Teachers on their parts to try to become a qualified one and keep five teacher ethics

NAV P YI TAW, 5 Oct—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addressed the commemorative ceremony of the World Teachers’ Day—2012, held with the Motto of “Take a stand for teachers”, at Myanmar International Convention Centre, here, at 10 am today.

At the ceremony, after students of No. 2 Basic Education High School sung the song titled “Noble Education High School had teachers.” He said that the ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers was adopted on 5 October 1996 at a special intergovernmental conference convened by UNESCO in Paris in cooperation with the ILO. The WorldTeachers’ Day has been held around the worlds since 1994. At present, over 100 countries hold it annually.

Among those who give somebody knowledge by making him see or hear or learn, the one whose technique of teaching is the best. A teacher is the one who teaches someone at school or outside school. The success of a student depends on his teachers’ skills, patience, wide knowledge, as well as his intelligence, tiring efforts including his parents’ supporting.

Only when a teacher has committed to his/her teaching with heart and soul will students be proficient in their respective subjects. A teacher must be delighted at the time when his students get success while his irresponsibility must be kept in mind when his students fail in. That is the character of a noble teacher. To be a noble one, teachers are to be skiful not only in quality but also respectable dignity. Therefore, teaching profession is noble because it is full of responsibility to make sacrifice and have hobby and benevolence. It is everyone knowledge that without diligence and strenuous efforts, no one can be a good teacher.

The World Teachers’ Day is annually held in the countries in different ways. The different forms for instance, (a) Honouring teachers by holding a simple ceremony (b) Holding the ceremony in the form of a conference on relation between teachers’ role and education (c) Holding such a ceremony with an honour of teachers by giving a chance to take courses on their respective or weak subjects (d) Giving teachers honours through postcards, honouring certificates, calling telephones, sending phone messages, and e-mail (e) Honouring the teachers by putting the spotlight on their socio-economic difficulties and needs Seeing back of the history on producing mottos of the World Teachers’ Day for each year since 1997, the meanings of the translation (See page 8)

Qatar Airways holds press conference

Yangon, 5 Oct—Qatar Airways operates thrice a week and it plans to expand its flight Doha-Yangon beginning 28 October and will connect with over 90 wings through Europe, Middle East, Africa and America for convenience destination, Airbus A 319 aircraft has 8 business class and 102 economy class, said Qatar Airways Chief Executive Officer Mr. Akbar Al Baker at the press conference on launch of Qatar Airways held at Strand Hotel here this morning.

The CEO of Qatar Airways continued to say that the airways is offering services with over 800 entertainments and is operating over 120 flights with 110 planes. Arrangements are being made to expand over 170 flights with over 170 planes in the future, he said. Then he replied to queries raised by media men.—MNA

Security increased in Shanghai after Federer death threat

Beijing, 5 Oct—Shanghai Masters organizers have increased security for the tournament starting on Saturday after an online threat to decapitate world number one Roger Federer, the Shanghai Youth Daily newspaper reported on Friday.

“On October 6 I plan to assassinate Federer in order to extermiate tennis,” read a post by “Blue Cat Polytheistic Leader O’7” on a Federer fan website on September 25, the newspaper’s website said.

The paper said the post was accompanied by a “very scary” computer modified image showing a decapitated Federer.

Federer may go directly from the airport’s VIP arrival hall to his hotel as part of the precautions, Yang Yibin, the tournament director, told the paper in an interview earlier in the week. It said Shanghai police were investigating.

Local journalists said Shanghai municipal authorities had told local media not to report the issue.—Reuters
**NATIONAL**

**Myanmar, India discuss territorial waters security**

**NAY PYI TAW, 5 Oct—**Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Gen Soe Win received Flag Officer Commander-in-Chief of Indian Navy Southern Naval Command Vice Admiral Satish Soni, AVSM, NM at Zeyathiri Beikman here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Tin Aung Sun, Chief of Staff (Air) Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Brig-Gen Aung Ye Win of Commander-in-Chief’s Office. The Indian Flag Officer Commander-in-Chief was accompanied by Indian Military Attache to Myanmar Colonel Rajesh Kumar.

They frankly discussed ties between the two armed forces and security matters in territorial waters of two countries.—MNA

**Transport Subcommittee, Invitation and Liaison Subcommittee hold meetings**

**NAY PYI TAW, 5 Oct—**“With grasping the chance of the host country, we try to show our culture, hospitality and cleanness of the host country, we try” said Chairman of Transport Subcommittee for 27th SEA Games Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung at the coordination meeting of Transport Subcommittee and Invitation and Liaison Subcommittee for successfully holding of the 27th SEA Games held at the Ministry of Transport here this morning.

Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu made discussion on tactics for development of Myanmar billiards standard.

They also made discussion on general issues and made decision about subcommittees’ affairs. The 27th SEA Games will be held from 8 to 22 December in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay and Ngwehsaung with 42 sports events.—MNA

**Former world champion shares his tactics to Myanmar billiards players**

**YANGON, 5 Oct—**With a view to achieving success in 27th SEA Games for Myanmar Billiards players, advanced billiards tactics were lectured by World champion, Asia champion and South East Asia champion Mr. Peter Gilchrist from Singapore at gymnasium of Myanmar Billiards and Snookers Federation in Aung San Stadium here this morning.

Myanmar Billiards and Snookers Federation President U Tin Maung Win and Mr. Peter Gilchrist (Singapore) held a discussion on tactics for development of Myanmar billiards standard.

Mr. Peter Gilchrist (Singapore) will be trained international billiards championship tactics to selected Myanmar tentatively billiards players – Aung Huy, Nay Thwe Oo, Aung San Oo, Sithu and Paikusa not only practical but theoretical for 27th SEA Games till 10 October.

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**Teak logs seized in Pyu Township**

**PYU, 5 Oct—**Thehead of Pyu Township Forest Department and officials searched the area along the foot of hill near Seintgyi Village and Nyaungbintha village of Pyu Township.

At 8am 19 September, they seized 33 logs of teak weighing 2.496 tons worth K 550,000. The teak logs are kept in the compound of Pyu Township Forest Department.

**Discussion between UMFCI, Canadian Embassy in Yangon on 5 October**

**PYU, 5 Oct—**The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCI) will hold discussion with a Finland entrepreneur delegation led by the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs on 5 October.

**Union Foreign Minister pays visit to Canada**

At the invitation of the Honorable John Baird, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, paid an official visit to Canada from 2 to 4 October 2012.

The Union Minister held a bilateral meeting with the Canadian Foreign Minister at Transport U Han Sein, Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Htaik, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Chan Maung and officials explained conditions of carrying tasks.

They also made discussion on general issues and made decision about subcommittees’ affairs.

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EU poised to agree ban on Iranian gas imports

BRUSSELS, 5 Oct — The European Union is poised to ban imports of Iranian gas as part of a set of new measures to ratchet up pressure on the Islamic Republic over its nuclear programme, diplomats said on Thursday.

Diplomats from EU member states have started preparing a package of sanctions against Iran with a goal of formally adopting them at a meeting of foreign ministers on 15 October in Luxembourg.

Late on Wednesday, they reached a preliminary deal to ban gas imports, the first measure to win approval in the package, which also consists of various finance and energy-related proposals, three EU diplomats said.

“There is agreement on gas,” one of the diplomats said, speaking on condition of anonymity. “The big states back it, Germany, Britain, France,” another one said.

European governments and the United States are searching for fresh ways to pressure Teheran into scaling back its nuclear programme after diplomacy floundered earlier this year. Teheran denies its work has any military intentions.

Tensions over the issue are rising, with Israel—widely thought to be the only nuclear power in the Middle East—with nuclear weapons threatening to strike Iranian uranium enrichment installations.

The United States, since 1995, has banned US firms from investing in Iranian oil purchases and in July it froze the foreign banks helping Teheran sell oil. The European Union has been much slower to target Iranian energy, but it imposed an embargo on Iranian oil this year, after banning the creation of joint ventures with Iranian companies.

First major US snowstorm, cold snap may harm some crops

CHICAGO, 5 Oct — The first major snowfall of the year and a cold snap set to sweep into the northern Midwest could harm some late-maturing corn and soybeans crops and delay the harvest, an agricultural meteorologist and the National Weather Service said on Thursday.

The storm is centred in a small area across northeastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota, including the fertile Red River Valley, where farmers are still harvesting their corn and soybean crops after the worst drought in half a century devastated US grain this year.

Minnesota is the third largest soybean producing state in the United States and the fourth largest corn state, based on its harvest last year. North Dakota ranks number 10 in soybean production.

“There is rain changing to snow in the upper Red River Valley of eastern North Dakota and northwest Minnesota,” said John Dee, meteorologist for Global Weather Monitoring.

“It’s a small geographical area that grows mainly spring wheat and soybeans,” Dee said.

He said from 5 to 8 inches of snow was expected by late Thursday with locally heavier amounts. “It’s an isolated storm and unique for this time of year. The snow should begin melting beginning Friday through the weekend,” he said.

As of Monday, 36 percent of North Dakota’s corn crop had been harvested and 80 percent of the soybean crop had been harvested, according to the state crop progress report.

US military supports FBI mission to investigate Benghazi consulate attack

WASHINGTON, 5 Oct — The US military has provided logistic and security support to an FBI team, which investigated an attack on the US consulate in the east Libyan City of Benghazi, Pentagon said on Thursday.

The team visited Benghazi for several hours and departed there Thursday morning. “At the request of the FBI, the (Defence) Department provided logistic and security support to the investigation team in order to conduct work onsite in Benghazi,” Pentagon spokesman George Little told a news briefing.

