**President U Thein Sein felicitates President, PM of Turkey**

_Nay Pyi Taw, 29 Oct—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitation to His Excellency Mr. Abdullah Gul, President of the Republic of Turkey and His Excellency Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, on the occasion of the anniversary of the Proclamation Day of the Republic of Turkey, which falls on 29 October 2013._

_MNA_

**Bangladesh poll protest violence kills 15 in four days**

_Dhaka, 28 Oct—At least 15 Bangladeshis have been killed and hundreds wounded in all-too-familiar political violence, police said on Monday, the second day of a strike led by opposition supporters demanding elections be held under a non-partisan administration._

_Four people, including a youth, a truck driver and a ruling party activist, were killed on Monday, police said. The violence began on Friday._

_The stand-off between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her arch rival, former premier Begum Khaleda Zia, is nothing new._

_The Acting General Secretary of Khaleda's opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, said the government could not be trusted to conduct a credible election._

_“Because, in this country, the political parties do not trust each other,” he said. “We had the system earlier, but unfortunately this government amended the constitution and brought in the partisan government.” Corruption-plagued Bangladesh is one of the poorest nations on Earth, but the tension is a fresh threat to the garment export industry which has already been rocked by a string of deadly factory accidents over the past year._

_Hasina talked with Khaleda by phone on Saturday, but they failed to defuse the crisis. The women have alternated as prime minister for most of the last 22 years, most of the time barely speaking to each other._

_Hasina has offered the formation of an all-party government to see through the elections with her staying as head of government._

_Bangladesh has already been hit by a wave of violent protests over war crimes convictions and more than 100 people have been killed in protests and counter-protests this year._

_MNA_

**Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives President of National Endowment for Democracy (NED)**

_Nay Pyi Taw, 28 Oct—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann received President Mr. Carl Gershman of Washington D.C.-based National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and party of the United States of America at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of the Hluttaw Complex, here, this afternoon._

_Present at the call together with the Pyithu Hluttaw speaker were Committee Chairmen U Maung Maung Thura and U Thein Swe, Commission Member Daw Aye Aye Mu and officials of the Hluttaw Office._

_MNA_

**Ayeaywady Bridge (Pakokku) brings development to western part of River Ayeyawady**

_Pakokku District of Magway Region located on the western bank of Ayeyawady River used to be a hard-to-reach place. Towns in the district could once be reached by only water, wasting time and money of travellers._

_Pakokku District is consisted of Seikpyu, Yezaygyo, Paik, Myaing and Pakokku, but it is sharing borders with not only townships in the southern part of Chin State but also Gangaw, Kyaw and Kaw valley and Kalay and Tamu sharing borders with India. So, the government started building Ayeaywady Bridge (Pakokku), the longest facility in Myanmar, on 31 December 2009 near Latpanchepaw and Mintha Bomma in Pakokku, aiming at ensuring smooth public transport and swift flow of commodity and regional development._

_The bridge was put into service on 31 December 2011._

_Thanks to the emergence of the new bridge benefitting local people in Magway and Mandalay Regions, speedy flow of commodities happens to the western part of Ayeyawady River, there by contributing towards better socio-economic development. The facility erased difficulties travellers in the region had to face in the past as they once had to spend a night and about K 100,000 before crossing the river._

_As a result of smooth and speedy transport, Pakokku dwellers are enjoying the fruitful results, seeing establishment of banks, many garment and textile factories, universities, hotels, motels and guesthouses are attached._

_Upon completion of Pathein-Monywa railroad and ASEAN Highways, Pakokku, the western part of Ayeyawady River, will be able to draw attentions to its geographically and economically important not only in Myanmar but also in the world._

_Kyemon (27-10-2013) Trx: YM_
Industrial Zone-2 of South Dagon supplied electricity

**Yangon, 28 Oct**—The government has established SMEs from Ward 63 and Ward 64 of Dagon Myothit (South) Township as an industrial zone in 1996. Over 1200 industries are operating their works for serving the interest of the nation. At his establishment time, the industrial zone was illuminated at full capacity, but storm Nargis destroyed some transformers and power lines in 2008.

At present, Industrial Zone Electrification Sub-committee and Yangon City Electricity Supply Board jointly carried out electrification tasks for the zone. As of 19 October, the industrial zone can enjoy electricity with 130 lamp-posts in Ward 64. A plan is underway to supply electricity to Ward 63, according to the electrification sub-committee.

Kyemon Chan Tha (Meiktila)

**Kyemon**

**Road bus, reliable for local people in YeU**

**Ywathlaung, 28 Oct**—Ministry of Rail Transportation is giving rail transport service to the local people for their convenient traveling.

Division 2 of Myanmar Railways runs rail buses in Ywathlaung region. The local people are pleased with the scheme that covers from Monywa to Tinteinyan of YeU and another one from Tinteinyan to Shwebo. Charge of rail transportation is cheaper than that of cars at least three folds. Operation hours of the rail buses are appropriate for the local people.

Confiscated vehicles to be sold through tender

Confiscated vehicles to be sold through tender

Heavy rains on 25 October leave rainwater on roads and residences in Ward 5 of Hline Township—Kyemon-686

Tennis Open Cup tournament kicks off

**Yangon, 28 Oct**—Organized by Myanmar Tennis Federation, the 2013 Tennis Opening Cup kicked off at Theinbyu Tennis Court in Mingala Taungnyunt Township on 26 October.

The players took the sports oaths.

President of Myanmar Tennis Federation U Aung Maw Thein made a speech and greeted the players.

Next, Patron of MTF U Aung Thein Lin and President U Aung Maw Thein formally opened the tennis tournament.

Before the competition, the aero-bics athletes of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation presented entertainments.

On 26 October, the tournament held 17 matches.

MTF took responsibility for accommodation and foods of tennis players from regions and states.

The tournament will last up to 2 November.

The matches will be held at the tennis court of 9 am daily.—Kyemon

Tennis Open Cup tournament

*Myanmar, 28 Oct*— The convey of friendship border travel car rally with 62 participants from Germany, France, Australia, Czech, Singapore, Brunei and Malaysia passed Meiktila of Mandalay Region on 24 October afternoon.

The car rally was jointly organized by Myanmar Mingalar Shukkin Travel Agency Co and Thai-based Trans Asia Route Co Ltd.

The car rally team had passed Kalay region, Pantaung Ponnya region, Bagan-NyaungU and Meiktila.

They will drive to Myawady of Myanmar-Thai border region.—Kyemon Chan Tha (Meiktila)

Roads, residences inundated in Tamway

**Yangon, 28 Oct**—Heavy rains hit Yangon on 25 October morning.

Banyadala Road in Tamway Township was inundated.

The junctions of the road in front of Yuzana Plaza, Aungmingala, Thida and Tamway mosque fell under inundated water.

“My apartment is located near the mosque of Kyaikkasan Street. The heavy rains brought down rainwater on the pavement of the roads and flowed water into the residence. The houses were filled with a half leg deep water. Some property were damaged in the water. The inundation caused the traffic jam in various parts of the roads,” said a local.

Officials of Township Development Affairs Comm.”

**Kyemon**

Heavy rains on 25 October leave rainwater on roads and residences in Ward 5 of Hline Township—Kyemon-686

**Road bus seen at a railways station for travelling of local people.**

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**Roads filled with rainwater cause traffic congestion.**

**Township.—Kyemon-597**

**Members of car rally seen on a road section.**

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WASHINGTON, 28 Oct — Two Republican congressmen on Sunday defended Washington’s surveillance programmes abroad in reaction to protests from all sides. Among the widespread eavesdropping was revealed this week by former spy agency contractor Edward Snowden.

Mike Rogers, chairman of the House of Representatitives intelligence committee, said much of the public information on those efforts, including allegations that the US National Security Agency had spied on millions of French citizens, was misguided.

“They are seeing three or four pieces of a thousand-piece puzzle and trying to come to a conclusion,” he said on CNN’s “State of the Nation” programme. The media was given one slide, which included the word “France” on it, Rogers said, which “started a huge amount of discussion among Americans collecting phone calls in France with French citizens.” That is 100 percent wrong,” he said. The slide referred to a counter-terrorism programme that had nothing to do with French citizens, he said. Instead, Rogers said, European authorities don’t have enough oversight of their intelligence services. He suggested that the new revelations were not surprises to European intelligence agencies, but only to the governments for which they work.

