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Vice-President U Nyan Tun and wife attend entertainments to mark 65th Founding Anniversary of Thai-Myanmar diplomatic relations

Vice-President U Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint and party enjoy entertainments to mark 65th Founding Anniversary of Thai-Myanmar diplomatic relations at National Theatre.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Sept—Vice-President U Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint enjoyed the entertainments in commemoration of the 65th Founding Anniversary of Thai-Myanmar diplomatic relations at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township this evening.

On arrival at the National Theatre at 6.45 pm, the Vice-President and wife were welcomed by Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Pisanu Suvanajata and wife.

At the opening ceremony of the entertainment, the Thai Ambassador said that Myanmar and Thailand have been able to maintain diplomatic ties up to 65 years based on magnanimity, urging the two countries to continue living in unity and amity as good neighbourly countries.

Union Minister U Aye Myint Kyu made a speech.

Next, Thai dances and songs were presented in three portions with friendship music under the arrangements of the Thai Embassy in Yangon.

After the entertainments, Vice-President U Nyan Tun and wife, and the Thai Ambassador and wife presented flower baskets to the artistes who performed entertainments, and posed for a documentary photo.

Also present at the entertainment were wife of Union Minister U Aye Myint Kyu, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife, Deputy Minister U Tin Oo Lwin, ambassadors and charges d' affaires ai of foreign missions and guests.

MNA

Second Central Economic Zone in Yangon

Byline: *Maung Sein Lwin (Myanma Alinn)* Photo: *Min Htet*

Second Central Economic Zone will be established at the plot at the corner of Mindhamma Road and Tawwin Road in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region soon, said an official from Engineering Department (Building) under Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC). The project comes shortly after JICA has conducted its survey on strategic urban development plan of the Greater Yangon. The central economic zone with 36,551 acres of land will comprise hotels, convention centers, showrooms, cinemas, theaters, restaurants, electronic showrooms and offices.

It is put up for the auction. Upon completion, it can create more job opportunities for people and enable them to enjoy higher living standards. It is a long-term plan. It is mainly aimed at opening up foreign investments. Local business will have chance to invest in the project as well, he added. As of 19 September, tenders will be invited from local and foreign investors and the deadline is 2nd December.

With regard to the relocation of flower shops, Head of Parks and Playground Department U Ko Ko Lin said that we have arranged the place on the roadside of Thakayta Shukhintha for the relocation of shops. We always do everything in accord with the laws. There are 556 shops with 110 owners. They have been running their shops since decades. A total of 62 owners have been relocated to the roadside of Thakayta Shukhintha, and 58 are still there due to various circumstances.

Myanma Alinn: (21-9-2013)
Trs: MT

Photo shows the plot for construction of Second Central Economic Zone at corner of Mindhamma Road and Tawwin Street.

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LOCAL NEWS

Tourism

Tourists visit U Pein Bridge in the midst of high water level

AMARAPURA, 21 Sept—Globetrotters from nine countries visited U Pein Bridge while Taungthaman Lake was rising water level.

A total of 20 men and 10 women from France, 15 men and 10 women from Spain,nine men and 10 women from Italy, 15 men and 20 women from Australia, six men and four women from Japan, nine men and nine women from Thailand, 10 men and nine women from Germany, nine men and eight women from China, 10 men and five women from Canada visited the U Pein Bridge across Taungthaman Lake in Amarapura Township of Mandalay Region on 18 Spetember.

Anyone who wises to enjoy boat-riding may do so at the rate of K 5000 per boat, said Chairman of Taungthaman Boat Association U Soe Win.

Kyemon-Maung Maung Soe (Myitnge)

Tourists and local people on U Pein Bridge observe rise of water level.

National Sports

Sports trials for archers in September held

Myanmar Archery Federation held the sports trials for September at Archery Range in Wunna Theikdi, here, on 18 and 19 September.

Zargyi Win stood first, Thin Thin Khaing, second and San Yu Htwe third, and Zaw Win Htaik first, Aung Myo Thu second and Nay Myo Aung third in the women's and men's singles recurve events.

In the women's single compound event, Aung Hngein secured the first prize, Yaw Sein Ya the second and Hla Hla San the third. In the men's single event, Shein Htet Kyaw, Lin Naing Aung Cheint Baw secured the first, second and third respectively.

In the team recurve event, Men's (A) stood first, Women's A second and Men's B third. In the team compound event, women's A team won the first, men's A second and men's B third.

In the recurve mixed team event, Zaw Win Htaik & Thin Thin Khaing stood first, Aung Myo Thu & Zargyi Win second and Nay Myo Aung & Thazin Aung third.

In the compound mixed team event, Lin Naing & Aung Hngein came in first, Shein Htet Kyaw & Yaw Sein Ya second and Aung Cheint Baw & Aye Aye Thin third.

They set new SEA record in the sports trial.

Kyemon-Chit Ko Ko

Fire engulfs A-1 Garment Factory in Mingaladon Township

YANGON, 21 Sept—A fire broke out at A-1 Garment Factory at the corner of Bo Teza Road and A-1 Street in Yangon Industrial Zone in Mingaladon Township.

At 11.30 am on 18 September, the fire was triggered from boiler steam heat of press machine at finishing section of the factory. Fire fighters and officials put out the fire at 12.25 pm with the use of 46 fire trucks, five management vehicles and two supporting vehicles. The fire engulfed the factory, 30 sewing machines and clothes worth K 12.7 million.

Mingaladon Myoma Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against Manager of the factory U Naing Oo, 46 of Mingaladon Township under the law.—*Kyemon-037: Photo Yan Shin*

Bagan-Yangon train derails in Okkan of Taikkyi Township

Accident

YANGON, 21 Sept—Locomotive DF 2059 Bagan-Yangon Up-train carrying 150 passengers derailed between mile posts 56/17 and 56/18 near Okkan Station in Taikkyi Township, here, at 9.30 am on 19 September.

Among seven coaches, third coach caused derailment and plunged into the right roadside.

There was no casualty.—*Kyemon-040*

Anti-Narcotic Drugs

Stimulant tablets, arm and ammunition seized in Hmawby, Kamayut, Tachilek

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Sept—A combined team comprising members of Hmawby Myoma Police Station of Yangon Region, members of Yangon West Special Anti-Drug Squad and Forest Department, lay in wait at the checkpoint near No. 4 Highway Junction in Hmawby at 4 pm on 15 September.

They searched a Fuso vehicle driven by Than Soe, 37 of Mingaladon Township leading to Hmawby from Taikkyi, together with Khin Maung Thein, 39 of Ward 2 in Hpa-an and Myo Kyi, 45. The combined team members seized 1315 stimulant tablets from the bag of Than Soe, 520 stimulant tablets from straws of soft drink, totaling 1835 weighing 18.35 grams worth K 9.175 million, one driver licence, K 300,000, 67 red straws and three mobile phones. Hmawby Myoma Police Station opened files of lawsuit against three persons under Sections 15/19(a)/20 (a)/21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

According to the investigation, they confessed that they bought the stimulant tablets from U Noh Yei and wife Daw Nan Maryar from Hpa-an to resell them. The couple often stays at the house of Than Soe. Therefore, the combined team raided the house of Than Soe at 10.30 pm and found 33,956 stimulant tablets worth K 169.78 million, one .9mm Australia-made Glock brand pistol, 11 bullets, one magazine, copies of ID and household registration certificates with the names of Noh Yei and Daw Nan Maryar.

The authorities together with witnesses searched the apartment of Bran Sai at Anawrahta Housing in Kamayut Township where U Noh Yei and Daw Nan Maryaw often stay, on 16 September morning.

They seized Noh Yei, 39 and wife Daw Nan Maryar, 39 of Hpa-an from the apartment. Htaukkyant Police Station opened files of lawsuit against them under Sections 15/22(b)/21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Likewise, members of Tachilek Special Anti-Drug Squad of Shan State, acting on a tip-off, raided the apartment No. 209 on the second floor of the housing in Samsai B Ward in Tachilek at 12 noon on 16 September. They found Ma Ah Lway Hmway, 29 and Ma El Mar, 24 of Maotwi Village in Mongkoe Village-tract who were tenants at the room, and they saw Ma Ah Lway Hmway throw a packet of paper away through a window. The authorities picked it out and searched it in the presence of witnesses. They found 1000 stimulant tablets with WY brand worth K 2 million.

Tachilek Myoma Police Station opened files of lawsuit against the two women under Sections 5/19(a)/21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Kyemon-Police Station

Natural Disaster

Ayeyawady River water level still rising in Minbu

MINBU, 21 Sept—Ayeyawady River is swollen at Minbu Township of Magway Region.

The roads and residences in Ward 1 of Minbu were inundated, forcing local people to use boats in travelling.

Members of Fire Brigade and ward administrators are carrying out rescue and relief works for the flood victims.

Kyemon-Khaing Soe Lin (Magway Sub-Printing House)

India rushes to ready nuclear deal before Singh's US trip

NEW DELHI, 21 Sept—India is making a last-minute push to close a nuclear deal in time for a meeting between US President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who has made atomic energy cooperation with Washington a hallmark of his tenure.

Under the proposed deal, India would contract Toshiba's US nuclear unit Westinghouse for preliminary works, including information sharing, a senior Indian official said. The aim is to build nuclear plants in the state of Gujarat.

"I think we're close," India's National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon said on Friday. "I think they're hoping to do a pre-early works (agreement), which involves some transfer of proprietary information."

Singh is due to meet Obama in Washington on 27 September. Westinghouse were not immediately available for comment. After US Secretary of State John Kerry raised the issue on a trip to India in June, the company said it expected the agreement to be finalized in September. The value of the preliminary contract has not been revealed. Indian officials say the proposed deal between Westinghouse and India's NPCIL would be the first time money is committed to a commercial US nuclear supplier since Singh staked his career on a civil nuclear pact with US President George W. Bush five years ago.

