President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Spanish King

NAV PVT TAW, 12 Oct—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty King Juan Carlos I of the Kingdom of Spain, on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Spain, which falls on 12 October 2012.—MNA

President U Thein Sein felicitates Spanish Prime Minister

NAV PVT TAW, 12 Oct—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Mariano Rajoy Brey, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Spain, on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Spain, which falls on 12 October 2012.—MNA

ROK’s STX shows interests to invest in Myanmar

NAV PVT TAW, 11 Oct—President U Thein Sein visited STX Shipyard in Busan yesterday morning. Accompanied by delegation members, the President left Seoul for Busan by train at 9 am local time.

On their arrival at the shipyard of STX Shipbuilding, Chairman of STX Group Company Mr. Kang Duk Soo explained functions of the company and expressed his interest in shipbuilding and electricity sector of Myanmar.

The President invited him to invest in three special economic zones which are underway in Myanmar and to make a mutual cooperation in solar power generation for supply of electricity to rural areas, infrastructural development and dockyards.

The STX Group chairman responded that he would like to make detailed studies in Myanmar. Next, the President and party viewed round shipyard and Pusan New Port International Terminal in Busan in a motorcade.

Based in the Republic of Korea, China and Europe, STX Shipbuilding Company established in 1962 manufactures cargo vessels, vessels used in offshore oil drilling, cruiseliners and naval ships. It is the fourth largest shipbuilder in the ROK, investing 14.5 trillionwon in shipbuilding. The company has built 700 ships during the period of forty years in Busan and Jinhae. Apart from shipbuilding, it is dealing with the sectors of energy, construction, heavy industry and renewable energy.

The President and party arrived back Incheon Airport by special flight in the afternoon and left for Myanmar via Bangkok in the evening.

The President and delegation members were seen off at the airport by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of the ROK and senior officials, Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Kim Hae Yong, Myanmar Ambassador to the ROK U Nyunt Hlaing, Military (See page 8)

Rural Development Bank ready for rural development tasks

PAGE 9

Romney takes slight lead over Obama in presidential race

PAGE 3

UK lawmaker splashes out on English sparkling wine

PAGE 5

High tide warning in Yangon River

NAV PVT TAW, 11 Oct—The public are hereby informed that exceptionally high Spring of from 20.5 feet to 21.2 feet high above the datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period from 15th to 19th October 2012.

That it is not serious because the high tide have reached up to 21.7 feet high above datum in the year 2010 and 2011, and that the warming is issued only because high tide reaches over 20 feet high above datum, the Myanmar Port Authority announced.—MNA

Han Golf Masters Junior Golf Series 2012-2013 Golf tourney kicks off

YANGON, 11 Oct—First round of Han Golf Masters Junior Golf Series 2012-2013 Golf Tournament, organized by Myanmar Golf Federation (MGF) and mainly sponsored by Han Golf Masters Pte., Ltd, was held at Myanmar Golf Club (9th Mile), here, this morning.

Han Golf Masters Pte., Ltd CEO U Chan Han presented gift to Myanmar Golf Club through Secretary U Aung Pe. MGF Executive U Myat Khaing presented special prizes to Si Thu Aye and Aung Cho Min who won the Ne Nearest to the Pin awards. After that, Myanmar Golf Club Executive U Tin Win, MGF Executive U Ko Ko Lay, Han Golf Masters Pte., Ltd, CEO U Chan Han and MGC Club Captain U Soe Win awarded the winners. Tournament sponsor is Aung Kanbo Trading Ltd and co-sponsor, Imperial Jade Purified Drinking Water.—MNA

Myanmar National Parasports Meet 20-25 Oct

YANGON, 11 Oct—Under the supervision of Ministry of Sports, Myanmar Parasports Federation will organize the 24th Myanmar National Parasports Meet in Yangon from 20 to 25 October.

The track & field event will be held at Aung San Stadium from 20 to 22 October, swimming at National Swimming Pool on U Wisara Road at 8 am on 23 October and table tennis at the table tennis hall at 1 pm the same day, volleyball at Aung San Gymnasium at 7 am on 24 October and badminton at National Badminton Gymnasium on Kyangyi Road at 7 am, chess for the blind at the hall of Myanmar Chess Federation of Aung San Stadium from 21 to 24 October and golf at Tatmadaw Golf Club at 6.30 am on 25 October.—Kyemon
Coord meeting on implementation of agreements between Union level Peace Making Group and Shan State Progressive Party held

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct — At the coordination meeting on implementation of agreements between Union level Peace Making Group and Shan State Progressive Party (SSPP) Peace Group yesterday afternoon, U Aung Min, Vice-Chairman of Union level Peace Making Work Committee, said that every citizen wants to enjoy their citizen’s rights fully; they were here to make sure equality of all nationalities. It is required to inform grassroots of the results of the peace making meeting.

Vice-Chairman U Thein Zaw also said that the government would provide all nationalities who fled the country due to various reasons with necessary assistances to be able to resume their livelihoods as peace and stability prevail in the country. It is required to set up committee and work committees to carry out rehabilitation tasks effectively. He stressed the need for collaborative efforts for the success of these tasks.

General Secretary U Khun Hsaoing of Shan State Progressive Party made a vow never to secede from the Union and pledged to join hand in hand with the government for achieving eternal peace without backsliding. Genuine Union spirit would be the basis for eternal peace, he added.

Shan State Chief Min. U Sao Aung Myat, Commanders Brig-Gen Aung Soe, Brig-Gen Min Naung, the committee of Shan State Progressive Party/Shan State Army exchanged views on matters related to regional peace and stability and rehabilitation works.

Next, those present held comprehensive discussions on resettlement of over 3500 people including family members of Shan State Progressive Party/Shan State Army in Mong Kaung sub-Township and Mongsu Township, tasks for livelihoods of family members, transportation, better living standards and regional development tasks and reclamation of vacant and virgin lands for cultivation of perennial trees and seasonal crops.

After reaching initial agreements with Shan State Progressive Party/Shan State Army, the government will join hands with SSPP in perpetual peace process.

Next, The vice-chairmen and officials handed over two power-tillers to be used in cultivation of alternative crops, farm equipment, paddy seeds and hybrid corns presented by the President and jackets by Union level Peace Making Committee to officials concerned.—MNA

MMCWA organizes welfare activities in Chin, Sagaing

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct — Chairperson of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Mon Mon Aung and CEC members went to Falam and Haka townships of Chin State and Kalay Township in Sagaing Region on 9 and 10 October to discuss and exchange views on function of the association with region/state maternal and child health care supervisory committees, making recommendation.

The chairperson and party visited Falam People’s Hospital, Haka People’s Hospital, Kalay People’s Hospital, and labour centres of the association and donated medicines and cash assistance. They also visited kindergartens of the association, Parahita monasteries, nurseries, and homes for the aged and presented cash and clothes. The donation amounted to K 2 million. Member of executive board Daw Thet Thet Swe and joint-secretary-2 Daw Jo Jo San accompanied the chairperson on her tour.—MNA

Myanmar Alin

The Mirror

As of 18 October

Three newspapers will be published in colour in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay daily.

Myanmar Alin and the Mirror will be in circulation in Yangon every other week.

Publication of all newspapers in colour will be in mid-December.

There will be no change in prices. Agents are requested not to rise the original paper prices. Colour advertisements are invited.

Old and new agents and newspaper readers may give order to purchase newspapers to publishing houses.

Colour newspapers with new forms will be presented to the public soon for disseminating a wide range of knowledge as public servicing.

Political parties applied for registration

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct — Union Election Commission has been scrutinizing and allowing the formation of political parties to the UEC. Myanmar Farmers’ Development Party has applied for registration as political party today.—MNA

FM felicitates Spanish Counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Oct — U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Joes Manuel Garcia-Margallo Y Marfil, Minister for Foreign Affairs & Cooperation of the Kingdom of Spain, on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Spain, which falls on 12 October 2012.—MNA

Myanmar stands third in Asian Body-building and Physique Sports Championship

YANGON, 11 Oct — A Myanmar sports team participated in the 46th Asian Body-building and Physique Sports Championship held in Guangzhou of the People’s Republic of China on 22 and 23 September. Myanmar team secured the third prize and one prize of honour.

