President U Thein Sein meets former Prime Minister of United Kingdom

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Oct—President U Thein Sein received Mr. Tony Blair, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and party at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw at 11 am on Friday. Also present at the call were Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Than, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin and officials. MNA

President U Thein Sein cordially greets Mr. Tony Blair, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, at Presidential Palace. MNA

Myanmar faces a bright future which can, with the right decisions, mean a better life for everybody in the country: IMF Myanmar mission chief

By Ye Myint
WASHINGTON, D.C, 10 Oct—Matt Davies who led an International Monetary Fund (IMF) team to undertake a staff report for the 2014 Article IV Consultation with Myanmar met for an interview with The Global New Light of Myanmar on Thursday. The IMF mission chief for Myanmar elaborated on Myanmar’s macroeconomic situation and outlook, the main challenges Myanmar faces while striving to achieve economic success, debt distress risk and the impact of foreign bank entry on the financial sector and small and medium businesses in the country. The IMF issued a press release on the statement by its Executive Board on the 2014 Article IV Consultation with Myanmar on Monday.

Tourist arrivals to Ngwesaung rise by 102 percent

YANGON, 10 Oct—The number of tourists including both locals and foreigners to Ngwesaung Beach in Ayeyawady Region rose by 102 percent in the last tourism season, according to an announcement released by Ayeyawady Region Hotels and Tourism Development Office.

According to the announcement dated 7 October, the number of tourists to other tourist attractions in the region such as Chaungthar Beach and Pathein Township also increased compared with that of last year.

“Compared with the number of tourists in 2013, tourist arrivals to the region increased significantly. Ngwesaung Beach saw a 102 percent increase in the number of tourists while Chaungthar Beach witnessed a 23 percent rise and Pathein Township experienced a 7 percent increase,” said U Aung Thu Oo, an official at the Hotels and Tourism Development Office. The rise in tourist arrivals to the two beaches contributed to that of Pathein.

“Either Ngwesaung or Chaungthar beach is only two hours’ drive from Pathein. If you leave Yangon at 4 am, you will arrive in Chaungthar or Ngwesaung at around 9 am. Tourists take a rest at the beaches and they spend the night in Pathein,” said U Htin Shwe, an hotelier from Pathein Township.

In the 2013 tourism season from Jan to Dec, the number of local tourists to Ngwesaung beach totalled 30,819 while that of foreign tourists amounted to 8,927. Local tourists to Chaungthar beach hit 243,050 and a total of 4,167 foreign tourists visited the beach during the same period, according to the announcement.—Myitmakha

(Edited by MWT of GNLM)
Australia helps Asia-Pacific region with environmental conservation

**Nay Pyi Taw, 10 Oct—**Australia is rendering assistance to Asia-Pacific countries in terms of protection of tropical rainforests, global climate change and environmental conservation.

**GNLM:** What are the biggest challenges for medium and long-term prospects in Myanmar? Do you think there are capacity constraints and slow institutional reform? In what areas are policy frameworks needed to be built and realized?

**Davies:** The main risks to this bright outlook come from the thin cushions that are available to the authorities to absorb shocks. This reflects low levels of international reserves, relatively elevated public debt and policy frameworks that are still under development. In particular, the newly independent central bank is still fine-tuning its monetary policy tools and upgrading its regulatory framework. In addition, taxation policies remain fragmented, leading to low revenue collections. Making progress in these areas will be important in helping the government manage the challenges that Myanmar's economic success will bring, in particular from rising foreign inflows and greater foreign participation in the financial sector.

**GNLM:** You said Myanmar is now at a low risk of debt distress, why?

**Davies:** The IMF and World Bank make an annual assessment of the risk of debt distress for all low-income countries. This assessment looks at the current level of debt and how it may evolve under different scenarios. When we do this we find that Myanmar’s overseas debt is quite manageable and is unlikely to reach worrying levels even if economic outturns are not as good as we currently project. That’s why we say that there is a low risk of debt getting out of control. When we look at total public debt—including the money owed within Myanmar—this is also projected to remain below risky levels. But shocks could drive it above them. It is therefore important that the government pays careful attention to ensuring borrowing is kept under control and external concessional borrowing is prioritized.

**GNLM:** What will be the impact of foreign banks entry on Myanmar financial sector, local small and medium-sized businesses hoping to get low-interest loans from them in particular?

**Davies:** The entry of foreign banks will spur significant changes in the Myanmar financial sector. They will improve access to the international financial system, strengthen the ability of the banking sector to lend to large investment projects and help introduce modern banking practices. However, in the initial stages, the impact on domestic SMEs is likely to be limited as the foreign banks will be constrained to only dealing with foreign firms and domestic banks. There are risks involved in foreign bank entry. In order to manage these risks, it is important that the government pays careful attention to ensuring borrowing is kept under control and external concessional borrowing is prioritized.

**GNLM:** What is your message to Myanmar and its people?

**Davies:** Myanmar faces a bright future which can, with the right decisions, mean a better life for everybody in the country. I wish you all the very best of luck! I feel honored to have had the opportunity to work in such a beautiful country with such friendly, dedicated people.

Matt Davies, IMF mission chief for Myanmar, is deputy division chief of the Asia Pacific Department of the International Monetary Fund. He made several visits to Myanmar for the implementation of the staff-monitoring program and Article IV Consultations with authorities in Myanmar.
**NATIONAL**

**Thai Prime Minister and wife conclude visit**

Yangon, 10 Oct—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) Thura U Shwe Mann left Fiumicino international airport in Rome of Italy on 8 October night after meeting with family members of Myanmar Embassy.

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann was seen off at the airport by Myanmar Ambassador U Myint Naung and embassy staff.

On Thursday, the Speaker and party arrived at Dubai of the United Arab Emirates and visited Damac urban project.

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann arrived back at Yangon International Airport on Friday morning via Bangkok of Thailand.

**MoUs signed for implementation of two thermal power plants in Myeik**

Nay Pyi Taw, 10 Oct—Hydropower Planning Department under the Ministry of Electric Power, Ratchaburi Electricity Generating Holding Public Co Ltd and Blue Energy & Environment Co Ltd of Thailand, Vantage Co Ltd and Kyaw Kyaw Phyo Co Ltd of Myanmar signed an MoU on Operation and Transformation of Coal-fired Thermal Power Project at Hotel Royal Ace in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

The project will be implemented at the mouth of Taninthayi River in Myeik Township.

Likewise, Hydropower Planning Department, Global Power Synergy Co Ltd, Sri Synergy Co Ltd and EGAT International Co Ltd of Thailand, Marubeni Corporation of Japan and Ayeyar Hinthar Holdings Co Ltd signed an MoU for implementation of another power plant project in Myeik.

The projects will be implemented through clean coal technology.

**Myanmar, Hungary to promote bilateral relations**

Nay Pyi Taw, 10 Oct—Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) U Nanda Kyaw Swa receives Hungarian Ambassador Mr Denes Tomaj.—MNA

Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) U Nanda Kyaw Swa met Thai businessmen in Myanmar at the Thai Embassy and viewed round Thai traditional costumes and books on Thai culture and languages donated by Thailand at the Thai Study Center.

The Thai delegation led by the Thai Prime Minister and wife left Yangon International Airport by special flight at 2.40 p.m. They were seen off at the airport by Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Aye Myint and Daw Khin Win Myint, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay.

The Thai delegation led by the Thai prime minister and wife paid homage to Buddha images at Shwedagon Pagoda and offered flowers, water and lights to the images.

