

President receives Latvian Foreign Minister



*Latvian Minister of Foreign Affairs
Mr Edgars Rinkevics.—MNA*

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Sept—President U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Latvian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Edgars Rinkevics at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 11 am today.

At the call, they friendly discussed relationship between peoples of two nations through establishment of Latvia-Myanmar Friendship Association in 2009, establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 2012, cooperation in education, health, human resources development and tourism

industries, promotion of cooperation in information technology, environmental conservation, culture, economic, trade, international relations and bilateral relations between the two countries and prospects for signing of MoU on sector-wise cooperation.

The President extended an invitation to the President of Latvia to pay a goodwill visit to Myanmar.

Also present at the call were Union Ministers U Tin Naing Thein, Dr Kan Zaw and Dr Ko Ko Oo, Deputy Minister U Thant Kyaw and officials.

MNA



*President of the Republic of the Union of
Myanmar U Thein Sein.—MNA*

Timor-Leste PM and wife tour Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Sept—Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Security of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and wife Mrs. Kirsty Sword-Gusmão and party left here by car for Mandalay this morning.

They were seen off at Tawwin Nay Pyi Taw Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone by Union Minister U Aung Kyi and wife, Deputy Minister U Thant Kyaw and officials.

On arrival at Mandalay Hill Resort Hotel in Mandalay in the afternoon, the Timor-Leste Prime Minister, wife and

party were welcomed by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint and wife Daw Myat Ngwe and region ministers.

In the afternoon, the guests visited Myanan Sankyaw Golden Palace, Myanma cultural heritages at Cultural Museum, pagodas and stupas on Mandalay Hill and scenic beauties in Mandalay.

Later, they went round Mandalay in a motorcade.

In the evening, they attended the dinner hosted by the Region Chief Minister and wife at Mandalay Hill Resort Hotel.

MNA



*Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Security of Timor-Leste, wife
Mrs. Kirsty Sword-Gusmão and party visit Myanan Sankyaw Golden Palace in Mandalay. —MNA*



*Union Home Affairs Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko poses for documentary photo
with those present at the ceremony to mark Myanmar Anti-Trafficking in
Persons Day. —MNA*

Myanmar Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day observed

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Sept—Myanmar has been combating trafficking in persons as national duty since 1997, said Chairman of the Central Committee for Prevention against Trafficking in Persons Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko at the ceremony to mark the first Myanmar Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day at Thingaha Hotel, here, this morning.

Myanmar joined UN Convention on trafficking in human beings in 2004 and enacted Anti Trafficking

in Persons Law in 2005, he said.

Myanmar signed an MoU with six Greater Mekong Sub-region countries for implementation of human trafficking in the Mekong region countries. At present, Myanmar actively takes part in the Bali Process and regional mechanisms such as anti-human trafficking plans of ASEAN countries and Australia.

He urged those present to cooperate in fighting human trafficking in their respective sectors. If donor countries

cooperate more than ever with social organizations of the country, greater success will be achieved sooner, he noted.

Resident Coordinator of the US and Resident Representative of UNDP Mr Ashok Nigam, on behalf of the UN agencies, international organizations and donors, spoke words of thanks.

Later, the attendees were presented documentary video on endeavours of Myanmar in fighting human trafficking. —MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Construction

Roads in Mandalay upgraded for better transportation

MANDALAY, 13 Sept—The Roads and Bridges Department of Mandalay City Development Committee is carrying out repaving, asphalt and concreting the roads in Mandalay City.

In 2013-14 fiscal year, the department placed asphalt on the section between 35th and 37th streets in Mahaaungmye Township, between 69th and 71st streets, 58th street between 19th and 20th streets, concrete on 47th street between Gandama and Than streets, 48th street between Gandama and Than streets, Yuzana Street between 47th and 48th streets, gravel on Mingyi Yannaung Road between Mandalay-Lashio Road and circular road, earth on the

road to Gawdan mine in Shwekyetyet Village-tract of Amarapura Township.

With regard to self-reliant roads, asphalt was tarmacked on road section between 63rd and Ramma Uyin road, between 41st and 43rd streets, between 64th and 65th streets, between 39th and 40th streets, between 40th and 41st streets, between 70th and 71st streets, 71st street between 40th and 41st streets, between 64th and 65th streets and between Thazin and Ngupya streets in Myothit Ward 1 and Kywehsekan 11th street between Yangon-Mandalay Highway and railroad.

Kyemon-Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Crime

Stolen handsets, accessories seized in Mawlamyine



MAWLAMYINE, 13 Sept—Under the supervision of the commander of Mawlamyine Township Police Force, IP Khin Soe and SIP Khin Maung Htwe led the surveillance squad of the township in arresting those who stole GSM handsets and accessories on 9 September.

On 1 September, Ma Ei Pwint Phyu, owner of A8 shop at Daingwunkwin Market in Kyaikphane Ward of Mawlamyine opened a file that she lost 11 handsets and accessories worth K 400,000.

The policemen from Daingwunkwin police station proceeded with the case and seized the stolen property from Thet Lin (a) Thar Nge, 19 and Min Aung, 18 of Bagochaung in Shwemyaing Thiri Ward of Daingwunkwin area.

Daingwunkwin police

station opened files of lawsuit against them under the law.—*Kyemon-307*

Hselaydaw Village in Sagaing Tsp enjoys electricity through bio-gas Electrification

SAGAING, 13 Sept—Rural development and poverty alleviation become a drive for development of towns as well as rural areas.

Hselaydaw Village in Sagaing Township launched the electrification for the village with the concerted efforts of townselders and electrification committee as of 2000.

The committee got K 8 million as capital from District Peace and Development Committee at that time. With the technological assistance of Ko Myo Thukha, Ko Po Khwa and Ko Myo Aung, students of Kyaukse Technological University, the village built a bio-gas power station under the aegis of Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ukkansa of YwaU Pariyatti Monastery and townselders. On 23 December 2000, the engine of the power station could be built with the strength of local youths.

The power station is formed with 18 feet deep underground gas tank and



240 feet deep water wells and cow waste tank. The power station supplies electricity to 10 houses of the village on 8 October 2006 from 7 pm to 9.30 pm daily.

In the past, the village relied on two wells from the monastery. Yearly, they faced shortage of water in the village. So, they fetched

water from the wells, one mile from the village.

Most of the people from 483 population from the village are engaged in cultivation of monsoon sesame, green gram, pigeon and maize in early monsoon and wheat and cow pea in mid-monsoon on 561 acres of farmlands.

As part of prevention

against leak of gas from the tank in summer, water from the tank is pumped out and it is supplied to the local people.

Townselders supplied water with the use of two 1600-gallon water bowsters to the village on 7 September for the second time. Dr Hnin Hnin Sein and party gave health care to 100 local people.

At present, Sagaing Township (Townselders) Committee and Township Development Affairs Committee are providing necessary assistance to undertaking the development of Hselaydaw Village.

Kyemon-Htwe Myint Naing (Sagaing)

Milk fed to middle and primary students in Manhero

MANHERO, 13 Sept—Under the arrangement of Manhero Sub-Township of Muse District in Shan State (North), milk feeding was held at Basic Education High School in Manhero on 8 September.

Officials fed milk to 75 students of middle and primary students.

Sub-Township Administrator U Zin Aung of General Administration Department explained advantage of feeding milk.

Wellwishers and parents of students donate cash to fund for feeding milk to the students the whole year.

Kyemon-L Soe (IPRD)

Accident

Reckless driver taken action in Hpa-an

HPA-AN, 13 Sept—A traffic accident happened in front of Sun Set Tea Shop at 900-ton Cement Plant canteen in Hla Village of Hpa-an Township in Kayin State on 2 September morning.

IP Aung Than and party of Myainggale Police Station together with local authorities inspected the

scene. In the incident, Nay Htet Oo, 20, son of U Nyunt Maung, odd job, of Linlunmyaing Ward in Myainggying region with Ma Win Thaw Thaw Han on the back seat on Honda Click motorcycle driving from Thaton to Hpa-an hit Daw Ohn Myint, 67, daughter of U Tun Nyunt of 900-ton cement plant who crossed the road.

The injured was sent to Hpa-an General Hospital with the assistance of Maga social association.

Hpa-an Myoma Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against Nay Htet Oo under the law. Injured Daw Ohn Myint died at the hospital two days later.

Kyemon-Tun Tun Htwe (Hpa-an)

Rail Transportation

Traffic congestions shifted to growing number of train passengers in Yangon

YANGON, 13 Sept—As traffic congestions happen at traffic lights in Yangon

City, passenger people rely more and more on rail transportation, said an

official of Myanma Railways under the Ministry of Rail Transportation.



Crowded people seen at railway station to take train for their trips.

Due to increasing number of passengers, 20 circular trains are running in improved schedules.

"Train fare is cheaper than that of buses. Train can transport passengers to their destinations in shorter time than that of road transport. So, passengers taking the train taking the train are increasing day by day," said an official of Yangon Railways Station.

A plan is underway to change schedules of 20 circular trains.

About 80,000 passengers take trains daily.

Kyemon-K Thein Swe

WORLD

Spain strengthens transparency law intended to fight corruption

MADRID, 13 Sept—Lawmakers on Thursday passed amendments to beef up Spain's first freedom of information law, intended to attack corruption and restore plummeting public trust in politics and government.

A series of scandals has highlighted a lack of accountability in political parties and even the watchdogs charged with keeping them clean.

Spain is the only European Union nation without a law which guarantees citizens a right to information on how public funds are spent. The bill is expected to pass both houses of parliament within the next few weeks.

The original draft left out key institutions, including political parties, the royal family, lobbies,

unions and employers' associations, which were included in the amendments on Thursday.

"As things stand today Spanish democracy is not comparable with Britain or Scandinavia. Personal or political behaviour which would be unacceptable there have no consequences here," said Aitor Esteban, member of parliament for Basque nationalist party PNV, which voted in favour of the amendments.

Spaniards' tolerance for graft has faded as a five-year economic slump exposes how cosy relations between politicians and construction magnates fed a disastrous housing bubble.

Under the new law, all levels of government will have to provide clearer public records on which companies have government

contracts.

For the first time the royal family, traditionally protected from scrutiny, will be forced to provide details on finances beyond their annual allowance.

The prime minister's office has touted the law as one of the most advanced in the world, but anti-corruption activists say it is merely a step in the right direction.

European pressure group Access Info says the government will too easily be able to reject citizens' requests for information.

"If, for example, you ask for information about the royal family and you don't get a reply, you will probably have to go to court to enforce your request," said Helen Darbishire, the group's executive director.

Jesus Lizcano, chair-

man of the Madrid office of Transparency International, said the law would mark a new era for access to official information.

"This legislation is tremendously important. There are things in it that we would have wanted to develop further but there are still plenty of things we needed," he said.

The governing People's Party, under judicial investigation for alleged illegal financing, has been accused of offering the transparency legislation to clean up its image.

Opinion polls show political parties are the least trusted of any public institutions in Spain. The royal family's image has also suffered as the king's son-in-law is charged with embezzling six million euros in public funds.—Reuters

UK: Syria weapons deal must identify, secure all arms



British Foreign Secretary William Hague addresses a media conference in Cape Town, on 10 Sept, 2013. REUTERS

LONDON, 13 Sept—British Foreign Secretary William Hague said on Thursday any deal to place Syria's chemical weapons under international control had to be enforceable and ensure the arsenal did not fall into the wrong hands.

"The United Kingdom will make every effort to negotiate an enforceable agreement that credibly, reliably and promptly places the regime's chemical weapons stock under international control for destruction," Hague told parliament.

"We will need to have confidence that all chemical weapons have been identified and secured and that they would not fall into the wrong hands," he added. Hague was speaking as US Secretary of

State John Kerry flew into Geneva to hear Russia's plan to place Syria's chemical weapons under international control, an initiative that has transformed diplomacy over a two-and-a-half year old civil war.

Hague said Britain supported the idea in principle, but warned there would be "immense practical difficulties" in properly implementing such an initiative.

The United States' decision to consider military action against Syria and growing evidence that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad was behind a chemical weapons attack helped persuade Russia to change its stance towards its ally in the Middle East, Hague added.

Reuters

Syria says to join int'l chemical weapons ban treaty

Moscow, 13 Sept—Syria has expressed its intention to join a chemical weapons ban treaty, accepting a Russian proposal to put its arsenal of chemical weapons under international supervision, according to an interview of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad aired on Thursday by a Russian TV.

