President U Thein Sein meets UNSG’s Special Adviser on Myanmar Mr Vijay Nambiar

NAVPYITAW, 13 Sept—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by UNSG’s Special Adviser on Myanmar Mr Vijay Nambiar at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Union Minister for Border Affairs Li-Gen Thein Htay, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at the President Office U Aung Min, Union Minister for Population and Immigration U Khin Yi and departmental heads and the visiting delegation was accompanied by UNDP Resident Representative Mr Ashok Nigam.

They held talks on further cooperation between Myanmar and the UN in the time of the new government, the government’s emphasis on stability of the State and increased socio-economic development for flourishing of democracy in the country, efforts to meet the MDGs of the UN, the government’s assistance to Rakhine State in cooperation with UN agencies, arrangements for international observation groups from Turkey, Indonesia, US and OIC advance team to make observation trip of Rakhine State, the government’s efforts for security and the rule of law for prevention against reoccurrence of such incidents in Rakhine State, measures for livelihood, health and sheltering of the victims, progress in field investigation into the incident by forming an independent body, UN’s further plans for development of Myanmar, and the Myanmar President’s planned attendance at 67th UN General Assembly.

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw receives Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress of PRC

NAVPYITAW, 13 Sept—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received a delegation led by Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress of the People’s Republic of China Mr Wu Bangguo at the meeting hall of the Amyotha Hluttaw of Hluttaw Complex here at 9.30 today.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein, chairman of the Hluttaw affairs committees and commissions and officials of the Hluttaw Office. The visiting PRC guests were accompanied by Ambassador of the PRC to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr Li Junhua.

At the meeting, they had a cordial discussion on further cementing bilateral ties, enhancing cooperation between parliaments of the two countries and development of bilateral economy and trade.

Dutch PM Rutte wins election as pro-euro parties sweep

Owen begins Stoke career against champions City
**MYANMAR GAZETTE**

**Navigational Guide**

- **Nav Pyi Taw, 13 Sept** — The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of U Kyaw Oo, Rektor of the National Culture and Fine Arts University (Yangon) of the Ministry of Culture, on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

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**Union Minister at President Office receives President CEO of Standard Chartered Bank**

Nav Pyi Taw, 13 Sept — Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun received President CEO Mr Lyn Kok of Standard Chartered Bank of Thailand and party at the Credentials Hall of the President Office here this afternoon. They held discussions on rules and regulations of financial matters and promotion of bilateral cooperation for development of financial policy.—MNA

**MEB manager robbed on urban street**

Mohnyn, 13 Sept — Three men robbed the assistant manager of Myanmar Economic Bank (branch) in Mohnyn of a necklace weighing three tuckles along with a pendant weighing 0.5 tuckles on 6 September evening. The bank manager in her forties was on the way back home by motorcycle around 7 pm when she was intercepted by three men on two motorcycles on the street in Namisu Ward who snatched the necklace off her neck, pushing her down on the ground. Two of the robbers, Saw Naing Oo, 19, from Thazi Ward and Ke Ke, 21, of the same ward, were arrested on 8 September, two days later with the necklace but halved. Mohnyn Police Station is in pursuit of remaining accomplice, Noman (a) Samnin Thein Win, from Yelegyun Ward, who is on the run.

**Relief aids donated to flood victims in Kyaunggon**

Kyaunggon, 13 Sept — Despite subsiding the water, flood victims of Kyaunggon Township in Pathein District still need the aids. A ceremony to donate relief aids such as bags of rice, instant noodle and cash to renovate the schools damaged in the flood was held at Daw Than Tin Hall in the township on 4 September morning. Redlink Co and Wimax customers donated 113 bags of rice, 34 boxes of Mama instant noodle packets, and K 240,000 for repairing of damaged schools. Townselders U Tin Maung and U Than Nyunt and Deputy Head of the township on 4 September morning.

**MFF U-12 Digicel Cup 2012 kicks off in Upper Myanmar**

Mandaly, 13 Sept — The MFF U-12 Digicel Cup 2012 (Upper Myanmar) of all basic education schools was launched at Bahtoo Stadium in Mandalay at 3 pm on 12 September. Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint and President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw spoke on the occasion. President U Zaw Zaw presented K 18,517,000 for the cost of tournament, K 10,000 each for players and K 240,000 for 24 man of the match wards whereas Nay Pyi Taw Council Area routed Kayah State 2-0. The group matches will be held morning and evening sessions from 11 to 15 September. Semifinal matches will be held on 17 September. The central level match will be held with two top teams each from the two zones at Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna from 23 to 30 September. — Kyemon

**Union Border Affairs Minister receives Special Adviser to UNSG for Myanmar and party**

Nav Pyi Taw, 13 Sept — Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay received a delegation led by Mr Vijay Nambiar, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Myanmar at the Ministry, here, this evening.

Both sides had a cordial discussion on measures being taken after forming investigation commission concerning with Rakhine affairs, relief and rehabilitation works, plans for sustainable development and holding national level workshops.—MNA

**NATIONAL SPORTS**

Wards, villages compete in Township Administrator’s Cup

Meiktila, 13 Sept — The Meiktila Township Administrator’s Cup Inter-Ward/Village Men’s Football Tournament was held at the Township Sports Ground in Meiktila on 10 September afternoon. A total of 18 football teams namely Pyitha, East Market Wards, villages compete in the tournament.

In the debut, Yaywai Village won over Tawma Village 1-0. The tournament will last up to 30 September.—Kyemon

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**Pension paid in advance**

Myitkyina, 13 Sept — Myitkyina Township Veterans Organization of Kachin State paid pension to its members and families from 1 to 15th day in advance monthly for the convenience of pensioners. The war veterans of the township organization may take out the pension in the office hours.—Kyemon
Obama vows justice after US envoy killed in Libya

WASHINGTON, 13 Sept — President Barack Obama vowed on Wednesday to bring to justice the killers of the US ambassador and three other Americans in Libya as he said they sought to avoid election-year fallout from an attack that was sparked by a spat over the administration’s handling of “Arab Spring” unrest.

Standing in the White House Rose Garden, Obama condemned the attack in Benghazi as “outrageous and shocking” but insisted it would not harm relations with Libya’s new elected government, which took power in July after rebel forces backed by NATO air power overthrew Muammar Gaddafi, and could have implications overthrew Muammar Gaddafi backed by NATO air power government, which took power in July after rebel forces backed by NATO air power overthrew Muammar Gaddafi, and could have implications overthrew Muammar Gaddafi backed by NATO air power government, which took power in July after rebel forces backed by NATO air power overthrew Muammar Gaddafi, and could have implications overthrew Muammar Gaddafi backed by NATO air power government, which took power in July after rebel forces backed by NATO air power overthrew Muammar Gaddafi, and could have implications overthrew Muammar Gaddafi backed by NATO air power government, which took power in July after rebel forces backed by NATO air power overthrew Muammar Gaddafi, and could have implications overthrew Muammar Gaddafi backed by NATO air power government, which took power in July after rebel forces backed by NATO air power overthrew Muammar Gaddafi, and could have implications overthrew Muammar Gaddafi backed by NATO air power government, which took power in July after rebel forces backed by NATO air power overthrew Muammar Gaddafi, and could have implications overthrew Muammar Gaddafi backed by NATO air power government, which took power in July after rebel forces backed by NATO air power overthrew Muammar Gaddafi, and could have implications overthrew Muammar Gaddafi backed by NATO air power government, which took power in July after rebel forces backed by NATO air power overthrew Muammar Gaddafi, and could have implications.

A close-fought race for re-election in November, in which the president appeared to be trailing in the opinion polls, has apparently seeking to seize the initiative in the midst of the US military is moving two destroyers, the USS Laboon and the USS Vicksburg, to the Mediterranean to destroy Libyan targets.

They also said some investigators say may have been calculated and orchestrated to coincide with the consulate and another US embassy personnel in Libya. Also, during a regularly scheduled call with Hamid Karzai, president of Afghanistan, Obama discussed ensuring that the circumstances that led to the violence in Libya and Egypt did not pose a threat to US forces or Afghans, according to the White House.

The attack that killed the US ambassador and three other Americans was also condemned by China, France, Russia and the United Nations.

Libya attack may have been planned and organized, US officials say

WASHINGTON, 13 Sept — The attack that killed the US ambassador and three other Americans in Benghazi, Libya, may have been planned and organized in advance, US government officials said on Wednesday.

The officials said there were indicators that a militant faction calling itself Ansar al Sharia — which translates as Supporters of Islamic Law — may have been involved in organizing the attack on the US Consulate in Libya’s second-largest city.

They also said some reporting from the region suggested that members of al-Qaeda’s north African-based affiliate, known as al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, may have been involved. “It bears the hallmark of an organized attack” and appeared to be planned, one US official said. The officials asked for anonymity when discussing sensitive information.

More specific details about the possible role of militant groups or cells in the attack were not immediately available. Later Wednesday, a US official told Reuters that the US military is moving two destroyers toward the Libyan coast, giving the Obama administration flexibility for any future action against Libyan targets.