They donated cash to the fund of the pagoda through the pagoda board of trustees.

The Thai prime minister met Thai businessmen in Myanmar at the Thai Embassy and viewed round Thai traditional costumes and books on Thai culture and languages donated by Thailand at the Thai Study Center.

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MNA
Respects paid to retired basic education teachers

AYADAW, 10 Oct—A ceremony to pay respects to retired teachers took place at Basic Education High School in Ayadaw of Sagaing Region on 5 October. Assistant Township Education Officer U Tun Tun Oo explained the purpose of the ceremony. Retired Deputy TEO U Soe Win spoke words of thanks. Old students and teachers paid respects to the retired teachers and gave gifts and cash assistance.

Health official gives lectures on Ebola virus

Health Department and General Administration Department jointly organized a talk on Ebola disease at the Dhammayon in Ward 3 on 7 October and the Dhammayon in Ward 6 on 9 October.

Head of Township Health Department Dr Mya Thet Win explained symptoms of Ebola disease, ways to infect the disease one after another, and preventive measures against Ebola disease.

On 13 October, the officials will give more talks on health knowledge about Ebola disease.

Indian entrepreneurs to meet Myanmar counterparts

Mandalay, 10 Oct—With the aim of fostering further relations between Myanmar and India and promoting trade relations, the Enterprise India Show kicked off at the city hall for the first time in Mandalay as of 9 October.

Chairman of Kalay District Management Committee U Maung Htoo and officials inspected successful supply of water to the local people on 8 October.

Local people had taken water from the creek beside the village for many years. Thanks to tube-well, the local people have water sufficiency, said a local. Chairman of Kalay District Management Committee U Maung Htoo and officials inspected successful supply of water to the local people on 8 October.

Villagers in Kalay Township get water sufficiency

Kalay, 10 Oct—The Department of Rural Development funded sinking of a tube-well for local water sufficiency in KanU Village of Kalay Township in Sagaing Region, spending K16.3 million in 2014-15 fiscal year.

Township Development Affairs Committee sank a 235 feet deep tube-well in front of the Basic Education Middle School branch.

Local people had taken water from the creek beside the village for many years. Thanks to tube-well, the local people have water sufficiency, said a local. Chairman of Kalay District Management Committee U Maung Htoo and officials inspected successful supply of water to the local people on 8 October.

Students of Ayadaw BEHS sang the song in commemoration of the ceremony.—Soe Win Bo (Ayadaw)
Training course polishes capacity of police officers

Mandalay, 10 Oct—The refresher course 1/2014 for capacity enhancement of police officer was opened at the hall of Mandalay Region Police Force Command Office in Mandalay on Thursday.

Commander of the region police force Police Col Han Tun made a speech, urging the trainees to make utmost efforts for ensuring prevalence of law and order.

A total of 100 police officers from Mandalay Region Police Force, Sagaing Region Police Force and No 3 Security Police Branches Control Command Police Brig Gen Maung Maung Khaing and senior police officers. (Tin Maung (Mandalay))

Vendors, shop owners urged not to sell fireworks, fire crackers

Mahlaing, 10 Oct—Township level officials of Mahlaing Township in Mandalay Region on 7 October visited Myoma market and shops in wards whether the vendors sell fireworks and fire crackers.

Township authorities have announced that the people are not to sell fireworks and fire crackers and play them. (Aung Huay (Mahlaing))

Mandalay Region secures second position in Regions/States sports competitions

Mandalay, 10 Oct—Sports competitions are being held in regions and states with the aim of improvement of Myanmar sports standards in 2014.

Mandalay Region stands the second position by bagging 29 gold, 40 silver and 42 bronze among the regions and states in weightlifting, boxing, traditional boxing, Taekwondo, volleyball, basketball, Wushu, Judo, table tennis, Pancek Siat, swimming, shooting, chess, Sepak Takraw, hockey and football events. (Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay))

International Day for Disaster Reduction marked in Haka

Haka, 10 Oct—A ceremony to mark the International Day for Disaster Reduction was held at the city hall in Haka of Chin State on Thursday.

Everybody needs to take part in reduction of natural disaster risk, said Chief Minister of Chin State U Hong Ngai.

In-charge of UNDP in Chin State U Tun Tun explained cooperation of his organization with the government in reducing natural disaster disk.

Speaker of Chin State Hluttaw U Hauk Khim Kham and officials presented prizes to winners in the essay and painting contests. The chief minister and party viewed round the booths to mark the commemorative day. (Chin State IPRD)

Thadingyut book fairs attract Mandalarian bookworms

Mandalay, 10 Oct—Thadingyut Book Fair was held in Mandalay with participation of book shops in Mandalay.

Yar Pyae (Mandalay) Literary House on 35th street between 72nd and 73rd streets held the book fair from 4 to 10 October. The house sold books published from Yar Pyae, Uttara Lamin, Phu Pwint Wai Wai and Alinka at 10%-30% discount.

Nyo Literary House on 71st street between 29th and 30th streets in Chanayethazan Township showcase various subjects of books and publications at special discount from 1 to 15 October. (Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay))
Cabinet approves bill to freeze terrorists’ assets in Japan

TOKYO, 10 Oct — The Cabinet approved Friday a bill to freeze assets held in Japan by people and organizations involved in terrorist activities, as Japan aims to work with the international community in its fight against terrorism.

The government hopes to have it pass through the Diet during its extraordinary session through late November. When enacted, the law will regulate financial and real-estate transactions in Japan by 89 terrorist groups and 360 activists, such as Al-Qaeda and Islamic State extremists. No domestic groups have been designated to be subject to asset freezes.

Japan has been urged by the Financial Actions Task Force, an intergovernmental body aimed at eliminating terrorist financing, to block the transfer of money linked to terrorism. Currently, there is no legal framework to regulate financial transactions involving terrorists within the country.

As Tokyo will host the 2020 Olympics and Paralympics, there are growing calls for Japan to improve its antiterrorism measures through legal changes, although critics of the latest bill are concerned that regulating financial transactions could infringe on people’s property rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

Still, the bill states that financial assets needed for personal living will not be targeted, with a senior official at the National Police Agency saying that “there is no need for concern.”

A total of 71 groups, including Al-Qaeda, and 352 people picked by the UN Security Council Sanctions Committees will be subject to the law. The list also includes 18 groups and eight individuals selected by the Group of Seven nations based on UN resolutions.

The law will impose a maximum one-year prison sentence or a fine of up to 500,000 yen on people who defy administrative orders and repeatedly make transactions with a terrorist group or those who are involved in terrorist activities.

Kyodo News

Pakistan	

Pakistan teen, Indian children’s right activist win Nobel Peace Prize

Nobel Peace Prize

Pakistani schoolgirl activist Malala Yousafzai poses for pictures during a photo opportunity at the United Nations in southwest China’s Yunnan Province. A total of 8,000 tents have been pitched at several temporary resettlement sites in the quake zone.—Xinhua

Pakistani schoolgirl activist Malala Yousafzai, who was shot in the head by the Taleban in 2012 for advocating girls’ right to education, and Indian children’s right activist Kailash Satyarthi won the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize on Friday.

With the prize, Yousafzai, 17, becomes the youngest Nobel Prize winner, eclipsing Australian-born British scientist Lawrence Bragg, who was 25 when he shared the Physics Prize with his father in 1915.

Satyarthi and Yousafzai were picked for their struggle against the suppression of children and young people, and for the right of all children to education, the Norwegian Nobel Committee said.

