**President U Thein Sein and party arrive in Nanning of China**

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Sept—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and party left here by special aircraft to attend the 10th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) and the China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (CABIS) in Nanning of China at 9 am today.

The President and party were seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Union ministers and officials.

The President accompanied by Union Ministers U Myint Hlaing, U Ohn Myint and U Win Shein, Deputy Ministers U Thant Kyaw, U Yet Htut and Dr Win Myint and party arrived at Nanning International Airport in Nanning of the People’s Republic of China at 12.50 pm local standard time.

President U Thein Sein and party were welcomed at the airport by Vice-Chairman Mr Qun Ruixiang of Guangxi Zhuang Provincial People’s Congress Standing Committee and officials, Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin and U Win Myint who arrived in Nanning in advance, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung and officials, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Tin Oo and staff of the consulate-general of Nanning and families.

Next, the President and party proceeded to Liyuan Resort in Nanning.

(See page 8)

Mr Nambiar stresses need for peaceful co-existence among all faiths

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Sept—Union Ministers Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win and U Khin Yi and United Nation Secretary General’s Special Adviser on Myanmar Mr Vijay Nambiar and party met Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Hla Maung Tin and officials in Sittway yesterday.

The Union ministers explained measures taken for stability of the state.

The Chief Minister reported on opening of relief camps for victims, supply of safety water at relief camps, health care services and opening of schools.

Mr. Vijay Nambiar said that the UN will provide assistance for the Rakhine State issue more than ever in cooperation with the respective organizations. He pledged that he will inform international organizations of actual situation of the state and progress of rehabilitation tasks. He was pleased with improvement of relations between the two communities.

In the afternoon, they looked round rehabilitation of Mawrawady Village in Maungtaw Township, supply of clean drinking water and progress of socio-economic development of the village and met local people at the village monastery.

They also met local people at relief camps in Kyeeinbyin Village of Pauktaw and Sittway townships and heard desire and needs of the local people and viewed trade activities between the two communities.

This morning, they met townswelders in Thandwe and discussed preserving stability by different faiths. Mr Vijay Nambiar stressed the need for peaceful co-existence among all religions.

Nuclear regulator working hard to stop water leakage at Fukushima:

(Tokyo, 2 Sept — The head of Japan’s Nuclear Regulation Authority said Monday that the authorities are working hard to stop the leakage of contaminated water at the Fukushima nuclear power plant, and voiced confidence that the situation will be brought under control.

“The Japanese authorities are working hard on the decontamination of contaminated water leaking from a water tank which was detected on Aug. 19 in Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station and the current situation will be stable thanks to further measures,” NRA Chairman Shinichir Tanaka told a press conference at the Foreign Correspondents’ Club of Japan. The severity of the toxic water leak at the Fukushima plant has reached Level 3 from Level 1 on an eight-point scale, raising public concerns about the radioactive water leaking into the sea.

During a question and answer session, one Japanese correspondent called on the authorities to disclose all the measures being taken by the government to stop the rise in radioactive substances such as tritium in seawater.

NLM/Kyodo

Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO)’s tsunami-crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.—Kyodo News
Agriculture

Sesame growers earn high income

This year, there was less rainfall. Fortunately, it is the best opportunity for the local farmers in growing sesame and getting boosting production.

This year, the local farmers fetch K 34,000 per baskets of sesame.

“I have produced over 40 baskets. And, I have more piles of sesame plants to be winnowed. I think I would get 17-18 more baskets of sesame from the bales,” said a local farmer of Ayethaya Village. The local farmers this year won the higher prices of sesame and sugarcane, enjoying benefits from their cultivation tasks.

Crime

Driver who hit traffic light arrested

YANGON, 2 Sept—A vehicle run into Parami traffic light on Bayintnaung Road on 30 August afternoon. A container driven by Hsan Min Aung, 28 of Methilakan Village in Indagaw heading for north from south at Parami traffic light post and wires were damaged. Action was taken against the driver under the law.

Motorway changed for implementing Shwegondine Overpass

YANGON, 2 Sept—The motorways along Kaba Aye Pagoda Road have been changed for safely implementing Shwegondine Overpass Project, said officials of Yangon Region Traffic Rules Enforcement Committee.

The new motorways will be changed from 28 August to 26 October. The map of new motorway is shown off with the use of blue vinyl charts for drivers.

Small vehicles are allowed at Shwegondine Junction to be able to run along north to south of Kaba Aye Pagoda Road.

The vehicle above 10 feet high and large vehicles are allowed to use West Shwegondine Road, Yedashe Road, Nandawun Junction for section of Kaba Aye Pagoda Road. The vehicles that will run along from south to north are to turn left from Kyardawya Junction and to use Kyardawya Street, Yedashe Road and Dhammazedzi Road.

Health

Content of iodized salt inspected

HITIGYAING, 2 Sept—An inspection of content of iodine in salt was held in the hall in Katha for 2012-2013.

Accident

Bagan express up-train derails

NATOGYI, 2 Sept—The 119 up-train leaving Bagan for Mandalay caused derailment between Myotha and Pyithaya stations on Bagan-Mandalay railroad on 28 August afternoon.

The root cause of the derailment was due to break failure.

The vehicle above 10 feet high and large vehicles are allowed to use West Shwegondine Road, Yedashe Road, Nandawun Junction for section of Kaba Aye Pagoda Road. The vehicles that will run along from south to north are to turn left from Kyardawya Junction and to use Kyardawya Street, Yedashe Road and Dhammazedzi Road.

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<th>Image</th>
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<td>Workers of Myanma Railways carrying out maintenance of rail tracks and substitution of new concrete sleepers along Yangon-Mawlamyine railway at the entrance to Theinzayat Station in Kyakto Township of Mon State on 27 August.</td>
<td><strong>KYEMON-YE KHAUNG OO</strong></td>
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GSM SIM cards alloted in Hitigyaing for second time

HITIGYAING, 2 Sept—In-charge of Hitigyaing Township Communications Station (Telephone) U Aye Kyaw issued 300 GSM SIM cards at Township General Administration Department for the second time on 27 August morning.

Due to allotment of the Township Management Committee, SIM cards were issued to 33 wards and village-tracts of the township and departments on a basic of ratio and to the departmental personnel and people through draw lot system.

The winners in the draw lots were pleased with GSM SIM cards worth K 1500 each.

**Kyemon-District IPRD**

Systematic runs of private bus lines coordinated in Katha

KATHA, 2 Sept—Chairman of Katha Private Bus Systematic Transport Committee U Nyen Haung explained systematic runs of buses, formation of association, availability of wheeltaxes and workpermits, systematic undertakings of loading and unloading, avoiding undisciplined acts, establishment of gates for trawlering and other matters at the annual general meeting of the committee in Katha on 31 August morning.

The meeting was held at the hall in Katha for 2012-2013.

Deputy Commissioner U Thet Lwin of District General Administration Department, U Khin Maung Tint and U Khin Maung Toe acted as meeting chairmen.

Executive U Khin Maung Aye read out the financial report. Treasurer U Maung Maung Aye submitted the financial year.

Officials presented cash awards to gate officers of eight bus lines in Katha.

Chairman of the committee U Nyen Haung donated 50 sets of desk and furniture and one set of computer worth K 1,850,000 to Katha Basic Education High School Branch through headmaster Daw Khin Swe Myint.

The meeting chairman made concluding remarks.

**Kyemon-Nyein Nyein (Katha)**

Transport

Motorway changed for implementing Shwegondine Overpass Project till October

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India’s crisis within a crisis; finance minister fights on two fronts

NEW DELHI, 2 Sept — Late last month, with their doors shut to the mounting market panic outside as investors fled the country, India’s cabinet ministers gathered to give final approval to a cheap food scheme for the poor. It was hardly a difficult decision for a government that needs to stop its sagging popularity before elections due by next May. But officials familiar with the discussion say there was one dissenting voice over what is now destined to become one of the world’s largest welfare programs.

Finance Minister P Chidambaram, already struggling to convince doubters that he will keep Putin sees chance to turn Moscow, 2 Sept — Less than three months after Vladimir Putin was cast as a pariah over Syria at the last big meeting of world leaders, the Russian president has glimpsed a chance to win back Barack Obama. The US president’s dilemma over a military response to an alleged poison gas attack in Syria means Obama is the one who is stepping back from the brink on Saturday in the city of Vladivostok.