Congressman Peter King, chairman of the House subcommittee on counter-terrorism and intelligence, speaking on NBC’s “Meet the Press,” said: “The president should not be apologizing, stop being defensive.

“The reality is the NSA has saved thousands of lives, not just in the United States but also in France and Germany and through-out Europe. The French are some ones to talk: the fact is, they’ve carried out spying operations against the United States, both the government and industry. As far as Germany, that’s where the Hamburg plot began, which led to 9/11. ”

As Iraq seeks US arms, bombs kill 55

BAGHDAD, 28 Oct — A dozen bombings in Iraq killed 55 people on Sunday as the prime minister prepares to travel to Washington. President Barack Obama’s help in confronting a wave of sectarian violence fuelled by Syria’s civil war.

Killings, mostly blamed by the Shi’ite-led government on Sunni Islamists from al-Qaeda, are running at daily rates not seen in five years and Nuri al-Maliki will ask Obama on Friday to speed up promised deliveries of drones and F-16 jets that he believes can help staunch the long desert border with Syria. Iraq’s own security forces, trained and equipped by the US troops who withdrew in late 2011 after a nine-year occupation, have been unable to prevent a surge in violence which has taken the civilian death toll so far this year to about 7,000. Sealing the Syrian border would only address part of the problem.

On Sunday, police reported 11 vehicles blowing up in mainly Shi’ite Muslim areas in and around Baghdad, killing 41 people in an apparently coordinat-ed series of explosions typical of al Qaeda.

A further 14 people were killed when a suicide bomber drove up to a line of soldiers waiting to collect their pay from a bank in the northern city of Mosul and detonated his car. There were no immediate claims of responsibility.

S Korea asks US if leader was wiretapped by US spy agency

SEOUL, 28 Oct — South Korea has asked the United States to clarify whether its president was among the leaders of 35 countries who were reportedly wiretapped by the US National Security Agency, Yonhap News Agency reported on Sunday, citing a government official.

“We are checking with the US side for verification,” the official was quoted as saying. “The government is closely following the issue and is determined to respond strictly.”

The Guardian, a leading British daily, reported on Friday that the NSA monitored the phone conversations of 35 world leaders, citing a classified document from 2006 provided by whistleblower Edward Snowden, a former intelligence contractor. In 2006, South Korea’s president was Roh Moo Hyun.

The South Korean official said Seoul previously made a similar request to Washington after The Guardian, citing other NSA documents leaked by Snowden, reported last month that US intelligence services eavesdropped on 38 embassies and missions in the United States, including those of allies like South Korea and Japan.

At that time, the US had said that it gravelly understands the concerns of the ally and is reviewing sensitive and intelligence activities in general,” the South Korean official told Yonhap.

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Austrian telecoms watchdog to hear 4G auction gripes

VIENNA, 28 Oct — Austria’s telecoms watchdog will hold a hearing of complaints by operators about the 2 billion euro ($2.8 billion) auction for fourth-generation frequencies, which was criticized for being too expensive.

The 4G auction in Europe’s most price-competitive telecoms market raised four times the minimum set by the regulator and was the most expensive in Europe per head of population. The head of the regulator, Georg Serentschy, told Reuters on Friday that the watchdog would hear the operators’ complaints at their request but could not change the auction results announced this week.

The hearing date is to be decided next week and will be on either 4 November or 11 November, three sources familiar with the situation told Reuters. The operators will have to file formal complaints with a court if they want to pursue their grievances.

Telekom Austria, the country’s biggest operator, grabbed half the spectrum on offer in the auction at a price of 1 billion euros, including a third of the 800 MHz frequencies, with Telekom Austria taking two thirds.

All three operators have complained about the auction process, which required them to submit blind bids to prevent collusion. This required them to bid without knowledge of the extent of demand for any particular frequency block, thereby pushing up the price.

“It was extortion,” Telekom Austria’s Chief Executive Andreas Bierwirth said at an industry event late on Thursday. But Serentschy said that even when the extent of the demand was revealed to the bidders in the 39th of the 72 rounds, the aggressive bidding did not stop. “There was no reaction to this strategy — they were still very much on the offensive,” he said.

The regulator will present its own analysis of the auction to the media on Monday. — Reuters

Antarctic ozone hole slightly smaller than average: NASA

WASHINGTON, 28 Oct — The hole above Antarctica in Earth’s protective ozone layer this year was slightly smaller than average in recent decades, US space agency NASA said on Friday.

The September-October 2013 average size of the hole was 21 million square kilometres, while the average size measured since the mid-1990s was 29.9 million square kilometres, the space agency NASA said in a statement.

However, it’s too early to determine whether a healing of the hole has begun, the space agency said.

“There was a lot of Antarctic ozone depletion in 2013, but because of above average temperatures in the Antarctic lower stratosphere, the ozone hole was a bit below average compared to ozone holes observed since 1990,” said Paul Newman, an atmospheric scientist and ozone expert at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center.

The single-day maximum area this year was reached on 16 September when the maximum area reached 24 million square kilometers, about equal to the size of North America.

The largest single-day ozone hole since the mid-1990s was 29.9 million square kilometres on 9 September, 2000, it said.

The ozone hole in the stratosphere is a seasonal phenomenon that starts to form in August and September.

However, as the result of the 1987 Montreal Protocol, an international treaty to protect the ozone layer by phasing out production of ozone-depleting chemicals, levels of most ozone-depleting chemicals in the atmosphere have gradually declined, thus the size of the hole has stabilized, with variation from year to year driven by changing meteorological conditions.

Xinhua

Wealth managers say they hear ‘nary a tweet’ for Twitter’s IPO

WALTMOUTH, Massachusetts, when asked about client interest in the deal.

Out of 29 broker-dealers and independent advisors contacted by Reuters, 23 said they are not recommending Twitter shares. Only one said he would recommend it — and only to certain clients.

Five others said they would wait to snap up the stock if it plunges after it begins to trade on the New York Stock Exchange.

While retail interest might be low, tech industry analysts say there is expected to be a good appetite for Twitter stock from institutional investors at the current valuation. Actual institutional investor sentiment still remains unclear.

Retail investors typically account for 10 to 15 percent of IPOs.

Twitter said on Thursday it will sell 70 million shares at between $17 and $20 apiece, valuing the online messaging company at up to about $11 billion, less than the $15 billion some analysts had been expecting. If underwriters choose to sell an additional allotment of 10.5 million shares, the IPO could raise as much as $1.6 billion.

Blame last year’s botched Facebook Inc IPO for the diminished interest from Mom and Pop in Twitter.

Reuters

Qinghai-Tibet plateau lakes grow as environment recovers

XINING, 28 Oct — The Sanjiangyuan region of the Qinghai-Tibet plateau, home to the key source of China’s mother rivers, has seen its lakes swell as environmental protection projects take effect.

The surface area of lakes in the Sanjiangyuan region in northwest China has increased by 760 square kilometres over the past eight years, protecting the headstreams of China’s Yangtze River, Yellow River and Lancang River, according to the Sanjiangyuan office under the Qinghai provincial government.

Gyaring Lake and Ngoring Lake, the two largest freshwater lakes at the headstreams of the Yellow River, have grown by 34.7 square kilometres and 64.4 square kilometres respectively since 2004, according to data from the Qinghai Meteorological Administration.

“It’s a good sign that the lakes have grown bigger, which means the environment of the area has improved,” said Li Xiaonan, deputy head of the Sanjiangyuan office. With an average altitude of 4,000 meters, Sanjiangyuan, which means “source of three rivers” in Chinese, lies in the hinterland of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and is home to China’s biggest and highest wetlands ecosystem.

Though it is known as “China’s water tower,” Sanjiangyuan has been faced with reduced water resources and shrinking lakes due to climate change and human activities since the late 1980s.

In 2005, the central government invested 7.5 billion yuan (about 1.2 US dollars) for the Sanjiangyuan ecological restoration project, with measures including wetlands protection, grazingeland-to-grassland restoration, forest preservation and water and soil conservation.

As the first phase of the project comes to an end, the spectacular “one thousand lakes” landscape has reappeared in the wetlands of Sanjiangyuan, said Li. As water conservation capability has improved in Sanjiangyuan, land erosion has been curbed.

In the Sanjiangyuan National Nature Reserve, land erosion in 2012 decreased by more than 35.1 million tons compared to 2004.

