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President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with MP of Japanese House of Representatives and Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Parliamentarian Friendship League The Honorable Mr Ichiro Aisawa at Credentials Hall of Presidential Palace.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Sept—President U Thein Sein received a delegation led by MP of Japanese House of Representatives and Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Parliamentarian Friendship League The Honorable Mr Ichiro Aisawa at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 11 am today.

They cordially discussed further strengthening of bilateral relationship, cooperation in health sector including combating TB, HIV and malaria, assistance of Japan for the XXVII SEA Games to be hosted in Myanmar and matters related to Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

Also present at the call were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin and U Soe Maung, and departmental heads. The Japanese delegation was accompanied by the Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar.

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Showcase Malaysia 2013 at Tatmadaw Convention Hall till 8 September

YANGON, 5 Sept—The opening ceremony of Showcase Malaysia 2013 of Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) was held at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road in Dagon Township, here, this morning. At the ceremony, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe said that bilateral trade between Myanmar and Malaysia has increased year by year and the Malaysian entrepreneurs are mulling to make investment in Myanmar. He invited large firms and cooperation for further development of small and medium enterprises in the country. Showcase Malaysia is meant to ensure cooperation between entrepreneurs from both countries and to eye business opportunities between the two countries, he added.

Then, Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Ahmad Faisal Muhamad, President of UMFCCI U Win Aung and Chief Executive Officer Datuk Dr Wong Lai Sum from MATRADE extended greetings.

Afterwards, the chief minister and party formally opened the Showcase Malaysia 2013 and looked round the booths.

A total of 66 booths displays construction materials, home decoration items, electronics, household goods, foodstuff and personnel goods till 8 September.—*MNA*

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe observes displays at Showcase Malaysia 2013 of Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE).—MNA

Smooth transport committees of GMS countries meet

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Sept—A work coordination meeting to hold 4th meeting of the joint committee formed with Chairmen of smooth transport committees of Greater Mekong Sub-region countries took place at Amara Hotel, here, on 4-5 September.

It was attended by delegates from Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam and officials concerned from Asian Development Bank.

The subcommittees discussed transport, customs, immigration and pests free, exchanging views on smooth flow of goods across borders and implementation of the Greater Mekong Sub-region Cross-border Transport Agreement.

The 4th meeting of the joint committee formed with Chairmen of smooth transport committees of GMS countries will be held in Myanmar in 2013.

MNA

Myanmar performers to present entertainment in Indonesia

YANGON, 5 Sept—A 25-member cultural troupe of National Culture and Fine Arts Universities (Yangon and Mandalay) of Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture left here for the Republic of Indonesia by air this morning to participate in International Ramayana Festival and Nagapahit Festival 2013 from 5 to 14 September.

MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Fire

Warehouse of CESID fire loses K 73 million

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Sept—A fire broke out at the warehouse of Central Equipment Statistics and Inspection Department under the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, here, on 1 September morning.

A total of 160 motorcycles and three vehicles and some office documents were destroyed in the fire. The root cause of fire is still unknown.

The fire broke out at the vehicle store at 3.30 am on 1 September and it could be put out at 5.15 am.

A total of 96 members of Fire Services Department and Auxiliary Fire Brigade put out the fire with 21 fire engines and 32,000 gallons of water.

Due to their concerted efforts, only about 300 packets of paper, 160 motorcycles and three of 24 vehicles were lost in the fire. But, the the warehouse was not burnt. The loss in the fire was estimated to about K 73 million.

MNA

Health

Health staff, breeding and nutrition course conducted in Lewe

LEWE, 5 Sept—The Assistant Health Staff and Breeding and Nutrition Course kicked off at the hall of Lewe Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department in Lewe Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 31 August.

The course was aimed at developing rural regions and turning out assistant health staff who can contribute to development of breeding, meat and fish sectors.

Deputy Director Dr Soe Thein of Nay Pyi Taw Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department made an opening address.

Assistant Director Dr Nyi Nyi Lwin of District Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department explained the purpose of conducting the training course.

Head of Lewe Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr Ohn Than and deputy heads of department gave lectures to the trainees.—*Kyemon-Min Min Latt (Mann Tekkatho)*

Medicines worth US$ 250,000 donated

MYITKYINA, 5 Sept—Humpty Dumpty of the US donated medicines worth US$ 250,000 to hospitals and clinies in Kachin State.

The ceremony was held at the office of Kachin Stte Government on 30 August morning.

ChiefMinister of the state U La John Ngan Hsai spoke words of thanks.

On behalf of the wellwisher organization, Dr Zaw Min explained purpose of donations and handed over the medicines to the Chief Minister.

Kyemon-State IPRD

Odd News

Ten 7.62 bullets found

PYAY, 5 Sept—U Than Shwe, 56 of Shangon Village in Thitchitin Village in Pyay Township unearthed ten 7.62 decayed rounds of ammunition and one empty bullet in his farmlands on 27 August while digging the drains.

The farmer informed village administrator U Nyan Win of his findings.

Officials of Pyay No 1 police station inspected bullets and handed over them to the military command headquarters.

Kyemon-578

Accident

Corridor collapses at Pyuntaza BEHS

BAGO, 5 Sept—A corridor with 8 x 6 feet area collapsed in front of 10th standard class room (A) at Basic Education High School in Pyuntaza of Nyaunglebin Township in Bago Region on 2 September morning.

Six students standing on the corridor were injured in the incident, and they were rushed to Pyuntaza People's Hospital.

Soon after the incident, Township Administrator U Thihan Soe, Head of Township Fire Services Department and members, officials of the Township Education Department arrived at the scene and provided necessary assistance for the school and the injured students.

Kyemon-Khin Maung Lwin

Garbage cleaned on time

YANGON, 5 Sept—Yangon City Development Committee manages cleaning garbage system in townships daily with the use of US-made garbage van. Environmental Conservation and Sanitation Department under Yangon City Development Committee is making strenuous efforts in gather-ing garbage in the town-ships.

In-charge U Soe Min Aung of Mingaladon Township Environmental Conservation and Sanitation Department and village administrator U Tin Oo supervised sanitation and cleaning garbage by workers in 11 regions of Paukkon Ward of the township on 29 August.

Officials of the department allotted five 240-litre-capacity garbage trushes to each region, totalling 55 trushes for 11 regions of the ward daily.

Kyemon-684

11 of 58 parks collect entrance fees in public relaxation in Yangon

YANGON, 5 Sept—Yangon City Development Committee has facilitated 58 parks and 87 playgrounds for public relaxation in the municipal area of Yangon City, according to the Parks and Playgrounds Department of the committee.

Of them, entrance fees were not collected for 43 parks and playgrounds in the past. Four parks collected fee for entrance from the visitors before 2012-2013 fiscal year. The remaining 11 parks still collect the entrance fees. The sports grounds were constructed for public, said an official of the Parks and Playgrounds Department.

"Collection of entrance fee cannot cover the cost of maintenance. Although some parks collect fee but some don't. For example, the parks located in outskirts of the city such as Shwepaukkan, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan), etc do not collect the fees. Even if some parks collect fee, but the charge is not much for public relaxation. So, the YCDC demands the fund from the Yangon Region government," said an official.

In 2013-2014 fiscal year, Maha Bandoola Park, Thakin Mya Park, Shukhintha Park and Okkala Thiri Park (South Dagon) are free for public relaxation. In July this year, over 140,000 visitors took relaxation at the parks.

According to the statistics in 2012-2013 fiscal year, the parks earned over K 2300 million for the fund of the committee, according to the Parks and Playgrounds Department.

Kyemon-Soe Win (MLA)

WORLD

Abe tells UN panel chief of intent to resolve abductions issue

Tokyo, 5 Sept — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed his determination on Friday to resolve the issue of past abductions of Japanese citizens by North Korea, pledging cooperation with a UN commission investigating human rights violations in that country.

"I'm determined to solve the abduction issue while in office, Abe said in a meeting with Michael Kirby, head of the Commission of Inquiry that was established by the UN Human Rights Council earlier this year.

The premier has increasingly shown his intent to address the abductions of Japanese citizens by North Korean agents in the 1970s and 1980s, one of key obstacles preventing Japan and North Korea from normalizing diplomatic relations.

"We are very grateful for your determination...to help Japan and the international community to solve that puzzle," Kirby, a retired Australian judge, told Abe at the prime minister's office.

The commission chief met with Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida on Wednesday to be briefed on Tokyo's efforts to resolve the issue. On Thursday, the three-member panel heard from the families of abductees.—*Kyodo News*

Michael Kirby (L), head of a UN commission investigating human rights violations in North Korea, and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shake hands at the premier's office in Tokyo on 30 Aug, 2013. KYODO NEWS

US resolution on Syria strike passes first hurdle in Senate

***(L-R) US General Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, US Secretary of Defence Chuck Hagel and US Secretary of State John Kerry testify at a US House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on Syria on Capitol Hill in Washington, on 4 Sept, 2013.*—REUTERS**

Washington/Amman, 5 Sept — US President Barack Obama's effort to win legislative backing for military strikes against Syria passed its first hurdle on Wednesday when a Senate committee voted in favour, but the narrow margin of victory showed the depth of US caution. In a possible sign of internal unrest in Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's ruling Alawite sect in the shadow of a likely US intervention, Syrian opposition figures said General Ali Habib, a former defence minister, had defected. Syria denied the report.

Washington and Syria's main backer, Russia, remained publicly at odds as Obama tried to build his case for military action over chemical weapons before flying to Russia for a G20 summit hosted by President Vladimir Putin on Thursday. Putin said US congressional approval without a UN Security Council resolution would be an act of aggression, and accused US Secretary of State John Kerry of lying by playing down the role of the militant group al-Qaeda with rebel forces.

With Obama focused on building international support, administration officials kept up their campaign of persuasion in Congress, where deep US skepticism about going to war was reflected in a House of Representatives hearing.

Still, after much jockeying over the exact wording, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved a resolution authorizing the use of military force in Syria in a vote that avoided party lines, with Democrats and Republicans on both sides. The action cleared the way for a vote in the full Senate, likely next week.

The committee voted 10-7 in favour of a compromise resolution that sets a 60-day limit on any engagement in Syria, with a possible 30-day extension, and bars the use of US troops on the ground for combat operations.

The administration is trying to balance the views of many in Congress who want a narrowly defined resolution against hawks such as Senator John McCain, who has pushed for a broader resolution that would allow direct US support for rebels. The Senate committee adopted amendments proposed by McCain with policy goals of degrading Assad's ability to use chemical weapons, increasing support for rebel forces and reversing battlefield momentum to create conditions for Assad's removal.

The authorization still faces significant resistance in Congress, where many lawmakers fear it could lead to a prolonged US military involvement in Syria's civil war and spark an escalation of regional violence.

Reuters

Russia warns of catastrophe if Syria reactor hit by US strike

St Petersburg, 5 Sept — Russia said on Wednesday that a military strike on Syria could have catastrophic effects if a missile hit a small reactor near Damascus that contains radioactive uranium.

The Foreign Ministry called on the UN nuclear agency to urgently assess the risk as the United States considers military action to punish Syria's government for an alleged gas attack.

"If a warhead, by design or by chance, were to hit the Miniature Neutron Source Reactor (MNSR) near Damascus, the consequences could be catastrophic," a ministry statement said.

It said nearby areas could be contaminated by highly enriched uranium and that it would be impossible to account for the nuclear material after such a strike, suggesting it could fall into the hands of people who might use it as a weapon.

Russia urged the UN International Atomic Energy Agency secretariat to "react swiftly" and present IAEA members "an analysis of the risks linked to possible American strikes on the MNSR and other facilities in Syria".

Moscow has been the most powerful ally of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, shielding him from tougher UN resolutions and warning that a Western military attack on Syria would raise tensions and undermine efforts to end the country's civil war.

"The IAEA is aware of the statement but has not received a formal request from the Russian Federation," an IAEA spokesperson said. "We will consider the questions raised if we receive such a request."

