Visit of PRC delegation to Myanmar contributes to continued maintenance of long-lasting friendly ties fostered by leaders of two countries

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Sept—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein 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 Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here at 11 am today.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Presidents De Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Wai Lwin, U Winna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thein, U Tin Naing Thein, U Than Htay, U Win Myint, Dr Pe Thet Khin and U Hway Aung, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Transport, Communications and Construction Affairs Committee U Thein Swe and departmental heads. The visiting PRC guests were accompanied by PRC Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Junhua.

At the meeting, they had a cordial discussion on contribution of the visit to friendship and cooperation between Myanmar and PRC, continued maintenance of long-lasting friendly ties fostered by leaders of the two countries, promotion of relations to comprehensive strategic partnership from Pauk-Phaw level, bringing peace in the region through further promotion of Sino-Myanmar relations, ensuring peace and stability in border areas of both countries, making peace with ten national race armed groups out of 11, increase in bilateral economy and trade, further promotion of bilateral friendship through economic cooperation, further promotion of unity between peoples of the two countries through cooperation in religious, cultural, sports, tourism and education sectors, arrangements for promotion of friendly ties among non-governmental organizations of the two countries, cooperation in the drawing of strategic action plan, arrangement for attendance of ASEAN-China Expo by President U Thein Sein and inviting of foreign investments by Myanmar for creation of job opportunities in the nation.

MNA

President U Thein Sein, Chairman of Standing Committee of National People’s Congress Mr. Wu Bangguo attend ceremony to sign bilateral agreement

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Sept—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress of the People’s Republic of China Mr. Wu Bangguo attended the ceremony to sign bilateral agreement held at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here at 12.15 pm today.

At the ceremony, agreement on economic and technological cooperation between the Myanmar government and the PRC government, Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in technological assistance to be provided to 27th SEA Games to be held in Myanmar, MoU on provision of Hepatitis B vaccines for children, MoU on provision of medical equipment, MoU on plan for provision of facilities in education sector, MoU on feasibility study of assistance to be provided in the establishment of agricultural demonstration centre, agreement on broadcasting of Chinese TV series in Myanmar language between the MRTV of Myanmar and CRI Broadcasting Station of the PRC, agreement on loans for Thahtay Hydropower Project and agreement on loans for Baluchaung Hydropower Project were signed by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Police Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun, Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Htak, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin, Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than, Deputy Minister for Industry U Myo Aung, Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Htut and Vice-Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Nay Aye from Myanmar side and Deputy Minister for Economy Mr. Li Junzao, Ambassador Mr. Li Junhua, Chairman of CRI Broadcasting Station Mr Wang Gangnian and Deputy Governor of Chinese Export and Import Bank Mr Zhu Hongjie from China side and they exchanged notes.

MNA
Symposium on investment opportunity in Myanmar Communications and ICT sectors held

NAV PYI TAW, 14 Sept—Symposium on investment opportunity in Myanmar Communications and ICT sectors was held at MICC, here, this morning, attended by Union Ministers U Soe Thein, U Tin Naing Thein, U Thein Tun, Dr Kan Zaw and Deputy Ministers Brig.-Gen Kyaw Zaw Myint, U Han Sein and Dr Khin San Yi, the Hluttaw representatives, economic attaches from the international community, responsible persons from foreign companies and computer associations, departmental heads and officials from communications and ICT firms. The Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telephones is going through a series of reforms in the sector. Reform in communications and ICT calls for huge investment and high technical skills. In the discussion, Principal U Kyaw Soe of Telecommunications and Postal Training Centre discussed the investment opportunities in Myanmar communication and ICT industry, Deputy Director U Than Tun Aung of Directorate of Telecommunications reform strategy of communication laws, President U Ye Yint Win of Myanmar Computer Federation investment opportunities in IT industry, Deputy Director Daw Tin Aye Han of Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration Myanmar’s Investment Law and Deputy Chief Executive Officer U Myint Oo of Yadanao Teleport investment opportunities in Yadanao Teleport and those interested made discussion back. Altogether 72 local companies and 95 foreign companies attended the conference.—MNA

Myanmar Payment Union (MPU) office and Data Center opened

YANGON, 14 Sept—The opening of Myanmar Payment Union (MPU) office and Data Center was held in front of the Central Bank of Myanmar (Yangon Branch) here this morning, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyin and Chairman of MPU U Maung Maung Win cut the ribbon to open the MPU office and Data Center. Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun pressed the button to open MPU signboard. They then sprinkled (MPU) Data Center with scented water and looked round the center. The explanation ceremony for using MPU cards followed. At the ceremony, Union Minister U Win Shein said highly efficient payment system is needed for a nation to enjoy economic development. Only then, will socio-economic status of people improve. Safe and effective payment system plays a leading role in production and service sectors of the country, and central banks of every nation are responsible for development of payment system and the Central Bank of Myanmar is no exception, he said. Union Minister U Win Shein went on to say that MPU has 16 initial members and now become altogether 17 banks. As MPU or Local IT provider has been cooperating with foreign organizations, MPU cards will be used in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay after producing it in home. Arrangements are being made to use international cards VISA, Master, American Express, China Union Pay and JCB in Myanmar, he added.

Chairman of MPU U Maung Maung Win extended greetings and Secretary of MPU U Ye Min explained completion of the tasks, future programmes and knowledge for MPU cards. MPU cards will be available in 8 banks out of 17 MPU members till now. Everybody can draw cash from the ATM machines and carry out payment at the place where point of sale machine is being installed.—MNA

Relief camps fumigated in Sittway Township

NAV PYI TAW, 14 Sept—Under the supervision of Rakhnge State Health Department, malaria specialist, 10 staff of Rakhnge State and township malaria control squad, 10 member of Myanmar Red Cross Bridge and six health assistants from Myanmar Health Assistant Association undertook fumigation at 149 sheds, 1434 rooms, 1369 tents and 388 other buildings at the relief camps for prevention against malaria in Sittway Township from 1 to 10 September. The squads sprayed anti-fumigation at 149 sheds, 1434 rooms, 1369 tents and 388 other buildings at the relief camps in Mingan, Thetkeblin, Bawdupha, Thechaung, Kungokdkha, Dalpuing and Danyawady camps in Sittway Township of Rakhnge State for 2307 people from 2707 households.

They also gave malaria care services to the local people. Members of the squad continues fumigation and malaria care services.—MNA

NATIONAL SPORTS

Outstanding students honoured in Yinnabin Township

NAV PYI TAW, 14 Sept—A ceremony to honour outstanding students and teachers and disburse agricultural loan took place in Yinnabin Town Hall in Yinnabin Township, Monywa District, Sagaing Region on 11 September, with an address by Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Han. At the ceremony, the Union Minister and responsible persons presented prizes, cash assistance for regional development, books and publications and loan. After that, the Union Minister enjoyed loan disbursement to the members of the rural production cooperatives societies in Thayatan village in Yinnabin Township.—MNA

Power supply launched on self-reliant basis

YINNABIN, 14 Sept.—As self-reliant electricity supply tasks were undertaken in Kyaukhnaw Village of Yinnabin Township of Sagaing Region, the local people now enjoy fruits of power supply round the clock on 8 September 2012. With the main sponsorship of U Win Myint-Agga Maha Thirthhadhamma Theingi Daw Kyaw Kywa of Tayoktan Road in Phayagyi Ward of Monywa, local people from 500 houses contributed to supply of electricity. At 5 pm on 8 September, a ceremony to launch the supply of electricity was held in the village. Sagaing Region Hluttaw representatives U Kyaw Myint Thein and U Win Myint cut the ribbon to launch the supply tasks. A five-mile long power line was installed with Shwetaung U sub-power station, and the village is illuminated through two 200-watt transformers. The local people spent K 160 million on works.—Kyemon

Enlisting Myanmar cultural heritage to world list discussed

NAV PYI TAW, 14 Sept—Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu received Mr. Sardar Umar Alam, Programme Manager/Head of Office from Yangon, at the Ministry this morning.

