

Pyidaungsu and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets national race leaders, local people in Kengtung

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Sept—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann yesterday afternoon attended the meeting with local people at the city hall in Kengtung.

At first, the Speaker spoke on the occasion and heard reports on regional development presented by local people.

The Speaker coordinated with Union ministers, deputy ministers and departmental officials for the regional

development.

Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat reported sector-wise matters.

The meeting ended with remarks by the Speaker.

Also present on the occasion were Union Minister U Kyaw Lwin, Lt-Gen Aung Than Htut of the Ministry of Defence, Hluttaw Committee chairmen U Maung Maung Thein, U Thein Zaw, U Maung Maung Swe, U Soe Naing and U Aung Tun, the

Commander of Triangle Region Command, Deputy Ministers, Defence Services Personnel Hluttaw Representatives, State Hluttaw representatives and departmental officials.

The Speaker met a peace group led by U Aik Lun of Special Region (2) UWSA “Wa” Group yesterday morning and a peace group led by U Sai Lin of Special Region (4) in the evening at Golden Triangle Yeiktha in Kengtung.

MNA



*Speaker of
Pyidaungsu
Hluttaw and Pyithu
Hluttaw Thura
U Shwe Mann
meets local people
and departmental
personnel at city
hall in Kengtung,
Eastern Shan State.*

MNA



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Ops Bersepadu 6p in Malaysia doesn't mean Myanmar only

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Sept—A total of 2400 illegal migrant workers have been arrested by Malaysia authorities in “Ops Bersepadu 6p” nationwide operation since 1 September, as part of its nation-wide crackdown on illegal workers. As many as 2,400 detainees were among approximately 8,100 people examined by authorities in 40 operations.

Indonesia nationals made up the biggest number illegal immigrants arrested accounting for 717, followed by Myanmar nationals with 555, Bangladesh nationals with 387, Nepal nationals

with 229. The others nabbed included those from Cambodia, Vietnam, India, Pakistan, the Philippines, China, Nigeria and Thailand.

Malaysian Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidid said that the Ministry would continue to work with the diplomatic missions of the countries which are a source of immigrant workers to facilitate the issuing of permits. He gives the assurance that permits will be issued for applications that are in order. He urged people not to use the services of middle-men but go directly to the 6p One-Stop Centres.

In first phase of the operation that lasts

till December, 2013, the arrests were mainly made in construction sites, commercial hubs, departmental stores, shops and traffic gates.

Ops Bersepadu 6P is aimed at cracking down on those who registered under the Illegal Immigrant Comprehensive Settlement Programme in 2011 but did not turn up for further processing, such as legalisation or voluntary departing.

During the registration that ended in October 2011, about 1.3 million of the estimated two million undocumented foreigners registered themselves with the Immigration

Department.

Of them, 500,000 applications for legalisation were processed and 330,000 illegals were repatriated.

The nation-wide Ops Bersepadu 6P programme is not targeting Myanmar nationals only but the followed-up programme of Ops Bersepadu 6P to trace, arrest, prosecute and extradite all illegal foreigners.

Myanmar Embassy will make coordination with authorities concerned to scrutinize Myanmar detainees and then Myanmar citizens will be sent back to Myanmar.

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Reed Lake, tourist destination in Chin State

The Reed Lake in Reedkhoda Sub-Township of Chin State is located at an altitude of 2966 feet between north latitude 23°10” and 23° 23 ‘’ and east longitude 93°24’’ and 93°32’’.

Visitors may travel to the Reed Lake by car along 98-mile Kalay-Tiddom-Reed motor road via Kalay of Sagaing Region.

Reedkhoda was formed as Sub-Township under the notification issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar dated 22 July 2012. A total of 7500 Chin nationals and about 100 Bamar and other nationals

Byline: Wun Yan Kha (Tekkatho)

are residing in the sub-township. Of them, 97.57 per cent of the population are Christians, 2.75 per cent are Buddhists and 0.26 per cent is followers of other religions, according to the statistics.

Most of world countries possess natural lakes. Likewise, Myanmar is blessed with natural lakes on her land. Among them, the Heart-Shaped Lake, the most significant one, is located not only in Chin State of Myanmar but throughout the world.

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LOCAL NEWS

Compensation given for perennial plants, farmlands in Letpadaungtaung copper mine project area

MONYWA, 4 Sept—A ceremony to present compensation for perennial trees from confiscated lands was held at the Ngwetha Hall of Salingyi Township General Administration Department and Dhammayon of Hsete-Zeetaw Monastery in Salingyi Township of Sagaing Region on 29 August morning.

The compensation was given for toddy plants, plum trees, mango trees and Thanatkha plants on the confiscated lands.

Compensations were

K 2,450, 000 for 49 toddy plants to a farmer. Up to 24 June to 29 August, K 153,830,000 for perennial plants were given to 539 farmers.

Two farmers in Ton and Zeedaw villages secured K 1,980,000 for 2.94 acres of farmlands. From 16 March to 29 August, 1127 farmers from 21 fields got K 3,082,004,000 for 2982.08 acres of farmlands.

Kyemon-Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Sept—A ceremony to hand over the already-built Dhammayon was held at the venue in Yadanadipa Ward of Pobbathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 1 September morning.

Vice-Mayor of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Than Kyaw Htoo attended the ceremony. Member of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Than Oo handed over documents related to the building.

The facility was 72 feet long and 30 feet wide one-storey building.

The structure can be



used for public in keeping Sabbath, practising meditation, holding

religious ceremonies and donation ceremonies and conducting culture

training courses for the children.

MNA

Odd News

Two war bomb shells found in Mayangon Tsp

YANGON, 4 Sept—While dredging the diversion drains of the building being constructed by the Construction Co, two war bombs were unearthed on 28 August.

At 2.30 pm, Ayeya Hinthia Construction dredging the drains of its building on Tawwin Street in Ward 4 of Mayangon Township of Yangon Region found two war bomb shells.

According to the information, policemen from Mayangon Police Station rushed to the scene



and inspected the 2.5 feet long and 19 inches diameter war bomb shells.

They handed over the

bomb shells to No. 906 Field Battalion (Engineer) at 8.30 pm.

Kyemon-Soe Win (MLA)

Crime

Ornaments, cash theft case in Tanai

MYITKYINA, 4 Sept—Various items of ornaments worth K 900,000 and K 4350,000 lost from a house in Ponkhon Ward of Tanai in Myitkyina District at 5.30 am on 24 August.

Daw Ester opened a file

for the loss of property at Tanai Police Station.

At 8.30 pm on 27 August, the police put a suspected person namely La Kham (a) Eu Khu Naw of Hukaung Ward under investigation. The person confessed he

stole the property.

The policemen seized 12 items of ornaments including one gold chain worth K 900,000 and K 50000 from the motorcycle stopped in the field.—*Kyemon-Moe Kya (Myitkyina)*

Maiden flight of Nok mini Airlines arrive at Mawlamyine

MAWLAMYINE, 4 Sept—The maiden flight of Nok Airlines of Thailand arrived at Mawlamyine Airport as part of launching its flight schedules for Mae Sot-Mawlamyine route.

The flight carrying 33 passengers left Mae Sot at 9.45 am Thai standard time and arrived at Mawlamyine Airport at 10 am.

Most of the passengers were purposed to go sightseeing around Mawlamyine and observe

development of Mon State and around its regions.

After stopping over at Mawlamyine Airport, the airplane of NOK mini carrying one Japanese passenger returned to Mae Sot Airport.

The airlines plans to ply its regular flight on Mae Sot-Mawlamyine-Mae Sot route daily. The airplane is of SAAB type of Sweden with a seating capacity of 34.

Kyemon-694

New Dhammayon handed over in Pobbathiri Township

Anti-Narcotic Drives

Over 29000 stimulant tablets seized in Muse

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Sept—Members of Shan State Police Force and those of Muse District Police Force, acting on a tip-off, stationed on Kyabyu Street in Kaunghmuton Ward of Muse in Shan State on 29 August.

At 8 pm, the squad searched the vehicle driven

by Baran Lun (a) Aik Mon, 40 of Kongon Village in Namtawng Village-tract of Muse Township together with passenger Ma Mai Bu, 25 of Mongyu Village 105-Mile on Kyabyu Street.

They seized 29250 WY brand pink stimulant tablets kept between the persons on board the vehicle in two

Europe Asia brand boxes. The stimulant tablets were worth K 58.5 million.

Muse Myoma Police Station opened files of lawsuit against Baran Lun (a) Aik Mon and Ma Mai Bu under Sections 15/19(a)/21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*MNA*

HRD

Over 1500 trainees from vocational school (Myeik) engaged in own businesses

MYEIK, 4 Sept—The advanced tailoring course No. 34 and basic course No. 63 were opened at the women's vocational training school in Myeik on 26 August.

"Some national race women residing in border areas were in distress while illegally working in other countries. As part of efforts to disseminate knowledge to the women not to illegal

work in other countries and enlarge their scopes of knowledge not to walk on the wrong ways, the vocational training school was opened to be able to conduct training courses to the local women," said Chief Minister U Myat Ko of Taninthayi Region at the opening ceremony of the training courses.

"Trainees are to pursue the courses to have best skills and then try hard to become

entrepreneurs so as to run own business," he added.

The training school in Myeik has turned out 2160 trainees in 81 training courses in the time of previous government and 2708 trainees in 19 training courses. Of them, 1609 trainees have established their own businesses.

Kyemon-Khaing Htoo

Transport



WORLD

'Clever' Merkel promises to shield Germany from rivals' taxes

BERLIN, 4 Sept—Angela Merkel urged Germans on Tuesday to re-elect her "clever" government, saying it would shield their businesses and jobs from tax hikes by the centre-left.

The chancellor, whose bid for a third term on 22 September is a close contest despite her popularity, said Peer Steinbrueck would ruin her progress on cutting unemployment and cementing economic recovery if his Social Democrats (SPD) came to power.

"These are all successes of our citizens, employers and entrepreneurs—but also the result of clever political leadership," 59-year-old Merkel told the Bundestag lower house of parliament in a debate on 'The Situation in Germany'.

Seizing on the SPD and

Greens' economic ideas as a weapon for the final stage of the campaign, she said higher taxes on top incomes, wealth and inheritance would "put jobs at risk and demotivate the Mittelstand", referring to the family-owned firms that form the backbone of Europe's biggest economy.

"What citizens must decide on 22 September is nothing more and nothing less than whether we continue on the path of success or see gross mistakes that will destroy our success," she said.

Steinbrueck, a 66-year-old former finance minister, has a reputation for arrogance which contrasts with the chancellor's modest, understated style - part of her enduring appeal to the German public even after eight



German Chancellor Angela Merkel (C), leader of Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and Economy Minister Philipp Roesler (L) listen to her challenger, the top candidate of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) in the upcoming German general elections Peer Steinbrueck as he gives a speech during a debate of the lower house of parliament Bundestag in Berlin on 3 Sept, 2013.

REUTERS

years in office.

But he SPD and its Green allies are only a few points behind Merkel's conservative Christian Democrats (CDU) and their Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU), in most opinion polls, which might explain her more assertive tone in Tuesday's

parliamentary debate.

Merkel needs her junior coalition partner, the struggling Free Democrats (FDP), to clear the 5 percent threshold for the Bundestag so that she can avoid being forced into a repeat of her conservatives' 2005-2009 'grand coalition' with the SPD.—Reuters

Top US diplomat on E Asia to embark on 1st Asian tour

WASHINGTON, 4 Sept—Daniel Russel, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, will visit South Korea, Japan, Brunei, Indonesia and China from 5 to 14 Sept, the US State Department said on Tuesday.

On his first Asian tour since assuming the post in July, Russel is scheduled

to meet with senior government officials of these countries to discuss bilateral cooperation and regional issues, the department said.

It is believed that Russel will seek to secure support for a possible US strike against the Syrian government over its alleged use of chemical weapons.

Kyodo News

Romanians continue protest against gold mine

BUCHAREST, 4 Sept—Roughly 1,000 people gathered in Romania's capital late on Tuesday for a third day of protests against plans to start an open-cast gold mine in the small Carpathian town of Rosia Montana.

The catalyst for the protests, which started on Sunday when thousands of people took to the streets in cities across Romania,

was a move by the leftist government last week to approve a draft bill allowing the project to go ahead.

The bill, which needs parliament's approval to take effect, allows Canada's Gabriel Resources Ltd to mine 314 tonnes of gold

and 1,500 tonnes of silver through its local arm, Rosia Montana Gold Corporation (RMGC) in which the Romanian state also holds a minority stake.