A commercial contract, however small, could breathe life into Singh's flagship policy as he nears the end of a decade in office amid grumbling in Washington that ties with India have failed to deliver rewards for US businesses.

*Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh gestures as he arrives for the launch of the "Gandhi Heritage Portal'' in New Delhi on 3 Sept, 2013.—*REUTERS

Many see the 2008 pact as Singh's crowning achievement, in one stroke ending years of isolation following atomic weapons tests in 1974 and 1998 and heralding a new era in the often fraught relations between the two democracies.

But on the nuclear front, progress has been slow because laws governing liability in the case of accidents took several years to finalize and when they came, put the onus on the equipment suppliers.—*Reuters*

Obama to meet with Abbas, discuss Middle East peace at UN

WASHINGTON, 21 Sept—President Barack Obama will meet with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas on Tuesday and will discuss the Middle East peace process during a speech that day to the United Nations General Assembly, the White House said on Friday.

Reuters

*US President Barack Obama speaks at the Ford Kansas City Stamping Plant Liberty in Liberty, Missouri on 20 Sept, 2013.—*REUTERS

UN move on Syria drags as world leaders prep for big week

NEW YORK, 21 Sept—As world leaders prepare to arrive in New York for the annual UN General Assembly gathering next week, Security Council diplomats continue grappling over a resolution on the Syrian crisis.

The differences were most recently voiced Friday as Russia, a key ally of Damascus, presented a draft text to Britain, China, France and the United States — the other permanent council members — which did not include a reference to Chapter 7, according to diplomats who said the negotiations are "ongoing."

Under the UN charter, Chapter 7 would allow for sanctions or even military action.

Britain, France and the United States have been pressing for the inclusion of such threats in order to ensure that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad complies with a Russian-American agreement reached on 14 September.

Kyodo News

Syria details part of chemical arsenal, more to come

THE HAGUE/BEIRUT, 21 Sept—Syria gave details of some of its chemical weapons to the OPCW arms watchdog at The Hague on Friday but needs to fill in gaps by next week to launch a rapid disarmament operation that may avert US air strikes.

At the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the UN-backed agency which is to oversee the removal of President Bashar al-Assad's arsenal, a spokeswoman said: "We have received part of the verification and we expect more." She did not say what was missing from a document one UN diplomat described as "quite long". The OPCW'S 41-member Executive Council is due to meet early next week to review Syria's inventory and to agree on implementing last week's US-Russian deal to eliminate the entire arsenal in nine months.

The timetable was set down by US Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov a week ago in Geneva when they set aside sharp differences over Syria to agree on a plan to deprive Assad of chemical weapons and so remove the immediate threat from Washington of launching military action.

That plan set a rough deadline of Saturday for Syria to give a full account of the weapons it possesses. Security experts say it has about 1,000 tonnes of mustard gas, VX and sarin - the nerve agent UN inspectors found after hundreds were killed by poison following missile strikes on rebel-held areas on 21 August.

Reuters

*A UN chemical weapons expert (2nd L) takes a picture of a person affected by an apparent gas attack, at a hospital where she is being treated , in the Damascus suburb of Zamalka on 29 Aug, 2013.—*REUTERS

Rockets hit Turkish police compound in Ankara, no one hurt

ANKARA, 21 Sept—A police compound in the Turkish capital Ankara was struck by three rockets on Friday, Interior Minister Muammer Guler said.

Two buildings belonging to the national police directorate in the district of Dikmen were hit, but no one was hurt, Guler said. A third rocket fell into the grounds.

Dikmen is one of the places across Turkey where anti-government protests have flared in recent months.

The television station NTV said it was not yet known who was behind the attack. Guler said police had found a rocket launcher and material belonging to "an illegal organization" near the scene of the attack.

*Policemen secure a police compound in Ankara on 20 Sept, 2013.—*REUTERS

Left-wing radicals, Islamist extremists and Kurdish militants have all staged attacks in Turkish cities in the past.

The far-left Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front (DHKP-C) in February claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing at the US Embassy in Ankara that killed a security guard.

Turkey blamed groups linked with the Syrian government for a car bombing in May in the town of Reyhanli, near the Syrian border, that killed more than 50 people. As civil war rages in Turkey's neighbour, Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan has repeatedly called for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to step down.

Reuters

US says open for Iran talks based on 'mutual respect'

WASHINGTON, 21 Sept — The United States is ready to engage in talks "on the basis of mutual respect" with Iran about its disputed nuclear programme as long as Teheran is willing to demonstrate that its programme is for civilian purposes, the White House said on Friday.

"We have had a number of engagements with the Iranians and we'll continue to have conversations on the basis of mutual respect," Josh Earnest, the deputy White House spokesman, told reporters aboard Air Force One during President Barack Obama's flight earlier in the day to Missouri.

"And over the course of those conversations there will be an opportunity for the Iranians to demonstrate through actions the seriousness with which they are pursuing this endeavor," Earnest said.

Obama and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani will be in New York next week for a meeting of the United Nations General Assembly. The White House has said that an encounter between the two leaders is possible.—*Reuters*

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Throngs greet Apple's newest iPhones, gold colour sells out

NEW YORK, 21 Sept — Thousands of iPhone enthusiasts queued up at Apple Inc stores around the world on Friday as two new models of the smartphone went on sale, but Apple's shares ended slightly lower as investors wait for initial sales figures, due as early as next week.

Long lines formed outside stores in Sydney, Tokyo, New York, San Francisco and other cities as Apple broke with tradition and launched two iPhone models—the new top-of-the-line 5S and the less-expensive 5C—on the same day.

Apple watchers said early signs pointed to more demand for the 5S than last year's new model. But some cautioned that the size of the crowds this year may not be an accurate gauge because consumers were unable to order the more expensive model online ahead of time, as with previous launches.

"While it is likely some of this line is due to not having an early pre-order option for the 5S, we still believe it shows loyalty to the iPhone remains strong among Apple's installed base," said ISI Group analyst Brian Marshall. He estimates Apple will sell about 6 million units in the first three days.

Apple sold more 5 million of the previous iPhone 5 units during its opening weekend last year.

A survey done by Piper Jaffray of 416 customers standing in lines outside of stores in New York, San Francisco and Minneapolis found that 95 percent of the people were planning to buy the 5S. Gene Munster, analyst with Piper Jaffray, estimates Apple will sell 5 million to 6 million iPhones over the weekend.

While Apple's stock dipped one percent by the close of trade, shares of Avago and TriQuint ended higher after they were identified as component suppliers for the new models.

The gold-coloured version of the 5S, which also comes in silver and gray, was already sold out as of Friday and will now ship only in October, according to Apple's website. The gray and silver versions can still ship in 7 to 10 days.

Supplies of both the new models has been disappointing, a source at a US wireless carrier had told *Reuters* earlier.—*Reuters*

Alejandro de Rosa (R) and Melisa Racineti of Buenos Aires, Argentina pose with their new Apple iPhone 5s phones with Apple employee Jay at the Apple Retail Store on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan, New York on 20 Sept, 2013. —REUTERS

Fiji, Japan to deepen cooperation to combat climate change

SUVA, 21 Sept — The recent visit to Fiji by Japan's Minister for Environment, Nobiteru Ishihara was an opportunity for both countries to reaffirm the need to strengthen relations in the area of climate change, the Fijian government said on Friday.

Ishihara met with Fiji's Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Ratu Inoke Kubuabola whilst on an official visit to Fiji earlier this week, where the two agreed to continue their commitment towards working on mutual areas of interest relating to climate change and other environmental issues, according to Fiji's Ministry of Information. Ishihara reiterated the support from the Japanese government on the current progress made by Fiji towards democratic elections and welcomed the new constitution of Fiji. In addition to this, Ishihara also confirmed his support on working with Fiji on environment-related issues including climate change.

Kubuabola thanked Ishihara for the support provided to Fiji by the Japanese government, and requested for the support and aid assistance from Japan in setting up of the Pacific Island Development Forum Secretariat.—*Xinhua*

Grand Theft Auto V sales zoom past $1 billion mark in 3 days

SAN FRANCISCO, 21 Sept — Grand Theft Auto V has crossed the $1 billion sales mark after three days in stores, a rate faster than any other video game, film or other entertainment product has ever managed, its creator Take Two Interactive Inc said on Friday.

The latest installment of GTA, a cultural phenomenon that has sparked a national debate on adult content and violence, received strong reviews and racked up $800 million in first-day sales alone.

That marked a launch-day record for the Grand Theft Auto franchise which is Take Two's most lucrative and allows players to cruise around a make-believe gameworld based on real-life locations such as Los Angeles.

Take-Two shares were little changed at $17.48 in early afternoon-trading on the Nasdaq.

Gamers had eagerly awaited the fifth installment of the 16-year-old game after Grand Theft Auto IV was released in 2008.

It took more than five years to be developed by Take-Two's Rockstar Games studio at a cost of between $200 million and $250 million, according to some analysts' estimates.

Last year, it took Activision Blizzard Inc's first-person shooter title "Call Of Duty: Black Ops II" 15 days to hit $1 billion in global sales after its November release. That game took in sales of $500 million on its first day.—*Reuters*

Game enthusiasts purchase the latest release of ''Grand Theft Auto Five'' after the game went on sale at the Game Stop store in Encinitas, California on 17 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

Foreign astronauts expected aboard China's space station

BEIJING, 21 Sept — A senior Chinese space scientist announced on Friday that China's space station is expected to be opened to foreign astronauts.

"The space station will offer astronauts from around the world opportunities for research and experimentation," Zhou Jianping, designer-in-chief of China's manned space programme, told *Xinhua* at the sidelines of an international symposium held in Beijing from Monday to Friday.

China's space station is expected to be completed around 2020.

Representatives from more than 20 countries and international organizations exchanged views on space technology cooperation, in a bid to promote the transformation and use of space technology.

