Myanmar-Timor-Leste to promote friendship, cooperation

President U Thein Sein and wife lay out red carpet for Timor-Leste PM and wife

Timor-Leste Prime Minister and wife.
After taking the salute, the President and the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste inspected the Guard of Honour. As scholars from Nay Pyi Taw Basic Education High School No.5 welcomed the leaders of both countries waving miniature flags, the Timor-Leste Prime Minister cordially greeted them.

After the welcoming ceremony, the Timor-Leste Prime Minister presented his entourage to the President. Likewise, the President introduced his entourage to the Timor-Leste Prime Minister.

Also present at the ceremony were Union Minister U Aung Kyi and wife, Union Ministers U Thein Nyunt and U Khin Maung Soe, Deputy Minister U Thaung Tin and wife. The Timor-Leste Prime Minister and wife were accompanied by ministers and senior officials.

The President had a cordial discussion with the Timor-Leste Prime Minister at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace. (See page 8)

Timor-Leste PM and party arrive in Nay Pyi Taw

A goodwill delegation led by Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Security of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and wife Mrs. Kirsty Sword-Gusmão arrived here by air from Yangon at 8.15 am today.

They were welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Union Minister U Aung Kyi and wife Daw Thet Thet Swe, Deputy Ministers U Thant Kyaw and U Thaung Tin and wife Daw Tin Tin Aye and officials.

A girl from Fine Arts Department presented a flower basket to the Timor-Leste Prime Minister and wife. The Guard of Honour saluted the visiting Prime Minister and party. Students welcomed the Timor-Leste Prime Minister, wife and party by waving miniature flags along both sides of the entrance road to Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.—MNA

Central Committee for holding International Day of Democracy 2013 meets

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Sept—A coordination meeting of the Central Committee for holding International Day of Democracy 2013 was held at the meeting hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Committee here this morning, with an address by Chairman of the Central Committee U Hlay Oo.

Committee Chairman U Hlay Oo called for coordination between the work committees for successful holding of the ceremony. Those present presented reports on preparation works by respective work committees.

The meeting came to an end with a concluding remarks by the Committee Chairman. A paper reading session will be held at Thabin Hall of Hluttaw Building to mark International Day of Democracy 2013 which falls on 15 September, 2013.

It was also attended by members of the Central Committee, chairmen and secretaries from the works committee and officials from the Hluttaw Office.——MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Sept—President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Kyin Win extended a warm welcome to Prime Minister of Timor-Leste Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão and wife Mrs. Kirsty Sword-Gusmão on the lawns of the Presidential Palace, here, at 9.30 am today.

At first, President U Thein Sein and wife cordially greeted the leaders of both countries. After taking the salute, the President and the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste inspected the Guard of Honour. As scholars from Nay Pyi Taw Basic Education High School No.5 welcomed the leaders of both countries waving miniature flags, the Timor-Leste Prime Minister cordially greeted them.

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The President had a cordial discussion with the Timor-Leste Prime Minister at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace. (See page 8)
Asphalt roads, concrete roads constructed in Kayan Township

Local farmers are engaged in cultivation of paddy, groundnut, sunflower and green gram. A total of 65 village-tracts in the township grow 112,284 acres of paddy, 1,390 acres of cold season groundnut, 953,262 acres of green gram and 1,105 acres of sunflower.

The local people are carrying out breeding of fish at 5026 acres of ponds and 50 acres of prawn. They transport domestic products and vegetables to the Yangon City daily.

Kayan Township is being facilitated with 13 miles and six furlongs long Kayan-Maungma-Shwehlay road that link villages in western Kayan and Bago.

In addition, 16 miles and four furlongs long asphalt road is under construction for giving smooth transport to the local people from Kayan, Yekyaw, Aungthathan villages of eastern Kayan.

Due to the requests of local people and Pyuthu Hluttaws, Yangon South District Public Works and Kayan Township Public Works are constructing the roads with the assistance of Ministry of Construction and Yangon Region government.

Construction of the roads will be undertaken spending the fund of Yangon Region Government.

At present, the local people eastern and western parts of Kayan can go to anywhere through concrete and asphalt roads linking Bago and Yangon via Kayan. — Kyemon-Byline: Kayan Soe Myint

Youths participate in volleyball, Sepak Takraw events in NyaungU

NyaungU, 12 Sept—The NyaungU Township Administrator Cup Volleyball and Sepak Takraw Tournaments are being held at the sports ground near the southern stairway of Shwezigon Pagoda, here, as of 1 September.

Ward/village-tract teams are taking part in the tournaments. Altogether 20 volleyball teams and 26 Sepak Takraw teams are competing in the respective tournaments. The competitions will last 14 days.

 Shields and gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded to the first, second and third prize winning teams.

The first prize in volleyball tournament will secure K 500,000, the second K 300,000 and the third K 200,000.

First prize winner in Sepak Takraw Tournament will win K 300,000, the second K 200,000 and the third K 100,000.

Consolation prize winners will bag K 50,000 each in two tournaments.

The tournaments were aimed at turning out outstanding athletes on whom the township can rely and representing the township in the district contests. —MMAL-Ye Thura Aung (NyaungU)

Myanmar archers hope for gold in SEA Games

Yangon, 12 Sept—A total of 21 tentatively selected archers of Myanmar team are under intensive training so as to take part in the XXVII SEA Games to be hosted by Myanmar.

Myanmar team has took part in the international archery competitions to gain experience before the SEA Games. In addition, the archers had taken one-month training in Republic of Korea. Myanmar archery team is making final preparations for the SEA Games after arriving back home.

To raise capability of athletes, the sportstricht have been organized since June 2013. A plan is underway to hold the sports trials on 17 and 18 September.


The archers are under training of U Ye Min Swe, U Aung Thura, U Aung Naing Oo and Daw Myat Thaza Myint and Mr Lee Song Bong. — MMAL-Shine Htet Zaw

Earthen road to Alodawpyae Monastery renovated

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Sept—Staff and family members of Nay Pyi Taw Daily under News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information renovated the earthen road leading to Saddhamma Yeiktha’s eastern archway of Alodawpyae Monastery in Setkon Village in Khitay Village-tract of Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council, on 9 September.

The staff filled the soil at the low-lying area of the one mile long earthen road for enabling members of the Sangha from the monastery to stroll along on the road conveniently and pilgrim cars to have easy access to Alodawpyae Monastery at anytime. — KM Kyaw Than (Mawlamyine)

Loans disbursed to members of rural cooperative societies

Pwintbyu, 12 Sept—Pwintbyu Township Cooperative Syndicate disbursed loans to village cooperative societies in Minbu District of Magway Region for the third time.

On 7 September morning, the syndicate presented K 53,865 million to members of the rural cooperative societies. The syndicate presented K 40,000 each to 1,539 members of cooperative societies for the first time and K 2,000 each to them for the second time. —MMAL-Tin Tun Oo
China support political and national reconciliation in Myanmar, FM position paper says

BEIJING, 12 Sept—According to the news released by Chinese Embassy in Myanmar, China’s Foreign Ministry released the Position Paper of the People’s Republic of China at the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on 9 September.

The paper, issued annually prior to the UNGA meeting, explains China’s position on a wide range of issues that will be discussed at the meeting. Following is China’s position on the issue of Myanmar:

Since the political transformation started in Myanmar, positive progress has been made in its political and national reconciliation. There is good momentum of development. As a friendly neighbour, China will continue to support Myanmar’s efforts in realizing domestic stability and development and advancing political and national reconciliation.

China supports Myanmar in developing friendly and cooperative relations with other countries based on equality and mutual benefit, and welcomes the lifting of sanctions on Myanmar by relevant countries.

The international community should continue to create a sound external environment for Myanmar to steadily advance reform, achieve enduring stability and accelerate development, and respect the development path chosen by the people of Myanmar based on their national conditions.

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu welcomes Russian proposal for Syrian chemical weapon

Jerusalem, 12 Sept—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu welcomed on Wednesday the Russian proposal of placing Syrian chemical weapons under international supervision would be "well received" by Iran, a staunch ally of Damascus.

At the same ceremony, Israeli President Shimon Peres said that he “trusts” US President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin to achieve a "credible and meaningful" deal. Netanyahu met with Israeli defence officials several times in the past two weeks to assess the situation. Last week, several hundred reservists were called up for military duty and anti-missile batteries were stationed across northern and central Israel.

