President’s radio message on air

NAI PYI TAW, 30 Sept — A radio message to be delivered by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein will be broadcast through radio programmes from 1 to 3 October. Myanmar Radio, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Shwe FM, Cherry FM, Padanya FM, FM Bagan and Thazin Radio will broadcast the message four times a day.

In the radio message, the President clarifies the stance and attitude of the government on peace-making process. He said in the message that he has welcomed the political dialogues which have constructive attitudes to nation building, national unity and reinforcing peace upholding non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty as basic principles.

The President also urged to keep a strict adherence to media ethics and disciplines of media and refrain from producing groundless news and making personal attacks through media as now is the time when the nation is growing the seed of media freedom essential for democracy.

He assured that during the period of his administration, great strides are being made in the drive for ensuring internal peace and improving socio-economic status of the people, foreseeing a brighter future for the next generation to be able to achieve a better life.

The full text of the message of the President will be covered on 2 October issue of this daily. MNA

Use development aid effectively, efficiently

President U Thein Sein attends ceremony to clarify international grants/loans

NAI PYI TAW, 30 Sept —Chairman of the international grants/loans management central committee President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein delivered an address at the meeting of international grants/loans management central committee at the meeting hall of the Union Government office at the Presidential Palace today.

Also present at the meeting were Vice-Chairman of international grants/loans management central committee Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Union ministers, the Auditor-General of the Union, the Chairman of Union Civil Services Board, the Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar and officials.

In his opening address of the meeting, President U Thein Sein, chairman of the loans/grants management central committee said Myanmar has gained good relations with international countries due to political, economic, social and administrative reforms and thanks to the cooperation of international organizations and non-governmental organizations at home and abroad, Myanmar has received assistance, loans and grants.

The First Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum was successfully held on 19 and 20 January and the forum declared the Nay Pyi Taw Accord, he said.

Regarding the loans and grants, he stressed the need for making efforts for gaining good outcomes in accordance with the disciplines of the Paris Declaration.

During the first Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum, the participants discussed the framework for economic and social reforms and short-term and long-term projects, and partner countries and organizations agreed to cooperate with Myanmar for the national development, he said.

The President also called for spending loans and grants right on necessary sectors after discussing with development partners. For effective utilization of the international loans and grants (See page 9) MNA

Hydropower, gas power plants to generate over 1800 megawatts within three years

The Ministry of Electric Power signed MoU with local and foreign companies to build power plants from 2013-14 to 2015-16 fiscal years, said officials of the ministry in meeting with media on 28 September. Of them, Upper Bilucaung Hydropower Plant Project is expected to complete in 2015-16 fiscal year with 29 megawatts generating capacity by New Energy Oasis Co. Tarpein Hydropower Plant to be implemented by China Datang Co of China will have 101 megawatts generating capacity and it may be completed in 2015-16 fiscal year. A total of 50 per cent of electric capacity generated from Tarpein Hydropower Plant will be supplied to Myanmar. In addition, Myanmar will get 19 megawatts free and will have the opportunity to buy 2.8 cents per megawatt for 101 megawatts. To obtain the electricity, it needs to construct 230 KV 285 miles long Hhamo-Naba-Hogetpyawdine-Ohndaw national grid.

Moreover, MoU has been signed with HydroLancang Co of China for construction of the gas power plant in Hlawga that can generate 486 megawatts and a plan is underway to complete the plant in 2015-16. The power plant will start to generate 243 megawatts in 2014-2015.

One more gas power plant will be constructed in Thakayta of Yangon and it is expected to complete the power plant in 2015-16. MoU was signed with KBK Co of Republic of Korea to generate 503 megawatts. With regard to construction of a gas power plant in Thayka, the ministry has signed MoU with Myanmar Light-Ing Co for 230-megawatt gas power plant in Mawlamyine and it will be completed in 2015-16. It will have 513 megawatts generating capacity.

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In Kanpauk, one gas power plant with 525 megawatts generating capacity will produce 175 megawatts in 2015-16.

Now, the ministry is in meeting with Sumitomo Co of China to build a gas power plant in Hlinethaya. On completion, the plant will generate 500 megawatts.

All the power plants in projects will generate 1807 megawatts for electrification of the people on their request.

MNA

Byline: Maung Maung Myint Swe, Photo: Tin Soe (Myanma Alinn)
Mingun, a great tourist attraction in central Myanmar

**Rescue & Relief**

**Myeik, 30 Sept—**

Taninthayi Region Minister for Forestry U Tun Soe together with Myeik District Deputy Commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo, UNHCR Project Manager U Than Maung and officials on 27 September donated 200 treated mosquito nets, 18 packages of tarpaulin sheets, seven bales of blankets, 26 packages of pots and plates and 46 kits of personal hygiene and relief items to the flood victims.

Likewise, Shwe Kanbawza Oil Palm Co donated 20 bags of rice, 50 viss of edible oil, 50 packages of instant noodle and 50 packages of purified drinking water. Manager U Hla Myint and officials of the company sent the relief items for the flood victims to Taninthayi Township by boat on 26 September. The township administrator, departmental officials, members of the rescue teams, Red Cross and Fire Brigade members distributed the items to flood victims.—Kyemon-Nanda Min Lwin

Five monsoon paddy plantations thriving on test plots

**Nyayungdon, 30 Sept—**

In accord with the instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Nyayungdon Township of Ayeyawady Region, agricultural staff cooperated with local people in Tuchuang Village of Tuchuang Village-tract for boosting agricultural production. The department distributed five monsoon paddy strains namely Shwewah, Palethwe, Shwepyithay, Thetchetjynkhyin and TMM.02 to the local farmers and urged them to compete in cultivation.

The local farmers nurtured the saplings on 27 June and grew them on 17 July. With the assistance of the agricultural staff, the local people compete in the cultivation through 14-point good agricultural patterns.

According to Staff Officer Daw Aye Aye Si, five strains of paddy plantations are thriving on their farmlands. Of them, Palethwe monsoon paddy plantation is the best in cultivation.—Kyemon-Bo Shwe

Pollination held at paddy plantations in Lashio

**Lashio, 30 Sept—**

The paddy pollination ceremony took place on six acres of Palethwe II hybrid paddy plantation of farmer Daw Yan Kyaw in Humon Village-tract in Lashio Township of Taninthayi District in Shan State (North) on 26 September morning. Deputy Head of Shan State Agriculture Department U Myint Aung, Head of District Agriculture Department U Mya Kyaw and Head of Township Agriculture Department U Maw Zaw explained production of seeds of Palethwe I Hybrid paddy and pollination works. It was attended by administrators at different levels of the state and local farmers, totaling 80.

Deputy Head of Shan State Agriculture Department U Myint Aung and Township Administrator U Myint Lwin and Township Medical Officer Dr Moh Moh Aung, the medical team led by Dr Moh Moh Aung makes a field trip to the wards.

In Yamonna Ward 2, the team gives health care services to the older persons at Maga Dhammayon every Wednesday. Ward authorities and members of Women’s Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association and members of Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigade and well wishers participated in feeding the older persons refreshments and giving the gifts to them.—Kyemon-Maung Sein Hnin (Dawbon)

Health care given to older persons at home

**Yangon, 30 Sept—**

Health care service is provided to older persons in Dawbon Township of Yangon Region weekly. Under the arrangements of Township Administrator U Myint Lwin and Township Medical Officer Dr Moh Moh Aung, the medical team led by Dr Moh Moh Aung makes a field trip to the wards.

**LOCAL NEWS**

**SAGAING, 30 Sept—**

Tourists arrival increases in Mingun Ancient Cultural Region while the local pilgrims visit the region daily. Despite a drop in number of foreign tourists, Mingun region attract the increasing visits of globetrotters. It was reported that about 60 to 100 globetrotters arrive at the ancient region daily.

The majority of the foreign tourists to Mingun are those from Thailand, Korea, China, Spain, France, Greek, Germany, Australia and Britain. They have to pay $3000 per foreigner for the entrance free for the zone.

“Now, Mingun is bustling with local pilgrims daily. On Sabbath Days, Saturdays and Sundays, the region is busier with pilgrims and visitors. As time is rolling on to the tourism season, the number of tourists increases at the region. In next month, arrival of tourists will rise there. Most of the tourists go to Mingun by tour boat. Some come from Sagaing by taxi and motorcycle. Some tourists go to the region by tour boat and then spend the night there. The local pilgrims visit there in group by car or motorcycle,” said an artist.