Over 250 contestants from 22 countries took part in the (up to 160 cm) model physique contest and Aye Aye Soe of Myanmar stood third. Wut Yi Phyo of Myanmar stood fifth as prize of honour.

Myanmar body-builder Soe Moe Aung could not stand any position in the men’s 65-kilo event.

Myanmar Alin

On 9 October, 24 donors collectively donated Diathermy worth K 2137,000 to Mohnyin District Hospital through District Medical Superintendent Dr Thin Thin Hlaing.—NLM-001
Turkey briefly detains Syrian plane as tension heightens

DAMASCUS, 11 Oct.—Turkey scrambled fighters and briefly detained a Syrian passenger plane on Wednesday, suspecting it of carrying military equipment from Moscow, while Turkey’s military chief warned of a more forceful response if shelling continued to spill over the border. Military jets escorted the Damascus-bound Airbus A-320, carrying around 30 passengers, into the airport in Ankara hours after Turkey’s chief of staff said his troops would respond with greater force if bombardments from Syria kept hitting Turkish territory, Turkish state-run television said.

“We are determined to control weapons transfers to a regime that carries out such brutal massacres against civilians. It is unacceptable that such a transfer is made using our airspace,” Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said. “Today we received information this plane was carrying cargo of a nature that could not possibly be in compliance with the rules of civil aviation,” he said in Athens during an official visit, in comments broadcast live on Turkish television. The Turkish authorities had seized some of the cargo, Davutoglu told reporters later in televised remarks. He said Turkey was within its rights to investigate planes suspected of carrying military materials but declined to say what was in the seized cargo.—Reuters

Syria-Turkey border tension unlikely to evolve into war

DAMASCUS, 11 Oct.—The cross-border tension between Syria and Turkey, which has been gaining momentum since last week, is unlikely to amount to a full-fledged war between both countries, in part due to the willingness by both sides of avoiding a wider Middle East conflict, analysts said.

“Syria is now facing both fierce fights with opposition rebels and border tension with Turkey, following the Turkish army’s bombardment on some targets in Syria in retaliation to the Syrian shelling of a Turkish border town that killed five civilians during clashes between Syrian army and rebels on border towns. The Turkish government said recently that it would not stand idle before such kinds of ‘provocations’ from the Syrian regime, while the Turkish parliament authorized a mandate to approve cross-border military action in Syria in response to the death of five civilians. Turkey’s Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said his country has no intention to start war in the region, but cautioned Damascus not to test Turkey’s “limits and determination.”

Syria also responded by saying that the border tension should be handled with “wisdom and prudence.” Still, the border skirmishes have continued for the ensuing six days but with no reports of casualties or injuries. With those facts in hand, Syrian analysts and political experts expressed conviction that the recent tension between both countries would not evolve into a war due to a brew of international political complications and worries over unleashing a wider Middle East conflict with regional powers in the mix. Hamdi al-Abdallah, a political expert, said a full-blown war is unlikely mainly because “such a war would have devastating repercussions not only on both countries but on the region as a whole.”

“Both countries possess huge military capabilities that would deal great destruction on both of them,” he told Xinhua in a phone interview. Another analyst, George Gabbour, also brushed off the war scenario, pointing out that Turkey has so many inner problems and issues to deal with which would prevent it from waging a war on Syria. “The recent border tension will not last for long,” he told Xinhua. On his part, Faraq al-Hajji, a political activist, told Xinhua that the “picture is not nice on the borders due to the anticipation, anxiety and caution.”—Xinhua

Venezuela’s Chavez names Maduro vice-president

CARACAS, 11 Oct.—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez named Foreign Minister and former bus driver Nicolas Maduro as his new vice president on Wednesday in a Cabinet shake-up following his comfortable re-election. Maduro, 49, replaces Elias Jaua, who will run for the governorship of Miranda state against defeated presidential candidate Henrique Capriles in the South American OPEC member’s December gubernatorial elections.

An ex-union leader on the public bus service and foreign minister since 2006, Maduro has long been seen as a possible successor to Chavez along with several other senior allies. He was frequently at his side in the most critical moments of Chavez’s year of cancer treatment since mid-2011. The possibility of a recurrence of the disease hangs over Chavez despite a surprisingly vigorous campaign before his convincing 11-point win on Sunday.

Should Chavez’s cancer reappear and force him out of office within the first four years of his six-year term, the vice president would serve temporarily as president before a new election. If Chavez left office in the final two years, the vice president would serve out the rest of the term. Chavez, 58, has ruled Venezuela since 1999. —Reuters

Venezuela’s Foreign Minister Nicolas Maduro attends a news conference in Caracas, in this 2 May, 2012 file photo. —Reuters

World Bank, ADB to write off Myanmar’s overdue debt from Jan

TEGUCIGALPA, 11 Oct.—The Asian Development Bank and the World Bank, Myanmar’s second and third largest creditors, will start writing off the Southeast Asian country’s overdue debt to them in January. Japan’s Finance Minister Koriki Jojima said on Thursday. Jojima made the remark at the start of a meeting of officials from Myanmar and its main creditors held in Tokyo to discuss how to settle roughly $900 million in overdue debt in order to help the Southeast Asian country’s economic development.

The meeting, hosted by Japan on the sidelines of the annual meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, is aimed at paving the way for the international community to start providing full-fledged development assistance to the long-isolated country. The settlement of Myanmar’s debt to the World Bank and the ADB has been eagerly awaited by Japan, Myanmar’s largest creditor. Tokyo has already agreed to settle Myanmar’s roughly 500 billion yen debt to it but has yet to implement the debt reprofiling. In his remarks at the outset of the meeting, Jojima called for international support for Myanmar’s economic development. —MNA/Kyodo News

Middle East

Republic presidential nominee Mitt Romney waves after speaking at a campaign stop at Bun's Restaurant in Delaware, Ohio on 10 Oct, 2012.—Reuters
Nobel for quantum “parlor trick” that could make super computers

STOCKHOLM, 11 Oct— A French and an American scientist won the Nobel Prize in physics on Tuesday for finding ways to measure quantum particles without destroying them, which could make it possible to build a new kind of computer far more powerful than any seen before.

Serge Haroche of France and American David Wineland, both 68, found ways to manipulate the very smallest particles of matter and light to observe strange behavior that previously could only be imagined in equations and thought experiments. Wineland once described his own work as a “parlor trick” that performed the seemingly magical feat of putting an object in two places at once. Other scientists praised the achievements as bringing to life the wildest dreams of science fiction.

“The Nobel laureates have opened the door to a new era of experimentation with quantum physics by demonstrating the direct observation of individual quantum particles without destroying them,” said the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which awarded them the $1.2 million crown ($1.2 million) prize.

“Perhaps the quantum computer will change our everyday lives in this century in the same radical way as the classical computer did in the last century.”

Physics is the second of this year's crop of awards; scientists from Britain and Japan shared the first prize on Monday, in medicine, for adult stem-cell research. The prizes, which reward achievements in science, literature and peace, were first awarded in 1901 in accordance with the will of Swedish dynamite millionaire Alfred Nobel.

This year’s Nobel Prize recognizes some of the most incredible experimental tests of the weirder aspects of quantum physics. It was won by 68-year-old theoretical physicist Ahmed Al-Khalili, professor of physics at the University of Surrey in Britain.

UK to issue guidelines on policing social media

LONDON, 11 Oct— Britain’s Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is holding discussions on laws governing social media, with the aim of publishing guidelines by Christmas, after a flurry of cases concerning inflammatory Twitter and Facebook comments.

Police have expressed concern at the growing number of such cases they are being called on to investigate. This week alone, two people have been sentenced for social media offences. Teenager Matthew Woods was sentenced on Monday to 12 weeks in prison for offensive jokes on Facebook about missing Welsh five-year-old April Jones.

