President U Thein Sein, UNSG hold talks over promoting cooperation between UN, Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct—President U Thein Sein and Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr Ban Ki-moon held talks over promoting cooperation between Myanmar and the UN.

During the meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, they discussed matters related to promoting cooperation between Myanmar and the UN while Myanmar is taking the chair of ASEAN. They also exchanged views on more participation of the UN and international communities in peace making process and in settling conflicts, building a society in which communities live together in Myanmar, taking legal actions against those who instigate conflicts and cooperation with international communities in coping with the issues caused by climate change.

President U Thein Sein thanked the United Nations for its support for reforms of his government, pledging more cooperation with the United Nations in future. On behalf of the United Nations, Mr Ban Ki-moon has acknowledged the democratic reforms in Myanmar and expressed (See page 9)

Donation with traditional elephant dancing

KYAUKSE, the city of elephant, is located 30 miles south of Mandalay. Every 14th Waxing and Fullmoon day of Thadingyut, the donation ceremonies are held with the dancing and competition of elephants crowded with audience and visitors from various regions of the nation. This year, the festivities comprising elephant dancing will be held on a grand scale on 14th Waxing of Thadingyut.

In 1925, the dancing elephant to which man activity is added was introduced by Saya Nge of Nyaunghchaikin Ward in Kyaukse. At the opening ceremony of the festival, the dancing elephants are to go round Myoma Market three times. After that, the dancing elephants are to take part in the contest in the presence of three members of panel of judges.

In the past, the elephants showed off traditional dance. Later, they presented traditional elephant dance, Bawkyei elephant dance and baby elephant dance. This year, the organizing committee will award K 800,000 to the first prize, K 600,000 to the second, K 400,000 to the third to traditional elephant dance contest, K 700,000, K 500,000 and K 300,000 to the first, second and third prize winners in Bawkyei elephant dance contest and K 500,000, K 300,000 and K 100,000 to the first, second and third prize winners in the baby elephant dancing contest.

Donation with traditional elephant dancing will be held on a grand scale on 14th Waxing of Thadingyut.

In 1925, the dancing elephant to which man activity is added was introduced by Saya Nge of Nyaunghchaikin Ward in Kyaukse. At the opening ceremony of the festival, the dancing elephants are to go round Myoma Market three times. After that, the dancing elephants are to take part in the contest in the presence of three members of panel of judges.

Byline: Tun Tun Naing (Kyaukse)

Byline: Tun Tun Naing (Kyaukse)

Byline: Tun Tun Naing (Kyaukse)

Byline: Tun Tun Naing (Kyaukse)

Byline: Tun Tun Naing (Kyaukse)

Byline: Tun Tun Naing (Kyaukse)

Byline: Tun Tun Naing (Kyaukse)

Byline: Tun Tun Naing (Kyaukse)

Byline: Tun Tun Naing (Kyaukse)
Zawtika Project launches sail-away ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct—Union Minister for Energy U Zeyer Aung and party attended the ceremony to launch Sail-Away Ceremony to send Zawtika Processing and Living Quarters to the offshore block of Myanmar so as to implement Zawtika natural gas exploration project being undertaken as joint venture by Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and PTTEPI Co of Thailand on Block M9.

The ceremony was held at SMOE Yard in Singapore.

It was also attended by Thai Ambassador to Singapore Mr Marut Jirapatima, Chairman of BOD of PTTEPI Co Dr Norkun Vongvanch, Managing Director Mr Ho Nee Sin of PTTEPI Co of Thailand.

Zawtika offshore gas exploration project is located in M9 block offshore Mottama in Myanmar. Project members are PTTEPI and MOGE. They will send natural gas as of January 2014.

SMOE and officials.

Nay Pyi Taw, 11 Oct—The Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry makes strenuous efforts for sustainable development of forests and forest products and takes legal action against those who extract and traffic illegal timbers.

The Assistant Director of Bago District Forest Department of Bago Region and staff on 4 October seized 19 pieces of teak timber weighing 1.7656 tons from a vehicle at mile post 82/7 on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway in Kyaukda Township.

Further investigation is being made for exposing driver and timber owner.

The same day, the Assistant Director of Pyay District Forest Department and staff seized 1.7422 tons of teak and hardwood timber and illegal sawmill in Yadanaubon ward of Padaung Township.

Moreover, they found 17.1796 tons of teak/hardwood timber near Thani Kyaw pedestrian way on Township. On 5 October, they confiscated 3.5252 tons of ownerless teak/hardwood/other wood in the forest reserves along Pyay-Taunggup Road and handed over them to the Myanmar Timber Enterprise.

Likewise, the Assistant Director and staff of Tachileik District Forest Department of Shan State (Kengtung) on 4 October seize 619 pieces of teak sawn timber weighing 18.5666 tons near 9th-Mile Hwepasee Village on Mongton-Tarsan Road in Mongton Township. They seized a vehicle together with timber. Action is being taken against driver U Saw Yan Naing and helper U Zaw Moe under the law.

On 5 October, the forest officials seized logs of Kanyin weighing 23.216 tons, one sawmill and related equipment without owner in Paunglaung forest reserve in Paunglaung Township of Shan State.

Kyemon-Maung Thi Taw

Illegal timber seized in Bago Region, Shan State

Crime

Bicycle thief arrested under further investigation

LASHIO, 11 Oct—Einaing Bridge, 150 feet long, was located on Lashio-Mansan Road in Northern Shan State and it is of steel frame and wooden floor one. The motorway of the bridge was very narrow and it could withstand 10 tons of loads only.

A new bridge is 170 feet long and it is of reinforced concrete type. The two bridges are in parallel. The new one will have two approach structure and two piers.

The 6th kind of new bridge Einaing, nine miles from Lashio, will have 24 feet wide motorway and 2.5 feet wide pedestrian way on either side. It doesn’t need to wait for vehicles from another way while one car is passing.

Bicycle thief arrested under further investigation

YANGON, 11 Oct—Members of No. 2 Security Company of the Reserved Force of Yangon Region Police Force arrested Aung Thura (a Thura, son of U Than in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township at 7 pm on 2 October after placing him under further investigation over other theft cases.

In the investigation, he stole one bicycle each from Ward 56 and Ward 53 in Dagon Myothit (South) Township in July. Therefore, Dagon (South) Myoma Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against him under the law.

In the further investigation, the thief stole bicycles from Ward 53, Ward 54 and Ward 56 in August.

That is why Dagon Myothit (South) Township Police opened files against him under the law.

Einaing Bridge on Lashio-Mansan Road to be commissioned soon

LAUNGLO, 11 Oct—Environmentalists U Thu Aung of Myanmar and Thai citizens Mr Maeri Phongviratchai and Mr Gran Boonthan arrived at Kyetaung Pagoda in Gawin Village in Launglon Township of Dawe District in Taninthayi Region on 7 October.

They will conduct environmental studies and assessments near the pagoda.

Kyemon-Township

IPRD

Survey on natural environment, social society

22nd Yangon Mayor Cup International White Cane Day on 15 Oct

YANGON, 11 Oct—The 22nd Yangon Mayor Cup International White Cane Day will be held at 6.30 am on 15 October, and it will start from the City Hall, according to the Yangon City Development Committee.

Over 700 contestants from 12 schools for the blinds across the nation will take part in it. As of 6.30 am, the participants will set off in front of City Hall and walked along Merchant Street, Phonegyi Street and Maha Bandoola Street and then finished at the City Hall.

“This year, over 700 participants from 12 Schools for the Binds of PyinOoLwin, Meiktila, Insein and Kiyimyin district townships. It is not for competition. It is only the commemorative ceremony only.

The donations from wellwishers will be allotted to the schools,” said an official of YCDC. A total of 762 participants from schools for the blind, training schools and workshops of the nation took part in the 21st commemorative day.

Kyemon-Soe Win (MLA)

Construction

Over 700 contestants for the 22nd Yangon Mayor Cup International White Cane Day.

Photo shows Zawtika Processing and Living Quarters for Zawtika Natural Gas Exploration Project being implemented as joint venture between Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and PTTEPI of Thailand through PSC contract in Block M9 offshore Mottama of Myanmar.—MNA
Obama, Republicans aim to end crisis after meeting, hurdles remain

WASHINGTON, 11 Oct—President Barack Obama and Republican leaders appeared ready to end a political crisis that has shuttered much of the US government and pushed the country dangerously close to default after meeting at the White House on Thursday. No deal emerged from the 10-hour sit-down, but talks continued into the night in an effort to re-open the government and extend the government’s borrowing authority beyond an 17 Oct-ober deadline. One senior Republican said an agreement could come on Friday, though hurdles remain.

The plummeting stand-off of congressional Republicans in public opinion polls helped spur a move toward ending the standoff, Oklahoma Republican Representative James Lankford said on CNN Thursday night. The latest, an NBC-Wall Street Journal survey published on Thursday, showed the pub-lic blaming Republicans by a 22-point margin — 53 to 31 percent. The President’s meeting with Republican leaders was the first sign of a thaw in a 10-day standoff that has weighed on financial markets and knocked hun-dreds of thousands of federal employees out of work.

“It was a very adult con-versation,” said Republican Representative Hal Rogers, who attended the meeting. “Both sides said they were in good faith.” Republicans in the meeting offered to extend the government’s borrowing authority for several weeks, temporarily putting off a default that otherwise could come as soon as next week. Obama pushed to also re-open government operations that have been closed since 1 October. Significantly, Re-publicans seemed to be steer-ing clear of the restrictions on Obama’s healthcare reforms and spending that prompted the crisis in the first place. In stead, negotiations centered on how far to extend the debt limit and how much funding they would provide the gov-ernment when it opens, ac- cording to Republicans.

The two sides are work-ing on “defining parameters to see if we can make pro-gress,” said Republican Rep-representative Pete Sessions, a member of the leadership. The President looks forward to the draft pro-gress with members on both sides of the aisle,” the White House said in a statement. The proposal is a significant shift for Republi-cans, who had hoped to use the threat of a shutdown and a default to undermine Oba-ma’s healthcare law. But they have been hammered in opinion polls and pressured by allies in the conservative community who worry the brinkman-ship is killing jobs and slow-ing the economy. Republi-cans worry that the standoff could imperil lawmakers in competitive districts, giv-ing Democrats an increased chance of winning control of the House next year. Reuters

Japan to sign UN statement against nuclear weapons use for 1st time

TOKYO, 11 Oct—Japan will sign for the first time a joint statement to be issued at the United Nations calling on countries not to use nuclear weapons. Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said Friday.

