

The New Light of Myanmar

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Vice-President U Nyan Tun Leaves for Belgium

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Sept—U Nyan Tun, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar left for the Kingdom of Belgium this evening for a working visit there at the invitation of the Government of Belgium.

The Vice-President and party were seen off by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and officials at Yangon Interna-

tional Airport.

The Vice-President was accompanied by Union Minister U Nyan Tun Aung, Deputy Minister U Thant Kyaw and officials.

During the visit, the Vice-President will observe the State water and waste management and river basin management projects, infrastructure development in the port city of Antwerp and renewable energy pro-

jects arranged by the Government of Flanders of the Kingdom of Belgium.

MNA

Vice-President U Nyan Tun being seen off by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe at Yangon International Airport before departure for the Kingdom of Belgium.

MNA



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann shakes hands with Speaker of House of Representatives of Malaysia Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Pardikar Amin-Mulian.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets Malaysian dignitaries

YANGON, 28 Sept—At the invitation of Speaker of House of Representatives of Malaysia Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Pardikar Amin-Mulian, a goodwill delegation led by Speaker of Pyidaungsu and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann arrived in Malaysia on 26 September morning.

They were welcomed at the airport by Deputy Speaker of House of Representatives of Malaysia Hon Datuk Ronald Kiandee and officials of the House and Myanmar Ambassador U Tin Latt.

The Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held talks with Speaker of House of Representatives of Malaysia Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Pardikar Amin-Mulian at the Parliament

House on friendly relations between the two countries and parliamentary affairs.

The Speaker of House of Representatives of Malaysia hosted a luncheon to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker and party.

The Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and party met Deputy Prime Minister Rt Hon Tan Sri Dato's Haji Muhyiddin bin Mohd Tassin on behalf of the Malaysian Prime Minister.

On 27 September, the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw met the Chairman of Malaysian Election Commission Mr Tan Sri Abdul Aziz bin Mohd Yusof and party at the commission office and observed electoral system of Malaysia and its processes.

On 26 September af-

ternoon, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker and party visited Palm Oil Research Institute (PORIM) of Malaysia. They also visited Sime Darby Plantation.

On 27 September morning, the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and party visited Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur of Malaysia.

On arrival at the Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur of Malaysia, the Speaker cordially met the ambassador, embassy families and Myanmar citizens. Next, they visited Rubber Institute of Malaysia.

This afternoon, the Speaker and party left Kuala Lumpur of Malaysia and arrived back in Yangon at 2.40 pm.

They were welcomed

back at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, chairmen of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Committees, officials of Yangon Region Hluttaw and the Hluttaw Office, Malaysian and Thai Ambassadors and the charge d' affaires ai of the Brunei Darussalam.

Chairman of the Pyithu Hluttaw National Races Affairs and Internal Peacemaking Committee U Thein Zaw, Chairman of International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo, Chairman of Investment and Industrial Development Committee U Htay Myint and Hluttaw representatives also arrived back on the same flight.—MNA

Foreign companies eye Myanmar for electricity generating through wind power

Assistant Director U Aung Myo Win of the Ministry of Electric Power said Gunkul Engineering Public Co., Ltd of Thailand and China Three Gorges Co., inked a MoU on generating thousands of megawatts of electricity by using wind power in some parts of the country.

According to the ministry, Gunkul Engineering Public Co., Ltd is carrying out feasibility studies for construction of windmills at seven places in Mon, Kayin, Taninthayi Region

and Shan State in order to produce 2930 megawatts. China Three Georges Co., is also conducting feasibility studies on building windmills in Chin and Rakhine States and Ayeyawady and Yangon Regions and it is aimed to produce 1102 megawatts.

"Two MoUs were signed for wind power project in Myanmar. Feasibility studies are underway for developing commercial wind power. Now is the beginning of conducting feasibility study for wind

power and it could take more than one year. They will push ahead with the business if wind power is economically feasible," U Aung Myo Win added.

"A large amount of electricity can be generated by wind farms, but significant amount of investments are needed for wind energy production," a retired officer of the ministry gave his comment on the development of clean energy.

Kyemon: 27-9-13

Trs: YM



Samples for windmills to generate electricity.

Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon-Pathein bus line takes passengers to destinations

The 27th SEA Games will be held in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Pathein (Ngwehsaung).

Seven sports events will be organized in Yangon, football tournaments in Mandalay and beach sports events in Pathein (Ngwehsaung).

The remaining sports events will be hosted in Zeyathiri Sports Village in Nay Pyi Taw, Lewe Sports Grounds, and Wunna Theikdi Sports Grounds.

The Zeyathiri Stadium and sports village in Zabuthiri Township will accommodate the athletes conveniently to be able to compete in the games. Preparations have been made for the athletes to take training at the gymnasiums, stadiums and hostels, said Staff Officer U Thein Than Naing.

The plans are being drawn for holding the international sailing contest and beach football tournaments at Ngwehsaung Beach in Pathein Township of Ayeyawady Region under the arrangements of the Myanmar Sailing Federation.

Transport is playing a key role in enabling the spectators and fans to enjoy the sports matches and international level sports competitions within their reach while Myanmar has the opportunity to host the SEA Games.

The fans from Nay Pyi Taw wish to enjoy the sports events to be held in Ngwehsaung Beach of Pathein, Yangon and Mandalay. Likewise, those of Mandalay and Yangon wish to watch the sports matches in other towns.

That is why the transport for people from one place to another is instrumental in hosting the SEA Games in cities of Myanmar.

A plan is underway to ply the buses along Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon-Pathein route for enabling the athletes to travel to Yangon, Pathein (Ngwehsaung Beach) from Nay Pyi Taw and take relaxation at the international level hotels in Ngwehsaung.

Therefore, the Mawgunthit Express bus line will ply along the route



Workers of Yangon City Development Committee repairing the damaged roads caused by heavy rains in Thanlyin Township of Yangon South District recently.
KYEMON-608

of Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon-Pathein (Ngwehsaung) directly giving best transport facilities to the people who aspire victory of Myanmar sports teams in the coming SEA Games.—Kyemon-537

Crime

Opium oil solid, opium liquid seized in Namkham



NAY PYI TAW, 28 Sept—Members of Muse Special Anti-Drug Squad of Shan State, acting on tip-off, raided the house of Kyaw Myint, 57, of No 75/261 of Aung Myitta Ward in Namkham on 23 September.

They saw 800 grams of opium oil solid worth K 4 million from the chest drawer, one plastic container

of opium liquid weighing five litres and 10 materials to be used in making opium oil solid, one unlicensed Hilux, one 20-litre opium liquid, one 10-litre opium bottle, totaling 35 litres worth K 3.15 million.

Action was taken against Kyaw Myint under the law.—Kyemon-Police Information

Accident

Small vessel carrying 10 tourists drifts in Ayeyawady River

MANDALAY, 28 Sept—A small vessel Soe Soe Aung carrying 10 tourists of Mandalay-Mingun tourist water transport service drifted in the Ayeyawady River due to engine failure at 1.30 pm on 20 September.

Another vessel helped the vessel to dock the jetty in Mandalay Mayangyan port.

Malaysian Ms Dam Lai Song and other 10 foreigners chartered the Soe Soe Aung vessel from Mayangyan Port of Mandalay at 8 am to go to Mingun.

On their way back to Mandalay, the vessel floated into the water for about 20 minutes near Yayhla Village of Patheingyi Township due to engine failure. The vessel Golden Butterfly saw it and pulled the floated vessel to Mandalay safely.

Vessel Soe Soe Aung carried out tourist transport without any licence of Myanma Hotels and Tourism Services.

Kyemon-Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Artefacts smuggler arrested



NAY PYI TAW, 28 Sept—Near the illegal gate of two near Tetkham Hotel Policemen from Muse Myoma Police Station, acting on tip-off, searched Ma Yin Yin Shwe, 32 of Sint Ohdan Street in Latha Township of Yangon on 23 September.

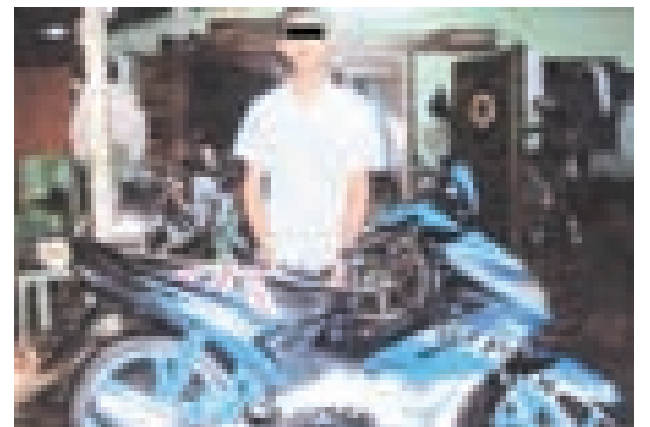
They seized 300 folded Parabeiks in gold colour, 123 pieces of

lacquerware leaves, 19 pieces of wooden sheets of silver colour, five bronze Buddha images, one Maha Peinne Bronze Image and one Bronze Buddha image on elephant statue.

File of lawsuit was opened against Ma Yin Yin Shwe under the Archaeological Act.

Police Information

Motorcycle thief arrested in Dagon Myothit (North) Township



YANGON, 28 Sept—A motorcycle thief in front of the house in a ward of Dagon Myothit (North) Township was arrested on 21 September.

Members of the special crime combating section of Yangon North District, acting on a tip-off, detained and interrogated Phyo Oo (a) Pyae Phyo Oo of Mingaladon Township who had committed a series

of motorcycle thefts. He confessed that he had stolen CZI motorcycle in front of the house at 39/B Ward in Dagon Myothit (North) Township in September.

Dagon Myothit (North) Township Myoma Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against him under Sections 379/54 of the Criminal Law.

Kyemon-040

Development

YANGON, 28 Sept—The playground in the compound of Maha Bandoola Park in Yangon is crowded with children and parents on 22 September as office holiday.

The equipment and dolls were imported from Singapore. Officials of Parks and Playgrounds Department of Yangon City Development Committee opened the new playground for the children, according to the officials of the Parks and Playgrounds Department.

MNA

Maha Bandoola Park facilitated with playground for the children



WORLD

US, Iranian presidents speak by phone, 1st top contact since 1979



US President Barack Obama talks with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani during a phone call in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington on 27 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 28 Sept — US President Barack Obama said on Friday he had spoken by phone with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani to discuss Teheran's nuclear programme, marking the two countries' first highest-level contact since 1979, when they broke off diplomatic relations following a hostage crisis at the US Embassy in Teheran.

"While there will surely be important obstacles to moving forward, and success is by no means guaranteed, I believe we can reach a comprehensive

agreement," Obama said at a Press conference at the White House, referring to nuclear negotiations with the Rouhani administration.

"President Rouhani and I have directed our teams to continue working expeditiously...to pursue an agreement," Obama said.

"The test will be meaningful, transparent and verifiable actions, which can also bring relief from the comprehensive international sanctions that are currently in place" against the Middle Eastern country, he said.—*Kyodo News*

UN Security Council demands elimination of Syria chemical arms

UNITED NATIONS, 28 Sept — The UN Security Council adopted a resolution on Friday that demands the eradication of Syria's chemical weapons but does not threaten automatic punitive action against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's government if it does not comply.

The unanimous vote by the 15-member Security Council capped weeks of intense diplomacy between Russia and the United States. It was based on a deal between the two countries reached in Geneva earlier this month following an 21 August sarin nerve gas attack on a Damascus suburb that killed hundreds.

The US-Russia deal averted punitive US military action against Assad's government, which Washington blamed for the August attack. The Syrian government and its ally, Russia, blamed anti-government rebels for the attack.

One provision of the resolution, described by council diplomats as sig-



Members of the United Nations Security Council raise their hands as they vote unanimously to approve a resolution eradicating Syria's chemical arsenal during a Security Council meeting during the 68th United Nations General Assembly in New York on 27 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

nificant, formally endorses a plan for a political transition in Syria agreed on at an international conference in Geneva in June 2012.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said after the vote that the big powers hoped to hold a peace conference on Syria in mid-November in Geneva.

He told the council the plan to eradicate Syria's chemical weapons was "not a license to kill with con-

ventional weapons."

"As we mark this important step, we must never forget that the catalog of horrors in Syria continues with bombs and tanks, grenades and guns," he said. "A red light for one form of weapons does not mean a green light for others."

US Secretary of State John Kerry said the vote showed that "actions have consequences."

"Our original objective

was to degrade and deter Syria's chemical weapons capability. And the option of military force that President Obama has kept on the table could have achieved that. But tonight's resolution accomplishes even more — through peaceful means, it will for the first time seek to eliminate entirely a nation's chemical weapons capability," he said.

Reuters

G-4 aims for "concrete" progress in Security Council reform by 2015

NEW YORK, 28 Sept — Foreign ministers from the so-called Group of Four nations — Brazil, Germany, India and Japan — on Thursday agreed to aim for "concrete" progress by 2015 in pushing for reform of the UN Security Council.