It is the first time that Assad himself has acknowledged the country's possession of chemical weapons and declared its intention to join the Chemical Weapons

Convention.

The move came days after the US government threatened to strike Syria over alleged chemical attacks by Syrian government forces on civilians.

In New York, the United Nations has received a document of accession to the treaty, a spokesperson for the UN Secretary General indicated on Thursday, describing it as the first step toward becoming a party to the convention.

Kyodo News

Syria now full member of chemical arms pact

UNITED NATIONS, 13 Sept—Syria became a full member of the global anti-chemical weapons treaty on Thursday, the country's UN envoy said, a move that the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad had promised as part of a deal to avoid US air strikes.

"Legally speaking Syria has become, starting today, a full member of the (chemical weapons) con-

vention," Syrian UN Ambassador Bashar Ja'afari told reporters in New York after submitting relevant documents to the United Nations.

Syria was one of only seven countries not to have joined the 1997 Chemical Weapons Convention, which commits members to completely destroying their stockpiles.

Reuters



Syrian UN Ambassador Bashar Ja'afari speaks to reporters at the United Nations headquarters in New York, on 3 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

Cairo accuses Gaza's Hamas of training Egyptian militants



A soldier mans a machine gun on top of an armoured personnel carrier (APC) near the al-Fath mosque on Ramses Square in Cairo, on 11 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

CAIRO, 13 Sept—Egyptian state television on Thursday accused Palestinian Hamas of training Egyptian Islamists in how to carry out bombings, piling yet more pressure on the

Muslim Brotherhood, ally of Hamas. In neighbouring Gaza, the ruling Hamas Islamists strongly denied the allegations. Egypt has faced turmoil since the army forced the Brotherhood's Mohamed

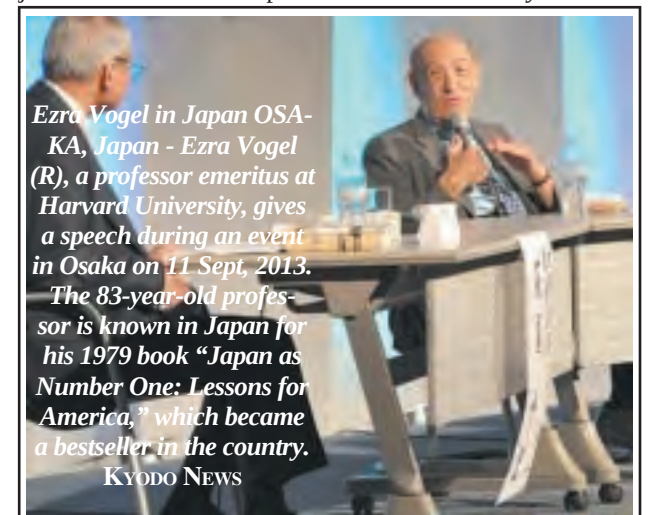
Mursi from the presidency in July. A week ago the interior minister survived an assassination attempt in Cairo, amid fears the country could face an Islamist insurgency.

The allegations that Ha-

mas has been training Egyptian militants could lead the military-backed authorities to escalate their crackdown on the Brotherhood.

"Security authorities have learned that the military wing of the Hamas movement trained several people to undertake car bombing operations and trained various others to make explosives," said a presenter on state television.

"The military wing of the Hamas movement provided various Salafi jihadists and also other religious currents with 400 landmines. The security apparatus documented this and they will be arrested," Fawzi Barhoum, spokesman for the Islamist group that controls the Gaza Strip, said of the report: "This is completely incorrect". It was an "attempt to demonize Hamas", he added.—Reuters



Ezra Vogel in Japan OSAKA, Japan - Ezra Vogel (R), a professor emeritus at Harvard University, gives a speech during an event in Osaka on 11 Sept, 2013. The 83-year-old professor is known in Japan for his 1979 book "Japan as Number One: Lessons for America," which became a bestseller in the country. KYODO NEWS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Engineers searching for smartphone innovation look within

SAN FRANCISCO, 13 Sept — As Apple and other smartphone makers find it harder to wow consumers with new devices, engineers think future breakthroughs may depend more on finding new ways to integrate existing components than on inventing more powerful chips. Apple's new iPhone 5S introduced on Tuesday shows how difficult it is to keep coming up with compelling innovations after years of blockbuster hits. The new device boasts a fingerprint reader and a beefed up processor, but it failed to inspire a rally on Wall Street

typical of past smartphone launches by the Cupertino, California, company.

While the first iPhone captivated the world in 2007 with multitouch screens and Apple's intuitive iOS platform, more recent top tier phones have featured less spectacular breakthroughs and consumers are becoming harder to impress. Many on Wall Street are concerned that serious smartphone innovation is drying up.

The new iPhone's inclusion of an emerging kind of chip, called the M7, points to where Apple and engineers at other technology compa-

nies are delving for future innovation that they hope will keep consumers hyped up about to smartphones. The M7, along with similar chips used by rival Samsung Electronics, helps smartphone makers take a small step among many toward what experts call contextual or perceptual computing — an emerging trend of enabling smartphones and other devices to continuously integrate data from cameras, microphones and other sensors so that devices can monitor the environment constantly and in real time, and react to it intelligently.—Reuters



A staff member sets up the new iPhone 5Ss for a display picture at Apple Inc's announcement event in Beijing, on 11 Sept, 2013.

REUTERS

Scientists confirm Voyager 1 probe is in interstellar space

CAPE CANAVERAL, 13 Sept — Scientists have been debating for more than a year as to whether NASA's 36-year-old Voyager 1 spacecraft has left the solar system and become the first human-made object to reach interstellar space.

By a fluke measurement, they now know definitively that it has.

"We made it," lead Voyager scientist Edward Stone, from the California Institute of Technology, told reporters on Thursday.

The definitive piece of evidence came by chance when a pair of solar flares blasted charged particles in Voyager's direction in 2011 and 2012. It took a year for the particles to reach the spacecraft, providing information that could be used to determine how dense the plasma was in Voyager's location.

Extrapolating from the

measurements, scientists believe Voyager actually left the solar system in August 2012. That summer, the spacecraft radioed back another key piece of information, showing a huge spike in the number of galactic cosmic rays from outside the solar system and a corresponding decrease in particles emanating from the sun.

Voyager 1, now 13 billion miles (21 billion km) away from Earth, could not make the measurement directly because its plasma detector stopped working more than 30 years ago.

"This was basically a lucky gift from the sun," Stone said.

Plasma are basically charged particles and are more prevalent in the ex-

treme cold of interstellar space than in the hot bubble of solar wind that permeates the solar system.

Scientists had been reluctant to conclude last year that Voyager had reached interstellar space because it was still picking up magnetic field measurements that were very similar to the sun's magnetic field.

Computer models had predicted a significant shift in the interstellar magnetic field's alignment.

"The magnetic fields is still something that puzzles us considerably," said physicist Gary Zank, with the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

Scientists now believe the interstellar magnetic field is somehow draped around and twisted by the heliosphere, the bubble of space under the sun's influence.

Reuters



An undated artist's concept shows NASA's Voyager 1 spacecraft.—REUTERS

Nokia 114 gets Urdu language support

2,549.

The Nokia 114 is a dual-SIM handset, which comes with Nokia's Easy Swap technology. It comes with a 1.8-inch QVGA colour LCD display. It has a 1020mAh battery, which according to the company gives up to 10 hours of talk-time and up to 637 hours of standby time.

There is a 0.3-megapixel rear camera on-board, and the phone supports expandable storage up to 32GB via microSD card.

The handset comes with the cloud-accelerated

Nokia Xpress browser, which the company claims to offer 85 percent more efficient mobile browsing.

Popular social networking apps such as Facebook and Twitter come pre-loaded on this handset. One can also download games and utility applications on this handset through Nokia Store. For connectivity, this handset supports Bluetooth.

Commenting on the launch, P.Balaji, Managing Director, Nokia India, said, "Given the regional diversity of our country, ability to communicate in the re-

gional language has come across as a key expectation amongst our consumers. We were the first mobile company to support content and user interface in 11 Indian languages in India.

Introducing Urdu key-mat in Nokia 114 is another such initiative to reach out to our consumer across the country."

Nokia also notes that it supports regional language content in 11 Indian languages that include Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Gujarati, Bengali, Oriya, Assamese, Punjabi, and Marathi.—PTI



Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff speaks during a ceremony where she signs into law, the bill that allocates the country's oil royalties to education and health care, at the Planalto Palace in Brasilia on 9 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

Brazil's Rousseff targets Internet companies after NSA spying

SAO PAULO, 13 Sept—Angered by reports that the US government spied on her and other Brazilians, President Dilma Rousseff is pushing new legislation that would seek to force Google, Facebook and other Internet companies to store locally gathered data inside Brazil.

The requirement would be difficult to execute, technology experts say, given high costs and the global nature of the Internet. Still, Rousseff's initiative is one of the most tangible signs to date of a backlash following revelations that the US National Security Agency monitored emails, phone calls and other communications abroad.

The legislation, which is being written by a legislator in Rousseff's left-wing Workers' Party and is scheduled to be completed next week, would force foreign-based Internet companies to maintain data centres inside Brazil that would then be governed by

Brazilian privacy laws, officials said.

Internet companies operating in Brazil are currently free to put data centres wherever they like. Facebook Inc, for example, stores its global data in the United States and a new complex in Sweden.

Rousseff believes that the change would help shield Brazilians from further US prying into their activities, and she is considering urging other countries to take similar measures when she speaks at the United Nations General Assembly later this month, a senior Brazilian official told Reuters.

"This would be a turning point for these companies," the official said, naming Facebook, Google Inc and Microsoft Corp as examples, although they would not be the only companies affected. "If you want to work here, you will have to obey our rules."

Reuters



NEW YORK, 13 Sept — Nokia has refreshed its feature phone, the Nokia 114, adding Urdu language support. It will begin retailing for Rs. 2,579. The Nokia 114 was launched at the beginning of this year for Rs.

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Growth range leaves leeway for restructuring, reforms



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang addresses the opening ceremony of the Annual Meeting of the New Champions 2013, also known as Summer Davos, in Dalian, northeast China's Liaoning Province, on 11 Sept, 2013.

XINHUA

DALIAN, 13 Sept — While the world watches for recovery signs in the world's second-largest economy, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's emphasis on "reasonable range" growth underscored the government's resolve to push forward reforms and

balance growth speed and quality.

At the opening ceremony of the Annual Meeting of the New Champions 2013, also known as Summer Davos, Li described the reasonable growth range he first proposed in July as a benchmark for policy ad-

justments. This range is marked by a lower limit designed to ensure steady growth and job creation and an upper limit meant to avert inflation.

"As long as the economy runs within the reasonable range, we will keep macroeconomic policies generally stable and focus on shifting the growth model and structural readjustment," Li said.

His remarks assured the outside world that China's economy is not losing control and underscored the government's intent to capitalize on a slowly stabilizing economy in order to carry out restructuring and reforms for the long-term good, analysts said.

"Pure pursuit of a high growth rate is not conducive to economic transformation. If the economy goes beyond the upper limit, China should rethink its policies," said Zhang Yan-sheng, secretary general of

the Academic Committee of the National Development and Reform Commission, adding that a range between 7 to 7.5 percent would be ideal for China's balancing act. In Wednesday's speech, Li said China's current growth is at a "medium to high rate," recognizing that China has entered a new stage divorced from the double-digit expansion of the past decade.

The focus now should turn from headline growth to other detailed economic indicators measuring quality and efficiency, Zhang said, arguing silver linings can be found in last year's growth, even though the economy is at a 13-year low.

He cited fast employment growth, the greater role of consumption, and steady growth of the service sector as evidence of a gradually transforming economy.

Xinhua

Oil prices rise as US supplies drop

NEW YORK, 13 Sept — Oil prices gained on Wednesday as US crude inventories decreased last week. Energy Information Administration said on Wednesday crude supplies shrank 200,000 barrels to 360 million barrels for the week ending 6 Sept. Gasoline supplies rose 1.7 million barrels to 217.6 million barrels.