"The space station will use cutting-edge technologies, such as energy and regeneration technologies," Zhou added.

Zhou said that China is willing to exchange and cooperate with other countries in the field after the completion of the space station, in order to achieve peaceful use of space resources and mutual development.

Xinhua

The following is the reproduction of the Myanmar Hotel and Tourism Guide 2013. Please visit www.tourismguide.com.mm for further information.—Ed

Yangon Region

Yangon

A feature of Yangon is the vast,lush parks around the downtown area. Formerly a small fishing village, Yangon is renowed as the site of the Shwedagon Pagoda, the most revered place of worship for Myanmar Buddhists. The sprawling city was first fortified by King Alaungpaya, who marked his conquest of Lower Myanmar by changing its name from Dagon to Yangon, which means 'End of Strife.'

The British established Yangon as their capital in 1852 after they won control of Lower Myanmar. A legacy of the British are some fine examples of colonial architecture, with some of the best on Pansodan Street and Strand Road.

Shwedagon Pagoda

The Shwedagon is a magnificent, shimmering spire of gold rising 326 feet (99.3m). According to legend it was erected more than 2500 years ago and eight hairs of the Buddha enshrined in a treasure chamber deep under its base. At the tip of the spire is a gold orb 10 inches in diameter inset with 4351 diamonds, totalling 1800 carats. The large solitaire at the top weighs 76 carats. The English traveller Ralph Fitch saw it in 1586 and described it as "the fairest place, as I suppose, that is in the world" where he saw "one thousand and eighteen images of all sizes. Of these about forty are colossal & many entirely covered with gilding."

Sule Pagoda

The Sule Pagoda marks the centre of Yangon. The grand City Hall rises to one side of it while on the other two corners are a church and a mosque. Further down the road is a Hindu temple. The different religions existing side by side in the city's centre symbolise the harmony among the country's races and religions.

Chauk Htat Gyi Pagoda

This pagoda features a beautiful reclining Buddha image 70 metre (230 feet) long in the pose of rest: the head is lifted up by the right arm bent at the elbow. The 1.5 metre (5 feet)-long eyes were made by the Naga Glass Factory in Yangon and are among the most life-Iike of those of any image in the country.

Nga Htat Gyi Pagoda

Across the road from the Chauk Htat Gyi Pagoda is the Nga Htat Gyi with a colossal seated Buddha image in royal regalia. Within its premises are shrines with figures of guardian spirits. Around this pagoda are many beautiful monasteries, one in brick with colourful Chinese motifs.

Botahtaung Pagoda

The original, ancient pagoda was destroyed by bombing during World War Two and a replica built in its place. Relics excavated from the treasure chamber were re-enshrined. There is a spiralling corridor leading to the innermost part of the spire where there is a glassencased relic chamber.

Tooth Relic Pagoda

Relics of the Buddha are possible to be replicated and one is enshrined in this pagoda on Swel Daw Myat Road off Kaba Aye Pagoda Road.

Naga Hlaing Gu Pagoda

Built over an ancient vaulted 11th century structure discovered decades ago, this pagoda has a legend based on the Naga (magical waterserpent) that once protected the Buddha. Carvings of snakes twine over the shrines.

BUSINESS & HEALTH

BlackBerry announces 4,500 layoffs

A Blackberry smartphone is displayed in this on 12 Aug, 2010 illustrative photo taken in Hong Kong.—REUTERS

TORONTO, 21 Sept— Canadian mobile phone producer Blackberry announced on Friday they're expecting to report a loss of 950 million to 995 million US dollars for the second quarter and will be slashing about 40 per cent of their global workforce.

The company said in a statement that it'll not only be streamlining its smartphone portfolio from six devices to just four, but it's also looking to cut half its operating expenditures by the end of the first quarter of its 2015 fiscal year.

This will include cutting 4,500 jobs in their workforce worldwide— bringing the number of employees to approximately 7,000 full-time workers. The Toronto Stock Exchange fell sharply late Friday after news spread, with BlackBerry shares closing down 16.08 percent at 9.08 Canadian dollars (about 8.81 US dollars) apiece. The Canadian company that was once at the top of the smartphone game has been struggling to catch up with the popular Apple iPhone, Samsung Galaxy and many other smartphones that have eroded the market in recent years.—*Xinhua*

Decent jobs, livable cities to help eliminate Asia poverty by 2030

MANILA, 21 Sept— Policymakers in developing Asia need to provide decent jobs, livable cities, and disaster prevention programmes if they want to end poverty by 2030, according to a report issued on Friday by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and the United Nations Development Programme.

According to the report "Asia-Pacific Aspirations: Perspectives for a Post-2015 Development Agenda," although most Asia-Pacific economies succeeded in reducing poverty levels, about 1.64 billion people still live on less than two dollars a day. There's also the problems of rising inequality, indicating that the benefits of recent economic gains were not distributed evenly. Lack of decent and productive jobs kept most people in the region poor.

"Economic growth is not generating sufficient decent and productive employment. This is due to the nature of growth and the pattern of structural change in many countries in which workers move from agriculture into low-productivity services," the report said. The Asia-Pacific region also remains off-track in meeting its Millennium Development Goals (MDG) on hunger, health, and sanitation. The report said the region remains home to two-thirds of the world's poor, and more than 60 percent of its hungry people.

This is even if the region only has less than 1,000 days to meet its MDG commitments for 2015. The report proposes 12 specific goals that policymakers in the region can implement in order to end poverty and raise quality of life by 2030.

Xinhua

Opinion divided on benefits of Baby dips

BEIJING, 21 Sept— Swimming courses for babies and toddlers are making a splash at the moment as more and more parents are sending their babies and toddlers to swimming classes.

Liu Ying, a full-time mother in Beijing, takes her 1-year-old son to a stylish spa in the capital's Chaoyang District on a Wednesday afternoon for a swim after he has had a nap.

Two babies swim in a pool at the Royal Care International Pregnancy & Baby SPA in Shilipu, Chaoyang District.—XINHUA

"When I delivered my baby in hospital, the doctors told me that swimming is very good for a baby's' health, so I searched online for facilities near our home," said the 32-year-old, adding that she didn't balk for a second at the 5,700 yuan ($930) one-year membership fee.

After a warm-up, simply playing with toys in a playroom, a hydrotherapist changes Liu's son clothes, then places him in a baby tub to have a quick shower before putting him in a small pool with a buoyancy ring buckled up under his arms to help him float.

The boy plays with toys in the water and turns around with the therapist's help, usually staying in the water for less than half an hour, said Liang Yan, the store manager of the Royal Care International Pregnancy & Baby Spa at Shilipu, Chaoyang District.

"Although it might be little exercise for an adult, this is enough to be conducive to a baby's health and brain development," she said.

After swimming, a hydrotherapist will gently massage the baby's body including ankles, wrists and fingers with lotion, she said.

"Most of our clients are parents born after 1980 with high or middle incomes" she said.

Xinhua

China's Huawei expects $2 billion in 4G revenue this year

SINGAPORE, 21 Sept— Huawei Technologies Co Ltd expects to take in more than $2 billion in revenues selling 4G gear this year as global carriers from China to Europe expand their networks, senior company executives said on Wednesday.

Even though 4G LTE (long-term evolution) promises faster video streaming and Internet downloads, the cost of smartphones would need to come down before the technology can enter the global mainstream, they told reporters in a briefing.

"The price of LTE smartphones is still higher that those without LTE technology. This is normal," said Peter Zhou, executive vice president for the LTE business unit at Huawei, the world's No.2 telecom equipment maker ranking behind Sweden's Ericsson.

There are 100 million 4G LTE users globally now, which makes up a small fraction of total mobile subscribers. That 4G number will grow to 1 billion in 2016, or more than half of total global subscribers, Zhou said.

"We foresee that around 2015, a multi-mode smartphone, which includes LTE, will be very similar or equal to the price of a (usual) smartphone," Zhou said. "So by that time, the portion of LTE smartphones will be much bigger."

Infrastructure spending in 4G LTE will nearly triple to $24.3 billion in 2013 from $8.7 billion in 2012, according to research firm IHS iSuppli, fueled by network expansions in major markets such as China, Japan and Germany.

So far, Huawei and Ericsson have a combined share of 74 percent of allocated LTE contracts, Huawei executives said, citing data from research firm Informa. Huawei's LTE revenues were insignificant last year, but grew quickly to $1 billion in the first half of the year. They are on track to hit more than $2 billion for the whole of 2013, said Bob Cai, vice president for Huawei's wireless marketing.

A man looks at a Huawei mobile phone as he shops at an electronic market in Shanghai on 22 Jan, 2013. REUTERS

With slowing economies in mature markets like Europe, China is seen as a bright spot for wireless growth, especially with China Mobile Ltd spending more on its 4G network as it is expected to get a license this year, analysts said.

So far, Huawei and rival ZTE Corp have secured more than half of China Mobile's initial 4G contracts worth around 20 billion yuan ($3.2 billion), with the rest going to Ericsson, Alcatel-Lucent SA and Nokia Siemens Networks, sources said August.

Reuters

Huawei to create 5,500 new jobs in Europe

BEIJING, 21 Sept— Huawei, China's leading information and communications solution provider, has pledged to diversify its service portfolio in Europe, while the United States has offered no easy market access, its senior executive said.

"Our expansion progress in Europe is different from that in the US, where we have encountered access difficulties due to some groundless reasons given by the American side," Patrick Zhang, president of marketing and solutions, Huawei Enterprise Business Group, told *China Daily* in the Netherlands.

While continuously enhancing business cooperation with European telecommunications operators, Zhang said providing information technology solutions to European enterprises is a new growth engine for the company in Europe.

