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President U Thein Sein, UNSG hold talks over promoting cooperation between UN, Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct— President U Thein Sein and Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr Ban Ki-moon held talks over promoting cooperation between Myanmar and the UN.

During the meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, they discussed matters related to promoting cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations, between ASEAN and the UN while Myanmar is taking the chair of ASEAN. They also exchanged views on more participation of the UN and international communities in peace making process and in settling conflicts, building a society in which communities live together in Myanmar, taking legal actions against those who instigate conflicts and cooperation with international



President U Thein Sein holds talks with Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr Ban Ki-moon.—MNA

communities in coping with the issues caused by climate change.

President U Thein

Sein thanked the United Nations for its support for reforms of his government, pledging more co-

operation with the United Nations in future.

On behalf of the United Nations, Mr Ban Ki-

moon has acknowledged the democratic reforms in Myanmar and expressed

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Japan donates USD 295,228 to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct— Under the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects Scheme, the Japanese Government donated USD 295,228 to Myanmar yesterday. The cash would be spent on two construction projects—Kyaiksakaw Village Basic Education Middle School Branch in DaikU Township, Bago Region and Yadanar Theinkha Mo-

nastic Post-Primary School in Myo Khin Thar Village, Pakokku Township, Magway Region— and one project for renovation of Naung Lone Dam in Loikaw, Kayah State.

The grant contracts were signed by Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Mikio Numata and the chairmen of respective committees of the projects.—NLM

Donation with traditional elephant dancing

KYAUKSE, the city of elephant, is located 30 miles south of Mandalay.

Every 14th Waxing and Fullmoon day of Thadingyut, the donation ceremonies are held with the dancing and competition of elephants crowded with audience and visitors from various regions of the nation. This year, the festivities comprising elephant

dancing will be held on a grand scale on 14th Waxing of Thadingyut.

In 1925, the dancing elephant to which man activity is added was introduced by Saya Nge of Nyaungchaukbin Ward in Kyaukse. At the opening ceremony of the festival, the dancing elephants are to go round Myoma Market three times. After that,

Byline: Tun Tun Naing (Kyaukse)

the dancing elephants are to take part in the contest in the presence of three members of panel of judges.

In the past, the elephants showed off traditional dance. Later, they presented traditional elephant dance, Bawkyei elephant dance and baby elephant dance.

This year, the organiz-

ing committee will award K 800,000 to the first prize, K 600,000 to the second, K 400,000 to the third to traditional elephant dance contest, K 700,000, K 500,000 and K 300,000 to the first, second and third prize winners in Bawkyei elephant dancing contest and K 500,000, K 300,000 and K 100,000 to the first, second and third prize winners in the baby elephant dancing contest.

The donation with elephant dancing has been traditionally held for over 900 years since King Anawrahta ruled the country. Local people of Kyaukse heartily welcome the visitors from across the nation to the Kyaukse elephant dancing contest that attracts the globetrotters.

Kyemon: 7-10-2013

Trs: TTA



Obama, Republicans aim to end crisis after meeting, hurdles remain



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Federer dumped out of Shanghai Open by Monfils



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Storm News

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct—According to the observations at 17.30 hrs M.S.T today, the Very Severe Cyclonic Storm "PHAILIN" over West Central Bay of Bengal is centered at about 390 miles West-Southwest of Patheingyi, 385 miles Southwest of Gwa and 350 miles Northwest of Cocogyun island. It is forecast to move Northwestwards and maximum wind speed is estimated 100-120 miles per hour near

the cyclone center. Under the influence of Cyclonic Storm, occasional squalls with rough sea will be experienced Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 50 mph.

The present stage of the severe cyclonic storm is coded yellow stage and it is not moving towards Myanmar coasts. Trawlers, vessels and ships are advised to advert possible danger by cyclone.—NLM

Zawtika Project launches sail-away ceremony



Photo shows Zawtika Processing and Living Quarters for Zawtika Natural Gas Exploration Project being implemented as joint venture between Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and PTTEPI of Thailand through PSC contract in Block M9 offshore Mottama of Myanmar.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct— Union Minister for Energy U Zeyar Aung and party attended the ceremony to launch Sail-Away Ceremony to send Zawtika Processing and Living Quarters to the offshore block of Myanmar so as to implement Zawtika natural gas exploration project being undertaken as joint venture by Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and PTTEPI Co of Thailand on Block M9.

The ceremony was held at SMOE Yard in Singapore.

It was also attended by Thai Ambassador to Singapore Mr Marut Jitpatima, Chairman of BOD of PTTEPI Co Dr Norkun Sitthiphong, Chairman and CEO of PTTEPI Mr Tevin Vongvanich, Managing Director Mr Ho Nee Sin of

Business

SMOE and officials.

Zawtika offshore gas exploration project is located in M9 block offshore Mottama in Myanmar. Project members are PTTEPI and MOGE. They will send natural gas as of January 2014.

22nd Yangon Mayor Cup International White Cane Day on 15 Oct

YANGON, 11 Oct—The 22nd Yangon Mayor Cup International White Cane Day will be held at 6.30 am on 15 October, and it will start from the City Hall, according to the Yangon City Development Committee.

Over 700 contestants from 12 schools for the blinds across the nation will take part in it. As of 6.30 am, the participants will set off in front of City Hall and walked along Merchant Street, Phoneygi Street and Maha Bandoola Street and then finished at the City Hall.

“This year, over

On 4 October, the Union Minister and party visited Thai Oil Refinery in Sri Racha of Thailand. At the hall of the refinery, he met scholarship students in energy sector under the arrangement of Ministry of Energy.—MNA

700 participants from 12 Schools for the Binds of PyinOoLwin, Meiktila, Insein and Kyimyindine townships. It is not for competition. It is only the commemorative ceremony only.

The donations from wellwishers will be allotted to the schools,” said an official of YCDC. A total of 762 participants from schools for the blind, training schools and workshops of the nation took part in the 21st commemorative day.

Kyemon-Soe Win (MLA)

Survey on natural environment, social society

LAUNGLON, 11 Oct— Environmentalists U Thu Aung of Myanmar and Thai citizens Mr Maesi Phongivratthai and Mr Gran Boonthan arrived at Kyeitaung Pagoda in Gawin Village in Launglon

Township of Dawei District in Taninthayi Region on 7 October.

They will conduct environmental studies and assessments near the pagoda.

Kyemon-Township IPRD

Illegal timber seized in Bago Region, Shan State

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct—The Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry makes strenuous efforts for sustainable development of forests and forest products and takes legal action against those who extract and traffick illegal timbers.

The Assistant Director of Bago District Forest Department of Bago Region and staff on 4 October

seized 19 pieces of teak timber weighing 1.7656 tons from a vehicle at mile post 82/7 on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway in Kyaukdaga Township.

Further investigation is being made for exposing driver and timber owner.

The same day, the Assistant Director of Pyay District Forest Department and staff seized 1.7422 tons of teak and hardwood

timber and illegal sawmill in Yadanabon ward of Padaung Township.

Moreover, they found 17.1796 tons of teak/hardwood timber near Thani Creek in Padaung Township. On 5 October, they confiscated 5.3252 tons of ownerless teak/hardwood/other wood in the forest reserves along Pyay-Taungup Road and handed over them to the Myanmar Timber Enterprise.

Likewise, the Assistant Director and staff of Tachilek District Forest Department of Shan State (Kengtung)

on 4 October seize 619 pieces of teak sawn timber weighing 18.5686 tons near 9th-Mile Hwepasee Village on Mongton-Tarsan Road in Mongton Township. They seized a vehicle together with timber. Action is being taken against driver U Saw Yan Naing and helper U Zaw Moe under the law.

On 5 October, the forest officials seized logs of Kanyin weighing 23.216 tons, one sawmill and related equipment without owner in Paunglaung forest reserve in Pinlaung Township of Shan State.

Kyemon-Maung Thit Taw

Crime

Bicycle thief arrested under further investigation



YANGON, 11 Oct— Members of No. 2 Security Company of the Reserved Force of Yangon Region Police Force arrested Aung Thura (a) Thura, son of U Than in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township at 7 pm on 2 October after placing him under further investigation over other theft cases.

In the investigation, he stole one bicycle each from Ward 56 and Ward 53

in Dagon Myothit (South) Township in July. Therefore, Dagon (South) Myoma Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against him under the law.

In the further investigation, the thief stole bicycles from Ward 53, Ward 54 and Ward 56 in August.

That is why Dagon Myothit (South) Township Police opened files against him under the law.

Kyemon-Soe Win (MLA)

Einaing Bridge on Lashio-Mansan Road to be commissioned soon

LASHIO, 11 Oct— Einaing Bridge, 150 feet long, was located on Lashio-Mansan Road in Northern Shan State and it is of steel frame and wood floor one. The motorway of the bridge was very narrow and it could withstand 10 tons of loads only.

A new bridge is 170 feet long and it is of reinforced concrete type. The two bridges are in parallel. The new one will have two approach structure and two piers.

The 6th kind of new bridge Einaing, nine miles from Lashio, will have 24 feet wide motorway and 2.5 feet wide pedestrian way on either side. It doesn't need to wait for vehicles from another way while one car is passing.

Lashio and Einaing Bridge is eight miles and four furlongs. Einaing Bridge plays a key structure on the Lashio-Namtu-Lashio-Mansan to Namsang of Palaung Self-Administered Zone and Hsipaw. Thus, Einaing Bridge will be important for the region.

It is estimated that the construction will cost K 45 million.

A local people expressed his happiness, “We are very happy for construction of the new bridge. Because we spent very long time while cars were passing the bridge one after another. Vehicles

from both sides waited for passing it. Now, we do not need to wait for any thing.”

New Einaing Bridge will be an engine for development of the region and better transportation facility for all the local people of the region.

Kyemon-Han Htay (IPRD)



Photo shows Einaing Bridge on Lashio-Mansan Road in Shan State (North).

Construction

WORLD

Obama, Republicans aim to end crisis after meeting, hurdles remain

WASHINGTON, 11 Oct—President Barack Obama and Republican leaders appeared ready to end a political crisis that has shuttered much of the US government and pushed the country dangerously close to default after meeting at the White House on Thursday. No deal emerged from the 90-minute meeting, but talks continued into the night in an effort to re-open the government and extend the government's borrowing authority beyond an 17 October deadline. One senior Republican said an agreement could come on Friday, though hurdles remain.

The plummeting standing of congressional Republicans in public opinion polls helped spur a move toward ending the standoff, Oklahoma Republican Representative James Lankford said on CNN Thursday night. The latest, an NBC-Wall Street Journal survey published on Thursday, showed the public blaming Republicans by a 22-point margin — 53 to 31 percent. The President's



US Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-OH) (L) and Rep Eric Cantor (R-VA) (R) attend a news conference with Republican House members in Washington on 10 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS

meeting with Republican leaders was the first sign of a thaw in a 10-day standoff that has weighed on financial markets and knocked hundreds of thousands of federal employees out of work.

"It was a very adult conversation," said Republican Representative Hal Rogers, who attended the meeting. "Both sides said they were there in good faith."

Republicans in the meeting offered to extend the government's borrowing

authority for several weeks, temporarily putting off a default that otherwise could come as soon as next week. Obama pushed to also reopen government operations that have been closed since 1 October. Significantly, Republicans seemed to be steering clear of the restrictions on Obama's healthcare reforms and spending that prompted the crisis in the first place. Instead, negotiations centered on how far to extend the debt limit and how much funding

they would provide the government when it opens, according to Republicans.

The two sides are working on "defining parameters to see if we can make progress," said Republican Representative Pete Sessions, a member of the leadership.

"The President looks forward to making continued progress with members on both sides of the aisle," the White House said in a statement. The proposal is a significant shift for Republicans, who had hoped to use the threat of a shutdown and a default to undermine Obama's healthcare law.