The bill also gives the mine "special national interest" status, which will make

it easier for RMGC to expropriate the few locals who oppose the project and who own land needed for the mine, a move critics have said is unconstitutional. On Tuesday, protesters blocked the Calea Victoriei (Victory Avenue) in downtown Bucharest, banging plastic bottles on the pavement and setting up tents. Riot police surrounded them. The protests, which have been promoted through social media, have so far been largely peaceful.

"Fundamental laws are being broken for a foreign corporation to start operation," said Vladimir Bortun, a 27-year-old independent publicist and translator who has attended all the protests. "We have very few means of expression left." Bortun said protesters planned on writing their parliamentarians asking them to reject the bill.—Reuters



Malala Yousafzai (L), a 16-year-old education activist, receives a book during the opening ceremony for the Library of Birmingham in the central England city on 3 Sept, 2013. Yousafzai, who was shot by the Taliban in Pakistan in October 2012 for promoting girls' right to education, has been living in Birmingham with her family since being flown from Pakistan for emergency treatment at a local hospital.

KYODO NEWS

Abe's special envoy to visit Iran, discuss Syria

TOKYO, 4 Sept—Former Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura will visit Iran as a special envoy of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on the weekend and hold talks with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on issues including the Syrian crisis, Japanese officials said on Wednesday.

Komura, vice president of Abe's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, is also expected to discuss bilateral relations and other international issues including Iran's nuclear programmes during his two-day visit for talks with the new president and other Iranian officials.

With Iran being one of

the principal supporters of the Syrian government of President Bashar al-Assad, which is suspected of using chemical weapons on civilians, Komura told reporters in Tokyo that he intends to tell Teheran that it should "play its role in stabilizing Syria."

Kyodo News

Obama wins backing for Syria strike from key figures in Congress

WASHINGTON/BEIRUT, 4 Sept—President Barack Obama won the backing of key figures in the US Congress, including Republicans, in his call for limited US strikes on Syria to punish President Bashar al-Assad for his suspected use of chemical weapons against civilians.

Speaking after the United Nations said two million Syrians had fled a conflict that posed the greatest threat to world peace since the Vietnam war, Obama said the United States also has a broader plan to help rebels defeat Assad's forces.

In remarks that appeared to question the legality of US plans to strike Syria without UN backing, Secretary-General Ban

Ki-moon said the use of force is only legal when it is in self-defence or with Security Council authorization.

If UN inspectors confirm the use of chemical weapons in Syria, the Security Council, which has been deadlocked on the 2-1/2-year Syrian civil war, should overcome its differences and take action, Ban said.

Having startled friends and foes alike by delaying a punitive attack on Assad until Congress reconvenes and agrees, Obama met congressional leaders at the White House to urge a prompt decision and assure them it did not mean another long war like Iraq or Afghanistan.

Reuters



A Free Syrian Army fighter takes cover as he watches forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad near Hanano Barracks in Aleppo, on 3 Sept, 2013.

REUTERS



A protester lies on the ground in front of a gendarme vehicle as roughly 1,000 people gathered late on Tuesday for a third day of protests, against plans to start an open-cast gold mine in the small Carpathian town of Rosia Montana, blocking one of Bucharest's main boulevards on 3 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



People's Liberation Army (PLA) WZ-10 attack helicopter on exercise before the opening of the Second Tianjin International Helicopter Expo. The expo will be held from 5 to 8 Sept 2013 in the Binhai New Area of Tianjin, and the helicopters WZ-10 and WZ-9 will be on display.—XINHUA

New iPhone expected as Apple asks media to 10 September event

SAN FRANCISCO, 4 Sept —Apple Inc on Tuesday sent official invitations to a 10 September event at which it is expected to unveil the latest version of the iPhone, possibly in colors other than its trademark black and white. "This should brighten everyone's day," the typically cryptic invitation read, under a graphic depicting pastel-coloured circles surrounding a stark white Apple logo.

The company, which is making a focused effort to win over consumers in Asia where rivals Samsung Electronics Co Ltd and other Android manufacturers dominate, said in the invitation it will host a breakfast and presentation at its Cupertino, California headquarters. The company did not specify as to what the presentation will be about.

But supply chain sources told Reuters in June that Apple is expected to

launch two new models this year—widely referred to as the iPhone 5S—with new fingerprint technology as well as a cheaper version in plastic casing. Apple plans to dress up the phone in a range of five or six colours to differentiate it from the more expensive model that has traditionally come only in black and white, according to the sources.

Analysts say the company needs a cheaper phone

to drive faster growth in markets like China and India, and to counter Samsung's edge in having a wide range of devices at varying prices. Growth in Asian markets is seen as key for smartphone makers. China's smartphone market, for example, is set to grow 48 percent this year, outpacing the global increase of 31 percent, according to industry forecasts.—Reuters



An Apple logo is seen at the Apple Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) 2013 in San Francisco, California on 10 June, 2013. — REUTERS

Why Nokia didn't sell its patents to Microsoft

SAN FRANCISCO, 4 Sept —Nokia may have sold its handset business to Microsoft Corp, but by hanging on to its valuable patent portfolio, the Finnish company could also get a big future payoff at the expense of Android phone makers. Microsoft agreed on Tuesday to pay 3.79 billion euros (\$5 billion) for Nokia's handset business and another 1.65 billion euros for a 10-year license for Nokia's patents, considered some of the highest-quality patents in the mobile market.

"This involves the right to, in effect, make use of Nokia's inventions," Microsoft general counsel Brad Smith said

on Tuesday. "It doesn't involve the transfer or ownership of the patents itself." Until now, Nokia has not widely licensed many of its patents, preferring instead to use them to protect its handset business against competitors, Nokia spokesman Mark Durrant said in an email to Reuters. "Once we no longer have our own mobile devices business, following the close of the (Microsoft) transaction, we would be able to explore licensing some of those technologies," he added.

Once the world's dominant handset maker, Nokia has failed to close a huge lead opened up by Apple Inc and Samsung

Electronics Co Ltd in the highly competitive market for smartphones. It will now concentrate on its networking equipment unit, navigation business and technology patents. The Finnish company has long been a savvy player in the intellectual property market. It sued Apple in 2009 and then reached a licensing deal with the iPhone maker. The terms were not disclosed, but the deal was believed to be worth hundreds of millions of dollars to Nokia.

For Microsoft, taking a license for Nokia's patents rather than buying them serves a strategic objective as well. Microsoft has already convinced about 20

Android manufacturers to pay patent royalties as part of its effort to raise the cost of Google Inc's mobile operating system. Now, Nokia remains free to go after the same Android manufacturers for royalties as well, although Nokia spokesman Durrant did not reveal specific targets. "It wouldn't surprise me at all to see litigation filed by Nokia in coming months," said one senior IP executive who has dealt with both companies, but did not want to be identified to maintain those relationships.

Had Microsoft bought Nokia's patents outright, the pincer movement against Android likely would have

Planned LinkedIn \$1 billion stock offer is for expansion, products

SAN FRANCISCO, 4 Sept —LinkedIn Corp said on Tuesday it will sell an additional \$1 billion of its Class A common stock as the Internet company moves to bolster product development and perhaps make more acquisitions.

LinkedIn shares, which have more than doubled this year, were down 2.3 percent at \$240.49 in after hours trading on Tuesday following its announcement about the secondary share offering. LinkedIn, which had roughly \$900 million in cash and short-term securities at the end of June, did not specify when the secondary offering would take place.

The company said it planned to use the proceeds for general corporate purposes, including further expansion of its product



The logo for LinkedIn Corporation, a social networking website for people in professional occupations, is shown in Mountain View, California on 6 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

development and international expansion. "We may also use a portion of the net proceeds for the acquisition of, or investment in, technologies, solutions or businesses that complement our business, although we have no present commitments or agreements to enter into any acquisitions or invest-

ments," LinkedIn said.

The offering would sell roughly 4.2 million shares, giving LinkedIn a total of roughly 116 million shares outstanding of Class A and Class B stock, according to a prospectus the company filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on Tuesday.—Reuters

Floating hospital saves sea turtles

HAIKOU, 4 Sept —In Xincun Port, Lingshui County in south China's Hainan Province, there is a floating fishing village. Local residents seldom set foot on land, living in wooden cabins set up on rows of fishing rafts. In this village on the sea, there stands one special cabin. The whitewashed structure is a hospital for rescued sea turtles, an endangered species that is under state protection in China.

Frederick C Yeh, a 32-year-old Chinese-American, is the founder of the hospital. Yeh was planning on becoming a doctor when he graduated from medical school at Johns Hopkins University in the United States in 2005. But when

he returned to his childhood home in Hainan in 2007, Yeh discovered that sea turtles were sold for meat and shells in local markets. "We have plenty of food that's available to us, but these animals are endangered, and there are not many left," he said. "If we keep on eating them, eventually they will be extinct."

Shocked, Yeh then changed his life plan and decided to devote himself to protecting the threatened chelonia. In 2008, Yeh established Sea Turtle 911, a non-profit organization rescuing sea turtles across coastal regions in Hainan. To better protect the ancient animals, Yeh founded the floating hospital in Xincun one year

later to work with local law enforcement agencies and improve awareness of sea turtle conservation among local fishermen. There are currently 14 "patients" being treated at the floating hospital. Among them are a Hawksbill turtle that lost one of its limbs, a green turtle with a sunken shell, and many other injured or sick olive ridley sea turtles.

To save more sea turtles, Yeh and his volunteers travel around Hainan to treat and tend to injured animals. Over the past four years, Yeh and the volunteers have saved more than 150 turtles, about 100 of which have been released back into the sea.

Xinhua



A Nokia Lumia 820 smartphone with Microsoft logos on the screen is shown in a photo illustration taken in the central Bosnian town of Zenica, on 3 Sept, 2013.

REUTERS

been precluded, the executive said. Nokia also gave Microsoft the option to convert the 10-year agreement to a perpetual license, which Smith said Microsoft would exercise. The market for high quality mobile pat-

ents, such as Nokia's, could be quite strong judging by past deals. Google, for instance, paid \$12.5 billion in 2011 for Motorola Mobility, a transaction largely driven by the patent value.

Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

CDC says one in four US heart disease deaths could be prevented



A woman disposes a cigarette in Los Angeles, California, on 31 May, 2012.—REUTERS

CHICAGO, 4 Sept—About one in four US deaths from heart disease could be avoided with better prevention efforts and treatment, according to a first-of-its-kind report from the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention released on Tuesday. As many as 200,000 Americans might have been spared an early death in 2010 from a heart attack or stroke if they had received screening and treatment for preventable causes of heart disease such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, obesity and smoking, the report found.

Heart disease is the leading killer in the United

States, accounting for nearly 800,000 deaths a year—about 30 percent of all US deaths. The report looked at preventable deaths from heart disease and stroke defined as those that occurred in people under age 75 that could have been prevented by more effective public health measures, lifestyle changes or medical care.

While the CDC has long tracked deaths from heart disease, it never previously issued a report estimating how many such deaths could be prevented. In 2010, the states with the highest avoidable death rates were located primarily in the South, including

Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Louisiana, the report stated. The states with the lowest rates were Minnesota, Utah, Colorado, Connecticut and New Hampshire, according to the report.

CDC officials said that the 2014 launch of key elements of the US healthcare law signed by President Barack Obama in 2010 could help reduce avoidable deaths. The law is intended to provide better access to treatment for millions of uninsured Americans and routine coverage for preventive screenings. “Beginning in October, the health insurance marketplaces will provide a new way for people to get health insurance so more patients have access to quality health insurance and coverage beginning as early as January 2014,” CDC Director Dr Tom Frieden told a conference call with reporters.

The new health insurance exchanges are expected to provide coverage for up to 7 million uninsured Americans next year, according to government estimates.—Reuters

Australia economy marks 22 years of growth in Q2

SYDNEY, 4 Sept—Australia’s economy grew moderately last quarter as modest gains in consumer and government spending offset a very flat performance elsewhere, though there was still scant sign of a much-needed recovery in business investment. The Australian Bureau of Statistics reported gross domestic product (GDP) rose 0.6 percent in the second quarter, from the previous quarter when it rose 0.5 percent. That was enough to send the local dollar higher as there had been fears the report would be much weaker.