The reserves were released later that week and the military has some what lowered the alert level. Officials said the probability that Israel will be attacked is "low" but the country will be prepared for any potential attack.

Italian PM Letta says borrowing costs threatened by instability

ROME, 12 Sept—Prime Minister Enrico Letta warned on Wednesday that Italy could face higher borrowing costs if continued political instability undermined the progress it had made in reassuring financial markets over the state of its public finances.

“We can ruin this in a moment,” he told parliament in a report on the recent meeting of the G20 economic powers in St. Petersburg. Letta was referring to the market nerves which have taken Italy’s borrowing costs above those of Spain for the first time in 18 months.

Russia could boost Iran arms sales if US strikes Syria

MOSCOW, 12 Sept — A senior lawmaker and ally of President Vladimir Putin suggested on Wednesday that Russia could increase arms sales to Iran or review cooperation over Afghanist an if the United States launches military strikes against Syria. Russia is a long-standing ally of Iran, Syria’s main backer and the United States’ chief antagonist in the Middle East. Moscow built Iran’s first nuclear power station and has supplied it with anti-aircraft defences.

The remarks by Alexei Pushkov, head of the lower house of parliament’s foreign affairs committee, appeared to be part of a drive to convince Washington to refrain from attacking Syria in retaliation for a poison gas attack in Damascus that killed hundreds of civilians.

Pushkov echoed Putin by saying Russia’s initiative to have its ally Syria give up all its chemical weapons would succeed only if Washington and its allies rejected the use of force.

Outlining possible responses if Syria was attacked, Pushkov told the lower house, the State Duma: “This would include the expansion of defensive weapons deliveries to Iran, and discussing the possibility of reviewing our cooperation with the United States on Afghanistan.”

He gave no details in his address to the chamber, which was expected to pass a resolution later on Wednesday echoing Putin’s opposition to military strikes.

Syria’s chemical weapons; decades to build, years to destroy

AMSTERDAM, 12 Sept—If Saddam Hussein’s Iraq is anything to go by, destroying Syria’s massive chemical weapons arsenal will mean checking dozens of far-flung sites in a war zone while the government employs delaying tactics to hide the banned munitions, an expert involved in past UN disarmament missions said.

Baschar al-Assad’s chemical weapons network comprises remote underground bunkers where hundreds of tons of nerve agents are stored, scud missiles and artillery shells, possibly armed with cyanide, and factories deep inside hostile territory used to produce mustard or VX gas, experts believe. “It’s big. He has one of the biggest chemical weapons programmes in the region and even in the world,” said Dieter Rothbacher, a former UN weapons inspector in Iraq who trained members of the team that just returned from Syria.

“There are calculations that to secure them up to 75,000 ground troops are needed,” he said in a Reuters interview. “It took us three years to destroy that stuff under UN supervision in Iraq.”

First there needs to be an iron-clad agreement, either by Syria joining the Chemical Weapons Convention, but more likely in the form of a UN Security Council agreement, in which Damascus relinquishes control of the weapons.

It could be similar to Iraq, where a UN Security Council resolution forcing Iraq to declare and destroy its chemical weapons. Certain militaries are already preparing for that scenario, Rothbacher said. —Reuters
FRTC to scrutinize new Facebook facial recognition feature

Men are silhouetted against a video screen with an Facebook icon as he poses with an Nokia Lumia 920 phone. Samsung Galaxy S4 in this photo illustration taken in the central Bosnian town of Zenica, on 14 Aug, 2013.

NEW YORK, 12 Sept—US officials will examine changes to Facebook Inc’s privacy policy to determine whether it violates a 2011 agreement with federal regulators, a Federal Trade Commission spokesman confirmed Wednesday after certain changes drew fire from privacy advocates.

Much of the criticism has focused on a proposed “Tag Suggest” feature that would use facial recognition technology to match faces in photos with public

NASA enlists ex-Air Force drones for tropical storm research

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Florida), 12 Sept—NASA is using of a pair of decommissioned military drones to study how tropical storms develop over the Atlantic Ocean. The campaign, known as the Hurricane and Severe Storm Sentinel, or HS3, began last year with one Global Hawk unmanned aircraft outfitted with instruments to probe the environment around a developing storm.

With two planes available for the 2013 Atlantic hurricane season, scientists are focusing on the interior of storms as well. The project could improve storm predictions and forecast models by shedding light on how tropical cyclones can rapidly intensify. “The second aircraft will measure eyewall and rainband winds, and precipitation, something we didn’t get to do last year,” project lead scientist Scott Braun, a meteorologist with the US space agency’s Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, said in a NASA interview.

“As just as we did in 2012, the first aircraft will examine the large-scale environment that tropical storms form in and move through, and how that environment affects the inner workings of the storms,” he said.

The NASA Global Hawks were built for the US Air Force by Northrop Grumman Corp, part of a fleet used for surveillance missions over Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya. Global Hawks, which first flew in 1998, also have supported disaster relief efforts in Haiti and Japan. NASA first used the planes for scientific research in April 2010.

Global Hawks are particularly suited for atmosphere studies since they can reach altitudes greater than 60,000 feet, about twice as high as commercial air planes, and can stay airborne for up to about 28 hours. For its hurricane research programme, NASA is remotely flying its Global Hawks from the Wallops Flight Facility on Wallops Island, Virginia. Flights began in late August and are scheduled to run through 23 September. The Atlantic hurricane season runs from 1 June to 30 November and typically peaks in early to mid-September.

GABORONE, 12 Sept—Botswana saw a significant increase in elephant population between 1992 and 2012, while other animal species are either on decline or showing stagnation, a latest released aerial survey showed.

According to the official Botswana Press Agency on Tuesday, a study titled Aerial Census of Animals in Botswana/ Dry Season 2012 has made observations on 26 animal species including wild animals like buffalo, eland, elephant, gemsbok, giraffe, zebra, etc., and livestock like cattle, donkey, horse, sheep and goats.

Deputy director in the Department of Wildlife and National Parks Cyril Taolo was quoted as saying that the national elephant population stands at 207,545, “which is a 297 percent change between 1992 and 2012.” Elephants are concentrated in the north and central parts of the country. Taolo said with such a big population of elephants, the country needs to manage them carefully and monitor their impact on the environment as they pose a threat not only to the environment, but other species of animals and human life.

Taolo detailed that the hunting of wildlife such as elephants to grow at uncontrollable rates. There are reports that in communities that live around the elephants there is a question of wildlife-human conflict as elephants kill people and destroy crops.

Taolo brushed aside the concerns saying that hunting was not banned to manage elephant population, but to benefit communities who live within wildlife areas.

“As an example, we issued licences for 400 elephants per annum, how much of a difference would that have on 200,000 plus elephants,” he said.

An elephant migration plan where a conducive environment is created in neighbouring countries to lure the elephants to cross over is one method that can be explored to manage elephants, he said.

He added that the hunting ban was only temporary to monitor the decline of certain animal species.

According to the survey, there were upward trends for all other species except lechwe, sable, sitatunga, springbok and tsessebe.

Elephant in Botswana
British central bank plans issuance of plastic banknotes in 2016

LONDON, 12 Sept — British central bank, the Bank of England (BOE), announced on Tuesday that it is soliciting public opinions on issuing plastic banknotes in a bid to ensure good quality genuine banknotes that the public can use with confidence.

According to BOE, based on a three-year research project looking at the materials on which banknotes are printed, the bank had reviewed the relative merits of printing banknotes on polymer rather than than the cotton paper as at present.

The new material banknotes, which have the advantages of resistance to dirt and moisture, advanced security features, and durability, will initially only be for the new five-pound notes and 10 pounds banknotes, with one denomination at a time.

The five pounds note will be featured with Sir Winston Churchill, expected to be issued in 2016 at the earliest, with the 10 pounds note to follow.

If the decision is made to move to the polymer banknotes, the central bank said it would also introduce smaller banknotes for convenience to fitting into purses and wallets.

“Polymer banknotes are much more secure, more secure and more durable than paper notes. They are also cheaper and more environmentally friendly,” said Charles Bean, BOE's Deputy Governor of the Bank of England.

“However, the Bank of England would print notes on polymer only if we were persuaded that it would continue to have confidence in, and be comfortable with, our notes.

“The results of the consultation programme on which we are embarking will therefore form vital part of our assessment of the merits of polymer banknotes.”

