel to basement side Nancy on Wednesday.

PSG have 32 points from 17 games and lead third-placed Olympique Marseille, who play at Bastia on Wednesday, by three points. Valenciennes, who were unbeaten at home, remain fifth on 26 points after the beating they suffered in the Stade du Hainaut.



Zlatan Ibrahimovic of Paris St Germain (C) celebrates his goal during their French Ligue 1 soccer match at the Hainaut Stadium in Valenciennes on 11 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

Arsenal suffer Cup shootout defeat at Bradford

LONDON, 12 Dec—Arsenal suffered a humiliating League Cup quarter-final exit to fourth tier Bradford City on Tuesday, losing 3-2 on penalties after an absorbing game finished 1-1 at the end of extra time at a packed Valley Parade.

The Premier League side needed an 88th minute goal from captain Thomas Vermaelen to force the extra period but failed to make

second-half barrage before Arsenal's Belgium centre back Vermaelen levelled with a far-post header.

"We had many, many chances, their keeper had a great game," Arsenal's under pressure manager Arsene Wenger told Sky Sports. "We couldn't convert our chances. When you go out it's never good enough for Arsenal."

"I think we lost today on penalties against a team who

game. We'll get over that it's part of our job," he added.

In the night's other quarter-final, Andreas Weimann scored two late goals as Aston Villa booked a place in the last four by coming from behind to beat Norwich City 4-1 away.

Arsenal, without a trophy since winning the FA Cup in 2005, selected a strong team but got off to the worst possible start.

Thompson put the hosts ahead with a tidy side-foot finish at the far post after Will Atkinson climbed high to flick on a Gary Jones freekick from the right.

Having ruffled Arsenal's feathers, Bradford enjoyed a period of pressure before the visitors gained a foothold and began to look dangerous with Francis Coquelin firing a drive against the woodwork in the 38th and Gervinho guilty of a terrible miss.

The Ivory Coast striker somehow failed to make proper contact with the ball from three metres with Bradford keeper Matt Duke beaten and the goal gaping.

If the luck was against the Premier League side on that occasion, it was firmly in their favour when Nahki Wells almost doubled Bradford's lead with an early shot that beat keeper Wojciech Szczesny but trickled just wide of the post.

Reuters



Arsenal's Kieran Gibbs (R) challenges Bradford City's Garry Thompson during their English League Cup soccer match in Bradford, northern England on 11 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

their superiority tell and it was Vermaelen who missed their final spot kick to send the minnows through.

Garry Thompson had scored with a tidy far post finish in the 16th minute to give a surprise lead to the hosts who then held off a

defended well. I cannot fault the effort of our team, we gave absolutely everything for 120 minutes. "We have to give credit to Bradford on the night. That's part of the game as well. We couldn't convert our chances for different reasons. It was a very tough



Brazil's Corinthians coach Adenor Bacchi (in white), also known as Tite, talks to his players during a training session for the Club World Cup soccer tournament at the Toyota Stadium in Toyota, central Japan on 11 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

Brazil's Corinthians will control Japan shivers — coach Tite

TOYOTA, 12 Dec—Brazil's Corinthians will not be catching stage fright at the Club World Cup, coach Tite said on Tuesday, aware of the weight of expectation from over three million fanatical fans. The South American champions are hot favourites to beat Egypt's Al-Ahly in Wednesday's first semi-final in Japan and reach the final, possibly against Chelsea, on 16 December.

"We are excited, overwhelmed to be able to play in this special event

the Club World Cup," Tite told reporters after training in Toyota.

"We want to make the most of the chance. We are thinking of playing in the final. We have the right to dream."

European teams have won the last five editions of the tournament, Barcelona lifting the trophy in 2009 and 2011, but Corinthians will be backed by thousands of travelling fans.

Chelsea, who became the first holders to be eliminated



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

Nadal to return in Abu Dhabi this month

MADRID, 12 Dec—World number four Rafa Nadal has confirmed he will return to competitive action at the Mubadala World Tennis Championship in Abu Dhabi at the end of December after six months out with a knee injury.

The 11-times grand-slam singles champion has not competed since a shock defeat to Czech Lukas Rosol in the second round at Wimbledon in June.

The Spaniard was later diagnosed with a partial tear of the patella tendon and an inflammation in his left knee and was unable to defend his Olympic title at the London Games.

He also missed the US Open and the season-ending World Tour championships before returning to the practice court on 20 November.

"Can't wait to get back on court in Abu Dhabi at the end of the month," the 26-year-old wrote on his Facebook page on Tuesday.

"I won the Mubadala World Tennis Championship in 2010 and 2011," he added. "Would love to get my hands on the trophy again this year!"

Reuters

at the Champions League group stage last week, must beat Mexico's Monterrey on Thursday to earn a shot at the world title. "If we perform to our potential then the dream can come true," added Tite, whose side became the Libertadores Cup's first unbeaten winners since 1978 this year.