The result marked 22 years since the country last suffered a recession, but still underwhelmed. Crucially, there are few signs as yet that business and consumer spending is ready to take over from mining investment as a growth engine. “Overall it tells us that the economy is continuing to grow but at a very subdued rate, and it’s not strong enough to push employment or inflation up,” said Shane Oliver, chief economist at AMP Capital Investors. “We’re still far from the col-

lapse that many had feared, but we’re still looking for a replacement for mining investment as a driver for growth.”

The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) has been doing its part by cutting interest rates to a record low of 2.5 percent last month. Many analysts think it will likely have to ease again in coming months. <AU/INT>Financial markets, on the other hand, have pared back expectations for any more easing, in part because of brighter signs in the global economy and especially China. The Asian giant takes fully a third of Australia’s exports and influences the price for many of its commodities, so a sta-

bilization of demand there is a promising omen. It has been enough for investors to question whether the RBA is done with its easing cycle, a run that began back in November 2011 when rates were up at 4.75 percent.

Interbank futures show a 50 percent chance of a rate cut by Christmas, down from more than 100 percent a couple of weeks ago. Swap markets have priced out any easing at all, though much depends on how the Australian dollar fares. The central bank keenly wants the currency to fall further to help cushion the economy, both by boosting export earnings and by easing competitive pressures on domestic industry.—Reuters



The Central Business District is seen from the air on a sunny winter afternoon in Sydney on 24 Aug, 2013.

REUTERS

Ford’s Vignale to join European upmarket car chase

FRANKFURT, 4 Sept—Ford (F.N) has drawn on the latest European design trends with its new luxury concept car, tempting the driver with a quilted cream-colored Nappa leather interior to complement its chrome and mocha-hued bodywork. The Vignale, which makes its first public appearance at the Frankfurt auto show next week and launches in Europe early in 2015, is the latest attempt by a mass-market carmaker to woo affluent customers more interested in a lifestyle than a bargain.

Looks can be deceptive, though. While suggestive of an expensive Italian marque, the Vignale is little more than a pimped-up version of the four-cylinder Ford Mondeo still favoured

by many a mid-level manager or sales rep. Ford is targeting the market for mid-size aspirational models such as the BMW (BMWG.DE) 3 series, Audi (VOWG_p.DE) A4 and Mercedes (DAIGn.DE) C-Class.

“This prevents defection of Ford customers who believe they need to go somewhere else as they progress in their careers and make more money,” Ford’s European sales chief Roelant de Waard says of the new premium line. The concept, which does not sport the Mondeo badge anywhere on the car, is due to be rolled out across multiple vehicles as a new sub-brand akin to Ford’s sporty ST nameplate.

Reuters



New Ford vehicles occupy the lot at Koons Ford dealership in Fairfax, Virginia, on 24 July, 2013.

REUTERS

Researchers say diabetes in China may reach “alert level”

WASHINGTON, 4 Sept—Diabetes in China may have reached “an alert level,” with one in 10 adults having the disease while most patients are unaware of their condition, Chinese researchers said on Tuesday. The researchers warned in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* that China could face “a major epidemic of diabetes-related complications,” including cardiovascular disease, stroke and chronic kidney disease in the near future without an effective national intervention.

Nearly 12 percent of Chinese adults have diabetes, while about 50 percent are at the risk of developing the disease, which means up to 113.9 million Chinese adults are diabetic and another 493.4 million are estimated to be pre-diabetic, according to the new study. “The prevalence of diabetes in the Chinese adult population has surpassed that of India and is now close to that of the United States,” said lead researcher Guang Ning, vice president of Ruijin Hospital, affiliated with the

Shanghai Jiaotong University Medical School.

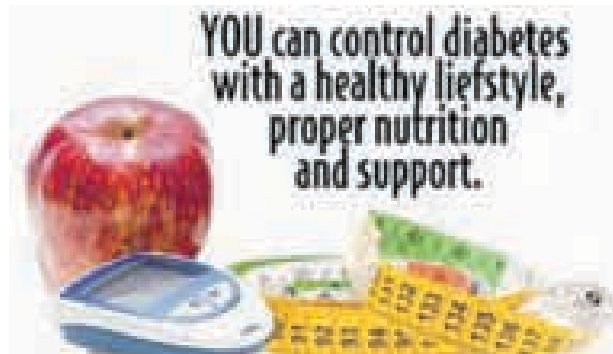
“Although it’s not appropriate to compare them in such a simple way, China is now home to the largest diabetes population in the world,” Ning told *Xinhua*. Ning and colleagues with the China Noncommunicable Disease Surveillance Group investigated the prevalence of diabetes on

men was 12.1 percent and among women was 11.0 percent and that the disease is more common among urban residents than rural residents in both men and women. Furthermore, diabetes prevalence increased with age in both men and women, and men younger than 50 years had a higher prevalence, whereas women older than 60 years had

opened regions, as well as in overweight and obese persons. The researchers also found that the proportion of patients with diabetes who were aware of their condition was 30.1 percent among the Chinese general population. Only 25.8 percent of overall patients with diabetes were treated for this condition, and only 39.7 percent of those treated had adequate glycemic control, they said. “As the country’s economy expanded quickly over the last three decades, the standards of living and lifestyles of ordinary Chinese have changed substantially,” Ning said.

“With increased high-calorie, highfat, high-sugar, and high-sodium diets, decreased physical activity and more sedentary lifestyles, all factors that could lead to weight gain, diabetes and other chronic diseases are now reaching epidemic proportions in China,” he said. According to the researchers, the prevalence of diabetes was less than 1 percent in the Chinese population in 1980.

Xinhua



a nationally representative sample of 98,658 Chinese adults in 2010. A two-hour oral glucose tolerance test, currently the gold standard for the diagnosis of diabetes, was conducted among participants without a self-reported history of diagnosed diabetes.

The researchers found that the prevalence of diabetes among Chinese

a higher prevalence, they said. The estimated prevalence of prediabetes was 50.1 percent in Chinese adults: 52.1 percent in men and 48.1 percent in women. Rural residents had slightly higher prevalence of prediabetes than did urban residents, especially in men.

Additionally, prediabetes was more prevalent in economically underdevel-

Kerry opens door to 'boots on ground' in Syria, then slams it shut

WASHINGTON, 4 Sept — Secretary of State John Kerry briefly opened the door on Tuesday to authorizing US ground troops in Syria, but quickly slammed it shut and told Congress that any resolution approving military force would prohibit "boots on the ground."

The exchange during the first public hearing in Congress on possible military action in Syria highlighted the worries of many lawmakers about authorizing US military strikes to punish the Syrian government for using chemical weapons on civilians.

Kerry initially told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee he would prefer

not to bar the use of ground troops in Syria to preserve President Barack Obama's options if Syria "imploded" or there was a threat of chemical weapons being obtained by extremists.

"I don't want to take off the table an option that might or might not be available to a president of the United States to secure our country," Kerry told the committee.

But when Senator Bob Corker of Tennessee, the top Republican on the committee, told Kerry he "didn't find that a very appropriate response regarding boots on the ground," Kerry quickly, and repeatedly, backtracked.

Kerry said he was simply "thinking out loud" and



US Secretary of State John Kerry presents the administration's case for US military action against Syria to a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing in Washington on 3 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

raising a hypothetical situation, but he did not want to leave the door open to sending ground troops to Syria.

"Let's shut the door now," Kerry said. "The answer is, whatever prohibition clarifies it to Congress or the American people, there will not be American boots on the ground with respect to the civil war."

The exchange came as

Zimbabwe suffers worst food shortages in 4 years

HARARE, 4 Sept — Zimbabwe is bracing for the worst food shortages in four years that one in every four Zimbabweans in rural areas are expected to need food support, a UN agency said on Tuesday.

Citing a new study, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) said an estimated 2.2 million people are to hit by hunger before next year's harvest season, the direst situation since early 2009 when about half of the nearly 13 million population needed food aid.

The current high levels of food insecurity are being attributed to various factors including adverse weather conditions, the unavailability and high cost of agricultural inputs such as seeds

and fertilizers and projected high cereal prices due to the poor maize harvest.

The UN agency monitoring in rural markets has found grain prices 15 per cent higher than this time last year.

"Many districts, particularly in the south, harvested very little and people are already trying to stretch out their dwindling food stocks," said WFP Country Director Sory Ouane.

Ouane said the WFP and its partners will provide regionally — procured cereals as well as imported vegetable oil and pulses. Distributions will be gradually scaled up from October until harvest time in March next year.

Xinhua

Egypt's president says road map on track as Islamists protest

CAIRO, 4 Sept — Egypt's interim president, Adly Mansour, said on Tuesday that a plan for a return to civilian government after the army's removal of Islamist President Mohamed Mursi was on track despite "challenges" and that emergency law should be lifted soon.

His comments were broadcast just after thousands of Islamists took to

following huge protests.

It has accused the group of terrorism, sent its top leaders to trial on charges of inciting violence or murder and killed hundreds of Islamists demanding his reinstatement, most of them when two Cairo protest vigils were smashed on 14 August. Mansour said in an interview with state television that his decision to announce emergency law that

the constitution is to be amended, followed by parliamentary and presidential elections early next year, remained on track: "God willing, we will commit ourselves to the timeframe in the coming stages." "There are no alterations on the priorities of the plan (road map), even though there are some challenges facing us."

Although the army-backed interim government has begun to revive the political security apparatus that was shelved, but not dismantled, after the 2011 revolt that overthrew Hosni Mubarak, Mansour said there would be no return to the days of political police.

"The role of the security apparatus of Egypt is now limited to protecting security and protecting the people ... In terms of political issues, there is no longer a role in that. That was a period that Egypt passed through and it will not return ... I assure you of that."

Although the crack-down on the Brotherhood has taken some of the sting out of the anti-government protests, the well organized million-member group has shown it can still mobilize supporters countrywide.

Shortly before the interview was aired, marchers turned out in cities in the Nile Delta, in Upper Egypt, along the Suez Canal, as well as in the capital, to mark exactly two months since Mursi was toppled.

Reuters



People show the "Rabaa" or "four" gesture, in reference to the police clearing of Rabaa al-Adawiya protest camp on 14 August, during a traffic jam as members of the Muslim Brotherhood and supporters of ousted Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi stage a protest along a highway in the southern suburb of Maadi, on 3 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

the streets in towns and cities across Egypt on Tuesday evening to denounce the new military-backed rulers and demand Mursi's return — their second show of mass support in four days. The interim government has launched a furious crackdown on Mursi's Muslim Brotherhood since toppling Egypt's first freely elected president on 3 July,

day had not been easy, but "terrorism and the vicious war that was being waged by some of the extremists made it crucial."

If a "gradual improvement in security" continued, the state of emergency should end as planned in mid-September, he said.

Mansour also said a "road map" back to democratic rule, under which



Photo taken on 3 Sept, 2013 shows flags of G20 summit in St Petersburg, Russia. G20 leaders will meet in St Petersburg on 5-6 September. XINHUA

Typhoon weakens after landing on Japan's southwest, causes heavy rain

TOKYO, 4 Sept — A typhoon that made landfall on southwestern Japan early Wednesday weakened to an extratropical depression during the morning, but is causing heavy rain that is anticipated to spread across a wide area of the country through Thursday.

Typhoon Toraji, the year's 17th, hit the shore at Ibusuki, Kagoshima Prefecture, around 3 am and moved northeast before weakening at 9 am near Shikoku island, causing rainfall of up to 100 millimeters per hour, the weather agency said based

on radar analysis.

Seven houses were flooded below floor level and about 600 people from some 190 households were advised to evacuate as a river overflowed in Tottori City on the Sea of Japan coast in western Japan.

Kyodo News

Cambodia considers China as older brother: Cambodian Red Cross chief

PHNOM PENH, 4 Sept — Cambodian Red Cross president Bun Rany, wife of Prime Minister Hun Sen, said on Wednesday that Cambodia and China are "brothers" and always help each other in difficult time.

"Cambodia considers China as an older brother and Cambodia is a younger brother," she said during a meeting with new Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia Bu Jianguo.

She said Cambodia was very proud of long-standing relations and cooperation with China, reiterating that

the country would undoubtedly continue to support the One-China policy.

Bun Rany also extended her gratitude to the Chinese government, the Red Cross Society of China and Chinese businesspeople for constantly providing humanitarian aid and emergency relief to Cambodia whenever the country faces disasters.