It is estimated that about 5000-1000 local visitors arrive at Mingun daily and most of the pilgrims pay homage to the pagodas through a daytrip.

Kyemon-Aung (Mann Tekkatho)

**Culture**

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS**

“The Future We Want-What Older Persons Are Saying.”

Nay Pyi Taw 1-10-2013

**Health Care**

**Triplets successfully born at Pakokku General Hospital**

**Pakokku, 30 Sept—**

Female triplets were born at the Maternity Ward of Pakokku General Hospital in Magway Region on 27 September morning.

Daw Thin Thin Aye, wife of U Aung Kyaw Thu of Thahawgon Village of Kokkohla Village-tract of Pakokku Township gave birth to triplet twins under the supervision of the OG specialist of Pakokku General Hospital on 27 September.

The medical superintendent of Pakokku General Hospital, specialists, assistant surgeons, medical relations officers and staff donated cash and kind to triplet twins’ mother.

Kyemon-Aung (Mann Tekkatho)

**Pollination**

**Lashio, 30 Sept—**

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Walshington, 30 Sept — Secretary of State John Kerry said a deal on Iran’s nuclear weapons program could be reached relatively quickly, and it would have the potential to dramatically improve the relationship between the two countries. Kerry said realizing diplomatic efforts to resolve the dispute over Iran’s nuclear programme could produce an agreement within the three-to-six-month time frame that Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has called for.

“It’s possible to have a deal sooner than that depending on how forthcoming and clear Iran is prepared to be,” Kerry said in an interview aired on CBS’s “60 Minutes” on Sunday.

“If it is a peaceful programme, and we can all see that — the whole world sees that — the relationship with Iran can change dramatically for the better and it can change fast,” he said.

Rouhani and US President Barack Obama spoke by telephone on Friday in the highest-level contact between the two countries in three decades, raising hopes of a breakthrough in Western efforts to prevent Iran from building a nuclear bomb. The call was the culmination of a recent, dramatic shift in tone between Iran and the United States, which cut diplomatic relations a year after the 1979 Iranian revolution. Kerry said Iran could prove its sincerity by immediately opening its nuclear facilities to inspections and keeping its uranium enrichment efforts at lower grades that were not suitable for military use.

Iran has defended its right to enrich uranium as part of a civilian nuclear energy and medicine programme and denied that it arms to develop atomic weapons, but the United States and its allies have sought an end to higher-grade uranium enrichment that could be a step away from the production of weapons-grade material.

“Iran needs to take rapid steps, clear and convincing steps, to live up to the international community’s requirements regarding nuclear programmes, peaceful nuclear programmes,” Kerry said.—Reuters

Kerry sees potential for quick Iran nuclear deal

Beirut, 30 Sept — At least 16 people, most of them students, were killed in an air strike that hit a secondary school in the rebel-held Syrian city of Raqqa on Sunday, activists said.

Fighting continued across the country including in the outskirts of the capital, underlining the relentless nature of the civil war in the face of international efforts to destroy Syria’s chemical arms and revive peace talks.

Raqqa in northeastern Syria has been under the control of insurgents fighting to oust President Bashar al-Assad since March but the city has been regularly bombed by government forces. Videos posted online by activists showed the bloody and charred remains of bodies said to have been from the air strike in Raqqa. Some of the victims appeared to be young men, possibly in their teens.

The British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a monitoring group with a network of sources across the country, said the death toll was at least 16 —10 of them students — at the school, but that the number was likely to rise because some people were critically wounded.

A man looks at one of the walls of the secondary school that is covered with blood after activists said it was hit by an air strike from forces loyal to President Bashar Al-Assad in Raqqa, eastern Syria on 29 Sept, 2013.—Reuters

At least 16 dead as Syrian school hit in air strike

Rome, 30 Sept — Syria will respect United Nations accords on chemical weapons, President Bashar al-Assad told Italian television station RaiNews24 on Sunday.

“We joined the international agreement against the acquisition and use of chemical weapons even before this resolution was passed,” he said when asked if Syria would comply with Friday’s UN resolution.

The UN Security Council adopted a resolution on Friday that demands the eradication of Syria’s chemical weapons but does not threaten automatic punitive action against Assad’s government if it does not comply. “The central part of it is based on what we ourselves want. So it is not about a resolution, in reality it is our own intention,” he said, according to the Italian translation of his remarks.

“In 2003, the UN Security Council proposed liberating this entire region from these arms and declaring the Middle East a region free of chemical weapons. So it is obvious, we have to respect these conditions, it is part of our history,” he said. “We have to respect all treaties we sign.”

The US-Russia deal averted punitive US military action against Assad’s government, which Washington blamed for the 21 August sarin nerve gas attack on a Damascus suburb that killed hundreds. The Syrian government and its ally Russia blamed anti-government rebels for the attack.—Reuters

Assad says Syria will respect UN chemical weapons accords

Vienna, 30 Sept — Austrian centrist coalition wins majority in parliamentary vote despite declining support

A vote cast by her during the parliamentary elections at a polling station in Vienna, Austria, on 29 Sept, 2013.—Xinhua

Austrian centrist coalition wins majority in parliamentary vote despite declining support

Tokyo, 30 Sept — Japan and the United States plan to give the go-ahead at a ministerial meeting this week to revise a bilateral accord on the envisioned realignment of US Marine Corps personnel stationed in Okinawa, government officials said on Sunday.

The planned revision of the so-called Guam Agreement codifying the Marine transfer from Okinawa to Guam followed a review in April last year of the transformation of US forces stationed in Japan that led to cuts in the number of US Marine Corps personnel to be relocated from the island prefecture to the US territory to about 4,000 from an initially envisaged 8,000.

Japan, US to revise accord on Marine transfer from Okinawa

Austrian centrist coalition wins majority in parliamentary vote despite declining support

Vienna, 30 Sept — Austrian centrist coalition on Sunday won a combined majority in the parliament’s elections, despite declining support compared to the last election.

The centre-left Austrian Social Democrats, Chancellor Werner Faymann’s party, got 27.1 percent of the votes, which translates into 53 seats in parliament, decreasing 2.2 points from 2008, while the centre-right conservative People’s Party (OVP) received 23.8 percent of the vote, preliminary results showed.

Together, the two parties could hold 99 seats in parliament, giving them a majority for the next five-year term in parliament, which seems to make a continuation of Austria’s current governing coalition.

However, the centrist coalition lost some support to the far-right Freedom Party and a new liberal party, recording the worst election results since World War II.

Faymann said he would invite OVP head Michael Spindelegger to join him in a new coalition government. However, Spindelegger refused to rule out his possible coalition with the far-right Freedom Party (FPÖ).

Austrian centrist coalition wins majority in parliamentary vote despite declining support

Of an estimated $8.6 billion in costs for projects such as relocating Marines and their dependents, and building runways and facilities in Guam and neighbouring islands in the Pacific with an eye on future joint exercises between US and Japanese forces, Japan will maintain its share of up to $2.8 billion, the officials said.

The defence and foreign ministers of the two countries plan to sign the revised agreement during their “two-plus-two” meeting slated for Thursday in Tokyo.

The move is aimed at mitigating the impact of US forces on Okinawa by accelerating the planned Marine personnel transfer.

Kyodo News

Austrian centrist coalition wins majority in parliamentary vote despite declining support

**SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket blasts off from California**

A Falcon 9 rocket carrying a small science satellite for Canada is seen as it is launched from a newly refurbished launch pad in Vandenberg Air Force Station on 29 Sept, 2013. — Reuters

**Russian puts rare meteorite fragment on sale**

**UK seeks full cyber warfare capability, experts**

**Etisalat talks to buy Vivendi’s Maroc Tel stake extended to 31 October**
Siemens to cut 15,000 jobs by autumn 2014

BERLIN, (Germany), 30 Sept — The German engineering giant Siemens plans to cut 15,000 jobs, including 5,000 in Germany, by autumn 2014, a spokesman said here on Sunday.

Cutting 15,000 jobs is part of a 6 billion-euro cost cutting program named “Siemens 2014”, which started from a year ago, the spokesman said.

The announced number of job cuts is even beyond “Siemens 2014”, which plans to cut 15,000 jobs, including 4,000 staff, before the end of the fiscal year this autumn.

During that time, the company’s industry division and infrastructure division, according to the spokesman. Siemens and other business areas, new people will be hired in other growth areas.

Toshiba to cut 3,000 staff in ailing TV division

Japan.

