Chinese premier urges further amity, practical cooperation with Thailand

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets Austrian President, Austrian National Council President

NAY PSI TAW, 12 Oct — At the invitation of Mrs Barbara Prammer, President of the National Council of Austria, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann arrived at Vienna of Austria at 8.30 am yesterday.

The Speaker was welcomed at the airport by Myanmar Ambassador U Soe Nwe and officials of National Council of Austria. At 10 am, the Speaker held talks with Dr Heinz Fischer, President of Austria, at the Presidential Palace in Vienna, Austria, yesterday morning over bilateral friendship and cooperation.

The speaker also met with Mrs Barbara Prammer, President of the National Council (See page 9)

Kandawgyi Aquarium to be upgraded

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

The Kandawgyi Aquarium in Bahan Township will be upgraded to a facility of world standard within two years to showcase both fresh water and seawater species. Yangon Region Fisheries Department invited tenders in August for disseminating knowledge on aquatic animals and for recreation under the project.

Myanmar Cricket Federation (MCF) U Kyi Min introduced cricket players from both sides to MCF President U Than Win and executives. It was attended by MCF Vice-President of U Kyaw Kyaw and executives, invited guests and enthusiasts.

A dinner was hosted to the Hong Kong cricketers at the Corriander Leaf restaurant in Ahlon Township.

Myanmar-Hong Kong men’s friendly cricket match held

YANGON, 12 Oct — Myanmar-Hong Kong Men’s friendly cricket match took place at Shwe Pin Lone Cricket Oval in Dagon Mynothit (North) Township here today.

General Secretary of Myanmar Cricket Federation (MCF) U Kyi Min introduced cricket players from both sides to MCF President U Than Win and executives. It was attended by MCF Vice-President of U Kyaw Kyaw and executives, invited guests and enthusiasts.

A dinner was hosted to the Hong Kong cricketers at the Corriander Leaf restaurant in Ahlon Township.

Storm Phailin not move to Myanmar

NAY PSI TAW, 12 Oct — According to the observations at 17:30 hrs M.S.T today, the Very Severe Cyclonic Storm “PHAILIN” over West Central Bay of Bengal is centered at about 470 miles West-Southwest of Kanyakuru (Myanmar) and 120 miles Northeast of Vishakhapatnam (India), 80 miles Southwest of Puri (India). It is forecast to move Northwestwards and maximum wind speed is estimated 100-120 miles per hour near the cyclone center.

Under the influence of Cyclonic Storm, occasional squalls with rough sea will be experienced Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 40 mph.

The present stage of the severe cyclonic storm is coded yellow stage and it is not moving towards Myanmar coasts. Trawlers, vessels and ships are advised to advert possible danger by cyclone.

Japan could find itself in US shoes at G-20 in near future

9.7 ml USD grant for Lao food security

Indonesia, India aim to boost trade, investment

Malaysian ruling party kicks off crucial party elections

Russia plans state-backed Web search engine named after Sputnik

Photo taken on 12, Oct. 2013 shows the scene of an oil tanker explosion at a shipyard in Zhenhai District of Ningbo, east China’s Zhejiang Province. Seven people were confirmed dead and another injured in an oil tanker explosion happening around 8:40 a.m. on Saturday, according to the local government.—XINHUA
Public announcement for MRTV’s transition from analog to digital broadcasting system

NAV PI TAW, 12 Oct—With advancements in broadcasting technology, Myanmar Radio and Television will introduce an AASEN 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 (Pyinmana) and Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon). A total of 21 TV broadcast stations in Myitkyina, Taunggyi, Kengtung, Lashio, Sittway, Minbu, Kalay (Kennedy), Falam, Popa, Mekkila, Toungoo, Nyuangshwe, Bago, Pyay, Loikaw, Mawlamyine, Hpa-an, Kyaunggon, 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, 110 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 MPEG-4 tuner and by joining the analogue television with DVB-T2 MPEG-4 Set-top Box. Programmes will be broadcast from 6 am to 11 pm daily through five channels—MRTV Channel, Myanmar International (MI) Channel, Hlutaw 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 Hmawby and Hlegu Townships to the north, Kungyangon and Kawmun Townships to the south, Thongwa and Kayan Townships to the east and Twantay Township to the west, from Sagaing station at 3 KW with frequency (CH-31) Madaya to the north, Wundwin to the south and Paheungyi to the east and Myanmar to the west, from Nay Pyi Taw (Pyinmana) at 3 KW with frequency (CH-30) Shweyin in Tatkon Township to the north, Thagara Town to the south, Yezin and Taungkhaung to the east and Taungnyo to the west and from Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon) station at 1 KW with frequency (CH-23) the junction at the entrance to Pyaybwe to the north, Kyitaungkan to the south, Thabyekon and Nauk Both-O villages to the east and Myaungmyeik and Thayakwin 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.

KBZ International Insurance opens Mon State office

Mawlameine, 12 Oct—KBZ Insurance Co Ltd opened its Mon State Office at KBZ Mawlamyine Branch at No 75 on Kyaukmeethwayon Street in Mawlamyine in Mon State on 10 October morning.

Traffic rules lectured in Kyaukpaungadu

KYAUKPAUNGADU, 12 Oct—Township Education Office and Township Police Force jointly organized the educative talks on traffic rules to students at basic education schools in Kyaukpaungadu Township.

On 8 October, Commander of Township Police Station Police Captain Myint Aung gave talks on traffic rules to the students of BEMS in Layya Village and presented stationery to them.
**WORLD**

**Chinese premier urges further amity, practical cooperation with Thailand**

Visiting Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (L) and his Thai counterpart Yingluck Shinawatra attend a joint Press conference after their meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, on 11 Oct, 2013. —Xinhua

**SKorea to host regional security forum to curb WMD proliferation**

SEOUL, 12 Oct—South Korea will host the second round of its high-level multilateral security forum in Seoul next month to discuss how to curb proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

The Seoul Defence Dialogue (SDD), a vice ministerial-level regional security forum held first in Seoul last year, will be held in Seoul again for three days from 11 November to discuss how to halt the spread of WMD and boost regional security cooperation. South Korea’s Defence Ministry said in a Press release on Friday. The forum was scheduled to bring together vice or assistant minister-level defence officials from 20 Asia-Pacific countries and two international organizations, including the United Nations and the European Union.

Among the participants would be those from China, the United States, South Korea, Russia, Japan, Canada, India, Australia, New Zealand, Vietnam, Singapore, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Mongolia.

“China and the US have yet to pick their participants, but they are reviewing the participation of vice or assistant minister-level officials,” Army Col Moon Sang-kyoon, director-general of the arm’s control division at the Defence Ministry, told foreign correspondents in Seoul at a pre-briefing.

Moon said that the forum would focus on the WMD non-proliferation, which needs cooperation from countries, adding that ongoing security threats in the region were increasing.

Obama and Republicans search for a deal on US fiscal impasse

President Barack Obama and congressional Republicans headed toward resolving their fiscal impasse on Friday, but struggled to agree on the length and terms of a short-term deal to increase the US debt limit and reopen the government.

Obama met Senate Republicans at the White House and spoke by phone to House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) and the House Republican Caucus for a meeting with US President Barack Obama at the White House in Washington on 11 Oct, 2013. —REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 12 Oct—President Barack Obama and congressional Republi- can leaders inched toward resolving their fiscal impasse on Friday, but struggled to agree on the length and terms of a short-term deal to increase the US debt limit and reopen the government.

Obama and Republicans search for a deal on US fiscal impasse

President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (PA) Hugh Harley (R) and NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen attend the opening ceremony of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (PA) 2013 annual session in Dubrovnik, Croatia, on 11 Oct, 2013. The assembly opened its 2013 annual session here Friday. —Xinhua

**Draft UN statement says nukes not to be used “under any circumstances”**

NEW YORK, 12 Oct—A draft of a joint statement on nuclear disarmament that Japan has decided to join in crafting along with other countries for release at the United Nations says nuclear arsenals should never be used again “under any circumstances” in the interest of humanity’s survival.

The draft, obtained by Kyodo News, also says the inhuman nature of atomic weapons “became evident from the moment of their first use,” apparently alluding to Hiroshima, the first city devastated by a nuclear explosion in history.

Similar UN statements were issued three times in the past. But Japan did not endorse them on the grounds that a reference to nukes should not be used “under any circumstances” would contradict Japan’s policy of relying on the US “nuclear umbrella.”

In a shift of position, Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida on Friday announced that Tokyo would endorse the joint statement. A group of countries are currently fine-tuning the wording of the document expected to be unveiled on Thursday or later, diplomats said.

The draft statement says nuclear weapons use would cause devastating consequences with “deep implications for human survival; for our environment; for socio-economic stabilisation programmes; and for the health of future generations.”

**Kyodo News**

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**Kyodo News**
**Science & Technology**

**Without grand plans for China, US, Sony set to lag in smartphones**

**New Light of Myanmar**

**Tokyo, 12 Oct—** Kazuo Hirai’s plan to restore Sony Corp to lastings profitability rests in large part on its smartphones leapfrogging rivals to become the world’s third-biggest sellers after the Apple iPhone and Samsung’s Galaxy series.

