Vice-President U Nyan Tun and wife attend entertainments to mark 65th Founding Anniversary of Thai-Myanmar diplomatic relations

Second Central Economic Zone in Yangon

Second Central Economic Zone will be established at the plot at the corner of Mindhamma Road and Tawwin Road in Yangon Township. Yangon Region soon, said an official from Engineering Department (Building) under Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC).

The project comes shortly after JICA has conducted its survey on strategic urban development plan of the Greater Yangon. The central economic zone with 36,551 acres of land will comprise hotels, convention centers, showrooms, cinemas, theaters, restaurants, electronic showrooms and offices.

It is put up for the auction. Upon completion, it can create more job opportunities for people and enable them to enjoy higher living standards. It is a long-term plan. It is mainly aimed at opening up foreign investments. Local business will have chance to invest in the project as well, he added. As of 19 September, tenders will be invited from local and foreign investors and the deadline is 2nd December.

With regard to the relocation of flower shops, Head of Parks and Playground Department U Ko Ko Lin said that we have arranged the place on the roadside of Thakayta Shukhintha for the relocation of shops. We always do everything in accordance with the laws. There are 556 shops with 110 owners. They have been running their shops since decades. A total of 62 owners have been relocated to the roadside of Thakayta Shukhintha, and 58 are still there due to various circumstances.

Myanma Alinn:
(21-9-2013)
Trs: MT

Byline: Maung Sein Lwin (Myanma Alinn) Photo: Min Htet

Photo shows the plot for construction of Second Central Economic Zone at corner of Mindhamma Road and Tawwin Street.

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LOCAL NEWS

Tourism

Tourists visit U Pein Bridge in the midst of high water level

AMARAPURA, 21 Sept—Globetrotters from nine countries visited U Pein Bridge while Taungthaman Lake was rising water level. A total of 20 men and 10 women from France, 15 men and 10 women from Spain, nine men and nine women from Thailand, 10 men and nine women from Germany, and local people on U Pein Bridge observe rise of water level.

Myanmar Archery Federation held the sports trials for September at Archery Range in Wunna Thokhi, here, on 18 and 19 September.

Zargyi Win stood first, Thin Thin Khaing, second and San Yu Htwe third, and Zaw Win Htayk first, Aung Myo Thu second and Nay Myo Aung third in the women’s and men’s singles recurve events.

In the women’s compound team event, Aung Htinge secured the first prize, Yaw Sein Ya the second and Hla Hla San the third. In the men’s single event, Shein Htet Kyaw, Lin Naing Aung Cheint Baw secured the first, second and third respectively.

In the recurve team event, Men’s A stood first, Women’s C second and Men’s B third. In the team compound event, women’s A team won the first, Men’s A second and Men’s B third.

In the recurve mixed team event, Zaw Win Htayk & Zargyi Win second and Nay Myo Aung & Thazin Aung third.

Accident

YANGON, 21 Sept—Locomotive DF 2059 Bagan-Yangon Up-train carrying 150 passengers derailed between mile posts 56/17 and 56/18 near Okkan Station in Taikkyi Township, here, at 9.30 am on 19 September.

Among seven coaches, three caused derailment and plunged into the right roadside. There was no casualty. —Kyemon-040

Sports trials for archers in September held

In the compound mixed team event, Lin Naing & Aung Htugon came in first, Shein Htet Kyaw & Yaw Sein Ya second and Aung Cheint Baw & Aye Aye Thin third. They set new SEA record in the sports trial. Kyemon-Chit Ko Ko

Fire engulfs A-1 Garment Factory in Mingaladon Township

On 22 September, a fire broke out at A-1 Garment Factory in Mingaladon Township, Yangon Industrial Zone, under Sections 15/22(b)/21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Anyone who wishes to file a lawsuit against the factory, its members and officials put out the fire at 12.25 pm with the use of 46 fire trucks, five management vehicles and two supporting vehicles. The fire engulfed the factory, 30 sewing machines and clothes worth K 12.7 million.

Mingaladon Myoma Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against Manager of the factory U Naing Oo, 46 of Mingaladon Township under the law. —Kyemon-0377

Stimulant tablets, arm and ammunition seized in Hmawby

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Sept—A combined team comprising members of Hmawby Myoma Police Station of Yangon Region, members of Yangon West Special Anti-Drug Squad and Forest Department, lay in wait at the checkpoint near No. 4 Highway Junction in Hmawby at 4 pm on 15 September.

They searched a Fuso vehicle driven by Tha Soe, 37 of Mingaladon Township leading to Hmawby from Taikkyi, together with Khin Maung Thein, 39 of Ward 2 in Hpa-an and Myo Kyi, 45. The combined team members seized 1135 stimulant tablets from the bag of Than Soe, 520 stimulant tablets from straws of soft drink, totaling 1835 weighing 18.35 grams worth K 9.175 million, one driver licence, K 300,000, 67 red straw and three mobile phones. Hmawby Myoma Police Station opened files of lawsuit against three persons under Sections 15/19(a)/20 (a)/21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

According to the investigation, they confessed that they bought the stimulant tablets from U Noh Yei and Daw Nan Mayar from Hpa-an to resell them. The couple often stays at the house of Than Soe.

They seized Noh Yei, 39 and wife Daw Nan Mayar, 39 of Hpa-an from the apartment. Haukkyant Police Station opened files of lawsuit against them under Sections 15/22(b)/21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Likewise, members of Tachilek Special Anti-Drug Squad of Shan State, acting on a tip-off, raided the apartment No. 209 on the second floor of the housing in Samsai B Ward in Tachilek at 12 noon on 16 September. They found Ma Ah Lway Hnway, 29 and Ma El Mar, 24 of Mahtkiv Village in Mongkoe Village-tract who were tenants at the room, and they saw Ma Ah Lway Hnway throw a packet of paper away through a window.

They searched for premises of witnesses searched the apartment of Bran Sai at Anawrahta Housing in Kamayut Township under Sections 15/19(a)/20 (a)/21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

They seized Noh Yei, 39 and wife Daw Nan Mayar, 39 of Hpa-an from the apartment. Haukkyant Police Station opened files of lawsuit against them under Sections 15/22(b)/21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

They set new SEA record in the sports trial. Kyemon-Chit Ko Ko

Natural Disaster

Ayeyawady River water level still rising in Minbu

MINBU, 21 Sept—Ayeyawady River is swollen at Minbu Township of Magway Region.

The roads and residences in Ward 1 of Minbu were inundated, forcing local people to use boats in travelling. Members of Fire Brigade and ward administrators are carrying out rescue and relief works for the flood victims.
India rushes to ready nuclear deal before Singh’s US trip

NEW DELHI, 21 Sept—India is making a last-minute push to close a nuclear deal in time for a meeting between US President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who has made atomic energy cooperation with Washington a hallmark of his tenure.

Under the proposed deal, India would contract Toshiba’s US nuclear unit Westinghouse for preliminary works, including information sharing, a senior Indian official said. The aim is to build nuclear plants in the state of Gujarat.

“I think we’re close,” India’s National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon said on Friday. “I think they’re hoping to do a pre-earily works (agreement), which involves some transfer of proprietary information.”

Singh is due to meet Obama in Washington on 27 September. Westinghouse were not immediately available for comment. After US Secretary of State John Kerry raised the issue on a trip to India in June, the company said it expected the agreement to be finalized in September. The value of the preliminary contract has not been revealed. Indian officials say the proposed deal between Westinghouse and India’s NPCIL would be the first time money is committed to a commercial US nuclear supplier since Singh staked his career on a civil nuclear pact with US President George W. Bush five years ago.

A commercial contract, however small, could breathe life into Singh’s flagship policy as he nears the end of a decade in office amid grumbling in Washington that ties with India have failed to deliver rewards for US businesses.

Many see the 2008 pact as Singh’s crowning achievement, in one stroke ending years of isolation following atomic weapons tests in 1974 and 1998 and heralding a new era in the often fraught relations between the two democracies.

But on the nuclear front, progress has been slow because laws governing liability in the case of accidents took several years to finalize and when they came, put the onus on the equipment suppliers.—Reuters

Obama to meet with Abbas, discuss Middle East peace at UN

WASHINGTON, 21 Sept—President Barack Obama will meet with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas on Tuesday and will discuss the Middle East peace process during a speech that day to the United Nations General Assembly, the White House said on Friday. Reuters

US President Barack Obama speaks at the Ford Kansas City Stamping Plant Liberty in Liberty, Missouri on 20 Sept, 2013.—Reuters

UN move on Syria drags as world leaders prep for big week

NEW YORK, 21 Sept—As world leaders prepare to arrive in New York for the annual UN General Assembly gathering next week, Security Council diplomats continue grappling over a resolution on the Syrian crisis.