The public consultation programme on polymer banknotes will run until 15 November, and BOE will announce the decision on whether to move to polymer in December.

Polymer banknotes are manufactured from a transparent plastic film, typically coated with an ink layer that enables it to carry the printed design features of banknotes. The material allows the inclusion of “windows” or clear portions in the design, which enhance protection against counterfeits.

Spans financial sector receives 84.195 bn euros of public aid in 2011

MADRID, 12 Sept — Spanish banks received a total of 84.195 billion euros (111.638 billion US dollars) of public aid in 2011 to combat the crisis affecting the sector, Spain’s National Competition Commission reported on Tuesday.

The figure was almost 94.5 percent of the total public aid injected by the public sector that year (89.162 billion euros), which represented 7.84 percent of Spain’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Each Spaniard paid 1,781.3 euros to reorganize Spain’s financial entities, said the Commission.

In annual terms, the amount received by the Spanish banking sector decreased by 4.967 billion euros between 2010 and 2011, from 89.162 billion euros to 84.195 billion euros, the Commission reported. A year later, in June 2012, the Spanish government asked for financial aid from the European Union (EU) in order to recapitalize its baking system.

The EU gave Spain 37 billion euros to recapitalize the EU’s so-called first group of banks (including Spain’s nationalized entities, Bankia, Catalunya Caixa, Banco de Valencia and NovaGalia Banco) and 1.865 billion euros for the EU’s so-called second group: Liberbank, Caja3, BMN and CIESS.

Obesity tied to semi-frequent migraines

NEW YORK, 12 Sept — Overweight and obese people are at higher-than-average risk of migraines, suggests a new study out.

Researchers looking at so-called episodic migraines — headaches that occur less than every other day — found they were almost twice as common among obese people as among normal-weight adults.

“This suggests patients and doctors need to be aware that obesity is associated with an increased risk of episodic migraine and not wait until a patient has chronic migraine to address healthy lifestyle choices, such as diet and exercise, and to choose medications that impact weight with care,” lead researcher Dr Lee Peterlin, from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, told Reuters Health in an email.

However, the researchers couldn’t be sure which came first — the extra weight or the headaches. And one migraine researcher not involved in the study said he would be cautious interpreting its findings.

“If this helps of course to make people believe they should lose weight, that’s great, but does it mean that reduction in weight will reduce migraine attacks, or treat migraines? That’s a question they haven’t addressed,” Dr Tobias Kurth, of the French national research institute INSERM and the University of Bordeaux, said. About 10 to 15 percent of people have episodic migraines, according to Peterlin. Previous studies have linked obesity to chronic migraines, which by definition occur at least every other day. But there’s less evidence on whether weight also plays a role in less frequent migraines, researchers said.

To try and answer that question, Peterlin and her colleagues analyzed data on 1,862 people who participated in a national US survey in the early 2000s, including 188 who reported having migraines an average of three or four times each month.

About 32 percent of people with episodic migraines were obese, compared with 26 percent of non-migraine sufferers.—Reuters

Spans financial sector receives 84.195 bn euros of public aid in 2011

NEW YORK, 12 Sept — Heavy supplementation of vitamin D did not reduce diarrheal illnesses among children aged three and younger in a large trial conducted in Kabul, Afghan i stan.

The results are disappointing in light of a body of research that has consistently linked high vitamin D levels to improved immune system function and deficiency to a higher risk of infectious diseases, the researchers write in the journal *Pediatrics*.

“It was thought that vitamin D supplementation would help in the prevention of diarrheal illnesses,” lead author Dr Adam Aluisio of the Department of Disease Control at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine said.

“Vitamin D plays a role in the body’s defences against bacteria and viruses — we know this from biochemical studies,” he told Reuters Health.

But previous studies have relied on laboratory experiments and observations from the field, both of which fall short of medicine’s gold standard — the randomized clinical trial.

Though the researchers found evidence of only one other vitamin D trial for diarrheal illness that was conducted with fewer than 50 children in Bangladesh.

Around the world, and especially in poorer countries, diarrheal diseases kill 1.8 million children under the age of five every year, according to the World Health Organization.

The second group received a placebo for the same time period.

Field workers collected data from participating

Vitamin D disappoints in trial for infant diarrhea

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families twice each week, asking parents whether their child had experienced diarrhea in the previous 24 hours.

Both groups of families averaged roughly three diarrhea illnesses per child, per year. There were no differences between the babies who got the vitamin D and those who didn’t in the number of diarrhea bouts, the average time until the first bout, or in other factors such as malnutrition and how often mothers washed their hands.

Reuters
UN report ranks world’s happiest countries

BEIJING, 12 Sept — Northern Europe seems to be the world’s happiest place, according to a United Nations report that looked at a variety of lifestyle and well-being measures.

The 2013 World Happiness Report, the second of its kind, was published on Monday by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network. Denmark, Norway, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Sweden, all in northern Europe, are the world’s happiest countries, according to the survey of 156 countries.

The lowest ranked are Rwanda, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Benin and Togo, all in Africa, according to the report. The United States ranks 17 in the world in terms of overall happiness, lagging behind Canada (6), Australia (10), Israel (11), the United Arab Emirates (14), and Mexico (16), according to the survey.

Based on how people rate their overall satisfaction with life, the survey took into consideration economic conditions, life expectancy, social support, and other factors. The global survey, conducted between 2010 and 2012, showed overall increases in happiness from the first round, conducted between 2005 and 2011.—Xinhua

Russia beefs up naval presence in Mediterranean

MOSCOW, 12 Sept — Russia beefs up its naval presence in the Mediterranean Sea with three more warships heading to that region, the Defence Ministry said on Wednesday.

The guard cruiser Moskva has passed through the Strait of Gibraltar and is expected to reach the designated area next Tuesday, said the ministry.

Upon its arrival, Moskva would replace the anti-aircraft cruiser Smetlivy, the Defence Ministry said on 15-17 September, the second pause at 9:03 am (1303 GMT) when United Airlines Flight 175 struck the South Tower.

The ceremony was held at the National September 11 Memorial plaza, where two reflecting pools mark the footprints of the original Twin Towers.

Further moments of silence will be observed at 9:37 am (1337 GMT), when American Airlines Flight 77 hit the Pentagon; at 9:59 am (1359 GMT) when the South Tower fell; at 10:03 am (1403 GMT) when United Flight 93 hit the ground near Shanksville, Pennsylvania; and at 10:28 am (1428 GMT), when the North Tower collapsed.—Reuters

2 and a half years after quake

Kesennuma, 12 Sept — A woman prays for the souls of her family members who were killed in the March 2011 tsunami at a place where their house used to stand before being washed away in Kesennuma, Miyagi Prefecture, on 11 Sept, 2013, two and a half years after the disaster. Work began recently to dismantle a fishing boat (back) that has remained stranded after being carried there by the tsunami.—Kyodo News

Flowers and pictures are left along the North Pool of the 9/11 Memorial during a ceremony marking the 12th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Centre in New York on 11 Sept, 2013.—Reuters

30 killed, 55 wounded in suicide attack in Iraq’s capital

BAGHDAD, 12 Sept — At least 30 people were killed and 55 others wounded in a suicide attack at a Shiite mosque in Baghdad on Wednesday, an interior ministry official said.

A suicide bomber wearing an explosive belt blew himself up at al-Temimi mosque in the Kasa area in northern Baghdad at about 6:40 pm (1540 GMT), killing at least 30 people and injuring 55 others, a source in the Iraqi interior ministry told Xinhua.

The Iraqi security forces closed all the roads that lead to the explosion site as the wounded were rushed to hospital for treatment, the source added.

No group has so far claimed responsibility for the attack, but the al-Qaeda front in Iraq, in most cases, was responsible for such violent acts in the country, raising fears that the terrorist group could return to widespread violence.

Since early this year Iraq has witnessed worsening security situation and repeatedly massive bombings that have targeted different cities, indicating that high-profile violent attacks are still common in Iraq despite the dramatic decrease in violence since its peak in 2006 and 2007, when the country was engulfed in sectarian killings.—Xinhua

A third of food is wasted, making it third-biggest carbon emitter, UN says

ROME, 12 Sept — The food the world wastes accounts for more greenhouse gas emissions than any country except for China and the United States, the United Nations said in a report on Wednesday. Every year a third of all food for human consumption, around 1.3 billion tons, is wasted, along with all the energy, water and chemicals needed to produce it and dispose of it.