But that goal remains some way off, Sony’s CEO, installed last year with a brief to turn the serial loss maker into the world’s third-biggest sellers after the Apple iPhone and Samsung’s Galaxy series. Hirai has been unable to compete in China with homegrown brands from ZTE to Coolpad despite contracts with the three largest carriers. Sony is not among the top five smartphone brands in either of those markets, according to research firm Gartner.

Its global share of the smartphone market was a modest 2.2 percent in the second quarter of this year, according to research firm Kantar, trailing the likes of LG Electronics Inc and Lenovo Group Ltd as well as Apple Inc and Samsung Electronics. Hirai has positioned mobile devices as one of the three pillars for his turnaround of the company’s electronics unit, which relied on help from the US for the US and China.” Hirai told a gathering of journalists. “It’s not realistic to try to do everything at once. In the US we’ll start gradually.” In the US, only the fourth-largest carrier T-Mobile US Inc offers Sony smartphones. Meanwhile, Sony has been unable to compete in China with homegrown brands from ZTE to Coolpad despite contracts with the three largest carriers. Sony is not among the top five smartphone brands in either of those markets, according to research firm Gartner.

**Russia plans state-backed Web search engine named after Sputnik**

**Moscow, 12 Oct—** State-controlled telecoms group Rostelecom plans an internet search engine named after the Sputnik satellite, Vedomosti newspaper said on Friday, though analysts said the aim to muscle into the highly competitive Russian market was doomed. The government has made moves to boost control over the Internet, but a state-backed search engine, to be called www.sputnik.ru, would face leading search engine company Yandex, with 62 percent of the market, US giant Google and Mail.Ru.

“Search engines are a completely different area from the telecoms service business in which Rostelecom is involved,” said VTB analyst Ivan Kim in a research note. “With its lack of expertise, the venture is unlikely to meet with success.” Rostelecom did not immediately reply to a request for comment about the project, to be named after the first man-made satellite, which was launched in October 1957. The new search engine may have to be used by state institutions as a default tool, said Vedomosti, citing sources at Rostelecom and other Internet companies in its report. It said the project had cost $20 million so far.

Kim said the plan looked like it was imposed on Rostelecom by the state and would most likely be a cash drain. Russia, with the largest internet audience in Europe, has increased state control over the Web, including launching a blacklist of sites distributing content such as child pornography, but which critics said could boost censorship. Rostelecom is trying to hire developers from rivals to work on the search engine project, expected to be launched in the first quarter of 2014, Vedomosti added. The project has so far indexed about half of the Russian Internet, it said.

**Mandalar Region**

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

**Bagan and Nyaung Oo**

Bagan was the seat of power of the First Myanmar Empire, founded by King Anawrahta. The ancient temples and golden pagodas are symbols of the time when Theravada Buddhism first flourished in the country.

**Shwezigon Pagoda (Nyaung Oo)**

This golden-domed pagoda was left unfinished on King Anawrahta’s death and completed by his successor, King Kyansit-tha. On the pagoda platform, there is a pavilion with carved scenes in high relief of the Jataka tales and in another ancient figures of spirit worship.

**Ananda Temple**

This is one of the most beautiful temples at Bagan, built by King Kyansit-tha in 1090. The corridors are lined with glazed-clay plaques portraying scenes from Jataka tales and the Buddha’s life. There are 1,447 plaques and they are the best of those at Bagan. The temple houses four 9.7 metre [32 feet] high gilded wooden Buddha images, at each cardinal point. A brick monastery next to the temple has 18th century murals.

**Myinkaba Gu Byauk Gyi Temple**

It was built by Prince Rajakuma who was content to allow his nephew, Aluang Sithu, to be named crown prince instead of him. The murals, protected from sunlight inside this dark temple, are spectacular.

**Thathyinnyu Temple**

King Aluang Sithu was the donor of this magnificent, white-washed temple, the tallest in Bagan at 64 metres [201 feet]. It is one of the most beautiful temples of Bagan.

**Shwesandaw Pagoda**

It is a high pagoda with stairways on its four sides. Visitors like to climb up the western face to view sunsets and there is a handrail for safety.

**Shinbin Thalyaung Temple**

Inside this long, low hall of brick is a large reclining Buddha image in the pose of death, for the head rests on a pillow and is not supported by the hand.

**Shwe Gu Gyi Temple**

This small and beautiful temple was built by King Aluang Sithu, and there in his feeble old age he was smothered to death by his son, Narathu. This is one of the few temples that can be climbed to the roof, on narrow stairs cut into the thick walls.

**Dhammayan Gyi Temple**

This hulking red-brick temple was built by King Narathu in the early 12th century. The mortar holding the bricks is so thin it is barely visible but so strong that even during earthquakes the temple remained unsathed.

**Lawkananda Pagoda**

This lovely pagoda looks over Ayeyarwady River from a cliff top, its gold plate shining in the sun. This was an important wharf in the ancient days.

**Sulamani Temple**

Built by King Narapati Sithu this redbrick temple features delicate masonry work and is a beautiful, majes- tic structure. There are beautiful frescoes from the later Konbaung period.
Researchers identify protein linking exercise to brain health

WASHINGTON, 12 Oct — US researchers said on Friday that a protein that is increased during endurance exercise may help boost brain health. Researchers from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School found that the protein, called FNDC5, turned on genes that promote brain health and encourage the growth of new nerves involved in learning and memory, when given to non-exercising mice.

The findings, reported in the journal *Cell Metabolism*, help explain the well-known capacity of endurance exercise to improve cognitive function, particularly in older people. If the protein can be made in a stable form and developed into a drug, it might lead to improved therapies for cognitive decline in older people and slow the toll of neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s, according to the researchers.

The researchers previously reported that the protein is produced by muscular exertion and is released into the bloodstream as a variant called irisin. In the new study, they found that mice voluntarily running on a wheel for 30 days will have increased activity of a metabolic regulatory molecule in muscles, which spurred a rise in FNDC5 protein. The increase of FNDC5 in turn boosted the expression of a brain-health protein, called BDNF, in the hippocampus, a part of the brain involved in learning and memory, the researchers said.

Having shown that FNDC5 is a molecular link between exercise and increased BDNF in the brain, the scientists looked into whether artificially increasing FNDC5 in the absence of exercise would have the same effect. They used a harmless virus to deliver the protein to mice through the bloodstream, in hopes the FNDC5 could reach the brain and raise BDNF activity. Seven days later, they examined the mouse brains and observed a significant increase in BDNF in the hippocampus.

Wall Street ends up on hopes of debt solution in Washington

NEW YORK, 12 Oct — US stocks rose on Friday, extending gains from a major rally in the previous session, as investors were hopeful for a solution to end the partial US government shutdown and raise the US borrowing limit to avoid a possible default.The S&P 500, which gained more than 2 percent on Thursday, ended above 1,700 for the first time since late September. Buyers on Friday were motivated by the chance an agreement could come over the weekend. The Senate is expected to vote over the weekend on extending the federal debt limit through January 2015. President Barack Obama and Congressional Republican leaders worked to end a fiscal impasse that would allow a reopening of the federal government and an increase in the US debt limit. “People don’t want to be short going into a weekend, especially if a deal does get done,” said Dennis Dick, proprietary trader at Bright Trading LLC in Las Vegas. The partial shutdown is now in its eleventh day and less than a week remains before an October 17 deadline to extend the government’s borrowing authority and avoid a debt default.All S&P sectors were up except consumer staples, which fell slightly. Energy stocks .SPNY led the S&P 500, rising more than 1 percent after the Environmental Protection Agency proposed lowering the required amount of ethanol to be blended into US gasoline after Thursday’s market close. The CBOE Volatility index VIX, Wall Street’s so-called fear gauge, closed down 4.6 percent at 15.72, the lowest in nearly two weeks. Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange in New York, on 11 Oct, 2013. — *Reuters*

Air pollution tied to high blood pressure in pregnancy

NEW YORK, 12 Oct — Pregnant women who live in neighbourhoods with lots of air pollution may be slightly more likely to develop high blood pressure, a new study says. Past research suggests people with high blood pressure have often been exposed to more air pollution than those with normal blood pressure. But few studies have looked to see whether pollution’s case for pregnant women.

Women develop high blood pressure during about one in ten pregnancies. Having so-called gestational hypertension makes it more likely that a woman will need a cesarean section, that she will give birth early and that her baby will be born small. “Our results suggest air pollution does have some impact on the risk of gestational hypertension,” said epidemiologist Dr Xiaohui Xu. He led the study at the University of Florida in Gainesville. “This could have some subsequent effects on both maternal and fetal health,” Xu told *Reuters Health.* However, he said, “This was a pilot study, meaning it was meant to test for any potential impact of pollution on blood pressure.” Researchers said the results still leave many questions unanswered.

Xu and his colleagues used data on about 22,000 women who gave birth in Jacksonville, Florida, in 2004 and 2005. Birth records showed just over 1,000 women — close to five percent — developed high blood pressure during pregnancy. The researchers linked each woman’s home address to data from the nearest US Environmental Protection Agency air quality monitor. Researchers record how much nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and other pollutants are in the air each day. Women who lived near monitors that recorded high levels of four pollutants, including nitrogen dioxide and fine particle pollution, through out pregnancy had 12 percent to 24 percent higher odds of getting hypertension than women with less exposure.