Washington, 2 Sept — The US State Department said on Sunday for the first time that the US envoy for Israeli-Palestinian peace had taken part in a meeting between the two parties. It was the first since negotiations resumed in late July, but declined to say when or whether any progress was made.

“Israel and Palestinian delegations have been meeting continuously since final status negotiations resumed on 29 July,” State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said in a brief written statement. “The negotiations have been serious, and US Special Envoy Martin Indyk and his team have been fully briefed on the bilateral talks and also participated in a bilateral negotiating session,” she added. “As we have said in the past, we are not planning to read out the details of these meetings.”

It was not clear why the State Department decided to make the disclosure. Despite deep skepticism among analysts and diplomats, US Secretary of State John Kerry this summer succeeded in persuading the two sides to resume peace negotiations that had collapsed in 2010.

Since their resumption, the State Department has said little about their course, and much of the Obama administration’s national security team’s attention has been focused on the Egyptian military’s crackdown on the Muslim Brotherhood and on Syria’s own chemical weapons. Israeli-Palestinian peace has become Kerry’s signature issue even as the United States is grappling with the unrest in Egypt and the civil war in Syria.—Reuters

India’s Finance Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram speaks at the Indian Private Equity and Venture Capital Association (IVCA) conclave in New Delhi on 16 July, 2013.—Reuters

Syria’s President Vladimir Putin looks on during a meeting with journalists in the far eastern city of Vladivostok, on 31 Aug, 2013. —Reuters

Washington, 2 Sept — Syria hailed a “historic American retreat” on Sunday, mockingly accusing President Barack Obama of hesitation and confusion after he delayed a military response to last month’s chemical weapons attack near Damascus until after a congressional vote.

US Secretary of State John Kerry said tests had shown sarin nerve gas was fired on rebel-held areas on 21 August, and expressed confidence that US lawmakers would “do what is right” in response.

Washington says more than 1,400 people, many of them children, were killed in the attack. It was the deadliest incident of the Syrian civil war and the world’s worst use of chemical arms since Iraq’s Saddam Hussein gassed thousands of Kurds in 1988. But opinion polls have shown strong opposition to a punitive strike among Americans weary of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Obama’s announcement on Saturday that he would seek congressional authorization for punitive military action against Syria is likely to delay any strike for at least nine days. His administration launched a political offensive on Sunday to win over a skeptical Congress, but faced tough questions from lawmakers in both parties. The United Nations said Obama’s announcement could be seen as part of an effort to forge a global consensus on responding to the use of chemical arms anywhere.—Reuters

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Putinanswered a jibe and stood his ground over Assad, dismissing US lawmakers in both parties. The US president’s dilemma over a military response to an alleged poison gas attack in Syria means Obama is the one who is stepping back from the brink on Saturday in the city of Vladivostok.

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Two Koreas begin 1st meeting of committee set up to run industrial zone

SEOUL, 2 Sept — North and South Korea on Monday began the first meeting of joint committee to discuss resumption of operations at an industrial zone in the north of the capital city of Kaesong, according to South Korea’s Uniﬁcation Ministry.

The meeting in Kaesong followed last month’s agreement to reopen the industrial zone that was closed in early April amid heightened tensions between the two Koreas. The Uniﬁcation Ministry, which handles the South’s ties with the North, said the joint committee, made up of four subcommittees, will focus in Monday’s meeting on when to resume operations.

Pyongyang has sought the immediate resumption of operations at the industrial zone, which combines South Korean capital and expertise with cheap North Korean labor, but Seoul has said safeguards should be put in place to prevent another disruption.

On 8 April, North Korea announced the withdrawal of all its 53,000 workers employed by more than 100 South Korean companies, causing operations at the industrial zone to be suspended for the first time since production there began in 2004. After a series of unsuccessful negotiations, the two Koreas agreed to normalize operations on 14 August.

Syrian Martyrs Army chief: ‘We will strike USA’

AMMAN, 30 Aug — The chief of staff of the Syrian Martyrs Army, a clan-based armed group in Syria, said on Monday that his fighters would strike the US as “a matter of honor.”

The Syrian Martyrs Army, said to be part of the Free Syrian Army, has been involved in a series of recent clashes with government forces and Hezbollah fighters in the Jabal al-Akrad region near the northern city of Lattakia, an area where the rebels have ramped up offensives amid a crackdown by the Syrian regime.

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HTC execs detained over leaked trade secrets; shares tumble

**Taipei, 2 Sept** — Three HTC Corp executive were arrested on suspicion of leaking trade secrets, sending the Taiwanese smartphone maker’s shares tumbling on Monday as its troubles deepened amid a wave of senior staff departures and disappointing sales. Taipei prosecutors confirmed that HTC vice president of product design Thomas Chien, research and development director Wu Chien-Hung and senior manager of design and innovation Justin Huang were arrested on Friday.

Chien and Chien-Hung remain in custody, while Huang was released on bail, prosecutors office spokesman Mou Hsin Huang said. The executives were also accused of making false commission fee claims totaling around TS10 million ($334,200). No further details about the allegations were immediately available. The arrests came in response to a complaint filed by HTC last month accusing the executives of leaking trade secrets.

HTC declined to comment except to say the investigation had no impact on its operations. Chien and Chien-Hung could not be reached and Huang was not immediately available to comment. Media reports citing the police said the executives were planning to use stolen new interface technology to set up a new mobile device company aiming at Chinese vendors.

Sales of HTC lost 6.4 percent to TS146.5 at 0250 GMT, versus a 0.2 percent fall in the broader market. Its stock price is at 8-year lows, and it has warned it could make its first operating loss this quarter.

Tablets more popular than PCs in Mideast, Africa

**Dubai, 2 Sept** — Tablet shipments in the Middle East and Africa exceeded PCs for the first time in the second quarter of 2013, according to a report released on Thursday by an American market research firm. International Data Corporation (IDC), specialized in the information, technology and telecom industry, said tablet shipments for the period in Mena soared by 208 percent year-on-year, reaching a total of 2.79 million units.

As tablets such as Apple iPad, the swish new X61 and Samsung Galaxy Tab more and more popular in the region, “the growing demands have attracted several multinational PC vendors to divert a larger proportion of their overall focus on tablet ranges,” said the report. The Android operating system was the major contributor to the growth, said IDC, with 2 million Android-running devices shipped during the period.

“(The launch of the iPad mini) could not prevent iOs from rapidly losing shares to Android devices, with cost being a key factor in consumers’ choice of tablets,” said Victoria Mendes, IDC research analyst on PCs and IT infrastructure in the Middle East, Africa and Turkey. “However, Apple’s new product launch, expected before the end of this year, will definitely spur some growth for the vendor in the region,” she added.

According to IDC, Apple’s shipments totaled lower-than-expected 682,000 units for the quarter, followed very closely by Samsung, which shipped a total of 627,000 units. Lenovo entered the market in the third place, shipping 140,000 units.

Global PC and tablet producers are expecting an increase of sales in the Middle East and Africa to be boosted by the annual GITEX technology week on Oct. 20-24 in Dubai, the biggest fair of information and communications technologies in the region.

**Bigger and healthier: European men grow 11cm in a century**

**London, 2 Sept** — The average height of European men grew by a surprising 11 centimetres from the early 1870s to 1980, reflecting significant improvements in health across the region, according to new research published on Monday. Contrary to expectations, the study also found that average height accelerated in the period spanning two World Wars and the Great Depression, when poverty, disease and rationing and hardship of war might have been expected to limit people’s growth.

The swift advance may have been due to people deciding to have fewer children in this period, the researchers said, and smaller family size has previously been found to be linked to increasing average height. “Increases in human stature are a key indicator of improvements in the average health of populations,” said Timothy Hatton, a professor economics at Britain’s University of Essex who led the study. He said the evidence — which shows the average height of a European male growing from 167 cm to 178 cm in a little over a 100 years — suggests an environment of improving health and decreasing disease “is the single most important factor driving the increase in height”.

The study, published online in the journal Oxford Economic Papers, analyzed data on average men’s height at around the age of 21 from the 1870s up to around 1980 in 15 European countries.

Russia puts Israeli satellite into orbit

**Moscow, 2 Sept** — Russia has sent an Israeli communications satellite into orbit, the federal space agency Roscosmos said on Sunday.