“The activities of the investigation team and support provided by DOD (Department of Defence) were fully coordinated with the State Department and the Libyan government,” Little said. Though declining to reveal details of the operation, Little said the military support included providing airlifting service for the FBI team during the mission.

The US government has been aggressively looking into what happened on 11 Sept, when US Ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other US diplomats were killed in the attack on Benghazi.

“We’ve been actively chasing leads in various ways,” Little said, adding that the US intelligence community, the State Department and FBI have been working to determine what happened in the incident. The US government has determined that the attack was related to terrorism, after originally suspecting that it was triggered by a controversial anti-Islam film.

US media revealed that classified US documents were still left on the site of the consulate which was badly damaged by the attack, but Little did not confirm nor deny that the FBI mission was to recover these sensitive materials.
New York, 5 Oct—Google Inc (GOOG.O) and a group of publishing houses have agreed to a settlement over making digital copies of books, ending more than six years of litigation involving the search giant’s mission to become the world’s library.

Google and the Association of American Publishers (AAP) said on Thursday that US publishers can choose to make available or choose to remove their books and journals digitized by Google for its Library Project.

Thursday’s settlement does not affect Google’s current litigation with the Authors Guild.

“Google continues to profit from its use of millions of copyright-protected books without regard to authors’ rights, and our class-action lawsuit on behalf of US authors continues,” Paul Aiken, executive director, Authors Guild said in a statement. The heart of the issue with the publishers involved Google scanning millions of copyrighted books making them available to anyone. The publishers contend that Google violated copyright laws when it failed to seek their permission. "It can provide innovative means to discover content while still respecting the rights of copyright-holders,” Tom Allen, AAP’s president and chief executive officer, said in a statement.

Japanese researchers successfully create ova from IPS stem cells

Osaka, 5Oct—Japanese researchers have succeeded in developing mouse embryonic stem cells and using the ova to produce mice offspring through in vitro fertilization for the first time in the world, Kyodo News reported.

The achievement, announced in the online edition of US magazine Scientific American on Friday, was made by a team of researchers led by Kyoto University professor Michinori Saito.

Saito’s group reported last year that it had successfully generated sperm cells from induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells. The researchers developed germ cells, the forerunners of sperms and eggs.

They then created ova by cultivating the germ cells, female gonadal somatic cells, which determine sex, in a test tube. About four weeks after transplanting the ova into female mice, the researchers observed mature eggs and later matured them in vitro.

The group fertilized the eggs in vitro with normal male sperm and placed them in female mice, which later gave birth to both male and female mice that were physically unimpaired. The researchers further produced offspring of the mice and normal mice, according to a statement.

Facebook crosses billion threshold, on quest for growth

New York, 5 Oct—Facebook Inc (FB.O) passed the 1 billion user mark in September, a level of global penetration that is a remarkable achievement for an 8-year-old social network and a heightened challenge to its quest for sustained growth. Facebook, which has endured a bruising fourth quarter in the stock market since a haphazard 18 May initial public offering, has acknowledged that a slowdown in new-user acquisition is inevitable as its addressable market shrinks.

But doubts over whether the company can squeeze more and more dollars out of each network member — given well-publicized struggles to monetize the growing ranks of users who access Facebook from mobile devices — have shaved more than 40 percent off Facebook’s value since its IPO, although shares still trade at a lofty 45 times projected 2012 earnings. Facebook crossed the billion threshold on 14 September confirmed expectations on Wall Street that growth is actually trailing off. The company’s growth appears likely to come in lower in raw numbers, let alone by percentage, than the April-June quarter’s 54 million new users. About 45 million

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**Health**

**Gum disease linked to psoriasis: study**

It’s not the first time the condition has been linked to other health problems. Earlier this year, a study of people evaluated for heart disease found 84 percent of patients with psoriasis had coronary artery disease, compared to 75 percent of patients without the skin condition.

Oral health has also been tied to other conditions, with two studies from this year finding links to heart disease and dementia. But until now only one other study had looked at the link between psoriasis and chronic periodontitis, the advanced stage of the gum disease gingivitis.

For the new research, published in the British Journal of Dermatology, Dr Joseph J Kellner from Taipei’s national health system.

They identified 115,365 people with gum disease, and interviewed 706 in the comparison group. That works out to about 1.9 in 1,000 people versus 1 in 1,000, respectively.

According to the researchers, their findings may challenge some of what is known about psoriasis’s underlying cause, but they caution their study has some limitations. Specifically, they were not able to pinpoint for certain factors that could have played a role, such as cigarette smoking. And until the findings are confirmed, Gelfand said, people with gum disease should not be alarmed. **Reuters**

**Gum disease linked to Alzheimer’s**

New York, 5 Oct—People with chronic gum disease seem to be slightly more likely to develop the skin condition psoriasis, according to a new study.

Chinese (Taipei) researchers found that in a group of more than 30,000 people, those with gum disease were 54 percent more likely to have psoriasis over five years. The study is among the first to investigate the link between the two conditions and doesn’t necessarily mean gum disease can cause psoriasis.

“We don’t know very much about what the risk factors are for chronic inflammatory diseases like psoriasis,” said Dr Joel Gelfand, a dermatologist at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, who was not involved in the new research.

“This study points in a potentially new direction for a potential risk factor that—in theory—could be modified and thus lower the risk of psoriasis in the future,” he told Reuters Health. “That being said, this finding needs to be confirmed by more rigorous, more-controlled studies to determine if the findings are real.”

Psoriasis is thought to be caused by a mismatch immune reaction directed at the body’s own cells, leading to inflamed patches of red, scaly skin.

**Cat brains found with protein peculiar to Alzheimer’s disease: study**

Researchers used a technique known as modified tetramethylrhodamine isothiocyanate (TRITC)-HRP, which is effective in labeling the amyloid plaques and neurofibrillary tangles of Alzheimer’s disease. The new research was published in the Journal of Cell Biology.

The study showed that Alzheimer’s disease patients had a significant increase in the number of amyloid plaques and neurofibrillary tangles compared to controls.

This finding is significant because it suggests that Alzheimer’s disease may be linked to the production of amyloid plaques and neurofibrillary tangles, which are characteristic of the disease. The increase in these markers may indicate a potential target for therapeutic intervention in the future.

**China’s geothermal resources equal to 860 trillion tonnes of coal equivalent**

China’s geothermal energy resources amount to 860 trillion tonnes of coal equivalent, an amount 260,000 times greater than China’s annual energy consumption, according to newly issued statistics from the Ministry of Land and Resources.

The figure is based on a new evaluation of geothermal energy resources, which are found in sedimentary basins and shallow geothermal systems. The ministry said the country’s shallow-lying geothermal energy resources amount to up to 350 million tonnes of coal equivalent.

If shallow-lying resources are effectively used, the country can save 250 million tonnes of standard coal and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 500 million tonnes, the ministry said.

**British central bank keeps 0.5% interest rate, QE size unchanged**

Bank Of England

LONDON, 5 Oct—Bank of England, Britain’s central bank, has decided to keep the benchmark interest rate at the historical low of 0.5 percent and held off from more quantitative easing (QE) promises made last month.

The low interest rate has been kept for over three years by the Monetary Policy Committee under the central bank, while total QE size now stands at 375 billion pounds after a 50-billion-pound expansion was last made in July.

Britain has been in recession for the last three quarters, while there is now expectation that the economy could return to growth in the third quarter this year.

The central bank’s latest prediction was the economy could barely grow this year and the OECD last month cut its forecast on Britain’s economy to a 0.5 percent contraction from a former forecast of 0.5 percent growth. Some analysts expect the central bank to cut the QE size next month amid the dim economic outlook.

**S&P 500 on verge of 5-year high day ahead of jobs data**

Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, on 1 Oct, 2012. **REUTERS**

NEW YORK, 5 Oct—The S&P 500 extended gains to a fourth day on Thursday, putting it on the cusp of a new five-year high. Friday’s jobs report shows encouraging signs for the labour market. Thurlow was broad, with all 10 S&P 500 sectors up and financials in the lead. The S&P’s financial index (XLF) gained 1.5 percent.

In the tech arena, Google Inc (GOOG.O) shares hit a new 52-week high on Thursday, as its YouTube video-sharing website was named as a winner among those Internet companies that are ahead of the pack. The stock ended up 0.7 percent at $768.05.

"We would expect that the market is going to break significantly in one direction or another on payrolls," said Peter Cecchini, managing director at Cantor Fitzgerald, in New York.

The CBOE Volatility Index (.VIX), Wall Street’s fear gauge, fell 5.7 percent to 14.55. The Dow Jones industrial average (‘‘DJII’’) gained 80.75 points, or 0.6 percent, to 13,755.36 at the close. The S&P 500’s (SPX) rose 10.41 points, or 0.72 percent, to 1,461.40. The Nasdaq Composite (‘‘IXIC’’) added 14.23 points, or 0.45 percent, to end at 3,149.46.

Coal companies’ stocks rallied following Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney’s support of the coal industry during his televised debate with President Barack Obama on Wednesday night.

Shares of Arch Coal (ACLC) rose 9 percent to $101.48 after it reported a better-than-expected 6 percent rise in September sales at stores open at least a year. Initial claims for unemployment benefits rose to 400,000 a seasonally adjusted 367,000, the Labour Department said, below economists’ expectations for an increase to 370,000.

About 6.1 billion shares changed hands on the New York Stock Exchange, Amex and Nasdaq, compared with the average daily volume of 6.48 billion.