G20 urges US to act quickly to avoid default

WASHINGTON, 12 Oct — Finance officials from the world’s biggest economies on Friday pressed the United States to head off a potentially devastating default and vowed to proceed carefully when the time comes to normalize monetary policy.

A communiqué issued at the end of a meeting of Group of 20 finance ministers and central bankers said that the United States “needs to take urgent action to address short-term fiscal uncertainties.”

The US government has been partially shut since October 1 amid a budget standoff between congres sional Republicans and the White House. Republicans also have refused to raise the nation’s $16.7 trillion debt ceiling.

Officials from around the globe have warned that failing to raise the debt cap would weakk havoc on the global economy. Anton Siluanov, finance minister of this year’s G20 chair, Russia, said the mention in the group’s communiqué amounts to a “general wish for a fast solution.”

Republicans presented a plan on Thursday to provide a short-term increase in the US debt limit, sparing hopes a deal could soon be reached. On Friday, the senators and the White House and lawmakers were still struggling to work out the details. “Our American colleagues are doing everything possible in order to find a mutual understanding or agreement with the Congress,” Sil uanov told reporters.

“Solving the impasse is crucial for a global economy,” Siluanov said. “This could have an impact on growth and financial markets.”

“In this particular case, we are talking about the global GDP.”

**BUSINESS & HEALTH**

**New Light of Myanmar**
India on red alert as “super cyclone” nears east coast

PALERMO, 12 Oct—Dozens of people died on Friday when a boat carrying around 250 migrants capsized between Sicily and Tunisia, in the second such shipwreck this month, the Italian coastguard said.

The Italian news agency ANSA reported that around 50 corpses had been sighted, including around 10 children, following the incident about 60 miles south of the tiny island of Lampedusa.

Maltese Prime Minister Joseph Muscat told a news conference in Valletta there were indications at least 27 people had died “and the number is expected to rise, possibly drastically”.

At least 339 people drowned on 3 October when a boat carrying Eritrean and Somali migrants sank near Lampedusa, southwest of Sicily. The Maltese navy said one of its ships had rescued 150 migrants from Friday’s wreck and an Italian navy vessel had saved 56. The most seriously injured were being taken by helicopter to Lampedusa.

Maltese authorities were coordinating the rescue operation, which was in international waters but in a Maltese rescue zone, and a Maltese ship was on the scene, a spokesman for the island state’s navy said.

The boat was spotted in difficulty by a Maltese military plane at around 1400 GMT, which dropped a liferaft. “This is not just another wake-up call for Europe. This is the time for action,” Muscat said, adding he had spoken to Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta to discuss the latest disaster.

“This is a European problem, not a problem for Italy or Malta only,” he said.

Italy is asking for more European Union support and an overhaul of the bloc’s immigration rules after last week’s shipwreck.

Blast near Swedish consulate in Libya

TRIPOLI, 12 Oct—A car bomb exploded in front of the Swedish consulate in the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi on Friday morning, causing damage to the building and nearby houses, a security source told Xinhua.

The spokesperson Colonel Abdullah Al Zaidi said that the consulate building and vehicles in the area were “seriously damaged,” adding that no one was inside the consulate at the time of explosion as Friday is the weekend in Libya.

No casualties were reported.

Zaidi said the explosion against the Swedish consulate “appears similar to the bombings of Court Building Branch and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs” in Benghazi in the past two months.

So far, no group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

The incident took place one day after Libyan Prime Minister Ali Zeidan was briefly “kidnapped” by armed men in the capital Tripoli, prompting speculations that it was a reaction to the US take of a high-profile al-Qaeda suspect Abu Anas Al-Libi by Libyan security forces (137 mph) and was expected to cause a 3-4 m (11-foot) surge in sea levels when it hit the coast, the India Meteorological Department said in a statement.

“The storm has high damage potential, considering windspeed,” Lakshman Singh Rathore, head of the weather department, said on Friday. Families trekked through the rain to shelters, television images showed, as gusts of wind snapped branches from trees. Tourists left Puri, a popular beach resort. Officials broadcast cyclone warnings through loudspeakers, radio and television.—Reuters

Japan could find itself in US shoes at G-20 in near future

Tokyo, 12 Oct—The call by G-20 finance chiefs on the United States to solve its fiscal impasse could be a preview of what Japan itself can expect in the near future.

The world’s biggest economy was asked at a G-20 meeting in Washington ending on Friday to break its budget deadlock as soon as possible amid fears the US government could default on its debt in mid-October, dealing a heavy blow to financial markets and economies across the globe.

At the G-20 gathering next year or later, Tokyo is expected to face pressure to lift its politically sensitive sales tax to 10 percent in 2015 as legislated to restore its deteriorating fiscal health, a potential threat to the global economy, some experts said. Finance Minister Taro Aso said he pledged to the G-20 countries that Japan will simultaneously pursue economic growth and fiscal consolidation, as Aso said at a Press conference after the end of the two-day meeting.

The tax hike decision is “a big step to attain the fiscal consolidation goal Japan has internationally committed to,” Aso said. The 3-percentage-point tax increase, however, will not be enough for Japan to accomplish its ultimate target of turning the primary balance into a surplus by fiscal 2020, even if its economy grows by an average of 3.0 percent in nominal terms over the next decade from fiscal 2013 ending March 2014, a government estimate indicates.

John Kerry makes surprise visit to Afghanistan

KABUL, 12 Oct—US Secretary of State John Kerry made an unannounced visit to Afghanistan’s capital Kabul on Friday, a private television channel Tolo reported.

During his stay to Kabul, the US top diplomat, according to Tolo, would hold talks with President Hamid Karzai to discuss the situation in Afghanistan with particular reference to possible inking security pact between the two countries.

The controversial security pact, if inked, would enable US to keep limited number of its forces in Afghanistan after 2014 when the NATO-led troops leave the militancy-ridden country. Afghan officials are yet to make comment on Kerry’s visit. Washington has set October as deadline for inking the pact. However, President Karzai reiterated his government’s condition for inking the security pact last week, saying Afghanistan is not in hurry to ink the agreement; rather wants US to guarantee viable peace and security in the conflict-ridden country.

Photo taken on 11 Oct, 2013 shows the opening ceremony of a special African Union summit, in Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia. Ethiopian Foreign Minister Tedros Adhanom slammed the International Criminal Court (ICC) on Friday for its “unfair and unjust” treatment of African countries.—Xinhua

A meeting of Cabinet ministers concerned with the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations is held at the prime minister’s office in Tokyo on 11 Oct, 2013, after the TPP summit in Bali, Indonesia, earlier in the week. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is seen second from left.—Kyodo News

4 killed in eastern Afghanistan’s bomb attack

JALALABAD, 12 Oct—Four people were killed and eight others injured on Saturday morning in a suicide car bombing in Jalalabad, the city capital of eastern Afghan Province of Nangarhar, the police said.

“Two policemen, one civilian and the attacker were killed after the militant rammed his explosive-loaded sedan to the front gate of the city police station at around 8-20 a.m. local time,” provincial police chief Fazil Ahmad told Xinhua.

The incident included including five police and three civilians were shifted to a hospital in the city, 120 km east of Kabul, the police chief said.

The blast also damaged several vehicles and buildings around the scene. The incident came as the US State Secretary of State John Kerry is paying a visit to the war-torn country. Xinhua
Cambodian traditional rowers taking practice at Ngalaik Dam

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Oct—A Cambodian traditional rowing team is taking practice at Ngalaik Dam of Nay Pyi Taw in the run up to the XXVII SEA Games to be hosted by Myanmar.

The Cambodian team comprising 18 rowers arrived in Myanmar on 1 October. Now, the guest team is taking a joint training together with the Myanmar traditional rowing team comprising 59 rowers at Nay Pyi Taw Ngalaik Dam. They are under the training of Myanmar traditional rowing coaches.

The Cambodian team is allowed to take practice at Ngalaik Dam with the aim of introducing the standard of Myanmar traditional rowing event to the Asian countries. Their training is being jointly organized by the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Rowing Federation.

Kyaw Thura (Nay Pyi Taw)

Myanmar rowers showing off vigorous efforts in practice.

Job opportunities for agricultural graduates increase

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Oct—Institute of Agriculture in Pyinmana Township received over 1000 applications for entrance for 2013-2014 academic year. Agriculture in Myanmar is favourite for new generations, said U Zaw Lin Htwe of the institute.

Yangon Region’s Model Special Zone (Ywathagy), Nawngkhiyo 5000-acre maize plantation and Shwe Nagamin fertilizer company offer graduates of Agriculture Institute and University of Agriculture for working at their firms with salary incentives. That is why even students who had got above 340 marks in the matriculation examination submitted applications to the institute and university. The students wishing to learn agriculture will be strength of the nation. In the near future, applications will be invited to the agricultural institutes in Thaton, Myaungmya, Shwebo, Patheinpyi, Pwintbyu, Thayawady, Dawei, Aungban and Myitkyina, according to the Pyinmana Agriculture Institute.

MMAL-Karyan Kha

Electrification for Naga region with momentum

YANGON, 12 Oct—The government is striving for electrification of rural regions and border areas. In sodging plans are underway to supply electricity to areas of Naga nationals of Chin State.