"Whenever Cambodia faces difficulties from natural disasters such as drought or flood, China always stays with us and provides us emergency relief

assistance," she said. Meanwhile, Bu said China will continue to help Cambodia in humanitarian activities as much as possible in order to ease Cambodians' difficulties when they meet any natural disasters.

She said she was very happy to be appointed as the Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia in the year that the two countries have been celebrating the 55th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations and the Cambodia-China Year of Friendship.

Xinhua

LOCAL NEWS

National Sports

Myanmar to organize Pre-SEA Games Kempo tournament

Myanmar
Kempo
players in
training.

TIN SOE
(MYANMA
ALINN)



YANGON, 4 Sept—Myanmar will organize Pre-SEA Games Shaorinji Kempo Tournament at Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thingangyun Township in Yangon on 13-15 September.

Indonesia, Vietnam, Timor, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar will field players in the competition ahead of XXVII SEA Games to

be hosted in Myanmar in December.

A total of 19 Myanmar male Kempo players and 14 female Kempo players are undergoing training under Indonesia coaches.

A coordination meeting for organizing the Pre-SEA Games Shaorinji Kempo Tournament was held at the venue on 27 August.

It was attended by

Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Olympics Committee Chairman of XXVII SEA Games Organizing Committee Deputy Sports Minister U Zaw Win and Yangon Region government ministers, President of Myanmar Kempo Federation U Kyaw Moe Naing and members, and officials of the Ministry of Sports.

MMAL-Maung Maung Soe

Township Administrator's Cup football tourney kicks off

NAGMON, 4 Sept—The Township Administrator's Cup Men's Football Open, organized in cooperation with the Sports and Physical Education Department, kicked off at Myoma Stadium

in Nagmon on 26 August.

Township Administrator U Myo Min Aung delivered an address at the opening ceremony and a total of 12 football teams participated in the

competition.

It was attended by Township level departmental officials, government staff, NGO members, students and supporters.

MMAL-Township IPRD

Tatlan bus line to add four new expresses in Kalay-Yangon route

KALAY, 4 Sept—Kalay in Sagaing Township is receiving more and more tourists each day as well as increasing number of local excursion goers.

Four bus lines are plying a 700-mile trip between Kalay and Yangon with air-conditioned expresses.

Tatlan, an established Kalay-Yangon bus line, will reinforce four new expresses into the route as

Cash donated for development of YeU Tsp

YE U, 4 Sept—Annual General Meeting of Private Bus Lines Supervisory Committee in YeU Township in Sagaing Region was held at Township General Administration Department Office on 31 August morning, in conjunction with the ceremony to provide cash assistance for regional development.

Committee Chairman U Min Aung donated K 750,000 for the installation of a water tank with the capacity of 1000

liters to the headmistress of the Basic Education High School No (2), K 650,000 for the repair of the school building, K 460,000 for the construction of retaining wall, K 200,000 for the stone inscription of 100-bedded people's hospital.

Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Aung Kyaw Oo provided the bonus of K 625,000 to five bus lines in YeU Township through U Zaw Min Tun of Aung Yadana Bus Line.

Police Sub-Inspector Myint Lwin presented the bonus of K 630,000 to staff through U Khin Maung Mying.

U Aung Naing of Township Planning Department presented the bonus of K 1,200,000 to the members Bus Lines Supervisory Committee.

The committee would contribute their bonus to the development efforts of the township.

MMAL-Than Htike (YeU)

Floating market in Kawa Township



KAWA, 4 Sept—When the plough for monsoon paddy was over, the manual labourers in villages in Kawa Township in Bago Region go fishing in the lakes and ponds in their respective areas.

Some people with a few capital started

their fishery business by bidding in the lake operation auctions.

As livestock business in the region comes to life, they often trade their produce at a roadside

floating market at a jetty in Ohnnae model village.

The market is usually packed with buyers and sellers coming and going.

MMAL-Thu Lin
(Hantha Myay)

People served with mini book corner in Kangyidaunt

KANGYIDAUNT, 4 Sept—The mini book corner as public service was opened at the bus terminal in Malargon Junction in Ward 6 of Kangyidaunt in Ayeyawady Region yesterday.

Township Information and Public Relations Department sought sponsors for installation of mini book corner at the junction.

Arrangements will be made for providing more books to the corner with the donations of departments and wellwishers.

"People wish to read. But, they have least spare time while daily working for their basic needs. Plan to provide knowledge to the people through mini book corners is the best because the people can read what they want to within their reach while waiting for bus," said townselder U Mya Win of Malargon Junction.

"Whenever I take a break, I can read for free. We will make donations for the corner and take care of books," said Ma San Oo of bus ticket counter.

"I thank the departments and people for their contribution to emergence of mini book corner. Our department will improve this plan in the future," remarked the head of Kangyidaunt Township IPRD.

Ma Zin (Shwekanmyay)

Culture

Artifacts to put on display at museum



SAGAING, 4 Sept—Artifacts unearthed in the precinct of Thukhawaha Pawtawmu Pagoda in Shwe Min Wun ward in Sagaing are being kept at the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

These artifacts are thought to be utensils donated to Kyet Thun Khin Sayadaw by ancient kings.

They include the golden bowl with the diameter of 14 inches, iron stamp and titles

conferred on the Sayadaw.

The Pagoda Board of Trustees will open a museum to display the artifacts.

Donations for the museum could be made through Vice-Chairman U Tin Aung (0933088465), Secretary U Kyaw Kyaw (0947063993) and U Aung Myint Myat (0933091969).

MMAL-Tin Maung
(Mandalay)

Transport



NATIONAL

Letpadaungtaung Copper Mining Project to spend US\$ 2 million on environmental conservation



Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun and party meet local people in Salingyi Township.—MNA

for progress and prosperity of the new generations, he added.

The chairman discussed the reports of the local people. Next, Sagaing Region Government and UMEHL donated cash and instant noodle packets.

They visited construction site of pre-primary school in Hsede-Zeedaw village and relations office.

At the Dhammayon in Aungmyemyintha Monastery in the village, they met local people. In his address, the Union

Minister said that the contract for the project was amended for spending US\$ 2 million annually on better environmental conservation while the project is being implemented. He invited local people to take part in discussions in a frank manner and to engage in regional development.

Members of the committee Union Ministers Dr Myint Aung and U Win Tun, Vice-Chairman Chief Minister of the region U Tha Aye, UMEHL Managing Director Maj-Gen Zar Ni Win urged the

local people to join hands with the government in undertaking Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) transparently.

After viewing construction of new building at Kagon Village BEHS Branch, they attended signing of contract for building Kagon Station Hospital between Myanmar-Wenbao Co Ltd and Chindwin Myanmar Co.

MNA

Audit development discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Sept—Auditor-General of the Union U Thein Htaik received Head of Project Mr Thomas Foerch of GIZ of Germany at the office of the Auditor-General of the Union on 2 September.

At the meeting, the

Auditor-General of the Union said auditing is being upgraded in line with international auditing standards. The Myanmar Accountancy Council Law 1994 is being redrafted to come out as a comprehensive

law. He expressed his hope for completion of the first draft by December this year.

Mr Thomas Foerch of GIZ offered to provide assistance for emergence of a comprehensive law. The new law will covers capacity

building of auditors. He said that GIZ would like to assist in drawing Action Plan for abiding by the new law.

Mr Thomas Foerch and party held a workshop together with officers of the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union on 2 and 3 September.

MNA



Reed Lake, tourist destination in Chin State

(from page 1)

No creek and drain flow into the Reed Lake. It is an amazing that water in the lake is clean in the rainy season and red in the cold season, according to the local people. In addition, the water brought from the lake to even other places can change its colours like the original ones in the natural lake.

The lake is 2.5 miles long at its brim and fifty feet

deep on average and 60 feet in the deepest place. Willow plants are fencing along the bund of the lake. The water surface is covered with

lilies and water hyacinths in full bloom and the willow plants bear rare orchids.

At present, the Reed Lake becomes a destination

not only for globetrotters but also for local visitors across the nation.

Kyemon: 1-9-2013

Trs: TTA

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 5 September, 2013

Tax for development

If there is a society, there arise the needs for living, transportation, healthcare and security.

If there is no security and the rule of law, there arise robbery, theft, murder and other crimes. So, the society needs administrative institutions, police forces, lawyers and judges. They need to be provided with offices, vehicles and other materials and so on. Markets, banks, fire brigades, roads, water supply system, drains, dump system, hospitals/dispensaries, and health insurances are needed as well as the fundamental living requirements.

The government needs fund for these works. It levies taxes from the individuals who are legally responsible to pay taxes to build infrastructures and fund the tasks carried out in the interests of the people.

Paying taxes is funding the government to do what the taxpayers want them to carry out. So the businesspersons and the people to pay the taxes they are legally responsible to.

Tax officials have requested the taxpayers to make suggestions or recommendations for thorough collection of taxes as it seeks better tax collection system.

If taxes that equal the costs for development of infrastructures and public services could not be collected, the government will still have to rely on natural resources to fund its development efforts. It is not sustainable and will pose a great threat to the environment. And it could not guarantee quality in infrastructures and services as these are not directly funded by the public. Let's pay taxes and have our say in our development efforts.

MWEA delegation leaves for Australia

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Sept—Patron, adviser Daw Yee Yee Myint and Secretary Daw Hnin Wai of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association left here for Australia by air on 2 September to observe the University of Sydney and to sign an MoU on development of women sector from 3 to 9 September.

MNA



Patron, adviser Daw Yee Yee Myint and Secretary Daw Hnin Wai of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association seen at the airport before their departure.—MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Exercise books donated to Dhamma School

NYAUNGLEBIN, 4 Sept—A ceremony to donate books and exercise books to Sunday Dhamma School was held at the precinct of Hsutaungpyae Koenawin Pagoda on Kyadawya Street in Myoma Ward 2 in Nyaunglebin Township of Bago Region on 3 September.

Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Ye Myint explained the purpose of donations for broadening the horizon of the students in Dhamma literature.

He then presented exercises for 200 students through Chairman of Dhamma School organizing committee U Myint Lwin who spoke words of thanks.



Also present on the occasion were Secretary of Township Writers Association U Nay Lin, officials and members of the Dhamma School Organizing Committee.

Later, they discussed development of the school.

Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)

HAKA, 4 Sept—A meeting between District and Township level departmental officials in Haka Township of Chin State and ward/village administrators, NGOs and local people took place at the city hall in Haka on 31 August morning.

At first, Deputy Commissioner U Win Zaw Naing of District General Administration Department

Transport

Private bus lines hold meeting in Indaw Township

INDAW, 4 Sept—The annual general meeting of private bus lines association was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Indaw Township of Sagaing Region on 31 August afternoon.

It was attended by Head of Township GAD U Min Min Latt, Commander of Township Police Force

Police Major Ye Myint, township departmental officials, townsenders, Chairman of the bus line U Sonny and members, bus owners and officials.

On the occasion, Township General Administration Department U Min Min Latt, Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Ye Myint and Chairman of the bus line U

Sonny made speeches.

They disclosed only then will the bus owners holding licences be allowed to join the bus line association. The buses without licences will be issued licences under the coordination among townsenders and officials of Directorate of Road Administration.

Kyemon-233

Departmental officials, ward/village administrators, local people in Haka

made a speech.

He said that only when the local people from villages submit their requirements for ensuring socioeconomic development, will officials fulfill the requirements.

Next, the deputy commissioner and departmental officials replied to queries raised by local people.

Kyemon-Chin State IPRD



HRD

Books, publication donated to Library in Padaung Township



PYAY, 4 Sept—With the aim of widening scope of the rural people and contributing to raising reading habit, Library, Pitakat Chamber and Cultural Museum of Shwephonepint Pagoda U Maung Maung and Secretary U Zin Thein donated 423 copies of books and magazines worth K 500,000.

Chairman of the Library, Pitakat Chamber and Cultural Museum of Shwephonepint Pagoda U Maung Maung and Secretary U Zin Thein donated 423 copies of books and magazines worth K 500,000.

Treasurer U Shwe Win of the Pyay Township Writers Association accepted the donations.

Kyemon-Ko Shwe (Pyay)

Environment

Efforts made for sustainability of Inlay Lake

NYAUNGSHWE, 4 Sept—As departments concerned are striving for ensuring sustainability of Inlay Lake and greening its 20 miles radius areas, Irrigation Department of Shan State

South has dredged 1.9 million saddles of sand and silt from the lake.

In implementing the five-year plan, the Irrigation Department has accomplished fourth years of the third five-year plan.