Worries about Syria eased as US President Barack Obama said on Tuesday night that the United States will make joint efforts with Russia and other partners to work on a United Nations resolution making Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's government give up chemical weapons.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov made a proposal Monday, asking Syria to "place its chemical weapons stockpiles under international control so they

can be destroyed." Syrian Foreign Minister said on Tuesday in Moscow that his government had agreed to the Russian initiative.

Obama also asked Congress to postpone a vote on the military strike against Syria, and let more time for diplomacy to work.

On the economic front, US mortgage applications tumbled 13.5 percent from one week earlier, according to data from the Mortgage Bankers Association's Weekly Mortgage Applications Survey for the week ending 6 September.

Moreover, US wholesale inventories and sales ticked up in July, according to the Commerce Department. Inventories at the wholesale level edged up 0.1 percent to 500 billion US dollars in July from the revised June level, while wholesale sales also rose 0.1 percent.—Xinhua

Exercise may help alleviate depression

NEW YORK, 13 Sept — Exercise may help ease symptoms of depression, according to a fresh look at past research.

Researchers who analyzed data from previous studies found people who exercised experienced a "moderate" reduction in their depressive symptoms compared to those who did other activities, such as using relaxation techniques, or received no treatment. "This review provides some additional evidence that there may be some benefit (to exercise)," Dr. Gillian Mead, the study's senior author from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, told Reuters Health.

A 2009 review from the Cochrane Collaboration, an international organization that evaluates medical research, found similar results, but more studies looking at the link between exercise and depression

have since been published.

"We'd become aware of some new trials in the area and — in general — the Cochrane review should be kept updated if there is new evidence that may lead to changes," Mead said.

About one in ten Americans reports being depressed, according to the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. The most popular treatments for depression include antidepressant medi-

cations and psychotherapy.

Mead and her fellow researchers write in The Cochrane Library, however, that many people prefer alternative treatments, and some doctors recommend exercise as a potential option. For the new review, they searched databases for all medical trials conducted through March 2013 that compared exercise among adults with depression to other activities or no treatment.—Reuters



Clients work out on machines at the Bally Total Fitness facility in Arvada, Colorado on 15 June, 2009.—REUTERS

Sugary drinks possible cause of gout

WELLINGTON, 13 Sept — Sufferers of gout might soon be advised to add sugary drinks to the list of foods that can cause the painful and crippling affliction to flare up, according to a New Zealand study released on Thursday.

Red meat, seafood and beer are already known to trigger high levels of uric acid that cause the arthritic ailment, but scientists at the universities of Otago and Auckland have also discovered a human gene variant that can "turn bad" when affected by sugary drinks.

The study showed that when the variant of the gene SLC2A9 behaved correctly, it helped transport uric acid out of the blood stream and facilitated its excretion through the kidney.

"But when people with this gene variant consume sugary drinks, it takes on Jekyll and Hyde characteristics; the apparent function



of the gene variant reverses, such that we think uric acid is instead transported back into the blood stream and the risk of gout is increased," Associate Professor Tony Merri-man, of Otago's Department of Biochemistry, said in a statement. "So not only does sugar raise uric acid in the blood due to processing in the liver, but it also appears to directly interfere with excretion of uric acid from the kidney. This was a quite unpredictable interaction," he said.

"Each daily 300-milliliter serving of sugar-

sweetened drink increases the chance of gout by 13 percent." As a result of the research, he recommended that in addition to taking prescribed medicines, people with gout should avoid sugary drinks.

Gout is caused when uric acid in the blood crystallizes in the joints, causing them to become inflamed. It is the most common form of arthritis in New Zealand, particularly among men, and has strong links with other metabolic diseases such as diabetes, heart and kidney disease.—Xinhua

FDA panel backs approval of Roche drug in early breast cancer

BERN, 13 Sept — Roche Holding AG's drug Perjeta, currently approved to treat metastatic breast cancer, should also be approved to help shrink tumours prior to surgery, an advisory panel of the US Food and Drug Administration said on Thursday.

The panel voted 13 to 0, with one abstention, that the drug's benefits

outweighed its risk, even though the trial to determine its safety and efficacy was small, with 107 patients taking Perjeta in combination with Roche's drug Herceptin and chemotherapy and 107 taking Herceptin plus chemotherapy alone.

Perjeta would be the first drug to be approved to shrink tumours prior to surgery in the United States.

Dr Mikkael Sekeres of the Cleveland Clinic and chairman of the advisory committee described the vote as historic. The FDA is not required to follow its panel's advice but typically does so.

The drug, also known as pertuzumab, is designed for patients whose tumours contain excess levels of the HER-2 protein. It was developed by

Roche's Genentech unit. In the neoadjuvant, or pre-surgical setting, the hope is that it will shrink tumours and make them easier to remove.

Panelists concluded that the totality of the evidence, including the drug's relative safety in advanced breast cancer, tilted their decision in favour of approval despite the small trial size.—Reuters



The logo of the Swiss drugmaker Roche is seen on a factory in Burgdorf near Bern, Switzerland in this 17 Nov, 2010 file photo.—REUTERS

California lawmakers vote to raise minimum wage to \$10 an hour by 2016

SACRAMENTO, 13 Sept — Minimum wage workers in California would earn \$10 an hour by 2016 under a bill passed by the legislature on Thursday, making the state likely to become the first in the nation to commit to such a high rate.

The bill, which Governor Jerry Brown said he will sign, would increase the minimum wage for hourly workers in the most populous US state from the current rate of \$8 an hour to \$9 in July 2014, and to \$10

by January 2016.

"The minimum wage has not kept pace with rising costs," Brown, a Democrat, said in a statement. "This legislation is overdue and will help families that are struggling in this harsh economy."

Brown, protective of the state's tenuous economic recovery, had initially opposed the bill but agreed to support it on Wednesday after leaders of both houses of the Democratic-led state legislature agreed to postpone the effective date of the raise until 2016.

The measure won support from Democrats, passing the Senate on a vote of 26-11 and the Assembly on a vote of 51-25. But it was opposed by many Republicans who said it would hurt small businesses and ultimately cost some low-wage workers their jobs.

"The impact of this is not on huge employers," said Republican Senator Jim Nielsen, who represents much of the far northern part of the state near the Oregon border. "It is on the smaller employer, the mom and pop operation."

To get the bill passed, leaders in the more conservative state Assembly had to win over business-friendly Democrats who were initially skeptical.

Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi, a Democrat who represents the Los Angeles suburb of Torrance, said he voted against the bill when it was initially introduced. But after it was amended



to include a later, and more specific, date for the rise to \$10 per hour, he was more comfortable with it.

"This time I'm supporting this bill because it is a compromise," Muratsuchi said. "It gives employers predictability to plan for the higher labour costs."

No state currently pays \$10 per hour to minimum wage workers, and that rate is well above the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour. The current highest state minimum wage is \$9.19 in Washington state.

Reuters

Iran ready to improve transparency, but will never give up nuclear right

VIENNA, 13 Sept — The new Iranian envoy to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Thursday said Teheran was ready to remove ambiguity on over disputed nuclear plans, but stressed Iran would never give up its established nuclear right under the non-proliferation treaty (NPT).

"Iran is ready to faithfully engage and remove any ambiguity on its nuclear activities," Reza Najafi, the new Iranian ambassador to the UN nuclear watchdog, said in his first speech to the agency's closed-door board meeting.

He said Teheran was ready to cooperate with the agency constructively on the nuclear issue.

Fresh rounds of talks between Iran and the IAEA are scheduled on 27 September in Vienna. Ten rounds of previous talks have failed to make substantial progress in the past two years. Najafi reiterated Iran would never compromise on its "inalienable right to develop nuclear programme."



Iran's new ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Reza Najafi smiles as he arrives for a board of governors meeting at the IAEA headquarters in Vienna on 9 Sept, 2013. —REUTERS

Iranian President Hassan Rohani appointed Najafi to replace Ali Asghar Soltanieh, whose relation with the the IAEA was seen as a source of tension by the agency.

Najafi's appointment is

seen by the West as a sign that Iran's moderate president seeks a diplomatic resolution to the decade-long nuclear dispute.

Western states have long accused Iran of developing nuclear weapons under the cover of Teheran's nuclear power plans — an allegation Iran strongly denies and has repeatedly dismissed.—Xinhua

Japan to closely watch Syria's commitment to chemical weapons ban

TOKYO, 13 Sept — The Japanese government will closely watch Syria's course of action after President Bashar al-Assad expressed his country's intention to join a chemical weapons ban treaty, with the United Nations having received a document of accession to the treaty, Japanese officials said on Friday.

"We must continue

to watch closely whether Syria will take action in a sincere manner and how the consultations between the United States, Russia and the other countries concerned will proceed," Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a news conference the same day that the Japanese government will continue to

closely coordinate moves with the countries concerned.

Praising the efforts by the international community to prevent Syria from using chemical weapons, Kishida said Japan intends to do what it can to help stop violence, facilitate dialogue and improve poor humanitarian conditions in Syria.

Kyodo News



Jyoti Amge attends a Guinness World Records ceremony to certify her as the world's shortest living woman at the Empire State Building in New York on 12 Sept, 2013. The 19-year-old woman from India is 62.7 centimetres tall.

KYODO NEWS



People visit the "Harbin" missile destroyer of Chinese Navy at Sattahip naval base in Chon Buri Province of Thailand, on 12 Sept, 2013. On invitation from Thailand's navy, three Chinese Navy ships called at Thailand's Sattahip naval base on Thursday for a five-day visit on their way back to China from an escort mission in the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somali.

XINHUA

Pakistan to raise issue of US drone attacks at UN

ISLAMABAD, 13 Sept — Pakistan plans to raise the issue of American drone attacks in its tribal regions at the United Nations, the Foreign Ministry said on Thursday. The US spy aircraft has routinely fire missiles into Waziristan tribal region which Pakistan says kills innocent people and that the attacks are against sovereignty of the country.

The United States has refused to halt the CIA's covert drone campaign.

"Pakistan has started preparations to raise the issue of drone attacks at the United Nations in accordance with the recommendation of the country's politi-

cal parties," Foreign Office spokesman Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry said. Speaking at the weekly briefing in Islamabad, the spokesman said necessary directives have been issued to the Pakistani missions in New York and Geneva. The spokesman rejected any agreement with the United States on the use of drone attacks and said these violate territorial sovereignty and integrity.

"The US drone strikes are counterproductive against the forces of terrorism and extremism," he said, adding the international community has also supported Pakistan's stance on drone attacks.—Xinhua

China urges resumed Korean Peninsula six-party talks

BEIJING, 13 Sept — A senior Chinese diplomat on Wednesday called on all parties involved to make greater efforts for the resumption of six-party talks on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue, the Chinese Foreign Ministry's spokesman said here on Thursday. Hong Lei told a routine Press briefing that Wu Dawei, China's special representative for Korean Peninsula affairs, held talks with Glyn Davies, visiting US special representative for policy on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Wednesday.

The two diplomats had an in-depth exchange of views on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue and re-

sumption of the six-party talks, Hong said.

Wu urged greater efforts for denuclearization of the peninsula, maintaining peace and stability in the area as well as resolving related issues through dialogue and consultation so as to create conditions for the resumption of the six-party talks, according to the spokesman.

Wu noted that his talks with Davies were held close to the 10th anniversary of the first round of the six-party talks and the eighth anniversary of the 19 Sept, 2005 joint statement, Hong said, adding that the two sides agreed to continue to maintain close communication on related issues.—Xinhua

LOCAL NEWS

Environment

Saplings distributed to people

Forestry officials distribute saplings to local people in Hsipaw.



HSIPAW, 13 Sept—As part of environmental conservation, saplings were distributed to the people in 2013 monsoon in Hsipaw of Shan State (North).

On 10 September, Chairman of Hsipaw Township Environmental Conservation Committee Township Administrator U Myo Tint Zaw, Staff Officer of Township Forest

Department U Soe Moe and staff distributed saplings to local people who are wishing to grow trees really.

Officials explained techniques of growing the trees.

Hsipaw Township Forest Department conserves 30050 teak plants at the commercial teak plantation and 30300 saplings for the public and nurtures 10000

mezali saplings of the Shan State government, 5000 teak saplings and 6000 perennial trees.—MMAL-072

Cash, blankets donated to nuns

MANDALAY, 13 Sept—Nuns from China (Taipei) donated K 20000 and one blanket each to over 5150 nuns from Amarapura, Patheingyi, PyinOoLwin,

Menace of drugs disseminated to people

YANGON, 13 Sept—Yangon Region Police Force performs educative talks on danger of narcotic drugs and distribution of pamphlets on crime knowledge at wards and villages as of May 2013.