A day later, Ashar Ahmed, 20, was given 240 hours of community service after writing “all of me love” and “let’s go to hell” on Facebook following the death of six British soldiers in Afghanistan.

The CPS has invited academics, media lawyers, bloggers and the police to participate in a month-long discussion.

Lenovo knocks HP off top of global PC market

SAN FRANCISCO, 11 Oct— China’s Lenovo Group Ltd edged out Silicon Valley icon Hewlett-Packard Co to become the world’s No.1 PC maker in the third quarter, according to new data released by research house Gartner on Wednesday.

A rival to Gartner, IDC, still ranks HP in the lead—but by less than half a percentage point—in terms of PC shipments worldwide. Both studies reinforce HP’s struggles against rivals as new CEO Meg Whitman tries to overhaul the stalled 73-year-old company.

Worldwide shipments of personal computers fell over 8 percent last quarter, according to both research firms, which blamed myriad factors including retailers and vendors ridding themselves of older inventory ahead of the launch of Microsoft's Windows 8 operating system, the growing popularity of mobile gadgets like tablets, and a slowing economy.

PC demand growth has crumbled over the past year as more consumers flock to ultra-portable and increasingly powerful tablets and smartphones for basic computing. The new data show that Lenovo, Acer and other Asian PC makers are taking share away from US competitors HP and Dell, which held on to the No 3 spot in the quarter.

REUTERS
UK lawmaker splashes out on English sparkling wine

Former Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party, Lord Ashcroft (C), listens as London Mayor Boris Johnson delivers his keynote speech at the Conservative Party conference in Birmingham, central England on 9 Oct, 2012.— Reuters

WASHINGTON, New York, 11 Oct — The collapse of the proposed merger between BAE Systems Plc and EADS will shift the focus to smaller deals among global weapons makers as companies strive to keep revenue rising in the face of cuts in military spending by the United States and Europe.

"The good news is that Chinese solar makers can give a fair chance to other forms of energy generation," said EL "Mick" McDaniel, managing director of Suntech America, a division of one of China’s biggest solar manufacturers.

"Psychiatric department in China offers 1.58 beds per 10,000 people, while governments in China offer 1.58 beds per 10,000 people, while China’s health authorities have not yet set standard procedures for screening for early-stage dementia, she said. Cost is also a factor that needs consideration, Kong said, "Early-stage diagnosis is, obviously, important."

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After BAE-EADS — small deals, not mega-mergers

BAE Systems Plc and EADS will shift the focus to smaller deals among global weapons makers as companies strive to keep revenue rising in the face of cuts in military spending by the United States and Europe.

"The reason for this trend could be a risk factors such as diabetes, hypertension and high blood cholesterol," said study author Brett Kissela, with the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine in Ohio. "Other factors, such as improved diagnosis through the increased use of MRI imaging may also be contributing."

For the study, researchers looked at occurrences of strokes in people between the ages 20 and 54 in the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky area during three separate, one-year-long periods between July of 1993 and June of 1994, and the calendar years of 1999 and 2005. Only first ever strokes were included in the analysis. The study found that the average age of people who experienced stroke fell from 71 years in 1993 and 1994 to 69 years in 2005. In addition, the study found that strokes among people under 55 made up a greater percentage of all strokes over time, growing from about 13 percent in 1993-94 to 19 percent in 2005. The
Six insurgents killed in eastern Afghan operations

**Afghanistan**

Karzai, 11 Oct — Afghan forces and the NATO-led coalition troops have killed six insurgents in operations in eastern Afghan provinces with a 24-hour period, the NATO-led coalition forces said on Wednesday.

The Afghan and coalition forces killed six insurgents, detained five, located a weapons cache and cleared eight improvised explosive devices (IEDs) during operations in eastern Afghanistan throughout the past 24 hours, the coalition’s Regional Command- East (RC-E) said in a statement.

The operations were launched in eastern Ghaniar, Logar, Pakhtika and the neighbouring Kohst provinces, it said. Operations in RC-East are still ongoing, it said.

Taliban militants, who have been waging an insurgency of more than one decade, have often attacked Afghanistan and about 60,000 NATO-led forces in the country on Tuesday.

— Xinhua

FedEx seeks $1.7 billion profit improvement over four years

**US**

New York, 11 Oct — FedEx Corporation Tuesday said it plans to sharply cut costs at its underperforming express and freight and services divisions, seeking to improve profits at those operations by $1.7 billion over the next four years.

The world’s second-largest package delivery company last month cut its 2013 profit forecast, blaming a growing shift by corporate customers to shipping goods by sea rather than air due in part to increases in jet fuel prices and in part to slowing economic growth.

“We intend to improve annual profitability substantially in our FedEx Express segment,” Chief Executive Fred Smith said, speaking at a dinner with investors and analysts in Memphis that was broadcast over the Internet. He said the benefits of those efforts would start to show next year, adding that the profit improvements, which will be mainly due to cost cuts, and further details will be laid out at an all-day investor meeting. Smith also told investors he intended to raise dividends in the years to come.

FedEx shares closed with a larger rival United Parcel Service Inc., saw its profit in the first quarter of the 2013 year take a hit from the performance of FedEx’s express segment. The segment’s operating earnings fell 28 percent, with US $0.55c deliveries were down 5 percent.

The annual Frieze Art Fair will go ahead as usual in London at the cutting edge of the contemporary art world every October, is that there is so much art around.

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London art bonanza looks to past to bolster future

**Art**

London, 11 Oct — A Polish man has been charged with criminal damage after a painting by Russian-American artist Mark Rothko was defaced in London’s Tate Modern museum, police said on Tuesday.

Wlodzimierz Umaniec, 26, who also knows a Vladimir Umanets, is accused of damaging Rothko’s 1958 canvas “Black on Maroon” on Sunday.

The words “Vladimir Umanets, a potential piece of yellowism” were daubed in black onto the bottom-right corner of the painting. Witnesses said a man calmly approached the Rothko painting in the Tate before marking it. The museum said it would be repaired by an in-house team of experts.

Rothko, a key figure in 20th century abstract painting whose works sell at auction for tens of millions of dollars, was commissioned to paint the Seagram Murals in the 1950s for the Four Seasons restaurant in New York. Several of them ended up in the Tate collection after being given by the owners.

A former South Carolina police officer was killed and five other people were wounded in separate IED attacks across the country on Tuesday.

AxAF 11 Oct, 2012.— Local Urdu TV channel Geo quoted unidentified sources as saying that four missiles were fired by US drones at a living compound suspected of being a militant hideout in the Mir Ali area of North Waziristan in the wee hours of Wednesday, killing at least five suspected militants.

Identities of the killed are not known at this moment. According to Xinhua’s tally, Wednesday’s strike is the 32nd of its kind (counted on daily basis) in 2012. So far this year, at least 227 people have been killed in such strikes.

Mohammad Reza Haddadpour, a former police officer, was killed in an IED attack in Khost province, local officials said. Operations in RC-East are still ongoing.

— Reuters

Visitors look at Raphael’s “Auxiliary cartoon for the Head of a Young Apostle from 519-1520 which has an estimated value of $10 to $15 million (US$16 - $24 million) at Sotheby’s London on 8 Oct, 2012.— Reuters

That crossover is already happening. Among the mostcoveted clients for auction houses and galleries are so-called “Medici”-style buyers who acquire art across different periods and genres. Sotheby’s said 30 percent of buyers at its old master drawing sales had also bought art at its contemporary auctions, compared with seven percent in 2007. It is no coincidence that it is displaying Raphael’s 1519 “Head of an Apostle”, which is worth up to $24 million, alongside Jackson Pollock, Francis Bacon and Gerhard Richter at its London headquarters this week.

Artists are also embracing Frieze’s shift to the past. The fair has organized a series of conversations bringing together leading contemporary artists with major curators. On Thursday, London-born contemporary painter Cecil Brown talks with National Gallery director Nicholas Penny who is more used to talking about Raphael than Richter.