“Irrigation Department is carrying out construction

of retaining walls and eight tasks including clearing of weeds in the lake,” said Assistant Director U Soe Aung of Irrigation Department in Nyaungshwe.

Lesser rain falls and silting of the creeks that flow into the lake are the basic root causes for silting the lake. At present, Irrigation Department dredges the silt with the use of heavy machinery.

Inlay Lake was about 104 square miles in the past, but it is now 63 square miles

only. A report of Irrigation Department of Shan State (South) stated that root cause of silting the lake is due to silt and sand flowing into the lake and cultivation of crops around the areas of the lake.

Apart from efforts of the departments concerned, participation of the local people plays a key role in the sustainability of the lake with owned attitudes, said Assistant Director U Soe Aung.

Kyemon-Paing Soe

TOUNGGOO, 4 Sept—With a view to reducing illegal extraction of timber, officials are making concerted efforts for seizing illegal timbers.

On 29 August, illegal timbers were seized in Bago and Kyaukdaga townships.

According to the information that illegal sawn timbers were piled in the grave yard in Myochaung Village in Kyaukdaga Township, Assistant Director U John Tun Oo and party of Bago Region Forest Department and Senior

Forester U Aung Soe and party of Myochaung Area of Kyaukdaga Township Forest Department inspected and seized 144 pieces of sawn teak timber weighing 4.0776 tons worth K 2.4 million without owner.

On 30 August morning, officials of Bago District Forest Department and IP Soe Moe Shi and party of Bawnetgyi Police Station searched the suspected Superroof van with number plate 5A/... that stopped near mile post 49/6 on Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Bago Township.

The departmental officials seized 23 pieces of illegal teak sawn timber weighing 0.4141 tons worth about K 700,000 from the vehicle.

The seized sawn timbers were kept under the law.

Kyemon-Ko Lwin (Swa)

Illegal teak sawn timber seized in Bago Region

MPF launches emergency, complaint-handling phone lines

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Sept—Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs has put hot lines into place at Myanmar Police Force HQ and region/state police stations to enable the public to submit tip-offs and complaints over illegal acts, mis-appropriation and corruption.

The public may reach the numbers for their information and complaints but are requested to avoid manners causing disruptions to these phone lines.

Myanmar Police Force HQ, Nay Pyi Taw Police Force, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan State Police Forces, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Region Police Forces, Offices of Commanders of East, West, South and North District Police Forces in Yangon Region, No (1) Police Station in Taunggyi, Office

of Deputy Commander of State Police Force in Lashio, and Kengtung Police Station in Kengtung have emergency numbers of 199.

Phone numbers receiving complaints from the public are Myanmar Police Force HQ (067-412222 and 067-412444), Nay Pyi Taw Police Force (067-550333), Kachin State Police Force (074-21444), Kayin State Police Force (058-23355), Sagaing Region Police Force (071-24996), Taninthayi Region Police Force (059-23998), Bago Region Police Force (052-23999), Magway Region Police Force (063-28099), Mandalay Region Police Force (02-61444), Mon State Police Force (057-24987), Rakhine State Police Force (043-22833), Yangon Region Police Force (01-2302199), Shan State Police Force (081-2125455) and Ayeyawady Region Police Force (042-23844).

MNA

**Beware of
Dengue
Hemorrhagic
Fever**

WORLD

Suriname leader says son's arrest timed to shame him



Suriname's President Desi Bouterse speaks during a working session at a Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) leaders summit, in Paramaribo on 30 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

PARAMARIBO, 4 Sept—Suriname's president said on Tuesday the arrest of his son in Panama on charges of smuggling cocaine into the United States was timed to embarrass him as he hosted a regional summit.

President Desi Bouterse's son Dino, 40, was arraigned on Friday in a New York federal court accused of cocaine trafficking and

being armed during a drug-related crime, in this case allegedly with an anti-tank rocket launcher.

Also on Friday, Bouterse was welcoming Latin American leaders to Paramaribo for a summit to mark Suriname taking the temporary leadership of the UNASUR regional trade bloc. "It was perfect timing ... I almost want to say that

I could have organized it myself," the president told reporters on Monday, when asked about the arrest.

"Luckily it did not achieve its goal" of disrupting the summit, Bouterse said, adding that other heads of state had offered him their sympathy and in some cases the services of their lawyers too, should his son need them.

"You have to put aside the issues that affect you personally, emotionally, and say, 'What is the most important thing?' The most important thing was the UNASUR meeting."

Dino Bouterse faces a maximum penalty of life in prison if convicted of either of the two charges, which relate to events between December 2011 and August 2013. He was convicted in Suriname in 2005 for trafficking drugs, illegal weapons and stolen luxury cars, but was later given a senior role in the government's counterterrorism unit.

Reuters

Chinese, Turkmenian presidents discuss bilateral ties

ASHKHABAD, 4 Sept—Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Turkmenian counterpart, Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov, held talks here on Tuesday and decided to lift bilateral ties to a strategic partnership.

During their meeting, the two leaders spoke highly of the development of bilateral ties and jointly laid out the blueprint for future cooperation between their countries.

Over recent years, the

two countries have enjoyed high political mutual trust and witnessed fruitful cooperation in economy, trade, energy and culture, Xi said, noting that China has become Turkmenistan's largest trading partner.

Their cooperation in natural gas, with the two countries being each other's largest partner in this field, not only plays an important role in their economic development, but sets a good example for international

energy cooperation, Xi added.

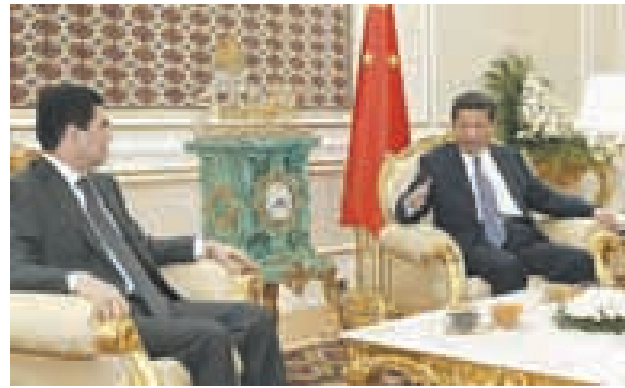
Hailing China and Turkmenistan as strategic partners in the real sense, Xi said China will always be Turkmenistan's good friend, good partner and good brother.

In order to deepen bilateral cooperation, the Chinese leader raised a multi-point proposal that covers politics, security, natural gas, trade, culture and regional affairs.

The two countries, he said, should firmly support each other's efforts in safeguarding national sovereignty and security as well as territorial integrity, and in promoting social and economic development.

China supports Turkmenistan's policy of permanent neutrality, and stands ready to maintain high-level contact and expand exchanges between governments, legislatures and political parties, he added.

Xinhua



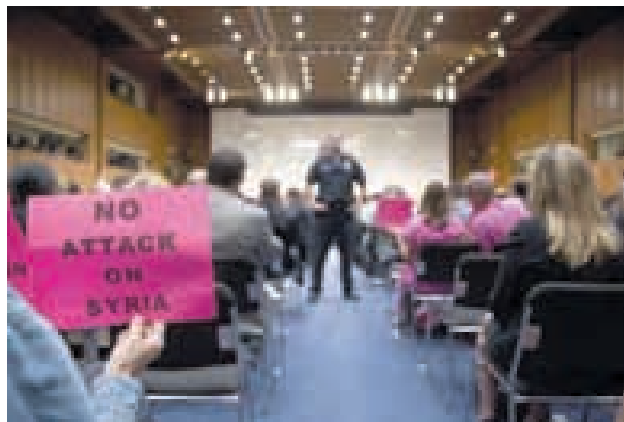
Visiting Chinese President Xi Jinping (R) meets with his Turkmenian counterpart Gurbanguly Berdimukhamdov in Ashkhabad, capital of Turkmenistan, on 3 Sept 2013.—XINHUA

US public opposes Syria intervention as Obama presses Congress

WASHINGTON, 4 Sept—President Barack Obama has failed so far to convince most Americans that the United States should launch a limited military strike against Syria in response to a suspected chemical weapons attack by the Syrian government, a Reuters/Ipsos poll showed on Tuesday.

Some 56 percent of those surveyed said the United States should not intervene in Syria, while only 19 percent supported action, the online poll found. Some 25 percent said they did not know what course of action the United States should take.

The findings are essentially unchanged from last week and indicated that Obama changed few minds



A protester holds up a sign against US action in Syria as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs General Martin E. Dempsey, John Kerry, US Secretary of State, and Chuck Hagel, Secretary of Defence, present the administration's case for US military action against Syria to a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing in Washington on 3 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

on Saturday when he argued that Washington has the obligation to punish Syrian President Bashar al-Assad

for what the United States says was a sarin gas attack that killed more than 1,400 people, including hundreds

of children, near Damascus on 21 August.

The poll showed that respondents were more likely to support a strike if they were specifically asked about the chemical-weapons attack. Even then, only 29 percent said the United States should intervene, while 48 percent opposed action. Another 24 percent said they did not know.

Obama said on Saturday he had decided the United States should take military action against Syrian government targets but has asked Congress to approve the action in an acknowledgement that many Americans have little appetite for new military engagements after more than a decade of war in Afghanistan and Iraq.—Reuters

Car bombs across Iraqi capital kill nearly 60 people

BAGHDAD, 4 Sept—A series of car bombs exploded across the Iraqi capital on Tuesday, killing nearly 60 people in predominantly Shi'ite districts, police and medics said.

It was not immediately clear who had carried out the attacks, which appeared coordinated, but Sunni Islamist militants, including an al-Qaeda affiliate, have been striking with a ferocity not seen in years.

More than two years of civil war in neighbouring Syria have aggravated deep-rooted sectarian divisions in Iraq, fraying an uneasy government coalition of Shi'ite, Sunni and ethnic Kurdish factions. Tuesday's deadliest single blast took place in Baghdad's north-

ern Talbiya neighbourhood, where a car bomb in a busy street killed nine people.

In the Hussainiya District on the northern outskirts of the capital, two car bombs exploded in quick succession, killing ten.

"I saw a fireball and a huge cloud of smoke. We couldn't approach immediately fearing a second bomb, but we could hear the screams of people asking for help," said Ali Jameel, a policeman in a patrol stationed in Hussainiya. "A minute later a second blast happened nearby. Bodies were lying on the ground and some of the wounded were crawling to distance themselves from the blaze, leaving a trail of blood behind them".

Reuters



A man looks at a shop, site of a car bomb attack in Hilla, around 100 km (62 miles) south of Baghdad on 3 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

Peacekeeping focus for Pacific military chiefs in New Zealand meeting

WELLINGTON, 4 Sept—High-ranking military personnel from around the Pacific will gather in Auckland next week for a three-day Pacific Armies Chiefs' Conference (PACC) followed by a five-day Pacific Armies' Management Sem-

inar (PAMS).

Delegates from 32 countries were expected to attend the conferences, which would focus on how national and international communities could strengthen partnerships, and would allow New Zea-

land to showcase its role in world peace operations, said a statement from the New Zealand Defence Force.

This year's conference theme, "The Sum Is Greater than the Parts," would focus on uniting efforts behind

21st Century peacekeeping operations in a United Nations context, it said. A keynote address would be given by Ameerah Haq, the UN under-secretary-general for field support. The two events will run concurrently from 9 to 13 Sept.—Xinhua

REGIONAL



People salvage dead fish in Wuhan, Central China's Hubei Province, on 3 Sept, 2013. Dead fish covered more than 40 kilometres of Fuhe River as of Monday, and most of them are 40 to 50 centimetres long. According to the local emergency response office, the incident was caused by excessive ammonia nitrogen density, and the pollution source was not in the city. The river is not the source for drinking water in Wuhan.—XINHUA

Singapore sets up new workgroup to assist SMEs

SINGAPORE, 4 Sept—Singapore government has set up a new workgroup to lead and coordinate efforts to assist small and medium enterprises (SMEs) amid their process of restructuring and raising productivity, the city-state's Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) said on Tuesday.

The SME workgroup consists 17 Members of Parliament, 12 representatives from the business sector and 11 government agencies and

is led by Minister of State for Trade and Industry Teo Ser Luck.

The MTI said the work group will focus on their main areas. It will oversee the implementation of the various government programs and schemes related to SMEs, aiming to "ensure that the various schemes remain accessible and remain relevant to SMEs' needs."