At the call, they had a cordial discussion for enlisting Myanmar cultural heritage into world cultural heritage and undertaking of cultural programmes in Myanmar with the sides of UNESCO, future tasks and further cooperation programmes. Also present at the call were Deputy Ministers Daw Sands Khin and U Than Swe.—MNA

Express bus crushes two vehicles in a row

MYINMU, 14 Sept.—An express bus driven by Zaw Lwin Oo of Mahawwe Bus Line derailed into the left side due to tyre problem between mile post 48/5 and 48/6 on Myintu-Myainga-Mandalay Road in front of Shin Thant-I Restaurant in Ayeyasya Ward of Myintu at 6.45 pm on 10 September.

The express bus collided head-on with a light truck driven by Ko Mpo Sae and dragged Mark II in a row on the opposite side. In the incident, four members of the Sangha, two men and one woman were injured. The injured were rushed to Myintu People’s Hospital with the use of two ambulances of Myat Thukha social and health service association. The express bus, light truck and Mark II were damaged.

The injured persons were transferred to Mandalay General Hospital from Myintu People’s Hospital. Myintu Police Station filed a lawsuit against reckless driver Zaw Lwin Oo, son of U Mma Maung, 30 of Thalla Ward 6.—Myintun Amin

Union Minister for CPT U Thein Tun speaking at Symposium on investment opportunity in Myanmar Communications and ICT sectors.—MNA

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**UN Security Council condemns suicide bombing in Yemen**

**Washington, 14 Sept —** The US President Barack Obama waves as he returns to the White House in Washington on 13 Sept, 2012, after campaigning in Colorado. Xinhua

The Yemeni defence minister took place in central Sanaa on Tuesday, killing 12 people including seven bodyguards of the minister. The minister, Mohammed Nasir Ahmed, survived the attack, but was critically injured in his chest.

The members of the Security Council reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed,” said the statement.

The Council also reminded states that they must ensure that measures taken to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

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**Japan set to win extended waiver of US sanctions on Iran oil**

**SINGAPORE, 14 Sept —** Japan has made deeper cuts in crude oil purchases from Iran since it secured an exemption from US sanctions in March, putting the country in a strong position to obtain a renewal when the US reviews the six-month waiver. Japan was the first of Asia’s top four buyers of Iranian imports, a Japanese government official said, referring to a decision made by US President Barack Obama last month.

The waiver, which allows Japan to continue purchasing Iranian oil despite US sanctions, is due to expire in December. The US has repeatedly stated its intention to extend the waiver, which was first granted in January 2012.

However, US President Barack Obama’s commitment to extend the waiver is not guaranteed, as it depends on Iran’s compliance with international nuclear agreements.

Japan has been one of the largest buyers of Iranian oil, accounting for about 10% of Iran’s total exports.

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**RMS sees insured losses from Hurricane Isaac up to $2 billion**

**London, 14 Sept —** Hurricane Isaac caused wind damage that could reach $1.2 billion, disaster modeler RMS said in an update on the 2012 Atlantic hurricane season.

This season is proving the second most active since records began in 1851, with only 2005 and 2011 having more named storms as of 13 September, the San Francisco-based RMS said.

The first hurricane to hit the United States this year, Hurricane Isaac struck New Orleans last month, almost exactly seven years after Hurricane Katrina devastated the city, but it proved to be a much less damaging storm.

RMS’s estimate excludes all losses caused by flooding and all losses from the National Flood Insurance Programme.

The latter, a state-run entity, was wiped out by Katrina in 2005, requiring a bailout that has left the programme with a debt load it may never shift. The programme still has 193,000 policies in force in Louisiana alone.

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**Libya arrests four over deadly Benghazi attack**

**Tripoli, 14 Sept —** Libyan authorities have made four arrests in the investigation into the attack on the US consulate in Benghazi in which the US ambassador and three embassy staff were killed, the deputy interior minister said Thursday.

“Four men are in custody and we are interrogating them because they are suspected of helping instigate the events at the US consulate,” Wansir Shafiq told Reuters. He gave no more details.

US ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens and three other Americans died after gunmen attacked the US consulate and a safe house refuge in the eastern city of Benghazi on Tuesday night.

Demonstrators attacked the US embassies in Yemen and Egypt on Thursday, and American warships were moved closer to Libya. President Barack Obama has vowed to bring to justice those responsible for the Benghazi attack, which US officials said may have been planned in advance. — Reuters
**Technology**

Apple snubs emerging mobile payment standard

**Environment**

Drought hurt world crops less than many had feared: USDA

**Science**

ALICE scientists enter primeval plasma wonderland

Russia will not cut emissions under extended Kyoto climate pact

3D printers bring hi-tech manufacturing to the home
Nintendo Wii U adds TV, video for November launch

BERLIN, 14 Sept — Nintendo's game console in six years will allow users to make personal TV and video phone calls from their console, according to a report.

The machine, starting at just under $300, will also come with a dedicated “Super Mario” game title. For Nintendo, known for its entertainment hub in the center of the house,” said Scott Moffitt, Nintendo of America’s executive vice president of sales and marketing.

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Smokers may have more sleep problems: study

BERLIN, 14 Sept — Smokers may get fewer hours of sleep and have less restful slumber than non-smokers, according to a German study that looked at more than two thousand people.

Researchers whose work appeared in the journal Addiction Biology found that of nearly 1,100 smokers surveyed, 17 percent got fewer than six hours of sleep each night and 28 percent reported “disturbed” sleep.

That compared with rates of seven percent and 19 percent respectively among more than 1,000 non-smokers who were also surveyed, said lead researcher Stefan Cohrs, of Charite Berlin medical school in Germany. “This study demonstrates for the first time an elevated prevalence of sleep disturbance in smokers compared with non-smokers in a population without lifetime history of psychiatric disorders even after game-centric approach, adding an entertaining game-console component is a positive step,” said Billy Pidgeon, an analyst at MC2 Research. “It seems people have right now and with this, they can catch up somewhat to Microsoft’s Xbox offerings.”

The Wii U is the first console machine to be sold by a major gaming industry company in more than six years. With a new Microsoft Corp. Xbox and updated Sony Corp PlayStation expected in 2013, sales will fluctuate as to whether more advanced, next-generation game hardware can boost the ailing video game console and packaged games market.

Gamers have migrated steadily online to mobile devices such as Apple Inc’s iPad and this shift has weakened video game hardware and software sales. The Wii has been a bonanza for Nintendo, with 100 million sold, but demand is waning. In the third months to June 30, Wii sales more than halved to 710,000 from 1.56 million a year earlier.

Nielsen, which is struggling to reverse years of losses, badly needs a hit. But the console is launching into a holiday season of tooth-and-nail competition.

Consumers are “going to make choices this holiday whether they want to buy a Fire, an iPhone 5, an iPad, a Wii U, and it’s the broader group of products and services we’ve ever seen,” said PJ McNealy, CEO of Digital World Research.

The report: “Our findings indicate that smoking directly impairs sleep quality. Overall, more than one-quarter of smokers in the study were sleeping poorly in the category of “disturbed” sleep, meaning they had a high probability of insomnia. Many things can affect sleep quality, and Cohrs’ team was able to account for factors such as age, weight, and alcohol abuse.”

Stressed at work? Look out for your heart

LONDON, 14 Sept — People who have highly demanding jobs and little freedom to make decisions are 23 percent more likely to have a heart attack compared with those who less stressed out their colleagues, according to a report.

The study, which was published online in The Lancet medical journal, researchers analyzed job strain in employees who had no previous coronary heart disease (CHD). Participants completed questionnaires about their job demands, workload, the level of time-pressure demands, and their freedom to make decisions.

“Our findings indicate that job strain is associated with a small, but consistent, increased risk of experiencing a first CHD event such as a heart attack,” said Mika Kivimaki from University College London, who led the research. „Weissberg, medical director at the British Heart Foundation, said the findings confirmed that being under stress at work and being unable to change the situation could increase the risk of developing heart disease.