But they have been hammered in opinion polls and pressured by allies in the business community who worry the brinkmanship is killing jobs and slowing the economy. Republicans worry that the standoff could imperil lawmakers in competitive districts, giving Democrats an increased chance of winning control of the House next year.

Reuters

Japan to sign UN statement against nuclear weapons use for 1st time

TOKYO, 11 Oct—Japan will sign for the first time a joint statement to be issued at the United Nations calling on countries not to use nuclear weapons, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said Friday.

"After examining the purpose of the statement as a whole, we concluded we can support the content," Kishida said at a press conference. "It's a moral responsibility for Japan to realize a nuclear-free world." The decision comes after Japan confirmed with New Zealand, one of the drafters of the initiative, that the document will not be legally binding, Japanese government sources said.

The statement is expected to be released at the First Committee of the UN General Assembly, possibly on 17 October.

Japan has refused to endorse similar UN statements drafted three times in the past on the grounds it would

contradict Japan's policy of relying on the US nuclear umbrella. But people in the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which were devastated by US atomic bombings in 1945, have criticized Japan's past refusal to sign such UN documents. Kishida, a native of Hiroshima, has been calling for nuclear disarmament.

Both the Hiroshima and Nagasaki mayors welcomed the government's decision, while emphasizing that Japan should take the lead in global efforts toward nuclear disarmament.

"We feel grateful that the government has decided to support what Hiroshima has been calling for. Our voices have been heard," Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui told reporters.

In Nagasaki, Mayor Tomihisa Taue called the decision "a step forward" but said more concrete action should be taken by the government.

Kyodo News

OPCW wins Nobel Peace Prize



Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons Director General Ahmet Uzumcu holds a press conference in the Hague, the Netherlands, on Oct. 9, 2013.

KYODO NEWS

OSLO, 11 Oct —The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons won the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize "for its extensive efforts to eliminate chemical weapons," the Norwegian Nobel Committee said Friday.

The chemical weapons watchdog is overseeing the effort to eliminate

Syria's arsenal of chemical weapons amid the country's civil war.

The Hague-based OPCW was established in 1997 to implement the Chemical Weapons Con-

vention, which calls for the destruction of existing chemical weapons and the prevention of their reintroduction, and is supported by the United Nations.

Kyodo News



File photo from September 2013 shows the headquarters of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in The Hague, the Netherlands. The Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize to the OPCW on Oct. 11, 2013, "for its extensive efforts to eliminate chemical weapons." —KYODO NEWS

Germany's Merkel, Greens agree second round of exploratory talks

BERLIN, 11 Oct—German Chancellor Angela Merkel's victorious conservatives and the Greens party agreed on Thursday to hold further talks on forming a first-ever federal government between the long-time adversaries, party officials said.

Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU) and their Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU), emerged as the dominant force in the 22 September election but need a coalition partner. Full negotiations for a government could take up to two months.

The chances the CDU/CSU and Greens would move onto more formal coalition talks are not seen as high due to animosities between the arch-conservative CSU and the Greens, a



German Chancellor and leader of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) Angela Merkel (2nd R) stands up at the end of preliminary coalition talks between Germany's conservative (CDU/CSU) parties and the Green party at the Parliamentary Society in Berlin on 10 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS

left-leaning party with roots in the 1970s peace and anti-nuclear movements.

But some CDU and Greens leaders see a historic chance for both parties to explore new power options. The CDU/CSU's veteran

partner, the Free Democrats (FDP), crashed out of parliament last month and the Greens' preferred ally, the Social Democrats, were beaten by the CDU/CSU for the third straight time.

Reuters

Japan gov't conducts 1st post-Fukushima nuclear disaster drill

TOKYO, 11 Oct—The Japanese government on Friday conducted its first major nuclear disaster drill following the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi atomic power plant accident, with an aim to make the exercise more realistic than previous rehearsals that merely followed a script.

The two-day drill will be held on the assumption that an earthquake triggers an accident at one of the two reactors at the Sendai plant in Kagoshima Prefecture, which results in a release of radioactive substances and leads residents to evacuate.

The exercise will also test the effectiveness of the

country's new nuclear disaster mitigation guidelines compiled after the Fukushima crisis, which expanded areas that need special preparations to a 30 kilometer radius of a plant from the previous 10 km.

According to the Nuclear Regulation Authority, around 3,300 people will

take part in the event, including those from central and local government offices, nuclear power plant operators and residents living nearby.

Participants are expected to experience a situation closer to reality as many will not be given the details of when and how the sce-

nario will unfold, an NRA official in charge of the issue said.

"In past exercises, participants knew all the scenarios and their statements were prepared—more like performing their role of a drama.

But we found the method will not nurture abilities

to cope with the situation," he said. The state, local governments and nuclear power plant operators will also practice coordinating their responses through the joint exercise, using means such as teleconference systems for information-sharing.

Kyodo News

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Water discovered in remnants of rocky exoplanet

WASHINGTON, 10 Oct—British astronomers said on Thursday they have found the first evidence of a water-rich rocky planetary body outside our solar system in its shattered remains. Using observations obtained with the Hubble Space Telescope and the large Keck telescope on Hawaii, researchers from the Universities of Warwick and Cambridge analyzed the dust and debris surrounding a white dwarf called GD61, a small but incredibly dense burned-out star that lies 170 light years away. The researchers reported in the US journal *Science* that they found an excess of oxygen, a chemical signature that indicates

the debris had once been part of a bigger body originally composed of 26 percent water by mass. By contrast, only approximately 0.023 percent of the Earth's mass is water.

Evidence for water outside our solar system has previously been found in the atmosphere of gas giants, but this study marks the first time it has been pinpointed in a rocky body. "Those two ingredients—a rocky surface and water—are key in the hunt for habitable planets outside our solar system so it's very exciting to find them together for the first time outside our solar system," co-author Boris Gansicke from the University of Warwick, said in a

statement. The researchers suggest it is most likely that the water detected around the white dwarf GD61 came from a minor planet at least 90 km in diameter but potentially much bigger, that once orbited the parent star before it became a white dwarf.

About 200 million years ago, GD61 entered its death throes and became a white dwarf, yet, parts of its planetary system survived. The water-rich minor planet was pulled out of its regular orbit and plunged into a very close orbit, where it was shredded by the star's gravitational force. To date observations of 12 destroyed exoplanets orbiting white dwarves have been carried



out, but this is the first time the signature of water has been found, the researchers said. "The finding of water in a large asteroid means the building blocks of habitable planets existed—and maybe still exist—in the GD61 system, and likely also around substantial number of similar parent stars," said lead

author Jay Farihi from the University of Cambridge.

"These water-rich building blocks, and the terrestrial planets they build, may in fact be common—a system cannot create things as big as asteroids and avoid building planets, and GD61 had the ingredients to deliver lots of water to their sur-

faces," Farihi said. "Our results demonstrate that there was definitely potential for habitable planets in this exoplanetary system." Six billion years from now, our Sun will collapse and, possibly, evolve into a white dwarf. Therefore, "it's a look into our future," said Gansicke.—Xinhua

Alibaba decides against Hong Kong IPO, not yet committed to other exchange



Jonathan Lu, new chief executive of Alibaba Group, puts on a headband with horns during the celebration of the 10th anniversary of Taobao Marketplace, China's largest consumer-focused e-commerce website, in Hangzhou, on 10 May, 2013.—REUTERS

HANGZHOU, (China), 11 Oct—Chinese e-commerce company Alibaba Group Holding Ltd has decided not to list its shares in Hong Kong, but has not yet committed to listing on any other exchange, including the New York Stock Exchange, CEO Jonathan Lu told *Reuters* on Thursday. The company, founded in 1999 by billionaire Jack Ma, had planned to list on the Hong Kong stock exchange in an IPO analysts and bankers have said could raise up to \$15 billion.

Alibaba failed to convince Hong Kong regulators to waive rules over the group's unique partnership structure—specifically that 28 partners, mainly founders and senior executives, would keep control over a majority of the board, even though they own only around 13 percent of the company. "We've decided not to list in Hong Kong,"

Lu said in an interview at the company's headquarters in China's Hangzhou city in Zhejiang Province. "The Hong Kong authorities need time to study this corporate governance structure (for knowledge-based companies)."

In his first public comment on Alibaba abandoning Hong Kong for the IPO, Lu added the company had not yet committed to list on any other exchange, including the New York Stock Exchange. Alibaba, whose platforms handle more goods in a year than eBay Inc and Amazon.com Inc combined, expects to nearly triple the volume of transactions on its marketplaces to about 3 trillion yuan (\$490 billion) in 3-4 years from 2012, eventually surpassing Wal-Mart Stores Inc "In three years we hope to be the No 1 retail network in the world - larger than Wal-Mart," Lu added.—Reuters

US cable companies should create Netflix rival

NEW YORK, 10 Oct—Cable pioneer John Malone said on Thursday that cable companies should team up to create a rival to Netflix Inc (NFLX.O) that would deliver programming over the Internet on a national basis. Cable companies could "solve the problem" of high programming costs by acquiring content for an Internet-based service under one brand that they would sell in a bundle with broadband, Malone said at Liberty Media Corp's (LMCA.O) annual investor conference.

Malone, who is chairman of Liberty Media, used the example of Comcast Corp's (CMCSA.O) Xfinity video streaming product one day being shared with the rest of the cable industry to become a national brand. He added that another alter-

native would be for Hulu to "be bought and syndicated" by cable companies or for an entrepreneur to create a new product from scratch that the cable industry can get behind.

He had said previously that cable companies should make a joint bid for

TV service could help the cable industry get back market share from satellite and telecommunications competitors, and also give a boost to smaller cable companies that lack infrastructure. When asked about whether he still has an appetite for a merger or acquisi-

to be willing to invest in the business through consolidation." Malone, whose media holding company has an investment in cable provider Charter Communications Inc (CHTR.O), made an offer for Time Warner Cable Inc (TWC.N) over the summer, but it was rejected, *Reuters* has reported.

Time Warner Cable shares closed up \$6.68, or 6 percent, on Thursday at \$116.95 per share.

During a question and answer session with investors, he praised Netflix Chief Executive Officer Reed Hastings and launched into an analysis of Netflix's business model, saying it was big enough to buy exclusive national content at good prices, something the cable industry has struggled with.

Reuters



Liberty Media Corp chairman John Malone arrives at the annual Allen and Co conference at the Sun Valley, Idaho Resort on 12 July, 2013.—REUTERS

Astronaut Scott Carpenter, fourth American in space, dies at 88

DENVER, 10 Oct—Astronaut Scott Carpenter, who in 1962 became the fourth American in space and the second to orbit the Earth, died on Thursday in Colorado at age 88 of complications from a stroke, his wife Patty Carpenter said. Carpenter, who lost radio contact with NASA controllers during his pioneering space flight and was found in the ocean 250 miles from the targeted splashdown site, went on to explore the ocean floor in later years. His wife said he died in a Denver hospice.

The National Aeronaut-

ics and Space Administration chose Carpenter and six other pilots to be astronauts in 1959 for the Mercury space programme as the United States entered its space race with the Soviet Union. The only surviving member of that Mercury 7 team is John Glenn, 92, now a retired US Senator from Ohio. In 1962, Glenn became the first American to orbit the earth, and Carpenter was his backup on that mission. Later that year, Carpenter made his only spaceflight, taking the *Aurora 7* spacecraft on three laps around Earth on 24

May, a few weeks after his 37th birthday. The flight of less than five hours made him the second American to orbit Earth, and the experience stayed with him until the end of his life.