The differences were most recently voiced Friday as Russia, a key ally of Damascus, presented a draft text to Britain, China, France and the United States — the other permanent council members — which did not include a reference to Chapter 7, according to diplomats who said the negotiations are “ongoing.”

Under the UN charter, Chapter 7 would allow for sanctions or even military action.

Britain, France and the United States have been pressing for the inclusion of such threats in order to ensure that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad complies with a Russian-American agreement reached on 14 September.

The Hague/Beirut, 21 Sept—Syria gave details of some of its chemical weapons to the OPCW arms watchdog at The Hague on Friday but needs to fill in gaps by next week to launch a rapid disarmament operation that may avert US air strikes.

At the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the UN-backed agency which is to oversee the removal of President Bashar al-Assad’s arsenal, a spokeswoman said: “We have received part of the verification and we expect more.” She did not say what was missing from a document one UN diplomat described as “quite long”.

The OPCW’s 41-member Executive Council is due to meet early next week to review Syria’s inventory and to agree on implementing last week’s US-Russian deal to eliminate the entire arsenal in nine months.

The timetable was set down by US Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergi Lavrov a week ago in Geneva when they set aside sharp differences over Syria to agree on a plan to deprive Assad of chemical weapons and so remove the immediate threat from Washington of launching military action.

That plan set a rough deadline of Saturday for Syria to give a full account of the weapons it possesses. Security experts say it has about 1,000 tonnes of mustard gas, VX and sarin — the nerve agent UN inspectors found after hundreds were killed by poison following missile strikes on rebel-held areas on 21 August.

Syria details part of chemical arsenal, more to come

A UN chemical weapons expert (2nd L) takes a picture of a person affected by an apparent gas attack, at a hospital where she is being treated , in the Damascus suburb of Zamalka on 29 Aug, 2013.—Reuters

US says open for Iran talks based on ‘mutual respect’

Washington, 21 Sept — The United States is ready to engage in talks “on the basis of mutual respect” with Iran about its disputed nuclear programme as long as Tehran is willing to demonstrate that its programme is for civilian purposes, the White House said on Friday.

“We have had a number of engagements with the Iranians and we’ll continue to have conversations on the basis of mutual respect,” Josh Earnest, the deputy White House spokesman, told reporters aboard Air Force One during President Barack Obama’s flight earlier in the day to Missouri.

“And over the course of those conversations there will be an opportunity for the Iranians to demonstrate through actions the seriousness with which they are pursuing this endeavor,” Earnest said.

Obama and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani will be in New York next week for a meeting of the United Nations General Assembly. The White House has said that an encounter between the two leaders is possible.—Reuters

Rockets hit Turkish police compound in Ankara, no one hurt

ANKARA, 21 Sept—A police compound in the Turkish capital Ankara was struck by three rockets on Friday, Interior Minister Muammer Guler said.

Two buildings belonging to the national police directorate in the district of Dikmen were hit, but no one was hurt, Guler said. A third rocket fell into the grounds.

Dikmen is one of the places across Turkey where anti-government protests have flared in recent months.

The television station NTV said it was not yet known who was behind the attack. Guler said police had found a rocket launcher and material belonging to “an illegal organization” near the scene of the attack.

Policeemen secure a police compound in Ankara on 20 Sept, 2013.—Reuters

Left-wing radicals, Islamist extremists and Kurdish militias have all staged attacks in Turkish cities in the past.

The far-left Revolutionary People’s Liberation Party-Front (DHKP-C) in February claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing at the US Embassy in Ankara that killed a security guard.

Turkey blamed groups linked with the Syrian government for a car bombing in May in the town of Reyhanli, near the Syrian border, that killed more than 50 people. As civil war rages in Turkey’s neighbour, Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan has repeatedly called for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to step down.

Reuters

The Hague/Beirut, 21 Sept—Syria gave details of part of its chemical arsenal, saying they are hoping to do a pre-emptive strike. —Reuters

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh gestures as he arrives for the launch of the “Gandhi Heritage Portal” in New Delhi on 3 Sept, 2013.—Reuters

Adviser Shivshankar Menon said on Friday. “I think we’re close,” India’s National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon said on Friday. “I think they’re hoping to do a pre-earily works (agreement), which involves some transfer of proprietary information.”

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Reuters

The Hague/Beirut, 21 Sept—Syria gave details of part of its chemical arsenal, saying they are hoping to do a pre-emptive strike. —Reuters
Secretariat.—Island Development Forum aid assistance from Japan including climate change, environment-related issues on working with Fiji on new constitution of Fiji. In rent progress made by Fiji support from the Japanese to Fiji whilst on an official visit to Fiji’s Minister for Foreign Affairs Ratu Inoke Kubuabola and International Cooperation Minister said on Friday.

The following is the reproduction of the Myanmar Hotel and Tourism Guide 2013. Please visit www.tourismguide.com.mm for further information.—Ed

**Yangon Region**

**Yangon**

A feature of Yangon is the vast, lush parks around the downtown area. Formerly a small fishing village, Yangon is renowned as the site of the Shwedagon Pagoda, the most revered place of worship for Myanmar Buddhists. The sprawling city was first fortified by King Alaungpaya, who marked his conquest of Lower Myanmar by changing its name from Dagon to Yangon, which means "End of Strife."

The British established Yangon as their capital in 1852 after they won control of Lower Myanmar. A legacy of the British are some fine examples of colonial architecture, with some of the best on Pansodan Street and Strand Road.

**Shwedagon Pagoda**

The Shwedagon is a magnificent, shimmering spire of gold, rising 326 feet (99.3m). According to legend it was erected more than 2500 years ago and eight hairs of the Buddha enshrined in a treasure chamber deep under its base. At the tip of the spire is a gold orb 10 inches in diameter inset with 4351 diamonds, totalling 1800 carats. The large solitary at the top weighs 76 carats. The English traveller Ralph Fitch saw it in 1586 and described it as "the fairest place, as I suppose, that is in the world" where he saw "one thousand and eighteen images of all sizes. Of these about forty are colossal & many entirely covered with gilding."

**Sule Pagoda**

The Sule Pagoda marks the centre of Yangon. The grand City Hall rises to one side of it while on the other two corners are a church and a mosque. Further down the road is a Hindu temple. The different religions existing side by side in the city’s centre symbolise the harmony among the country’s races and religions.

**Chauk Htat Gyi Pagoda**

This pagoda features a beautiful reclining Buddha image 70 metre (230 feet) long in the pose of rest: the head is lifted up by the right arm bent at the elbow. The 1.5 metre (5 feet)-long eyes were made by the Naga Glass Factory in Yangon and are among the most lifelike of those of any image in the country.

**Nga Htat Gyi Pagoda**

Across the road from the Chauk Htat Gyi Pagoda is the Nga Htat Gyi with a colossal seated Buddha image in royal regalia. Within its premises are shrines with figures of guardian spirits. Around this pagoda are many beautiful monasteries, one in brick with colourful Chinese motifs.

**Botataung Pagoda**

The original, ancient pagoda was destroyed by bombing during World War Two and a replica built in its place. Relics excavated from the treasure chamber were re-enshrined. There is a spiralling corridor leading to the innermost part of the spire where there is a glassencased relic chamber.

**Tooth Relic Pagoda**

Relics of the Buddha are possible to be replicated and one is enshrined in this pagoda on Swel Daw Myat Road off Kaba Aye Pagoda Road.

**Naga Hlaing Gu Pagoda**

Built over an ancient vaulted 11th century structure discovered decades ago, this pagoda has a legend based on the Naga (magical waterserpent) that once protected the Buddha. Carvings of snakes twine over the shrines.
**BlackBerry announces 4,500 layoffs**

**Toronto, 21 Sept—** Canadian mobile phone producer BlackBerry announced on Friday they’re expecting to report a loss of $950 million to $995 million US dollars for the second quarter and will be slashing about 40 per cent of their global workforce.

The company said in a statement that it’ll not only be streamlining its smartphone portfolio from six devices to just four, but it’s also looking to cut half its operating expenditures by the end of the first quarter of its 2015 fiscal year. This will include cutting 4,500 jobs in their workforce worldwide—bringing the number of employees to approximately 7,000 full-time workers. The Toronto Stock Exchange fell sharply late Friday after news spread, with BlackBerry shares closing down 16.08 percent at 9.08 Canadian dollars (about 8.81 US dollars) apiece. The Canadian company that was once at the top of the smartphone game has been struggling to catch up with the popular Apple iPhone, Samsung Galaxy and many other smartphones that have eroded the market in recent years.—Xinhua

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**China’s Huawei expects $2 billion in 4G revenue this year**

**Singapore, 21 Sept—** Huawei Technologies Co Ltd expects to take in more than $2 billion in revenues selling 4G gear this year as global carriers from China to Europe expand their networks, senior company executives said on Wednesday.