The G-4 "stressed the need to intensify efforts to translate, at the latest by

2015, the existing agreement into concrete outcomes," the ministers said in a joint statement issued after a meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.

The G-4 said reform of the council is "long overdue" and that developing countries, including those in Africa, must be better represented in both the per-

manent and nonpermanent membership, the ministers said.

Japan has been calling for reform of the Security Council, which has five permanent members — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told the General Assembly on Thursday that the structure

of the council is "frozen" and that Japan's aspiration to become a permanent member "has not changed in the slightest."

To change the structure of the permanent and nonpermanent members, the UN Charter needs to be revised with the backing of two-thirds of UN member states.

Kyodo News

Building collapse kills 29 in India's Mumbai, more feared trapped



Rescue crews search for survivors at the site of a collapsed residential building in Mumbai on 27 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

MUMBAI, 28 Sept — A five-storey apartment block collapsed on Friday in the Indian financial centre of Mumbai, killing at least 29 people.

Rescuers worked into the night to pull out survivors and casualties from the concrete rubble. City authorities said 46 people were rescued by evening. It was not clear how many more were still in the rubble. Employees of the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai, also known as the BMC, were housed in the building.

A neighbour in the next block said she heard a loud cracking sound as the building caved in.

"As dust settled, I realized the BMC building was gone," the neighbour, Catherine James, told *Reuters*.

Rescue workers used six cranes to remove debris. The building was believed to have been about 35-years-old and home to about 20 families.

"Five members from my family were trapped inside. So far, two have been rescued. I am praying to God others will also come out alive," said Preeti Pawar, who was standing among crowds of relatives

and onlookers outside the collapsed block.

The cause of the collapse was not known.

Mumbai mayor Sunil Prabhu said the block was not on an official list of dilapidated buildings.

In April, a building collapse killed 72 people in Thane, just outside Mumbai. Officials later said the structure had been built using poor materials and did not have proper approvals.

A shortage of cheap homes has led to a rise in illegal construction by developers who use substandard materials and shoddy methods and then offer cheap rents to low-paid workers.

A rise in property prices in densely populated Mumbai over the past five years has put affordable housing out of reach of tens of thousands of people, many of them migrants who move to the city for work.

"Again and again, the same kind of tragedies are striking but the government is not learning anything," said Vinod Tawde, a politician from the main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party.

"The government should evacuate all people staying in dangerous buildings."—*Reuters*



Rescuers take a child out of the rubble of a collapsed building in Mumbai, India, on 27 Sept, 2013.—XINHUA

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Fossil fish find in China fills in evolutionary picture

SYDNEY, 28 Sept — An international team of scientists in China has discovered what may be the earliest known creature with a distinct face, a 419 million-year-old fish that could be a missing link in the development of vertebrates.

The fossil find in China's Xiaoxiang Reservoir, reported by the journal "Nature" on Thursday, is the most primitive vertebrate discovered with a modern jaw, including a dentary bone found in humans.

"finally solves an age-old problem about the origin of modern fishes," said John Long, a professor in palaeontology at Flinders University in Adelaide.

Scientists were surprised to find that the heavily armoured fish, *Entelognathus primordialis*, a previously unknown mem-



Min Zhu, professor at the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, shows a fossil of the heavily armoured fish, *Entelognathus primordialis*, in front of a computer screen showing a life restoration image of the fish during a photo opportunity at his laboratory in Beijing on 27 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

ber of the now extinct placoderm family, had a complex small skull and jaw bones.

That appeared to dis-

prove earlier theories that modern vertebrates with bony skeletons, called osteichthyes, had evolved from a shark-like creature

with a frame made of cartilage.

Instead, the new find provides a missing branch on the evolutionary tree, predating that shark-like creature and showing that a bony skeleton was the prototype for both bony and cartilaginous vertebrates.

"We now know that ancient armoured placoderms gave rise to the modern fish fauna as we know it," said Long, who was not part of the team in China.

Long described the discovery as "the most exciting news in palaeontology since Archaeopteryx or Lucy", referring to two fossil discoveries that are crucial to our understanding of the evolution of birds and humans.

"Nature" did not detail when the fossil was found.

Reuters

EA settles NCAA student-athlete cases, no game next year



An overview shows the Electronic Arts EA exhibition stand during the Gamescom 2013 fair in Cologne on 21 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 28 Sept — Electronic Arts said it had reached a settlement with former college football athletes who have accused the company of using their images without permission and would not be making a new game for the popular "NCAA Football" series in 2014.

The athletes sued the video game publisher and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), which has strict rules prohibiting them from sharing in the millions of dollars that schools receive from television and licensing deals. The case against the NCAA is still pending.

Electronic Arts' move follows a decision by the NCAA in mid-July to not renew a contract to license its name and logo for EA's college football game.

Its most recent installment in the series, "NCAA Football 14", which was launched in July, is one of the company's major sports games releases this year alongside "Madden" football and "FIFA" soccer video games.

Terms of the settlement were not made public. It now awaits the approval of the US District Court for the Northern District of California.

Some of the claims covered by athletes include those of former Arizona State University quarterback Samuel Keller, West Virginia football player Shawne Alston and Rutgers University star quarterback Ryan Hart, according to a statement by Seattle-based law firm Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro, which represented Keller.—Reuters

Rover Curiosity finds "abundant" water in Martian soil

WASHINGTON, 28 Sept — The first scoop of soil analyzed by the Curiosity rover reveals that fine materials on the Martian surface may contain "abundant" water, US researchers said on Thursday. Curiosity touched down on Mars last August and began its 100-day mission of collecting and analyzing samples of all kinds in Gale crater, which is near the Martian equator, with its high-tech lasers and scoops.



In this study, researchers from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute used the rover's scoop to collect dust, dirt and finely grained soil from a sandy patch known as "Rocknest."

The researchers then fed portions of the fifth scoop into an instrument onboard Curiosity called the Sample Analysis at Mars (SAM) to heat them to 835 degrees Celsius.

"One of the most exciting results from this very first solid sample ingested by Curiosity is the high percentage of water in the soil," said lead author Lau-

rie Leshin, dean of science at the Institute. "About 2 percent of the soil on the surface of Mars is made up of water, which is a great resource, and interesting scientifically," Leshin said.

The sample also released significant carbon dioxide, oxygen, and sulfur compounds when heated, the researchers reported in the journal *Science*.

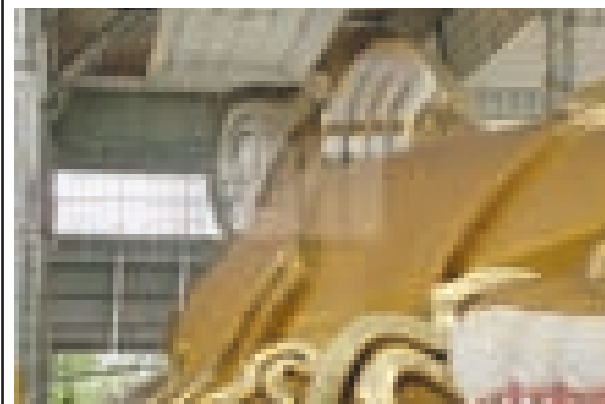
Baking the sample also revealed a compound containing chlorine and oxy-

gen, likely chlorate or perchlorate, previously known only from high-latitude locations on Mars. This finding at Curiosity's equatorial site suggests more global distribution, the researchers said.

In addition to determining the amount of the major gases released, SAM also analyzed ratios of isotopes of hydrogen and carbon in the released water and carbon dioxide. Isotopes are variants of the same chemical element with different numbers of neutrons, and therefore different atomic weights.—Xinhua

BAGO REGION

The following is the reproduction of the Myanmar Hotel and Tourism Guide 2013. Please visit www.tourismguide.com.mm for further information.—Ed



Reclining Buddha image

Bago Region

Bago, about two hours' drive from Yangon, is the former capital of the mighty 16th century Mon kingdom of Hanthawady. It is a small, busy town dominated by the golden spire of the Shwe Maw Daw Pagoda.

Shwe Maw Daw Pagoda

One of the most famous sites in Bago is the Shwe Maw Daw Pagoda, whose golden spire reaching to a height of 114 metres (374 feet) dominates the city's skyline. The pagoda enshrines two hairs from the Lord Buddha and is one of the most revered Buddhist pilgrimage destinations in Myanmar.

Kyeik Pun Pagoda

Four huge seated images of the Buddha are placed back to back, facing the cardinal points of the compass. The pagoda was built by King Dhamma Zedi, who reigned from 1472 to 1492.

Hinthagon Pagoda

Near the Shwe Maw Daw pagoda is the small Hinthagon Pagoda. Spirit worshippers hold ritual celebrations at the pagoda on some weekends.

Maha Kalayani Thein Ordination Hall

It was originally built in 1476 by King Dhamma Zedi over a layer of sand from the Kalayani River brought from Sri Lanka. Over the centuries it has been damaged and rebuilt several times. Around the hall is the ten inscribed stone pillars dating from the time of its consecration.

Mya Thar Lyaung reclining Buddha image

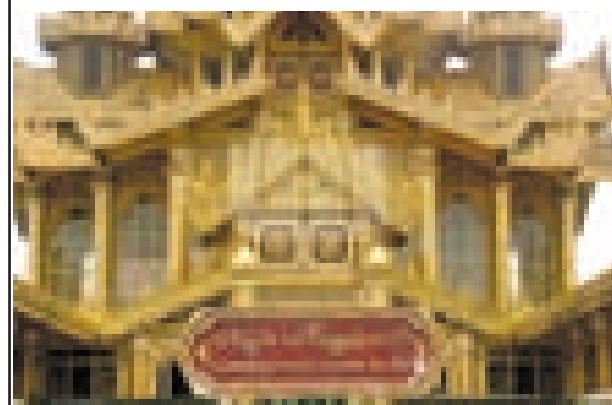
Near the Shwe Thar Lyaung is the Mya Thar Lyaung reclining Buddha image, which is 82 metres (270 feet) long. This image was built in 2000. It is 19 metres (63 feet) high and is hollow, enabling visitors to go inside.

Reclining Buddha image

One of the famous sites in Bago is the 54.8 metre (180 feet) long Shwe Thar Lyaung a beautiful reclining Buddha image that was discovered in the 19th century under the jungle that had covered it.

Kanbawza Thadi Palace

Kanbawza Thadi is the name of an imposing palace built by the founder of the second Myanmar Empire, King Bayint Naung. The palace was destroyed many years ago but detailed descriptions of its design on ancient palm-leaf manuscripts enabled architects to reconstruct a replica in its place. The palace site covers more than 3844 hectares (9500 acres) and excavations have exposed the brick foundations and many teak pillars. An archaeological museum at the excavation site hints at the grandeur of the original palace.



Kanbawza Thadi Palace

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Health problems of elderly linked to lifestyle

BEIJING, 28 Sept—More than half of China's elderly have health problems and their lifestyles are believed to be a leading contributor, officials and medical experts said on Thursday.

China's population is rapidly aging and the number of citizens older than 60 is expected to reach 202 million by the end of 2013, including 23 million older than 80, said Wu Yushao, vice-president of the China National Committee on Aging. By then, 37.5 million elderly Chinese, or 19 percent of the senior population, will require daily care because of disabilities.

Only about 40 percent of Chinese people over

60 are considered healthy, compared with 60 percent in developed economies, Wu said, citing 2008 statistics from the World Health Organization.

Tao Guoshu, a retired doctor from the Chinese PLA General Hospital who specialized in geriatrics in Beijing, said cardiovascular disease, cancer and cerebrovascular disease are common among elderly Chinese patients, and about 60 percent of health issues were triggered by unhealthy lifestyles.

High blood pressure, a common complaint among elderly Chinese, is closely related to the dietary habit of eating too much salt, he said. "People in China



lack common sense about health," he said. "There is an urgent need to popularize basic health knowledge and encourage people to improve their way of life in order to further increase the life expectancy in China."

On Thursday, the China National Committee on Aging and the National Health and Family Planning Commission released an instruction book for seniors on how to live healthily.

Wu said the brochure

includes 36 suggestions for diet, sports, mental health, health management and social interaction.

Regarding nutrition, the book advises the elderly to eat more fresh food and dairy products and avoid eating leftovers.

Copies of the book will be provided for free in community activity centers for the elderly, universities dedicated for the aged and elderly associations, he said.—Xinhua

US consumer spending rises as wages boost family income



A woman walks through a shopping mall in San Francisco, California on 5 Jan, 2012.

REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 28 Sept—US household spending rose in August as incomes were buoyed by solid wage gains, signs that momentum could be growing in the economy despite months of harsh government austerity.

American families spent 0.3 percent more last

month than the month before, which was in line with expectations, Commerce Department data showed on Friday.

Higher wages drove incomes up 0.4 percent, the most since February. Analysts said the increase could drive faster spending in the

months ahead.

Rising wages and spending also appeared to give businesses a little more leverage to raise prices, with inflation outside food and energy picking up in August. That could bolster the case for the US Federal Reserve to move forward with winding down a bond-buying stimulus programme. "This acceleration in core inflation will likely be encouraging to the Fed," said Millan Mulraine, an economist at TD Securities in New York.