The police force assigned duties to respective police stations in townships of Yangon Region raising public awareness on crime reduction and danger of drugs with the use of tapes and speakers.

MMAL-Soe Win SP

Nawngkhio and Kyaukme townships and to over 7000 nuns from Sagaing hill in Sagaing.

MMAL-Aye Mya (Mandalay)

Students fed milk in Nyaunglebin Township



NYAUNGLEBIN, 13 Sept—Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department performed milk feeding along with educative talks at Basic Education Primary School in Sangale Village of Nyaunglebin Township on 11 September morning. Officials of the department fed one bottle of milk to each student.

Head of Township LBVD Dr Hsan Wai Phyoo gave talks on techniques

for livestock breeding for rural development and poverty alleviation, ways for treatment of animals, prevention against animal diseases, breeding of pigs and milch cows. He formed the blue cross society in the village and replied to queries raised by those present.

Later, village administrator U Than Soe spoke words of thanks.

Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)

Railroads in downtown Monywa under maintenance

MONYWA, 13 Sept—With the aim of developing western part of Ayeyawady River, Ywahtaung-Myinmu-Monywa-Ahlon railroad was constructed in 1900.

The railroad linked the regions between Chindwin and Ayeyawady Rivers.

Ahlon on Chindrin River bank had easy access to Ywahtaung on Ayeyawady River bank through water way and railroad. Likewise, the facility was linked Sagaing and Monywa.

Monywa becomes a focal point for the region due to junction of water way, motor road, railroad and aviation.

Thus, all-out efforts are being made in creating Monywa with city characteristics.

Thus, the infrastructures of the town are being upgraded.

Meanwhile, Myanma Railway under the Ministry of Rail Transportation is weeding the yard of Monywa Station and maintenance of rail tracks along the railroad and carrying out sanitation.

MMAL-Maung Min

Aviation

ANA to fly Yangon-Tokyo schedules with Boeing 767

YANGON, 13 Sept—Tourism industry is booming day by day in Myanmar. It contribute much to development of aviation.

In the past, All Nippon Airways (ANA) flied the route between Yangon International Airport and Narita Airport thrice a week with the use of business flight as part of developing tourism industry between Myanmar and Japan. As of 30 September, Boeing 767-300 ER airplane will run along the route, said Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe in his address delivered at the ceremony to constitute the Myanmar

Japan Association (MJA) at Sedona Hotel in Yangon on 6 September.

The Boeing 767-300 ER is complete with 202 seats, of which 35 are of business class.

Ko Win Kyaw Aung of Hein Si International Travel and Tour said, "The run of Boeing 767 from ANA is the best for passengers. The flight service will be better for them. In the past, the flight numbers are a few. Now, increasing number of flight will create options for the passengers. Likewise, domestic tour agencies will get off the ground."

MMAL-Nay Lin (MNA)

Business

Rice sold to Wadan brokerage by boat



YANGON, 13 Sept—Merchants from eight townships of Ayeyawady Region sell over 48000 bags of rice to townships of Yangon

Region in addition to Wadan Brokerage in Lanmadaw Township of Yangon Region daily.

A number of boats small and large transported rice from Ayeyawady Region to Yangon on 9 September.

From 1 to 7 September, brokerages opened their sales six days.

During the period, 290,182 bags of rice flowed into the brokerages.

On 9 September, prices of rice reached K 24000-K 28000 per bag of Pawhsan from Pyapon and Dedaye township, K 245000 to K 295000 per bag of Pawhsan from Myaungmya and Pathein, K 24000 to K 25500 per bag of Pawhsan from various regions, K 15500-18000 per bag of Emahta,

K 15500 to K 16500 per bag of Ngasein, K 20500 to 16500 of Meedon, K 33000 to 34500 per bag of Shwebo Pawhsan (new), K 23000 per bag of Monsoon Hsan Special Thukha (old) and K 19500 per bag of monsoon Ziya.

Prices of Pyapon and Dedaye Pawhsan and Meedon and Shwebo Pawhsan exceeded K 500 more than that of July's prices.

On 9 September, Weponla double dekker ship carried 1500 bags of rice, Hsinkhalauk ship 1000 bags of rice from Kyonmange, Yinmin motor 3000 bags of rice and Sein Duwun Chun motorboat 2000 bags of rice from Kyaikpi to Yangon.

MMAL-Aung Than (Mingala Taungnyunt)



Shamanism in Myanmar (Part II)

The strangest and most widespread shamanism in Myanmar is the shamanism of 37 nat spirits of Myanmar Pantheon. Unlike Hindu deities and Greek and Roman gods and goddesses, Myanmar nat spirits were originally human beings. They were kings, queens, concubines, princes, princesses, ministers, military men, heroes and heroines who had served for public welfare and interest or employed in royal or public services with outstanding performances. But due to punishment, assassination, loss of life on battlefield, fatal accident, diseases, overdose of drug, intoxication, or attack by wild beasts or snake, they died of untimely violent death. It is a common belief among all civilizations that a person who dies of a violent death his spirit lingers on until and unless it has got a place to rest.

Generally Myanmar 37 nat spirits are classified into two categories—(1) Atwin 37 nat spirits and (2) Apyin 37 nat spirits. When you visit Shwezigon Pagoda in Bagan, you will find a shrine of 37 nat spirits' idols in the inner compound of the pagoda. So that is Atwin 37 nat spirits' category. Another shrine of 37 nat spirits' idols in the outer compound, they are Apyin 37 nat spirits.

We shall deal with the Apyin 37 nat spirits which are directly associated with shamanism and shaman. The first of the 37 is Saka Deva, Thunder god of Hindu deities. Only the remaining 36 are Myanmar nat spirits. The following is the list arranged according to their spirit seniority and protocol.

(1) Eintwin Min Maha Giri [Blacksmith Maung Tint Dei of Dagaung (2) His younger sister Shwe Myat Hnar (3) His wife Shwe Nabei, dragon nat (4) Thonepan Hla, his youngest sister (5) Ma Hne Mi, daughter of Thonepan Hla, (6) Taung Ma Gyi (Shin Nyo) (7) Myauk Min (Shin Hpyu) both sons of Shwe Nabei (8) Htee Hpyu Saung [King Kwan Zaw, the father of Anawrahta] (9) Htee Hpyu Saung Meidaw (mother of Htee Hpyu Saung) (10) Preinma Shin Min Khaung (King Kwan

Zaw's son) (11) Shwe Hypin Gyi (12) Shwe Hpyin Nge (13) Mandalay Bodaw (14) Shin Kwa (15) Nyaung Chin Oh (died of leprosy) (16) Min Sithu (King Alaung Sithu) (17) Dan Maung Shin (died in the fall from a swing) (18) Kyaw Swa (Pakhan Min Kyaw Swa) died of violent death due to drunkenness) (19) Aung Swa Magyi [Myin Hpyu Shin) (20) Shwe Sit Thin (21) Meidaw Shwe Saga (22) Nga Zee Shin (23) Mintaya Nat (24) Maung Po Tu (Tea merchant) (eaten by a tiger) (25) Anauk Miphaya, queen (died of gynaecologic disease) (26) Aung Pinlei Hshibyu Shin (27) Shin Kone (28) Shwe Nawrahta (punished to death) a good Gulee (Polo) player (29) Min Ye Aung Tin (drug addict) (30) Maung Min Hpyu (drug addict and drunkenness) (31) Shin Taw (a novice monk bitten by a snake) (32) Tabin Shwe Htee (assassinated) (33) Myaukphet Shinma (died in child birth) (34) Taungoo Shin Min Khaung (35) Thandaw Khan (snake bite) and (36) Yun Bayin (King of chienmai (died of high fever).

This is the list of 37 Nat spirits recorded in the "37 nat spirits' music, songs and dances" compiled by Minister Wungyi Padethayaza of Inwa Period. There are different versions by different compilers.

The last version of the 37 nat spirits list was compiled

I. Historic Periods and number of nat spirits of each period.	
(a) Bagan Period [11 th – 14 th centuries A.D.]	22 nat spirits
(b) Pinya Period [13 th – 14 th centuries A.D.]	1 nat spirit
(c) Inwa Period [14 th – 16 th centuries A.D.]	9 nat spirits
(d) Taungoo Period [16 th – 17 th centuries A.D.]	5 nat spirits
Total	37
II. Social Status	
(a) Kings	10
(b) Queens and concubines	6
(c) Princes and Princesses	6
(d) Ministers and service men	8
(e) Merchants and commoners	6
Total	36
III. Ethnic origin	
(a) Myanmar	28
(b) Mon	2
(c) Shan	1
(d) Indo-Myanmar	2
(e) Brahmin	2
(f) Yun (chiengmai)	1
Total	36
IV. Causes of violent death	
(a) Burnt by fire, eaten or bitten by tiger, snake, execution, assassination	22
(b) Fatal diseases	11
(c) Drug and alcohol	2
(d) Leprosy	1
Total	36

by Shamans Kawi Dewa Kyaw Thu, Dewa Shwe Taing Kyaw and Dewa Pyan Chi who were assigned by King Mindon in the years 1856 and 1857 A.D.

Each of these nat spirits has its own jurisdictional area demarcated by Myanmar kings who built nat shrine, annual festival in specific month and on specific dates. Specific music, songs and dances, specific style of offertories were prescribed by royal orders.

These nat spirits have their chosen shaman or spirit

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

mediums. Normally male nat spirits choose beautiful female shamans and female nat spirits handsome male shamans.

But in these days of Globalization Age, gender no longer counts, not only in human society but also in spirits' world, one cannot say for sure who are real believers and real shamans, because transvestites and gays dominate at nat spirits festivals and functions which provide good occasions for gay gatherings on local, national and international levels with boom of world tourism.

The following lists provide you historic periods, status, ethnic origin, gender and causes of violent death of Myanmar 36 nat spirits.

These 36 nat spirits are benefactors to their believers and worshippers. They are hostile to those who insult them. Believers contact and consult them either directly or mostly through shaman mediums. Men, women, girls or boys who become shaman mediums invoke respective nat spirits who will possess them. During the possession, the possessed mediums behave like the possessor spirit, mime, talk, sing, dance and joke like the possessor spirit. You consult the possessed

medium. There is a kind of contract between the nat spirit and the consultant with agent shaman as witness. If your wishes are fulfilled by nat spirit, you promise to give reward—cash or kind, silk wears, liquor, food and luxuries to nat spirit, through agent shaman. If you fail to keep your contract, great harm will be done to you by the angry nat spirit. Believers are convinced that such kind of contract does work. But the skepticals jeer that such mediums are fake. They are acting to earen for their living. When your wishes are fulfilled the non-believers rule out "sheer coincidences".

True, or false quite apart, shamanism of Myanmar 37 nat spirits is flourishing within and outside the country even in the present 21st century of I.C.T Age. The most well-known and popular festival is Taungbyone Festival and Yadanagu Festival of the two nat spirits brother Shwe Hpyin Gyi and Shwe Hpyin Nge. Their two annual festivals in Myanmar month of Wakhaung (August) east lasts over one week. Local and foreign believers and worshippers came to these festivals. Shaman mediums earn a good living out of their shamanistic practice.

There are hereditary shamans called Tho-saung nat-kadaw who claimed their descendancy from the time of King Anawrahta [1044-1077 A.D.] who assigned their forefathers to the care of nat spirits, the management of the land and revenue granted to nat

(See page 9)

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 14 September, 2013

SEA Games, broad interpretation

The phrase "Myanmar sports the world to conquer" was first coined in 1990s and has been used as a motto for Myanmar sports. But, except when Myanmar ladies stepped onto international stage to win Miss Internet awards, Myanmar sports have hardly won a game in international competition, putting the ambitious motto into reverse.

The golden age of Myanmar sports, especially of football, is rather like a tall tale to younger generations. To repeat the history has been always hard for Myanmar national athletes. In fact, the word "sport" has wider connotations. It has been viewed and used as a tool for peace and unity, and national importance. It is unarguable that winning a world title brings prestige to the nation concerned.