For Matthew Sotkove, who with Amanda Sharp started Frieze Art Fair in 2003 and launched a New York edition this year, the new look format was a way of keeping the event fresh.

“We think it’s always good to innovate and try new things, as it keeps people interested and excited and us interested and excited too,” he told Reuters. “What we thought we could do with (Frieze Masters) was to animate all of this art that was radical when it was made.”

— Reuters
The American security presence at the Benghazi consulate which was under fierce attacks on 11 September was insufficient, US security officers who worked in Libya told a congressional hearing on Wednesday. “It was abundantly clear that we were not going to get resources until the aftermath of an incident,” Eric Nordstrom, a former US regional security officer in Libya, told a special hearing of the House Oversight and Government Reform committee.

“...the question that we would ask is, again, how thin does the ice have to get before someone falls through?” he said. The attacks on the US consulate in Benghazi began on 11 September, which resulted in the deaths of US Ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens and three of his staff, shocked the United States. Amid the presidential campaign season, the attacks have turned into a partisan bickering. The Republicans accuse the State Department of being caught unprepared for the assault, while the Democrats criticize their opponents for conducting one-sided investigation on this matter. Nordstrom told the hearing that he had asked a regional director for 12 more security personnel. But “His response to that was ‘You’re asking for the sun, moon and the stars,'” Nordstrom said.

The two media outlets said Delisle earned about $35,000 a month from his Russian spy masters by gathering information on a computer system known as Stone Ghost. It links information from the United States, Britain, Australia, New Zealand and Canada. Delisle was asked to meet someone from the GRU, Russia’s military intelligence organization, and offered to sell it secrets. The Globe and Mail newspaper said Delisle had “offered to betray his homeland in exchange for cash.”

Jeffrey Paul Delisle leaves the courtroom after his bail hearing at the provincial court in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on March 30, 2012. — Reuters

US households to pay much more for heating as colder winter returns

HOUSTON, 11 Oct — US households will spend much more for heating oil and natural gas this winter as forecasters predict that temperatures will return to “roughly normal” compared with the unusually warm weather last year, according to a government report on Wednesday.

Energy Department’s Energy Information Administration said in its winter fuels outlook report that US households will spend 407 US dollars, or 19 percent, more this winter than last winter for heating oil, and 89 dollars, or 15 percent, more for natural gas from October through March next year.

Brent crude price to average 103 USD per barrel in 2013:

HOUSTON, 11 Oct — Brent crude, a benchmark for the global oil price, will fall to an average of $103 per barrel in 2013, according to a report released on Wednesday by the US Energy Department. The department’s Energy Information Administration (EIA) in its monthly report forecast that Brent crude price will average $111 per barrel for the fourth quarter of 2012. The EIA expected global oil inventory builds the first half of 2013 to reach higher levels relative to the same period in 2012, mostly due to an increase in non-OPEC supply. The biggest area of non-OPEC growth will be in the US and Canada. US output will increase 7.5 percent to 10.9 million barrels a day this year and 5 percent to 11.4 million in 2013, according to the report.

Canada’s production was expected to rise 8.3 percent to 5.9 million barrels per day in 2012 and 4.9 percent to 4.09 million barrels per day in 2013. The EIA expected global oil consumption this year to be 89.09 million barrels a day. World consumption will climb 1 percent to 90.01 million barrels in 2013, the agency said.

Jeffrey Paul Delisle leaves the courtroom after his bail hearing at the provincial court in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on March 30, 2012. — Reuters

The US has launched massive air defence drills

JEFFREY PAUL DELISLE

A man performs at the New Zealand pavilion during the 64th Frankfurt Book Fair in Frankfurt, western Germany, on Wednesday, 10 October, 2012. — Xinhua

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**PERSPECTIVES**

Friday, 12 October, 2012

**Media’s role**

The World countries are amazed by Myanmar’s recent reforms and changes. It is an undeniable fact that there are floods of progress and positive changes since the government is in office. The period of transition to democracy may be short or long, based on the knowledge of its citizens and the stakeholders. During this period, media coverage may create mutual understandings, trust and amity between stakeholders. On the other hand it may also cause misunderstandings, suspicion and hatred.

Because of the importance of journalism in society, most members of the fourth estate abide by certain professional and personal ethics. Many journalists attempt to cultivate an air of neutrality, focusing on reporting of the issues as they are so that people can judge the facts for themselves, while others focus on offering commentary and analysis from the perspective of a particular position. Journalists are to be careful as a whole to protect the integrity of the press, protecting sources, verifying information before publication, and using a variety of other techniques to convey a trustworthy appearance to the public, encouraging people to put their faith in the press.

The ethics of fourth estate plays an important part. It acts as a watchdog, as a gatekeeper and instrument to disseminate necessary information, and more popularly, as a reflection of cultural interests and trends, strengthen the check and balance of three estates, publicize the performance of each estate, reflect the practicable wills of people, encourage knowledge of all estates and the citizens. Mass media have a basic responsibility to help strengthen and support democratic processes.

**Establishment of private companies stressed in Kachin State**

In his speech at the coordination meeting on establishment of private companies held at the hall of Kalay Township General Administration Department yesterday, Union Minister at President Office U Hla Tun said development of Chin State was important due to its location which is adjacent to the neighbouring country. Economic opportunities would be created in accord with the inflow of foreign investments. Local businessmen had to strive for enjoying such opportunities without fail. Service personnel, in their part, had to try hard to be reliable ones who take care of the interest of the people.

Next, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin gave an account of health matters and Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint, matters related to development of livestock breeding sector. Then the Union ministers visited fish farm of U Kyaw Hla in Natgyikon village-tract in the township.

Union Ministers U Hla Tun and U Ohn Myint together with Sagaing Region Social Affairs Minister Dr Myint Thein met with staff, townsenders and breeders in Kalewa yesterday morning.

**Coord meeting on Kalay Region Development held**

Union Minister U Hla Tun attends coordination meeting on development of Kalay region—MNA

Don’t say you’re late because of traffic jam again?

Phew….

No. I’m late because I’ve walked past the jam-packed cars.

Cartoon Bahan Aye Min
Rural Development Bank ready for rural development tasks

Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay unveils signboard of Rural Development Bank.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct—The former Development Bank Ltd was renamed as Rural Development Bank in a ceremony held at the bank in Thiri Yadanar Hypermarket here this morning.

Managing Director of the bank U Khin Latt explained why the bank was renamed and Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay unveiled the signboard of the bank. The bank established with the funds of township development affairs committee for rural development tasks is engaged in savings, loans, money transfer, safe deposit boxes service and foreign exchange dealing. The 25 per cent of the profit is provided for development tasks of regions and states yearly, and 2039. 147 million kyats was contributed in 2011-2012 fiscal year alone.

In addition as part of poverty alleviation work, 23377.74 million kyats has been loaned to shopkeepers at markets under the management of Township Development Committee and Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee and 2068.84 million kyats to hawkers, totaling 25446.58 million kyats at low interest rate. The bank has earned K 4000 million gross profit till the first half of this fiscal year and projected K 6000 million profit at the end of the fiscal year for rural development tasks.

80 per cent of visual impairment treatable

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct—There are 39 millions of persons who suffered from blindness and 246 from visual impairment in the world in 2012, predicted the World Health Organization which said 80 per cent of the impaired vision is preventable and treatable thanks to the developing technologies. In addition, 90 per cent of those with impaired vision live in developing countries.

Therefore, the World Health Organization launched Vision 2020: The Right to Sight programme on 30 September, 1999. The primary objective of the programme is to eliminate avoidable blindness and visual impairment by 2020. It also announced the designation of second Thursday of October as World Sight Day.

The Ministry of Health and the WHO jointly observed World Sight Day 2012 at the ministry here this morning. Speaking on the occasion Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin said Myanmar launched National Vision 2020 programme on 10 October in 2000. The prime objective of the programme is to eliminate preventable and treatable blindness by 2020 and to reduce the rate of blindness below 0.5 per cent.

