NAY PYI TAW, 8 Oct—At the invitation of President of the Republic of Korea Mr. Lee Myung-bak, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein together with delegation members Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thein, U Tin Naing Thein, U Khin Maung Soe and U Aye Myint, Chief Ministers U Myint Swe, U Ye Myint and U Nyan Win, Deputy Ministers U Han Sein and Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay and departmental heads left here by air yesterday to pay a goodwill visit to the Republic of Korea and arrived at Incheon International Airport in Seoul, the Republic of Korea at 7.35 am local time today. They were welcomed at the airport by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea Head of Protocol Department Mr. Bae Jae Hyun, Head of South Asia and Pacific Affairs Mr. Hae Yun Park, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar Mr. Kim Hae Yong, Myanmar Ambassador to ROK U Nyunt Hlaing, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Myint Hein, personnel and families of Myanmar Embassy and Military Attaché Office.

The President and delegation members arrived at Lotte Hotel in Seoul on a motorcade. At 1 pm, the President gave a TV interview to Mr. Kim Yong Deok, Political and Foreign Affairs correspondent of KBS News Agency of ROK, at the hall of the hotel.

President U Thein Sein visits Saemaul Undong Central Training Institute

The institute is 29 kilometers far from Seoul. Saemaul Undong means New Village Movement and was initiated by the then President Park Chung-Hee in 1960 for rural development and poverty alleviation. The movement succeeded in improving living standards of rural people, increasing incomes, upgrading infrastructures, boosting morale of the people and narrowing the wealth gap. The movement sowed the seeds for current development. The President received Doosuan Company Chairman Mr Y M Park at Lotte Hotel where he stayed in the evening.

Weather forecast for second dekad of October 2012

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Oct—A low pressure area may form over the West Central Bay of Bengal and it’s likely to intensify into a depression. Weather will be partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal. Rain will be above normal in Mandalay Region, Kachin, Shan, Rakhine and Kayah States and about normal in the remaining Regions and States. Rainy days are expected about (6) to (7) days in Mandalay and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Shan, Rakhine, Kayah and Mon States and about (4) to (5) days in the remaining Regions and States, announced Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—MNA

Large amount of narcotic drugs seized in Chindwin River

Lloris’s record run over as Spurs bring in Lloris

Azarenka overwhelms Sharapova to claim career-first-ever China Open title
Union Border Affairs Minister meets UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Oct—Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay received a delegation led by Mr. Ajay Chhibber, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, at the ministry, here, this afternoon.

At the call, they exchanged views on the three main tasks: eradicating extreme poverty and hunger in Myanmar in 2015, one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), ensuring environmental sustainability, and development of democracy and human rights by setting up good governance, Myanmar has still needs to start those two tasks. Therefore, an international workshop on mentioned rural development would be held in December so as to start the three tasks all together.

The workshop covers discussions from the World Bank, donor countries, international organizations, UN organizations, as well as local community.—MNA

Myanmar Medical Science Academy held AGM for 2011-2012

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Oct—It is learnt that narcotic drugs worth more than K 1337.5 million totaling K 1306 million and nine kilos of ephedrine worth K 31.5 million totaling K 1337.5 million are seized.

A squad led by Inspector Shwe Tha Tun of Myonya Anti-Narcotic Task Force seized narcotic drugs in 65 bags after a search of a motorized boat running in Chindwin River near Latpansu Village in Kani Township at the midnight on 29 September and arrested Thura Soe, Maung Hlaing, Po The of Khamnese Village, Haung Lin of Tamu and Kyaw Kyaw Win of Shine Village in Kani Township who were on board. Plans are underway to arrest accomplices.

“IT could be assumed as saving many lives. I’ve seen drug addicted students who lost their future. Parents should encourage their children to soak well in any kind of sports, computer, hobby, reading, English or any other subject. They should care about their children not to take the wrong path, wasting time with unimportant stuff and all sorts of friends. They should guide them to talks and seminars on drugs. The parents themselves should have knowledge on drugs so as to disseminate it to lads in time,” an experienced teacher of Myonya commented on the seizure of the massive drugs.

“A son of a neighbouring family used drugs. His parents noticed it by his abnormal gestures. They first thought, ‘There is no smell. It is not alcohol. Heartbreak?’ They began to know that these were symptoms of drug abuse as they asked a lad and saved their son in time. It is lucky that the amount of seized drugs is pretty much. My special thanks go to those people, said the Union Minister.

Myanmar medical science academy was formed with scholars to take good suggestions from them for development of health sector, he noted.

Myanmar needs not only good infrastructures to stand among regional and global countries but also effective and efficient health care management system to carry out effective healthcare management, he stressed.

Qualified intellectuals and intelligentsias are needed as human resources and knowledge, skill and attitude will be fundamental points, said the Union Minister.

The useful suggestions concerning under graduate and post graduate curriculum syllabus are being invited from those people, said the Union Minister.

Myanmar-Philippine traditional boxing held

YANGON, 8 Oct—The Myanmar-Philippine traditional boxing challenge was held at Theinbhu Gymnasium, Mingala Taungnyunt Township at 3 pm yesterday.

In the second challenge, Thaddhi Aung (Myanmar/Taungkalay) knocked out his rival Rolando (Philippines) in the first round timing 1 minute and 40 seconds. The final match favoured Twaymashaung (Myanmar/Nagarman) who knocked out Mike Ganado (Philippines) in the second round timing 2 minutes 45 seconds.—MNA

Fire engine handed over to Shwegu Township FSD

SHWEGU, 8 Oct—With the contribution of township level departmental personnel and wellwishers of Shwegu Township, a ceremony to hand over a fire engine to Township Fire Services Department was held at the city hall in the township on 27 September afternoon.

On the occasion, Township Administrator U Nyi Nyi made a speech, and Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Win Naing explained the purpose of donations. Chairman of the fund-raising committee U Win Maung Thein explained the fund raising work and financial statement. Head of Township Fire Services Department U Tin Maung Toe spoke words of thanks.

The fire engine donated on self-reliant basis is worth K 15 million.—MNA
Venezuela's Chavez re-elected to extend socialist rule

VENEZUELA

Chavez's victory would extend his rule of the OPEC member state to two decades, though he is recovering from cancer and the possibility of a recurrence hangs over his political future.

Jubilant supporters poured onto the streets of Caracas to celebrate the victory of a man who has near-Messianic status among Venezuela's poor and there was relief too among leftist allies around the region — from Cuba to Bolivia — who rely on his oil-financed generosity.

"I'm celebrating with a big heart," said Mary Reina, a 62-year-old Chavez supporter who lives in the hillside slum where the president cast his vote.

"Chavez is the hope of the people and of Latin America." Chavez fans partied and set off fireworks in the streets.

The mood was grim at Capriles' campaign headquarters, where opposition supporters broke into tears.

The opposition will now have to regroup quickly for state elections in December. Since taking office in 1999, the flamboyant former soldier has become a global flag bearer of "anti-imperialism," gleefully baiting the US government while befriending leaders from Iran to Belarus in the West views with suspicion.

At home, casting himself as an heir to independence hero Simon Bolivar, Chavez has poured billions of dollars in oil revenues into anti-poverty programmes, and skillfully used his humble roots and folksy oratory to build a close connection with the masses.

Sanctions are no good solution to nuclear issue

Iran

The Iranian nuclear issue is complicated and sensitive. The concerned issue is complex and employment continue to rise as inflation and unemployment continue to rise and lifesaving medicines are in short supply.

The Iranian nuclear issue is complex and sensitive. The concerned sides should not expect the resolution of the crisis — Yinhua

Separate shootings leave two seriously injured in Berlin

GERMANY

Two persons were seriously wounded by separate gunshots in Berlin over the weekend, German media reported on Sunday.

The shooting of one man who was shot in Berlin on Sunday morning, lying in a doorway at a train station when he was found by passersby, German news site the Local reported, adding that the hospitalized victim was in a critical condition.

The military named the two victims as Talat Jarbi and Mohammed Makawi and indicated the strike was aimed specifically at them.

Israelis use manned and unmanned aircraft to strike at militants in the Gaza Strip which is controlled by the Palestinian Hamas group. Hamas has for months taken a back seat in attacking Israel, leaving other groups to take the lead.

Israel holds Hamas responsible for security in Gaza which the Islamists seized in 2007 from the Western-backed Mahmoud Abbas, who remains the Palestinian leader in the occupied West Bank.

Japanese leaders are expected to stress the need to both enforce disaster prevention measures and pursue urban development for disaster-resistant infrastructure, while discussions will also focus on challenges facing developing nations when drawing up disaster prevention measures, the organizers said. —Kyodo

Israel air strike wounds two militants, eight bystanders in Gaza Strip

MIDDLE EAST

A missile fired by an Israeli aircraft hit and wounded two Palestinian militants and eight bystanders in the southern Gaza Strip on Sunday, Palestinian officials said. The militants were riding a motorcycle near the town of Rafah which borders Egypt's Sinai peninsula. One of them and a bystander were in a critical condition, the officials said.

The bystanders included three children, a woman and an elderly man. The Israeli military said the two militants were members of "Global Jihadist" groups based in the Gaza Strip who had for years attacked Israeli civilians and troops and were also involved in weapons manufacturing.

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India to launch 58 space missions in next 5 years

New Delhi, 8 Oct — India is planning to launch 58 space missions, including sending a spacecraft to Moon and Mars, an exclusive satellite to keep a round-the-clock watch on the country and deploy hundreds of transponders in the next five years, reported Press Trust of India on Sunday.