TOKYO, 30 Sept — Toshiba Corp (6502.T) said on Monday it would cut 30 percent and reduce its production to 70 percent from 2007 due to weak global sales, partly due to a fall in domestic demand after a short-lived boost from the switch to digital broadcasting.

In July the company announced plans to cut a combined 10 billion yen order to end wild speculations in the market about the number of jobs which are about to be cut, the spokesman added.

The Munich-based company’s total number of global workers will firstly not shrink. It still expects to close the fiscal year on Monday with around 370,000 workers. As the spokesman said, when Siemens cuts jobs in some areas, new people will be hired in other growth areas.

Psychiatric drug use in preschoolers stabilizing

NEW YORK, 30 Sept — The by the end of the last decade, psychiatric medications were being used less often in very young children, a new study suggests.

Researchers found the percentage of children prescribed antidepressants, stimulants and antidepresants at doctors’ visits spiked in the mid-2000s but leveled off again between 2006 and 2007.

“I’m very excited that the use of these drugs in this age group seems to be stabilizing,” Dr Tanya Froehlich, the study’s senior author from Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Centre in Ohio, told Reuters Health.

“It’s good to get a gauge on what we’re doing with psychotropic medications in this age group, because we really don’t know what these medications do to the developing brain,” she said.

Prevalence of these drugs is rising, with 3 percent of children aged 3 to 5 prescribed medication. But those studies tended to focus on one class of medication or only a segment of the population.

For the new study, the researchers pulled national data from 1994 to 2009 on more than 43,500 doctors’ visits for kids aged two to five.

During that time, the proportion of psychotropic drug prescriptions dropped between one prescription for every 217 doctors’ visits in 1998 and one for every 54 visits in 2004.

Overall, the researchers found about 1 percent of preschoolers left doctors’ visits with a psychotropic medication prescription. That rate fell to about 0.8 percent between 1999 and 2001. It then jumped to a high of about 1.5 percent between 2002 and 2007.

The decrease and stabilization in the most recent years occurred even though more children were being diagnosed with behavioral disorders throughout the study period.

Roche immunotherapy drug may be ‘game changer’ in lung cancer

AMSTERDAM, 30 Sept — An experimental Roche drug that seems to work particularly well against lung cancer in smokers may be a “game changer” for these normally difficult-to-treat patients, researchers said on Sunday.

Presenting detailed data from an early-stage trial of the drug, called MPDL3280A, in patients with a form of the disease called non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), investigators said what they had found was “great news for lung cancer patients”.

Of 53 patients with NSCLC tumours treated with the drug, 23 percent saw their tumours shrink, according to results presented at the European Cancer Congress (ECC) in Amsterdam.

But the most encouraging numbers were among smokers, where the response rate was 26 percent compared with 10 percent of patients who had never smoked, said Professor Jean-Charles Soria of France’s Institut Gustave Roussy, who led the study.

Lung cancer, which is usually caused by smoking, is extremely difficult to treat successfully and once it has started to spread to other parts of the body, it is incurable.

Roche’s MPDL3280A is an engineered antibody that targets a protein called PD-L1 — a defence mechanism that tumours use to trick the immune system’s T-cells into being ineffective.

OZ Minerals seen unlikely to bid for OZ Minerals

Melbourne, 30 Sept — Glencore Xstrata Plc is unlikely to pounce on OZ Minerals Ltd, a banker who knows both companies well said on Monday, playing down a report in a British newspaper that said Glencore was weighing a 750 million pound ($1.2 billion) takeover offer.

The Mail on Sunday reported that Glencore had acquired up to a 10 percent stake in OZ Minerals, citing City sources, and said OZ Minerals had appointed UBS (UBSN.VX) as a defense adviser.

OZ Minerals said on Monday it had received no proposal nor any substantial shareholder notice from Glencore. Under Australian rules, any investor directly holding at least 5 percent of a stock must disclose their ownership.

A banker who knows both Glencore and OZ Minerals well doubted the Swiss-based Glencore would have any interest in OZ Minerals as Glencore is looking to conserve cash, and said even if OZ was a bargain its assets would not be a good fit.

OZ Minerals owns the Prominent Hill copper mine in South Australia, whose costs are rising as its mine life runs out. The mine’s copper is exported to China, so would not provide any feed for Glencore’s Mt Isa operation.

“There’s no obvious synergy,” the banker said, declining to be identified because he was not authorized to speak on behalf of Glencore.

OZ Minerals’ other key asset is the undeveloped Carrapateena deposit in South Australia, which Glencore would not want as it is selling off some undeveloped copper assets and has made clear it has no interest in spending on new mines.

OZ Minerals is sitting on A$433 million ($403.36 million) in cash, hunting for producing mines that could boost its output as Prominent Hill output declines, while it weighs whether to develop Carrapateena.
Workshop on Broadcasting Law (Draft) held

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa delivers address at Constitution Assessment Joint Committee meeting. —MNA

AT THE SUNSET OF LIFE

* Morning, noon and evening of man’s life He has to struggle with all might May be likened to a day’s journey By sunset, man is weary with drudgery.  
* Lives of older persons are like sunset Aged parents should assume love and respect Should be given preference and top priority By the members of their own family.  
* Though they regard themselves as useless ones Be provided with necessities they should earn The younger never fail to show sympathy.  
* As they worked and struggled in communities They cannot be denied even little amenities Besides all the little comforts of life Which they are entitled as a right.  
* Older persons are essential and so vital What they have done are more radiant Not to leave them in desperate plight Before their real exit from this life.  
* Their experiences are regarded as gold Still act as heads of the household Sons and daughters know the filial duty For the last leg of life’s journey.

Chairman of the joint committee U Nanda Kyaw Swa and Vice-Chairman U Mya Nyein delivered addresses at the meeting. Then, Secretary of the joint committee U Aung Maung touched upon work progress on the minutes of the meeting (1/2013).

The joint committee chairman, the vice-chairman and those present participated in the discussions about their respective sectors. The meeting came to an end with the concluding remark of the joint committee chairman. —MNA

Constitution Assessment Joint Committee meets

Nav Pyi Taw, 30 Sept—The Constitution Assessment Joint Committee held its meeting (2/2013) at the meeting hall of the Hluttaw Office, here, this afternoon. It was attended by Chairman of the Constitution Assessment Joint Committee Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Vice-Chairman of the Committee Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein, the joint committee members Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives and officials of the Hluttaw Office.

Union Health Minister receives No-Tobacco Award

Nav Pyi Taw, 30 Sept—A ceremony to present WHO World No-Tobacco Day 2013 Award to the Union Minister for Health by World Health Organization was held at the University of Public Health Mya Kyu Yang Street, here, yesterday morning. At the ceremony, Rector Dr. Nay Soe Maung of the university, Acting WHO Resident Representative in Myanmar and WHO South-East Asia Regional Director Dr Samlee Plianbagchong extended greetings. The WHO South-East Asia Regional director presented WHO World No-Tobacco Day 2013 Award to Union Minister Dr Pe Thet Khin.

Then, the Union minister said that Myanmar has been implementing anti-tobacco activities for over one decade. Although only knowledge sharing and discussion were conducted to the people in the past, Control of Smoking and Consumption of Tobacco Product Law was enacted in 2006 in Myanmar, he added. It needs to amend the law and strengthen public awareness in accord with Control of Smoking and Consumption of Tobacco Product International Convention and the related agreements Myanmar had signed, the Union minister said. He pledged to push ahead the task with the participation of departments concerned, social organizations and people.

Appointment of Finnish Ambassador agreed on

Nav Pyi Taw, 1 Oct—The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Ms. Kirsti WESTPHALEN as non-resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Finland to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok. Ms. Kirsti WESTPHALEM was born in Helsinki in 1953. She got a Master Degree of Political Science from the University of Helsinki in 1981 and Master of Arts in Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Durham in 2005. The Ambassador joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassies abroad in Beijing, New York, Damascus and Robat. Ms. Kirsti WESTPHALEN worked for Ministry of the Environment as a Special Advisor from 1999 to 1992. She was a Consul General of Finland to Los Angeles from 2008 to 2012. Recently Ms. Kirsti WESTPHALEN resides in Bangkok as Ambassador of Finland to the Kingdom of Thailand. Ms. Kirsti WESTPHALEN will be concurrently accredited as Ambassador of the Republic of Finland to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok, Thailand. She is married.