The trend of ecological degradation has been alleviated somewhat as we have seen more rain and vegetation in Sanjiangyuan,” Li said. — Xinhua

People holding mobile phones are silhouetted against a backdrop projected with the Twitter logo in this illustration picture taken in Warsaw on 27 Sept, 2013. — Reuters

NEW YORK, 28 Oct — Twitter Inc has set a relatively modest price range for its closely watched initial public offering, but some financial advisers say their clients are not clamoring to invest in the social media phenomenon. “Nary a tweet,” says William Baldwin, president of Pillar Financial Advisors in
Nasdaq says FINRA caps Facebook IPO claims at $41.6 million  

WASHINGTON, 28 Oct —The total value of the claims that market makers can recover after suffering losses due to Nasdaq OMX Group Inc’s botched handling of Facebook Inc’s initial public offering is $41.6 million, the exchange operator said on Friday. The claims figure, which was calculated by Wall Street’s industry-funded watchdog the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, falls short of the $62 million that Nasdaq had initially set aside to repay brokerages that lost money. Nasdaq said the figure is lower in part because some claims did not qualify for compensation under its plan. The main reason for the lower figure, however, was because one firm opted to try to recover funds through arbitration. The announce- ment did not name the brokerage, which traded US AG. UBS has lost its losses from the glitch- ridden IPO at $350 million and was vocal in its decision to file an arbitration demand which claimed Nasdaq had violated a contract agreement. US District Judge Robert Sweet, however, blocked the bank’s arbitration proceeding over the summer on several grounds, including a determination that the bank’s claim did not fall within the scope of the arbitration provision in their services agreement.

China overhauls consumer protection laws

SHANGHAI, 28 Oct —China’s top legal body has strengthened consumer rights in the country after it revised the nation’s Consumer Protection Law on Friday, the first major overhaul in two decades. The revisions increase consumer powers, add rules for the booming Internet shopping sector and stiffen punishments for businesses that mislead shoppers. Chinese regulators have been punishing for businesses shopping sector and stiffen punishments for the booming Internet sector, which has accounted for a fifth of total retail sales in China between 2010 and 2006 to hit 1.3 trillion yuan ($624.79 million) worth of poor quality goods sold in China between 2010 and 2012, according to the State Administration for Industry and Commerce (SAIC). “Strengthening consumer confidence will benefit the whole nation’s economic development and boost domestic demand,” Jia Dongfeng, director of the civil law working committee under China’s Standing Committee, said at a press brief- ing to announce the changes to the law. The amendments to the 1993 law include increasing compensation for consumers and raising fines for retailers who violate the law, including in cases where faulty products lead to consumers being harmed or killed. Compensation rose from equaling the amount of damages to three times the amount. China will also strengthen the role of the China Consumers’ Association, which will be able to represent groups of consumers in any wider class actions against retailers. Officials also stressed the growing importance of protecting consumers in China’s booming online shopping sector, which has expanded rapidly with the rise of market leader Alibaba’s Taobao, Wal-Mart Stores Inc’s (WMT.N) Yihaodian and 360Buy.com.

FDA approves Abbott device for leaking heart valve

NEW YORK, 28 Oct —The US Food and Drug Administration has approved Abbott Laboratories’ MitraClip medical device, used to stop heart valve leakage in patients deemed unable to endure valve repair through open heart surgery, the company said on Friday. The MitraClip treats mitral regurgitation, a condition in which the mitral valve of the heart does not close properly, causing blood leakage that can lead to stroke, heart attack or even death. It has estimated that the disorder affects about one in 10 people aged 75 and older. Those with the condition who are too frail for open heart surgery are typically treated with medi- cines and have high rates of heart failure and rehospitalizations. “We think longer term in the US, (MitraClip) could be a $500 million product,” said RBC Cap- ital Markets analyst Glenn Novarro. “This approval is sooner than we thought. It’s a pleasant surprise.” Novarro said the timing of the FDA green light was excellent as it came just ahead of a major US medical meeting for interventional cardiologists where Abbott will be able to showcase the device. A panel of advisers to the FDA in March voted 5-3 to recommend approval of the implantable heart de- vice. Some panel members questioned whether Mitra- Clip would be effective.

Boeing, Lockheed team up to bid on new US bomber programme

WASHINGTON, 28 Oct —Boeing Co (BA.N) and Lockheed Martin Corp (LMT.N) will team up to bid on a new US Air Force long-range bomber programme, a multi-billion-dollar project that US Air Force officials have described as a top acquisition priority. Boeing, which has played a role in every US bomber program since World War Two, would be the prime contractor on the next-generation bomber programme, with Lockheed as its primary subcontractor, the companies said on Friday. The Air Force has said it plans to buy as many as 100 new bombers for no more than $550 million each. Air Force spokesman Ed Gulick said $581 million has been spent on the Long-Range Strike Bomber (LRS-B) programme to date, starting in fiscal 2012. “The LRS-B is a top modernization priority for the Air Force and critical to our national security,” he said. “The Air Force looks forward to working with all participat- ing industry partners on this very important programme.” Gulick had no imme- diate comment on the pact between Boeing and Lock- heed. The Air Force estimate of $550 million a plane re- flects only the procurement cost of the new weapons, but not the cost of developing the plane or construction of new hangars.

Direct flight inaugurated between Moscow, Cuban seaside resort

HAVANA, 28 Oct —Russian tour operator Pegas Turistik on Friday inaugurated the first ever direct flight between Moscow and the Cuban seaside resort of Varadero. A flight with more than 360 passengers aboard landed on Friday at the Caribbean resort’s Juan Guibal Gomez Interna- tional Airport. “Cuba is very beautiful and Russian tourists are very interested in visiting the country for its sun and sand,” the agency’s supervisor Irina Lavrenova said. Situated on the northern coast of Cuba’s province of Matanzas, Varadero is a well developed tourist destination ranked among the world’s top 10 beach resorts, according to online travel site TripAdvisor.

Workers can be seen on the moving line and forward fuselage assembly areas for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter at Lockheed Martin Corp’s factory located in Fort Worth, Texas in this 13 Oct 2011 handout photo provided by Lockheed Martin.—REUTERS
Cigar-smuggling pigeons to touch down at New York gallery

NEW YORK, 28 Oct — Thanks to New York City artist Duke Riley, the American surveillance apparatus faces a new airborne foe: the homing pigeon. Riley trained pigeons to smuggle Cuban cigars from Havana, Cuba, to Key West, Florida, while other birds filmed the 100-mile (160-km) journey with custom-made cameras. The pigeons and their videos will be on display in Riley’s solo show, which opens on 1 November at the Magnan Metz gallery in New York. Riley, 41, said he came up with the project at least in part to challenge the idea that the spying capabilities of the US government have become all-encompassing.

He started with 50 birds — tagging half of them as smugglers and the other half as documentary. “A lot of the work I do seeks to create some sense of possibility or empowerment, in a humorous and romanticized way, using the simplest means possible,” Riley said. It was also Riley’s way of protesting the 51-year-old US embargo against Cuba. Under the 1917 Trading with the Enemy Act, the United States has enforced economic sanctions against Cuba since 1962. More recently, Americans with permission to travel to Cuba were allowed to bring back $100 worth of goods, but the Bush administration ratcheted up sanctions in 2004, imposing a total ban.

Riley’s cigar project aims for more than just subversion. “I don’t want to — can I say it? — be pigeonholed,” said Riley, who has been around pigeons since he was a child. He spent years researching their role in carrying information for the military — more recently for the US Coast Guard for approaching the Red Hook-berthed submarine. Riley called that project commentary on the Bush administration’s “war on terror” and the gentrification of the Brooklyn waterfront, where he works as a tattoo artist.

In 2009, Riley hopped freight trains on his way to Cleveland, Ohio, and infiltrated the city’s sewer system to emulate the hobobo lifestyle Revolutionary War-era submarine. Riley called that project commentary on the Bush administration’s “war on terror” and the gentrification of the Brooklyn waterfront, where he works as a tattoo artist.

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18 civilians killed in eastern Afghan roadside bombing

GHANZI, 28 Oct — Eighteen civilians were killed and five others wounded on Sunday evening in a roadside bombing in eastern Afghan province of Ghazni, a provincial source told Xinhua.

“A minibus was moving on a road in Andar district at around 4:30 pm local time. It touched off an Improvised Explosive Device (IED). The explosion killed 18 and injured five,” the deputy provincial governor Ali Ahmad told Xinhua. The victims included women, children and men with majority of them from the same family. The official said majority of the five injured women were in critical conditions, adding they were moving home after attending a wedding party in the village. He blamed Taleban insurgent group for the attack.