The data backs the view that tax hikes and federal budget cuts are dragging on the economy less as the year goes on. Washington increased tax rates in January and slashed the federal budget in March.

But Wall Street and the Fed have appeared increasingly concerned that politi-

cal gridlock in Washington could trigger a government shutdown next week and perhaps a debt default after mid-October, either of which could deliver blows to the economy.

Worries about the future are also rising among families.

US consumer sentiment slid in September to its lowest level in five months as Americans saw higher interest rates and sluggish economic growth ahead, according to the final reading of the Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan's consumer survey.

The data had little impact on sentiment among investors, who remain preoccupied with the potential for fiscal crises. US stocks fell and the dollar closed in on a seven-month low.

Reuters

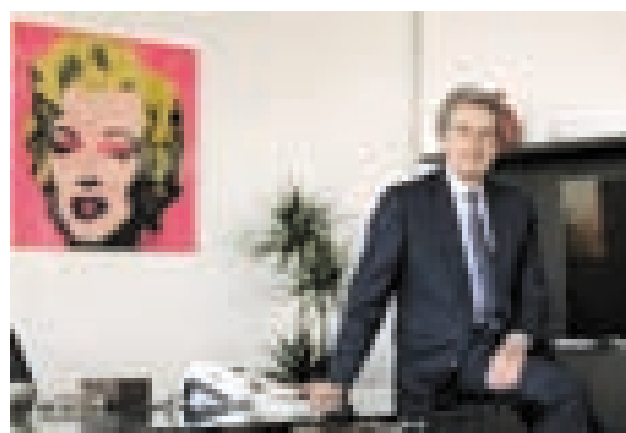
Telecom Italia chief Bernabe considering resigning

ROME, 28 Sept—Telecom Italia (TLIT.MI) Chairman Franco Bernabe is considering resigning at a board meeting scheduled for Thursday, a source close to the situation said.

"We are heading towards a resignation," the source told Reuters on Friday.

In a parliamentary hearing this week, Bernabe said Telecom Italia needed to raise fresh capital to avoid a credit rating downgrade to "junk" status and that the best way would be through a capital increase.

Bernabe has spoken



Franco Bernabe, Telecom Italia chairman and CEO, poses in his office in Rome, on 19 April, 2013.—REUTERS

out against possible plans by top shareholder Telefonica to sell some of the com-

pany's most valued assets once it gains control of its Italian rival.—Reuters

Penney to raise up to \$932 million in share sale, lowers cash forecast

NEW YORK, 28 Sept—JC Penney Co Inc (JCP.N) on Friday cut its forecast of year-end cash reserves as it expects to raise up to \$932 million in a share sale, suggesting that the retailer is burning through cash faster than expected.

The retailer, whose shares have tumbled in the last year as it struggled to improve sales, said it would have about \$1.3 billion in cash by the end of the year. In August, it had forecast \$1.5 billion.

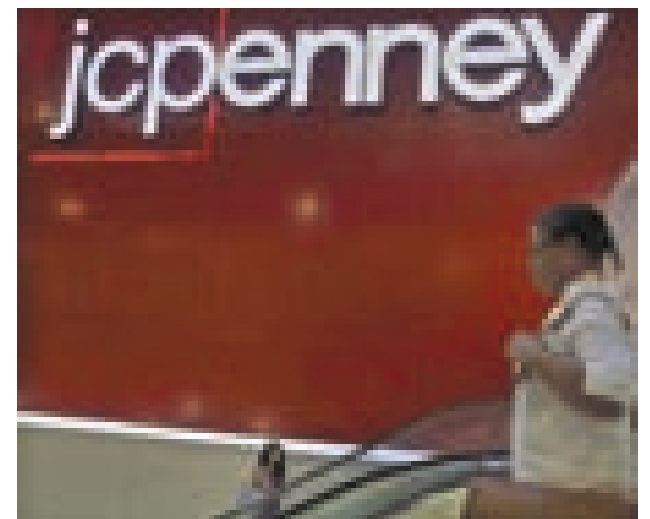
"While an equity raise improves (near-term) liquidity, we remain concerned that JCP will continue to burn cash in '14 and beyond," UBS analyst Michael Binetti, who has a "sell" rating on the stock, wrote in a note.

cent to \$9.30 in afternoon trading. The share sale would increase Penney's shares outstanding by 38 percent, excluding the 12.6 million additional shares the underwriters have the option to buy.

UBS' Binetti said the pre-holiday capital-raising, along with cautious comments from Penney's mall peers, increased concerns that near-term trends were not improving as anticipated.

So far some financing companies, known as factors, are not changing terms on the loans they provide Penney suppliers.

Michael Stanley, the managing director at Rosenthal \$ Rosenthal, a large factor, said his firm has kept approving orders



Customers ride the escalator at a JC Penney store in New York on 14 Aug, 2013.

REUTERS

Penney said shares had priced at \$9.65 each. Penney offered 84 million shares, which will severely dilute current shareholders.

The stock fell 11 per-

cent to Penney.

"We feel they have enough liquidity, especially with this share sale," Stanley said.

Reuters

Teen health programme fights obesity, depression

NEW YORK, 28 Sept—A skills-building programme offered as part of high school health classes may help prevent obesity, depression and drinking among teenagers, a new study suggests.

"Our hope is that schools after seeing these outcomes will say, 'Hey, we want to implement this in our curriculum,'" Bernadette Melnyk, from The Ohio State University in Columbus, told Reuters Health. "We're talking about 15 hours in a high school's education that can have some pretty profound positive (outcomes)."

Melnyk developed the

COPE (Creating Opportunities for Personal Empowerment) Healthy Lifestyles TEEN (Thinking, Emotions, Exercise, Nutrition) programme, and is the lead author of the new study. One-third of young people in the US are overweight or obese, she and her team note. Obese teens are at higher risk of depression and are more likely to perform poorly in school.

However, most programs targeting youth obesity don't also address mental health, Melnyk said.

"Unless we change the way that people are thinking, there's less likelihood that

any behavioral change is going to sustain," she added.

The COPE programme is designed to help teenagers recognize and change irrational and negative thoughts. "We teach the teens that how they think directly relates to how they feel and how they behave," Melnyk said. Other components include education on healthy lifestyles, self-esteem building, goal-setting and problem-solving, coping with stress and regulating emotion and behavior. Each of the 15 weekly sessions also includes 20 minutes of walking, dancing or other exercise.—Reuters

Italian PM to call confidence vote as government nears collapse



Italy's Prime Minister Enrico Letta speaks during a news conference following his address to the high-level meeting on Islamist groups in the Sahel region, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly at the UN Headquarters in New York on 26 Sept, 2013.

REUTERS

ROME, 28 Sept—Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta will call a confidence vote in parliament after a showdown with centre-right partners in his fragile coalition scuppered a vital package of budget measures on Friday and took his government to the brink of collapse.

Letta flew back from a visit to New York with coalition unity already in tatters

after a threat by centre-right lawmakers to walk out over former premier Silvio Berlusconi's battle against a conviction for tax fraud.

"Efficient government action is obviously incompatible with the mass resignation of a parliamentary group which should support the government," Letta said in a statement after a cabinet meeting on Friday.

"Either there is a new

start and the interests of the country and its citizens are put first or this experience is at an end," he said.

Regional Affairs Minister Graziano Delrio said Letta, who met President Giorgio Napolitano on Friday, would go before parliament in the next few days to seek backing to continue.

After two days of mounting tension and with financial markets on edge, Letta met ministers in a last-ditch bid to secure approval for additional budget measures needed to bring Italy's deficit within European Union limits.

The meeting was also intended to satisfy a key demand of the centre-right and avert the sales tax from rising to 22 percent, from 21 percent. The tax increase was passed by the previous government of Mario Monti and rates are due to rise on Tuesday.

However with the meeting still in progress, officials made clear that no deal could be reached.

Reuters

Pakistan quake death toll reaches 515, insurgents hamper aid efforts

ARAWAN, (Pakistan), 28 Sept—The death toll from an earthquake in southwestern Pakistan has reached 515, a provincial official said on Friday, as insurgent attacks threaten relief efforts and survivors complain of lack of shelter from the scorching sun.

Babar Yaqoob, the Chief Secretary of Baluchistan, gave the updated death toll as he toured the destroyed region of Awaran, where the 7.7

magnitude quake struck on Tuesday.

Bodies were still being discovered in houses whose mud walls and wooden roof beams had collapsed.

"My daughter was killed when my house collapsed — I was also inside my house but manage to run out," said 70-year-old Gul January "We are sitting under the scorching sun and need shelter."

In Labash village near Awaran, more than half of

the 3,000 houses have collapsed and those still standing have wide cracks.

"Everywhere we go people are asking for tents," legislator Abdul Qadeer Baloch said.

The arid area is also a stronghold of separatist Baluch insurgents, who have twice shot at helicopters carrying military officials in charge of responding to the disaster.

On Thursday, two rockets narrowly missed the helicopter carrying the general in charge of the National Disaster Management Agency and on Friday shots were fired at two helicopters carrying aid, the military said.

"There is a law and order situation here and other hurdles but despite everything, we will get to every last person," said Lt Gen Nasir Janjua, the highest ranking military official in the province. Aid must travel by pitted roads that cut through mountains held by the insurgents.

Reuters



Survivors of an earthquake prepare to fix makeshift tents for shelter near the rubble of a mud house after it collapsed following the quake at Dhallbedi Peernder village in Awaran District, southwestern Pakistani province of Baluchistan, on 27 Sept, 2013.

REUTERS

Senegal seeks French, Chinese help as water crisis hits capital



People carry containers of water from a communal source in Senegal's capital Dakar on 27 Sept, 2013.

REUTERS

DAKAR, 28 Sept—Senegal has appealed to France and China for help to repair damage to a water pipeline that has deprived much of the capital of running water for two weeks, triggering pockets of violent protests.

President Macky Sall cut short his visit to New York for the UN General Assembly this week to tackle the crisis, which is the most serious since he came to power last year and has highlighted pressures on basic services in the country.

"The president of the republic has called on his French counterpart Francois Holland and teams of

experts will be sent in to bring technical assistance," Senegalese Prime Minister Aminata Toure said on state television late on Thursday.

"China will also send experts to find out what the problem is and bring its know-how," Toure added.

The appeal for international help follows repeated local efforts over the last two weeks to repair a pipeline carrying water to Dakar from a water plant at Keur Momar Sarr, 250 km (155 miles) to the northeast.

The plant supplies 40 percent of the water for the estimated 3 million people that live in Dakar and its suburbs.

Senegalese engineers have tried and failed to repair the damage several times. The water supply company says the underground pipeline was damaged by wear and tear, though some experts have questioned whether it was maintained properly.

Unlike many other countries in the region, Sen-

egal has enjoyed decades of political stability and Dakar has become a major regional hub for West Africa.

However, the government has struggled to keep up with rapid urbanization and the water shortages have brought to the fore simmering frustrations, especially in poor neighbourhoods.—Reuters

Court rules denying prisoners voting right unconstitutional

OSAKA, 28 Sept—The Osaka High Court has ruled that denying prisoners the right to vote in a public election is unconstitutional, in the first judgment on the Public Offices Election Law's provision restricting franchise for those serving time. The lawsuit was filed by Hiroshi Inagaki, 69, who was locked in Shiga Prison between March and November of 2010 for staging a demonstration without authorization in a Road Traffic Law violation and could not vote in an upper house election on 11 July that year.

Article 11 of the election law denies a person sentenced to imprisonment or a graver form of pen-

alty the right to vote or be elected until the sentence is served. After serving his time, Inagaki sued the state, seeking 10 million yen in compensation, saying he suffered mentally. While the provision was ruled unconstitutional, the high court on Friday rejected his demand for compensation.

The court said the state cannot be held responsible for not eliminating the provision, saying there was not enough public debate on the matter while he was in prison. The state argued at the high court that "prisoners substantially lack law-abiding spirit and it cannot be expected that they fairly exercise the right to vote."

Kyodo News

US internal watchdog finds NSA workers spied on significant others

WASHINGTON, 28 Sept—At least a dozen US National Security Agency employees have abused secret surveillance programmes in the past decade, most often to spy on their significant others, according to the latest findings of the agency's internal watchdog. In a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee's top Republican, Charles Grassley, NSA Inspector General George Ellard outlined 12 instances of "intentional misuse" of the agency's intelligence gathering programmes since January 1, 2003.

Grassley had asked the NSA internal watchdog to report on "intentional and wilful" abuse of the NSA surveillance authority as

public concerns mount over the vast scope of the US government's spying programme.

The agency's operations have come under intense scrutiny since disclosures this spring by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden that the US government collects far more Internet and telephone data than previously publicly known. Many members of Congress and administration officials staunchly defend the NSA surveillance programmes as a critical defence tool against terrorist attacks, but privacy advocates say the spying agency's authority has grown to be too sweeping.—Reuters



An undated aerial handout photo shows the National Security Agency (NSA) headquarters building in Fort Meade, Maryland.—REUTERS

LOCAL NEWS

Business

Stipends granted to offspring of WVO members in Twantay

TWANTAY, 28 Sept— Ceremony to grant stipends to members of War Veterans Organization in Twantay Township in Yangon Region was held on 22 September.