“The Nobel Committee regards it as an important point for a Hindu and a Muslim, an Indian and a Pakistani, to join in a common struggle for education and against extremism,” said Thorbjorn Jagland, the head of the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

“It has been calculated that there are 168 million child labourers around the world today,” Jagland said. “In 2000 the figure was 78 million higher.

The world has come closer to the goal of eliminating child labour.”

Satyarthi has headed various forms of peaceful protests and demonstrations, focusing on the exploitation of children for financial gain.

Yousafzai was attacked in 2012 on a school bus in the Swat Valley in northwest Pakistan by masked gunmen as a punishment for a blog that she started writing for the BBC’s Urdu service as an 11-year-old to campaign against the Taleban’s efforts to deny women an education.

Unable to return to Pakistan after her recovery, Yousafzai moved to Britain, setting up the Malala Fund and supporting local education advocacy groups with a focus on Pakistan, Nigeria, Jordan, Syria and Kenya.

People visit the exhibition during the Trade Expo Indonesia in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 9 Oct, 2014. Trade Expo Indonesia was an annual national showcase of export oriented products and services from all Indonesia.—Xinhua

India says’ cyclone to intensify

HANOI, 10 Oct — Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh and Deputy Minister of Public Security To Lam met with cyclone chief ministers of the two states and offered the central government’s help.

“A number of satellite phones have been sent to Odisha anticipating that telecom networks in the state might get affected by the cyclone,” they said.

Thousands of disaster management personnel have been deployed in both the states and the military has also been kept as standby, the sources said.

Cyclone Hudhud is named after a bird.—Xinhua
As Obama gave Syria nod, his coalition was still unclear

WASHINGTON, 10 Oct—The effectiveness of the US-led coalition effort in Syria is under scrutiny as Islamic State fighters try to overrun a strategic Syrian town on Turkey’s border.

The United States and its allies, including Gulf states, have conducted more than 130 air strikes in Syria against Islamic state militants since 22 September, in the biggest show of Arab support for US-led military action in the Middle East since the 1991 Gulf War.

As Obama gave Syria nod, his coalition was still unclear. Reuters

United States President Barack Obama departs the White House, en route to California, in Washington, on 9 Oct, 2014. Obama will stop in Los Angeles and San Francisco during his three-day trip. Reuters

The US-led coalition, described the administration’s outreach as “very aggressive” and couched in reassurances that Gulf allies would be there.

“So it would not be just us sticking our neck out. It (the anti-IS push) would be in coordination with our local partners,” Smith said. Smith had said several calls from Susan Rice, White House National Security Advisor, and even one call from Obama. All had the same message: “Please pass this.”

The political stakes for Obama were high to understate — particularly after Congress balked last year when he presented plans for air strikes to punish Syrian President Bashar al-Assad for using chemical weapons, and his 10 September speech was not followed by any immediate action in Syria. At one point, aides used phrases such as “if the president” chooses to act.

Secretary of State John Kerry was tasked with repairing damage to US-Saudi ties, which had been strained by Obama’s long reluctance to get militarily involved in Syria. Kerry had been laying the groundwork for this with Saudi officials from King Abdullah on down through a series of trips to the region. Initially, the Saudis made no effort to hide their suspicion that in the end, Washington would do nothing, US officials said.

As Obama gave Syria nod, his coalition was still unclear.

Taiwanese men arrested in record Australian drug bust

SYDNEY, 10 Oct—Australian police have arrested six men from China’s Taiwan on Friday in a record-breaking drug bust involving 90 kg of methamphetamine worth 63 million Australian dollars (55 million US dollars).

The joint investigation by Western Australian and federal police, Australian Crime Commission, and the Australian Border Protection Service began in July after 117 kg of methamphetamine, or ice, was seized from a Melbourne apartment. Four Taiwanese men were arrested in that raid and information led investigators to Perth, where authorities uncovered what they believe is a South-East Asia-based trafficking racket.

Two 25-year-olds, two 27-year-olds, a 24-year-old and a 20-year-old, all males, were charged with trafficking offences. It is the biggest ever methamphetamine seizure in Western Australia. AFP commander Matt Rippon told reporters that those arrested in Melbourne and Perth are a part of a well-established international criminal syndicate targeting Australia.

The six men will appear in Perth Magistrates Court later on Friday.

UN Secretary-General’s Message on the International Day of the Girl Child

11 October 2014

As Obama gave Syria nod, his coalition was still unclear. Reuters

On this International Day of the Girl Child, I call on all Governments to take action to end all forms of violence against women and girls. As we define the post-2015 development framework and review progress achieved under the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, ending gender violence and promoting the empowerment of girls and women must be at the heart of our global agenda.

On this International Day of the Girl Child, I call on all Governments to take action to end all forms of violence against women and girls.

This violence is exacerbated and reinforced by the multiple deprivations adolescent girls face, including unequal access to education, skills, information, sexual and reproductive health services and social and economic resources. Girls are subjected to discriminatory social norms and harmful practices — such as female genital mutilation — that perpetuate a cycle of violence. A culture of impunity allows violence against adolescent girls to go unambated. Conflict and humanitarian crises dramatically increase the risk of violence, abuse and exploitation.

On this International Day of the Girl Child, I call on all Governments to take action to end all forms of violence against women and girls.

To end the cycle of violence against adolescent girls we must go beyond raising awareness and take action to equip girls with knowledge, skills, resources and power to determine their own path in life. We must provide them with safe transport and access to sources of energy and water, quality health services and supportive environments that will allow them to thrive.

On this International Day of the Girl Child, I call on all Governments to take action to end all forms of violence against girls in all corners of the world. Together, we must create a world where violence against women and girls is never tolerated and girls are always empowered to reach their full potential.

As Obama gave Syria nod, his coalition was still unclear. Reuters

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The meaning of Buddhism

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

The Buddhist ascends through many stages of the middle way, the path of wisdom, morality and control. There is no space enough here even to mention these phases or the various aspects of regimen recommended by the Omniscient Buddha in his vast scriptures, but it may be taken for granted that the life of the conscientious Buddhist is full and rich. Through the cycle of rebirths he ascends, he perfects himself; he conquers his cravings through wisdom and love. Slowly the Karmic force ebbs away, the flame dies down, at the root of man’s trouble is his primal state of ignorance. From ignorance comes desire, which sets the Karmic force in motion. Hence, the way to Nibbana lies through knowledge, and we come again full cycle to Dhamma, the Omniscient Buddha’s teachings. For in Dhamma, as truth, lies release from ignorance and desire, and perpetual change, and the Buddha has shown us the way to truth.

What, then, is the meaning of Buddhism? Ultimately Buddhism, though not strictly speaking a religion, is a systematic exercise in spirituality, certainly one of the greatest ever conceived. It offers the individual a means by which he may fulfill himself through understanding, reaching eventually the plane of supra person on which both self and self-knowledge are no longer useful. Meister Eckhart, the Great Christian Mystic said: “The Kingdom of God is for none but thorough dead”. The Buddha would agree, though he would probably prefer a less grim way of saying it. Nibbana in life, the peace which, “pass the all understanding” is the conquest of life, the discovery of the permanent in its flux of psychophysical accidents and circumstances. The Buddhist believes that through meditation and good hard thought he follow the Omniscient Buddha through the successive stages of enlightenment and achieve at last the perfect wisdom which surmounts all need.