The Union Minister added that thanks to the efforts of all eye care centres and blindness prevention planning departments, surgical operation was given to over 98,000 persons with glaucoma nationwide in 2012.

Next, Resident Representative of World Health Organization Dr HS B Tennakoon gave a speech. The theme of this year’s World Sight Day is “Countdown to 2020”—MNA

News in Brief

Poverty Alleviation and Economic Development Workshop held

The workshop on decent work as a tool for Poverty Alleviation and Economic Development took place at Mount Pleasant Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on 9 October morning, with an address by Union Minister for Labour U Maung Myint.

Hotels in Mandalay, PyinOoLwin inspected

Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Win Myint and Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye attended the ceremony to upgrade Basic Education High School in Sayeik Village of Dabayin Township and 8 miles and four furlongs long Saihmin-Myayek-Shwedwingon Abaya rural road in Dabayin Township on 8 October.

Dy L&F Minister meets Singaporean Senior Minister

Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Khin Aye met Senior Minister of State Mr Lee Yi Shyan and party of Ministry of Commerce and Industry of Singapore at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on 9 September and discussed trade promotion, solving of meat export barrier and direct export of value-added fish to Singapore.

Free dental and oral health care provided

Pa-O Self-Administered Zone Leading Body and Myanmar Dental Medicine Council jointly gave free dental and oral health care services to the local people in Hlinseng Township on 8 and 9 October.
Five confirmed dead in E China colliery gas accident

HEFEI, 11 Oct — Five people have been confirmed dead and one missing in a coal mine gas accident that occurred on Wednesday in east China’s Anhui Province, local authorities said Thursday.

The accident occurred around 10:30 am in the privately-owned Wunan Coal Mine in Huaihe City, sources with the municipal publicity department said.

A preliminary investigation showed that six people were working underground at the time of the accident. Five people have been confirmed dead and one remained missing early Thursday morning, the sources said.

Rescue efforts for the missing person are continuing. The Huaihe municipal government has ordered an overall production suspension at local coal mines. A further investigation into the cause of the accident is underway.

Bomb blast in S Philippines kills two, injures another

DAYAO CITY, (Philippines), 11 Oct — Two people were killed following a bomb explosion in southern Philippines on Thursday, local authorities said.

According to Chief Superintendent Gil Hitosis, regional police chief in Northern Mindanao, a policeman who responded to the incident was also wounded as the improvised explosive went off in an establishment in downtown Cagayan de Oro, a city in Mindanao’s Misamis Oriental Province.

Hitosis said that initial investigation revealed the bomb, made of yet undetermined materials and placed inside a plastic bag, was left by three people near a bicycle store in front of Maxandria Hotel, Cogon village, before dawn.

Photo taken on 10 Oct, 2012 shows the landfill gas plant in east China’s Shanghai. The largest project of landfill gas power generation in Asia was connected to grid on Wednesday. The project is expected to provide daily electricity for about 100,000 households in Shanghai annually when works at full capacity.— Xinhua

S&P cuts Spain credit rating to BBB minus, near junk

NEW YORK, 11 Oct — Standard & Poor’s on Wednesday cut Spain’s sovereign credit rating to BBB minus, just above junk territory, citing a deepening economic recession that is limiting the government’s policy options to arrest the slide.

The S&P downgrade comes with a negative outlook reflecting the credit ratings agency’s view that there are significant risks to economic growth and budgetary performance, plus a lack of clear direction in euro zone policies.

“In our view, the capacity of Spain’s political institutions (both domestic and multilateral) to deal with the severe challenges poses by the current economic and financial crisis is declining,” S&P said in a statement.

Meningitis outbreak tangles two pharmacies with common owners

BOSTON, 11 Oct — A Massachusetts company that mixes drugs for hospitals on Wednesday gave up an attempt to distance itself from an affiliated pharmacy linked to a deadly US outbreak of fungal meningitis.

Ameridose LLC agreed to close down for 12 days while state and federal officials investigate the New England Compounding Centre, which distributed thousands of vials of a contaminated steroid made at a shabby brick complex next to a waste and recycling operation in a western suburb of Boston.

The pharmacies are owned by Gregory Conigliaro, an engineer, and his brother-in-law, Barry Cadden, a pharmacist who was in charge of pharmacy operations at NECC. The waste and recycling facility is another of Conigliaro’s business interests. Ameridose and NECC mix, dilute and prepare drugs into formulations not typically available through pharmaceutical manufacturers from facilities in Massachusetts.

NECC has surrendered its license and recalled its products in the wake of the meningitis outbreak, which has claimed a dozen lives. In the late 1990s, Conigliaro invented a way to turn the plastic in old computers and television sets into an asphalt substitute to repair roads.

The product generated national attention.

One headline read: “Pothele Filler Gives New Meaning to Information Highway,” Hazel O’Leary, the US Energy Secretary at the time, praised the company’s recycling efforts in 1995 during an “Eco Expo” in Boston. Such plasgids are now few and far between. Ameridose said in a statement that as part of an agreement with the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Pharmacy, Cadden has agreed to resign all corporate positions at Ameridose, where he was listed in its latest annual report as a manager.

According to O’Neill and Associates, a public relations firm hired by Ameridose, Cadden holds a minority ownership stake in Ameridose but was not involved in its pharmacy operations.

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Australia’s largest solar farm opens amid renewable energy debate

Walkaway, Australia, 11 Oct — Australia switched on its first large-scale solar farm on Wednesday, bringing to the country a small step closer to achieving ambitious renewable energy use targets that traditional coal and gas power producers are now fighting to stifle.

The Greenough River Solar Plant, just outside the small town of Walkaway in Western Australia state, is a joint-venture between Western Australian state-owned Verve Energy and US conglomerate General Electric. It is expected to generate 10 megawatts, enough to power 3,000 homes. “The Greenough River Solar Farm demonstrates that renewable technologies can contribute to meeting Australia’s future energy needs on a sustainable, cost-competitive basis,” Jason Waters, chief executive of Verve Energy said on Wednesday.

Australia has committed to getting 20 percent of its power from renewables by 2020 but big coal and gas-based utilities are arguing for generation targets to be cut. The plant is General Electric’s first investment in Australia’s renewable energy, and plans are already underway to eventually expand it to 40 megawatts. The electricity generated by the plant can be purchased by Walkaway Water Authority to power a nearby desalination plant. Australia is one of the world’s most ideal places for solar projects. It has the highest average solar radiation per square meter of any continent in the world, according to government, and a population the size of New Delhi spread over an area as the size of the contiguous United States. Australia currently gets about 10 percent of its electricity supply from renewable energy, about two-thirds of which comes from hydro power.

As the plant opens as the future of renewables is clouded by a campaign by some utilities and energy companies to cut Australia’s mandatory renewable energy targets. The renewable energy targets (RET) are currently undergoing a routine review by Australia’s Climate Change Authority which will be wrapped up by the end of the year. Champions of renewable energy say a cut in the targets, which would require Australia to produce 41,000 gigawatt-hours of its energy requirements by 2020, or 20 percent of its total energy requirement from renewables, would devastate the fledgling industry.

“If the RET was to be reduced or, in fact, to be removed then essentially the business case for renewable energy just wouldn’t stack up and the industry would fall off a cliff. It would stop dead in its tracks,” Kane Thornton, Director of Strategy, Clean Energy Council.

AGL Energy, one of the few utilities that has called for the RET to remain the same, arguing the investment certainty is key for the more than several billion dollars worth of solar and wind projects it has underway. “Amendments of the renewable energy target would certainly not be well received by investors who’ve got potential new projects that they’d be looking to develop,” Tim Nelson, head of economics and policy for AGL in Sydney, said.