The IAEA said in a report to member states last week that Syria had declared there was a "small amount of nuclear material" at the MNSR, a type of research reactor usually fuelled by highly enriched uranium.—*Reuters*

***A Free Syrian Army fighter spray paints an improvised mortar shell, as his fellow fighter watches him, in Aleppo on 4 Sept, 2013.*—REUTERS**

Mexico Congress approves contested education reform

***Mexico's President Enrique Pena Nieto smiles after his annual state of the union address in Mexico City on 2 Sept, 2013.*—REUTERS**

Mexico City, 5 Sept— Mexico's Congress gave final approval on Wednesday to a government bill to overhaul an education system that badly lags global peers, despite teacher protests seeking to derail it.

The Senate gave the nod to the final so-called secondary law of an education bill that regulates the tests that President Enrique Pena Nieto says teachers should take periodically to ensure they are up to standard. New teachers could lose their teaching jobs if they fail.

The Lower House approved the bill on Sunday.

Thousands of teachers have marched in the capital in recent days to protest against the education reform, and on Sunday groups of masked youths threw rocks at Mexico City police in riot gear, who responded with teargas.

Lawmakers approved Pena Nieto's wider education bill in December, but the secondary laws were pending. The reform seeks competency exams, merit-based promotions and aims to tame a powerful teachers' union many blame for hurting school quality in Latin America's No 2 economy.

The education measure is part of a wider package of reforms Pena Nieto hopes will help boost growth in an economy that has long lagged its regional peers. The economy is expected to grow by just 1.8 percent this year, though the government is hoping for an expansion of around 4 percent in 2014.

Pena Nieto has already presented a banking reform plan that aims to boost credit and has submitted an energy reform proposal that intends to lure foreign capital to help stem a slide in output by state oil monopoly Pemex.

He is also poised to unveil in coming days an overhaul of the country's fiscal system to raise the tax take and wean the state off dependence on revenues from Pemex that fund around a third of the annual federal budget.—*Reuters*

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Samsung rolls out wearable device Galaxy Gear

SEOUL, 5 Sept— Samsung Electronics, the world's No 1 smartphone maker, rolled out a first-generation wearable device Galaxy Gear at the Berlin trade show on Thursday.

he Galaxy Gear smart watch, which will be on display at the IFA consumer electronics fair in Berlin for six days to 11 September, will be worn on the wrist to serve as a companion device to Samsung's newest version of phablet Galaxy Note 3, the company said in an e-mailed statement.

The voice-controlled smart watch will allow users to track hands-free call and messages. Samsung said that a user leaving the grocery store whose hands are full with shopping bags, could still make a call by speaking into the Galaxy Gear without touching the screen.

The Galaxy Gear with a 1.63-inch Super AMOLED display has a 1.9 megapixel built-in camera that allows users to shoot videos and take pictures with the slightest gesture and transmit them via Bluetooth to other mobile devices such as the Galaxy Note 3.

The latest version of phablet, or a hybrid of smartphone and tablet PC, enhanced hardware features. The screen size of the Galaxy Note 3 rose from its predecessor's 5.3 inches to 5.7 inches, but it became slimmer and lighter with 8.3mm in thickness and 168 grams in weight.

The device is powered by both Quad-Core processor running at 2. 3 GHz and Octa-Core processor at 1.9 GHz. It has dual cameras with a 13 megapixel rear camera and a 2 megapixel front one.

Xinhua

US launches patent probe into flash memory chips in laptops, gaming devices

WASHINGTON, 5 Sept —The US International Trade Commission (ITC) on Wednesday opened a probe into flash memory chips made by Acer, Nintendo and some other IT companies after an American company filed a complaint with it alleging its patents had been infringed upon. The products at issue are flash memory chips used in devices such as laptops, wireless routers, video game consoles, handheld gaming devices, and game cartridges, said the bipartisan trade panel ITC in a statement.

Spansion LLC based in Sunnyvale, California, filed a complaint on 1 August with the ITC, claiming the flash memory chips made by seven IT companies have infringed upon its patents and violated the Section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930. It thus requested the ITC to issue a general exclusion order and to cease and desist orders against those products. The seven companies are Macronix, Acer, Asus, Belkin, D-Link, Netgear and Nintendo.The investigation does not mean the ITC has made any decision on the merits of the case. Within 45 days, the body will set a target date for completing the investigation.—*Xinhua*

Sony unveils new smartphone in bid for top three ranking

BERLIN, 5 Sept—Sony Corp unveiled a new smartphone on Wednesday in its push to become the world's third-biggest maker of smartphones after Samsung and Apple. Sony's Chief Executive Kazuo Hirai told a news conference in Berlin, where Europe's largest consumer electronics trade show will open its doors this week, the Sony Xperia Z1 will be available in September. "The Xperia Z1 embodies everything Sony has to offer," said Hirai, who is under pressure from US hedge fund manager Daniel Loeb to split up the company to revive its electronics business.

The new waterproof smartphone will come with a 5-inch display and have a 20.7 megapixel rear-facing camera. The company did not give a retail price nor say which carriers would offer the phone. Hirai in 2012 identified mobile products, gaming and digital imaging as the core of a rebound in consumer electronics after more than a decade of decline for the pioneer of personal music players and compact discs. It had a record loss of $5.74 billion in the 2011/12 fiscal year.Of those three priorities, mobile has since emerged as the best near-term hope for Sony although it has a long way to go.

According to research firm Gartner Sony didn't place among the top five smartphones makers in the second quarter of this year. Overall Sony was the ninth-biggest mobile handset maker with a 2.2 percent market share, up from 1.7 percent in the previous year. Sony's problems are similar to those of Nokia which is still the world's second-largest in overall phones, but it struggles to sell the high-margin smartphones. Two years after hitching its fate to Microsoft's Windows Phone software, the Finnish phone maker that once dominated the global market collapsed into the arms of the US software giant, its mobile business ravaged by nimbler rivals Apple Inc and Samsung Electronics.—*Reuters*

***Sony Corp's President and Chief Executive Officer Kazuo Hirai presents a new Sony Xperia Z1 smartphone during it's world premier at the IFA consumer electronics fair in Berlin, on 4 Sept, 2013.*—REUTERS**

Apple invites media to Beijing event on 11 September

BEIJING, 5 Sept—Apple Inc has invited Chinese journalists to an event in Beijing on 11 September, a company spokeswoman said, just hours after it is widely expected to unveil its newest iPhone models in the United States. The event will mark the first time that the company has held near-simultaneous briefings in the United States and in China, the world's biggest mobile phone market where Apple has been losing its star power to rivals like Samsung Electronics Co Ltd.

"Apple has hosted satellite events in London and Tokyo in the past," Apple spokeswoman Carolyn Wu told Reuters about the upcoming Beijing event. "It will be a broadcast of what happened in California." Wu declined to give details on what would be announced.

News of the Beijing event fuelled speculation that Apple may announce a long-awaited deal with China Mobile Ltd, which is the world's biggest mobile phone company by customers and the only major Chinese carrier that does not have an agreement with the US tech giant.

Top executives from Apple and China Mobile met in China in late July, bolstering expectations that an agreement was near.Some analysts, however, said Apple was likely to unveil a new product at the event and cut the months-long waiting time Chinese consumers have had for the latest iPhone. "I think the primary purpose of the event will be for a new product launch," said Sandy Shen, a research director with consultancy Gartner in Shanghai.

Reuters

Apple Inc CEO Tim Cook addresses the crowd during the Apple Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) 2013 in San Francisco, California on 10 June, 2013.
REUTERS

New NASA spacecraft to investigate moon mystery

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Florida), 5 Sept—More than 40 years after the last *Apollo* astronauts left the moon, NASA is preparing to launch a small robotic spacecraft to investigate one of their most bizarre discoveries. Crews reported seeing an odd glow on the lunar horizon just before sunrise. The phenomenon, which prompted a notebook sketch by *Apollo 17* Commander Eugene Cernan, was unexpected because the airless moon lacked atmosphere for reflecting sunlight.

***An artist's concept of NASA's Lunar Atmosphere and Dust Environment Explorer (LADEE) spacecraft seen orbiting near the surface of the moon.*—REUTERS**

Scientists began to suspect that dust from the lunar surface was being electrically charged and somehow lofted off the ground, a theory that will be tested by the US space agency's upcoming Lunar Atmosphere and Dust Experiment. The spacecraft, known as LADEE, is scheduled to be launched at 11:27 pm EDT on Friday from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility on Wallops Island, Virginia. "Terrestrial dust is like talcum powder. On the moon, it's very rough. It's kind of evil. It follows electric field lines, it works its way in equipment. ... It's a very difficult environment to deal with," said LADEE project manager Butler Hine of NASA's Ames Research Centre in Moffett Field, California.—*Reuters*

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Toyota recalls 235,000 cars, SUVs

CHICAGO, 5 Sept—Japanese automaker Toyota announced on Wednesday to voluntarily recall about 235,000 vehicles for two separate issues.

Of the 235,000 vehicles to be recalled, 133,000 were Toyota 2006 Highlander Hybrid and 2006 Lexus RX400h hybrid. A component of the hybrid system can overheat, causing warning lights to turn on, and the vehicle to enter "limp home mode" with the hybrid system powering down. The problem can lead the vehicles to shut down completely, Chicago Tribune quoted a Toyota spokeswoman as saying.

The rest went to 2006 Lexus IS350 sedan and convertible and Lexus GS350, which use the same 3.5-liter V-6 engine. A bolt within the engine's variable valve timing system can come loose, which may cause the affected car to stop running. No accidents or injuries related to the two problems are reported yet. Also on Wednesday, Toyota announced that its August sales went up 22.8 percent on a yearly basis.

Xinhua

US auto giants post double-digit growth in sales in August

CHICAGO, 5 Sept — Three US auto giants, namely General Motors Co (GM), Ford Motor Co and Chrysler Group all posted double-digit growth in sales in August, the *Detroit News* reported on Wednesday.

Detroit-based GM embraced its best sales month since September 2008 by selling 275,847 vehicles in the US in August, up 14.7 percent year on year. All four of GM brands posted double-digit growth: Buick brand sales rose 36.9 percent in August; Cadillac sales jumped 37.8 percent; Chevrolet sales added 10.4 percent and GMC sales inched up 14.2 percent. Dearborn-based Ford's auto sales in US rose 12.2 percent to 221,270 units in August. Truck sales soared 30 percent, car sales rose 15 percent and utility vehicles increased 16 percent.

Auburn Hills-based Chrysler reported the best August sales in six years by selling 165,552 units in the US, up 11.5 percent year on year. Six of the automaker's models set sales records in August.As for other automakers, Toyota Motor Corp sold 231,537 vehicles in the US in August, up 22.8 percent year on year; US sales for Nissan Motor Co hit 120,498 vehicles, up 22.3 percent; Volkswagen of America Inc. August sales fell 1.6 percent to 40,342 units. Total auto sales in the US reached 1.5 million vehicles in August, up about 14 percent year on year; and consumer spending on new vehicles in the month may near a record 36 billion dollars.

Market analysts see signs of housing recovery and consumer confidence behind strong August sales. They believe that favourable lease deals to replace aging cars, continued strong demand for pickup trucks, as well as low interest rates are also contributing factors.

Given strong auto market demand, GM plans to launch more new products, including all-new heavy-duty pickups and large SUVs for Chevrolet and GMC; while Ford announced that it will build 785,000 vehicles in the fourth quarter this year, up 7 percent or a 50,000-unit increase year on year.

Xinhua

Singapore ranks 2nd in WEF global competitiveness index

SINGAPORE, 5 Sept—Singapore remained the second most competitive country in the global competitiveness index compiled by the World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Competitiveness Report 2013-14 released on Wednesday.

Like in the last 5 years, Switzerland is the world's most competitive country, according to WEF, followed by Singapore, Finland and Germany. The WEF said Singapore "dominates the goods market efficiency pillar and the labour market efficiency pillar, and places 2nd in the financial market development pillar," and it "boasts one of the world's best institutional frameworks."

Its infrastructure and education are also leading in the world, the report added. WEF also said the US was able to reverse its four-year downward trend, rising by two positions to take 5th place this year and overtaking the Netherlands and Sweden.

China ranked 29th, leading the five BRICS economies including Brazil, Russia, India China and South Africa.