“After examining the purpose of the statement as a whole, we concluded we can support the content,” Kishida said at a press conference. “It’s a moral responsibility for Japan to make a strenuous effort to realize a nuclear-free world.” The decision comes after Japan confirmed with New Zealand, one of the drafters of the initiative, that the document will not be legally binding. Japanese government sources said.

The statement is ex-pected to be released at the First Committee of the UN General Assembly, possibly on 17 October. Japan has refused to en-dorse similar UN statements drafted three times in the past on the grounds it would contradict Japan’s policy of relying on the US nuclear umbrella. But people in the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which were devast-ated by US atomic bomb-ings in 1945, have criticized Japan’s past refusal to sign such UN documents. Kishi-da, a native of Hiroshima, has been calling for nuclear disarmament.

Both the Hiroshima and Nagasaki mayors welcomed the government’s decision, while emphasizing that Ja-pan should take the lead in global efforts toward nu-clear disarmament.

“We feel grateful that the government has decided to support what Hiroshima has been calling for. Our voices have been heard,” Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui told reporters.

In Nagasaki, Mayor Tomihisa Taue called the decision “a step forward” but said more concrete ac-tion should be taken by the government. Kyodo News

Japan’s Merkel, Greens agree second round of exploratory talks

BERLIN, 11 Oct—German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s victorious conser-ervatives and the Greens party agreed on Thursday to hold further talks on forming a first-ever federal government between the long-time adversaries, party officials said.

Merkel’s Christian Democrats (CDU) and their Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Un-ion (CSU), emerged as the dominant force in the 22 September election but need a coalition partner. Full negotiations for a gov-ernment could take up to two months.

The chances the CDU/ CSU and Greens would move onto more formal coalition talks are not seen as high due to ammioros between the arch-conserva-tive CSU and the Greens, a left-leaning party with roots in the 1970s peace and anti-nuclear movements.

But some CDU and Greens leaders see a histor-ic chance for both parties to explore new power options. The CDU/CSU’s veteran partner, the Free Democrats (FDP), crashed out of par-lament last month and the Greens’ preferred ally, the Social Democrats, were beaten by the CDU/CSU for the third straight time. Reuters

Germany’s Merkel, Greens agree second round of exploratory talks

BERLIN, 11 Oct—German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s victorious conser-ervatives and the Greens party agreed on Thursday to hold further talks on forming a first-ever federal government between the long-time adversaries, party officials said.

Merkel’s Christian Democrats (CDU) and their Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Un-ion (CSU), emerged as the dominant force in the 22 September election but need a coalition partner. Full negotiations for a gov-ernment could take up to two months.

The chances the CDU/ CSU and Greens would move onto more formal coalition talks are not seen as high due to ammioros between the arch-conserva-tive CSU and the Greens, a left-leaning party with roots in the 1970s peace and anti-nuclear movements.

But some CDU and Greens leaders see a histor-ic chance for both parties to explore new power options. The CDU/CSU’s veteran partner, the Free Democrats (FDP), crashed out of par-lament last month and the Greens’ preferred ally, the Social Democrats, were beaten by the CDU/CSU for the third straight time. Reuters

OPCW wins Nobel Peace Prize

The Hague-based OPCW was established in 1997 to implement the Chemical Weapons Convention, which calls for the destruction of existing chemical weapons and the prevention of their reintro-duction, and is supported by the United Nations. Kyodo News

File photo from September 2013 shows the headquar-ters of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in The Hague, the Netherlands, on Oct. 9, 2013. Kyodo News

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons Director General Ahmet Uzumcu holds a press conference in the Hague, the Netherlands, on Oct. 9, 2013. Kyodo News

Tokyo, 11 Oct—The Organization for the Pro-hibition of Chemical Weapons won the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize “for its extensive efforts to elimi-nate chemical weapons,” the Norwegian Nobel Committee said Friday.

The chemical weap-ons watchdog is oversee-ing the effort to eliminate Syria’s arsenal of chemical weapons amid the country’s civil war.

The Hague-based OPCW was established in 1997 to implement the Chemical Weapons Convention, which calls for the destruction of existing chemical weapons and the prevention of their reintroduction, and is supported by the United Nations. Kyodo News

Japan’s government on Friday conducted its third major nuclear disaster drill following the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi atomic power plant accident, con-tinuing an aim to make the exer-cise more realistic than previous rehearsals that merely followed a script. The two-day drill will be held on the assumption that an earthquake triggers an accident at one of the two reactors at the Sendai plant in Kagoshima Prefecture, which results in a release of radioactive substances and leads residents to evacuate.

The exercise will also test the effectiveness of the country’s new nuclear dis-aster mitigation guidelines compiled after the Fuku-shima crisis, which expanded areas that need special preparations to a 30 kilom-eter radius of a plant from the previous 10 km. According to the Nuclear Regulation Authority, around 3,300 people will not be given the details of when and how the scena-rio will unfold, an NRA official in charge of the is-sue said.

“In past exercises, par-ticipants knew all the sce-narios and their statements were prepared in more like performing their role of a drama,” the NRA official said.

But we found the method will not nurture abilities to cope with the situation,” he said. The state, local governments and nuclear power plant operators will also practice coordinating their responses through the joint exercise, using means such as teleconference systems for information-sharing. Kyodo News

Japan’s government on Friday conducted its third major nuclear disaster drill following the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi atomic power plant accident, continuing an aim to make the exercise more realistic than previous rehearsals that merely followed a script. The two-day drill will be held on the assumption that an earthquake triggers an accident at one of the two reactors at the Sendai plant in Kagoshima Prefecture, which results in a release of radioactive substances and leads residents to evacuate.

The exercise will also test the effectiveness of the country’s new nuclear disaster mitigation guidelines compiled after the Fukushima crisis, which expanded areas that need special preparations to a 30 kilometer radius of a plant from the previous 10 km. According to the Nuclear Regulation Authority, around 3,300 people will not be given the details of when and how the scenario will unfold, an NRA official in charge of the issue said.

“In past exercises, participants knew all the scenarios and their statements were prepared in more like performing their role of a drama,” the NRA official said.

But we found the method will not nurture abilities to cope with the situation,” he said. The state, local governments and nuclear power plant operators will also practice coordinating their responses through the joint exercise, using means such as teleconference systems for information-sharing. Kyodo News
**Water discovered in remnants of rocky exoplanet**

WASHINGTON, 1 Oct— British astronomers said on Thursday they have found the first evidence of a water-rich rocky planetary body outside our solar system in its shattered remains. Using observations obtained with the Hubble Space Telescope and the large Keck telescope on Hawaii, researchers from the Universities of Warwick and Cambridge analyzed the dust and debris surrounding a white dwarf called GD61, a small but incredibly dense burned-out star that lies 170 light years away. The researchers reported in the US journal Science that they found an excess of oxygen, a chemical signature that indicates the debris had once been part of a bigger body originally composed of 26 percent water by mass. By contrast, only approximately 0.023 percent of the Earth’s mass is water. Evidence for water outside our solar system has previously been found in the atmosphere of gas giants, but this is the first time it has been pinpointed in a rocky body. “Those two ingredients—a rocky surface and water—are key in the hunt for habitable planets outside our solar system so it’s very exciting to find them together for the first time outside our solar system,” co-author Boris Gansicke from the University of Warwick, said in a statement. The researchers suggest it is most likely that the water detected around the white dwarf GD61 came from a minor planet at least 90 km in diameter but potentially much bigger, that once orbited the parent star before it became a white dwarf. About 200 million years after GD61, the planet’s death throes and became a white dwarf, yet, parts of its planetary system survived. The water-rich minor planet was pulled out of its regular orbit and plunged into a very close orbit, where it was shredded by the star’s gravitational force. To date observations of 12 destroyed exoplanets orbiting white dwarves have been carried out, but this is the first time the signature of water has been found, the researchers said. “The finding of water in a large asteroid means the building blocks of habitable planets existed—and maybe still exist—in the GD61 system, and likely also around substantial number of similar parent stars,” said lead author Jay Farihi from the University of Cambridge. “These water-rich building blocks, and the terrestrial planets they build, may in fact be common—a system cannot create things as big as asteroids and avoid building planets, and GD61 had the ingredients to deliver lots of water to their surfaces,” Farihi said. “Our results demonstrate that there was definitely potential for habitable planets in this exoplanetary system.” Six billion years from now, our Sun will collapse and, possibly, evolve into a white dwarf. Therefore, “it’s a look into our future,” said Gansicke. —Xinhua

**Alibaba decides against Hong Kong IPO, not yet committed to other exchange**

Jonathan Lu, new chief executive of Alibaba Group, puts on a headband with horns during the celebration of the 10th anniversary of Taobao Marketplace, China’s largest consumer-focused e-commerce website, in Hangzhou, on 19 May, 2013. —REUTERS

HANGZHOU, (China), 11 Oct—Chinese e-commerce company Alibaba Group Holding Ltd has decided not to list its shares in Hong Kong, but has not yet committed to listing on any other exchange, including the New York Stock Exchange, CEO Jonathan Lu told Reuters on Thursday. The company, founded in 1999 by billionaire Jack Ma, had planned to list on the Hong Kong stock exchange in an IPO analysts and bankers have said could raise up to $15 billion. Alibaba failed to convince Hong Kong regulators to waive rules over the group’s unique partnership structure—specifically that 29 partners, mainly founders and senior executives, would keep control over a majority of the board, even though they own only 13 percent of the company. “We’ve decided not to list in Hong Kong,” Lu said in an interview at the company’s headquarters in China’s Hangzhou city in Zhejiang Province. “The Hong Kong authorities need time to study this corporate governance structure (for knowledge-based companies).” In his first public comment on Alibaba abandoning Hong Kong for the IPO, Lu added the company had not yet committed to list on any other exchange, including the New York Stock Exchange. Alibaba, whose platforms handle more goods in a year than eBay Inc and Amazon.com Inc combined, expects to nearly triple the volume of transactions on its marketplaces to about $3 trillion yuan ($490 billion) in 3-4 years from 2012, eventually surpassing Wal-Mart Stores Inc “In three years, we hope to be the No 1 retail network in the world - larger than Wal-Mart,” Lu added.—Reuters