"I still remember what a thrill it was being up there—I liked the feeling of weightlessness, and the view I had of Earth," Carpenter told the University of Colorado's alumni magazine last year. The other Mercury astronauts had piloted fighter jets during the Korean War, but Carpenter mostly flew surveillance in multi-engine propeller planes.—Reuters



Mercury astronaut Scott Carpenter listens to questions during a Press conference at the Kennedy Space Centre Visitors Center in Florida in this file photo from 24 Feb, 2002.—REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

New 'deadline' for fixing Obamacare glitches seen in mid-November

WASHINGTON, 11 Oct — The US administration has a little over a month to fix the technology problems crippling its online health insurance marketplace, or jeopardize the goal of signing up millions of Americans in time for benefits under President Barack Obama's health-care law, experts said on Thursday.

Problems with the federal marketplace's entry portal serving 36 states, the website Healthcare.gov, continued for a 10th day on Thursday despite signs of gradual improvement, keeping a brake on the ability of consumers

to shop for federally subsidized health coverage.

Poor turnout in enrollment would provide further ammunition for Republican foes of Obamacare, whose efforts to kill the law have culminated in a federal government shutdown that began on 1 October, coinciding with the launch of the health insurance exchanges nationwide. Already on Thursday, Republican lawmakers in Congress launched a new investigation into the technical glitches, sending letters to US Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and two of the website's contractors,

asking for details on what is causing the failures and any system changes or testing that had been performed.

Up to 7 million Americans are expected to enroll in health plans for 2014 under the law, formally known as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Insurance executives, policy experts and former administration officials said the federal government's technical problems need to be largely sorted out by mid-November.

That would help ensure that large numbers of enrollees — especially healthy young adults needed to make the programme work finan-



US President Barack Obama speaks about the continuing government shutdown from the White House Briefing Room in Washington, on 8 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS

cially — can be processed by a 15 December deadline for 1 January coverage.

“Mid-November would be a time where folks who are getting online or accessing in other ways should really see things move pretty efficiently,” Dan Hilferty, chief ex-

ecutive of Philadelphia-based Independence Blue Cross, said in an interview. “As we get closer to 1 January, if in fact some of these glitches are not fixed, then I think people will become more and more concerned, and maybe panic about it.”—Reuters

Boeing restructures commercial airplane strategy, marketing



The Boeing logo is seen at their headquarters in Chicago, on 24 April, 2013. — REUTERS

NEW YORK, 11 Oct — Boeing Co (BA.N) said on Thursday that it will restructure its commercial airplane strategy and marketing functions, just days after it lost a \$9.5 billion order in Japan, previously its most secure market. The action, announced in a memo by Boeing Commercial Airplane Chief Executive Ray Conner that was obtained by Reuters, follows Japan Airlines Co Ltd's (9201.T) decision on Monday to pick Airbus planes to replace its Boeing 777s, rather than the next-generation Boeing 777X model.

“You probably wouldn't have seen this happen if they had won JAL,” said Ron Epstein, an analyst at Bank of America Merrill Lynch. “Boeing is looking at their sales strategy” following the loss in Japan. A Boeing spokesman said the two events were completely unrelated. Conner linked the shifts to the retirement of Boeing veteran Mike Bair on 1 November. Bair is head of the marketing and strategy groups that look at Boeing's long-range

commercial airplane market forecasts and design its product line and strategy. In the new structure, marketing functions under Bair will shift to the sales group and be led by marketing Vice President Randy Tinseth, who will report to global sales chief John Wojick.

Strategy and business development functions will shift to the finance group and will be led by Kevin Schemm, who will be head of finance and strategy. Bair, 57, joined Boeing in 1979 as an engineer working on aircraft noise for the 767. As a rising star of the company, he later went on to build the justification for the aircraft that replaced it, the 787 Dreamliner, which he boasted would be “library quiet”. He rose to head the 787 Dreamliner programme as the company outsourced production of major components to suppliers around the world. Bair left that role in 2007, when the programme was about six months behind schedule, taking up his current role as chief of market and strategy.—Reuters

G24 concerned with market shock tied to exit from unconventional monetary policy

WASHINGTON, 11 Oct — The exit from unconventional monetary policies in some developed economies may induce higher volatility in global financial markets, said a group of 24 developing countries on Thursday.

“We call on advanced economies to be mindful of negative spillover and to clearly communicate their exit strategies,” said the Intergovernmental Group of Twenty-Four on International Monetary Affairs and Development (G24) in a communique after its 90th meeting in Washington DC.

In addition, the US political stalemate over debt

limit left its default risk open, which added uncertainty to global financial stability.”

We are expecting that there will be a prompt solution that will diminish the volatility in the financial markets,” said Fernando Aportela, the group's chair and deputy minister of Finance and Public Credit of Mexico.

If the US failed to raise the debt ceiling on time, “it would be a disaster,” said Amar Bhattacharya, director of the G24 Secretariat.

Last time when the US had the debt ceiling problem in 2011, the interest spreads in developing markets went up by 75 basis

points and stock markets went down by 15 percent, said Bhattacharya. He added if there is a default, the potential impact on the global financial market is “unthinkable”

The group also said in the communique that emerging markets and developing countries have enormous growth potential and will continue to be the driving force of the global economy.

And on behalf of the developing world, it called on the International Monetary Fund to enhance their voice and representation by implementing the agreed 2010 quota and governance reform.—Xinhua

Asian stocks rally to 3-week highs on hopes

US avoids default

SYDNEY, 11 Oct — Asian stocks jumped to three-week highs on Friday as investors took a chance and cheered perceived progress in Washington to avert a possible default, even though questions remained over whether a deal could be struck. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS rose 1.3 percent, reaching highs not seen since 19 September. Tokyo's Nikkei .N225 was also 1.3 percent higher.

Gains were seen across the region's emerging markets, with Indonesian shares .JKSE rising 0.6 percent and the Philippines .PSI up 0.9 percent. MSCI's broad emerging benchmark equity index

.MSCIEF put on 0.8 percent. The rally in Asia came after US stocks .SPX jumped over 2 percent in their biggest one-day gain since 2 January as investors became more confident that squabbling US politicians would at the very least avert a possible US debt default next week.

“The situation is fluid but it seems like progress is being made on averting the worst case scenario. But a short-term solution should be met with short-term enthusiasm,” analysts at Nomura wrote in a client note. Republican lawmakers, who have not passed budget funding, on Thursday offered a plan that would extend the US government's borrow-



A man walks past the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) building in Mumbai on 21 Sept, 2010. — REUTERS

ing authority for several weeks, staving off a default that could come as soon as 17 October. While no deal emerged from a meeting at the White House, the two sides said they would continue to talk. Markets were

Mobile security software maker Lookout raises \$55 million

BOSTON, 10 Oct — Lookout, one of the world's biggest providers of mobile security software, said on Thursday that it has raised \$55 million in financing. The round was led by Deutsche Telekom AG.

Qualcomm Inc's venture capital arm, Greylock Partners and Mithril Capital Management also participated, as did current investors Accel Partners, Andreessen Horowitz, Index Ventures, and Khosla Ventures. Lookout's security software is installed on some 45 million devices running Google Inc's Android operating system and Apple Inc's iOS.

Telecommunications firms such as Deutsche Telekom and Qualcomm are growing increasingly interested in mobile security products because cyber attacks on mobile devices have grown exponentially in recent years as sales of smartphones and tablets have surged to consumers and businesses alike.

Lookout said in a statement that it plans to enter the corporate security market later this year, which would put it in competition with older, more established software makers including Symantec Corp and Intel Corp's McAfee security division. San Francisco-based Lookout, founded in 2007, has raised \$131 million to date. — Reuters

briefly unsettled after the New York Times reported President Barack Obama had rejected the plan, but Republican Paul Ryan later said Obama had neither accepted or rejected the proposal.—Reuters



Libyan Prime Minister Ali Zeidan (L), who has been released several hours after he was taken from a Tripoli hotel by former rebel militiamen, shakes hands with President of the Libyan General National Congress Nouri Abusahmain during a press conference at the government headquarters in Tripoli, on 10 Oct, 2013.—XINHUA

Security in Libya “under control” after kidnapping

TRIPOLI, 11 Oct—The security situation in Libya is controlled, President of the General National Congress Nouri Abusahmain said in a Press conference on Thursday directly after the release of Libyan Prime Minister Ali Zeidan, who was held hostage for three hours earlier in the day.

Abusahmain told the press that neither citizens, foreigners, nor diplomats will be affected by the political controversies taking place in the country, adding that the abduction of the prime minister came at a time of political wrangling in Libya.

Members of the Revolutionary Operations Chamber raided Zeidan’s heavily secured Tripoli hotel around 4 am (0300

GMT) and abducted him, local security sources told *Xinhua*.

Zeidan was released hours later and arrived at his cabinet office where he met Abusahmain.

The Libyan Revolutionary Operations Chamber “arrested” Zeidan after Abusahmain issued an order calling for the arrest of anyone who puts national security in danger, the leader of the group in Tripoli, Jamma Zubian, said.

However, Abusahmain refuted claims that the abduction of Zeidan was legal or condoned. Libyan Minister of Justice Salah Bashir Margani also denied that this “arrest” was legitimate, explaining that Zeidan is covered by immunity.

The abduction came

amid the general discontent in Libya over accusations against Zeidan of allegedly colluding in the US raid that was carried out last Saturday to capture al-Qaeda suspect Abu Anas al-Liby. In addition to these charges, Zeidan also faces allegations of bribery with the federalist Petroleum Field Guard (PFG), according to reports from a former commander of the Libyan Eastern Region Cyrenaica’s PFG, Ibrahim Al Jedran.

Last week, US authorities were accused of violating the Libyan sovereignty. The abduction of Prime Minister Zeidan along with the US raid to combat al-Qaeda in Libya has led to sharp criticisms of the government.

Xinhua

Egypt criticizes US aid cuts, Washington says not severing ties

CAIRO, 11 Oct—Egypt criticized on Thursday a US decision to curtail military and economic aid to Cairo after a crackdown on the Muslim Brotherhood, although Washington stressed it was not severing ties with its long-standing ally.

The army-backed government insisted Egypt would not bow to US pressure, saying it found the decision strange at a time when the country was “facing a war against terrorism”.

However, US Secretary of State John Kerry said Washington would consider resuming some of the aid “on a basis of per-

formance” in following the interim government’s “roadmap” that promises to lead to fair elections.

Washington faces a dilemma in dealing with its major regional ally; Egypt controls the strategic Suez Canal and has a peace treaty with neighboring Israel but its army overthrew in July the first freely-elected president, Islamist Mohamed Mursi, after mass protests against his rule.

In some of the worst civilian violence in modern Egyptian history, security forces crushed protests by Mursi’s supporters, who have been attacking Egyptian forces in the Sinai peninsula for some time, have

begun staging assaults in or near major cities including Cairo.

Reuters



US Secretary of State John Kerry speaks during a news conference in Kuala Lumpur on 10 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS

Eight patients, 2 staffers die in Fukuoka hospital fire

FUKUOKA, 11 Oct—Ten people were confirmed dead after a fire broke out at an orthopedic hospital in the southwestern Japan city of Fukuoka, with the victims believed to be eight patients and two staffers, police said.

Of a total of 17 people

in the hospital at the time of the breakout, which was reported around 2:20 am, two escaped on their own. One elderly woman was the first to be confirmed dead, while nine people had been in cardiac or respiratory arrest, the local fire department said. Five others sustained injuries, they said.

The four-story building, which has one basement floor, was burning intensely on the ground floor when firefighters arrived, the department said. The fire was extinguished about two and a half hours later.

The fire appeared to have started in a treatment room on the ground floor, according to reports.

Located in a residential-shopping district in Hakata Ward about 1 kilometre southwest of JR Hakata Station, the hospital, which also provides rehabilitation services, has an inpatient facility, according to its website.