The USS Laboon, which had been making a port call in Crete, could be in position within hours. The other destroyer, the USS McFaul, was a couple of days away, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Both ships were armed with Tomahawk missiles, which were used extensively by NATO against fallen Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi’s air defences last year. On the attack in Benghazi, one US official noted that in the wake of the collapse of the government of the late Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi last year, Libyan government forces were led, making small arms and more sophisticated weapons available both to potential militants and black marketers.

Some US officials cautioned against assuming that the Benghazi attack, or a similarly timed violent protest at the US Embassy in Cairo, were deliberately organized to coincide with the anniversary of the 11 Sept, 2001, attacks carried out by al-Qaeda in Washington and New York. US and European officials said that in contrast to the Benghazi attack, which some investigators say may have been calculated and organized, the attack on the US Embassy in Cairo appeared more likely to have been a spontaneous eruption by a mob.

China condemns US diplomatic compound attack

BEIJING, 13 Sept — Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei on Wednesday evening expressed the country's shock at attacks on a US consulate in Libya and voiced strong condemnation of the violent deeds.

“We are shocked at attacks on the US consulate in Benghazi that caused the death and injury of a number of people, including the US ambassador. And we strongly condemn the violent deeds,” a Press release quoted Hong as saying.

China believes the reigning regime of Libya bears the responsibility and obligation to adopt all necessary measures to protect the life and property integrity of foreign institutions and their staff stationed in the country according to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. Attacks on the US consulate in Benghazi on Tuesday evening killed the US ambassador to Libya and several others and wounded more.

LatAm countries condemn attack against US consulate in Libya

MEXICO CITY, 13 Sept — Countries across Latin America condemned the fatal attack on the US consulate in Benghazi, Libya, which killed US Ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other Americans.

Hundreds of protesters, angered by an alleged US-made movie that insults the Prophet Mohammed, stormed and set ablaze the US consulate building in Benghazi on Tuesday night. Libyan authorities confirmed on Wednesday that Stevens, 52, was killed along with three other US embassy staff when they tried to evacuate staff in the building, which came under attack by a mob armed with guns and rocket-propelled grenades.

Dutch PM Rutte wins election as pro-euro parties sweep

AMSTERDAM, 13 Sept — Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte won a closely contested election as voters handed pro-euro parties a sweeping victory, shunning the radical fringes and dispelling concerns that eurozone could gain sway in a core euro zone country.

With 96 percent of votes counted, Rutte’s centre-right Liberals won 41 seats in the 150-member lower house, a slender two-seat lead over the centre-left Labour Party on 39 seats based on results early on Thursday morning.

“We won our greatest victory in history and for the second time became the largest party in the Netherlands,” Rutte told supporters after Labour leader Diederik Samsom telephoned him to concede defeat. “We fought this election house by house, street by street, city by city, and I’m proud. Tomorrow I will take the first steps leading to the formation of a cabinet.” Rutte declined to say which parties he would approach as coalition partners. The Liberals and Labour have played down talk of forming a coalition together. But parliamentary arithmetic suggests that is the most probable outcome given the highly fragmented political landscape.

They are condemned to work with each other. It shows the Dutch want a stable government,” said Andre Krouwel, a political scientist at Amsterdam’s VU University. The hard-left Socialists, who oppose austerity and euro zone bailouts, finished a distant third and gained no ground, while the far-right anti-immigration Freedom Party (PVV) of Geert Wilders, who campaigned to leave the euro and the European Union, slammed and was set to lose nearly its seats. The two radical parties dominated early stages of the campaign, raising the prospect of a massive protest vote that might paralyze government and make Dutch support for further euro zone bailouts impossible.

The unexpectedly clear result removed a potential obstacle to efforts to stabilize Europe’s single currency after Germany’s constitutional court gave the green light for the euro zone’s permanent bailout fund to go ahead.
Nintendo to announce Wii U console price

Tokyo, 13 Sept — Nintendo Co said it will announce the price and other details of its new game console the Wii U at 3:00 am EDT.

The creator of Super Mario is fielding the successor to the hit Wii in time for the run-up to the busy year-end shopping season and is battling Microsoft Corp, Sony Corp and more recently tablet and smartphone makers including Apple Inc to woo gamers.

Supporting two “GamePad” controllers designed to look and function like traditional Wii remotes, the first machine from Nintendo in six years will come with a social-gaming network called “Miiverse” and will be its first machine in 16 years to launch with a dedicated “Super Mario” game title.— Reuters

Apple Inc CEO Tim Cook takes the stage after the introduction of the iPhone 5 during Apple Inc’s iPhone media event in San Francisco, California on 12 Sept. 2012. — Reuters

Nintendo Co’s Wii game consoles are displayed at a Yamada Denki electronic retail store in Tokyo on 4 June, 2012. — Reuters

Environmental group sues for federal protection of ice seals

Anchorage, 13 Sept — Environmentalists sued the Obama administration on Wednesday seeking federal safeguards for seals that rely on vanishing Arctic sea ice and accusing the government of dragging its feet in listing the marine mammals under the Endangered Species Act.

The Centre for Biological Diversity filed the lawsuit in US District Court in Anchorage, saying the National Marine Fisheries Service has illegally delayed listings for the ringed seal and the bearded seal.

Both dwell in coastal waters off northern Alaska.

In December 2010, the agency proposed listing both seal species as threatened, a move that would make them the first marine mammals under the Endangered Species Act. The Obama administration on Wednesday seeking federal protections due to climate change in the Arctic. But the agency has not made a decision and is expected to release a finding on the status of the seals this week.

“Scientists have attributed the shrinking Arctic ice shelf to a warming trend brought on by man-made greenhouse gases, the lawsuit says.”— Reuters

Deaf gerbils hear again with human stem cells

London, 13 Sept — Scientists have restored hearing to deaf gerbils using human embryonic stem cells in an advance that could eventually help people with an intractable form of deafness caused by nerve damage. The procedure involves further testing to ensure safety and long-term effectiveness but researchers said on Wednesday the experiment was an important proof of concept, marking a further advance in the growing field of regenerative medicine.

The response among the gerbils varied, depending on how well the new cells were able to integrate into the cochlea, the spiral-shaped cavity in the inner ear. Deafness is caused primarily by loss of sensory hair cells in the ear and auditory nerves. Since hair cells are not created only in the womb, there is no way to repair them once they have died, which is why restoring hearing is so hard.

Doctors hope one day to use stem cells to treat the nerve cells in an effort to make a “Jurassic Park”-style breakthrough by bringing the giant mammoth back to life after thousands of years of extinction, were exaggerated. “We are counting on our region’s permanent frost to have kept some cells alive. But it is unlikely,” said Grigoryev, pointing out that the remnant would need to have been at a stable temperature between -4 and -20 Celsius (between 28 and -4 Fahrenheit) for any cells to remain alive.

Some media had reported that living cells had been discovered, but Grigoryev said that had been due to a translation error as the word “intact” had been translated from English into Russian as “living”. At the moment, we have found and collected cells, with a whole nucleus,” he said, adding that living cells, if found, would provide the necessary samples to make a living clone. The Yana 2012 project retrieved mammoth remains last week at the depth of 5.6 metres (16.2 feet) in a tunnel dug by locals searching for rare and valuable mammoth bone.

A previous find, discovered in the same region two years ago, yielded the remains of a 40,000-year-old female baby woolly mammoth, named Yuka by scientists, as well as those of an ancient bison and horse. Those finds lacked living cells.— Reuters

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**US McDonald’s to put calorie counting in lights**

New York, 13 Sept — A Big Mac and large fries? They’ll cost you 1,050 more calories next week. McDonald’s will tell its customers that in bright lights on its menu boards in the country’s 14,000 US restaurants and drive-throughs, ahead of a national rule that will require larger restaurant chains to make such disclosures.

McDonald’s Corp is a trend setter for restaurants and its move in this arena — while prompted by regulations and pressure from public health activists — is being followed by other operators to follow quickly.

The state of California and cities like New York already require calorie disclosure on their menus. Under the new US healthcare law, restaurants across the country must soon put calorie counts and other nutrition details on menus.

**Apple redesigns iPod touch, updates iPod nano**

San Francisco, 13 Sept — Apple on Wednesday gave an overhaul to its iPod portable music players. At a media event in San Francisco, Apple debuted the new iPod touch featuring a 4-inch retina display with a 16:9 aspect ratio, the same display used in the latest iPhone 5 smartphone.

The new iPod touch is 6.1mm thick and weighs 88 grams. With Apple’s dual-core A5 chip, the device can deliver up to twice the processing power and up to seven times faster graphics than the previous generation of iPod touch.

Apple unveils iPhone 5.

Apple’s intelligent assistant Siri also comes to the new player.

Like the new iPhone 5, the company has also updated its iPhone nano, which also supports panorama feature that enables users to capture panoramic images by simply moving camera across a scene. Its battery is up to 40 hours of music playback and up to eight hours of video playback. Unlike the previous generation, the new iPod touch comes with five colors and a color-matched wrist strap that make it more convenient for users to take photos and videos.