Appointment of Portuguese Ambassador agreed on

Nav Pyi Taw, 1 Oct—The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Louis Manuel Barreira de Sousa as non-resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Portugal to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Mr. Louis Manuel Barreira de Sousa was born in Lisbon on 25 October 1957. He got a bachelor of economy at the Portuguese Catholic University and a master degree in international relations at John Hopkins University. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in March 1983 then served in various capacities at the office of State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Cooperatives and the Diplomatic Missions in Harare, Luanda, Sarajevo and Geneva. In 1997, he was Deputy Director General of National Defence Policy at the Ministry of Defense. In 2009, he was accredited as Portuguese Ambassador to East Timor. Since April 2013 he has been serving as Portuguese Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand.

Union FM felicitates Chinese counterpart

Nav Pyi Taw, 1 Oct—On the Occasion of the 64th Anniversary of the Founding Day of the People’s Republic of China, which falls on 1 October 2013, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China.—MNA

Union FM felicitates Nigerian counterpart

Nav Pyi Taw, 1 Oct—On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which falls on 1 October 2013, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Olugbenga Ashiru, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.—MNA

Union FM felicitates Cypriot counterpart

Nav Pyi Taw, 1 Oct—On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Cyprus, which falls on 1 October 2013, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Ioannis Kasoulides, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus.—MNA

Trade promotion discussed

Yangon, 30 Sept—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung met Bangkok-based Mongolian Ambassador Mr Chimedordor Batbatnamjaa at his office, here, on 26 September. They had a cordial discussion on cooperation in business and trade sectors between Myanmar and Mongolia and promotion of business between the businessmen of the two countries.—MNA
Pindaya, 30 Sept—The government built a series of wards for hospital in Pindaya in Danu Self- Administered Zone with the funding of K 300 million in 2012-2013 fiscal year.

The new facilities include men’s ward, women’s ward, meeting hall, fences, water treatment system and water tanks.

The opening ceremony was held on 26 September. Chairman of Leading Body of Danu Self- Administered Zone U Htoo Ko Ko, Shan State Health Department Deputy Director Dr Than Min Htut formally opened the facilities.

World Teachers’ Day
5th October 2013

Mandalay Region government meets Turkish guests

 Mandalay, 30 Sept—The Mandalay Region government led by Chief Minister U Ye Myint met Team Delegation Leader of Ministry of Family and Social Policy Mr Orhan Bilge and Third Secretary of Turkish Embassy Mr Ahmet Yildiz and party at the Region government office, here, on 26 September evening.

The meeting was also attended by Region Ministers U Than Soe Myint and Dr Win Hlaing and Region government Secretary U Ohn Lwin.

They exchanged views on the friendly ties between Myanmar and Turkey in a frank manner.—MMAL-Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Disaster Risk Reduction
Disaster prevention drill conducted in Ngathainggyoung

Ngathainggyoung, 30 Sept—International Disaster Risk Reduction Day was organized in Ngathainggyoung Sub-Township in Yekyi Township in Pathein District in Ayeyawady Region on 27 September morning.

It was organized by Myanmar Disaster Risk Management Committee, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Ayeyawady Region Government and Ayeyawady Region Disaster Risk Management Committee.

The flood prevention drill was carried out at the ceremony.

Ayeyawady Region Rescue and Resettlement Department Deputy Director U Than Soe, Ayeyawady Region Information and Public Relations Department Deputy Director U Ngwe Tun, Pathein Township Deputy Commissioner U Khin Maung Lay, the Yekyi Township Administrator, the Ngathainggyoung Sub- Township Administrator, the officials of the Meteorology and Hydrology Department, Fire Services Department, Agriculture and Irrigation Department and other related departments, Persons with Disabilities Association, War Veterans’ Organization, Ngathainggyoung Sub-Township Disaster Management teams, Women’s Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, students and some 1000 people joined the drill.

The deputy commissioner briefed on the purpose of organizing the drill.

According to a local people in Ngawa ward, the drill was helpful to the local who often witnessed the flood.

MMAL-Thein Zaw
(Shee Li Oo)

Fertilizers released into farmland in Salin

Salin, 30 Sept—Fertilizers were released into farmlands of farmer U Hla Win in Myaynigon village in Paungtu village-tract in Salin Township of Magway Region on 21 September in order to improve socio-economic status of the rural people by increasing income options for the rural farmers.

The ceremony was attended by Township Administrator U Tun Thein, Pwintpyu Township Fisheries Department officials, members of social organizations and local people of the villages.

It is also aimed at contributing to rural development and poverty alleviation efforts.

MMAL-Sit Kyi (Salin)

Agriculture
Fertilizers presented to Mohbyn farmers

Mohbyn, 30 Sept—The District Deputy Commissioner and the Township Administrator in Mohbyn Township in Kachin State met local farmers in Myaynu village Dhammadayn in Myothikalya village-tract in Hopin Sub-Township in Mohbyn Township on 26 September.

The authorities elaborated on efforts to improve socio-economic status of the people and the use of marketable and high-yield paddy strains.

Taungthu Swan Ah Co Ltd provided the farmers with 50 bags of Urea, Piyinu Hlutaw Representative U Kyaw Soe Lay K 300,000 for repair of Myaynu village Basic Education Middle School (branch) and honorarium for the elders.

MMAL-State IPRD

Pindaya hospital gets new patient wards

Pindaya, 30 Sept—The construction and architectural design exhibition held

Yangon, 30 Sept—Yangon Myanmar Dental Association (Yangon Region Branch) Chairman Professor Dr Pwint Phu Region Branch) Chairman of Leading Body of Danu Self- Administered Zone U Htoo Ko Ko, Shan State Health Department Deputy Director Dr Than Min Htut formally opened the facilities.

A total of 32 companies displayed 45 booths. Myanmar architects participated in discussion with international field experts.

Dentists provide free dental care to students

Yangon, 30 Sept—The 20th Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions and National Races Traditional Performing Arts Competitions in Langhkio District in southern Shan State were held at Ngweyadyaw Hall in Langhkio on 25 September.—DISTRICT IPRD

Livestock Breeding
Fingerlings released into farmland in Salin

Salin, 30 Sept—Fingerlings were released into farmlands of farmer U Hla Win in Myaynigon village in Paungtu village-tract in Salin Township of Magway Region on 21 September in order to improve socio-economic status of the rural people by increasing income options for the rural farmers.

The ceremony was attended by Township Administrator U Tun Thein, Pwintpyu Township Fisheries Department officials, members of social organizations and local people of the villages.

It is also aimed at contributing to rural development and poverty alleviation efforts.

MMAL-Sit Kyi (Salin)
Democracy culture

If we want a promising democracy in our country, we all must strike a balance between accountability, transparency and freedom the main factors shaping a high-standard human society.

In fact, democracy evolves through different approaches and ways depending on how on or in what way historical background of a nation and its people’s lifestyles, traditions and customs, values, political parties, political, economic and social organizations and the entire people or all the stakeholders are shaping democracy.

As our political transition is from centralized system to democracy governance the responsibility of shaping our own democracy culture in our own way falls on every one of us. Here we must understand that factors such as mindset maturity, vision and discipline are indispensable with democracy.

And the social media have already been taken for all the Myanmar people to enjoy more rights, and to have their say in public affairs management as well as in the political decision-making process. One important thing here is although the people can express their wishes, they must stay away from harming others’ rights and hate speech or hate lectures.

In democracy not only the governments have decision-making power. The people themselves participate equally in choosing the administrative system and values they aspire.

Myanmar is among the countries with resolve towards democratization, and her people are making bold steps in building a modern democratic nation. From political and economic reforms to peace, nation-building and national integration, we are reshaping our society and raising democracy values.

So, we urge the entire people of Myanmar to cooperatively and energetically take part in the mission of forming democracy culture through the ongoing democratic reforms so that every one of us can fully enjoy the essence of democracy in the near future.

Talks on Prospects and Challenges to ASEAN Integration in 2015 held

NAY PEI TAW 30 Sept—
The Talk on “Prospects and Challenges to ASEAN Integration in 2015” jointly conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and The Asia Foundation, the United States of America which headquarters is located in San Francisco was held at Winzimyinayar Hall, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Yangon at 2 pm, today, with the opening remarks delivered by U Myint Lwin, Deputy Director-General for Training, Research and Foreign Languages Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On the Occasion, Dr. Thitinan Pongsudsathirak, Director of the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) delivered Talk on “Prospects and Challenges to ASEAN Integration in 2015”.