But he noted they also showed the negative effects of workplace strain are much smaller than the damage caused by smoking or lack of exercise: “Though stresses at work may be unavoidable, how you deal with these pressures is important, and lighting up a cigarette is bad news for your heart,” he said in an emailed comment. “Eating a balanced diet, taking regular exercise and quitting smoking will more than offset any risk associated with your job.”

Ireland eyes renewable power exports to UK by 2017

LONDON, 14 Sept — Power grid operators signed a deal on Thursday to develop a 5,000 megawatt electricity transportation system which could export power from Ireland to the UK within five years. The UK’s National Grid and Portugal’s grid operator REN are working on a feasibility study for the project alongside Dublin-based renewable energy generator Mainstream Renewable Power.

REN is 25 percent owned by China’s dominant utility firm State Grid Corp.

“REN believes this memorandum of understanding sets the ground for the study of a potentially groundbreaking infrastructure for the future of European energy highways,” said REN Chief Executive Rui Cartaxo in a statement.

Mainstream Renewable Power aims to supply 1.2 GW of power to the UK by 2017. Ireland is expected to produce more wind power than it needs, leaving room for exports to Britain, which has a target to generate 15 percent of its energy consumption from renewable sources by 2020, compared with around 9 percent last year.

Mainstream said it has already secured an offer for 5,000 MW of grid connection to the UK which is independent of Ireland’s existing grid structure.

A spokesperson for the project was unable to confirm whether the Chinese firm would have any direct involvement in the scheme.

Chinese firms are also bidding to build nuclear power stations in Britain, with two Chinese firms teaming up to take part in the UK’s 6-gigawatt Horizon power plant.

Yosemite extends hantavirus warning: 9th infection confirmed

SAN FRANCISCO, 14 Sept — Yosemite National Park expanded a warning about the deadly hantavirus to 230,000 more recent visitors and confirmed on Thursday that a ninth person had contracted the virus, which has already killed three people.

The Californian, the latest person confirmed to have been infected with hantavirus, had stayed in Yosemite in July and has already recovered, National Park Service spokesman John Quinley said.

Yosemite said it had previously alerted 30,000 visitors, who slept in two locations where officials believe the nine visitors were infected, but expanded the warning by sending emails to 230,000 more who stayed elsewhere on an out-of-bounds of caution, Quinley said. “Because we have heard from concerned guests who stayed throughout the park, today we are reaching out to additional overnight visitors to raise awareness about this rare disease and to ensure they elsewhere out of an abundance of caution.”

Public health officials have no evidence at this time to indicate that persons who stayed elsewhere in the park this summer were at increased risk of exposure to hantavirus,” it said. Although there is no cure for hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, which kills more than a third of those infected, early detection through blood care increases the chances of survival. Deer mice carry the virus in their urine and feces.

Business

No progress in talks to sell stake to Hon Hai: Sharp

OKAIDO, 14 Sept — Sharp Corp said no progress has been made in the past week in talks to sell a stake to Hon Hai Precision Industry that would make the Taiwanese company its biggest shareholder. “There has been no development in discussions to sell a stake to Hon Hai,” a Sharp executive said at a briefing on Friday in Osaka on condition he was not identified.

The two companies had been expected to conclude an agreement for Hon Hai to buy a 9.9 percent stake in Sharp during a visit to Japan by Hon Hai’s chairman, Terry Gou, in August. Gou left Japan early without meeting Sharp executives and the meeting has yet to be rescheduled. — Reuters
Netanyahu deputy disagrees on setting Iran “red line”

JERUSALEM, 14 Sept — Benjamin Netanyahu’s deputy for intelligence and military affairs on Thursday broke with the Israeli prime minister in a dispute over whether to confront a “red line” beyond which its disputed nuclear programme would require military attack. In a broadcast interview, Deputy Prime Minister Dan Meridor appeared to side with the United States in calling at Netanyahus rejected repeated demand that it set Iran an ultimatum or risk seeing Israeli launch region-rattling unilateral strikes.

Meanwhile, remarks also underscored debate within the leader’s inner circle about potential effort to produce oil in rift with Washington with a war that polls show most Israelis, including several senior security figures, would oppose. “I don’t want to set red lines or deadlines for myself.” Meridor, one of several Netanyahu deputies who form the core of his security cabinet, told Israel’s Army Radio when asked how much time he would give Iran to stop its programme against Iran should be used. He called for international sanctions against Iran to be intensified “so it understands that the price it is paying is mounting and that the only way to be rid of it is to stop the (nuclear) race to arrive at an agreement, or an international understanding, that it is calling it quits”.

“The only option is sanctions,” said Meridor, who is also minister for the interior and the environment. And I think that, for now, we have to continue with the Nesen Inc., which has an 80 percent interest in the project. “There is no other choice,” he added.

Obama, in an interview broadcast on Thursday with the US Spanish-language network Telemundo, insisted he had set a red line for Iran, but offered no new specifics that would come close to meeting Netanyahus demands for a tougher US stance.

“I’ve stated repeatedly, publicly, that red line, and that is we’re not going to accept Iran having a nuclear weapon — not only because it threatens Israel, not only because it could potentially threaten the United States,” he said. “It could also fall into the hands of terrorists and it would trigger a nuclear arms race in the region.”

In largely symbolic move, US sanctions

Hezbollah’s Nasrallah

By Republican rival Mitt Romney that he is soft on the Jewish state’s security. Iran denies seeking nuclear weapons.

Obama has tried to set a red line for Iran while fending off charges of being too soft on Iran. He has also tried to use his influence in the Middle East and around the world to encourage other countries to take a tougher stance and do more to address Iran’s nuclear programme.

The head of Hezbollah’s external security organization, it is paying is mounting and that the only way to be rid of it is to stop the (nuclear) race to arrive at an agreement, or an international understanding, that it is calling it quits”. The economy created just 96,000 jobs last month, which was less than needed to keep up with population growth. While the unemployment rate edged up to 8.1 percent, it was only because many Americans gave up on the search for work. Bernanke said.

UN General Assembly convenes meeting on mediation

WASHINGTON, 14 Sept — The US Treasury sanctioned the leader of the Lebanese militant group and political movement Hezbollah on Thursday for helping Syria crush anti-government protests, as well as other members for the group’s “terrorist activities in general.” Secretary of state experts described the move against Hezbollah Secretary-General Sayed Hassan Nasrallah as largely symbolic because the penalties — freezing any assets he holds in US banks — had been imposed before.

The Treasury said it had “designated” Nasrallah under Executive Order 13324, signed by President Barack Obama in August 2011, in part to crack down on those helping Syria repress the uprising against President Bashar al-Assad’s regime. More than 27,000 people are believed to have died in the 17-month-old conflict. The Treasury also said it sanctioned two other Hezbollah members: Mustafa Amine Badreddine, who has been assassinated in a UN tribunal in the 2005 killing of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri, and a man who identified as Tala Hamiya.

US consulate in Berlin evacuated for unknown substance

WASHINGTON, 14 Sept — The Federal Reserve launched another aggressive stimulus programme on Thursday, saying it would pump $40 billion into the US economy until it saw a sustained uptick in the weak jobs market. The central bank’s decision to tie its controversial bond buying directly to economic conditions was an unprecedented step that marked a big escalation in its efforts to drive US unemployment lower. Stock prices jumped, while gold hit six-month high as investors braced for higher inflation.

“Unlikely to any previous bond-buying sprees, the Fed said it would only purchase by Republican rival Mitt Romney that he is soft on the Jewish state’s security. Iran denies seeking nuclear weapons.

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**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**British retailers up set fraud register as bogus claims rise**

Crime Committee. “Those who defraud insurers and their honest customers face real and tangible consequences for their actions.”

Insurers detected 139,000 bogus claims in 2011, saving themselves almost 1 billion pounds of payouts, according to the ABI. Fraudulent motor insurance claims were the most costly, accounting for more than half the savings. British motor insurers say a steady rise in spurious or fraudulent claims has been a factor behind their suffering a net write down every year since 1994.