The Taleban has intensified attacks since they launched annual rebel offensive late April.—Xinhua
270 motorcyclists on goodwill trip arrive at Reed Lake

Falal, 28 Oct—The amateur Bullet motorcyclists led by the Aizawl Thunder of Mizoram State of India entered the India-Myanma border gate No. 2 trade camp and arrived at Reed Lake which is the famous shape of lake in Chin State, on 24 October. A 270-motorcyclists group of Royal Enfield Bullet riders came from north-east states of India. The group comprised over 300 riders of 270 motorcycles. They visited Reed Lake and Tio Creek near the creek for two hours and left there for India to attend the 5th North East Riders Meet in the district of Mizoram State of India.—MMAL-CL-Thang Ngar

Plan to inspect impacts of generating coal-fired power

Kalay, 28 Oct—Singapore-based company and Tun Thwin Minerals Exploration Co will jointly carry out construction of 540-megawatt power station in west of Kalewa-Mawlake Road in Nanawake Village in Masein Village-tract of Kalewa Township in Sagaing Region.

"Power supply is important in Myanmar. But, construction of the power station should be discussed openly among the local people. A meeting was invited but the attendees signed the attendance sheet, not for supporting it," said a local.

As developing country will face high power demand, various ways and means are being sought for generating electricity for the local people. Among South-east Asian nations, power consumption of Myanmar is still at the lowest level. Only when the nation consumes electricity on the increase, will the social status of the people be higher, remarked some local people.

At a meeting on 23 October, the Region Chief Minister consoled the local people not to worry about the generating of electricity through coal.—MMAL-Shin Nay Min

Global Hand Washing Day observed

Patheingyi, 28 Oct—The Global Hand Washing Day was observed at Basic Education High School in Patheingyi Township for 2013-2014 academic year on 26 October morning.

Headmistress Daw Khin Khin Hla, teachers and students participated in sanitation tasks and clearing bushes around the school and then celebrated the Global Hand Washing Day.

Similar ceremonies were held at basic education schools in Patheingyi Township of Mandalay Region simultaneously.

MMAL-Aung Kyaw Tun (Patheingyi)

Ferry of Kyaukse University overturns

SINGAING, 28 Oct—Kyaukse University held the second batch examination. A ferry with 18 students which returned to hostels after the exam over turned on 25 October afternoon.

The vehicle driven by ThanMinLatto of Thumgin Mon Village of Sngaing Township transported 18 students of University of Distance Education dodged the motorcycle on Yangon-Mandalay Highway and plunged into the left roadside.

Policemen, members of Fire Brigade and social organization carried out rescue works.

Five students are receiving treatment at the intensive care unit and the remaining students at outpatient unit, said Dr Aye Thanda Kyaw of Sangain Hospital.

The driver escaped from the scene. The vehicle driven by ThanMinLatto of Thumgin Mon Village of Sngaing Township transported 18 students of University of Distance Education dodged the motorcycle on Yangon-Mandalay Highway and plunged into the left roadside.

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MMAL-Aung Kyaw Tun (Sngaing)

Roads damaged in rainy season under repair in Phakant

Phakant, 28 Oct—The damaged road section along Lonkhin-Phakant-Seikmu road in Phakant Township of Kachin State is under repair as of 16 October.

Under the management of Township Administrator U Nyen Tun Kyaw, members of Township Development Supportive Committee U Po Htoo and U Thein Zaw together with local authorities and members of Fire Brigade repaired the 2.5 miles long road section from Yuma Bridge to Seikmu Village bailey bridge with the use of seven backhoes and five dumper trucks of 12 companies.

Likewise, township officials and members of Fire Brigade repaired the 4.5 miles long road section from Mawwanganpant Bridge to Lonkhin-Bailey Bridge with the use of backhoes and dumper trucks of nine companies from 12 to 16 October.—MMAL-Soe Naing Go (Phakant)

Damaged road shoulders repaired in Kalay

Kalay, 28 Oct—Due to floods at the end of September, shoulders of asphalt road section from Phaungku Bridge to Shitmyethna Pagoda near Yuma Bridge to Seikmu Village bailey bridge with the use of seven backhoes and five dumper trucks of 12 companies.

At present, vehicles small and large can drive along the road smoothly. MMAL-Ja Nine

SEA Games Chinlone mobile games distributed free of charge

Yangon, 28 Oct—SEA Games Chinlone Mobile Game has been distributed free of charge as of 25 October for enabling the players to understand techniques of the Chinlone event.

The games circulation was jointly sponsored by Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Cane-ball Federation. It was produced by Total Gameplay Studio and software producer Zwenexsys Int’l Ltd.

The games show off 500 steps of Chinlone event. The games are available at mobile games centres across the nation. It is also available at http://totalgameplaystudio.com/chinlone and http://zwenexsys.com/chinlone.

MMAL-Myat Sandi

ACCIDENT

A 10-wheeled truck loaded with 250 cement bags plunged into Kababyu Yaw Creek in Pauk Township of Pakokku District in Magway Region on 23 October morning due to change of water course while it was crossing the creek from Kababyu Bank to Pauk.

MMAL-Township IPRD

A backhoe in use for repairing damaged roads in Phakant.

Photo shows a heavy machinery repairing shoulder of asphalt road.
**Perspectives**

Tuesday, 29 October, 2013

**Public Trust**

The changing State’s political trend has awakened transparency in Myanmar. Now government bodies have spokespersons who will release accurate news reports. Seminars and workshops with the participation of foreign countries and international and domestic organizations coupled with media courses have reinforced this transparency.

In fact, public trust is the key in democracy. Public trust in media. Only public trust can ensure fair competitiveness in the future media landscape, and the effectiveness of State’s services in the interest of the people. So, media development of Myanmar depends much on public trust.

The past media model of Myanmar was based on authoritarianism. Authoritarianism flourished in the world alongside the public industry in the 16th century. Authoritarianism favors absolute obedience to authority by the majority while assuming factions and criticisms as enemies. Under this system, every publication must have license and must go through strict censorship. Criticism against government is punishable.

We have already left behind this system, and the present Myanmar sees social responsibility-based model as the goal. Social responsibility media tolerates criticism against government and guarantees honest reporting, and is responsive to society interest and requirements. In this system, Press cannot have freedom at will, but freedom within the fabric of law. We will be Press codes of ethics. This system is used even in many countries of the West.

The final goal of Myanmar media development is a totally independent media landscape that wins public trust. There must be no more authoritarian beliefs at all, and the social responsibility model should be the base. Like a saying, which goes, “That government is best which governs least”, the Press will be free from government control and will be the one on which the public can rely.

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**Announcement on timely exchange of Foreign Exchange Certificate-FEC during final period**

The Central Bank of Myanmar had introduced a procedure for withdrawal of FEC during the initial exchange period from 1 April, 2013 to 30 June, 2013 as follows:-

(a) Exchanging FECs with foreign currency dollar in cash or depositing them into the foreign currency accounts of holders at the bank.

(b) Allowing the FEC holders to open a new foreign currency account with their own names at the bank.

(c) Depositing the local currency kyat which was exchanged with FEC at the official exchange rate of the Central Bank of Myanmar at money changer.

 holders.

(d) Exchanging FECs with local currency Kyat in cash or allowing FEC holders to open a new local currency account with their own names. A plan for holders of FEC who failed to do so for various reasons—002.

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**Sittoung River may reach danger level**

**NAY PYI TAW, 28 Oct—**According to the (12:30) hr M.S.T observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Toungoo is observed as (40) cm (about 1.3ft) below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (24) hours commencing noon today, announced the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

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**Union Health Minister attends opening of Consortium Meeting in Myanmar**

**YANGON, 28 Oct—**Jointly organized by University of Medicine (1) of the Department of Medical Science under the Ministry of Health, European Union (EU) and Ghent University Belgium, the opening of the Lotus Unlimited Kick-off Meeting and the lotus I, II and III Consortium Meeting Myanmar took place at Panda Hotel in Lamdagaw Township, here, this morning, with an address by Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin.

The meeting attended by the professors and scholars at home and abroad would discuss sharing of knowledge between the scholars from European Consortium member universities and Asia Consortium member universities and scholarship students’ selection programmes for MSc and PhD courses.