Also present on the occasion were officials from Yangon Region Government, invitees from Governmental Organizations, members of Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS), Mrs. Kim Ngoc Bao Ninh, Country Representative of the Asia Foundation and representatives from Foreign Embassies in Yangon as well as professors and students from invited Universities. —MNA

OLDER PERSONS IN OUR SOCIETY

Maung Hlaing

Whenver the birthdays of our family members come round, we usually make a donation to the Home for the Aged in our native town. The Home is founded in memory of our late Headmistress, named Daw Pwe Mi who was well-known for her gentleness and infirmity; and to render a helping hand and assistance to the needy aged people with the provision of free meal, accommodation, medical care, social amenities, psychological security and peace of mind.

Situated as it is at the head of the town, the Home for the Aged is airy and gets all the sunshine. Only a limited number of the aged are accepted into the Home where they are provided with good bedsteads and a larger space to move about freely.

Here, women, when we reach the Home, we usually have pleasure to see them eating with relish. This is founded by a group of well-wishers and proved to be a source of great well-wishers of the township. Now it can stand on its own feet.

What I mean is that as long as we have such homes for the aged in addition to the ones financed by the government, we can be sure about the future of the older persons in our country.

Since 1915, over 70 homes for the aged have been built to accommodate helpless and neglect old persons who are entirely without dependents and in desperate circumstances. According to the statistics, the rate of those who are 60 years and older hits 9.1 percent in Myanmar which has a population of about 60 million.

According to the United Nations Population Division, which defines older persons as those 60 years and older:

- One in every 10 persons is now 60 years or older. By the year 2050, one in five will be 60 years or older; by 2150, it will be one of three persons.
- The older population itself is ageing. Currently, persons 80 years and older constitute 11 percent of the population aged 60 and above. By 2050, 27 percent of the older population will be over 80 years old. (Ref. Towards a society for all ages, by Po Thet Shau, the Guardians, an Asian Monthly Magazine, April 1999, p.23)

No one can deny that man is growing older and older with the passage of time. And no one can avoid it. Old age is the last leg of life’s journey.

Throughout the history, human beings have lived on average a mere forty or fifty years—a life span statistics heavily influenced by deaths in infancy. It is only in the past over fifty years when improvements in healthcare have enabled more people to survive into adult life.

Thus, there has been an acceleration in longevity and increasing proportion of old people in the population.

We have learned that US women over the age of eighty have lower death rates than their counterparts in Western Europe or Japan, which may be due to the benefits of medical care.

Some raise the question, “Why prolong life if the extra years are to be spent in misery or dependency?” People come to talk about the “health expectancy” and “life expectancy”.

However, governments are as eager as their population to increase health expectancy because of the cost of healthcare for an increasing long-lived population.

The world today is facing two challenges: climate change and demographic change. Since 1950, the proportion of the world’s population over 60 has changed with the population of some developing countries ageing at a more rapid than developed countries. The impact of the world’s ageing population growth on socio-economic policies and the culture of societies is already threatening the governments.

Likewise, the situation of older persons and its impact on a nation’s resources call for immediate study and solution.

In developing countries, another problem people are facing is that workforce is decreasing while the number of older persons is on the increase. It is for this reason that most governments in cooperation with the non-governmental organizations and civil societies come to pay attention to noble work of caring for the aged, seeking the ways and means on ageing and technology.

In some countries, authorities as well as well-wishers come to consider to build Age Friendly Buildings, Age Friendly Community and Age Friendly City and so on to solve the problems on older persons.

Indeed, Myanmar society is quite different from other societies.

In Myanmar society people have a fine tradition which has been handed down by the ancestors. It can be called the tender nature and mentality of Myanmar people who are living under the teachings of the Lord Buddha. This is “Respect the elders, have regard for the same age group, and pity the young” —which is the will to serve the wellbeing of the community with goodwill, or cetana.

According to the Myanmar traditional customs, the aged win the love, respect, reverence, esteem and obedience of the young. In a typical Myanmar family, grand-parents usually act as heads of the households. Grandpa and Grandma, Father and Mother, sons and daughters and grand-children make a home sweet home. When Thadingyut Festival and Thadingyut Festival is over, the young pay homage to the aged people with offerings in cash or kind. This lovely tradition has been observed and handed down to us by our forefathers since time immemorial.

As long as Myanmar people have the tradition of collectively building houses for the feeble and aged persons and poor families of their communities.... As long as Myanmar people believe that serving the interests of the community and others and struggled all the benefits in the present life as well as in the next existence, noble work of caring for the aged will never vanish in Myanmar society.

When people grow older, they come to think that they are hopeless and regard themselves as useless persons to the society.

However, older persons should rightfully deserve respect, well care and love.

Men are struggling between the womb and the tomb. Throughout the morning, noon and evening of man’s life which may be likened to a day’s journey, man has to struggle to live his brief span. By the end of his journey, he leaves the world. And the lives of older persons are like the sunset. However, before these older persons have to go to sleep, they need all the little comforts of life which might have been denied throughout their lives.

As people who have worked and struggled all their lives, they cannot be denied the little amenities to which they are entitled before their exit from this life.

Let us take all measures to meet the needs of older persons who have done their best. May all the people in the world happily celebrate the International Day of Older Persons all over the world!
Use development aid...

(from page 1)

in the people-centered de-
velopment, the work com-
mitee for managing foreign
loans and grants. The national
economic and social advis-
sory council under the cen-
tral committee for manag-
ing foreign loans and grants
have been formed, the Presi-
dent said.

The central commit-
tee laid down policies and
directives while the work
committee working together
with the central committee
and the council for the equi-
table development of the re-
ions, he said. The national
economic and social advis-
sory council is also coop-
erating with the central and
working committees to be
able to divide the grants and
loans effectively, he added.

He urged the working
groups to cooperate with
donor organizations while
working for implementing
priorities and projects in
accordance with the frame-
work.

He also stressed the
need for active cooperation
between working groups to
use foreign grants, loans and
technical assistance and pro-
jects.


Curriculum Vitae of New Zealand Speaker of House of Representatives

Rt. Hon. David Carter

Speaker of House of Representatives of New Zealand Rt. Hon. Da-
vid Carter was born on
3rd April, 1952. He got a
Bachelor of Agricultural
Science degree. He served
as an organizer of the
House of Representatives
from 1996 to 1998, as the
Minister of the Senior Citii-
zens, the Associate Min-
ister of Revenue, the As-
sociate Minister of Food,
Fibre, Biosecurity and
Border Control, the Asso-
ciate Minister of Education
from 1998 to 1999, as the
Associate Spokesperson
of Finance from 1999 to
2003, as the Spokesperson
of Housing from 2003 to
2005, as the Spokesperson
of Tourism from 2005 to
2006, as the Chairperson
of the Primary Production
Committee from 2005 to
2008, as the Minister of
Agriculture, of Biosecurity
and of Forestry from 2008
to 2011, as the Minister of
Local Government and of
Primary Industries from 2012
to 2013. From 13 January,
2013 to date, he is serv-
ing as the Speaker of the
House of Representa-
tives, the Chairperson of
the Business Committee,
the Chairman of the Of-
ficers of Parliament Com-
mittee and the Member of
the Standing Orders Com-
mittee.

At the invitation of Py-
iduangu Hluttaw Speaker
Thura U Shwe Mann, the
Speaker and party will pay
a goodwill visit to Myan-
mar in the near future.
Free computer course kicks off in Mingin

Mingin, 30 Sept—Chan Myae Aungs Education Foundation in Mingin Township of Sagaing Region conducted the free computer course as of 15 August.

On 26 September, the training course concluded. Patron of the foundation the Sayadaw made an Ovada Katha at the ceremony. Officials presented prizes to the outstanding trainees.

The ceremony was organized by Nyaunglebin Township Police Force and Traffic Police Corps, was held at Aung Soe Moe Hall of No 20 Light Infantry Regiment in Nyaunglebin Station yesterday.

On behalf of the station commander, Officiating Major Kyaw Thu Myint made a speech.

IP Win Naing of Nyaunglebin Police Station explained significant points for rape case and IP Zaw Lin Thant of Traffic Police Corps traffic rules.

Later, Officiating Major Kyaw Thu Myint made a concluding remark.

Traffic rules knowledge shared in Nyaunglebin

Nyaunglebin, 30 Sept—The educative talks on traffic rules, jointly and youths from 30 villages including Myaungtha, Magyicho, Khanbingon, Haibyyagun, Omatway, Swadaw and Kyargan villages.