Even though 4G LTE (long-term evolution) promises faster video streaming and Internet downloads, the cost of smartphones would need to come down before the technology can enter the global mainstream, they told reporters in a briefing.

“The price of LTE smartphones is still higher that those without LTE technology. This is normal,” said Peter Zhou, executive vice president for the LTE business unit at Huawei, the world’s No.2 telecom equipment maker ranking behind Sweden’s Ericsson.

There are 100 million 4G LTE users globally now, which makes up a small fraction of total mobile subscribers. That 4G number will grow to 1 billion in 2016, or more than half of total global subscribers, Zhou said.

“We foresee that around 2015, a multi-mode smartphone, which includes LTE, will be very similar or equal to the price of a (usual) smartphone,” Zhou said. “So by that time, the portion of LTE smartphones will be much bigger.”

Infrastructure spending in 4G LTE will nearly triple to $24.3 billion in 2015 from $8.7 billion in 2012, according to research firm IHS iSuppli, fueled for network expansions in major markets such as China, Japan and Germany. So far, Huawei and Ericsson have a combined share of 74 percent of allocated LTE contracts, Huawei executives said, citing data from research firm Informa. Huawei’s LTE revenues were insignificant last year, but grew quickly to $1 billion in the first half of the year. They are on track to hit more than $2 billion for the whole of 2013, said Bob Cai, vice president for Huawei’s wireless marketing.

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**Decent jobs, livable cities to help eliminate Asia poverty by 2030**

**Manila, 21 Sept—** Policymakers in developing Asia need to provide decent jobs, livable cities, and disaster prevention programmes if they want to end poverty by 2030, according to a report issued on Friday by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and the United Nations Development Programme.

According to the report “Asia-Pacific Aspirations: Perspectives for a Post-2015 Development Agenda,” although most Asia-Pacific economies succeeded in reducing poverty levels, about 1.64 billion people still live on less than two dollars a day.

There have also been problems of rising inequality, indicating that the benefits of recent economic gains were not distributed evenly. Lack of decent work and decent and productive employment. This is due to the nature of growth and the pattern of structural change in many countries which workers move from agriculture into low-productivity services,” the report said. The Asia-Pacific region also remains off-track in meeting its Millennium Development Goals (MDG) on hunger, health, and sanitation. The report said the region remains home to two-thirds of the world’s poor, and about 50 percent of its hungry people.

This is even if the region only has less than 1,000 days to meet its MDG commitments for 2015. The report proposes 12 specific goals that policymakers in the region can implement in order to end poverty and raise quality of life by 2030. —Xinhua

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**Huawei to create 5,500 new jobs in Europe**

**Beijing, 21 Sept—** Huawei, China’s leading information and communications solutions provider, has pledged to diversify its service portfolio in Europe, while the United States has offered no easy market access, its senior executive said.

“Our expansion progresses in Europe is different from that in the US, where we have encountered access difficulties due to some groundless reasons given by the American side,” Patrick Zhang, president of Huawei Enterprise Business Group, told China Daily in the Netherlands.

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**Opinion divided on benefits of Baby dips**

**Two babies swim in a pool at the Royal Care International Pregnancy & Baby SPA in Shilupu, Chaoyang District.**

**Xinhua**

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**Sunday, 22 September, 2013**

**New Light of Myanmar**

**BUSINESS & HEALTH**
APEC ministers agree to facilitate infrastructure investment

Russia’s Putin brings ‘grey cardinal’ Surkov back to Kremlin

APEC ministers agree to facilitate infrastructure investment

Moscow, 21 Sept—President Vladimir Putin named his former deputy chief of staff Vladislav Surkov as chair of the Organization of Asia-Pacific News Agencies as chair of the Organization of Asia-Pacific News Agencies, which groups 44 news agencies in the region. Kyodo News was also picked as a member of the OANA Executive Board.

OANA reached the decision at its 15th two-day general meeting that started Thursday in Moscow. OANA also agreed to increase the number of Executive Board members to 13 from 11.

In late September 2013, Kyodo News President Masaki Fukuyama attended the meeting.

Moscow, 21 Sept—Russia’s Itar-Tass news agency replaced Turkey’s Anadolu Agency as chair of the Organization of Asia-Pacific News Agencies, which groups 44 news agencies in the region. Kyodo News was also picked as a member of the OANA Executive Board.

OANA reached the decision at its 15th two-day general meeting that started Thursday in Moscow. OANA also agreed to increase the number of Executive Board members to 13 from 11.

Itar-Tass will hold the post until September 2016.

Of the 44 members, 35 news agencies sent representatives to the meeting in Moscow, including Anadolu. Itar-Tass, China’s Xinhua News Agency, South Korea’s Yonhap News Agency, North Korea’s Korean Central News Agency, the Australian Associated Press and Kyodo News.

Kyodo News President Masaki Fukuyama attended the meeting.

Mexico scour for dozens missing amid floods as storms abate

Mexico scour for dozens missing amid floods as storms abate

Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto, speaking at a joint news conference with his Canadian and U.S. counterparts on Friday, said he had spoken by phone with President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Stephen Harper to discuss the search for dozens of people missing in the states of Acapulco and Oaxaca.

Mexico has been hit by a series of floods and landslides in recent days, mainly in southern states, which have left dozens of people missing, according to the government.

The government said it had deployed helicopters, boats and other resources to search for the missing.

The flooding has been caused by heavy rains in the region, which has been hit by a series of storms in recent weeks.

Rescue workers were also looking for signs of a helicopter that vanished on Thursday in the storm-battered state of Guerrero with at least 10 people aboard.

A Black Hawk helicopter, with two pilots and at least eight people rescued from villages outside Acapulco on board, lost contact with authorities on Thursday. Manuel Mondragon, the government’s national security commissioner, told local media.

Acapulco has suffered some of the worst of the flooding that began with two tropical storms, Ingrid and Manuel, bore down on Mexico from the Pacific and the Atlantic, cutting a trail of destruction that has affected more than a million people.

Acapulco News

Acapulco News

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin (L) meets with Deputy Prime Minister Vladislav Surkov at the Novo-Ogaryovo residence outside Moscow on 30 Dec, 2011.—REUTERS

Moscow, 21 Sept—President Vladimir Putin named his former deputy chief of staff Vladislav Surkov as chair of the Kremlin’s presidential administration and then from Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev’s cabinet was widely seen as a victory for conservatives.

The “grey cardinal”, so called because of the influence he wielded behind the scenes, helped build what is known as “sovereign democracy” and, as Putin’s top political aide, concentrated power in the president’s hands in his first, 2000-2008 term.

His sway may not be so strong this time around.

Putin’s decree did not specify Surkov’s responsibilities, but his spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, told Ekho Moskvy radio he would advise the president on aid to the Moscow-backed breakaway Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

However, the appointment gives Surkov, who turns 49 on Saturday, access to Putin’s ear early in a six-year term that the 60-year-old has said may not be his last.

Surkov could not immediately be reached for comment.

Putin likes to maintain a balance of forces around him and often rotates people he trusts into different jobs. He has a limited pool to pick from, and senior officials who quit or are dismissed rarely then openly oppose Kremlin authority.

Reuters

Russia’s Putin brings ‘grey cardinal’ Surkov back to Kremlin

German Chancellor Angela Merkel gestures as she address media during a news conference at Bundespresskonferenz in Berlin on 19 July, 2013.—REUTERS

Berlin, 21 Sept—Chancellor Angela Merkel looked on track to win a third term in a weekend election in Germany but faced a battle to preserve her centre-right majority and avert a potentially divisive coalition with her arch rivals, the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD).

The vote on Sunday is being watched across Europe, with many of Berlin’s partners hoping it will bring Merkel fights for majority in tight German election race

To boost investment, the ministers stressed the need for the implementation of structural reforms that, according to Bauri, will build “strong fundamentals to support our economies.”

Photo shows participants in a meeting of finance ministers of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum on Bali Island, Indonesia, on 20 Sept, 2013. Yoshitaka Ito (C), parliamentary secretary for finance, represented Japan.—Kyodo News

Russia’s Putin brings ‘grey cardinal’ Surkov back to Kremlin

Merkel fights for majority in tight German election race

Moscow, 21 Sept—Finance ministers of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum gathered on Friday in Bali to take measures to facilitate infrastructure investment to boost growth in some economies, particularly emerging ones, amid the weak global economic outlook.