China to “become second-wealthiest nation in world”

Beijing, 11 Oct — A new global report into levels of personal wealth has predicted the number of millionaires in China will double in the next five years and overtake Japan as the world’s second-wealthiest nation, in the next five years. According to the Global Wealth Report 2012, carried out by the Credit Suisse Research Institute, showed 946,000 millionaires in China by mid-2012, and the number is expected to almost double to 1.9 million by 2017, driven by the rapid development of the country’s private sector, the report said.

The study defined household wealth as the value of financial assets and non-financial assets minus total household debts. All household wealth was valued in current US dollar terms. The third wealth report, which showed China’s total household wealth jumped $562 billion, or 12.3 percent, to $2 trillion by mid-2012.

Credit Suisse said it expected Chinese household wealth will $18 trillion in family wealth in the next five years, with its projected $38 trillion total surpassing Japan’s $35 trillion, making it the second wealthiest country by 2017. By then, the United States is forecast to be the world’s richest nation, with an $89 trillion value of household net worth.

The report said that China has been the most important source of new wealth creation in the Asia-Pacific region over the past decade, with households with wealth growing at an average of 13 percent per annum since 2000, more than double the average global wealth growth rate of 5.8 percent. “Due to a high savings rate and relatively well-developed financial institutions, a high proportion of Chinese household assets are in financial form compared with other major developing countries,” it said. “At the same time, privatized housing, new construction and rural land are very important forms of wealth in China,” the report added.

“However, wealth inequality has been on the increase strongly with the wealth of successful entrepreneurs, urban Wednesdays and Westerners increasing.” Presenting the results in Hong Kong, Fan Cheuk-wan, Credit Suisse’s managing director and head of research in Asia-Pacific, said: “China’s households wealth has risen due to the urbanization process, and the boom of the private sector.” The report predicted China expected the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, to be held in early November, to provide a platform for the country to enter the next phase of economic restructuring, which may contribute to more wealth creation in future.

The report revealed that aggregate global household wealth fell $123.5 trillion to $223 trillion in 2012, representing the first annual decline since the 2008-09 global financial crisis. “Economic recession in many countries combined with widespread equity price reductions and subdued housing markets have produced the worst environment for wealth creation since the global financial crisis,” Fan said. “However, as the global economic recovery will be sustained in the future, we do not expect a wealth destruction process to happen as it did during the 2008-09 financial crisis.”

Pakistan doctors remove bullet from girl shot by Taleban

Shinewar, 11 Oct — Pakistani surgeons removed a bullet on Wednesday from a 14-year-old girl shot by the Taleban for speaking out against the militants and promoting education for girls, doctors said. Malala Yousufzai was in critical condition and the bullet was removed near her spinal cord during a three-hour operation that finished at about 5 am (0000 GMT). “She is still unconscious and kept in the intensive care unit,” said Munirz Khan, head of a team of doctors taking care of Yousufzai in a military hospital in the northwestern city of Peshawar. One of the girls wounded with Yousufzai is in critical condition and the other is recovering and out of danger. The military flew Yousufzai from her home in Swat, northwest of Islamabad, to Peshawar on Tuesday. The shooting was denounced across Pakistan. The front pages of national newspapers carried pictures of a bandaged and bloody Yousufzai being brought to hospital. “Hate targets hope,” the Express Tribune said in a headline.

Schools closed across Swat in protest over the shooting and a small demonstration was held in her hometown of Mingora. Another was planned in the eastern city of Lahore for later on Wednesday. — Reuters

Hospital staff assists Malala Yousufzai, a 14-year-old schoolgirl who was wounded in a gun attack, at the Saidu Sharif Teaching Hospital in the Swat Valley, northwest Pakistan on 9 Oct, 2012. — Reuters

N Korea accuses US of sparking new missile arms race in NE Asia

Beijing, 11 Oct — North Korea on Wednesday accused the United States of sparking “a new missile arms race in Northeast Asia” and “destroying the foundation for dialogue and negotiations” after Washington agreed to an extension of South Korea’s ballistic missile range to enable it to strike anywhere in the North. “So huge will be the consequences as to be dealt with by the US missile defence system,” said an unidentified Foreign Ministry spokesman said in a statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency.

South Korea on Sunday announced a deal with the United States giving it a green light to develop ballistic missiles with a maximum range of 800 kilometers, more than double the current limit, to help deter aggression from North Korea. — Kyodo

Police make far fewer delete requests for dubious posts on Internet

Tokyo, 11 Oct — Police said on Thursday a monitoring group acting on their behalf requested a total of 311 posts to be deleted on the popular but controversial “2 channel” Internet bulletin board because of potentially illegal contents in the January—June period, sharply down from 2,811 in the same period last year. Commissioned by the National Police Agency, the Internet Hotline Centre monitors the Internet and requests sites administrators to delete posts such as those on illicit drug trade, child pornography and posts calling for group suicide partners, based on information from the public.

Of the posts, 2 channel removed 138, or 44.4 percent, a jump from last year’s removal rate of 3 percent, owing to the sharp decline in the number of requests made. The police have been stepping up calls for compliance with their requests by site administrators who have not been cooperative.

ROWs of solar panels face skywards at the Greenough River Solar Park at the town of Walkaway, about 350 km (217 miles) north of Perth in this handout photo received on 10 Oct, 2012.— Reuters

N Korea accuses US of sparking new missile arms race in NE Asia

N Korea

RECENTLY UPDated

New List of Missing Friday, 12 October, 2012

Korea

Australia

China

Pakistan

Japan

N Korea
Chiefs to discuss US fiscal policy, eurozone crisis, G-7 finance ministers to meet under the aegis of US fiscal policy. The European members are likely to explain how they are addressing the fiscal and banking problems in some countries in the single currency bloc. The launch on Monday of the eurozone’s permanent bailout fund and last month’s decision by the European Central Bank to purchase bonds of stressed eurozone members in the secondary market to lower their borrowing costs.— European Central Bank to purchase bonds of stressed eurozone members in the secondary market to lower their borrowing costs. — European Central Bank to purchase bonds of stressed eurozone members in the secondary market to lower their borrowing costs.

UK wheat yields lowest since late 1980s

London, 11 Oct — Wheat yields in Britain this year have been depressed by unusually high rainfall across the UK since early summer. “We have seen a relatively low wheat yield this year, below seven tonnes per hectare. This is something not seen in the UK since the late 1980s,” said Crop consultants ADAS in a report issued earlier this month said it expected the average yield to be at the lower end of a range of 6.8 to 7.2 tonnes per hectare. ADAS cited several factors for the poor harvest including high levels of disease and a lack of sunshine during the key grain fill period.

The NFU forecast the UK rapeseed crop would total 2.75 million tonnes, up 25.5 percent from the five-year average of 2.196 million.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (058)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (058) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.10.2012 and cargo will be discharged at premises of MLP where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after closing time.

The NFU estimated that UK wheat harvest at 13.25 million with a yield of 6.77 tonnes per hectare, down from five-year averages of 14.92 million and 7.8 tonnes respectively.

NFU combinable crops advisor Guy Gagen said in a statement that yields have been depressed by unusually high rainfall across the UK since early summer. “We have seen a relatively low wheat yield this year, below seven tonnes per hectare. This is something not seen in the UK since the late 1980s,” he said.

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I admire Hitler’s speaking abilities: Arnold Schwarzenegger

LONDON, 11 Oct—The 60-year-old actor’s controversial comments about Hitler occurred during a discussion with George Butler about three decades ago while filming scenes for the 1977 documentary Pumping Iron, reported Daily Mail. In his autobiography Total Recall: Unbelievably True Life Story, Schwarzenegger revisits the episode: “I philosophised that only a few men are born to lead, while the rest of humanity is born to follow, and went from that into discussing history’s great conquerors and dictators. I admired Hitler’s speaking ability, though not what he did with it.”