The India Space Research Organization also aims to deploy its own version of the Global Positioning System by putting into orbit a constellation of seven satellites which would form the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System, during its 12th Five Year Plan, approved by the government last week, said the report.

An indicative plan outlay of 397 billion rupees (about 7 billion US dollars) for the 12th Plan has been made for the department of space.

“Overall, 58 missions are planned for realisation during 12th Plan period which includes 33 satellite missions and 25 launch vehicle missions,” the 12th Plan document was quoted as saying.

The space agency is also designing a special Geo-Imaging Satellite to be stationed 36,000 km above to maintain round-the-clock vigil and assist state authorities to tackle natural disasters, floods and forest fires and keep a watch over the country’s sensitive borders, according to the report — Xinhua

Hacking victims pressure British PM on media rules

London, 8 Oct — Prime Minister David Cameron said Britain would avoid “heavy-handed state intervention” of its national press after phone hacking victims urged him on Sunday to remain open-minded about the recommendations of an inquiry into media ethics.

In a letter to Cameron they feared he had already decided to reject statutory regulation of the media before the inquiry’s findings were published. Cameron has yet to prejudice the inquiry and confirmed he had told Grant he would implement its recommendations providing they were “not bonkers”.

“It’s quite clear people have been abused, people and families have been torn by up press intrusion. It’s not for me to say whether they were right or wrong,” he told BBC television.

Cameron ordered the wide-ranging investigation at the height of a scandal last year into illegal phone hacking at Rupert Murdoch’s now-closed News of the World tabloid when it emerged that reporters had hacked the phone of a murdered schoolgirl.

The inquiry, led by judge Brian Leveson, revealed the inadequacy of British newspapers’ current system of self-regulation and is expected to recommend a tougher regime to ensure victims of Press intrusion can receive effective redress.

Leveson has yet to publish his findings after eight months of hearings that ended in July. Cameron will have to navigate a difficult political path in responding to the recommendations to avoid being accused of trampling on press freedoms or being soft on tabloid excesses, especially given his close ties to two of those who may have been charged with offences relating to phone hacking.

His ex-spin doctor Andy Coulson was a former News of the World editor and as was his friend Rebekah Brooks, who later oversaw Murdoch’s News International arm. Their trial has been set for September next year.

“We don’t want heavy-handed state intervention. We’ve got to have a free Press,” Cameron said.

“We all want to put in place a sensible, regulatory system. We’re hoping that Lord Justice Leveson is going to crack this problem for us, but we must let him do his work first.”

Some newspapers have proposed a beefed up form of contractual self-regulation as a way of avoiding statutory control, an approach the hacking victims rejected as inadequate.

Grant, a director of the Hacked Off lobby group that organized the letter to Cameron, said he wanted a new media regulator who would be independent of both the newspaper industry and government.

“It’s actually the way sources are now regulated, it’s the way doctors are now regulated, and they’re not complaining,” he told BBC television.

“I do not see the slightest danger to freedom of expression, freedom of speech from that.” — Reuters

Shopping or browsing on Main St? India’s Big Data firms know

Bangalore, 8 Oct — Shopping in a US department store? Surveillance cameras may be watching, and not because you might be a shoplifter. In minutes, video of which aisles you visited, what products you picked up and put down, what you bought and the displays that caught your fancy will be sent to a company in Bangalore, India.

“These logs can be analyzed to determine propensity to purchase, what a customer’s intent, satisfaction, sentiment is,” said Dhiraj Rajaram, CEO of Mu Sigma, which says it is among the world’s biggest pure-play data analytics companies.

The business of storing, decoding and analyzing unstructured data—think video, Facebook updates, Tweets, Internet searches and public cameras—along with mountains of facts and figures can help companies improve profits, cut costs and improve service, and is now one of the world’s hottest industries.

It’s called Big Data, and although much of the work is done in the United States, India is getting an increasing slice of the action, re-energising an IT sector whose growth has begun to falter.

One reason for the emergence of Big Data at India’s next big thing in IT is the dramatic fall in the costs of storing and working with huge volumes of data with the advent of cloud computing and open-source software systems such as Hadoop. “There are hundreds of (analytics) bodies in India right now,” said Dhiraj Rajaram.

“I think in every week I hear of some of my friends that have started on their own,” said Santosh Nair, who quit a job in IT services provider four months ago to open Analytic Edge.

The Bangalore firm has studied pharmacy sales, population trends and other data to help a US funeral company pinpoint areas for its marketing campaigns. Employees work on their computer terminals on the floor of an outsourcing centre in Bangalore February 29. 2012.

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It’s called Big Data, and although much of the work is done in the United States, India is getting an increasing slice of the action, re-energising an IT sector whose growth has begun to falter. Picture taken on 29 February, 2012.—Reuters

Employees work on their computer terminals on the floor of an outsourcing centre in Bangalore on 29 Feb, 2012. —Reuters

The loading screen of the Facebook application on a mobile phone is seen in this photo illustration taken in Lavorgo on 16 May, 2012. —Reuters

Message from the Director General of the UPU International Bureau on World Post Day 2012

A new strategy for a new world

Ours is an era of new information and communication technologies, and mobile phones and the Internet. Yet, Posts are not standing idly on the side lines: they are an integral part of the increasingly digital world. The postal community is constantly changing and adapting in the face of a fast-changing cyber market.

As strong drivers of economic growth, Posts must continue to innovate, develop efficient and accessible postal services, adopt common standards and exploit new technologies to diversify and improve services. Post offices – whether physical or virtual – serve not only customers’ communication needs but also allow them to conduct – whether physical or virtual – serve not only customers’ communication needs but also allow them to conduct official business, pay bills, send or receive money, order goods or track and trace letters or parcels along the entire distribution chain.

Traditional letter-post services still account for the majority of postal revenues but Posts can benefit from the globalization of mail exchanges in other ways. They should seek opportunities offered by e-commerce. Many Posts are wisely reading their operations for the e-commerce boom, which has resulted in increased parcel volumes. And rightly so: industry studies predict that e-commerce sales will surpass the trillion-euro mark in 2013. Many of the goods ordered online will be delivered as parcels to customers and who better than the Post to fill that role?

For its part, the UPU will continue to help Posts better interconnect their networks to facilitate exchanges. It will also continue to provide know-how and technical expertise, encourage the development of innovative postal products and services to better meet customer needs and sustainably develop the postal sector.

Governments too must step up to the mark. Their support of the postal sector is crucial. With it, Posts across the globe will fulfill their potential as motors of national economies.

Despite this changing world, the postal community is still well placed to guarantee the integrity of the universal postal service and the free circulation of mail items within the single postal territory.

I wish you the very best on World Post Day 2012.

Prime Minister David Cameron

Prime Minister David Cameron

The project, which aims to build the world’s most powerful telescope, 100 times more sensitive than the Hubble space telescope, is due to be launched in 2018. —Xinhua

Press Trust of India

The 12th Plan period which includes 33 satellite missions and 25 launch vehicle missions,” the 12th Plan document was quoted as saying.
**Australia’s St George Bank cuts home loan rates by 17 basis points**

**Sydney, 8 Oct** — Australia’s St George Bank announced on Monday that it would cut its variable home loan rates by 17 basis points to 6.69 percent, after the Reserve Bank of Australia’s decision to cut the cash rate by 25 basis points on 2 October.

The new rate takes effect from 15 October, St George said.

On Friday, three of Australia’s four big banks announced their interest rate cuts decisions. National Australia Bank and Commonwealth Bank both cut 20 basis points, leaving their standard variable rates at 6.58 percent and 6.6 percent respectively, while Westpac, the owner of St George, cut its standard variable rate by 18 basis points to 6.71 percent.

ANZ Bank, one of the big four banks, will announce its decision after its regular monthly meeting on 12 October. — Xinhua

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**HSBC China services PMI recovers to 54.3 after one-year low**

**Beijing, 8 Oct** — China’s services sector rebounded in September after its growth hit a one-year low in August, according to a private sector survey on Monday that follows last week’s much more gloomy official assessment.

The HSBC services sector Purchasing Managers’ Index rose to 54.3 in September from 52.0 in August, rebounding to its highest level since May thanks to an uptick in the new business sub-index to 54.0 - also the highest level in four months.

The sunny results are in marked contrast to an official non-manufacturing PMI released on 3 October, which showed activity in September slowing to the weakest level since November 2010. — Xinhua

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**Australian researchers to develop a cream against skin cancer**

**SINGAPORE, 8 Oct** — Asian stocks and other riskier assets such as commodities fell on Monday as investors remained cautious about the outlook for the global economy and corporate earnings despite better-than-expected US jobs numbers last week. Wall Street stocks dipped late on Friday as an unexpected drop in the US unemployment rate was overshadowed by concerns about the earnings season, which kicks off with Alcoa Inc on Tuesday, and S&P 500 futures traded in Asia eased on Monday.

”?It (the jobs number) looks good if you were worried about an imminent collapse back into recession or if you had performed badly in a presidential debate,” said Russell Jones, global interest rate strategist at Westpac bank in Sydney, in a note. S&P 500 earnings for the third quarter are forecast to have fallen 2.4 percent from the year-earlier period, which would be the first decline in three years, according to Thomson Reuters data.