“We are trying to supply electricity to the people from Naga region. Preparations are being made for supply of power to Nanyun, Lahe and Leshi regions,” said Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe in meeting with media in Yangon.

On completion of extension of power lines, Naga region can be illuminated. Likewise, supply of electricity is being extended in Kayah State. As a result, 70 per cent of Kayah State can be supplied electricity by 2014.

With regard to electric power sector in the nation, 31 power stations have been installed 3614.9 megawatts capacity. In 2012-2013 fiscal year, these plants generated 10958 million units and supplied it to 30 per cent of households.

The power supply system benefited 2355 villages directly and 13755 villages indirectly. So, 70 per cent of Kayah State can be supplied it to 30 per cent of households.

In Myanmar, the power demand rises 15 per cent yearly. Therefore, the nation will rise 4900 megawatts of power demand in 2015. Moreover, the government is striving for generating electricity from other sources such as hydropower, natural gas and coal so as to satisfy the power demand.

MMAL-Maung Maung Myint Swe

Mandalarian footballers hold meeting on federation chairman’s cup

MANDALAY, 12 Oct—A meeting to hold the Mandalay Region Football Federation Chairman’s Cup U-20 Men’s Football Tournament was held along with the drawing of fixtures at the office of the Federation in Bahtoo Stadium, here, on 7 October.

Vice-Chairman of the organizing committee Chairman of the Upper Myanmar former selected footballers association U Zaw Win made a speech, and Vice-Chairman of the competitor selection committee U Sein Win Gyi explained the disciplines of the tournament.

After the meeting, they drew the fixtures of the tournament.

The Group A comprises YT (FC) and Ahman.

A coordination meeting to hold Mandalay Region Football Federation Chairman’s Cup U-20 Men’s Football Tournament in progress.

Odd News

Blast at Lodging leaves two dead, one injured

TOUNGOO, 12 Oct—A blast occurred at Chanmyae Lodging on Lake Street in Ward 17 of Toungoo at 8.50 pm yesterday.

One man and one woman were dead and one injured in the incident.

Nay Myo Kyaw, 29 of No 5 Room, upstairs of the Inn, died on the spot in the blast. Ma Yu Khaing, 24 from his room of Myoma Ward 4 was injured in the blast. She was rushed to Toungoo People’s Hospital but she died there.

Ma Nyein Thida of Myoma Ward 4 in Nyaunglebin who stayed at Room B next to Room 6 is receiving treatment at the hospital.

MMAL-Thura (Toungoo)
A R T I C L E

The Accounts of Suvannabhumi Culled from Various Literary Sources

(Dr. Saw Mra Aung)

Shine nation’s diplomacy while seizing golden opportunity

The role of ASEAN chairmanship is the crowning achievement for Myanmar government that surprised the world with unprecedented reform processes that have liberalized the economic and politics including media censorship and welcomed the opposition to sit in the Parliament.

For ASEAN’s part, the appointment of Myanmar to take over leadership of the 10-nation bloc for the first time is meant to reward the country, until more than two years ago a pariah, for its dramatic changes and a wave of reforms. So, the granting of the chairmanship to Myanmar was justified as a right gesture of legitimizing the Myanmar government to realize the member countries’ obligations toward community-building in 2012.

In his acceptance speech while taking the helm of the 10-member club, President U Thein Sein vouched that the spotlight would be put on the establishment of ASEAN Community to create peace, stability and greater prosperity in the region. He also expressed his belief that Myanmar would be able to take a lead role at the regional meetings in 2014 by working together with member states, ensuring its chairmanship slogan “Moving forward in Unity to a peaceful and prosperous Community.”

Despite skepticism about ongoing reform process and challenges ahead, Myanmar is in a meaningful moment to win international plaudits by taking advantage of the historic opportunity. “You can measure opportunity with the same yardstick that measures the risk involved”, as the saying goes. Risks and opportunities go together. So, Myanmar needs to show its shrewd diplomatic response to the dialogue partners in copring with series of meetings including two Summits. In order to translate risks and opportunities into a success, Myanmar will have to be put to the test on successful hosting the SEA Games in December as a rehearsal for next year’s ASEAN meetings.

For Myanmar, ASEAN chairmanship is a good opportunity not only to build on its socioeconomic development but also to shine the nation’s diplomacy on the international stage by putting a balance on the efforts to get closer to the western powers and to maintain the status-quo in the relations with China, its traditional ally. Moreover, during the period of its chairmanship, Myanmar will be in a position for responsibility to shepherd ASEAN towards the new community era in 2015. It will also be a milestone for Myanmar to reaffirm its democratic changes are real, not just cosmetic.

The Buddha also expounded the suttas (discourses) on this golden land by way of the demise of the Buddha. In the discourses the Buddha referred to Suvannabhumi or East India and Suvannadipa where the ocean current in the Indian Ocean was much attached to her, the discovery of the peridodic alternation of monsoon winds in about 45 A.D. by a Greek captain Hippias. This brought India into easier and closer contacts with this golden land. The Buddha also states that Indian merchants started to leave Bharatkachcha and Tamralipit in 45 A.D. It is said that the merchants who set off from Bharatkachcha on the western coast of India coasted around the Indian continent as far as a certain port on the eastern coast and made a direct voyage across the high sea or Tamralipit port in the north and seemed to make littoral voyages along the coast of the Bay of Bengal. But, after the discovery of the monsoon winds, some of the Indians voyaged across the Indian Ocean to Suvannabhumi.

In those days, Indian ships were fully rigged and large enough to carry 500 or 700 passengers. As to the location of Suvannabhumi, modern Indian scholars advance different opinions. Dr. R.C Majumdar says in his book “Indo Colonies in the Far East” that Suvannabhumi or Suvanadipa are the lands and islands beyond the sea and hills on the east of India. These regions were reputed to possess gold and precious minerals. In the same book, he identifies Myanmar and Thailand with Suvannabhumi and Suvanadipa as Burma and Suvanadipa are the lands and islands beyond the sea and hills on the east of India. These regions were reputed to possess gold and precious minerals. In the same book, he identifies Myanmar and Thailand with Suvannabhumi and Suvanadipa as Burma and Suvanadipa are the lands and islands beyond the sea and hills on the east of India. These regions were reputed to possess gold and precious minerals. In the same book, he identifies Myanmar and Thailand with Suvannabhumi and Suvanadipa as Burma and Suvanadipa are the lands and islands beyond the sea and hills on the east of India. These regions were reputed to possess gold and precious minerals. In the same book, he identifies Myanmar and Thailand with Suvannabhumi and Suvanadipa as Burma and Suvanadipa are the lands and islands beyond the sea and hills on the east of India. These regions were reputed to possess gold and precious minerals. In the same book, he identifies Myanmar and Thailand with Suvannabhumi and Suvanadipa as Burma and Suvanadipa are the lands and islands beyond the sea and hills on the east of India. These regions were reputed to possess gold and precious minerals. In the same book, he identifies Myanmar and Thailand with Suvannabhumi and Suvanadipa as Burma and Suvanadipa are the lands and islands beyond the sea and hills on the east of India. These regions were reputed to possess gold and precious minerals. In the same book, he identifies Myanmar and Thailand with Suvannabhumi and Suvanadipa as Burma and Suvanadipa are the lands and islands beyond the sea and hills on the east of India. These regions were reputed to possess gold and precious minerals. In the same book, he identifies Myanmar and Thailand with Suvannabhumi and Suvanadipa as Burma and Suvanadipa are the lands and islands beyond the sea and hills on the east of India. These regions were reputed to possess gold and precious minerals. In the same book, he identifies Myanmar and Thailand with Suvannabhumi and Suvanadipa as Burma and Suvanadipa are the lands and islands beyond the sea and hills on the east of India. These regions were reputed to possess gold and precious minerals. In the same book, he identifies Myanmar and Thailand with Suvannabhumi and Suvanadipa as Burma and Suvanadipa are the lands and islands beyond the sea and hills on the east of India. These regions were reputed to possess gold and precious minerals. In the same book, he identifies Myanmar and Thailand with Suvannabhumi and Suvanadipa as Burma and Suvanadipa are the lands and islands beyond the sea and hills on the east of India. These regions were reputed to possess gold and precious minerals. In the same book, he identifies Myanmar and Thailand with Suvannabhumi and Suvanadipa as Burma and Suvanadipa are the lands and islands beyond the sea and hills on the east of India. These regions were reputed to possess gold and precious minerals. In the same book, he identifies Myanmar and Thailand with Suvannabhumi and Suvanadipa as Burma and Suvanadipa are the lands and islands beyond the sea and hills on the east of India. These regions were reputed to possess gold and precious minerals. In the same book, he identifies Myanmar and Thailand with Suvannabhumi and Suvanadipa as Burma and Suvanadipa are the lands and islands beyond the sea and hills on the east of India. These regions were reputed to possess gold and precious minerals. In the same book, he identifies Myanmar and Thailand with Suvannabhumi and Suvanadipa as Burma and Suvanadipa are the lands and islands beyond the sea and hills on the east of India. These regions were reputed to possess gold and precious minerals. In the same book, he identifies Myanmar and Thailand with Suvanadipa as Burma. Bimala Churn Law in his book “Geography of Early Buddhism” equates Lower Myanmar with Suvannabhumi. Mookeri in his master-piece entitled “Indian Shipping” refers to Burma and the Golden Chersonese as Suvannabhumi. Mukarjee in “The Culture and Art of India” states that Sumatra and the East Indies correspond to Suvannabhumi. Dr. Niharranjan Ray in his work “India in Burma” puts Suvannabhumi between India and China. The writer of the India’s Contribution to the World Today says that Suvannabhumi applies Lower Myanmar and the Malay Peninsula and Suvannabhumi and Sumatra to Suvanadvipa. Rawlinson in “The History of India” writes that Lower Myanmar is identical to Suvannabhumi.
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets ...