Almost 30 percent of the world’s farmland, and a volume of water equivalent to the annual discharge of the River Volga, are in effect being used in vain.

In its report entitled “The Food Waste Footprint”, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimated that the carbon footprint of wasted food was equivalent to 3.3 billion tons of carbon dioxide per year.

If it were a country, it would be the world’s third biggest emitter after China and the United States, suggesting that more efficient food use could contribute substantially to global efforts to cut greenhouse gases to limit global warming.

In the industrialized world, much of the waste comes from consumers buying too much and throwing away what they do not eat. In developing countries, it is mainly the result of inefficient farming and a lack of proper storage facilities.

“Food waste reduction would not only avoid pressure on scarce natural resources but also decrease the need to raise food production by 60 percent in order to meet the 2050 population demand,” the FAO said. It suggested improving communication between producers and consumers to make the supply chain more efficiently, as well as investing more in harvesting, cooling and packaging methods.

It also said consumers in the developed world should be encouraged to share smaller portions and make more use of leftovers. Businesses should give surplus food to charities, and develop alternatives to dumping organic waste in landfills. The FAO estimated the cost of the wasted food, excluding fish and seafood, at about $750 billion a year, based on producer prices.—Reuters

Chinese marines stand aboard the missile destroyer Qingdao as the fleet left the Pearl Harbour in Hawaii, the United States, on 9 Sept, 2013. A naval fleet of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA), which is comprised of the missile destroyer Qingdao, missile frigate Linyi and supply ship Hongzehu, wrapped up a three-day friendly visit to Hawaii on Monday.—Xinhua
Union Transport Minister receives Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association, Austrian delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Sept—Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung received Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association Mr Hideo Watanabe and party, at his office, here, yesterday morning.

They cordially discussed feasibility studies for implementation of Ayeyawady River Comprehensive Project, marine administration, availability of water for agricultural purpose, and construction for 16 low head dams for generating electricity, investment of Japanese companies, cooperation of Japan with monetary and technology cooperation in Mandalay International Airport.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister received Chairman of the Board Mr Wolfgang Semper and party of Andritz Hydro Company of Austria. They discussed Ayeyawady River Comprehensive Project and generating electricity.

US Embassy Deputy Head of Mission meets religious leaders in Mawlamyine

MAWLAMYINE, 12 Sept—Deputy head of mission Ms Virginia Ellen Murray and party of the US Embassy met with religious leaders at the Strand Hotel on Strand Road in Phettan Ward of Mawlamyine in Mon State on 6 September.

It was also attended by Presiding Nayaka of Bago Pariyatti Monastery Bhaddanta Silaçara and one monk of Bogon Ward in Mawlamyine, Chairman of Hindu Religious Group U Maung Aye, Haji U Ohn Thaung of Islam Council, member Haji U Win Naing, Chairman of Olama Group U Hla Maung and Father Joseph Kyi Win of the Church in Mayangon Ward.

The deputy head of the mission of the US Embassy asked the way to solve problems of religious affairs, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Silaçara and U Ohn Thaung said that Mon State has seen prevalence of peace and stability for many years. The people in respective believes are living in peace and amity.

No single problem erupted in Mon State due to the fact that the state government organized inter-faith leaders to overcome the challenges. At present, Mon State sustains economic development in prevailing peace and stability.

Stimulant tablets, grenades, rounds of ammunition seized in Kengkluk Sub-Township

TACHILEK, 12 Sept—A team from Tachilek Anti-Drug Special Squad raided the house of Aik Sae (a) Ah Sae in Khaikhaungsaw Village in Kengkluk Sub-Township in Shan State (East) at 4.45 am on 5 September.

They found and seized 30 kilos of caffeine, 265 40mm grenades, 1000 bullets of AK-47, six magazines, 15 grams of stimulant tablet powder, 80 grams of raw opium and 12 bullets of shot-gun cartridge.

In searching the house, the authorities did not find Aik Sae and saw his son-in-law Aik Mar together with 30 kilos of caffeine, 265 40mm grenades, 1000 bullets of AK-47, six magazines. At 7.30 am, the squad searched the house of Aik Sae (a) Ah Sae in Papu Village of Kengkluk Sub-Township and found his wife Daw Lo Dol. They seized 15 grams of stimulant tablet powder, 80 grams of raw opium and 12 bullets of shot-gun cartridge.

Kengkluk police station opened files of lawsuit against Aik Mar, 26 of Kyakhamsaung Village of Kyakhamsaung Village-tract in Kengkluk Sub-Township, Daw Lo Dol, 41 of Papu Village and Aik Sae (a) Ar Sae, 42, who fled the scene under the law.

Illegal trafficking of teak doors seized

TAIKKYI, 12 Sept—A vehicle with number plate 2Gha../..carrying illegal teak doors driven from Pyay to Yangon and a Light Truck driven by Aung Kyaw Oo of Magway from Yangon to Pyay collided head-on near mile post No 51/2 on Yangon-Pyay Road in Taikkyi Township on 8 am on 8 September.

The 2Gha../.. vehicle hit a Suzuki by the left way of motor road and one TE on the right way of motor road in series.

In the accident, driver Aung Kyaw Oo of the Light Truck died on the spot with injuries. Sayadaw U Karonsu, Ma San San Maw, Ma Mya Mya Thwin and Ma Nwe Aye on board the light truck were injured and sent as intensive care unit and out-patient to Taikkyi Hospital. The driver of the vehicle with number plate 2 Gha../.. managed escape from the scene. Taikkyi Myomapolicestation opened files of lawsuit against the both drivers under the law.

MMAL-Soe Win-SP are living in peace and amity. Beethoven religions solve the problems in unity and harmony.

No single problem erupted in Mon State due to the fact that the state government organized inter-faith leaders to overcome the challenges. At present, Mon State sustains economic development in prevailing peace and stability.

Narcotic drugs seized in Pinlebu Tsp

PINLEBU, 12 Sept—Narcotic drugs were seized in Chingon Village of Pinlebu Township, Katha District of Sagaing Region.

On 3 September evening, SIP Kyaw Soe Naing and party of Kawlin Section from Monywa Anti-Drug Special Squad and witnesses together with SIP Myo Myint Aung and party of Pinlebu Police Station searched the house of Cho Win in Chingon Village.

They found 1.28 grams of white powder believed to be heroin and 60.33 grams of materials believed to be opium from the bag of Cho Win.

Cho Win (a) Maung Cho, 30 of Pinlebu was opened file of lawsuit at Pinlebu Police Station under the law.

MMAL-Lu Aung (Katha)

Anti-Narcotic Drives

LITERACY CAMPAIGN

International Literacy Day observed in Shwedagon Tsp

SHWEAUNG, 12 Sept—A ceremony to mark International Literacy Day was held at Basic Education High School in Shwedagon of Bago Region on 8 September morning.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative Dr Aye Myint made a speech. Township Education Officer Daw Than Than Htay explained matters related to International Literacy Day. Officials presented prizes to winners in poster and essay contests. MMAL-Township IPRD

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Stimulant tablets seized in Kyimyindine Tsp

YANGON, 12 Sept—Stimulant tablets were seized at East Market Ward of Kyimyindine Township, Yangon West District on 4 September.

IP Myat Phone and party of Yangon Region Anti-Drug Special Squad and SIP Than Lwin and party of Kyimyindine Myoma Police Station, acting on a tip-off, together with witnesses raided the apartment B on the first floor of Building 70 on Ohshin Street in East Market Ward in Kyimyindine Township based on the information confessed by Maung Win, 22. They found Nyan Lin Tun, 20 at the apartment and seized 102 stimulant tablets with WY brand in the bag weighing 10.2 grams.

Moreover, the police seized K 2 million believed to be proceeds from sales of stimulant tablets and one mobile phone on the bed.

Kyimyindine Myoma Police Station opened a file of lawsuit over the case.

MMAL-Ko Gyi Tin

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MMAL-Ko Gyi Tin
Give a helping hand to census taking process

What is a census? Roughly speaking, census is the process of officially counting something, especially a country’s population. So it can be seen that the term is used mostly in connection with national population and housing census but there are such other common censuses as agriculture, business, and traffic censuses, etc.