The Global Competitiveness Report's competitiveness ranking is based on the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI), calculated by drawing together data covering 12 categories. It represents a comprehensive tool that measures the microeconomic and macroeconomic foundations of national competitiveness.

Xinhua

With safeguards, iron may not raise kids' malaria risk

NEW YORK, 5 Sept—Despite concerns that iron supplements may increase children's risk of malaria in regions where it is common, a new study found kids in Ghana who received nutrient powder with iron were no more likely to get the disease than their peers. According the World Health Organization (WHO), there were approximately 660,000 deaths from malaria in 2010. About 90 percent of those occurred in Africa, most in children under five years old. Some studies have suggested giving children iron might increase their risk of malaria — including one trial that was halted early due to more hospitalizations for malaria and other infections among children receiving iron.

The theory is that malaria-causing parasites can take up extra iron in the body before it binds to proteins, hastening parasites' growth and giving malaria a "head start," Dr Stanley Zlotkin, from the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, said. "Many governments were left in the situation where if there was malaria in the country, they really didn't know what to do with children with iron-deficiency anemia," Zlotkin, who worked on the study with colleagues from Canada and Ghana, told *Reuters Health*. Iron deficiency is common in poor regions and can cause delays in motor skill development and thinking and memory problems as children get older. It is closely linked with anemia - when the body doesn't have enough red blood cells.

In the past, the WHO has said that with iron supplementation, "caution should be exercised in settings where the prevalence of malaria and other infectious diseases is high" and supplementation should be targeted to kids who are anemic and at risk of iron deficiency.

Reuters

Experimental treatment reverses Down syndrome in lab mice

WASHINGTON, 5 Sept —US researchers said on Wednesday that they have identified a compound that appears to reverse the learning deficits associated with Down syndrome in lab mice.While use of the compound, a small molecule known as a sonic hedgehog pathway agonist, has not been proven safe to try in people with Down syndrome, the researchers said their experiments hold promise for developing drugs like it.

Down syndrome is one of the most common chromosomal abnormalities in children, and a leading cause of intellectual disability. It occurs when people have three, rather than the usual two, copies of chromosome 21. As a result of this "trisomy," people with Down syndrome have extra copies of more than 300 genes, leading to intellectual disabilities, distinctive facial features and sometimes heart problems and other health effects.

In their study, researchers from the Johns Hopkins University and the US National Institutes of Health genetically modified mice to give them extra copies of about half of the genes found on human chromosome 21, leading to similar characteristics to humans with Down syndrome, including relatively small cerebellums and difficulty in learning and remembering how to navigate through a familiar space.

The researchers injected the mice the compound right after their birth and found that single injection enabled the cerebellum of the rodents' brains to grow to a normal size. "Most people with Down syndrome have a cerebellum that's about 60 percent of the normal size," said lead author Roger Reeves of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. "We treated the Down syndrome-like mice with a compound we thought might normalize the cerebellum's growth, and it worked beautifully," Reeves said. "What we didn't expect were the effects on learning and memory, which are generally controlled by the hippocampus, not the cerebellum," he said.

The team tested the treated mice against untreated Down syndrome-like mice and normal mice in a variety of ways, and found that the treated mice did just as well as the normal ones on a test of locating a platform while swimming in a so-called water maze. Further research, however, is needed to know why exactly the treatment works and if it can be altered for human use, the researchers wrote in the journal Science Translational Medicine. "Down syndrome is very complex, and nobody thinks there's going to be a silver bullet that normalizes cognition," Reeves said. " Multiple approaches will be needed."

Xinhua

WORLD

Chinese, Mexican presidents meet for third time this year

ST PETERSBURG, 5 Sept—Chinese President Xi Jinping met here on Wednesday with his Mexican counterpart Enrique Pena Nieto on the sidelines of the Group of 20 (G20) summit to be held on 5-6 September.

It was the third meeting in this year between the two heads of state. It followed talks held in April on the sidelines of the Boao Forum for Asia in China's southern Hainan province and during Xi's state visit to Mexico in June.

The meeting with the Mexican president was also Xi's first official event after he arrived in St Petersburg earlier on Wednesday.

During the meeting, Xi said the China-Mexico relationship has entered a new phase, and the consensus reached at the last meeting between the two heads of state is being actively implemented, a process that has witnessed remarkable progress.

Meanwhile, Xi said, the two countries should take solid steps to advance their cooperation in various fields in order to enrich the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries.

China and Mexico should focus on expanding two-way investment and deepening cooperation in economy, trade and infrastructure, Xi noted.

The two governments should create better conditions for investment and market access in each other's country, the Chinese president said, adding that he hopes both sides will speed up negotiations on setting up a China-Mexico investment fund.

China is willing to work with Mexico to establish a China-Latin America cooperation forum at an earlier date and to actively advance the comprehensive cooperative partnership between China and Latin America, Xi said.

Speaking highly of bilateral ties, Pena Nieto said relevant government agencies in both countries have been implementing the consensus reached by the two heads of state on deepening cooperation, while new and important achievements have been made in their comprehensive strategic partnership.

The Mexican side appreciates China's efforts to promote bilateral cooperation, and attaches great importance to developing a positive and stable relationship with China, Pena Nieto said.

Xinhua

Chinese President Xi Jinping (R) meets with Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto in St Petersburg, Russia, on 4 Sept, 2013.
XINHUA

Current Cabinet lineup to stay until next summer

TOKYO, 5 Sept—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will not reshuffle his Cabinet at least until next summer, the top government spokesman said on Thursday, citing the need for ministers to oversee the process of creating the fiscal 2014 budget.

"By common sense, (the current Cabinet) is likely to do its work through the end of the (next) ordinary Diet session," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a Press conference. The ordinary parliamentary session normally lasts from January to June, enacting the initial state budget before a new fiscal year starts 1 April.

The remarks by the spokesman came after Abe told reporters Wednesday in St Petersburg that "each minister should be responsible for formulating the budget," suggesting he will not reshuffle the Cabinet until next year.

Kyodo News

Turkey deploys more troops near Syria

BEIJING, 5 Sept—The Turkish newspaper, *Today's Zaman,* reports that the Turkish army has deployed additional troops and weapons along the Syrian border. It says reinforcements from the military command in Gaziantep Province were dispatched to Kilis Province.

Earlier, Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said the army was ordered to retaliate against any threats from the Syrian side.

Xinhua

Princess Hisako, the widow of Prince Takamado, arrives in Buenos Aires on 4 Sept, 2013. The princess will attend a general meeting of the International Olympic Committee in the Argentine capital on 7 September to give a speech thanking the world for its support after the massive quake and tsunami that devastated northeastern Japan.
KYODO NEWS

Rudd's coming back makes no difference in most Australian voters' decision

CANBERRA, 5 Sept—A nationwide survey conducted by Research Now, a company in digital data collection, shows that the returning of Kevin Rudd as Prime Minister in June failed to bring the change of vote that the Labour had hoped for, a news release by the company said on Thursday.

In the survey conducted last week, 900 voters across Australia were asked specifically about whether their party vote had changed since the departure of Julia Gillard as Prime Minister, to which 79 percent reported no as the answer. Just days away from the Australian federal election on 7 September, 73 percent of Australians report they have not changed their party vote since last election in 2010.

When asked about whether a particular policy or reform has made voters decide for one party over the other, 55 percent of all respondents indicated this was not the case, 32 percent reported yes while the remaining 13 percent said they were unsure.

As for the leaders of the major parties, opposition leader Tony Abbott is viewed as being slightly more trustworthy with regards to keeping election promises than Prime Minister Rudd.

Of the respondents surveyed, 27 percent view Abbott as being " extremely trustworthy" or "very trustworthy" compared to just 16.5 percent feeling the same about his opponent.

At the same time, 48 percent of respondents also indicated that Abbott is "not very trustworthy" or "not at all trustworthy" when it comes to keeping election promises, while the remaining 25 percent are simply unsure.

As for Rudd, 55 percent of respondents indicated that he is " not very trustworthy" or "not at all trustworthy" in keeping up with promises, while 28.5 percent reported they are unsure.

Xinhua

Campaign launched against child abuse

BEIJING, 5 Sept—Training sessions and seminars will be available to mothers and children across the country as part of a government move to tackle recent incidents of child abuse. A campaign against child abuse and sexual assault was launched on Tuesday by the All-China Women's Federation, the China Women's Development Foundation and other public service organizations.

The campaign is geared toward mothers and children, especially girls and left-behind children in rural areas as well as migrant workers' children. It aims to create a good social environment for children.

"A website will also be set up to pass on information about the protection of children's rights. We will also have surveys and discussions to solicit suggestions about laws and regulation," said Qin Guoying, secretary-general of the China Women's Development Foundation, at the launch ceremony.

Emergency aid and psychological assistance will be provided to children who have been victimized.

A hotline — with the number 400 1600 011 — was also launched. Family has a vital role to play in this regard, Qin said. "If the mother educates her child about how to prevent sexual assault, the child will be aware of self-protection."

Song Xiuyan, vice-president of the All-China Women's Federation, said the federation has "zero tolerance" for child abuse and sexual assault.

Feng Derong, mother of a 13-year-old girl, said she is willing to learn how to avoid child sexual abuse and pass that knowledge to her daughter.

She said she hopes her daughter's school will also open a sexual abuse prevention course.

Recent cases of child abuse and sexual assault have put the protection of children in the spotlight.

A junior high school teacher in Hefeng, Hubei Province, was detained for allegedly having sex with at least eight female students, local police said on Wednesday.—*Xinhua*

US faces substantial losses if Egypt aid halted

WASHINGTON, 5 Sept—The US government faces billions of dollars in potential costs if it decides to cancel foreign military aid to Egypt, a senior Pentagon official told *Reuters* on Wednesday. Richard Genaille, deputy director of the Pentagon's Defence Security Cooperation Agency, said he hoped the Obama administration reached a decision soon on whether to continue $1.23 billion in US military assistance to Egypt, given the large number of weapons shipments in the pipeline.

"We're kind of antsy about that," Genaille said after a speech at the ComDef industry conference in Washington. "There's a whole bunch of contracts out there. The bills keep coming in and we've got to be able to pay them somehow otherwise we go in default."

Washington is reviewing the US military aid to Egypt and an additional $241 million in economic aid after the country's military ousted the Muslim Brotherhood-backed government on 3 July and then cracked down on protesters last month.—*Reuters*

Egyptian soldiers keep guard on the border between Egypt and the southern Gaza Strip on 3 Sept, 2013.
REUTERS

LOCAL NEWS

Interfaith workshop organized in Thaton

THATON, 5 Sept—Interfaith Peaceful Coexistence Workshop was organized by Yadanamyay Social Development Association at Thaton District Deputy Commissioner Office on 30-31 August.

Religious leaders from various religions participated in discussions on the impact of the conflicts on the people, requirements for peaceful coexistence and measures that should be carried out for peaceful coexistence.

The religious leaders then visited churches, temples, mosques and pagodas on 31 August evening.

The association has planned to organize similar workshops in 20 townships length and breadth of the country.

Thaton is the 15th township to host the workshop. According to project director Dr Hnin Aye Ko of Yadanamyay Social Development Association, Hpa-an will be hosted the similar workshop on 2-3 September.

Township IPRD

Earth Lovers honoured

YANGON, 5 Sept—The Earth Lovers prizes were presented to those who plant tree to help conserve the ecosystem as it could in turn contribute to the people and the conservation of biodiversity, founder of Forest Resources Environmental Conservation and Development Association (FREDA) U Ohn at the award ceremony at Orchid Hotel here on 31 August.

U Cittara of Yenangyoung, U Sum Paung of Tiddim and Dr Maung Maung Kyi of Kyeindali won special Earth Lovers prizes.

U Khin Soe of Aunglan, U Ngwe Soe of Kalaw, U Tin Win of Pyapon, Tree Lovers Group of Maubin and Green Generation of Pyay won Earth Lovers prizes.

Wellwishers made donations for the award presentation at the ceremony.