(from page 1)

Council of Austria, at 12.30 pm at Austrian parliament.

During the meeting, they exchanged views over bilateral friendship and Hluttaw affairs.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann shaking hands with President of Austria Dr. Heinz Fischer at Presidential Palace in Vienna.

MNA

Public Service Capacity Assessment Committee ...

(from page 16)

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Ministers Dr Daw Khin San Yi, Daw Lei Lei Thein, Brig. Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, U Thant Shin and Dr San Lwin.

Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung delivers an address at second coordination meeting for implementation of Hanthawady International Airport.

YANGON, 12 Oct — The second coordination meeting between the committee for implementation of Hanthawady International Airport and Incheon Airport Consortium, tender winner, took place at the meeting hall of the Department of Civil Aviation yesterday morning.

CB Bank EASI Travel Master Card launched

YANGON, 12 Oct — CB Bank EASI Travel Master Card, Myanmar’s first-ever payment card, has been launched by Master Card and CB Banks recently. Myanmar citizens can use it when they travel to foreign countries.

Executive Vice-Chairman of CB Bank and CEO U Kyaw Lin said, “CB Bank has started introducing Myanmar’s first-ever electronic payment system. I take pride for the launching of EASI Travel Master Card. Thanks to it, no need to carry money along with us, and it can be used in more than 210 countries.”

The introduction of it is an important step towards restructuring of Myanmar’s banks and financial sector. Those who want to use the card need to put cash amount they want in their cards in advance and no needs to open a bank account like credit cards. The card will be active after 24 hrs the card holders get it. It can be used on online and internet e-commerce worldwide where Master Card is available. The users need to open an account with at least 50 USD and to leave at least 20 USD. Desired cash amount can be filled at the CB Bank (Headquarters) and its branches. It is aimed at helping facilitate Myanmar people’s use of money in foreign countries. More information about it, may contact CB Bank’s Hot Line (+95 1378905 and Call Center (Ph-1874).

Yi Thant

Over 5000 medals for XXVII SEA Games

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Oct—Over 1500 medals will be awarded to the winners in the XXVII SEA Games to be hosted by Myanmar. The list includes 460 gold, 460 silver and 637 bronze medals. In some events, bronze medals will be given to joint winners, so its number is higher than that of gold and silver medals,” said Joint General Secretary U Khin Maung Lwin of Myanmar Olympic Committee.

Although the SEA Games will be held from 11 to 22 December on the schedules, some sports events will kick off on 1 December. The competitions will take place in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay and Pathein (Ngwehsaung). Women’s football tournament will be held in Mandalay and sailing event in Ngwehsaung. Yangon will host men’s football group matches, hockey, shooting, weightlifting, body-building, wrestling and Kampo events. The remaining events will be organized in Nay Pyi Taw.

Altogether 10 ASEAN countries plus Timor-Leste will take part in the games. A total of 5976 athletes from 11 countries will join the SEA Games.

MMAL-Maung Shwe Yoe
**Midwifery course conducted in Twantay Township**

**Twantay, 12 Oct**—Aiming at achieving more success in public-centred health services and broadening horizon of health knowledge of the rural people, Twantay Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Township Health Department jointly conducted the midwifery course under the supervision of Yangon Region Maternal Child Supervisory Committee in Twantay as of 14 September. A total of 25 trainees from 25 villages are attending the first three month training course at the hall of Township Health Department.

“We are happy to attend the training course. If we arrive back home, we will share health knowledge to the villagers door to door so as to widen their scope of health knowledge,” said a trainee, Kyemon-Myo Hlaing (Twantay).

**Anti-Human Trafficking Drives**

**Anti-Trafficking in Persons Course conducted in Ruili of China**

**Ruili, 12 Oct**—The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Course was conducted at Myanmar-China Border Liaison Office in Ruili of China from 10 to 12 October. The training course was attended by 27 trainees from Ruili, Kyimphon and Nansang liaison offices led by Mr Yin Guohai, Director of Anti-Human Trafficking Office of Criminal Police Force of China, and 14 trainees from Muse, Lwejel, Laukkai border liaison offices and Chinshwehaw and Laukkai Anti-Human Trafficking Squads led by Police Lt-Col Khin Maung Hla of Myanmar Anti-Trafficking in Persons Police Corps. Mr Willem Pretorius of the Australia-Asia Program Combat Trafficking in Persons (AAPTIP), He Yunxiao and Wang Yi of UNIAP China Office and Edith Zhang and Wang Fei of World Vision China, He Yu of Save the Children China, Daw Ohnma Ei Ei Chaw of UNIAP Myanmar, Daw Aye Aye Mar Kyaw of IOM Myanmar, Daw Thida Sein of UNICEF Myanmar, Daw Khin Myo Thant of World Vision Myanmar and Daw Lwe Kham Marth of Save the Children Myanmar gave lectures to the trainees.

The training was aimed at sharing information about human trafficking, seeking ways to solve challenges and problems of border liaison offices and taking lessons from the better works of other border liaison offices.

Muse-Ruili anti-human trafficking border liaison office was opened on 12 July 2007, Lwejel-Kyimphon office on 22 December 2012 and Laukkai-Namsang office on 15 May 2013. During the period from January to September 2013, a total of 185 human trafficking victims were rescued from 69 human trafficking cases and 194 human traffickers arrested.

Zaw Myo Naing (Yadambon)

**Kyaunkpadaung, 12 Oct**—Supply of water is one of five points rural region development tasks.

Under the arrangements of the Union government and region/state government, water supply tasks are being carried out to the villages with shortage of water through various ways and means. In so doing, a tube-well was sunk in Talainggan Village of Talainggan Village-tract in Kyaunkpadaung Township of Mandalay Region under the arrangement of the region government.

“The tube-well was sunk difficultly. In its work, the sinking works were carried out in three places. At the final site, the tube-well was sunk on 9 September. The team found water layer at 320 feet deep. The tube-well could pump water at 740 feet deep. It pumps out over 2000 gallons of water. The well sinking has completed on 12 September. Now, it remains installation of water pump and construction of water tank. All the tasks were undertaken under the arrangements of the region government and township Development Affairs Committee,” said Village Administrator U Kyaw Swe.

The tube-well can supply water to over 1700 local people from 318 households of Talainggan Village and over 400 people from 80 houses, totalling 2100. In 2013-2014 fiscal year, Mandalay Region government plans to sink 31 two-inch tube-wells and 10 four-inch tube-wells, totalling 41 in Kyaunkpadaung Township. So far, the township has sunk 38 tube-wells. —Kyemon-Ko Nay (Kyaunkpadaung)

**Natural Disaster**

**Houses, farmlands flood in Mingin Township**

**Mingin, 12 Oct**—The torrential rains caused overflows of Taungdwinchaung Creek and Pahtolon Creek in Mingin Township of Kalay District in Sagaing Region on 28 and 29 September.

The creeks overflowed over 1780 acres of farmlands from 19 villages, leaving four cows and 10 pigs dead.

In Chaungwa Village, three houses were damaged in the flood.

Mingin Township Management Committee and Supportive Committee opened the control office at the Township General Administration Department for giving necessary assistance to the flood victims. The committee, departments and social organizations provided 480 packets of instant noodle, snack packets, and local people and those of surrounding villages packets of rice to the flood victims.

Kyemon-Zo Hae Hsa (Chin Hll)

**Tube-well sunk in Kyaukpadaung Township for public consumption**

In Chaungwa Village, three houses were damaged in the flood.

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Kyemon-Hlaing (Twantay)
Indonesia, India aim to boost trade, investment

JAKARTA, 12 Oct.—The governments of Indonesia and India agreed to step up trade and investment in the future as the countries have huge markets supported by potential economic growth.

The statement was made during the meeting of Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and visiting Prime Minister of the Republic of India Manmohan Singh at the State Palace on Friday.

The two leaders planned to deepen bilateral ties into comprehensive economic cooperation agreement, President Yudhoyono said. “...both India and Indonesia have a great potential and opportunity to develop in the future. One of the potentials is the economy, including the domestic markets that are going to strengthen in the future,” Yudhoyono told a joint Press conference after the meeting, adding they agreed to boost trade and investment of the two countries. Indonesia and India expected to reach 25 billion US dollar bilateral trade volume by 2015.

President Yudhoyono also said that they agreed to step up cooperation on food security, anti-terrorism, agriculture, energy, dis-aster management and mitigation, transportation, tourism, health, education, combating illegal drug distribution and transnational crimes, launch of satellite and information technology.