**Energy Workers assembling solar panels by hand at a factory in Wuxi**

China’s geothermal energy resources amount to 860 trillion tonnes of coal equivalent and utilizing them is still in its infancy. **Xinhua**
Venezuela’s Chavez fights young rival in re-election bid

CARACAS, 5 Oct—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez faces the toughest election of his 14-year rule on Sunday in a vote pitting his charisma and oil-financed largesse against fresh-faced youth and tough economic times.

Chavez, 58, staged a remarkable comeback from cancer this year and wants a new six-year term to consolidate his self-styled socialist revolution in the OPEC nation.

Capriles, a boisterous 40-year-old state governor, has run a marathon eight-month campaign of house-by-house visits that have galvanized the historically fractured opposition and set up its best shot at the presidency since Chavez’s election in 1998.

Defeat for Chavez would definitively Latin America’s leader of anti-US sentiment while potentially boosting oil companies’ access to the world’s largest crude reserves. Victory would allow Chavez to continue a wave of nationalizations and consolidate control over the economy, though reversion of his cancer would weaken his leadership and possibly give the opposition another chance.

In torrential rain, red-shirted supporters of the president filled much of downtown Caracas on Thursday for his final rally. Chavez will not fail the Venezuelan people, the president said, soaked to the skin in a dark raincoat, on a stage before 10,000. “You know that my loyalty to the people almost brought me to the point of death. This is my path.”—Reuters

World Bank chief Kim signals changes to come

WASHINGTON, 5 Oct—The world is preparing broad reforms at the development lender to make it more effective in ending global poverty and will discuss the changes with other countries at meetings in Tokyo next week.

The annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank from 11-14 October in Japan will be the first opportunity for Jim Yong Kim to put his mark on the institution since becoming president in July.

“Situations like this can bring out the best in people, and so it has been the case here. The work is far from finished, however, and our goal now is to restore the Bay of Bengal back to its pre-Rena state,” Adams said in a statement.

An environmental recovery plan to address the long-term effects of the grounding had made good progress, he said.

The plan identified the environmental issues for the beaches, seabed, water, fisheries, wildlife and management of waste and set out who was responsible for the recovery and monitoring of each.

Several scientific monitoring projects were also underway to get a better understanding of the environmental impacts of the Rena grounding. —Xinhua

Consensus in Pakistan for strong Russia ties, says PM Ashraf

ISLAMABAD, 5 Oct—Pakistani Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf Thursday told visiting Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov that there is consensus in Pakistan that relations with Russia should be further strengthened.

“Russia is very important because of its linkages with Europe and Asia,” the Prime Minister said in meeting with the Russian Foreign Minister in Islamabad.

The Prime Minister said that Pakistan and Russia have convergences on many regional and international issues including Afghanis stan, Syria, and the Security Council as well as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the PM office said.

Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf said that Pakistan would increase economic relations and to benefit from the expertise of Russia, especially in the energy sector where Russia has experience in mining coal and generation of coal power plants.

The Prime Minister expressed the hope that progress will also be made for cooperation between the two countries for improvement of railways in Pakistan.

He assured the Russian Foreign Minister that his government would extend all possible assistance to Russia in securing contracts in Pakistan and their execution.

The Prime Minister expressed the hope that both countries would exchange partnerships in business and cultural delegations to further strengthen the relations. In this connection, he referred to the visit of Speaker of National Assembly Ms FehmidaMirza to Russia early next year.

The Russian Foreign Minister conveyed the best wishes of President Vladimir Putin for President Asif Ali Zardari.

Nuclear operators must act now on safety

BRUSSELS, 5 Oct—Regulators and operators should act now to improve safety at nuclear power plants, the EU energy commissioner said on Thursday, following inspections across the European Union.

The stress tests carried out in the aftermath of the Fukushima disaster, found safety improvements costing between 10 billion ($12.90 billion) and 25 billion euros were necessary in European plants, a draft text by Reuters showed this week.

“Nearly everywhere there is major potential for improvement,” Energy Commissioner Guenter Oettinger told reporters.

“We therefore think that we should talk together with operators and regulatory authorities to act rapidly so that the highest possible standards can be guaranteed very soon.”

One of the lessons of Fukushima was that two natural disasters could strike at the same time and knock out the electrical supply system of a plant completely, so it could not be cooled down.

The stress tests sought to avert any repeat of that series of events by establishing whether nuclear plants can withstand natural disasters, aircraft crashes and management failures, as well as whether adequate systems are in place to deal with power disruptions.

Among the findings were that on-site seismic instruments should be installed or improved in 121 reactors.

In addition, 24 reactors did not have a back-up safety improvements costing out in the aftermath of the disaster on Friday, with the anniversary of its worst ever environmental disaster.

An environmental Commissioner Gunther Oettinger speaks at a news conference on the EU Nuclear Stress Tests in Brussels on 4 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

NZ still counting cost of shipping disaster one year on

WELLINGTON, 5 Oct—New Zealand marked the first anniversary of its worst-ever maritime environmental disaster on Friday, with the government renewing a pledge to restore the area affected by the oil spill from the Liberian-registered container ship Rena.

Environment Minister Amy Adams paid tribute to the hard work and collegiality of local councils, iwi (Maori tribal groups), businesses and the thousands of volunteers who came together to help minimise the impact of the grounding and resulting oil spill off the east coast of the North Island.

“Situations like this can bring out the best in people, and so it has been the case here. The work is far from finished, however, and our goal now is to restore the Bay of Plenty back to its pre-Rena state,” Adams said in a statement.

An environmental recovery plan to address the long-term effects of the grounding had made good progress, he said.

The plan identified the environmental issues for the beaches, seabed, water, fishery, wildlife and management of waste and set out who was responsible for the recovery monitoring of each.

Several scientific monitoring projects were also underway to get a better understanding of the environmental impacts of the Rena grounding. —Xinhua

Mediterranean summit excellent opportunity for exchange of views: Maltese FM

VALLETTA, 5 Oct—The “Five plus Five Dialogue” summit to be held in Malta from 5 to 6 Oct provides an excellent opportunity for exchange of views between the northern and southern rims of the Mediterranean, Maltese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tonio Borg said on Thursday.

The second edition of this meeting will bring leaders from France, Spain, Italy, Portugal and Malta face-to-face with their counterparts from Mauritania, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria and Morocco.

The first such summit was held in Tunis in December 2003. “The summit will afford great impetus to promote discussion among the 10 partner countries on thematic and institutional issues,” Borg said in a recent interview. He added a declaration would be signed by the leaders based on the outcome of the Ninth Foreign Ministers meeting held in Rome on 20 Feb this year. Borg also said the Union for the Mediterranean (UFM) played a very important role to play “in the regional political dynamics of the Mediterranean.” —Xinhua

EU Nuclear Stress Tests

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NZ still counting cost of shipping disaster one year on

WELLINGTON, 5 Oct—New Zealand marked the first anniversary of its worst ever maritime environmental disaster on Friday, with the government renewing a pledge to restore the area affected by the oil spill from the Liberian-registered container ship Rena.

Environment Minister Amy Adams paid tribute to the hard work and collegiality of local councils, iwi (Maori tribal groups), businesses and the thousands of volunteers who came together to help minimise the impact of the grounding and resulting oil spill off the east coast of the North Island.

“Situations like this can bring out the best in people, and so it has been the case here. The work is far from finished, however, and our goal now is to restore the Bay of Plenty back to its pre-Rena state,” Adams said in a statement.

An environmental recovery plan to address the long-term effects of the grounding had made good progress, he said.

The plan identified the environmental issues for the beaches, seabed, water, fishery, wildlife and management of waste and set out who was responsible for the recovery monitoring of each.

Several scientific monitoring projects were also underway to get a better understanding of the environmental impacts of the Rena grounding. —Xinhua

Mediterranean summit excellent opportunity for exchange of views: Maltese FM

VALLETTA, 5 Oct—The “Five plus Five Dialogue” summit to be held in Malta from 5 to 6 Oct provides an excellent opportunity for exchange of views between the northern and southern rims of the Mediterranean, Maltese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tonio Borg said on Thursday.

The second edition of this meeting will bring leaders from France, Spain, Italy, Portugal and Malta face-to-face with their counterparts from Mauritania, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria and Morocco.

The first such summit was held in Tunis in December 2003. “The summit will afford great impetus to promote discussion among the 10 partner countries on thematic and institutional issues,” Borg said in a recent interview. He added a declaration would be signed by the leaders based on the outcome of the Ninth Foreign Ministers meeting held in Rome on 20 Feb this year. Borg also said the Union for the Mediterranean (UFM) played a very important role to play “in the regional political dynamics of the Mediterranean.” —Xinhua
**Drug eradication plan extended for five years**

A ceremony to sign the MoU to hold the Myanmar Hospitality and Tourism Conference 2013, to be jointly organized by Myanmar Tourism Federation and Sphere Conferences of Singapore, was held at the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda, here, on 2 October.

The conference is aimed at for tourism entrepreneurs, hoteliers and investors. It will focus on investment opportunities of Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Services.

Chairman of Sphere Conference Mr Chuah Wee Phong expressed his satisfaction for opportunity to cooperate with Myanmar Tourism Federation and pledged to provide expertise and financial services of Singapore to Myanmar.

He said that foreign investors are especially interested in hotels and tourism industries of Myanmar and wishes to cooperate with Myanmar hotels and tourism agencies.

**40000 stimulant tablets seized in Nawngkhio**

Nawngkhio, 5 Oct—While discharging duty of anti-drug tasks at mile post 78.5 at the entrance to Nawngkhio on 30 September afternoon, a combined team led by IP Aung Thin of Lashio Anti-Drug Special Squad and IP Soe Lwin of Nawngkhio Police Station together with witnesses searched the express bus driven by U Aung Myint that left Muse for Mandalay.