A Zenit-3SB rocket carrying the satellite blasted off from the Baikonur space centre in Kazakhstan at 0005 Moscow Time on Sunday (0505 GMT Saturday), according to Roscosmos.

At 6.50 am Moscow Time (0250 GMT), the Amos-4 satellite successfully separated from the DM-SLB upper stage, a spokesperson with the space agency told reporters.

Built by Israeli Aerospace Industries Ltd, the satellite will provide broadband Internet services as well as other services to consumers in Russia, Central and Southeast Asia, Central and Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

US exit to leave Vodafone with M&A war chest

A customer walks past the Vodafone logo in a shopping mall in Prague on 7 Feb, 2012. — Reuters

**London/Paris, 2 Sept** — Vodafone’s exit from the United States in a $130 billion deal expected to be sealed on Monday will give it a war chest to make acquisitions even after it rewards its shareholders. The board of Verizon Communications will meet on Monday morning as the operator turns to buying out Vodafone from its joint venture, meaning a full announcement could come after the London market close, sources said.

Assuming Vodafone receives $116-132 billion from the sale of Verizon Wireless, analysts calculated it could distribute $40 billion in cash and Verizon common stock to shareholders, and still have $30-38 billion in deferred proceeds after paying tax and reducing debt. With that cash pile, Vodafone boss Vittorio Colao will have to build a new future for the world’s second-biggest telecom operator now that it can no longer rely on its US unit to drive growth and provide billions in cash for dividends.

Investment bankers and analysts are already speculating they say it’s too early to know whether Colao will beef up in Europe, look at new countries such as Brazil or even attempt a re-entry to the US market via acquisition. They say the best thing to do is to know whether Colao will diversify its assets. It is clear that Vodafone has been planning to make false offers, aiming at Chinese vendors or other sellers.

Three HTC Corp design engineers were arrested on suspicion of leaking trade secrets and executive exits, and pointed at the high end of a smartphone market that is close to saturation. HTC has seen its market share slump to below 5 percent from around a quarter five years ago. Its stock price is at 8-year lows, and it has warned it could make its first operating loss this quarter.

A new HTC Android-based smartphone Sensation is displayed during a news conference for the launch of the product in Taipei on 27 May, 2011. — Reuters

Workers cross London Bridge, with Tower Bridge seen behind, during the morning rush hour in London on 30 Sept, 2011. — Reuters
Commonwealth Bank of Australia executive resigns

SYDNEY, 2 Sept — The Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) announced on Monday that Ian Saines had resigned as the bank’s head of institutional banking and market. CBA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Ian Narev announced Saines will leave the company at the end of 2013. Saines has been with CBA since 2004 and was appointed Group Executive, Institutional Banking and Markets in 2009.

“During the past four years, Ian has been a valued and highly-regarded member of the group’s executive committee,” Narev said in a statement on Monday. “Importantly, Ian led the business through the challenging GFC (global financial crisis) period and through to the most recent financial period where the continued progress of the Total Capital Solutions strategy led to a 10 percent lift in profits,” Saines said he was looking forward to move on to a new phase in his career. “I consider my current role to be one of the best in Australian banking, so a decision to stay would have been easy,” he said in a statement.

“However, the strength of the business and the outstanding quality of its talent gives me the opportunity at this time to move on to a new phase in my career.” CBA CEO Narev said the bank would undertake a global search as well as an assessment of internal candidate pool for a replacement for Saines. —Xinhua

New Daiichi drug vies for slice of clot prevention market

A man walks past a sign of Japanese pharmaceutical company Daiichi Sankyo Co, Ltd at the company’s head office in Tokyo on 17 July, 2009.— Reuters

Wellington, 2 Sept — A new blood clot preventer from Daiichi Sankyo proved as effective as widely used warfarin in treating a dangerous condition known as venous thromboembolism and caused less bleeding, a large clinical trial found.

The Japanese drugmaker hopes the finding will help it take on rivals including Bayer, Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer and Bristol-Myers Squibb in a growing market for novel pills to prevent blood clots, especially as the drug appears to work best in sicker patients. Industry analysts believe modern blood thinners to replace warfarin could generate sales of more than $10 billion (6.4 billion pounds) a year.

Daiichi’s once-a-day drug, however, is the fourth new oral anticoagulant and drug, however, is the fourth

New formulation of Roche’s Herceptin wins EU approval

ZURICH, 2 Sept — Swiss drugmaker Roche said on Monday the European Commission had approved a new formulation of its breast cancer drug Hercep tin which allows the medicine to be administered more quickly.

Roche said it had won approval for a new injectable version of Herceptin which cuts down treatment time to just two to five minutes. It currently takes between 30 to 90 minutes to administer the drug intravenously.

Herceptin is used as a treatment for around a quarter of breast cancer patients who have tumours that generate a protein called HER2, which tends to make their disease more aggressive. The drug, which goes off patent next year, is Roche’s third-biggest seller and notched up global revenues of 3.08 billion Swiss francs ($3.30 billion) in the first half of the year. — Reuters

Life expectancy gap growing between rich/poor world women: WHO

GENEVA, 2 Sept — Life expectancy for women at 50 has improved, but the gap between poor and rich countries is growing and could worsen without better detection and treatment of cardiovascular disease and cancers, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Monday.

A WHO study, one of the first to analyze the causes of death of older women, found that in wealthier countries deaths from noncommunicable diseases has fallen dramatically in recent decades, especially from cancers of the stomach, colon, breast and cervix. Women over 50 in low and middle-income countries are also living longer, but chronic ailments, including diabetes, kill them at an earlier age than their counterparts, it said. “The gap in life expectancy between such women in rich and poor countries is growing,” said the WHO study, part of an issue of the WHO’s monthly bulletin devoted to women’s health.

There is a similar growing gap between the life expectancy of men over 50 in rich and low-income countries in some parts of the world, this gap is wider, WHO officials said.

“More women can expect to live longer and not just survive child birth and childhood. But what we found is that improvement is much stronger in the rich world than in the poor world. — Reuters

Dairy prices drive rise in New Zealand terms of trade

Wellington, 2 Sept — New Zealand’s terms of trade rose by 4.9 percent in the quarter to the end of June, due to rising export prices and falling import prices, the government statistics agency announced on Monday.

It was the second straight quarterly rise in the terms of trade, a measure of the purchasing power of New Zealand exports abroad, but it was still 2.5 percent below the 37-year high reached two years ago, according to Statistics New Zealand.

“The terms of trade increase of 4.9 percent reflected higher dairy prices,” prices manager Chris Pike said in a statement. “Without dairy, the terms of trade would have risen 1.6 percent.” In the June 2013 quarter, export prices rose 3.4 percent, while import prices fell 1.5 percent, reflecting lower prices for crude oil and capital goods.

Dairy exports were the main driver of the rise in terms of trade, with prices up 14 percent and export volumes down 18 percent. —Xinhua

Residents are seen in a senior citizens’ home in Svetlograd, about 100 km (62 miles) from Russia’s southern city of Stavropol on 1 April, 2009. — Reuters

Commonwealth Bank of Australia
India’s Gandhi expected in US for medical check-up

NEW DELHI, 2 Sept— Sonia Gandhi, president of the ruling Congress party, is expected to fly to the United States for a scheduled medical check-up, a news agency report said, just days after she took ill during a marathon Parliament debate.

“The going to the US for a medical check-up is due,” the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency quoted an unnamed senior party leader as saying.

Gandhi, who underwent a surgery in the United States for an undisclosed ailment in August 2011 flew there on 2 September last year for a check-up. She went again in February this year, the PTI report said. There is speculation she may fly there on Monday for a medical check-up.

BERLIN, 2 Sept— Chancellor Angela Merkel and her Social Democrat challenger in this month’s German election clashed over the euro, tax policy and US spying in a television debate on Sunday that produced no clear winner.

The only TV duel of the campaign, watched by an estimated 15 million viewers, was one of SPD candidate Peer Steinbrueck’s last chances to change the momentum in a race in which he has trailed Merkel from the very start.

He accused the conservative chancellor, who is seeking a third term in the 22 September vote, of crushing southern European countries with austerity, failing to properly manage an exit from nuclear energy and overseeing a rise in low-wage jobs.

“For four years we have been at a standstill. I want to change this,” Steinbrueck said.