Now, Myanmar is on her way to democracy and pursuing national development. In the process, human resource development is a must in addition to possession of abundant natural resources. A government needs to know actual capacity of its population, so then, based on this capacity, it can decide a plan for the prosperity of its citizens.

To fulfill the needs of its citizens, a government must lay down plans and programmes. A result which will come out from the plan mainly rests on accuracy of facts and figures of the objective conditions. This means facts and figures to be collected are also important as it will serve the national interests and contribute to the work process.

National population and housing census is the basis for laying down plans for national development. Myanmar will see such kind of census in 2014. As the facts and figures on population are the basis for national-level management of various sectors, these facts and figures must be accurate. Every citizen in the country should keep in mind that only accurate figures can help produce a master plan. Only then would the projects for national development be implemented.

Myanmar’s census taking process in 2014 will be carried out applying advanced technologies and equipments. In that regard, people need to give accurate facts and figures to officials. It is important to know the fact that census taking is carried out just in the interest of the people, and people’s cooperation in the process will produce actual facts and figures thereby leading to national development.

A wrong data will produce a wrong result only. This will surely lead to undesirable consequences. So, let’s give a helping hand to census taking process, by providing accurate data, and keeping in mind the motto that says “Those who are to suffer the consequence of producing wrong data are just the people”, to avoid horrible mistakes.

Myanmar-Timor-Leste to promote friendship, cooperation . . .

At the call, they discussed further strengthening of bilateral relations and cooperation, prospects of promotion in energy, agriculture and industry sectors, and matters related to cooperation in ASEAN region. The two leaders also exchanged views on experience in solving conflicts of Myanmar and Timor-Leste, experience in nation-building endeavours and democracy transition.

Daw Khin Khin Win meets with wife of Timor-Leste Prime Minister

Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of President U Thein Sein, held a meeting with Mrs. Kirsty Sword-Gusmão, wife of the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste at the hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 9.45 am today.

They focused on efforts in education and health sectors in Myanmar, endeavours of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, maternal and child health care and eradication of human trafficking of social organizations in Timor-Leste.

Also present at the call were Union Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, Daw Lin Lin Tin, wife of the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, Daw Thet Thet Swe, wife of the Union Minister for Information, President of MMCWA Dr Daw Mon Mon Aung and Daw Tin Tin Aye, wife of the Deputy Minister for Communications and Information Technology.

NATIONAL
President U Thein Sein and wife host dinner to Prime Minister of Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and wife

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Sept—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win hosted a dinner to a delegation led by Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão and wife Mrs. Kirsty Sword Gusmão at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 7 pm today.

First, the State Band played national anthems of both countries. The President and the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste extended greetings and enjoyed dinner.

The performers from Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture presented songs to the guests before and during dinner party. After the dinner party, the performers entertained the visiting guests with Myanmar traditional dances.

Myanmar’s agricultural sector to be enhanced with JICA’s assistance

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Sept—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint and a Japanese delegation led by Mr. Yutaka SUMITA, Deputy Director General for International Affairs (MAFF) Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, participated in Myanmar-Japan Policy Dialogue on Agriculture and Forestry, and Fisheries held at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, here, this afternoon.

They discussed potentials for adopting a policy on upgrading the quality of agricultural products including paddy and exporting them on a commercial scale, technical assistance of JICA in a transition to mechanized farming for agricultural development of the country, potentials for low-interest loans from Japan, agricultural methods and assistance for agricultural post-harvest technological development, and bilateral cooperation with Myanmar entrepreneurs in agricultural sector of the country with large-scale investment.

Union Attorney-General receives Russian, Japanese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Sept—Attorney-General of the Union Dr. Tun Shin met Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Vasily B. POSPELOV and Japanese former member of House of Representatives and Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association Chairman Mr. Hideo Watanabe at the hall of the Union Attorney-General Office, here, today. At the meeting, the Russian ambassador said that Russia wishes to cooperate by conducting seminars and workshops on the constitution between Myanmar and Russia, adding he is satisfied with reform process being undertaken in Myanmar. He expressed that he recognizes the endeavors for forging the rule of law by the Union Attorney-General Office. The Union Attorney-General clarified scrutinizing of international contracts and enactment of laws in Myanmar.

In meeting with the Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association Chairman, the Japanese guest asked about Myanmar’s Investment Law, the rule of law and insurance industry in Myanmar and the Union attorney-general gave clarifications.
Social Affairs

Waso robes donated to members of the Sangha in Hlinethaya

Yangon, 12 Sept—Patron of Yangon Region Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Khin Teth Huay and party and Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee of Hlinethaya Township WAO Daw Mya Mya Aye and party attended donation ceremony to Moreno monastic education school in Ward 3 of Hlinethaya Township on 10 September. They received Five Precepts from the Sayadaw. They also donated school uniforms and stationery to students and K 3,285,100 to teachers.

Relief

Victims from relief camps transported to home

Meiktila, 12 Sept—The Islam people who stayed at relief camps in recent conflicts on 20 March were transported to their houses as of 10 September. A total of 52 Islam people from the relief camps in Ward 3 of Meiktila Township were sent to their houses in region 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 13 in Yanmyoaung Ward of Meiktila Township. It was supervised by the Township Administrator, the commander of Township Police Force, the head of District Immigration and National Registration Department, the head of the Township INRD and ward administrators.

Health

Coord meeting on feeding methadone to drug addicts held

Kalay, 12 Sept—A coordination meeting treatment of drug addicts with methadone as held at the Drug Addict Department of Kalay Township People’s Hospital in Kalay District on 10 September. Medical Superintendent Dr Nyunt Than extended greetings.

Traditional medicine clinic put into service in Mawgyun

Mawlamyinegun, 12 Sept—Under the arrangement of Mawlamyinegun Township General Administration Department of Ayeyawady Region, Myittamon free traditional medicine clinic was opened in front of the administrative office in Myoma Ward 12 in Mawlamyinegun on 10 September.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Htay Maung, Commander of Township Police Force, Chairperson of Hillay Manager and Head of Clinic Daw Aye Aye formally opened the clinic.

On the occasion, departments and wellwishers donated K 500,000 for the clinic to Chairman of the Clinic Committee U Kyaw Maung through Township Administrator U Htay Maung.

After the ceremony, a total of 65 patients were provided with traditional medicines. The clinic is kept open from 8 am to 12 noon and 2 pm to 4 pm every Tuesday.

It was the first ever traditional clinic of its kind in the township.

Mawgyun Tavatimsa Pagoda Puja festival 18-21 Oct

Mawlamyinegun, 12 Sept—Tavatimsa Pagoda Puja will be held on a grand scale in Mawlamyinegun Township of Ayeyawady Region from 18 to 21 October. During the Puja a total of 18 Methadone fruits offering ceremony will be held at the pagoda on 14th waxing of Thadingyut. Tavatimsa Pagoda Festival will take place on 1st Waning of Thadingyut. Rice and alms donation ceremony will be held at the pagoda to over 1000 members of the Sangha from 43 monasteries in urban area. Later, the draw lot donation for members of the Sangha will be held at the central pandal.

Those wishing to make donations at the Puja may contact 042-50184.

Rescue and relief works being carried out in Katha

Katha, 12 Sept—Katha Township is located at 1040 cm danger level of Ayeyawady River. Due to heavy rains in northern part of Myanmar, high water level of Ayeyawady River flows into the low-lying areas of Katha Township on 9 September.

The team comprising Katha Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Moe Zaw Hein, Chairman of District Management Committee U Thein Lwin, Township Management Committee U Zaw Min Htaik, and departmental officials managed evacuation of 110 households from Mweswe Village to Nweni Monastery and Pauk Hla Monastery.

Likewise, they evacuated flood victims from Letpanzin and Nwagyi village to the safe places.

The team managed safety travelling of over 80 students from Alegyun Village and distributed quality paddy seeds for cultivation of farmlands after subsiding the water.

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Vietnam, Singapore to elevate bilateral ties to strategic partnership

HANOI, 12 Sept—Vietnam and Singapore announced to elevate the bilateral relations to strategic partnership during the visit to Vietnam by Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Wednesday.

The announcement was made at a Press briefing after their talks in Hanoi. At the Press briefing, Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung said that the bilateral relations had been continuously strengthened during the past years and the achievement gained would create a great momentum for a more effective cooperation for the coming years.

Dung expressed his belief that the strategic partnership will not only map out new strategies to bring bilateral ties to more intensive, effective and sustainable but also contribute to the building of the ASEAN Community by 2015 as well as for peace, cooperation and development in the Asia-Pacific and the world.