After that, the staff officer of District Information and Public Relations Department handed over copies of Doh Kyay Wya journals to the village libraries through youths.—Kyemon-Chan Tha (Meiktila)

Township development tasks discussed in Kalay Tsp

Kalay, 30 Sept—A meeting on township development of Kalay Township in Sagaing Region was held at the hall of the Township Development Supportive Committee on 27 September afternoon.

It was attended by Hluttaw representatives, members of District Management Committee, Township Supportive Committee and townsenders.

Chairman of the Township Supportive Committee U Than Tun made a speech. Township Management Committee Chairman U Aye Naing said that the administrators are to take responsibility for governance to be a clean government. All the people and departments are to cooperate in development of roads, bridges, electricity, human resources development, education and health sectors, he added.

Member of the Township Supportive Committee U Gin Khant Pawng explained the cash donated by well-wishers are saved at the bank systematically for spending it on the development tasks.

At the meeting, those present discussed future tasks for development of the township.

Next, the meeting ended with remarks by the chairman of the committee Chief Minister of the region.

The meeting focused that the investigation committee will be formed for the confiscation of farmlands and other lands; a total of 32 cases of farmland and other land confiscation have been received in the region; the land areas allotted to the agriculture, livestock breeding and projects include the farmlands of the farmers; reasonable compensation will be given for confiscated lands by the State for construction of railroads, motor roads and airport, and the unusable lands will be systematically handed over the original owners.

SANMYA THIDA CROSSING BRIDGE COMMISSIONED

Kyaukse, 30 Sept—Sanmya Thida River-crossing Bridge was commissioned. He explained the emergence of the suspension bridge will contribute much to rural development and it will be an engine for improvement of transportation sector in the region, he said.

The bridge materials were donated by the Swit citizen and contributed K36 million by local people.

The bridge is 230 feet long and six feet wide.

Thanks to the bridge, the local people will enjoy fruits of better transport between TadaU and Kyaukse Township.—Kyemon-Thet Maung (Kyaukse District IPRD)

Next, police officer presented pamphlets on traffic rules to the attendees.

Also present on the occasion were Major San Naing Oo, Major Myo Thu, Kyaw, Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Tin Aung, Police Captain Thet Lwin of the Township Police Force, Leader of Surveillance Squad IP Win Htun Aung, officials and families totalling about 300.

Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)

Construction
Tokyo Electric set to receive $5.9 bln financing

Tokyo, 30 Sept — Creditors are set to provide $5.9 billion in financing to Tokyo Electric Power Co (9501.T) (Tepco), a person involved in the talks told Reuters on Monday, offering a lifeline to the embattled owner of the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant.

Tepco’s major banks are prepared to provide 500 billion yen in financing in December — 200 billion yen in loan rollovers and 300 billion yen in new financing — said the person, who has been involved in financing talks as a representative of one of the utility’s major creditors.

At the same time, Tepco’s application on Friday to restart an undamaged nuclear plant helped convince some waverers smaller banks to join a group of 28 financial institutions in rolling over 77 billion yen in loans due at end-October, the person said.

The utility’s success in winning a refinancing of the loans due next month was previously reported by the Nikkei and Asahi newspapers. The outcome of the larger funding round due in December has not been previously reported.

Tepco on Friday applied to restart its Kashiwazaki Kariwa facility, the world’s largest nuclear plant in northwestern Japan, although approval is uncertain and any restart is many months away.

The company’s president, Naomi Hirose, said in an interview published on Sunday that Tepco will likely make its first profit in three years in the year to March — without raising electricity rates or restarting reactors.

Storm Wutip forecast to hit central Vietnam

HANOI, 30 Sept — Tropical storm Wutip, which is estimated to be the strongest storm to hit Vietnam’s central region since 2006, is forecast to make a landfall from Vietnam’s central Ha Tinh to Quang Tri provinces late Monday afternoon, according to Vietnam’s National Hydro-Meteorological Forecast Centre.

At around 19:00 local time on Monday, the eye of the storm is predicted to hit those provinces’ mainland with wind speeds ranging between 90 and 100 km per hour, said the centre. Coastal provinces from Nghe An to Da Nang in central Vietnam were warned to cope with sea water rising from three to four meters.

In the following 24-48 hours, the storm is forecast to move northwest at 15-20 km per hour, before fading into a tropical depression.

During an urgent meeting on Sunday, Deputy Prime Minister Hoang Trung Hai instructed relevant agencies and localities to take preventive measures to help local people evacuate to safe locations, local Vietnamese news reported on Monday.

Once Asia’s largest utility, Tepco has more than $27 billion in net losses since the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami, which triggered nuclear meltdowns at the Fukushima Daiichi plant. Tepco shares have fallen 71 percent since the disaster.— Reuters

Chinese hybrid rice yield hits record

China National Hybrid Rice Research and Development Centre confirmed the development.

Yuan Longping, 83, an academic from the Chinese Academy of Engineering, developed the world’s first hybrid rice in 1974. The new progress is approaching the 1,000 kg-per-mu target set by the Chinese Agriculture Ministry in 2013 after the yield of hybrid rice was raised to 963.65 kg per mu in 2012. The yield of hybrid rice per mu in China surpassed 700 kg in 2000, 800 kg in 2005 and 900 kg in 2011 respectively, according to the Agriculture Ministry.

China, the world’s most heavily farmed country, faces problems including limited land and water resources, and rising pollution, making food security a major concern. — Xinhua

Drought declaration officially lifted with call for greater water storage in New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 30 Sept — An official declaration of drought covering much of New Zealand after the worst dry spell in seven decades was formally lifted on Monday.

Primary Industries Minister Nathan Guy said rural communities had bunched back strongly after the drought, which began during the southern summer early this year.

“Earlier this year I extended the official drought declaration covering the entire North Island and West Coast of the South Island until the end of September. This was in recognition that the drought was the worst in 70 years and the need for support would continue through the winter,” Guy said in a statement.

Fortunately we have had an excellent winter with warm temperatures and decent rainfall. This has meant very good growing conditions for most farmers across the country,”

The drought had shown the importance of irrigation and water storage in a country that depends on agriculture but has stored less than 2 percent of rainfall, said Guy.

“We don’t have a shortage of rainfall in this country, we just don’t have enough capacity to store and use that water in dry times,” he said.

The government was investing 80 million NZ dollars (66.18 million US dollars) this year into the state-owned Crown Irrigation Investments Ltd to act as a bridging investor for irrigation projects, and planned to invest up to 400 million NZ dollars in regional-scale schemes.

The New Zealand Treasury has estimated that the drought could shave up to 1 percentage point off the country’s economic growth figure this year.— Xinhua

Japanese woman robbed in Cambodia, injured by gunshot

PHNOM PENH, 30 Sept — A Japanese tourist was injured by gunshot on Saturday during a robbery as she was visiting a night market in Phnom Penh, police said on Sunday.

According to police, Sakiko Takayanagi, 33, from Saitama Prefecture, arrived in Cambodia with her sister earlier on Saturday and was robbed as they were visiting a night market in central Phnom Penh that evening.

Police said Takayanagi was shot in her left thigh after she resisted two robbers who tried to snatch a bag she was carrying.

Takayanagi told police that she had her passport, about $300 in cash, a cellphone and other personal belongings in the bag.

The two robbers escaped from the scene on a motorcycle.

The police said Takayagi was taken to a local clinic and she was not in a serious condition. Her younger sister was not injured.

The women had planned to stay in Cambod for five days. — Kyodo News

Photo taken on 29 Sept, 2013 shows a building on fire with smoke on the South 2nd Ring Road in Hohhot, capital of north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. No injuries have been reported so far.—Xinhua

A man walking out is seen past Tokyo Electric Power Co (TEPCO)’s logo at the company headquarters in Tokyo on 19 July, 2012.—Reuters

Fire rages from the blast site in northwest Pakistan’s Peshawar on 29 Sep, 2013. The death toll of a blast that hit Pakistan’s northwest city of Peshawar on Sunday morning has risen to 39, said a local hospital official.—Xinhua

Changsha, 30 Sept — A team led by Yuan Longping, known in China as “the father of hybrid rice,” has made a record for hybrid rice production with an average yield of 988.1 kilograms per mu (0.0667 hectares).

Deng Qiyun, a member of the team, told Xinhua Sunday that the new progress has pushed China’s hybrid rice study to a new level and greatly boosted the team’s confidence to achieve the targeted production of 1,000 kg per mu.