**British engineers develop ultrasound scanner that can be developed an ultrasound scanner that costs under 40 pounds to make and could improve prenatal care in parts of the developing world where this technology is out of reach. The device, if it gets commercial backing, will enter a market where hospital-based ultrasound scanners cost anything between 20,000 pounds and 100,000 pounds and low-cost, portable devices sell for around 4,500 pounds each.**

**“You could be looking at something certainly less than 200 pounds to buy,” said Jeff Neasham, the sonar technology specialist at Newcastle University who developed the device with his colleague Dave Graham.**

“Things are at a very early stage,” Neasham said. “We have talked to a couple of interested companies and have had contact with a couple of charities, but we are still looking for partners.” Around 250,000 women die each year from complications in pregnancy and childbirth, 99 percent of them in developing countries, according to the United Nations.

Some of the world’s biggest healthcare equipment companies like General Electric and Siemens are pursuing resources for developing low-cost devices for emerging markets. GE has developed a handheld ultrasound scanner called Vscan with an integrated screen and Seattle-based start-up firm Mobiusante has a device that can link to a smartphone for viewing. The Newcastle University scanner is about the size of a computer mouse and can be used via a USB plug with any PC or laptop built in the last 10 years, which the developers hope will make it accessible.

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**UK**

**Home Depot’s do-it-yourself model fails in China’s do-it-market**

**Market for me**

HONG KONG, 14 Sept — Home Depot Inc, the world’s largest home improvement chain, will close all seven of its big box stores and cut 850 jobs in China as the retailer changes its focus in the Chinese market to online and specialty stores and becomes the latest retailer to feel the chill from China’s slowing economy.

Earlier this week, British fashion house Burberry Group Plc warned a slowdown in China could hit earnings. The profit warning came as recent Chinese data signaled a further slowing of the world’s second-largest economy.

Chinese home appliance retail chain operators such as Suning Appliance Co Ltd and GOME Electrical Appliances Holding Ltd who are seen by some as China’s answer to Best Buy Co Inc, are also slowing their expansion to focus on raising efficiencies at existing stores and refining their e-commerce operations.

China’s retail sales growth in all consumer goods categories slowed to 13.2 percent year-on-year in August from 16.8 percent in July. Chinese home appliance retail chain operators such as Suning Appliance Co Ltd and GOME Electrical Appliances Holding Ltd who are seen by some as China’s answer to Best Buy Co Inc, are also slowing their expansion to focus on raising efficiencies at existing stores and refining their e-commerce operations. Retail sales growth in all consumer goods categories slowed to 13.2 percent year-on-year in August from 16.8 percent in July.

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Democracy Education

What is democracy? Is democracy a word only to be found in the rhetoric of politicians? Does it really guarantee people better life, social justice, freedom and equality before the law?

While democracies share common features, there is no single model of democracy. Democracy is a universal value based on the freely-expressed will of people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems, and their full participation in all aspects of life, defined the United Nations General Assembly.

Democracy has been popularly said over one year in the country, bringing about dramatic changes especially in political dimension. Everyone is looking forward to the brighter future. But then, can democracy make our dreams come true?

The subject of this year’s theme of International Day of Democracy—Democracy education—is essential for long-term success of democracy. All the citizens in all nations need to fully understand their rights and responsibilities for the level of participation and education of citizens has decisive effect on promotion of democracy.

Nearly 70 per cent of the country’s population resides in rural areas with little or no political awareness. The country cannot see economic prosperity without their participation. It needs to educate the rural population to understand their constitutional and legal rights and responsibilities. Otherwise, it would only contribute to widen the gap between the rich and poor.

The education standard of the citizens is as crucial as the rule of law and discipline in a democracy. The rise or fall of a democracy largely depends on citizens because of the popular sovereignty of the citizens and thereby government by consent of the governed in polity. The intellectual capital of citizens is of great value to economic performance of a nation without which there would not be social stability, the soil for democracy.

Therefore, citizens need to fully understand and respect their rights and responsibilities either legal or moral. If the citizens of a democracy would have security for their rights, they must take responsibility for them. They must respect the rights of others and act to defend their own rights and the rights of others against those who would abuse them. They must exercise their rights in order to make democracy work. They need to make their voice heard through civic institutions and the free press to promote and consolidate democracy.

Democracy is a practice rather than a political system. Democracy is not a magic wand but it depends on how we practise. It is only with educated citizens that a sustainable culture of democracy can emerge.

Mechanized farming calls for participation of peasantry

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Sept—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing together with Bago Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Tin Soe viewed 200-acre Paddy Field near Padawkhinn Village in Ottwin Township this morning.

Speaking to the local farmers at the briefing hall of Kabaung Dam, the Union Minister stressed the need for irrigation system, quoting the agricultural development of neighbours, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos through effective irrigation system. It is the responsibility of all citizens to make a shift from conventional farming to mechanized farming. It is mechanized farming that can help farmers free from the life of migrant workers.

The Union Minister urged the farmers to work hard for success of mechanized farming like Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand.

The Union Minister handed over 500 kilos of maize seeds to the region minister and five kilos to each farmers.—MNA

Chairman of the Standing Committee of Chinese National People’s Congress Mr Wu Bangguo and party arrive in Yangon

YANGON, 14 Sept—Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Sein Tin Win and wife, Deputy Speaker U Tin Aung and wife, chairman and secretaries of Yangon Region Hluttaw Legislative Committee, National Race Affairs Committee, Representatives of Scrutiny Committee and officials of Chinese Embassy in Yangon welcomed Chairman of the Standing Committee of Chinese National People’s Congress Mr Wu Bangguo and wife who arrived in Yangon from Nay Pyi Taw by special flight at 5 pm today.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe met the visiting delegation led by Chairman of the Standing Committee of Chinese National People’s Congress Mr Wu Bangguo at Sedona Hotel. Also present on the occasion were the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Region Hluttaw and Region Ministers.—MNA

Unhygienic snacks destroyed in Kyaukme

KYAUKME, 14 Sept—Under the instructions of Shan State Government, the public health care group comprising staff from various departments visited canteens of various schools and snack shops in wards of Kyaukme and checked sales of snack made of beans imported from China due to unhygienic matter.

The group destroyed the unhygienic snacks. The health care group tours urban areas of Kyaukme on Mondays and Tuesdays.—Kyemon
Myanmar to take steps to promulgate intellectual property laws

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Sept—“As a member of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and World Trade Organization (WTO) and international organizations like ASEAN, Myanmar would take steps to promulgate intellectual property laws ahead of 1 July, 2013 according to Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)," said Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo at the coordination meeting on enactment of new laws on intellectual property at the ministry here this morning.

The Union Minister said that firm laws that can protect the direct foreign investment in the country are essential as foreign investors attach importance to protective power of intellectual property laws in making decision to invest in a country. The country needs to enact intellectual property laws to be able to define and protect patent rights at a time it is striving for economic performance with might and main. The Ministry of Science and Technology is taking a leading role in drafting patent law, industrial design law, trademarks and service marks law and copyright law.

Next, personnel of the ministry explained feedback of respective representatives, ministers of region and state governments and organizations on drafts of those laws followed by queries of those present.

The Union Minister called for enactment of laws in line with international practice without harming the interests of citizens. The meeting was attended by deputy ministers, departmental heads, and representatives from regions and states, scholars and invited guests.

The enactment of intellectual property laws would arouse his invention and innovation of citizens, protecting their interests, contributing to small and medium enterprises. It would also attract foreign investment and increased commodity flow, spurring national economic growth, promoting local and foreign investments.

Investigation Commission continues enquiries in Rakhine State

YANGON, 14 Sept—Chairman of Investigation Commission Dr Myo Myint, Secretary Dr Kyaw Yin Hlaing and Commission members arrived in Kyaukpyu yesterday morning and met with Mro and Khami townswelders, Islam religious leaders and townswelders.

At the meeting, the chairman and the secretary explained the tasks and cooperation with the commission and enquired some persons separately.

At Taungup, they met State Hillary representative, departmental officials and local people and enquired some people separately.

They met with townswelders, teachers, Islam religious members at Kyaukminaw Village in Yanbye Township and then met families of Ma Thida Htoo.