“President Yudhoyono and I have agreed to deepen our partnership ...” said Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. “Indonesia is one of India most valued partners, our bilateral relation are rich and potential, and growing rapidly, as two large democracy and major economies,” he said.

After the meeting both sides signed memorandums of understanding on health cooperation, combating corruption, combating illicit trafficking in narcotic drug, and disaster management.—Xinhua

Malaysian ruling party kicks off crucial party elections

KUALA LUMPUR, 12 Oct — Malaysia’s United Malays National Organizations (UMNO), the dominant party in the ruling coalition, kicked off the crucial party elections on Saturday as analysts said the outcome may shape the future policies of Prime Minister Najib Razak.

The elections of UMNO’s wing organizations, including the youth and women’s groups on Saturday, will be followed by elections of its powerful supreme council and local divisions on 19 October, when more than 140,000 party delegates will cast ballots to pick their leaders. Najib retained his post as party president together with his deputy Muhyiddin Yassin uncontested, despite earlier speculations that he might be ousted after the poor showing by the ruling coalition in the May general election.

However, the party elections may still be seen as a test of Najib’s leadership and his reform agenda as he took over as UMNO president and prime minister in 2009.

Tense races are expected for the supreme council elections, especially for the posts of vice president, where the three incumbents face serious challenges by Mukhriz Mahathir, a chief minister in the northern Kedah state and son of the Malaysia’s longest serving Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad.

At the age of 88, Mahathir still holds considerable sway within UMNO and played a key role in ousting Najib’s predecessor Abdulah Ahmad Badawi after the previous general election in 2008. Oh Ei Sun, a political analyst and former political analyst to Najib, predicted a close contest between Mukhriz and incumbent vice president and defence minister Hishammuddin Hussein, who is also the son of a former prime minister and Najib’s cousin.

“If Mukhriz instead of Hishammuddin becomes vice president, you will see Mahathir becoming even more vocal, thus further constraining Najib’s hand,” said Oh.

“If both win, which is unlikely, then the current stalemate and bickering will go on for a while. If Hishammuddin instead of a Mukhriz wins, then Najib will be able to better focus on his reform agenda for next 3 years.” Despite his uncontested victory in party polls, Najib is facing increasing pressure from party conservatives, who strongly uphold the supremacy of the ethnic-Malay majority in the party, analysts said. Najib recently announced new initiatives to boost the economic status of the Malays and other indigenous groups that make up more than 60 percent of the total population.—Xinhua

Heavy rains disrupt normal life in Indian capital

NEW DELHI, 12 Oct—Heavy rains lashed the Indian capital on early Friday morning, bringing the city to a standstill.

Commuters, mainly office goers, faced a harrowing time as roads were waterlogged, causing huge traffic jam and disrupting people’s normal life.

India’s weather department has recorded 26 mm of rain in the morning and the temperature was hovering at 21.5 degrees Celsius.

“More rains are coming during the weekend,” a senior weather official said.—Kyodo News

Typhoon Nari leaves 9 people dead, thousands homeless in Philippines

MANILA, 12 Oct.—Typhoon Nari moved out of the Philippines on Saturday, leaving in its wake five people dead, four missing and more than 2,000 homeless as well as extensive power outages, authorities said. The storm made landfall Friday evening in the eastern-central Luzon Province of Aurora.

Power outages were reported in at least five provinces in Luzon, including Aurora, and roads were rendered impassable due to heavy flooding or fallen trees. There were also reports of roofs blown away by strong winds, according to national disaster management office director Eduardo del Rosario. Authorities have yet to assess the full impact of the typhoon on farms and other infrastructure.

Nari was located in the West Philippine Sea on Saturday morning, packing winds of 120 kilometers per hour and gusts of up to 150 kph Moving westward at 22 kph, the typhoon is expected to exit the Philippine area of responsibility on Sunday.

Photo taken on 11 Oct, 2013, shows employees in the main control room at Kyushu Electric Power Co’s Sendai nuclear power plant in Satsumasendai, Kagoshima Prefecture, in the first major nuclear disaster drill conducted by the Japanese government following the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi atomic power plant accident, on the assumption that an earthquake triggers an accident at the Sendai plant.

Farmhouses and fodders are covered with snow in Holonbay, north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on 11 Oct, 2013. Parts of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province have greeted the first snowfall of this autumn. Xinhua

9.7 mln USD grant for Lao food security

VIENNA, 12 Oct.—The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) will launch a 9.7 million US dollar programme in Laos focusing on food security, nutrition security and market linkages for rural communities, according to an IFAD Press release here on Friday.

The Southern Laos Food and Nutrition Security and Market Linkages Program will be launched on 15 November under the guidance of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

The programme, implemented over six years from 2013 to 2019 aims to reduce extreme hunger and ensure sustainable food and nutrition security as well as increasing the income of households in the target areas.

The programme will target 175 villages in an attempt to intensify and diversify farming systems and promote nutrition education. IFAD aims to facilitate rural access to knowledge and information as well as linking farmers to partner banks and business partners.

“This project provides an opportunity to combat food and nutrition insecurity in southern Laos and to empower people living in rural poverty to have greater income generating and market negotiation power,” said Stefania Dina, IFAD Country Manager to Lao PDR.

Since 1978, IFAD has invested approximately 14.9 billion US dollars in grants and low-interest loans to various countries to enable rural people to grow and sell more food. IFAD is an international financial institution and specialized UN agency based in Rome.—Xinhua
Nigeria trains more troops for peacekeeping mission in Darfur

LAGOS, 12 Oct — Some 810 Nigerian soldiers have been trained for the peacekeeping mission in Sudan’s Darfur region by the Nigerian Army Peace Keeping Centre, a top military official said on Friday.

The commander of the centre, Salihu Uba said at the graduation at the 342 Battalion in Jaji in north-central Kaduna State that 43 officers and 767 other ranks were involved in the training.

Uba said the battalion had undergone four weeks of intensive training to prepare them for the UN peacekeeping operations.

“This training and preparation were specifically tailored toward effective peacekeeping operations in Darfur,” he said, adding that the knowledge and leadership qualities exhibited by both officers and soldiers were encouraging.

“I have no doubt in my mind that these will reflect on the conduct of the unit in the theater of operations,” he said.

One dead, 60 hurt as tourist train, truck collide

in West Virginia

NEW YORK, 12 Oct — One man was killed and more than 60 people were injured when a logging truck collided with a tourist train on Friday in the remote Allegheny Mountains of West Virginia, the governor’s office said.

The diesel train carrying at least 60 passengers, was about 50 minutes into its crawl through dense spruce forests in the high country wilderness when the collision occurred at 1:30 pm near Cheat Bridge, said Amy Shuler Goodwin, spokeswoman for Governor Earl Ray Tomblin.

The crash at the border of Randolph and Pocahontas counties, resulted in two of the train cars overturning, killing the man, believed to be the driver of the truck, she said. “Two of the cars actually had flipped,” Goodwin said. It was not immediately known how many cars the engine was pulling.

Ten ambulances and one school bus were used to transport 67 people to Davis Memorial Hospital in Elkins, West Virginia, said a hospital spokeswoman.

Five of the injured on board the train, the Cheat Mountain Salamander, were in serious condition, said Larry Mesina, spokesman for the West Virginia Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety.

Signal lights at the train crossing were working properly and there were no skid marks on the roadway, said a person close to the investigation, who declined to be identified.

The Salamander, one of several tourist trains operated by Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad, travels through “some of the wildest mountain wilderness you will ever experience,” according to the railroad website. “Even by West Virginia standards, this is a very remote area,” Mesina said.— Reuters

US says captures senior commander of Pakistani Taliban

WASHINGTON, 12 Oct — US forces in Afghanistan have captured senior Pakistani Taliban commander Latif Mehsud in a military operation and detained him under a law authorizing use of force against al-Qaeda following the 2001 attacks, the Pentagon said on Friday.

The arrest of Mehsud, a trusted deputy to Tehreek-e-Taliban leader Hakimullah Mehsud, could be a big blow to the group, which seeks to topple the US-backed government Pakistan but has also taken aim at US forces in Afghanistan and sought to strike the United States itself. A Pentagon spokeswoman said Mehsud was captured in a US military operation in Afghanistan, but the Washington Post reported on Friday that he was forcibly snatched from an Afghan government compound in Logar Province several weeks ago as Afghan officials were trying to recruit him to launch peace talks.

The Post said the incident, viewed as a major breach of Afghan sovereignty, enraged Afghan President Hamid Karzai and had contributed to a chill in US-Afghan relations at a time when American officials are pressuring for a deal to let a small force of US troops remain in Afghan-
Macklemore & Ryan Lewis lead American Music Awards nominations

NEW YORK, 12 Oct—Hip-hop artists Macklemore & Ryan Lewis scored the most American Music Awards nominations on Thursday with nods in six categories, followed by country-pop star Taylor Swift and singer Justin Timberlake with five each. The duo will compete in the top category, artist of the year, against singer Bruno Mars, Swift, Timberlake and pop singer Rihanna, who collected four nominations.

Also getting four nominations were country music pair Florida Georgia Line and R&B singer Robin Thicke. Rapper will.i.am and singer Kelly Clarkson announced the names of the nominees in five of the top categories on Thursday on the ABC television network news show “Good Morning America.”