Merkel, 59, said SPD plans to raise taxes would put Germany’s prosperity at risk, and noted that Steinbrueck’s party had supported her euro policies throughout the crisis. Smiling, she turned to him and said: “You voted for everything.”

Dressed in black, both candidates appeared relaxed, made no obvious gaffes and appeared to have good grasp of the issues.

Merkel, wearing a twisty necklace in the colour of the German flag, turned often to speak directly to her challenger, while Steinbrueck stared straight ahead at the panel of four questioners, which included cult talk show host Stefan Raab.

A poll by Infratest Dimap conducted after the debate gave Steinbrueck the edge, with 49 percent of respondents saying he won and 44 percent backing Merkel.

Ex-S African President Mandela discharged from hospital

NABORI, 2 Sept— Former South African President Nelson Mandela was discharged on Sunday from a Pretoria hospital where he was being treated for a lung infection since 8 June, the presidential office said.

The 95-year-old Nobel Peace Prize laureate “will receive the same level of intensive care” after returning to his home in Johannesburg, it said. The country’s first black, post-apartheid leader “remains critical and is at times unstable,” it said. — Kyodo News

Russia sends spy ship to Mediterranean

MOSCOW, 2 Sept— Russia is sending a reconnaissance ship to the eastern Mediterranean, Interfax news agency reported on Monday, as the United States prepares for a possible military strike in Syria.

The reconnaissance ship Priazovye left Russia’s naval base in the Ukrainian Black Sea port of Sevastopol late on Sunday on a mission “to gather current information in the area of the escalating conflict,” the report quoted an unidentified military source as saying.

The Defence Ministry declined to give details on the mission.

President Barak Obama said on Saturday he would seek congressional authorization for punitive military action against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad after what the United States says was a sarin gas attack that killed more than 1,400 people.

Russia says the United States has not proved its case, and that it believes the attack was staged by rebels to provoke intervention in the more than two-year-old civil war.

Russia is one of Assad’s biggest arms suppliers and has a naval maintenance facility in the Syrian port of Tartous. Moscow opposes any military intervention in Syria and has shielded Damascus from pressure at the UN Security Council.

Interfax said the Priazovye would be operating separately from a navy unit permanently stationed in the Mediterranean in a deployment which President Vladimir Putin said is needed to protect national security interests.

The Defence Ministry said last week that new warships would be sent to the Mediterranean to replace others in a long-planned rotation of the ships based there.

WESTERN B呻HRAILIA, 2 Sept— The BRICS bloc of large, emerging economies has agreed on the structure of a proposed development bank with $50 billion in capital, but ironing out “difficult” details may take months, Russian Finance Minister Sergei Storchak said.

Officials from Brazil, China, India, Russia and South Africa agreed in early August that the bank’s capital should come from three payment categories, including subscriptions, Storchak told journalists in remarks for publication on Monday.

The establishment of the development bank aimed at providing funds for infrastructure projects has been slow in coming, with prolonged disagreement over funding and management of the institution.

“We must assure that the bank will not start functioning as fast as one could imagine,” Storchak said. “It will take months, maybe a year.” At the summit of the Group of 20 developed and developing nations this week in Russia’s St Petersburg, BRICS leaders will meet in an unofficial format, Storchak said, to discuss the progress on setting up the bank and a joint reserve fund.

The issues of division of the capital, payment of the capital, the location of the bank and the bank’s management still need to be decided, Storchak added.

BRICS agree on bank’s structure, progress difficult

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New Light of Myanmar
Tree planting ceremony held in Homein

Homein, 2 Sept—Monsoon tree planting ceremony was held in the environs of Naunglong Lake in Homein Sub-Township in Langkhio District in Shan State on 30 August.

The Township Administrator delivered an address at the ceremony. Departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people participated in planting saplings.—MMAL-Ye Naung (IPRO)

Sagaing Region Hluttaw Speaker visits fire-hit areas

Shwebo, 2 Sept—Sagaing Region Hluttaw Speaker U Thin Hlaing, Region Minister Col Kyi Naing, the Police Force Commander and District/Township officials attended the relief camp in Hangon village in Kanbula Township in Shwebo District on 28 August.

They briefed on security measures to prevent similar incidents, electrification for regional development, communications and transportation development and peaceful interfaith coexistence.

The Sagaing Region Hluttaw Speaker and party viewed the damages and called for measures to return to normalcy.

MMAL-Soe Thirua

Low-priced SIM cards allotted in Pyinmana

Pyinmana, 2 Sept—Low-priced SIM cards were sold to the local people in wards and villages in Pyinmana Township at respective administrator offices on 23 August.

The sale was supervised by Township Administrator U Hsan Maw.

Japanese experts observe Bago-Sittoung Canal

Thanatpin, 2 Sept—A team composed of Mr Suzuki of Japan’s Infrastructure Development Development Institute (IDU), nine fellow Japanese experts, Deputy Director of Irrigation Department of Bago Region U Ko Ko Oo, Assistant Director of Construction Group-1 U Aung Myat Myo, and Assistant Director of Bago District Irrigation Department U Myint Soe observed Bago-Sittoung Canal by motor boat from Patanapin to Bagan.

They conducted observation for dredging Bago-Sittoung Canal to prevent flood in Waw, Thanatpin and Kawa Townships.

The construction of the sluice gates would take time and the dredging of the canal would relatively less time-consuming and not need much observation. The excursion was made possible after the meeting between IDI and the Irrigation Department head office in Nay Pyi Taw two days ago.

The observation reported to the government, Assistant Director U Myint Soe said.

The Japanese group is an environmental research group of Infrastructure Development Institute.

It would inform the Japanese government of the possible aids, Mr Suzuki promised.

MMAL-Ye Htut (Min Village)

Pantanaw solo bicyclist to travel start and end of Ayeyawady Region within two months

Meiktila, 2 Sept—Ko Kin Maung Than, 40, hailed Nyaungbin diversion gate on 29 August.

They are conducting observation for dredging Bago-Sittoung Canal to prevent flood in Waw, Thanatpin and Kawa Townships.

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Yaw Min Gyik monastery open to public

Mandalay, 2 Sept—The brick monastery of Yaw Min Gyik U Pho Hlaing near Shwe Mann Taung Golf Course in Aungmyethazan Township in Mandalay is open to public.

The building bears resemblance to French architecture. U Pho Hlaing is said to be an admirer of French architecture which he witnessed in his diplomatic trip to France.

It was built in later Konbaung era in 1866 and it was hit by air bombings in 1945.

It was used as a headquarters of the Central Command in December, 1949. The building is now under the management of the Archaeology Department.—MMAL-Aye Myu (Mandalay)

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MMAL-Ye Htut (Min Village)
President U Thein Sein and party arrive in Nanning ...
(from page 1)
At 2.30 pm local time, President U Thein Sein received Secretary of Guangxi Zhuang Provincial People’s Congress Mr Peng Qinghu of Communist Party of China at Liuyuan Resort.
They frankly discussed cooperation in agriculture sector, runs of airlines and promotion of comprehensive cooperation between Myanmar and Guangxi Zhuang Province.
Present at the call together with the President were Union ministers, deputy ministers and the Myanmar Ambassador to China. The Secretary of Guangxi Zhuang Provincial People’s Congress was accompanied by the Vice-Chairman of Guangxi Zhuang Province People’s Congress and officials of the Guangxi Zhuang Province. MNA

Audit parties to abide by international auditing norms and audit ethics

Auditor-General of the Union U Thein Htaik addresses Audit Officers and Township Audit Officers Workshop No 3/2013.—MNA

Civil Service Training kicks off

The workshop was aimed at enabling the audit officers to discuss significant findings from the departmental accounts and seek weaknesses and strengths in the accounts and implement legal affairs and instructions of the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union, he said.

The audit parties are to abide by international auditing norms and audit ethics in inspecting the accounts with firm evidences, he said. He stressed the need to carry out auditing works under the prescribed laws in respective regions/states/distRICTS and townships. He noted that auditors are to discharge duty of auditing, not for accountants.

The ceremony was attended by the deputy auditor-general, the director-general, officials and 145 audit officers and township audit officers. The workshop will run up to 5 September.

Warning of high tide

Nay Pyi Taw, 2 Sept.—The public here are informed that exceptionally high spring of from 20.0 feet to 20.7 feet high above the datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period 5th to 11th September, 2013. That it is not serious because the high tide have reached up to 21.7 feet high above datum in the year 2011-2012 and that the warning is issued only because high tide reaches over 20 feet high above datum, announced Myanmar Port Authority.—MNA

Deputy Information Minister giving opening speech at opening of civil service training course.