For his part, the Singaporean prime minister said that the strategic partnership will be a foundation to boost cooperation, especially in defence, aviation and finance between the two countries.

Lee said the trade and investment cooperation between the two countries had been performed well in the past years, which was reflected through the four Vietnam-Singapore industrial parks.

During his visit to Vietnam, Lee and Dung will attend the groundbreaking ceremony of the 5th Vietnam-Singapore industrial park in Vietnam’s central Quang Ngai Province, after their talks, the two witnessed the signing of publishing joint stamp to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Singapore is now one of the biggest trade partners of Vietnam with the bilateral trade turnover reaching 9 billion US dollars in 2012.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong is on a three-day official visit to Vietnam from Wednesday.—XINHUA

Chinese vice premier vows enhanced US trade cooperation

BEIJING, 12 Sept—Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang said on Wednesday that China and the United States should continue to deepen economic and trade cooperation to contribute to world economic growth.

Wang made the remarks when meeting with President and CEO of the Centre for American Progress John Podesta, Former US Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs Samuel Berger, and Michigan Governor Rick Snyder.

While meeting with Podesta and Berger, Wang commended the sound development of current China-US relations.

He said the two sides are committed to carrying out the consensus reached by the countries’ leaders and jointly promoting a new model of relationship between major powers.

He called on the two sides to deepen economic and trade cooperation and enhance policy coordination so as to contribute to the sustained and stable growth of the world economy.

Podesta said the Centre for American Progress attaches importance to ties with China and is willing to play a positive role in boosting mutual understanding and cooperation between the two countries.

Snyder said developing economic and trade cooperation with China is very important and he welcomed more Chinese enterprises to invest in Michigan.—XINHUA

Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung (L front) and his Singaporean counterpart Lee Hsien Loong inspect honour guards during a welcoming ceremony in Hanoi, capital of Vietnam, on 11 Sept, 2013. Lee Hsien Loong is on a three-day official visit to Vietnam from Wednesday.—XINHUA

Abe to raise sales tax to 8% in April as scheduled

TOKYO, 12 Sept—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has decided to raise Japan’s sales tax rate to 8 percent from the current 5 percent next April as scheduled, a source close to him said on Thursday.

Abe, who has been trying to shake up the country’s economy out of nearly two decades of deflation, is also considering implementing an economic stimulus package worth 5 trillion yen to prevent the tax hike causing an economic slowdown, the source said.

The decision comes as a series of indicators, including revised April-June gross domestic product data released on Monday, indicate the economy is steadily recovering, while the success of Tokyo’s bid to host the 2020 Summer Olympics has also sparked hopes growth may gain momentum through industries such as construction.

The hike in Japan’s consumption tax rate would be the first since April 1997. The tax was introduced in 1989 at an initial rate of 3 percent. Increasing the sales tax rate is widely regarded as key to Japan’s fiscal rehabilitation. The nation’s fiscal health is the worst among major developed economies with its public debt level at more than 200 percent of GDP.

Some government officials, however, have asked Abe to delay the hike or slow the pace of it, arguing it could thwart his efforts to conquer prolonged deflation.

Abe is likely to announce his final judgment on the tax matter on 1 Oct after examining the results of the Bank of Japan’s Tankan business sentiment survey due out the same day, economic and fiscal policy minister Akira Amari said.

Under legislation enacted last year, the government will eventually increase the consumption tax rate to 10 percent in October 2015 to secure funds forswelling welfare costs in a country whose population is graying.—Kyodo News

China welcomes DPRK, ROK agreement on Kaesong

BEIJING, 12 Sept—China welcomed the agreement between the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) and Republic of Korea (ROK) on the pan to reopen the Kaesong Industrial Region.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said at a regular Press conference that China supports both sides to maintain the momentum of dialogue, to further improve relations and make active efforts to ease tension in the Korean Peninsula and region as a whole.—XINHUA

Turkmenistan’s President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov (L) and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shake hands at Abe’s office in Tokyo on 11 Sept, 2013.—KYODO NEWS

Pakistan army rejected Taleban’s claim of prisoners swap

ISLAMABAD, 12 Sept—The Pakistani army on Wednesday rejected the Taleban’s claim of exchange of prisoners with the security forces in Waziristan tribal region.

Taleban spokesman Shahidullah Shahid told the media that the Taleban had handed over three security men and secured the release of six Taleban members.

He said the freed Taleban belonged to Khan Said faction of the Tehrik-i-Taleban Pakistan (TTP) in South Waziristan.

Shahid didn’t say the prisoners exchange was part of the possible talks with the government. “Talks had gone on for the exchange of prisoners for a long time and both sides reached the agreement,” the TTP leader said.

He refused to divulge names of the freed Taleban but said they have reached areas in Waziristan tribal region under their control.

However, the army denied the Taleban claim, terming it as false. “The Pakistan military rejected the news of swap of over any prisoners with Taleban as being reported by a foreign news agency,” army spokesman Maj Gen Aslam Bajwa said in a text message to the media persons.—XINHUA

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Serdar Kilic (far L), the Turkish Ambassador to Japan, and his wife (standing next to him) greet the parents of Mai Kurihara, who was killed after a knife attack in Turkey, at Narita Airport on 11 Sept, 2013. The Kuriharas arrived at the airport near Tokyo from Sendai to leave for Turkey.—KYODO NEWS
**China Cultural Centre in Malta marks 10th anniversary**

**Valletta, 12 Sept—**

The China Cultural Centre in Malta hosted a reception on Tuesday to mark its 10th anniversary.

The event was attended by more than 300 guests, including Tourism Minister Evatrist Bartolo and former President Ugo Bonnici.

**The photo taken on 1 Sept, 2013 shows the river view of the old town of Prague, capital of Czech Republic. Prague has been a political, cultural, and economic centre of central Europe with historical fortunes during its 1,100-year existence.**

**Xinhua**

**Beijing reveals annual vehicle emissions load**

**Beijing, 12 Sept—**

Motor vehicles in Beijing consume more than 7 million tons of fuel annually, discharging about 900,000 tons of emissions every year, according to the Beijing Municipal Environmental Protection Bureau.

The capital currently has 5.35 million vehicles, which amount to over 4 million tons of gasoline and more than 2 million tons of diesel annually, said Li Kunsheng, an official in charge of vehicle emission management with the Beijing Municipal Environmental Protection Bureau.

The annual vehicle emission load is about 900,000 tons and contains 77,000 tons of hydrocarbons and over 80,000 tons of nitrogen oxides, according to Li.

“Vehicle emissions have been proven to contain over 100 kinds of carcinogenic substances. Even worse, the emissions are discharged at low altitudes, which may affect people’s health more directly,” Li said.

Cars in the city are considered major polluters in Beijing, with its number keeps growing.

A report by a research team from the Chinese Academy of Sciences revealed that vehicle exhaust has been an industrial emission source and become Beijing’s top sources of air pollution, contributing to 22.2 percent of PM 2.5 particles.

PM 2.5 particles are airborne particles measuring less than 2.5 microns in diameter that caused hazardous smog earlier this year.

Li said that it is difficult for Beijing’s emission to decrease because the city is surrounded by mountains, and emission reduction should be the first consideration when the city government strives to improve air quality in the often-smog-shrouded city.

Beijing unveiled a package of anti-pollution measures earlier this month, including cutting vehicle emissions and curbing industrial pollution.

The package is part of an action plan released by the municipal government, which has pledged to reduce PM 2.5 density by 25 percent or more by 2017.

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**Claims Day Notice**

**MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (080)**

Consignes of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (080) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.9.2013 and cargo will be discharged in the premises of M.I.P 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 now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

**Shipping Agency Department**

**Myanmar Port Authority**

**Agent for:** M/S Orinet Overseas Container Lines

Phone No: 25608/378316/376797
Harrison Ford: Retirement is for old people

LONDON, 12 Sept—Harrison Ford has no plans to hang up his boots anytime soon as thinks retirement is for old people.

Ford, 71, has five children, Benjamin, Willard, and an adopted son Liam with wife Calista Flockhart.

The actor currently stars in Paranoia besides a cult science fiction drama Ender’s Game and comedy Anchorman 2.