Kyodo News

Ancient tombs unearthed in north China

SHIJAZHUANG, 11 Oct—Nearly 300 pieces of cultural relics have been unearthed from a cluster of ancient tombs in north China’s Hebei Province, archaeologists said on Friday.

The tombs, located in Beidazhao Qiangong village of Nanhe County, 150 km south of the provincial capital of Shijiazhuang, are believed to be from the middle and late West Han Dynasty (206 BC- 24 AD) and middle Tang Dynasty (618-907), said archaeologist Li Lianshen. More than 4,000 square metres of land have been combed since the excavation started in May, and archaeologists have discovered 73 tombs altogether, Li said.

Zhang Xiaozheng, head of the excavation, said the relics are mostly pottery, chinaware and bronze ware that were used in daily life.—*Xinhua*

China supports Iran’s participation in Syria talks

BEIJING, 11 Oct—Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying on Thursday expressed support for Iran’s participation in peace talks on the Syria issue.

She told a regular press briefing, “Proper resolution of the Syria issue will be impossible without the participation and support of regional countries, especially countries with leverage over concerned parties in Syria.”

On Monday, US State

Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said the United States might agree with Iran’s participation in a potential Geneva II talks over Syria if Teheran backs the “Geneva I Communiqué” which called for a transitional government in Syria.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Marzieh Afkham said on Tuesday that Iran will not accept any pre-conditions for attending peace talks on Syria.

Xinhua

Syrian rebels killed 190 civilians in August dawn raid

BEIRUT, 11 Oct—Syrian rebels killed at least 190 civilians and took more than 200 hostage during an offensive in Latakia province in August, Human Rights Watch said on Friday, in what it calls the first evidence of crimes against humanity by opposition forces.

HRW said many of the dead had been executed by militant groups, some

linked to al-Qaeda, who overran army positions at dawn on 4 August and then moved into 10 villages nearby where members of President Bashar al-Assad’s Alawite sect lived.

In its first government-sanctioned trip into Syria during the 2-1/2-year conflict, New York-based HRW has documented a series of sectarian mass killings by Assad’s foes

during a broader campaign in which Western-backed rebels took part.

In some cases, entire families were executed or gunned down as they fled, according to a report titled “You Can Still See Their Blood”.

HRW identified five rebel groups instrumental to funding, organizing, planning and carrying out the Latakia attacks, includ-

ing the al Qaeda-linked Jabhat al-Nusra and Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant groups, as well as the Islamist group Ahrar al-Sham and another unit of foreign jihadi fighters.

These groups publicized their involvement through videos and statements, some of which were used to corroborate the HRW report.

Reuters



Photo taken on the morning of on 11 Oct, 2013, shows an orthopedic hospital in the southwestern Japan city of Fukuoka, where a fire broke out earlier that morning. Ten people were confirmed dead after the fire.

KYODO NEWS



A Free Syrian Army fighter and a civilian look up from a window as they stand inside a room in Deir al-Zor on 10 Oct, 2013.—XINHUA

NATIONAL

Public announcement for MRTV's transition from analog to digital broadcasting system

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct — With advancements in broadcasting technology, Myanmar Radio and Television will introduce an ASEAN digital standard, Digital Video Broadcasting-Terrestrial-2 (DVB-T2), to the country under Free to Air (FTA) system phase by phase.

Following the switch from Analogue to Digital, the first phase will start on 15 October, covering four broadcasting stations in Yangon, Mandalay (Sagaing), Nay Pyi Taw (Pyinmana) and Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon). A total of 21 TV broadcast stations in Myitkyina, Taunggyi, Kengtung, Lashio, Sittway, Minbu, Kalay (Kennedy), Falam, Popa, Meiktila, Toungoo, Nyaunglebin, Bago, Pyay, Loikaw, Mawlamyine, Hpa-an, Kyaunggon, Patheingyi, Hinthada and Dawei will be included in the second phase in which all stations will be equipped with digital devices during the period from November 2013 to May 2014. The third phase will include 56 stations during the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the fourth phase, 110 in the 2015-2016 fiscal year and the fifth phase, 66 in the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

People will be able to receive the digital broadcasting system (DVB-T2) with the use of digital televisions with DVB-T2 MPEG-4 tuner and by joining the analogue television with DVB-T2 MPEG-4 Set-top Box. Programmes will be broadcast from 6 am to 11 pm daily through five channels—MRTV Channel, Myanmar International (MI) Channel,

Hluttaw Channel, National Races Channel and Farmers Channel. It is planned to increase the number of channels to eight. Transmitting signals from Yangon station at 3 KW with frequency (CH-23) will cover Hmawby and Hlegu Townships to the north, Kungyangon and Kawhmu Townships to the south, Thongwa and Kayan Townships to the east and Twantay Township to the west, from Sagaing station at 3 KW with frequency (CH-31) Madaya to the north, Wundwin to the south and Patheingyi to the east and Myaung to the west, from Nay Pyi Taw (Pyinmana) at 3 KW with frequency (CH-30) Shwemyo in Tatkon Township to the north, Thagara Town to the south, Yezin and Thaikchaung to the east and Taungnyo to the

west and from Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon) station at 1 KW with frequency (CH-23) the junction at the entrance to Pyawbwe to the north, Kyitaungkan to the south, Thabyekon and Nauk Both-O villages to the east and Myaungmyeik and Thayatkwin to the west.

Moreover, the above-mentioned channels will be available in Cable TV line in Nay Pyi Taw.

Through digital TV and Set-top Box, viewers will have access to 16 channels— five channels of MRTV, seven channels of MWD and four channels of Forever— without paying any monthly fees.

For the sake of the people using Analogue TVs, the analogue system will be available till next three years.

Myanmar Radio and Television

Secretary of Pyithu Hluttaw Resource and Environmental Conservation Committee meets NBR delegation from US

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct — Secretary of Pyithu Hluttaw Resource and Environmental Conservation Committee U Thein Lwin met a six-member delegation of the National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR) from the United States of America at No I-10 meeting hall of the Hluttaw Complex, here, this afternoon.

Both sides discussed matters on energy sector development and environmental conservation of Myanmar.

Committee Secretary U Thein Lwin touched upon endeavors for development of energy sector by administrative body in cooperation with Hluttaw committees, enactment of environmental conservation law in April 2012 and release of EIA, SIA principles. The visiting delegation said that they came here to meet with respective organizations to observe change and development of Myanmar and the reports would be released on the findings with reviews.—MNA

XXVII SEA Games torch relay rehearsal on 13 October

Motorists are requested to reduce the speed of their vehicles when they meet the XXVII SEA Games torch relay rehearsal on 13 October.

The relay will start at 5.30 am from the National Indoor Stadium-1 (Thuwunna) in Yangon and end at the City Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

The relay will go along Waizayandar Road and the convoy will start at the junction of Waizayandar Road and Thitsar Road and will go along Waizayandar Road to Parami Junction, along Parami Road, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Pyay Road to Htaukkyant Junction, along Yangon-Mandalay Road to No. 3 Junction, along Yangon-Mandalay Highway to Nay Pyi Taw (C) Junction, along Shwepyitawwin Road to Gangaw Roundabout, Yazathingaha Road to Thabyaygon Roundabout and Taungnyo Road.

The relay ends at Nay Pyi Taw City Hall.

Committee for preparation for opening and closing ceremony of 27th SEA Games

LOCAL NEWS

Culture

Thayet District holds performing arts competition

THAYET, 11 Oct — The 20th National Races' Performing Arts Competition of Thayet District was held at the hall of the district in Thayet on 28 September morning.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Win Kyaw, Region Hluttaw representative Daw Yin Yin Hla and Deputy Commissioner of Thayet District U Hla

Wai formally opened the competition.

At the ceremony, the deputy commissioner made a speech. The contestants participated in the song, dancing and music contests of the competitions.

Officials of the organizing committee awarded the winners in the competition.

MMAL-Township IPRD

World Teachers' Day marked in Hsihseng

HSIHSENG, 11 Oct — The World Teachers Day was marked at Basic Education High School Branch in Hsihseng of Pa-O Self-Administered Zone of Shan State (South) on 5 October.

It was attended by teachers, school heads, retired teachers and students. Hsihseng BEHS Headmaster U Maung Maung Aye made a speech.

A student expressed prestige of the teachers and their gritudes.

Assistant Township Education Officer U Thet Win, Headmaster U Maung Maung Aye and officials presented prizes to the winners in the essay and poem contests.

They paid respects to the older teachers.

MMAL-Township IPRD

Livestock breeding

Development of livestock breeding sector talked

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct — The talks on development of livestock breeding sector and taking census were held at the monastery in Nyaunglu Village in Pobbathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 2 October.

Head of Pobbathiri Township Fisheries Department U Soe Hlaing Myint explained development of livestock breeding sector.

Head of Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr

Myint Thein gave talks on infectious diseases among cattle, infectious diseases from animal to human and anti-rabies vaccine.

Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Theint Theint Myo gave lectures on 41 points for taking census to be held in March 2014.

Later, Head of LBVD Dr Myint Thein and party injected anti-rabies vaccines to dogs in the village.

MMAL-Ko Ko Yupa (Nay Pyi Taw)

Collapsed corridor under repair at Meiktila Lake

MEIKTILA, 11 Oct — The collapsed corridor of the eastern part of Meiktila Lake in Yadana Manaung Ward is under repair on 9 October mornig.

“The collapsed area is about 60 feet long section. Now, the repairing area will be 100 feet long, 11 feet wide and 10 feet high. The corridor floor and railing will be of reinforced concrete. The new structure will be further strengthened and it will be completed sooner. While the damaged parts are being removed with the use of heavy machinery, officials are supervising driving of vehicles along other routes. In the morning, the road will return to normalcy,” said SAE U Myint Zaw of

Township Development Committee.

Deputy Commissioner U Tin Maung Soe, Township

Administrator U Myo Hlaing and Head of Township Settlement and Land Records Department U Thein Tun

Zaw and party inspected progress of repairing.

MMAL-Chan Tha (Meiktila)



Collapsed corridor under repair at Meiktila Lake.

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 12 October, 2013

Challenges ahead

Myanmar takes over ASEAN Chair at the concluding of 23rd ASEAN Summit, adopting "Moving Forward in Unity, To a Peaceful and Prosperous Society" as the slogan of the ASEAN Chair for 2014.

The clock is ticking and 2013 is almost over and Myanmar needs to tackle a number of daunting challenges to assure internal stability.

It is a welcoming move that both the government and political parties are seeking opinions about constitutional reform. More encouragingly, the political awareness of people has increased over the recent years. But, when it comes to constitutional amendment, many citizens do not exactly know what all the provisions are about in the constitution. It is particularly important that the constitution, whether it is to be amended or rewritten, serves the interests and reflects the aspirations of the national people and ethnic nationalities in the Union but not a particular party nor a particular organization.

Meanwhile, communal strife in western part of Myanmar has been a real headache for the government in office. It is normal for a multi-faith and multi-ethnic country like Myanmar to go through ethnic strife and interfaith tension at times, but the problem is there are certain political opportunists and religious extremists fomenting hatred between faiths. The government needs to make thorough investigation and bring all the perpetrators of racially and religiously motivated violence to justice. Meanwhile, racial and religious tolerance must be revived to bring back the peaceful coexistence.

Despite the president's repeated call for mindset change, old habits are still alive at the lower levels of the administration. The bribery and corruption remains one of the high hurdles in the democratization process. Red-tape, coupled with nepotism has been a major hindrance to effectiveness of the administrative mechanism. Perhaps, the carrot and stick approach is the solution to these problems.

To establish the rule of law, enacting laws alone is just not enough and it is time for a complete rethink how the stakeholders are engaging in the process.