MSCI’s broadest index of Asia Pacific shares outside Japan fell 0.7 percent. Japanese financial markets were closed for a public holiday. Equity markets have been rallying since hitting their nadir for the year in early June, receiving a renewed burst of impetus last month when major central banks rolled out fresh measures to support fragile economies. MSCI’s Asia Pacific ex-Japan and All Countries World Indexes are both up around 13 percent over the year-to-date.

China, the engine of global growth in recent years and a key consumer of commodities, is due to release at the end of next week its growth data for the third quarter, which analysts expect to be the weakest three months of the year — and the two do not necessarily move in tandem.

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**Walmart, Amex to make financial services announcement on Monday**

**NEW YORK, 8 Oct** — WalMart Stores Inc and American Express will hold a conference call on Monday to make a financial services announcement, the two companies said in a statement on Sunday.

Details of the announcement, which will take place at 8.30 am EST, were not disclosed.

Walmart, the world’s largest retailer, has long tried to serve the large group of its low-income shoppers who have little or no access to credit.

The retailer offers check cashing at low rates, and other services as it tries to appeal to shoppers without bank accounts.

Walmart has said in the past that about 85 percent of transactions at its US stores are paid for with cash. — Reuters

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**Employees make circuit boards at an electronic component factory in Hefei, Anhui province on 2 May, 2012. — Reuters**

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**Health**

Most moles on a person’s body look similar to one another. A mole or freckle that looks different from the others or that has a diameter larger than a pencil eraser or any characteristics of the ABCDEs of melanoma should be checked by a dermatologist. It could be cancerous. The ABCDEs are important characteristics to consider when examining your moles or other skin growths, so learn them in the slides to come.—Xinhua

They tested the efficacy of a peptide — a short chain of amino acids that was designed to work like the proteins of the myxoma virus, a cancer-killing virus shown to be toxic to melanoma in previous studies.

“Australia has the highest incidence of melanoma in the world, with more than 11,000 new diagnoses each year,” said Lead investigator Dr Taghrid Istivan in the statement.

Currently the only effective treatment for early stage melanoma is surgery to cut out the tumour and healthy skin surrounding the affected mole. But with further research, it can hopefully develop a cream to treat early-stage melanoma effectively.

Dr Istivan is presenting the research findings at the 40th Congress of the International Society of Oncology and Biomarkers (13-17 October, London).

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**Share**

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**New Light of Myanmar**

Tuesday, 9 October, 2012
Turkey fires artillery into Syria after shelling

ISTANBUL, 8 Oct—Turkish forces fired across the frontier into Syria on Sunday after a shell launched from Syria landed in Turkey’s border town of Akcakale, underlining Ankara’s warning that it will respond with force to any violence spilling over into its territory.

It was the fifth consecutive day of Turkish retaliation against incoming bombardment from northern Syria, where President Bashar al-Assad’s forces have been battling rebels who control swathes of land close to the Turkish frontier.

A Turkish border unit also returned fire after a mortar bomb launched from Syria at around 7 pm hit an uninhabited area of Almarra at the western end of the Syrian border, the Hatay Province governor’s office said.

Smoke rises at the Akcakale border gate after a shell fired from Syria landed on the Turkish-Syrian border in Sanliurfa Province on 7 Oct, 2012, Reuters photo.

Turkey’s Prime Minister David Cameron spoke on the BBC’s Andrew Marr Show, during the Conservative Party annual conference, in Birmingham, central England on 7 Oct, 2012.—Reuters

Britain, 8 Oct—Britain will have to keep cutting public spending to reduce the budget deficit, Prime Minister David Cameron said on Sunday, underlining the government’s tough talk on pulling the country out of recession while winning back waning public support.

Cameron cited the euro zone crisis in explaining the problems facing the British economy, comments which are likely to please the influential euroskeptic wing of his Conservatives as they gather for the party’s annual conference. “It is a very challenging situation, you only have to switch on your television set and look at what is happening in the euro zone. We have got many countries going into quite a deep recession, these are very difficult times,” Cameron said. An aide said the government was paving the way for the next phase of austerity rather than signaling bigger than planned measures, but economists say longer or deeper cuts look likely after a return to recession cast doubt over its deficit targets. The next election in 2015 will be fought on the economy and how best to get the deficit, which peaked at 11 percent of the nation’s annual economic output, under control. Cameron’s Conservative-led coalition planned to all but erase the deficit by 2015 but has been forced to project two more years of cuts. Underlying borrowing between April and August was a fifth higher than last year, suggesting that either bigger cuts or a further extension of austerity could be on the cards when the government updates its economic forecasts on 5 December. “We inherited a budget deficit at around 11 percent, it is down to 8 percent,” Cameron told the BBC. Referring to this year, he added: “It is too early to say where they will end up.”

Official figures in March predicted a fall to below 6 percent this year, a target which now looks uncertain. Abandoning the austerity plan would prove politically disastrous for the Con-servatives, who staked their 2010 election campaign on it. “The economy is healing. But it’s a longer and harder road that we have to travel down,” finance minister George Osborne told the Mail on Sunday. “There will have to be further cuts.”

Firing at political gathering kills six, injures ten in southern Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 8 Oct.—At least six people were killed and ten others injured when two rival groups fired at each other on a political gathering in Pakistan’s southern District of Khairpur on Sunday night, local media reported.

Local Urdu TV channel Geo quoted police and eyewitnesses as saying that the firing took place at about 8:20 pm when two rival groups opened fire at each other after force argument at a political gathering organized by the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) in Khairpur, a district in southern Sindh Province.

One local journalist working for the government-run TV was also killed in the incident.

Hospital sources said that some of the wounded were in critical condition and the death toll may further rise.

Cameron warns Britons to expect more budget cuts

TEHRAN, 8 Oct—A senior Iranian official said that Israel would lose at least 10,000 troops in the event of a military strike on the Islamic republic, Press TV reported on Sunday. “If the Israelis attack, Iran’s deterrent power would deal a mortal blow to them and the Israeli death toll would not be less than 10,000. Therefore, they would be stopped soon,” Mohsen Rezaei, secretary of Iran’s Expediency Council, was quoted as saying.

“We don’t want war, but are fully prepared to defend our country against any strike. Of course the Zionists don’t dare to invade Iran and only speak of war to win concessions from the next US president,” Rezaei, a former chief of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC). The United States and Israel have not ruled out the possibility of a strike on Iran’s nuclear energy facilities.

The United States and its Western allies believe Iran is working toward a nuclear weapon capability. Tehran denies that, saying its atomic programme is “peaceful.”

Rezaei also accused the West of trying to derail the Islamic Awakening movement by interfering in Syria.

Ivory Coast to reopen border with Ghana following 2-week closure

ABIDJAN, 8 Oct—Ivory Coast announced it would reopen its border with eastern neighbour Ghana on Monday, more than two weeks after it was shut over a series of deadly attacks.

A former president Laurent Gbagbo currently living in exile in Ghana.

Ivorian Defence Minister Paul Kofi Koffi said in a statement broadcast on state television late on Sunday that both countries had reinforced security along the border “with the aim of stopping all incursions”. “As a result President Alassane Ouattara decided that from Monday 8 Oct, 2012 at seven in the morning the land and sea borders will reopen,” he said.

Though Ivory Coast reopened its airspace to flights from Ghana on 23 September, the closure has blocked the main transportation route along the Gulf of Guinea, stretching from Ivory Coast to Nigeria.

Ghana has promised to help investigate the attacks, which further worsened relations already strained by Accra’s refusal to act on international arrest warrants targeting former member of Gbagbo’s regime issued by Ivory Coast last year. Gbagbo’s refusal to accept defeat in a 2010 election won by Ouattara sparked a brief war last year that killed over 3,000 people.

He is currently awaiting trial before the International Criminal Court in The Hague on charges of crimes against humanity.

Ivory Coast to reopen border with Ghana following 2-week closure

Photo taken on 6 Oct, 2012 shows the forest belt for wind sheltering and sand fixation in the Ulan Buh Desert, north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. A 144-kilometre-long and one-kilometre-wide forest belt has been built to prevent the Ulan Buh Desert from moving eastwards. —Xinhua

Reuters

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31 suspected terrorists killed in northern Nigeria

DAMATURU, Nigeria, Oct—Nigeria’s Joint Task Force in northeast Yobe State said on Sunday that it has killed 31 and arrested 10 suspected terrorists during a gun battle in Kandakarai and Cemetery areas of Damaturu, the state capital.

The task force made the announcement in a statement issued by spokesman Lt Eli Lazarus in Damaturu, who added that a field commander of the terrorists was among the suspected Boko Haram members killed. The task force said it was working hard to track down other members of the group.

Weapons recovered included six rifles and 90 rounds of ammunition. Other items recovered were knives, bows and arrows, and three cans of improvised explosive device.

Germany says Merkel visit to Athens does not mean aid for Greece

BERLIN, Oct—German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble said on Sunday that Chancellor Angela Merkel’s trip to Greece this week did not mean the debt-striken country would receive the next tranche of aid from its two main creditors.

“The chancellor will visit Athens to talk to the troika on the next tranche of aid from its country would receive the troika’s report on the progress of the country’s agreement with the European Union,” Schaeuble told broadcaster ZDF in an interview, referring to the “troika” of the International Monetary Fund, European Commission and European Central Bank.

Greece is stuck in tough negotiations with “troika” inspectors over a new wave of budget cuts for the next two years, a condition for getting a installment of the 130 billion euro bailout that is keeping the country afloat.

“Greece must fulfill its obligations for the next tranche to be paid,” said Schaeuble.