Vice-Presidents of Myanmar Hockey Federation U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing and U Sow Lu Lu Htaw and General Secretary U Khin Maung Latt seen at the airport together with President of the federation U Htin Zaw Win on 2 September before their departure for Thailand to enjoy competitions of tentatively selected Myanmar women’s and men’s hockey teams in Pre-SEA Games Hockey Tournament from 1 to 8 September.
Than Swe (Paredan)
Work Committee for promotion of production and market competition in ASEAN Region meets

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Sept—Under the leadership of the Union Minister for NPED, the 13th work coordination meeting of the work committee for promotion of production and market competition in ASEAN Region for accomplishing ASEAN Economic Community-AEC (2015) and successful taking the place of ASEANChairmanship-2014 was held at the Ministry, here, this morning.

Present at the ceremony were Chairman of Implementing Work Committee for AEC Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw, the chairman of the work committee the Deputy Ministers from the related ministries and the directors-general, responsible persons from Yangon Institute of Economics, Myanmar Computer Professionals Association, UMFCCI. Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw made a speech on the occasion. Those present discussed issues of the 23rd ASEAN Summit which will be held in the first week of October.

At the meeting Daw Than Than Lin, ASEAN Senior Economic Officer, explained the tasks of the 45th ASEAN Economic Ministers’ Meeting and related meetings held in August, 2013. Those present discussed preparedness for taking ASEAN Chairmanship-2014. The Union Minister attended to the needs.—MNA

Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw addresses meeting for promotion of production and market competition in ASEAN Region.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw Election Sub-commission Chairman, members leave for Australia

Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Election Sub-commission and party being seen off by UEC member U Win Ko and officials at the airport.—MNA

YANGON, 2 Sept—Chairperson of Nay Pyi Taw Election Sub-commission and 15 members of region/state election sub-commissions left here by air this evening for Australia to observe the general elections to be held in Australia on 7 September. They were seen off by Union Election Commission Member U Win Ko and officials from Yangon Region election sub-committee at Yangon International Airport.

MNA

Electricity supply to villages in Pasawng Tsp commences

LOIKAW, 2 Sept—Installation works for electrification of Papu and Namkit villages in Pasawng Township in Bawlake District in Kayah State has been completed. A total of 40 households in Papu village and 93 households in Namkit village will receive electricity from the National Power Grid. It will connect Lawpita-Pasawng power grid from Lawpita No (2) Power Plant.

The installation started on 18 June, 2009, and the power grid begun supply of electricity in December, 2009.—MMAL-Kyee Myint Naing (Loikaw)

Knowledge on human trafficking in person shared in Hlinethaya

YANGON, 2 Sept—Chairperson of Women’s Affairs Organization of Yangon North District and partly gave educative talks on human trafficking and held dialogue at No (6) ward Mau Naung Dhammayon in Hlinethaya Township in Yangon North District on 31 August.

They disseminated knowledge on human trafficking education and information about human trafficking and formation of monitoring team in each ward and village.

A total of 29 attendees from wards and villages frankly discussed ways to prevent human trafficking.—MMAL-Than Huiik (Hlinethaya)

Rural baseline data collected in Taungtha

TAUNTHA, 2 Sept—Rural Development Department, Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and Township Development Affairs Committee made field trips to 243 villages in 77 villages in Taungtha Township in Mandalay Region to collect baseline data on 22-27 August.

They also gave educative talks on rural electrification, access to pure drinking water, social development activities and animal diseases. They recruited trainees for veterinary courses as well.—MMAL-Lin Let Kyai (Taungtha)

Katha-Indaw road in bad condition

INDAW, 2 Sept—Road users of Katha-Indaw motor road in Sagaing Region found it difficult to cope with the badly damaged road by weather.

The length of Katha-Indaw road is 18 miles and Katha-Indaw-Manle, Katha-Indaw-Ramauk, Katha-Indaw-Htigyaing. Katha-Indaw-Htigyaing, Mandalay, Katha-Nabar and Katha-Mawlu passenger buses are operating daily along the road. The muddy road with holes which has been in bad condition since 2010 is inviting dangers of traffic accidents.—MMAL-Ko Min (Indaw)

Myanmar trade union leaders to receive training in Japan

YANGON, 2 Sept—Ten leaders of Federation of Trade Unions of Myanmar left for Japan to attend Youth Leadership Course in Japan on 1-7 September, General Secretary U Maung Maung said.

The course was organized by Japan International Labour Assistance Foundation. The course will cover activities of labour unions, labour laws, collaborative dispute settlement and information sharing, according to Secretary of FTUM Daw Khaing Zar Aung.

The trainees are form labour unions of Myanma Locomotive Shed, agricultural industry, industrial zones and transportation sectors. Myanmar has 197 labour unions with 160,41 members.

The FTUM has become a full-fledged member of International Trade Union Council.—MMAL-Ye Khaung, Myat Thanda Maung

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Arrival and departure of tourists to be checked in Myeik District

MYEIK, 2 Sept.—A coordination meeting on scrutiny for entrance and exist of tourists was held at Kyunyadana Hall of Myeik District General Administration Department in Myeik of Taninthayi Region on 30 August.

Myeik District Deputy Commissioner U Lwin Ko Do explained the suggestion by the Union Minister for Immigration and Population for tourists in Taninthayi Region.

Head of Myeik District Immigration and National Registration Department U Hla Soe explained the provisions of the foreign tourists travelling law. Rector of Myeik University Dr Si Si Hla Bsu discussed opening of training courses on English proficiency and Thai languages for tour guides to serve the tourists on their smooth and convenient visits.

Commander of Myeik District Police Force Police Lt-Col Shwe Nya Maung reported on duty and functions of the Foreigner Care Supervisory Committee.

Milk fed to students at BEPS in Yebyu Township

YEBYU, 2 Sept.—With a view to turning out fit and healthy children in the future, milk was fed to students at Basic Education Primary School No 4 in Yebyu Township of Dawei District in Taninthayi Region.

Under the leadership of Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, milk was given to students at BEPS No 4 in Ward A on 25 August morning.

The milk feeding was organized by Staff Officer Dr Min Zin Oo of Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, Deputy Head of Department Dr Aye Min Htwe, Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Phyu Phyu Shein and ward administrator U Win Shwe.

Headmistress Daw Tin Tin Cho spoke words of thanks. It was reported that more programmes are underway to feed milk to the schoolchildren.

School children fed milk at Practising Middle School

SAGAING, 2 Sept.—A ceremony to feed refreshments to students was held at Sagaing Education College Practising Middle School in Sagaing on 30 August morning.

The refreshment was donated by IP Han Tun Kyaw of Sagaing District Police Force and wife Daw Zin Pyone Ei, son Maung Hnang Htet Aung of KG.

The refreshment was served to over 300 students. On behalf of the students and teachers, Headmistress Daw Tin Tin Win spoke words of thanks. She then explained feeding of milk to over 30 primary-school school located in the compound of the Practising School daily with the sponsorship of parents and teachers so as to emerge fit and healthy children and to have high intelligence for the school children.

Indaw Township’s rural area gets new upgraded BEPS

INDAW, 2 Sept.—A ceremony to upgrade the school to Basic Education Primary School was held in New Tonsi Village in Tagundaung Village-tract of Indaw Township in Sagyin Region on 28 August morning.

On the occasion, Deputy Head of Township General Administration Department U Kyaw Swa Win, Assistant Township Education Officer U Thein Swe Win and village administrator U Toe Maung formally opened the signboard of the school.

A ceremony to mark the upgrading of the school followed at the school hall.

Indaw Township Education Officer U Hla Soe explained the provisions of parents and teachers so as to emerge fit and healthy children and to have high intelligence for the school children.

Anti-Narcotic Drives

18 packets believed to be raw opium seized in Katha Township

KATHA, 2 Sept.—A squad comprising IP Shwe Thah Tun of Katha mobile section from Anti-Drug Special Squad, SIP Myint Lwin of KathaMya Police Station, leader of surveillance SIP Htaw Win and party and officials together with townelders, acting on tip-off, searched Yo Ei, 55/13, son of U Mar Do Ei, Humohti Village of Prinbo Township, Kayah State, sitting on the roadside with two packets of polyethylene in front of Sub-Power Station on Lammaw Street in Ward 7 of Katha in Katha District on 28 August.