They seized an MLK from Plateau milk bottle and 40000 WY brand pink stimulant tablets without owner from the shelf of seat No 9-10.

Nawngkhio Police Station is exposing the drug trafficker.—Myanma Alin

**MoU on implementation of gas-fired combined cycle power plant project (Thaketa) inked**

NAV PI TAW, 5 Oct—A ceremony to sign MoU on implementation of gas-fired combined cycle power plant project (Thaketa) in Thakayta Township, Yangon Region between Department of Electric Power and Korean companies—Busan Korea Biotechnology Co., Ltd, Korea Western Power Co., Ltd, Hyundai Engineering & Construction Co., Ltd and Hana Daetoo Securities Co. Ltd through BOT system, took place here yesterday evening.

It was attended by Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun, Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay, Union Minister for Industry U Aye Myint, Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin, deputy ministers, departmental heads and officials from those companies.

In his speech, Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe said that since the time of the then government, Korean BKBI company firstly submitted the proposal to make investment in construction of gas turbine in Yangon. After the new government came into power, MoU on its feasibility study has been signed on 21 December, 2011.

Only when the necessary agreements would be implemented as quickly as possible, will electric power demand in summer of 2014 be met. The project aims to distribute electric power to Thilawa industrial zone and links to power network. The power supply is to mainly focus on avoiding environmental damages.

President and CEO Mr Kim Moon Duk of Korea Western Power Co., Ltd explained (500 MW) CCPP project. And President & CEO Mr Chung Si Woo of Busan Korea Biotechnology Co., Ltd spoke words of thanks.

Director-General U Khin Maung Zaw of Department of Electric Power and President and CEO Mr Kim Moon Duk signed the MoU.

MNA

**Plan underway to hold Myanmar Hospitality and Tourism Conference 2013**

Chairman of Myanmar Tourism Federation U Yan Win and Mr Chuah signed the MoU and exchanged the notes.

Sphere Conference arranges to hold banking, industrial and other important seminars in Myanmar in the near future.—Kyemon

**US$ 3 million to be provided to SEA Games**

YANGON, 5 Oct—A China-based communication company kept a promise to provide US$ 3 million to implement the video conference system in the 2013 SEA Games to be organized in Nay Pyi Taw.

An official of the company said, “We will take responsibility of technology. We coordinate with Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications on detail matters.

Before the SEA Games, the video conferencing system will be applied. At present, we plan to give US$ 3 million to the games.” Huawei Co is not plan to jointly conduct the MPT as telephone operator.

In the Myanmar mobile phone field, Huawei brand handset is a favourite among the mobile phone users for both GSM and CDMA.—Myanma Alin

**U Win Khunlauing (Deputy Director) and U Nanda Nay Lin (Assistant Director) from Union Election Commission being seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials before departure for India to attend Election Management: Principles and Practices.—MNA**
A new political culture

Myanmar now is at the threshold of a new dynamic age. As it is a country among the countries of the world, it too has the duty to fulfill the goals of the United Nations.

Unlike many other nations, our democratic transition process will be rather difficult and in some parts fragile, and calls for tolerance and unity among our people. Moreover, the process also requires understanding and support of the international community and the international organizations including the UN apart from our own people. It is time some global nations and institutions should change their view on Myanmar and start seeking wider common ground with her. As for us, it is time to demonstrate our favorable environment involving business, trade and other important issues.

Moreover, we must face the challenges of the age with valor and unyielding spirit as a country ever preserving her dignity and image.

The legislative body has adopted landmark laws through the democratic principles at present. And in enacting every law and bylaw there is also consideration for bridging the rich-poor divide, protecting every citizen’s rights, conserving the natural environment, and ensuring workers rights as per the international standard.

Besides, the nation focuses on ensuring transparency and impartiality in inviting foreign investments, especially in the energy sector.

At the current stage of the political process, we can witness the emergence of democratic characteristics such as increasing of participation from different political forces and their mutual tolerance, the magnanimity, expansion of the scope of political participation of any representation and the accountability.

Our government and other stakeholders have now been able to foster a new political culture of patience and dialogue.

Teachers on their parts to try...

(from page 1)

of those mottoes into Myanmar can be known that they defines honours to teachers, but some forces teachers to do their best. Examples were the motto “Shaping tomorrows world- the role of the teacher!” for 1997 and another “Teachers as peace builders shape the future” for 1998.


Looking at the translation, the mottoes honour and urge the teachers. So, the motto for World Teachers’ Day (2012) is “Take a stand for teachers” and hours the teachers in line with UN’s main goal.

Myanmar has been holding World Teachers’ Day ceremonies annually. And this is 11th year. World Teachers’ Day is marked since the meeting between UNESCO and ILO submitted to promote socio-economic status of teachers. There still needs a lot to fulfill the socio-economic status of teachers.

Myanmar needs to provide social and economic assistance to the teachers in higher education sector and basic education sector. The State has provided cash assistance to them based on State’s funds. Efforts are to be made for providing more assistance to them.

In addition, with regard to the promotion of basic education teachers, socio-economic status and seeking the ways to promote the standards of teachers and education staff.

The teachers on their part are to try to become a qualified one and keep five teacher ethics. Not only teachers but also students are to keep the fine traditions of Myanmar.

He expressed the special thanks to teachers across the country on State’s behalf. The teachers play a crucial role in education sector. He added that the time has come to explore ways to promote socio-economic status of teachers as there is no substitute in the place of teachers. The State on its part is making efforts. He also urged entrepreneurs and all people including students and parents to extend a helping hand.

After that, officials read out the messages sent by the heads of five UN agencies and social and educational undertakings of honorable teachers and one outstanding teacher.

The Union Minister and the deputy ministers presented awards to the honorable teachers and one outstanding teacher the winners at article and essay competitions and poem contest.

After the ceremony, Vice-President Dr Sai Maung Khin and party viewed the booths. The World countries have started holding the World Teachers’ Day since 1994. Myanmar has been holding it since 2002.

Yangon, 5 Oct—Under the guidance of Myanmar National Sports Committee, the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Football Federation jointly-organized AFF Suzuki Cup 2012 Qualifier Football Tournament with the aim of promoting Myanmar sport standard.

The first day matches were held at Youth Training Camp in Thangangyun Township here this evening, attended by Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan and President of Brunei National Olympic Council HRH Prince Haji Suﬁ Britoolah.

Present at the ceremony were Patron of MFF U Aung Ko Win, MFF President U Zaw Zaw and officials.

Present at the ceremony were Patron of MFF U Aung Ko Win, MFF President U Zaw Zaw and officials.

Before starting the match, players from both teams took salute of respective national flags and national flags. Then host Myanmar and Brunei played the second match and Myanmar beat Brunei 1-0 in the debut.

Cambodia was trounced by Timor Leste 5-1 in the first match.

KO Sithu from Naungyoe Street, Baysinnaung Brokeage in Mayangon Tsp. Yangon to mark his 29th birthday donated K 300,000 to Hninziwon Home for the Aged recently. Vice-Chairman of the home for the aged U Aung Than accepts the donation.
Myanmar joins Asia-Europe

international parliaments especially with those from Asian and European countries. He expressed his pride and delight on behalf of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for the profound historic decision of ASEP Chairman and member countries and delegations to accept Pyidaungsu Hluttaw of Myanmar as a member. He requested the international support for the role of parliament, the manifesto of democracy, elaborating on the role of Hluttaw, actions for capacity building of MPs and parliamentary functions in Myanmar.

The Speaker stressed his support for sustainable development of Asia-Europe cooperation, the objective of ASEP-7. He as a legislator and people’s representative expressed his belief about exchange of views and suggestions from the meeting to contribute to legislative sector.

Next, leaders of respective delegations delivered speeches at the first plenary meeting and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw of Myanmar was accepted as a permanent member of ASEP together with parliament of Australia, New Zealand, and Russian Federation.

Speaker U Khin Aung Myint paid a call on President of Lao PDR Mr Choummaly Sayasone together with leaders of other delegations at Presidential Palace on 3 October evening and attended the dinner hosted by President of Laotian National Assembly Mrs Pany Yathotou at Don Chan Palace Hotel.

The Myanmar parliamentarian delegation attended the economic group meeting, social and environmental affairs group meeting and drafting committee meeting, second day plenary meeting and concluding of ASEP-7 and the dinner hosted by Deputy Prime Minister of Lao PDR Dr Thongloun Sisoulith at International Cooperation and Training Centre (ICTC) on 4 October.

Perspective on forthcoming...

that can run on its own funds step by step at a time when the State-owned newspapers are transformed into public service media. In that regard, there would be differences among the countries. At the final step, the government or Ministry of Information would not get involved directly in it. And then the financial independence will be given to them.

In addition, governing body’s duties are that they are to draft and prescribe necessary policies and work programme at a time when the State-owned newspapers are transformed into the public service media. As I mentioned earlier, they are to implement fundamental principles of PSM. To have impartiality and independence, print media needs to have financial freedom.

MNA: May I know how to deal with the accountability of PSM?

Dr. TT: The governing body comprising those with wide experience and expertise in their respective fields of work will govern the PSM freely. That body is to lay down newspaper’s policies, editors’ policies, press procedures for reporters and editors, financial policies and aims and objectives and duties when the State-owned newspapers are transformed into public service media. In addition, the governing body is to monitor and assess the undertakings of executive board and editorial board continuously and to designate necessary qualifications and standards for the chief editors and the editors. Executive body has a duty to help them to have freedom of management within the framework of the governing body and enable the chief editors and editorial board to exercise their editorial independence.