Chairman of Township War Veterans Organization

Captain Mya Thaug Retd and officials presented stipends to offspring of War Veterans Organization.

The amount of stipends provided to the students was K 1,500,000.

MMAL-Myo Hlaing (Twantay)



International KBZ Insurance opens Shan State HQ

TAUNGGYI, 28 Sept— International Kanbawza Insurance opened its Shan State Headquarters in Bogyoke Aung San street in Taunggyi in Shan State yesterday morning.

Present were Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Mya t, Chairman of International Kanbawza Insurance U Aung Ko Win, Insurance Industry Supervisory

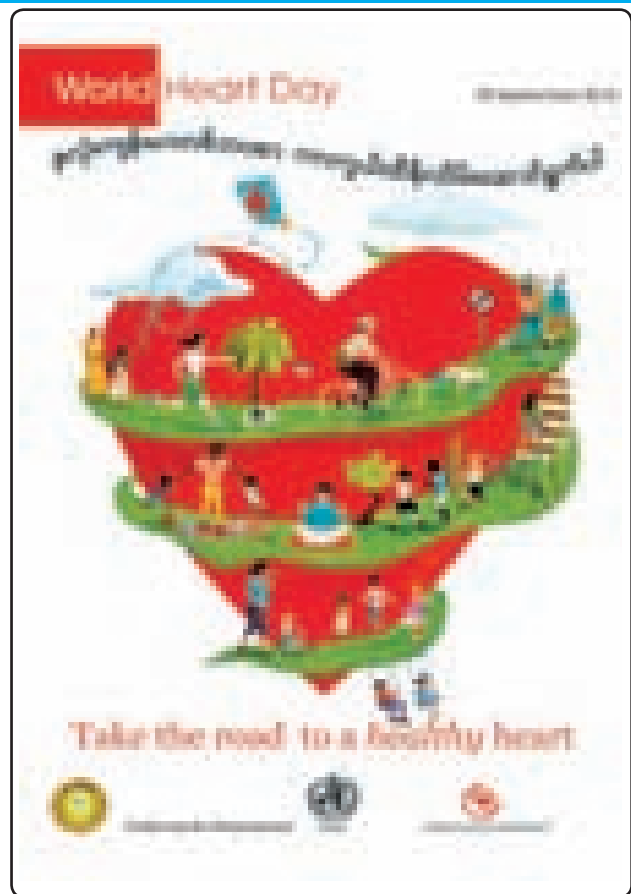
Committee Myanmar Insurance Managing Director U Aye Min Thein and party, departmental personnel, entrepreneurs, insurance agents and guests.

International Kanbawza Insurance is one of nine licensed insurance firms.

It launched the insurance works in Yangon on 12 September and opened upper Myanmar office in Mandalay on 24 September.

Managing Director U Nyo Myint of International Kanbawza Insurance said the insurance industry would profit the state by covering damages and losses.

MMAL-Maung Thin Pyant



Anti-Human Trafficking

Trafficked victims back home

MONYWA, 28 Sept— Myanmar Police Force rescued four Myanmar women from human traffickers on the way to Bangkok of Thailand and transferred them to their parents in a meeting at Sagaing Region Police Force office on 25 September, according to Commander of Sagaing Region Police Force Col Nay Dun.

Four girls of Chinpone village in Yinmabin Township gave K 400,000 to two self-acclaimed employment agents on 11 July who promised the job in Thailand and would refund twice if they failed to find a job there.

They were sent to Bangkok and locked in a room. One of the victims phoned their parents in

Myanmar, giving the address and phone number of the room they were locked.

The trafficking victims were rescued in time in cooperation with international anti-human trafficking squads under the

supervision of the Chief of Myanmar Police Force. They were received at Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge by Myawady In-charge of Myanmar Anti-Human Trafficking Squad Police Major Aung Htay.

On behalf of the Myanmar Police Force, Sagaing Region Police Force Commander Police Col Nay Dun handed over the victims to their families and relatives.

MMAL-Kyu In



Myanmar-Laos border committee meeting held in Tachilek

TACHILEK, 28 Sept— The Myanmar-Laos Border Committee held a meeting at the hall of the committee in Tachilek Station on 15 September.

The Laotian delegation led by Chairman of the Border Committee Col Faththai Phouthavong arrived at Wampon Port by boat to attend the meeting. They were welcomed by Col Thaug Htaik Shwe, Tactical Operations Commander of Tachilek (Base) of Triangle Region Command and officials.

The meeting was held at the guest house in the station in Tachilek at 1 pm.

It was attended by Chairman of the Regional Border Committee Tachilek based Tactical Operations Commander Col Thaug Htaik Shwe, Director U Soe Lin Han of Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Commander of Shan State Police Force Lt-Col Kyaw Tun, Assistant Judge Advocate-General Lt-Col Thant Zaw, Head of Division-2 U Sithu Aung of

Consular and Legal Affairs Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Captain Zin Min Tun, G-III of Tactical Operations Command (Tachilek), Staff Officer U Myo Thet Aung of Tachilek District General Administration Department and Head of Branch-II Daw Khin La Pyae Tun of Political Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Laos delegation comprised 10 members.

The meeting continued on 16 September.

MMAL-La/015

Kalay University to get convocation

KALAY, 28 Sept— Kalay in Sagaing Region has three universities—University of Computer Studies, Technological University and Kalay University. Kalay University was upgraded from Kalay Degree College in 14 May 2003. It started as Kalay College in 1993 and then upgraded to the degree college in 1999.

Kalay University is providing higher education to the students in Kalay, Kalewa, Mingin, Tamu and Mawlaik Townships in Sagaing Region and Falam, Haka, Thantlang, Tiddim, Tunzang, Reed and Kyikha Townships in Chin State.

More than 4500 students are attending classes at the university, turning out more than 1000 graduates a year.

It has already held its seventh convocation this year. Convocations are held on the lawns of the university. The government has funded K 1159 million for the construction of the new convocation. The government is also building a new three-storey facility for the university.

The estimated cost of the construction is K 1996.9 million. The new convocation will have the length of 206 ft and the width of 184 ft and the lecture hall will have the length of 192 ft and the width of 18 ft.

The government is also planning to add one indoor stadium, two storey library and a stadium.

MMAL-Ju Nine

Railroad needs to be repaired in Indaw Township

INDAW, 28 Sept— Acting on a tip-off by a responsible citizen, authorities repaired a railroad near Nankin village between Indaw railway station and Hseywa station on Mandalay-Myitkyina road in Indaw Township

in Sagaing Region on 3 September.

Another damage was found on the same railroad on 24 September and has been repaired by the authorities immediately.

MMAL-Ko Min-Indaw



Trainees of CICS visit ISPE (Mdy)

MANDALAY, 28 Sept— Trainees of Special Refresher Course No 53 of the Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) visited Institute of Sports

and Physical Education in Mandalay on 23 September afternoon.

Deputy Principal of the institute U Myint Naing extended greetings. Athletes

demonstrated their skills in respective sports.

The trainees donated K 100,000 to the fund of the institute.

Kyemon-Kyaw Thiha

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 29 September, 2013

Healthy heart for happy life

World Heart Day takes place on the last Sunday of September each year, aiming at heightening awareness about the prevailing risks of heart disorders which are the leading cause of death among people across the globe. According to statistics based globally, the number of annual deaths caused by heart diseases is on a constant rise, claiming around 17.3 million lives in 2008 and predicting that it would be as high as 23 million by 2030.

The goal of this year's World Heart Day is to stress the importance of a life-course approach towards the prevention and control of cardiovascular disease (CVD) with special emphasis on the health of women and children. It is because the health of women and children tend to have a higher impact on the overall health of the society.

Cardiovascular diseases caused by disorders of the heart and blood vessels are number one cause of death in the world. Of people died of CVDs in 2008, estimated 7.3 million were due to heart attack and 6.2 million, stroke.

Today, the risk of developing the heart diseases can be minimized by keeping strict adherence to simple health tips — watch your weight, make healthy food choices and live an active life. The campaign of adopting heart-healthy lifestyle

from childhood throughout adulthood highlights precautions such as eating a healthy diet low in the amount of salt, saturated fats and bad cholesterol, taking regular physical activity and avoiding tobacco and harmful use of alcohol to be taken through a person's life to prevent or, at least, lower their own and family's risk of developing heart diseases.

Healthy children lead to healthy adults and healthy adults lead to healthy families and communities. So, we would like to call on you to take above-mentioned healthy habits today, World Heart Day, in order to protect your own heart and encourage your friends and families to develop heart-healthy living for their hearts too. Don't be a victim of heart attack and stroke, protect yourself.

NATIONAL

Lasting peace will be achieved only through political dialogue



Mon Nation Conference in progress in Mawlamyine of Mon State.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Sept — Mon Nation Conference took place at Mon State Hall in Mawlamyine this morning, attended by Union Minister U Aung Min, Vice-Chairman of Union Peace-making Work Committee Union Minister U Ohn Myint, Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint and state ministers, leaders of political parties, leaders and representatives of national race armed groups who had agreed a ceasefire, leaders of civil societies and officials.

In his opening address at the conference, New Mon State Party Chairman Naing Htaw Mon called for collective efforts to bring peace and prosperity to Mon State.

Union Minister U Aung Min said both parties have agreed principally to hold Union-level peace talks between the government and KIO in Myitkyina at the end of the first week of October. Up to date, state-level and Union-level agreements, numbering 37, have been made with 14 nosn-state

armed groups and negotiations with remaining groups are in progress, he added.

The government understands that peace process is a continuing process of holding a series of negotiations. He underscored the importance of political dialogue that will bring about a lasting peace, understanding that process of making effort to reach ceasefire is part of the whole process.

Although some conflicts have still remained in the more than two-year long peace-making process, now is the time to step into the next level, National Dialogue, as some positive outcomes have emerged, he added.

He made a vow to bring all 16 groups to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement and no group is left behind. It is planned to carry on it at the end of October this year, he said.

Nationwide ceasefire agreement will lead to the political dialogue. In the interim, formulation of political dialogue framework

for the political dialogue will be carried out in coordination with national race

5th International Conference on Public Health among GMS opened

YANGON, 28 Sept— The opening of 5th International Conference on Public Health among GMS, jointly organized by Medical Science Department, University of Public Health (Yangon) under the Ministry of Health, WHO and China Medical Board, took place at National Theatre on Myomakyaung Street, here, this morning. At the ceremony, Rector Dr Nay Soe Maung of the University extended greetings.

Union Minister Dr Pe Thet Khin in his speech said that the conference will bring opportunity for enhancing health standard of the respective countries. He continued that health plans of the country go along by drawing health policies based on research data. The conference is meant to improve issues related to research in GMS

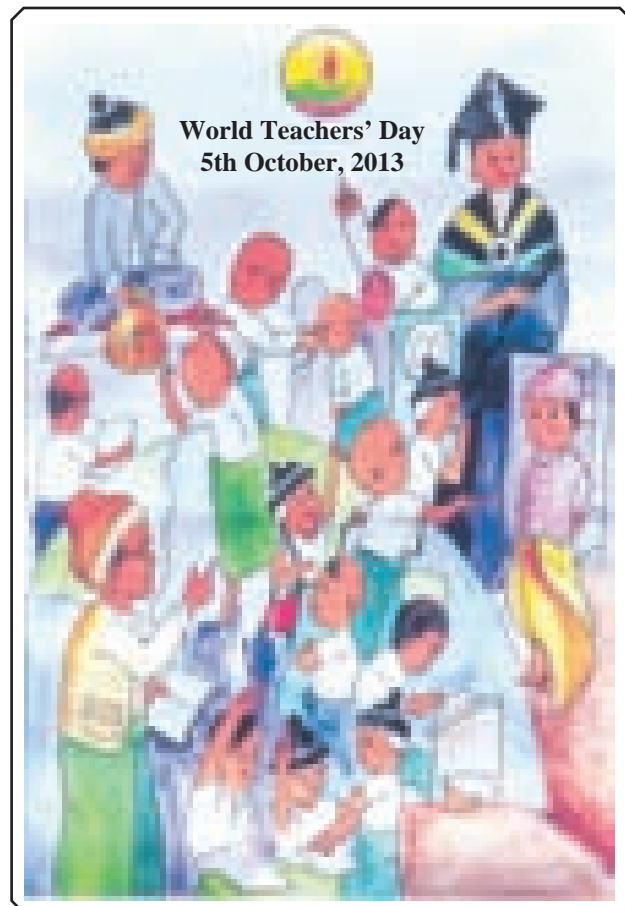
groups and it is planned to formulate the framework in November or December with the participation of the government, Tatmadaw, the parliament, national races, armed groups that had agreed a ceasefire and political parties.

Next, the state chief minister gave an account of ongoing tasks for the development of Mon State.

Then, Dr Min Kyi Win, Chairman of Mon National Conference organizing committee, explained the aims of the conference and follow-up tasks.

Afterwards, the Union ministers, the chief minister and those present posed for documentary photos.