But by no means, all Buddhists are monks or adepts. What does Buddhism mean for the ordinary persons going about their work in the world? All through the Omniscient Buddha’s teaching, repeated stress is laid on self-reliance and resolution. Buddhism makes man stand on his own feet, it arouses his self-confidence and energy. The Omniscient Buddha again and again reminded. His followers that there is no one, either in a heaven or on earth, who can help them or free them from the results of their past evil deeds. The Buddhist knows that the powers of his own mind and spirit are enough to guide him in the present and shape his future and bring him eventually to the truth. He knows that he possesses a strength which is ultimately unsurpassable.

Moreover, Buddhism points unequivocally to the moral aspect of everyday life. Though Nibbana is amoral, in the sense that final peace transcends the conflict of good and evil, the path to wisdom is definitely a moral path. This follows logically from the doctrine of Karma. Every action must produce an effect, and one’s own actions produce an effect in one’s own life. Thus the Karmic force which carries us inevitably onward can only be a force for good, that is, for our ultimate wisdom, if each action is good action.

This doctrine finds its highest expression in Metta (loving-kindness), the Buddhist goal of universal and all-embracing love. Metta means much more than brotherly feeling or kindness, and interest conceivable degree of sympathy, expressed in the throes of suffering and change. The true Buddhist does his best to exercise Metta (Loving-Kindness) toward every living being and identifies himself with all, making no distinctions whatsoever with regard to caste, colour, class or sex.

In addition, of course, the teachings of the Omniscient Buddha are a prime cultural forces in oriental life, just as the Bible is the ultimate source of much western art and thought. The Buddhist scriptures in translation would fill a dozen volumes. In Pali, the language of the scriptures, the Omniscient Buddha’s teachings are called Tipitaka, which means, “The Three Baskets.”

Vinuaya Pitaka, “the basket of Discipline”, consists of five books which expound the rules of monastic life. Sutta Pitaka, “the basket of Discourses”, is a collection of discussions, stories, poems and proverbs, written in simple language, imparting all the precepts of practical Buddhism. The third basket; Abhidhamma Pitaka or “the Basket of Ultimate Things”, deals with epistemological, metaphysical and psychological matters and is of interest mainly to trained philosophers.

Thus the Tipitaka offers cohesive guidance at every level of intellectual, ethical and spiritual activity. The Omniscient Buddha’s word is light a lamp not only for all Buddhists but also for all.

Ref: Essential Themes of Buddhist lectures by Ashim Thitilia, Aggamahapandita

ONCB Secretary-General studies alternative development activities in Shan State

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Oct —Secretary-General Permpong Chaovail of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board of Thailand and party present assistance to Mongkin Village of Monghat Township, Shan State. MNA

They studied alternative development activities there and attended the ceremony to hand over a school building in Mongkin Village in Monghat Township. Then, they donated medicines, farming equipment and sports gears for the school.

The delegation also went to Naryaung-Narkha Village, Mahin Village, Mongton Village and Lwe-payinh Village and viewed the alternative development implementation activities there. —MNA

Secretary-General Permpong Chaovail of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board of Thailand and party present assistance to Mongkin Village of Monghat Township.

Global New Light of Myanmar
MoU on establishment of foreign ministry consultations signed

Australian Ambassador Ms Bronte Nadine Moules and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw exchange notes for MoU on establishment of foreign ministry consultations.

Nay Pyi Taw, 10 Oct — The signing ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of foreign ministry consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia was held on Friday at the ministry. Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw and Ms Bronte Nadine Moules, Australian Ambassador to Myanmar signed the MoU.

Coordination meeting on preparations for 25th ASEAN Summit and related meetings held in Nay Pyi Taw

Nay Pyi Taw, 10 Oct — A Coordination Meeting on preparations for ASEAN Senior Economic Officials was held at the Lake Garden Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

It was attended by a total of 45 representatives including senior economic officials from ASEAN countries and the deputy secretary general of the ASEAN. The meeting discussed the report of the ASEAN Economic Community Council to be submitted to the 25th ASEAN Summit, the assessment report on implementation of the ASEAN framework for equitable economic growth and development of the framework for private-public partnership for ASEAN countries and the framework for ASEAN community beyond 2015. In addition, the participants exchanged views on topics to be included in the declaration of the chairman at the 25th ASEAN Summit. ASEAN senior economic officials and representatives will also attend the coordination meeting for the 25th ASEAN Summit on 11 October.

Panel discussion conducted to bring culture to the fore in Myanmar’s public policy

By Thanda Lwin

A panel discussion held in honour of UK Trade Envoy Lord Puttnam.

Local and foreign panelists discuss the roles of culture in the country’s development at UMFCCI in Yangon.—PHOTO: KHANG THANDA LWIN

YANGON, 10 Oct — The British Council and the UK Trade and Investment jointly conducted a panel discussion to bring culture to the fore in Myanmar’s public policy while recognizing the social and aesthetic value of culture and the potential benefits it can bring to the country’s budding economy.

The event on Thursday was joined by four panelists, including the UK Trade envoy and independent film producer Lord Puttnam.

Lord Puttnam, who is now in Myanmar to identify business opportunities for British companies and participate in discussions on public policy and culture, called culture a driving force in uniting nations and peoples. The GDP in UK’s creative industry is higher than in other industries, with roughly 2 million people being employed in this industry, he said, adding that advice should be offered to the new generation of artists in enlivening their traditional arts and culture.

Swe Zin Htike, a former actress, said that traditional media should collaborate with independent filmmakers to expand both local and foreign markets, urging those engaged in film making to change their mindsets and help develop the Myanmar’s film industry. In a discussion, Nay Lin Soe, founder of Myanmar Independent Living Initiative (MILI), explained the role of persons with disability in culture, urging people not to leave the disabled behind in the bid to build a modern developed country. Rektor U Kyaw Oo, one of the panelists, discussed the functions and duties of the departments of the National University of Arts and Culture, requirements for admission to the university and its academic schedule, urging young people not to misuse social media like Facebook but maintain the country’s traditional customs and culture.—GNLM

WB implements agricultural development projects in three regions

Nay Pyi Taw, 10 Oct — Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlai held a talk with a delegation led by Mr Paavo Elise of Teams of Technical and Mission of World Bank at the ministry on Friday.

They discussed development of agricultural sector and progress of Agricultural Development Support project (ADSP).

The union minister thanked the World Bank for carrying out agricultural development projects in Mandalay, eastern Bago and Sagaing regions to ensure food sufficiency.

The team leader of the mission explained the plan to implement the project meeting the international standard.

Huawei Ascend Mate7 and G7 handsets introduces with EMUI 3 and built in Myanmar Keyboard

Yangon, 10 Oct — Huawei Myanmar has introduced its new products, Huawei Ascend Mate 7 and G7, with a country director saying that both handsets feature more functions.

In an launching event which took place at the Parkroyal Hotel in Yangon, Mr. Rosan Luo, Country Director of Huawei Device Myanmar, explained Ascend Mate7 is now with such specifica...

Model girls display Huawei Brand new products Huawei Ascend Mate 7 and G7 handsets at the Parkroyal Hotel.

Photo: Phoe Thant

Photo: Khaing Thanda Lwin
Ten killed, including police, as violence sweeps southeast Turkey

ISTANBUL/ MUSLIMNAR, 10 Oct — At least ten people died in eastern Turkey when gunmen opened fire on police, and Kurdish militants launched a siege by Islamist militants on their ethnic kin in Syria clashing with other groups in the country’s sixth largest city, local media said on Friday.