News in Brief

 Winners awarded in performing arts competition

Chief Minister of Kayin State U Zaw Min formally opened the 19th Myanmar National Races’ Traditional Performing Arts Competition at Zwekabin Hall of Hpa-an on 20 September and prize presentation ceremony at the same venue on 22 September.

Older Persons Day observed

The International Day of Older Persons 2012 was observed at the city hall in Mandalay on 1 October morning. Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint and wife and officials donated cash to 31 older persons of above 95 years.

Chairman of UCSB attends 16th ASEAN Conference on Civil Service Matters

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Oct—A Myanmar delegation led by Chairman of the Union Civil Services Board U Kyaw Thu attended the 16th. ASEAN Conference on Civil Service Matters, Heads of Civil Service Meeting and First ASEAN Plus Three Heads of Civil Service Meeting in Putrajaya, Malaysia from 2 to 4 October.

During the meetings, the Heads of ASEAN Civil Service Organizations, ASEAN Plus Three Heads of Civil Service and Representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat discussed matters relating to the implementation of ACCSM plus Three work plan (2012-2015), proposed nine pilot projects and other potential areas of civil service cooperation. Myanmar delegation also attended the “Forum on Good Governance.” At the meeting, Myanmar, as the current Co-chair, presented arrangements on the preparations for the 17th. ACCSM and related meetings to be hosted in Myanmar during its chairmanship in 2013 and 2014. The ACCSM Meetings are alternately chaired by ASEAN Member States biennial according to the alphabetical order. Together with the Chairman of the UCSB, members of the Myanmar delegation, Director-General U Wai Myint and Director-U Zaw Moe Win of the Civil Service Selection and Training Department also arrived back on the same flight.

Free health care services provided

PATTHEIN, 5 Oct—Myanmar Medical Association (Pathein) provided free health care services to the aged from Pathain at the MMA (Pathain) on 30 September.

Under the supervision of Chairman of MMA (Pathin) Orthopaedic specialist Dr U Kyi Pe and General Secretary physician Dr Dau Thida Yi, specialists, house surgeons and nurses gave free medical treatment to 200 older persons of Pathain.

They transferred the older persons who need to be provided further medical treatment to Pathain General Hospital.

Red Cross battalion, Myitkyinae Health Care Service Association and Karuna Social Service Association of Pathain also volunteered the free health care services.
Obama fights back after debate setback

US

Turkey

Obama

Turkey on Syrian border skeptical after shelling

NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 6 October, 2012

Obama fights back after debate setback

President Barack Obama waves to a crowd as he arrives for a campaign rally in Madison, Wisconsin on 4 Oct, 2012—Reuters

DENVER, 5 Oct—A day after a muted performance in a presidential debate, President Barack Obama fought back against Republican rival Mitt Romney on Thursday and the Democrat’s re-elected campaign vowed to learn lessons from the setback. A federal judge told a rally of some 12,000 people that the former Massachusetts governor was untruthful during Wednesday’s 90-minute debate in Denver, which most observers reckoned the Republican won.

"When I got on the stage, I met this very spirited fellow who claimed to be Mitt Romney," Obama said.

"But it couldn’t have been Mitt Romney, because the real Mitt Romney has been running around the country for the last year promising $5 trillion in tax cuts that favour the wealthy. The fellow on stage last night said he didn’t know anything about that." Often criticized for being wooden, Romney’s aggressive debate performance gave his campaign a burst of energy after weeks of setbacks. Looking at times tired and displeased, Obama did not seize opportunities to attack the Republican on his business record at Bain Capital, the “47 percent” video and his refusal to release a national television address that he had written.

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Obama fights back after debate setback

The requirement that all citizens obtain healthcare coverage was opposed by 59 percent of respondents in the same poll and has been lambasted by critics as a step toward “socialized medicine” and a “welfare state.”

Reuters

Americans have mixed feelings about healthcare

WASHINGTON, 5 Oct—It’s no secret that 2010’s Affordable Care Act is unpopular. But a new poll reveals a remarkably high level of support for its provisions, even among those who oppose the legislation, commonly known as “Obamacare,” by 55 to 45. Remarks made during the 3 October president debate added confusion rather than clarity to the healthcare issue.

Pollled in midsummer, shortly after the Supreme Court upheld most of the ACA law, almost two-thirds of respondents favoured allowing those under the age of 65 to keep their parent’s coverage. Eighty-two percent supported regulating private insurance companies to make sure they offer comparable coverage.

Despite Republican grumblings about how these provisions are part of ACA, businesses and the economy, almost three-quarters of respondents favoured covering the cost of preventive care.

Orion maritime patrol aircraft, a fundamental element of Australia’s future maritime patrol and response strategy in replacing the current AP-3C Orion fleet, due for withdrawal around 2019. The P-8A is a modern, highly reliable aircraft based on the commercially-proven Boeing B737, modified to incorporate the latest maritime surveillance and attack capabilities. It has an unrefueled range of over 4,000 nautical miles (7,500km) or the ability to remain on station conducting low level Anti Submarine Warfare (ASW) missions for over four hours at a range of more than 1,200 nautical miles (2,200km) from base.

Xinhua

Sudan govt vows to pursue attackers of UNAMID patrol in Darfur

Sudanese government on Thursday vowed to pursue the perpetrators who attacked a patrol belonging to the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) in the country’s Darfur region, which left four UNAMID peacekeepers killed and eight others injured.

"The (Sudanese) government is determined to carry out a thorough investigation on the ambush against a patrol belonging to UNAMID," said a达尔福雷斯 Peace Follow-up Office at the Presidency of the Republic. The statement expressed Sudan’s government’s condemnation of the treacherous attack against the UNAMID peacekeepers.

UNAMID on Wednesday announced that four of its peacekeepers were killed and eight others injured in an ambush in a ambush in Sudan’s Darfur region.

It said unidentified gunmen opened fire on a UNAMID patrol late Tuesday about 2 km away from their base in El Geneina town, the capital of West Darfur State.

Four members of the Nigerian battalion were killed and eight others were injured, the mission noted.

UNAMID took over the peacekeeping mission in Darfur from the African Union Mission in Darfur on 31 December 2007. The mission was planned to deploy 26,000 members of military and police to protect civilians in the region, who have been suffering from a civil war since 2003.

REUTERS

Bed’s lies empty in the emergency room of Tulane University Hospital in New Orleans on 14 Feb, 2006.—Reuters

Turkey soldiers stand guard on the Turkish-Syrian border near the Akcakale border crossing, southern Sanliurfa Province, on 4 October, 2012.—Reuters

Cuba: Cuban drug seizures in first half of 2012 highest in 8 years

HAVANA, 5 Oct—Cuba seized 1,644 tons of drugs in the first half of 2012, registering the largest amount of drugs nettet over a six-month period in the past eight years, an Interior Ministry official said on Thursday. Speaking at the 11th International Meeting on Criminal Sciences, which concluded on Thursday, Yoandy Gonzalez, chief of the Department of Operational Cooperation of the National Revolutionary Police (PNR), said the cache of drugs was composed mainly of marijuana and a small amount of hashish.

The amount is “the highest in the past 8 years,” said Gonzalez, adding anti-narcotics operations were carried out in conjunction with the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR) Customs Office of the Republic.

Most seizures in Cuba take place along the coasts, since drugs are often shipped by boat and thrown overboard by traffickers when they fear being found. Packages of drugs are sometimes also dropped into the sea north of Cuba by low-flying small aircraft, which are to be picked up later by speed boats headed to US shores. “In 2011 and the first half of 2012, authorities detected an increase in international (drug) trafficking from Jamaica to the Bahamas, destined for the United States, the world’s largest drug consumer,” Gonzalez told participants at the meeting.

REUTERS

AustralianIncrement 3 P-8A Aircraft

Australia to commit funds for P-8A aircraft

Canberra, 5 Oct—Australia has signed a new agreement of the 73.9 million US dollars Increment 3 Project Arrangement with the US Navy for the P-8A aircraft, Defence Minister Stephen Smith and Minister for Defence Material Jason Clare announced on Friday.

According to a statement from the Department of Defence, the signing formalises Australia’s participation in the development of Increment 3 P-8A Aircraft and marks Australia’s continued commitment to the 5 billion AU dollars project to acquire a further enhanced Maritime Patrol Aircraft.

The P-8A, the replacement of the AP-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft, is a fundamental element of Australia’s future maritime patrol and response strategy in replacing the current AP-3C Orion fleet, due for withdrawal around 2019. The P-8A is a modern, highly reliable aircraft based on the commercially-proven Boeing B737, modified to incorporate the latest maritime surveillance and attack capabilities. It has an unrefueled range of over 4,000 nautical miles (7,500km) or the ability to remain on station conducting low level Anti Submarine Warfare (ASW) missions for over four hours at a range of more than 1,200 nautical miles (2,200km) from base.

Xinhua

Turks on Syrian border skeptical after shelling

AKCAKALE, 5 Oct—Frightened residents of a Turkish border town sheltered by Syria expressed skepticism on Friday that military and political retaliation by Ankara would succeed in deterring more deadly strikes by Damascus forces.

Turkey’s artillery bombarded Syrian military targets for the second day on Thursday, responding to the mortar fire that killed five people the day before in the southeastern town of Akcakale. The salvos killed several Syrian soldiers, and Turkey’s parliament stepped up pressure on the political front by authorizing cross-border military action in the event of further aggression.