They seized packet believed to be raw opium worth K 70,200,000.

The Katha Myoma Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against the drug possessor under Section 15/19(a)/(21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Kyemon-Moe Hein (Myeik)

Drains dredged for proper flow of water in Thongwa

THONGWA, 2 Sept.—Thongwa Township Development Affairs Committee managed dredging of drains both along sides of Yuzana Road in Ward 3 that flow into Hmaqwun Creek in of Thongwa Township in Yangon South District.

The committee used heavy machinery in dredging the drains on 30 August.

Thanks to dredging, the water can flow properly along its route as part of taking preventive measures against dengue haemorrhagic fever for the children and preventing floods.—Kyemon-Kyaw Hsan (Thongwa)

Tourism

Departmental officials participated in the discussions on scrutiny for tourists in their respective sectors.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the Deputy Commissioner of Myeik District General Administration Department.

Kyemon-Moe Hein (Myeik)

Thrivings crops plantations inspected in Haka

HAKA, 2 Sept.—A ceremony to show off thriving crops was held at Haitaland Farm in Haka of Chin State on 30 August morning with the aim of boosting production of crops and developing agriculture sector by Agriculture Department.

Chief Minister of Chin State U Hong Ngai, state level departmental officials and local authorities viewed thriving crops and paddy plantations and hybrid plantations.

Head of Chin State Agriculture Department U Thein Zaw and officials reported on progress of cultivation and replied to questions raised by those present. After looking into thriving maize plantation and tea plantation in Kawbok Agricultural Farm in Haka Ward in Haka, the Chief Minister gave instructions on use of high quality crop strains, systematic use of inputs and application of good agricultural practices.

Kyemon-Chin State IPRD
Cambodian PM to join ASEAN-China Expo in Nanning

PHNOM PENH, 2 Sept — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, accompanied by a large group of business people, left here on Monday for Nanning of southwest China’s Guangxi Province to attend the 10th ASEAN-China Expo, which is set to be held from 3 to 6 September. The premier was accompanied by Cham Prasidh, Minister of Commerce, Suy Chey, President of the Council for the Development of Cambodia, Chen Wu, and Governor of China’s Yunnan Province Li Jiheng, he said.

The expo was initiated by former Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao during the 7th ASEAN-China Summit and was firstly held in 2004. It is usually held in Nanning City. “Since its inception in 2004, the relations and cooperation in economics and trade between Cambodia and China have rapidly developed,” said Suy Thamarong.

Hakuho looking to extend title streak at Autumn basho

 TOKYO, 2 Sept — Gun- ning for his 27th career ti- tle, Mongolian firebrand Hakuho heads up presti- gious east yokozuna slot for the third tournament in a row as the Japan Sumo Association announced the rankings on Monday for the upcoming Autumn Grand Sumo Tournament in To- kyo.

Hakuho is seeking a fourth consecutive Em- peror’s Cup after a 13-2 showing in July in Nagoya will once again be the hot favorite at the 15-29 Sep- tember basho at Ryogoku Kokugikan.

Fellow grand champi- on Harumafuji, meanwhile, will be looking to prove his worth after another meda- cre 10-5 showing last time in Nagoya.

Looking short on con- fidence in recent meets, Harumafuji will be hoping to pick up where he left off after bursting Hako’s bubble with a surprisingly easy win on the final day of the Nagoya meet.

Kotoshogiku is also on the east side with the ex- perts from 167 companies, as well as business execu- tives from 167 companies, Sry Thamarong, minister attached to Prime Minister Hun Sen, told reporters at Phnom Penh International Airport before departure.

During the expo in Nanning, Hun Sen will hold a bilateral talk with Chi- nese Premier Li Keqiang, and meet separately with Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, Gov- ernor of China’s Guangxi Province.

Fishing boats set off for fishing from a fishing port in Qingdao City, east China’s Shandong Province, on 1 Sept, 2013. Fishermen resumed fishing as the summer fishing moratorium in the Yellow Sea and Bohai Sea ended on Sunday.—Xinhua

Japan business investment up for 1st time in 3 qtrs

Tokyo, 2 Sept — Capi- tal spending by Japanese firms rose for the first time in three quarters in the April-June period, as the yen’s slide and policy ef- fects have shored up the economy and prompted the corporate sector to beef up investment, the government said on Monday. Business investment by all nonfinan- cial sectors for purposes such as building plants and introducing new equipment gained 0.02 percent from a year earlier to 8.31 trillion yen ($84.29 billion) in the three months through June, following a 3.9 percent fall in the previous quarter, the Finance Ministry said.

In the October-Dec- ember period last year, capital spending plunged 8.7 percent due in part to the stronger yen against a backdrop of lingering concern over the eurozone debt crisis. But the pace of deterioration in business investment had slowed after Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s policies dubbed “Abenomics,” centering on drastic monetary easing and massive fiscal spending, drove down the Japanese currency and helped ex- ports bounce back.

On a quarter-on-quer- ter basis, capital spending, excluding investment in software, climbed a seasonally adjusted 2.9 percent from the January-March pe- riod, up for the third straight quarter, the ministry said.

The data will affect re- visions to Japan’s econom- ic growth figures, with the Cabinet Office set to release revised gross domestic product data for the same period on 9 September.

Monday’s readings showed spending by manu- facturers fell 9.1 percent from a year earlier to 2.85 trillion yen, but nonmanu- facturers logged a 5.6 per- cent increase to 5.46 trillion yen.

A preliminary GDP re- port released on 12 August showed Japan’s economy grew by an annualized real 2.6 percent in the three months through June on the back of a recovery in con- sumption and exports.

According to the pre- liminary GDP report, capital spending, which accounts for around 15 per- cent of Japan’s GDP, was down 0.1 percent on the quarter in the April-June period, marking a sixth consecutive quarterly loss.

Strong quake strikes off eastern Indonesia, no tsunami warning

JAKARTA, 2 Sept — An earthquake measuring 6.6 Richter scale jolted eastern parts of Indonesia on Sun- day, but there was no poten- tial for tsunami or no report of damages and casualty, the Meteorology and Geo- physics Agency said here.

The quake jolted at 18:52 pm local time (1152 GMT) with epicentre at 222 km northeast Maluku Barat Daya of Maluku Prov- ince and with the depth at 131 km under sea bed, an official of the agency told Xinhua by phone.

“The centre of the quake was too deep that the shakes could not be felt,” the official said.

Indonesia sits on a vul- canic-prone and highly seismically active area and has a history of devastating tsunamis since the 2004 Indian Ocean disaster.

Regional

Camera for Press

Referendum to test support for New Zealand government’s asset sales

WELLINGTON, 2 Sept — The New Zealand govern- ment is facing a mounting chorus to suspend its pro- gramme of asset sales after opponents on Monday were told they had won a refer- endum on the policy. The referendum was triggered when the Keep Our Assets coalition submitted a peti- tion signed 327,224 people, about 700,000 more than the required 10 percent of eligi- ble voters.

Although the result of the referendum will not be binding, it could undermine the government’s claim to a mandate to sell up to 49 percent of four state-owned energy companies — Mighty River Power, Meridian Energy, Genesis Power and Solid Energy — and the country’s national carrier, Air New Zealand.

Mighty River Power was sold down in July, but the share price quickly fell and has struggled to come near its opening price, and the government has an- nounced that Meridian will be sold down by the end of this year. Under New Zealand law, the government has a month to decide on a date for the referendum, which must be within 12 months of the petition being tabled in Parliament, which will happen on Tuesday.

Keep Our Assets spokesperson Roy Reid called on Prime Minister John Key to immediately suspend the sale of Meridi- en until the referendum had been held.

“New Zealanders have spoken up in unprecedented numbers to stop asset sales. The most respectful thing for the government to do is listen to New Zealanders and stop the asset sales un- til the referendum is held,” Reid said in a statement.

“Our energy assets were built for the benefit of all New Zealanders, selling them only benefits a small number of people who can afford to buy shares. New Zealanders don’t like that,” he said.

“The sale of Mighty River Power has been a disaster for the government and investors. The share price has plummeted and average mum and dads could not afford to invest.”