MMAL-Myat Sandi

Farming rights certificates presented to farmers in Magway

MYAING, 5 Sept—Settlement and Land Records Department of Myaing Township in Magway Region presented farming rights certificates to farmers in the township on 31 August.

At the ceremony, Head of Township Settlement and Land Records Department U Kyi Nyunt gave talks on Farmland Management Law, rules, Vacant Land, Fallow Land and Virgin Land Management Law, the purpose of issuing farming rights certificates, the rights of farmers and requirements.

The staff of the department distributed educative pamphlets to the farmers.

MMAL-Myaing (Sein Myaing)

HRD

Two-distinction winner from blind school honoured

YANGON, 5 Sept—A prize presentation ceremony to students who passed 2012-2013 academic year matriculation exam from youth training schools and schools for the disabled under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement was held at Social Welfare Training School on Kyaikwaing Pagoda Street in Mayangon Township on 31 August.

Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister Dr Myint Thein and Director-General of Social Welfare Department U Soe Kyi made honouring speeches.

Fourteen donors contributed K 21.4 million to the Social Welfare Department. The officials accepted the donations and presented certificates of honour to them.

Among the students honoured at the ceremony were Ma Thazin Oo, two-distinction winner from Sagaing School for the Blinds and Ma Awung May San, one-distinction winner from a school for the disabled.

Region Minister Dr Myint Thein awarded Ma Thazin Oo and Director-General U Soe Kyi presented prize to Ma Awung May San.

MMAL-Aung Than (Mingala Taungnyunt)

Ambulance donated to social services association in Pauk

PAUK, 5 Sept—Wellwishers donated a vehicle to Awaya Social Service Association in Pauk Township in Pakokku District in Magway Region on 1 September.

U Htay Aung and wife Daw Swe Swe of Thukha Shan Trading donated an ambulance, 50 gallons of Diesel and K 100,000 for maintenance to the group which is providing social services to the people in the township regardless of their race and religion.

Thukha Shan Bus Line also donated 20 anti-venom tablets and K 155,000 for the older persons to Township Health Department.

"The ambulance will be used upon request by nearby villages. Patients of snakebites or other serious cases would be transferred to nearby hospitals to save their lives," Patron of the Association Abbot of Kan Swe Monastery U Kesara said.

The association was established since 2011 and it has been providing necessary assistance of social services in the township since then.

MMAL-Township IPRD

Basic Tailoring Course concludes in Zabuthiri Township

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Sept—The concluding ceremony of Basic Tailoring Course No 2/2013 was held at Zabuthiri Township Women's Affairs Organization in Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 23 August.

It was jointly organized by Nay Pyi Taw Women's Affairs Organization and Nay Pyi Taw Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee.

The course concluding ceremony was attended by Chairperson of Nay Pyi Taw Women's Affairs Organization Daw Myat Myat Moe, Secretary Daw Ohnma Swe, Nay Pyi Taw Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Secretary Daw Mi Mi Soe, chairpersons and members of district/township WAOs, instructors and trainees.

Chairperson Daw Myat Myat Moe delivered an address at the ceremony.

Outstanding trainees were awarded and completion certificates were presented to each trainees.

After that, the chairperson and party then observed the works of the trainees.

MMAL-Min Min Latt (Mandalay University)

Educative talks on census-taking given

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Sept—Public awareness raising campaigns on census-taking were launched in Mathiphe village in Thayettaw village-tract in Ottarathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 29 August.

Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Soe Sanda Waing gave talks on 14 facts about census-taking, sustainability of libraries, increasing the number of readers and publication donors.

MMAL-Ko Gyi Kyaw

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 6 September, 2013

Save Our "Mother Earth"

Our Mother Earth has bestowed the human beings with incredible and beautiful nature in the form of mountains, rivers, forests and various natural resources that helped human beings to survive and initiated our evolution. And our planet is said to be a benefactor of our human beings. All our human beings should value and love our mother earth.

Flora and fauna, trees and forests are the only natural beauty of the planet. Deforestation can cause environmental damages such as floods, drought and climate change. Farmers said that in the past years, they could grow any crops and had good harvests. In recent years, they are anxiously awaiting the rains in order to plant crops and paddy. In the olden days, the planet saw fair weather conditions and good harvests thanks to large and dense forests.

But deforestation occurs primarily due to: agriculture, fuel use (firewood, charcoal, etc), timber, pasture for livestock animals, and expanding human settlements. Many of the areas of the world that were deforested thousands of years ago remain as severely degraded wastelands or deserts today. Leaves and branches also filter sunlight and prevent it from directly reaching the ground, so in most cases, the soil and air under the forest canopy stays moist and relatively cool.

When trees are removed, soil usually starts to dry out and cannot support as many living things, and temperatures increase due to lack of shade. Rain typically comes less frequently due to the lack of water vapor in the air. Efforts should be made for protecting the forests and stopping any form of deforestation. All our human beings are duty-bound to save our planet from the challenges which are threatening the existence of the earth.

Socio-economic development ...

(from page 16)

village manual book, administrative reforms, capacity building of local people and women, youth education, vocational works and natural disaster risk reduction which are being undertaken by Actionaid International.

Those officials replied to the queries raised by Union Minister Dr Myint Aung, Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye and Director-General Dr Nyi Nyi Kyaw of Forest Department. It was also attended by Union Minister U Win Tun, deputy ministers and officials from the region government.

On 3 September, the committee chairman and members handed over sewing machines donated by Wenbao Co to 17 families from the new villages in the project area who earn their livings by sewing, at a meeting with representatives from 33 villages in the project area. South Africa-based Actionaid Myanmar is an INGO.—*MNA*

Sunlun Bridge under construction

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Sept—Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint looked into progress of Pakokku detour in Magway Region and condition of NyaungU-Myingyan Road in Myingyan Township on 2 September.

After viewing construction of Sunlun Bridge on Myingyan-Myotha-TadaU Road, the deputy minister met staff at Myingyan District Senior Engineer Office.—*MNA*

ARTICLE

Politics and Media

Public Interest

Plenty of arguments may arise when it comes to defining public interest clearly in the context of mass communications. Though there would be a few to argue against the essence "profiting the whole society and the members of society in the long run". Despite different views from different organizations, it would be acceptable to define that the public interest in the context of mass communications is protecting, monitoring and improving the mass communications tools. If you have still the opinion that monitoring is sort of control or restriction, you should take a look at the background history of the mass media. Didn't the public needs to protect the waterways, roads, mountain passes, bridges, canals and jetties since yore? Modern mass media are new forms of communications routes that the people used in old ages.

Mass media could serve the public interests in three domains—political, sociocultural and economic domains. Without constant and substantial media coverage, there would be no fair ground for competition of political parties in democratic elections. Active participation of voters in the polls represents success of the elections. There should be fair flow of information to each constituent and each constituency to enable voters to make the right choice. Political standpoints, new ideologies and critical opinions should be made available. The media men must abide by particular rules and ethics to ensure they are not aligned in the aspect of politics. This is the public interests in terms of politics.

Sociocultural domain includes informing and entertaining the public. It may include from arts to sports, from festivals to public awareness raising campaigns. Media could reflect the image of the nation, and the image of any race and its culture. It could also reflect diversities as well as common features. These are what the media could serve the public interests in sociocultural context. One thing that we should give attention is that the media should cover all the races living in the country. It is necessary that the media that represent each national race should be empowered.

Min Ba Htoo

The economic values of mass media in the society are increasing. Media could influence many things such as domestic and foreign investments, international market, monetary market, employment opportunities, consumer rights protection and anti-corruption. The media itself becomes separate structure distributing information as well as a fast-growing business structure. So, it is nothing strange that responsible persons from each estate draft laws and set rules and regulations regarding the media.

To encourage the use of communications tools, officials have to adopt separate policies, for instance, digitization of TV programmes beyond 2015, increasing the rate of telephone usage, e-government, improving Myanmar's social life in the face of global challenges and so on. These policies also have to safeguard the public interests, for example, breach of intellectual property rights, cultural preservation, anti-corruption and so on. At the same time, officials are adopting policies to encourage penetration of local media to the global market and prevent monopoly of foreign media giants. These policies are understood in democratic nations as the prevention, monitoring and promotion of mass media in the interests of the people.

The media concepts of many western democracies have a lot in common basically. These basic rules are independence, pluralism (or) being able to take on different aspects and quality of news and preservation of social and cultural values. How these basis rules are applied varies from one country to another. In some countries, the government imposes regulations to be in line with rules; in some countries, media organizations introduce regulations themselves and in some countries those rules come into existence in response to market demands. In spite of a number of similarities, there are still frictions large or small between those basic rules, for example, freedom against order, the cultural values of the majority against cultural values of a region. Introduction of laws, rules and regulations by responsible persons from branches of power is mainly aimed at managing the frictions, to prevent them from escalating into tensions and conflicts, which is crucial for emergence of a good relationship that can bring lasting benefits to the entire society.

The main points to be considered in adopting a mass communication policy or law is whether it is in line with democratic norms or not; whether it can enhance the efficiency of the institution or not; whether it can be economically viable or not; whether it can be an infrastructure in broader national economic strategy or not; whether it has cultural standards based on nationality, race, language, ethnic community and gender or not; and whether it can ensure operational effectiveness through innovation of new technologies. However, normally, officials from three branches of power are not willing to issue media rules and regulations. Officials concerned just can't turn a deaf ear whenever demands arise from the public for a change in mass communication. Under such circumstances, there are only two options available to find a solution.

One method is business profitability drive based on development of new technologies (for example—digitalization, e-government). Another method is adoption of regulations (against obscenity, gambling/drug advertisement and piracy) in response to the public demand for reform of mass communication system by identifying socio-cultural threats they are almost facing and by analyzing why their hopes fading or going wrong. Here officials concerned are required to consider two aspects—whether it would serve public interest or vested interest and whether it is constructive or destructive.

For responsible persons from branches of power, making mass communication regulations is to be attached to the historical and cultural context of the society which shall observe those regulations. Therefore, it can't be copied, but the examples of others must be taken into account. It is wise to learn from both good and bad experiences of the media reforms of other countries. We need to be aware that the glorious change that occurred at the end of 20th Century and that we envied and regarded as the best change is being increasingly criticized as a mistake unable to put right. Shortcut should not be chosen with short-sightedness.

It is better to set off the right track step by step and needs to take time considering. Serious tug-of-war between opposite concepts is normal in every media policy. Comprehensive study should be made on different concepts like international outlook and local outlook, economic benefits and social-cultural benefits, public interests and vested interests.

The author has presented a picture of the role of public interest in mass communication above. Whenever the public interest is mentioned, it is required to speak of its inherent conflict, the vested interest.

(To be continued)

***Trs*: HKA+TKK**

Deputy Education Minister visits Hlinethaya BEHS No 2

HLINETHAYA, 5 Sept—Deputy Minister for Education Dr San Lwin, Directors U Nyein Shwe and U Myint Soe and officials arrived at Basic Education High School No 2 on Thakin Mya Road in Ward 12 of Hlinethaya Township on 3 September evening.

The deputy minister viewed learning of students and maintenance of the school.

The deputy minister donated teaching aid and books to the schools.

Headmaster U Thein Win and teachers accepted the donations.—*Kyemon-Min Htet Paing (Hlinethaya)*

DHF preventive measures taken in Ahlon Township

YANGON, 5 Sept—Under the supervision of Ahlon Township Administrator U Than Naing, the head of Township Health Department and Township Development Affairs Committee took measures on prevention against dengue hemorrhagic fever and fumigated Hsinmin Ward of Ahlon Tonwship on 4 September.

The preventive measures were participated by ward administrator U Than Tun, members of MCWA, WAO, Auxiliary Fire Brigade and Red Cross Brigade and local people together with health staff.—*Kyemon-Tin Maung Oo (Ahlon)*

Development

Regional development tasks undertaken in Mandalay Region

MANDALAY, 5 Sept—Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint together with Region Minister for Forestry and Mining U Than Soe Myint, Region Minister for Electricity and Industry Dr Myint Kyu and departmental officials met local people in Sabeidaw Village of Kyaukse Township and Thangedaw Village in TadaU Township on 1 September.