In New York, the UN Security Council on Thursday strongly condemned the mortar attack by Syria and demanded that “such violations of international law stop immediately and are not repeated.” Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan said Ankara would never want to start a war and the parliament vote was merely a detergent, but people in the region remained fearful.

“We are stuck in the middle,” said 33-year-old security guard Ibrahim Cilden in Akcakale. “If we’re going to go to war, let’s go to war, but right now we’re sitting here like targets.”

His house was a few doors from the one hit on Wednesday in the south of Akcakale by the border fence. The Turks on Syrian border were shellings, mortar bombs and bullets that have strayed across the border in recent weeks.—Reuters

Canada to commit funds for P-8A aircraft

Winnipeg, 5 Oct—It’s no secret that 2010’s Affordable Care Act is unpopular. But a new poll reveals a remarkably high level of support for its provisions, even among those who oppose the legislation, commonly known as “Obamacare,” by 55 to 45. Remarks made during the 3 October presidential debate added confusion rather than clarity to the healthcare issue.

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Xinhua

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**Regional**

**India raises foreign equity in insurance industry, pension**

**NEW DELHI, 5 Oct.—**The Indian government on Thursday showed its determination to carry out what it called “bite bullet” reform measures by announcing a partial opening of insurance and pension markets to foreign funds.

The Indian Cabinet raised the FDI cap in insurance sector from 26 percent to 49 percent and allowed up to 26 percent in the pension funds. Now, Indian Parliament will have to give its approval for the final shape,” the sources said.

This came weeks after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh announced the opening of the country’s multi-brand retail sector to foreign direct investment by 51 percent and aviation and media market scope to foreign funds, despite stiff opposition from both rightwing and leftwing opposition parties, as well as the ruling Congress-led United Progressive Alliance’s former eastern ally, the Trinamul Congress, which pulled out from the coalition in protest.

On 13 Sept, the government approved the allowance of 51 percent foreign investment in multi-brand retail, besides relaxing FDI norms for civil aviation and broadcasting sectors. The government also raised diesel price and capped supply of government subsidized gas cylinders to households last month, triggering widespread protests and a nationwide strike.

Calling them Reform II measures, Prime Minister Singh made the decision at a cabinet session which also agreed to amend Companies Act of the country.

The prime minister has justified his measures, saying it is time for India to make hard decisions due to economic slowdown and global recession. India’s GDP growth rate is expected to drop to around 5.5 percent in the current fiscal.

**Singapore**

**Singapore Prime Minister sends condolences to Hong Kong**

**SINGAPORE, 5 Oct.—**Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong has sent condolences to Leung Chun-Ying, chief executive of China’s Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, on the recent ferry collision off the coast of Lamma Island that claimed 38 lives.

In his letter, Lee said he was deeply saddened to learn of the collision, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Thursday.

Lee said he sent his deepest condolences to Leung, the families of the victims, as well as the people of Hong Kong for their loss.

“Our thoughts are with you and your people in this time of sorrow,” he said.

The collision on Monday night involving a ferry and a boat claimed 38 lives. It was the worst maritime accident in Hong Kong in over 40 years.—Xinhua

**52 kg of narcotics seized in Sydney joint operation**

**Australia**

**SYDNEY, 5 Oct.—**An estimated 52 kg of narcotics with a street value of up to 52 million AU dollars (53.22 million US dollars) have been seized in a joint operation in Sydney, the Australian Federal Police (AFP) said on Thursday.

The Organized Crime Group (OCG), a joint taskforce comprising of the AFP, Australian Customs and Border Protection Service, New South Wales (NSW) Police Force, NSW Crime Commission and Australian Crime Commission (ACC), arrested and charged two Canadian men aged 65 and 38 after stopping their car in the Sydney suburb of Rosehill on Wednesday.

Police had earlier seized 52 kg of an illicit substance suspected to be methylethamphetamine from a Wontwoth Point premises in Sydney’s inner west, allegedly occupied by the two men.

The two Canadians were charged with supplying a large commercial quantity of a prohibited drug, the AFP said in a joint statement.

The two men appeared in Parramatta Local Court on Thursday and have been remanded in custody until 29 November to appear in Sydney Central Local Court.

**Cambodia**

**Int’l experts share experiences with Cambodia on security**

**Phnom Penh, 5 Oct.—**A conference on security sector governance and reform was held here on Thursday, with ASEAN member states discussing and sharing experiences in security sector with Cambodia, officials said.

During the one-day event, foremost experts from Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines shared their experiences and best practices with Cambodian defence officials on security governance and reform, Norodom Srivindh, founder and chairman of the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace said.

“The conference would contribute to further strengthening security sector governance and reform, which is a great step towards strengthening sustainable peace, stability and development for Cambodian people,” he said.

He said Cambodia’s security sector governance and reform is a part of the ASEAN Political Security Cooperation Council (APSC) Community building process in 2015.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the conference, Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Tea Banh said that Cambodian people had gone through prolonged civil war and armed conflict for decades, so they really understand the value of peace and stability.

He said that for Cambodia, security sector governance including security sector reform, weapon disarmament, demilitarization, and rule of law integration are key elements for building and maintaining peace after the end of the war in 1998.

The conference was organized by the Ministry of Defence and the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace with the support of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland.—Xinhua

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He said Cambodia’s security sector governance and reform is a part of the ASEAN Political Security Cooperation Council (APSC) Community building process in 2015.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the conference, Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Tea Banh said that Cambodian people had gone through prolonged civil war and armed conflict for decades, so they really understand the value of peace and stability.

He said that for Cambodia, security sector governance including security sector reform, weapon disarmament, demilitarization, and rule of law integration are key elements for building and maintaining peace after the end of the war in 1998.

The conference was organized by the Ministry of Defence and the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace with the support of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland.—Xinhua

**Japan**

**Tokyo, 5 Oct.—**The Bank of Japan left its monetary policy unchanged Friday in an apparent move to assess the impact of additional steps taken at its meeting last month, despite growing political pressure to further ease its monetary grip with the attendance of new economic and fiscal policy minister Seiji Maehara.

After joining the central bank’s meeting as a government representative, Maehara, who has called on the central bank to buy foreign bonds to help stem the yen’s appreciation, told reporters he will continue to urge the BOJ to pursue “powerful” monetary easing, though remaining cautious over what he said at the meeting.

But BOJ Governor Masaaki Shirakawa expressed concern over the purchase of foreign bonds by the BOJ, saying such action which is considered tantamount to foreign exchange intervention would be dealt with solely by the finance minister.—Kyodo

**Indonesia**

**Bank of Japan Governor Masaaki Shirakawa attends a Policy Board meeting at the BOJ head office in Tokyo on 5 Oct, 2012.—Kyodo**

The central bank’s chairman, who appeared to press a negative view about the purchase of foreign bonds by the BOJ, saying such action which is considered tantamount to foreign exchange intervention would be dealt with solely by the finance minister.
Spain might not fulfill 2012 deficit target:

**Spain**

He also added that “taking into account the importance of achieving the deficit target, additional measures should be considered,” which means more cuts needed in order to reach the deficit target required by Brussels.

**Bank governor**

However, Spanish Minister of Economy and Competitiveness Luis de Guindos said on Wednesday that even asking for a bailout, Spain would not need more adjustments than those that were already on the agenda.

Moreover, Linde branded the estimate of the fall of the GDP in 2013 made by the government as “certainly optimistic”. The Spanish government predicts that the GDP will fall by 0.5 percent in 2013, but Linde pointed out that other analysts and international organizations predicted a 1.5 percent GDP contraction. Linde foresaw the GDP contraction between 1 percent and 1.5 percent.

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US, Mexico can manage tomato trade dispute

**WASHINGTON, 5 Oct**—The United States and Mexico can manage a heated dispute over bilateral tomato trade without it widening into a broader trade war, a top US trade official said on Thursday in response to industry concerns. “You’re bound to have tensions” in any trade relationship as large as the United States and Mexico have, Francisco Sanchez, under secretary of commerce for international trade, told Reuters in an interview. “Historically, when we’ve had them, we’ve gotten through them. I’m pretty confident that we’ll get through this one too in a way that preserves the very strong and important relationship,” Sanchez said.

US groups such as the Chamber of Commerce and the National Foreign Trade Council have raised concern about a possible trade war after the Commerce Department announced a preliminary decision last week in favor of terminating a 16-year-old tomato trade agreement with Mexico.

Mexican officials also deprecated the decision and said it appeared to be motivated by presidential politics. Tomato growers in Florida, one of a handful of battleground states expected to determine the 6 November presidential election, have been pressing President Barack Obama’s administration since June to terminate the pact. They argue the agreement, which sets a minimum price for Mexican tomatoes sold in the United States, is badly out of date and does not reflect their current production costs. Mexican growers prefer the stability provided by the pact, and have offered to renegotiate it in the hopes of avoiding a costly anti-dumping complaint filed by Florida producers.

Sanchez acknowledged the Commerce Department’s decision has stirred strong emotions on both sides of the border, but denied it was motivated by politics.—Reuters

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Russia considers Arctic licenses for western oil majors: FT

**LONDON, 5 Oct**—Russia is considering allowing Western companies to own oil licenses in its Arctic waters, Energy Minister Alexander Novak was quoted as saying in Friday’s Financial Times.

The FT reported, without providing a full direct quote, that Novak said the proposal would allow foreign oil majors not only to operate offshore projects but also to “have access to production” and become “co-owners of the licenses”.

Novak was cited as saying the idea was being discussed in the energy ministry, although no final decision had been taken. Only companies that were environmentally safe, technologically advanced and financially robust would qualify, the FT said.