"The prospect of it coming true can sometimes give you shivers and make you feel sick in the stomach. That's natural but we have to control that."—Reuters

GENERAL

Nisource gas pipeline explodes near Charleston, West Virginia

CHARLESTON, 12 Dec—A natural gas pipeline exploded in flames near Charleston, West Virginia, on Tuesday, setting nearby buildings on fire and injuring several people, authorities said.

The blast, on Nisource's Columbia Gas Transmission pipeline, occurred at midday near Sissonville, about 10 miles north of Charleston, they said. Surrounding homes and buildings caught fire, and several people suffered smoke inhalation, said West Virginia State Police Sergeant Chris Zerkle. They were being treated at local hospitals, he said. There were no reports

of any fatalities so far, he said.

A Nisource spokeswoman, who confirmed that the incident occurred on its line, said the fire had been contained. The cause of the explosion was as yet unknown and being investigated, she said. "Right now we have substantial damage done to several residences and buildings," Zerkle said. "They were substantially damaged beyond recognition."

Nearby Interstate 77 also was badly damaged, he said. It was closed to traffic in both directions and would remain so indefinitely, he said.

Reuters



Fire crews look on as flames burn from a gas line explosion near Sissonville, West Virginia on 11 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

Bridge collapse death toll rises to 14 in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 12 Dec—The death toll in a bridge collapse in South Africa climbed to 14, local media reported on Tuesday evening. A bridge on the road R65 in the eastern province of Mpumalanga collapsed due to heavy rain on Monday night, killing 14 people, the South African Press Association quoted the local community safety department as saying.

Local safety department spokesperson Joseph Mabuza said the tragedy took place at around 9:50 pm local time when three vehicles crashing into the broken bridge over the dam and resulted in them being swept away by water.

On Tuesday morning, the spokesperson said the collapse left six killed and five seriously injured and some others missing. "In the search and rescue operation, police have retrieved the missing bodies," said Mabuza on Tuesday evening.

The spokesperson warned drivers of the risk of driving in rain, especially when they see water on the road. "They should stop and inspect the water, because it could be dangerous to drive

further down the road." The country last witnessed a similar accident on 7 Jan, 2011, when a bridge collapsed on the road R555 in the same province, but with no casualty reported.

Xinhua



Winner of the 2012 Nobel Prize for Literature, Chinese writer Mo Yan (R) and his wife Du Qinlan arrive for the royal banquet held by Swedish king for Nobel laureates at royal palace in Stockholm, capital of Sweden, on 11 Dec, 2012.—XINHUA



Photo shows a tractor overloaded with bags of paddy husk which is welcoming a danger of road accidents for itself as well as other passenger buses on Yangon-Pathein motorway recently.—KYEMON

Syrian troops advance in securing road to Damascus' airport

DAMASCUS, 12 Dec—Syrian troops continued on Tuesday securing the road to the international airport of the capital Damascus, eliminating a number of rebels' snipers who have been positioning in the nearby Akraha suburb that overlooks part of the road.

During a trip to Akraha on Tuesday, reporters saw an army tank firing at a building on which rooftops snipers have been nesting to target military convoys.

After eliminating those snipers, the road to the airport has become safer, sources said.

At the airport, meanwhile, the Syrian flag

was seen fluttering on the top while baggage porters and bellhops were standing at the main gates. However, the reporters haven't been granted permission to enter the airport as trips and commercial flights are still suspended until the road is fully secured.

The armed militias have tried to cut off the 30-kilometre road from the Akraha point in a bid to paralyze the capital and pave the way for other armed groups to storm the capital from other routes. Moreover, the rebels have issued a statement warning civilians of heading toward the airport and announcing the area

a war zone. However, the Syrian army has unleashed a strong firepower, rendering thousands of armed fighters killed or injured.—Reuters



Altogether 288 special police take part in a military skills competition in a training base in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on 11 Dec, 2012. The policemen are from Xinjiang's 15 subordinate prefectures and cities.

REUTERS

Donate Blood

California man accused of plotting to aid al Qaeda denied bail

RIVERSIDE, (California), 12 Dec—A California man arrested in Afghanistan on charges he plotted to help al Qaeda and Taleban militants was denied bail on Tuesday despite claims by his lawyers that injuries he suffered during capture diminished any threat he posed if freed on bond.

The Afghan-born defendant, Sohial Omar Kabir, 35, is accused with three younger men arrested last month outside Los Angeles of planning to unleash a campaign of "violent jihad" against US

military forces and other Americans overseas.

The FBI says Kabir served in the US Air Force for two years about a decade ago, though his lawyers described him in a recent court filing as an Army veteran. Kabir suffered a fractured facial bone, an eye injury and cuts to his face and head from a severe beating he suffered when apprehended last month in a military raid in Kabul, his attorneys said during a detention hearing in federal court.