It is undeniable that we are heading in the right direction towards more openness and democracy. Although many reforms of the government have not actually produced tangible results, they are certainly providing a foundation for democracy for the younger generation. But, with taking the ASEAN Chair in 2014, we need to redouble our efforts in moving toward our goal. A sense of urgency is what exactly we need right now.

Earthquake News

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct—A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.4 Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar, about 15 miles east-northeast of Thabeik-kyin about 65 miles north

of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 00 hr 26 min 12 sec M.S.T today announced by Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham meets London Mayor and party

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham received Mr. Roger Gifford, Mayor of London and party at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 11 am today.

The meeting focused on providing assistance of Britain in promoting education and health sectors and rural development of Myanmar.

Also present at the call

together with the Vice-President were Deputy Minister U Ohn Than, Vice-Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Set Aung and officials. The delegation was accompanied by the British Ambassador to Myanmar.—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham shakes hands with London Mayor Mr. Roger Gifford.—MNA



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets Swiss Federal Assembly President, President of Council of States



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann shakes hands with President of Council of States of Switzerland Mr. Fillippo Lombardi.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct—The president of Federal Assembly hosted a working lunch to Myanmar parliamentarian goodwill delegation at Bellevue Palace Hotel in Bern. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker signed the visitor's book of the Swiss parliament and exchanged

UCSB member recounts Japan visit experience

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct—The Experience Sharing Workshop on the study tour to Japan conducted by the delegates who visited Japan on 23-27 September was held at the Union Civil Services Board, here, this morning, with an opening address by UCSB Chairman U Kyaw Thu. The delegates were among those who attended the Workshop on Capacity Enhancement of Myanmar Civil Service –

2013 held in Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) organized by UCSB in collaboration with Sasakawa Peace Foundation of Japan. It was attended by UCSB members U Khin Maung Aye, Dr Kyaw Kyaw Htay, U Soe Oo, U Than Tun, U Mahn Maung Maung Nyun, U Ngun Maung, departmental officials and delegation members.

gifts.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw then met with President of Council of States of Switzerland Mr. Fillippo Lombardi at Renaissance Hotel in Zurich in the evening. Next, they attended the dinner hosted by the president of Council of States.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw also met Federal Chancellor Mrs. Corina Casanova in Bern in the same morning.

They observed Swiss Parliament building and House of Cantons in Bern.

Afterwards, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker held talks with President of Foreign Affairs Committee of the Council of State Mr. Germann Hannes and party. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker and party were conducted round the system being realized in Switzerland by Chief of the Political Department Mr. Roland SALVISBERG and Expert Ms. Nicole Topperwien at Swiss Parliament building.—MNA

On behalf of the delegates, UCSB member Dr Kyaw Kyaw Htay, Lecturer Daw Pyone Mya Mya Kyi of the Ministry of Culture, Assistant Director U Kyaw Lwin of the Office of the Union Government and Assistant Director U Myo Nyein Hlaing of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union recounted their experiences during the visit and answered the queries raised by those present.—MNA

Training Course for Basic English and Foreign Service Skills (No. 1/ 2013) concludes

YANGON, 11 Oct—The Completion Ceremony of the Training Course for Basic English and Foreign Service Skills (Course No. 1/ 2013) conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held at Wunzinminyazar Hall of the ministry at 10 am today, with a closing address delivered by Deputy Director-General of Training, Research & Foreign Languages Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U Myint Lwin.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Director-General U Myint Lwin, responsible officials of the Training, Research and Foreign Languages Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and retired Myanmar Ambassadors, Professors and Lecturers.

The 10-week course includes subjects related to English proficiency and Diplomatic Skills, contemporary international affairs, negotiation skills, international law, international economic relations, international etiquette, diplomatic and official correspondence and communication skills. Altogether newly recruited 70 junior service personnel attended the course.

MNA

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein, UNSG hold talks ...

(from page 1)
his delight that the UN has actively discussed Myanmar's hopes and future whenever it holds talks about Myanmar in the time of the new government led by President U Thein Sein though the UN could talk about only concerns over Myanmar in the past.

Mr Ban Ki-moon also pledged that the UN and international

community would make further cooperation with Myanmar.

Also present at the meeting were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin and U Soe Thane, Deputy Ministers U Tin Oo Lwin and U Ye Htut while the UN Secretary-General was accompanied by advisers Mr Jeffrey Feldman and Ms Noeleen Heyzer, Spokesperson Mr Martin

Nesirky, UN coordinator for Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Ms Michelle Gyles-Mc Donnough.

MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein giving an interview to NHK of Japan.

MNA



UEC to hold 2015 general election free and fair



Meeting between Union Election Commission and political parties in progress.—MNA

YANGON, 11 Oct — Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye

has promised that the commission will hold the upcoming 2015- general election

free and fair.

At the meeting between the commission and political

parties, UEC Chairman U Tin Aye also said the commission will announce the schedule of the general election in time and it will never accept things which are not in conformity with the law.

He also sought cooperation from political parties, civil organizations and the people to ensure a free and fair election.

According to the chairman of the UEC, the commission is drawing a strategic plan towards that end.

The meeting was also participated by Secretary of the UEC U Tin Tun, chairmen of region and district election commissions, departmental officials and personnel from 32 political parties.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker holds talks with IDEA Secretary-General

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct— Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa received a delegation led by Secretary-General of IDEA Mr. Vidar Helgesen at the Hluttaw Complex,

here, this afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed responsibilities and experience of IDEA in Myanmar, and exchanged views on parliamentary affairs.—MNA

Local people to be employed after resumption ...

(from page 16)

Next, committee member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko gave an account of matters related to ensuring the rule of law and security in the project area.

Then, committee

member Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung explained availability of drinking water and regional development tasks.

Afterwards, deputy ministers, leaders of work committees, and the region ministers reported on their respective works and those present, general matters.

In his concluding address, the committee chairman called for collaborative efforts to gain success in coping with the tasks for socio-economic development of the local people.

The meeting was also attended by Maj-Gen Zarni Win, managing director of Union of Myanmar Economic Holding Limited, responsible persons of UMEHL and Myanmar Wenbao Co., Ltd and departmental officials.

MNA



Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa holding talks with Secretary-General of IDEA Mr. Vidar Helgesen.—MNA

Chief Justice of the Union receives Chinese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct—Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo received a delegation led by Chinese Ambassador Mr. Yang Houlan at the hall of Supreme Court of the Union, here, this morning.

At the meeting, they cordially discussed efforts of the Supreme Court of the Union for

proficiency enhancement of judges, cooperation with the law association of the People's Republic of China and further cooperation matters.

Also present on the occasion were Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union U Mya Thein and U Myint Aung and Director-General U Sein Than.

MNA

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Announcement No. (30/ 2013)
7th Waxing of Thadingyut, 1375 ME
(11th October, 2013)
Two Defence Services Personnel
State Hluttaw representatives
substituted**

According to the request made in accordance with Section 33 of State Hluttaw or Region Hluttaw Election Law to substitute two Defence Services Personnel State Hluttaw representatives nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services in the first multiparty democracy general election held on 7 November 2010, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted the following two Defence Services Personnel State Hluttaw representatives mentioned under the Notification No. 3/2011 of the commission dated 20-1-2011 with personnel shown against them.

- Kachin State Hluttaw
(1) BC 34055 Major Aung Than Zaw BC 23978 Major Aung Khin Oo
Shan State Hluttaw
(2) BC 33102 Major Aung Aung BC19414 Major Zaw Myint Win
By order,
(Tin Tun)
Secretary
Union Election Commission

Knowledge about Anti-Trafficking in Persons, taking census disseminated

SINGAING, 11 Oct—Singaing Township Information and Public Relations Department makes field trips to the grassroots level for sharing knowledge as public service media to the local people. The department held talks on prevention against human trafficking and census-taking in the township.

On 8 October morning, they held a similar talk in Shwebontha Village. Head of Township IPRD Daw Tin Tin Htwe explained the purpose of holding the talks that as prevention against trafficking persons depends on the scope of knowledge of the people, the talks were held for many

times to make clarify the correct events of the trafficking in persons. She also explained the role of people in taking census for the first time during the 30 years period and its functions.

Next, she distributed pamphlets and books to the village library.

Singaing Township is formed with four wards and 164 villages. Township IPRD draws a monthly plan for making field trips to the villages and wards so as to organize the educative talks.

Kyemon-Tun Tun Naing



Heroin seized in Nawngkhio

LASHIO, 11 Oct—IP Win Min Htwe and party of No. 24 Anti-Drug Squad of Shan State (North) together with witnesses searched the express bus of Shweli U bus line driven by U Zaw Myo Htaik at the entrance to Nawngkhio at 7.45 pm yesterday.

They seized 110 grams of heroin from the soap cases and a mobile phone from the bag of passenger Ngwe Thein (a) Han Win Tun from the seat No. 32.

Nawngkhio Myoma Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against drug trafficker Ngwe Thein (a) Han Win Tun, 24, son of U Win Aung of Koetaungboh Village in Padaukkhon Ward of Kanbalu of Sagaing Region under Sections 15/19(a)/21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Kyemon-Lashio District IPRD



Voluntary Affairs

Uniforms provided to members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade in Muse



Presentation of uniforms for members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade in progress in Muse.

MUSE, 11 Oct—A ceremony to present uniforms to 339 members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade of Muse

Township was held at the township fire station in Muse of Shan State on 4 October.

At first, Township Administrator U Ko Ko Zaw made a speech. The Chairman of the Township Fire Prevention Committee and party gave uniforms to 339 members.

Fire Services Department allotted K 3,390,000 as K 10000 per member to 339 fire brigade members. According to the decision of the committee, the uniforms were bought for the members.

Labour Affairs

Management of labour affairs undertaken at factories in Myeik



Taninthayi Region Minister for Economic and Planning U Thein Lwin meets workers and employers at a cold storage.

MYEIK, 11 Oct—Taninthayi Region Minister for Economic and Planning U Thein Lwin together with

Myeik Township Labour Dispute Committee on 9 October made field trips to factories and workshops in Myeik region.

At ASK Andaman Cold Storage and the cold storage of Asaungkaung Company in Myeik Township, they met workers and asked labour affairs.

At the meeting hall, the region minister and party met worker representatives of sections of the cold storage and gave instruction that as number of workers are growing day by day in the industries, employers and employees are to solve

labour disputes between them. Both sides are to abide by the prescribed rules and regulations and to sign the contracts for socio-economic development of employers and boosting production of factories and workshops, he said.

Township Labour Dispute Committee participated in the respective sectors. Officials replied to queries raised by those present.

They also visited Vantage Co, Pyae Phyo Tun Co and Kaung Kaung Co and conducted the labour affairs there.—Kyemon-Myeik District IPRD

Construction of SPED Office in Myanaung Township coordinated

MYANAUNG, 11 Oct—A coordination meeting was held for construction of the staff officer office of Sports and Physical Education Department and residence in front of Aungzeya Gymnasium in Myanaung Township of Ayeyawady Region recently.

Kay Khaing Oo Co will build the office and quarter.

Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw representatives, the township administrator and officials chose the site for construction of the building.

The SPED Office will be built north of Aungzeya Gymnasium and near the wall of Basic Education High School (Naychi) within two months.—Kyemon-Nay Win Zaw (Myanaung)



Meeting on construction of Sports and Physical Education Department in Myanaung Township in progress.

REGIONAL

Japan should play leading role toward year-end TPP talks deal

TOKYO, 11 Oct—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Friday that Japan should play a leading role in the trans-Pacific free trade negotiations involving 12 countries toward the goal of striking a deal by the end of the year.

“Joining the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations is a far-sighted policy. Japan should play a leading role toward the year-end deal,” Abe told Cabinet members involved in Tokyo’s policymaking on the matter, a day after returning from a trip to Southeast Asia to attend TPP summit

talks and other meetings.