He gave instructions on regional development tasks and presented farming rights certificates to local farmers.

In Kyaukse, Township, the Chief Minister heard reports on regional development and agriculture sector by ward administrators and Chairman of Township Farmland Management Committe Township Administrator U Khin Maung Than.

The Chief Minister and region ministers attended to the needs and explained tasks of the region government.

Chairman of Region Farmland Management Committee Chief Minister U Ye Myint presented farming right certificates to 222 farmers from the villages.

At Basic Education Middle School (Branch) in Thangedaw Village of TadaU Township, the Chief Minister met local farmers.

After hearing the reports by local authorities, the Chief Minister attended to the needs. Next, he presented farming right certificates to 405 farmers of Thangedaw Village.

Kyemon-Tin Maung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Tradition

Taking a boat at Yadanagu Festival in Amarapura

AMARAPURA, 5 Sept—After famous Taungpyone festival had run over, those visiting Yadanagu festival held in Amarapura of Mandalay enjoyed the upper, middle and lower spirit chambers by boat.

During the festival period, boats from Taungthaman Lake, Sagaing and Shwekyetyet arrived at the Yadanagu to transport passengers.

This year, the number of boat declined to about 70 compared with 130 in previous years.

The creek flowing into Taungthaman Lake at which boat run is gradually silting year after year. Water level is lower and lower for even those who wishing to take a bath.

Most of the visitors to the Nat chambers took boats to the jetties of upper, middle and lower chambers.

"This year, there were about 70 boats. They could earn K 15000 a day but they have to pay K 7000 for charge of transport licence to the authorities. Most of the boatmen came from here and there, not from those of Taungthaman Lake. The boat run here from 7th waning of Wagaung to 15th waning of Wagaung," said a boat man of the Yadanagu Festival.

"We are happy in taking boat. Those who did not take a boat viisting Yadanagu would not have perfect experience. Boatman calls us with K 300 per passenger as charge but he change his fare as K 500 per passenger. Nonetheless, we take a boat without bergaining the fare," said a local who visited Yadanagu festival. The festival of Yadanagu built by King Swa Saw Ke is held at the same time that of two Taungpyone Nat brothers'.

During the period of festival, taking a boat along the creek is a tradition of the region.

Kyemon Nanda Min Lwin

Fire

Early morning fire in Myitnge

MYITNGE, 5 Sept—A fire broke out in Aungchantha Ward of Myitnge in Amarapura Township of Mandalay at 4.15 am on 4 August.

The fire started from the Superman video tape rental service of U Than Aung on the road to Basic Education High School in Myitnge, causing eight houses and three motorcycles into ashes.

Under the supervision of Director U Aung Kywe Myint of Mandalay Region Fire Services Department, Head of Region FSD U Kyi Toe, Head of District FDS U Hla Min and party, 60 members of Fire Services Department and 210 Auxiliary Fire Brigade from Chanmyathazi/North, Maha (East), Kyauksit, Gawwein, Aungmyethazan Pale Ngweyaung, Thirimarlar (East), Mahaaungmye, Shwephone, Mawragiwa, Phayagyi, Hemar (South), West Yadana Bonmi, Shwehlan, East Aungnan, Hteingon, Minte Eikin, Tha (West), Industrial Zone 1 od Mandalay, Lawkapala, Yadana (East), Singaing, Amarapura and Myitnge township fire stations arrived there to put out the fire with the use of 42 fire engines and trucks and six supporting vehicles.

The fire could be put under control at 5.35 pm and totally put out at 6.15.

Mandalay Region Hluttaw Representative U Aung Thein, Assistant Engineer U Naing Oo of Myanma Railways, departmental officials, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, social organizations, and Myitnge ward administrator U Maung Maung provided necessary assistance to the fire ictims.

The root cause of outbreak of fire is under investigation by departments concerned.

Kyemon-Maung Mang Soe (Myitnge)

WORLD

Brazil's Rousseff wants US apology for NSA spying

SAO PAULO, 5 Sept—Furious about a report that the US government spied on her private communications, Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff may cancel a planned White House visit and downgrade commercial ties unless she receives a public apology, a senior Brazilian official told *Reuters* on Wednesday.

A Brazilian news programme reported on Sunday that the US National Security Agency spied on emails, phone calls and text messages of Rousseff and Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto. The report by Globo TV was based on documents leaked by fugitive former NSA contractor Edward Snowden. Rousseff is due to make a formal state visit to Washington next month to meet US President Barack Obama and discuss a possible $4 billion jet-fighter deal, cooperation on oil and biofuels technology, as well as other commercial agreements. The visit, which is the only such invitation extended by Obama this year, was meant to highlight a recent improvement in relations between the two biggest economies in the Americas, as well as Brazil's emergence over the past decade as a vibrant economy and regional power.

But the official, who declined to be identified due to the sensitivity of the episode, said Rousseff feels "patronized" by the US response so far to the Globo report. She is prepared to cancel the visit as well as take punitive action, including ruling out the purchase *of F-18 Super Hornet* fighters from Chicago-based Boeing Co, the official said. *Reuters*

Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff reacts during a reception for the Brazilian Football delegation at the Alvorada Palace in Brasilia on 2 Sept, 2013. REUTERS

Australia's Abbott set to inherit economy others would envy

SYDNEY, 5 Sept—Australia's presumptive Prime Minister, Tony Abbott, is set to inherit a slowing economy, rising unemployment and a budget in the red. Yet look out to a three-year election horizon, and the view is a lot better.

Abbott's conservative Liberal-National coalition appears to be a shoe-in at elections this weekend, ending six years of Labour rule, and all the talk has been of the challenges he faces.

And any economic pain is likely to be concentrated in the near term, where blame can be conveniently laid at the feet of the former government.

It also helps that the starting point is not as bad as many feared. Government figures out this week showed the economy grew by 0.6 percent in the June quarter and a steady 2.6 percent for the year, defying speculation of a much deeper slowdown.

That is short of the

Opposition leader Tony Abbott talks during the People's Forum with Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in Sydney on 28 Aug, 2013. REUTERS

Chief among those are worries about a substandard economy and the pressure it's putting on public coffers — fears which have in large part been fanned by Abbott's coalition while in opposition. Indeed, the last recession was more than two decades ago and government debt is relatively low and manageable.

3.25 to 3.5 percent pace that Australians have come to think of as "normal", but the economy is still consistently faster than any other developed nation.

Most economists expect growth to stay around 2.5 percent for a few more quarters, but further out things are brighter. *Reuters*

Cleveland kidnapper Castro commits suicide in prison cell

CLEVELAND, 5 Sept—Ariel Castro committed suicide by hanging himself with a bed sheet in his prison cell, an Ohio coroner said on Wednesday, just one month into a life sentence for the kidnapping, rape and beatings of three women he kept imprisoned for a decade.

The former school bus driver, who pleaded guilty to 937 counts in July, was found hanged in his cell at an Ohio prison late Tuesday. An autopsy on Wednesday confirmed the cause of death was suicide by hanging, said Dr Jan Gorniak, the Franklin County coroner.

"This man couldn't take, for even a month, a small portion of what he had dished out for more than a decade," said Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Timothy McGinty, who agreed to a deal that spared Castro the death penalty in exchange for life in prison.

Castro had been taken off suicide watch while still in Cleveland's Cuyahoga County Jail on 5 June, a spokesman said, and his was the seventh suicide in Ohio prisons this year, according to the American Civil Liberties Union, which called for a full investigation.

State prison and county jail officials denied Castro permission to receive independent mental health counseling, even though he had contemplated suicide in 2004 and was likely to suffer depression after being sentenced to life in prison, his defence lawyers said.

"We were never provided any explanation," defence attorney Craig Weintraub said. "We don't know what the rationale was to take him off suicide watch." The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction said its mental health staff found that Castro did not need to be placed on suicide watch, which would have meant a guard checked on him every 15 minutes.

"Our credentialed mental health staff determined this," said spokeswoman Ricky Seyfang. "Suicide watch was not required for him."

But the department said in a statement it set up a committee of legal, health and other experts to review the death and publish findings within a month.—*Reuters*

Ariel Castro, 53, sits in the courtroom during his sentencing for kidnapping, rape and murder in Cleveland, Ohio in this on 1 Aug, 2013 file photo. REUTERS

Manning seeks presidential pardon in WikiLeaks case

US soldier Bradley Manning

WASHINGTON, 5 Sept—The US soldier convicted of providing secret files to WikiLeaks in the biggest breach of classified materials in the nation's history has asked for a presidential pardon, supporters said on Wednesday.

The request for Chelsea, formerly known as Bradley, Manning, was filed by attorney David Coombs on Tuesday, according to a statement on the Pardon Private Manning website.

"I urge you to consider this matter closely and to take a positive step towards protecting whistleblowers who release information to the media for the public good by either reducing Private Manning's sentence to time served, or by granting him a full pardon," Coombs said in a letter to President Barack Obama via the Justice Department and to Army Secretary John McHugh carried on the website.

The application includes a supporting letter from Amnesty International.

Elizabeth Goitein, co-director of the Liberty and National Security Programme at the Brennan Center for Justice, said there was very little chance the Obama administration would grant a pardon, especially with its "full-bore approach" to prosecuting Manning.

"It would make them look quite schizoid if at this point a pardon was granted," she said. A court-martial convicted Manning, 25, in July of 20 charges, including espionage and theft, for providing more than 700,000 classified files, videos and diplomatic cables to WikiLeaks, a pro-transparency website. *Reuters*

One dead, three hurt in Houston-area high school stabbing

HOUSTON, 5 Sept—One student was killed and three others injured in what police said may have been a gang-related stabbing at a suburban high school north of Houston on Wednesday, and a teenager has been arrested and charged with murder in the case, authorities said.

Luis Alonzo Alfaro, 17, admitted the stabbing to authorities, according to the Harris County Sheriff's office.

Harris County Sheriff Adrian Garcia, who said the incident may have been gang-related, said the student who died at Spring High School was also 17. The other three victims were transported to hospitals, treated and released, police said.

"We believe that a confrontation of some sort occurred ... that ultimately led to a physical confrontation that then produced weapons," Garcia said.

The high school in Spring, about 24 miles north of Houston, was locked down for hours after the incident and little information was released to parents.

Frustrated parents, standing in the sweltering heat across the street from the school, initially learned of the incident through local media reports or through text messages from their children who were inside the school.

"One of my girlfriends called to ask if I'd heard," said Cheri Fitzgerald, the mother of a freshman, who did not get an automated message from the school until 10 am local time, about three hours after the incident occurred.

Another parent, Tricia Mollard, who heard about the fight on television, tried calling the school and then police for answers.

"No one could tell me anything. Then I called the school district asking questions and she hung up on me. The lady I spoke to hung up. I am so mad. I want answers," she said.

Superintendent Ralph Draper told a news conference the reason for the delay in communicating with parents was that the school district was working with police officials at the time to ensure a smooth investigation.—*Reuters*

Five in Philippine jailbreak recaptured, search for others continue

DAVAO CITY, (Philippines), 5 Sept—Five of the 22 prisoners who bolted a main prison in southern Philippine Province of Bukidnon on Wednesday had been recaptured, and pursuit operations were still going on, police said on Thursday. At least 17 inmates facing drug and murder cases are still on the loose following the jailbreak at a prison facility in Malaybalay city, in Mindanao's Bukidnon Province at 3 pm, said Glenn dela Torre, provincial police chief.

The inmates were able to escape during the conduct of an alternative learning class for prisoners, in which they overpowered the three female jail guards and ransacked the facility's armory, carting away at least a dozen shotguns and automatic pistols, Dela Torre said. Of the 22 escapees, five had surrendered or were recaptured, the police official said. "Manhunt operations were now being conducted to capture the escapees. They are armed and dangerous so we have to take precautionary measures," Dela Torre said. The police official also ordered the lockdown of exit points in Bukidnon, with police mounting checkpoints to prevent the prisoners from slipping out of the province.