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**Union Minister Dr Pe Thet Khin delivering address at opening of the Lotus Unlimited Kick-off Meeting and the lotus I, II and III Consortium Meeting.**

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**Respects paid to elderly people in Khitaye Village**

**KHIKAYE, 28 Oct—**The 2nd respect paying ceremony of Border Areas and National Race Youth Development School was held at the monastery in Khitaye Village in Zeyathiri Township, here, this morning. The aged over 80 years are from villages of Zeyathiri Township.

Among the older persons, Grandma Daw Aye Khin, the oldest person, is 105 years old and Grandma Daw Shin, the second one, 103 years old. The school provides care to 91 orphans including 80 students from primary to university education level. It is learnt that arrangements are being made to pay respects to older people at home who could not attend the ceremony due to various reasons.—002.

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**Chairmen of Agriculture ...**

(from page 16)

of the remaining creeks and drains for cultivation summer paddy in Twantay Township, dredging of Drain Nos 3 and 4 and construction of Tarpyat Zayat sluice gate in Kawkmu Township, clearing of creeks and drains in Kayan and Thongwa Townships, construction of Shwetaung-panyoe sluice gate and dredging of creeks in Hlegu Township, exportation of finished-wood products into European market and work requirements of the breeders and marine entrepreneurs to the deputy ministers.

Subcommittee Chairman Debyar Minster for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than and Deputy Minister U Khan Zaw, Deputy Ministers for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Khin Maung Aye and Dr Aung Myat Oo and Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Aye Myint Maung gave sector-wise clarifications.—MNA

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**Hello, do you hear me?**

**Yeah, I hear you and also see you...**

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**Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann shakes hands with President Mr. Carl Gershman of Washington D.C.-based National Endowment for Democracy. (News on page 1)—MNA**
U Tin Yu presents Credentials to Latvian President

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Oct—U Tin Yu, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Latvia, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Andris Bērziņš, President of the Republic of Latvia, on 22 October 2013, in Riga.—MNA

Refresher courses for basic education teachers opened

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Oct—Opening of Refresher Course No. (86) for basic education teachers took place at the Central Institute of Civil Services (Phaunggyi) this morning, with an address by Union Minister Dr Ko Ko Oo. It was also attended by Member of Union Civil Services Board Dr Kyaw Kyaw Htay and 1503 basic education teachers. The Union Minister said in his address that education reform is being carried out teachers need to do their best using their right concept, knowledge and experience in nurturing students who are talented.

Similarly, the Refresher Course No. (54) for basic education teachers was opened at the Central Institute of Civil Services (Upper Myanmar) this morning, with an address by Member of Union Civil Services Board U Soe Oo.

Participants arrive in Mandalay to attend opening of 23rd ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Oct—A delegation led by Deputy Commander of Royal Brunei Land Forces Col Haji Zainal Ariffin Bin Dato Paduka Haji Ahmad yesterday arrived in Mandalay to attend opening of 23rd ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet to be hosted by Myanmar. Similarly, Vice Chief of Staff of the Royal Thai Army General Udomdej Sitabutr and party of Thailand, Vice of Army Chief of Staff Lt-Gen Muhammad Munir and party of Indonesia, Vice Commander of the Philippine Army Maj-Gen ESSEL C SORIANO and party of the Philippines, Chief of Armed Forces Training Col Khampaw Phimmason and party of Laos, Vice Chief of Staff (Army) Lt-Col Chan Sophalakra and party of Cambodia, Vice-Chief of Staff Brig-Gen Lim Cheng Yeow Perry and party of Singapore and Deputy Chief of Army Lt-Gen Dato’ Seri Panglima Haji Ahmad Hasbullah Bin Haji Mohd Nawawi and party of Malaysia arrived at Ta-DaU International Airport in Mandalay by Thai Smile Airline and Bangkok Airways this morning and afterwards.—Myawady

Rain pours down in Zeya Thiri Tsp

ZEYA THIRI, 28 Oct—Rain poured down in torrent last night in Zeya Thiri Township and flooded residential areas, rice fields and Yangon-Mandalay old highway. Photo shows vehicles wading through the flooded road near Pinlaung Junction Traffic Light on 28 October.—NLM 003

40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation marked with entertainment

YANGON, 28 Oct—To mark the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, entertainment programme were presented at the National Theatre in Dagon Township, here, yesterday evening. Among the spectators were Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, region ministers and their wives, Ambassadors of foreign embassies and guests. Minister-Counsellor Mr. Toshih YAMAMOTO of the Japanese Embassy extended greetings.

Public announcement on changes in unit price of electricity

In order to cover costs of producing and purchasing electricity to a certain extent, Yangon City Electricity Supply Board has set the following unit prices to be charged as of electricity consumption in November, 2013.

(a) Public (household use)
   (1) from one unit to 100 units 35 kyats
   (2) 101 units and above 50 kyats

(b) Public (industry, enterprise, lump sum, temporary)
   (1) from one unit to 5,000 units 100 kyats
   (2) 5,001 units and above 150 kyats

(c) Government Department
   (1) Office use 50 kyats
   (2) Industrial use 100 kyats

It is announced that the electricity bills charging the amount of electricity consumption in November, 2013 in accord with the new unit prices shown in the para-1 will be sent to the public as of December, 2013.

Yangon City Electricity Supply Board
**Requirements in Pa-O Self-Administered Zone fulfilled**

Taunggyi, 28 Oct—Union Ministers at the President Office U Soe Than and U Tin Naing Thein held a meeting with members of township committees and ward/village development supportive committees on development tasks in Pa-O Self-Administrated Zone at the hall in Hopong on 24 October afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister U Soe Than said that reforms must be made for requirements of the people. Only then, will the participation of the people achieve success in regional development, he said.

Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein also gave a speech, saying that reform process is leading to the public-centric development tasks. He stressed the need for development supportive committees and departments to join hands in harmony for prioritise the development tasks. Township and Sub-Township administrators and town’s elders reported on requirements of the region. Their discussions were reviewed by the Union Ministers. The meeting ended with remarks by Union Minister U Soe Than.

Also present at the meeting were Chief Minister of Shan State U Sao Aung Myat, Shan State ministers, the State Minister for Bamar Development Supportive Committees, the chairmen of the Leading Body of Pa-O Self-Administrated Zone, State Hluttaw representatives, departmental officials and ward administrators.

**Interfaith friendship group marks Eid Day get-together**

Pyapon, 28 Oct—Interfaith Friendship Group held a get-together at Jamai Mosque on 6th Street in Pyapon Township on 26 October.

Two owls of SEA Mascot under construction

Nay Pyi Taw, 28 Oct—Main sports events among 33 sports events will be held at Nay Pyi Taw Wunna Theikdhi Stadium where the XXVII SEA Games will be hosted. Preparations are being made for hosting the SEA Games.

Among the preparation tasks, two owl mascots are being constructed at Gate 1 of Gold Camp of Nay Pyi Taw at Wunna Theikdhi Stadium on 27 October.

Owl mascot construction at Wunna Theikdhi Stadium.

**Thechaung Railway Station commissioned into service**

Indaw, 28 Oct—A ceremony to open Thechaung Railway Station was held at the station between Mezar and Bonchaung Stations in Indaw Township of Sagaing Region on 25 October.

Indaw Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Kyaw Naing Huy, Region Hluttaw representative U San Shwin and Assistant Manager of Myanma Railways Division 2 U Zaw Lwin formally opened the station.

It was also attended by Deputy Township Administrator U Min Min Latt, departmental officials, staff of Myanma Railways and local people totalling over 200.

Thechaung Station is five miles distance from Mezar Station and four miles from Bonchaung Station. It is located in Natyedwin Village-tract of Indaw Township.

Thechaung is formed with 95 houses for 500 local people.

It was learnt that 47-up and 48-down Manda-Naba trains and 39-up and 40-down trains will stop over at the station.

**Sangyoung Township FSD welcomes visitors**

The visitors enjoyed fire drills by township heads of FSD from Sangyoung Zone and those from the visiting group.—Kyemon-Tin Maung Oo (Ahlon)
Indian police narrow down on perpetrators of bomb blasts

NEW DELHI, 28 Oct — Indian police are narrowing down on the perpetrators of the serial blasts in the eastern city of Patna which killed five and injured over 80 on Sunday. Police are conducting raids in Ranchi, state capital of Jharkhand in eastern India, based on the results of interrogation of a man arrested on the spot of the blasts, said TV channel CNN-IBN.