Two killed in northern Nigeria

KADUNA, Nigeria, 8 Oct—Nigerian police in central north Kaduna State on Sunday confirmed the killing of two persons in Zaria area of the state by gunmen at a pub.

State police spokesperson Aminu Lawal told reporters in Kaduna, the state capital, that security operatives were on the trail of the gunmen, adding there were clues that would assist the police in tracking down the killers.

Lawal urged the public to be more security conscious and to promptly report any suspicious characters in their midst.

Security sources told Xinhua that the gunmen came in a vehicle and opened fire on their victims at the pub.

Tourism

China’s outbound tourists also pay more attention to the safety of their travels. Wu Na, Director of Meridian International Travel, said a lot of Chinese tourists she received now choose to stay in Singapore for more than one day rather than simply sightseeing when transiting to other countries.

She said the change is partly due to the tourism campaign conducted by Singapore’s government, but the preference for more leisure time and high-level travel experiences plays more important role when Chinese people’s choose their travel plan nowadays.—Xinhua

Two killed during Venezuelan election

CARACAS, 8 Oct—Venezuelan media reported on Sunday a shootout that killed two at the sidelines of Venezuela’s presidential election, as well as a series of minor incidents that are unlikely to affect the final outcome. Newspaper El Universal reported a shootout close to a polling station in Tacarigua, in northern Miranda state, between armed men on motorcycles. However, it did not say whether the incident was linked to political disputes.

Barrientos made the remark after delivering a report on the progress of the election, saying the outcomes were apparently unrelated to the day’s electoral events.

“Unfortunately, there have been shooting deaths, but they have nothing to do with the electoral process,” Barrientos said.

During elections, the agency under his command executed a so-called Plan of the Republic to safeguard the security of voters, candidates and electoral officials. As part of the plan, some 139,000 troops were deployed throughout the country, 8 percent more than in the 2006 presidential election, when 128,900 troops were mobilized.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez won the 2006 election, his second, with more than 60 percent of the votes, but this year’s race against opposition candidate Henrique Capriles was expected to be tighter.

Some 19 million Venezuelans at home and 100,000 overseas were registered to elect a president who will serve a six-year term starting January 2013. Polling began at 6 a.m. local time (1030 GMT) and is set to close at around 6 p.m. local time (2230 GMT).

Also on Sunday, observer organization Education Assembly Election Watchdog Network (ROE-AE) reported five irregularities across the 567 polling stations it covers.

Venezuela

A boy jumps off a breakwater displaying photographs during the 2nd International Photography Festival at the Jaffa Port, Israel, on 7 Oct. 2012. Some 200 photographers and as many as 30 curators take part in the 2012 International Photography Festival, which has been helding at the Jaffa Port, Israel, from 2 to 8 October. According to the organizers, this year’s festival focuses on the theme of the environment, community, and art. Xinhua
**Education and motivation**

Literacy, the basic of all education, as the bedrock of intellectual capital is an indispensable minimum condition for national development. But this is not just sufficient in this increasingly complex modern world. While innovative approaches must be developed to increase knowledge dissemination through radio, TV or other means to literate adults with little or no formal education, there is a critical need to improve the present quality of education.

The recent public debate over quality of education reminds us that the majority of so-called educated population is lacking in professional expertise to keep pace with and take advantages of changes worldwide, leaving aside the high illiteracy rates at rural regions. Sweeping reforms are required to promote effectiveness of the entire educational institution, especially in the basic education sector to ensure the younger generation can effectively deal with the challenges of future world.

But, daunting challenges are just ahead of us on the path to national economic prosperity and global social entitlement and visible success would still be a castle in the air unless the present capacity of the working population, especially of the managerial level, is improved.

The demostivating affects of the defects in institutional structure have facilitated poor productivity and competitiveness of the working class, especially of the white-collar. Every performance would prove to be ineffective when there is a lack of any one of the elements of success—ability, motivation and opportunity. When one feels that there is no a glimmer of hope for personal achievement, even though he has fought tooth and nail, his confidence would erode over the time with no thirst for success.

Practical and creative approaches must be applied into knowledge delivery to help tap the potential intellectual ability of the youth who need to think freely without being restricted within the old ideological framework.

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**Union Religious Affairs Minister deals with religious matters**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Oct—** Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung on 6 October inspected the chosen site in Sinywawng, Sinywa Myinmu village-tract, Amarapura Township where Jade stupa and Jade Dhammayon are kept.

He then delivered an address at the coordination meeting of holding the 18th Sasa Sakasila Confering Ceremony and viewed titles and insignia.—MNA

**Palethwe paddy harvesting ceremony held in Mohnin**

**Mohning, 8 Oct—** The Palethwe hybrid paddy model farm harvesting ceremony at field No (326) in Mayingon village of Mohnin Township grown by farmer U Tun Shwe was held at the farm on 6 October, attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Kyaw Soe Lay, Deputy Commissioner U Myint Hlaine and departmental staff and farmers.

Per acre yield of Palethwe hybrid paddy is 157 baskets and necessary technical, pesticides and fertilizers were provided by Agriculture Department, said Staff Officer U Hlin Aung at the ceremony.

Farmer U Kyaw Maung from Mayingon village said his opinion to correspondent of the New Light of Myanmar that Palethwe hybrid paddy need to use more fertilizers and most farmers are eager to grow Hseinikari (3) paddy than Palethwe as it is marketable crops.

Each and every school of Mawlamyine holds Pathana Desana recitation ceremony

**Nay Pyi Taw, 8 Oct—** Under the supervision of Mawlamyine Education Family and donor retired Director U Khin Win of the Ministry of Industry and family, a ceremony to recite Pathana Desana and present prizes was held at Zekyozaytan Dhammayon, Mawlamyine on 30 September.

At the ceremony, U Khin Maung Win gave cash prizes to the first prize religious association winner of No.2 BEHS, the second prize religious association winner of BEMS (Sanygyi), the third prize religious association winner of No.11 BEHS, the fourth prize religious association winner of No. 10 BEHS and the fifth prize religious association winner of No.2 BEHS.

Donor U Khin Win and President U Thein Sein receives Chairman of Doosan Co Ltd of ROK Mr. YM Park.

(News on page 1) ——MNA

**Ambassador appointment agreed on**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Oct—** The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Vitezslav Grepl as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Czech Republic to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok.

Mr Vitezslav Grepl was born in 1956. He was graduated from Faculty of Philosophy, Prague in 1984 and got PhD (Linguistics) from Charles University, Prague in 1986. Mr Vitezslav Grepl joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and served as a Desk-Officer in Press Department (1991-1992). He has served as various capacities in Czech Embassies abroad and at the Foreign Ministry. He was appointed as Ambassador to Malaysia (2000-2004) and Ambassador to the People’s Republic of China (2004-2009). From 2009 to date he is Director General of Political Section of Non-European Countries and Development Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He is married and has two sons.—MNA
Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker ...

the Speaker called for making direct contacts with work committees and officials concerned for the success of the works. He urged those present to attend to the needs of Hluttaw representatives with care as they are peoples’ representatives. It would be the sign of showing respects to the people, he added. He called for friendly and open relations between the official concerned for the interest of the State and the Hluttaw.

NATIONAL

Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence

Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win receives Singaporean Military Attachés

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Oct—Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win received Military Attachés of the Republic of Singapore to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar this morning.

Container vehicle upside down

YANGON, 8 Oct—A container vehicle driven by Ye Zaw Tun of MITT Co. container vehicle driven by Ye Zaw Tun of MITT Co. container vehicle driven by Ye Zaw Tun of MITT Co. container vehicle driven by Ye Zaw Tun of MITT Co. container vehicle driven by Ye Zaw Tun of MITT Co.

from Thilawa Port to Diamond Star Flour Factory in Dagon Myothit (Seikka) Township occurred upside down at the junction of Maungmagan Kantha and Ayeyawun Roads in Dagon Myothit (South) Township at 1.30 pm on 4 October.

The driver managed escape from the incident. The Traffic Police Force opened a file of lawsuit against the driver.

Japanese investors set to make huge investments in Myanmar

As Myanmar has become a shining star on the international stage with a series of political and economic reforms, multinational entrepreneurs are looking to Myanmar to make massive investments. Especially, Japanese companies and entrepreneurs are shuttling between the two countries.

Under the arrangement of U Ye Htut, General Secretary of Myanmar-Japan Friendship Association, we have picked up the chance to interview Japanese entrepreneurs in Nay Pyi Taw. Here is the interview with Mr Kazuhiko Okinaka, General Secretary of The New Business Conference Kansai, on Myanmar-Japan mutual economic prospects and investments.

MNA: What makes you visit Myanmar?
KO: Most of Japanese entrepreneurs who are going to make investments.

MNA: What is your view on Myanmar’s initiatives to invite foreign investments?
KO: The people of this country are sincere, following the teachings of Buddha and adhering to Five Precepts. From my personal point of view, this is the best country. I think we lately find it. We, the Japanese companies, have invested in many factories in China. We look forward to invest more in Myanmar in the future.

MNA: What do you expect from the forthcoming foreign investment law?
KO: We hope it would be the best legislation for both potential foreign investors and Myanmar. Foreign investors including us are awaiting it. Why we are in Nay Pyi Taw today is to discuss it with officials. We are accompanied by entrepreneurs from small and medium enterprises including construction materials manufacturing, printing industry, real estate, plastic industry and pipe industry.