Xinhua

A female brown bear and her cub hunt for salmon at the mouth of a river in the Shiretoko Peninsula, a World Heritage site, in Hokkaido, northern Japan, on 3 Sept, 2013.—KYODO NEWS

The ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Forum 2013 is held in Guilin, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 4 Sept, 2013. The two-day forum, with the theme "Building up Partnership for Regional Green Transformation", kicked off here on Wednesday.—XINHUA

Pakistan to crack down on violence in Karachi

ISLAMABAD, 5 Sept—Pakistan said on Wednesday it would launch targeted action in the violence-hit southern port city of Karachi against terrorists, target killers, kidnappers and extortionists.

Rights groups say that nearly 1,800 people were killed in attacks in the first six months of this year.

Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan said hundreds of criminals have been identified in the reports prepared by federal and provincial intelligence agencies and action would be taken against them.

The decision was taken in the special cabinet meeting convened in Karachi on Wednesday and after consultations by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif with political parties, intelligence officials and business leaders.

A special committee comprising senior security officials and intelligence agencies would oversee, manage, administer and control the action. The committee will meet at least once a week to review the situation and take necessary decisions.

The Interior Minister said paramilitary force "Rangers" would lead the action and the police will have supporting role. He said federal and provincial governments have issued necessary guidelines to empower Rangers and remove its concerns.

Talking about the crimes due to unregistered mobile phone SIMs, the minister said that an operation was launched against the unregistered SIMs by the previous governments in 2008 but four million unregistered SIMs still exist. He said that the cellular companies have been directed to follow the standard guidelines.

Xinhua

Floods, landslides kill eight in northern Vietnam

HANOI, 5 Sept—Floods and landslides in the past two days have killed at least eight people in northern Vietnam, according to the Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control of Vietnam on Thursday.

Of the death toll, one person was in Ha Giang Province, three in Lai Chau and four others in Lao Cai. In addition, some 14 people were injured and 10 others still missing, said the committee.

Heavy rains in the region also caused severe damage to houses and crops, of which nearly 120 hectares of crops and aquacultures were affected.

The committee warned that heavy rains may continue over the next few days in northern Vietnam and instructed relevant agencies to immediately handle the consequences to help local people stabilizing their life.

Xinhua

Indonesia hails improvement in competitiveness ranking

JAKARTA, 5 Sept—Indonesia hailed significant improvement in competitiveness ranking to 38th in 2013-2014 period from 50th in 2012-2013 period, according to the World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Competitiveness Report issued on Wednesday.

The improvement reversed continuous downtrend in the previous three reports for Indonesia, the largest economy in Southeast Asian region.

Indonesia overtook other emerging economies like Brazil ranked 56th, India 60th and Russia 64th in the latest ranking.

However, Indonesia was still lower than par countries in the region like Singapore ranked 2nd, Malaysia 24th, Brunei 26th and Thailand 37th.

"The most significant one is our advancement in latest technology adoption that subsequently improves our human resources.

That is the most influential factor (in the upgrade of the ranking) ," Coordinating Minister for the Economy Hatta Radjasa said in response to the report issued in Geneva, Switzerland.

Indonesia demonstrated improvement in 10 of 12 categories surveyed for the competitiveness ranking report.

The WEF report said that Indonesia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grows 5.2 percent per year in the last decade. Indonesia is able to improve its infrastructure amid uneven overall development performance.

Results from the infrastructure improvement have been felt in the efficiency, and improved job market.

Indonesia, however records poor performance in health sector due to rampant contagious diseases and high newborn baby mortality rate.—*Xinhua*

Gunmen abduct two teachers in S Philippine province

ISABELA CITY, (Philippines), 5 Sept — Gunmen abducted two male teachers in a remote coastal village in southern Philippine Province of Isabela on Wednesday night, police said on Thursday.

The abducted teachers, identified as Frederick Banot and Cherden Masong, were employees of the Charity Children Foundation Inc. (CCFI), a non-governmental organization (NGO) in Basilan Island. The heavily armed marauders swooped a staff house at the village of Tairan, Lantawan township and seized the two victims at gunpoint, said Basilan police commander Mario Dapillosa. The suspects dragged their captives into a jungkung motorcraft, a Malaysian-styled pumpboat, and escaped toward unknown direction in the thick darkness of the night, according to Dapillosa.

Police said no group has claimed responsibility so far and there has been no contact from the abductors.

But the authorities here believed the group behind the abduction could be members of the organized Kidnap-for-ransom- group of the Abu Sayyaf, a small but violent group tagged in the spate of terror attacks in southern Philippines and across in the country.

Xinhua

Japan UN Information Centre names journalist Nemoto as new chief

TOKYO, 5 Sept—The United Nations Information Centre in Tokyo announced on Friday that freelance journalist Kaoru Nemoto has been named its new director as of Wednesday.

Nemoto worked as a reporter and news presenter at Japanese broadcaster TV Asahi Corp for eight years before joining the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. She was a senior member of the UNHCR's external relations department headquartered in Geneva between 2009 and 2011, according to the centre.—*Kyodo News*

Photo taken on 4 Sept, 2013 shows an old-fashioned locomotive at the National Rail Museum in New Delhi, India. For more than a century, the train has been one of the most important transportation tools in India. The National Rail Museum which was opened in 1 Feb 1977, is a place showcasing the development history of Indian railway. The museum covers an area of more than 11 acres (about 44,000 square meters), displaying used locomotives, rails, wagons and special purpose vehicles.
XINHUA

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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Vacancy Announcement - 040/UNDP RR/2013

Title:	Programme Analyst (Rule of Law and Access to Justice)
Grade:	NO-B
Type of Contract:	Fixed Term
Duty Station:	Yangon, with frequent travels in NPT and states/regions (including Mandalay and Shan)

Under direct supervision of the Rule of Law Specialist and under technical direction from the Chief Technical Advisor for Rule of Law and Access to Justice, the Programme Analyst (RoL) is responsible for support to the implementation of activities under Output 3 of Pillar 3 of the Country Programme and in particular for maintaining, bringing existing relations to another level and/or establishing new relations with justice actors, most notably the Union Attorney General's Office and the Office of the Union Supreme Court. Furthermore the incumbent will be responsible for providing input to this Programme based on knowledge of and experience with Myanmar law. The Programme Analyst (RoL) will contribute to promoting coordination and close collaboration with other outputs of Pillar 3 (parliament, public administration, development planning), and other relevant parts of the Country Programme (in particular local governance). For more details please refer to information on the bulletin board at UNDP Office, No.6, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon or please follow the link below: http://www.mm.undp.org/Myanmar_Vacancies.html

Applications should be addressed to Deputy Resident Representative (Operations) Attention: Human Resources Unit, No.6 Natmauk Road, UNDP, Yangon or apply on-line through application.mm@undp.org; .

UNDP is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, nationality and culture. Individuals from minority groups, indigenous groups and persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply.

Only those candidates in whose qualifications and experience the Organization has further interest will be contacted for subsequent interview(s). UNDP regrets its inability to reply individually or attend to telephone queries on the advertised posts. Closing Date: 18 September 2013

Symposium on Health-care associated infection 14 Sep

The Microbiology Society, under the aegis of the Myanmar Medical Association, will hold a symposium on "Health-care associated infection" from 9 a.m to 12 noon on 14"' September (Saturday) at the MMA Auditorium (A), Theinbyu Road. Speakers include Professor Kyi Kyi Thinn (Microbiology), Professor Chit Soe (Medicine), Professor Thein Myint (Surgery) and Dr. Khwar Nyo Zin (Microbiology). All those interested may register at the Department of Microbiology, University of Medicine 1, 2 and Defense Services Medical Academy during office hours or on-site on the day of the symposium.

US Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs William R Brownfield (L Front) talks with Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Mar Roxas at Camp Crame in Quezon City, the Philippines, on 3 Sept, 2013.—XINHUA

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (337)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (337) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.9.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (009)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (009) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.9.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 ORINET OVERSEAS CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PHUONG NAM 69 VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHUONG NAM 69 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.9.2013 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 ANNARWAR MON LOGISTIC & GENERAL SERVICE CO LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

Cook Islands PM urges global action against climate change

MAJURO, (Marshall Islands), 5 Sept — Henry Puna, the prime minister (PM) of the Cook Islands, made an impassioned plea for united global action against climate change on the sidelines of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) launched here on Tuesday.

Speaking to *Xinhua* during an exclusive interview, Puna said the time for empty debate had passed.

"It is no longer an issue to just talk about," he told . "It's an issue that requires action now."

In the wake of a marathon Smaller Island States meeting, the Cook Islands leader said despite the frustration and disappointment, there was still hope and encouragement for vulnerable pacific states due to the positive involvement of some larger global players.

He praised China for its forward-looking approach to climate change in the Pacific. "China, for example, is one that is coming out and taking a lead and one that is giving us a lot of comfort," he said.

The tension surrounding the critical meeting in Majuro has been palpable, with leaders of many pacific island states speaking with passion - and sometimes despair - over the effects of rising sea levels on the pacific island community.

"The sad truth is that countries here had nothing to do with bringing about climate change and yet they are the ones being made to pay for the rest of the world, and that is the reason for the disappointment and the despondency."

"The fact is that for most of us it is now simply a matter of life and death so you can understand the passion driven by desperation," he added.—*Xinhua*

Photo taken on 3 Sept, 2013 shows the scenery in the Jiuzhaigou Valley, southwest China's Sichuan Province. — XINHUA

Honduras seizes half ton of cocaine in Caribbean waters

TEGUCIGALPA, 5 Sept — The Honduran Navy seized at least 500 kg of cocaine and arrested two people suspected of shipping the drug by boat through Caribbean waters, Defence Minister Marlon Pascua said on Tuesday. Pascua said the shipment was headed to northern Bay Islands department, for later transport to the United States.

The two suspects were from the department of Islas de la Bahia in the Honduran Caribbean, added the minister.

"It was an intense search operation that had a good outcome," said Pascua, adding that the anti-narcotics operation began last Thursday, and under close surveillance, the vessel was detected in Vivorillos in eastern department of Gracias a Dios, a region of Honduras known as La Mosquitia.

Local press reported the drugs had been stashed in the middle of a pile of discarded wood and later unloaded from the twin-engine boat. A judge and a public prosecutor were dispatched to the site to verify the size of the seizure and the drug's grade of purity.

The head of the Armed Forces, Rene Osorio, said the seizure was made after the US Coast Guard alerted the Honduran Navy, who sent a team to investigate and made the find. More than 70 percent of the cocaine shipped to Mexico from South America, and later sent to the United States, passes through Honduras, according to official sources.

Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

Hrithik and Kareena in a still Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham.—PTI

Kareena Kapoor: Hrithik Roshan is one of finest actors in our country

MUMBAI, 5 Sept —Actress Kareena Kapoor believes Hrithik Roshan, her co-star in the upcoming film Shuddhi, is one of the country's finest actors.

"I am very excited about Shuddhi. We're both working together after such a long time. He is such a fine actor. He is one of finest actors in our country," Kareena said. "I am looking forward to this film. We will start shooting from January 2014," she added.

Kareena and Hrithik's pairing has been seen in movies Yaadein, Mujhse Dosti Karoge!, Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham and Main Prem Ki Diwani Hoon. For Shuddhi, they are teaming up after a decade.

The movie, directed by Karan Malhotra, is said to be an intense love story which will be widely shot in Mumbai and Uttarakhand. —*PTI*

Sofia Vergara highest paid actress on US TV, again

NEW YORK, 5 Sept — Sofia Vergara of ABC's successful TV comedy "Modern Family" is the highest-paid actress on US television for the second consecutive year with estimated earnings of $30 million, *Forbes* magazine said on Wednesday.

The voluptuous Colombian-born actress easily surpassed Emmy and Golden Globe-winner Mariska Hargitay of NBC's "Law and Order: Special Victims Unit" and Kaley Cuoco, a star of CBS's "The Big Bang Theory," who both tied for second with $11 million. "As the reigning queen of celebrity endorsement deals (thanks largely to her bilingual portfolio), Vergara's earnings over the past year reached $30 million — making her far and away the highest-paid actress on prime time," Forbes.com said.