In a statement released Tuesday after the TPP summit in Bali, Indonesia, leaders of the 12 negotiating countries hailed the “significant progress” seen in recent months, but noted that negotiators “should now proceed to resolve all outstanding issues.”

With the focus shifting to the difficult tariff-cutting negotiations, Japan’s ruling Liberal Democratic Party has said it plans to examine five sensitive trade areas such as rice and wheat to consider the possibility of abolishing tariffs on some

of the areas’ specific items.

But deciding to open up the market is believed to be a challenging process in the country known to have heavily protected its agricultural sector.

Akira Amari, minister in charge of TPP issues, told a press conference Friday that the government will “basically await the outcome” of the discussions taking place in the party, while vowing to work toward achieving national interests as much as possible in the multilateral negotiations.

Kyodo News



Kyushu Railway Co unveils to the Press on 10 Oct, 2013, the DX Suite, the most expensive guest room of its Seven Stars luxury cruise train service, during the train’s test run in Kagoshima Prefecture. The railway operator commonly known as JR Kyushu is set to launch the Seven Stars service on 15 October.

KYODO NEWS

Two killed in plane crash landing in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 11 Oct —At least two were killed after a small passenger plane crash-landed near an airport in Malaysia’s Borneo state of Sabah on Thursday, authorities said.

The Twin Otter plane of MasWings, a regional airline of the national carrier Malaysia Airlines, was flying from the state capital Kota Kinabalu to the Kudat Area with 16 passengers and crew members on board, the air carrier said in a statement.

An earlier statement

said “the aircraft landed short of the runway in Kudat.” Officials said the plane plunged into a residence house near the airport before all 16 on board were rescued. However, a co-pilot and a passenger succumbed to injury later in hospitals while at least one remained in critical conditions. Malaysia Airlines said the cause of the incident is still under investigation and local media reported that the accident might be caused by bad weather.

Xinhua



Pakistan’s Malala Yousafzai arrives for a photo opportunity before speaking at an event in New York, on 10 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 11 Oct — Pakistani teenager Malala Yousafzai, who was shot in the head by the Taliban for campaigning for girl’s education, spoke on Thursday

of the possibility of winning this year’s Nobel Peace Prize and said she might like to be Pakistan’s Prime Minister one day. “If I get the Nobel Peace Prize, I think it will be

such a great honor, and more than I deserve, and such a great responsibility as well,” she told an audience at a New York City cultural centre on Thursday night.

A win would “help me to begin this campaign for girls’ education, but the real goal, the most precious goal that I want to get and for which I am thirsty and I want to struggle hard for, that is the award of seeing every child to go to school,” she added. Yousafzai, 16, a favourite among experts and betting agencies to be named the winner of the prestigious prize, which is to be announced on Friday, was in conversation with journalist Christiane Amanpour, at the 92nd Street

Y, a cultural centre in Manhattan.

After receiving death threats from the Taliban for defying the militant group with her outspoken views on the right to education, Yousafzai was shot a year ago while on a school bus near her village in Swat in northwestern Pakistan. “You may call him a boy,” she said of her shooter, describing him as barely older than herself. She recovered after she was flown to Britain for surgery.

Yousafzai started her campaigning by writing a blog in 2009 in which she described how the Taliban prevented girls like her from going to school.—Reuters

Observers call Azerbaijan vote unfair, opposition plans challenge

BAKU, 11 Oct — Opponents of Azerbaijan’s President Ilham Aliyev said on Thursday they would go to court to challenge his election to a third term, rejecting the result of a vote that international monitors said was seriously flawed. Aliyev, who succeeded his father a decade ago as leader of

the oil-producing former Soviet republic, won a third five-year term with nearly 85 percent of the vote in Wednesday’s election.

Standing before a national flag on state television, he thanked Azeris for their support and said he would ensure security in the South Caucasus, where tensions still simmer with

neighbouring Armenia over a disputed territory.

Opposition candidate Jamal Hasanly said he aimed to challenge the official result in the Constitutional Court, alleging violations including ballot stuffing and multiple voting. “This election was neither free or fair,” he said.

Aliyev, 51, has overseen an economic boom that has raised living standards in the Caspian Sea nation, which pumps oil and gas to Europe, bypassing Russia. He has allowed Washington to use it as a transit point for sending troops to Afghanistan.

But he has faced criticism at home and abroad over his treatment of opponents. Media are tightly controlled, protests quashed, and one rights group said a pre-election crackdown had doubled the

number of political prisoners. International monitors from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) said the vote was marred by a “restrictive media environment” and allegations of intimidation of candidates and voters.

“The limitations placed on the fundamental freedoms of assembly, association, and expression, the lack of a level playing field, the allegations of intimidation, all came in the lead up to an election day that our observers found to be seriously flawed,” OSCE official Tana de Zulueta said.

Monitors reported clear indications of ballot-stuffing at 37 polling stations, and said the counting was assessed negatively at an unprecedented 58 per cent of stations observed.

An OSCE news con-



Monitors from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) attend a news conference in Baku on 10 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS

ference degenerated into chaos as journalists from pro-government media drowned out the observers and shouted “The OSCE is biased.”

The US State Department said Washington agreed with the OSCE that the election “fell short of international standards”. In a statement, it urged the Azeri government to respect freedom of peaceful assembly, association and speech and to prevent vio-

lence in the post-electoral period.

Hasanly, 61, a former lawmaker who has united Azerbaijan’s fractured opposition for the first time in a presidential election, told journalists: “When (officials) announce the final official results of the election and declare Ilham Aliyev as the president, we will address the Constitutional Court with a demand to cancel the election results.”—Reuters



Supporters of Azerbaijan’s incumbent President Ilham Aliyev celebrate the victory in the country’s presidential election in Baku, capital of Azerbaijan, on 9 Oct, 2013.—XINHUA

US, Vietnam sign nuclear trade agreement

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 11 Oct—The United States and Vietnam on Thursday signed a pact that would allow the transfer of nuclear technology to the Southeast Asian nation and open the way for US investment in the burgeoning industry, in another sign that Washington is seeking stronger economic and strategic ties in the region.

US Secretary of State John Kerry said the US-Vietnam Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement would

allow US firms to tap Vietnam's future nuclear power market, although the State Department said the deal will not allow Vietnam to enrich or reprocess US-origin nuclear materials. "This agreement will create numerous opportunities for our businesses," Kerry told Vietnam's Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh on the sidelines of an Asian summit in Brunei. "Obviously our nuclear cooperation is quite significant." Vietnam is working with Russia to

build its first nuclear plant in 2014 for completion in 2020 in the south-central Province of Ninh Thuan, as demand for energy grows rapidly in response to economic growth of around 5 percent a year.

It has also signed an agreement with a Japanese consortium to develop a second nuclear power plant in the same province, with two reactors to become operational in 2024-2025.

Vietnam has the second-largest market after



US Secretary of State John Kerry (R) and Vietnam's Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh smile during an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan on 2 July, 2013.

REUTERS

China for nuclear power in East Asia, which was expected to grow to \$50 billion by 2030, according to Kerry.

Reuters

Abe to visit Laos, Cambodia in November

TOKYO, 11 Oct—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is planning to visit Laos and Cambodia on 16 and 17 November, the last two ASEAN countries he has yet to visit since taking office last December, a government source said on Thursday.

The visits will come roughly a month before a special summit is held in Tokyo from 13 to 15 December to mark the 40th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Japan and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

During his stay, Abe is expected to meet with Lao Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen among others, the source said.

Abe is apparently trying to show Japan places importance on the regional bloc by visiting all 10 ASEAN member states during his first year in office.

As part of his growth strategy to revive the deflation-hit Japanese economy, he aims to strengthen economic ties with ASEAN, which has high growth potential, and encourage more Japanese companies to operate in the regional bloc, according to the source.

Abe has already visited the eight other ASEAN members — Brunei, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Myanmar.

Kyodo News

Afghanistan marks 12th anniversary of US-led military offensive against Taliban

KABUL, 11 Oct — Exactly 12 years ago on 7 Oct, 2001, the US-led military coalition forces invaded Afghanistan to topple the Taliban regime that harbored Osama Bin Laden, the alleged mastermind of the deadly 9/11 attacks on New York and Washington.

Branding the Taliban and al-Qaeda network as terrorist groups, the US-led military offensive, using massive air, land and sea assets, easily drove the Taliban from Kabul and other cities that they controlled.

Because of its brutal rule, most Afghans welcomed the collapse of the Taliban and the emergence of an American-backed regime. With the support of the international communi-

ty, the Afghans were given the opportunity to rebuild their country.

With the ouster of the Taliban regime, the decades-long isolation of the country was over and there was a feeling of hope among Afghans for a brighter future.

But this feeling of exuberance was short-lived as the Taliban and other insurgents have resurfaced and threatened the peace and stability of the country with stepped-up suicide bombings and frontal attacks against government facilities killing security forces and civilians alike.

In a strange twist of events, the United States, instead of pressing for a military solution to the continued violence caused by the Taliban, is now urging

the Kabul government to negotiate with the armed group.

This apparent political gambit of the United States has raised concerns among Afghans, particularly among Afghan women who had suffered the most during Taliban's reign of terror.

Obviously encouraged by Washington's policy shift, the Taliban opened a liaison office in Doha last June, but the initial talks with the United States were aborted after the government of President Hamid Karzai strongly protested over the raising of the Taliban flag and the emblem of Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, the official name of Taliban, in its Doha office.

Xinhua

Sydney braces for hottest October day on record

SYDNEY, 11 Oct — Sydney faces what could be its hottest October day on record on Thursday, with temperatures expected to hit 42 degrees Celsius in the far west, local media reported.

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology on Thursday issued a severe weather

warning for damaging winds for people across southern and central New South Wales (NSW).

"Gusty, strong to gale force west to northwesterly winds will persist ahead of this front over the Alps, before increasing over the remainder of southern and

central NSW during Thursday morning and afternoon," the bureau warned.

Gusty winds of up to 100 km an hour are forecast for Sydney.

"A low pressure trough is drawing the heat down into NSW and those strong north westerly winds draw-

ing temperatures ... much hotter weather near the coast in NSW," meteorologist Ben Domensino told Macquarie Radio Network.

Meanwhile, the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) has warned of potential catastrophic danger for some locations as temperatures rise.

Firefighters are standing ready throughout the state.

"There are also 26 strike teams pre-deployed into strategic locations and also around other areas of extreme risk," RFS spokesman Brendan Doyle told the Australian Associated Press (AAP).

He said fires could start easily under these conditions and have the chance of affecting people in a matter of minutes.—Xinhua



Contestants perform traditional crosstalk show during the 4th Beijing Youth Crosstalk Festival and Competition in Beijing, capital of China, on 9 Oct, 2013.

Crosstalk show, or Xiangsheng, is a popular oral comedic art in China.

XINHUA

S Korea launches joint maritime drills with US, Japan

SEOUL, 11 Oct—South Korea's Defence Ministry said on Thursday that its naval forces launched a joint maritime drill with the United States and Japan in waters off the Korean Peninsula amid mounting tensions with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

"SAREX training exercises, which were delayed due to typhoon, will be staged from today to tomorrow," Wi Yong-seop, spokesman of the Ministry of National Defence, told a Press briefing.

The spokesman said that the drill, which contains a US aircraft carrier, would be carried out for a humanitarian purpose, not for the military one, to help search and rescue wrecked ships effectively. The 97,000-ton, nuclear-powered super-carrier USS George Washington arrived in the South Korean port city of Busan last

week to conduct joint drills with Seoul and Tokyo.

The exercise was originally scheduled to be staged for three days from Tuesday, but it was postponed due to bad weather.

The training would include Aegis destroyers of South Korea and Japan along with the US super-carrier, which is capable of loading some 70 units of fighter jet, anti-submarine helicopter and early warning aircraft.