Meanwhile, Apple introduced a new earphone called “EarPods,” which is cheaper than the previous headphones that cost an iPod nano, and is the thinnest iPod ever at 5mm thick. Bluetooth for wireless listening is also updated to the new iPod nano. Both iPod touch and iPod nano come with the new Lightning connector like iPhone 5.

Pre-orders for the new iPod touch start on Friday with the price starting at $299 dollars for the 32GB model. It will be shipped in October.

**Peanut allergies seen on the rise**

New York, 13 Sept — The number of children with peanut allergies in one Midwestern county has tripled in the past decade, according to a new study that adds to evidence nut allergies are getting more common in the United States.

Researchers reviewed the medical records of several hundred children in Olmstead County, in southern Minnesota, and found that new diagnoses of peanut allergy rose from 1.6 percent of over 10,000 kids in 1999 to nearly seven out of every 10,000 in 2007. That’s 65 of every 10,000 children in the county — home to a sophisticated, countywide electronic health records system that provided data for the study — had a verified peanut allergy in 2007.

Though the exact percentages of kids with peanut allergies may vary from place to place and study to study, Dr. Rachael Gupta, an associate professor of pediatrics at Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago, who was not involved in the research, said, “What’s consistent with this article is it does look like peanut allergies, especially among the younger children, are increasing over time.”

Most, though not all, studies trying to gauge how widespread food allergies are among kids have tracked an increase in recent decades. From 1997 to 2008, food allergies in kids were thought to affect eight percent of US kids, with the most common culprits being cow’s milk, wheat, egg, soy, peanuts, tree nuts and seafood.

Peanut allergies typically appear early in life, when babies are first encountering solid foods, and about 20 percent of cases go away on their own as a child gets older. Maria Rinaldi, lead author of the new report and an epidemiologist at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, said estimates of peanut allergy vary because of the way peanut allergy is defined for the purposes of research studies.

Some rely on parents’ reports of allergy, which might not be validated by a doctor. —Reuters

**China sees 900,000 newborns with birth defects annually**

Beijing, 13 Sept — About 5.6 percent of newborns in China have birth defects, with about 900,000 affected infants born each year, according to a new study by Healthinfo.org. Birth defects have become the second-greatest cause of infant deaths in China, with 20 percent of infant deaths, says the report on the prevention and treatment of newborn defects for 2012, issued by the ministry on Wednesday.

Of the babies born with defects, about 30 percent die within 5 years after birth, while another 40 percent suffer lifelong disabilities, the report says. About 250,000 newborns have visible defects, it says. Experts believe the increase in birth defects may be linked to the withdrawal of compulsory premarital health checks in 2003, as well as an increase in the number of women who have their first child at an older age.

The intake of prohibited medicine, increased exposure to radioactivity and drinking alcohol have also contributed to the increase, experts say. Although the percentage of couples who went in for premarital health checks was at a mere 2.67 percent in 2004, it shot up to 41 percent in 2011 after several provinces began providing the service for free or requiring it in order to obtain a marriage license, the report says.

Birth defects are a serious problem in China, particularly in rural areas.

**New Texas law requires restaurants to show calorie counts and other nutrition facts**

Houston, 13 Sept — A new law that will require large restaurant chains to show calorie counts and other nutrition facts in their menu items went into effect on Friday, a hospital officials said on Wednesday.

Katy Hayes, a mother with three children from Kingwood, Texas, became a quarterback in 2010 after a life-threatening Group A Streptococcal (GAS) infection invaded her body. Hayes, who was left with little to do except eat, was forced to follow a 600-calorie diet each day, which was quickly increased to 2,500 calories at a time.

BWH is working in collaboration with the New England Organ Bank (NEOB), which will actively search for an appropriate donor for Hayes, the hospital officials said. —Xinhua

**Health Texas woman approved for first double arm transplants in US**

Houston, 13 Sept — A Texas woman has been officially added to a hospital list in Boston to become the first in the country to receive double arm transplants above the elbow, media reports said on Wednesday.

Health Texas woman approved for first double arm transplants in US.

A US flag flies in the wind in front of a sign for McDonald’s restaurant in Los Angeles on 4 April. 2011. —Reuters

The company’s latest move as a way to help its customers understand their food choices. The company, which is in nearly every US community and serves 25 million US customers daily, is taking the nutrition disclosures as a business opportunity. —Reuters

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A vendor sells peppers at the Voit market, 20 km (12.5 miles) south of Hanoi on 17 April, 2008. —Reuters

**Health European countries taking steps to manage its debt crisis. European economies were seen passage, while a 0.1 per cent drop in US stock futures suggested a weak Wall Street start. Financial spreader, called London’s FTSE 100, dropped 4 percent in August. As the dollar suffered from expectations for QE, which would be equal to printing money and diluting the value of the greenback, the euro stayed near four-month highs against the US currency.

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An MSCT’s broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan, MIAP0000PUS was down 0.1 percent after swinging in a plus and minus 0.2 percent range. Australian AXIO and Shanghai shares SSEC were the worst performers, both dropping 0.4 percent while South Korean KSS1 gained 0.3 percent to lose the bear.

**Market**

A vendor sells peppers at the Voit market, 20 km (12.5 miles) south of Hanoi on 17 April, 2008. —Reuters
**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**Smoke from Idaho wildfire poses health risk-officials**

**SALMON, 13 Sept—** Smoke from a massive Idaho wildfire posed a health risk to a small mountain town that was the staging area for firefighters battling the blaze, health officials said on Tuesday.

Government air monitors showed pollution levels peaked in the hazardous zone on Monday night as the Mustang Complex fire, north of Salmon in east-central Idaho, poured thick smoke into a community that has coped with poor air for nearly seven weeks. “I think we all have to consider it a crisis at this point,” said Jim Vannoy, programme manager for environmental health education and assessment with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

The lightning-sparked blaze that has raged since late July is one of several fires in the West. The Idaho’s Mustang Complex in the Salmon-Challis National Forest grew to nearly 300,000 acres on Tuesday as firefighters braced to defend homes in two small communities. About 400 residences were ordered evacuated on Sunday.

In neighbouring Washington state, a 100-square mile wildfire from the Washington-Oregon line to just west of Spokane and north to the Canadian border charred 80,000 acres, threatening scores of homes, officials said.

In Idaho, relief from the smoke was not expected any time soon. The smoke contains noxious gases like carbon monoxide and fine particles that can drive deep into the lungs and aggravate or cause respiratory or heart ailments.

Public health experts said research is limited on the long-term effects of wildfire smoke because the exposure usually is concentrated in remote, sparsely populated areas.

“In general, the thoughts are that the health effects will be resolved because the events are, at most, weeks in duration,” said Joel Kaufman, professor of environmental and occupational health at the University of Washington. Janet Nelson, local emergency services coordinator, said she was fielding reports of children coughing to the point of vomiting, health workers complaining of fatigue and scores of people with persistent headaches.

**West Nile virus toll grows to eight in US state of Oklahoma**

**HOUSTON, 13 Sept—** Eight people have died from West Nile virus in the US state of Oklahoma so far this year, the state health department said on Tuesday.

The latest fatality was a man older than 65 who lived in Tulsa County, according to a release from the department.

Of the confirmed deaths so far, two were in Oklahoma County, three in Tulsa County, one in Seminole County, and the remaining two in Carter County.

This year Oklahoma has broken its record for the most confirmed cases of West Nile virus. A total of 127 West Nile cases have so far been confirmed by the state health department.

Oklahoma previously reported a record 107 West Nile infections in 2007. Nine people in the state died from the virus that year.

This year has also witnessed the worst outbreak of West Nile nationally since the virus was discovered in the United States in 1999, according to the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. So far there have been 1,993 cases reported nationwide.

Texas, the worst-hit state in the current outbreak, has about half of the nation’s deaths from the illness. The state has confirmed 48 deaths related to West Nile virus so far this year.

First identified in Uganda in 1937, West Nile virus is a mosquito-borne illness that leads to serious neurological disease in some cases. Its symptoms include sudden fever, headache, nausea, dizziness and muscle weakness.

**Death in Vegas sends shockwaves Down Under**

**LAS VEGAS, 13 Sept—** The mysterious death of a young footballer outside a Las Vegas casino has cast a shadow over the Australian Football League finals series and prompted soul-searching among clubs about their responsibilities for players.

The body of John McCarthy, a 22-year-old midfielder for Port Adelaide, was found on the driveway of the Flamingo hotel early on Sunday morning.

McCarthy had become separated from a group of team mates partying in the Nevada gambling mecca, a popular holiday destination for Australian Rules players keen to let their hair down after a bruising season of the indigenous football code.

The player called his girlfriend and sounded distressed and disorientated after losing his companions, and spoke of heading to the airport to get a flight home, a Port Adelaide spokesman confirmed in Adelaide on Thursday. Hours after the call, he was pronounced dead in a medical trauma unit, having fallen nine metres from a roof of the Flamingo casino.

**About 500 Boeing workers evacuated from plant outside Philadelphia**

**PHILADELPHIA, 13 Sept—** Some 500 employees of a sprawling Boeing Co facility in a southern suburb of Philadelphia were evacuated on Tuesday morning after a threat was telephoned to the plant, authorities said.