Intense fighting continued in the Syrian Kurdish border town of Kobani, where a more than three-week-old assault by Islamic State fighters has infuriated Turkey’s 15 million strong Kurdish minority, which wants Ankara to intervene militarily.

Automatic gunfire echoed across the border but a Kurdish military official said the advance by Islamic State militants on the town had been slowed by ongoing US-led coalition air strikes.

The unrest in Turkey over the fate of Kobani risks stirring up deep-running ethnic divisions there and worsening tension in a national election in May next year, said a senior Turkish official on Friday.

The Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK), which has been fighting a 30-year-old insurgency against the Turkish authorities demanding more autonomy, at least 25 people were killed earlier in the week as violence erupted during pro-Kobani demonstrations in towns and cities across the country.

A police chief and a policeman were seriously injured and two officers killed on Thursday after unidentified gunmen opened fire with automatic weapons as they inspected shops damaged during troubles earlier in the week in the eastern province of Bingol, according to Dogan News Agency.

Four of the alleged attackers were later captured and two more were caught following a shootout with security forces, the agency reported.

No details of the attackers were available early on Friday and no one claimed responsibility for the reported assassination attempt, the first of its kind since a senior law enforcement official was gunned down in Diyarbakir in 2001.

“Terrorists responsible for this attack, were punished with either one or two hours, all necessary measures taken,” Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu told reporters in Ankara on Friday, without giving further details.

The southeastern border province of Gaziantep saw some of the worst violence overnight, when four people were killed and 20 were wounded as armed clashes broke out between protesters demonstrating in solidarity with Kobani and groups opposing them.

Footage showed crowds of mostly men armed with guns, swords and sticks roaming the street of Gaziantep and two local branches of the Kurdish People’s Democratic Party (HDP) in Gaziantep were set on fire, Dogan News Agency reported.

Police officers were also targeted in attacks in the southeastern province of Siirt, the southern province of Mersin and the eastern Tunceli Province, local media reported, whilst government buildings including police headquarters came under attack.

The fledging Kurdish peace process championed by Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan has helped smooth over some of the bitterness created by the three-decade insurgency which left an estimated 40,000 people dead, but recent clashes risk re-opening old wounds.

Kurdish anger over Kobani has also revived longstanding grudges between sympathizers of the Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK) and Turkey’s Hizbul-lah, a radical Islamist group with strong anti-PKK leanings.

Speaking on Wednesday, Davutoglu warned against jeopardizing efforts to find a lasting peace.

“Where there is no public order, there won’t be a peace process, there will be nothing,” he said during a speech in Ankara, in reference to the unrest earlier in the week.— Reuters

Anti-EU party wins first British parliament seat in landslide victory

CLOACTON-ON-SEA (England), 10 Oct—Britain’s anti-EU UK Independence Party won its first elected seat in parliament on Friday by a huge margin and came a close second in another vote, proving it poses a threat to the two main parties in a national election next year.

UKIP, which wants a British EU withdrawal and strict curbs on immigration, was expected to do well in both votes. But the unexpectedly wide margin of its victory in the seaside town of Clacton and its strong performance in an election in northern England came as a surprise.

In Clacton, it won 60 percent of the vote, up from zero in 2010 when it didn’t contest the area. In Heywood and Middleton, in northern England, a traditional stronghold for the opposition Labour party, it got almost 39 percent of the vote, up from less than 3 percent in 2010.

“There is nothing that we cannot achieve,” Douglas Carswell, a UKIP candidate who is expected become the UKIP member of parliament, told supporters.

Quoting Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address and the words of John Wy-
China to allow individuals to invest abroad

**KUALA LUMPUR, 10 Oct — CIMB Group Holdings Bhd, which owns Malay- sia’s second-largest bank, has secured a deal to take over two other financial institutions in a bid to become the country’s biggest bank, the parties involved said in a joint statement on Thursday.**

Under the deal, CIMB will take control of RHB Capital Berhad, the coun- try’s fourth-largest lender, via a share swap. CIMB shareholders will own 70 percent of the merged CIMB-RHB Group and RHB Capital share- holders the remaining 30 percent.

At the same time, the Islamic banking arms of CIMB and RHB will merge with Malaysia Building Society Bhd., a nonbank property financing compa- ny, to form a mega Islamic- ic bank that will become a subsidiary of the merged CIMB-RHB entity. The due diligence pro- cess will now commence for the proposed merger, which has been submitted to the central bank, Bank Negara, for approval. The parties hope to complete the deal by mid-2015.

The three parties had in July obtained Bank Ne- gara’s consent to initiate talks. They had signed a 90-day exclusivity agree- ment to negotiate and finalize pricing and structure and then extend. That 90-day exclusivity clause expired on Wednesday.

“The merged entity will be a major ASEAN financial powerhouse and a mega-Islamic bank,” the statement said.

_**Kyodo News**_

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**GUANGZHOU, 10 Oct — A total of 1,826 new cases of dengue were confirmed in south China’s Guangdong Province on Wednesday, local authorities said on Thursday.**

The provincial health and family planning com- mission reported that the number of dengue infec- tions rose to 26,270, with the capital, Guangzhou, hit worst with 22,378 cases.

In southern China, which has killed six people, has been detected in 20 prefectu- re-level cities in the prov- ince, where the outbreak this year is believed to be the worst in two decades. The government and public have sprayed insecti- cide to kill the mosquitoes that spread the virus.

“We are screening 500 to 600 people for dengue symptoms each day now. The number was 1,000 a day several days ago,” said Yin Chibiao, president of the No 8 People’s Hospital of Guangzhou.

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**NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, 10 Oct — Fears are growing in the United States about Ebola with about 200 airline cabin cleaners walking off the job in New York and some lawmakers demanding the government ban travelers from the West Afri- can countries hit hardest by the virus.**

“The nation is fright- ened, and people are fright- ened of this disease,” the US cabinet secretary for health, Sylvia Burwell, said on Thursday, a day after the death in Texas of the first person to be diagnosed with Ebola in the United States.

US Health and Human Services Secretary Burwell told a news conference that people were frightened because “Ebola has a very high mortality rate. They’re frightened because they need to learn and understand what the facts are about that disease.” As the government prepares to start screening passengers from West Afri- ca for fever at five major airports over the next week, cleaners at New York’s LaGuardia Airport staged a one-day work stoppage over what they say is insuffi- cient protection for workers whose jobs include cleaning up vomit and bathrooms. The cleaners will return to work Thursday night.

US Secretary of Home- land Security Jeh Johnson said the goal was to expand airport screenings. Ebola is spread through direct contact with body fluids from an infected person, which would suffer severe bouts of vomit- ing and diarrhea.

“We are always with feaces and near garbage,” Sharekul Islam, 20, whose job cleaning airplane cabins at New York’s John F. Ken- nedy airport regularly exposes him to the type of waste and fluids that can transmit the virus.

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**Three Malaysian lenders strike deal to form mega bank**

**A man is reflected on a screen displaying a graph showing movements of the Tokyo Stock Exchange Stock Price Index (TOPIX), outside a brokerage in Tokyo on 14 April, 2014. — REUTERS**

**TOKYO, 10 Oct — Asian shares steadied and Brent crude oil pric- es tumbled to their lowest since 2010 on Friday after weak German export data raised fears that Europe’s economic woes could drag down the global economy.**

A bleak market day dawned in Europe, where future prices for the Euro STOXX 50 STXE1, the UK’s FTSE 100 FFC,1, Germany’s DAX FXDc1 and France’s CAC FCEc1 were all down more than 1 percent, indicating that opening losses were likely.