The joint drill came amid escalating tensions on the peninsula after Pyongyang placed all military forces on full alert in protest against the joint naval maneuver. The DPRK also slammed a joint strategy signed between Seoul and Washington last week that will allow the allies to take preemptive strikes against the impending nuclear attacks from Pyongyang.

Xinhua

Fishermen catch fish by purse-seining in Shahu Lake Wetland in Yinchuan, capital of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, on 9 October.

XINHUA



ENTERTAINMENT

Taylor Swift to receive country music songwriting award

LOS ANGELES, 11 Oct—Country-pop singer Taylor Swift will be honoured as this year’s songwriter and artist of the year by the Nashville Songwriters Association International, making her the only artist to win the award six times, her record company said on Wednesday.

The 23-year-old singer and writer of pop crossover hits “We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together” and “I Knew You Were Trouble” will

be officially named the award’s recipient on Sunday, Big Machine Records said.

The annual award recognizes country music’s songwriters who scored top 30 hits during the past year.

Swift’s win pulls her ahead of five-time winners Vince Gill and Alan Jackson. She is also the youngest person to have won the award.

Her fourth album, “Red,” has sold 6 million copies worldwide since it

was re-released last October.

Swift and newcomer singer-songwriter Kacey Musgraves lead the nominees with six nods each at next month’s Country Music Association Awards.

Reuters



Singer Taylor Swift



Actress Hayden Panettiere

Actress Hayden Panettiere, boxer Vladimir Klitschko to marry

LOS ANGELES, 11 Oct—American actress Hayden Panettiere and Ukrainian boxing champion Vladimir Klitschko are engaged, Panettiere announced on Wednesday.

Daytime talk show host Kelly Ripa coaxed the news out of the 24-year-old actress, star of the ABC television drama “Nashville,” by commenting on a large ring on Panettiere’s finger.

“I think it speaks for itself,” Panettiere said on the US syndicated talk show “Live with Kelly & Michael.”

The actress then said “I am” when Ripa asked her directly if she was engaged. Panettiere added that a wedding date has not been set.

Panettiere’s publicist later confirmed that the actress and the 37-year-old heavyweight champion boxer were engaged.

Klitschko, who won an Olympic gold medal in 1996, and Panettiere began their relationship in 2009 before breaking it off in 2011 and rekindling it again.

It will be the first marriage for both.—Reuters

Timberlake celebrates return to music with second No 1 album this year

LOS ANGELES, 11 Oct—Pop singer Justin Timberlake scored his second chart-topping album this year on Wednesday as his latest record debuted at No 1 on the weekly Billboard 200 album chart, capping the singer’s successful return to the musical spotlight.

Timberlake’s “The 20/20 Experience - 2 of 2,” which follows the first set of 10 songs released in March this year, sold 350,000 copies in its first week, according to figures compiled by Nielsen SoundScan.

The first installment of “The 20/20 Experience” sold 968,000 copies, the

biggest opening week sales of the year so far.

Timberlake, 32, returned to music after more than a five-year hiatus, during which he focused on his acting career. His debut single “Suit & Tie” featuring rapper Jay Z became a chart-topper in January, and his album was received well by fans and critics.

Other new albums in the top 10 this week include 16-year-old New Zealand singer-songwriter Lorde at No 3 with her debut album “Pure Heroine,” selling 129,000 copies.

The album has been driven by the popularity of the single “Royals,” which

topped Billboard’s digital songs chart this week, selling more than 2 million download copies in the United States. Lorde’s album also garnered nearly 6 million US plays on online streaming platform Spotify in its first week.

Country singer Tyler Farr entered the chart at No 5 with his debut album “Redneck Crazy,” while Los Angeles sister trio Haim came in at No 6 with the critically acclaimed debut album “Days Are Gone.”—Reuters



US singer-songwriter Justin Timberlake

Sylvester Stallone to speak Hindi words in Escape Plan



Sylvester Stallone in a still from Escape Plan.

NEW DELHI, 11 Oct—Actor Sylvester Stallone will be seen mouthing Hindi words in his forthcoming

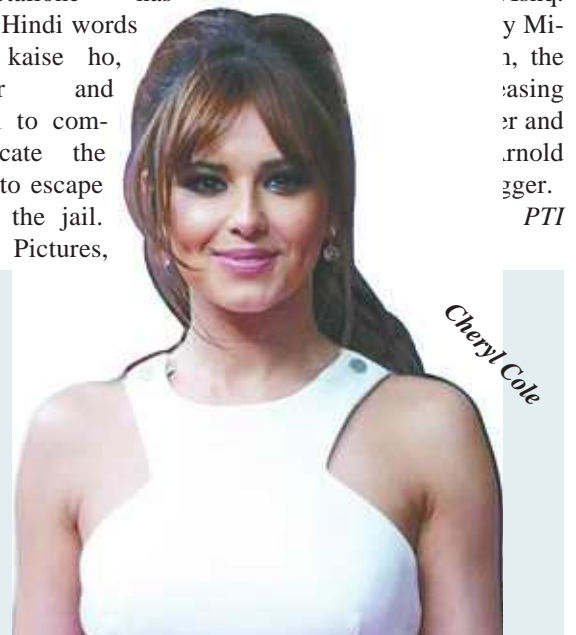
ing movie Escape Plan.

The actor plays a structural engineer. As the story progresses, he gets falsely convicted and trapped in a jail which he had designed and no man can break.

Stallone has used Hindi words like kaise ho, Pyaar and Ziddi to communicate the plan to escape from the jail. PVR Pictures,

which is distributing the film in India, confirmed the news.

Stallone had his stint with Bollywood when he starred along with actor Akshay Kumar in the 2009 movie Kambakkht Ishq.



Cheryl Cole

Cheryl Cole splits from beau Tre Holloway

LONDON, 11 Oct—Singer Cheryl Cole and US dancer Tre Holloway have reportedly ended their relationship earlier this summer. The Girls Aloud singer allegedly called time on her 14-month romance with the US dancer this

summer because their hectic work schedules and the distance between them proved too difficult, reported Daily Mirror.

“Cheryl and Tre had a brilliant year together but the pressures of long-distance dating eventually became

too much. Although Cheryl does a lot of work in America, often it is in New York, which is still a good six-hour flight away. The time difference, plus the hectic nature of Cheryl’s working schedule, eventually took their toll. “Cheryl realised

that if they weren’t going to live together, realistically, the relationship, just wasn’t going to go anywhere,” said a source. Los Angeles-based Holloway, 28, refused to move to England while Cole was adamant about staying in the UK.—PTI

SPORTS

Ozil shrugs of Real

COLOGNE, 11 Oct— signing Mesut Ozil off critics at Real Madrid on Thursday and said he was happy in London and to taste success with Arsenal.



The 29-year-old scored 19 goals in 104 La Liga games over three seasons at Real before joining the north London club in September for 42.5 million pounds (\$67.71 million).

"I had three great years in Madrid and that is all I will say," Ozil told reporters in Cologne ahead of Germany's World Cup qualifier against Ireland on Friday.

"If you look at my statistics (in Madrid) and how many games I played there then you can see how professional I was," he said, when asked specifically about comments from Real bosses in recent weeks questioning his commitment.

He has quickly established himself as a fan favourite in London since making a sparkling debut against Sunderland and also helped his new club to a winning start in the Champions League.

"I feel great in London, the coach gives me the trust, the team is fully behind me and I feel very very well

there," said the midfielder, who will win his 50th cap for Germany if he plays on Friday.

Germany need just two points from their last two 2014 World Cup qualifiers against Ireland and then Sweden on 15 October, to qualify for the tournament finals in Brazil.

"I can only say that he (Wenger) is a great coach who knows exactly what he wants and has a clear vision. We need a coach like that if we want to be successful," Ozil said.

His sudden departure from Madrid following the arrival of coach Carlo Ancelotti left many fans and team mates bewildered but Arsenal have benefited from the German's talents to go top of the Premier League table.

"Losing a player like Mesut is damaging to any team," Germany's Sami Khedira, who was sitting next to his former Real team mate, told reporters.

Reuters

Rooney happy at United after midfield misery

LONDON, 11 Oct— Wayne Rooney's happiness at Manchester United last season stems from being forced to play in the midfield but he says he is settled at the club under manager David Moyes.

It had been widely reported that the 27-year-old was upset at life at Manchester United after former manager Alex Ferguson and that he wanted to leave the club he joined in 2004. Rooney scored three Premier League goals in the sea making three brace in his one Champions League appearance for Bayer Leverkusen.

"I didn't feel United refused to sell and Rooney started the season scoring three times in league matches and a brace in his one Champions League appearance for Bayer Leverkusen.

"I didn't feel



consistent run of games up front," Rooney told reporters ahead of Friday's crucial 2014 World Cup qualification match against Montenegro at Wembley.

"I actually felt when I played in the midfield I did OK, but I didn't want to play there. "I've no problem in the past playing out of position, but I felt I deserved the right to play in my position and that wasn't happening. I think naturally I was a bit disappointed and maybe that affected some of the games I played. Maybe when I'm a bit older, losing my legs a bit, I can go back

there." Rooney scored 12 league goals in United's title winning campaign, but he took a back seat to Robin van Persie following his arrival from Arsenal, with the Dutchman the league's top scorer with 26.

"Everyone at the club knew that's where I wanted to play and I think that's why I was disappointed because I got told to play in midfield. I didn't want to, but I'd always go in and try to help the team. There had to come a point where for my own career I had to be a bit selfish really."

Rooney, who burst onto the scene as a 16-year-old under Moyes at Everton, was also believed to have been upset at Ferguson publicly airing claims that he had submitted a transfer request. He said that he was now happy at the club and content with life under Moyes, despite their shaky start to the season that sees United lying ninth after seven matches.

He would not reveal whether he was keen to extend his time at Old Trafford when his current deal expires however. "David

Moyes has come in, he's playing me up front and I'm enjoying it. You can see I'm playing and I'm happy in my football.—Reuters



Toe injury threatens van Persie's participation

LONDON, 11 Oct—A toe injury threatens to rule Robin van Persie out of the Netherlands' World Cup qualifier against Hungary in Amsterdam on Friday.

Van Persie, on the verge of matching the record tally of goals for the Dutch national team, was hurt in last week's Champions League tie against Shakhtar Donetsk.

"I got an enormous stamp on my toe and I really thought it had been broken, but luckily a scan showed it was not," Van Persie told a

media conference.

"I played on Sunday (for Manchester United against Sunderland) but the injury has not got better."

He would continue training and a final decision on his playing would be made closer to kick off.

If he did not play on Friday he would stay with the squad in a bid to be fit for Tuesday's final European Group D qualifier in Turkey. The Dutch have already secured a berth at next year's World Cup finals in Brazil.—Reuters

Chelsea chairman says financial curbs favour elite



Chelsea Chairman Bruce Buck

LONDON, 11 Oct— Rules forcing European football clubs to cut their financial losses will make it harder for smaller teams to challenge the game's elite, Chelsea Chairman Bruce Buck said on Thursday.

Chelsea have won the English Premier League three times in the past decade after billionaire Russian oligarch Roman Abramovich bought the club and funded heavy spending on players.

Buck said Chelsea would comply with UEFA's Financial Fair Play rules designed to curb losses but felt the measures went further than necessary to stabilize club finances.

"We had a broken finger and we cut off the arm," Buck told the Leaders in Football conference at the club's Stamford Bridge stadium in London. Buck said the system would make it harder for someone like Abramovich to come in and

transform a club.

"It (FFP) goes a long way towards preserving the status quo," he added, noting that it risked killing the dreams that clubs at the bottom of the game had of reaching the top.