Damien Mills, a company spokesman, declined to reveal the nature of the threat but said the company immediately notified local police and evacuated the workers — part of the 6,200 employees who make CH-47 Chinook helicopters and the V-22 Osprey aircraft at the facility.

“Regular operations continue at most of the plant,” he told Reuters. Police were investigating the threat.

He said the evacuated employees are standing in a safe zone in the area of the plant, which is located in Ridley Township, south of Philadelphia in Delaware County. The evacuation comes amid tensions surrounding the anniversary of the 11 September, 2001, attacks, when nearly 3,000 people were killed after aircraft hijacked by Islamist militants.

It also coincides with heightened concerns about workplace violence, including an episode in New York last month when a man shot and killed a former co-worker near the Empire State Building and an incident in suburban New Jersey when an employee shot two co-workers before taking his own life.—Reuters

**US city of Houston issues air quality alert for ozone pollution**

**HOUSTON, 13 Sept—** Officials in the US metropolis of Houston on Tuesday issued a pollution warning for some local areas due to dangerous ozone levels. The warning was in place for the areas of Houston, Galveston and Brazoria, according to an online report by The Houston Chronicle.

The warning was issued because atmospheric conditions are favourable for increased ozone pollution in the region, the newspaper said. Ozone is an extremely reactive gas molecule that is the primary ingredient of smog air pollution and is very harmful to breathe. Ozone attacks lung tissue by reacting chemically with it. Elevated levels of ozone can act as a lung irritant. Young people and the elderly, as well as those with respiratory conditions such as asthma and emphysema, should avoid exposure.

The American Lung Association ranks Houston No 8 among the most ozone-polluted US cities. A new local website was launched in August this year for people to track ozone pollution in their area.

About 500 Boeing workers evacuated from plant outside Philadelphia

People gather at the attack scene in Sanaa, Yemen, on 11 Sept. 2012. Yemen’s Defence Minister Mohammed Nasour Ahmed was severely injured in a car bomb attack earlier Tuesday targeting his motorcade, killing 12 people, seven of whom were bodyguards of the minister, said Yemen’s interior ministry.—Xinhua

**US cities likely to be hit with West Nile virus**

**HUNTSVILLE (AL), 13 Sept—** The US city of Huntsville has reported its first case of West Nile virus this season, according to a local health official.

“The West Nile virus has been detected in a horse in north Huntsville, and the horse is under observation,” Bob Reinhart, director of public health services for the city’s Health Department, told Reuters.

Reinhart said the city would begin spraying for mosquitoes and encouraging residents to help control the disease.

SALONI, 13 Sept— The 68 people drifting in a small boat are rescued by crew members of Spanish Armada Vessel “Relampago”, at the Gulf of Alden, the Indian Ocean, on 10 Sept, 2012. The Relampago operates in the “Atlantica” operation of the European Union against piracy in nearby waters of Somalia since 17 Aug, 2012.—Xinhua

**German Chancellor Angela Merkel (3rd L) and Polish Deputy Prime Minister and Economy Minister Waldemar Pawlak (4th L) cut the ribbon during the opening of the Berlin Air Show in Berlin, Germany, on 11 Sept, 2012. The Berlin Air Show kicked off here on Tuesday with the participation of 1238 exhibitors from 46 countries and regions while 270 aircrafts will be on display during the six-day show.**—Xinhua

**About 500 Boeing workers evacuated from plant outside Philadelphia**

**US cities likely to be hit with West Nile virus**

**Health and Welfare.**

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Afghanistan

15 Taleban militants killed in Afghanistan within 24 hours

Karaul, 13 Sept — Military operations carried out by the Afghan police, army and the NATO-led coalition forces have claimed the lives of 15 Taleban militants in different Afghan provinces within the past 24 hours, authorities said on Thursday.

“Afghan National Police (ANP), Afghan army and intelligence agency in collaboration with the coalition forces launched 13 joint operations across the country on Monday, said a statement issued by the ANP,” the statement added, saying that the joint forces also found and seized weapons and explosives during the above raids.

The statement did not say whether there were any casualties on the side of security forces. However, the Taleban insurgents group, which announced the launching of an annual spring offensive to find a solution to US and NATO forces, has not made comments yet.

Afghan forces and some 130,000 NATO-led coalition troops have recently intensified cleanup operations against Taleban and other militants throughout the country.

Afghan soldiers stand guard at the site of a suicide bombing in Kunduz Province, north of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 10 Sept. 2012. A suicide bombing rocked Kunduz city in northern Kunduz Province on Monday, leaving a dozen people dead and injured, a local official said. — Xinhua

Israel 2nd-most educated of OECD member states

Jerusalem, 13 Sept — Israel has the second-highest percentage of 25 to 64-year-old people attending higher education among Organisa-

Protection and Development (OEDC) member states, according to a just-released report. The report, “Education at a Glance 2012” released at the beginning of the current school year, revealed that Canada led the list with 51 percent of the same demographic graduating from an institution of higher education.

Japanese trailed Israel at 45 percent, according to the report, quoted by the Moody daily. 50 percent of Israelis have international degrees, trailing Canada’s 56 percent; both are far above the average, a vis a vis the OECD country average of 32 percent.

Israel joined Finland, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Portugal, Slovenia and the United Kingdom with over 90 percent secondary education graduation rate, according to Israel National News.

However, on the negative side of the equation, Israel was noted as having the fourth highest number of pupil classrooms, 28 in grade school and 30 in high school. While Israel falls below the member state average in investment in education, per student — the United States, for example, spends more than 2.5 times as much per student — Israeli investment came out above average, when viewed from the standpoint of overall government budgeting.

Meanwhile, numbers from the Central Bureau of Statistics say that the Education Ministry provides support for just a third of school dropouts — some eight percent of students in each grade, according to the Haaretz daily. The Ministry’s Youth Advancement Units, which aid students who have left school, reported 10,232 dropouts in the 2011-2012 school year, down from 28,176 in the previous year, according to internal figures.

Dubai has world’s tallest residential tower completed

Dubai, 13 Sept — The 414-meter high Princess Tower in the Dubai Marina district is from now on ready to accommodate the first tenants, real estate developer Tameer said on Wednesday. “With the flourishing sophistication of the United Arab Emirates’ real estate market and immense demand for more unique and exclusive developments, Tameer ventured into building state-of-the-art projects such as Princess Tower,” said Tamer’s President Federico Tauber on the occasion of the delivery of the tower.

Earlier this year, the tower was officially recognized as the World’s Tallest Residential Building by the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat and the Guinness World Records. Dubai Marina is the world’s largest office and residential mixed-used building, the 828-meter high Burj Khalifa, developed by state-owned Emaar Properties and named after the UAE president.

Tamer’s Princess Tower consists of 763 individual units, including 1, 2, 3 bedrooms and penthouses, and is supported by 957 parking bays, while 9 retail shops located on ground level offer shopping convenience. The 97th multifunction floor features a recreational area where residents can enjoy a 360 degree panorama of the Marina, the man-made Palm Jumeirah and Dubai’s main artery Sheikh Zayed Road. — Xinhua
Chief Justice of Union receives Japanese Minister of Justice

NAY PYI TAW—13 Sept—Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo received Japanese Minister of Justice Mr Makoto Taki and party at the hall of the Supreme Court of the Union, here, at 9 am today. Also present at the call were Supreme Court Judges of the Union U Tha Htay, U Soe Nyunt, U Mya Thein and Director-General of the Supreme Court of the Union U Sein Than. MNA

Investigation Commission probes into incident in Rakhine State

YANGON—13 Sept—Members of Investigation Commission visited relief camps in wards and villages from the conflict-affected townships in Rakhine State.

On 8 September, Chairman of Investigation Commission Dr Myo Myint, secretary Dr Kyaw Yin Hlaing and members toured the houses incinerated in Wanyar Village and Apanawa model Village in Kyauktaw Township and reconstruction of houses in Ale ward in MraukU Township, and met with townswelders.

The following day, they met with officials and local people in Yathedaung, Kutaung model Village and Anaupyin Village and enquired about the availability of sound facts and evidences regarding the real cause of the incident.

At the meetings, Commission Chairman Dr Myo Myint said that local people were urged to uncover the truth. The commission has already guaranteed that they would be out of danger for that. The commission will do its best in all aspects for the State’s interest.

To accomplish the commission’s objectives, all are urged to lend a hand.

Secretary Dr Kyaw Yin Hlaing said that the purpose of their visit aimed at finding a solution in cooperation with local people. It is no doubt that the commission would carry out for State’s interest and national interest. All are urged to give sound evidence to the commission. Only when the commission gets those evidence, could the real cause of incident in Rakhine State be exposed.

And then, the commission could give suggestions on Rakhine State’s economic and social development.

On 10 September, Commission members proceeded to Maawradya model Village in Maungtaw Township. They paid homage to Sayadaw Saddhamma Jotikadha Bhaddanta Vijaya of Maawradya Monastary and met with local people there.

After that, they visited the sites destroyed by fire, relief camps and reconstruction of houses in Maawradya Village and reconstruction of houses in Thayahkonbaung Village.