The man was arrested by police after trying to flee the blast spot, where the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party prime ministerial candidate Narendra Modi was addressing a huge rally. Jharkhand is the neighbouring state of Bihar, whose capital is Patna. Police have found a cooker full of explosives during their raids in Ranchi. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said the blasts were aimed at creating chaos in his state.

So far no one has claimed responsibility for the blasts, which took place at a railway station, a movie theatre and a field for huge political rallies in Patna. Indian leaders, including President Pranab Mukherjee, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and ruling Congress party president Sonia Gandhi, have strongly condemned the blasts.

Top regulator, TEPCO president meet over Fukushima plant management

Tokyo, 28 Oct — Nuclear Regulation Authority Chairman Shunichi Tanaka held a rare meeting with Tokyo Electric Power Co President Naomi Hirose on Monday to discuss the trouble-plagued management of the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

To resolve the situation at the Fukushima plant, I want to hear frank opinions from you,” Tanaka told Hirose at the outset of the meeting held at the NRA’s office building in Tokyo.

The outcome of the talks may affect the course of the NRA’s safety checkups at two idled reactors at TEPCO’s Kashiwazaki-Kariwa plant in Niigata Prefecture, which the utility is seeking to restart to improve its tough business conditions stemming from the nuclear crisis at Fukushima Daiichi in 2011.

After seeing radioactive water leaks and other troubles occur recently at the Fukushima plant, NRA commissioners have expressed doubts about whether the utility’s management personnel fully understands the situation of workers on site and whether the company can ensure the safety of the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa plant.

TEPCO has submitted a report that analyzed the cause of the recent water leaks and measures to prevent a similar incident in the future. The utility is planning to transfer about 20 staff from Kashiwazaki-Kariwa to Fukushima Daiichi, but it felt short of convincing the NRA. To allow for “frank discussions” between Tanaka and Hirose, the NRA decided not to make the meeting open to media, except for the beginning.

TEPCO, which continues to struggle with the buildup of a massive amount of radioactive water at the Fukushima plant, filed for the NRA safety assessments for the idled Nos. 6 and 7 reactors at the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa plant in September.

But a formal safety screening meeting for the reactors, usually held in public, has not been convened, meaning that the assessment process is not yet in full swing.

India to lay 14 strategic railway lines near China, Pakistan

NEW DELHI, 28 Oct — India is planning to lay 14 strategic railway lines close to borders with China and Pakistan to facilitate the movement of troops, as part of preparations to meet challenges from those two countries, local media reported on Sunday.

The Press Trust of India, citing informed sources, said the 14 railway lines, of which surveys have been completed for 12, are in addition to 77 roads being constructed along the so-called Line of Actual Control with China, the sources told PTI. The railway lines are planned for the four northern states — Jammu and Kashmir, which borders both Pakistan and China, Arunachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, which both border China, and Rajasthan, which borders Pakistan.

Defence Minister A K Antony conceded in Parliament on 6 September that China “is in a better position than India in terms of border infrastructure” as India was late in deciding on building roads and other capabilities near the border, which he called a “mistake” and a “collective failure” of state and the successive governments. But after “years of neglect,” he said, India is fast developing capabilities near the China border, including building of roads, raising of two mountain divisions and setting up many new airfields and landing grounds.

Bilateral ties were strained earlier this year after India accused the Chinese army of intruding into its territory. China claims some 90,000 square kilometers of territory in Arunachal Pradesh, which Beijing calls Southern Tibet, while India claims about 38,000 square km of China-held territory in Aksai Chin to the west, as well as over 5,000 square km of land in Kashmir that was transferred to China by Pakistan under a 1963 boundary deal.

In 1962, the Chinese and Indian militaries fought a short but bloody war, which was followed by some skirmishes in later years.—Kyodo News

54 mln voters out for grassroots elections in Philippines

MANILA, 28 Oct — Some 54 million voters in 42,000 barangays (villages) were called to the polls on Monday morning to choose barangay chairmen and councilors. There are 94,124 candidates vying for the 42,028 barangay chairmen positions and 715,012 betting for the 29,196 barangay councilmen posts nationwide.

Apart from polling centers, “Voting in the Mall” project was also launched with an aim to make polling places more accessible to senior citizens and voters with disabilities, nevertheless, voting in South Cotabato Province was hampered by severe floods. Polls in Zamboanga City and Bohol Province were also postponed to 25 November due to the standoff between government forces and anti-government Moro National Liberation Front, and the damages caused by a strong earthquake which killed at least 215 people so far.

The voting is expected to end by 5 pm on Monday, which will be followed by manual counting and canvassing.

Residents look for reusable materials after a fire hit a slum area in Makati City, the Philippines, on 27 Oct, 2013. More than 500 shanties were razed in the fire, leaving 2,000 families homeless and two children killed. —Xinhua
A pregnant woman consults a pharmacy staff member on the use of self-service machines to buy baby formula in Beijing on Saturday. Xinhua

Five pharmacies begin to sell baby formula

BEIJING, 28 Oct — Five pharmacies in Beijing started using vending machines equipped with tracking systems to sell baby formula on Saturday, but sales on the first day did not go as well as expected, Zhang Dawei, who is in charge of business operations at Yong'antang, said the store sold just six cans of infant formula on Saturday.

"I hope we will have more kinds of infant formula so that everyone is able to get what they want in our pharmacy. If not, customers may not visit here again," said Song Yiqiang, an official with Jinxiang company who is in charge of brand, marketing and public relations.

Five pharmacies from four medicine chain retailers — Jinxiang, Yong'antang, Cachet and Quanxin — became the first in the country to participate in the baby formula trial system. The International Brand Management Center, an organization under the Ministry of Commerce, encouraged more pharmacies to sell milk powder.

With the exception of products for babies younger than 6 months, the infant formula sold at the five stores cost 10 percent less than the same items sold at supermarkets — a move to attract more consumers. The products were transported from dairy companies directly to the drugstores, and are kept in cabinets that can hold up to 30 cans each. —Xinhua

Australia, Switzerland to strengthen ties by strategic dialogue

CANBERRA, 28 Oct — Australia and Switzerland will strengthen bilateral ties by establishing a Strategic Dialogue between the two countries, Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop announced in a statement on Monday. According to the statement, the new partnership will involve regular meetings at both the ministerial and senior official levels to strengthen cooperation on global security and economic issues, foster two-way trade and investment, and increase people-to-people links.

According to Bishop, the establishment of this framework for high-level discussions reflects the importance of relations between Australia and Switzerland as like-minded partners on international issues. "Our two countries also share significant economic ties, and Switzerland was the fifth largest overall investor in Australia in 2012," she said.

And Bishop noted that Swiss passport holders would shortly be able to access Australia's automated border processing system, SmartGate, with initial trips commencing before the end of the year. "Swiss passport holders will be among the first group outside those from New Zealand, the United States and the United Kingdom to be able to use SmartGate when travelling to Australia. This world-leading technology will facilitate Swiss travellers' entry to Australia and minimise the time they spend at border control," Bishop explained. —Xinhua
Robert Pattinson told to stop partying and start concentrating on his career

London, 28 Oct—Twilight star Robert Pattinson’s friends have reportedly advised him to stop partying and start concentrating on his career.

The 27-year-old actor’s close friends want him to take the right decisions as he is not the same since his break-up with his Twilight co-star Kristen Stewart, reported Contactmusic.

“Kristen broke his heart, he’s not been the same since she cheated. Some of his friends and business team want to ensure his life takes the right direction,” a source said.

Close friends of the actor are worried that he is not concentrating enough on his career.

“They don’t want him to be defined by what clubs he goes to or what women he dates — they want him to be known for being one of the great actors of his generation. They don’t want future opportunities jeopardised.”

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(Atelier Hanai Limited Liability Company)
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.
Phone: 372416
Dated: 29th October 2013

Luke Grimes joins Fifty Shades of Grey movie

LOS ANGELES, 28 Oct—True Blood actor Luke Grimes has been cast opposite Jamie Dornan and Dakota Johnson in the movie adaptation of the EL James’ novel ‘Fifty Shades of Grey’. The movie has been cast as Elliot Grey, the brother of Christian Grey. Johnson will play Anastasia Steele, according to Hollywood Reporter.

Sam Taylor-Johnson is directing from a screenplay by Kelly Marcel. The project will go on floors in November.