The injuries left him

with impaired memory function, difficulty keeping his balance and distorted vision, defence attorneys stated. They said Kabir already suffered from epilepsy and had medical problems stemming from an automobile accident.

Kabir's lawyers cited his injuries and various medical issues in requesting that he be released from jail and placed under pretrial supervision, including electronic monitoring, while restricted to his parents' home in southern California.—Reuters

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(12-12-12 09:30 am ~ 13-12-12 09:30 am) MST

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- * finding One's Soul On Mt. Shwe Myin Tin
- * Myanmar Movie "Dutiful But Thoughtless Son"

Jade, gems and pearl sales continues for fourth day

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec— The sales of utility jade and gems was packed with potential buyers on Day 4 at Mani Yadana Jade Hall here today.

Secretary of Central Committee for Organizing

the Emporium Managing Director of Myanma Gems Enterprise U Thein Swe and officials oversaw the sales of jades, gems and pearls to local and foreign merchants.

The event continues tomorrow.—MNA

Gems merchants check and observe jewellery lots at Utility Jade, Gems and Pearl Sales at Mani Yadana Jade Hall.—MNA

Weather

outlook for subsequent two days

Continuation of likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

NLM



Nay Pyi Taw Expo, Car Show kick off



NAY PYI TAW, 12 Dec — The opening of Nay Pyi Taw Expo and Car Show took place at the archway of the festive ground of Uppatasanti Pagoda, here, at noon.

Members of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Than Htay and Col Myint Aung Than, Managing Director of Paing Aung Trading Co Ltd U Naing Soe, In-charge of Nay Pyi Taw Kanbawza Bank U Zaw Win and Director Daw Nwe Nwe Aung of Happy World Co Ltd formally opened the expo.

Next, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council and those present viewed round the booths on display at the expo.

The expo was sponsored by Paing Aung Trading Co Ltd in cooperation with Kanbawza Bank Ltd, Shwe Nanndaw Jewellery Shop, Aung Gabar Motor Company, GAMT Car & Bus Sale Center, KTM purified water and 5 Network Media.

Foodstuff and personal goods, clothing and health equipment will be available

at 300 booths in the expo.

Car Show includes 50 booths where saloons, buses, trucks and motorbikes, lubricants for vehicles are available.

The Expo and Car Show will be kept open from 9 am to 9 pm daily till 16 December.

Car showroom, authorized dealers of Kanbawza Bank, will offer a programme in which buyers will be entitled to get a car by making a 30 per cent cash payment.

MNA

Yangon International Airport busy with airplanes of foreign airlines

YANGON, 12 Dec— Number of arrivals and departures of tourists is on increase day by day. As Myanmar builds warm and frankly relations with global countries in addition

to neighbouring countries, foreign guests are interested in Myanmar as a great tourist destination. As a result, international airlines extend their flights to Yangon International Airport.

At present, Yangon International Airport tackles arrival and departure of 30-40 flights. Number of arrivals and departures of passenger flights has increased thanks to extended flights of foreign

airlines.

Among the international airlines, ANA (All Nippon Airways) comes from Japan. The airways operates Kansai-Yangon-Kansai direct flight from Kansai of Japan to Yangon thrice a week.

Thanks to ANA (All Nippon Airways), the passengers from Japan have

the opportunity to pay visits to Yangon of Myanmar through the direct flights. A plan is underway to extend the flights if the number of passenger is on increase.

Likewise, Korean Airlines from the Republic of Korea launched its maiden flight in September with the use of Boeing 737-800 airbus. The airlines schedules four times a week along Incheon-Yangon-Incheon route. The airlines is projected to extend the flights should the number of passenger increases.

Furthermore, flights of Taipei Airlines and China Airlines (CCA) land at the Yangon International Airport. CCA plies its flights from Yangon to Beijing, the capital of the People's Republic of China.

Vietnam Airlines of Vietnam flies the two aviation routes namely Ho Chi Minh-Yangon-Ho Chi Minh route and Hanoi-Yangon-Hanoi route with the use of airbuses.

That is why passengers from Vietnam can visit Myanmar through direct flights.

In addition, airplanes

from Singaporean Airlines plies the flights to Myanmar. The airlines runs its flights thrice a week with the use of B-777 Airbus as of October 2012 although it used A-320 Airbus in the past. Moreover, the airlines plans to extend its flights daily.

Bangkok Airlines, Thai Airlines and Air Asia of Thailand ply the flights two-three times a day. Each airlines of Thailand operates their flights at least twice a day in the morning and evening.

Qatar Airlines runs the Qatar-Yangon flight thrice a week. Therefore, Myanmar passengers pay visits to Qatar as well as tourists and entrepreneurs from Qatar make trips to Myanmar.

As the international community recognizes reform process in Myanmar, those wishing to put investment in businesses and pay visits to Myanmar are surging day by day.

That is why the nation sees good prospects of extension and launching of more and more international airlines.

Myanma Alinn