"That is difficult if not impossible now," Buck said. Critics of clubs like Chelsea and Abu Dhabi-owned Manchester City argue that their spending on players and salaries has driven up costs for teams to dangerous levels.

There are various forms of financial control being applied across all four divisions of the English professional game after former Premier League clubs, including Portsmouth and Coventry, City went into administration in recent seasons.

Reuters

Hodgson backs England to get it right on the night

WATFORD, 11 Oct— that England will show their true colours and put behind them an unconvincing World Cup qualifying campaign by winning their final two games to secure a place in next year's finals, manager Roy Hodgson said on Thursday.

Victories over Montenegro at Wembley on Friday and Poland four days later would guarantee au-

thority over the team.

"Words like fear, anxiety or concern haven't crossed our minds or lips and I've been very impressed this week by the quality of training. "I know they will deliver and tomorrow night you will see a very good England team. Hopefully, Montenegro won't be a very good Montenegro team and that will make our task a bit easier."

England have failed to beat Montenegro in their three meetings, including a 0-0 draw at Wembley when the two sides met in European Championship qualifying in October 2010.

Montenegro have been hit by a string of injuries, with captain Mirko Vucinic among those doubtful, but Hodgson said it would be foolish if England went for broke.



Reuters

GENERAL



Rescuers work at the collapse site of a viaduct in Xiamen City, southeast China's Fujian Province on 10 Oct, 2013. Four workers were injured when the viaduct under construction collapsed at around 10:30 am Thursday.—XINHUA

South Lao flood damage exceeds 60 million USD

VIENTIANE, 11 Oct — Flood damage from last month's storms in the south of Laos has reached 500 billion kip (60 million US dollars), according to state-run newspaper *Vientiane Times* on Thursday.

Provincial Department of Labour and Social Welfare Deputy Director Mr Soudalay told local media that the agricultural sector of Saravan, the hardest-hit province, has sustained about 249 billion kip (31.66 million US dollars) worth of damage. "We lost a lot, with rice fields in Khongxendon and Vapy districts hit especially hard in the floods," he said.

Severe storms caused widespread flooding and torrential rain in the south of Laos between 18 and 24 September, causing significant damage throughout four provinces.

Approximately 18,000 hectares of agricultural land was affected in Saravan including the destruction of irrigation and other important agricultural infrastructure. Soudalay said that provincial authorities were working with local farmers by supplying them with three month's worth of rice for consumption as well as seeds to replenish the destroyed crops.

In Champassak prov-

ince, 120,000 people were affected and four people died as flood waters struck. Nine houses were completely swept away in the disaster. Two drinking water factories, 18 brick factories, 44 rice mills, and a multitude of wells and vehicles were also damaged.

Provincial authorities said that local people need another 1,800 tonnes of rice and another 3,600 tonnes in the long term. Meanwhile in the north of Laos, the provinces are still recovering from separate flooding resultant from tropical storm Jebi which passed through Laos on 20 and 21 August, killing 17.—Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(12-10-2013, Saturday)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6:00 am | 2:35 pm |
| 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | 18. Hyper Sports |
| 6:15 am | 3:00 pm |
| 2. Mytta Pawana By Min Gun Sayadaw | 19. News |
| 6:35 am | 3:15 pm |
| 3. Dance of National Races | 20. TV Drama Series |
| 6:45 am | 4:00 pm |
| 4. Documentary | 21. News |
| 7:00 am | 4:15 pm |
| 5. News | 22. TV Drama Series |
| 7:20 am | 4:40 pm |
| 6. Business News | 23. Dance of National Races |
| 7:45 am | 4:50 pm |
| 7. Hyper Sports | 24. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) |
| 8:00 am | 5:00 pm |
| 8. News | 25. News |
| 8:25 am | 5:15 pm |
| 9. India Drama Series | 26. Documentary (SEA Games) |
| 9:00 am | 5:45 pm |
| 10. News/International News | 27. Golden Music of Old Star |
| 9:25 am | 6:00 pm |
| 11. The Nine Precept | 28. News |
| 9:50 am | 6:20 pm |
| 12. Documentary | 29. Documentary (Weather) |
| 10:00 am | 7:00 pm |
| 13. News | 30. News |
| 10:15 am | 7:15 pm |
| 14. TV Drama Series | 31. Teleplay |
| 11:05 pm | 8:00 pm |
| 15. Shwe Yin Khone Than | 32. News |
| 12:00 pm | 8:35 pm |
| 16. New/International News/Weather Report | 33. Business News |
| 12:25 pm | 9:00 pm |
| 17. Round Up of The Week's TV Local News | 34. Myanmar |
| | 35. Gitadagale Phwintbaohn |

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(12-10-13 09:30 am ~ 13-10-13 09:30 am) MST

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- * World News
- * Myanmar Puppet
- * Local News
- * Ngapali, Unique Spot To Relax
- * World News
- * Tapestry-A Unique Combination Of Painting and Craftsmanship
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Ep-1) Mingalar Byuha
- * World News
- * Fortune Teller: "Yan Moe Aung"
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- * Shan Novices to be
- * World News
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- * World News
- * Snow Flakes...Scenic Confluence...To Kachin State
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- * The eel business

Fresh graduates commissioned to Afghan National Police

HERAT, (Afghanistan), 11 Oct — Two hundred fresh graduates were commissioned to Afghan National Police (ANP) rank in western province of Herat, said the provincial police chief.

General Samiullah Qatra told *Xinhua* that the officers received training under the NATO and Afghan trainers in the province, 640 km west of national capital Kabul.

"The newly officers are ready to provide security for western region, particularly during the upcoming presidential and

provincial councils elections slated for April 5 next year," the police official noted.

Afghan Taliban insurgent group has intensified attack across the country in recent months.

Afghan army and police took the full operational lead from United States and NATO troops in June.

The war-torn country is due to take over the leadership of its own security duties from foreign troops by the end of 2014 when majority of NATO and US forces leave the country.

Xinhua

Federer dumped out of Shanghai Open by Monfils

SHANGHAI, 11 Oct — Fifth seed Roger Federer was dumped out of the Shanghai Open, losing to Frenchman Gael Monfils 6-4, 6-7(5), 6-3 in the third round on Thursday, while top seed Novak Djokovic progressed.

After dropping the first set, the 17-time grand slam title winner Federer was on the brink of going out in straight sets at 3-5 down in the second, and later 3-5 down in the tie-break before winning four straight points.

Monfils then broke the Swiss former world number one in the fourth game of the decider.

It was Monfils's second victory over Federer in eight meetings, and leaves the Swiss battling to reach the end-of-season ATP

World Tour Finals for the 12th consecutive year.

"I knew that I choked on this forehand at 5-4 (in the tie-break)," Monfils told the tour website (www.atp-worldtour.com).

"Then I changed my ideas because I was maybe nervous, too. Even (though) I was tired, I tried to play more aggressively sometimes, going more for my shots and it worked.

"It's a good win for me. I feel a bit sorry for him because I know he's running for London. But it's tennis. He's going to have more opportunity (in) those weeks coming up."

Monfils will play top seed and defending champion Djokovic in the quarter-finals after the Serb defeated Fabio Fognini of Italy 6-3, 6-3.



Roger Federer of Switzerland reacts after losing a point during his men's singles tennis match against Gael Monfils of France at the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament in Shanghai on 10 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS

World number one Rafa Nadal of Spain overcame Argentine Carlos Berlocq 6-1, 7-6(5), while sixth seed Juan Martin del Potro, Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, German Florian Mayer and Nicolas Almagro of Spain also advanced. Del Potro went through

after German Tommy Haas withdrew due to injury, while Tsonga beat Japan's Kei Nishikori 7-6(5), 6-0.

Mayer beat 2011 runner-up David Ferrer 6-4, 6-3 and Almagro beat Czech fourth seed Tomas Berdych in three sets.

Reuters

President U Thein Sein and wife back from Brunei Darussalam

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received Mr Jun Kobayashi, Head of Myanmar Bureau of NHK of Japan and replied to questions at the interview at the government guest house in Bandar Seri Begawan of Brunei Darussalam at 9.30 am local standard time today.

The President also gave interviews to Chief of Asian Bureau of Asahi Shimbun of Japan Mr Ono and Correspondent Mr Igarashi of Yangon Branch and local media Myanmar International TV.

At 12 noon local

standard time, President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win and party left Bandar Seri Begawan by special flight and arrived back at Nay Pyi Taw at 2.15 pm.

The President and party were welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Union ministers and their wives, the commander, Charge d' Affaires of the Brunei Embassy Ms Syamim Nabilah Daud and officials.—MNA



President U Thein Sein being welcomed back by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.—MNA

Myanmar to step up efforts for disaster reduction, preparedness



State lottery ticket price hike to be addressed by adoption of computerized lottery system

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct — Measures are being carried out to educate the people in order to avoid the use of farmlands and boundaries which are set as ancient zones for other purposes and to take actions against encroachment and illegal settlement on the farmlands and ancient zones, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun responded to the question raised by MP U Aung Kyaing of NyaungU Constituency at the eighth-day Pyithu Hluttaw session today.

Town, village and city plans are being formulated

based on the provisions stated in the section 17 of conservation of cultural heritage law 1998, he added.

U Aung Kyaing said he was satisfied with the answer of the deputy minister.

Regarding the question raised by MP U Win Myint of Myingyan Constituency on whether a plan to take actions against the State lottery ticket price hike in the market, Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Lin Aung replied that a study on the computerized lottery system applied in world nations is being conducted and the matter of the price of a

state lottery ticket which is higher than K 200 would be addressed if the system was adopted.

"Only 200 kyats each, the official price of a ticket, goes to the State budget. People are not willing to buy a state lottery ticket at a price of more than K 200. It is required to take necessary measures for that. I will have to do more if no action comes to the realization," questioner U Win Myint said during an interview with him.

The ninth-day Pyithu Hluttaw session will be held on 14 October.

MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham observes documentary photos for International Day for Disaster Reduction.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct — Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham has called on governmental departments and NGOs for stepping up efforts for fulfilling the needs of the disabled and for organizing and educating the people to actively take part in Myanmar's disaster preparedness and reduction drive as part of efforts for building up strength for disaster preparedness.

In his opening speech at a ceremony to mark the International Day for Disaster Reduction here today, the Vice-President said the government has planned to establish a training school for disaster risk management in Hinthada, Ayeyawady Region in a move to raise awareness of disaster reduction and preparedness among the local governments and people.

He also stressed the im-

portance of cooperation of the UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs to conduct disaster reduction training courses and disaster preparedness drills.

Myanmar has worked together with INGOs and ASEAN countries for exchanging experiences and drawing disaster reduction plans as the world has seen bigger and increasing number of disasters, he said.

During the ceremony, the Union ministers and an acting resident representative of the UN awarded winners of the painting, essay, article and poem contests conducted to mark the International Day for Disaster Reduction.

Myanmar enacted the Disaster Management Law on 31 July, 2013.

This year's motto for the International Day for Disaster Reduction is "A Not So Obvious Conversation; Living with Disability and Disasters".—MNA

Local people to be employed after resumption of Latpadaungtaung project

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct — In his address at a work coordination meeting of the committee for implementation of the investigation commission's report on Latpadaungtaung copper mining project held at the President Office today, Union Minister at President Office U Hla Tun, committee chairman, highlighted that employment for the local people would be made

after project works have been resumed.

He called for heightening public awareness of the implementation of socioeconomic development. He reaffirmed that fulfillment of requirements for all-round development of Latpadaungtaung region will be carried out with the rule of law high on the agenda. He stressed the need to stop the bad

habits of avoiding responsibilities in old days as authority has been given to those concerned to take responsibility and accountability in dealing with various levels of tasks. With the acceleration of works being implemented by four work committees, long-term plans are to be carried out in accord with the laws, rules and regulations.

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