After that, the commission members made interviews with some persons to gather the firm evidences and data for conducting investigation for exposing the correct event with regard to the riots in Rakhine State and giving suggestions for enhancement of national interests.

Later, the Investigation Commission Chairman and members arrived in Yanbye and met with departmental officials, Rakhine and Kaman national race townswelders. They also met some persons separately.

Mongkai Township Administrator’s Cup wraps up

MONGKAI, 14 Sept—The final match of Mongkai Township Administrator’s Cup Football Tournament was held at the Township Sports Ground on 7 September afternoon.

In the final match, Ward 1 team beat All Staff team 1-0. Next, Township Administrator U Hlaing Maung presented trophy, medal and K 12000 to the first prize winner, Shan State Hlaung Maung and departmental officials awarded the remaining winners.

The tournament started on 20 August with the participation of eight ward and village teams.

News in Brief

DA (Part-I) for Nay Pyi Taw staff

Diploma in Accounting (Part-I) will be opened for government service personnel in Nay Pyi Taw at the training school of Auditor-General of the Union at Office No. 12 in Nay Pyi Taw as of 1 February 2013. The course will be opened from 7 am to 9 am from Monday to Saturday daily.

Turkish Ambassador donates relief aid

Turkish Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Murat Yavuz Ates and party donated relief aids to Rakhine State Government at the state government office on 11 September. The ambassador presented rice and medicines to needy students.

Tour guides

A total of 25 tour guides around Bagan region has enlisted to attend the course._basic Bird Watching Course 2/2012 in Bagan from 15 to 16 September. The ambassador presented rice and medicines to needy students.

South Okkalapa, Hline and Hlinethaya townships.

Sangyoung and one time each in Tamway, Thakayta, Pyin Oo Lwin, and Mawlamyine. Fire broke out once in Kyauktada, two times in South Okkalapa, Hline and Hlinethaya townships.

Diploma in Accounting (Part-I) will be opened for students.

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Canada’s Harper seeks budget balance but top priority is growth

OTTAWA, 14 Sept — Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper said on Thursday he hoped to balance the federal budget before the next election in October 2015 but his top priority was to make sure the economy continued to grow “so that the West can go on financial circumstances. Look, I want the budget to be balanced and that’s a goal in this Parliament. But our first objective is to make sure the Canadian economy keeps growing,” he said in an interview on Sun News Network’s “Byline with Brian Lilley” programme.

“In my judgment, a gradual reduction in the deficit is the way to go if that can be managed, and I think it can be managed, so that’s the route that we’ll continue on.” The most recent federal budget set a target to bring the budget deficit to zero in the fiscal year that starts on 1 April, 2015. He estimated that deficit was currently C$24 billion to C$25 billion ($24.7 billion to $25.8 billion), which is relatively tiny in comparison with the guaranteed the establishment of a transitional self-rule authority for the Palestinians. However, no Palestinian state has been established yet and Palestinian officials hold Israel responsible for the stalemats in the peace process.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat told Xinhua that all the governments of Israel “did their best to waste every possible opportunity that Oslo accords brought about to achieve permanent peace.” The Palestinians alleged that Israel is still controlling 60 percent of the West Bank territory and at the same time keeps escalating its settlement construction, which ruins all the chances of reaching a two-state national need, adding “Israel was lusive and didn’t bring about the Palestinian anything but the painful endless spectacles and disasters.”

In addition to the stalled peace process, the Palestinians are complaining about the high cost of living partly caused by the Paris economic agreement signed between Israel and the Palestinians in 1995, soon after the two sides began to implement Oslo accords.

Following a violent wave of protests in the West bank against the hard living conditions, the Palestinian National Authority called on Israel to reconsider amending the Paris protocol. Sami Anabtawi, a Palestinian commentator, told Xinhua that while he had expected to see only occasional activities in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, and want to start talks on permanent status issues to establish an independent Palestinian state on the territories Israel occupied in 1967 with east Jerusalem as its capital, Salih al-Bardawil, a senior Hamas leader based in Gaza, told Xinhua that movement believes that topology Oslo accords 19 years after it was signed is a goal in the two-state solution, adding that the Palestinian leadership is counting on the international community and the states to protect the Palestinian people in their right to establish their state on the territories occupied by Israel in 1967. However, Hani al-Masri, another West Bank-based political analyst cautioned that “nothing will change on the ground amid the forces of Palestinian rights.”

50 arrested in Texas in operation against convicted sex offenders

HOUSTON, 14 Sept — US federal immigration agents and state police have arrested 50 immigrants across the state of Texas as part of an operation to remove convicted sex offender and other criminals from the US.

US federal deficit but still quite large by historical and conservative Canadian standards.

US presidential election in 2008. The fiscal cliff is approaching at the end of this year. The fiscal cliff refers to tough legislative decisions that must be made in Washington on whether to extend expiring low tax rates or make deep spending reductions that could pinch economic growth.

“I’m sort of coming, and I think many Canadians, are seeing to a lot of this uncertainty as the new norm,” he added, saying that Canadians should not fret too much about week-to-week uncertainties in other countries over which Canada has limited control. “We have to make sure that we just look past and beyond these troubles and position Canada well for the very radically changed economy we see emerging in the future.”

British defence minister Philip Hammond speaks during a news conference in Doha on 12 Sept, 2012.—Reuters

Britain considers early withdrawal from Afghanistan

LONDON, 14 Sept — Britain could withdraw its troops from Afghanistan faster than expected next year, as military commanders reassess how many forces they need to help local forces fight the Taliban, Britain’s defense secretary said in an interview.

British forces will begin to withdraw 500 soldiers by the end of this year, leaving 9,000 soldiers to help Afghan National Security Forces, but Philip Hammond said there was potential to further “draw down troops in 2013.”

“Six months ago the message coming from them was that we really need to hold on to everything we have got so far as we possibly can. I think they are seeing potentially more flexibility in the situation,” Hammond told Friday’s Guardian newspaper.

He did not go into details and other decisions had been taken on an accelerated withdrawal of troops, with the bulk of Britain’s soldiers planned to return home by the end of 2014. “I think there is a bit of a rethink going on about how many troops we do actually need,” said Hammond. “There may be some scope for a bit more flexibility on the way we draw down, and that is something commanders on the ground are looking at very actively.”

He said British military thinking was evolving because commanders had been “surprised by the extent to which they have been able to draw down and back the Afghan forces to take their share of承担the combat role.” Hammond said the security situation was improving in Helmand province in Afghanistan’s southwest, where British troops have mainly been based, after some of the bloodiest fighting in the Afghan conflict and the deaths of 95 British soldiers in recent months.

Hepatitis outbreak kills 16 in South Sudan refugee camps

JUBA, 14 Sept — An outbreak of the Hepatitis E virus has killed 16 people in three South Sudanese refugee camps near the volatile border with Sudan, authorities and the United Nations said on Thursday. South Sudan’s border region has been flooded with hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing fighting in Sudan’s South Kordofan and Blue Nile states. South Sudan’s Ministry of Health has reported almost 400 cases of the virus since the outbreak was identified in July.

“Cases are rising day by day, thus placing immense pressure on the available health services and resources. This is of grave humanitarian concern,” the ministry said in a joint statement with UN agencies. In Maban county, the area affected, 108,000 Sudanese refugees live in camps in dire conditions, aid officials say. Hepatitis E causes liver infections and is spread by drinking water contaminated with faeces. John Lagu, director of preparedness and response at the Ministry of Health, said the virus thrived in camps that are there,” said Stefano Zannini at medical aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres.

successful reunification. Ottawa, 19 September, 2012

Peace with Israel remains far away 19 years after Oslo treats

MIDDLE EAST

RAMALLAH, 14 Sept — Nineteen years after the signing of the interim peace treaties, better known as Oslo accords, chances of reaching a permanent deal between Israel and the Palestinians became slim once again as their peace talks have been stalled since October 2010.

Observers said that the Israeli policies and practices on the ground over the past 19 years after the deal, which was based on the principle of a two-state solution, had contributed significantly to the full implementation of the interim deal thus hinder the achievement of a permanent one.