The SME workgroup will also gather feedback from local business com-

munity about the schemes. The Members of Parliament, representing the advisors of the workgroup, will "help to raise awareness of the wide range of schemes and resources available to SMEs." Finally, the workgroup will also identify gaps and make recommendations to improve existing policies related to SMEs based on the feedback received. The inaugural meeting of this workgroup is scheduled for mid-September.—Xinhua

S Korea, DPRK hold subcommittee meetings for Kaesong complex

SEOUL, 4 Sept—South Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Wednesday held meetings of two subcommittees in charge of asset protection and global competitiveness for the joint industrial complex in the DPRK's border town of Kaesong.

"As to the Kaesong industrial complex, two subcommittees for investment protection and global competitiveness are holding meetings in Kaesong," Unification Ministry spokes-

man Kim Hyung-seok told a Press briefing.

On Thursday, the two Koreas planned to hold another meeting for two other subcommittees in charge of passage, communications and customs, Kim said, noting that the second meeting of the joint management committee for the Kaesong industrial park will be held next Tuesday based on the results of the two-day negotiations.

Seoul and Pyongyang agreed in principle to normalize the inter-Korean

factory park in mid-August, but they had yet to agree on when to reopen it fully and how to manage it.

The Kaesong industrial zone, where 123 South Korean companies run factories, has been suspended for around five months after the DPRK withdrew all of its workers from the park in early April.

The two Koreas agreed to set up the joint committee to run the factory park last Thursday. The committee was expected to give an equal say on the man-

agement of the Kaesong park, which had been run solely by the DPRK's General Bureau for Guidance to Central Special Economic Zone.

Spokesman Kim said that military hotlines should be recovered to normalize operations of the joint industrial zone, reiterating its stance on conditions for the normalization.

Pyongyang has stuck to its stance of normalizing the operation as fast as possible.

Xinhua

Magnitude-5.3 earthquake hits seas off S Philippines

MANILA, 4 Sept—An earthquake measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale jolted seas off the southern Philippine Province of Davao del Sur at 7:46 am local time on Wednesday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said.

No casualties and losses have been reported so far, but aftershocks are expected. The epicentre of the quake was initially determined to be 05.45 degrees north latitude and 125.54 degrees east longitude with a depth of 143 km.—Xinhua

One killed in S Philippine bombing

ZAMBOANGA CITY, (Philippines), 4 Sept—A suspected bomber was killed after an improvised explosive device (IED) he was trying to slip exploded near a police station in the southern Philippine Province of Zamboanga del Sur Capt Jefferson Somera,

spokesman for the regional army's First Division, said on Wednesday they also recovered another bomb near the area. Somera said the bomb exploded on Tuesday at around 9:30 pm, local time in the highway in Labangan town.

The police can't iden-

tify the mangled remains of the suspect. Somera said security forces searching the area later found a bag containing an IED fashioned through a round of 60mm mortar and cell phone acting as a trigger device. They immediately defused the bomb.—Xinhua



Foreign visitors view fruits at a fruit fair on the sidelines of the 10th China-ASEAN Expo in Nanning, capital of southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 3 Sept, 2013. Fruits from ASEAN countries and Chinese provinces were displayed at the fair.

XINHUA

Overweight caused Nepal's plane crash last year

KATHMANDU, 4 Sept—An investigation into the Sita Air plane crash which killed 19 people in Kathmandu has shown that overweight is a main cause for the disaster.

A detailed investigation report which was unveiled 11 months after the plane crash by Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation has stated that the plane's takeoff performance was

compromised with both passengers and cargo weight.

On 28 Sept, 2012 the plane bound for Lukla, near Mt Everest, was crashed in the Capital city Kathmandu shortly after takeoff from Tribhuvan International Airport.

According to the report obtained by Xinhua, the aircraft takeoff weight was 5,914 kg, whereas the

maximum takeoff weight allowed for the Lukla flight is 5,836 kg. The aircraft load sheet recorded a takeoff weight of 5,834 kg, but this figure did not include an allowance for baggage.

The report has also recommended to the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN) to revive the suitability of the average weights used for passengers on flights within Nepal and

modify them if needed.

It has also recommended to the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN) to review the suitability of the average weights used for passengers on flights within Nepal and modify them if necessary. Aviation experts say CAAN should prepare a concrete measures for the monitoring of the domestic flights.

Xinhua



Japan's Princess Akiko is pictured at Narita Airport near Tokyo on 4 Sept, 2013, before leaving for Buenos Aires. The princess plans to meet some members of the International Olympic Committee in an event in the Argentine capital en route to her official visit to Chile.

KYODO NEWS

M6.9 quake jolts eastern Japan

TOKYO, 4 Sept — An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.9 hit a wide area across eastern Japan on Wednesday morning, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

No tsunami warning was issued following the 9:19 am quake, which registered 4 on the Japanese seismic scale of 7 in many cities from Miyagi to

Kanagawa prefectures.

No impact from the quake has been observed so far at the crippled Fukushima Daiichi and nearby Fukushima Daini nuclear power plants, according to Tokyo Electric Power Co Bullet train services on the Tokaido and the Joetsu Shinkansen Lines were briefly suspended, their operators said.—Kyodo News



Employees of the Japan Meteorological Agency examine damage to a house in Koshigaya, Saitama Prefecture, on 3 Sept, 2013, after tornadoes hit areas in the vicinity of Tokyo the previous day.

KYODO NEWS

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (022)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (022) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.9.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV TRUONG MWH 99 VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TRUONG MWH 99 VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.9.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S THUONG MWH SHIPPING CO LTD.

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921



Workers grade flowers at a workshop in Naivasha Town, southwest Kenya, on 31 Aug, 2013. The Naivasha region in the Rift Valley is considered as the production base of the Kenyan flower industry, with 90% of flowers mainly exported to Europe. A maximum of nearly 1 million stems, after being cut, graded, chilled, are delivered with diversified varieties to its key destinations in Europe every day. Kenyan flowers, which take more than 30% of market shares in Europe, are also prepared to pave the way to potential Asian markets like Russia, Korea and Japan.—XINHUA

Delegates attend the 63rd session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for Africa in Brazzaville, capital of the Republic of the Congo, on 2 Sept, 2013.
XINHUA



World Water Week opens in Stockholm focusing on cooperation, partnerships

STOCKHOLM, 4 Sept — The 23rd World Water Week opened in Stockholm on Monday, where global leaders will work together to build partnerships and call for strengthened cooperation over water.

With the world's population and economies growing fast while the amount of available water remains the same, collaboration over most essential resource is more urgent than ever, said the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) in a statement.

"Mortgaging our future by draining water from the ground, surface and sky faster than it can be replaced by nature is untenable and unwise," said Torgny Holmgren, executive director of SIWI, addressing the opening session.

Jan Eliasson, deputy secretary-general of the United Nations, urged governments, development partners and the private sector to work together to help change this.

About 2,500 politicians, business leaders and innovators will take part in more than 100 seminars, workshops and events under the theme of "Water cooperation - Building partnerships," aiming to find solutions to the world's most pressing water challenges.

During the week, the prestigious Stockholm Water Prize and Stockholm Industry Water Award will also be awarded.—XINHUA

KWS successful moves 21 rhinos to new sanctuary

NAIROBI, 4 Sept — The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) on Monday said it has successfully translocated 21 black rhinos from a national park to a sanctuary in northwest Kenya. KWS spokesman Paul Mbugua said 10 rhinos were translocated from the Nakuru National Park and 11 others from Lewa Conservancy to Borana Ranch in Laikipia.

"The week-long exercise was completed on Sunday and we managed to move 21 rhinos from Nakuru National Park and Lewa Conservancy. We completed the exercise on Sunday," Mbugua told Xinhua. KWS Assistant Director Central Rift Conservation Area Jonathan Kirui had earlier

said the week-long exercise was funded by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

"The space for grazers is reducing by the day. However, the KWS is working to create more space for the animals," Kirui said.

Rhinos are among the big five most sought after species by the illegal poachers due to their pricey horns. According to the KWS, there are about 643 black rhinos and 450 white rhinos in the East African country. The movement of the species, Kirui said, protects them from extinction while providing ample breeding space for remaining mates at the Lake Nakuru National Park.

Xinhua

Plan to re-enter New Zealand disaster mine approved

WELLINGTON, 4 Sept — A plan to reopen the entrance tunnel to New Zealand's Pike River Coal Mine, where 29 men died in an explosion in November 2010, could be implemented next month in the first step to retrieving the bodies, government and mine company officials said on Tuesday.

Energy and Resources Minister Simon Bridges said the government would fund the cost of the plan, which was estimated at 7.2 million NZ dollars (5.62 million US dollars).

"Our criteria are that any re-entry into the tunnel up to the rock fall is safe, technically feasible and financially credible. Safety is paramount, and the High Hazards Unit of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment has reviewed

the plan and is comfortable with it," Bridges said in a statement.

The scope of the operation did not include entry into the main mine workings, which was blocked by the rock fall.

"The government cannot comment or speculate about re-entering the main mine until the tunnel re-entry has been successfully achieved," Bridges said.

The three stage plan involved sealing the ventilation shaft to control the atmosphere; drilling new boreholes to insert a foam seal in the tunnel and then pumping inert nitrogen between the seal and the rock fall to stop the risk of fresh air reigniting fires in the main workings, before ventilating the tunnel up to the entrance.

Xinhua

Bilateral summit eyes attracting more Chinese tourists to UAE

ABU DHABI, 4 Sept — Chinese tourist operators and representatives from the United Arab Emirates (UAE)'s hospitality industry are brainstorming here on Monday to find ways to lure more travellers from China to the Gulf state.

Some 75 Chinese outbound tourism bookers came to Abu Dhabi for an increased business at a two-day summit organized by Nicholas Publishing International (NPI) in partnership with the Shanghai-based i2i Group.

Rob Nicholas, Managing Director of NPI, said the summit is dedicated to building inbound Chinese visitor numbers by matching buyers to over 70 travel

providers from throughout the region and further fields including hoteliers, attractions and retailers keen to tap into this lucrative market.

Nicholas said that with more than half of the delegation having less than three years' experience working with UAE suppliers, their appetite for new product is "extremely keen." For Ann Rao, regional manager from Chinese tour operator Uulux, the summit marks her first trip to the UAE. "Interest in the UAE is definitely rising," said Rao.

Not only have the UAE's two major carriers Emirates Airline from Dubai and Etihad Airways

from Abu Dhabi increased their flight network between China and the Gulf state, but also UAE hotels increasingly target Chinese tourists by establishing luxury shops and Chinese restaurants. May Zhan, associate parent at Global Blue China which promotes German luxury brand Montblanc said she participated to study Chinese tourists shopping interests.

Camilla Jorgensen, NPI Media's project manager Chinese portfolio, said while Chinese travellers' thirst to discover foreign cultures is huge, they also appreciate Chinese-speaking staff and Chinese food at their holiday destinations.—Xinhua

A person walks past the International Conference Centre in Majuro, capital of Marshall Islands, on 3 Sept, 2013. Final preparations are made for the 44th Pacific Islands Forum leaders meeting which will officially open on Tuesday evening.
XINHUA



ENTERTAINMENT



Michael Douglas

US actors Michael Douglas, Matt Damon to present awards at Emmys

LOS ANGELES, 4 Sept—Actors Michael Douglas and Matt Damon will play their new roles of event presenters at the upcoming 65th Primetime Emmy Awards, the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences said on Tuesday. Both stars, neither of whom has presented at the Emmys before, are the first presenters to be announced by organizers for the event, during

which stars hand out gongs to their fellow actors.

The pair, who starred together in the HBO made-for-television film “Behind the Candelabra,” will also contend for the honour for lead actor in a miniseries or movie at the telecast. In the Liberace biopic, Douglas played the flamboyant pianist Liberace, while Damon acted as the musician’s lover, Scott Thorson. Both

men have earned nominations for previous Emmys four times.

Douglas was previously nominated in 2002 for a guest role on sitcom “Will & Grace,” and three times for his supporting effort on the 1970s television police drama “The Streets of San Francisco.” Damon earned a nod for a guest role on “30 Rock” in 2011, and three times for his work on “Pro-



Matt Damon

ject Greenlight.” The award show is slated for 22 September at the Nokia Theatre in downtown Los Angeles. It will be hosted by Neil Patrick Harris.—Xinhua

Jennifer Lopez returns as ‘American Idol’ judge

NEW YORK, 4 Sept—Pop singer Jennifer Lopez will be returning to “American Idol,” joining new judge Grammy- and Emmy-award-winning singer Harry Connick Jr and veteran Keith Urban on the popular TV singing competition, Fox Broadcasting said on Tuesday.