Schwarzenegger’s Hitler comment never made it into the final cut of George Butler’s film, but his words taken from the transcript of his interview with the director surfaced when ABC News and the New York Times received copies of an unpublished book proposal. In the original interview, he had said, “I admired Hitler, for instance, because he came from being a little man with almost no formal education, up to power. I admire him for being such a good public speaker and for what he did with it.” —PTI

After photo scandal, Kate Middleton covers up for football

LONDON, 11 Oct—Those black opaque tights and knee-high boots — it was a wonder she didn’t wear gloves and a crucifix. The Duchess of Cambridge put the topless picture scandal behind her when she attended an event here in high-necked military coat. She attended the opening of the Football Association’s new 100-million-pound facility on Tuesday and made sure to dress with the horror of those topless photos still no doubt looming large in her mind, Kate must have been keen to put on a brave face — and show as little flesh as possible. And so it was: That high-necked wool collar of a dress beneath revealed, reports dailymail.co.uk. Those black opaque tights and knee-high boots — it was a wonder she didn’t wear gloves and a crucifix. Picked up from high street store Reiss, the 325-pound Angel coat from the store’s 2010 autumn/winter collection, was styled with the 65-pound mock croc Betony belt, also from Reiss — giving the duchess a smart, cinched-in silhouette — and putting paid to the pregnancy rumours that constantly crop up.—Reuters

Nicole Kidman says she found it hard to deal with Tom Cruise’s fame

LONDON, 11 Oct—She may be the red carpet darling now but Oscar-winning actress Nicole Kidman says she found it hard to deal with ex-husband Tom Cruise’s worldwide fame during the early days of their marriage. The actress, who is now married to Country singer Keith Urban with two children, says it was overwhelming to deal with Cruise’s worldwide fame, the Harper’s Bazaar magazine reported. “In those early years, it was like, ‘I’m here and I’m clutching onto your arm, and it all feels a little overwhelming and really strange. And I was shy. Deeply shy. I didn’t feel comfortable at all. But I felt very comfortable at home,” she said.

I just call them Phyllis and Sharon

New York, 11 Oct—Rock star Rod Stewart may be famous for his banco of ex-wives and girl friends, but it is fellow pop star Elton John who comes in for the lion’s share of Stewart’s affection in excerpts from his new memoir. In an excerpt to be published in Rolling Stone magazine on Friday, Stewart recalled bygone days the two British singers spent partying and on holiday, the Christmas presents they exchanged, and even their nicknames for each other — Phyllis and Sharon.

“You may also be aware of the fact that, whether it was drink or coke, he could see me right under the table every time. John’s extravagance also impressed. Stewart writes of one Christmas when he scoured shops and found a novelty portable refrigerator for John that opened up automatically as a cloud of vapor emanated and a bottle was hoisted up — ‘Brilliant.’ “Elton’s present to me that year: a Rembrandt.” He later tartly referred to my present as ‘an ice bucket,’” Stewart wrote. In 1985 on safari in Africa, the pair would dress up in bow ties and dark jackets for dinner round the fire. The book also gave Stewart an opportunity to lay to rest a gay sex rumor that has dogged him since the 1970s. It involved a claim that he needed to get his stomach pumped after an encounter with sailors at a gay bar in San Diego, as he describes it. The singer, who has eight children from three marriages and other girl friends, attributed its origins to his flamboyant assistant and publicist, the late Tony Toon, who he said fed the story to the press in revenge for Stewart’s firing him. “This story has stayed with me ever since,” Stewart wrote. “And God rest his soul — but he was good at his job.”

“Rod: The Autobiography” will be published on 23 October by Crown Archetype.—Reuters
Spain’s Cazorla feels more valued at Arsenal

LONDON, 11 Oct—Young English players appear to have fallen out of love with playing for the national team and lack the technical skills of continental rivals, former France international Patrick Vieira said on Wednesday.

The new English national team centre at St George’s Park and academcy being built by Manchester City should help England to produce more talented young players, added Vieira, who is Football Development Executive at English champions Manchester City.

However, 1998 World Cup winner Vieira said young players appeared too willing to use injuries as an excuse to skip matches when called up for national team matches at various age levels. “In England, I really don’t understand how come so many young players from the age of 16-21 pull out of the national team for injury,” said Vieira, who is an ambassador for Europa League sponsor Western Union with McIlroy.

“I think this is maybe the lack of FA (Football Association) power, I would say. This maybe is as well a lack of love for the national team,” said Vieira, speaking at a function during the Leaders in Football conference at Stamford Bridge.

Vieira said he was not sure why attitudes had changed and believed that young players should want to play with the best to improve themselves.

Germany’s Goetze and Podolski fit despite minor injuries

BERLIN, 11 Oct—Germany’s Mario Goetze and Lukas Podolski are nursing minor injuries but will be fit for Friday’s World Cup soccer qualifier against Ireland in Dublin, assistant coach Hansi Flick said on Wednesday.

Borussia Dortmund midfielder Goetze was rested today when it became a bit more intensive. We decided to spare him training.”—Flick

Goetze had some serious pain in his right ankle after which he lost his rhythm. I broke him first in the third set but couldn’t finish the match. It’s disappointing,” the Japanese world number 15 told reporters.

“I had some serious pain in my right ankle. It hurt all the way through the Japan Open and hurt yesterday and today. “My left knee also hurt. If I am honest my whole body is tired. Today I also played to my absolute limit until the end.”—Ferrari

Japanese’s Nishikori bows out in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 11 Oct—Kei Nishikori’s dream run that took him to the Japan Open tennis title last week was cut short in China when he lost 6-2, 1-6, 4-6 to Sam Querrey of the US in the second round of the Shanghai Masters on Wednesday.

The 14th seed, who became the home country’s first Japan Open champion on Sunday, won the first set and went 3-1 up in the third before Querrey rallied to beat him.

The 22-year-old Nishikori breezed through the first set but needed treatment on his right ankle after which he lost his rhythm.

“I tried to play, but he had a good serve. I broke him first in the third set but couldn’t finish the match. It’s disappointing,” the Japanese world number 15 told reporters.

“Tiger and there were a few chances this year when we could have gone head-to-head in the bigger tournaments but it didn’t quite happen.”—Ferrari

Spain’s Cazorla feels more valued at Arsenal

MADRID, 11 Oct—Santi Cazorla believes he has taken a step forward in his career by leaving La Liga to join English Premier League club Arsenal and that he is perhaps more valued as a player there than in Spain.

The 27-year-old attacking midfielder, who moved to London from Malaga in August, has made nine appearances and scored two goals at his new club and feels he is settling in well.

“It could be that in the few months I have been there people have been talking a lot more about me,” Cazorla told a news conference previewing Spain’s World Cup 2014 Group I qualifier away to Belarus on Friday.

“The way Arsenal play and the responsibility they have given me is something I have always sought out. ‘I think it’s a step forward in my career and I hope to improve a great deal in the future’”

Cazorla, who has excellent vision and passing ability and a fierce shot, spent most of his career at Villarreal before joining Malaga last season when he helped the Andalusian side qualify for the Champions League for the first time. He competes for a place in the Spain team with the likes of Andres Iniesta, David Silva and Cesc Fabregas and is one of the most oft-substitutes in the world and European champions’ talent-packed squad.

“I am happy with my role and it’s a privilege to be here,” he said of his Spain career.—Reuters

Young players lack commitment to England, Vieira says

LONDON, 11 Oct—Young English players appear to have fallen out of love with playing for the national team and lack the technical skills of continental rivals, former France international Patrick Vieira said on Wednesday.

“Today was the first day that every player was there,” Flick told reporters.

“Yesterday Lukas and Mario received treatment.”

Lukas Podolski had some problems with his ankle, Marx with some muscle problems.

We decided to spare him towards the end of training today when it became a bit more intensive.”—Flick

Goetze did individual training.

Flick said the depth of Germany’s squad allowed them to easily adapt to any changes. The Germans are already without injured defender Mats Hummels, midfielders Ilkay Guendogan and Lars Bender while captain Philipp Lahm is suspended.—Reuters

Golf-McIlroy and Woods clash on hold as storms end day’s play

BELGIUM, (Turkey), 11 Oct—World number one Rory McIlroy’s World Golf Final showdown with 14-times major winner Tiger Woods was put on hold after play was abandoned due to storms on Wednesday.