“Our actions at this meeting, particularly our agreement to facilitate infrastructure investment, demonstrate our willingness to cooperate to achieve reforms for stronger, more sustainable and more balanced growth,” the APEC ministers said in a joint statement at the end of their two-day talks at a beach resort. The agreement came after Indonesia, the chair of this year’s APEC forum, urged member nations to come up with initiatives to deal with the current global economic upheaval.

“The expectation that we produce is partly driven by the fact that we are meeting at a time where the challenges facing our economies are considerable,” Indonesian Finance Minister Chatib Basri told his APEC counterparts earlier in the day. The finance chiefs shared a common understanding that the global economic outlook suggests growth is likely to be slower and less balanced than desired despite strengthening private demand in the United States and the picking up of growth in Japan.

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Photo shows participants in a meeting of finance ministers of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum on Bali Island, Indonesia, on 20 Sept, 2013. Yoshitaka Ito (C), parliamentary secretary for finance, represented Japan.—Kyodo News

Russia’s Putin brings ‘grey cardinal’ Surkov back to Kremlin

Germany’s Putin brings ‘grey cardinal’ Surkov back to Kremlin

Our actions at this meeting, particularly our agreement to facilitate infrastructure investment, demonstrate our willingness to cooperate to achieve reforms for stronger, more sustainable and more balanced growth,” the APEC ministers said in a joint statement at the end of their two-day talks at a beach resort. The agreement came after Indonesia, the chair of this year’s APEC forum, urged member nations to come up with initiatives to deal with the current global economic upheaval.

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Farmlands returned to owners

KYAUKME, 21 Sept—More than 2000 farmlands in Kyaukme Township in Shan State were returned to the hands of original farmers.

Original owners of farmlands in Sakhanthar, Kyaumegyikwin, Palaung Peace Ground and Khomeyre Nanye areas got the farmlands back.

Some 300 farmlands in Nawngkhiyo were also returned to the original farmers.

The ceremony to return farmlands was held on 16 September in Khomeyre Village in Kyaukme Township attended by Kyaukme Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Sai Kham Kyaw, the commander of the local station, Township Administrator U Aung Lwin and Township Land Records Department Staff Officer U Zaw Myo Oo.

A thousand fruits, a thousand flowers offered to pagoda in Zeyathiri Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Sept—A thousand fruits and a thousand flowers were offered to Kan Myint Pagoda in Ananda Myitta Thitsa Wadi Monastery in Kan Aye Aung Chan Thar village in Yein village-tract in Zeyathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday.

The ritual was led by Sayadaws U Jotika and U Vilasa, members of Pagoda Board of Trustees and youth groups.

Sermons were also organized in Zawtikrama Hall of the Monastery on 18-19 September evening to mark the second anniversary of the festival.

Agriculture

New groundnut species introduced

MAHLAING, 21 Sept—A new species of groundnut was introduced and production of natural fertilizers demonstrated in farmer U Lun Kyaw’s farm in Monbin Village in Kandwin Village-tract in Mahlaing Township of Mandalay Region on 15 September.

Educative talks on drug abuse given

YANGON, 21 Sept—Educative talks on drug abuse were held in Sangyoung Township in Yangon West District in Yangon Region on 14 September.

The speaker also invited the participation of the public in the fight against drugs.

Health Care Facility

Tangyan station hospital completed

TANGYAN, 21 Sept—The construction of the station hospital in Mongkaung Village in Tangyan Township in northern Shan State has been completed 100 percent.

The construction was headed by Managing Director U Min Min Soe of Sagaing-Universal Company.

The hospital includes one building and three staff quarters.

The estimated cost of the construction is nearly 40 million and the opening ceremony is expected soon.

Charity

Shwe Ngar Restaurant offers free lunch to flood victims

MYITINGS, 21 Sept—Shwe Ngar Restaurant Chains in Amarapura Township offered lunch to flood victims in Uyindaw Village-tract in Amarapura Township of Mandalay Region.

Owner of Shwe Ngar Restaurant Chains U Myint Wai and family offered free lunch to the flood victims on 14-20 September from 10 am to 5 pm.

Villagers of Uyindaw, Kanbe, Yekyipauk and Hsinywar Myinhmu villages in Amarapura Township were affected by the flood caused by the rising water level of Dokhtawady River.

Uyindaw Village-tract administrator U Ye Myaing and villagers themselves volunteered in serving the flood victims with lunch.

U Myint Wai, owner of Shwe Ngar said, “I am heartened by the chance to offer lunch to the flood victims. I am happy to see them enjoying the food I offer.” U Myint Wai is known for his frequent contributions to the society.

Health Care Facility

19th Inter-Region/State Aerobics Tournament organized

YANGON, 21 Sept—The 19th Inter-Region/State Women’s Aerobics Tournament was organized in No (1) National Indoor Stadium (Thuwanna) in Thingyan Township in Yangon this morning.

The defending champions Yangon Region returned the shield to Principal of Sports and Physical Education Institute Director of Sports and Physical Education Department U Kyaw Hsan Oo.

On behalf of the Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman Union Minister for Sports, Director of Yangon Region Sports and Physical Education Department U Kyaw Hsan Oo delivered an address at the ceremony.

A total of 276 players from 13 teams representing region/state except Chin State participated in the game.

The sports of the event include Aerobics, Dance Aerobics, Group Aerobics for open and women, and Group Aerobics for men.

National Sports

Archers in action: Tentatively selected Myanmar archers participated in qualifier of Myanmar Archery Federation for XXVII SEA Games to be hosted in Myanmar at Wunna Theikdi Archery Shooting Range in Nay Pyi Taw on 18 September.

MMAL-KO KO SOE NYUNT

Olympic Committee Vice-President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Daw L. Khan Yi, patrons, executives, officials of Sports and Physical Education Department and athletes were also present.

MMAL-TIN SOE (Myanma Alinn)
The government has been persistent in its efforts to achieve nation-wide peace, foster economic development and mould a better future for our young people.

Our strong belief is that we need to solve our disagreements through peaceful and non-violent discussions and negotiations geared towards finding a common ground. For all of us with different beliefs and opinions, we need to build a certain level of trust where we will be able to work together. It is also our firm conviction that we can build that trust only by working together. In this way we can become a modern society.

Finding solutions through discussions and negotiations does not always mean compromising. Even though we may have differences in beliefs and opinions we are just encouraging everyone to exercise sound judgment, broad-mindedness, right intentions, wisdom and energy towards working towards creating a sustainable political process and fostering a better political future. While there were concerns regarding the 88 Peoples Movement Silver Jubilee, genuine political will on all sides made this event a success. 88 Peoples Movement Silver Jubilee commemorates an important movement in our political history. The fact that we can celebrate this event together shows us that we are moving towards a new political culture where “those who agree to disagree can still work together.” We greatly appreciate such leaps in our political culture.

All of us must work together to achieve one of the most important goals for our society, which is, the national integration. We must continue our reform and development efforts as well as reestablish important social values such as wanting to live in peace and harmony among the different faiths and ethnicities.

Winners at International Letter-writing Competition awarded

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Sept—In commemoration of World Post Day which falls on 9 October 2013, UNESCO and UPU jointly organized International Youths Letter-writing Competition. The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology and Ministry of Education sponsored an internal level letter-writing competition in English titled “Write a letter about why water is precious” on 6 January at basic education schools.

Grade 10 student Ma Nang Nwam Hlyan Msi from No 2 BEHS (Bahan) secured Internal level first prize, grade nine student Ma Khin What Tin from No 1 BEHS (Kengtung) stood the second and grade nine student Ma Khin Win Thein from No 7 BEMS (Sittway) the third. The three consolation prizes went to grade 10 students Ma Wine Yi Mon Oo from No 3 BEHS (Mawlamyine), Maung Lamin Maung Maung from No 3 BEHS (Bagan) and grade nine student Ma Khant Khant Soe San from No 1 BEHS (Myitkyina). The three special prizes went to grade 10 students Ma Kay Thi Wee Htoo of No 1 BEHS (Pyay), Matriculation students Ma Myint Myat Myat Soe from BEHS (Buthidaung) and Ma Moe Thandar Hlaing from No 2 BEHS (Lashio). The first prize work of Ma Nang Nwam Hlyan Msi was sent to the headquarters of Universal Postal Union in Switzerland to compete in international level contest—AVA