Xinhua

WORLD

APEC ministers agree to facilitate infrastructure investment

Photo shows participants in a meeting of finance ministers of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum on Bali Island, Indonesia, on 20 Sept, 2013. Yoshitaka Ito (C), parliamentary secretary for finance, represented Japan. —Kyodo News

Nusa Dua,(Indonesia,) 21 Sept—Finance ministers of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum agreed on Friday in Bali to take measures to facilitate infrastructure investment to boost growth in some economies, particularly emerging ones, amid the weak global economic outlook.

"Our actions at this meeting, particularly our agreement to facilitate infrastructure investment, demonstrate our willingness to cooperate to achieve reforms for stronger, more sustainable and more balanced growth," the APEC ministers said in a joint statement at the end of their two-day talks at a beach resort. The agreement came after Indonesia, the chair of this year's APEC forum, urged member nations to come up with initiatives to deal with the current global economic upheaval.

"The expectation that we produce is partly driven by the fact that we are meeting at a time where the challenges facing our economies are considerable," Indonesian Finance Minister Chatib Basri told his APEC counterparts earlier in the day. The finance chiefs shared a common understanding that the global economic outlook suggests growth is likely to be slower and less balanced than desired despite strengthening private demand in the United States and the picking up of growth in Japan.

To boost investment, the ministers stressed the need for the implementation of structural reforms that, according to Basri, will build "strong fundamentals to support our economies."

At a joint Press conference, Basri said Indonesia exchanged experiences with other member economies "about the way they conducted structural reforms in mitigating the turbulence" and agreed "to continue with structural reforms and try to improve some issues related to fiscal balance."—*Kyodo News*

Merkel fights for majority in tight German election race

Berlin, 21 Sept—Chancellor Angela Merkel looked on track to win a third term in a weekend election in Germany but faced a battle to preserve her centre-right majority and avert a potentially divisive coalition with her arch-rivals, the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD).

The vote on Sunday is being watched across Europe, with many of Berlin's partners hoping it will bring about a softening of the austerity-first approach Merkel has promoted since the euro zone debt crisis broke out nearly four years ago.

But the prospect of major shifts in her euro policy are slim, even if she is forced into a "grand coalition" with the SPD, whose candidate Peer Steinbrueck has criticized the chancellor for choking off growth in southern members of the currency bloc by insisting on spending cuts and painful reforms.

"Germany remains committed to euro zone membership, but public opinion and institutional constraints ... limit the scope for any German government to drastically alter course towards more generous support policies," analysts at Citi Research said in a research note.—*Reuters*

German Chancellor Angela Merkel gestures as she address media during a news conference at Bundespressekonferenz in Berlin on 19 July, 2013.—Reuters

Russia's Putin brings 'grey cardinal' Surkov back to Kremlin

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin (L) meets with Deputy Prime Minister Vladislav Surkov at the Novo-Ogaryovo residence outside Moscow on 30 Dec, 2011.—Reuters

Moscow, 21 Sept—President Vladimir Putin named his former deputy chief of staff Vladislav Surkov as an aide on Friday, bringing back the creator of modern Russia's tightly controlled political system just four months after he quit the government in a power struggle.

Surkov's return is likely to be seen as an effort by Putin to strengthen the more liberal camp in his Kremlin inner circle and balance out hawks who have seemed dominant since the former KGB spy began a third presidential term last year.

He was pushed from the Kremlin in 2011, after street protests against the system he helped create, and spent a year in government as a deputy prime minister before quitting in May after a dispute with investigators looking into suspected fraud.

His departure from the Kremlin's presidential administration and then from Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev's cabinet was widely seen as a victory for conservatives.

The "grey cardinal", so called because of the influence he wielded behind the scenes, helped build what is known as "sovereign democracy" and, as Putin's top political aide, concentrated power in the president's hands in his first, 2000-2008 term.

His sway may not be so strong this time around.

Putin's decree did not specify Surkov's responsibilities, but his spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, told Ekho Moskvy radio he would advise the president on aid to the Moscow-backed breakaway Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

However, the appointment gives Surkov, who turns 49 on Saturday, access to Putin's ear early in a six-year term that the 60-year-old has said may not be his last.

Surkov could not immediately be reached for comment.

Putin likes to maintain a balance of forces around him and often rotates people he trusts into different jobs. He has a limited pool to pick from, and senior officials who quit or are dismissed rarely then openly oppose Kremlin authority.

Reuters

Russia's Itar-Tass becomes chair of OANA

Moscow, 21 Sept—Russia's *Itar-Tass* news agency replaced Turkey's *Anadolu Agency* as chair of the Organization of Asia-Pacific News Agencies, which groups 44 news agencies in the region.

Kyodo News was also picked as a member of the OANA Executive Board.

OANA reached the decisions at its 15th two-day general meeting that started Thursday in Moscow.

OANA also agreed to increase the number of Executive Board members to 13 from 11.

Itar-Tass will hold the post until September 2016.

Of the 44 members, 35 news agencies sent representatives to the meeting in Moscow, including *Anadolu, Itar-Tass,* China's *Xinhua News Agency,* South Korea's *Yonhap News Agency,* North Korea's *Korean Central News Agency, the Australian Associated Press and Kyodo News.*

Kyodo News President Masaki Fukuyama attended the meeting.

Kyodo News

Mexico scours for dozens missing amid floods as storms abate

La Pintada, (Mexico), 21 Sept— Rescuers cleared mud from shattered houses on Friday, searching for dozens of people missing after a mudslide flattened their village in southwest Mexico as some of the most destructive storms to hit the country in decades abated.

Dozens of homes in La Pintada, a village about 60 miles from the beach resort of Acapulco, were swallowed up by a mudslide touched off by heavy rain and flooding at the weekend that has killed at least 100 people across Mexico and forced thousands of people to abandon their homes.

The government said close to 300 people living around La Pintada had been rescued but 68 were still missing late on Thursday. Around 20 bodies have been recovered from the shattered village, authorities said.

The flooding across vast stretches of Mexico looked set to become one of the country's most costly disasters just as the economy has suffered a sharp slowdown.

Rescue workers were also looking for signs of a helicopter that vanished on Thursday in the storm-battered state of Guerrero with at least 10 people aboard.

A Black Hawk helicopter, with two pilots and at least eight people rescued from villages outside Acapulco on board, lost contact with authorities on Thursday, Manuel Mondragon, the government's national security commissioner, told local media.

Acapulco has suffered some of the worst of the flooding that began when two tropical storms, Ingrid and Manuel, bore down on Mexico from the Pacific and the Atlantic, cutting a trail of destruction that has affected more than a million people.

Reuters

Trees stand submerged in water after a river overflowed its banks in Culiacan on 19 Sept, 2013.
Reuters

LOCAL NEWS

Farmlands returned to owners

KYAUKME, 21 Sept—More than 2000 farmlands in Kyaukme Township in Shan State were returned to the hands of original farmers.

Original owners of farmlands in Sakhanthar, Kyaukmegyikwin, Palaung Peace Ground and Khomone Nanye areas got the farmlands back.

Some 300 farmlands in Nawnghkio were also returned to the original farmers.

The ceremony to return farmlands was held on 16 September in Khomone village in Kyaukme Township attended by Kyaukme Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Sai Kham Kyaw, the commander of the local station, Township Administrator U Aung Lwin and Township Land Records Department Staff Officer U Zaw Myo Oo.

MMAL-090

A thousand fruits, a thousand flowers offered to pagoda in Zeyathiri Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Sept—A thousand fruits and a thousand flowers were offered to Kan Myint Pagoda in Ananda Myitta Thitsa Wadi Monastery in Kan Aye Aung Chan Thar village in Yezin village-tract in Zeyathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday.

The ritual was led by Sayadaws U Jotika and U Vilasa, members of Pagoda Board of Trustees and youth groups.

Sermons were also organized in Zawtikrama Hall of the Monastery on 18-19 September evening to mark the second anniversary of the festival.

MMAL-Wathan Tun (Magway)

Agriculture

New groundnut species introduced

MAHLAING, 21 Sept—A new species of groundnut was introduced and production of natural fertilizers demonstrated in farmer U Lun Kyaw's farm in Monbin village in Kandwin village-tract in Mahlaing Township of Mandalay Region on 15 September.

It was attended by Township Administrator U Aung Thein Hlaing, Staff Officer of Township Agriculture Department U Khin Zaw, Staff Officer II of Township Settlement and Land Records Department U Soe Win and some 60 farmers.

The Sinpadetha 10 groundnut species was introduced at the ceremony.

Then, agriculturalists demonstrated the production of natural fertilizers with the use of dunk and other natural ingredients.—*MMAL-Kyaw Kyaw (Mahlaing)*

Charity

Shwe Ngar Restaurant offers free lunch to flood victims

MYITNGE, 21 Sept—Shwe Ngar Restaurant Chains in Amarapura Township offered lunch to flood victims in Uyindaw village-tract in Amarapura Township of Mandalay Region.

Owner of Shwe Ngar Restaurant Chains U Myint Wai and family offered free lunch to the flood victims on 14-20 September from 10 am to 5 pm.

Villagers of Uyindaw, Kanbe, Yekyipauk and Hsinywar Myinhmu villages in Amarapura Township were affected by the flood caused by the rising water level of Dokhtawady River.

Uyindaw village-tract administrator U Ye Myaing and villagers themselves volunteered in serving the flood victims with lunch.

U Myint Wai, owner of Shwe Ngar said, "I am heartened by the chance to offer lunch to the flood victims. I am happy to see them enjoying the food I offer." U Myint Wai is known for his frequent contributions to the society.

MMAL-Maung Maung Soe (Myitnge)

Educative talks on drug abuse given

YANGON, 21 Sept—Educative talks on drug abuse were held in Sangyoung Township in Yangon West District in Yangon Region on 14 September.

Commander of Yangon West District Anti-Drug Squad Police Captain Khin Maung Thein gave talks on drug abuse at the event held at No (4) Basic Education High School in Sangyoung Township.