Macklemore & Ryan Lewis also received nominations for the coveted best new artist award, the single of the year for “Thrift Shop,” favourite pop/rock band and best rap/hip-hop artist and album for “The Heist.” “This year’s lineup of talent is truly very impressive,” Larry Klein, the producer of the AMAs, told a news conference before the final categories were announced. Last year’s big winner, 19-year-old teen heart-throb Justin Bieber, who took home three awards including artist of the year, failed to receive any nominations. Florida Georgia Line, pop singer Ariana Grande, alternative rock band Imagine Dragons and Phillip Phillips, the winner of the 11th season of the TV singing competition “American Idol,” will also compete for new artist of the year. “Thrift Shop” featuring Wanz will vie for the best single against Thicke’s “Blurred Lines” featuring Pharrell & T.I. and “Cruise” by Florida Georgia Line with Nelly.

Thicke, 36, also earned a nomination for favourite soul/R&B male artist alongside singer Miguel and Timberlake, while Ciara, Alicia Keys and Rihanna will battle it out for the top female soul/R&B trophy. Rihanna will also compete against Swift and singer Pink for the top female pop or rock artist prize, while Mars is pitted against Thicke and Timberlake for favorite male artist in the same category. Mars and Imagine Dragons each received three nominations.

Former Disney star Miley Cyrus, 20, who caused a sensation with her raunchy performance at the MTV Video Music Awards in August and just released her new album “Bangerz,” and Imagine Dragons will perform during the awards show. Winners of the AMAs will be selected by fans through online voting, which starts on Thursday, and for the first time this year via Twitter.

The awards will be presented on November 24 at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles and will be broadcast live on ABC and streamed online.—Reuters

Katy Perry, ‘Anchorman’ Ron Burgundy lead performers at MTV EMAs

LOS ANGELES, 12 Oct—American pop singer Katy Perry and comedian Will Ferrell’s fictional news anchor Ron Burgundy will lead stars performing and appearing at the MTV Europe Music Awards, the network said on Thursday, as it seeks to attract a larger US audience for the awards this year via Twitter.

Burgundy, the suave mustached TV anchor of upcoming comedy “Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues,” will make special appearances during the awards show, reporting from various landmarks in the Dutch capital.

The MTV EMAs is the network’s awards ceremony to honour music artists from around the world, and it follows a similar model to the network’s US annual awards shows, the Movie Awards and the Video Music Awards.

Singer Justin Timberlake and rapper-producer duo Macklemore & Ryan Lewis lead the nominations this year with five each, including best male artist for Timberlake and best new act for Macklemore & Ryan Lewis.

Pop singers Lady Gaga, Justin Bieber, Miley Cyrus and R&B singer-producer Robin Thicke garnered four nods each.

Gravity crosses USD 100 million mark at the box office

LOS ANGELES, 12 Oct—After making a record-breaking debut at USD 55.8, Sandra Bullock and George Clooney’s space disaster movie Gravity has now crossed the USD 100 million mark at the global box office.

The 3D film, which opened in theaters in the US on 4 October, has already broken records in North America by becoming the top October opening of all-time and the best three-day showing for Bullock and Clooney, according to the Hollywood Reporter.

Directed by Alfonso Cuaron, the film follows two astronauts who are stranded in space after their shuttle is damaged.

Bullock, who won the best actress Oscar for her role in The Blind Side, is gathering Oscar buzz again for her performance as a novice astronaut.—PTI

Taylor Lautner to play adult film star at an LA event

NEW YORK, 12 Oct—Twilight star Taylor Lautner has joined the cast of a reading of Boogie Nights as the hapless porn star that Mark Wahlberg made famous in the 1997 film. Lautner, 21, will play Wahlberg’s character Dirk Diggler for an event at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, reported the New York Daily News.

Arrested Development star Mae Whitman will play Heather Graham’s Roller-girl, while Archer actress Judy Greer will play Amber Waves, the role originally held by Julianne Moore.

Director Jason Reitman, who announced the casting on his Twitter page, will host the event.

It won’t be the first time he has brought Boogie Nights to the stage. In a live reading at the Toronto International Film Festival last year, director Reitman selected Jesse Eisenberg to play Diggler and Olivia Wilde as Amber Waves.

Harrison Blade F

LONDON, 12 Oct—Actor H...
Belgium kickstart World Cup party, nine-man Bulgaria lose

LONDON, 12 Oct—Two-goal Romelu Lukaku fired Belgium into next year’s World Cup finals as their golden generation sealed a return to the global showpiece on Friday for the first time since 2002.

A 2-1 win away to Croatia ensured unbeaten Belgium will finish top of Group A and they became the third European team to secure a place in Brazil after Netherlands and Italy.

Later on Friday, Germany, Switzerland and Russia can also seal automatic qualification from the penultimate round of qualifying matches across Europe.

Victory on a wet night in Zagreb prompted joyous celebrations from the Belgian players in front of a sizeable and vociferous contingent of travelling fans. “I’m super happy for the team. We always believed we could qualify and now it’s here,” Lukaku told Belgian television. The pacey striker had only previously played 52 minutes of qualifying but, starting in place of the injured Christian Benteke, notched his first goals of the campaign for a nation who boast one of the most talented squads in Europe.

Lukaku broke the deadlock from Steven Defour’s defence-splitting pass and doubled the lead seven minutes before the break, racing away from halfway before lifting the ball over prone keeper Stipe Pletikosa and walking the ball into the net. He was brought off after 68 minutes, embracing coach Marc Wilmots as he left the rain-soaked pitch.

Croatia, second-half substitute Nikol Kranjar grabbed a late consolation goal for the hosts, who have 17 points as one of a runners-up finish but were jeered by their fans after a lacklustre performance.

Belgium’s hopes of securing second place behind Italy in Group B, and a potential playoff match, suffered a huge setback after they had two players sent off in a 2-1 defeat in Armenia with the hosts netting the winner three minutes from time.—Reuters

England close on finals after beating Montenegro

LONDON, 12 Oct—A brilliant goal on his debut by midfielder Andros Townsend kept England on course for the World Cup finals as they beat Montenegro 4-1 at Wembley on Friday to remain top of qualifying Group H with one match to play.

A Wayne Rooney strike after 48 minutes, an own goal from Branislav Ivanovic and two from James Milner ensured England are 100% through to Brazil 2014 after four games.

They lead their section with 19 points, one ahead of Ukraine and four more than Montenegro. Another win at home to Poland on Tuesday will send England to Brazil as group winners, but with Ukraine almost certain to beat San Marino, a draw is unlikely to be enough.

Rooney opened the scoring by converting from close range. Rooney lashed in a left-foot shot from close range. Rooney lashed in a left-foot shot from close range.

“Sometimes you’re lucky with those things, you envisage something and it comes off — but it’s not always that way.”

Rooney opened the scoring three minutes into the second half after a 70-metre run from debutant Townsend, whose cross caused mayhem in the Montenegro defence before Rooney lashed in a left-foot shot from close range.

England doubled their lead in the 62nd minute when Boskovic turned the ball into his own net after a cutback from Danny Welbeck. Those goals settled an anxious Wembley but Montenegro proved they were not totally down and out when Manchester City’s Stevan Jovetic almost beat his club colleague Joe Hart with a 50-metre shot that smashed against Hart’s crossbar and bounced away to safety.—Reuters

Ronaldo says Neymar can be world’s best player

Spain that he can shine alongside the best in the world like Barca team mate Lionel Messi and Real Madrid and Portugal forward Cristiano Ronaldo.

“I am delighted with Neymar’s start, he’s playing well and scoring and creating goals,” said the Brazilian Ronaldo who also had spells with Real, Inter Milan and AC Milan.

“When I joined Liverpool from Atletico Madrid they had paid 36 million euros and it was the same situation and never affected me. Everyone is talking about that but it’s not true.”

Juve, Inter admit they need to replicate the consistency that helped him notch 81 goals in 142 appearances at Liverpool.

The people are looking at me thinking I should do much better and it’s true,” he said.—Reuters

Djokovic and Nadal reach Shanghai semis

SHANGHAI, 12 Oct—Top seed and defending champion Novak Djokovic rallied to see off Frenchman Gael Monfils 6-7(4), 6-2, 6-4 in the Shanghai Open quarter-finals on Friday and world number one Rafael Nadal also booked his place in the last four.

The Serb, who was replaced by Nadal at the top of the rankings on Monday, defeated Monfils, conqueror of Roger Federer in the previous round, in a match lasting two hours and 23 minutes.

After twice exchanging breaks during the first set, the Frenchman bagged the tiebreak 7-4 to go ahead. But Djokovic fought back, twice breaking Monfils, who had to receive treatment on a stomach muscle.

Djokovic got the crucial break in the seventh game of the third set and closed out the match to set up a semi-final clash with another Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

Nadal was made to work hard in the first set of his quarter-final against Stanislas Wawrinka, triumphing 7-6(10), 6-1 to progress to set up a clash with Argentina’s Juan Martin del Potro.—Reuters

Torres bemoans overreaction to Chelsea bad times

LONDON, 12 Oct—Fernando Torres knows he needs to do more to justify his British record transfer fee although he feels there has been an exaggerated reaction to the bad moments he has endured since joining Chelsea in January 2011.