**New York, 10 Oct—** Cable pioneer John Malone said on Thursday that cable companies should team up to create a rival to Netflix Inc (NFLX.O) that would deliver programming over the Internet on a national basis. Cable companies could “solve the problem” of high programming costs by acquiring content for an Internet-based service under one brand that they would sell in a bundle with broadband, Malone said at Liberty Media Corp’s (LMCA.O) annual investor conference. Malone, who is chairman of Liberty Media, used the example of Comcast Corp’s (CMCSA.O) Xfinity video streaming last day being shared with the rest of the cable industry to become a national brand. He added that another alternative would be for Hulu to be bought and syndicated by cable companies or for an entrepreneur to create a new product from scratch that the cable industry can get behind. He had said previously that cable companies should make a joint bid for US cable companies should create Netflix rival TV service could help the cable industry get back market share from satellite and telecommunications competitors, and also give a boost to smaller cable companies that lack infrastructure. When asked about whether he still has an appetite for a merger or acquisition to be willing to invest in the business through consolidation, Malone, whose media holding company has an investment in cable provider Charter Communications Inc (CHTR.O), made an offer for Time Warner Cable Inc (TWC.N) over the summer, but it was rejected, Reuters has reported. Time Warner Cable shares closed up $0.68, or 6 percent, on Thursday at $116.95 per share. During a question and answer session with investors, he praised Netflix Chief Executive Officer Reed Hastings and launched into an analysis of Netflix’s business model, saying it was big enough to buy exclusive national content at good prices, something the cable industry has struggled with. —Reuters

**Astronaut Scott Carpenter, fourth American in space, dies at 88**

DENVER, 10 Oct—Astronaut Scott Carpenter, who in 1962 became the fourth American in space and the second to orbit the Earth, died on Thursday in Colorado at age 88 of complications from a stroke, his wife Patty Carpenter said. Carpenter, who lost radio contact with NASA controllers during his pioneering space flight and was found in the ocean 250 miles from the targeted splashdown site, went on to explore the ocean floor in later years. His wife said he died in a Denver hospice. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration chose Carpenter and six other pilots to be astronauts in 1959 for the Mercury space programme as the United States entered its space race with the Soviet Union. The only surviving member of that Mercury 7 team is John Glenn, 92, now a retired US Senator from Ohio. In 1962, Glenn became the first American to orbit the earth, and Carpenter was his backup on that mission. Later that year, Carpenter made his only spaceflight, taking the Aurora 7 spacecraft on three laps around Earth on 24 May, a few weeks after his 37th birthday. The flight of less than five hours made him the second American to orbit Earth, and the experience stayed with him until the end of his life. “I still remember what a thrill it was being up there—I liked the feeling of weightlessness, and the view I had of Earth,” Carpenter told the University of Colorado’s alumni magazine last year. The other Mercury astronauts had piloted fighter jets during the Korean War, but Carpenter mostly flew surveillance in multi-engine propeller planes.—Reuters

**Mercury astronaut Scott Carpenter listens to questions during a Press conference at the Kennedy Space Centre Visitors Center in Florida in this file photo from 24 Feb, 2002. —REUTERS**
Boeing restructures commercial airplane strategy, marketing

WASHINGTON, 11 Oct — The US administration has a little over a month to fix the technology problems crippling its online health insurance marketplace, or jeopardize the goal of signing up millions of Americans in time for benefits under President Barack Obama’s healthcare law, experts said on Thursday.

Problems with the federal marketplace’s entry portal serving 36 states, the website Healthcare.gov, continued for a 10th day on Thursday despite signs of gradual improvement, keeping a brake on the ability of consumers to shop for federally subsidized health coverage. Poor turnout in enrollment would provide further ammunition for Republican foes of Obamacare, whose efforts to kill the law have culminated in a federal government shutdown that began on 1 October, coinciding with the launch of the health insurance exchanges nationwide. Already on Thursday, Republican lawmakers in Congress launched a new investigation into the technical glitches, sending letters to US Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and two of the website’s contractors, asking for details on what is causing the failures and any system changes or testing that had been performed.

Up to 7 million Americans are expected to enroll in health plans for 2014 under the law, formally known as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Industry executives, policy experts and former administration officials said the federal government’s technical problems need to be largely sorted out by mid-November.

That would help ensure that large numbers of enrollees — especially healthy young adults needed to make the programme work financially — can be processed by a 15 December deadline for 1 January coverage. "If mid-November were to be a time where folks who are getting online or accessing in other ways would really see things move pretty efficiently," said Dan Hilferty, chief executive of Philadelphia-based Independence Blue Cross, said in an interview. "As we get closer to 1 January, if in fact some of these glitches are not fixed, then I think people will become more and more concerned, and maybe put off about it."—Reuters

G24 concerned with market shock tied to exit from unconventional monetary policy

WASHINGTON, 11 Oct — The exit from unconventional monetary policies in some developed economies may induce higher volatility in global financial markets, a group of 24 developed countries on Thursday.

"We call on advanced economies to be mindful of negative spillover and to clearly communicate their exit strategies," said the Intergovernmental Group of Twenty-Four on International Monetary Affairs and Development (G24) in a communiqué after its 90th meeting in Washington DC.

In addition, the US political stalemate over debt limit left its default risk open, which added uncertainty to global financial stability.

"We are expecting that the exit from unconventional monetary policies in some developed economies may induce higher volatility in global financial markets," said Fernando Aportela, the group’s chair and deputy minister of Finance and Public Credit of Mexico.

US failed to raise the debt ceiling on time, "it would be a disaster," said Aman Bhattacharya, director of the G24 Secretariat.

Last time when the US had the debt ceiling problem in 2011, the interest spreads in developing markets went up by 75 basis points and stock markets went down by 15 percent, said Bhattacharya. He added if there is a default, the potential impact on the global financial market is "unthinkable.”

The group also said in the communiqué that emerging markets and developing countries have enormous growth potential and will continue to be the driving force of the global economy.

And on behalf of the developing world, it called for the IMF and World Bank to enhance their voice and representation by implementing the agreed 2010 quota and governance reform.—Xinhua

Asian stocks rally to 3-week highs on hopes US avoids default

SYDNEY, 11 Oct — Asian stocks jumped to three-week highs on Friday as investors took a collective breath and cheered perceived progress in Washington to avert a possible default, even though questions remained over whether a deal could be struck. MSCI’s broadest index of Asia-Pacifc shares outside Japan, MIAIP0000USP, rose 1.3 percent, reaching highs not seen since 19 September. Tokyo’s Nikkei .N225 was also 1.3 percent higher.

Gains were seen across the region’s emerging markets, with Indone sia’s IDX.IND up 0.6 percent and the Philippines .PSI up 0.9 percent. MSCI’s broadest emerging market benchmark equity index, MSCIef put on 0.8 percent. The rally in Asia came after US stocks .SPX jumped over 2 percent in their biggest one-day gain since 2 January as investors became more confident that squabbling US politicians would at the very least avert a possible US debt default next week.

"The situation is fluid but it seems like progress is being made on averting the worst case scenario. But a short-term solution should be met with short-term enthusiasm," analysts at Nomura wrote in a client note. Reputable investors no longer had not passed budget funding, on Thursday offered a plan that would extend the US government’s borrowing authority for several weeks, staving off a default that could come as soon as 17 October. While no deal has emerged from a meeting at the White House, the two sides said they would continue to talk. Markets were briefly unsettled after the New York Times reported President Barack Obama had rejected the plan, but Republican Paul Ryan later said Obama had neither accepted or rejected the plan.—Reuters

Mobile security software maker Lookout raises $55 million

BOSTON, 10 Oct — Lookout, one of the world’s biggest providers of mobile security software, said on Thursday that it has raised $55 million in financing. The round was led by Deutsche Telekom AG.

Qualcomm Inc’s venture capital arm, Greylock Partners and Mithril Capital Management also participated, as did current investors Accel Partners, Andreessen Horowitz, In dex Ventures, and Khosla Ventures. Lookout’s security software is installed on some 45 million devices running Google Inc’s Android operating system and Apple Inc’s iOS.

Telecommunications firms such as Deutsche Telekom and Qualcomm are growing increasingly interested in mobile security products because cyber attacks on mobile devices have grown exponentially in recent years as sales of smartphones and tablets have surged to consumers and businesses alike.

Lookout said in a statement that it plans to enter the corporate security market later this year, which would put it in competition with older, more established software makers including Symantec Corp and Intel Corp’s McAfee security division. San Francisco-based Lookout, founded in 2007, has raised $131 million to date.—Reuters

New ‘deadline’ for fixing Obamacare glitches seen in mid-November

WASHINGTON, 11 Oct — The administration has a little over a month to fix the technology problems crippling its online health insurance marketplace, or jeopardize the goal of signing up millions of Americans in time for benefits under President Barack Obama’s healthcare law, experts said on Thursday.

Problems with the federal marketplace’s entry portal serving 36 states, the website Healthcare.gov, continued for a 10th day on Thursday despite signs of gradual improvement, keeping a brake on the ability of consumers to shop for federally subsidized health coverage. Poor turnout in enrollment would provide further ammunition for Republican foes of Obamacare, whose efforts to kill the law have culminated in a federal government shutdown that began on 1 October, coinciding with the launch of the health insurance exchanges nationwide. Already on Thursday, Republican lawmakers in Congress launched a new investigation into the technical glitches, sending letters to US Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and two of the website’s contractors, asking for details on what is causing the failures and any system changes or testing that had been performed.

Up to 7 million Americans are expected to enroll in health plans for 2014 under the law, formally known as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Industry executives, policy experts and former administration officials said the federal government’s technical problems need to be largely sorted out by mid-November.

That would help ensure that large numbers of enrollees — especially healthy young adults needed to make the programme work financially — can be processed by a 15 December deadline for 1 January coverage. "If mid-November were to be a time where folks who are getting online or accessing in other ways would really see things move pretty efficiently," said Dan Hilferty, chief executive of Philadelphia-based Independence Blue Cross, said in an interview. "As we get closer to 1 January, if in fact some of these glitches are not fixed, then I think people will become more and more concerned, and maybe put off about it."—Reuters

As a rising star of the Boeing Commercial Airplane Group, Bair left that role in 2007, when the programme was some six months behind schedule in the region’s emerging markets, with Indone sia’s IDX.IND up 0.6 percent and the Philippines .PSI up 0.9 percent. MSCI’s broadest emerging market benchmark equity index, MSCIef put on 0.8 percent. The rally in Asia came after US stocks .SPX jumped over 2 percent in their biggest one-day gain since 2 January as investors became more confident that squabbling US politicians would at the very least avert a possible US debt default next week.

"The situation is fluid but it seems like progress is being made on averting the worst case scenario. But a short-term solution should be met with short-term enthusiasm," analysts at Nomura wrote in a client note. Reputable investors no longer had not passed budget funding, on Thursday offered a plan that would extend the US government’s borrowing authority for several weeks, staving off a default that could come as soon as 17 October. While no deal has emerged from a meeting at the White House, the two sides said they would continue to talk. Markets were briefly unsettled after the New York Times reported President Barack Obama had rejected the plan, but Republican Paul Ryan later said Obama had neither accepted or rejected the proposal.—Reuters
Security in Libya “under control” after kidnapping

Tripoli, 11 Oct—The security situation in Libya is controlled, President of the General National Congress Nouri Abusahmain said in a Press conference on Thursday directly after the release of Libyan Prime Minister Ali Zeidan, who was held hostage for three hours earlier in the day.