Grimes plays Wes on the long-running vampire show True Blood. He appeared in Taken 2 and is a lead in All the Boys Love Mandy Lane, the cult horror movie that just finally got released after years of sitting on the shelf.—PTI

Rocker Lou Reed of Velvet Underground dies at 71

NEW YORK, 28 Oct—Lou Reed, the pioneering songwriter and musician behind the influential rock band Velvet Underground, which fused art and music in collaboration with artist Andy Warhol, died on Sunday at the age of 71, his literary agent said.

Reed, best recognized by mainstream audiences for his 1972 solo hit “Walk on the Wild Side,” died at the Long Island home he shared with his wife, Laurie Anderson, following complications from a liver transplant he underwent earlier this year, his agent, Andrew Wylie, said.

“I think Lou was as great an artist as it was possible to be,” Wylie said. “It’s a great loss.”

While the Velvet Underground never achieved great commercial success, the band revolutionized rock in the 1960s and ’70s with a mixture of thrashing guitar licks and smooth melodies sung by Reed or the sultry German model Nico, who briefly collaborated with the band at Warhol’s insistence. The band has long been recognized as a major musical inspiration for punk art and rock, as reflected in a quote often attributed to musician Brian Enos: “The first Velvet Underground album only sold 10,000 copies, but everyone who bought it formed a band.”

Neil Portnow, president the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, which bestows the Grammys, credited Reed with “innovating avant-garde rock to the mainstream.” “His uniquely stripped-down style of guitar playing and poetic lyrics have had a massive influence across many rock genres, including punk and alternatives,” Portnow said. John Cale, who co-founded the Velvet Underground but had a sometimes fractious relationship with his former bandmate, released a statement on his Facebook page: “The world has lost a fine songwriter and poet ... I’ve lost my ‘school-yard buddy.’”

Cale and Reed put aside their differences to release a tribute album to Warhol in 1990 called “Songs for Drella,” which lead to a handful of reunions and performances by members of the Velvet Underground’s original lineup in the early 1990s.

Musician Iggy Pop’s official Twitter account called news of Reed’s death “devastating,” while musician Kim Gordon of Sonic Youth tweeted: “So sorry to hear of Lou Reed’s passing this is a huge shock!”

An admitted hard drinker and drug user for many years, Reed underwent a liver transplant earlier this year in Cleveland, his wife revealed, after he had canceled a series of California concert dates in April.

“I am a triumph of modern medicine,” Reed posted on his website on June 1, 2013, without directly acknowledging the transplant. “I look forward to being on stage performing, and writing more songs to connect with your hearts and spirits and the universe well into the future.”

James Blunt is also reportedly performing at the event.—PTI

The 23-year-old singer will perform for 200 guests at Kensington Palace for the charity event, reported Contactmusic. “It is a fantastic occasion and hopefully it will raise a lot of money for Centrepoint,” said a spokesperson of the organiser.—Reuters
Federer suffers another Basel to Del Potro

The Swiss saved one point with an amazing backhand overhead smash, Del Potro took the game when Federer overhit a forehand. Del Potro won on to take the set and win his fourth ATP title of the season after Tokyo, Washington and Rotterdam. Federer would have qualified for the season-ending World Tour Finals if he had won, although he should still book his place there at next week’s Paris Masters.

A win over Kevin Anderson or Mikhail Youzhny in his second round match on Wednesday will be enough to ensure he reaches the season finale for a record-equalling 12th consecutive year, tying with Ivan Lendl for most successive appearances. Federer, whose season has been peppered with embarrassing defeats to lower-ranked opponents, was happy with Sunday’s performance, where he interspersed some stunning winners with unforced errors including five double faults.—Reuters

Serena completes dominant season with WTA Championship triumph

Istanbul, 28 Oct — Serena Williams capped off a season to remember by capturing her fourth WTA Championship title with a 2-6, 6-3, 6-0 win over Li Na on Sunday. The 32-year-old American finished off a dominant year, in which she also won the French and US Opens, by scooping up her 11th title of 2013.

China’s Li, who will reach a career-high third in the WTA rankings on Monday, broke Williams’s serve twice in the first set.

However, the world number one shifted gears in the second set to roar through 6-3, to the delight of more than 16,000 fans who filled Istanbul’s Sinan Erdem Dome. Williams showed little sign of the fatigue she complained about a day earlier, flattening Li in the third set with her brutal power and on court coverage.

The 17-times grand slam winner, who has played over 90 matches this season, said there was still room for improvement. “I live to win slams. I really don’t know if this was my best season ever, but definitely top 3. I can’t wait to add to my game,” she said without elaborating. The opening game of the second set, which featured nine deuces, was the turning point.

“Looking back the first game of the second set was definitely a very important game for me to win. Li had been on a real roll. I guess I was determined to win the game at any cost,” she said.

Quizzed about the gap between her and Williams, Li said: “I’m just playing, and I’m trying to do my best. I can’t really say I know if there is a gap.”

Mental strength is the key to Williams’s dominance, according to Li.

Red Bull Formula One driver Sebastian Vettel, made its debut in 2011. For Vettel becomes the fourth quadruple champion and only the third driver to land four titles in a row after Germany’s seven-times winner Michael Schumacher and the late Argentine Juan Manuel Fangio.

London, 28 Oct — UEFA chief Michel Platini calls for 40 teams to World Cup

Platini wants the World Cup finals expanded to 40 teams from 2022 on. But Africa and Asian countries into the tournament without reducing the number of European nations represented.

Europe currently provides 13 of the 32 teams at the finals, compared with five from Africa and four or five, depending on the Swiss, winners of a playoff against a South American team, for the most populous continent Asia.

FIFA President Sepp Blatter wrote last week that Africa and Asia deserved more representation at soccer’s showpiece event because they had more member associations than Europe and South America.

Former France international Platini, widely regarded as the most likely successor to Blatter in the FIFA job, said by his own calculations that adding eight more teams would require extending the tournament by only three days. “It’s good for everybody,” Platini told Britain’s Times newspaper in an interview.—Reuters

UEFA president Michel Platini

Cornel Horner shouted over the team radio as Vettel took the chequered flag with a massive 22.8-second lead over compatriot Nico Rosberg for Mercedes. “Brilliant drive. You join the greats, mate. You’re up there.”

The victory from pole position was Vettel’s sixth in a row and completed a hat-trick in India where no other driver has won since the race, which may be making its final appearance on the cal- endar by only three days. “It’s good for everybody,” Platini told Britain’s Times newspaper in an interview.—Reuters

The Spanish striker, who set up Andre Schurrle’s first-half goal, missed a sitter and also struck the woodwork, gleelessly fired into an empty net after City defender Matija Nastasic’s header back to Joe Hart went sailing past the out- rushing keeper.

Sergio Aguero had levelled soon after halftime for City as victory lifted Chelsea back up to second place, level on 20 points with Liverpool and two behind leaders Arsenal.

“A game like this against a great team in the last minutes it tastes much better to control the game and created many chances but Sergio Aguero can score goals at any time,” Torres told Sky Sports.

“We won a game we deserved to win, we are re- ally pleased to beat a con- tender for the title,”

Roberto Soldado’s 80th-minute penalty secured Tottenham Hotspur a 1-0 home win over Hull City and lifted them up to fourth, while Sunderland moved off the foot of the table after substitute Fabio Borini lashed in a superb late winner in a 2-1 derby victory over Newcastle United.

Italian Borini, on loan from Liverpool, lifted the gloom at the Stadium of Light when he thundered a 25-metre rocket past a flailing Tim Krul six minutes from time to hand Sunderland a first league win of the season. Torres’s late goal had manager Jose Mourinho celebrating with fans in the stands and left City manager Manuel Pellegrini standing and in no mood to shake the Portuguese’s hand after the final whistle.

German Schurrle, signed from Bayer Leverkusen in the close season, notched his first Chelsea goal when he turned in a Torres cross from close range on 33 minutes after the Spaniard had burst past Gaël Clichy and pulled the ball back from close to the byline. Torres had moments earlier missed a golden opening when left unmarked with just Hart to beat, blazing over the bar.

But after setting up Schur- rle, the striker grew in con- fidence and was close to netting a superb second, turning inside from a tight angle and blasting against the woodwork. City had the better of the second half, level- ing when Aguero ran on to Samir Nasri’s pass to smash a short past Petr Cech for his sixth goal in the last four league games.

A smart save by Cech with his legs then denied David Silva a goal and the game appeared to be head- ing for a draw until Willian lofted the ball forward and a breakdown in communica- tion between Nastasic and Hart cost the visitors dearly.—Reuters

Torres pounces on late blunder to sink Man City

London, 28 Oct — Fernando Torres got his reward for an irresistible display that he has rarely produced for Chelsea when he scored a last-minute winner to earn a 2-1 mix-up in a 2-1 Premier League victory over Manchester City on Sunday.