The speaker also invited the participation of the public in the fight against drugs.

MNA

Health Care Facility

Tangyan station hospital completed

TANGYAN, 21 Sept—The construction of the station hospital in Mongkaung village in Tangyan Township in northern Shan State has been completed 100 percent.

The construction was headed by Managing Director U Min Min Soe of Sagaing-Universal Company.

The hospital includes one building and three staff quarters.

The estimated cost of the construction is nearly K 40 million and the opening ceremony is expected soon.

MMAL-Min Lwin Oo (IPRD)

National Sports

19th Inter-Region/State Aerobics Tournament organized

ARCHERS IN ACTION: ***Tentatively selected Myanmar archers participated in qualifier of Myanmar Archery Federation for XXVII SEA Games to be hosted in Myanmar at Wunna Theikdi Archery Shooting Range in Nay Pyi Taw on 18 September.***

MMAL-KO KO SOE NYUNT

YANGON, 21 Sept—The 19th Inter-Region/State Women's Aerobics Tournament was organized in No (1) National Indoor Stadium (Thuwanna) in Thingangyun Township in Yangon this morning.

The defending champions Yangon Region returned the shield to Principal of Sports and Physical Education Institute Director of Sports and Physical Education Department U Kyaw Hsan Oo.

On behalf of the Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman Union Minister for Sports, Director of Yangon Region Sports and Physical Education Department U Kyaw Hsan Oo delivered an address at the ceremony.

A total of 276 players from 13 teams representing region/state except Chin State participated in the game.

Member of Myanmar Olympic Committee Vice-President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Daw L Khun Yi, patrons, executives, officials of Sports and Physical Education Department and athletes were also present.

MMAL-Tin Soe (Myanma Alinn)

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 22 September, 2013

National integration

The government has been persistent in its efforts to achieve nation-wide peace, foster economic development and mould a better future for our young people.

Our strong belief is that we need to solve our disagreements through peaceful and non-violent discussions and negotiations geared towards finding a common ground. For all of us with different beliefs and opinions, we need to build a certain level of trust where we will be able to work together. It is also our firm conviction that we can build that trust only by working together. In this way we can become a modern society.

Finding solutions through discussions and negotiations does not always mean compromising. Even though we may have differences in beliefs and opinions we are just encouraging everyone to exercise sound judgment, broad-mindedness, right intentions, wisdom and energy when working towards creating a sustainable political process and fostering a better political future. While there were concerns regarding the 88 Peoples Movement Silver Jubilee, genuine political will on all sides made this event a success. 88 Peoples Movement Silver Jubilee commemorates an important movement in our political history. The fact that we can celebrate this event together shows us that we are moving towards to a new political culture where "those who agree to disagree can still work together." We greatly appreciate such leaps in our political culture.

All of us must work together to achieve one the most important goals for our society, which is, the national integration. We must continue our reform and development efforts as well as reestablish important social values such as wanting to live in peace and harmony among the different faiths and ethnicities.

Winners at International Letter-writing Competition awarded

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Sept— In commemoration of World Post Day which falls on 9 October 2013, UNESCO and UPU jointly organized International Youths Letter-writing Competition. The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology and Ministry of Education sponsored an internal level letter-writing competition in English titled "Write a letter about why water is precious" on 6 January at basic education schools.

Grade 10 student Ma Nang Nwam Hlyan Hsai from No 2 BEHS (Bahan) secured Internal level first prize, grade nine student Ma May Myat Noe Than of No 1 BEHS (Kengtung) stood the second and grade nine student Ma Khin Win Thein from No 7 BEMS (Sittway) the third. The three consolation prizes went to grade 10 students Ma Wine Yi Mon Oo from No 3 BEHS (Mawlamyine), Maung Lamin Maung Maung from No 3 BEHS (Bago) and grade nine student Ma Khaing Khaing Soe San from No 1 BEHS (Myitkyina). The three special prizes went to grade 10 students Ma Kay Thwe Htoo of No 1 BEHS (Pyay), Matriculation students Ma Myint Myat Myat Soe from BEHS (Butalin) and Ma Moe Thandar Hlaing from No 2 BEHS (Lashio).The first prize work of Ma Nang Nwam Hlyan Hsai was sent to the headquarters of Universal Postal Union in Switzerland to compete in international level contest.—*MNA*

ARTICLE

Tawthalin holds Royal Regatta Festival

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

(continued from yesterday)

In the reign of King Bagyidaw [1819-1837 A.D.], one Chinese Embassy arrived at the capital with credentials and gifts to be presented to Myanmar king. Bagyidaw accorded a grand reception to the Chinese envoys. A magnificent royal regatta was held in their honour followed by boat races. Grand titles were conferred upon them with costly jade gifts. On their return, a Myanmar embassy was sent to the court of Beijing with royal letters and gifts. Myanmar envoys were given equal treatment. Great gala of fireworks was held for five successive nights with grand dinners in their honour. They returned to Inwa the capital with gifts and presents for king Bagyidaw. These events were fully recorded in the 62 stanzas of the said Mawgun, which was completed and submitted to Bagyidaw in February 1823. Royal Regatta was described in fine poetic language in the stanzas 16 to 28. From them we learn that the following barges and boats participated in that grand event:-

Ceremonial Barges and Boats

1. Pyi Gyi Mon
2. Karaweik
3. Nawaru
4. Thone Lu Pu Zaw
5. Lin Zin
6. Pa Thone
7. Pyi Kone
8. Thara bu
9. Lawka Beik Man
10. Dwa Laung
11. Thu wa
12. Than Thu Mara
13. Manoke Thiha
14. Naga Deva
15. Thatkadan
16. Lwan Kyin
17. Tharaka
18. E Kin
19. Thara Beik Hman
20. Kama Kaw
21. Thinka Net
22. Hlaw Ka Taw Gyi
23. Ginga Zeya Hlaw Ka Taw
24. Kaw Ka Nuda
25. Thu Yaung
26. Kein Naya
27. Kein Nari
28. Pyinsa Rupa
29. Thatta Rupa
30. Nawa Rupa
31. Dattha Rupa
32. Dwa Dattha Rupa
33. Thone Lu Tauk Pa
34. Tala Hein
35. Shwe Tone
36. Shwe Nan Shin

War Barges and Boats

1. Yan Naing Hlaw Ka Taw Gyi
2. Phone Taw Naing
3. Pyi Lone Ya
4. Thura Nga Gyin
5. Set Naya Shwe
6. Min Taya Set Kyi
7. Pagu Nainggan
8. Sit Hlyin Aung
9. Thu Ye Tu Lut
10. Ye Hlyant Kyaw
11. Ye Mun Taung
12. Pyi Lone Naing
13. In Byaw
14. In Ma
15. Taungoo In Ma
16. Zinme In Ma
17. Pyay In Ma
18. Bye Ta Yaw
19. Tha Phyu Hlaw Ka Taw
20. Thu Ye Kyaw
21. Sit Hlyin In Ma
22. Kyaw Khaung
23. Kaung Myit Sit
24. Ye Sit
25. Marabin Hlaw Ka Taw
26. Pyi Lone Ya
27. Thu Ye Pala Hwet
28. Zala Kha Pin
29. Aza Lone
30. Phone Taw Nainggan

Racing Boats

1. Let Thin
2. Let Ywe
3. Pyi Lone Ant
4. Ywe Kyi
5. Pyi Lone Kyaw
6. Pwe Taing Kyaw
7. Pwe Lone Tin
8. Twe Taing Naing
9. Pwe Taing Aung
10. Myit Taing Naing
11. Twe Taing Win
12. Shwe Tanga
13. In Pyaw
14. Tha Lwin Pyu
15. Kyaw
16. Htwet Taing Ya
17. Pyaing Taing ya
18. Lu Lin Kyaw
19. Kat Tu
20. Ku Root
21. Than Pan
22. Lone Pyi
23. Shwe Laung
24. Pyi Lone Ya

Ceremonial barges and boats had their own legends and histories. They performed special functions for specific occasions. They were in charge of the officers concerned. They were stoutly built, ornate and mostly gilt. Some had a palace-like structure or pavilion on them. Figures of mythical creatures such as Garuda, Naga the dragon serpent, Unicorn, Keinara, Kein nari, human faced male and female birds, Manoke Thiha [human faced and two lion bodied sphinx], Ogre, Sakka Deva, Brahma Deva, Pyinsa Rupa, etc,. to adorn them to depict their legends.

War boats were lightly built and not elaborately decorated. They were slim, light, mobile, so that they could be easily carried about by their rowers. For decorations they choose the figures of animals noted for courage, fighting ability, fidelity, strength and regal appearance. Thus elephant, lion, tiger, bull, buffalo, horse, mountain goat, etc., were the favourite among land animals, crocodile, shark, nga gyin fish, whale, makara or Magan from the aquatic creatures, and Karaweik, sheldrake, peacock, zewazo, setkawut, lawn kyin, hornbill, king fishes are the most popular avian creatures. They were either carved in the body of the boat or only their heads were affixed at the front.

Racing boats did not have the above-mentioned decorative figures, but they were gorgeously painted. They only cared for their names which must be auspicious, inspiring, prideful, good sounding and above all astrologically correct. Thus "Pyi Lone Ant" means "Wonder of the whole country", "Pyi Lone Kyaw" means "Famous throughout the whole country", "Twe Taing Aung" means "Winner of every match", "Pyaing Taing Ya" means "Prize winner of every competition" and "Myit Taing Naing" means "Winner of every race held in every river".

If any unusual object is seen on a racing boat, it is none other than a propitiatory offering to nat spirits to help win the race, such as sprigs of Eugenia, special flower, or scarf with special colour prescribed by the Divinity consultant or charms or mantras believed to have occult power, written or inscribed on a square paper or metal plate stuck or nailed on the side of the racing boat. Rowers also keep such charms or amulets on their bodies but hidden from the public.