“European markets face the prospect of a weak open and the bulls will hope for improvement in French and Italian industri- al production today. One suspects the negative news flow will continue,” Chris Weston, chief market strat- egist at IG in Melbourne, said in a note.

Many investors fear that the gradually recover- ing US economy — the world’s largest, but com- ing less than a quarter of the entire global econ- omy — cannot escape un- scathed as Europe slumps and other big economies, including China, Japan and Brazil, face their own hardships.

“The global economy continues to recover mod- erately. But the degree of recovery varies quite a lot from country to country,” Japanese Finance Minis- ter Taro Aso told report- ers in Washington, where he was attending the Interna- tional Monetary Fund meetings. MSCI’s broadest index of Asia-Pac- ific shares outside Japan MIAPRO00US1 shed 1.5 percent in late afternoon trade, leaving it down 0.8 percent for the week.

Japan’s Nikkei share average .N225 ended down 1.2 percent as the yen strengthened on safe-ha- ven bids, and skidded 2.6 percent this week. Japa- nese markets are closed on Monday for a holiday.

Hong Kong’s Hang Seng Index .HSI was down 1.8 percent, undermined by global growth fears as well as concern about a possi- ble flare-up in pro-democ- racy protests there after students said they would maintain their campaign after the city government cancelled talks.

Worries about glob- al growth hit oil prices hard. European benchmark Brent crude oil LCOc1 fell as low as $88.11 a barrel, its lowest since Decem- ber 2010. It last stood at $88.77, down 1.4 percent on the day. US crude futures CLc1 plunged 1.9 percent to $84.14, after dropping as low as $83.59, their lowest since July 2012.

The latest tumble was a reverberation from Ger- many’s downdraft on Thursday, which showed exports from the engine of the euro zone fell 5.8 percent in August, the worst decline since Janu- ary 2009.

A string of dismal data from Germany in re- cent weeks has fed anx- ieties about recession in the euro zone. Wall Street stocks slumped 2 percent on Thursday, with the S&P 500 index .SPX hitting a two-month closing low.

The CBOE volatility index VIX, a measure of investor anxiety, rose to highs not seen since ear- ly February. “If US stocks jumped back today, then the market could go back to the same habit of assuming it’s all right,” said Daisuke Uno, chief strategist at Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp.—_REUTERS_

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**Asian shares, oil prices tumble on growth worries**

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**Over 1,800 new dengue cases reported in south China**

**Xinhua**

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**Fears grow in United States over Ebola’s spread outside West Africa**

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**A sign asks visitors to inform staff if they have fever, cough, trouble breathing, rash, vomiting or diarrhea symptoms and have recently traveled internationally or have had contact with someone who recently traveled internationally at Bellevue Hospital Manhattan, New York on 8 Oct, 2014. — Reuters**

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Japan braces as super typhoon Vongfong powers north

Tokyo, 10 Oct — Japan was bracing on Friday for its strongest storm this year, a super typhoon powering north towards the Okinawa island chain that threatens to rake a wide swathe of the nation with strong winds and torrential rain.

Typhoon Vongfong, which at one point rivalled last year’s devastating Haiyan in strength, was weakening slightly as it moved across the open ocean, but still packed winds gusting as high as 259 kph (160 mph). “There is no question that it is an extremely large, extremely powerful typhoon,” said an official at Japan’s Meteorological Agency (JMA).

“IT’S the strongest storm we’ve had this year, definitely, although it has lost some strength from its peak.” The storm, which will be Japan’s second typhoon in a week, was south of Okinawa, and moving north at 15 kph (9 mph) with sustained winds of 185 kph (114 mph) as of Friday afternoon, the agency said.

The typhoon is moving extremely slowly, which raises the danger of landslides and flooding.

“It was likely to be closest to Okinawa, an island chain 1,600 km (1,000 miles) southwest of Tokyo, and the home of the largest contingent of US troops in Japan, late on Saturday or early on Sunday.

Television broadcast images of residents of Minami Daitojima, an island southeast of Okinawa, boarding up windows ahead of the storm.

Government officials were set to meet on Friday night to coordinate their response, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a regular news conference.

“We are calling on all citizens to pay close attention to weather reports and respond promptly if the authorities advise them to evacuate,” Suga said.

The typhoon was expected to weaken as it moved north, however, and likely to hit land on Sunday on the westernmost main island of Kyushu, before moving northeast towards Japan’s largest main island of Honshu, where it is likely to weaken into a tropical storm. Tokyo was set for heavy rain, at the worst.

Tropical Storm Risk, which tracks typhoons, labelled Vongfong as a Category 4 typhoon, set to weaken to Category 2 before hitting Kyushu.

Venezuelan government says Exxon Mobil compensation “reasonable”

Caracas, 10 Oct — Venezuela said on Thursday that a compensation ordered by the World Bank in a dispute with oil giant Exxon Mobil was within a “reasonable range” once a previous payment is deducted from the 1.6 billion US dollars new determination.

In an official statement, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Rafael Ramirez said the court’s order, lower than the 20 billion US dollars Exxon had been seeking, was a victory for Venezuela over “exaggerated” claims by the US company. “Exxon Mobil has been attacking the sovereignty of our nation continuously during the last seven years since we nationalized our oil industry,” said Ramirez.

After the nationalization of the Orinoco Oil Belt in 2007, Exxon Mobil filed an international dispute, claiming fair compensation for the Cerro Negro oil project, which the company declined to enter in a partnership proposed by state-owned firm PDVSA.

“It has been a long judicial and political battle, which ends today. We have put an end to this dispute with Exxon Mobil,” added the minister. Ramirez, who just ran state PDVSA a few weeks ago, said that the court’s order is a “victory” for the oil-rich nation to implement a sovereign policy of its natural resources.

The World Bank’s international arbitration panel ordered Venezuelan government on Thursday to pay 1.6 billion US dollars to Exxon Mobil for the seizure of a major oil project in the South American country and other losses. However, 1.6 billion US dollars is still a huge financial burden for Venezuela because of the country’s declining oil production and soaring inflation.—Xinhua
BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (12:30) hrs MST today, the Severe Cyclonic Storm (Hud Hud) over West Central Bay is centered at about (360) miles West-Northwest of Coco-Island (Myanmar) and (290) miles Southeast of Visakhapatnam (India). It is likely to move West-Northwest ward and will cross North Andhra Pradesh Coast within next (48) hours commencing noon today. Monsoon is weak in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weather is partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) m.p.h.

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY
FOREST DEPARTMENT
NAY PYI TAW

Invitation for Expressions of Interest (EoI) in Submission of OPEN TENDER to invest in Private Forest Plantation Program

1. Expression of Interest is invited to the interested individuals, organizations and companies from both local and abroad for investment in Private Forest Plantation Program in large block with an area of over 1000 acres in the 259680 acres of Permanent Forest Estates stretching over 8 States and Regions of the country.

2. EoI must be submitted to the Director General’s Office (Office No.39), Forest Department, Nay Pyi Taw not later than 16:00 hrs of 23rd October 2014.

3. On the date of 24th October 2014 at 09:30 hrs, orientation meeting on submission of OPEN TENDER for Private Forest Plantation Program will be held at the above-mentioned place.

4. EoI Form can be either downloaded at www.fdmoe.gov.mm/newdesign or acquired from DG’s Office, Director’s office at Nay Pyi Taw Council and all States and Regions of the Forest Department.