Vergara, 41, has clothing and home goods lines sold at Sears Holding Corp's retailer Kmart and lucrative endorsement deals with PepsiCo Inc's Diet Pepsi, Proctor & Gamble Co's CoverGirl and others. Sisters Kourtney, Kim and Khloe Kardashian of the E! cable reality series "Keeping up with the Kardashians," shared the No 4 spot with earnings of $10 million each along with three other women, including Melissa McCarthy of CBS's "Mike & Molly."

McCarthy scored a hit on the big screen in "Bridesmaids," a film that grossed about $288 million at the global box office, and in "The Heat" with Sandra Bullock. Like Vergara, the Kardashian sisters have a clothing line and other licensing deals. Forbes compiled the list by estimating earnings for the year to June 2013 from the actresses' TV work, endorsements, residuals and advertising work, and by talking to agents, managers and lawyers.

Reuters

Actress Sofia Vergara arrives to attend the 2013 Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) awards in New York on 3 June, 2013. —REUTERS

Heavy metal rockers Avenged Sevenfold top Billboard album chart

LOS ANGELES, 5 Sept — American heavy metal rockers Avenged Sevenfold topped the Billboard 200 album chart on Wednesday, keeping off new entries by rappers Big Sean and Juicy J "Hail to the King," the sixth studio record by Avenged Sevenfold, sold 159,000 copies in its first week, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

It is the band's second album to notch the No 1 position on the weekly chart, which measures sales figures for albums across all genres. Avenged Sevenfold led four new entries in the top 10 this week.

Big Sean's latest album, "Hall of Fame," landed at No 3 with sales of 72,000, while Juicy J notched the fourth spot with "Stay Trippy," selling 64,000 copies.

Compilation album "Alabama & Friends," featuring country stars such as Luke Bryan and Jason Aldean singing cover songs as a tribute to country rock band Alabama, landed at No 8. Bryan's album "Crash My Party," which had topped the chart for two straight weeks, fell to second place this week.

Katy Perry's pop song "Roar" kept the top spot for the third consecutive week on the digital songs chart, which measures individual track downloads, with 448,000 in sales.

M Shadows (2nd L) and rock band Avenged Sevenfold accept the Affliction Album of the Year award at the 3rd annual Golden Gods awards in Los Angeles on 20 April, 2011. —REUTERS

Rapper Eminem's new song "Berzerk" debuted at No 2, while Robin Thicke's "Blurred Lines" featuring T.I. and Pharrell Williams, rounded out the top three digital songs for the week.

Overall album sales for the week ending September 1 totaled 4.92 million units, up marginally from 4.9 million sales in the comparable week from 2012, according to Billboard.

Reuters

Director Morris defends his 'smiling Rumsfeld' film

VENICE, 5 Sept — American filmmaker Errol Morris defended "The Unknown Known" on Wednesday from criticism he failed to ask tough questions in his documentary profile of former US Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld, who oversaw the Iraq War. Rumsfeld, famous for his statement that "stuff happens" in response to the looting of Baghdad after the American-led invasion, is shown smiling almost obsessively throughout the film which had its premiere at the Venice Film Festival.

A prodigious producer of memos, Rumsfeld also reflects on the meanings of words in juxtaposition, including his dictum that there are "known knowns" and "unknown unknowns". The film got a tepid response at a Press screening, with some in the audience saying Morris had failed to get Rumsfeld to face up to the consequences of what is generally viewed as a colossal failure of intelligence in Iraq under his watch. "The question is in part, was I tough enough with him?" Morris said at a news conference at the festival where the film by the maker of "The Fog of War", an Oscar-winning portrait of Vietnam War-era Defense Secretary Robert S McNamara, had its official premiere.

"I believe yes, I was for many, many, many reasons. I look at it as a devastating portrait, a frightening portrait. Do I contradict him? Quite often. But the goal is not to endlessly contradict him. "I much prefer it — I hope I am not giving away too much here — I much prefer it when he contradicts himself, which he does unendingly." Rumsfeld, who served under three presidents, agreed to do the film after Morris contacted him, the filmmaker said. Now 81, Rumsfeld was filmed responding to questions put to him in a studio.—*Reuters*

Director Errol Morris arrives for a photocall for the movie "The Unknown Known" during the 70th Venice Film Festival in Venice on 4 Sept, 2013. REUTERS

Rihanna obsessed with aliens?

Rihanna has reportedly always been convinced that aliens will land on Earth in her lifetime. PTI

LONDON, 5 Sept — R&B star Rihanna has employed an unidentified flying object (UFO) watcher for 24-hour updates on extraterrestrial activity, according to a report.

The 25-year-old singer and her rapper brother Rorrey, 23, believed in UFOs as a child and they still think aliens exist somewhere, reported *Daily Star*.

"Rihanna has always been convinced aliens will land on Earth in her lifetime.

So she started using the man, who calls himself a sky scanner, to give her information from Nevada on anything that relates to sightings," a source said.

"He keeps in touch with her from the Little A'Le'Inn — a motel which hosts UFO hunters. It's also near one of the world's most secret government bases, Area 51.

This isn't a fad for Rihanna, she is a total believer and doesn't mind spending her money on it to get results," the source added.

PTI

SPORTS

Injuries should not stop England beating Moldova

LONDON, 5 Sept—England will be without striker Wayne Rooney and defenders Phil Jones and Glen Johnson for Friday's World Cup qualifier against Moldova at Wembley but should still easily pick up another three points on the road to Brazil.

More worrying for coach Roy Hodgson is that Rooney, who faces three weeks out after suffering a nasty head wound in training last week, and the two defenders will also miss the far more difficult Group H qualifier against Ukraine in Kiev next Tuesday.

England began their campaign with a convincing 5-0 win over Moldova in Chisinau a year ago but since then it has turned into a tense affair with three wins and three draws from their six matches.

Montenegro top the standings with 14 points from seven games but blew a great chance to establish a five-point lead when they were beaten 4-0 at home by Ukraine in June.

Ukraine are third, one point behind England, and are virtually guaranteed three points when they face minnows San Marino on Friday while Poland, who are fourth on nine points, will keep the pressure on the top trio if they beat Montenegro in Warsaw. If England are to qualify directly for the finals they have to win both matches. A draw in Ukraine would mean no margin for error in their final two home qualifiers against Montenegro and Poland.

Hodgson will also be without Andy Carroll, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and goalkeeper Ben Foster, leaving him with a young and relatively inexperienced squad with 11 of the 25 players having fewer than 10 caps. Moldova, who have five points from their seven matches and no chance of qualifying for the finals, never recovered after conceding a third-minute Frank Lampard penalty in the opening qualifier before Lampard, Jermain Defoe, James Milner and Leighton Baines added more goals.

Reuters

***England's Wayne Rooney reacts before being substituted by teammate Rickie Lambert (not pictured) during their international friendly soccer match against Scotland at Wembley Stadium in London, on 14 August, 2013.*—REUTERS**

Loew puzzled about Real's sale of Ozil

MADRID, 5 Sept—Germany coach Joachim Loew has added his voice to the chorus of bewilderment prompted by Real Madrid's decision to sell his playmaker Mesut Ozil to Arsenal.

Real recouped almost half the 100 million euros (84 million pounds) they paid Arsenal's Premier League rivals Tottenham Hotspur for Gareth Bale in the Ozil deal but have lost a player who made 31 assists in his last two seasons, the most of any player in La Liga.

The 24-year-old developed a lethal partnership with Real's Portugal forward Cristiano Ronaldo, who, according to reports in Spain on Wednesday, was angry with the Spanish club, the world's richest by income, for agreeing to the sale.

"We are hearing from Madrid that some of the players are very sad," Loew said at a news conference on Wednesday previewing Friday's 2014 World Cup qualifier against Austria in Munich.

***Real Madrid's Mesut Ozil shoots towards the goal of Borussia Dortmund during their Champions League semi-final second leg match at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on 30 April, 2013.*—REUTERS**

"I found it a little difficult to believe that they would lose such a fantastic player, that Real would give up on and sell a player who had set up so many goals for them in recent seasons, but that's the way business is."

Ozil said on Tuesday he decided to leave Real after three seasons in the Spanish capital because he realised he did not have the backing of coach Carlo Ancelotti. Ozil sulked after the Italian substituted him in last month's La Liga match at Granada and he left him on the bench for Sunday's 3-1 victory at home to Athletic Bilbao.

"Mesut is quite a sensitive kind of player who needs a lot of backing from his club and his coach," Loew said. "You could see in recent days before his transfer that possibly that backing was not 100 percent there." Ozil's move was good for Germany, Loew added.—*Reuters*

Pennetta upsets Vinci to reach first grand slam semi

NEW YORK, 5 Sept — Unseeded Flavia Pennetta never dreamed of being among the last four women standing when the US Open began, but a 6-4, 6-1 win over fellow Italian Roberta Vinci on Wednesday put her into her first grand slam semi-final. After defeat at the quarter-final stage in Flushing Meadows three times before and undergoing wrist surgery a year ago, the 31-year-old Pennetta could have been forgiven for thinking that her chances of a last four spot at this event had passed.

"At the first day of the tournament I never thought I would be here and talking about the semi-final," Pennetta said about her mindset heading into the year's final grand slam.

"I didn't play my best tennis in the last six months, and I just try to keep working and working in the same way every day."

Pennetta, ranked 83rd in the world, will face the winner of Wednesday's night match between Belarussian second seed Victoria Azarenka and Slovakia's Daniela Hantuchova.

In the all-Italian quarter-final, the longtime friends from Puglia put on an energetic display as heat and sunshine returned to Flushing Meadows but they both struggled to hold serve in a first set which saw five combined breaks of serve.

Reuters

***Flavia Pennetta of Italy reacts after defeating compatriot Roberta Vinci at the US Open tennis championships in New York on Sept. 2013.*—REUTERS**

Perfect timing for de Jonge to make Cup debut

LOS ANGELES, 5 Sept—If timing is everything in sport, as the saying goes, then the stars could not be better aligned for Zimbabwean Brendon de Jonge to make his debut at the biennial Presidents Cup in a month's time.

The burly 33-year-old earned a spot on the 12-man Internationals team as one of two captain's picks announced on Wednesday by compatriot Nick Price, who has long been his golfing idol and, more recently, a mentor. De Jonge will become the third Zimbabwean to compete in the Ryder Cup-style event, following Price (1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2003) and Mark McNulty (1994, 1996). Both Price (captain) and McNulty (assistant) will be with him in the team locker room.

***Brendon de Jonge of Zimbabwe plays his shot from the 17th tee during Round 2 of the PGA Tour golf tournament in Bethesda, Maryland, on 29 June, 2012.*—REUTERS**

"It's pretty cool and obviously it couldn't work out any better," de Jonge told *Reuters* by telephone a few hours after his Cup debut was made official. "Once I found out Nick was going to be captain, it was definitely one of the goals that I set for myself, to do everything I could to try and make this team, and have the opportunity to play for him.

"Some of my best sporting memories are from playing team sport and unfortunately we don't have that opportunity too much in our profession. I am looking forward to the camaraderie of team sport again." With 10 players already inked in as automatic choices on the International team after the final counting event, the Deutsche Bank Championship, finished on Monday, de Jonge was one of "five or six guys" Price had in his crosshairs to be wildcard picks.

Reuters

Sneijder to start for Dutch after late recall

ISTANBUL, 5 Sept—Playmaker Wesley Sneijder will return to the starting line-up for Netherlands in Friday's World Cup Group D qualifier against Estonia after coach Louis van Gaal brushed aside previous fitness concerns he had about him. The 29-year-old former captain was only recalled to the squad as a late injury replacement for the trip to Tallinn for a match where the Dutch have vowed to run ragged their hosts. "Sneijder is at the moment the best option in the playmaker position," said the coach who stripped Sneijder of the team captaincy in June and then left him out of last month's friendly in Portugal saying he was not fit.