Ford, 71, has five children. "I'm a kinder, gentler self seriously." said Ford, 71, as he told the Daily Mirror. "I'm all right call me grumpy. I'm all right saying. I've always been independent. So if I'm grumpy, then it's my grumpy... It’s a complete anti-aprophisiac," he added.

Daniel Craig: Nothing technological allowed in our bedroom

LOS ANGELES, 12 Sept—Actor Daniel Craig says he and his wife Rachel Weisz have banned taking gadgets in their bedroom.

The couple has been married for over two years. "It's a good fight for me to have, as far as I'm concerned... There's nothing technological allowed in the bedroom." New York Times quoted Craig as saying.

If the iPad goes to bed, I mean, unless you're taking gadgets in their bedroom, it's a killer. We have a ban on it... It's a complete anti-aprophisiac," he added.

Meanwhile, the couple is planning to star in a Broadway play together.

Natalie Portman excited about moving to Paris

LONDON, 12 Sept—Hollywood actress Natalie Portman is considering applying for French citizenship as she prepares to move to Paris with her husband and young son.

The Black Swan star's husband Benjamin Millepied has accepted a job with the Paris Opera Ballet and the family will move to the French capital next year, reported Contactmusic.

Portman reveals she is already house-hunting and is even considering becoming a French citizen to complete her move to Europe.

We're looking for an apartment. Ben and I are moving in autumn 2014 when his job at the Paris Opera Ballet starts. It's obviously a massive change to quit Los Angeles for Paris. I don't know what my life is going to be like, but I'm so excited. I don't have the French nationality, but I would love to get it.

"But I don't know if it's possible because I already have an American and an Israeli passport... Perhaps I should add an 'h' to my name to make it sound more French - Nathalie," she said.

The couple met on the set of Portman's Oscar-winning film Black Swan. They married in August, 2012, three months after their son, Alef, was born.

Angelina Jolie gets yet another tattoo

LOS ANGELES, 12 Sept—Actress Angelina Jolie has landed Down Under last week. Fiance Brad Pitt was in Toronto to attend the premiere of his latest film 12 Years a Slave.

The actress says she is even considering becoming a French citizen to complete her move to Europe.

"I don't want to be in the Harrison Ford business. I don't want a real job. I never wanted a production company. From time to time I develop a movie but with partners who are willing to show up every day at the office. I take what I do seriously, but I don't take my self seriously."—PTI

Daniel Craig and Rachel Weisz have been married for over two years.

The mother of six is currently in town with her kids and enjoying all the sights the city has to offer.

Jolie and her brood landed Down Under last week. Fiance Brad Pitt was in Toronto to attend the premiere of his latest film 12 Years a Slave.

Natalie Portman excited about moving to Paris

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“But I don’t know if it's possible because I already have an American and an Israeli passport... Perhaps I should add an ‘h’ to my name to make it sound more French - Nathalie,” she said.

The couple met on the set of Portman’s Oscar-winning film Black Swan. They married in August, 2012, three months after their son, Alef, was born.

Daniel Craig: Nothing technological allowed in our bedroom

Los Angeles, 12 Sept—Actor Daniel Craig says he and his wife Rachel Weisz have banned taking gadgets in their bedroom.

The couple has been married for over two years.

“It’s a good fight for me to have, as far as I’m concerned... There’s nothing technological allowed in the bedroom.” New York Times quoted Craig as saying.

If the iPad goes to bed, I mean, unless you’re taking gadgets in their bedroom, it’s a killer. We have a ban on it... It’s a complete anti-aprophisiac,” he added.

Meanwhile, the couple is planning to star in a Broadway play together.

Natalie Portman excited about moving to Paris

London, 12 Sept—Hollywood actress Natalie Portman is considering applying for French citizenship as she prepares to move to Paris with her husband and young son. The Black Swan star’s husband Benjamin Millepied has accepted a job with the Paris Opera Ballet and the family will move to the French capital next year, reported Contactmusic.

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Woods back in happy Chicago hunting ground

LAKE FOREST, 12 Sept

—With his ailing back much improved after a one-week break from the PGA Tour, an upbeat Tiger Woods will tee off in Thursday’s opening round of the BMW Championship in pursuit of his sixth win this season.

Though the American world number one will be competing for the first time on the par-71 layout at Conway Farms Golf Club, he boasts an impressive record in the Chicago area.

Not only has Woods twice clinched the PGA Championship at nearby Medinah, but he has also visited the winner’s circle on five occasions at Cog Hill, twice in the BMW Championship and three times in his predecessor, the Western Open.

“Obviously it’s very different compared to Cog Hill and Medinah, but it is a nice track,” Woods said of Conway Farms after playing there in the pro-am competition on a muggy Wednesday.

“It’s a little confined in the sense that it’s going to be interesting to see how they’re going to get the gallery around here, especially on the front nine, the bottle-necks over on (holes) five and six.

“All the times I’ve been in Chicago, it’s a great sporting town. They come out and support their events. This will be a fun crowd.”

Asked by a reporter what he considered as his single greatest moment in the Chicago area, Woods replied: “Probably Medinah, winning there twice.

“When twice pressed to narrow that ‘moment’ down to just one, Woods grinned while replying each time: “Winning there twice.”

Woods heads into the third of the PGA Tour’s four lucrative FedExCup playoff events ranked second in the points standings, behind Swede Henrik Stenson who took over at the top by winning the Deutsche Bank Championship nine days ago.—Reuters

Bale trains with new Real team mates for the first time

MADRID, 12 Sept—

Gareth Bale trained with his new Real Madrid team mates for the first time on Wednesday, with Cristiano Ronaldo among the first to welcome the world record signing to the club’s Valdebebas training facilities.

Real play at Villarreal in La Liga on Saturday and the Wales winger could make his debut following his 100 million euro (84 million pounds) move from Tottenham Hotspur in the recent transfer window.

Real published photographs of Portugal forward Ronaldo and Bale greeting each other before the players, many of whom returned from international duty on Wednesday, took to the pitch under the orders of coach Carlo Ancelotti.

“Bale started the session with some individual physical work and later joined the rest of the outside field players,” Real said on their website.

“The Welshman ... and the rest of the internationals then worked on moving the ball in various exercises,” they added.

Bale played the final half hour of Wales’s 3-0 World Cup qualification defeat at home to Serbia on Tuesday, his first competitive action since July.—Reuters

Raikkonen to partner Alonso at Ferrari

MADRID, 12 Sept—

Kimi Raikkonen will race for Ferrari next season in a two-year deal that takes the 2007 world champion back to the glamour team he left in 2009 and creates the strongest pairing in F1.

Ferrari said in a statement on Wednesday that the 33-year-old ‘Iceman’, currently with Lotus, will replace Brazilian Felipe Massa alongside Spain’s double world champion Fernando Alonso.

“Scuderia Ferrari announces that it has reached an agreement with Kimi Raikkonen. The Finn will join Fernando Alonso in the driver line-up for the next two racing seasons,” the statement said.

The famously taciturn Finn told the Ferrari website (www.ferrari.com) that he was happy to be returning to Maranello.

“...I can’t wait to be driving a Prancing Horse car again and to reacquaint myself with so many people with whom I had such close links, as well as working with Fernando, whom I consider a great driver, in order to bring the team the success it deserves,” he added.

Alonso, who has a contract to the end of 2016, had left little doubt that he would have been happy to continue with Massa and thanked the Brazilian for his support in their four years together.

“Come the end of the season, it will not be easy to say goodbye to a team mate like him,” said the Spaniard. “He has always been truly professional and loyal to the team.”—Reuters

McIlroy to tee off in Korean Open in October

LONDON, 12 Sept—

Double major winner and world number four Rory McIlroy will hope to make it third time lucky when he tees off at OneAsia’s Korea Open next month, organisers said on Thursday.

The 24-year-old Briton was joint third in his first appearance in 2009 and returned in 2011 to finish runner-up behind American Rickie Fowler with a final-round 64.

The course at the Woo Jeong Hills Country Club on the outskirts of Seoul has not proved too daunting for the former world number one on his previous visits but McIlroy was quick to highlight the dangers posed by the shorter holes. “I remember the course, but the thing I remember most is that the par threes are tough, especially on the back nine,” McIlroy said in a statement from the organisers ahead of the 17-20 October event.

“All aspects of your game have to be in shape every week, but especially iron play considering the tough par threes we will have to play.”