The Oslo peace accords was signed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in the White House in Washington on 13 Sept, 1993 to end decades of bloody conflicts. The aim of the negotiations at that time was to form a transitional Palestinian authority in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, after which the two sides should start talks on permanent status issues, such as Jerusalem, refugees, settlements and security. Oslo deal had
China surveillance ships near islands disputed with Japan

Tokyo, 14 Sept — Six Chinese surveillance ships entered waters near disputed islands claimed by Tokyo and Beijing on Friday, raising tensions between Asia’s two biggest economies to their highest level since 2010 over a long-running territorial row.

China’s foreign ministry said that the ships entered the disputed waters to conduct maritime surveillance and that for the first time China was carrying out a mission of “law enforcement over its maritime rights”.

“It reflects our government’s jurisdiction over the Diaoyu islands,” it said in a statement.

The ministry has used similar language in the past. The islands, known as Senkaku in Japanese and Diaoyu in Chinese, are near potentially huge maritime gas and oil fields. The Japanese coast guard said it ordered the ships to leave Japan’s territorial waters, but only three complied, leaving three vessels still in the disputed area. No force had been used to remove the Chinese ships, a coast guard official said.

“We’ll do our utmost in vigilance and surveillance,” said Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda when asked about Japan’s responses. Diplomats say Tokyo and Beijing would prefer to keep the row from spiraling out of control and harming deep economic ties. But with China facing a once-in-a-decade leadership change and an election looming in Japan that the ruling party looks set to lose, managing the row could be harder than in the past.

“The dangers of miscalculation are real,” said Brad Glosserman, executive director at Honolulu’s Pacific Forum CSIS. The uninhabited islets were at the centre of a chill between Beijing and Tokyo in 2010, after Japan arrested a Chinese trawler captain whose boat collided with Japanese Coast Guard vessels near the area. Sino-Japanese relations have long been plagued by China’s bitter memories of Japan’s military aggression in the 1930s and 1940s and present rivalry over resources and regional clout.

Japan seen exiting nuclear power by 2030s

Tokyo, 14 Sept — Japan is expected on Friday to propose abandoning nuclear power by the 2030s, a major shift from policy goals set before last year’s Fukushima disaster that aimed to increase the share of atomic energy to 20 percent by 2030.

The government estimated last week it will need to spend about 3.1 trillion yen ($40.03 billion) more on fuel imports a year if it abandons nuclear power immediately. Japan’s hunger for energy has helped sustain an investment boom in gas projects from Australia to new export terminals in the United States, where a shale gas revolution is in full swing.

Nuclear power still accounts for 30 percent of Japan’s power supply, and the government has said a decision was expected then with the cabinet likely to sign off on the new energy policy as early as next week.

A new policy would come 18 months after a March 2011 earthquake and tsunami devastated Tokyo Electric Power Co’s Fukushima Daiichi plant, triggering meltdowns, spewing radiation and forcing 160,000 people to flee.

The new strategy, which would strictly apply a rule limiting the operation of reactors to 40 years, will also call for phasing out energy consumption by raising efficiency but leaves unclear how Japan’s troubled programme to reprocess nuclear waste, according to a source familiar with a draft.

Death toll from DPRK floods rises to 300, with 600 still missing

PYONGYANG, 14 Sept — The death toll from recent floods in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) has risen to 300, while 600 others remain missing, the official KCNA news agency reported on Friday.

The floods between mid-June and late August destroyed 87,280 houses and affected roughly 298,050 residents, damaging farmland and social infrastructure such as electric cables, coal mines and railways, according to the KCNA.

Typhoon Bolaven, which pounded most of the country in late August, inflicted the largest damage, leaving 59 people dead and 50 others missing, it added.

The DPRK said on Wednesday that it would not accept a “negligible” amount of aid from South Korea, accusing the southern neighbour of lacking sincerity, the KCNA reported on Thursday.

S Korea’s imports prices rebound for 1st time in 5 months

SEOUL, 14 Sept — South Korea’s import prices rebounded for the first time in five months due mainly to a jump in farm goods and mining product prices, data by the central bank showed on Friday. In local currency terms, import prices advanced 1.7 percent in August from a month earlier, a turnaround from a 0.8 percent on-month decline tallied in the previous month, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK). From a year before, the prices rose 0.3 percent.

The on-month figure for August made its first rebound in five months, and the on-year reading logged the first rise in three months. The rebound was attributable to jumping agricultural product prices and global crude prices. Dubai crude, South Korea’s benchmark, averaged $86.6 US dollars a barrel in August, up 9.6 percent from the previous month. Prices in raw materials imported from overseas climbed 4.6 percent in August from a month before. Farm goods price growth rebounded from a 0.8 percent decline in July to a 1.7 percent gain, while oil product prices jumped 4.9 percent last month, up from a 0.9 percent rise in July.

Intermediate goods prices fell 0.3 percent on-month in August, up from a 1.7 percent retreat a month earlier. Oil product price gain accelerated to 11.7 percent in August from 5.0 percent in July, while chemical product prices rose 0.4 percent last month, a turnaround from a 2.6 percent decline in the previous month.
Australia’s immigration minister confirms arrivals of asylum seekers to Nauru

CANBERRA, 14 Sept — The first transfer of asylum seekers by aircraft from Christmas Island to Nauru under Australia’s government’s new offshore processing regime has gone “smoothly and without incident”, Immigration Minister Chris Bowen confirmed at a media conference on Friday.

An aircraft has landed at the Nauru airport with a number of passengers, apparently Sri Lankans, who were then loaded onto a pair of mini buses for the trip to the newly completed camp. More transfers would occur next week and in the weeks to come.

“Implementing all of this is key to breaking the people-smugglers’ business model,” he said. Bowen signed the legislative instrument designating Nauru as a regional processing country under the Migration Act on Monday.

Xinhua

Train crashes into truck at level railway crossing in Australia’s Brisbane

BRISBANE, 14 Sept— A truck driver has been seriously injured after a passenger train hit his truck at a level railway crossing in Brisbane, Australia’s Queensland capital city, police said on Friday. The crash occurred at the St Vincents Road level railway crossing in the suburbs of Banyo in Brisbane around 6:30 am local time on Friday.

The truck driver has been taken to hospital with serious leg injuries and it is believed he has been treated for minor injuries, police said. Police and emergency services are currently on the scene, trying to clear the twisted remains of the truck from the tracks at Banyo.

Minister Jack Dempsey told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) that there are no life-threatening injuries currently on the scene, trying to clear the twisted remains of the truck from the tracks at Banyo. Police and emergency services are currently on the scene, trying to clear the twisted remains of the truck from the tracks at Banyo. Police and emergency services are currently on the scene, trying to clear the twisted remains of the truck from the tracks at Banyo.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: FORTUNE SHIPPING & AGENCY
Phone No: 256924/256914

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**Matchbox Twenty get to No 1 at last with “North”**

Los Angeles, 14 Sept—Pop-rock band Matchbox Twenty scored their first No. 1 album with their long-awaited “North” release, selling 95,000 record to top the Billboard 200 chart, according to Nielsen SoundScan figures on Wednesday.

“North” is the first full-length studio album since 2002 for the four-piece band from Florida, which formed in 1995 and had big hits with singles “Unwell,” and “3 AM.”

Sales for “North” were powered by the new album’s first single “She’s So Mean,” released in June. Matchbox Twenty have not played a major tour since 2008 and started work on “North” about two years ago. Band members have said the disc was delayed because they wanted to get the album right after such a long absence.

“North” was one of four new arrivals on the Billboard 200. Rock band Imagine Dragons came in at No 2 with their first full-length effort “Night Visions,” and Christian hip-hop artist Lecrae debuted at No 3 with “Gravity.”

It was the highest Billboard entry ever for a group, and came just a week after fellow Christian singer TobyMac debuted at No 1 with “Eye On It” in what was the first Christian act to reach the top Billboard 200 spot since 1997.

TobyMac slipped to No 8 in this week’s chart.

On the digital songs chart, country pop artist Taylor Swift topped the list for the fourth consecutive week with her infectious hit single “We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together,” while her new cancer charity single “Ronan,” entered at No 2.