"Fitness is an issue but fitness is no longer an issue if I don't have any other choice," the coach told a news conference on Wednesday as reporters pressed him for an explanation on this sudden about-turn regarding the player. Sneijder was called up on Monday to replace the injured Georgino Wijnaldum. Rafael van der Vaart has since also pulled out. "I don't care that people don't agree with me because I decide. Sneijder has had a year in which he has not played much," Van Gaal said.—*Reuters*

***Galatasaray's Wesley Sneijder celebrates after scoring a goal against Real Madrid during their Champions League quarter-final second leg soccer match in Istanbul on 9 April, 2013.*—REUTERS**

GENERAL

Photo shows the beautiful scenery of Great Otway National Park in Victoria, Australia. The Great Otway National Park is a national park in Victoria, Australia.
XINHUA

Haitian deputies suspend PM's hearing to debate electoral law

SANTO DOMINGO, 5 Sept — Haiti's Chamber of Deputies suspended a scheduled hearing on Wednesday, in which Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe was to be questioned on the fate of millions of aid dollars, to debate an urgent bill calling for partial elections this year.

Lamothe, who also serves as planning minister, was to explain how and where he spent 5 billion Haitian gourdes (116.2 million US dollars) in emergency government funds after Hurricane Sandy hit the country in October, 2012.

He was also going to be questioned about the allocation of 10 billion gourdes (nearly 250 million US dollars) from last year's government budget towards municipal funds.

The request for an urgent debate on the electoral bill came from the president's office, said Jean Tholbert Alexis, president of the Chamber of Deputies.

The executive decision was made on Tuesday night and announced on Wednesday in the capital Port-au-Prince.

Deputy Sinal Bertrand said despite the suspension, lawmakers should be able to question Lamothe this week, before the legislative year's second period of sessions ends on Monday.

On 24 Oct, 2012, Hurricane Sandy whipped through western Haiti, killing 54 people and leaving some 200,000 homeless.

A week after the storm, President Michel Martelly declared a state of emergency to facilitate aid to the affected regions, but there has been little infrastructure improvement.

The Chamber of Deputies' committee charged with studying the electoral bill has to present its report on Wednesday, as hopes of holding partial elections before the end of the year diminish.

This year, Haitians must elect a third of the Senate (10 seats), as well as 142 councilors and 570 assembly members throughout the country.

Xinhua

Belarus sees huge potential in cooperation with Bolivia

MINSK, 5 Sept — Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said here on Wednesday that Belarus is ready to cooperate with Bolivia in the widest range of aspects. Belarus sees huge potential in cooperation with Bolivia in the widest range of aspects and is also ready to share achievements in agriculture and exploitation of mineral deposits, Lukashenko said during talks with his Bolivian counterpart Evo Morales.

The two countries agreed on the creation of a joint commission for cooperation and also signed an intergovernmental agreement on the abolition of visas for holders of diplomatic, service and official passports.

Lukashenko said the two countries have a basis for economic cooperation. "You have the goods and opportunities we need. We produce the things you need. Our economies are complementary, and we are able to expand our cooperation in this area," he said.

He said Minsk would like to establish a level of cooperation with Bolivia to the one with Caracas.

Morales agreed with Lukashenko on the need to upgrade economic ties to the level of political ones in this new stage. It is the first visit of the Bolivian leader to Belarus.—*Xinhua*

MYANMAR TV

(6-9-2013, Friday)

6:00 am
1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:25 am
2. Physical Exercise

6:35 am
3. Song & Dance of National Races

6:45 am
4. Documentary

7:00 am
5. News

7:20 am
6. Hyper Sports

8:00 am
7. News/ International News

8:25 am
8. India Drama Series

9:00 am
9. News/International News

9:25 am
10. Mono Classical Songs

10:00 am
11. News

10:15 am
12. TV Drama Series

11:15 am
13. CLEVER

11:35 am
14. Myanmar Series

12:00 pm
15. News/International News/Weather Report

12:25 pm
16. Myanmar Movies

2:00 pm
17. Hyper Sports

2:15 pm
18. Teleplay (Traffic)

2:25 pm
19. Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions

3:00 pm
20. News

3:15 pm
21. TV Drama Series

4:00 pm
22.News/ Weather Report

4:15 pm
23. TV Drama Series

4:30 pm
24. Song & Dance of National Races

4:40 pm
25. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Physics)

5:00 pm
26. News

5:15 pm
27. Road to 27th SEA Games

5:30 pm
28. India Drama Series

6:00 pm
29. News/ Weather Report

6:20 pm
30. Documentary

6:35 pm
31. Amazing World

7:00 pm
32. News

7:15 pm
33. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm
34. News/ International News/ Weather Report

8:35 pm
35. Pepole Talks

8:50 pm
36. Hit Songs of Stars

9:00 pm
37. News
38. Mong Classical Songs
39. Traditional Boxing
40. TV Drama Series

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(6-9-13 09:30 am ~ 7-9-13 09:30 am) MST

* Local News
* History of Wishfulfilling Mai-Lamu Pagoda
* World News
* Travelling To Shan Plateau (Pindaya Myoe Ma Market)
* Local News
* Product of Myanmar (Stone of the Heavens)
* World News
* Reaching the Unreachable "Towards safer communities"
* Local News
* Visiting To Mawlamyine Trip (Episode-1)
* World News
* Alphabet of Myanmar Language
* Local News
* Myanmar Social And Charitable Association (Episode-3) (Part-1)
* World News
* Will you feed the pigeons
* Local News
* Halin, A Treasure Trove Of The Ancient Pyu City
* World News
* Shrimp Cold Storage from Kyauk Phyu
* Local News
* Taste of Myanmar (Fried Flat Noodle)
* World News
* Taxidermy for Eternity
* Local News
* World News
* Myanmar Movie Review "Kayan Beauties"
* Local News
* My Native Town Meiktila
* World News
* Awesome Myanma Sculptures

Bolt targets 200 record next year, retirement after Rio

BRUSSELS, 5 Sept – Usain Bolt has made breaking his 200metres world record the target for 2014 and reiterated his plan to retire after the 2016 Rio Games having achieved the unthinkable hat-trick of Olympic sprint doubles

"As long as I stay injury free next season you'll see me attempting a few times to try to break some records," Bolt told reporters in Brussels ahead of Friday's season finale Diamond League event where he will race the 100m in a rematch with American Justin Gatlin who he beat into second place in last month's world championship final. "It's definitely on my mind."

"The 100 metres is going to be the hardest to actually get because it's a lot more technical. It's going to be hard to get, but I think the 200 is there to really try to go faster because I've learnt to master the art of running the turn," he said.

The Jamaican became the most successful athlete in world championship history last month after another clean sweep of the 100/200m and 4x100m relay, and wants to underline his superstar status by winning a third 100 and 200 metre double at the 2016 Rio Olympics, where a third relay gold would be the icing on the cake.

His existing 100 and 200 metre records of 9.58 and 19.19 seconds both date back four years to the world championships in Berlin.

He reasoned that next season, without a world championships or Olympics, might be best to go for the record, because he could focus on running fast rather than seeking to peak for a particular event.

Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt addresses a news conference ahead of the IAAF Diamond League athletics meeting, also known as Memorial Van Damme, in Brussels on 4 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

Bolt, who has just turned 27, said his thoughts had already turned to eventual retirement and that he and his team were starting to put things in place for then.

"So far, it's after the Olympics. I think if I'm in great shape and go there and do what I have to do I think it would be a good time to retire, on top and being dominating for so long," he said.—*Reuters*

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The New Light of Myanmar

Friday, 6 September, 2013

Thura U Shwe Mann meets locals in Shan State (North)

LASHIO, 5 Sept—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann yesterday morning met with local people at the station hall in Kunlong Township and heard reports presented by the local people and fulfilled the requirements.

Then, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker arrived in Hopang and met local people at Basic Education High School and provided cash assistance for regional development.

He received Kokang Self-Administered Zone Leading Body Chairman U Pei Sauk Chein and party at the hall in Laukkai in the evening. After meeting with local people at the hall of Kokang Self-Administered Zone Leading Body this morning, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker looked round Laukkai by car.

Also present at the meetings were Lt-Gen Aung Than Htut from the Ministry of Defence, Union Minister U Kyaw Lwin, the chairmen of Hluttaw Affairs Committee, the Shan State chief minister, deputy ministers, Hluttaw Affairs Committee Secretary Dr Nay Lin, Defence Services Personnel Hluttaw Reps and departmental officials.

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann meets national races leaders in Shan State (North).—MNA

In meeting with local people from Kunlong, Hopang and Laukkai Townships, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker said that their visits aim at looking into requirements of local people when Hluttaw is not in session. The Hluttaws, Union government and officials are carrying out works beneficial to the national races, and multi-party democracy and market-oriented economy system is being practised in Myanmar at present, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker said. Enactment of law for protection of rights for national races is being carried out at Hluttaw, he added. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker urged those present to harmoniously give a helping hand to efforts for national development and safeguarding the country. He also urged them to make more cooperation for regional development in accord with Our Three Main National Causes.

MNA

Knowing about laws of both countries contribute to economic development of Myanmar, Thailand

Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint and party being welcomed by Thai people along the road to Thai National Assembly.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Sept—At the invitation of President of National Assembly of Thailand and Speaker of House of Representatives of Thailand Mr Somsak Kiatsuranont, a 14-member delegation led by Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint paid an official visit to Thailand from 1 to 4 September.

The Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw and party paid homage to Emerald Pagoda on 1 September afternoon.

On 2 September, they visited Amata Special Economic Zone where CEO Ms Somhatai Panichewa of Amata VN Public Company Ltd made clarifications.

At Thai National Assembly on 3 September, the Speaker and party paid a tribute to the Statue of His Majesty King Prajadhipok who led Thailand to practise democratic governing in line with the constitution.

The Speaker met with President of National Assembly of Thailand and Speaker of House of Representatives of Thailand Mr Somsak Kiatsuranont at the special hall of the Assembly Building No 1. At the meeting, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint said that Myanmar will be a commercial hub as well as a political focal point of Southeast Asia. Cooperation between the two parliaments will help development all sectors. Knowing about laws of both countries will contribute to economic development of the two countries. With regard to the executive sector, the President of Myanmar and the Prime Minister of Thailand have exchanged their visits. Both countries cooperate in drug elimination and anti-human trafficking, he added. He requested the Thai National Assembly to help proceed with the legalizing Myanmar migrant workers. He expressed his desire to operate in tourism industry as two countries, one destination for serving interests of the both countries. He stressed that both Hluttaws are to join hands in the interests of the peoples.

Next, the Speaker and party called on President of Senate of Thailand of Mr Nikom Wairatpanij at the Special Hall of the Thai National Assembly Building No.2 and explained undertakings of Myanmar Hluttaw and its organizational set-up and discussed further cooperation between the two Hluttaws.

Next, the Speaker and party attended the luncheon together with the President of National Assembly and Speaker of House of Representatives of Thailand at Shangri-La Hotel and then observed convening of the Senate of Thailand.

MNA

U Min Thein Zan appointed as Ambassador to Sri Lanka

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Sept—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Min Thein Zan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.—*MNA*

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Sept—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred the following heads of service organizations to the respective service organizations shown against each from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Tun Tun Naing Director-General Central Statistical Organization Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development	Director-General Foreign Economic Relations Department Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development
(b) U Maung Maung Tint Director-General Project Appraisal and Progress Reporting Department Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development	Director-General Planning Department Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of the following heads of service organizations on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Kyaw Shwe	Director-General Industrial Crops Development Department Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
(b) U Soe Tint	Rector University for Development of National Races (Sagaing) Ministry of Border Affairs

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Thwin Myint Maung Deputy Director-General (Head of Office) Ministry of Industry	Director-General Industrial Planning Department Ministry of Industry
(b) Dr Daw Yi Yi Myint Deputy Director-General Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar) Ministry of Health	Director-General Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar) Ministry of Health

Socio-economic development calls for accuracy of facts and figures

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Sept—"In an attempt to make reforms for socio-economic development of the people, accuracy of facts and figures is crucial," said Chairman of the Committee for Implementing the Report of Letpadaungtaung Copper Project Investigation Commission Union Minister at President Office U Hla Tun at a ceremony to clarify regional development tasks by Actionaid Myanmar, at Win Unity Hotel, Monywa on 2 September.

Responsible persons from Actionaid Myanmar explained objectives and policies of Actionaid,

(See page 8)