Earlier this month, state-owned oil giant Gazprom OAO delayed the start of production at its Prirazlomnoye field, the first Russian Arctic offshore oil deposit to be developed, due to safety concerns. The Arctic is seen as a key source of oil in the next decade for Russia, the world’s largest producer.—Reuters

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India, Australia may sign nuclear agreement

**NEW DELHI, 5 Oct**—India and Australia are likely to ink a civil nuclear agreement when Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard visits New Delhi on 15 October, highly placed sources said. “The civil nuclear pact is expected to be signed between the two countries during Prime Minister Gillard’s three-day visit during which she will meet Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh,” the sources said.

Months ago, Australia had reversed a long-standing ban on uranium sale to India. “However, if the pact is inked, then Australia is likely to demand a strict uranium safeguards agreement and more access to Indian nuclear facilities to inspect safe use of uranium supplied to India,” the sources added.

Australia has the largest uranium deposits in the world.—Xinhua

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Ukraine pledges stable gas supplies to Europe in winter

**KIEV, 5 Oct**—Ukraine is ready to ensure uninterrupted gas supplies to Europe during the winter heating season of 2012-2013, First Deputy Prime Minister Valeriy Khoroshkovsky said on Thursday.

“I think that during this winter and in the near future there will be no gas crisis, because we cooperate in the framework of the signed agreements,” Khoroshkovsky told the participants in the third Black Sea Economic Forum in Livadia.

Ukraine, jointly with Russian and European partners, will prevent new gas disruptions and this winter the heating season will pass quietly, Khoroshkovsky said.

During a week-long cold snap in February 2012, supplies of Russian gas reaching Europe through Ukraine were cut. The gas crisis led to accusations that Moscow had sharply cut gas supplies.

Russian gas giant Gazprom said it was sending the full volume, and accused Ukraine of taking more gas than it contracted. Ukraine denied any contract violations.

In June, Gazprom loaned Ukraine, which carries as much as 80 percent of Russian natural gas westwards, 2 billion US dollars to pay for gas supplies throughout the winter.—Xinhua

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Contestants from Belgium participate in the Euroskills 2012 competition in Francorchamps, Belgium, on 4 Oct, 2012. The Euroskills 2012, a biennial event with international impact, is held in Francorchamps from Thursday to Saturday. Xinhua
Lindsay Lohan was bullied in high school

NEW DELHI, 5 Oct—Lindsay Lohan said: “They would yell things, try to trip me & more. I moved to home-schooling instead. In 11th grade. I stuck it out for a while.”

Actress Lindsay Lohan has revealed she was targeted by her classmates for landing successful acting roles as a teenager and was mocked for her dysfunctional family situation.

The starlet tweeted: “I was actually bullied @ my public school when I would leave to film. Whenever I came back, girls & boys would call me names (sic). They would also mock me because of my home situation, when people found out that my father was in jail.”

The tormenting got so bad that the actress—who famously played a school misfit turned bully in teen comedy Mean Girls—decided to drop out of school in favour of home tutoring.

Lindsay Lohan added: “They would yell things, try to trip me & more. I moved to home-schooling instead. In 11th grade. I stuck it out for a while.”

The Liz & Dick actress’ confession came after she was moved to tears by chat show host Katie Couric’s interview with bullied 16-year-old Whitney Kopp, who was elected prom queen by her peers as a joke, and Lindsay took to twitter to take a stand against bullying.

She wrote: “@katiecouric I think what you did today on your show was lovely. It had me crying. I’d love to meet her. #stopbullying (sic).”

Cheryl Cole to cameo in The Hangover Part III?

LOS ANGELES, 5 Oct—Cheryl Cole is likely to make a cameo in the third sequel of Hangover.

Actor-comedian Zach Galifianakis has sparked rumours that singer Cheryl Cole will make a cameo in the third sequel of Hangover.

Galifianakis, 43, is known for his role of Alan Garner in the comedy movie franchise that also stars Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms and Justin Bartha.

“I have heard the rumours about her (Cole) making a cameo and there seems to be something to them. But I don’t know if anything’s signed yet,” PTI magazine quoted Galifianakis as saying.

The movie franchise began with Hangover in 2009 followed by The Hangover Part II in 2011. All three movies have been directed by Todd Phillips.

It’s all black and white in new Picasso exhibition

NEW YORK, 5 Oct—Pablo Picasso may be best known for his Blue and Rose Periods and Cubism but the Spanish artist also used black and white in his works, many of which will be shown in a new exhibition opening on Friday at New York’s Guggenheim Museum. “Picasso Black and White,” which runs through 23 January and includes 118 paintings, sculptures and works on paper from 1904 to 1971, focusses on Picasso’s exploration of the use of the two colours. “This is the first exhibition that examines his continuous use of the black and white palette throughout his career, therefore we think it is a ground-breaking exhibition,” said Richard Armstrong, the director of the Solomon R Guggenheim Museum and Foundation.

“We think this offers new insights into his creative character,” he added.

From “La Repasouseuse,” a stark, somber 1904 oil on canvas painting of an angular woman ironing to “The Kiss,” a work in dark gray and black, the minimal use of colour in Picasso’s works in the exhibition showed his focus on line, form, drawings and tones, which is evident in “The Kitchen,” a 1948 painting of angles, circles, curves, and varying shades of gray.

“His interest in drawing and on the line,” she explained in an interview.

Cameron Diaz has always been an independent person

MUMBAI, 5 Oct—Cameron Diaz says her parents told her to be sensible, especially when it came to her career.

The 40-year-old actress says her parents instilled discipline into her from an early age as they said it was important she could look after herself in any situation.

In an interview in the UK edition of Esquire magazine, she said: “Learned how to do everything from a very young age. My parents were like, ‘You’re going to be yourself.’ So everything from doing the laundry, to cooking, to cleaning the entire house, scrubbing toilets, picking up the dog sh*t. And things were done right. Everything was checked. It wasn’t fun, but my parents could have sold us when we were two or three and broken even … So we had to pay off!”

As well as making her self-reliant, Cameron says her parents told her to be sensible, especially when it came to her career.

Speaking about when she was first modelling, the blonde beauty said: “My mama always told me that nothing’s for free. I had girlfriends that had producer boyfriends who were like, ‘We can go to his house and take his jet.’ But I was like, even if I don’t do anything with these guys at the house, everyone who sees me with them just assumes that I did. So that costs me. So actually, it’s not for free. So thank you for the invitation, but I don’t want to pay the price.”

Jewellery worth $125,000 stolen from Julianne Moore’s house

LONDON, 5 Oct—Julianne Moore has had $125,000 worth of jewellery stolen from her home.

The Single Man actress—who recently won an Emmy for her portrayal of Republican vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin in TV movie Game Change—lost items including a $33,000 Cartier bracelet and four Cartier watches from her house in New York’s West Village during the summer.

The items disappeared between early June and late August, but were not noticed as Julianne and her husband Bart Freundlich were away from the property while it was being renovated.

Bob Gibson, a resident on Julianne’s block, said he was sad to hear of what happened.

He told the New York Daily News newspaper: “It’s sad to hear something like this happened to one of your neighbours. She’s a very good neighbour.

That’s how I see her.”

The items were not secured, and the theft was reported on Julianne’s block, said he.

Police are believed to be investigating workers who were hired to do the maintenance in the five-story house, which included decorating and plumbing. However, no arrests have as yet been made.

Julianne Moore had a cameo in The Hangover Part II.

Cheryl Cole is likely to make a cameo in the third sequel of Hangover.
Indonesians John and Yordan to define titles in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 5 Oct—WBA champion Chris John will defend his super lightweight title on 9 November in Singapore against Thailand’s Chonlatarn Pinyapan, Indonesian media reported on Thursday.

Undisputed John will headline a card at the Marina Bay Sands resort that also features Indonesian compatriot Daud Yordan defending his IBO featherweight title against Choi Tseveenpurev of Mongolia. It is the second fight in the southeast Asian city-state for John —47 wins, 0 defeats, 2 draws, 22 knockouts — who defended his title with a lepoldised points decision win over defensive Japanese challenger Shoji Kimura in May.

John, 33, voted WBA fighter of the decade earlier this month, will be making his 17th title defence but critics will be unhappy that he is once again not taking on the best in the division. Mexican Orlando Salido is one place above John on the highly-regarded Ring magazine’s rankings, with undefeated American Mikey Garcia third and another Mexican Daniel Ponce De Leon fourth. While Chonlatarn boasts an impressive looking 44-0 record with 27 knockouts he hasn’t boxed outside of Thailand before and has fought few opponents of genuine world class stature.

Amazing Grace equals European Tour record of 60

ST ANDREWS, (Scotland), 5 Oct—South African Branden Grace equaled the European Tour record when he shot a blistering 12-under midway through the 62nd minute penalty against the run of play.

Andrews, one of three layouts first and third against the English-based Branden Grace became the 14th player to shoot a 60 on the circuit, Northern Ireland’s Thorbjorn Olesen was also on form at the famous Old Course, returning a 63 in the $5 million Dunhill pro-am tournament.

QPR open to Barton making Marseille loan move permanent

LONDON, 5 Oct—QPR chief executive Phil Beard has revealed the club may consider making controversial midfield joey Barton’s loan deal to Marseille permanent. “Everything is possible,” said Beard. “Joey is ultimately still a QPR employee. A lot will depend on how his move works out and we’ll look at it at the end of the season.”

“We bought Joey when Neil Warnock was the manager and we needed to bring players in. We did it with the right intentions. But I think it is fair to say that the club has moved on significantly in the last 12 months.”