After 44 years of waiting, the chance has finally arisen for Myanmar to host SEA Games, the regional sports gala of South East Asia, for the third time on her soil. The SEA Games, held every two years since 1959, is the largest sports event in South East Asia. Myanmar first hosted SEA Games in 1961 in which she won 104 medals and for the second time in 1969 to bag 149 medals.

The XXVII SEA Games are to be held in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay and Ngwesaung Beach from December 11 to 22, 2013. Sports federations concerned are undergoing intensive training with their eyes firmly fixed on winning gold medals.

Clinching victories in sports events is no doubt crucial for Myanmar after decades of disappointing results and performance in almost all regional sports events, but at the same time, the coming SEA Games mean more than mere sports events to us but a rare chance to rebuild ourselves and convince others that we can.

It would be a brand new start for Myanmar sports to battle back, ushering us into new diplomatic era with Myanmar taking the ASEAN Chair in 2014. The onus is on all of us to convince that we deserve.

Foods provided to flood victims

Bhamo, 13 Sept— B h a m o Township Administrator U Nyunt Win and members of Township Natural Disaster Prevention and Management Committee and social organizations presented



and comforted them on 9 September. The victims were evacuated due to flooding of Ayeyawady River.

MMAL-Hsimeekhon Nany

NATIONAL

Lawmakers meet to protect rights of ethnic nationalities



**Ceremony
to discuss
Bill on
protection
of the rights
of ethnic
nationalities
in progress.
MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Sept—Hluttaw Speakers and officials concerned met to discuss bill on protection of the rights of ethnic nationalities for cooperation in equalizing the different laws of regions and states

in legislative matters of the Union with Myanmar Parliamentary Committee and Union Attorney-General and region/state advocates-general, here, this morning. Present at the meeting were Speaker of Pyidaungsu

Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein, the Attorney-General of the Union, region and state Hluttaw Speakers, advocates-general and personnel of the Hluttaw Office.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker called for sharing of power between three branches in democratization process. He said though the legislative power was in the

hands of the executive branch in the past, the legislatures at Union and subnational levels are now empowered to pass legislation and the parliament has legal affairs and special cases assessment committee to annul and amend the old laws and to enact new ones in response to demands of the age. Parliamentarians make field trips to regions and states to listen to the voices of people from different social strata, civil servants, administrative organs and barristers with their own ears. The meeting was then held in the presence of region/state Hluttaw

speakers and legal experts as the possible existence of unfair laws was heard in the field trips to regions and states. Lawmakers are tasked with passing laws beneficial to the State and national people and required to accomplish their duties rather than sitting doing nothing but just blaming the lack of experiences in legislation. Cooperation of legal experts is also important, said the Speaker.

The current age is under the rule of law and not under the rule of authoritarianism, said the Speaker, calling the three branches of power to bring to the fore the wishes of people, and serving their respective roles with goodwill.

Amyotha Hluttaw

Speaker U Khin Aung Myint called on advocates-general to play a part as much as they can in legislative matters of regions and states. He called for the equality of all citizens under the law as the very essence of the rule of law, pointing out the different penalties of different courts against same offences.

Next, Secretary of Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee U Saw Hla Tun explained suggestions of region/state Hluttaw speakers and national races affairs ministers about the bill in the previous meetings.

The attendees focused on details and the meeting came with concluding remarks of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker.

MNA

ASEAN Officials to meet on Drug

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Sept—Myanmar will host a meeting on 34th ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters, 34th ASOD at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel in Yangon from 24 to 27 September. The meeting will be attended by high-ranking officials from ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN member countries Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar,

the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Vietnam, the representatives from ASEAN dialogue partner countries China, Japan, Korea and India and high-ranking officials from Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) of United States of America, Australian Federal Police (AFP) and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).—MNA

Shamanism in Myanmar ...

(from page 8)

spirits. These hereditary shamans are duty-bound to hold annual festivals, maintain shrines and idols, donate a certain portion of revenue and land yield to Buddhism and share religious merit with nat spirits by religious rites. They are entitled to enjoy a certain portion of income for their services. These hereditary shamans live on the allotted lands and forever keep their shaman duties.

Taungbyone festival is followed by a similar festival, about a week later. It is well-known as Yadanagu festival or “Meidaw pyan pwe” which means the two brothers send off their mother Mei Wunna to her abode on Mt Popa. Originally Yadanagu festival is the festival of Yadanagu Pagoda of Inwa Period. After the first Anglo-Myanmar war of 1824-26 A.D., King Bagyidaw was forced to give war indemnity to the British by the Treaty of Yandabo of 1826. The country was ruined and impoverished, to pay war indemnity in pure silver as imposed by the British, new means of

taxation and revenue were sought. So nat festival of Taungbyone was repeated at this pagoda festival where all sorts of gamblings, liquor shops and other money-making businesses were allowed and the king harvested what he needed for war indemnity. Though time has changed, this nat festival remains till today.

Though Myanmar kings had tried to stamp out spirit worship and all superstitious and shaman practices, after Theravada Buddhism was established and is flourishing till today, they did not succeed because Buddhism is a peaceful religion and there is religious freedom and tolerance in the country at all times. So there is a peaceful co-existence between shamanism and Buddhism. Besides, Myanmar people embrace two religions. For the improvement of their present life (mundane life) they worship all spirits and deities and beliefs with shamanism. But for the improvement of their life hereafter [future existence] they strongly embrace Theravada Buddhism.

(concluded)

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- ၁ မှန်နန်းရာဇဝင်တော်ကြီး
- ၂ မြဝတီမင်းကြီး ၃၇မင်းနတ်စာရင်းစာတမ်း
- ၃ ဝန်ကြီးပဒေသရာဇာဆို ၃၇မင်းနတ်သံများ
- ၄ မင်းတုန်းမင်းလက်ထက် ၃၇မင်းစစ်တမ်း
- ၅ ဦးဖိုးကျားရေး ၃၇မင်း
- ၆ Sir Richard Temple *The 37 Nats of Burma*
- ၇ Dr Khin Maung Nyunt “*Taungbyone Nat Festival of Wakhaung*”; The New Light of Myanmar 27-8-2012.

E-Learning Management, ICT and MMU

The government is making constant efforts for all-round development of the country. In doing so, development of education sector is of prime importance. Which is the fastest way to keep abreast of other countries? Effective use of ICT (Information and Communication Technology) and E-Learning Management can bring about swift development in a short period of time. Use of ICT can make exchanges of technologies and sending of facts and data accurate and swift. That's why, The President has instructed officials to implement e-Government system at government's meetings. ICT is widely applied in the majority of the world countries for development of education sector.

Myanmar Maritime University made efforts for education promotion with the use of ICT according to experience gained from e-government works of the Ministry of Transport and Seminar on Accelerating e-government in Myanmar, To Promote

Good Governance and Clean Government which was held on 14-15 June, 2011 by the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology.

As a first phase, plan is under way to make cooperation with the World Maritime University (WMU) in Sweden on electronic learning and teaching management.

The World Maritime University (WMU) Sweden is a postgraduate maritime university founded by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), a specialized agency of the United Nations. Established by an IMO Assembly Resolution in 1983, the aim of WMU is to further enhance the objectives and goals of IMO and IMO member states around the world through education, research, and capacity building to ensure safe, secure, and efficient shipping on clean oceans.

Today, there are over 3,300 WMU graduates from 163 countries across the globe who are shaping the maritime sector of today and leading its development into the future. Today, World

Capt Kyaw Zeya (Maritime University)

Maritime University is: an institution that provides its students with privileged access to and understanding of the operation and decisions of IMO; an institution where over 100 international experts and professionals—both resident and visiting staff—provide high-level technical education and research; an institution which gives its students direct and extensive access to the most modern technologies and methods in marine transportation and administration used in the industrial world; an institution which carries out a wide range of research, with many projects involving partners from around the world; and an institution at the centre of the global network of maritime institutions, experts and practitioners. MMU conducted a practical pilot research for electronic learning in cooperation with WMU, ITU of Denmark and University of Transport in Ho Chi Minh (UT-HCMC) in June, 2013.

Experts from the WMU

assessed the research in Vietnam in the first week of August and the MMU in the second week. Thanks to the success in research, the MMU is going to sign an MoU on the WMU on 14-9-2013. The trainees from MMU will have a chance to directly learn the lectures from teachers and experts from WMU through Maritime Education and Training (MET) Classroom and exchange knowledge with the students from other maritime universities.

Soon, MMU will be able to turn out a number of qualified students as it has direct access to maritime technologies. Myanmar education sector would keep abreast with the world countries in a short period if ICT is widely used in other sectors in addition to maritime sector. Youth's education is the basic foundation for the country. All are urged to have a hand in promoting country's education standard with the use of ICT.

Trs: MT

Social Affairs

Meiktila gets 7th brokerage in Mandalay Region

MEIKTILA, 13 Sept—Merchants Kahteindaw Association held the opening ceremony of brokerage at the cooperative bus terminal in Kanthaya Ward of East Market Area in Meiktila yesterday morning.

Deputy Commissioner U Tin Maung Soe of District General Administration Department, Deputy Head of Region Trade Promotion Department U Kyaw Oo and Chairman of the Brokerage U Myo Lwin cut the ribbon to open the brokerage.

The brokerage is aimed at selling agricultural produce of local farmers at reasonable prices, coordinating between the merchants and

brokers, raising quality of products, establishing business firm in the region, developing business of trading agricultural products in the region and seeking business firms at home and abroad and contributing to the economic development of the State.

A total of 43 brokerages have been opened across the nation. Meiktila Brokerage will be the 7th facility of its kind in Mandalay Region. One more brokerage in Mahlaing will be the 8th facility in Mandalay Region, said Deputy Head of Trade Promotion Department of Mandalay Region U Kyaw Oo.—Kyemon-Chan Tha (Meiktila)

Natural Disaster

Dokhtawady River overflows villages of Amarapura Township



MYITNGE, 13 Sept—Dokhtawady River is swollen its nearby villages of Myitnge in Amarapura Township and that of Singaing Township yesterday as heavy rain hit the regions in recent days.

Low-lying villages namely Nyaungbinni, Uyindaw, Kanbe, Yekyipauk, Sadaw, Myittu and Hsinywamyinhmu in Myitnge of Amarapura Township and Thandata, Myaukkaing and Seiktara villages in Singaing Township are inundated due to overflow of Dokhtawady River.

Local people, particularly students are difficult to go to destinations.

“At present, water level of the river exceeds 2.5 feet above its danger level,” said an official.

A parent of student disclosed his opinion that it is necessary to allow passing of Myitnge Bridge closed for many years because water level is raising at Dokhtawady River. As such, he continued that students and local farmers will have easy access to one place to another.

Kyemon-Maung Maung Soe (Myitnge)

Meiktila District Interfaith friendship association constituted

MEIKTILA, 13 Sept—A ceremony to form the Meiktila District Interfaith Friendship Association was held at the hall of District General Administration Department yesterday.

Chairman of Region Association U Kyaw Win gave a speech.

Next, vice-chairmen, secretaries, treasurers, audits and officials submitted the lists of Buddhism, Islam, Hindu and Christianity.

The chairmen of the region association approved the list of the district association.

Also present on the

occasion were the township administrator, the head of district Religious Affairs Department and religious organizations.—Kyemon-Thein Myint Kyaw



Contests mark Myanmar Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day



PYAY, 13 Sept—A ceremony to present prizes to the winners in the painting, cartoon, poster, poem and essay contests in commemoration of the Myanmar Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day 2013 of Bago Region was held at the city hall in Pyay of Bago Region (west) yesterday.

Chairman of Pyay District Anti-Human Trafficking Committee U Arnt Maw

made a speech.

Officials presented prizes to the winners in the contests. A prize winner spoke words of thanks.

Also present on the occasion were departmental officials, Myanmar Police Force, social organizations, teachers and parents, totalling 400. Later, they viewed prize winning works displayed at the hall.

Kyemon-District IPRD

Inundated Monywa-Mandalay road delays transport in a few hours

MONYWA, 13 Sept—As heavy rain hit on 9 and 10 september, Monywa-Mandalay road was inundated from the creek water.

The inundation blocked the transport on the section of Monywa-Mandalay Road between Nondwin Village and Daw Aye food stall in Nyaungbinwun Village.

Private cars and buses on the road waited for subsiding the water from the

morning to afternoon on 10 September.