The mope-hated Northern Irishman, who followed up his 2011 US Open triumph with a victory at last year’s US PGA Championship, will also feature in OneAsia’s Australian Open in Sydney from 28 November-1 December.—Reuters

Stage set for Ozil to launch his Arsenal career

Bale’s career is set for a big summer signing and when the club smashed its transfer record on Mesut Ozil on deadline day the international break meant another delay before they could feast their eyes on him in club colours.

The Germany international, signed from Real Madrid for 42 million pounds, was a huge coup for manager Arsene Wenger and after scoring in a World Cup qualifier in the Faroe Islands in midweek Ozil is set for his debut at Sunderland on Saturday.

England’s north east coast is a little more hospitable than windswept Torshavn but nevertheless Ozil, who boasts an impressive record in his five previous seasons in La Liga, will quickly learn about the physical demands of English football against a Sunderland side desperate to kickstart their season.

Ozil is not the only player anxious to make an instant impression for a new club as the domestic season swings back into action after World Cup distractions.

Marouane Fellaini will be eager to pull on a Manchester United shirt for the first time after his 27.5 million pounds deadline day move from Everton.

Like Arsenal, United were quiet in the transfer window but the introduction of Belgian midfielder Fellaini will give David Moyes’ side some added venom as they host newcomers Crystal Palace at Old Trafford, having managed only one win from their opening three Premier League games.

Everton will have Gareth Barry (on loan from Manchester City) in their ranks as they take on Chelsea although striker Romelu Lukaku will not make his debut because of Premier League rules on loaned players playing against their mother club.—Reuters

Wales’ Gareth Bale shoots at goal during their 2014 World Cup Qualifying soccer match at Cardiff City Stadium on 10 Sept, 2013.—Reuters
**China, Laos share poverty reduction experiences**

NANNING, 12 Sept—A seminar to promote policy sharing on poverty reduction and development between China and Laos opened on Wednesday in Nanning, capital of south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

“Laos and China can share their experiences of poverty reduction with each other,” said Zhang Yan, a project manager at the United Nations Development Programme China.

During the five-day seminar, the Lao delegates will visit several cities to study industrial poverty alleviation projects, advanced rural construction and modern agriculture.

“I will bring the knowledge back to Laos and believe this event marks a start for more exchange opportunities,” said Kikeo Naualat, head of the Laos delegation.

Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger is the first of eight Millennium Development Goals established in 2000. All UN member states have agreed to achieve these goals by 2015.

**Syrians queue for passports despite reprieve from US strike**

The threat of US air strikes on their country may be receding for now, but Syrians queuing for passports in a central Damascus office were taking no chances.

Dozens stood in line for hours on Tuesday, many returning for a second day, seeking passports in case talks over Syria’s chemical weapons unravel or the country’s protracted civil war reaches once more into the heart of the capital.

Already two million people have fled to neighbouring countries, escaping bloodshed in which at least 100,000 people have died, according to the United Nations. Damascenes remain wary even though US military action in response to a chemical gas attack in Damascus, which Washington blames on President Bashar al-Assad’s forces, has been deferred after Syria welcomed a Russian proposal to put its chemical weapons stocks under international supervision and destroy them.

“We just decided it was time we got passports for the whole family,” said Raghad, a mother of three in her thirties. Her family has travelled to neighbouring Lebanon — where Syrians can stay without travel documents — every time “things got bad here”, but are unable to go further without passports.

“Now with all this news, what if we went to Lebanon and couldn’t return? We need passports in case we have no choice but to travel to a third country,” she said.

“For now, based on the latest news, we’re staying until something changes.”

**Nadal ready to empty tank to help Spain stay in top tier**

New York, 12 Sept—A tired Rafa Nadal is ready to give his all for Spain in this weekend’s Davis Cup playoff against Ukraine after a draining US Open brought him his 13th grand slam title.

With his country’s elite World Group status in the balance, Nadal is ready to put his aching limbs on the line just days after beating world number one Novak Djokovic at Flushing Meadows to win his second major of the year.

“We change the surface in a short time and I have just made a big effort but I’m going to do whatever I can to help the team,” Nadal told reporters on Wednesday ahead of the tie in Madrid.

“If it is on Friday it would be on Friday, if it is on Saturday, if it is on Sunday, I’m going to try to help with everything within my capabilities.”

The Mallorcans’ victory in New York capped a stunning year in which he returned from a seven-month injury absence to re-assert himself as a dominant force in the game.

Since re-emerging at a low-key claycourt tournament in Chile in February, the Spaniard has been virtually unstoppable.

Having won the French Open for a record eighth time, Nadal put a disappointing Wimbledon behind him to dominate on the hard courts and move to within four majors of Roger Federer’s record haul of 17.

Any thoughts of a relaxing break have had to be put on the backburner, however, as duty calls him back to court to help keep his country in tennis’s top tier.

After an under-strength Spain lost to Canada in the Davis Cup first round, they find themselves in unfamiliar territory having only competed in four playoffs in the last 17 years.

Nadal reacted trenchly to suggestions that he could be bellow par after his recent exertions.

“I’ve just said it. (I feel) well,” he added. “I’ve got good feelings. What do you want me to say after having winning three tournaments in a row, my feelings couldn’t be better.”

With home advantage and Nadal’s favourite red clay under foot, Spain, whose lineup also includes Tommy Robredo and Fernando Verdasco, should have the edge over an Ukraine team with only one player, Alexandr Dolgopolov, in the world’s top 50.
Officials from election Sub-commission observe Australian General Election

Yangon, 12 Sept—A 15-member delegation comprising chairmen and members from Election Sub-commission of Region/State/Nay Pyi Taw arrived back here today after observing the General Election of Australia held on 7 September under the programme of AusAID at the invitation of Australian Electoral Commissioner Mr Ed Killesteyn.

They were welcomed back at the Yangon International Airport by Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye and officials from the UEC Office and Yangon Region Election Sub-Commission.

Speaker of Pyidaungsu, Pyithu Hluttaw meets local people in Myeik

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Sept—Union government and respective organizations are fulfilling the pledges based on replies to the queries raised by Hluttaw representatives, said Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann in meeting with Hluttaw representatives, departmental officials, district and township supportive committees and local people at Pearl Yadana Hall in Myeik yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, the Speaker said that they were there to listen to people’s voices and desire and fulfill the requirements of the people. The Hluttaw representatives, on behalf of the people, raise questions, submit proposals and enact laws at the Hluttaw. The Union government and officials focus on serving interests of the national people, he added. Nowadays, he continued that political parties and people are eager to be transparent and taking much interest in processes of the Hluttaw. Later, he invited open discussions of the local people.

Those present submitted requirements for regional development, education, health, transport, electrification, telecommunications and rule of law. The Region Chief Minister and the Speaker of Region Hluttaw gave supplementary reports.

After giving a concluding remark, the Speaker cordially greeted the local people.

MNA

Ruili economic development test zone discussed

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Sept—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint received a delegation led by Member of Dehong Dai Communist Party Standing Committee Vice-Governor Mr Liu Wushan of Dehong Dai at Sedona Hotel in Mandalay on 10 September.

They discussed opening of more border camps between the two countries, smooth crossing of China-Myanmar border, signing of agreements and holding China-Myanmar border trade fairs.

The seminar on Ruili economic development test zone at national level was opened at the same venue. At the seminar, Union Minister U Win Myint invited investors from China for implementation of Muse Central Economic Zone Project.

Chinese Consul-General Mr Yu Boren of Mandalay extended greetings. Vice-Governor Mr Liu Wusan introduced Ruili economic development test zone.

Four Myanmar companies and four Chinese companies signed the agreements for economic cooperation. Next, the vice-governor donated cash to the fund of Parahita Schools.

MNA

Japan, Myanmar discuss cooperative development

Union Minister U Kyaw Hsuan presents gift to former member of House of Councilor of Japan

Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association Chairman Mr. Hideo Watanabe, MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Sept—Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsuan held a meeting with a Japanese delegation led by former member of House of Councilor of Japan Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association Chairman Mr. Hideo Watanabe at the ministry, here, this morning.

They discussed microfinance enterprises being implemented by the ministry, promoting cooperative societies, teaching aids for Saungda weaving and vocational education institute, technical exchange, penetrating dyed woven clothes into markets, conducting more vocational trainings, assistance for Lacquerware Institute, and potentials to observe functions of cooperative societies in Japan.—MNA