Randy Jackson, who has been on the judging panel since the show started in 2002 and announced he would be leaving earlier this year, will return as an in-house mentor for the show’s 13th season in January.

“American Idol has always been about discovering the next singing superstar, and next season our judging panel will deliver a most im-

pressive combination of talent, wisdom and personality to do just that,” Kevin Reilly, Fox Broadcasting’s chairman of entertainment, said in a statement announcing the judging panel. Lopez, 44, returns after a season away.

The singer and actress, who appeared in “The Back-up Plan” and “Parker,” and whose hits include “On the Floor,” will add star power to the singing competition, once the most-watched television show, with 30 million viewers during its heyday six or seven years ago.

Forbes.com calculated that “Idol” was the most profitable show on TV in 2011, generating some \$6.64 million in ad revenue for every half hour it aired.



Singer and actress Jennifer Lopez

When soul singer Candice Glover won “American Idol” in May and became the first woman to take the title since 2007 the finale drew 14.2 million viewers, the first time it failed to reach 20 million. The season slump in audience numbers prompted an overhaul of the highly paid

judging panel. Forbes.com estimated last season’s judges and host Ryan Seacrest were paid a combined \$54 million. Former judges Mariah Carey and rapper Nicki Minaj left after the end of the last season. Urban is the only judge who remained.

Reuters

Johansson alien film disappoints, Korean movie shocks at Venice

MILAN, 4 Sept—Scarlett Johansson as a predatory alien in Scotland got a lukewarm reception and a film about mutilation and masochism that is banned in the director’s native South Korea roused disbelieving laughter at the Venice film festival on Tuesday. Booming followed

the customary applause after a Press screening of “Under the Skin”, a comeback for British director Jonathan Glazer, starring the “Lost in Translation” actress.

Described as “an undeniably ambitious but ultimately torpid and silly tale of an alien on the prowl”

by trade magazine *Variety*, “Under the Skin” is one of 20 new films in competition for a prestigious Golden Lion at the 70th annual festival. Korean director Kim Ki-Duk screened “Moebius” outside the competition, which he won last year with “Pieta”, an absorbing thriller about a

pitiless loan shark.

For “Under the Skin” Johansson as the alien Laura was filmed in real-life settings, including a shopping center and a street in a drizzly Scottish town, surrounded by members of the public. “People would take pictures of you with their cameraphone and not help you, all kinds of strange things,” Johansson told a Press conference. This technique was an “important ingredient” in the film, said Glazer, known for the 2004 picture “Birth”.

Laura drives around in a white van, stopping to chat coyly with young men in a cut-glass English accent. Her mysterious beauty prompts one of the men she meets to comment, in a strong Scottish accent, that she reverses the trope of the creepy male motorist picking up female hitchhikers. “It didn’t bother me that the dialogue was indecipherable at times” as long as the characters’ intentions and behaviour were clear, Glazer said.—Reuters



Actress Scarlett Johansson (C) poses with director Jonathan Glazer (R) and producer James Wilson (L) during a photocall for the movie “Under the Skin” during the 70th Venice Film Festival in Venice on 3 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

Princess Diana is celebrity many Americans would bring back to life: poll

NEW YORK, 4 Sept—Britain’s Princess Diana is the deceased celebrity many Americans would want to bring back to life while most men would prefer to die before their spouses, according to a new survey about mortality released on Tuesday. The majority of Americans questioned in the “60 Minutes”/Vanity Fair poll said they would die for their children, but fewer were prepared to give up their life for their country or religion.

Thirty-five percent of people said Princess Diana, who died in a car accident in Paris 16 years ago, is the celebrity they would pick to bring back to life, compared to 14 percent for Apple Inc co-founder Steve Jobs and 11 percent for pop stars Michael Jackson and Whitney Houston. Seventy percent of men in the poll of 1,005 adults said they would prefer their wives to outlive them, while 46 percent of women said they would want to die first.

Reuters

When asked what they would be most willing to die for, 55 percent of people said their children, followed by 12 percent for their spouse, 10 percent for their parents or religion and 5 percent for their country. Only 24 percent of people said they would opt for cryonic preservation, even if it were free, but the number rose to 39 percent among 18- to 34-year-olds. With cryonics, a body is preserved at low temperatures in the hope it can be revived and healed later.

A bar or a shopping mall was deemed the worst place to have one’s ashes spread and 84 percent of people said they would prefer their passing to be marked “with laughter, food and drink” rather than something more solemn. The nationwide telephone poll, which will appear in the October issue of *Vanity Fair*, has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points. It was conducted from 17-21 July.



Princess Diana arrives at the Royal Geographical Society in London for a speech on the dangers of landmines throughout the world on 12 June, 1997.

REUTERS

SPORTS

Heavy spending in England but not on English players

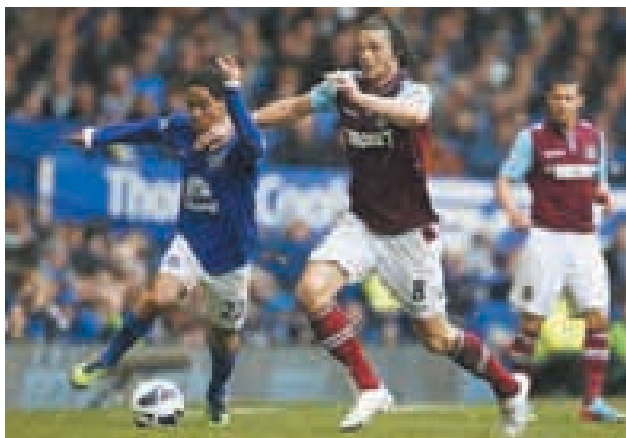
MANCHESTER, 4 Sept—Record spending by Premier League clubs signalled a desire to keep up the English top flight's self-proclaimed reputation as the best in the world, along with a message that home-grown talent was perhaps not.

With Andy Carroll's move to West Ham for \$23 million (14 million pounds) the biggest deal involving an Englishman in the latest transfer window, and a trend for the top clubs to sell off rather than buy local talent, confidence in the country's players seems low.

Premier League clubs had spent 630 million pounds (\$980.53 million) by Monday's transfer deadline, smashing the previous record of 500 million pounds set in 2008 according to business services group Deloitte.

The standout deals were mainly for Spaniards, South Americans and Germans with Mesut Ozil, Fernandinho, Willian and Roberto Soldado joining Arsenal, Manchester City, Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur respectively.

England's Manchester United striker Wayne



West Ham United's Andy Carroll (R) challenges Everton's Steven Pienaar during their English Premier League soccer match at Goodison Park in Liverpool, northern England, on 12 May, 2013.—REUTERS

Rooney could have been a big-name move with Chelsea chasing him for much of the close season before cooling off last week and Everton defender Leighton Baines was a United target but neither deal came off.

There was a loan deal for England midfielder Gareth Barry from Manchester City to Everton, defender Steven Caulker—who has one cap—moved to Cardiff City from Tottenham for 10 million but other activity was even lower key.

Midfielder Stewart Downing joined West Ham from Liverpool, Tom Huddlestone swapped Spurs for Hull City and midfielder

Jonjo Shelvey went to Swansea from Liverpool, all for single-figure millions apiece.

The trio of newly promoted clubs, Crystal Palace, Hull City and Cardiff City, were the most active in acquiring English players, mopping up what they could from the bigger clubs for small fees or free.

England manager Roy Hodgson had last week urged clubs to do their transfer business before his squad assembled to prepare for this month's World Cup qualifiers rather than having players make mad dashes across the country to sign late deals.—Reuters

I did not have Ancelotti's trust at Real, Ozil says

MADRID, 4 Sept—Mesut Ozil quit Real Madrid to join Arsenal because he realized he no longer had the confidence of Real coach Carlo Ancelotti, the German playmaker said. The Premier League club smashed their transfer record to sign Ozil for 42.5 million pounds (\$66.15 million) on Monday, days after he said he would stay with the nine-times European champions for a fourth season.

Ozil sulked after Ancelotti substituted him in last month's La Liga match at Granada and the Italian then left him on the bench for Sunday's 3-1 victory at home to Athletic Bilbao.

"I was certain...that I would stay at Real Madrid," Ozil said in an interview published on the German soccer federation's website (www.dfb.de) on Tuesday.

"Then I realized that I didn't have the confidence of the coach and the officials after all," added the 24-year-old of Turkish origin. "I am a player who needs that confidence and I saw that I would have that at Arsenal and that is why I am going there."

Ozil's departure, which followed Real's purchase of winger Gareth Bale from Tottenham Hotspur for a

world-record fee of 100 million euros, prompted head-scratching in Spain as he was one of Real's most creative squad members.

He made 31 assists in his last two seasons, the most of any player in La Liga, and had developed a lethal partnership with Real's Portugal forward Cristiano Ronaldo.

Ozil said he was happy to be joining up with Germany team mates Lukas Podolski and Per Mertesacker at Arsenal and the fact that the London club's manager Arsene Wenger spoke German would help him to settle in.

"Wenger gives me the confidence that I can develop further and I want to be in top

form for the World Cup next year," he said.

"I spoke to him for a long time on the telephone and he told me his expectations and he trusts me, which I need as a player."

"I am a player who always wants to play a whole match, the full 90 minutes."

"I am looking forward to the new challenge. I have already heard that they (Arsenal) have fantastic fans, the city is great and the team is of a very high quality." Real fans who gathered at the Bernabeu for Bale's presentation on Monday chanted for Ozil to stay and the player had warm words for the supporters of his former club.—Reuters



German national soccer team player Mesut Ozil controls a ball during a training session in Munich on 3 Sept, 2013, ahead of the World Cup qualification match against Austria on 6 September.—REUTERS

Serena doles out double bagel to reach semi-finals



Serena Williams celebrates defeating Carla Suarez Navarro of Spain at the US Open tennis championships in New York on 3 Sept 2013.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 4 Sept—Defending champion Serena Williams walloped Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro 6-0, 6-0 to race into the semi-finals of the US Open on Tuesday.

Top seed Williams served up the dreaded "double-bagel" in a blazing 52 minutes to set up a clash with fifth seed Li Na, who earlier became China's first US Open semi-finalist by

beating Russian Ekaterina Makarova.

"Honestly she's a great player," said Williams, blaming the windy conditions for the Spaniard's futility. "The conditions today were so tough. It was not her best tennis today."

Suarez Navarro's consolation is a \$325,000 check on her 25th birthday for her first US Open quarter-final.—Reuters

Lionel Messi backs Madrid 2020 Games bid

MADRID, 4 Sept—Barcelona's Argentina forward Lionel Messi has thrown his support behind Madrid's bid for the right to host the 2020 Olympic Games.

With four days to go until International Olympic Committee (IOC) members meeting in Buenos Aires choose between the Spanish capital, Istanbul and Tokyo, Messi said it would be positive to award Madrid the Games given the nation's recent success in a number of high-profile sports.

"I don't know whether my support will help," the World Player of the Year, wearing a shirt with the



Barcelona's Lionel Messi celebrates scoring against Valencia during their Spanish first division match at the Mestalla Stadium in Valencia on 1 September, 2013.—REUTERS

Madrid logo, said in a video published by Spanish bid officials.

"I think it is very important for a city to host the Games," added the 26-year-old, who has lived in the

Catalan capital for more than a decade. "I was fortunate enough to participate in the Olympics and it is a fantastic experience for any athlete and I think it could be something very impor-

tant for the city of Madrid."

"I think Madrid has a good chance for what it (the city) represents, Spain's position in the world of sport, where it has triumphed in many different areas, and that can have an influence too. "I think it would be good for sport to award Madrid the Games and I support their bid from here."

Messi is also a brand ambassador for Turkish Airlines, one of the main backers of Istanbul's bid, and features in advertisements currently on display in Buenos Aires promoting the airline's services to Latin America.—Reuters

Nashiro defeated in WBA super flyweight title match



Thai boxer Denkaosan Kaovichit (L) punches Nobuo Nashiro of Japan in the seventh round of their WBA super flyweight title match in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand, on 3 Sept, 2013. KYODO NEWS

NAKHON RATCHASIMA, (Thailand), 4 Sept—Fifth-ranked former champion Nobuo Nashiro failed in his bid to claim the vacant WBA super flyweight title on Tuesday when he was defeated by fourth-ranked Thai boxer Denkaosan Kaovichit.