“There is no question that Joey is a good footballer. But I can manage the other side of his life then he has two or three good years left to offer. ‘Joey has a chance now. He had one or two options in the Championship which were not suitable for us or him. This agreement works for everybody.” — Reuters

SPORTS

Soccer

Eto’o scores brace for Anzhi amid Europe League upsets

BRISTOL, 5 Oct—Samuel Eto’o scored twice to give ambitious Anzhi Makhachkala a 2-0 Europa League win over Young Boys on Thursday while Videoton and Sparta Prague pulled off surprise wins.

Eto’o’s last week ended his stand-off with Cameroon officials and agreed to play for his country again, converted a 62nd minute penalty against the run of play.

The former AC Milan and Oleg Shatov’s cross in the last minute to complete a 2-0 win over the Swiss side and extend Anzhi’s unbeaten run to seven matches in the competition, including the qualifiers. The match was played in front of a sparse crowd in region where Anzhi are playing for security concerns, the UEFA refused to let them stage matches in the violence-plagued Dagestan region.

Videoton gave Hungarian football a rare boost with a 3-0 win over Sporting, the goals coming in the first half from Paulo Vinicius, Filipe Oliveira and Nemanja Nikolic, while Sparta Prague beat last season’s runners-up Athletic Bilbao 3-1. Inter Milan enjoyed an easy 3-1 win at Azerbaijan’s Sparta Prague beat last season’s runners-up Athletic Bilbao 3-1. Inter Milan enjoyed an easy 3-1 win at Azerbaijan’s

Marseille loan move permanent

The 27-year-old, Ryder Cup hero Martin Kaymer (70) played at the most entertaining layout and missed a putt at the 18th of a similar length to the one he holed in Chicago last Sunday to win the trophy for Europe.

“theputter was not really hot but in general you’ve got to play solid at the toughest course we play here,” the 2010 US PGA champion told reporters. “It’s a very nice feeling to come here after Sunday. A lot of people told me it was their best sporting experience on TV,” added the German.

Europe came back from 10-6 down to score a stunning 141-127-22 win over United States in the biennial team event. Kaymer’s Ryder Cup team mates Paul Lawrie (75) and Peter Hanson (72), both playing at Carnoustie, also found the going tough.

Tseveenpurev (36-5, 24KOs) who previously held a version of the world title at 126 pounds.

The 25-year-old will be making the first defence of the title he won on the undercard of John’s fight in Singapore in May where he picked himself up after a first-round knockdown to knock out Lorenzo Villanueva in the second. “I’ve seen (Tseveenpurev’s) video-taped matches several times and he’s a real fighter, the kind of opponent that I like. It’ll be a great fight,” Yordan told the Jakarta Globe.

“I have age as my advantage but he has the experience. I don’t believe he’ll fight hard for the title. That’s why I must not take him lightly.” — Reuters

Heptathlon

Games golden girl Ennis named European athlete of 2012

LONDON, 5 Oct—Olympic heptathlon champion Jessica Ennis has been named the women’s European athlete of 2012, European Athletics said in a statement on Thursday. Briton Ennis, whose image adorned posters promoting the London Games, fell narrowly short of the 7,000 point barrier while claiming the gold medal.

She still notioned 6,955 points and became the second woman only to score more than 6,906 points twice in the same year after American world record holder Jackie Joyner-Kersee in 1988.— Reuters

Boxing

EGYPT, 5 Oct—Francisca Nwachukwu won her first professional boxing match at the International Women’s Day boxing event in Cairo.

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Polo

Dyrofugua Cup

HONG KONG, 5 Oct—The Hong Kong Polo Club’s polo team defeated Pakistan on Thursday to win the 2012 Dyrofugua Cup.

The 17-10 victory in front of a sparse crowd, which attended the annual event, came after the local side held up an impressive 9-9 draw at the end of the first half.

The Dyrofugua Cup — known locally as Hong Kong’s “Derby” — is Hong Kong’s oldest polo tournament and usually attracts the best polo teams from across the world.

In the second half, the local team increased their lead by 2 to 1, with 2 goals from captain and reigning local champion Peter Minchin and 1 goal from fellow player John Lee, who captured the tournament’s most valuable player award.

The Pakistan team, which was defeated by 6 goals, included former world No. 1 and current No. 2 player Muhammad Imran, as well as former world No. 6 player Muhammad Qayum. The Pakistan team also included former Hong Kong player and current No. 9 player Muhammad Shafique, as well as former Hong Kong player and current No. 10 player Muhammad Ishaq.
Pennsylvania lawmakers eye tighter oversight of local debt

The Pennsylvania State house is seen on the north side of the business district in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on 18 Jan, 2012. — Reuters

Committee questioned former local officials publicly for the first time about how Harrisburg could have racked up so much debt tied to renovations of its ill-fated trash incinerator. “Legislative fixes that can guarantee that this fiscal debacle does not get repeated on any taxpayer across the commonwealth,” said state Sen. John Blake, the Democratic chair of the committee. “I think this is a more pervasive issue throughout the entire commonwealth that affects the fiscal health of all of our communities.” Committee Chairman John Eichelberger, a Republican from central Pennsylvania, said changes could include incorporating a tougher review process with penalties for those who misrepresent their projects. When Harrisburg filed for bankruptcy in October 2011, it became a cautionary tale about how a single committee. Committee Chairman John Eichelberger, a Republican from central Pennsylvania, said changes could include incorporating a tougher review process with penalties for those who misrepresent their projects. When Harrisburg filed for bankruptcy in October 2011, it became a cautionary tale about how a single

48th-minute assist for Karim Benzema’s winner. However, Mourinho said his starting lineup for Wednesday’s 4-1 Champions League win at Ajax and he responded with a performance full of verve and creativity that suggests he may be working his way back into contention. “I was surprised to be starting,” Kaka told reporters after the match at the Amsterdam Arena, during which he provided a delightful assist for Karim Benzema’s breathtaking 48th-minute overhead kick and came close to scoring several times himself. “I found out in the afternoon but at Real Madrid we all have to always be prepared to play,” he added. “I had a very bad time. Starting is a personal goal and if I work hard things will come my way.” Asked about his position at the top of Champions League Group D on points from two matches, Real play at Barcelona on Sunday. A victory for Barca in the La Liga “Classico” at the Nou Camp will stretch their lead over the intervals to five points.

5-1 La Liga win at home to Deportivo Coruna, their ninth game of the season.

MADRID, 5 Oct—For a 30-year-old former World Player of the Year who cost Real Madrid’s 67 million euros ($53.6 million pounds) three years ago, Kaka has been spending a surprising amount of time warming the bench. The Brazilian appeared to be working his way back into contention. “I was surprised to be starting,” Kaka told reporters after the match at the Amsterdam Arena, during which he provided a delightful assist for Karim Benzema’s breathtaking 48th-minute overhead kick and came close to scoring several times himself. “I found out in the afternoon but at Real Madrid we all have to always be prepared to play,” he added. “I had a very bad time. Starting is a personal goal and if I work hard things will come my way.” Asked about his position at the top of Champions League Group D on points from two matches, Real play at Barcelona on Sunday. A victory for Barca in the La Liga “Classico” at the Nou Camp will stretch their lead over the intervals to five points.

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Myanmar joins Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership

Those present at the 7th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting (ASEP-7) pose for documentary photo.

Perspective on forthcoming public service media-PSM

"Public service broadcasting helps to create a greater sense of national identity, foster democratic and other important social values, provide quality educational and informational programming, and serve the needs of minority and other specialized interest groups," Union Information Minister U Aung Kyi stated at the Public Service Media Conference in Inya Lake Hotel, Yangon, on 24 September 2012.

Considering the likelihood of the emergence of public service media in Myanmar in the very near future through the reform process, we of the MNA team interviewed Dr. Thida Tin, Deputy Director-General of Information and Public Relations Department. A former professor of International Relations Department, Dagon University of Yangon, Dr. Thida Tin took part in the conference.

MNA: Your view on the public service media-PSM madam.

Dr. TT: First, PSM must have the resources to (a) represent all the citizens; (b) reflect diversity of the community; (c) offer news that has fairness, objectivity and credibility; (d) focus on the voices of the minority and vulnerable groups; (e) practise editorial independence and to be independent from political and commercial interests; (f) have financial independence. Southeast Asian countries are also practising the PSM.

The conversion of the state media into public service media is one of the tasks of our democratization process. Actually, this task is in accord with the people-centred policy of the President and meets the international norm. Normally, democratic countries have the right to publish independent private dailies, and run independent TV, radio, publication, internet services and other broadcasting or publication services. Our country will also convert state-owned dailies and TV and radio broadcasting services into PSM.

MNA: What systems are practised in international community regarding public service media? Is there any plan to publish State-owned newspapers as Public Service Media (PSM)?

Dr. TT: The authoritarian governments in making a shift to democracy in 1990s at the end of Cold War transformed the State-owned newspaper to PSM and privatized some newspapers. PSM is aimed to represent the interests of vulnerable groups and minorities. Coordination is being made in Myanmar to launch public service newspapers.

MNA: If so, how about editorial independence? To what extent, it would be granted?

Dr. TT: As regards editorial independence, the newspapers must be independent from state and politics and commercial interferences. They must reflect opinions of the people, rather than acting as mouthpiece of authorities. They must not represent a particular social class or a specific group. The Governing Body of public service newspapers must be formed to make it happen.

MNA: Let me know the financial freedom of PSM.

Dr. TT: Public service media is that the governing body comprising those with wide experience and expertise in their respective fields of work govern it freely and the executive board is to manage its day to day work. The move is that it needs to transform from the government’s cent per cent financial assistances into the corporation (See page 9)