The last Royal Regatta held by the last Myanmar king Thebaw was recorded in one Myanmar chronicle "Konbaung Set Maha Yazawun Taw Gyi" as follows :-

"On the 11th Waxing moon of Tawthalin, nobles and high officials came out to the shore of the Ayeyawaddy River. To the west direction of the Golden Capital to make arrangements for the celebration of the annual boat festival "Yey Khin Taw" [Royal Regatta]. Min Gyi Min Htin Maha Sithu, Deputy Minister and Lord of Wet Ma Sut Town took the charge of preparation for boat races.

The first boat at the front had no match to compete with. So it was kept aside. Next two pairs turned up. Let Ywe Gyi and Let Thit Hlaw Ka Taw Gyi in one pair and Pyi Lone Ant and Ywe Gyi in other pair. They ran the race. Later the following boats came in sequence in the racing line namely 12 Hlaw Ka Taw Gyi boats, 22 Hlaw Ka Taw boats, such as Paleik Shwe Khe, Asey Khan Taung Lone, Pwe Taing Kyaw, Htwet Taing Ya; 28 rowing boats such as Shwe Tone, Min San, Taung Long Hmaing, Kho Taung Shwe Khe; 29 Laung Taw boats such as Thone Lu Tauk Pa, Thone Lu Pu Zaw, etc.; 45 war canoes belonging to Royal Gunnery, various Hlaw Ka Taw boats belonging to the nobles, ministers and high officials.

"On the 13th Waxing Moon day, 22 ships such as Setkya Yin Pyan the sea voyager, Yatana Yin Thar, Yatana Yin Pyan, Setkya Yan Alwint the riverine ships competed.

(See page 9)

Better transportation vital for rural development

Union Minister U Ohn Myint explains regional development tasks to local people.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 Sept—Thitkyein-Htonbogyi No.2 inter-district road links Nay Pyi Taw, Bago Region and Kayin State. So, the road needs to be repaired ahead of monsoon with allocated fund for improvement of socioeconomic status of rural people, said Union Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Ohn Myint in a meeting with the villagers from Nagyat Village in Yedashe Township in Bago Region, here, yesterday evening.

The ministry would fulfill not only rural electrification and supply of clean drinking water but better transportation, health and education for local people, he added.

The Union minister and officials touched upon breeding milch cows in order to feed milk to the school children and distribution of quality chicken, pigs and ducks and plans for breeding of fish.

The Union minister met with village development supportive committees, locals and teachers at the villages, basic education schools and rural health care centers in Lewe, Yedashe and Toungoo Townships and Leiktho Sub-Township on Toungoo-Leiktho-Yado-Loikaw Road and fulfilled the requirements.—*MNA*

Thai Health Minister observes training center in Mandalay

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 Sept— Dr Pradit Sintavanarong, Public Health Minister of Thailand and senior officials looked round the conducting of training on control of infectious diseases and delivery room at multi-purpose health training center in Hsinywagyi Model Village, Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region yesterday.

The Assistant Director (Infectious Disease) of Health Department explained the programmes on control of infectious diseases in Myanmar.

MNA

Public Health Minister of Thailand Dr Pradit Sintavanarong views documentary photos on health care services in natural disasters of Myanmar.—MNA

Tonics administered to children in Homalin

Homalin, 21 Sept—Sagaing Region Maternal and Child Welfare Association in Sagaing Region administered Babivit, the vitamin tonics for the kids in a ceremony at the kindergarten of Maternal and Child Welfare Association in Homalin on 18 September morning.

Chairperson of Khamti District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Soe Soe Myint and executives of the Maternal and Child Welfare Association administered tonics to 87 under-five children.

MMAL-Lin Lin (IPRD)

MR to give RBE transport service to passengers

Byline: Soe Win-MLA

Myanma Railways will run the circular trains facilitated with rail bus engine (RBE) coaches equipped with air-conditioners, according to the officials of Myanma Railways.

With regard to the runs of the very first coaches of RBE installed with four air-conditioners each, Assistant General Manager U Kyaw Kyaw Myo, incharge of Yangon Region Division 7, said, "RBE coaches are installed with engine under its floor. We plan to launch the RBE trains in October. But, the fares have not been approved yet. The route for the trains is under the plan. We will coordinate the best route for the people at fair price of tickets."

As the imported RBE coaches were installed with railing on the right side of the coach, more railings were installed on left side for passenger convenience. In addition, the railings were gouged out at the second step for convenience of the older persons and children. At present, Myanma Railways has experience for RBE trains obtained from the runs of Yangon-Kyaikto special air-conditioned train.

"RBE coaches carry engine and air-conditioners in good conditions. We will not neglect damages of air-conditioners and machines. Especially, we will pay serious attention to newly-arranged air-conditioned circular train. If there was machine failure, we would face much difficulty for work process. However, the rail bus engine coaches have been installed with air pressure break that can speed up and slow down immediately," he continued.

At present, circular trains of Myanma Railways occupies the increasing shares of passengers in the transport sector of Yangon. The whole length of circular railroad takes 2 hours and 50 minutes for the drives of trains. Myanma Railways manages running of circular trains 200 plies in mid-October regularly.

When the RBE train runs, it is estimated that the runs of circular trains will hit 208 a day.

Kyemon: 20-9-2013

Trs: **TTA**

Tawthalin holds Royal Regatta ...

(from page 8)

Finally the two rowing boats Kho Taung Shwe Khe and Mingala Yan Hnin had another round of race, because objections were raised when Mingala Yan Hnin got defeated in the first race held previous day. Royal permit was obtained. So these two boats competed again. This time Mingala Yan Hnin plucked the flower of victory. So ended the Royal Regatta."

Prize distribution took place on the final day of the Regatta. Either their Majesties or their Deputies gave prizes to the winners. Prizes varied from silk pusoe [long piece of cloth for men's wear], gaungpaung [headgear or turban] puwa [scarf] pieces of cotton, silk, velvet and money in pure silver—100,200,300, 500 to 1000 tikals. The winners paid obeisance and departed happily.

Boat races were held throughout the open season but especially in the month of Tawthalin. But when important event is taking place such as pagoda festival, military display, celebration of war victories, visit of distinguished guests or dignitaries, regatta is displayed and boat races are held.

[From 1990 to 1996 Myanmar Traditional cultural Regatta Festival was yearly held at the Royal Lake Kantaw Gyi, Yangon, in the month of Tawthalin. King Thayawaddy's naval expedition to Dagon was re-enacted on a magnificent scale, for the revival of patriotic spirit and preservation of cultural heritage and national identity. A site was chosen on the spacious bank of Inya lake for the construction of a regatta and boat museum for public display.]

LOCAL NEWS

Farming rights certificate presented to farmers in Thaton Tsp

THATON, 21 Sept—A ceremony to issue farming rights certificates to farmers from Debarein, Thayettaw, Taungsun, Pawtawmu, Sinbyukyun, Seikkyun and Naungbo village-tracts in Thaton Township of Mon State was held a Thuwunna Hall in Thaton on 16 September morning.

Deputy Commissioner U Nay Lin of the district explained the purpose of issuing farming rights certificates to the local people.

Chairman of Township Farmland Management Committee Township Administrator U Tun Tun Naing reproted on issuance of the certificates in the township.

Next, representatives from seven village-tracts accepted certificates for 2788 farmlands.

Up to 16 September, Thaton Township has issued 14348 certificates to the farmers against the target of 31576, accounting for 45 per cent.

In October, the certificates will be issued to all the farmers in the township.

Kyemon-Thet Oo (Thaton)

Yazagyo Dam to be completed in 2014-15 FY

KALAY, 21 Sept—Yazagyo Multi-purpose Dam Project commenced in 2003-2004 and it will finish in 2014-15 FY. It will supply water to 8500 acres of farmlands for development of Myittha Basin and to generate 4 megawatts.

By damming Nerinzara River, the dam is 13,660 feet long and 165 feet high with 130 square miles of watershed area. A total of 244,780 acre-feet of water flows into the dam annually. It can store 8000 acre-feet of water.

A 240 feet long and 14 feet wide bridge was built on 21-4-2009 for local people to have easy access to other places.

Thanks to the bridge, the local people can travel to Kalay and Tamu from western part of Nerinzara River and.

Hydropower will be generated at a power station on the seddle dyke of the dam.

A contract was signed with CGGC Co of China.

The project will be completed inm 2014-2015 fiscal year, said an official.

In fact, Yazagyo Dam and hydropower station will be engines for development of the local people.

Kyemon-Lin Let Kyei Sin

Kalewa-Homalin vessels resume running

KALAY, 21 Sept—Due to heavy rain in upper Sagaing Region and Chin hill regions, cargo and passenger watercrafts were suspended for their transportation facilities. As of 12 September, the runs of watercrafts were allowed to resume, said a local.

Transport

Chindwin River reached its water level at 1327 cm on 16 September and Myittha River, 1312 cm. The whole year rainfll hit 39.41 inches, said U Aung Ngwe of Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

The local people residing upstream of Chindwin River have been relying on waterway transport only. If the waterway was closed, they would not travel to other regions. But, the water level is not good conditions for transport and runs of vessels not only too lower but too higher levels, said local people.

Moreover, the river gives trobles to the ships in the waterway with whirls as natural barriers.

Kyemon-Lin Let Kyei Sin

Talks on violence against women and children held

YANGON, 21 Sept—Organized by Tamway Township Women's Affairs Organization, the educative talks on protection of children and women against violence was held at the hall of Basic Education High School No. 1 in Tamway Township, 2 pm on 14 September.

Chairperson of Yangon Region Women's Affairs Organization Daw Thaung Mya made a speech.

Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Khin Maung Mya discussed criminal cases and penalty, Township Law Officer Daw Khin Swe Oo legal affairs and Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Hla Hla Myint protection of girls.