MNA



countries. The ministry is doing research in cooperation with GMS and other countries, he added.

Then, China Medical Board President Dr Lincoln C Chen extended greetings.

Conference on Public

Health among GMS is annually held in GMS countries and it is the fifth of its kind.

The representatives from GMS countries Cambodia, China, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam and Myanmar and delegates from

WHO, CMB, INGOs and IGOs will attend the conference.

The conference will discuss public health and difficulties and technological challenges in modern age and read 139 papers.

MNA



Photo shows ceremony to mark 5th International Conference on Public Health among GMS.—MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Construction

Tatmadawmen, people join hands in construction of roads

Mawlu, 28 Sept— Servicemen of local battalion and local people participated in construction of the roads in Paygon Village of Manhe Village-tract in Mawlu region of Indaw Township in Saga-

ing Region from 25 to 27 September.

Under the patronage of Sayadaw Bhaddanta Çarinda of the monastery in Paygon Village, village administrator U Thaung Shwe, members of Ponnya Mamaka Social Organization, members of Tatmadaw and local people constructed the road with the use of 300 vehicles of sand and gravel.

They placed sand and gravels on Phone-dawgyikyaung Street, Station Street, Ywamagyi Road, No. 1 Kwetthit road, Lanmadaw Street and a concrete bridge.

Kyemon-Ni Toe

Retaining walls collapse at bridge on Shwebo-Myitkyina Road in heavy rain

INDAW, 28 Sept—The retaining walls of a small bridge collapsed on Shwebo-Myitkyina strategic road in Paygon Village of Indaw Township in Katha District of Sagaing Region at 6 am on 26 September.

The heavy rains caused collapse of the retaining walls of the bridge No 4/168 near Basic Education Middle School in Paygon Village on 25 September.

Thus, the trucks and local people faced difficulty

of transportation.

Indaw Township Administrator U Ye Min Aung, Paygon Village Administrator U Thaung Shwe, members of village supportive committee and officials of Township Pub-

lic Works inspected the damages in retaining walls of the bridge.

The bridge is to be repaired for avoiding traffic jams for convenience of local people and students.

Kyemon-Ni Toe



Business

Soft interest loans disbursed to SME industries in Sagaing Township



SAGAING, 28 Sept— Under the supervision of District and Township Management Committees, and District and Township rural region SME committee, the rural region development and poverty alleviation committee of Sagaing Region disbursed K 81.4 million to 128 entrepreneurs of SME industries from 16 wards and villages on 26 September.

The loan was disbursed to weaving industries, dairy products industries, guitar industry and marble bead industries from villages of Sagaing Township.

The loans were presented to the industries through one village, one products scheme.

Speaking on the occasion, Head of District Trade Promotion Department of Sagaing District U Kyaw Win said that loans were shared to the SME entrepreneurs with the contract signed by the village-tract administrator, the chairman of work group and borrowers.

The local entrepreneurs are pleased for disbursement of loans through soft interest.

Kyemon-Nanda Min Lwin

Talks on taxation held in ChaungU



CHAUNGU, 28 Sept— The talks on taxation was held at the hall of ChaungU Township General Administration Department in Sagaing Region on 26 September.

Chairman of the Township Development Affairs Committee U Kyaw Myint Thein and Township Education Officer U Than Htay

Maung made speeches on the occasion.

Staff Officer Daw Nwe Nwe Oo of Township Internal Revenue Department explained income tax and commercial tax and replied to queries.

Also present at the talks were entrepreneurs from ChaungU Township and guests.

Kyemon-Township IPRD

Police Affairs

Blood donated at Pathein General Hospital

PATHEIN, 28 Sept—As a gesture of hailing the Myanmar Police Force Day 2013, policemen donated blood at the general hospital in Pathein of Ayeyawady Region on 26 September.

It was attended by Police Lt-Col Soe Win of Regional Police Force Office, Medical Superintendent Dr Khin San Nwe and staff of

Pathein General Hospital, Commander of Pathein Township Police Force Police Major Kyaw Soe and policemen.

At the ceremony, Police Lt-Col Soe Win and officials viewed preparations for donating blood of policemen.

Kyemon-Pathein District IPRD



Trade

Myanmar, Thai merchants meet in Ranong

KAWTHOUNG, 28 Sept—A informal meeting between merchants of Kawthoung (Myanmar) and Ranong (Thailand) was held at Heritage Grand Convention Ranong in Ranong of Thailand on 16 September morning.

It was attended by officials and merchants of Kawthoung (Myanmar) and Ranong (Thailand), entrepreneurs of tourism

companies, hotels, agricultural and industrial companies.

At the meeting, they discussed regional trade between the two countries,

tourism industry, trade, and bilateral investments in agriculture and livestock breeding tasks.

Kyemon-Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)



Fertilizers provided to farmers free of charge

HOPIN, 28 Sept—A ceremony to present Urea fertilizers to the local farmers free of charge was held at the Dhammayon of Myenu Village in Myothitgale Village-tract in Hopin Sub-Township of Kachin State on 26 September.

The farmers were needy for inputs of their farmlands.

Officials of Mohnyin Township Pyithu Hluttaw Office presented fertilizers to 20 farmers from eight village-tracts and two wards.

Mohnyin Township

Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Sai Tin Aung, Deputy Commissioner of the district U Aung Soe Moe made speeches. Next, the

Pyithu Hluttaw representative and the deputy commissioner donated K 50,000 to needy older persons.

Kyemon-Township IPRD



WORLD

Gambian president says gays a threat to human existence

UNITED NATIONS, 28 Sept—Gambia's president warned the United Nations General Assembly on Friday that gays were a threat to human existence, along with excessive greed and obsession with world domination, and criticized other countries for regarding homosexuality as a human right.

"Those who promote homosexuality want to put an end to human existence," Gambian President Yahya Jammeh told the gathering of world leaders in New York. "It is becoming an

epidemic and we Muslims and Africans will fight to end this behaviour.

"Homosexuality in all its forms and manifestations which, though very evil, antihuman as well as anti-Allah, is being promoted as a human right by some powers," said Jammeh, who is accused by activists of human rights abuses during his rule.

Jammeh came to power in the West African country in a bloodless military coup in 1994. One of Africa's more controversial rulers, Jammeh said in 2007



Gambian President Yahya Jammeh addresses the 68th United Nations General Assembly at UN headquarters in New York, on 27 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

he had found a remedy of boiled herbs to cure AIDS, stirring anger among experts who said he was giving false hope to the sick.

Andre Banks, executive director of global gay rights group All Out, said

Jammeh's remarks were "paranoid and disturbing." "In his list of the world's greatest threats, the President left one out - intolerance," Banks said in a statement.

Reuters

Eight held over Nairobi mall attack, al Shabaab issues new threat



Wreckages of vehicles are seen within the destruction at the Westgate Shopping Centre in Nairobi, following a string of explosions during a stand-off between Kenyan security forces and gunmen inside the building in this handout picture provided by the Presidential Strategic Communications Unit on 26 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

NAIROBI, 28 Sept—Kenyan authorities are holding eight people in connection with an attack by Islamist militants on a Nairobi shopping mall and

have released three others after the assault that killed 67 civilians and soldiers, the interior minister said on Friday.

Somali Islamist group

al Shabaab said Saturday's attack, which ended after a four-day siege by soldiers and police, was "just the premiere of Act 1" and suggested it would be followed by other actions by its "warriors".

As the police investigation advanced, a leading Muslim cleric urged security forces to avoid harassing Muslims in their pursuit of those responsible.

Investigators trying to determine the identity of the attackers were making "good progress" in their search through the rubble of the mall where three floors collapsed after a series of blasts and a huge blaze, Interior Minister Joseph Ole Lenku said.

Five of the attackers were killed, he said, but survivors of attack have said some may have escaped. "Police are holding eight suspects as they seek to unmask the face behind the terror attack. Three others were interrogated and released," Ole Lenku told a news briefing.

Kenyan officials have said they are investigating a theory that the Islamists may have hired a shop in the mall before the assault to store weaponry, including a heavy machine gun.

Reuters

At least three killed in explosion at Paris work site

PARIS, 28 Sept—At least three people were killed on Friday in a large explosion on a work site in central Paris which the fire brigade said was likely an accident caused by a fuel tank igniting.

The blast on a narrow street in northern Paris ripped through an underground garage where several workers were gathered, causing surrounding buildings to shake.

A building across from the blast site had been evacuated and the fire brigade was reinforcing its foundations to avoid collapse, a fireman said.

A fuel tank was the most likely cause of the blast, he added. Rescuers were using dogs to search

for a possible fourth victim under rubble.

"The circumstances of this tragedy are not yet clear and an investigation

will shed light on this terrible accident," Paris Mayor Bertrand Delanoë said in a statement.

Reuters



Policemen, firefighters and medical workers work at the site of an explosion in central Paris, on 27 Sept, 2013.

At least three people were killed in the explosion that took place at a garage and another was seriously injured, according to local channel BFMTV's report. The reason for the blase is still unknown.—XINHUA

Bus blast kills 17 government employees in northwest Pakistan

PESHAWAR, 28 Sept—At least 17 people were killed on Friday when a remote-controlled bomb exploded on a bus carrying government officials in the Pakistani city of Peshawar, officials said.

The attack took place on a main road in Peshawar, near the frontier tribal areas of the northwest where Islamist militants have their strongholds.

A spokesman for Ansar al Mujahideen, a group allied to but not part of the Pakistani Taleban, claimed responsibility for the blast. Abu Baseer said that the attack was in retaliation for US drone strikes.

Islamist violence has been on the rise in Pakistan in recent months, undermining Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's efforts to tame the insurgency by



People stand near the damaged bus after it was hit by a bomb attack in the outskirts of Peshawar on 27 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

"We have so far received 17 bodies," said the spokesman for the Lady Reading Hospital. "There were several people on the roof of the bus, which was full, so we expect the death toll to rise." The bus was carrying employees of the civil secretariat, said po-

launching peace talks with the Pakistani Taleban. Last week, two suicide bombers blew themselves up outside a 130-year-old Anglican church in Peshawar, killing at least 81 people in the deadliest attack on Christians in the predominantly Muslim country.—Reuters

US FHA to tap 1.7 billion dollars from Treasury

WASHINGTON, 28 Sept—US Federal Housing Administration (FHA) said on Friday it would tap 1.7 billion dollars from the US Department of Treasury at the end of this month to cover its losses in a mortgage programme.

The agency has about 30 billion dollars in liquid assets on hand and needs more money because it is required by law to keep

enough reserves to cover all expected future losses for the next 30 years, FHA Commissioner Carole Galante told the Senate banking committee in a letter.

The shortfall was mainly driven by 5 billion dollars in losses in the agency's Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM), which allows seniors to withdraw equity from their homes,

according to the FHA.

This is the first time for the FHA to draw taxpayer funds since it was established in 1934. But Galante said the required mandatory appropriation didn't accurately reflect the health of the agency's finance and updated data and economic forecasts in the next few months would paint a clear picture of the agency's financial position.—Xinhua

Firefight kills two Afghan Taleban, wounds two police

LASHKAR GAH, (Afghanistan), 28 Sept—Two Taleban insurgents were killed and two police sustained injuries as conflict erupted in Marja District of the southern Helmand Province early Friday, a local official said.

"A group of Taleban rebels attacked a police

checkpoint in Marja District early today morning and police returned fire killing two rebels on the spot, forcing others to flee," spokesman for Helmand's governor, Omar Zawak told Xinhua.

He also confirmed that two police constables sustained injuries in the firefight

which lasted for a while.

Meantime, Qari Yusuf Ahmadi, who claims to speak for the Taleban outfit, confirmed the conflict in talks with media via telephone from unknown location, insisting five police were killed in the clash, a claim denied by Zawak as groundless.—Xinhua

REGIONAL

India's Rahul Gandhi slams move to shield convicted politicians

NEW DELHI, 28 Sept — India's Nehru-Gandhi dynasty scion Rahul Gandhi on Friday slammed a cabinet move to protect politicians found guilty of crimes, embarrassing the government led by his own party just months from a general election. About 30 percent of lawmakers across federal and state assemblies have criminal charges against them.

The government has come under fire since it passed an order this week that could allow convicted lawmakers to continue to hold office and stand in elections. Critics say the move was designed to

shield allies that Gandhi's Congress party may need to form a ruling coalition after elections due by next May.

A contender for prime minister if Congress returns to power, the normally publicity-shy Gandhi called a news conference to lambast the ordinance passed on Tuesday by a government that has been dogged for years by corruption scandals.

"My opinion on the ordinance is that it's complete nonsense and it should be torn up and thrown out," he said. "I feel, personally feel, that what our government has done as far as this ordinance is concerned is

wrong."

Gandhi's rare public utterances mean that there is huge interest in what he says when he does speak. Little is known about what the 43-year-old thinks about important issues of the day and what he would do if he were to become prime minister.

His father, grandmother and great-grandfather were prime ministers and his mother, Sonia Gandhi, who is head of the Congress party, is arguably India's most powerful politician.