Abusahmain told the press that neither citizens, foreigners, nor diplomats will be affected by the political controversies taking place in the country, adding that the abduction of the prime minister came at a time of political wrangling in Libya.

Members of the Revolutionary Operations Chamber raided Zeidan’s heavily secured Tripoli hotel around 4 am (0300 GMT) and abducted him, local security sources told Xinhua.

Zeidan was released hours later and arrived at his cabinet office where he met Abusahmain.

The Libyan Revolutionary Operations Chamber “arrested” Zeidan after Abusahmain issued an order calling for the arrest of anyone who puts national security in danger, the leader of the group in Tripoli, Jamma Zubia, said.

However, Abusahmain refuted claims that the abduction of Zeidan was legal or condoned. Libyan Minister of Justice Salah Bashir Margani also denied that this “arrest” was legitimate, explaining that Zeidan is covered by immunity.

The abduction came amid the general discontent in Libya over accusations against Zeidan of allegedly colluding in the US raid that was carried out last Saturday to capture al-Qaeda suspect Abu Anas Al-Libi.

In addition to these charges, Zeidan also faces allegations of bribery with the federalist Petroleum Field Guard (FPF), according to reports from a former commander of the Libyan Eastern Region Cyrenaica’s FPF, Ibrahim Al Jedran.

Last week, US authorities were accused of violating the Libyan sovereignty. The abduction of Prime Minister Zeidan along with the US raid to combat al-Qaeda in Libya has led to sharp criticisms of the government.

Xinhua

China supports Iran’s participation in Syria talks

Beijing, 11 Oct—Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying on Thursday expressed support for Iran’s participation in peace talks on the Syria issue.

She told a regular press briefing, “Proper resolution of the Syria issue will be impossible without the participation and support of regional countries, especially countries with lever-age over concerned parties in Syria.”

On Monday, US State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said the United States might agree with Iran’s participation in a potential Geneva II talks over Syria if Teheran backs the “Geneva I Communiqué” which called for a transitional government in Syria.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Marzieh Afkham also said on Tuesday that Iran will not accept any pre-conditions for attending peace talks on Syria.

Xinhua

Syrian rebels killed 190 civilians in August dawn raid

Beirut, 11 Oct—Syrian rebels killed at least 190 civilians and took more than 200 hostage during an offensive in Latakia province in August, Human Rights Watch said on Friday, in what it calls the first evidence of crimes against humanity by opposition forces.

HRW said many of the dead had been executed by militant groups, some linked to al-Qaeda, who overran army positions at dawn on 4 August and then moved into 10 villages nearby where members of President Bashar al-As sad’s Alawite sect lived.

In its first government-sanctioned trip into Syria during the 2012-2013 conflict, New York-based HRW has documented a series of sectarian mass killings by Assad’s forces during a broader campaign in which Western-backed rebels took part.

In some cases, entire families were executed or gunned down as they fled, according to a report titled “You Can Still See Their Blood.”

HRW identified five rebel groups instrumental to funding, organizing, planning and carrying out the Latakia attacks, including the al-Qaeda-linked Jabhat Al-Nusra and Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant groups, as well as the Islamist group Ahrar al-Sham and another unit of foreign jihadi fighters.

These groups publicized their involvement through videos and statements, some of which were used to corroborate the HRW report.

Reuters

Eight patients, 2 staff die in Fukuoka hospital fire

Fukuoka, 11 Oct—Ten people were confirmed dead after a fire broke out at an orthopedic hospital early Friday morning in the southwestern Japan city of Fukuoka, with the victims believed to be eight patients and two staffers, police said.

Of a total of 17 people in the hospital at the time of the breakout, which was reported around 2:20 am, two escaped on their own. One elderly woman was the first to escape, with nine people believed to have been in cardiac arrest or respiratory arrest, the local fire department said.

Five others sustained injuries, they said.

The four-story building, which has one basement floor, was burning intensely on the ground floor when firefighters arrived, the department said. The fire was extinguished about two and a half hours later.

The fire appeared to have started in a treatment room on the ground floor, according to reports.

Located in a residential-shopping district in Hakata Ward about 1 kilometer southwest of JR Hakata Station, the hospital, which also provides rehabilitation services, has an inpatient facility, according to its website.

Kyodo News

Egypt criticizes US aid cuts, Washington says not severing ties

Cairo, 11 Oct—Egypt criticized on Thursday a US decision to curtail military and economic aid to Cairo after a crackdown on the Muslim Brotherhood, although Washington stressed it was not severing ties with its long-standing ally.

The army-backed government insisted Egypt would not bow to US pressure, saying it found the decision strange at a time when the country was “facing a war against terrorism.”

However, US Secretary of State John Kerry said Washington would consider resuming some of the aid “on a basis of performance” in following the incoming government’s “roadmap” that promises to lead to fair elections.

Washington faces a dilemma in dealing with its major regional ally; Egypt controls the strategic Suez Canal and has a peace treaty with neighboring Israel. But its army overthrew in July the first freely-elected president, Islamists Mohamed Mursi, after mass protests against his rule.

In some of the worst civilian violence in modern Egyptian history, security forces crushed protests by Mursi’s supporters who have been attacking Egyptian forces in the Sinai peninsula for some time, have begun staging assaults in or near major cities including Cairo.

Reuters

Ancient tombs unearthed in north China

Shijiazhuang, 11 Oct—Nearly 300 pieces of cultural relics have been unearthed from a cluster of ancient tombs in north China’s Hebei Province, archaeologists said on Friday.

The tombs, located in Beidazhao Qiandong village of Nanhe County, 150 km south of the provincial capital of Shijiazhuang, are believed to be from the middle and late West Han Dynasty (206 BC-24 AD) and middle Tang Dynasty (618-907), said archaeologist Li Lianshen.

More than 4,000 square metres of land have been combed since the excavation started in May, and archaeologists have discovered 73 tombs altogether, Li said.

Zhang Xiaozheng, head of the excavation, said the relics are mostly pottery, chinaware and bronze ware that were used in daily life.

Xinhua
Public announcement for MRTV’s transition from analog to digital broadcasting system

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct — With advancements in broadcasting technology, Myanmar Radio and Television will introduce an ASEAN digital standard, Digital Video Broadcasting-Terrestrial-2 (DVB-T2), to the country under Free to Air (FTA) system phase by phase.

Following the switch from Analogue to Digital, the first phase will start on 15 October, covering four broadcasting stations in Yangon, Mandalay (Sagaing), Nay Pyi Taw (Pyin U Lwin) and Nay Pyi Taw (Taung Kyi). A total of 21 TV broadcast stations in Myitkyina, Taunggyi, Kentung, Lashio, Sittway, Mibun, Kalay, Falam, Popa, Meiktila, Toungoo, Nyang U, Bago, Pyay, Losik, Mawlamyine, Hpakan, Kyaukphyu, Pathein, Hinthada and Dawei will be included in the second phase in which all stations will be equipped with digital devices during the period from November 2013 to May 2014. The third phase will include 56 stations during the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the fourth phase, 109 in the 2015-2016 fiscal year and the fifth phase, 66 in the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

People will be able to receive the digital broadcasting system (DVB-T2) with the use of digital televisions with DVB-T2 MPE4 set-top box. Programmes will be broadcast from 6 am to 11 pm daily through five channels—MRTV Channel, Myanmar International (MI) Channel, Hluttaw Channel, National Races Channel and Farmers Channel. It is planned to increase the number of channels to eight.

Transmitting signals from Yangon station at 3 KW with frequency (CH-23) will cover Hmawbi and Hlegu Townships to the north, Kyunyangon and Kawhmu Townships to the south, Thongwa and Kayan Townships to the east and Twantay Township to the west, from Sagon station at 3 KW with frequency (CH-31) Madaya to the north, Wundwin to the south and Pathenesi to the east and Myaung to the west, from Nay Pyi Taw (Pyin U Lwin) at 3 KW with frequency (CH-30) Shweyono in Taung Kyi Township to the north, Thagara Town to the south, Yezin and Thaikhaung to the east and Taungnyo to the west and from Nay Pyi Taw (Taung Kyi) station at 1 KW with frequency (CH-23) the junction at the entrance to Pyawbwe to the north, Kyaitsaung to the south, Thabyekon and Nauk Both-O villages to the east and Myanmar Myeik and Thayawkwin to the west.

Moreover, the above-mentioned channels will be available in Cable TV line in Nay Pyi Taw.

Through digital TV and set-top box, viewers will have access to 16 channels—five channels of MRTV, seven channels of MWD and four channels of Forever without paying any monthly fees. For the sake of the people using Analogue TVs, the analogue system will be available till next three years.

Myanma Radio and Television

World Teachers’ Day marked in Hsihseng

HSHENG, 11 Oct—The World Teachers Day was marked at Basic Education High School Branch in Hsihseng of Pa-O Self-Administered Zone of Shan State (South) on 5 October. It was attended by teachers, school heads, retired teachers and students. Hsihseng BEHS Headmaster U Maung Aye made a speech. Assistant Township Education Officer U Thein Win, Headmaster U Maung Aye and officials presented prizes to the winners in the essay and poem contests. They paid respects to the older teachers.

Collapsed corridor under repair at Meiktila Lake

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct—The collapsed corridor of the eastern part of Meiktila Lake in Yadana Mannaung Ward is under repair on 9 October morning.

“The collapsed area is about 60 feet long section. Now, the repairing area will be 100 feet long, 11 feet wide and 10 feet high. The corridor floor and railing will be of reinforced concrete. The new structure will be further strengthened and it will be completed sooner. While the damaged parts are being removed with the use of heavy machinery, officials are supervising driving of vehicles along other routes. In the morning, the road will return to normalcy,” said SAE U Myint Zaw of Township Development Committee. Deputy Commissioner U Tin Maung Soe, Township Administration U Myo Hlaing and Head of Township Settlement and Land Records Department U Thein Tun Zaw and party inspected progress of repairing.

Secretary of Pyithu Hluttaw Resource and Environmental Conservation Committee meets NBR delegation from US

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct—Secretary of Pyithu Hluttaw Resource and Environmental Conservation Committee U Thein Lwin met a six-member delegation of the National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR) from the United States of America at No I-10 meeting hall of the Hluttaw Complex, here, this afternoon.