MNA: I would like to know the views of most of Japanese entrepreneurs on foreign economic prospects in Myanmar.
KO: Most of Japanese entrepreneurs who are going to invest in Myanmar have the same views that I have. They are thinking to make a considerable amount of investments in Myanmar. They are hoping to have a certain place in Myanmar after Foreign Investment Law was approved. I see Myanmar as a country that guarantees to do business safely.

MNA: What do you think of Thilawa Economic Zone which is in progress?
KO: I think it is a perfect opportunity for Japanese entrepreneurs.

MNA: What do you want to say about Myanmar?
KO: Now, Japanese entrepreneurs are making investments, particularly in neighbouring countries of Myanmar. Although it is impossible to draw back from there now, the situation is to make a gradual withdrawal in future. So they will come here soon after making decisions to invest in Myanmar. I would like to say Myanmar government and people to give a very warm welcome to us.

President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Chairman of Saemaul Undong Central Training Institute Mr Lee Jai Chung. (News on page 1) —MNA

News in Brief

Agricultural Machinery Operating Course commences

Agricultural Machinery Operating Special Course No 5/2012 was opened at Central Training School of Agricultural Mechanization Department on 5 October morning, with an address by Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing.

Development of SMEs, industrial zones discussed

The workshop on development of small- and medium-scale industries and upgrading of industrial zones took place at the meeting hall of Taninthayi Region Government in Dawei on 5 October.

Flag of Victory handed over

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe handed over flag of victory to Secretary of Region Organizing Work Committee for Performing Arts Competition U Myat Thu to take part in the 19th Myanmar National Races’ Traditional Performing Arts Competition.

World Teachers’ Day marked

World Teachers’ Day ceremonies were observed in Dawei of Taninthayi Region, Sitway of Rakhine State, Mawlamyine of Mon State, Loikaw of Kayah State and Taunggyi of Shan State on 5 October.

Social security law clarified

A clarification on implementation of new social security law and extension of social security project was made at the city hall in Monywa on 3 October. Chairman of Social Security Board U Yu Lwin Aung explained matters related to Social Security Rules and future tasks.

Players chosen for Universities’ football team

Outstanding footballers were picked out for Universities’ Selected Team to take part in the 16th ASEAN University Games to be held in Vientiane of Laos in December 2012, at the Universities’ football ground on Thaton Road in Kamayut Township on 4 and 6 October.

Spoken English course kicks off

Mon State Women’s Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee jointly opened spoken English course at Mawlamyine Township MCWA Office on 6 October morning. Faculty members from Mawlamyine University teach the trainees 10-week course.
Brazil ruling party struggles in big cities in municipal vote

BRASILIA, 8 Oct—Brazil’s ruling Workers’ Party clinched a runoff for the mayorship of the country’s biggest city on Sunday in municipal elections marked by fracturing relationships with coalition parties crucial to its grip on federal power since 2003.

Fernando Haddad, the left-leaning party’s candidate, dodged defeat in Sao Paulo after trailing a popular evangelical candidate and a veteran centrist in most of the polls before the vote.

Haddad was hand-picked to be a candidate by former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and received support from current President Dilma Rousseff, as their party, known by its Portuguese initials as the PT, seeks to begin transferring power to a younger generation of leaders.

The 49-year-old former education minister will now face Jose Serra, a centrist former minister and presidential candidate, in a runoff in three weeks.

The mayorship of Sao Paulo, like the top office in other big Brazilian cities, is considered a launching pad for national office. Top municipal offices are also lynchpins of regional power in a country, Latin America’s biggest, where democracy is marked by noisy and constant multi-party negotiations.

Sunday’s elections, for mayors and local council members in 5,500 cities across Brazil, took place with the backdrop of a historic corruption trial involving former aides to Lula, who is still considered Brazil’s most popular politician.

Voters also cast their ballots amid the most sluggish economy in once-booming Brazil since the PT came to dominate its political landscape.

Brazil’s Supreme Court is expected to convict Lula’s former chief of staff, Jose Dirceu, this week for running a vote-buying scheme that used public funds to shore up support for the PT-led coalition in the first two years of his 2003-2010 presidency.

Opposition politicians wielded the scandal around the “mensalao,” or big monthly payment, against PT candidates throughout the campaign.

Brazil

One person killed in mine blast in SE Turkey

ANKARA, 8 Oct—One person was killed and another wounded in a mine blast in southeastern Turkey on Sunday, private Dogan news agency reported.

The mine, probably planted by the outlawed Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK), exploded when a tractor hit the mine at Sennoba area of Uludere town of Sirnak Province, leaving the 18-year-old Turkish citizen dead and a village guard wounded, according to the report.

The wounded was taken to Sirnak State Hospital for medical treatment, said the report.

The PKK, listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the United States and the European Union, took up arms in 1984 in an attempt to create an ethnic homeland in southeastern Turkey.

Australia

Australian radio host faces withdrawal of ad after comment on PM’s late father

CANBERRA, 8 Oct—When Sydney radio talk show host Alan Jones told a Sydney University Liberal Club fundraiser a fortnight ago that Prime Minister Julia Gillard’s father “died of shame” because of her lies, he would not have expected that all the sponsors would withdraw from his show.

The Macquarie Radio Network which owns Jones’ high-rating Sydney 2GB breakfast show announced on Sunday it would be temporarily suspending all advertising on the show, after an “unprecedented focus” on the controversy over shock jock joshing mainstream and social media.

Jones confirmed the news in his programme on Monday morning.

After his comments on Gillard’s father were made known, Jones had immediately arranged a Press conference to publicly apologize and made a further “unambiguous and unconditional” apology on air last Tuesday.

Despite his damage-control efforts, more than 85,000 people signed a petition last week calling for his sacking, while the Facebook page Destroy the Joint urged followers to write to advertisers and “destroy Alan’s joint”.

By 2 October, more than a dozen sponsors including Woolworths, Coles, Mercedes-Benz and ING Direct had canceled or suspended advertising on his program, estimated to make around 2 million Australian dollars (2.04 million US dollars) a month for the radio network.

By 5 Oct, the network’s share price had dropped 14 percent.

Jenna Price, who set up the Facebook page Destroy the Joint, said: “We are thrilled with the reaction, but you can’t think that this is going to fix the problem.”

“I’m not a person who wants to sack Alan Jones. I want to re-educate Alan Jones,” she told the Australian Associated Press on Sunday.

Price launched the Facebook page about a month ago, following comments by Jones suggesting some female leaders were “destroying the joint”.

Australia’s Queensland Gov’t to sell 1.5 bn AUD worth of shares in QR National

BRISBANE, 8 Oct—Australia’s Queensland Government has confirmed it will sell 1.5 billion AUD dollars (1.52 billion US dollars) worth of shares in Australia’s largest rail freight operator QR National in a deal which will maximize benefits for Queensland taxpayers, Treasurer Tim Nicholls said on Monday.

The deal involves a sale of 1 billion AUD dollars of shares via a selective buyback to QR National and a 500 million AUD dollar placement to a small number of cornerstone investors.

Treasure Tim Nicholls said the deal was a great result for Queensland taxpayers as the price the Government achieved for the sale would see more funds available to pay down Labour’s legacy of debt.

The sell-off will reduce the Government’s stake in QR National from 33.9 percent to 16 percent.

Nicholls said the Queensland Government continued to be a significant shareholder in QR National.

“Whilst the Government will continue to review its investment in QR National, we have no current intention to sell any of our remaining shares in the near term,” he said in a statement.

Honda to recall 489,000 CR-Vs in US, Europe

TOROY, 8 Oct—Honda Motor Co said on Sunday it would recall about 489,000 CR-Vs sold in the United States and the Europe after finding rain water may enter the vehicles’ power window switch on the driver’s door, which could eventually cause the switch to overheat and catch fire.

The Japanese automaker will be recalling about 220,000 CR-V sport utility vehicles in Europe, around 268,000 units in the United States and fewer than 100 in Africa, a Honda spokesman said.

All the vehicles are produced between 2002 and 2006.

There have been reports of five switch fires, but no injuries have been reported related to the issue, the spokesman said.

The Japan’s third-largest automaker did not give estimated costs for the recall.

The recall follows Honda’s announcement on 1 Oct that it will recall around 600,000 Accord vehicles sold in North America to correct a fault discovered in power steering parts.

Violence claims 11 lives in Karachi, Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 8 Oct—At least 11 people were killed and seven others were injured in separate incidents of violence and target killings in Pakistan’s southern port city of Karachi over the last 24 hours, local media and police reported. Some unknown gunmen shot down a middle-aged man, Abbas Qureshi, on Sunday afternoon in Sarjani Town area of the city.

Police later confirmed that the deceased was an activist of a religious party, and his killing seemed to be an incident of sectarian attack.

A teenager was shot dead in Gulshan Iqbal area of the megacity while three others were gunned down the restive Lyari and Korangi areas.

At least five people were killed in Orangi town area of Karachi over the last 24 hours. Police also recovered mutilated body of an unknown woman from Kemari area of the city. At least ten people including two activists of Awami National Party were also injured in firing in separate incidents of gunfire in the city.
**Regional**

South East Asia splashes out on defence, mostly maritime

Indonesia is buying submarines and combat jets from Russia, while Singapore—Asia’s largest weapons importer—is adding to its sophisticated arsenal.