The Congress party appointed him as its vice president this year to boost his profile. But he has been



Rahul Gandhi, a lawmaker and son of India's ruling Congress party chief Sonia Gandhi, speaks during the 2013 annual general meeting and national conference of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in New Delhi on 4 April, 2013.—REUTERS

eclipsed by Narendra Modi, a charismatic pro-business leader who is now the prime ministerial candidate of the opposition Bhartiya Janata Party.

Commentators on Indian TV news channels said

Rahul Gandhi may have stepped into the convicted politicians debate to distance himself from Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his corruption-tainted cabinet ahead of the election.—Reuters

Flooding leaves 22 dead in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 28 Sept — Rainy season flooding in Cambodia has killed 22 people, most of them children, since last month, a spokesman for the country's disaster management body said on Friday.

Keo Vy, spokesman of the National Committee for Disaster Management, told *Kyodo News* that 22 Cambodians, 12 of them were under 15 years old, died by drowning or other causes due to flooding in the five provinces of Udor Meanchey, Kompong Cham, Kratie, Stung Treng and Ratanakiri.

Three of the provinces are located along the Mekong River.

He said 56,838 families were affected, while 30,442 houses, 136 schools and 82 pagodas were flooded, as were more than 32,000 hectares of paddy fields.

Cambodia's rainy season lasts from May through October and flooding during that period is a common occurrence.

Kyodo News

Private-sector salaries drop again, part-timers get 3 m yen less

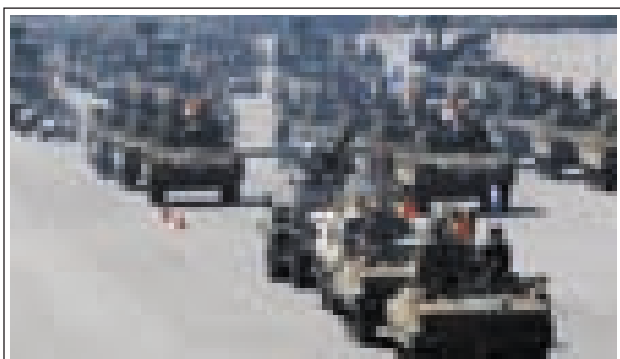
TOKYO, 28 Sept — Workers at private-sector companies received an average 4.08 million yen in annual salary in 2012, marking a fall of 10,000 yen from a year earlier for the second straight year of drop and a decrease of around 590,000 yen from a peak of 4.67 million yen in 1997, according to the National Tax Agency's annual

survey released on Friday. The agency said non-regular workers including part-timers, manpower agency-dispatched workers and fixed-term contractors got 1.68 million yen, 3 million yen less than regular workers. The agency checked data in these two categories of workers for the first time.

Salaried income earners who worked for the en-

tire year dropped 100,000 to 45.56 million. Non-regular workers were 9.88 million.

While salaries paid to all the workers totaled 185.85 trillion yen, down 0.5 percent, income tax withheld from salary earners at source dropped 255.2 billion yen, or 3.4 percent, from a year earlier to 7.30 trillion yen, the agency said.—*Kyodo News*



South Korean soldiers attend during a rehearsal for the Armed Forces Day at the Sunnam military airport, south of Seoul, South Korea, on 27 Sept, 2013. South Korea will celebrate its Armed Forces Day on 1 Oct.—XINHUA

Philippine troops rescue last hostages, kill 15 rebels

MANILA, 28 Sept — Philippine forces said on Friday they had rescued the last civilians held by Muslim rebels on a southern island after nearly three weeks of fighting that has raised doubts about government efforts to end decades-old insurgencies.

Hundreds of members of a Muslim rebel faction, angered by a pact struck with the main Muslim rebel group, marched into Zamboanga City on 9 Sept. They took hundreds of hostages and began battling the security forces.

The violence has sat uncomfortably with the new-found reputation of the Christian-majority country as an emerging market success and one of Asia's fastest-growing economies.

About 200 people, including 166 rebels, have been killed and more than 100,000 residents of the port city on the main southern island of Mindanao were displaced.

Fifteen members of the breakaway faction of the separatist Moro Na-

tional liberation Front (MNLF) were killed in a Thursday night clash, an army spokesman said. "We have secured the last six hostages," the spokesman, Lieutenant-Colonel Ramon Zagala, told a new conference in Zamboanga.

"We were told these were the last group of people held by the rebels. We now have accounted for 195 hostages."

About 300 of the gun-

men had surrendered or been captured, Zagala said.

But the city is not fully secure. There was sporadic gunfire on Friday and two powerful explosions were heard in areas where US-trained commandos were doing house-to-house searches, Zagala said.

The violence could make investors think twice before venturing into the poor but resource-rich south, which has untapped

deposits of oil, gas and minerals. It has also raised questions about the government's ability to handle such challenges to its authority.

"I think the entire affair has been an embarrassment for the government: an armed band of thugs taking over parts of a major urban centre for nearly three weeks," Richard Jacobson of the security consultancy Pacific Strategies and Assessments (PS&A) told *Reuters*.—*Reuters*



Smoke billows as stilt houses burn in fires caused by fighting between government soldiers and Muslim rebels of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in the outskirts of Zamboanga city, in southern Philippines on 27 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS



File photo shows a train crash at an apartment building after a derailment in Amagasaki, Hyogo Prefecture, on 25 April, 2005, in which 107 people were killed. On 27 Sept, 2013, the Kobe District Court found three former heads of West Japan Railway Co not guilty over the derailment. KYODO NEWS

Shogakukan establishes Singapore subsidiary to publish in Asia

TOKYO, 28 Sept — Shogakukan Inc has established a subsidiary in Singapore aiming to publish its study guides and comics, including the popular "Doraemon," throughout Asia under its own name, the Japanese publisher said on Friday.

Shogakukan Asia Pte. Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary, was established on 18 Sept. It plans to publish

in English and a range of other languages, targeting consumers in Southeast Asian markets with a view to eventually expanding into Oceania and South Asia.

Its immediate plan is to publish comics and picture books in English, primarily in Singapore.

"In this region with its high educational requirements, we want to provide

materials that improve children's proficiency through study and more," Shogakukan Asia President Bunsho Kajiyama told reporters.

Shogakukan has group publishing companies in the United States, Europe, China and Taipei, and joint publishing agreements with companies in other regions.

Kyodo News

Ministry of Information

Myanmar Radio and Television (Yangon)

Invitation to open tender to sell machinery

1. Open tenders are invited as a total of 29 related items of radio and TV will be sold at Yeku transmission station of Myanmar Radio and Television (Yangon) of Ministry of Information.

2. Open tender forms and disciplines are available at 2000 Kyats per copy at Myanmar Radio and Television (Yangon) from 09:30 hr to 16:30 hr during office hours from 25-9-2013 to 30-9-2013.

3. Open tender forms are to be submitted in the presence of members of the Tender Board at Myanmar Radio and Television (Yangon), not later than 16:30 hr on 4-10-2013. Overdue tender forms will not be considered.

4. Those wishing to purchase may view 29 radio and TV accessories at Yeku transmission station (Yangon) on 28-9-2013 and 29-9-2013.

5. The disciplines of open tender forms, list of machines and detailed information are available at the following address.

Open Tender Verification Committee
Myanmar Radio and Television (Yangon)

Pyay Road
Ph:01-535980, 01-660301

Turkey issues security alert on PKK militants' jailbreak

ANKARA, 28 Sept—Turkey has issued a security alert for prisons nationwide with members of the banned Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) detained after 18 PKK militants broke out of a prison on Wednesday, an official statement said on Friday.

The statement, issued by the Ministry of Justice's General Directorate of Penalties and Prisons, underlined that the authorities should take additional security steps in prisons to prevent further jailbreak.

"The wing, yard, kitchen, stairwell and areas beneath wardrobes and beds, as well as places where the prisoners spend most of their time, should be carefully examined," read the statement, adding that any spot that a tunnel could run

beneath should be carefully examined as well.

On Wednesday, 18 PKK inmates broke out of the prison through a tunnel they dug in the eastern Turkish province of Bingol.

Seventeen of them have been caught en route to a PKK shelter and one remains on the run. About 2,000 Turkish gendarme forces have participated in the operation to recapture the escapees.

The PKK, listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey and part of the international community, took up arms in 1984 in an attempt to create an ethnic homeland in southeastern Turkey. Since then, over 40,000 people have been killed in conflicts involving the group.

Xinhua



Lin Yilun, a star singer, shows the pictures drawn by autistic children during an activity of the Beijing Design Week 2013, at the Summer Palace in Beijing, capital of China, on 27 Sept, 2013. 15 autistic children were invited to visit the Summer Palace and draw pictures of the giant yellow rubber duck in their mind.—XINHUA

Ministry of Information

Myanmar Radio and Television

Invitation to open tender to purchase machinery

1 Open tenders are invited to purchase the following machinery (in kyats) for Myanmar Radio and Television of Ministry of Information.

1. 50W TV Transmitter & Accessories	3 Lots
2. Broadcasting equipment	29 Items
3. (a). Equipment for Television	25 Items
(b). Tape & Disc	1 Lot
(c). HD Camera & Accessories	10 Sets
4. Machines for office	10 Items

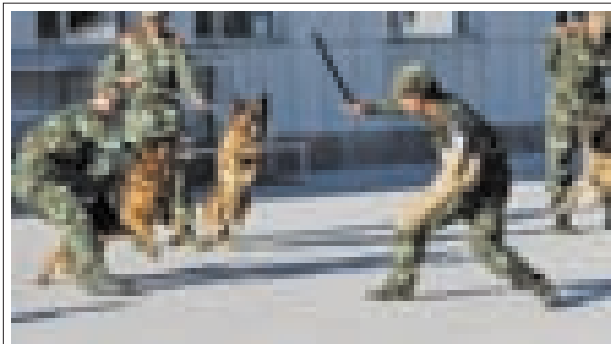
2 Open tender forms may be drawn from Myanmar Radio and Television, Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon), from (09:30) hr to (16:30) hr during the office days as of 4-10-2013.

3 Open tender forms are to be submitted in the presence of members of the Tender Board at Myanmar Radio and Television, Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon), from 09:00 hr to 16:30 hr on 16-10-2013. Overdue tender forms will not be considered.

4 Disciplines for the open tender forms, list of machines and detailed information are available at the following address.

5. Verification of purchasing items' quality and price will be held at Office No.7, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw.

Purchasing Committee
Myanmar Radio and Television
Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon)
Ministry of Information
Ph:067-79079, 79135



Handlers train dogs at a police dog training base of the Machuanzi Frontier Inspection Station in Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture, northeast China's Jilin Province, on 27 Sept, 2013. Over 20 dogs serve at the police dog unit of Yanbian, responsible for sniffing out explosives and drugs.—XINHUA

UN chief saddened by death of peacekeeper in eastern DRC

UNITED NATIONS, 28 Sept—UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday expressed his sadness at the death of a Tanzanian peacekeeper who was wounded during clashes in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

According to a statement issued here by Ban's spokesperson, the peacekeeper was wounded last month when the M23 rebel military group directed artillery fire on a UN position close to Kibati heights, north of Goma.

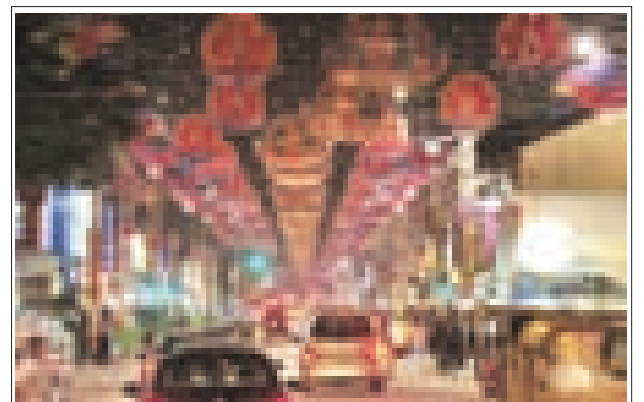
On 28 Aug, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) supported action by the Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC) in launching an attack against M23 positions on the Kibati heights. He was the second Tanzanian peacekeeper to die as a result of this attack.

In the statement, Ban "offers his sincere condolences and sympathy to the family of the victims, and to the government of the United Republic of Tanzania."

"The Secretary-General condemns in the strongest terms the killing and wounding of MONUSCO peacekeepers," the statement said, adding that the world body "remains committed to taking all necessary actions in line with Security Council resolution 2098 (2013)" to protect civilians in eastern DRC.

Over the past year, the M23, along with other armed groups, have clashed repeatedly with the FARDC. The rebels briefly occupied Goma in November 2012. The fighting resumed last month, this time dragging in a group of Ugandan-based rebels.

According to UN figures, the conflict has displaced more than 100,000 people, exacerbating the region's ongoing humanitarian crisis, which includes 2.6 million internally displaced persons and 6.4 million in need of food and emergency aid.—Xinhua



Decorative lights are seen on Singapore's Serangoon Road, on 27 Sept, 2013. Serangoon Road's Little India held a light-up ceremony Friday to celebrate the upcoming Deepavali festival on 2 November.—XINHUA

UN, Mideast partners reaffirm support for resumed Israeli-Palestinian talks

UNITED NATIONS, 28 Sept—The United Nations and its diplomatic partners in the search for peace in the Middle East on Friday reaffirmed their determination to provide maximum support to the Israelis and Palestinians as they resumed talks aimed at reaching a comprehensive peace.