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UN airdrops aid for Syrian refugee children in north Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 2 Sept — A plane carrying 100 tonnes of UN emergency supplies to assist Syrian refugee children and families arrived Sunday evening in north Iraq, officials of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) told reporters here. The supplies were urgently airlifted from UNICEF’s global supply warehouse in Copenhagen, Denmark, to respond to the growing needs of Syrian refugees in Iraq, who now number more than 200,000, said the officials.

Some 50,000 refugees arrived in Erbil, Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq, in the last two and a half weeks. And half of them were children. Ten of thousands of other Syrians have also taken refuge in other countries like Jordan and Lebanon. They have left Syria to escape the ongoing fighting between the government and insurgents whom Damascus says are supported by some Western countries and their regional allies.

The supplies include water tanks, tap stands, latrine equipment, water purification tablets and testing kits; oral rehydration solution; emergency health and hygiene, early childhood development and recreation kits; school materials; and temporary schools and safe spaces, said a UNICEF news release. “These supplies come just in time to meet the pressing needs of the over 20,000 Syrian and Lebanese children who have recently arrived in northern Iraq,” said Dr Marzio Babille, UNICEF’s representative to Iraq. “This airlift underscores UNICEF’s unwavering support for the vital services these children need in the face of terrible suffering, trauma and stress.”

The items come on top of 12 trucks of supplies, carrying primarily hygiene kits for over 50,000 people, that arrived earlier this week from UNICEF’s warehouse hub in Mersin, Turkey, as well as an additional four trucks of emergency materials that arrived from Baghdad, the capital of Iraq. “All of these items are part of a first wave of supplies that will massively scale-up UNICEF’s emergency response to the growing number of Syrian refugee children and families in Iraq,” stated Babille.

The majority of supplies were made possible by a 5.8-million-U S dollar contribution from the government of Kuwait as well as an in-kind contribution from UPS, a long-standing partner of UNICEF, which provided support toward the airlift cost from Copenhagen.——Xinhua
**New Light of Myanmar**

**ENTERTAINMENT**

Robbie Williams spends 30,000 pounds on back treatment

**London, 2 Sept** — Singer Robbie Williams reportedly spent 30,000 pounds on getting his back treated during a recent tour. Williams is said to have got lower back spasms during the final leg of his Take The Crown tour.

He was unable to walk just a few days before the final act at Tallinn, Estonia, reports mirror.co.uk. “Robbie was wincing in pain when he walked into the room. He was stooping over with terrible lower back pain, and he really couldn’t sit down or stand up,” said Alan Austin Oolo, the doctor who treated Williams.

“He said he’d hurt his back last year doing some sort of jump from a height,” Oolo added. “A few days before he saw me, he’d done a jump on stage that had made it much worse. At that moment it would have been absolutely impossible for him to have performed,” he said.

Williams was adamant about not cancelling his final gig. “Robbie was very humble and didn’t want to let his fans down so I worked on him during three intensive sessions the following day,” he added.

**PTI**

Michael Douglas still wearing his wedding ring

**Los Angeles, 2 Sept** — Michael Douglas was spotted wearing his wedding ring, two days after he and Catherine Zeta-Jones revealed that they had separated after 13 years of marriage.

Douglas, 68, attended the 2013 Deauville American Film Festival, which opened with his latest film Behind the Candelabra and he was pictured wearing the wedding band, reported E! online.

With Douglas living at their Central Park West residence in Manhattan, Zeta-Jones has remained at their estate in Bedford, NY, where she enjoys golfing and horseback riding and frequents a local stable. They have two children together, 13-year-old son Dylan and 10-year-old daughter Carys.—**PTI**

Angelina Jolie books Jennifer Aniston’s favourite Hollywood hotel

According to a source, Brad and Angelina usually stay at the Four Seasons or Hotel Bel Air.—**PTI**

**Los Angeles, 2 Sept** — For an intimate break with actor-fiance Brad Pitt, actress Angelina Jolie opted for the hotel, which is one of Jennifer Aniston’s favourites.

The couple slipped unnoticed into the glamorous Sunset Tower Hotel in Hollywood on 27 August, and checked into suite 1502, the same room where Aniston, Pitt’s ex-wife, likes to stay, reports dailymail.co.uk.

“Brad and Angelina usually stay at the Four Seasons or Hotel Bel Air for their assignations,” a source said.

“Brad usually handles all of the details, but this time it was Angelina who made the plans, and she specifically picked the very hotel and the very suite where Jennifer stays,” the source added.—**Reuters**

Johnny Depp’s behaviour driving girlfriend “crazy”?

**Los Angeles, 2 Sept** — Hollywood actor Johnny Depp is reportedly in a fragile state and is relying too much on his girlfriend Amber Heard. His “smoothing behaviour” is said to be driving her crazy.

The 50-year-old actor has apparently been in a slump since the failure of his recent action film The Lone Ranger, reports showbiz.com.

“He’s in a terrible state over the whole thing,” said a source.—**PTI**

**Japanese director Hayao Miyazaki of the animated movie “Ponyo” smiles as he poses for a picture in Los Angeles on 28 July, 2009.—**REUTERS

Oscar-winning Japanese director Miyazaki to retire, studio head says

**Venice, 2 Sept** — Hayao Miyazaki, the Japanese director known for animated films like the Oscar-winning “Spirted Away”, plans to retire from filmmaking after a five-decade career, his production company said on Sunday at the Venice Film Festival. “Next week Miyazaki will have a Press conference held in Tokyo to announce his withdrawal from active working,” Koji Hoshino, head of Studio Ghibli, which was co-founded by Miyazaki, said at a festival news conference.

In Hoshino gave no further explanation for the decision by the director who is sometimes described as the Walt Disney of Japan. “I cannot accept any questions on this because there will be an official Press conference on this. He wants to say goodbye to all of you from the bottom of his heart,” Hoshino said. Miyazaki has made 11 feature films. His latest, called “The Wind Rises” in English, is already a box-office hit in Japan and had its premiere on the Venice Lido on Sunday, although Miyazaki was absent.

Based on the story of the man who designed Japan’s feared Zero fighter plane used in World War Two, the film’s themes about the dangers of nationalism and war set up the animator for unprecedented criticism.

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**Reuters**
Bale to be measured against Ronaldo and Neymar

MADRID, 2 Sept—Gareth Bale will have to find his place within a star-studded Madrid line-up quickly because the world’s most expensive player is sure to be compared constantly with his new team mate Cristiano Ronaldo and Barcelona’s Neymar.

As if that were not enough, the name of David Beckham will also be thrown into the mix as the 24-year-old Welshman arrives on the scene.

Real’s arch-rivals Barcelona have splashed 57 million euros to sign Brazil forward Neymar and just as Ronaldo has had to get used to constant comparisons with Lionel Messi, Bale will be expected to outperform the Catalans’ new boy, Bale, whose versatility is a mixed blessing, is likely to form a formidable front three with Ronaldo and France striker Karim Benzema.

Bale lands at the Bernabeu with a hefty 100 million euro price tag and the need to impress one of the most demanding audiences in the world every time he steps out on to the pitch.

Ronaldo sets the standard and is seen to have justified his $125 million transfer fee from 2009, scoring 202 goals in 202 matches. Despite a few run-ins with Madrid fans, no one has ever doubted Ronaldo’s voracious appetite for goals and his commitment to win every single game.

Real’s arch-rivals Barcelona have won the last two La Liga crowns but in 2012/13 they were only runner-up.

Arsenal and Liverpool claim derby spoils

LONDON, 2 Sept—Arsenal and Liverpool emerged victorious from two of the Premier League’s fiercest rivalries with wins over Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United respectively on Sunday.

Arsenal prevailed over big-spending Spurs 1-0 thanks to Olivier Giroud’s third goal in as many matches on beating the Briton in the third round, snappied a four-match losing streak to the Serbian dating back to Paris in 2009. Former French Open champion Li cracked 20 winners and conceded only 12 unforced errors in a dazzling display, converting all seven break points in a 57-minute masterclass.

The “last time in Rome I lost in two sets straight away. She plays pretty good defence, but who knows, maybe I played the best match of my whole life,” Li said with a chuckle in her on-court interview.

“I still remember last time I played here in Rome. I was feeling I played pretty good, but still lost the match;” she told reporters.

“So I was so sad after the match,” Li said her coach Carlos Rodriguez used that defeat to motivate her.