The road section between Nondwin and Nyaungbinwun villages lied under the water.

Yearly, the local people from Nondwin, Nyaungbinwun and Alakappa villages had experience in inundation from surrounding creeks.

Kyemon-Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

World First Aid Day
14th, September, 2013

First Aid and Road Safety

Myanmar Red Cross Society

Landslide blocks railroad in Wuntho

WUNTHO, 13 Sept—A land slide caused between Bonchaung and Namkham stations in Wuntho Township at 2 pm on 10 September.

Landslide soil blocked the railroad, delaying the rail transportation.

Junior Engineer UAung Naing and party cleared the debris at the rail tracks.

In the afternoon, 43-up Mandalay-Myitkyina mail train steered by U Yan Myo Aung and conductor U Hla Win derailed at mile post 516/7-8 near Chatthin Station of Kanbalu Township.

Two passenger coaches derailed in the incident.

Engineer U Aung Pyo Myint and party of Kawlin carried out repairing works for the derailment.

Kyemon-Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

Officials view prize winning works in contests to mark Myanmar Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day.

Katha Township gets rural village library



KATHA, 13 Sept—Alinyaung Library, built through contributions of Sagaing Region Government, was opened in Thanbaya Village of Katha Township, Katha District, on 11 September afternoon.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Moe Zaw Hein, Staff Officer U Chi Maung of District Information and Public Relations Department and Library Committee Chairman U Tin Ya formally opened

the facility.

The library is 24 feet long, 16 feet wide and 12 feet high with concrete floor and it was built at a cost of K 3,801,155 by the region government and local people.

At present, 952 books are ready to be used for readers.

Over 1100 local people from 146 households in the village can enjoy reading at the library.

Kyemon-District IPRD

REGIONAL

South Asian arms race raises nuclear war risk

LONDON, 13 Sept—An arms race in South Asia and Pakistan's development of tactical "battlefield" nuclear weapons are increasing the risk of any conflict there becoming a nuclear war, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) said on Thursday.

Noting that Pakistan looks set to overtake Britain as the owner of the world's fifth-largest nuclear weapons stockpile, it urged India and Pakistan to improve their communications to avoid any fa-

tal misunderstandings during a crisis.

The think tank cited Pakistan's development of short-range tactical nuclear weapons — which in theory could be used to stop any conventional Indian armoured advance into Pakistani territory — as a particular cause of concern.

"The continuing expansion of Pakistan's and India's nuclear capabilities ... create ever greater concern about an intensifying nuclear arms race in South Asia," the IISS said in its annual strategic survey.

"Pakistan's prospective introduction of tactical nuclear weapons increases the chance that a nuclear exchange will occur if a conflict breaks out, perhaps sparked by an act of terrorism," it added. Both India and Pakistan have brushed off Western concerns about their nuclear arsenals in the past, saying their only purpose is deterrence.

India signed a nuclear deal with the United States in 2005 effectively recognising it as a nuclear weapons state.—Reuters



Pakistan's nuclear-capable missile, Shaheen 1, is driven past with its mobile launcher during the National Day military parade in Islamabad on 23 March, 2008.—REUTERS



Chinese special troop soldiers of the 15th convoy fleet walk to a helicopter during a shooting training on the Jingtangshan vessel in the Gulf of Aden, on 11 Sept, 2013.—XINHUA

Indonesia welcomes Dutch's apology on World War II atrocities

JAKARTA, 13 Sept—Indonesia welcomed official an apology statement conveyed by the Netherlands over atrocities committed by its troops from 1945 to 1949 that had killed thousands of civilians in several areas in Indonesia, Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa said here on Thursday.

"Related to the (Dutch) apology and its intention to provide compensations to widows of the slain victims, the Indonesian government welcomes it positively," he said.

The minister expected that the apology would reopen process on similar cases that occurred in Indonesia so as to ensure that the good relations between the two countries would remain uninterrupted by things that happened in the past.

"The past problems should immediately be handled accordingly," he added. The statement was in response to Netherlands' official apology to widows of the slain victims conveyed earlier in the day by Dutch Ambassador to Indo-

nesia Tjeerd de Zwan in the Netherlands embassy.

Besides conveying the apology, the Netherlands also pledged to provide 301 million rupiah (or 20,000 euro) for each widow of the slain victim.

At least 4,000 civilians were executed by Dutch's army special unit of Depot Speciale Troepen led by Raymond Pierre Paul West-erling from 1945 to 1949 through "counter insurgency" military operation in South Sulawesi and West Java Provinces.

The operation was part of the Netherlands efforts to reoccupy Indonesia's territory after it fled there during Japanese colonial rule from 1942 to 1945.

The Netherlands had occupied Indonesia for centuries before the arrival of the Japanese in 1942.

Indonesia proclaimed its independence in 1945 shortly after Japan surrendered unconditionally to allied forces following deadly bombings on its two cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by US forces.—Xinhua

UN ready to help civilians displaced in S Philippine clash

MANILA, 13 Sept—The UN is ready to provide assistance to the thousands of civilians who were displaced by the armed hostilities between Muslim rebels and government forces in the southern Philippine city of Zamboanga. "The United Nations stands ready to support the government of the Philippines in its efforts to provide humanitarian assistance and to alleviate the humanitarian needs of the civilian population affected by the armed clashes in Zamboanga," UN resident coordinator Luiza Carvalho said on Thursday.

At least 15,000 people were displaced after Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) forces, belonging to the faction of the group's founding chairman

Nur Misuari, attacked Zamboanga City on Monday and took dozens of hostages over allegations that the Philippine government terminated an earlier peace pact.

Carvalho called on all parties involved "to respect and protect the rights of the civilian population, provide special attention to women and children and avoid unnecessary human suffering by reaching agreement to end the standoff."

"The United Nations Country Team calls for an immediate end to the violence, deeply regrets the loss of innocent civilian lives, and calls for safe passage of civilians caught in the cross fire," she said. Thousands of residents have fled their homes and took shelter in evacuation centres in a gym-

nasium and schools amid the violence. Food supply is running low.

The MNLF used to be the largest Muslim rebel group seeking a separate state in Mindanao until it dropped secessionist demand and settled for limited autonomy under a signed agreement in 1996. But many of its guerrillas held on to their firearms and periodically staged rebellions in the past, complaining the government has reneged on its promise to fully develop impoverished Muslim regions.

MNLF's leader, Misuari, opposed the crafting of a peace deal by the government with the currently dominant Muslim rebel group, Moro Islamic Liberation Front.—Xinhua

Japan's defence minister to visit Vietnam, Thailand on maritime security

TOKYO, 13 Sept—Japanese Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera will kick off a five-day tour to Vietnam and Thailand from Sunday to boost cooperation on maritime security, said the Japan's defence ministry.

Onodera is expected to hold talks with his Vietnamese counterpart on Monday to

discuss bilateral cooperation on maritime security, according to the ministry, adding the defence chief will express Japan's support for Vietnam's possible participation in UN peacekeeping works.

The Japanese minister will visit Thailand, the first time for Japan's defence chief since 2007, on Wednes-

day. He will meet with Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, who also serves as the country's defence minister.

Onodera will explain Japan's policy to the Thai prime minister and seek to strengthen bilateral cooperation in anti-piracy operations.—Xinhua



Volunteers participate in a first aid exercise in southern Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City, on 12 Sept, 2013. The event is held to mark the upcoming World First Aid Day which falls on the second Saturday in September every year. This year's World First Aid Day is themed with "First Aid and Road Safety".

XINHUA

Singapore's emeritus senior minister to visit China

SINGAPORE, 13 Sept—Singapore's Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong is scheduled to visit China from Friday to next Monday, the city-state's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Thursday.

He will visit Beijing and Tianjin in China.

The foreign ministry said Goh is visiting Tianjin to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-City, which is the second government-to-government project between Singapore and China.

During his stay in Beijing, Goh will meet Chinese vice premier Zhang Gaoli, who is also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

During his stay in Tianjin, he will meet Sun Chunlan, secretary of the CPC Tianjin Municipal Committee and a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee.

He will also participate in the commemoration of the fifth anniversary of the Tianjin Eco-City and deliver the keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the fourth China (Binhai Tianjin) International Eco-City Forum and Expo on Sunday.

Xinhua

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BAY LINE SHIPPING
CO LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV VIMARUACE VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VIMARU ACE VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.9.2013 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.

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S RK SHIPPING & TRADING
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Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

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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.

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Somali militants kill prominent US jihadist

MOGADISHU, 13 Sept—A prominent US-born Islamist militant was killed in Somalia on Thursday after he fell out with senior commanders of the al Shabaab rebel group, witnesses said.

Residents in al Baate village in southern Somalia said Alabama-born Omar Hammami, commonly known as Abu Mansoor al-Amriki or 'the American', and a British national known as Usama al-Britani were shot dead in a dawn raid on their hideout. Hammami's killing exposed widening rifts in al Shabaab's top ranks as the group affiliated to al-Qaeda grapples with an African Union-led military offensive that has captured key cities from the militants, depriving them of revenues.

"This morning al-Amriki and his comrades were attacked by well armed fighters," said village resident Hussein Nur. "After a brief fight al-Amriki and his two colleagues were killed. Several of their guards escaped."

A second villager confirmed the gun battle and said he had heard al Shabaab fighters confirm the deaths, though he had not seen the bodies. "No-one is allowed to go near the scene," the shopkeeper told *Reuters* by telephone from the village that is under militant control.

Hammami is believed to have arrived in Somalia aged 22 in late 2006, shortly before a US-backed Ethiopian military incursion into the war-shattered Horn of Africa country to rout an Islamist administration that had dislodged the government.

Reuters

Damage toll from California wildfire rises to 68 homes destroyed

SAN FRANCISCO, 13 Sept —A fire burning in rural Northern California has destroyed 68 homes, more than double what was

previously thought, a new assessment by fire officials showed on Thursday.

A day earlier, authorities said that the burned body of a 56-year-old man was found in one of the homes blackened by the blaze. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection spokesman Mike Witesman said the man likely stayed in his home to protect it from the blaze but that the cause of his death was still under investigation.

The so-called Clover fire, which is 65 percent contained and has burned through roughly 8,000 acres, consumed the homes in remote Shasta County, along with 128 outbuild-

ings, within eight hours of erupting on Monday, Witesman said.

Fire officials initially reported destruction of 30 dwellings and 50 outbuildings, but a recount showed the fire had charred many more homes before it moved away from populated areas into open land, Witesman said.

"It takes time for them to try to get it accurate, and then to confirm things," Witesman said.

The fire is one of dozens of wildfires that have spread across the drought-parched US West in recent months, straining national firefighting resources.

Some 300 homes remain threatened and evacu-

ated due to the fire, and about 100 residences in the area were without electricity after 200 power poles were burned in the fire, Witesman said.

"We're still working very hard to put it out and to get folks back into the area," he said, adding that a spike in humidity and a drop in temperatures will help the firefight through the end of the week.

Firefighters have shoveled and bulldozed containment lines around the entire fire, burning on mostly hilly and rocky terrain, but it was unknown if the lines will hold, Witesman said. Fire officials expect to fully contain the blaze by September 15.—*Reuters*



Redding Fire Department firefighters Bryan Gibbons (L) and Justin Smith mop up hot spots on the Clover Fire in Happy Valley, California, on 11 Sept, 2013.

REUTERS

Indonesia seeks ways to reduce health risks posed by air pollution

JAKARTA, 13 Sept—Indonesia is seeking ways to reduce health risk caused by transportation-generated air pollution, and one of the most cost-effective options is by taking gas fuel rather than fossil-based fuel, a senior official at the environment ministry said here

on Thursday. The option to use gas fuel was considered as the most likely and cost-efficient among nine options discussed at a forum that involves government officials, experts and representatives from the Indonesian Automotive Industry Association, or Gaikindo. "Results

from cost-effectiveness from nine options discussed at the forum showed fuel conversion from fossil-based fuel to gas fuel is the most inexpensive one if compared to aspects offered by the other 8 options," Deputy Environment Pollution Control Minister Sulistyowati said on the

sidelines of the discussion entitled "Multi-Stakeholders Forum" held here.