The Middle East Quartet, a diplomatic grouping of the UN, the European Union, Russia and the United States, met at UN Headquarters in New York on the margins of the annual high-level debate of the General Assembly, which entered its fourth day here Friday.

The meeting is the first in one and a half years that the Quartet members met at the level of principals and it follows the most recent round of direct talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians held last month.

"The Quartet reaffirmed its determination to lend effective support to the efforts of the parties and their shared commitment to reach a permanent status agreement within the agreed goal of nine months," the group said in a statement.

The Quartet is a diplomatic group in search of the

two-state solution, which means a secure Israel to live in peace with an independent State of Palestine.

It commended the leadership of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and their commitment to remaining engaged in sustained and continuous negotiations to address all of the core issues.

"The Quartet called on all parties to take every possible step to promote conditions conducive to the success of the negotiating process and to refrain from actions that undermine trust or prejudice final status issues," the statement said.

During the meeting, the Quartet received an update from US Secretary of State John Kerry on the progress made since talks resumed on 29 July, as well as a joint briefing on the negotiations by chief negotiators from both sides.

The group also discussed efforts to boost support to the Palestinian economy, as well as the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and the importance of both sides demonstrating a commitment to improving the atmosphere for the negotiations.

Xinhua

Honduras to adopt Japanese digital TV standard

TOKYO, 28 Sept—Honduras has decided to adopt Japan's digital terrestrial television standard, the Japanese telecom ministry said on Friday.

Honduras is the 15th foreign country to introduce the Japanese standard, one of four competing variants of digital terrestrial broadcasting technology in the world, according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs

and Communications. The country has chosen the Japanese standard in view of its effectiveness in mountainous areas and its performance in past disasters, the ministry said.

Honduras decided in 2007 to adopt the US standard but had been reviewing the decision as other Latin American countries have adopted the Japanese standard.—Kyodo News

ENTERTAINMENT



The two actors reportedly play World War II soldiers in the movie.

Brad Pitt, Shia LaBeouf bond in the forest for Fury

LOS ANGELES, 27 Sept— Actors Brad Pitt and Shia LaBeouf reportedly stayed in a forest for two days so they could bond well and act perfectly in the upcoming movie Fury.

Directed by David Aye, Fury is based on World War II. Pitt and LaBeouf play characters that are part of close-knit troop.

“They play soldiers in the same World War II troop and the director wanted to make sure they bonded. So, he dropped them in the wilderness - without their cellphones,” US magazine quoted a source as saying.

Pitt, 49, and LaBeouf 27, were joined by fellow co-stars Logan Lerman, Jon Bernthal, and Kevin Vance.—PTI

Lindsay Lohan's half-sister gets plastic surgery to look more like her

LOS ANGELES, 28 Sept—Lindsay Lohan's half sister Ashley Horn has spent USD 25,000 on plastic surgery to look more like the troubled actress.

Ashley, who shares the same father as Lindsay, debuts her new look in the latest issue of a lifestyle magazine, reported Ace Showbiz.

“I've gotten rhinoplasty, a bit of refinement underneath my cheeks and jawline, some fat injected into my chin and some fat injected into my upper cheeks,” Ashley said.

“My goal was to look like Lindsay in her good days, when she was around 18, 19 years old. I'm hotter than Lindsay! I have no problem saying that,” she added.

Ashley said that she is not like her actress sister in terms of personalities.

“I'm not Lindsay. I wasn't raised in that family,” she insists. Ashley also says that she does not have any relationship with the Lohans and she does not want one.

“I don't drink, do drugs or party. I like being a responsible person,” she said.—PTI



Lindsay Lohan's half sister debuts her new look in the latest issue of a lifestyle magazine



Dakota Fanning

Dakota Fanning to star in indie film Franny

LONDON, 28 Sept—Twilight actress Dakota Fanning is in talks to star alongside Richard Gere in independent drama Franny.

Actor Theo James is also set to join the new film about an older gentleman who wedges himself into the lives of a young couple, reported Contactmusic.

Director Andrew Renzi will helm the film based on a screenplay he wrote himself and Treehouse Pictures will produce the budget drama.

Newcomer James is set to become one of Hollywood's most sought after leading men when new teen sci-fi thriller Divergent hits cinemas next March.

The film, which is expected to rival The Hunger Games and launch a franchise, will co-star Shailene Woodley and Kate Winslet.

PTI

Drake teams up with Beyonce



Drake

LOS ANGELES, 28 Sept—Rapper Drake has revealed that he has collaborated with pop star Beyonce Knowles for her forthcoming album. “I reached out to her and asked if I could come and be a part of her project and she was kind enough to invite me out there. And we did some work together,” aceshowbiz.com quoted Drake as saying. The rapper then went on praising the Single Ladies singer.

“I believe strongly in her talent and her position in our generation. I think she's one of the biggest stars ever...,” he said.—PTI

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan once said no to this producer because of alleged domestic violence

MUMBAI, 28 Sept—Aishwarya Rai Bachchan may have given her nod to Gaurang Doshi's film Happy Anniversary to be directed by adman Prahlad Kakkar, but the actress seems to have strangely forgotten something. To jog your memory, in 2007 it was widely reported that Ash had walked out of Doshi's project which was then called Happy Birthday. She took this step after he was allegedly accused of physically assaulting his ex-girlfriend starlet Flora Saini.

Flora had found an

unlikely supporter in the midst of her ordeal in B-Town's leading star. Ash had apparently taken the stance after working in Jagmohan Mundra's 2006 film Provoked that tackled domestic abuse. After playing a victim on screen, she had decided against being part of Doshi's film as he was involved in a domestic violence case. The film was to have John Abraham as Ash's co-star.

Interestingly, Doshi had even admitted at that time that due to his prob-

lems with Flora, Aishwarya decided not be part of his project. The filmmaker had claimed that there were certain forces working against him as he was at that time also going through a bitter divorce. Says a source, “Aishwarya's nod to his project now has come as a surprise. She may have agreed to be part of it due to her association with director Prahlad Kakkar. But she seems to have forgotten her past decisions.”

After being embroiled

in a legal tussle, Doshi makes a comeback in Bollywood with the Ash film that will also apparently star her husband Abhishek Bachchan. Doshi's earlier productions include Aankhen and Deewar Let's Bring Home The Heroes which starred Amitabh Bachchan.

PTI

Aishwarya is reportedly making her comeback with Gaurang Doshi's film Happy New Year.



Beyonce

SPORTS

Tiger Woods
of the US

NEW YORK, 28 Sept—Tiger Woods was named on Friday as the PGA Tour's Player of the Year for a record 11th time with fellow-American Jordan Spieth

voted rookie of the year.

Both awards were determined by votes cast by tour members who played in at least 12 official money events in 2013.

Woods named PGA Tour player of the Year

"Tiger's five wins came against some of the strongest fields in golf including the Players and two World Golf Championships, while Jordan's rookie season was historic in terms of his accomplishments for a player just 20 years old," said PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem in a statement.

"The member vote reflects the respect their peers have for both players."

Woods, 37, won five of his first 11 events in a spectacular start to the year, winning the Farmers Insurance Open, the WGC-Cadillac Championship, the Arnold Palmer Invitational, the Players Championship and the WGC-Bridgestone.

World number one

Woods said winning the award remained a special achievement for him, especially as he has battled back from knee and back ailments to thrive once again on the tour. "I've had to work my way back from injuries on numerous occasions throughout the years," Woods said. "These last couple years is no exception to that."

"There were a lot of people saying I could never win again, and two years later I've got eight wins on our tour. I'm very proud of where I've come from, from being ranked outside the top 50 to being ranked where I am now, and to have had the success that I've had this year just makes it all the more rewarding."—Reuters

Barca want Iniesta to end his career at the club



Spanish national soccer team player Andres Iniesta.

BARCELONA, 28 Sept—Barcelona want Spain midfielder Andres Iniesta to end his career at the Catalan club, coach Gerardo Martino said on the eve of Saturday's La Liga game at Almeria.

Recent media reports have suggested the 29-year-old playmaker may be reluctant to renew his contract when it ends in 2015.

However, the club and the player have said this week that both parties want to agree a new deal.

"Everything the president (Sandro Rosell) and Andres have expressed about him finishing his career at Barca is pretty clear," Martino told a news conference on Friday.

"If I were the president I would also like the emblematic players to finish their careers here."

Iniesta, winner of UEFA's Best Player in Europe award in 2011-12, left no one in any doubt about his

plans for the future during a news conference on Thursday.

"All I can say is my desire is to finish playing here. The club's intention is the same and everything is on course," he said.

"We're going to reach an agreement and there is no further complication. This is the best place for me."

Barcelona are top of the table with a maximum 18 points from six games, the same haul as Atletico Madrid but with a superior goal difference.

Fourth from bottom Almeria have yet to record a victory in La Liga this season and Barca have won the last four meetings between the sides by a combined goal tally of 19-1 including an 8-0 away victory in 2010.

Atletico also visit Madrid rivals Real, who are third with 16 points, on Saturday.—Reuters

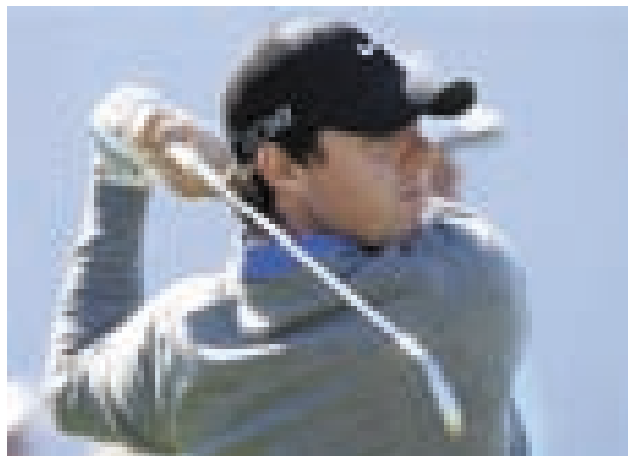
McIlroy goes it alone after splitting from management firm

LONDON, 28 Sept—Rory McIlroy has set up his own company to run his business interests after terminating his contract with Dublin-based Horizon Sports Management, the golfer said on Friday.

Both McIlroy and Horizon have called in lawyers to try to settle details of an acrimonious split which comes only two years after they began working together.

The dispute follows a frustrating season when the 24-year-old from Northern Ireland has struggled for form after switching to clubs supplied by Nike in one of the biggest sponsorship deals in sport.

His new management company, Rory McIlroy



Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland

Incorporated (RMI), will be headed by Donal Casey, an actuary who was already an adviser to the golfer.

His father Gerry will also be on the board of the company, with businessmen and family friend Barry

Funston.

Neither side gave details of the reason for McIlroy's departure, the subject of media rumors for some months. McIlroy was believed to be unhappy with the commission that Ho-

rizon was charging for its services.

Horizon said it was disappointed that McIlroy was ending a contract that had a number of years left to run.

"Since October 2011, Horizon has achieved exceptional results for Rory in realizing his commercial objectives," the company said in a statement.

"Under Horizon's management, Rory has signed some of the most lucrative endorsements in sports history."

McIlroy began the year as the hottest property in golf after signing a 10-year deal with Nike worth a reported \$250 million and moving to the top of the world rankings.

Reuters

Venus' run in Tokyo stopped in semis by Kvitova

TOKYO, 28 Sept—Venus Williams' stirring run at the Pan Pacific Open came to a screeching halt in the semifinals as the former world No 1 lost to Petra Kvitova in three sets on Friday.

Crowd favourite Williams went out 3-6, 6-3, 7-6(2) at the hands of seventh seed and 2011 Wimbledon champion Kvitova, who is closing in on her second title of the season after Dubai in February.

Their two previous meetings had both gone to three sets, with Kvitova winning in Memphis in 2008 and Williams coming out ahead in Miami last year.

In Saturday's final, Kvitova will face Angelique Kerber, who advanced 6-4, 7-6(5) past Caroline Wozniacki.

The 33-year-old Williams played her third straight three-setter, with Thursday's quarterfinal victory over teenager Eugenie Bouchard lasting more than three hours. The match against Kvitova was 2 hours, 24 minutes.

Williams said fatigue wasn't the reason she lost to the 23-year-old Kvitova, who saved a total of 11 break points.

"I was probably a little tired, but I don't think it affected the match," said Williams, who will rise from

No 63 to 38 in the rankings despite the loss. "She was probably a little tired, too, since she played two matches yesterday."

"At the end, she played amazing in the tiebreaker. I don't think I'm at my best off the ground yet. My serve has improved tremendously with each match here."

"She hit a lot of unreturnable shots in the tiebreaker and sometimes that happens. She just played great."

Kvitova and Kerber, both left-handers, reached their first Pan Pacific Open final.