Chairperson of the region WAO Daw Thaung Mya accepted membership applications for WAO and presented brooches to the members of the WAO. She also gives gifts to the speakers.

Kyemon-Township IPRD

Aung Yadana Express Bus-line launched in Katha Tsp

KATHA, 21 Sept—Aung Yadana-YeU bus line extends its works of passenger and cargo transportation due to better transport facilities and raising of security conditions.

In the previous months, Mandalay-Pinlebu passen-ger and cargo transport bus-line and Monywa-Wuntho passenger tran-sport bue-line were launched.

Aung Yadana ex-press bus-line transport ser-vice head-quarters at the Township Bus Line Terminal in Ward 4 of Katha was launched to run Katha-Monywa route on 18 September morning.

Chairman of the Township Management Committee Township Administrator U Zaw Min Htaik, Commander of Townhsip Police Force Police Major Kyaw Aung Myint and the chairman of Aung Yadana Bus Line cut the ribbon to open the maiden trip of the bus.

The bus leaves Katha at 17 pm.

Thanks to newly-opened bus line, the local people and departmental officials will have easy access to Katha District, Township, and Region City Monywa for attending coordination departmental meetings and carrying out office works.

Kyemon-District IPRD

Students changed learning at safe schools due to landslides

KALAY, 21 Sept—Heavy rains of Chin State caused landslids in Falam Township.

Sunman hall and Bankyi Hall of Falam Basic Education High School Branch dropped six inches deep into the ground.

Therefore, students were moved to Basic Education Primary School No. 4 and middle and high students to Basic Education High School No 1. Primary students attend the school from 7 am to 12 noon and middle and high students, 12.30 pm to 5.30 pm.

A teacher remarked that it is so difficult for students. On Chin Hill, two sessions of the students are difficult for them. Hill region gets sun light at about 9 am. Those from the remote areas may face problems for attending the school at 7 am.

Due to changing the schools, teachers are worrked for the students about querrel for other students, for showers and ailing.

Falam Basic Education High School Branch was upgraded in 2013. Altogether 269 primary, 576 middle and 133 high school students are attending the school under teaching of 39 teachers.

Kyemon-Lin Let Kyei Sin

Philippines evacuates coastal villages as super typhoon approaches en route for China

Manila, 21 Sept—The Philippines evacuated northern coastal villages, suspended ferry services and called in fishing boats on Friday as an approaching category-five storm, already labelled a super typhoon, gained strength on a path set for southern China.

With centre winds of 205 kph (127 mph) and gusts of up to 240 kph, Typhoon Usagi, the strongest storm to hit the Western Pacific this year, was moving northwest at 19 kph between the Philippines and Taiwan and headed for Hong Kong and south China.

China's *Xinhua news* agency said preparations were being made for an "emergency response" in southern coastal areas.

Storm alerts have been raised on the rice and coconut-growing island of Batanes and 15 provinces on the Philippines' main island of Luzon, the weather bureau said.

Tropical Storm Risk, which forecasts weather and advises on insurance and risk, labels storms from one to five, with five the strongest.

"Our people there know the drill, but we have also issued warnings to take safety precautions," Philippine Budget Secretary Florencio Abad said. "We're praying it doesn't create death and destruction."

A typhoon hit Batanes in 1987, destroying all roads as the water level surged as high as 25 feet (seven metres).

"Practically, all our coconut trees broke in half," Abad said.

Power and communications in the area have been cut off for safety reasons and hospitals were put on alert as disaster agencies stocked up on food and water. Troops were also on standby. Usagi is expected to batter the northernmost islands overnight on Friday. It is also likely to weaken before it hits southern China on Sunday night.

An average of 20 typhoons hit the Philippines every year. In 2011, Typhoon Washi killed 1,200 people, destroyed more than 10,000 homes and displaced 300,000 people.

Bopha, the strongest storm to hit last year, flattened three coastal towns on the southern island of Mindanao, killing 1,100 people and destroyed crops, property and infrastructure worth $1.04 billion.

Reuters

Dancers perform at a crossing during the road safety week action campaign in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 20 Sept, 2013. The Global Status Report on Road Safety 2013 released by World Health Organization indicates the rate of road traffic deaths in Indonesia has reached a worrying level.—Xinhua

ASEAN pushes forward construction of railway linking member countries

Jakarta, 21 Sept—Delegates of ASEAN member countries and partners kicked off a 2-day forum here on Friday, discussing efforts to construct railway project called Singapore-Kunming Rail Link (SKRL) linking countries located inland Southeast Asia.

The workshop forum entitled "ASEAN Connectivity Through Rail" was sponsored by the United States Trade and Development Agency (USTDA), attended by 120 participants that comprises delegates representing state-owned and private railway firms, authorities and transportation ministries from ASEAN member countries, executives of transportation firms, experts and officials from ASEAN Secretariat.

The SKRL is a flagship project under the ASEAN Mekong Basin Development Cooperation and one of the priority projects in the Master Plan for ASEAN Connectivity. It serves as an impetus for the integration of the region and a catalyst for economic development.

"The ASEAN Community has been actively pursuing the idea of efficient and green method of transportation via the implementation of Singapore-Kunming Rail Link (SKRL)," Abdul Ghafar bin Yusof, Deputy Under Secretary from Malaysia's Ministry of Transport said in his remarks at the opening of the event held in a hotel here.

He added that so far, construction and upgrading works on rail network within ASEAN member states have been progressing well with a number of construction works expected to be completed in the near future, among others in Malaysia and Thailand.

"In the mean time, efforts to address the 'missing link' issue in Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) and Myanmar is now being aggressively conducted to ensure the implementation of ASEAN connectivity vision," Abdul Ghafar added. Meanwhile, US Ambassador to ASEAN David L Carden said that the forum represents the active trade and investment engagements by the United States to support ASEAN in meeting the goals of ASEAN Connectivity and ASEAN Economic Community Master Plans, scheduled for implementation in 2015.

"We join our ASEAN colleagues in recognizing the tremendous economic potential that the rail sector has for the region, not merely in terms of physical infrastructure and connectivity, but also the economic growth opportunities for the region as a whole," David said in his remarks.

Xinhua

Cambodia reports two new human cases of bird flu, one dies

Phnom Penh, 21 Sept—Cambodia said on Friday that two new human cases of avian influenza have been confirmed, with one of the flu-stricken patients dying and the other recovering.

The Health Ministry said a 2-year-old girl from Trapaing Chrab village, in Kampot Province, died on Tuesday, and a 5-year-old girl from Prey Slek village, in Takeo Province, recovered and was discharged from hospital on Friday.

They both tested positive for H5N1 in the past week.

The two new cases brought the number of H5N1 cases detected this year to 20, among which 11 patients died.

Health Minister Mam Bunheng said bird flu "remains a serious threat to the health of all Cambodians and more so for children, who seem to be most vulnerable and are at high risk."

"I urge parents and guardians to take special care to make sure their children are not playing with poultry, or in any areas that may be contaminated with poultry feces, or feathers or liquid wastes," he added.—*Kyodo News*

Japan Post eyes selling some inns, hospitals

Tokyo, 21 Sept—Japan Post Holdings Co is considering selling or downsizing some of its money-losing inns and hospitals as it prepares to go public in spring 2015, company sources said on Saturday.

The postal group is considering the inclusion of such debt-reduction measures in an interim business plan it will unveil in February, the sources said.

The group's accommodation and medical operations logged a loss of about 6 billion yen for the year that ended March. At present, it runs 66 "Kampo-no-yado" inns and 14 hospitals in the country.

As for the inns, Japan Post is considering selling debt-ridden facilities, but also eyes injecting fresh capital in others for renewal so as to increase the number of customers.

The company will also handle hospitals on an individual basis. It may consider downsizing buildings and facilities of a hospital, rather than selling the hospital en masse.

Kyodo News

Three killed in S Philippine city bus explosion

Manila, 21 Sept—Three people died while another one was wounded in an explosion inside a passenger bus in Zamboanga City late Friday afternoon, police said on Saturday.

It was not immediately clear if the explosion was related to the prolonged hostage crisis in the city, involving a faction of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

Zamboanga City police spokesman Ariel Huesca said the explosion occurred around 5:50 pm on Friday inside a bus while parked at a depot site at the village of labuan — many barangay away from the site of the hostage crisis.

Among those killed in the explosion were bus conductor Meliton Orquijo and bus washers Hudson Guinilac and Allison Saavedra.

Investigations are still going on to shed light on the explosion, Huesca said.

Xinhua

Daihatsu Motor Corp shows to journalists its new auto plant near Jakarta, Indonesia, on 20 Sept, 2013.
Kyodo News

Local citizens and students volunteers collect garbage along the Manila Bay in Manila, Philippines, on 21 Sept, 2013. Thousands of Local citizens and students volunteers collect garbage along the Manila Bay to take part in the international coast cleaning day event held in Manila on Saturday.
Xinhua

Aeon, Thai furniture maker to set up joint venture in Malaysia

Tokyo, 21 Sept—Japanese supermarket chain operator Aeon Co said on Friday it will set up a joint venture in Malaysia with a leading Thai furniture maker by the end of this year.

Under the deal with Bangkok-based Index Living Mall Co, Aeon will open a furniture store in a shopping center in Kuala Lumpur to strengthen sales of furniture and home decoration goods with a view to moving into Vietnam and other Southeast Asian countries.—*Kyodo News*

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

MINISTRY OF ELECTRIC POWER
Invitation of Open Proposal

1. The Ministry of Electric Power invites all Foreign and Local Investors to submit -
   (1). Proposal for Renting of Gas Engine Generator near Kyaukse and
   (2). Proposal for Implementation of Combined Cycle Power Plant (CCPP) near Myingyan as Independent Power Producer (IPP) system.
2. Natural gas resources for both projects shall be "SHWE" offshore gas.
3. For proposal (1), both of Technical and Commercial Proposal shalll be submitted not later than at 16:00 hr on 18th October 2013.
4. For proposal (2), Technical proposal shall be submitted not later than at 16:00 hr on 30th November 2013.
5. Detail information and Technical Specification related to

(a) Renting Gas Engine Generator can be inquired up to (30-9-2013).
(b) Implementationn of Combined Cycle Power Plant can be inquired up to (15-10-2013).