Both sides discussed matters on energy sector development and environmental conservation of Myanmar. Committee Secretary U Thein Lwin touched upon endeavors for development of energy sector by administrative body in cooperation with Hluttaw committees, enactment of environmental conservation law in April 2012 and release of EIA, SIA principles. The visiting delegation said that they came here to meet with respective organizations to observe change and development of Myanmar and the reports would be released on the findings with reviews.—MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Culture

Thayet District holds performing arts competition

THAYET, 11 Oct—The 20th National Races’ Performing Arts Competition of Thayet District was held at the hall of the district in Thayet on 28 September morning.

Pyi thu Hluttaw representative U Win Kyaw, Region Hluttaw representative Daw Yin Yin Hla and Deputy Commissioner of Thayet District U Hla Wai formally opened the competition.

At the ceremony, the deputy commissioner made a speech. The contestants participated in the song, dancing and music contests of the competitions. Officials of the organizing committee awarded the winners in the competition.

MMAL-Township IPRD

Livestock breeding

Development of livestock breeding sector talked

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct—The talks on development of livestock breeding sector and taking censuses were held at the monastery in Nyaunglu Village in Pobbathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 2 October. Head of Pobbathiri Township Fisheries Department U Soe Hlaing Myint explained development of livestock breeding sector.

Head of Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr Myint Thein gave talks on infectious diseases among cattle, infectious diseases from animal to human and anti-rabies vaccine.

Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Theint Theint Myo gave lectures on 41 points for taking census to be held in March 2014.

Later, Head of LBVD Dr Myint Thein and party injected anti-rabies vaccines to dogs in the village.

MMAL-Ko Ko Yupa (Nay Pyi Taw)

Nation-building Endeavours

Collapsed corridor under repair at Meiktila Lake

XXVII SEA Games torch relay rehearsal on 13 October

MOTORISTS are requested to reduce the speed of their vehicles when they meet the XXVII SEA Games torch relay rehearsal on 13 October.

The relay will start at 5.30 am from the National Indoor Stadium-1 (Thiwunna) in Yangon and end at the City Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

The relay will go along Waiyaazandar Road and the convoy will start at the junction of Waiyaazandar Road and Thiri Sar Road and will go along Waiyaazandar Road to Parami Junction, along Parami Road, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Pyay Road to Haukkkyant Junction, along Yangon-Mandalay Road to No. 3 Junction, along Yangon-Mandalay Highway to Nay Pyi Taw (C) Junction, along Shwepyitawwin Road to Gangaw Roundabout, Yazathingaha Road to Thabyaygon Roundabout and Taungnyo Road.

The relay ends at Nay Pyi Taw City Hall.

Committee for preparation for opening and closing ceremony of 27th SEA Games

World Teachers’ Day marked in Hsihseng

HSHENG, 11 Oct—The World Teachers Day was marked at Basic Education High School Branch in Hsihseng of Pa-O Self-Administered Zone of Shan State (South) on 5 October. It was attended by teachers, school heads, retired teachers and students. Hsihseng BEHS Headmaster U Maung Aye made a speech.

Assistant Township Education Officer U Thein Win, Headmaster U Maung Aye and officials presented prizes to the winners in the essay and poem contests.

They paid respects to the older teachers.

MMAL-Township IPRD

MMAL-Chan Tha (Meiktila)
New Light of Myanmar
Saturday, 12 October, 2013

NATIONAL

Challenges ahead

Myanmar takes over ASEAN Chair at the concluding of 23rd ASEAN Summit, adopting “Moving Forward in Unity, To a Peaceful and Prosperous Society” as the slogan of the ASEAN Chair for 2014.

The clock is ticking and 2013 is almost over and Myanmar needs to tackle a number of daunting challenges to assure internal stability. It is a welcoming move that both the government and political parties are seeking opinions about constitutional reform. More encouragingly, the political awareness of people has increased over the recent years. But, when it comes to constitutional amendment, many citizens do not exactly know what all the provisions are about in the constitution. It is particularly important that the constitution, whether it is to be amended or rewritten, serves the interests and reflects the aspirations of the national people and ethnic nationalities in the Union but not a particular party nor a particular organization.

Meanwhile, communal strife in western part of Myanmar has been a real headache for the government in office. It is normal for a multi-faith and multi-ethnic country like Myanmar to go through ethnic strife and interfaith tension at times, but the problem is there are certain political opportunists and religious extremists fomenting hatred between faiths. The government needs to make thorough investigation and bring all the perpetrators of racially and religiously motivated violence to justice. Meanwhile, racial and religious tolerance must be revived to bring back the peaceful coexistence.

Despite the president’s repeated call for mindset change, old habits are still alive at the lower levels of the administration. The bribery and corruption remains one of the high hurdles in the democratization process. Red-tape, coupled with nepotism has been a major hindrance to the effectiveness of the administrative mechanism. Perhaps, the carrot and stick approach is the solution to these problems.

To establish the rule of law, enacting laws alone is just not enough and it is time for a comprehensive approach to bring back the peaceful coexistence and bring all the perpetrators of racially and religiously motivated violence to justice. Meanwhile, racial and religious tolerance must be revived to bring back the peaceful coexistence.

To establish the rule of law, enacting laws alone is just not enough and it is time for a complete rethink how the stakeholders are engaging in the process.

It is undeniable that we are heading in the right direction towards more openness and democracy. Although many reforms of the government have not actually produced tangible results, they are certainly providing a foundation for democracy for the younger generation. But, with taking the ASEAN Chair in 2014, we need to redouble our efforts in moving toward our goal. A sense of urgency is what exactly we need right now.

Earthquake News

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct—A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.4 Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar, about 15 miles east-northeast of Thabeik-kyin about 65 miles north of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 00 hr 26 min 12 sec. M.S.T today announced by Meteorology and Hydrology Department. MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham meets London Mayor and party

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham received Mr. Roger Gifford, Mayor of London and party at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 11 am today.

The meeting focused on providing assistance of Britain in promoting education and health sectors and rural development of Myanmar.

Also present at the call were among those who attended the course. Mr. Roger Gifford.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets Swiss Federal Assembly President, President of Council of States

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann met President of Federal Assembly of Switzerland Mrs. Maya Graf at Swiss Parliament building in Bern on 10 October afternoon.

Mr. Fillippo Lombardi.—MNA

UCSB member recounts Japan visit experience

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct—The Experience Sharing Workshop on the study tour to Japan conducted by the delegates who visited Japan on 23-27 September was held at the Union Civil Services Board, here, this morning, with an opening address by UCSB Chairman Dr Kyaw Kyaw Thu. The delegates were among those who attended the Workshop on Capacity Enhancement of Myanmar Civil Service – 2013 held in Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) organized by UCSB in collaboration with Sasakiwa Peace Foundation of Japan.

It was attended by UCSB members U Khin Maung Aye, Dr Kyaw Kyaw Htay, U Soe Oo, U Than Tun, U Maung Maung Nyun, U Ngun Maung, departmental officials and delegation members.

On behalf of the delegates, UCSB member Dr Kyaw Kyaw Htay, Lecturer Daw Pyone Mya Mya Kyi of the Ministry of Culture, Assistant Director U Kyaw Lwin of the Office of the Union Government and Assistant Director U Myo Nyin Hlaing of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union recounted their experiences during the visit and answered the queries raised by those present.—MNA

Training Course for Basic English and Foreign Service Skills (No. 1/2013) concludes

YANGON, 11 Oct.—The Completion Ceremony of the Training Course for Basic English and Foreign Service Skills (Course No. 1/2013) conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held at Wun mim Yanzabar Hall of the ministry at 10 am today, with a closing address delivered by Deputy Director-General of Training, Research & Foreign Languages Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U Myint Lwin. Also present on the occasion were Deputy Director-General U Myint Lwin, responsible officials of the Training, Research & Foreign Languages Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and retired Myanmar Ambassadors, Professors and Lecturers.

The 10-week course includes subjects related to English proficiency and Diplomatic Skills, contemporary international affairs, negotiation skills, international law, international economic relations, international etiquette, diplomatic and official correspondence and communication skills.

Altogether newly recruited 70 junior service personnel attended the course. MNA
President U Thein Sein, UNSG hold talks …

(from page 1)

his delight that the UN has actively discussed Myanmar’s hopes and future whenever it holds talks about Myanmar in the time of the new government led by President U Thein Sein though the UN could talk about only concerns over Myanmar’s hopes and Myanmar’s hopes and international community would make further cooperation with Myanmar.

Also present at the meeting were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin and U Soe Thane, Deputy Ministers U Tin Oo Lwin and U Ye Htut while the UN Secretary-General was accompanied by advisers Mr Jeffrey Feldman and Ms Noeleen Heyzer, Spokesperson Mr Martin Nesirky, UN coordinator for Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Ms Michelle Gyles-Mc Donnough.

MNA

President of the
Republic of the Union
of Myanmar U Thein
Sein giving an
interview to NHK of
Japan.

MNA

UEC to hold 2015 general election free and fair

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker holds talks with IDEA Secretary-General

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct—Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa has promised that the commission will hold the upcoming 2015- general election free and fair. At the meeting between the commission and political parties, UEC Chairman U Tin Aye also said the commission will announce the schedule of the general election in time and it will never accept things which are not in conformity with the law.

He also sought cooperation from political parties, civil organizations and the people to ensure a free and fair election.

According to the chairman of the UEC, the commission is drawing a strategic plan towards that end.

The meeting was also participated by Secretary of the UEC U Tin Tun, chairmen of region and district election commissions, departmental officials and personnel from 32 political parties.

MNA

Local people to be employed after resumption …

( from page 16)

Next, committee member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko gave an account of matters related to ensuring the rule of law and security in the project area.

Then, committee member Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung explained availability of drinking water and regional development tasks.

Afterwards, deputy ministers, leaders of work committees, and the region ministers reported on their respective works and those present, general matters.

In his concluding address, the committee chairman called for collaborative efforts to gain success in coping with the tasks for socio-economic development of the local people.

The meeting was also attended by Maj-Gen Zarni Win, managing director of Union of Myanmar Economic Holding Limited, responsible persons of UMEHL and Myanmar Wenbao Co., Ltd and departmental officials.

MNA

Chief Justice of the Union receives Chinese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct—Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo received a delegation led by Chinese Ambassador Mr. Yang Houlan at the hall of Supreme Court of the Union, here, this morning.

According to the chairperson of the UEC, the commission is drawing a strategic plan towards that end.

The meeting was also participated by Secretary of the UEC U Tin Tun, chairmen of region and district election commissions, departmental officials and personnel from 32 political parties.

MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission

Nay Pyi Taw
Announcement No. (30/ 2013)
7th Waxing of Thadingyut, 1375 ME
(11th October, 2013)

Two Defence Services Personnel State Hluttaw representatives substituted

According to the request made in accordance with Section 33 of State Hluttaw or Region Hluttaw Election Law to substitute two Defence Services Personnel State Hluttaw representatives nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services in the first multiparty democracy general election held on 7 November 2010, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted the following two Defence Services Personnel State Hluttaw representatives mentioned under the Notification No. 3/2011 of the commission dated 20-1-2011 with personnel shown against them.

Kachin State Hluttaw
(1) BC 34055
Major Aung Than Zaw
Major Aung Khin Oo
Shan State Hluttaw
(2) BC 33102
Major Aung Aung
Major Zaw Myint Win
By order,
(Tin Tun)
Secretary
Union Election Commission
**LOCAL NEWS**

**Knowledge about Anti-Trafficking in Persons, taking census disseminated**

SINGAING, 11 Oct—SINGAING Township Information and Public Relations Department makes field trips to the grassroots level for sharing knowledge as public service media to the local people. The department held talks on prevention against human trafficking and census-taking in the township.

On 8 October morning, they held a similar talk in Shwebontha Village.

Head of Township IPRD Daw Tin Tin Htwe explained the purpose of holding the talks that prevention against trafficking persons depends on the scope of knowledge of the people, the talks were held for many times to make clarify the correct events of the trafficking in persons. She also explained the role of people in taking census for the first time during the 30 years period and its functions.

Next, she distributed pamphlets and books to the village library.

SINGAING Township is formed with four wards and 164 villages. Township IPRD draws a monthly plan for making field trips to the villages and wards so as to organize the educative talks.

**Labour Affairs**

Management of labour affairs undertaken at factories in Myeik

Myeik, 11 Oct—TANINTHAYI Region Minister for Economic and Planning U Thein Lwin meets workers and employers at a cold storage.

At ASK Andaman Cold Storage and the cold storage of Asaungkaung Company in Myeik Township, they met workers and asked labour affairs.

At the meeting hall, the region minister and party met worker representatives of sections of the cold storage, and gave instruction that as number of workers are growing day by day in the factories, employers and employees are to solve labour disputes between them. Both sides are to abide by the prescribed rules and regulations and to sign the contracts for socio-economic development of employers and boosting production of factories and workshops, he said.

Township Labour Dispute Committee participated in the respective sectors. Officials replied to queries raised by those present.

They also visited Vantage Co, Pyae Phyo Tun Co and Kaung Kaung Co and conducted the labour affairs there.—Kyemon-Taninthayi District IPRD

**Construction of SPED Office in Myaung Township coordinated**

MYAUNGAUNG, 11 Oct—A coordination meeting was held for construction of the staff officer office of Sports and Physical Education Department and residence in front of Aungzeya Gymnasium in Myaung Township of Ayeyawady Region recently.

Kay Khaing Oo Co will build the office and quarter.

**Heroin seized in Nawnghkio**

LAŚHIO, 11 Oct—IP Win Min Htwe and party of No. 24 Anti-Drug Squad of Shan State (North) together with witnesses searched the express bus of ShweLaiU bus line driven by U Zaw Myo Htay at the entrance to Nawnghkio at 7.45 am yesterday.

They seized 110 grams of heroin from the soap cases and a mobile phone from the bag of passenger Ngwe Thein (a) Han Win Tun from the seat No. 32.

Nawnghkio Myoma Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against drug trafficker Ngwe Thein (a) Han Win Tun, 24, son of U Win Aung of Koetaungbo Village in Padukkhon Ward of Kanbula of Sagaing Region under Sections 15/19(a)/21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Kyemon-Lashio District IPRD

**Voluntary Affairs**

Uniforms provided to members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade in Muse

Muse, 11 Oct—A ceremony to present uniforms to 339 members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade of Muse Township was held at the township fire station in Muse of Shan State on 4 October.

At first, Township Administrator U Ko Ko Zaw gave uniform to 339 members.

Fire Services Department allotted K 3,390,000 as K 10000 per member to 339 fire brigade members. According to the decision of the committee, the uniforms were bought for the members.

On 30 September, wellwisher U Sein Win of Maung Sein Win and Brother, donated 10 water pumps to be used in fire fighting to the Township Fire Brigade and auxiliary fire brigades in nine wards.

**Presentation of uniforms for members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade in progress in Muse.**

**Meeting on construction of Sports and Physical Education Department in Myaung Township in progress.**

**Taninthayi Region Minister for Economic and Planning U Thein Lwin meets workers and employers at a cold storage.**
Tokyo, 11 Oct — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Friday that Japan should play a leading role in the trans-Pacific free trade negotiations involving 12 countries toward the goal of striking a deal by the end of the year.

“Joining the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations is a far-sighted policy. Japan should play a leading role toward the year-end deal,” Abe told Cabinet members involved in Tokyo’s policymaking on a matter, a day after returning from a trip to Southeast Asia to attend TPP summit talks and other meetings.

In a statement released Tuesday after the TPP summit in Bali, Indonesia, leaders of the 12 negotiating countries hailed the “significant progress” seen in recent months, but noted that negotiators “should now proceed to resolve all outstanding issues.”

With the focus shifting to the difficult tariff-cutting negotiations, Japan’s ruling Liberal Democratic Party has said it plans to examine five sensitive trade areas such as rice and wheat to consider the possibility of abolishing tariffs on some of the areas’ specific items.

But deciding to open up the market is believed to be a challenging process in the country known to have heavily protected its agricultural sector.

Akira Amari, minister in charge of TPP issues, told a press conference Friday that the government will “basically await the outcome” of the discussions taking place in the party, while vowing to work toward achieving national interests as much as possible in the multilateral negotiations.

Japan should play leading role toward year-end TPP talks deal

Two killed in plane crash landing in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 11 Oct — At least two were killed after a small passenger plane crashed near an airport in Malaysia’s Borneo state of Sabah on Thursday, authorities said.

The twin Otter plane of MasWings, a regional airline of the national carrier Malaysia Airlines, was flying from the state capital Kota Kinabalu to the Kudat Area with 16 passengers and crew members on board, the air carrier said in a statement.

An earlier statement said “the aircraft landed short of the runway in Kudat.” Officials said the plane plunged into a residence house near the airport before all 16 on board were rescued. However, a co-pilot and a passenger succumbed to injury later in hospitals while at least one remain in critical conditions.

Malaysia Airlines said the cause of the incident is still under investigation and local media reported that the accident might be caused by bad weather.

Malala Yousafzai speaks of Nobel hopes

NEW YORK, 11 Oct — Pakistan teenager Malala Yousafzai, who was shot in the head by the Taliban for campaigning for girl’s education, spoke on Thursday about the possibility of winning this year’s Nobel Peace Prize and said she might like to be the country’s Prime Minister one day.

A win would “help me to begin this campaign for girls’ education, but the real goal, the most precious goal that I want to get and for which I am thirst and I want to struggle hard for, that is the award of seeing every child to go to school,” she added.

Yousafzai, 16, a favourite among experts and betting agencies to be named the winner of the prestigious prize, which is to be announced on Friday, was in conversation with journalist Christiane Amanpour, at the 92nd Street Y, a cultural centre in Manhattan.

After receiving death threats from the Taliban for defying the militant group with her outspoken views on the right to education, Yousafzai was shot a year ago while on a school bus near her village in Swat in northwestern Pakistan.

“Your quotes, they are heavy, very heavy, and I have to live up to them,” she said of her shooter, describing him as barely older than herself. She recovered after she was flown to Britain for surgery.

Yousafzai started her campaigning by writing a blog in 2009 in which she described how the Taliban prevented girls like her from going to school. — Reuters

Observers call Azerbaijan vote unfair, opposition plans challenge

BAKH, 11 Oct — Opponents of Azerbaijan’s President Ilham Aliyev said on Thursday they would go to court to challenge his election to a third term, rejecting the result of a vote that international monitors said was seriously flawed.

Aliyev, who succeeded his father a decade ago as leader of the oil-producing former Soviet republic, won a third five-year term with nearly 85 percent of the vote in Wednesday’s election.

Standing before a national flag on state television, he thanked Azeris for their support and said he would ensure security in the South Caucasus, where tensions still simmer with neighbour Armenia over a disputed territory.

Opposition candidate Jamal Hasanyan said he aimed to challenge the official result in the Constitutional Court, alleging violations including ballot stuffing and multiple voting.

“This election was neither free or fair,” he said.

Aliyev, 51, has overseen an economic boom that has raised living standards in the Caspian Sea nation, which pumps oil and gas to Europe, bypassing Russia. He has allowed Washington to use it as a transit point for sending troops to Afghanistan.

But he has faced criticism at home and abroad over his treatment of opponents. Media are tightly controlled, protests quashed, and one rights group said a pre-election crackdown had doubled the number of political prisoners.

International monitors from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) said the vote was marred by a “restrictive media environment” and allegations of intimidation of candidates and voters.

“The limitations placed on the fundamental freedoms of assembly, association and expression, the lack of a level playing field and the allegations of intimidation, all came in the lead up to an election day that our observers found to be seriously flawed,” OSCE official Tana de Zulueta said.

Monitors reported clear indications of ballot stuffing at 37 polling stations, and said the counting was assessed negatively at an unprecedented 58 percent of stations observed.

An OSCE news conference degenerated into chaos as journalists from pro-government media drowned out the observers and shouted “The OSCE is biased.”

The US State Department said Washington agreed with the OSCE that the election “fell short of international standards.”

In a statement, it urged the Azeri government to respect freedom of peaceful assembly, association and speech and to prevent violence in the post-electoral period.

Hasanyan, 61, a former lawmaker who has united Azerbaijan’s fractured opposition for the first time in a presidential election, told journalists: “When (officials) announce the final official results of the election and declare Ilham Aliyev as the president, we will address the Constitutional Court with a demand to cancel the election results.”

Supporters of Azerbaijan’s incumbent President Ilham Aliyev celebrate the victory in the country’s presidential election in Baku, capital of Azerbaijan, on 9 Oct, 2013.—XINHUA

Monitors from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) attend a news conference in Baku on 10 Oct, 2013.—Reuters

Kyushu Railway Co unveils to the Press on 10 Oct, 2013, the DX Suite, the most expensive guest room of its Seven Stars luxury cruise train service, during the train’s test run in Kagoshima Prefecture. The railway operator commonly known as JR Kyushu is set to launch the Seven Stars service on 15 October.

Kyodo News

Osman Yousafzai, who was shot in a decade ago as leader of the oil-producing former Soviet republic, won a third five-year term with nearly 85 percent of the vote in Wednesday’s election.