Despite suffering a cut eye, Nashiro had the better of the later rounds as Denkaosan faded, but the Thai had

done enough to win the decision 113-115.5, 116-113.5, 116.5-114.5. Denkaosan, 37, improved to 62-3-1 (26 KO), while the 31-year-old Nashiro dropped to 19-6-1 (13 KOs). "To be honest I didn't think I could win on a decision. The only way I thought I could win was by KO but I didn't get enough punches in," said Nashiro.

"Denkaosan was bet-

ter than I had expected. He fought dirty and hard. I'm going to go home now and take time to consider my future." Nashiro announced his retirement after losing a world title bout against Thai Tepparith Kokietygym in September last year but decided two months later he would return to the ring. He scored a knockout in his comeback in April.—Kyodo News

GENERAL



Dustin Bockman is pictured with his record setting alligator, weighing 727 pounds (330 kg) and measuring 13 feet (3.96 m), captured in Vicksburg, Mississippi on 1 Sept, 2013 and released to Reuters on 3 Sept, 2013. Dustin Bockman, a 27-year-old UPS driver, and his crew spotted the mammoth creature in the Mississippi River and trailed it for two hours before getting close enough to spear it. It took another two hours to hook it with a second line and noose its neck.
XINHUA

Texas city offers rebates to save water amid drought

HOUSTON, 4 Sept — The city of San Antonio in the US state of Texas is offering its residents rebates for reducing the size of lawns in an attempt to save water amid the worst drought in decades, local media reported Tuesday.

The water district serving San Antonio said about 2,000 homeowners enrolled over the summer in a pilot program that offered 100 US dollars vouchers in exchange of removing at least 18.6 square meters of lawn, the San Antonio Express-News reported.

Aside from the coupons, the program also gives instructions on how to convert to the new water saving gardens, the report said.

San Antonio is not the only Texas city that gives incentives to residents in a bid to conserve water. Austin, its capital city, has also offered smaller-valued rebates for residents who removed turf, according to the report.

Texas, especially its central part, is experiencing the severest drought in recent decades. According to

figures from the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, reservoir levels in Texas are at about 64 percent of their full capacity — the lowest levels at this time of year since 1990 and about 10 percentage points lower now than they were last summer.

Evaporation could further reduce lake and reservoir levels if fall temperatures are higher than average. The administration predicts the drought will persist or intensify in most of Texas through October.

Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(5-9-2013, Thursday)

6:00 am	4:00 pm
1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	20. News
6:30 am	4:15 pm
2. Physical Exercise	21. Myanmar Language
6:35 am	4:35 pm
3. Dance of National Races	22. Dance of National Races
6:45 am	4:45 pm
4. Documentary	23. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (Mathematics)
7:00 am	5:00 pm
5. News/ Weather Report	24. News
7:20 am	5:15 pm
6. People Talks	25. Road to 27th SEA Games (Wushu)
8:00 am	5:30 pm
7. News/ International News	26. India Drama Series
8:25 am	6:00 pm
8. My Mind Game My SEA Games	27. News/ Weather Report
9:00 am	6:20 pm
9. News/International News	28. Approaching Science Discovery World
9:25 am	6:35 pm
10. Mono Classical Songs	29. TV Drama Series
10:00 am	7:00 pm
11. News	30. News
10:40 am	7:15 pm
12. Sing & Enjoy	31. TV Drama Series
11:20 am	8:00 pm
13. Teleplay (Health)	32. News/ International News/ Weather Report
12:00 pm	8:35 pm
14. News/International News/Weather Report	33. Pyi Thu Ni Ti
12:25 pm	8:50 pm
15. Myanmar Video	34. Hit Songs of Stars
2:25 pm	9:00 pm
16. Documentary	35. News
3:00 pm	36. Clever
17. News	37. TV Drama Series
3:30 pm	
18. Musical Programme	
3:40 pm	
19. Teleplay (Traffic)	

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(5-9-13 09:30 am ~ 6-9-13 09:30 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Halin, A Treasure Trove Of The Ancient Pyu City
- * World News
- * Shrimp Cold Storage From Kyauk Phyu
- * Local News
- * Caste of Myanmar (Fried Flat Noodle)
- * World News
- * Taxicomy for Eternity
- * Local News
- * Monastery: Summer School
- * World News
- * Myanmar Movie Review "Kayan Beauties"
- * Local News
- * My Native Town Meiktila
- * World News
- * Awesome Myanma Sculptures
- * Local News
- * Great Shwedagon-The Exhibition Hall of the Great Chronicle of Buddha
- * World News
- * Sticky Shan Snack
- * Local News
- * Distinct People, Different Lifestyles (Pan-Pack Village)
- * World News
- * Serene and Scenic Magwe
- * Local News
- * A Short Trip To Upper Myanmar Sagaing, Kawlin
- * World News
- * To The Blue Ridge Mountains of Rhododendrons
- * Local News
- * Shot & Logs "Ye Pyae"
- * World News
- * My Golden Dancers and Artist U Lun Gywe

Li becomes China's first semi-finalist at US Open



Victoria Azarenka of Belarus celebrates after defeating Ana Ivanovic of Serbia at the US Open tennis championships in New York on 3 September, 2013.
REUTERS

NEW YORK, 4 Sept— Li Na broke another barrier for Chinese tennis, becoming China's first semi-finalist at the US Open by beating Russian Ekaterina Makarova 6-4, 6-7(5), 6-2 on Tuesday at windy Flushing Meadows.

The 31-year-old, fifth-seeded Li pumped both fists in joy after 24th seed

Makarova sailed a backhand long to end the two-hour, 20-minute match at Arthur Ashe Stadium as the crowd showered her with cheers. "For me, this is the first time to come to the semi-finals, so I'm very proud of myself," said Li, who looked about to claim victory in two sets after winning the first three

points of the tiebreaker and holding a 4-2 lead.

"After I lose the second set, I was sad. But I just told myself to go point by point." Li's win over the Russian left-hander followed a three-set victory by second seed Victoria Azarenka over Ana Ivanovic as order was restored after Monday's shocking straight sets, fourth-round surrender by Roger Federer to Tommy Robredo. Azarenka's 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory completed the women's quarter-finals field as their contest was postponed from Monday after a rain delay of nearly five hours at the soggy US National Tennis Centre.

The world number two Belarussian, US Open runner-up last year to Serena Williams, will play un-

seeded Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia in the quarter-finals. On the men's side, former champion Lleyton Hewitt's brilliant run was stopped in the fourth round by determined Russian veteran Mikhail Youzhny.

Youzhny, the 21st seed, battled back from 1-4 in the fourth set and from 2-5 in the fifth set to claim a 6-3, 3-6, 6-7 (3), 6-4, 7-5 victory over the 32-year-old unseeded Australian.

The 2001 US Open champion Hewitt, mounting a comeback after a series of foot surgeries, was stopped one hurdle shy of reaching his first US quarter-final in seven years.

Youzhny, just one year younger than Hewitt, will play either top seed Novak Djokovic or 43rd-ranked Marcel Granollers of Spain



Li Na of China celebrates after defeating Ekaterina Makarova of Russia at the US Open tennis championships in New York on 3 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

in the last eight.

The US Open had been the last grand slam where Chinese women had stalled before reaching the final four. Zheng Jie was the first Chinese player to reach a grand slam semi-final, making the last four at Wimbledon in 2008 and the Australian Open in 2010, but Li

has enjoyed even greater success. Two years ago, Li became the first Chinese to make a grand slam final when she finished runner-up in Australia and a few months later she won the 2011 French Open to become China's first grand slam champion.

Reuters

Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw arrives back



Hluttaw representatives led by Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint welcomed back by officials concerned at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

YANGON, 4 Sept— A delegation of Amyotha Hluttaw representatives led by Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint arrived back here by air at 6.35 pm today after paying a goodwill visit to

Thailand.

They were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Secretary of Amyotha Hluttaw Political, Economic and Legal Affairs Commission U Myint Thein, Amyotha

Hluttaw representatives, Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Sein Tin Win, Deputy Speaker U Tin Aung, officials from the Hluttaw Office and officials from the Thai Embassy.

MNA

Organizing committee meets for ASEAN Summits and related meetings



Fourth organizing committee meeting for ASEAN Summits and Related Summits in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Sept— The fourth organizing committee meeting for ASEAN Summits and Related Summits was held at the hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this afternoon.

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin delivered an opening statement. The Union Minister stressed the utmost importance of the works of seventeen sub-committees formed under the Organizing Committee to fulfill their respective duties comprehensively and completely so that it will contribute to the successful holding of ASEAN Summits and related meetings under

2014 Myanmar ASEAN Chairmanship. He, therefore, urged the chairmen of the Sub-committees to present the status of their implementation of the assigned tasks so that further requirements and supplementary actions could be deliberated and decided.

During the meeting, the chairpersons of the sub-committees made reports on the status of the schedules of meetings, selection of meeting venues and estimated attendance lists, status of the construction of Myanmar International Convention Centre-1 and National Guest Houses, identification of

conference facilities and hotel accommodation, security and motorcade arrangements, collectable items to be distributed to delegates at the meetings, sample of mementos to be presented to ASEAN Heads of Governments and Ministers, designs of invitation cards and place cards, selection of Masters of Ceremonies, designs of dresses for liaison officers and security officers, administrative and protocol arrangements, and implementation by telecommunication and transport subcommittees. Then, the meeting discussed and took decisions on pending issues.—MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing tours Patheingyi Station, Kyonpyaw, Maubin

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Sept— Tatmadaw must be ready to discharge the duty in line with Section 20 (e) and (f) of the constitution which states that the Defence Services is mainly responsible for safeguarding the non-disintegration of the Union, the non-disintegration of National Solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty and the Defence Services is mainly responsibility for safeguarding the Constitution, said Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in meeting with servicemen

and families in Patheingyi Station, Kyonpyaw and Maubin today separately.

All the Tatmadawmen are to join hands with the people for ensuring rights of citizen in line with the constitution. Tatmadaw is to cooperate with executive, legislative and judicial bodies of the State in the tasks in accord with the constitution. Only when the Tatmadaw is synonymous with the people, will the nation overcome political and national race differences and will the national unity be forged. Local authorities, people's representatives,

development affairs committee and townsenders are to make concerted efforts for development of the region.

At the meetings, the Senior General presented foodstuffs to regiments and units. Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General, gave funds for regiments and stations.

Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win and Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo presented exercise books and sports gear to them.

MNA



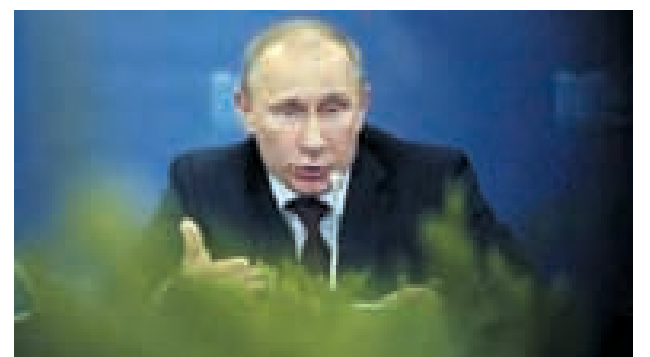
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with servicemen and families in Patheingyi Station, Kyonpyaw and Maubin.—MNA

Putin says could turn against Assad - if case proved

BEIRUT, 4 Sept—President Vladimir Putin offered a glimpse of international compromise over Syria on Wednesday, declining to entirely rule out Russian backing for military action as he prepared to host a summit of world leaders.

As the United States and allies prepare to bypass any Russian U.N. veto and attack Damascus, there is little chance of Putin's support. But his words may herald new efforts to overcome great power rivalries that have let Syria descend into bloody chaos.

At the same time, Moscow said it had sent a warship it calls a "carrier killer" to the eastern Mediterranean, where a U.S. fleet is waiting for Congress to ap-



President Vladimir Putin of Russian Federation.

prove orders from President Barack Obama to launch punitive strikes against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad following his forces' alleged use of poison gas.

Putin's remarks on the eve of a G20 summit in St. Petersburg stressed Russia did not share Obama's conviction that Assad has resorted to chemical war-

fare - he noted suggestions the August 21 gassing was instead the work of al Qaeda-linked rebels.

Moscow has been the main arms supplier to Assad, who is also backed by Iran as part of Tehran's wider confrontation with the United States and its allies in Israel and the Gulf Arab states.—Reuters