“Before this match, Carlos didn’t tell me anything. Just said, ‘remember how you felt after that match.’

“The victory put 31-year-old Li, Asia’s first grand slam singles champion, into the US Open quarter-finals for the second time following her trip to the last eight in 2009.

A two-time Australian Open finalist, Li next faces Russian 24th seed Ekat erina Makarova, who upset third seed Agnieszka Radwanska 6-4, 6-4.

Tonight she played really well, at a very high level,” Jankovic said of Li.

“I did not control the points. I lost her all the talk on the court. “If she continues to play like this I think she can win the tournament.”

Reuters

Dortmund top with Mkhitaryan’s first goals

FRANKFURT, 2 Sept—Henrikh Mkhitaryan scored his first two goals for Borussia Dortmund since a 27.5 million euro ($36.26 million) move to give them a 2-1 win at Eintracht Frankfurt which maintained their 100 percent record Bundesliga record on Sunday.

The Armenian’s goals were both excellently taken as he side-footed the first past Kevin Trapp and then rifled in a 25-metre effort from the edge of the penalty area early in the second half.

Sky Sport.

Arsenal’s Olivier Giroud celebrates scoring against Tottenham Hotspur during their English Premier League football match at the Emirates, London, England on 1 Sept, 2013.—Reuters

Li Na of China chases down a forehand to Jelena Jankovic of Serbia at the US Open tennis championships in New York, on 1 Sept, 2013.—Reuters

BVB Stuttgart, beaten in their first three Bundesliga outings, burst into life with a 6-2 win over Hoffenhein on coach Thomas Schneider’s debut in Sunday’s other match. Veded Ibisevic led the way with a hat-trick.

Dortmund’s win put them top of the Bundesliga as the only team with 12 points from their first four games. Defending champions Bayern Munich are two points behind in second with Hanno. Bayer Leverkusen and Mainz 05 on nine each. Eintracht are 15th with three points.

Mkhitaryan, who joined Borussia in July from Ukrainian champions Shakhtar Donetsk, where he orchestrated the side that reached the last 16 of the Champions League last season, opened his account

Li wins another pay-back match to reach quarter-finals

NEW YORK, 2 Sept—Li Na notched another pay-back victory at the US Open, beating former world number one Jelena Jankovic 6-3, 6-0, to advance to the quarter-finals on Sunday.

It was a sweet victory for Arsenal who have recovered from their shock 3-1 defeat by Aston Villa on the opening day of the season with two successive wins, and could help silence some of the critics hitting out at Wenger’s lack of action in the transfer market.

“Some fans and players in the dressing room were exulting when we got the goal against Spurs. It was a fantastic start to the season,” said manager Arsene Wenger.

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“We had opportunities in the first half, they also started strong but I think we came back into the game very positively,” manager Andre Villas-Boas said, also acknowledging the new signings needed time to settle in.—Reuters

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**Ten-year-old boy wins Alaska's contest for giant cabbages**

**PALMER, 2 Sept—**A 10-year-old boy has won Alaska's annual giant cabbage contest, submitting a 92.3-pound (41.9 kg) specimen named “Bob” to officials at the state fair.

Keevan Dinkel of Wasillia, Alaska, produced this year’s winning entry, which was carried in by several Boy Scouts, in the Alaska State Fair’s Giant Cabbage Weigh-Off on Friday night.

His giant cabbage, which rose to about thighbreadth on a typical adult, and those of other contestants were weighed at the fairgrounds in Palmer, in a contest watched by hundreds of onlookers, attended by green-clad women dressed as “cabbage fairies” and monitored by a representative of the state Division of Weights and Measures.

Produce can grow to enormous sizes under Alaska’s summer midnight sun. Growing big cabbages is a tradition in this part of the state, just north of Anchorage, which is considered Alaska’s main farm belt.

This year was the first time in the contest’s 18 years that a child has won the weigh-off, according to state fair officials. The fair offers a junior competition for growers 12 and younger, but Keevan’s entry was put into the adult open category because of its size.

**Oribytary**
Daw Mya Mya Sann @ Maikoon Maesof 87yr Rander Bohra Surhti Jamaat Yangon-Pathin (Shamie Family) Cousin of late Chief Mufti Mahmood Dawood Yusuf, late Mohamed, Ahmed Babu (Shamie Confectionary), late Dr S.A.Nalla (Canada-Halima (Karachi), Ahmed-Dr Aisha Esoof (US), Dr Tinol-Hawa Esoof (UK), Hashim Bacchu (Scotland), Rahima Lei Lei Swe P.T (Singapore), Faruz Patail, Khalid Patail (Amir) Gora Moosa-Hafiza (Saud), Dr.Hun Kyaw (Malaysia).

Elder sister of Khadija, Fatima, (Hashin), (Hawa), Sara, Dr Aung Soe (Medical Supervisor), Aunti of Myat Thu-Salma, Ubeida (Hallo Mobile-Pathin) Grand Mother of Aisha Kay Zin Han, Abdullah-Sofie (Zaire-Africa) ansaawed call of Almighty Allah at 0620 hrs at No-6,132 street Ma-u gon, Yangon.

**Berived Family**

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**Orbitty**

**Stoke City sign Werder Bremen forward Arnautovic**

**LONDON, 2 Sept—**Stoke City have signed Austrian international forward Marko Arnautovic from German club Werder Bremen on a four-year deal, the Premier League club said on Monday.

The 24-year-old, who was out of favour with the Bundesliga club for speeding on a German motorway, became the fifth new signing under manager Mark Hughes after Erik Pieters, Marc Muniesa, Oussama Assadi and Juan Agudelo.

“Stoke City are delighted to sign Austria international winger Marko Arnautovic from German side Werder Bremen,”
Myanmar, China exchange views on comprehensive strategic cooperation

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Sept—President U Thein Sein held talks with Chinese Premier of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China Mr Li Keqiang at Liyuan International Conference Hall in Nanning of China at 6 pm local time today.

They cordially exchanged views on comprehensive strategic cooperation between the two countries and relationship with partnership countries.

It was also attended by the Union ministers, deputy ministers, the Myanmar Ambassador to China and officials. The Chinese Premier was accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Commerce, the Minister of Reform and Development, vice ministers, senior officers and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yang Houlan.

In the evening, President U Thein Sein attended a dinner in honour of Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries to the 10th China-ASEAN Expo and the China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit hosted by Chinese Premier Mr Li Keqiang on the second floor of Liyuan International Conference Hall in Nanning.

MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing releases fingerlings into Yezin Dam

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Sept—A ceremony to launch the technical assistance project for opening and closing ceremonies of the XXVII SEA Games was held at Wunna Theikdi Stadium, here, this morning.

Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu, the director-general of Ministry of Culture, China, the Chinese Cultural Counsellor and the CAEG Chairman made speeches.

The Union Minister and party formally opened the ceremony. After the ceremony, officials met foreign and local media on launching the project.

MNA

UNDP donates computers to UCSB

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Sept—Personal Computers along with accessories and office furniture were donated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to support the computer skill development training course for UCSB staff at UCSB, here, this morning.

As part of assisting Myanmar’s Civil Service reform processes, the Country Programme Action Plan (2013-2015) was signed between the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on 8 April, 2013. The donation and assistance to conduct a computer skill development training course is part of a civil service capacity development activity in accordance with the UNDP’s Country Programme Action Plan.

On behalf of the UNDP, Mr. Toily Kurbanov, Country Director, handed over document related to computers, accessories and office furniture to U Kyaw Thu, Chairman of the UCSB. The donated computers, accessories and office furniture will be used for basic and advance level computer skill development training courses for UCSB staff.

MNA

Technical assistance for SEA Games opening and closing ceremonies launched

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A total of 183,000 fishes have been set free into the dam by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air).

MNA

Liaison Officer Course opened

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Sept—An opening ceremony of Liaison Officer Course No. 5/2013 for ASEAN Summits to be hosted in Myanmar was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, here this morning.

Director-General U Thar Aung Nyunt of Consular and Legal Affairs Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs delivered an address.

A total of 70 trainees from 25 ministries are taking the course which will last from 2 to 13 September. They are to be assigned duty as liaison officers to ASEAN Summits-2014 and related meetings.

The course covers ASEAN affairs, knowledge on diplomacy, culture and customs of all ASEAN countries, sustainable development of Myanmar and proficiency of English language.

MNA