5. For more information, please contact the DG’s office: 067-405111, 067-405119, 067-405399, 067-405019 and Director’s office of the Forest Department at Nay Pyi Taw Council and all States and Regions during the office hours.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV NEW ENERGY VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NEW ENERGY VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.10.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W.7 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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Taylor Swift: My friends are the most important thing to me

Los Angeles, 10 Oct — Country star Taylor Swift considers author Lena Dunham, singer Lorde and actress Jaime King as the most important people in her life. The 24-year-old 'Red' singer said she is lucky that her friends accept her the way she is, reported People magazine. “The creative, close-knit group is the most important thing to me right now. They are trustworthy and know me and like me for who I actually am,” she said.

Swift also gathered some of her best friends including Emma Stone, King, Dunham and Jessica Szohr for a fun-filled July get-together in Rhode Island this summer.

“We made a giant slip-and-slide in the yard, we were running around the beach, jumping into the pool, cooked a giant dinner and played games,” says the Grammy-winning singer. “Everybody in the group was so happy. Seeing your friends all together, and seeing your friends bond and everyone smiling and laughing together was the coolest thing I could have expected of that trip,” she added.—PTI

Jennifer Lawrence: I just want someone to watch TV with

Los Angeles, 10 Oct — Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Lawrence says all she needs from a relationship is someone to watch TV with.

Lawrence, 24, who was dating 'X-Men' co-star Nicholas Hoult and has now been linked with Chris Martin, revealed in an interview about her dream man.

“Isn’t boring so much better than passion? (I like to date) somebody (who) has the same taste in reality TV. ‘Shark Tank’. Wait! Oh, ‘Dance Moms’ — that is a good one! OK, maybe my favourite is Dance Moms but I do love my ‘Real Housewives’.

“But there’s also — there’s ‘Doomsday Preppers’. ‘Hoarders’ is OK. I find it gets a little boring after a while, but it’s great… Basically, what I’m saying is all I need in a relationship is somebody to watch TV with me,” she said.

Lawrence and Martin have been linked since early September after the actress split from Hoult and the Coldplay frontman separated from wife Gwyneth Paltrow.—PTI

Blake Shelton tops Billboard 200; Prince lands two albums in top 10

Los Angeles, 10 Oct — Country music artists Blake Shelton and Lady Antebellum raced to the top of the weekly US Billboard 200 chart on Wednesday, while R&B veteran Prince scored two new debuts in the top 10.

Shelton, who is also a judge on NBC’s talent show “The Voice,” topped the chart with “Bringing Back the Sunshine,” which sold 101,000 copies in its first week, according to sales figures compiled by Nielsen SoundScan.

Tailing Shelton is Lady Antebellum at No 2 with “747” selling 74,000 copies. Last week’s No 1 album, “Cheek to Cheek” by Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga, dropped to No 4.

R&B singer Prince, who last released an album in 2010, gave his fans two new albums at once. “Art Official Age” notched No 5, while “Plectromelarium,” his collaboration with his backing band 3rdeyegirl, landed at No 8.

Billboard said Prince is the first act in a decade to achieve two simultaneous albums in the top 10 of the Billboard 200 chart.

Rapper Nelly last achieved that feat in 2004 with his “Suit” and “Sweat” records.

The only other new debut in the top 10 of the Billboard 200 chart, which measures physical and digital album sales, is Irish pop-rockers the Script at No 10 with “No Sound Without Silence.”

For the week ended 5 October, total album sales clocked in at 4.35 million units, down 9 percent from the comparable week in 2013, while year-to-date sales totaled 180.01 million, down 14 percent from last year, Billboard said.—Reuters

Catherine Zeta-Jones in ‘Dad’s Army’ remake

London, 10 Oct — A movie remake of hit sitcom ‘Dad’s Army’ is under works and has added Catherine Zeta-Jones and Michael gambon as cast members.

The original BBC series follows Home Guard service made up of retired soldiers and civilian volunteers as they are preparing to defend Britain from invasion by Germany.

The show aired from 1968 to 1977, reported Ace Showbiz.

The first film adaptation was made in 1971 with the original cast reprising their roles. To be directed by Oliver Parker, Zeta-Jones will play a journalist in the movie who visits the soldiers for an interview. The arrival of the beautiful woman stirs the blood of the men and coincides with news that a spy is on the loose.

Nighy will play Sergeant Wilson who was made famous by the late John Le Mesurier, while Jones will star as Captain Mainwaring originally played by the late Arthur Lowe.

The other members of the platoon will be portrayed by Gambon, Tom Courtenay, Blake Harrison, Danny Mays and Bill Paterson.
McIlroy has joined pantheon of greats — Torrance

LONDON, 10 Oct — Rory McIlroy’s accomplishments this season have helped him join Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer and Seve Ballesteros among the pantheon of golfing greats, according to former European Ryder Cup captain Sam Torrance. Torrance, who was able to get a close-up view of the way the world number one operates from his role as a deputy to victorious European Ryder Cup captain Sam Torrance. Torrance, referring to one of the game’s leading coaches, said McIlroy did an analysis of his swing and every single component part was in a perfect position. “That’s something Rory has got, the ability to turn it on. I watched him up close at Gleneagles and it was like something I’ve never seen before. Torrance, who has a proud Ryder Cup history having captained Europe to victory at The Belfry in 2002 and held the winning putt as player at the same venue 17 years earlier, said it was a real eye-opener to be back inside the ropes last month. “It’s been a long time, 12 years, since I was last in the team room and to be invited back was a huge honour,” said the 21-times European Tour winner. “The highlight for me was to be able to watch the way the players these days hit the golf ball. It’s a game I’m unfamiliar with, the distance they hit it, the clubs they hit for their irons, and it’s wonderful to watch.” “Everything about the European team was exceptional. The team effort, the way the players gelled, the way they looked after each other and the companionship in the team room.” Torrance also said Irishman McIlroy’s leadership skills were exceptional. “He was as good a captain as there has ever been,” he explained. “Paul was meticulous in everything he did...it was a different style to anything I’ve ever seen.” “The team meetings every night, his involvement with the caddies, the people he got to come in and talk in the team room. “He was positive, he was vocal, he spoke to everybody. His involvement with the caddies was special, he gave them a very high position that week, they had lunch with us in the team room all the time and it led to a great atmosphere,” said Torrance. “There was lots of banter and the atmosphere was really good from start to finish. His speeches at night, in the team meetings, were extraordinary, and for me it was just great to be a part of.” — Reuters

Uchimura claims record-extending fifth all-around title

NANNING, 10 Oct — Japan’s Kohei Uchimura claimed a record-extending fifth consecutive men’s all-around title at the Gymnastics World Championships in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 9 Oct, 2014. — Reuters

One dead in Italy as floods sweep through Genoa

GENOA, 10 Oct — At least one person died when flood waters swept through the northwestern Italian city of Genoa overnight, smashing shop windows, washing away cars and leaving many streets knee deep in muddy water. One of Genoa’s biggest rivers, the Bisagno, burst its banks shortly before midnight after days of heavy rain, three years after another flood killed at least seven people in the medieval port city. Emergency services said they had recovered the body of a 57-year-old man who had apparently been swept away. Crews clearing debris from the streets early on Friday found cars piled up on top of each other and sunk into huge holes in the roads. Thick layers of mud reached several metres in some places. Recent floods have been exacerbated by Italy’s mountainous and unstable geography and the poor state of public infrastructure in many areas.