The Spain striker, who set up Andre Schurrle’s first-half goal, missed a sitter and also struck the woodwork, gleelessly fired into an empty net after City defender Matija Nastasic’s header back to Joe Hart went sailing past the out- rushing keeper.

Sergio Aguero had levelled soon after halftime for City as victory lifted Chelsea back up to second
China Arts Festival concludes in Qingdao

BEIJING, 28 Oct — The 10th China Arts Festival has just wrapped up Saturday in Qingdao. The winners of the much anticipated “Wenhua Awards” have finally been announced, and include the Kunqu opera “A Dream of Red Mansions”. From Tibetan dance to the dance drama “Red Sorghum”, adapted from Mo Yan’s Nobel-winning novel, the closing ceremony takes the audience through some of the most memorable moments of this year’s festival.

The ceremony is careful to be thrifty, but still brings quality performances to the stage. “It’s a very simple stage design with a review of previous performances, I think that’s the best way to conclude the festival,” said Xin Shimiao, Director of closing ceremony of 10th China Arts Fest. This year’s China Arts Festival has seen a total of 87 stage performances in the running for the Wenhua Award. Among the 14 winners “A Dream of Red Mansions”, a Kunqu Opera remake of China’s literary classic.

“We’re really excited to win the grand prize. With this new version of “A Dream of Red Mansions”, we want to revive traditional classics with the help of modern technology. And it works beautifully,” said Yang Fengyi, President of North Kunqu Opera Theater. First initiated in 1991, the Wenhua Award is granted to professional performers by China’s Ministry of Culture.

It’s now held every three years and has become a hotbed for talents and top performances. “Through the arts festival, we’ve been able to select some top performances. I think they should take a lead in China’s art scene and inspire more outstanding works,” said Zhou Yude, judge of Wenhua awards. Next year’s China Arts Festival is scheduled to be held in Shaanxi province.

Xinhua

Wenger to tinker again for Chelsea’s Cup visit

LONDON, 28 Oct — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has used the competition in recent years to blood youngsters and field fringe players and did so when a second-string side edged out West Bromwich Albion in a penalty shootout in the third round.

“I will rotate against Chelsea but play with a team that has a good chance to qualify as well. That will be the target,” Wenger told the club’s website (www.arsenal.com). Arsenal have not won the trophy since 1993 when they beat Shrewsbury on Wednesday. They lost to Chelsea in the 2007 final and to Birmingham City at the same stage four years later.

Adding spice to the tie is the Premier League positions of the two clubs, with Arsenal two points clear of their London rivals at the top of the table.

Wenger’s team have a tough sequence of games coming up that will test their credentials as title contenders. Arsenal host third-placed Liverpool in the Premier League on Saturday and then, after travelling to Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League, they take on Manchester United at Old Trafford.

“You worry about fatigue a little bit but not too much. Sometimes when you play every three days you look tired and then in three days you are flying again. It goes a bit in cycles,” Wenger said.

There are four other all-Premier League clashes. Manchester United, who came back from 2-1 down to beat Stoke City 3-2 on Saturday, should prove too strong for struggling Norwich City at Old Trafford on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, Newcastle United entertain Manchester City and Tottenham Hotspur host Hull City again, three days after a 1-0 league victory for the Londoners at White Hart Lane.

Southampton also travel to Sunderland on 6 November.

Championship leaders Burnley will fancy their chances of causing an upset when they host West Ham United on Tuesday.

Burnley, who spent one season in the Premier League in 2009-10, have won eight and drawn one of their last nine league games and manager Sean Dyche said Saturday’s home victory over promotion rivals Queens Park Rangers was their best performance so far.

Two other second-tier sides welcome Premier League opposition. Surprise 2011 winners Birmingham, who stunned Arsenal at Wembley with a late Obafeimi Martins winner, entertain Stoke while Leicester City, who won the trophy in 1997 and 2000, take on Fulham.—Reuters

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger looks back as his players warm up during a training session at the club training centre in London Colney, north of London, on 21 Oct, 2013.—Reuters

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger looks back as his players warm up during a training session at the club training centre in London Colney, north of London, on 21 Oct, 2013.—Reuters
Revising Motor Vehicle Bill, Myanmar Special Economic Zone Bill discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Oct—Arrangements are being made to improve Motor Vehicle Law 1964 and Motor Vehicle Bylaw 1989 for enforcing the traffic rules in harmony with the present day, said Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint in response to the question raised by U Thein Lwin of Chauk Constituency on revising the existing laws on traffic rules and issuance of driver licence at today’s session of Pyithu Hluttaw.

The deputy minister clarified that Ministry of Rail Transportation has sent a draft law on amending the 1964 Motor Vehicle Law to the Office of the Attorney-General of the Union. Directorate of Road Administration systematically issued driver licences to the candidates under the laws.

Questioner U Thein Lwin said, “I think it needs to coordinate traffic safety and traffic enforcement with experts. The deputy minister highlighted the amendment of Motor Vehicle Law 1964. To make the law more workable and comprehensive, it needs to study traffic laws from other countries.”

Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee submitted amendments of Amyotha Hluttaw and approvals of Pyithu Hluttaw for the Myanmar Special Economic Zone Bill.

Pyithu Hluttaw approved the submission and decided to discuss different points of the bill at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The 29th day session of the Hluttaw continues tomorrow.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw to discuss bill amending Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Oct—Three parliamentarians hold discussions on a motion to urge the Union Government to review the workers’ rights and to formulate a labour law submitted by Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No (8) at today’s Amyotha Hluttaw session.

Regarding the motion, Deputy Minister Daw Min Maw Tun said the existing labour laws which were drawn up in accord with ILO’s conventions are allowing all employees, old and young and men and women alike, to enjoy effective benefits and rights of employee protection.

It is planned to publish a book about labour laws, she added.

She continued that the ministry is taking necessary measures to enact new laws and to rewrite and amend old laws. Emphasis is being placed on ensuring rights and benefits of workers who are playing a role in enhancing production capacity of the country. Next, the Hluttaw decided to put the motion on record.

Then, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker read out a letter answered by Union Minister at President Office U Soe Maung to the question submitted by the Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Public Complaint and Petition Committee to increase the monthly allowance of Suu-ngan Gonyi Grade I and Grade II holders, and declared the letter would be documented.

Next, Dr Myat Nnya Soe, secretary of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee, submitted a Bill to amend the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law and the Hluttaw approved to discuss the Bill.

Then, U Myint Tun of Bago Region Constituency No (10) read out a report of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee on the Bill to amend the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law. —MNA

Union FM sends felicitations to Turkish counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Oct—On the occasion of the Proclamation Day of the Republic of Turkey, which falls on 29 October 2013, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Ahmet Davutoglu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey. —MNA

Chairmen of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Sector Subcommittees meet farmers, entrepreneurs in Yangon Region

YANGON, 28 Oct.—The chairmen of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Sector Subcommittees deputy ministers held a meeting with the farmers, breeders and timber entrepreneurs at Mingala Hall of Yangon Region Government Office this morning.

At the meeting, those present reported matters on dredging of old Kyu creek in Dagon Myothit (East) Township, sales of combined harvesters through long-term installment system, preventive measures against inundation in Shwe-maing Fan Field and dredging (See page 8)

Thai Tourists in Town

MIAWADDY, 28 Oct.—A convoy of 96 Thai tourists arrived Myawaddy via Mae Sot today. Their itinerary includes Myawaddy, Mawlamyine, Nay Pyi Taw, Inlay, Taunggyi, Bagan, Yangon, Kyakhtoetypeo and Hpa-an and they plan to leave the country for Mae Sot on 4 November. The guests were welcomed in Myawaddy by Deputy Commissioner U Tint Wai Thon, In-charge of Myawaddy Friendship Bridge U Sai Aung Myint and party. —MNA

YANGON, 28 Oct.—The chairman of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Sector Subcommittees deputy ministers held a meeting with the farmers, breeders and timber entrepreneurs at Mingala Hall of Yangon Region Government Office this morning.

The meeting, those present reported matters on dredging of old Kyu creek in Dagon Myothit (East) Township, sales of combined harvesters through long-term installment system, preventive measures against inundation in Shwe-maing Fan Field and dredging (See page 8)