Ceremonial Barges and Boats

1. Pyi Gyi Mon
2. Karaweik
3. Maw Lay
4. Thone Lu Pu
5. Lin Zin
6. Pa Thone
7. Pyi Kone
8. Thara Lu
9. Lawka Beik
10. Pyi Nga
11. Tha Hla Tura
12. Than Tha Mara
13. Manoike Thida
14. Naga Deva
15. Thaikadan
16. Lwan Kym
17. Thara
18. Kyaw
19. Thara Beik
20. Kama Kaw
21. Thinka Net
22. Hlaw Ka Taw
23. Ginya Zeya
24. Hlaw Ka Taw
25. Kay Na Nada
26. Tha Yung
27. Kein Naya
28. Kein Nari
29. Pyu Npya
30. Thatha Rupa
31. Nava Rupa
32. Datha Rupa
33. Dawa Datha Rupa
34. Thone Lu Tawk Pa
35. Ta A Hna
36. Siwe Tone
37. Siwe Nan Shin
War Barges and Boats

1. Yan Nang Naung
2. Ka Taw Gyi
3. Phone Taw Nang
4. Pyi Lone Ya
5. Pyi Lone Ya
6. Pyaing Taing Ya
7. Saka Pha Hway
8. Zala Kha Pyin
9. Aza Lone
10. Phone Taw Naing-gan
11. Min Taya Set Kyi
12. Ngan Paganj
13. Si Htian Aung
14. Tho Ye Tu Tet
15. Ye Hlyant Kyaw
16. Ye Min Taung
17. Pyi Lone Naing
18. In Byaw
19. In Ma
20. Taungo In Ma
21. Zinme In Ma
22. Pyi In Ma
23. Bya Ye Ta
24. Tha Pyu Hlaw
25. Ka Taw
26. Tho Ye Kyaw
27. Si Htian In Ma
28. Kyaw Khung
29. Kaung Myit Sit
30. Ye Sit
31. Marabin Hlaw Ka Taw
32. Pyi Lone Ya
33. Pyi Lone Ya
34. Pyi Lone Ya
35. Zala Kha Phin
36. Aza Lone
37. Phone Taw Naing-gan
38. Min Taya Set Kyi
39. Ngan Paganj
40. Si Htian Aung
41. Tho Ye Tu Tet
42. Ye Hlyant Kyaw
43. Ye Min Taung
44. Pyi Lone Naing
45. In Byaw
46. In Ma
47. Taungo In Ma
48. Zinme In Ma
49. Pyi In Ma
50. Bya Ye Ta
51. Tha Pyu Hlaw
52. Ka Taw
53. Tho Ye Kyaw
54. Si Htian In Ma
55. Kyaw Khung
56. Kaung Myit Sit
57. Ye Sit
58. Marabin Hlaw Ka Taw
59. Pyi Lone Ya
60. Pyi Lone Ya
61. Pyi Lone Ya
62. Zala Kha Phin
63. Aza Lone
64. Phone Taw Naing-gan

Racing Boats

1. Let Thin
2. Let Ywe
3. Pyi Lone Ant
4. Pyi Lone Ant
5. Pyi Lone Kyaw
6. Pwe Taing Kyaw
7. Pwe Lone Tin
8. Tawg Naing
9. Pwe Taing Kyaing
10. Myit Naing Taying
11. Tawg Tewing
12. Shwe Tanga
13. In Pyaw
14. Tha Lwin Kyaw
15. Kyaw
16. Htwet Taing Ya
17. Pyaing Taing ya
18. Lu Lin Kyaw
19. Kat Tu
20. Shwe Kyaing
21. Than Pan
22. Lone Pyi
23. Shwe Laving
24. Pyi Lone Ya

On the 21st, the 13th War Barges and Boats Omnibus with the name of Setkya Yan Pyin the sea voyager, Yadana Yin Thar, Yadana Yin Pyan, Setkya Yan Alwint the riverine ships competed. (See page 9)
Better transportation vital for rural development

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Sept—Thirikyein-Hmabo-gyi No.2 inter-district road links Nay Pyi Taw, Bago Region and Kayin State.

The ministry would fulfill not only rural electrification and supply of clean drinking water but better transportation, health and education for local people, he added.

The Union minister and officials touched upon breeding milch cows in order to feed milk to the school children and distribution of quality chicken, pigs and ducks and plans for breeding of fish.

The Union minister met with village development department supporters and teachers at the villages, basic educational schools and rural health care centers in Lewe, Yadase and Toungoo Townships and Leiktheta Sub-Township on Toungoo-Leiktha-Yadoi-Loikaw Road and fulfilled the requirements.—MNA

Thai Health Minister observes training center in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Sept—Dr Pradit Sinta-vanarong, Public Health Minister of Thailand and senior officials looked round the conducting of training on control of infectious diseases and delivery room at multi-purpose health training center in Hsinwawgyi Model Village, Pathein gyi Town-ship, Mandalay Region yesterday.

The Assistant Director (Infectious Disease) of Health Department explained the programmes on control of infectious diseases in Myanmar.

Tonics administered to children in Homa lin

HOMALIN, 21 Sept—Sagae Region Maternal and Child Welfare Association in Sagaing Re-gion administered Babivit, the vitamin tonics for the kids in a ceremony at the kindergarten of Maternal and Child Welfare Association in Homa lin on 18 September morning.


MR to give RBE transport service to passengers

MYANMAR Railways will run the circular trains facilitated with rail bus engine (RBE) coaches equipped with air-conditioners, according to the officials of Myanmar Railways.

With regard to the runs of the very first coaches of RBE installed with four air-conditioners each, Assistant General Manager U Kyaw Kyaw Myo, in charge of Yangon Region Division 7, said, “RBE coaches are installed with engine under its floor. We plan to launch the RBE trains in October. But, the fares have not been approved yet. The route for the trains is under the plan.”

We will coordinate the best route for the people at fair price of tickets.

As the imported RBE coaches were installed with railing on the right side of the coach, more railings were installed on left side for passenger convenience. In addition, the railings were gouged out at the second step for convenience of the older persons and children. At present, Myanmar Railways has experience for RBE trains obtained from the runs of Yangon-Kyaikto special air-conditioned train.

“RBE coaches carry engine and air-conditioners in good conditions. We will not neglect damages of air-conditioners and machines. Especially, we will pay serious attention to newly-arranged air-conditioned circular train. If there was machine failure, we would face much difficulty for work process. However, the rail bus engine coaches have been installed with air pressure break that can speed up and slow down immediately,” he continued.

At present, circular trains of Myanmar Railways occupies the increasing shares of passengers in the transport sector of Yangon.

The whole length of circular railroad takes 2 hours and 50 minutes for the drives of trains. Myanmar Railways manages running of circular trains 200 plies in mid-October regularly.

When the RBE train runs, it is estimated that the runs of circular trains will hit 208 a day.

Byline: Soe Win-MLA

Tawthalin holds Royal Regatta ...

(from page 8)

Finally the two rowing boats Kho Taung Shwe Khe and Mingala Yan Hnin had another round of race, because objections were raised when Mingala Yan Hnin got defeated in the first race held previous day. Royal permit was obtained. So these two boats competed again. This time Mingala Yan Hnin plucked the flower of victory. So ended the Royal Regatta.”

Prize distribution took place on the final day of the Regatta. Either their Majesties or their Deputies gave prizes to the winners. Prizes varied from silk pu-soe [long piece of cloth for men’s wear], gaungpaung [headgear or turban] pu-wa [scarf] pieces of cotton, silk, velvet and money in pure silver—100,200,300, 500 to 1000 takils. The winners paid obeisance and departed happily.

Boat races were held throughout the open season but especially in the month of Tawthalin. But when important event is taking place such as pagoda festival, military display, celebration of war victories, visit of distinguished guests or dignitaries, regatta is displayed and boat races are held.

[From 1990 to 1996 Myanmar Traditional cultural Regatta Festival was yearly held at the Royal Lake Kantaw Gyi, Yangon, in the month of Tawthalin. King Thawawaddy’s naval expedition to Dagon was re-enacted on a magnifi-cent scale, for the revival of patriotic spirit and preservation of cultural heritage and national identity. A site was chosen on the spacious bank of Inya lake for the construction of a regatta and boat museum for public display.]
Farming rights certificate presented to farmers in Thaton Tsp

Thaton, 21 Sept—A ceremony to issue farming rights certificates to farmers from Debarein, Thayettaw, Taungsun, Pawtawmu, Sinbyukyun, Seikkyun and Naungbo village-tracts in Thaton Township of Mon State was held a Thuwunna Hall in Thaton on 16 September morning. Deputy Commissioner U Nay Lin of the district explained the purpose of issuing farming rights certificates to the local people.

Chairman of Township Farmland Management Committee Township Administrator U Tun Tun Naung reproted on issuance of the certificates in the township.

Next, representatives from seven village-tracts accepted certificates for 2783 farmlands.

Up to 16 September, Thaton Township has issued 14348 certificates to the farmers against the target of 31576, accounting for 45 per cent.