"After winning, it's always a good feeling," Kvitova said. "Every game was



Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic plays a shot against Venus Williams of the United States in the semifinals of the Toray Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament at Ariake Tennis Forest Park in Tokyo on 27 Sept, 2013. Kvitova won 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (2) and advanced to the final with Angelique Kerber of Germany.—KYODO NEWS

up and down, and it was about the few points. I always love playing here."

"I had a great result in 2011, when I reached the semifinals and I love being on center court before a great crowd. I'm looking forward to the final tomorrow."

Williams, who appeared at the tournament for the first time since 2009, fell two wins short of her first title since last October, when she won in Luxembourg. Williams had nine aces for the match, but also had a half-dozen double faults that undid her in another grueling affair for the seven-time Grand Slam champion.

After splitting the first two sets, Williams and

Kvitova traded punch for punch in the deciding set, both holding serve to force the tiebreak.

But Kvitova dominated the final game, jumping out to a 6-0 lead after Williams hit a smash into the net. Williams pulled two points back in a face-saving effort before her Czech opponent capitalized on her third match point.

Fifth seed Kerber, who is eyeing her first title in 2013, beat 2010 tournament champion Wozniacki for the second time this year to make her second final of the season.

"It was very good, I really enjoyed the semifinal," Kerber said. "I really enjoyed the whole week."

Kyodo News

GENERAL



A visitor watches fish with her baby during the 2013 Taiwan ornamental fish expo, southeast China's Taiwan, on 27 Sept, 2013.—XINHUA

European environment festival kicks off in Bulgaria

KARDZHALI, (Bulgaria), 28 Sept—The Eighth European Environment Festival “Green Wave — 21st Century”, the oldest such event in Bulgaria, kicked off here on Friday in the Rhodope mountain town.

More than 70 movies from 24 countries and regions will compete for the Grand Stork's Nest Prize during the three-day event, including five Chinese productions: A Battle for Water; Forest China; Life Continues After Wenchuan Earthquake; Fish Worship; and Chinese Swan — The Wuliangsu Lake in Summer. Last year, the Chinese

film A Tree Can Only Bear One Bird's Nest won the Grand Stork's Nest Prize for Travel films and productions about the protection of cultural and natural heritage.

The festival, which aims to present contemporary films and TV programmes on ecology and environment protection as well as acquaint the people with environmentalist activities, also includes a variety of activities such as a photo exhibition.

Hasan Azis, Mayor of Kardzhali Municipality, said at the opening ceremony that the festival would

give residents a unique opportunity to see what the environmental problems in the world are, and ways to solve them.

Chavdar Georgiev, Deputy Minister of Environment and Water, said the festival was a very important and good initiative contributing to building a better attitude towards the environment. Liu Yonghong, cultural counselor at the Chinese embassy in Sofia, who also attended the opening ceremony, said development was very important, but the protection of nature was even more important.—Xinhua

Wenger wants to stay at Arsenal forever

LONDON, 28 Sept—Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger would happily see out the rest of his years at the north London club whose consistent support over nearly 17 years in the post has made him shun plenty of other job offers.

The longest-serving manager in the Premier League by around 14 years, Wenger told a news conference on Friday that majority shareholder Stan Kroenke's belief that the Frenchman was central to his long-term vision for the club was a big boost. “I am very honoured to have the support of Stan Kroenke and that he thinks I can help the club. That is a huge confidence vote, that is of course for me something that is very positive,” Wenger said.

Kroenke was full of praise for the 63-year-old manager, whose contract runs out at the end of this

season, in an interview with British newspaper *The Daily Telegraph* published on Friday. “There's no one I feel more strongly about and I think he is doing a great job,” Kroenke said.

“We have been very supportive, we have never wavered, we are proud of him, proud of the club, the way the club is run and how it holds itself out to the world.”

With Kroenke backing him so openly, Wenger talking about his love for the club and Arsenal enjoying an excellent start to the season, a new deal seems likely to be a formality.

“The good thing with me, if I have one quality, you don't need a lot of talks to extend the contract,” Wenger said.

Asked when he would sign a deal, he replied: “I don't know. When we find time. I don't think that's the

most important problem at the moment.”

Wenger, whose team are top of the Premier League on goal difference from Tottenham Hotspur with 12 points from five games, put his longevity down to the club's mentality in an era where trigger-happy owners sack managers just months into a job.

“I'm very grateful to this club because during the 17 years we had ups and downs they have always shown big faith in me and they let me always do the job like I thought it had to be done,” he said.

“If I'm still here today it's because I got that consistent support from inside the club. I turned many offers down because I rate what I've got here and I always thought this club is special on that front.”

“Honestly, I would love to be here forever be-

MYANMAR TV

(29-9-2013, Sunday)

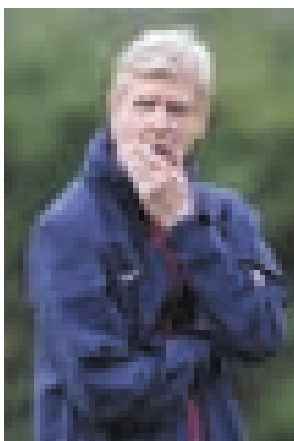
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|--|--|
| 6:00 am
1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw | 12:35 pm
18. Myanmar Movies |
| 6:25 am
2. Physical Exercises | 2:10 pm
19. Singing In Different Versions |
| 6:30 am
3. Song & Dance of National Races | 3:00 pm
20. News |
| 7:00 am
4. News/Weather Report | 3:15 pm
21. Teleplay (Htar) |
| 7:20 am
5. Documentary | 4:00 pm
22. News |
| 7:30 am
6. (38) Phyar Mingalars | 4:15 pm
23. Dance of National Races |
| 7:50 am
7. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions | 4:20 pm
24. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -First Year (Mathematics) |
| 8:00 am
8. News/International News | 4:35 pm
25. Performance With Song |
| 8:25 am
9. Amazing World | 5:00 pm
26. News |
| 8:45 am
10. Teleplay (Health) | 5:15 pm
27. Sing & Enjoy |
| 9:00 am
11. News/International News | 6:00 pm
28. News/Weather Report |
| 9:25 am
12. Documentary | 6:20 pm
29. Cartoon Series |
| 10:15 am
13. Pyi Thu Ni Ti | 7:00 pm
30. News |
| 10:50 am
14. Instrumental Music | 7:35 pm
31. Teleplay |
| 11:00 am
15. Gitadagale Phwintbaohn | 8:00 pm
32. News/International News/Weather Report |
| 12:00 pm
16. News/International News/Weather Report | 8:50 pm
33. Hit Songs of Stars |
| 12:25 pm
17. Round Up of The Week's International News | 9:00 pm
34. News |
| | 35. Tamyetmar Takwetsar |
| | 36. New Melody |

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(29-9-13 09:30 am ~ 30-9-13 09:30 am) MST

- * Local News
- * A Memorable Trip
- * World News
- * Porcelain and Glass
- * Local News
- * Youth & Volunteer Service
- * World News
- * A Journey to the Zalon Mountain
- * Local News
- * Those Who Never Give Up (Episode-2) Ko Myat Oo-Chairman of Baby Vita
- * World News
- * Myanmar Women Boxer
- * Local News
- * The Most Prominent Resort And Residence- Ngapali
- * Roasted Lablab Beans from Zalun
- * Local News
- * A Highland with Peace and Charm
- * World News
- * Architecture Standard of Palace Site
- * Local News
- * Shots & Logs (Episode-1) Ko Taike
- * World News
- * Nay Pyi Taw Hot Spring
- * Local News
- * A Short Trip With Steve (South Korea)
- * World News
- * Sweet Delicacy Of Pathein
- * Local News
- * Truly Magical Pindaya
- * World News
- * The Photographer (Portraiture) “Aung Kyaw Moe”

Vietnam welcomes nearly 5.5 mln foreign arrivals in nine months



Arsenal's manager Arsene Wenger attends a team training session at their training ground in London Colney on 17 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

cause that would mean I would be immortal but I am not naive enough to believe that so just what I would like to do as long as I am here is to give the best for this club because I love his club of course,” Wenger said.—Reuters

HANOI, 28 Sept—Vietnam received 5.49 million foreign visitors in the first nine months of 2013, an increase of 9.9 percent year-on-year, according to the Vietnam National Administration of Tourism (VNAT) on Friday.

Of the total figure, foreign arrivals from Russia witnessed the sharpest growth rate of 65.9 percent, while visitors from China up 37 percent, Thailand 23.1 percent and New Zealand 20.5 percent.

In September alone, the country attracted nearly 615,000 foreign visitors, up 28.9 percent over the same period last year, said the VNAT.

During the January-

September period, Vietnam's tourism sector pocketed an estimated 152.8 trillion Vietnamese dong (7.24 billion US dollars) of revenue, up 23.5 percent year-on-year.

With the nine-month figure, the country's tourism sector has achieved 76.25 percent of its target of welcoming 7.2 million foreign tourists in 2013.

At a press meeting held in Vietnam's capital Hanoi on Friday to mark the World Tourism Day, Nguyen Van Tuan, head of VNAT, said with this steady growth, the country would likely to surpass the set target and record as many as 7.5 million foreign arrivals in 2013.

Xinhua

Education sector budget increased fourfold; health sector threefold: U Khin Aung Myint



Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint greets Hluttaw representatives at ceremony to recount Hluttaw experiences in Pyawbwe Township.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Sept— U Khin Aung Myint, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, met with Hluttaw representatives in Pyawbwe Township today. During the meeting, he clarified measures for Hluttaw affairs, measures being taken by the Hluttaw for national unity and making laws for the interests of State and people.

Though Hluttaw had not yet fully matured, the

law makers had worked without sectarianism, racism and regionalism, making 58 laws in 30 months while he was working as the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint said.

Paper reading sessions of intellectuals and intelligentsia were conducted and Hluttaw representatives were sent to foreign countries to visit parliaments to improve

their skills, he added.

He also stressed the importance of listening to voice of the people in transformation from one system to another, noting that people have the rights to make complaints about the judiciary and administrative sectors.

Regarding the education and health sectors, Hluttaw approved to increase the budget for the education sector fourfold

and for the health sector threefold, the Speaker said.

The Amyotha Hluttaw speaker also met with Hluttaw representatives in Yamethin Township and shared experiences with them.

During both meetings, regional Hluttaw representatives clarified the participation of Hluttaw representatives in regional development tasks and Hluttaw affairs.—MNA

Yangon Region's 20th traditional performing arts competitions kick off



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe presents a flower basket to the artistes.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Sept— Yangon Region's 20th Myanmar traditional performing arts competition (higher education level) were opened at the National Culture and Fine Arts University here today.

In his opening address,

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe called on artistes to contribute their performing skills to the competitions as part of efforts for perpetuation of Myanmar's society which has high cultural standard and conserve traditional customs and safe-

guard its national races. The competitions were formally opened by the chief minister, Yangon Region Finance and Revenue Minister Daw San San Nwe and Region Social Affairs Minister Dr Myint Thein.

MNA

Myanmar, Thailand discuss boundary demarcation

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Sept—A Myanmar delegation led by Co-Chairman of the Myanmar-Thailand Joint Boundary Committee Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin left here by air for Bangkok of Thailand to attend the Eighth Meeting of the Myanmar-Thailand Joint Boundary Committee on 24 September morning.

The Eighth Meeting of the Myanmar-Thailand Joint Boundary Committee was held at Dusit Thani Hotel in Bangkok. The Myanmar delegation led by the deputy minister and Thai delegation led by Mr. Vasin Teeravechyan, Advisor

to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-Chairman of the Thailand-Myanmar Joint Boundary Committee attended the meeting. The two sides held open and cordial discussions on boundary demarcation between the two countries and the two leaders signed the Agreed Minutes of the meeting. In accordance with the Agreed Minutes, the technical level meetings will be held for joint production of orthophoto maps to assist survey and demarcation works and drafting of MoU.

The Myanmar delegation arrived back in Yangon this evening.

MNA



Deputy Minister U Tin Oo Lwin and Mr. Vasin Teeravechyan, Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand sign agreed minutes of the meeting.—MNA

A & I Ministry, KOICA ink Record Discussion

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Sept—Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has signed a record of discussion on establishing a training school for agricultural mechanization at Yezin in Zeyathiri Township yesterday.

The two sides signed the Record of Discussion for the Project for farmland consolidation and agricultural machinery training for agricultural mechanization

in Myanmar at the Irrigation Department here today.

The project is aimed at promoting the agricultural mechanization sector, boosting agricultural production, encouraging the transformation to agricultural mechanization in terms of human resource development, increasing the income of farmers and promoting the socio-economy of Myanmar people through Korea-Myanmar friendship.

According to the pro-

ject, farmland in Taegyigon Village in Zabuthiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area will be upgraded and a training school for mechanized farming will be established in Yezin in Zeyathiri Township.

The record of discussion was signed by U Kyaw Myint Hlaing, Director-General of the Irrigation Department and Mr Nam Kwon Hyung, Chief Resident Representative of KOICA in Myanmar.

Ko Htwe



Record of Discussion Signing Ceremony between KOICA and A & I Ministry in progress.—MNA