The new record was confirmed by experts from the China National Rice Research Institute, the Wuhan University and the Fujian Academy of Agricultural Sciences, who actually harvested three lots of a farm of 101.2 mu growing the new hybrid rice known as “Y liangyou 900” on Saturday.

“Y liangyou 900” on Saturday. Officials from the
China ready to help Sudan, South Sudan mend ties

KHARTOUM, 30 Sept— China stands ready to help improve the relationship between Sudan and South Sudan, the Chinese ambassador to the Sudanese capital said on Sunday.

"China appreciates the two parties’ adherence to the option of peace and urges them to find solutions to the outstanding issues between them through dialogue," Lao Xiaoguang said at a reception to mark the 64th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China, which falls on 1 Oct.

"We reiterate China’s readiness to play a vital role in enhancing the relations between the two countries," he added.

Sudanese Petroleum Minister Awad Ahmed Al-Jaz conveyed his government’s congratulations, saying "today we are celebrating the anniversary of the founding of China and the bilateral ties between Sudan and China, which we present as a model for the peace-loving nations and for friendship and cooperation without intervention in the internal affairs."

Over 500 people, including government officials and diplomats from both countries, attended the reception held at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum.

Xinhua

Warships arrive at the Jervis Bay, Australia, on 29 Sept, 2013. Warships from 11 countries arrived at Jarvis Bay to take part in a marine security exercise held during the enlarged meeting of ASEAN Defence Ministers on Sunday. The exercise would last till Tuesday.—Xinhua
Michael Jackson verdict could shake up entertainment business model

LOS ANGELES, 30 Sept—The wrongful death lawsuit filed by the family of late pop star Michael Jackson against his concert promoter is now in the hands of a jury, and the verdict could have far-reaching implications for how the entertainment industry does business with its biggest stars.

The 21-week trial, which has opened a window into the private life and last days of the King of Pop, has put not only concert promoter AEG Live on trial but also the entertainment industry’s live-performance business model, analysts say.

After closing arguments concluded on Thursday, the judge sent the jury to deliberate and a verdict is expected some time next week, if not earlier. Jackson family lawyers have suggested in court documents that damages could exceed $1 billion.

“If AEG is found liable, that puts these companies on the line for millions and billions of dollars, and it is already causing the industry to rethink how the structure is set up,” said Jo Piazza, the author of “Celebrity, Inc.” and a celebrity branding consultant.

Currently, entertainment producers typically pay up-front sums running into millions of dollars to performers in exchange for being able to have greater control over some of the performers’ affairs.

The lawsuit alleged that “AEG came to control much of Jackson’s life. The home Jackson lived in was provided by AEG; his finances were dependent on AEG, and his assets stood security if he failed to perform.” Those assets included the Sony/ATV music catalog owned by Jackson, which even includes iconic Beatles songs.

The verdict “could have a chilling effect on how much micro-management of a star’s life companies like AEG and other production companies have,” Piazza said.

“But the reason the micro-management even exists is to make sure that the celebrities, the talent, is in the best position possible to make money for the production company,” she added. That kind of control is the crux of the wrongful death lawsuit filed by Jackson’s mother, Katherine Jackson, and his three children.—Reuters

Artist uses robots to create art in three cities

VIENNA, 30 Sept—An Austrian artist enlisted the help of two robots on Thursday to create a work of art simultaneously in Vienna, London and Berlin in what he called a world first.

Alex Kiessling used an infra-red sensor to trace the movements of his pen and send the signal via satellite to the industrial robots on Trafalgar Square and Breitscheidplatz that reproduced on canvas the lines he was drawing. Kiessling, 33, said that as he learned to work with the robots — it took more than six months to perfect the technique and the software — he increasingly questioned the concepts of original and copy.

“What are the machines doing, actually?” he asked during a news conference. “It appeared to me in working with the machines that it was less about a kind of copy and more like a clone.” The three versions of Kiessling’s “hybrid head” — one full face with two half heads on either side — will be joined together and exhibited as a triptych in Vienna and London.

Miss Philippines crowned Miss World 2013 after protests

JAKARTA, 30 Sept—Miss Philippines was crowned Miss World 2013 on Saturday at a tightly guarded ceremony in Bali, Indonesia, after the contest was plagued by protests from Muslim hardliners and fears that extremist groups could try to disrupt the event.

US-born Megan Young, a 23-year-old studying digital film, accepted the crown from last year’s winner, Wenxia Yu of China, and promised to “be the best Miss World ever.”

Thousands of members of the radical Islam Defenders Front took to the streets over the past month to protest holding the pageant in Indonesia, the world’s most populous Muslim country, calling it “pornography”.

The protests forced organizers to move the event from a venue outside Jakarta to Nusa Dua in southern Bali, a predominantly Hindu resort island.

Event organizers announced in June that contestants would eschew bikinis this year in favour of sarongs and one-piece swimwear to avoid causing offence. The embassies of the United States, Britain and Australia issued travel warnings for Indonesia, saying extremist groups could be planning violence to disrupt the pageant.

However, Indonesian police said there were no reports of unrest surrounding the contest on Saturday.

The new Miss World will spend the next year travelling to represent the Miss World Organization and help raise money for its catalog owned by Jackson, Perry has even donned a bikini. For me, grace is important. I don’t want to look cheap. “I hate the word item song.” She says she won’t mind being a part of a “dance number” as long as it is graceful. “I hate the word item song. For me, an item song is when a girl wears small clothes and looks sexy...I don’t want to look cheap. For me, grace is important. So I don’t think I will do item number. But yes, if it’s a dance number, I would love to do it,” Aditi said.

The actress is busy promoting her forthcoming film Boss, in which she has even donned a bikini. She says she is happy with the positive response to her look in the movie which stars Akshay Kumar in the lead role.

“I was asked not to lose weight (for the movie), but I worked hard and toned my body. I wanted to go for a natural look, not a skinny body. I did a lot of body exercise. I ate healthy, I am happy that people have liked it. I am happy that the feedback has been very positive,” added the actress.

Mumbai, 30 Sept—Actress Aditi Rao Hydari is totally against the term “item song”. She says she has even donned a bikini. For me, grace is important. So I don’t think I will do item number. But yes, if it’s a dance number, I would love to do it,” Aditi said.

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Aditi Rao Hydari will be seen wearing a bikini in Boss.

Katy Perry praises “genius” John Mayer

LOS ANGELES, 30 Sept—Singer Katy Perry has praised her boyfriend John Mayer’s “genius” mind. She also says she wants to donate his brain to science and figure out “how all these sparks work.”

“He literally is a genius, as is evident from his songwriting,” contactmusic.com quoted Perry, 28, as saying.

“I always tell him, ‘Darling, you know I’m going to have to give your mind to science after you’ve passed, because we’re going to have to understand how all these sparks work,’” she added.—PTI
Juve rest Pirlo but still keep derby dominance

TURIN, 30 Sept—Juventus continued to dominate neighbours Torino on Sunday by winning a niggly derby 1-0 with a Paul Pogba goal after resting playmaker Andrea Pirlo.

The Serie A champions completed their ninth match against Torino without conceding a goal, a run stretching back to 2002, and extended their unbeaten run in the fixture to 13.

Inter Milan lost ground on the leaders when they conceded a late goal to draw 1-1 away to homeless Cagliari, Catania beat Chievo 2-0 to clock up their first win of the season and base ment club Sassuolo hit back to draw 2-2 with Lazio.

The only goal of the Turin derby came in the 54th minute when Carlos Tevez headed against the crossbar from a corner and Frenchman Pogba reacted quickly to bury the rebound for the visitors, amid suspicions of offside.

“They told me that Tevez was offside leading up to the goal, but we must also say that we were unfortunate before that because Ciro Immobile’s (first half) tackle on Tevez should have been a sending him,” Conte told reporters.

Juventus remained unbeaten this season with 16 points from six games, level with Napoli. AS Roma, who began the weekend in top spot with 15 points, were at home to Bologna later on Sunday (1845 GMT). Inter are fourth with 14.

Juventus coach Antonio Conte has made it clear he will rotate the squad this season and, having rested goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon one week ago, it was 34-year-old Pirlo’s turn on Sunday.

Suarez nets two on league return as Liverpool win

LONDON, 30 Sept—Luis Suarez marked his return to Premier League action with two goals to help Liverpool to a 3-1 win at managerless Sunderland that lifted them to second in the table on Sunday.