In October, the certificates will be issued to all the farmers in the township. Kyemon-Thet Oo (Thaton)

Talks on violence against women and children held

YANGON, 21 Sept—Organized by Tamway Township Women’s Affairs Organization, the educative talks on protection of children and women against violence was held at the hall of Basic Education High School No. 1 in Tamway Township, 2 pm on 14 September.

Chairperson of Yangon Region Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Thaung Mya made a speech.

Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Khin Maung Mya made a speech.

Students changed learning at safe schools due to landslides

KALAY, 21 Sept—Heavy rains of Chin State caused landslides in Falam Township.

Sunman hall and Bankyi Hall of Falam Basic Education High School Branch dropped six inches deep into the ground.

Therefore, students were moved to Basic Education Primary School No. 4 and middle and high students to Basic Education High School No 1. Primary students attend the school from 7 am to 12 noon and middle and high students, 12.30 pm to 5.30 pm.

A teacher remarked that it is so difficult for students on Chin Hill, two sessions of the students are difficult for them. Hill region gets sun light at about 9 am. Those from the remote areas may face problems for attending the school at 7 am. Due to changing the school, teachers are worked for the students about queerel for other students, for showers and ailing.

Falam Basic Education High School Branch was upgraded in 2013. Altogether 269 primary, 576 middle and 133 high school students are attending the school under teaching of 39 teachers.

Kalewa-Homalin vessels resume running

Kalewa, 21 Sept—Due to heavy rain in upper Sagaing Region and Chin hill regions, cargo and passenger watercrafts were suspended for their transportation facilities.

As of 12 September, the runs of watercrafts were allowed to resume, said a local.

Kyalay, 21 Sept—Kyalay-Monywa passenger transport bus-line and Monywa-Wuntho passenger transport bus-line were launched.

Aung Yadana ex-press bus-line trans-fered to Mawlamyine.

Mandalay-Pinlebu passenger transport bus-line and Monywa-Wuntho passenger transport bus-line were launched.

Aung Yadana ex-press bus-line transferred to Mon State bus-line head-quarters at the Township Bus Line Terminal in Ward 4 of Katha was launched to run Katha-Monywa route on 18 September morning.

Chairman of the Township Management Committee Township Administrator U Zaw Min Htik, Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Kyaw Aung Myint and the chairman of Aung Yadana Bus Line cut the ribbon to open the maiden trip of the bus.

The bus leaves Katha at 17 pm.

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ASEAN pushes forward construction of railway linking member countries

JAKARTA, 21 Sept—Delegates of ASEAN member countries and partners kicked off a 2-day forum here on Friday, discussing efforts to construct railway projects linking member countries located in Southeast Asia.

The workshop forum entitled “ASEAN Connectivity Through Rail” was sponsored by the United States Trade and Development Agency (USTDA), attended by 120 participants that comprises delegations representing state-owned and private railway firms, authorities and transportation ministries from ASEAN member countries, executives of transportation firms, experts and officials from ASEAN Secretariat.

The SKRL is a flagship project under the ASEAN Mekong Basin Development Cooperation and one of the priority projects in the Master Plan for ASEAN Connectivity. It serves as an impetus for the integration of the region and a catalyst for economic development.

“The ASEAN Community has been actively pursuing the idea of efficient and green method of transport via the implementation of Singapore-Kunming Rail Link (SKRL).” Abdul Ghafar bin Yusof, Deputy Under Secretary from Malaysia’s Ministry of Transport said in his remarks at the opening of the event held in a hotel here.

He added that so far, construction and upgrading works on rail network with ASEAN member states have been progressing well with a number of construction works expected to be completed in the near future, among others in Malaysia and Thailand.

“In the mean time, efforts to address the ‘missing link’ issue in Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Lao People’s Democratic Republic (PDR) and Myanmar is now being aggressively conducted to ensure the implementation of ASEAN connectivity vision,” Abdul Ghafar added. Meanwhile, US Ambassador to ASEAN David L. Carden said that the forum represents the active and concrete engagement engagements by the United States to support ASEAN in meeting the goals of ASEAN Connectivity and ASEAN Economic Community Master Plans, scheduled for implementation in 2015.

“We join our ASEAN colleagues in acknowledging the tremendous economic potential that the rail sector has for the region, not merely in terms of physical infrastructure and connectivity, but also the economic growth opportunities for the region as a whole,” David said in his remarks.

Cambodia reports two new human cases of bird flu, one dies

Pnom Penh, 21 Sept—Cambodia on Friday reported two new human cases of avian influenza have been confirmed, with one of the flu-stricken patients dying and the other recovering.

The Health Ministry said a 2-year-old girl from Trapang Chrab village, in Kampot Province, died on Tuesday, and a 5-year-old girl from Prey Sleek village, in Takeo Province, recovered and was discharged from hospital on Friday.

They both tested positive for H5N1 in the past week.

The two new cases brought the number of H5N1 cases detected this year to 20, among which 11 patients died.

Health Minister Mom Bounheng said bird flu “remains a serious threat to the health of all Cambodians and more so for children, who seem to be most vulnerable and are at high risk.”

“I urge parents and guardians to take special care to make sure their children are not playing with poultry, or in any area that may be contaminates with poultry feces, or feathers or liquid wastes,” he added.

Three killed in S Philippine city bus explosion

MANILA, 21 Sept—Three people died while another one was wounded in an explosion inside a bus depot site at the village of labuan — many barangay away from the site of the hostage crisis.

Among those killed in the explosion were bus conductor Meliton Orquijo and bus washers Hudson Gunialc and Allisson Savarda.

Investigations are still ongoing to shed light on the explosion, Huesca said.

AESON, Thai furniture maker to set up joint venture in Malaysia

Tokyo, 21 Sept—Japenese supermarket chain operator Aeon Co said on Friday it will set up a joint venture company with a leading Thai furniture maker by the end of this year.

Under the deal with Bangkok-based Index Living Mall Co, Aeon will open a furniture store in a shopping center in Kuala Lumpur to strengthen sales in the region and a catalyze e-commerce with a view to moving into Vietnam and other Southeast Asian countries.
MINISTRY OF ELECTRIC POWER
Invitation of Open Proposal
1. The Ministry of Electric Power invites all Foreign and Local Investors to submit -
2. Natural gas resources for both projects shall be “SHWE” offshore gas.
3. For proposal (1), both of Technical and Commercial Proposal shall be submitted not later than at 16:00 hr on 18th October 2013.
4. For proposal (2), Technical proposal shall be submitted not later than at 16:00 hr on 30th November 2013.
5. Detail information and Technical Specification related to (a) Renting Gas Engine Generator can be inquired up to (30-9-2013).
   (b) Implementation of Combined Cycle Power Plant can be inquired up to (15-10-2013).

Please contact the following address during the office hour;
Contact Address: Managing Director
Myanmar Electric-Power Enterprise,
Ministry of Electric Power,
Office No. (27), Nay Pyi Taw
Phone : +95 67 410202
Fax: +95 67 410074

40 children killed in measles outbreak in Nigeria’s Kaduna State

ABUJA, 21 Sept — At least 40 children were killed in a fresh outbreak of measles across the 23 local government areas in northwest Nigeria’s Kaduna State, local media reported on Friday. This year alone, the Nigerian state recorded at least 1,000 cases of the disease resulting in the high number of deaths, the local “Peoples’ Daily Newspaper” said, citing Sufyan Babale, Executive Secretary of the Kaduna Primary Health Care Agency.

“I visited the area personally and saw fresh graves of over 30 children that died in Lere local government area alone,” Babale told the Abuja-based newspaper.

The healthcare official said more cases reported in other local government areas have been put under control by the government. There are states that are selected for this year’s campaign on implementation of measles (immunization) in the country of which Kaduna State is one of them. So, we are going to do that to educate our people on the disease,” he added. The measles immunization programme will run between 5 October and 9 October across the northern state. Six months ago, federal health authorities in Abuja made moves to combat the contagious viral disease that had infected no fewer than 4000 children in the northern part of Nigeria as of March.

Children between nine months and five years old are particularly susceptible to the disease.—Xinhua

Three UK cities keen to host Euro 2020 matches

LONDON, 21 Sept — England, Scotland, Wales have expressed their interest to UEFA to host European Championship matches in 2020.

UEFA, Europe’s football governing body, said 32 of its members have showed an interest in hosting games after deciding that the tournament would be shared among 13 cities across Europe, the BBC reported.

England wants to host games in London and Scotland has chosen Glasgow. Wales hopes to have some matches in Cardiff.

The candidates have the right to change their initial host city selection, but must submit their final choices by 25 April next year.

UEFA will decide on 25 September 2014 which 13 cities will host games.