At Maungtaw District Deputy Commissioner’s office, the members raised queries on current conditions of the region, reported by Head of the border region immigration inspection control headquarters U Aung Naing Oo.

On their arrival of Shweyinaye model Village, they looked into progress of reconstructions at the places that houses were incinerated and then greeted the rural people after viewing the relief camps. And they also greeted Islam religious members in Nyaungchaung Village.

On 11 September morning, the members arrived to meet rural people at the relief camp temporarily opened at Basic Education High School in Maungtaw and at Aungmyay Bawdi Sasana Yeiktha Atotawpyae Monastery. At Myoma Kanyintth Shoton Mosque, they greeted Islam religious members.

They held meetings with townswelders at Maungtaw District Deputy Commissioner’s Office, with Islam religious group leaders in Maungtaw, and with local people.

Members of Investigation Commission raising queries to rural people in Wanyar Village in Kyauktaw Township.——MNA

Uncensored DVDs, VCDs seized in Latha Township

YANGON—Acting on tip-off, a squad led by SIP Zaw Min Kyu of Latha Township Police Station searched Maung Maung Oo, 25, son of U Hla Aye on Ma Ha Bandoola Street in Ward 4 of Latha Township at 8.20 pm on 9 September.

The squad seized 182 DVDs of uncensored foreign dramas and K 3000 of proceeds from Maung Maung Oo.

Likewise, a team searched Ma Moe Moe Khaing, 26, daughter of U Tin Aye in Latha Township and seized 290 VCDs and K 7000 of proceeds. Action was taken against them under law. Myanma Alin
**News in Brief**

**Ngamoeyik Bridge (Parami) ready to be used**

Motor cars are allowed to pass through new Ngamoeyik Bridge (Parami) as of 12 noon on 12 September. The bridge is linking South Okkalapa Township and Dagon Myothit (North) Township.

**Development of Kyaikkhami inspected**

Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint inspected completion of passage way to Kyaikkhami Yaye Pagoda in Thanbyuzayat Township on 9 September. He also viewed construction of retaining walls near the view points of the pagoda. The State Chief Minister looked to learning of students at computer pool of Kyonkadat BEHS.

**Development, job opportunity discussed**

Chief Minister of Kayin State U La John Nyan Hsai explained development of Kayin State, job opportunity for local people and economic development at the city hall in Myikyina on 11 September. He heard reports on plans for industrial and trade zones in Wainmaw and Bhamo townships, and power and water supply plans presented by officials.

**Performing Arts Competitions commences in Bago**

Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win addressed opening of Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions of Bago Region at the city hall in Bago on 12 September. Altogether 293 contestants from four districts are taking part in the competitions.

**Management Course of FSD opens**

Township Level Management Course 2/2012 of Fire Services Department was opened at its head office in Mayangon Township on 10 September. Altogether 28 officer trainees are attending four week course from 10 September to 5 October.

**Relief aids donated to monks, flood victims**

Presiding Nayaka Bhaddanta Nimula of Nanda Aungmyay Monastery of Leikpyyan Taik in Bahan Township together with disciples donated Waza robes and other offerings to members of the Sangha from 15 monasteries and clothes, medicines and stationery to over 100 older persons and 810 students in Dedaye Township on recently.

**Workshop on finance, monetary assistance**

UMFCCI and Daiba PI Partners jointly organized workshop on monetary assistance for businesses at UMFCCI in Yangon on 11 September. Resource persons submitted papers and replied to queries raised by attendees.

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**Religious for Peace (Myanmar) introduced**

YANGON, 13 Sept.—”All the religious leaders proclaim that Mettâ – “Loving-Kindness” plays the vital role for World Peace and therefore they all encourage their followers to generate and nourish it among the humanity. All the religious followers who pay deep regard to their respective religious teachings are trying to create Peaceful World by the power of loving-kindness,” said Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung at the introduction to Religious for Peace (Myanmar) held at Chatrium Hotel this morning. He is saying that produces understanding and sympathetic feeling. Therefore, it is obvious that there may arise peace and happiness in the corners of globe where Mettâ prevails. He firmly believes that those who believe loving-kindness may create peaceful world.

General-Secretary of International Multi-religious Peaceful Association Dr. William F. Vendley explained the matters of holding the conference. Permanent Observer Ambassador Ufuk Gokeen of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has already visited to Rakhine State. The issues arisen from the State is not totally based on religion but racism and therefore all religious leaders need to join hands to solve the problem. The OIC would give necessary assistance and believes that cooperation among villagers and people do work well such kind of issues.

The religious leaders from International Multi-religious Peaceful Association and Religious for Peace (Myanmar) held discussion on peace.

There are 90 member countries in International Multi-religious Peaceful Association. The Religious for Peace (Myanmar) was organized in June, 2012 including four religious leaders namely Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism and it is also the 91st country of International Multi-religious Peaceful Association.
**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

Three dead in Polish bus crash in eastern France

PARIS, 13 Sept—Three were killed and many others were critically injured on Tuesday as a Polish bus crashed at A36 highway in the eastern French city of Mulhouse, local media reported.

The bus was carrying 68 people, including 65 passengers and three staff when it crashed on the motorway which links France to Germany, French radio RFI said on its website.

The AFP quoted French officials as saying that no children were on board. A passenger said the bus driver suddenly swerved while emerging from the exit lane and the bus was found lying on its side in a ditch. Two emergency rescue services were deployed at the scene. The driver was then taken custody by French police and his first tests for alcohol were negative.

No other vehicles were involved. The owner of the bus, Polish travel agency Sindbad which has a fleet of coaches, had chartered it to another company Albatros that runs buses to the French cities of Mulhouse, Cannes, Toulon, Lyon, Marseille and Nice—Xinhua

**Big fire destroys forest, villages in western Turkey**

ISTANBUL, 13 Sept—Nearly 500 hectares of forest have been burned down and a number of villages have been evacuated in the Kaz Mountains in the Haurvan district of Turkey’s western province of Balikesir on Tuesday.

The semi-official Anatolia news agency reported that the big forest fire is continuing to spread in the mountains and that Olive groves and farm lands have also been affected by the fire.

Governor Ahmet Turhan said they were struggling to bring the fire under control because of the strong winds.

However, the regional director of forestry Repese Ates said “firefighters have begun to respond to the fire effectively” as the wind’s speed has started to decrease. “There have been some critical points which were dangerous for us, but for the moment the fire is not too bad,” said Ates.

It is not clear what the cause of the fire is still unknown, but according to official estimates, a farmer’s blaze could be the source—Xinhua

**Forest fires hit vast area in Portugal**

LISBON, 13 Sept—Over 73,000 hectares of forest, an area nine times the size of Portuguese capital Lisbon, have been destroyed during the first eight months of this year, said an official report released on Tuesday.

The report, conducted by the country’s Institute for Conservation of Nature and Forests, showed that between Jan and Aug this year 73,055 hectares of forest have burned down by 81 percent from the 40,146 hectares that were destroyed in the same period of last year.

Meanwhile, a total of 16,168 forest fires were recorded in the first eight months this year, 1,218 more than in the same period last year. In August alone, there were 2,764 forest fires, in which 5,215 hectares burned. One giant blaze at Tavira, Algarve, a southern region of Portugal, which broke out on 18 July, ravaged 21,437 hectares of forest—some 29 percent of the total area destroyed. The report noted that drought in spring contributed to the increase in the number of forest fires—Xinhua

**Suspect Jesus “El Mamito” Rejon (C) is presented by the police to the media in Mexico City on 4 July, 2011.**

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**Small plane crashes in Russia killing 10**

MOSCOW, 13 Sept—A small propeller plane crashed in Russia’s far east on Wednesday killing 10 of the 14 people on board, Russia’s local emergency services said.

The Russian Antonov An-28 plane flown by two pilots was taking 12 passengers from Petro-pavlovsk-Kamchatsky, the provincial capital of Kamchatka, to the northern village of Palana when it crashed.

Heavy storm clouds and bad weather may have brought down the plane, a local air traffic control source told Interfax. The agency said one child was among the dead. “Ten bodies were found at the scene of the crash and four injured passengers were being readied to be airlifted to the hospital,” a spokeswoman for the local emergency services said.

**Alaska fisherman survives 26 hours floating in fish crate**

ANCHORAGE, 13 Sept—An Alaska fisherman survived for a day floating on frigid ocean waters in a plastic fish crate after his boat sank and said he kept up his spirits by singing.

Ryan Harris, 19, told the local newspaper in Sitka, Alaska, that he sang songs like “Row, Row, Row Your Boat” and “Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer” to keep himself awake through the night as the fishing crate bobbed on the waves.

Harris told the Sitka Sentinel that he gave himself a “pep talk” for hours on end: “I’m Ryan Hunter Harris and I’m not going to die here.” Harris and his fishing partner, boat captain Stonic Huffman, went into the water late on Friday when their 28-foot vessel sank off Sitka, according to the US Coast Guard.

Huffman found a survival suit in the debris, donned it and was able to swim to shore before flagging down rescuers, the Coast Guard said.