**Led Zeppelin to release reunion concert film**

London, 14 Sept—British rockers Led Zeppelin will release a concert film based on their 2007 charity performance in London that hits cinemas on 17 October, the band said on Thursday.

The film, called “Celebration Day” and directed by Dick Carruthers, was taken from the long-awaited reunion of one of rock’s most revered bands back in 2007.

The theatrical release will be across 1,500 screens in more than 40 cities including London, Los Angeles, New York and other major cities before the film will screen the movie in Britain, it said.

There will be premieres in London, Los Angeles, New York and other major cities before the theatrical release, raising the possibility of seeing the three surviving band members on the same red carpet, if not the same stage.

The band broke up in 1980 after the death of their drummer John Bonham, but despite repeated calls from millions of fans to get back together to tour and record, reunions have been fleeting and, by their own admission, unsatisfactory.

But in 2007, singer Robert Plant, guitarist Jimmy Page and bass player John Paul Jones, along with Bonham’s son and drummer Jason, took the stage at London’s O2 Arena for a tribute gig to Atlantic Records co-founder Ahmet Ertegun.

It was the first headline show by the band in 27 years, and according to Cineword, the cinema chain which will screen the movie in Britain, it was the most over-subscribed gig in history after more than 20 million people applied for 18,000 tickets.

“It’s a unique opportunity to see what it was like to be Led Zeppelin’s final performance,” Cineword said.

The band, one of rock’s biggest acts with global album sales estimated at up to 300 million, played 16 songs on the night including hits like “Whole Lotta Love,” “Kashmir” and “Stairway to Heaven.”

The poster promoting the film features a cartoon of a zeppelin airship against a red sky above London’s Houses of Parliament, reminiscent of the artwork on the band’s 2007 compilation album “Mothership.”

Following is the track listing of the upcoming film, which will last just over two hours.

1. Good Times Bad Times
2. Ramble On
3. Black Dog
4. In My Time Of Dying
5. For Your Love
6. Trampled Under Foot
7. Nobody’s Fault But Mine
8. No Quarter
9. Since I’ve Been Loving You
10. Dazed And Confused
11. Stairway To Heaven
12. The Song Remains The Same
13. Misty Mountain Hop
14. Kashmir
15. Whole Lotta Love
16. Rock And Roll.

**Why Nemo, T-Rex and Indiana Jones are returning in Imax**

New York, 14 Sept—Hollywood is not doing so hot with its new releases, but it’s hoping to find gold elsewhere: in its vaults, and in today’s higher-ticket-price formats.

Last weekend, five months after Paramount’s 3D Imax re-release of “Titanic,” the studio re-released “Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark” for a one-week Imax run (Fox handled international).

On Friday, Disney rolls out its third trunk adapted for 3D, following “Beauty and the Beast” and “The Lion King”: the less-than-a-decade-old “Finding Nemo.”

More are in the offing from the Mouse House, which has had a long history with regular-format re-releases. It will bring back a 3D “Monsters, Inc” in the winter, seven months before the release of its sequel “Monsters University,” and has others in the pipeline but is not yet willing to say which ones.

“We’re fortunate at Disney to have the power of the brand,” Dave Hollis, EVP of theatrical exhibition and sales at Disney, told TheWrap. “Relative to other studios, we find ourselves in a fortunate position to have a treasure trove of opportunity because of our vault.”

Though some may begrudge the studios for this unabashed pursuit of profits at a time when most fans and critics crave original material, the decision is rooted in simple economics. “It’s an obvious thing for studios to do, given that they have these classic movies that they can relatively easily turn into a 3D version,” Bruce Nash, founder of the box-office statistics site The Numbers, told TheWrap. “There’s a very small incremental cost in doing the conversion—and a proven market for the films.”

Hollis said it cost Disney less than $10 million to convert each of the animated films. Nash noted that converting animated films is much easier because they begin life as a computer file, anyway.

The low cost of conversion makes this a win-win situation for studios, which can use these beloved films to boost quarterly profits.

All of the films released so far, “The Lion King,” “Beauty & the Beast,” “Star Wars: Episode I—the Phantom Menace” and “Titanic,” surpassed $40 million at the domestic box office.

**Millennium picks up modern take on “What Maisie Knew”**

Los Angeles, 14 Sept—Millennium Entertainment has taken domestic distribution rights to the modern-day version of the classic Henry James novel. Scott McGehee and David Siegel directed.

Set in current-day New York, the film chronicles the falling apart of a family as seen through the eyes of a six-year-old girl who watches the grown-ups around her behave like children.

Moores plays a rock ‘n’ roll icon married to a distressed art dealer (Coogan) who each pursue separate love interests and eventually part ways. Maisie (Onata Aprile), their only child, is caught in the middle and used as a bargaining tool.

**Ewan McGregor joins Roberts, Streep in “August: Osage County”**

New York, 14 Sept—Ewan McGregor has joined the cast of “August: Osage County,” John Wells’ upcoming film adaptation of the Pulitzer-Prize winning play, The Weinstein Company announced on Wednesday. Meryl Streep and Julia Roberts have already signed on to star in the film, in which McGregor will play Bill Fordham.

Fordham is the estranged husband of Barbara (Roberts) and son-in-law of Violet Weston (Streep).

Streep and Julia Roberts have already signed on to star in the film, in which McGregor will play Bill Fordham.

Actress Kate Winslet signs autographs for fans as she arrives at the world premiere of “Titanic 3D” at the Royal Albert Hall in London on 27 March, 2012.—Reuters
Saturday, 15 September, 2012

International Sports

Cameroon suspend French coach Lavagne

**Soccer**


Reuters

Argentine’s Lionel Messi (L) breaks through during the 2014 World Cup qualifying soccer match against Paraguay in Cordoba, Argentina, on 7 Sept, 2012. Argentina won 3-1.—Xinhua

Argentine striker Lionel Messi and other players were targeted by what locals described as a crowd of “little girls” following the teams’ 1-1 draw in Peru.

“Messi and Higuain are little girls”, says defender

**Soccer**

Reuters

FANCY LANCERS, 14 Sept—Cameron have suspended French coach Denis Lavagne, less than a year after he took the helm of the national soccer team, following an embarrassing defeat to lowly-ranked Cape Verde, Cameroon’s state television said on Thursday.

“Cameroun, four-times winners of the African Nations Cup, are in danger of missing out on a place at the next finals in South Africa after losing 2-0 to the tiny Atlantic archipelago nation in Praia on Saturday, in the first leg of the round of qualifiers.

Lavagne had been suspended with full pay until the end of his contract in October, the television said.

Jean Paul Akono, who led Cameroon’s squad to Olympic gold in Sydney 2000, has been appointed as interim coach, with Martin Ngouon Ngompi as assistant.

The appointment is Akono’s second stint as head coach of the team after briefly holding the position from 2000 to 2001.

However, instability at the helm of the -11 different coaches have been in charge since Akono was removed in 2001 - has been accompanied by a long stretch of poor form.

Administrative bungles have prompted players to strike over pay and led to key players being suspended. Striker Samuel Eto’o’s last month declined to make a comeback for the team after an eight-month suspension because of what he called “amateurish and bad management”.

 Angry fans demonstrated outside the offices of Cameroon’s football federation after the defeat to Cape Verde, prompting authorities to deploy police and military personnel.

**Boxing**

Pacquiao set for 8 December bout with Marquez

**Boxing**

Los Angeles, 14 Sept—Filipino southpaw Manny Pacquiao is expected to return to the ring on 8 December for a fourth fight against long-time rival Juan Manuel Marquez of Mexico, according to several media reports.

Promoter Bob Arum told Reuters on Thursday that fight negotiations were being hammered out this week with a decision likely in “a couple of days.”

Arum was not prepared to give any further details, though some media have reported that a formal news conference promoting the fight will take place on Tuesday in Los Angeles.

Pacquiao beat Marquez with a controversial majority decision when they met in Las Vegas in November, and said afterwards he would be happy to take on the Mexican again “anytime.”