The Uruguay striker, who returned from a 10-match ban for biting in the midweek League Cup loss at Manchester United, was making his first league appearance since being suspended for biting Chelsea’s Branislav Ivanovic in April.

He scored Liverpool’s second in the 36th minute after Daniel Sturridge had opened their account eight minutes earlier with a controversial goal that went in despite the protestations of offside.

Liverpool’s Luis Suarez (L) shoots to score against Sunderland during their English Premier League soccer match at The Stadium of Light in Sunderland, northern England, on 29 Sept, 2013.—Reuters

Howell rolls back the years to win Dunhill title

LONDON, 30 Sept—Englishman David Howell birdied the second extra hole to beat American Peter Uihlein in a sudden-death playoff and win the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship at St Andrews’, Scotland on Sunday.

Howell and Uihlein were tied at 23 under par at the end of the tournament, a pro-am event in which players alternate between three courses over the first three days, before the top 60 pros and the top 20 teams compete in the final round.

Uihlein, 24, who carded a 60 in his second round, took a two-shot lead into the final day but Howell came home with a five-under par 67 to Uihlein’s 69 to force the playoff.

England’s Tom Lewis put himself in contention with a final-round 64 but he fell just short on 22 under par for a share of third place with Ireland’s Shane Lowry.

As a pro, to win at the home of golf is quite amazing. It has been a long, long road from the depths of despair,” he told Sky Sports.

“I have had a lot of support from people around me and this is for them, too. It is sweet (to win) and a dream. It was Howell’s fifth appearance in a playoff — and his first victory.

Raonic boosts London hopes by taking Thai title

BANGKOK, 30 Sept—Big-serving Canadian Milos Raonic boosted his hopes of qualifying for the end-of-season ATP World Tour finals in London by downing Czech Tomas Berdych 7-6(4), 6-3 to win the Thailand Open on Sunday.

The tall 22-year-old gave a lesson in serving as he delivered 18 aces on the indoor hard court in Bangkok to win the $567,530 title, his second of the year after he retained his San Jose crown in February.

Raonic began the week 116 in the race to London with only the top eight guaranteed a spot but his fifth career victory should move him up the congested leaderboard when the list is updated on Monday ahead of the November event.

A light first set between the powerful duo inevitably went to a tiebreak after Raonic was able to serve out the set with the top seed Berdych unable to put any pressure on his opponent’s serve.

The loss leaves Berdych, fifth in the race to London, as the only player in the top 10 not to have won a title this season.—Reuters

“I thought the work we put in today was exceptional. To get the three goals and a few more chances to score, I thought we were really dangerous on the counter-attack. As a team we worked really, really hard.”

Reuters

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Juventus coach Antonio Conte has made it clear he will rotate the squad this season and, having rested goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon one week ago, it was 34-year-old Pirlo’s turn on Sunday.

Suarez had to wait until the 89th minute for his second goal and it was Sturridge again who set him up for a simple finish that sealed Liverpool’s fourth league victory of the season.

The win put them 13 points from six games, ahead of Tottenham Hotspur on goal difference and two points behind leaders Arsenal.

“How the back of a really tough game where we played well during the week (against United), today was always going to be a really physically demanding game for us,” Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers told Sky Sports.

“I thought the work we put in today was exceptional. To get the three goals and a few more chances to score, I thought we were really dangerous on the counter-attack. As a team we worked really, really hard.”

Reuters
People pass by an electric car during an event to mark the National Plug In Day at the Capitol Hill, in Washington DC, on 29 Sept, 2013. The National Plug In Day is a nationwide celebration to heighten awareness of today’s widespread availability of plug-in vehicles and highlight the benefits of all-electric and plug-in hybrid-electric cars, trucks, motorcycles, and more. Throughout the weekend of 28-29 Sept, 2013, events across the United States will celebrate the third annual National Plug In Day.

Kipsang smashes marathon record in Berlin win

Wilson Kipsang of Kenya poses during the victory ceremony after winning the 40th Berlin marathon, on 29 Sept, 2013.—Reuters

IAEA chief visits Cuba

HAVANA, 30 Sept—The head of the UN nuclear watchdog on Sunday kicked off a three-day official visit to Cuba, a local TV channel reported. During his stay, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Yukiya Amano is scheduled to hold talks with Foreign Minister Marcelino Medina, “among other activities,” NNTV said. Amano’s visit “corresponds with the excellent level of relations” between the IAEA and the Caribbean nation, a founding member of the agency, government officials were quoted as saying. Cuba has cooperated with the IAEA in such fields as health, agriculture and environmental protection, officials said, adding that the country’s nuclear facilities are subject to the agency’s supervision.

11 killed in check-post attack in W Afghanistan

HERAT, (Afghanistan), 30 Sept—Eleven people were killed early on Monday morning when the militants raided a security check-post in western Afghanistan’s Herat Province, a district police source said. “Militants numbered 10 or 15 attacked the Afghan Local Police (ALP) check-post along a main road in Ob district at around 2:00 am on Monday. Four ALP personnel, three civilians and four militants were killed in an engagement which lasted an hour,” the district police chief Shir Aga Aliagoz told Xinhua. —Xinhua
Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham sends felicitations to Chinese Vice-President

NAVPYITHAW, 1 Oct—On the occasion of the 64th Anniversary of the Founding Day of the People’s Republic of China, which falls on 1 October 2013, Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Li Yuanchao, Vice-President of the People’s Republic of China.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, wife attend 64th Anniversary Founding Day of PRC

YANGON, 30 Sept—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Swee Hmon attended the 64th Anniversary of Founding Day of the People’s Republic of China at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, here, this evening.

It was also attended by the Yangon Region Chief Minister and wife, the Yangon Region Command Commander and wife, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin, the Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker and Yangon Region ministers, military officers, departmental heads, ambassadors of Yangon-based foreign embassies, charge d’affaires, military attachés and invited persons. On arrival at the hotel, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife were welcomed by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Yang Houlan and wife.

At first, the national anthems of the two countries were played.

Next, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife and the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar and wife cut the cake to mark the 64th Anniversary of founding Day of China, and posed for a documentary photo.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife and those present enjoyed the dinner hosted by the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar and wife.—MNA

Japanese training warships make port calls in Thilawa

NAVPYITHAW, 30 Sept—Three training warships—Kashima, Shirayuki and Isoyuki—of Maritime Self Defence Force of Japan arrived in Yangon to-day to pay a goodwill visit to Myanmar for five days.

On arrival of three training warships at MITT jetty of Thanlyin Thilawa Port, Commodore Maung Oo Lwin of Ayeyawady Naval Region Command and senior military officer of the Defence Services (Navy) cordially welcomed 724 crew members led by Rear Admiral Kitagawa of Japanese Navy. The three warships will be in Myanmar from 30 September to 4 October.

It is learnt that further bilateral friendship, trust and cooperation between the navies of Myanmar and visiting countries will be frequent promoted through frequent goodwill visits of warships from neighbouring countries to Myanmar.—MNA

C-in-c leaves for Malaysia to accept Malaysian King’s title

NAVPYITHAW, 30 Sept—Commander-in-chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaiing left here for Malaysia by Tatmadaw aircraft this morning to accept Honorary Malaysian Armed Forces Order For Valour (First Degree) Gallant Commander of Malaysian Armed Forces presented by the Malaysian King.

A delegation led by the Senior General and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla were seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Deputy Commander-in-chief of Defence Services Commander-in-chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife, senior officers from Commander-in-chief Office their wives, the Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander and wife, the Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar and the military attaché and wife.

They were welcomed at Subang Airport by Chief Executive of MIDEF Lieutenant General Dato’ William R. Stevenson and wife, Joint Force Chief of Staff Major General Datuk Baharom Bin Hamzah and wife, Charge d’Affaires ai of Malaysian Embassy U Kyaw Swa and wife, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Win Maung and wife and officials.

Students of NCFAU (Yangon and Mandalay) leave for Japan

YANGON, 30 Sept—An 18-student delegation from National Culture and Fine Arts Universities (Yangon and Mandalay) under the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture left here for Japan by air this evening to attend ASEAN-Japan Students and Youth Exchange for Enhancing Understanding in Traditional Culture/Heritage/Art-ASEAN Youths visit to Learn Japan’s Pop Culture organized by Japan International Cooperation Centre (JICE) from 3 September to 9 October in Japan.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by the rector and responsible persons of National Culture and Fine Arts University of Yangon.