But Harris spent an estimated 26 hours in the plastic fish tote before he was found by another fishing crew, the Coast Guard said. The fishing crew called for help, and a Coast Guard helicopter crew housed Harris to safety on Saturday. He was in relatively good shape when spotted by the other fishing crew, despite his ordeal at sea, Coast Guard Petty Officer Grant DeVuyst told Reuters.

“He was active. He was waving his arms,” DeVuyst said. “He was conscious.”

Emergency medical responders who examined Harris reported that he had “just a couple of minor injuries,” DeVuyst said.

**Mexico extradites senior Zetas drug cartel member to US**

MEXICO CITY, 13 Sept—Mexican authorities said Tuesday that a Zetas drug cartel member, who was linked to the killing of a US customs agent last year, was handed over to face trial in the United States on Tuesday one day after being sought in connection with the drug-related violence that has plagued Mexico in recent years.

The Zetas have been blamed for some of the worst atrocities to hit Mexico during this period. Turf wars between drug gangs and their clashes with security forces have claimed more than 55,000 lives over the last five years.

Rejon was a founding member of the Zetas, a gang made up originally of army deserters at the end of the 1990s and initially worked as enforcers for the Gulf Cartel, before splitting from their employers in 2010.

President Felipe Calderon’s government has tried to turn up the heat on the Zetas and recent in-fighting among gang members suggests it may be rupturing, threatening a new wave of bloodletting.—Reuters
China says tensions with Japan likely to hurt trade

BEIJING, 13 Sept — Rising tension between China and Japan over disputed islands is likely to harm their trade ties, a senior Chinese commerce official said on Thursday. Asia’s two largest economies both claim islands in the East China Sea and tensions have flared since Tuesday when Tokyo announced it would purchase disputed islands from a private Japanese owner, an act that Beijing has called a violation of its sovereignty.


“I still haven’t seen any actions by Chinese consumers in response to the Japanese violation of Chinese territorial sovereignty, but if we do see them expressing their stance and views in a reasonable way, I think that would be their right,” a Nissan Motor Co Ltd executive said last week that the tensions are affecting business with China. The row is the latest episode in troubled relations between the two neighbours. Their long-running territorial dispute erupted again last month when Japan detained a group of Chinese activists who had landed on the disputed islands, known as Senkaku in Japanese and Diaoyu in Chinese. On Thursday, at least 100 protesters gathered at the Japanese embassy in Beijing, watched by police.

Australian man detained in counter-terror raids

CANBERRA, 13 Sept — Australian police have detained a 23-year-old man, who they said on Thursday they expect to charge under counter-terrorism laws, after raids on about a dozen homes during which an unspecified number of weapons were seized. The raids were conducted by state and national police on 11 homes in Melbourne, Australia’s second-largest city and the capital of southern Victoria state, on Wednesday.

Computer equipment, including a memory stick containing violent material, was seized along with a number of registered firearms and fake weapons, police said. Police said the man was expected to be charged with “collecting or making documents likely to facilitate terrorist acts”, an offence under Australia’s criminal code. The maximum sentence for the charge is 15 years in jail. “I would like to reassure people that we have not identified any immediate threats that pose immediate concerns to the safety of the community.” Victoria Police Assistant Commissioner Steve Fontana said in a statement.

East Asian librarians call for cooperation in digital era

NANNING, 13 Sept — Library curators from China and other East Asian countries have agreed to strengthen cooperation and promote the sharing of resources amid the boom in electronic media that has posed challenges to traditional libraries. Chief librarians and representatives from the national libraries of China, the Republic of Korea and 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries signed a proposal at the ongoing China-ASEAN Cultural Forum that kicked off in Nanning, capital of south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

The curators proposed establishing a long-term cooperative relationship among libraries in these regions so as to share resources, enhance personnel exchanges and boost the quality of library services. With the dawning of the digital era, cooperation and exchanges are more necessary for confronting new challenges, said Zhou Heping, director of the National Library of China, in a keynote speech. “The development of libraries has entered a digital era of information sharing,” said Ngian Lek Choh, director of the National Library of Singapore, said the library alliance will also help bring vitality to cultural heritage.

It’s like when family members get together, they exchange information, opinions and experience. Meanwhile, they learn from each other and grow together,” she said.

Indonesia among world’s top rank with 60 mn smokers

JAKARTA, 13 Sept — A recent survey reveals that Indonesians are some of the top smokers in the world, with about 67 percent of adult men smoking. The survey showed that 34 percent of all adults are active smokers, local media reported on Wednesday. The Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) Indonesia Report 2011 shows that 67.4 percent of adults in Indonesia aged 15 and over are smokers, confirming that the tobacco epidemic is still rife in the country.

Health Minister Nafsiah Mboi said on Tuesday she was anxious about the fact that over 67 percent of adult males are smokers. That’s an increase from 53.9 percent in the 1995 National Social Economic Survey. “This figure shows what we have failed to protect our own people,” she told a discussion as part of the survey release. The number of female smokers also increased to 2.7 percent in 2011 from 1.7 percent in 1995. Nafsiah told participants that the Indonesian government was embarrassed in 1995. Nafsiah said the increase in the number of smokers, GATS also emphasized the high number of passive smokers, non-smokers exposed to secondhand smoke. 133.3 million or almost 80 percent of adults are exposed to smoke at home. Each adult smoker consumes an average of almost 13 cigarettes each day, 31 percent of which are kretek (clove cigarettes). Meanwhile, 2.9 million people use smokeless tobacco products.

A sculptor works on a semi-finished creation of Jia Baoyu and his cousin Lin Daiyu, tragedy figures in Chinese literature, at a sand sculpture exhibition in Putao District, Zhoushan, east China’s Zhejiang Province, on 12 Sept, 2012. The 15-day exhibition kicked off on 10 Sept, 2012, involving some 35 sculptors from home and abroad. — Xinhua

A SEAN Energy Ministers and their dialogue countries’ counterparts pose for group photos at the 30th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting and related meetings at the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 12 Sept, 2012. The 30th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting was held here on Wednesday, aiming to discussing and seeking further cooperation in energy sector.— Xinhua

China Energy Ministers and their Dialogue Countries’ counterparts pose for group photos at the 30th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting and related meetings at the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 12 Sept, 2012. The 30th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting was held here on Wednesday, aiming to discussing and seeking further cooperation in energy sector.— Xinhua

A man stands in front of a sand sculpture at a sand sculpture exhibition in Putao District, Zhoushan, east China’s Zhejiang Province, on 12 Sept, 2012. The 15-day exhibition kicked off on 10 Sept, 2012, involving some 35 sculptors from home and abroad. — Xinhua

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Australia

AUSTRALIA

Australia has never suffered a major peace-time attack on home soil, although 88 Australians were killed in the 2002 nightclub bombings on the Indonesian resort island of Bali. Australia’s embassy in Jakarta was bombed in 2004.

Australian authorities have also prevented four major plots since 2000, with 23 people convicted of terrorism offences.
**Claims Day Notice**

**MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (056)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (056) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.9.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**Shipping Agency Department**

**Myanmar Port Authority**

**Agent for:** M/S ORINET Overseas Container Lines

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**Claims Day Notice**

**MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (509)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (509) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.9.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**Shipping Agency Department**

**Myanmar Port Authority**

**Agent for:** M/S Advance Container Lines

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**Claims Day Notice**

**MV AN HUA JIANG VOY NO (165)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AN HUA JIANG VOY NO (165) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.9.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**Shipping Agency Department**

**Myanmar Port Authority**

**Agent for:** M/S Cosco Shipping Co Ltd.

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

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**Wildfire**

Washington state wildfires prompt evacuations, destroy three homes

Seattle, 13 Sept — Fast-growing wildfires destroyed three homes in Washington state on Wednesday and threatened more than 250 homes as firefighters worked to keep the flames at bay and hundreds of residents prepared to evacuate.

The fires raging in Washington have charred 130,000 acres and the weather could make things worse, officials said. The fires were among more than 100 blazes raging in the US West.

“Conditions look horrible,” said Paul Perez, the state’s assistant fire marshal. “We’re anticipating that unstable conditions and winds in eastern Washington will fuel the fires.”

The wildfires were sparked by thousands of weekend lightning strikes that ignited more than 150 fires on Monday. Six new fires started on Wednesday.

Although 620 firefighters were on the scene, little of the fire was contained, Perez said.

“Portions of the town are threatened,” said John Kruse, Wenatchee police sergeant.

“Right now, we’re taking it 12 hours at a time.”

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**Advertisement**

Centre for Human Resource Development (Yangon University of Foreign Languages) Invitation for Application to Foreign Language Courses

The Centre for Human Resource Development (Yangon University of Foreign Languages) will open evening courses on Chinese, English, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Russian and Thai.

Commencement date of course: 1-10-2012

Commencement date for submission of applications: 26-9-2012

Closing date for applications: 28-9-2012

(For English language the day on which the targeted number of applicants is reached)

Application to be submitted to: Yangon University of Foreign Languages

Days on which classes held: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays

Time: 5:20 - 7:00 p.m.