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England made to work hard in 5-0 win over San Marino

LONDON, Oct 9 — England duly beat San Marino 5-0 to maintain their perfect start to their Euro 2016 qualifying campaign but laboured for long periods against the joint-worst team in the world at a half-full Wembley on Thursday.

England went ahead when Phil Jagielka headed home a corner after 24 minutes, doubled their lead when Wayne Rooney scored his 42nd England goal from a 43rd-minute penalty and added a third in the 49th minute when Danny Welbeck smashed home a cross from his Arsenal team mate Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain.

Anders Townsend, who replaced Welbeck on 66 minutes, made it 4-0 six minutes after coming on, scoring with a fierce shot that beat San Marino goalkeeper Aldo Simoncini and his near post.

The fifth was an own goal from Alessandro Del Val, who deflected a cross shot from Rooney into his own net after 77 minutes.

While the result was convincing, it did not reflect how poor England were in the first half or how they were frustrated for much of the match by a blanket San Marino defence and by Simoncini, who made one superb save from Welbeck on the 42nd minute and several other good stops in the second half.

San Marino spent most of the match in their own half and despite England having to work hard for the win, there was never any doubt the visitors were heading for their 66th successive defeat in World Cup and European Championship qualifiers.

“The fact is, in the first half of this game, a very fit and healthy team got 10 men behind the ball,” England manager Roy Hodgson told ITV.

“We had to wear them down and keep doing the right things, knowing if you do that and you score one or two goals in the second half, it will open up and you can score lots and lots of goals,” England, who beat Switzerland 2-0 in their opening qualifier last month, now have six points.

The only question before the match was how many goals would England score, having won all their four previous encounters against San Marino, ranked with Bhutan joint 208th and last in the FIFA rankings, with a goal tally of 26-1.

With huge swatches of Wembley’s upper tiers empty, the 55,000 crowd watched the usual changes in muted tones as England, camped in their opponents’ half, failed to make the breakthrough until Jagielka scored.

The second goal did not come until just before halftime when Rooney smashed home a penalty after being kicked in the face by San Marino forward Andy Selva.

It was his 42nd goal in his 98th international and brought him closer to Bobbby Charlton’s all-time England record haul of 49.

Adam Lallana was unlucky to see what would have been his first goal for England disallowed for offside when he desperately headed home a fierce shot from Oxlade-Chamberlain.

Rooney then failed to clip the keeper when through on goal and Townsend had a late shot cleared off the line.

It was not a classic victory by any standard, but Spain, on course for a place in the expanded 24-team finals in France in two years’ time. — Reuters

Spain beaten as Stoch earns dividend for Slovaks

ZILINA, (Slovakia) 10 Oct — Holders Spain suffered their first defeat in qualifying for a major tournament in eight years when Miroslav Stoch nodded a late goal to earn Slovakia a shock 2-1 victory in Euro 2016 Group C on Thursday.

A powerful, swerving free kick from Juraj Kucka in the 17th minute that deceived goalkeeper Iker Casillas put the hosts ahead and Spain struggled to find a way past inspired home goalkeeper Matus Kozacik despite dominating possession.

Substitute Paco Alcacer levelled for the visitors eight minutes from time but any hopes the 2008 and 2012 champions had of snatching a winner were shattered when Stoch headed past Casillas in the 87th minute. It is the first time Spain have lost a qualifier in the European Championship or World Cup since they were beaten by Sweden in October 2006 and it sparked wild celebrations among the Slovakia players and supporters.

“They hit us on the counter attack, we lost concentration and they scored a second goal,” Alcacer told the Spanish television broadcaster TVE.

“There are still plenty of games to turn things around,” added the Valencia forward. “It will do us good as it means we won’t let ourselves make the same mistake again.”

Slovakia, who won 1-0 in Ukraine in their opening qualifier last month and are ranked 40th in the world, top Group C with a maximum six points. Spain have three after they began their campaign with a 5-1 triumph at home to Macedonia.

Ukraine and Macedonia also have three points and Luxembourg and Belarus have two each.

Forward Diego Costa, who has been in red-hot form for Chelsea but has failed to score for Spain in six appearances, nodded a Cesc Fabregas cross narrowly wide two minutes later before Kucka struck.

The champions went close to an equaliser at a corner moments before the break when Kozacik denied first Costa and then Sergio Busquets with a pair of fine saves and the Slovak players were given a standing ovation as they trooped off.

Spain pressed hard at the start of the second period and Fabregas and Costa went close as they tried to break through the massed Slovak ranks.

Coach Vicente del Bosque threw on Pedro and Alcacer to try to add extra zip to the Spain attack and although the visitors thought they had secured at least a point when Alcacer scored, there was still time for substitute Stoch to bury his header past Casillas.

The 24-year-old, who plays for AI Am in the United Arab Emirates, tore off his shirt in celebration before being escorted by ecstatic team mates.

England’s Wayne Rooney (R) has his path blocked by the San Marino defence during their Euro 2016 qualifying soccer match at Wembley Stadium in London on 9 Oct, 2014. — Reuters

Slovakia’s Juraj Kucka (3rd L) celebrates his goal against Spain with team mates during their Euro 2016 qualification soccer match at the MSK stadium in Zilina on 9 Oct, 2014. — Reuters

India shocks again in Shanghai, Lopez continues run

SHANGHAI, 10 Oct — Unseeded Frenchman Gilles Simon moved into the semi-finals of the Shanghai Masters on Friday after ousting sixth seed Tomas Berdych in the opening stage of the tournament, the Czech sweating about a place at the ATP World Tour finals.

Simon, ranked 29th in the world, earned a 7-6(4), 6-4 win over his fellow two-and-a-half-hour slugging set up a last four meeting with Spain’s Feliciano Lopez.

The tall lefthander Spaniard, who knocked out compatriot Rafael Nadal in the second round, fought back from a set and a break of serve down to beat Russian Mikhail Youzhny 7-5, 6-4, 6-4. Lopez, who also made the semi-finals of the Toronto Masters in August, lost his serve on a double fault leading 5-3 in the third but regained his composure to break straight on and prevail in just over two hours.

Simon has made the finals of a Masters series event just once, in 2008, but will now face either five-time masters champion Novak Djokovic or sixth seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in the final.

Djokovic has been on a stroll in Shanghai so far and is expected to reach the final with a straight sets win over Spain’s David Ferrer today.

Tsonga, who beat American Sam Querrey 6-3, 6-2 on Friday, will have a chance to pose a serious threat to the world No. 1 after ousting sixth seed Tomas Berdych, who was in good form after reaching the final in Beijing last week.

The win was Simon’s second big scalp of the tournament following his second round victory over Australian Open champion Stanislas Wawrinka.

Berdych is currently seventh in the ATP Race To London standings, with five singles spots left up for grabs at next month’s season-ending event. The Czech will compete in next week’s Stockholm Open to try to book a ticket to London.

World number one Novak Djokovic plays another London hopeful in Spain’s David Ferrer later on Friday in the third Shanghai quarter-final, while Swiss Roger Federer takes on Julien Benneteau of France in the final match of the day.

THE RACE TO LONDON: 1 Novak Djokovic 8650-qualified 2 David Ferrer 7020-qualified 3 Rafael Nadal 6735-qualified 4 Stan Wawrinka 4795-qualified 5 Andy Murray 4245-qualified 6 Marin Cilic 3980 7 Tomas Berdych 3765 8 Milos Raonic 3740 9 Andy Murray 3565 10 David Ferrer 3535 11 Grigor Dimitrov 3405 12 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 2650 13 Ernests Gulbis 2445

* Points as of 6 October.