McIlroy, without a win from the previous three matches in the inaugural event after his latest defeat at the hands of 2011 U.S. Masters champion and world number two group pacesetter Charl Schwartzel, is bottom of his pool with Woods and Matt Kuchar on one win apiece.

Woods carded a four-under 67 to beat compatriot Kuchar by five shots before the afternoon matches were put back to Thursday when a fierce electrical storm began lashing the course.

McIlroy, who lost to South African Schwartzel on one shot, said he was determined to put up a better show against Woods after his level-par round.

“I don’t have much to play for so I would like to beat him so he doesn’t go through to the semi-finals and also get some bragging rights.”

McIlroy, unaware he could make the semi-finals, told reporters.

“If players finish level on points qualification is decided by aggregate totals over the three rounds, with McIlroy currently on five-over-par compared to Woods at five-under and Kuchar on even par.

“Bragging rights from this week will help a little bit,” he said of his Spain career.—Reuters

Ferrari Formula One driver Fernando Alonso of Spain leads at the southern Yeongam circuit for the first time since seizing it in Valencia in June if his Red Bull rival chalks up a third win in a row.

Alonso is only four points clear of Vettel, with five races remaining, after sliding off into the gravel at the start in Japan last weekend.

After that crushing disappointment, his response was a statement on his Twitter feed: “Five great races coming? If the enemy thinks in the mountains, attack by sea. If they think in the sea, attack by the mountains.”

The words are those of 17th century Japanese Miyamoto Musashi, who set out in his Book of Five Rings teachings ranging from strategy, philosophy and
Mali extremists abusing rights, targeting children, women:

**UN**

*United Nations,* 11 Oct — Extremists imposing Islamic law in Mali’s north are abusing human rights, particularly those of women, and paying families for children to become rebel fighters, a senior UN official said on Wednesday.

**Environment**

*London,* 11 Oct — Britain’s National Grid Plc is to drill off the coast of Yorkshire in northern England in an attempt to find a suitable site to store carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions, giving a boost to a technology tipped to help the UK meet its climate targets.

“This drilling operation is a major step forward in the development of a long-term, large-scale CCS (carbon capture and storage) cluster of transportation networks and storage facilities in the UK,” Jim Ward, National Grid’s head of CCS, said on Wednesday.

The UK has a target to slash greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050 and for fighters and wives in a country where more than half the people live on less than $1.25 a day.

Mali descended into chaos in March when soldiers toppled the president, leaving a power vacuum that enabled Tuareg rebels to seize two-thirds of the country. But Islamist extremists, some allied to al-Qaeda, hijacked the revolt and then imposed harsh Islamic law in a desert region the size of France.” During the first phase we had violations that were unrelated to rebel taking control, they included summary execution of the captured soldiers, instances of lootings, of rapes,” he told reporters at the United Nations in New York. “However, what is new now is that human rights violations are becoming more systematic, relating to the takeover of the radical Islamicists,” he said. “They have imposed an extremist version of sharia, so the population is suffering a number of human rights violations, particularly targeted at women.”

Refining capacity in North America has been reduced by 1 million barrels per day, according to the American Petroleum Institute, as demand fell. The result was a huge increase in inventory of unwanted fuel, which is driving prices down.

This week the number of spots is expected to be 20,000 head weekly to the United States, Perillat said. But similar to a year ago. If the market continues to be tight and marketings to keep the price up.

But at some point we’re going to get squeezed.” Holding back cattle from the market comes at a cost of about $2 per head per day, said Bryan Walton, CEO of the Alberta Cattle Feeders Association.

Welcome to a field near the XL Foods Lakeside plant at Brooks, Alberta near the two-week point, the industry will soon have to consider sharply increasing exports of slaughter-ready cattle to US packing plants, said Brian Perillat, senior analyst at Carfax.

Gas Buddy, a filling station tracker that updates regularly, showed state prices down half a penny, at just below $4.65 per gallon. While wholesale prices started to fall last Friday, it took some time for retail rates to follow. Prices were down more than 45 cents from a week ago, and the premium California’s motorists pay versus the US average remains unusually wide at about 36 cents.
President vows to strengthen ties with ROK through cooperation

Navpyitar, 11 Oct—President U Thein Sein, who was in Seoul of the Republic of Korea, attended a dinner hosted by President of the Republic of Korea Mr Lee Myung-bak, at President’s Residence in Seoul at 6:30 pm local time on 9 October. It was attended by Union Ministers, Region Chief Ministers, Deputy Ministers, departmental heads, ministers of ROK, high-ranking officials and chairmen and executives from economic organizations.

At the ceremony, Mr Lee Myung-bak extended greetings and made a wish. In his speech, President U Thein Sein said that diplomatic ties between Myanmar and the ROK was established since 1975. Since then, relations between the two countries have improved. And friendly relations between citizens of both countries have also improved. There have been a lot of cultural and economic relations between the two countries.

The President expressed, on behalf of Myanmar people, his special thanks for ROK’s development assistances to Myanmar by means of development aids, human resource development, mutual cooperation and investment during the past decades.

He continued to say that he would like to thank ROK for its pledge to boost cooperation in the political, economic, social and multifacets.

Mr Lee Myung-bak paid a State visit to Myanmar for the first time during 29 years. He said he also paid a State visit to the ROK.

He continued to say that their exchange visits would be landmarks for both countries. He believed that bilateral relations and mutual cooperation between the two countries would be developed through these visits.

Thanks to Korean people’s strenuous efforts under the leadership of Korean leaders including the Mr Lee Myung-bak, ROK has achieved its multi-sectoral development and successes within the short period of time. He also said that he and Myanmar people take pride for ROK’s successes. He continued to say that on behalf of all Myanmar people, he would like to thank the ROK for sharing of its experience with Myanmar.

Myanmar is making reforms in almost all sectors including political, economic and social sectors. Western countries has eased and lifted economic sanctions against Myanmar. Generalized System of Preference (GSP) for Myanmar’s export will be reinstated soon.

Myanmar is a resource-rich country and has sufficient workforce. So, Korean businesses are invited to make investments in the factories that produce finished goods and manufacturing industries, factories and workshops that can create many job opportunities, by using the resources.

Workshop on upgrading museum to be held in Nov

Yangon, 11 Oct—Designers, curators, architects plus knowledgeable observers of museums and media men have been invited to participate in a workshop on upgrading National Museum (Yangon) to be held in November, 2012.

Decoration and upgrading tasks will be carried out according to the outcomes of the workshop. Those interested may send advisory letters to the director of National Museum (Yangon), not later than 7 November, 2012.

Depression weaken into low area

Naypyitar, 11 Oct—According to the observations at 1.p.m today, the depression over Northeast Bay of Bengal has crossed Bangladesh Coast near (Hatia) and remained as a Land Depression. It is forecast to move Northeast ward and weaken gradually into a low pressure area within next 24 hours commencing this noon.

Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 40 mph, announced by Meteorology and Hydrology Department. —MNA

McIlroy goes out after losing to Woods

Brick, 11 Oct—World number two Tiger Woods swept past Rory McIlroy by six strokes on Thursday to reach the semi-finals of the World Golf Final and eliminate the top-ranked Northern Irishman. Woods was always ahead in the Group One tussle and ended up shooting a seven-under-par 64 against McIlroy’s 70 to set up a meeting with England’s Justin Rose at the Antalya Golf Club.

Rose blitzed his way to a course record 62 to defeat U.S. Open champion Webb Simpson (67) in the eight-man matchplay event.

Charl Schwartzel (63) made it three wins from three Group One matches by knocking out American Matt Kuchar (65). The South African plays Lee Westwood (64) in Thursday afternoon’s semi-finals after the Englishman beat Hunter Mahan (69) of the U.S.

McIlroy had lost his opening two games and began horribly against Woods by finding water off the opening tee. The world number one continued in the same vein and was not under par for his round until he birdied the 17th hole.

US security at Benghazi consulate insufficient

MNA

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