Documents required:

- Certificate of Matriculation (or) Marks Certificate (Both Original and copy are required)
- Degree Certificate
- Student’s Affairs Section, YUFL

Phone: 514372 (Ext.*809)

Application must be submitted in person.

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Croatian photographer Marjan Radovic has a photo taken with his photographs during an underwater exhibition in a swimming pool at the central square in Zagreb, capital of Croatia, on 10 Sept. 2012. Croatian photographer Marjan Radovic, author of the exhibited photographs, organized the underwater exhibition to raise money for orphan kids. With only 20 euro donation, citizens and tourists can dive in and see his works.

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**Xinhua**
AEG dropping insurance claim over Michael Jackson death

LOS ANGELES, 13 Sept—Michael Jackson’s former concert promoter AEG Live is withdrawing a $17.5 million insurance claim in the 2009 death of the pop star amid revelations in leaked emails that show company executives were concerned about his stability ahead of his planned London comeback tour.

Critics involved in the case denied on Tuesday that AEG Live’s move was related to the publication of the leaked emails by the Los Angeles Times on 2 September.

Jackson died in June 2009 at age 50 from an overdose of the powerful anesthetic propofol and sedatives. Last year, a Los Angeles jury convicted the “Thriller” singer’s physician, Conrad Murray, of involuntary manslaughter, but heard that Jackson was taking a cocktail of sleep aids and prescription medications.

AEG Live, the concert division of privately-held Anschutz Entertainment Group (AEG), had filed a claim seeking a $17.5 million insurance payment from Lloyd’s of London for losses incurred in up-front costs for Jackson’s “This Is It!” sell-out shows that were to start in London in July 2009.

Lloyd’s later filed a lawsuit against AEG Live in Los Angeles Superior Court, seeking a declaration that the insurance company did not owe the money.

Tom Wilkinson cast in Joel Edgerton thriller “Felony”

LOS ANGELES, 13 Sept—Two-time Oscar nominee Tom Wilkinson has joined the thriller “Felony,” starring opposite the previously cast male lead Joel Edgerton, it was announced in Toronto on Saturday.

Wilkinson, who will play Detective Carl Summer, is the lead police investigator in this story about a police officer who runs down a cyclist on the road one night.

Driving home after a celebration drink with his team after the long-awaited bust of a major gang, a decorated police officer (Edgerton) runs a young cyclist off the road. As he gives CPR to the child, fellow officers arrive to take his statement. In a split second decision he tells them a lie about the accident, which changes all their lives.

The feature film, set to start shooting in late October, will be directed by Matthew Saville from a script by Edgerton. The Solution Entertainment Group arranged the financing for the film. The company is representing the international rights to the film and is selling the title at the ongoing Toronto International Film Festival. The film will be distributed in Australia and New Zealand by Roadshow Films. CAA is handling US rights.

Katie Couric crushes rivals in talk show debut

LOS ANGELES, 13 Sept—Katie Couric won the battle of the new daytime TV talk shows, scoring the highest ratings for any such debut in 10 years. “Katie,” the nationally syndicated lifestyle venture from the former CBS news anchor and “Today” show host, crushed the time period in the top TV markets of New York and Los Angeles, and second in the 13 other biggest US cities.

Couric’s 2.8 household rating was 250 percent higher than that of LA, and 150 percent higher than Probst’s. A single ratings point represents 1 percent of the 115.9 million television households in the United States. Numbers showing how many millions of viewers tuned in will not be available until next week.

“Katie,” distributed by Disney-ABC Television, equaled the daytime talk show debut 10 years earlier of TV therapist Dr Phil McGraw. He launched his “Dr Phil” show in September 2002.—Reuters

Gwyneth Paltrow named best dressed woman by People magazine

LOS ANGELES, 13 Sept—Actress Gwyneth Paltrow was named “The World’s Best Dressed Woman” of 2012 by People magazine on Wednesday, wowing the celebrity magazine with a simple elegant style that avoids some of fashion’s quirkiest trends.

The Oscar-winning actress, 39, and wife of Coldplay frontman Chris Martin, headed a list of the year’s style mavens that included Prince William’s wife Kate, R&B star Rihanna, and the Kardashian family of TV reality show fame.

People said the list was compiled after soliciting input from the celebrity magazine’s 42 million readers, its editors and fashion bloggers.

While Oscar-winner Paltrow won the best dressed title, fashion icon Kate Middleton—formally known as the Duchess of Cambridge—was named the woman with the best classic style. Paltrow’s stylist, Elizabeth Saltzman, told People that the actress was not a slave to trends. “She doesn’t do fringe. She has a uniform. It’s simple, not overdone.”—Reuters

Patricia Riggen, one of the directors of the Mexican movie “Revolution,” listens during a news conference at the Berlin Film Festival on 15 February, 2010.—Reuters

The 33 Chilean miners who were trapped underground are currently in Chile meeting with AEG Live, the concert division of privately-held Anschutz Entertainment Group (AEG), has directed the 2011 feature film “Lemonade Mouth” and “Girl in Progress,” a 2012 coming-of-age drama starring Eva Mendes.

Media had said Riggen’s work on “Under the Same Moon” convinced him she was the right fit for the story of Chile’s miners' rights to the story last year along with executive producers Charles E. Lavin and Leopoldo Enriquez.

“Katie” during the Disney/ABC Television Group portion of the Television Critics Association Summer press tour in Beverly Hills, California on 26 July, 2012.—Reuters

Gweneth Paltrow poses at the gala presentation for the film “Thanks for Sharing” at the 37th Toronto International Film Festival on 8 September, 2012.—Reuters

AEG Live’s decision he tells them a lie about the miners and their families endured. Riggen and the producers are currently in Chile meeting with the miners.

The film will depict the mine’s collapse and ongoing rescue efforts, alternating between the miners who are trapped underground and their families and rescuers above. The script was written in collaboration with the miners themselves, and the producers promise the film will include details that have never been made public.

“The 33” will be shot entirely in Chile, but will be produced in English. Filming is scheduled to start in January 2013, with the producers eying a release that fall.—Reuters
**International Sports**

**Soccer**

**Man United's Kagawa says back injury is not serious**

Tokyo, 13 Sept.—Japan playmaker Shinji Kagawa has tried to down a back injury which ruled the Manchester United midfielder out of Tuesday's 1-0 win over Iraq in a World Cup qualifier.

The 23-year-old pulled out of the game in Saitama an hour before kick-off having felt a twinge in his lower back during training the previous day. “I underwent treatment for as long as possible before the match and (Japan coach Alberto Zaccheroni) waited for me,” said Kagawa, who joined United for $21 million in the pre-season.

“I felt a twinge and didn’t want to take the risk,” added the former Borussia Dortmund midfielder, who was watching Group B from the stand.

“It’s not a serious injury and I don’t think it will keep me out for long. I can walk without any problem but if I put strain on it it still hurts.”

Kagawa was set to undergo tests on his return to Old Trafford, where he has made an impressive start to his United career, although he is likely to be a doubt for Saturday’s home game against Wigan Athletic in the Premier League.

“I waited until the afternoon to see how his condition was but there’s no way I can put a player on the pitch who is not at 100 per cent,” said Italian Zaccheroni.

After the weekend encounter United kick off their Champions League campaign at home to Turkey’s Galatasaray on 19 September before a trip to fierce rivals Liverpool in the league on 23 September.

**Soccer**

**Former England striker Michael Owen poses with the Olympic Torch at Battersea dogs home in London, on 23 July, 2012.—Reuters**

**Owen begins Stoke career against champions City**

LONDON, 13 Sept.—Michael Owen used to terrify international defenders and made scoring look easy but the extent to which his career has gone off the boil will be brought into focus on Saturday when he lines up for modest Stoke City.

Just days after his former England colleagues struggled in a 1-1 draw against Ukraine, Owen, who scored 40 international goals while representing some of Europe’s most illustrious clubs, could make his Stoke debut against Manchester City. In his pomp, Owen would have been just the man to find a breakthrough at Wembury, but injuries and a waning of his powers have kept him out of England consideration, and he has not represented his country since 2008.

City are aiming to extend their unbeaten start to their Premier League title defence, though next Tuesday’s Champions League match against Real Madrid at the Bernabeu could prove a distraction. Owen will hope to forge a traditional little-and-large partnership with Peter Crouch, who scored a wonder goal against City in the corresponding fixture last season and linked up with Owen to good effect when they represented England.

Crouch this week backed Owen, who counts Liverpool, Real Madrid and Manchester United among his former clubs, to force his way back into the international reckoning.

“Going into Australia I was reluctant to celebrate his goal because I thought he deserved it.”

**Soccer**

**Serena, Sharapova to join Murray in Brisbane**

SYDNEY, 13 Sept.—French Open winner Maria Sharapova will join US Open champions Serena Williams and Andy Murray in warming up for next year’s Australian Open at the Brisbane International, organizers said on Thursday.

Williams and Murray started their seasons at the tournament this year but Russian Sharapova will be making her first appearance at the event, which takes place at the Queensland Tennis Centre from 31 December to 6 January.

“Going into Australia after a long off season you always want to have the best possible matches,” the 25-year-old, losing finalist at Melbourne Park this season, said in a news release.