Following are the 32 countries and regions interested in hosting Euro 2020 games: [Armenia (Yerevan), Azerbaijan (Baku), Belarus (Minsk), Belgium (Brussels), Bulgaria (Sofia), Croatia (Zagreb), Czech Republic (Prague), Denmark (Copenhagen), England (London, Finland (Helsinki), Portugal (Lisbon and Porto), Republic of Ireland (Dublin), Romania, (Brussels), Scotland (Glasgow), Serbia (Belgrade), Spain (Madrid, Barcelona, Bilbao and Valencia), Sweden (Stockholm), Switzerland (Basel), Turkey (Istanbul), Ukraine (Kyiv and Donetsk) and Wales (Cardiff).

Xinhua

Kenya sets annual population growth at 2.1 pct

NAIROBI, 21 Sept — Kenya, an East African country of 43 million people, has set a target of 2.1 percent annual population growth rate by 2015, the head of the East African country’s Reproductive Health Programme said on Friday.

“The government believes 2.1 percent is more sustainable than the current 2.9 percent, considering the country’s public service,” Manager Kigen Bartilol said of the Division of Reproductive Health Programme to reporters ahead of the World Contraception Day (WCD) celebrations which are marked on 26 Sept annually.

He noted that approximately 1.4 million babies are delivered every year in Kenya. “We estimate that 80 percent of those could be unintended pregnancies,” Bartilol said. Director of Public Health Shariff Shahnaaz said that only 46 percent of women in reproductive age in Kenya use contraceptives.

“We want to accelerate the implementation of targeted interventions so that we achieve a family planning use target of 56 percent by 2015,” Shahnaaz said. Family Planning Commodity Manager Jonah Maina said that the government will spend 9 million US dollars in the current financial year on contraceptives.

The manager said that the youth comprise 46 percent of Kenya’s population. “The government hopes to develop an evidence based guide on youth reproductive health,” he said.

Family Health International Senior Technical Officer Jones Abisi said that Kenya’s fertility rate stands at average of five children per woman. “However, an average of two to three children would be more ideal,” he said.
Beyonce, Jay Z top highest-earning celebrity couple list

NEW YORK, 21 Sept—With estimated earnings of $95 million, pop singer Beyonce and her rapper husband Jay Z are the highest-earning celebrity couple for the second consecutive year, Forbes magazine said on Thursday.

Beyonce’s “Mrs. Carter” tour and Jay Z’s million-selling “Watch the Throne” album and world tour, both a collaboration with rapper Kanye West, pushed the husband due her successful world tour, which grossed an average of about $2 million per show.

Jay Z’s latest top-selling album “Magna Carta... Holy Grail” was released on 4 July and was not eligible to count toward his earnings.

In addition to their musical earnings, Jay Z, 43, sold his stake in the Brooklyn Nets basketball team and has started his own sports agency. Beyonce upped her takings through a clothing line and fragrances.

Former co-stars on the TV comedy “That ’70s Show” Ashton Kutcher and Mila Kunis came in fourth with $35 million, followed by new parents, reality TV star Kim Kardashian and West, who collectively earned $30 million.

Forbes compiled the list by talking to agents, producers, managers and other informed people. Fees and taxes were not subtracted from the estimates. —Reuters

London music festival to pay tribute to Pandit Ravi Shankar

LONDON, 21 Sept—One of Britain’s leading Hindustani and Carnatic music festivals will honour the memory of legendary sitar maestro Ravi Shankar this year.

The Darbar Festival at the Southbank Centre, on the banks of the Thames in London, will kick-start today for a weekend of Indian classical music. This year also marks a special focus on female musicians from the country, some of whom will be performing in London for the first time.

“Here in the UK we can programme the festival free from the discrimination that most musicians face because of politics, caste, sex and religion back in India. We continue to expose brilliant new musicians to UK audiences,” said Sandeep Virdee, artistic director of the Darbar Festival.

Some of the highlights from this year’s festival include one of India’s greatest tabla maestros Yogesh Samantaro of the Agra and Gwalior Gharanas; and Jayanthi Kumaresh, prized Saraswati veena player.

“The sitar maestro died after a long illness in a San Diego hospital at the age of 92 on 11 December, 2012. —PTI

It’s over with Liam, but Miley Cyrus is keeping the ring

LOS ANGELES, 21 Sept —Actor Liam Hemsworth has reportedly asked pop star Miley Cyrus to keep the engagement ring as a memento of their love.

Of late there has been speculation that Hemsworth wants to part ways with Cyrus. The ring, a hand-cut vintage diamond, is a stunning 3.5 carats from the 1890s. “Liam wants Miley to keep the ring,” showbizspy.com quoted a source as saying.

“He wouldn’t ask for it back. Liam told Miley to keep it and do with it what she wanted. He told her to keep it as a memento of their love affair,” the source added.—PTI

Of late there has been speculation that Liam wants to part ways with Miley. —Reuters
Wildcard Zhang to meet qualifier King in Guangzhou final

Zhang Shuai of China returns the ball to Angelique Kerber of Germany during the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on 27 May, 2012.—Reuters

Mata must adapt to what Chelsea want, says Mourinho

Chelsea's manager Jose Mourinho (R) prepares to bring on substitute Juan Mata during their Champions League match against Basel at Stamford Bridge in London on 18 Sept, 2013.—Reuters

Imperious Stenson surges four ahead at East Lake

ATLANTA, 21 Sept.—In-form Swede Henrik Stenson piled up four birdies in his first nine holes, then held steady after the turn to forge four shots clear in Friday’s second round of the PGA Tour’s season-ending Tour Championship.

With the FedExCup playoff title and its bonus jackpot of $10 million also on the line at East Lake Golf Club this week, Stenson tightened his grip on all those honors as he fired a four-under-par 66 on a glorious, sun-splashed day.

The Swede, ranked second in the FedExCup points standings coming into this week, offset a bogey at the 10th with a birdie at the 16th to post a 10-under total of 130 in the fourth and final playoff event.

“Maybe seems like a large lead, but four shots during two rounds is not that much,” Stenson told reporters, having played with the other two clubs in his bag after seeing that the face of his four-wood was caved in during his warm-up.

“I’m pretty cool about that. I’m just going to go out and try to do the best I can for the next two days, and hopefully that’s good enough.

“I have won a lot of tournaments from a good position like this, and I hope I can do it again,” added the Swede, who has reeled in five top-threees in his last seven starts, including victory at the Deutsche Bank Championship earlier this month. Stenson’s playing partner, Masters champion Adam Scott, was alone in second, after carding a 69, with PGA Tour rookie sensation Jordan Spieth a further stroke back at five under, after a 67.

“Fairly pleased,” Scott said after mixing three birdies with two bogeys. “I didn’t play my best golf out there today. Not that I got in a lot of trouble but when you’re out of position, it’s really hard to have a good score around here.”

Reuters

Over one million pounds) in May. The only blot in a near-perfect evening was the sending-off of the club’s record breaking scorer, Colombian international Radamel Falcao in the 31st minute. The Ecuador winger took over the shirt number worn by the likes of United greats George Best, Bryan Robson, Eric Cantona, Cristiano Ronaldo and David Beckham after he was named the club’s player of the year in 2011-12.

However, after netting just once last season and putting in some indifferent performances, he asked to have his old number 25 shirt back and in Tuesday’s 4-2 Champions League win over Bayer Leverkusen he looked more like his old self.

“He has done very well,” Moyes told a news conference on Friday ahead of this weekend’s derby at Manchester City. “They keep telling me that he needed to change his number so we got that changed for him. Sometimes, psychologically, it can make a difference to a player.”

“Overall, I’ve been really pleased with him. I actually said to him today: ‘You should be getting yourself seven or eight goals a season regularly’.

“He looked at me and squinted a bit. Hopefully, he knows what I mean ... He’s got off to a good start and hopefully he’ll get close to the target. I’d like him to get this season.”

 Valencia smashed in United’s fourth against Leverkusen with one touch after being set up by Wayne Rooney, who himself is enjoying a new lease of life and has reached the milestone of 200 United goals in all competitions.

The England striker scored twice on Tuesday and netted against Crystal Palace last weekend, drawing praise from his former manager Alex Ferguson whose last words about him had been to say he wanted to leave the club.

While his recent goals, increased sharpness and the fact the club kept hold of him in the face of Chelsea’s advances in the transfer window are welcome news for United fans, Rooney has still not actually said he is happy at Old Trafford.

He has two years left on his contract and the club are unlikely to wait until he is in the final year of it to start negotiating a new one but Moyes said it was too early to talk about it now. “I think we just go step-by-step,” he said.