Standing before a national flag on state television, he thanked Azeris for their support and said he would ensure security in the South Caucasus, where tensions still simmer with neighbour Armenia over a disputed territory.

Opposition candidate Jamal Hasanyan said he aimed to challenge the official result in the Constitutional Court, alleging violations including ballot stuffing and multiple voting. "This election was neither free or fair," he said.

Aliyev, 51, has overseen an economic boom that has raised living standards in the Caspian Sea nation, which pumps oil and gas to Europe, bypassing Russia. He has allowed Washington to use it as a transit point for sending troops to Afghanistan.

But he has faced criticism at home and abroad over his treatment of opponents. Media are tightly controlled, protests quashed, and one rights group said a pre-election crackdown had doubled the number of political prisoners.

International monitors from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) said the vote was marred by a "restrictive media environment" and allegations of intimidation of candidates and voters.

"The limitations placed on the fundamental freedoms of assembly, association and expression, the lack of a level playing field and the allegations of intimidation, all came in the lead up to an election day that our observers found to be seriously flawed," OSCE official Tana de Zulueta said.

Monitors reported clear indications of ballot stuffing at 37 polling stations, and said the counting was assessed negatively at an unprecedented 58 percent of stations observed.

An OSCE news conference degenerated into chaos as journalists from pro-government media drowned out the observers and shouted "The OSCE is biased."

The US State Department said Washington agreed with the OSCE that the election "fell short of international standards."

In a statement, it urged the Azeri government to respect freedom of peaceful assembly, association and speech and to prevent violence in the post-electoral period.

Hasanyan, 61, a former lawmaker who has united Azerbaijan’s fractured opposition for the first time in a presidential election, told journalists: "When (officials) announce the final official results of the election and declare Ilham Aliyev as the president, we will address the Constitutional Court with a demand to cancel the election results."
**US, Vietnam sign nuclear trade agreement**

**Bandar Seri Begawan, 11 Oct**—The United States and Vietnam on Thursday signed a pact that would allow the transfer of nuclear technology to the Southeast Asian nation and open the way for US investment in the burgeoning industry, in another sign that Washington is seeking stronger economic and strategic ties in the region.

US Secretary of State John Kerry said the US-Vietnam Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement would allow US firms to tap Vietnam’s future nuclear power market, although the State Department said the deal will not allow Vietnam to enrich or reprocess US-origin nuclear materials.

“This agreement will create numerous opportunities for our businesses,” Kerry told Vietnam’s Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh on the sidelines of an Asian summit in Brunei. “Obviously our nuclear cooperation is quite significant.” Vietnam is working with Russia to build its first nuclear plant in 2014 for completion in 2020 in the south-central Province of Ninh Thuan, as demand for energy grows rapidly in response to economic growth of around 5 percent a year.

It has also signed an agreement with a Japanese consortium to develop a second nuclear power plant in the same province, with two reactors to become operational in 2024-2025.

Vietnam has the second-largest market after China for nuclear power in East Asia, which was expected to grow to $50 billion by 2030, according to Kerry. **Reuters**

**S Korea launches joint maritime drills with US, Japan**

**Seoul, 11 Oct**—South Korea’s Defence Ministry said on Thursday that its naval forces launched a joint maritime drill with the United States and Japan in waters off the Korean Peninsula amid mounting tensions with the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK).

“SAREX training exercises, which were delayed due to typhoon, will be staged from today to tomorrow,” Wi Yong-seop, spokesman of the Ministry of National Defence, told a Press briefing.

The spokesman said that the drill, which contains a US aircraft carrier, would be carried out for a humanitarian purpose, not for the military one, to help search and rescue wrecked ships effectively.

The 97,000-ton, nuclear-powered super-carrier USS George Washington arrived in the South Korean port city of Busan last week to conduct joint drills with Seoul and Tokyo.

The exercise was originally scheduled to be staged for three days from Tuesday, but it was postponed due to bad weather.

The training would include Aegis destroyers of South Korea and Japan along with the US super-carrier, which is capable of loading some 70 units of fighter jet, anti-submarine helicopter and early warning aircraft.

The joint drill came amid escalating tensions on the peninsula after Pyongyang placed all military forces on full alert in protest against the joint naval maneuver.

The DPRK had also slammed a joint strategy signed between Seoul and Washington last week that will allow the allies to take preemptive strikes against the impending nuclear attacks from Pyongyang. **Xinhua**

**AFGHANISTAN**

**Kabul, 11 Oct**—Exactly 12 years ago on 7 Oct, 2001, the US-led military coalition forces invaded Afghanistan to topple the Taliban regime that harbored Osama Bin Laden, the alleged mastermind of the deadly 9/11 attacks on New York and Washington.

Branding the Taliban and al-Qaeda network as terrorist groups, the US-led military offensive, using massive air, land and sea assets, easily drove the Taliban from Kabul and other cities that they controlled.

Because of its brutal rule, most Afghan welcomed the collapse of the Taliban and the emergence of an American-backed regime. With the support of the international community, the Afghans were given the opportunity to rebuild their country.

With the ouster of the Taliban regime, the decades-long isolation of the country was over and there was a feeling of hope among Afghans for a brighter future.

But this feeling of exuberance was short-lived as the Taliban and other insurgents have resurfaced and threatened the peace and stability of the country with stepped-up suicide bombings and frontal attacks against government facilities killing security forces and civilians alike.

In a strange twist of events, the United States, instead of pressing for a military solution to the continued violence caused by the Taliban, is now urging the Kabul government to negotiate with the armed group.

This apparent political gambit of the United States has raised concerns among Afghans, particularly among Afghan women, who had suffered the most during Taliban’s reign of terror.

Obviously encouraged by Washington’s policy shift, the Taliban opened a liaison office in Doha last June, but the initial talks with the United States were aborted after the government of President Hamid Karzai strongly protested over the raising of the Taliban flag and the emblem of Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, the official name of Taliban, in its Doha office.

**Sydney braces for hottest October day on record**

**Sydney, 11 Oct**—Sydney faces what could be its hottest October day on record on Thursday, with temperatures expected to hit 42 degrees Celsius in the far west, local media reported.

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology on Thursday issued a severe weather warning for damaging winds for people across southern and central New South Wales (NSW).

“Gusty, strong to gale force west to northwest winds will persist ahead of this front over the Alps, before increasing over the remainder of southern and central NSW during Thursday morning and afternoon,” the bureau warned.

Gusty winds of up to 100 km an hour are forecast for Sydney.

“A low pressure trough is drawing the heat down into NSW and those strong north westerly winds drawing temperatures ... much hotter weather near the coast in NSW,” meteorologist Ben Domensino told Macquarie Radio Network.

Meanwhile, the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) has warned of potential catastrophic danger for some locations as temperatures rise.

Firefighters are standing ready throughout the state.

“There are also 26 strike teams pre-deployed into strategic locations and also around other areas of extreme risk,” RFS spokesman Brendan Doyle told the Australian Associated Press (AAP).

He said fires could start easily under these conditions and have the chance of affecting people in a matter of minutes.” **Xinhua**
Taylor Swift to receive country music songwriting award

LOS ANGELES, 11 Oct—Country-pop singer Taylor Swift will be honored as this year’s songwriter and artist of the year by the Nashville Songwriters Association International, making her the only artist to win the award six times, her record company said on Wednesday.

The 23-year-old singer and writer of pop crossover hits “We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together” and “I Knew You Were Trouble” will be officially named the award’s recipient on Sunday, Big Machine Records said.

The annual award recognizes country music’s songwriters who scored top 30 hits during the past year.

Swift’s win pulls her ahead of five-time winners Vince Gill and Alan Jackson. She is also the youngest person to have won the award.

Her fourth album, “Red,” has sold 6 million copies worldwide since it was released last October. Swift and newcomer singer-songwriter Kacey Musgraves lead the nominees with six nods each at next month’s Country Music Association Awards. (Reuters)

Timberlake celebrates return to music with second No 1 album this year

LOS ANGELES, 11 Oct—Pop singer Justin Timberlake scored his second chart-topping album this year on Wednesday as his latest record debuted at No 1 on the weekly Billboard 200 album chart, capping the singer’s successful return to the musical spotlight.

Timberlake’s “The 20/20 Experience - 2 of 2,” which follows the first set of 10 songs released in March this year, sold 350,000 copies in its first week, according to figures compiled by Nielsen SoundScan.

The first instalment of “The 20/20 Experience” sold 968,000 copies, the biggest opening week sales of the year so far. Timberlake, 32, returned to music after more than a five-year hiatus, during which he focused on his acting career. His debut single “Suit & Tie” featuring rapper Jay Z became a chart-topper in January, and his album was received well by fans and critics.

Other new albums in the top 10 this week include 16-year-old New Zealand singer-songwriter Lorde at No 3 with her debut album “Pure Heroine,” selling 129,000 copies.

The album has been driven by the popularity of the single “Royals,” which topped Billboard’s digital songs chart this week, selling more than 2 million download copies in the United States. Lorde’s album also garnered nearly 6 million US plays on online streaming platform Spotify in its first week.

Country singer Tyler Farr entered the chart at No 5 with his debut album “Redneck Crazy,” while Los Angeles sister trio Haim came in at No 6 with the critically acclaimed debut album “Days Are Gone.” (Reuters)

Actress Hayden Panettiere
Panettiere, boxer Vladimir Klitschko to marry

LOS ANGELES, 11 Oct—American actress Hayden Panettiere and Ukrainian boxing champion Vladimir Klitschko are engaged, Panettiere announced on Wednesday.

Daytime talk show host Kelly Ripa coaxed the news out of the 24-year-old actress, star of the ABC television drama “Nashville,” by commenting on a large ring on Panettiere’s finger. “I think it speaks for itself.” Panettiere said on the US syndicated talk show “Live with Kelly & Michael.”

The actress then said “I am” when Ripa asked her directly if she was engaged. Panettiere added that a wedding date has not been set.

Panettiere’s publicist later confirmed that the actress and the 37-year-old heavyweight champion boxer were engaged.

Klitschko, who won an Olympic gold medal in 1996, and Panettiere began their relationship in 2009 before breaking it off in 2011 and rekindling it again.

It will be the first marriage for both. (Reuters)

Sylvester Stallone to speak Hindi words in Escape Plan

NEW DELHI, 11 Oct—Actor Sylvester Stallone will be seen mouthing Hindi words in his forthcoming movie Escape Plan, which is distributing the film in India, confirmed the news.