Singapore, 8 Oct—Indonesia is buying submarines from South Korea and coastal radar systems from China and the United States. Vietnam is getting submarines and combat jets from Russia, while Singapore—the world’s fifth-largest weapons importer—is adding to its sophisticated arsenal.

Wary of China and flush with economic success, Southeast Asia is ramping up spending on military hardware to protect the shipping lanes, ports and maritime boundaries that are vital to the flow of exports and energy.

Even for those countries that have not been a major focus for Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore.

“Economic development is putting them in a position to spend money on defence to protect their investments, sea lanes and exclusive economic zones,” said James Hardy, Asia Pacific editor of HIS Jane’s Defence Weekly.

“[The] biggest trend is in coastal and maritime surveillance and patrol,” As East Asia’s economies boomed, defence spending grew 42 percent in real terms from 2002 to 2011, data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) shows. High on the list are warships, patrol boats, radar systems and combat planes, along with submarines and anti-ship missiles that are particularly effective in denying access to sea lanes.

“Submarines are a big thing,” said Tim Huskey, executive director for Asia at the International Institute for Strategic Studies. “They can do immense damage without being seen, without being anticipated, and they can do that anywhere in the region.”

For decades, much of Southeast Asia spent little on weapons other than guns and small tanks.

Most threats were internal and the umbrella of US protection was deemed enough to ward off any potential aggression from overseas.

With China’s growing muscle and more funds available, the shopping lists are getting more sophisticated. Most countries in the region are littoral, so the emphasis is on sea and air-based defense.

NZ PM Key brushes off idea to print money to lower currency

Wellington, 8 Oct—New Zealand’s Prime Minister John Key brushed off suggestions by opposition party to print money to lower the country’s strong currency because it would create inflation and increase business costs.

“The latest idea of the Green (Party) to print money that is a pretty whacky idea,” Key told Television New Zealand on Monday.

“Printing money makes you rich. Zimbabwe would be the richest country on the planet if it’s not.” Key reiterated inflation remains the primary focus of the country’s monetary policy, adding that increasing money supply would raise inflation.

“That means your interest rates will go up. Your mortgage costs will go up, your business costs will go up. The costs of everything you buy will go up,” he said.

“It might bring your currency down, it might be a by-product of that, but it’s quite a cost and risk to the consumers.”

Key said New Zealand’s economy was not in a “bad shape”, adding that it was growing at one of the fastest rate in the countries grouped under OECD.

Two road accidents kill 19 in China

Beijing, 8 Oct—Two separate road accidents killed 19 people in China on Sunday as the weeklong National Day holiday ended.

In one case, 14 people were confirmed dead after a truck collided with a coach carrying passengers en route to a holiday destination.

The other accident occurred in the Beijing area.

“Four of the dead and injured in the accident are Hong Kong citizens, according to police. The causes of the accident are under investigation.”

India successfully testfies BrahMos supersonic cruise missile

New Delhi, 8 Oct—India on Sunday successfully testfired its BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from a warship off the coast of the western state of Goa, sources said.

“The testfiring was successful.”

The 290-km range missile was fired by the Indian Navy from INS Teg warship and it hit the target ship accurately on the Arabian Sea,” the sources said.

BrahMos, the world’s fastest cruise missile in operation, is capable of carrying a conventional warhead of 300 kg. The missile travels at speeds of 2.8 to 3.0 Mach.

The land-launched and ship-launched versions of the missile are already in service with air-launched and submarine-launched versions currently under testing phase.

The supersonic cruise missile project is actually a joint venture between India’s Defence Research and Development Organization and Russia’s NPO Mashino-stroeyenia.

World Bank revises down 2012 GDP growth estimate in E. Asia to 7.2%

Singapore, 8 Oct—The economy in the East Asian region excluding Japan will grow 7.2 percent in 2012, down 0.4 percentage point from a projection released in May, and stage a modest recovery next year, the World Bank said in an economic outlook report Monday.

The Washington-based lending agency attributed the downward revision in the region’s projected real gross domestic product growth to sluggish exports blamed on the eurozone debt crisis.

GDP growth in the region could recover to 7.6 percent in 2013 with weak exports being more than offset by brisk domestic demand, the World Bank said.

GDP growth in 2012 was pegged at 7.2 percent, compared to 7.4 percent in 2011.

5.8-magnitude quake hits northern Chile: USGS

Santiago, 8 Oct—A 5.8-magnitude earthquake jolted Antofagasta, northern Chile on Sunday night, the US Geological Survey said.

The quake occurred at 21:50 local time (0150 GMT Monday), with its epicenter at a depth of 115.3 km.

So far, there has been no report of casualties or damage.

Thousands of public servants walk off job across Australia’s New South Wales

Sydney, 8 Oct—More than 40,000 public servants have walked off the job across New South Wales (NSW) of Australia to protest against the state government’s planned job cuts, local media reported on Monday.

The Public Service Association (PSA), a union representing the government employees, authorized its members to stop work and attend mass meetings at more than 40 locations across the state on Monday morning.

PSA NSW General Secretary John Cahill said that thousands of workers in NSW are facing job cuts and cuts to conditions under the state government.

Hundreds of PSA members are rallying outside Sydney Town Hall, where a vote is to be held to determine whether to escalate industrial action, according to the Australian Associated Press (AAP) reports.

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In one case, 14 people were confirmed dead after a truck collided with a coach carrying passengers en route to a holiday destination.

The second coach rolled over into a trench alongside the expressway, which links Qingdao in Shandong to Yinchuan in northwest China’s Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.

Six people died on the spot. Eight died in hospital. Currently, six injured people are receiving treatment.

In another accident in Ningdu County of east China’s Jiangxi Province, five people died and two others were injured after a rear-end collision between a truck and a commercial vehicle at about 5 pm. The collision happened on a section of the expressway linking Jinan of Shandong and Guangzhou of south China’s Guangdong Province.

Four of the dead and injured in the accident are Hong Kong citizens, according to police. The causes of the accidents are under investigation.

China’s peak traffic season during the National Day holidays saw an extra surge of road travel as a result of the government’s new toll-free policy during public holidays for small passenger cars. According to statistics from the Ministry of Transport, a record of 80.87 million people traveled by road each day during the holidays, adding the total volume to 647 million.

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GDP growth in the region could recover to 7.6 percent in 2013 with weak exports being more than offset by brisk domestic demand, the World Bank said.

GDP growth in 2012 was pegged at 7.2 percent, compared to 7.4 percent in 2011.

5.8-magnitude quake hits northern Chile: USGS

Santiago, 8 Oct—A 5.8-magnitude earthquake jolted Antofagasta, northern Chile on Sunday night, the US Geological Survey said.

The quake occurred at 21:50 local time (0150 GMT Monday), with its epicenter at a depth of 115.3 km.

So far, there has been no report of casualties or damage.

Thousands of public servants walk off job across Australia’s New South Wales

Sydney, 8 Oct—More than 40,000 public servants have walked off the job across New South Wales (NSW) of Australia to protest against the state government’s planned job cuts, local media reported on Monday.

The Public Service Association (PSA), a union representing the government employees, authorized its members to stop work and attend mass meetings at more than 40 locations across the state on Monday morning.

PSA NSW General Secretary John Cahill said that thousands of workers in NSW are facing job cuts and cuts to conditions under the state government.

Hundreds of PSA members are rallying outside Sydney Town Hall, where a vote is to be held to determine whether to escalate industrial action, according to the Australian Associated Press (AAP) reports.

Two road accidents kill 19 in China

Beijing, 8 Oct—Two separate road accidents killed 19 people in China on Sunday as the weeklong National Day holiday ended.

In one case, 14 people were confirmed dead after a truck collided with a coach carrying passengers en route to a holiday destination.

The other accident occurred in the Beijing area.

“Four of the dead and injured in the accident are Hong Kong citizens, according to police. The causes of the accidents are under investigation.”

China’s peak traffic season during the National Day holidays saw an extra surge of road travel as a result of the government’s new toll-free policy during public holidays for small passenger cars. According to statistics from the Ministry of Transport, a record of 80.87 million people traveled by road each day during the holidays, adding the total volume to 647 million.

India successfully testfies BrahMos supersonic cruise missile

New Delhi, 8 Oct—India on Sunday successfully testfired its BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from a warship off the coast of the western state of Goa, sources said.

“The testfiring was successful.”

The 290-km range missile was fired by the Indian Navy from INS Teg warship and it hit the target ship accurately on the Arabian Sea,” the sources said.

BrahMos, the world’s fastest cruise missile in operation, is capable of carrying a conventional warhead of 300 kg. The missile travels at speeds of 2.8 to 3.0 Mach.

The land-launched and ship-launched versions of the missile are already in service with air-launched and submarine-launched versions currently under testing phase.

The supersonic cruise missile project is actually a joint venture between India’s Defence Research and Development Organization and Russia’s NPO Mashino-stroeyenia.
S Korea’s imported car sales hit new high in Sept

SOUTH KOREA

Imports of South Korean cars in September hit a new high last month due to continued demand for foreign luxury car models, data by the local trade association showed on Monday.

Sales of imported cars reached a fresh record high of 12,125 vehicles in September, topping the previous high of 11,782 units tallied in May, according to the Korea Automobile Importers and Distributors Association (KAIDA). The figure was up 20.6 percent from the same month last year, and was up 14.6 percent from a month earlier.

For the first nine months of this year, imported auto sales amounted to 95,706 units, up 20.1 percent from the same period last year, and was up 14.6 percent from a month earlier.