“I tried to put Brisbane on the map last year but unfortunately couldn’t make it out of injury... I have heard so many great things about it.”

Williams Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka at Flushing Meadows last week to win her 15th grand slam title and was looking forward to returning to Brisbane, despite injuring her ankle at the tournament in January. “I love the tournament, it’s great,” she said. “It helps me prepare, I get a great tournament... tough field. I had so much fun this year but unfortunately it ended fast for me with a win of an injury.”

**Baseball**

**Scherzer shines as Tigers claw back White Sox**

DETROIT, 13 Sept.— Starter Max Scherzer was dominant early and the Detroit batters backed him up in the latter stages as the Tigers ate into Chicago’s American League Central lead with an 8-6 victory over the White Sox on Wednesday.

Scherzer (16-6) struck out seven, to increase his Major League-leading total to 220, and allowed just one run in six innings to set the tone for Detroit as they pulled within one game of Chicago at the top of the division. “I knew this was the biggest start for me this season,” Scherzer told reporters. “It’s September baseball. I wanted the ball in this situation for that very reason.”

The Tigers have won two-of-three in the series heading into Thursday’s finale. Detroit (75-67) took control with three runs in the fifth inning and kept piling it on with Prince Fielder’s three-run home run in the seventh for a 6-1 lead.

They moved 8-1 ahead in the top of the eighth but the White Sox (76-66) made a late charge against the visiting bullpen. Kevin Youkilis blasted a three-run homer in the bottom of the eighth, where Chicago scored four runs, and their rally brought the tying run to the plate in the ninth but Orlando Hudson struck out to end the game.

**Tennis**

**Serena, Sharapova to join Murray in Brisbane**

**Spies to race for Pramac Ducati MotoGP team in 2013**

WASHINGTON, 13 Sept.—American rider Ben Spies will race for the non-works Pramac Ducati MotoGP team next season, the Italian manufacturer said in a statement on Wednesday.

Spies, whose place at Yamaha will be taken by Italian great Valentino Rossi, will partner Italian Andrea Iannone in the 2013 championship.

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**Baseball**

**Yamaha MotoGP rider Ben Spies of the US concentrates before a free practice session at the Czech Grand Prix in Brno on 25 August, 2012. Reuters**

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Britain's worst sporting disaster after a crowd crush in the Hillsborough soccer disaster in the wake of the 1989 tragedy, in which 96 spectators died.

Hillsborough soccer disaster

On 13 September 1989, 96 spectators died in a crowd crush at the Hillsborough soccer stadium in Sheffield, northern England, a tragedy that changed the face of English soccer and ushered in new era of modern, all-seated venues.

Britain was shocked by the report that has been left uncorrected by failures and cover-ups in the records of what happened.

Speaking in parliament, Cameron called the disaster "one of the greatest peacetime tragedies of the last century" and acknowledged that the report would be harrowing for relatives of the deceased.

"It was wrong that the families have had to wait for so long - and fight so hard - just to get to the truth," he said. 

"And it was wrong that the police changed the records of what happened and tried to blame the fans."

On behalf of the government, and indeed our country, I am profoundly sorry for this double injustice that has been left uncorrected for so long." —Reuters

Traffic jams on circular road of Meiktila Market

MEIKTILA, 13 Sept—Vehicles of customers and buyers and trucks with commodities often cause traffic jams along the circular road at southern wing of Meiktila Market.

Local people expressed their wishes that authorities concerned should supervise driving of vehicles through the one-way system and systematic loading and unloading of commodities and systematic stopover of vehicles along the narrow road of the market wing.

League and union exchange proposals as lockout looms

NHL Players’ Association (NHLPA) head Donald Fehr arrived at the league’s Manhattan headquarters with a proposal and the NHL ready with a counter offer it said would be off the table if players do not accept it before the current agreement expires. "With every day we are experiencing, and will continue to experience, damage to the game and to the business of the game," Bettman said to reporters.

What we would be prepared to do now to make a deal before there is extensive damage is not the same that we will be prepared to do in the event we get to the point where we have suffered the damage." The NHL’s board of governors is set to hold meetings in New York on Thursday while the NHLPA will stage executive board and negotiating committee meetings, which are expected to be attended by close to 300 players.

No further formal negotiations are scheduled but Bettman said he was prepared to sit down and negotiate further with players any time.

If there is a real intent on the other side to make a deal then we will get into a room make a deal and address the issues in a meaningful way," said Bettman. “We looked at their proposal and it was clear there wasn’t very much movement at all.”

The main sticking point in the dispute, which threatens a fourth work stoppage in 20 years, lies with the two sides at odds over how to divide $3.3 billion in revenue. —Reuters

Weather for 14th September, 2012

The main types of fermentation are cask, vats, tanks and distillation. In the case of cask fermentation, the casks are stored in a warm spring for the first year, then taken to a cellar in the next year for maturation. The liquid is then piped into a tank and transferred to a distillation room. The distillation room is where the liquid is heated and the alcohol is removed. The alcohol is then sent to a bottling room where it is bottled and labeled.

UK’s Cameron apologizes for 1989 soccer stadium disaster

A man looks at flowers laid at a memorial to 96 fans killed at the Hillsborough disaster in 1989, at the Anfield soccer stadium in Liverpool, northern England on 12 September, 2012. —Reuters

LIVERPOOL, 13 Sept—British Prime Minister David Cameron said on Wednesday he was "profoundly sorry" for failures and cover-ups in the wake of the 1989 Hillsborough soccer disaster in which 96 spectators died after a crowd crush in the stadium. Attempts by the police to deflect the blame for Britain’s worst sporting disaster onto Liverpool fans to cover up their own flawed response and the dangers of an outdated stadium amounted to a “double injustice”, he said.

The victims died in an overcrowded fenced-in enclosure at the Hillsborough stadium in Sheffield, northern England, a tragedy that changed the face of English soccer and ushered in new era of modern, all-seated venues.

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Sino-Myanmar friendship would contribute to national unity

NAI PYI TAW, 13 Sept—Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received the visiting delegation led by Chairman Mr Wu Bangguo of the Standing Committee of 11th National People’s Congress of the People’s Republic of China at Zabuthiri Hall in Hluttaw Complex here this evening.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Pyithu Hluttaw Committee chairpersons, Pyithu Hluttaw representatives from ethnic parties and members of Pyithu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Committee and the visiting delegation was led by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Junhua.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann extended the delegation expressing his belief that the visit would further strengthen the bond and cooperation between the two neighbours. He said that the Sino-Myanmar friendship would contribute to national unity as the two countries have maintained the traditional cordial relations for a long time based on five principles of peaceful co-existence.

Mr Wu Bangguo revealed his pleasure to meet the Speaker, again, thanking for hospitality of Myanmar. There has long been Pauk-Phaung relationship between peoples of Myanmar and China. The speakers of the two countries could exchange visit within a year, facilitating to promotion of ties between the two countries. The visit is aimed to foster the relationship between the two countries. The Chinese goodwill delegation comprises high-ranking officials. Beijing attaches importance to relationship with Myanmar as the two counties share a long border. Friends can be chosen but neighbours cannot be. Therefore, Myanmar and China are friends for ever. He thanked again for warm hospitality of the host.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker said that he was glad to hear the chairman’s attitude towards Myanmar, reiterating the Nay Pyi Taw’s commitment to promote relationship and cooperation between the two countries.

After the meeting, Mr Wu Bangguo presented televisions, computers and accessories to the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker who returned commemorative gift.—MNA

Viaduct, wonderful for world, still safe and sound

Gokhteik Viaduct, one of the famous structures across the world, is located between Nawngkhiho and Kyaunkme townships of Shan State (North) in Myanmar.

It is a railroad built of steel trusses linking two hills. The viaduct is significant on Mandalay-Lashio railroad.

The viaduct was built in 1897. The facility is 690 meters long and 335 meters high. Most of the people feel heart beats while the train is passing the viaduct.

The over 100 years old viaduct is still in good condition. It was learnt that experienced engineers of Myanmar

MPU comes into use

NAI PYI TAW, 13 Sept—MPU (Myanmar Payment Union) cards are to be launched in branches of Myanmar Cityzen Bank, Myawady Bank, Myanmar Oriental Bank, Kanbawzha Bank, Cooperatives Bank, Asia Green Development Bank, Ayeyawady Bank and Myanmar Apex Bank in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw beginning tomorrow while plans are under way to offer the service in other branches of those banks. The opening of MPU and Data Centre will be held at the Central Bank of Myanmar (Yangon Branch) tomorrow.

According to an official from the Central Bank of Myanmar there are 17 members in MPU, three State-run banks and 14 private banks. MPU is a debit ATM card. The minimum cash amount is set at K 1,000 and the maximum up to K 5 million. A MPU card made at a member bank is valid for fellow member banks. Shopping can be done at points of sale (POS) linked with the member banks with MPU card. It is a safe and secure and swift and effective paying system. POS and ATM will be extended right and left.—MNA

Railways and foreign engineers jointly inspected and maintained the bridge.

According to the firm information, the world famous viaduct can be used for many years safely.—Kyemon