The Spain striker has scored 37 goals in 139 appearances for the west London club since leaving Liverpool for 50 million pounds but believes he is unfairly treated when things go wrong.

“There has been an overreaction about everything,” Torres told Chelsea Television. “Overreact when I did a miss or if I have a red card or I hit the crossbar instead of scoring a goal.

“It was a good season (last year), a good number of goals (23) that gave us a chance to fight for trophies but if you ask the people, they will say he can do better, should do better.

“It’s like I said, with me good things are looking so-so and bad things are looking really bad. For me, it (the fee) has never been a problem,” said Torres.

“When I joined Liverpool from Atletico Madrid they paid 36 million euros and it was the same situation and never affected me. Everyone is talking about that but it’s not true.”

Juve, Inter admit they need to replicate the consistency that helped him notch 81 goals in 142 appearances at Liverpool.

The people are looking at me thinking I should do much better and it’s true,” he said.—Reuters
Libyan PM calls brief abduction a ‘coup’ by foes

Tripoli, 12 Oct—Libya’s Prime Minister Ali Zeidan said on Friday former rebels who abducted him briefly were part of an attempted “coup” by his opponents in the country’s legislature, accusing them of seeking to undermine his government.

Gunmen snatched Zeidan from the Tripoli hotel where he lives during a dawn raid on Thursday only to release him hours later in an incident that showed how far Libya has descended into militia-plagued chaos two years after Muammar Gaddafi’s fall.

“They wanted to overthrow the government,” Zeidan said in a national address. “This was not an attempted kidnapping only of a prime minister, but of the government.”

He accused members within the General National Council, the country’s national assembly, of plotting the abduction. The assembly is caught in a dead-lock between secular leading party and the Muslim Brotherhood, and Zeidan has been facing a possible vote of no confidence. The former rebels, now on the government payroll, who snatched Zeidan said they were angry at reports the government had been informed in advance of a US raid to capture an al-Qaeda suspect there.—Reuters

Chinese overseas trips expected to hit 100m in 2014

Beijing, 12 Oct—Chinese tourists will make more than 90 million trips by the end of this year, the country’s top tourism officials said on Chicago Wednesday, estimating an unprecedented 100 million trips will be undertaken by Chinese tourists next year.

China has become the third-biggest recipient of tourists in the world and the biggest contributor to global tourism revenue, Shao Qwei, head of China’s National Tourism Administration, told a conference promoting cooperation between tourism authorities in China and the United States.

Chinese tourists spent more than $102 billion last year on overseas trips, Shao said, adding that each Chinese traveler spent an average of $5,948 in the US. He also quoted research findings from the US Bureau of Economic Analysis that found Chinese tourists had helped the US generate at least 10,000 jobs in 2012.

Shao is leading a Chinese delegation of tourism officials and industry heads in the US and has taken part in a succession of events that aim to promote cooperation in the tourism sector.

“We are witnessing the best era of our cooperation,” he said at the conference. “A solid foundation has been laid for us to make the tourism industry contribute more to the advancement of our two nations’ relations.”

Vettel fastest in Suzuka practice

Suzuka, (Japan), 12 Oct—Formula One world champion Sebastian Vettel was fastest on Friday in free practice for a Japanese Grand Prix that could secure his fourth successive title.

The German, who will wrap up the championship if he wins on Sunday and Ferrari’s Fernando Alonso fails to finish in the top eight, lapped with a best time of one minute 33.852 seconds in an afternoon session with plenty of incidents.

“The car balance is decent, but I think we can improve,” said the Red Bull driver, who had been third and behind the two Mercedes drivers in a morning session led by Lewis Hamilton.

“It’s good to see we are up there today, but it’s not always so important; we need to step up our game for tomorrow, as Mercedes will be strong in qualifying.”

Alonso, 77 points adrift of the German with five races remaining, ended the day with sixth and placed on the two timesheets.

“We were not as competitive as we wanted to be and now we must try and improve, putting together a series of changes that we already have in mind,” he said. As the Spaniard got out of the car and removed his helmet at the end of the second session, he was shocked to be told of the death in Spain of compatriot and former Marussia test driver Maria de Villota.

The news left the Suzuka paddock mourning a driver, who had remained passionate about the sport despite losing an eye in a life-threatening accident last year.

While Vettel took up his familiar place at the top of the timesheets, others hit trouble. Lotus’s Kimi Raikkonen, Pastor Maldonado for Williams and McLaren’s Sergio Perez all went off in the afternoon.

Libyan Prime Minister Ali Zeidan pauses after his address to the 22nd session of the Human Rights Council at the United Nations in Geneva, in this file picture taken on 25 Feb, 2013.—Reuters

Hungarian Foreign Minister Janos Martonyi delivers his closing address to the conference of Budapest Water Summit in Budapest, Hungary, on 11 Oct, 2013. The four-day summit ended on Friday after participants adopted a statement calling for the establishment of a set of water-specific sustainable development goals to be implemented after 2015. Xinhua

Myanmar TV

(13-10-2013, Sunday)


MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(13-10-2013, Sunday) 14-10-13 09:30 am MST

* Local News
* Thadingyut Lighting Festival with Great Dancers
* World News
* Travelling in Shan Mountain Ranges (Ya Ze Gyi Village)
* Local News
* Youth of The Future (Ep-5) (Visa Lot.-J.Jar Naining)
* World News
* The Untouched Footprint of Buddha
* Local News
* The Great Po Sein
* World News
* Exquisite Silver Jewellery
* Local News
* Unique Art of Stucco World
* World News
* Visiting A Serence Village In The Northwest Of Myanmar
* Myanmar Travel…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
* Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Ep-1) Mingalar Byuha
* Fortune Teller: “Yan Moe Aung”
* Shan Novices to be Myanmar Masterclass: Cubism

Red Bull Formula One driver Sebastian Vettel of Germany drives during the second practice session of the Japanese F1 Grand Prix at the Suzuka circuit on 11 Oct, 2013. Reuters

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Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation on goodwill visit to China

The Union minister said that delivery units led by the deputy ministers will make field trips to coordinate matters included in the list of top priorities during the remaining 30-month of the government. While the people-centred administration is in practice, it is required to address the difficulties caused by directives and orders as quick as possible, he added. Next, the chairpersons of the sub-committees and officials explained works to be done and made suggestions.

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Oct— A ceremony to open Nay Pyi Taw Ottarathiri Center, 5th Ocean Supercenter, was held at the center in Ottarathiri Township here this morning.

Managing Director Daw Win Win Tint of City Mart Holding Co., Ltd explained the opening of it. Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Phone Zaw Han and the managing director cut the ribbon to open it. After that, Union Minister Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Thein Nyunt and party looked round the showrooms. The two-storey center, which is built on 20 acres of land, is located in Zaw-an-theikdi ward in Ottarathiri Township.

A variety of electronics, modern household utensils, clothes, personal goods and clean and fresh foodstuffs are available at 41 showrooms there. It also includes 26 cash counters, two Cineplexes, two elevators and two lifts.—MNA

MPT announces underwater fiber cable link fault to Internet users

As a fault happened to the SMW-3 underwater on-land fiber optic cable that links the country with international cable networks of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications under the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology at 17:15 pm on 10 October, a disruption occurred with the fiber cable linking with international cable networks. Although there may be a low speed Internet connection due to the fault, the link with international networks can be normalized as on-land cross-border fiber optic links will be connected to the underwater cable.

The public are informed of the repair works that will last about seven days in order that it returns to normalcy.—Myawady

Public Service Capacity Assessment Committee meets delivery units, working groups

YANGON, 12 Oct — A work coordination meeting on matters for the development of private sector took place at the building of Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry this afternoon, attended by Union Minister at President Office U Tin Naing Thein, leader of Public Service Capacity Assessment Committee, and members, chairmen and members of sub-committees, responsible persons of the federation and working groups.

The Union minister said that delivery units led by the deputy ministers will make field trips to coordinate matters included in the list of top priorities during the remaining 30-month of the government. While the people-centred administration is in practice, it is required to address the difficulties caused by directives and orders as quick as possible, he added. Next, the chairpersons of the sub-committees and officials explained works to be done and made suggestions.

YANGON, 12 Oct — “JCV’s assistance to Myanmar government and its people will continue, ensuring every child accessible to vaccines.” the director-general of Japan Committee for Vaccines for the world’s children said during its vaccination program that was conducted in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and UNICEF at the designated places in Myanmar.

“We are here to study the ministry’s drive to reduce child mortality in Myanmar through its immunization program. Thanks to efforts of our committee, 29 per cent of the children under five who die each year has been saved,” he added. JCV established in 1994 provided Myanmar with vaccines and other medical equipment worth US$ 8.5 million during the period from 1996 to 2013 as part of efforts for stepping up the immunization program of Myanmar.—Sagunah

JCV to continue its assistance to Myanmar immunization program

Opening ceremony of Ocean Supercenter in progress in Ottarathiri Township.—MN

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing being seen off by Vice-Senior General Soe Win and party at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.—MNA

Local people seen with aids provided by JCV in The-ein Village.