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September. This was followed by cars with an engine displacement of between two and three liters that accounted for 14.6 percent from the same month last year, and was up 20.6 percent from the same period last year. The double-digit growth trend was attributable for rising demand for luxury models and consumption tax cuts for cars. "The September imported car registration increased on an on-month basis due to launch of some new models, delivery of delayed orders and tax cut for cars," said Yoon Dae-sang, executive director of KAIDA.

German luxury carmaker BMW ranked first in terms of best-selling brand last month with 2,308 vehicles sold. It was followed by Mercedes-Benz with 2,062 units and Volkswagen with 1,831 units. Audi ranked fourth with 1,441 units sold and Toyota came next with 972 units.

The most popular model was Mercedes-Benz’s E300 model with 593 units sold to beat Camry manufactured by Toyota with 531 units sold. It was followed by BMW’s 520d with 515 units sold. By size, vehicles with an engine capacity of 2-liter or less were most popular, posting 48.5 percent market share in September. This was followed by cars with an engine displacement of between two and three liters that accounted for 33.1 percent of market share. —Xinhua

China tests world’s fastest alpine railway

HARBIN, 8 Oct — China on Monday showcased the world’s first alpine high-speed rail line, which threads through the country’s three northeastern provinces. A test train departed from Harbin West Station, located in the capital of Heilongjiang Province, Monday morning for Danian, a port city in Liaoning Province. With a trial speed averaging 300 km per hour, the train completed the 921-kilometer journey in about four hours.

Engineers with the railway project said the rail track built using cutting-edge technology can accommodate temperatures between 40 degrees Celsius below zero and 40 degrees Celsius above freezing. Trains will be able to run an average of 350 km per hour on the line after safety tests are conducted. They have adopted the eight-compartment CRH380B train model built by China Northern Railways.

The rail line, featuring 24 stations, is expected to go into normal operation by the end of the year. The populous northeastern provinces are known as China’s key industrial base, and the high-speed rail line is expected to ease the transportation bottleneck in the region. Harbin West, the line’s originating station, has been designed with 10 platforms with a combined dispatched passenger capacity of 7,000 passengers per hour at peak times. —Xinhua
Rihanna’s “Diamonds” reaches UK pop chart summit

**Singer Rihanna performs with dancers.** — Reuters

**NEW DELHI, 8 Oct—** Barbadian pop singer Rihanna climbed to the top of the British charts on Sunday with her new single “Diamonds”, ousting South Korean pop star Psy and his internet video sensation “Gangnam Style” from the number one spot.

Local boy band One Direction were new in third place with “Live While We’re Young”, while London-born singer Adele burst in at number four with the theme song for the latest James Bond film “Skyfall.”


British stadium rockers Muse shot to the summit of the album charts with their new release “The 2nd Law”, including the track “Survival”, the official song of London’s 2012 Olympic Games.

Boy band Overtones entered the charts at number six with their second album release “Higher”.

Veteran British rock band the Electric Light Orchestra re-entered the list at number 10 with their 2005 greatest hits compilation "All Over The World", matching up a 173rd week in the charts.

**Mila Kunis is thinking about converting to Kabbalah**

**New Delhi, 8 Oct—** The 34-year-old actor Ashton Kutcher is said to be determined to make his new relationship with his 29-year-old former That 70s Show co-star Mila Kunis getting serious and are even considering adopting a dog together.

An insider recently said: “Mila and Ashton have been touring shelters looking for an abandoned dog that needs a loving home. They have their hearts set on a big dog — either a golden retriever or a Labrador.” — Reuters

They have been separated women were separated (during the service), but they were clapping and praying. She was taking it all in. They were seen arriving at the centre holding hands on 18 September. Following the service, the Two and a Half Men actor reportedly “ran to embrace her.”

The 34-year-old actor began following the sect in 2003 with his now-estranged wife Demi Moore. The couple turned to a Kabbalah counselling centre in a bid to save their marriage after he cheated on her last year.

Ashton Kutcher is said to be determined to make his new relationship with his 29-year-old former That 70s Show co-star last.

The low-key couple — who started dating six months ago — are said to be getting serious and are even considering adopting a dog together.

An insider recently said: “Mila and Ashton have been touring shelters looking for an abandoned dog that needs a loving home.”

“...set on a big dog — either a golden retriever or a Labrador.” — PTI

James Bond car sells for nearly $400,000

**London, 8 Oct—** A 2008 Aston Martin car used by Daniel Craig in the James Bond movie Quantum of Solace has been sold in an auction of Bond movie memorabilia for 241,300 pounds (around $389,000), Christie’s auction house said.

The cost of the 2008 Aston Martin 6 litre V12 DBS 2 door coupe, which went to an anonymous buyer, was 1.5 times higher. The trading took place in the presence of 600 VIP guests, and many items of the auction were presented by the stars of the film.

Actress Jodie Dench, who plays M, presented one of the most poignant lots, a pair of blue trunks worn by Daniel Craig in the film Casino Royale. “All I can tell you, they are unwashed,” the actress said. The trunks were sold for 44,500 pounds and will be given to a charity fund Women For Women.

The second most expensive item in the auction was an Omega watch made of titanium and used by Craig in the upcoming James Bond movie Skyfall. The watch was expected to be sold for some 8,000 pounds but was sold for 157,300 pounds. Former Bond Roger Moore presented a musical score of the soundtrack for the same film signed by the British singer Adele, performer of the title track. The lot was sold for 13,800 pounds.

The total cost of 11 pieces was 752,100 pounds. All proceeds will go to various charitable organisations. The auction was held to mark the 50th anniversary of the first James Bond movie.

Kristen Stewart still in touch with Rupert Sanders

**London, 8 Oct—** Twilight star Kristen Stewart is reportedly still in contact with director Rupert Sanders.

The 22-year-old actress, who cheated on boyfriend Robert Pattinson with the married director, has been texting Sanders, reported Showbizspy.

“Atkins is saying all the right things to Rob, but she is not being totally honest with him. Rob made her promise to stop talking to Rupert, and she has broken that promise already. Kristen justifies it because, technically, she is not actually talking to him, so she feels like she is still keeping her word,” a source said. “Kristen swears she is only keeping in touch with Rupert because she feels sorry for him. His wife, Liberty Ross, has totally turned her back on him, and Kristen feels somewhat responsible for that.

“She does not want to hurt Rob, but she does not see the harm in exchanging text messages with Rupert so that he doesn’t feel so abandoned,” the source added. — PTI

**Reese Witherspoon is thrilled to have her new baby boy back home**

**New Delhi, 8 Oct—** The Water for Elephants actress welcomed baby Tennessee James — her first child with talent agent husband Jim Toth — on 27 September but they only returned home from the hospital in recent days.

A source told People.com: “Everyone is bonding with the baby. And Jim has had a lighter workload and has been spending a lot of time at home with the baby as well.”

“She definitely feels settled in her family life with Jim and her kids. They can’t wait to start life with their baby.”

Reese was spotted dining out with the newborn at Huckleberry Bakery and Cafeon Wednesday (03.10.12) in Santa Monica, California. Her husband Jim — whom she married in March 2011 after a year of dating — was not nervous about becoming a dad for the first time. — PTI
**SPRINGS**

**Messi, Ronaldo trade blows in 2-2 Clasico draw**

MADRID, 8 Oct—Real Madrid came away with a precious point after a goalless first half, a victory they needed to trim the gap to leaders Barcelona with the outstanding Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo each struck twice in an attritional 2-2 draw in La Liga on Sunday. A stuttering start by Jose Mourinho’s Real side had left them eight points behind their great rivals after six matches, threatening to derail their title defence before it had even got off the ground.

While they will take comfort from preventing Barca making it seven wins out of seven this term, they may feel they let slip an opportunity in the opening league ‘Clasico’ of the campaign after Ronaldo gave them a deserved 23rd-minute lead in front of almost 100,000 fans packed into an electric Nou Camp arena.

With millions more around the world watching the heavyweight clash, Messi levelled eight minutes later after a defensive lapse by Pepe and the Argentine World Player of the Year curled in a stunning free kick just after the hour to make it 2-1.

Barca twice came close to a winner in a frenetic finale when substitute Martin Montoya crashed a long-range effort against the crossbar in the 89th minute and Pedro dashed on to an Andres Iniesta pass in stoppage time only to fire wastefully wide.

“We were superior at times but it was a very even game,” Barca midfielder Sergio Busquets said in an interview with Spanish television.

“Everything is the way it was but with one match less,” added the Spain international.

Barcave’s 19 points from seven games, three ahead of unbeaten Atletico Madrid, who host third-placed Malaga in Sunday’s late kickoff.

Real, who have already lost twice, the same number of defeats as they suffered in the whole of last season, are fifth on 11 points. With the world’s two richest teams meeting in probably the biggest fixture in international club soccer, Messi and Ronaldo continued their personal goal-scoring duel on a balmy night in the Catalan capital.

Ronaldo’s goals made him the first player to score in six ‘Clasicos’ in a row, while Messi’s 16th and 17th strikes in a frenetic finale with a powerful low strike.

Barcelona’s Lionel Messi (R) and Real Madrid’s Cristiano Ronaldo fight for the ball during their Spanish first division soccer match at Nou Camp stadium in Barcelona, on 7 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

**Soccer**

**American goalkeeper Brad Friedel(L) and Spurs bring in Lloris**

LONDON, 8 Oct—American goalkeeper Brad Friedel’s record run of consecutive Premier League appearances ended on Sunday when French international Hugo Lloris was preferred for Tottenham Hotspur’s home game against Aston Villa. Friedel, 41, has not missed a top-flight game since the end of the 2003-04 season, a sequence of 310 successive matches for Spurs and former clubs Villa and Blackburn Rovers.