"Meanwhile, adopting hybrid technology and providing comprehensive mass transport system were the second and third of most inexpensive solutions," he said.—*Xinhua*

ENTERTAINMENT



Celine Dion wants to record with Eminem

LONDON, 13 Sept—Ballad singer Celine Dion wants to record a track with Eminem, despite the rapper's controversial lyrics. The Think Twice singer would love to collaborate with the rapper, famed for his controversial and often violent lyrics, to give her more street cred, reported Access Hollywood.

"I'd love to collaborate with Eminem," she said.

Dion also talked about getting the seal of approval from her son Rene-Charles, 12, after he found out she'd worked with Sia Furler, who has penned hits including Titanium with David Guetta and Diamonds for Rihanna, on her new album.

"When I told Rene I was getting ready to do another album and that there's a new song called Loved Me Back To Life and it was Sia who actually wrote it for me, he said, 'No way'. He couldn't believe it because I'm not cool, and I'm not Rihanna," she added.—PTI

Ballad singer Celine Dion

Demi Moore dating restaurant mogul?

LOS ANGELES, 13 Sept—Actress Demi Moore is reportedly dating restaurant mogul Peter Morton for a few months now after being introduced by Morton's son Harry.

Interesting, Moore dated Harry for about six months before they amicably parted ways in May, reported E! Online. Moore was spotted on a dinner date with Morton recently. "They are into one another. Morton is very charismatic and she loves that about him. He's a go-getter," a source said. Meanwhile, Moore, 50, is very grounded and the 66-year-old is "learning from her spirituality."

The twice-divorced restaurateur, the son of famed steakhouse founder Arnie Morton, co-founded the global Hard Rock Cafe chain in 1982. Moore is still in the midst of divorce proceedings with Ashton Kutcher as the two-year anniversary of their separation approaches.—PTI



Actress Demi Moore



Singer Justin Bieber

Justin Bieber may release documentary on concert

LOS ANGELES, 13 Sept—Singer Justin Bieber might surprise his fans with a documentary on him and his recent tour.

The 19-year-old singer's manager Scooter Braun spilled the beans on Twitter about a film they plan to release in December, reports

dailystar.co.uk.

"...Justin Bieber gives you some new music in October until December and then a special movie on Christmas," Braun posted on the microblogging site.

The film can be on Bieber's recent Believe world tour.—PTI

Julia Roberts: I won't direct films

LOS ANGELES, 13 Sept—Actress Julia Roberts has ruled out any plans to don the director's hat and says she is happy with her children and acting assignments.

Roberts, 45, who takes care of her children - 10-year-old twins Hazel and Phinnaeus, 7-year-old son Henry with Daniel Moder, says juggling the roles of a homemaker and actor is already too much for her, reports eonline.com.

"Oh I won't (direct). I think any housewife will tell you that you're directing pretty much 24X7, so I'll stick to the in-house directing," Roberts said.

"It's too much for me. I love being an actor, I love being a homemaker and that's good for me," she added.

The Oscar winner has movies like Pretty Woman, Notting Hill and My Best Friend's Wedding to her credit.

PTI



Julia Roberts

Jessica Biel takes Justin Timberlake's name

LONDON, 13 Sept—Actress Jessica Biel has reportedly changed her name to Jessica Timberlake but will continue to use her own name professionally.

The Playing For Keeps actress married singer-turned-actor Justin Timberlake, 32, in Italy last October after dating for five years, reported Contactmusic. "It's all official! The paperwork is done and she's now legally Jessica Timberlake," a source said.

An insider previously

revealed that Jessica was planning to change her name shortly after she and Justin exchanged vows.

The couple tied the knot following four days of celebrations at the luxurious Borgo Egnazia resort in Puglia, southern Italy.

The former N' Sync singer serenaded Jessica with a romantic self-penned ditty on his guitar as she walked down the aisle in a pale pink Giambattista Vali Haute Couture gown.

PTI



Jessica Biel and Justin Timberlake were married last October.

SPORTS

If Gareth Bale is worth 100m, Marek Hamsik is 'priceless': Rafael Benitez

MILAN, 13 Sept—Napoli coach Rafael Benitez has waded into the debate over the price Real Madrid paid for forward Gareth Bale by claiming his own creative midfielder, Marek Hamsik, is worth more.

Bale signed for the Spanish giants from Tottenham Hotspur a little over a week ago on a six-year contract for a fee of around £80 million

(\$124 million, 94 million euros). The price tag has caused ripples with some, including Real Madrid assistant coach Zinedine Zidane, who called it "incomprehensible" in the current economic climate.

Benitez, who took over Italian giants Napoli after leading Chelsea to Europa League glory last season, appeared to question the Wales winger's price tag when he said Slovakian midfielder Hamsik was worth even more.

"Is Bale worth the 100 million euros Real Madrid paid for him? If so, then I'd say you can't put a price on Hamsik—and he is not for

sale," the Spaniard said in an interview with Mediaset.

Napoli sold the league's top scorer last season, Uruguayan Edinson Cavani, to Paris Saint-Germain in the close season and welcomed

unsettled Real Madrid player Gonzalo Higuain as a direct replacement.

While Argentine Higuain settles in to life in Serie A, Hamsik has underlined his potential

for the season by scoring four times in two games.

Benitez, meanwhile, says he has high hopes for Napoli this season in both Serie A and the Champions League, where the Italian

club is in Group F alongside Marseille, Arsenal and last season's beaten finalists Borussia Dortmund.

Napoli return to Europe's premier club competition for the first time since making the final 16 in 2012.

And in what is president Aurelio De Laurentiis's 10th season at the club, Benitez is hoping a rotation policy brings results.

"We have a big squad and instead of using 12, 13 players we'll rotate 19, 20," said Benitez.

"This is De Laurentiis's 10th year in charge of the club and we hope the next one (season) will bring a nice present to the president.

"We shouldn't be scared of any of our opponents: that's the mentality I'm trying to install here."

Reuters



Gareth Bale

Bayern Munich bosses turn up the heat on Pep Guardiola

BERLIN, 13 Sept—Bayern Munich's bosses have put pressure on coach Pep Guardiola ahead of Saturday's Bundesliga home match with Hanover 96 as the European champions enter a tough few weeks.

Bayern are second in the Bundesliga behind rivals Borussia Dortmund and launch the defence of their Champions League title against CSKA Moscow next Tuesday.

Then follows an away trip to Schalke 04, home matches against Hanover, again, in the cup, Wolfsburg in the league, then a Champions League away trip to Manchester City before facing Bayer Leverkusen in the Bundesliga—all in the next three weeks.

Despite their punishing schedule, Bayern's top brass expect their side to prove they are just as strong under Guardiola as they were under his predecessor Jupp Heynckes.

"We have to immediately go full throttle and tackle our work with hunger, as we did so phenomenally last season," president Uli Hoeness told German daily *Bild*.



Pep Guardiola

Chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge also said there can be no more excuses. "We're at the stage where you can't allow for any more weaknesses", he said, referring to Bayern's 1-1 draw at Freiburg a fortnight ago.

Stern-faced director of sport Matthias Sammer also described the result as "reckless and annoying" after Guardiola fielded a weakened side.

Dutch winger Arjen Robben believes Bayern

must quickly turn their attentions back to the league, having had a host of players on recent international duty.

"We have to hit the ground running and switch back to Bundesliga mode, Hanover won't give us time to settle," said Robben.

"We must be careful they don't hit us on the counter-attack, they'll be strong."

Bayern have a few injury problems with central midfielders Mario Goetze, Thiago Alcantara, plus defensive midfielders Javi Martinez and Jan Kirchhoff on the sidelines.

But they expect to have Germany star Bastian Schweinsteiger back as their vice-captain trained on Thursday after spraining his ankle at Freiburg.

With four games played, Bayern are two points behind leaders Borussia, something which does not bother Robben.

"Dortmund is not the most important thing for us, we have to deal with ourselves," said the Dutch winger.—PTI

Top four finish still the priority for Spurs

LONDON, 13 Sept—Tottenham Hotspur manager Andre Villas-Boas played down title talk on Thursday and said finishing in the top four remained the club's main target for the Premier League season.

"Our objective is the same, it's Champions League qualification," he told a news conference ahead of Saturday's home game against Norwich City.

"Our level of expenditure in the transfer market raises expectations but they have to be real expectations, not false expectations," added the Portuguese.

"We don't have the experience to deal with the pressure of a team that plays for the title. We have never done it, you know, in these recent years and we will compete as usual for Champions League places..."

Tottenham finished fifth in the league last season and missed out on a Champions League place to North London rivals Arsenal. They are currently sixth, with six points from their three matches after losing 1-0 at Arsenal this month.

They have sold Wales winger Gareth Bale to Real



Andre Villas-Boas

Madrid for a world record 100 million euros \$133.08 million and re-invested the money in a list of new signings, including Argentina forward Erik Lamela from Roma for a club record 35

million euros.

Villas-Boas said it might be too early for the 21-year-old to start on Saturday. "He is a player with tremendous potential that we have to work on," he said, pointing out that Lamela had limited English and still had to adapt to his new surroundings.

"We are pretty sure he will be able to do (that) but we are unsure of how much time it will take," he said. "The fact that he has yet to train with the team puts him in a very difficult position to start the game but not impossible."—Reuters

Former Open champion Clarke taking up US Tour card in 2014



Northern Ireland's Darren Clarke reacts to his tee shot on the 10th hole during the first round of the 2013 PGA Championship golf tournament at Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester, New York on 8 Aug, 2013.

REUTERS

NEW YORK, 13 Sept—Former British Open champion Darren Clarke will divide his time between Europe and the United States next year after agreeing to take up his PGA Tour card.

The 45-year-old Northern Irishman is exempt in the US until 2016 following his victory in the 2011 Open at Sandwich.

"I will be taking up my PGA Tour card next season but that does not mean I am abandoning Europe," he said on his website (www.darrenclarke.com) on Thursday. "I will be supporting my home tour as usual. "I still feel I can be competitive at the highest level. I have always enjoyed America and the US Tour in the past and I am looking forward to playing there more often again."

Clarke has struggled to recapture his best form since winning at Sandwich. He finished 108th on the European money-list last season and is down in 127th position this year.—Reuters

Croatian 16-year-old ready to take on Murray

NEW YORK, 13 Sept—It will be a battle of US Open junior champions past and present when Andy Murray faces 16-year-old Borna Coric in Britain's opening singles rubber against Croatia in a World Group playoff tie on Friday. Coric, who lifted the boys trophy at Flushing Meadows last week, will get a glimpse of what a launch pad winning the US Open junior title can be when he faces Wimbledon champion Murray in Umag.

On paper a match between world number three Murray, who captured the boys crown in New York in 2004, and a teenage tyro who has never played a best of five-set match looks like a

mismatch but Coric is relishing the opportunity.

"I don't think I can win—only if he injures himself," London-based Coric told the BBC about his debut match in the team event. "It's going to be tough. "It's unbelievable to play for my country. When I was eight or nine we won the Davis Cup—I was watching on the TV and hoping one day I'm going to play there." Coric was brought into the Croatia squad because number one Marin Cilic and third-ranked Ivo Karlovic were unavailable.

The claycourt tie takes place from Friday to Sunday, with the winning country qualifying for the World Group.—Reuters



Boys champion Borna Coric (L) of Croatia and girls champion Ana Konjuh of Croatia pose after their matches at the US Open tennis championships in New York on 8 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

GENERAL

Asleep in Jesus
U A Soe Myint @ Alphonso Soe Myint
 (Kayin State)
Member of Taunggu Association
Naing Ngan Gonyi (second class)
Age (88) years

Beloved son of U Phe+Daw Sar Mo; residing at No. 5B, Masoeysin Kyaung Street, No. (5) Ward, Mayangone Township, Yangon Region, son-in-law of U Henry Krasu+Daw Nyein Zan, beloved husband of Daw Dolly Soe Myint, young brother of (U Aung Nyunt+Daw Helen), (Sithu Saw Samuel Shi Sho+Daw Hla Daung), (U James Kyaw Myint), brother of (Col Daw Than Myint) (Vincent Aung Myint), (Graciano Kan Myint), Dr. Khin Htwe Myint+Dr. Win Kyi, beloved father of U Valentino Soe Myint+Daw Aye Kalyar Win, U James Soe Myint+Naw Louis Tun, Daw Annette Soe Myint+Ole Theil, Daw Valentina Soe Myint, Daw Caroline Soe Myint+U Leslie Soe Hlaing, U Alphonso Soe Myint, U Vincent Soe Myint+Daw Nan Soe, Daw Freeda Soe Myint+U Charles Frenkly, Daw Flavia Soe Myint, beloved grandfather of Ma Alexandra Yupar Myint, Saw Gwe Wah, Mg Adrain Soe Myint, Anne Theil, Melissa Soe Hlaing, Mg Andy Soe Myint, Timothy Soe Hlaing and Henrik Theil was fell asleep in Jesus on 12-9-2013 (Thursday) at 4:00 pm. Prayer Session will held on 15-9-2013 (Sunday) 1:pm at St. Augustine Church, No.64 Inya Road. The remains will be entombed at Yay Way Ecumenical Garden.