“If he could score another two goals at the weekend that would be the next step forward wouldn’t it and just keep him going. I think he’s played really well and we want him to maintain it. If anything, I’m asking him to step up again.”—Reuters

New Light of Myanmar
Syrian crisis boosts smuggling trade in Lebanon

BEIRUT, 21 Sept—A local resident from Ain Ata, an eastern Lebanese village on the border with Syria, said his new herd of mules has turned to be a major source of income during these hard days.

Hussein Al Nair explained to Xinhua that the mule, which has horse’s strength and donkey’s patience but is sterile and cannot breed, help him smuggle arms and ammunition across the mountainous areas between Lebanon and Syria. “The war in Syria helped restore the role of mules—a main tool for transporting food and medical supplies along with arms the founding parties need, which has been lost since a quarter of a century ago,” he added.

A livestock pedlar named Abdillah Al Alih said that the soaring demand on mules has flourished his business and the trade in southern Lebanon and the Bekaa region, noting that the price increased by about 10 percent in less than a year. “The prices vary according to the age and strength of the animal and it ranges from 900 US dollars to 2,500 dollars,” he said.

The mule convoys became a familiar scene in the Mount Hermon border crossing between Lebanon and Syria with an altitude of 2,500 meters, according to local residents. An 86-year-old resident named Daher Daher recounted that the roads in Mount Hermon are known to be the main smuggling roads between Lebanon and Syria.

During the conflict between Lebanon and Israel from 1982 to 2000, he said, “the smugglers were mainly Israeli officers and the local militant known as the South Lebanese Army, to help them transport the imported tobacco from the illegal Naqora port in southern Lebanon.”—Xinhua

Ecuadorian president visits Cuba, hailing ties

HAVANA, 21 Sept—Ecuadorean President Rafael Correa on Friday praised Cuba for its support to his country, especially in its efforts to maintain health sector, upon his arrival for a one-day working visit to the island country.

Expressing his “happiness” for the visit, the Ecuadorian president thanked Cuba for the training of medical staff for his country, when he arrived at Cuba’s eastern city of Santiago de Cuba, according to Cuba’s National Information Agency (AIN).

Correa also referred to the collaboration of Ecuador for the construction of 1500 houses in three years in Santiago de Cuba, for the victims of hurricane “Sandy” in 2012.

He will hold talks with his Cuban counterpart Raul Castro in Havana later Friday and meet with health authorities on matters of health and sustainability, reduction of malnutrition and infantile mortality rates, and the attention to disabled people, AIN said.

The Ecuadorian president promotes in his country the social mission “Manuela Espino,” offering necessities to the disabled with the help of Cuban doctors. Relations between Cuba and Ecuador are described as “excellent” as the two countries have signed a series of agreements on cooperation in such fields as health, education, agriculture, sports and energy. Xinhua

Vettel dominates Singapore practice

SINGAPORE, 21 Sept—Sebastian Vettel justified his favourite tag for the Singapore Grand Prix when he stormed clear of his rivals in Friday’s second free practice, lapping more than half a second quicker than Red Bull team mate Mark Webber.

The German triple world champion is 53 points ahead of Ferrai’s Fernando Alonso heading into the weekend and his dominant display around the Marina Bay street Circuit suggests he will extend that advantage in Sunday’s night race.

Vettel, who is seeking a hat-trick of victories in Singapore as well as a hat-trick of wins since he finished third in Hungary in July, clocked an unchallenged one minute 44.249 seconds to leave all but Webber more than a second adrift.

The Australian, who is retiring from Formula One at the end of the season, finished 0.604 seconds off the pace with the Mercedes duo Nico Rosberg and Lewis Hamilton enjoying a return to a high downforce track by securing the next two places.

Rosberg was 1.009 seconds down on Vettel in the second 90-minute session with Hamilton marginally slower after the Briton had been quickest in the first practice session ahead of the two Red Bulls.

When asked if he expected to be so far ahead of his rivals, Vettel offered a cautious response: “No, it was a bit of a surprise,” the 26-year-old told a scrum of reporters outside the Red Bull garage.

“I will think we are quick but I think Mercedes will be very, very competitive tomorrow when we go into qualifying.” Both sessions were fairly incident free especially with the infamous ‘Singapore Sling’ turn 10 which less of a threat after track officials took heed of driver complaints.

A few drivers brushed the wall on the exit of the turn and the Williams of Pastor Maldonado was the only car to suffer any major damage when he cramped his front wing after overshooting turn 13.

However, Vettel was virtually perfect throughout both sessions and once his Red Bull was unleashed on the super soft option tyres, there was only ever going to be one outcome on a circuit tailor made for his style and the car’s strengths.—Reuters
Thura U Shwe Mann observes meetings at committees at 34th AIPA

The Speaker viewed discussions of MPs of ASEAN countries in the Meetings of Committees on Economic Matters, the Committee on Social Matters and the Committee on Organizational Matters.

Next, the Speaker attended the meeting attended by AIPA member countries and observer countries Japan, China and India. On 19 September, the Speaker attended a dinner hosted by Chairman of Brunei Legislative Council Mr. Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja together with speakers of Parliaments from AIPA member countries.—MNA

Mitsubishi Electric contributes teaching aids to Myanmar Maritime University

Yangon, 21 Sept—Myanmar Maritime University under the Ministry of Transport and Communication has been constantly turning out marine technicians who are beneficial to local and international marine sector, said Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein at ceremony to donate 15 sets of Control and Automation Systems Components to Department of Marine Electrical Systems and Electronics of the university by Peace Myanmar Electric Co Ltd, subdivision of Mitsubishi Electric Co Ltd at Sedona Hotel, here, this morning.

Marketing Director U Khin Maung Myat handed over the teaching aids to Rector Dr Myat Lwin of the university.

Afterwards, Rector Dr Myat Lwin and General Manager Mr. Kazuhiko Moriguchi from Setcuso Co Ltd of Mitsubishi Electric exchanged gifts.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker meets local people in Myitkyina State

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Sept—In-fighting in Kachin State should be stopped, and it is the time armed group should exchange armed struggle for democratic one," said Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint at a meeting with local people at City Hall in Myitkyina of Kachin State this afternoon.

Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint donated relief aids worth K 127.4 million through State Social Affairs Minister Daw Bauk Ja. After that, Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsai helped on Speaker U Khin Aung Myint with traditional Kachin attire.

Dr Khin Shwe donated K 60 million through State Social Affairs Minister Daw Bauk Ja.

The Speaker made a concluding remark, saying that the 15-member Amyotha Hluttaw Relief and Victims Care Committee comprises national races such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, etc. So, it is evidence that all the national people wish prevailing peace in Kachin State.

MNA

Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint accepts Kachin traditional attire presented by Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsai.—MNA

Zaygaba Co donated bags of rice, medicine, clothes and other relief aids worth over K 127.4 million and cash assistance of K 60 million at today's ceremony.

It was also attended by Deputy Ministers Dr Aung Myat Oo and U Phone Swe, members of Amyotha Hluttaw Relief and Victims Care Committee, officials of State government and State Hluttaw, representatives from political parties and social organizations and townswelders.

MNA

Myanmar-Thai Health Meeting focuses on trans-border health issue

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Sept—"Health sector lies at the core of socio-economic development of the country," said Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin at Myanmar-Thai Health Collaborative Ministerial Meeting held at Mandalay Hill Resort Hotel in Mandalay yesterday.

Trans-border health issue has become crucial not only for Myanmar but also for Thailand due to increasing border trade and migrant population. Myanmar-Thai Health Collaborative Ministerial Meeting has been alternately held in both countries since the 1990s. It is the time to draw finalized plans for cooperation in AIDS, TB, malaria and other infectious diseases, control and women and child health care promotion.

Thai Public Health Minister Dr Pradit Sintavanarong extended greetings. After that, health ministers from both countries signed a MoU on cooperation in health sector.

The meeting covers cooperation in disease control, public health and health promotion, standardization and consumer safety in importation and manufacturing of food and medicines and cosmetics and cooperation in traditional medicine sector.

After the meeting, the health ministers met the press.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Sept,—Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin looked into preparation for opening Day Care Center for the Aged at the corner of Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and Parami Street in Mayangon Township, Yangon today.

The Union minister then visited the training school for the girls on Malikha Street where she viewed learning of tailoring, knitting, computer science and inspected Basic Education Primary School.

At the training school, 142 girls between 6 and 18 years old sent by Child Care Center are attending at respective schools and university. Vocational training courses, health care service, competition in the sports events, arrangements for excursion, registration and handing over to their parents are being carried out for them.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Sept—A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.3 Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar, (about 6 miles northwest of Thabeikkyin), about 68 miles north of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 12 hrs 52 min 46 sec M.S.T today, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—MNA

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Union SWRR Minister visits training school for the girls

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