Lloris joined Spurs from Olympique Lyon on the last day of the transfer window in August for a transfer fee of 12 million pounds.

Former US international Friedel has featured in three World Cup squads.

**Tennis**

**Azarenka overwhems Sharapova to claim career first-ever China Open title**

BEIJING, 8 Oct—China Open witnessed a new female champion this year as Victoria Azarenka easily cruised past Maria Sharapova of Russia in the 2012 China Open tennis tournament held in Beijing, capital of China, on 7 Oct, 2012. Azarenka won 2-0 and claimed the title.—XINHUA

Neither player has dropped a set en route to the final as Azarenka has dropped 21 games and Sharapova 26, but the final didn’t turn out to be a close match-up as Azarenka led a 68% to 57% first serve points won percentage and 50% higher—29% second.

Azarenka enjoyed a decent start with 4-0 by breaking Sharapova’s serve in the opening set before the second seed closed it 3-5 as the world No1 answered another break to take the set at 6-3 within 42 minutes.

With one set in hand, Azarenka started to call the shots in the second to storm to a 5-1 lead, while the Russian sweet found it hard to get the match back as Azarenka sealed the victory at 6-1.

West Indies beat Sri Lanka to clinch World Twenty20 title

COLOMBO, 8 Oct—West Indies were crowned the World Twenty20 champions after beating hosts Sri Lanka by 36 runs in a bowler-dominated final at the R Premadasa Stadium on Sunday.

Sri Lanka restricted West Indies to 137 for 7 to wickets to boost their chances of winning their maiden World Twenty20 title but the dream did not materialise as they were shot out for 101 runs in 44 overs. Chris Gayle was the pick of the West Indies bowlers, claiming three for nine runs to cap his excellent run in the tournament.—Reuters

**Cricketer**

**Kieron Pollard plays a shot during their World Twenty20 final match cricket match against Sri Lanka in Colombo on 7 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS**

Victoria Azarenka of Belarus holds the trophy during the ceremony for the women’s singles final against Maria Sharapova of Russia at the 2012 China Open tennis tournament held in Beijing, capital of China, on 7 Oct, 2012.—XINHUA

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**West Indies’ Kieron Pollard plays a shot during their World Twenty20 final match cricket match against Sri Lanka in Colombo on 7 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS**
Japanese firm, Indian textile giant to develop rayon for global markets

KOLKATA, 8 Oct—Japanese firm Omikenshi and India’s textile giant Aditya Birla Group’s flagship company Grasim Industries has entered into an agreement to develop new international technology together and manage the increased production anticipated as they enter new markets. However, the financial details of the agreement are yet to be revealed.

In addition to specific products at the core of the agreement, the two companies are also to explore future collaboration through a joint research and development programme.—Xinhua

Kenyans sweep Buenos Aires marathon

BUENOS AIRES, 8 Oct—Kenyan’s Eric Lusaka Nzioki won the Buenos Aires marathon Sunday, beating out a record 8,135 runners, and leading his country’s clean sweep of the top three spots.

The number of participants in this year’s 42-kilometer run surpassed last year’s 7,225, setting a new record for the annual event through the streets of Argentina’s capital.

Nzioki won with a time of 2:12:05, followed by fellow Kenyans Patrick Wachira Muriuki (2:13:12) and Robert Mutu Mwangi (2:14:43).

In the women’s race, Kenya’s Lucy Karimi won the top spot with a time of 2:41:38, followed by compatriot Frasiah Nyambura Wathika (2:41:42) and Argentina’s Andrea Graciano (2:49:22).

The Buenos Aires city government helped organize the event put on by the Nandu Foundation with the sponsorship of mobile phone company Claro and athletics-gearmaker Adidas. The long-distance race forms part of the international circuit recognized by the IAAF (International Association of Athletics Federations) and the AMIS (Association of International Marathons), according to the city’s Sports Under-secretariat.—Xinhua

Anti-tank mine explosion kills three farmers, injures 3 others in northwestern Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 8 Oct—Three Cambodians have been killed and three others seriously injured in an old anti-tank mine explosion in the country’s Battambang Province, police confirmed on Monday.

The explosion happened at 4:40 pm (local time) when a home-made tractor ran over an anti-tank mine in Samlot district, Battambang province, about 300 kilometers northwest of Phnom Penh, Nguon Nuy, deputy police chief of Samlot district said. “All of them are farmers. They trucked corn from their farms and met the incident,” he told Xinhua over telephone, adding that the mine was likely to be planted during the chronic war in the 1980s. “The area is a former battlefield and landmines have not been cleared from the area yet,” he said.

This is the second remarkable mine explosion incident in the province in less than two weeks. The first one occurred on 30 Sept, in which six people were killed and two others seriously injured.

Cambodia is one of the countries suffered worst from mines as the result of nearly three decades of war and internal conflicts from the mid-1960s until the end of 1998.

The country’s five most mine-laid provinces are Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Oddar Meanchey, Preah Vihear and Pursat. According to the government report, during the first eight months of this year, landmines killed 26 people and injured 101 others. It is estimated that the country needs about 30 million US dollars a year to make the year 2020 entirely rid of mines.—Xinhua

Russia unveils torch relay route of 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics

MOSCOW, 8 Oct.—Russia on Sunday unveiled the torch relay route of the 2014 Winter Olympics to be held in Black Sea resort City of Sochi, saying the longest-ever relay would be launched within 12 months in the country.

The 123-day relay will run across some 65,000 kilometers from Russia’s westmost exclave of Kaliningrad to the frozen Chukotka in the Far East, more than one and a half times the circumference of the Earth. According to Dmitry Chernyshenko, president of the Organizing Committee of the Sochi Games, the main task of the relay was to unite the whole country.

“We have to fulfill a responsible and ambitious task — to unify our country’s spirit and rediscover the diversity and beauty of Russia, first of all, for ourselves,” Chernyshenko said. “We want to allow every people to feel as a part of the Olympic movement and every town to become an Olympic host for a short time,” he said.

By tradition, the Olympic flame will be lit during a ceremony in Olympia, Greece, on Sunday and reach Moscow on 7 Oct, 2013 to begin the relay.

Chernyshenko revealed the relay route covered all 83 Russian regions, adding that the flame would even reach the bottom of the world’s deepest Lake Baikal in Siberia.

“Our task is to do our utmost to show the Olympic flame to 90 percent of Russians,” he said. More than 14,000 torchbearers and some 30,000 volunteers will accompany the flame.

A total of 130 million Russian residents out of the 141-million population were expected to see the flame. The Sochi Olympics will be opened on 7 Feb, 2014 and run until 23 Feb.—Xinhua
NAY PYI TAW, 8 Oct—A coordination meeting on holding the fifth regular sessions of Hluttaw was held at Zabuthiri Hall of Hluttaw Building here this morning with an address by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann.

Also present were Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein, members of central committee for holding Hluttaw sessions Union ministers and deputy ministers, work committee members and officials of Hluttaw Office.

In his opening address, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann said that Hluttaw sessions had been convened successfully up to fourth regular session. He expressed thanks to central committee members and officials concerned for giving helping hands for successfully holding of Hluttaw sessions.

He called on respective committees to help facilitate matters of security, accommodation, transportation and health care of Hluttaw representatives at the fifth regular session to be held on 18 October. Next, Union Minister for Home Affairs Li-Gen Ko Ko reported on security matters, and Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi on informational tasks, Union Minister for U Thein Nyunt on accommodation, Union Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thein Tun on soundproof system, button of voting machine and telecommunication works, Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung and Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Zeya Aung on transportation, Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin on preparations for the seating, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung on catering, Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Aung Than on electrical matters and Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint on health care service.

Then, Secretary of Union Election Commission U Win Ko and Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein explained general matters. In his concluding remarks, (See page 9)

Baseball: Nishi throws no-no in final game of regular season

FUKUOKA, 8 Oct—Orix right-hander Yuki Nishi saved his best for last—literally. The 21-year-old Nishi pitched a no-hitter against the Softbank Hawks in a 3-0 victory in the Buffaloes’ final game of the regular season on Monday afternoon at Yahoo Dome.

The fourth-year Mie native, who was one walk away from a perfect game, became the third pitcher to throw a no-hitter this season and the 76th in Japanese baseball history. He is only the 26th to achieve the feat in the Pacific League.

Water level forecast for second 10 days of October

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Oct—The water levels of Ayeyawady River are forecast to rise above the present water level by (45) cm (about 1 ½-feet) at Myitkyina, Bhamo and Katha, (120) cm (about 4-feet) at Mandalay, Sagaing, Pakokku and Nyaung U, and (60) cm (about 2-feet) at Chauk, Minbu, Magway, Aungm, Pyay, Sekitha, Hinthada and Zalun.

The water levels of Chindwin River are forecast to rise above the present water levels by (60) cm (about 2-feet) at Hkamti and Homalin, and (90) cm (about 3-feet) at Mawlaik, Kalewa and Monywa, according to Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and party pose for documentary photo with Vice Chairman Mr Masayuki Matsushita of Osaka-based Kansai Economic Federation (Kankeiren) and party.—MNA

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Australian researchers to develop a cream against skin cancer

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Hacking victims pressure

British PM on media rules

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