Stallone had his stint with Bollywood when he starred along with actor Akshay Kumar in the 2009 movie “Kambakkht Ishq,” the casting of which is reported to have taken a toll on Stallone’s career in Hollywood.

The actor is currently promoting his upcoming movie “Bullet,” which is releasing this October in India.

Stallone has used Hindi words like kaise ho, Pyaar and Ziddi to communicate the plan to escape from the jail. (PTI)

Cheryl Cole splits from beau Tre Holloway

LONDON, 11 Oct—Singer Cheryl Cole and US dancer Tre Holloway have reportedly ended their relationship earlier this summer. The Girls Aloud singer allegedly called time on her 14-month romance with the US dancer this summer because their hectic work schedules and the distance between them proved too difficult, reported Daily Mirror.

“Cheryl and Tre had a brilliant year together but the pressures of long-distance dating eventually became too much. Although Cheryl does a lot of work in America, often it is in New York, which is still a good six-hour flight away. The time difference, plus the hectic nature of Cheryl’s working schedule, eventually took their toll. Cheryl realised that if they weren’t going to live together, realistically, the relationship, just wasn’t going to go anywhere,” said a source. Los Angeles-based Holloway, 28, refused to move to England while Cole was adamant about staying in the UK.—PTI
Wayne Rooney’s new agent, Sebastien Rivero, said on Thursday that the 27-year-old was not going to play against Ireland and then for England if he plays on Tuesday for Tuesday’s final Euro 2016 qualifier against Hungary in Amsterdam on Friday.

Van Persie, on the verge of matching the record tally of goals for the Dutch national team, was hurt in last week’s Champions League match against Shakhtar Donetsk.

“I got an enormous stamp on my toe and I feared it had been broken, but luckily a scan showed it was not,” Van Persie told a media conference.

“I played on Sunday (for Manchester United against Sunderland) but the injury has not got better.”

He would continue training and a final decision on his playing would be made closer to kick off.

If he did not play on Friday he would stay with the squad in a bid to be fit for Tuesday’s final Euro 2016 qualifier against Turkey. The Dutch have already secured a berth at next year’s World Cup finals in Brazil.—Reuters
South Lao flood damage exceeds 60 million USD

VIENNATNE, 11 Oct — Flood damage from last month’s storms in the south of Laos has reached 500 billion kip (60 million US dollars), according to state-run newspaper Vientiane Times on Thursday.

Provincial Department of Labour and Social Welfare Deputy Director Mr Soudalay told local media that the agricultural sector of Saravan, the hardest-hit province, has sustained about 249 billion kip (31.66 million US dollars) worth of damage. “We lost a lot, with rice fields in Khongxay and Vapy districts hit especially hard in the floods,” he said.

Severe storms caused widespread flooding and torrential rain in the south of Laos between 18 and 24 September, causing significant damage throughout four provinces.

Approximately 18,000 hectares of agricultural land was affected in Saravan including the destruction of irrigation and other important agricultural infrastructure. Soudalay said that provincial authorities were working with local farmers by supplying them with three month’s worth of rice for consumption as well as seeds to replenish the destroyed crops.

In Champassak province, 120,000 people were affected and four people died as flood waters struck. Nine houses were completely swept away in the disaster. Two drinking water factories, 18 brick factories, 44 rice mills, and a multitude of wells and vehicles were also damaged.

Provincial authorities said that local people need another 1,800 tonnes of rice and another 3,000 tonnes in the long term. Meanwhile in the north of Laos, the provinces are still recovering from separate flooding resulting from tropical storm Jebi which passed through Laos on 20 and 21 August, killing 17.—Xinhua

Federer dumped out of Shanghai Open by Monfils

SHANGHAI, 11 Oct — Fifth seed Roger Federer was dumped out of the Shanghai Open, losing to Frenchman Gael Monfils 6-4, 6-7(5), 6-3 in the third round on Thursday, while top seed Novak Djokovic progressed.

After dropping the first set, the 17-time grand slam title winner Federer was on the brink of going out in straight sets at 3-5 down in the second, and later 3-5 down in the tie-break before finding four straight points.

Monfils then broke the Swiss former world number one in the fourth game of the decider.

It was Monfils’ second victory over Federer in eight meetings, and leaves the Swiss battle to reach the end-of-season ATP World Tour Finals for the 12th consecutive year.

“I knew that I choked on this forehand at 5-4 (in the tie-break),” Monfils told the tour website (www.atpworldtour.com).

“Then I changed my ideas because I was maybe nervous, too. Even (through) I was tired, I tried to play more aggressively sometimes, going more for my shots and it worked.

“Roger is a good win for me. I feel a bit sorry for him because I know he’s running for London. But it’s tennis. He had to go through.”

Monfils will play top seed and defending champion Djokovic in the quarter-finals after the Serb defeated Fabio Fognini of Italy 6-3, 6-3.

Roger Federer of Switzerland reacts after losing a point during his men’s singles tennis match against Gael Monfils of France at the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament in Shanghai on 10 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS

World number one Rafa Nadal of Spain overcame Argentine Carlos Berlocq 6-1, 7-6(5), 6-6, with sixth seed Juan Martin del Potro, Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, German Florian Mayer and Nicolas Almagro of Spain also advancing.

Del Potro went through after German Tommy Haas withdrew due to injury, while Tsonga beat Japan’s Kei Nishikori 7-6(5), 6-0.

Monfils runner-up David Ferrer 6-4, 6-3 and Almagro beat Czech fourth seed Tomas Berdych in three sets.

Xinhua

Fresh graduates commissioned to Afghan National Police

HERAT, (Afghanistan), 11 Oct — Two hundred fresh graduates were commissioned to Afghan National Police (ANP) rank in western province of Herat, said the provincial police chief.

General Samiullah Qatra told Xinhua that the officers received training under the NATO and Afghan trainers in the province, 640 km west of national capital Kabul.

“The newly officers are ready to provide security for western region, particularly during the upcoming presidential and provincial councils elections slated for April 5 next year,” the police official noted.

Afghan army and police took the full operation lead from United States and NATO troops in June.

The war-torn country is due to take over the leadship of its own security duties from foreign troops by the end of 2014 when majority of NATO and US forces leave the country.

Xinhua

MYANMAR TV
(23-11-2013, Saturday)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:00am</td>
<td>1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Saydaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:15am</td>
<td>2. Mytya Pawana By Min Gun Saydaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:35am</td>
<td>3. Dance of National Races</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:45am</td>
<td>4. Documentary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00am</td>
<td>5. News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:20am</td>
<td>6. Business News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:45am</td>
<td>7. Hyper Sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>8. News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:25am</td>
<td>9. India Drama Series</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>10. News/International News/International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:25am</td>
<td>11. The Nine Precept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:50am</td>
<td>12. Documentary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15am</td>
<td>13. News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:05pm</td>
<td>14. TV Drama Series</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:15pm</td>
<td>15. Shwe Yin Kyhon Thane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>16. New/International News/WeatherReport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:25pm</td>
<td>17. Round Up Of The Week’s TV Local News</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL
(13-10-13 09:30 am MST)

* Local News
* Myanmar Toys...For your eye-catching
* World News
* Myanmar Puppet
* Local News
* Ngapali, Unique Spot To Relax
* World News
* Tapestry-A Unique Combination Of Painting and Craftsmanship
* Local News
* Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Ep-1) Mingalar Byuha
* World News
* Fortune Teller: “Yan Moe Aung”
* Local News
* Shan Novices to be
* World News
* Myanmar Masterclass: Cubism
* Creative Costume of Kayah Nationals
* World News
* SEA GAMES (Pencak Silat)
* Local News
* Enchanting Rakhine Land
* World News
* Snow Flakes…Scenic Confluence To Kachin State
* Short Trip With Steve (Taungyi Trip)
* World News
* Myanmar Woman Equestrian Champion
* A Real Dream Of Accidental Gift
* The eel business

R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.
President U Thein Sein and wife back from Brunei Darussalam

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received Mr Jun Kobayashi, Head of Myanmar Bureau of NHK of Japan and replied to questions at the interview at the government guest house in Bandar Seri Begawan of Brunei Darussalam at 9.30 am local standard time today.

The President also gave interviews to Chief of Asian Bureau of Asahi Shimbun of Japan Mr Ono and Correspondent Mr Igarashi of Yangon Branch and local media Myanmar International TV.

At 12 noon local standard time, President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win and party left Bandar Seri Begawan by special flight and arrived back at Nay Pyi Taw at 2.15 pm.

The President and party were welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Vice-President Dr Sai Maik Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hla, Union ministers and their wives, the commander, Charge d’ Affaires ai of the Brunei Embassy Ms Syamim Nabilah Daud and officials.—MNA

Myanmar to step up efforts for disaster reduction, preparedness

State lottery ticket price hike to be addressed by adoption of computerized lottery system

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct—Measures are being carried out to educate the people in order to avoid the use farmlands and boundaries which are set as ancient zones for other purposes and to take actions against encroachment and illegal settlement on the farmlands and ancient zones, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun responded to the question raised by MP U Aung Kyaing of NyangU Constituency at the eighth-day Pyithu Hluttaw session today.

Town, village and city plans are being formulated based on the provisions stated in the section 17 of conservation of cultural heritage law 1998, he added.

U Aung Kyaing said he was satisfied with the answer of the deputy minister. Regarding the question raised by MP U Win Myint of Myingyan Constituency on whether a plan to take actions against the State lottery ticket price hike in the market, Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Lin Aung replied that a study on the computerized lottery system applied in world nations is being conducted and the matter of the price of a state lottery ticket which is higher than K 200 would be addressed if the system was adopted.

“Only 200 kyats each, the official price of a ticket, goes to the State budget. People are not willing to buy a state lottery ticket at a price of more than K 200. It is required to take necessary measures for that. I will have to do more if no action comes to the realization,”’ questioned U Win Myint said during an interview with him.

The ninth-day Pyithu Hluttaw session will be held on 14 October. —MNA

Local people to be employed after resumption of Latpadaungtaung project

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Oct—In his address at a work coordination meeting of the committee for implementation of the investigation commission’s report on Latpadaungtaung copper mining project held at the President Office today, Union Minister at President Office U Hla Tun, committee chairman, highlighted that employment for the local people would be made after project works have been resumed.

He called for heightening public awareness of the implementation of socioeconomic development. He reaffirmed that fulfillment of requirements for all-round development of Latpadaungtaung region will be carried out with the rule of law high on the agenda. He stressed the need to stop the bad habits of avoiding responsibilities in old days as authority has been given to those concerned to take responsibility and accountability in dealing with various levels of tasks. With the acceleration of works being implemented by four work committees, long-term plans are to be carried out in accord with the laws, rules and regulations.

(See page 9)