The Philippines has fought just once since then, surrendering his WBO welterweight title on a hotly disputed split decision to American Timothy Bradley in Las Vegas in June.

That stunning result ended a run of 15 consecutive wins by Pacquiao, who has won world titles in an unprecedented eight weight divisions.—Reuters

**Boxing**

Alexis added to Barca injury woes

Madrid, 14 Sept—FC Barcelona confirmed on Thursday that Chilean winger Alexis Sanchez will miss this Saturday’s La Liga game away to Getafe.

Alexis returned from injuries in recent seasons and who just two weeks ago was named as Uefa player of the year.

However, the injuries to Alexis and Iniesta could open the door for Cesc Fabregas or David Villa to return to the starting XI in Getafe. Villa scored a penalty for Spain against Saudi Arabia last Friday, while Fabregas, whose early season form has been questioned by some, helped set Roberto Soldado and David Silva for Spain’s winning goal in Georgia after coming on as a substitute in the game.

Iniesta also suffered his injury while on international duty while playing for Spain away to Georgia on Tuesday night.

The news is a blow for

Reuters

Boxing great Ali honoured for fights outside the ring

Philadelphia, 14 Sept—Heavyweight boxing legend Muhammad Ali was honored on Thursday for his humanitarian efforts and civil rights work at an awards ceremony in Philadelphia.

The $100,000 award called the Liberty Medal, sponsored by the nonprofit National Constitution Centre, was presented to Ali by his daughter, Laila Ali, a former boxer herself. Ali, 70, who has been silenced by a long battle with Parkinson’s disease, was honored as an icon of constitutional ideals and the American dream, the center said.

He “has been an outspoken fighter for religious and civil rights; a conscientious objector who took his battle to the Supreme Court; and an ambassador for peace and justice worldwide, and a tireless humanitarian and philanthropist,” the center said in a statement.

“Muhammad Ali continues this day to inspire young people throughout the world,” Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter told the ceremony.

Since he retired from boxing in 1981, Ali has worked on philanthropic and social causes around the world. He has made goodwill visits to New York, London and North Korea, delivered medical aid to Cuba, travelled to Iraq to secure release of 15 US hostages during the first Gulf War, and most recently, worked for the eventual release of the three American hikers held captive in Iran, the center said in its statement.—Reuters

WBO welterweight champion Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines is treated in his corner between rounds during his title fight against Timothy Bradley Jr. of the US at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada on 9 June, 2012.— Reuters

Worldwide, he has suffered a lot of muscle injuries in recent seasons and who just two weeks ago was named as Uefa player of the year.

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Winger Christian Tello, who has been in coach Tito Vilanova’s plans in this early part of the campaign could also be given his chance. Fortunately for Barca, Leo Messi and Javier Mascherano both returned unsathed from Argentina’s 1-1 draw in Peru.
American imprisoned in Nicaragua freed after appeals court decision

US defence secretary’s visit signals warming relationship with New Zealand

**Weather Forecast for 15th September, 2012**

**Temperature (°C/°F) For Tomorrow**

- **Yangon, Ayeyarwady, Bago, Sittwe and Rakhine States**: Widespread rain or thundershowers (IH) (100%)
- **Mon State**: Widespread rain or thundershowers, elsewhere in Myanmar waters.
- **Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama**: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times.
- **Regions and States**: Rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Sagaing and Mandalay Regions and isolated heavy falls in Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Sagaing and Mandalay Regions and isolated heavy falls in Mon State.
- **Necessary actions**: To ensure safety and prevent property damage.

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**Focus on Myanmar**

**MYANMAR TV**

(15-9-12 09:30 am – 16-9-12 09:30 am) MNT

- News
- Meditation Centres throughout Myanmar
- Yamanya Land: Heritage of Mons
- News
- Road to 27th SEA GAMES (Karatedo)
- News
- Youth & Career “Massaging” (Hi-Hair Beauty & Spa)
- News
- Great Shwedagon (Historic & Mysterious Places)
- News
- Lucrative Myanmar Rattan Industry
- News
- Culture Stage
- News
- Song on Screen
- News
- Applied Myanmar Traditional Movie“Kaman”
- News
- Myanmar Movie “Touching Bonds”

**Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas**

- **31st August 2012**
- **Temperature (°C/°F)**
- **Central Myanmar**
- **Lower Sagaing 29/84 23/73**
- **Upper Sagaing 29/84 23/73**
- **3 Kayin 33/91 23/73**
- **Rakhine 31/88 23/73**
- **Mon 30/86 23/73**
- **13 Rakhine 31/88 23/73**
- **15 Northern Shan 29/84 18/64**
- **16 Eastern Shan 27/81 18/64**
- **14 Shan States 27/81 18/64**
- **12 Kachin 28/84 18/64**
- **11 Mon 30/86 23/73**
- **10 Karen 30/86 23/73**
- **8 Nu 29/84 18/64**
- **7 Kayin 33/91 23/73**
- **5 Upper Sagaing 29/84 23/73**
- **4 Bago 30/86 23/73**
- **3 Yangon 31/88 23/73**
- **2 Magway 28/84 18/64**
- **1 Mandalay 30/86 23/73**
- **Temperature (°C/°F)**
- **Bago**
- **Magway**
- **Mandalay**
- **Yangon**
- **Ayerwady**
- **Kachin**
- **Shan**
- **Karen**
- **Kayin**
- **Mon**
- **Rakhine**
- **Nu**
- **Upper Sagaing**
- **Lower Sagaing**
- **15 Northern Shan**
- **16 Eastern Shan**
- **14 Shan States**
- **12 Kachin**
- **11 Mon**
- **10 Karen**
- **8 Nu**
- **7 Kayin**
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- **4 Bago**
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- **2 Magway**
- **1 Mandalay**
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President U Thein Sein, wife Daw Khin Khin Win host a luncheon to Chairman of Standing Committee of National People’s Congress of PRC Mr Wu Bangguo and wife

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Sept—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win hosted a luncheon to the goodwill delegation led by Chairman of the Standing Committee of National People’s Congress of the People’s Republic of China Mr Wu Bangguo and wife, at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 1 pm today.

Also present at the luncheon together with the President were Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Wai Lwin, U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thein, U Tin Naing Thein, U Than Htay, U Win Myint, Dr Kan Zaw, U Huy Aung and Dr Pe Thein Khin, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Transport, Communication and Construction Committee U Thein Swe and wife, Deputy Minister U Zin Yaw and departmental heads. The delegation was accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Junhua.

Before the luncheon, President U Thein Sein and Mr Wu Bangguo viewed the scale model of Myanmar-China Gas and Oil Pipe Line project.

Vice-Chairman of CNPC Co of China Mr Liao Yong Yuan and Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay explained the implementation of the project.

—MNA

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann receives UNSG’s Special Adviser on Myanmar Mr Vijay Namibi

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Sept—Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann met a delegation led by UN Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Myanmar Mr Vijay Namibi, at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, at 11.30 am today.

At the call, Mr Vijay Namibi said that he is pleased to see Hluttaw’s active undertakings in Myanmar’s reform process. As a UNSG’s Special Adviser, he is making efforts for promoting relations and further cooperation with Myanmar.

Mr Vijay Namibi asked about the recent dispute between the government and Hluttaw and foreign investment law, the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw replied that it is usual as in democratic countries. Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has already discussed the foreign investment law drafted with the advices of hlutatw representatives, law experts, economists, entrepreneurs and people. He believed that the law would be the reliable one for foreign investors. Also present at the call together with Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann were Chairman of Citizens’ Fundamental Rights, Democracy Rights and Human Rights Committee U Hla Myint Oo, Economic and Trade Development Committee Chairman U Maung Maung Thein and officials from Hluttaw Office.—MNA

Vice-President U Nyan Tun receives Founder and Chairman of ZTE Corporation

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Sept—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun received a delegation led by Founder and Chairman of ZTE Corporation Mr Hou Weigui at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 3 pm today.

Also present at the call together with the Vice-President were Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Tun, Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo and departmental heads.

At the call, they discussed opportunities for cooperation in development of communication sector.—MNA