Bereaved Family

Three sentenced to death for Xinjiang terror attack

URUMQI, 13 Sept — A court in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on Thursday sentenced three persons to death and one person to 25 years in jail for a violent terrorist attack in the region's Shanshan County on 26 June. —Xinhua

A worker sprays paint onto a motor at the ABB manufacturing base in Vaasa, Finland, on 5 Sept, 2013. With strong cooperation between world leading energy companies, universities, R&D centres and local government, Vaasa is becoming the largest cluster specialized in energy technology in the Nordic countries with the annual total turnover of 4,4 billion Euros. — XINHUA



China will be 3rd-largest natural gas producer in 2035

SHIJIAZHUANG, 13 Sept — China is expected to become the world's third-largest natural gas producer in 2035, an official with the International Gas Union (IGU) said Thursday.

Torstein Indreb, secretary general of IGU, made the remarks at the 2013 China International Pipeline Exhibition and Conference held in the city of

Langfang in north China's Hebei Province.

Spurred by the country's huge demand, China will see a sharp increase in natural gas production and rank third place by 2035, following Russia and the United States, he said.

Statistics show China's production volume of natural gas surged 6.7 percent year on year to 106.7 billion

cubic meters last year. The total length of natural gas pipelines exceeded 55,000 kilometres across the country.

China plans to earmark 460 billion yuan (75 billion U.S. dollars) to build 65,000 kilometres of petroleum pipelines from 2011 to 2015, including 41,000 kilometres of natural gas pipelines. —Xinhua

Sailing-Oracle losing grasp on America's Cup as Kiwis win sixth

SAN FRANCISCO, 13 Sept — Oracle Team USA's bid to turn the tide in its floundering America's Cup campaign by bringing sailing superstar Ben Ainslie aboard failed on Thursday, when Emirates Team New Zealand crushed the defenders in two do-or-die races.

The Kiwis now have scored six of the nine victories they need to bring home the trophy the yachting world refers to as the Auld Mug. Oracle, slapped with a jury-imposed two-race penalty, has won only one race and still needs to win another 10 to keep the 162-year-old trophy.

Government-backed New Zealand finished 66 seconds ahead of software

billionaire Larry Ellison's Oracle in its high-speed, 72-foot catamaran in the second race of the day and 47 seconds ahead in the first heat.

"We cannot give up," said Oracle skipper Jimmy Spithill at a post-race news conference. "We'll keep fighting all the way to the end. I'm still convinced we can win races."

In Thursday's first race, the sixth of the series, Oracle won the start but lost the lead upwind on the third leg. In the second match, New Zealand won the start and kept the lead throughout.

Oracle has looked slow against New Zealand on the upwind legs, where it has forfeited leading positions

in five races. The Kiwis in Thursday's first race forced Oracle into having to perform a dozen of the taxing maneuvers as the huge catamarans zigzagged into a light 12-knot breeze to the windward mark.

Spithill said the upwind speed differential caught his team off guard. "I think it is a shock that they've got the edge upwind," he said.

But he added: "There's a lot of racing to go. It's a long way from over in my mind."

New Zealand used an aggressive match racing "dial-down" tactic in race six to pass Oracle. The challenger had the right of way as it was about to cross tacks with its foe, and by aiming straight at Oracle

MYANMAR TV

(14-9-2013, Saturday)

6:00 am	2:00 pm
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw	18. Hyper Sports
6:20 am	2:15 pm
2. Physical Exercise	19. Myanmar Video
6:30 am	3:00 pm
3. Dance & Song of National Races	20. News
6:45 am	3:35 pm
4. Documentary	21. TV Drama Series
7:00 am	4:00 pm
5. News	22. News
7:20 am	4:15 pm
6. Business News	23. TV Drama Series
7:35 am	4:45 pm
7. Hyper Sports	24. Business News
8:00 am	5:00 pm
8. News	25. News
8:25 am	5:15 pm
9. India Drama Series	26. Road to 27 th SEA Games
9:00 am	5:35 pm
10. News/International News	27. Teleplay (Health)
9:25 am	5:45 pm
11. Documentary (Traveller)	28. Golden Music Of Old Stars
10:00 am	6:00 pm
12. News	29. News
10:15 am	6:20 pm
13. TV Drama Series	30. Pyi Thu Ni Ti
11:00 am	6:40 pm
14. Shwe Yin Khone Than	31. TV Drama Series
11:30 am	7:00 pm
15. Game for Children	32. News
12:00 pm	7:15 pm
16. News/International News/Weather Report	33. TV Drama Series
12:25 pm	8:00 pm
17. Round Up of The Week's TV Local News	34. News
	8:35 pm
	35. Business News
	9:00 pm
	36. News
	37. Myanmar Series
	38. Gitadagale Phwintbaohn

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(14-9-13 09:30 am ~ 15-9-13 09:30 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Product Of Myanmar-Craft Blacksmithing
- * World News
- * Bottle gourd painting
- * Local News
- * Unique & Motivating Chap Char Kut Festival
- * World News
- * The eel business
- * Local News
- * Herbal Medicine By Thurein (Ta Bin Dine Mya Nan) (Vitis)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Sport Special Canoeing
- * Local News
- * 19 Hours
- * World News
- * Dengue Fever
- * Local News
- * SHWE SETTAW (Minbu)
- * World News
- * Travelling In Shan Mountain Ranges (Myoma Market)
- * Local News
- * An Oasis Trip to Mt. Popa
- * World News
- * In The Studio: LCO
- * Local News
- * Large Parasol: A Souvenir of Pathein
- * World News
- * Great Shwedagon-The Historic Bells
- * Local News
- * Those who never give up (Ep-5) Shwe Min Thar Foundation
- * World News
- * Sagaing Hills & Nostalgic Panorama



Emirates Team New Zealand (R) takes an early lead against Oracle Team USA during Race 7 of the 34th America's Cup yacht sailing race in San Francisco, California September 12, 2013.

forced it to duck and lose distance.

Ainslie, the most successful Olympic sailor of all time, was knighted for his achievements on the water. He took over as tactician aboard the AC72 from

American John Kostecki.

The 36-year old Briton was the skipper of Oracle's second yacht during training matches and remains a fearful competitor for New Zealand.

"It feels nice to have

won six races, but it's only two-thirds of the way toward winning the America's Cup," New Zealand skipper Dean Barker told reporters. "We know it's far from over."

Reuters

Reengineering of statistical organizations and mechanisms is a must, says Vice-President



Vice-President U Nyan Tun addresses the meeting.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Sept—First coordination meeting of the committee for accurate and quality statistics was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development here yesterday morning, with an address by Vice-President U Nyan Tun.

It was also attended by Committee Chairman Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw, Vice-Chairman Union Minister Dr Ko Ko Oo, committee secretary and members deputy ministers, Region/State Planning and Economy Ministers and officials.

In his speech, the

Vice-President said that the government is making sweeping reforms in all sectors for ensuring peace and stability, development and democratization of the country. Towards this end, a 20-year Comprehensive National Development Plan (2011-2031) is being drafted for economic reform strategy. In doing so, accurate and reliable statistics is the lifeblood of the plan. Quality of facts and figures is crucial for compilation of reliable statistics.

Not only developed but also developing countries use evidence based information that comes from reliable statistics for implementation of development strategy. Reengineering of statistical organizations and mechanisms is a must for all world countries including Myanmar. He pointed out that the country needs to adopt a national-level

strategy for development of statistical sector.

He called for enactment of a new, modern statistics law and drawing a national statistics policy. The objective of the strategy is to distribute quality statistics to planners and decision makers in order that they can use reliable facts and figures for all national development plans. He continued that the committee is to draft National Statistics Development Strategy and to get financial and technical assistances from international organizations for the process. After that, Union Ministers Dr Kan Zaw and Dr Ko Ko Oo, secretary and members deputy ministers and the Region/State Planning and Economy Ministers discussed matters related to the process. The meeting came to an end in the evening.

MNA

Commission on Letpadaungtaung Copper Mine Project meets

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Sept—The coordination meeting of Committee for implementation of the report of Investigation Commission on Letpadaungtaung Copper Mine Project took place at the President Office, here, this morning.

First, Committee Chairman Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun said that the committee has been realizing suggestions included in the report of the investigation commission and at the same time carrying out regional development tasks. The implementing of the tasks in accord with suggestions of the commission requires the active participation of respective groups, ministries concerned, Myanmar's Economic Holdings Ltd and Myanmar Wenbao Co, he added.

Then, Committee Vice-Chairman Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye, committee member union ministers, deputy ministers and officials discussed work progress and ongoing tasks.

The committee chairman attended to the needs and made a concluding remark.

The committee has been giving compensations to the locals at the Township General Administration Department in Salingyi and new Hsete-Zetaw village. So far, the committee has given K 3166.154 million for farmland compensation to 1163 farmers, K 159.572 million for long-term perennial crops compensation to 737 farmers and K 23.535 million for wells compensation to 103 farmers.

MNA

Temporary passports to be issued to Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Sept—Overseas Employment Supervisory Committee Chairman Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Aye Myint met with officers and staff from five working groups who will serve duties at citizen

scrutiny and temporary passport issuing offices to Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand at the meeting hall of the ministry, here, this afternoon.

The Union ministers said that works for legalizing undocumented Myanmar workers in Thailand were

carried out at eleven temporary passport issuing camps. Arrangements are being made to open five similar camps including Myanmar embassy, he said. He urged those present to serve their duties and to be loyal to the State.

MNA

Myanmar Climate Change Alliance program introduced

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Sept—An introduction to Myanmar Climate Change Alliance-MCCA Program was launched at the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry yesterday.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Minister Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin noted that Global Climate

Change Alliance (GCCA) will provide 4 euro million for implementing the MCCA with the technical assistance from UN-Habitat and UNEP.

Country Program Manager of UN-Habitat Mr Bijay Karmacharya and Ms Delphine Brissonneau of EU made speeches.

Regional Director Mr

Young-woo Park of UNEP Asia-Pacific Office read the message of Ms Delphine Brissonneau.

Chief Technical Adviser of MCCA Program Mr Arup explained future tasks of MCCA Program and relied to queries raised by those present.

MNA

Ooredoo donates USD 20000 for disaster victims

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Sept—Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin attended a ceremony to donate cash for victims who suffered from natural disasters at Maykhala hall of the ministry, here, yesterday afternoon.

At the ceremony, Mr Ross Cormack, representative of Ooredoo Telecom Company, donated USD 20,000 for the victims through the Union Minister.—MNA

Union Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin accepts cash donation.—MNA



JICA to spend US\$ 6.41 million on plantation and border region development



Union Minister Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win attends the signing ceremony.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Sept—Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department under the Ministry of Border Affairs and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed the Record of Discussions on crop cultivation and border region development in Shan State (North) at

the ministry, here, this morning.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win stressed the need to implement the people-centred development tasks systematically. Senior Representative Mr Akihito Sanjo of JICA reported on matters related to the project.

Director-General U Htwe Hla and Senior Representative Mr Akihito Sanjo signed the record of discussions.

The department and JICA will spend US\$ 6.41 million on crops cultivation and border region development in Kyaukme, Muse and Laukkai regions up to 2018.—MNA

Accreditation forms for SEA Games journalists available

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Sept—Journalists at home and abroad wishing to cover the 27th SEA Games to be held from 1st to 22nd December, 2013, may visit www.27seagames2013.com for accreditation forms of the 27th SEA Games and make download from www.moi.gov.mm, web

portal of the Ministry of Information.

They are to complete their accreditation forms and send them with recommendation of their respective mother units to myanmarmpc@gmail.com not later than 25 September.

MNA