Please contact the following address during the office hour;

Contact Address: Managing Director
Myanma Electric-Power Enterprise,
Ministry of Electric Power,
Office No. (27), Nay Pyi Taw
Phone : +95 67 410202
Fax +95 67 410074

6. Bidding rules and facts of the project can be available after the next day of this invitation at Material Planning Department, Myanma Electric Power Enterprise.

MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

1. Open Tender is invited for supply of the following items in Euro:

Sr No.	Tender No	Description
1.	15(T)7/MR(E) 2013-2014	Tamping Unit for Automatic Levelling , Lining and Tamping Machine (ED/ALL TM.No.01) (1)Set

Closing Date & Time - 23.10.2013(Wednesday)(12:00)Hour.

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 23.9.2013 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung,Yangon. Phone:95-1-291985, 291994

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (549)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (549) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.9.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Students read the latest titles of books on the 18th International Book Fair, School Supplies and Office Equipment in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 20 Sept, 2013. The latest and different forms and genres of books are available to book lovers on the fair.

XINHUA

Three UK cities keen to host Euro 2020 matches

LONDON, 21 Sept — England, Scotland, Wales have expressed their interest to UEFA to host European Championship matches in 2020.

UEFA, Europe's football governing body, said 32 of its members have stated an interest in hosting games after deciding the tournament would be shared among 13 cities across Europe, the BBC reported.

England wants to host games in London and Scotland has chosen Glasgow. Wales hopes to have some matches in Cardiff.

The candidates have the right to change their initial host city selection, but must submit their final choices by 25 April next year.

UEFA will decide on 25 September 2014 which 13 cities will host games.

Following are the 32 countries and regions interested in hosting Euro 2020 games: [Armenia (Yerevan), Azerbaijan (Baku), Belarus (Minsk), Belgium (Brussels), Bulgaria (Sofia), Croatia (Zagreb), Czech Republic (Prague), Denmark (Copenhagen), England (London), Finland (Helsinki), France (Lyon), Macedonia (Skopje), Germany (Munich), Greece (Athens), Hungary (Budapest), Israel (Jerusalem), Italy (Rome and Milan), Kazakhstan (Astana), Netherlands (Amsterdam), Poland (Warsaw and Chorzow), Portugal (Lisbon and Porto), Republic of Ireland (Dublin), Romania (Bucharest), Russia (St Petersburg), Scotland (Glasgow), Serbia (Belgrade), Spain (Madrid, Barcelona, Bilbao and Valencia), Sweden (Solna), Switzerland (Basel), Turkey (Istanbul), Ukraine (Kyiv and Donetsk) and Wales (Cardiff).

Xinhua

Fishing boats stay in a harbor to avoid typhoon Usagi in Xinbei City, southeast China's Taipei, on 20 Sept, 2013. The meteorological department of Taipei issued warning on Typhoon Usagi on Friday, and forecasted heavy rainstorms and potential floods in many areas of Taipei.

XINHUA

40 children killed in measles outbreak in Nigeria's Kaduna State

ABUJA, 21 Sept — At least 40 children were killed in a fresh outbreak of measles across the 23 local government areas in northwest Nigeria's Kaduna State, local media reported on Friday. This year alone, the Nigerian state recorded at least 1,000 cases of the disease resulting in the high number of deaths, the local *Peoples Daily Newspaper* said, citing Sufyan Babale, Executive Secretary of the Kaduna Primary Health Care Agency.

"I visited the area personally and saw fresh graves of over 30 children that died in Lere local government area alone," Babale told the Abuja-based newspaper.

The healthcare official said more cases reported in other local government areas have been put under control by the government.

"There are states that are selected for this year's campaign on implementation of measles (immunization) in the country of which Kaduna State is one of them. So, we are going to do that to educate our people on the disease," he added. The measles immunization programme will run between 5 October and 9 October across the northern state. Six months ago, federal health authorities in Abuja made moves to combat the contagious viral disease that had infected no fewer than 4000 children in the northern part of Nigeria as of March.

Children between nine months and five years old are particularly susceptible to the disease.—*Xinhua*

Kenya sets annual population growth at 2.1 pct

NAIROBI, 21 Sept — Kenya, an East African country of 43 million people, has set a target of 2.1 percent annual population growth rate by 2015, the head of the East African country's Reproductive Health Programme said on Friday.

"The government believes 2.1 percent is more sustainable than the current 2.9 percent, considering the country's public service, " Manager Kigen Bartilolsaid of the Division of Reproductive Health Programme to reporters ahead of the World Contraception Day (WCD) celebrations which are marked on 26 Sept annually.

He noted that approximately 1.4 million babies are delivered every year in Kenya. "We estimate that 80 percent of these could be unintended pregnancies," Bartilol said. Director of Public Health Shariff Shahnaaz said that only 46 percent of women in reproductive age in Kenya use contraceptives.

"We want to accelerate the implementation of targeted interventions so that we achieve a family planning use target of 56 percent by 2015," Shahnaaz said. Family Planning Commodity Manager Jonah Maina said that the government will spend 9 million US dollars in the current financial year on contraceptives.

The manager said that the youth comprise 45 percent of Kenya's population. "The government hopes to develop an evidence based guide on youth reproductive health."

Family Health International Senior Technical Officer Jones Abisi said that Kenya's fertility rate stands at average of five children per woman. "However, an average of two to three children would be more ideal," he said.

Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

Beyonce, Jay Z top highest-earning celebrity couple list

NEW YORK, 21 Sept—With estimated earnings of $95 million, pop singer Beyonce and her rapper husband Jay Z are the highest-earning celebrity couple for the second consecutive year, *Forbes* magazine said on Thursday.

Beyonce's "Mrs. Carter" tour and Jay Z's million-selling "Watch the Throne" album and world tour, both a collaboration with rapper Kanye West, pushed the husband due her successful world tour, which grossed an average of about $2 million per show.

Jay Z's latest top-selling album "Magna Carta ... Holy Grail" was released on 4 July and was not eligible to count toward his earnings.

In addition to their musical earnings, Jay Z, 43, sold his stake in the Brooklyn Nets basketball team and has started his own sports agency. Beyonce upped her takings with a clothing line and fragrances.

Former co-stars on the TV comedy "That '70s Show" Ashton Kutcher and Mila Kunis came in fourth with $35 million, followed by new parents, reality TV star Kim Kardashian and West, who collectively earned $30 million.

Forbes compiled the list by talking to agents, producers, managers and other informed people. Fees and taxes were not subtracted from the estimates.—*Reuters*

Singer Beyonce and her husband, rapper Jay Z, depart from a rally for Trayvon Martin in New York on 20 July, 2013.
REUTERS

London music festival to pay tribute to Pandit Ravi Shankar

LONDON, 21 Sept—One of Britain's leading Hindustani and Carnatic music festivals will honour the memory of legendary sitar maestro Ravi Shankar this year.

The Darbar Festival at the Southbank Centre, on the banks of the Thames in London, will kick-start today for a weekend of Indian classical music. This year also marks a special focus on female musicians from the country, some of whom will be performing in London for the first time.

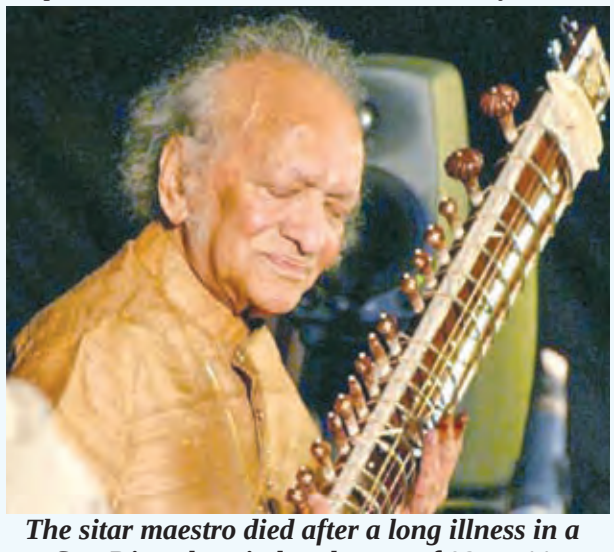
"Here in the UK we can programme the festival free from the discrimination that most musicians face because of politics, caste, sex and religion back in India. We continue to expose brilliant new musicians to UK audiences," said Sandeep Virdee, artistic director of the Darbar Festival.

Some of the highlights from this year's festival include one of India's greatest tabla maestros Yogesh Samsi, sitar artist Pandit Budhaditya Mukherjee, and eminent singer in the South Indian devotional Carnatic tradition Sudha Ragunathan.

"This year the festival focuses on Indian women musicians, many of whom have been overshadowed by their male counterparts and seldom get the acclaim they deserve. These pioneering ladies are breaking the mould and challenging the status quo as they seek to pursue careers as independent female musicians. The festival is leading the way to provide a platform for women in Indian classical music," the festival programme explains.

The female talent taking to the Darbar stage will include Anupama Bhagwat, one of India's leading sitar maestros; Manjusha Kulkarni-Patil, a sought after virtuoso of the Agra and Gwalior Gharanas; and Jayanthi Kumaresh, prized Saraswati veena player.

The music will be punctuated by talks that focus on the role of women in the Indian classical music tradition as part of the festival, which runs until Sunday.—***PTI***



The sitar maestro died after a long illness in a San Diego hospital at the age of 92 on 11 December, 2012. —PTI

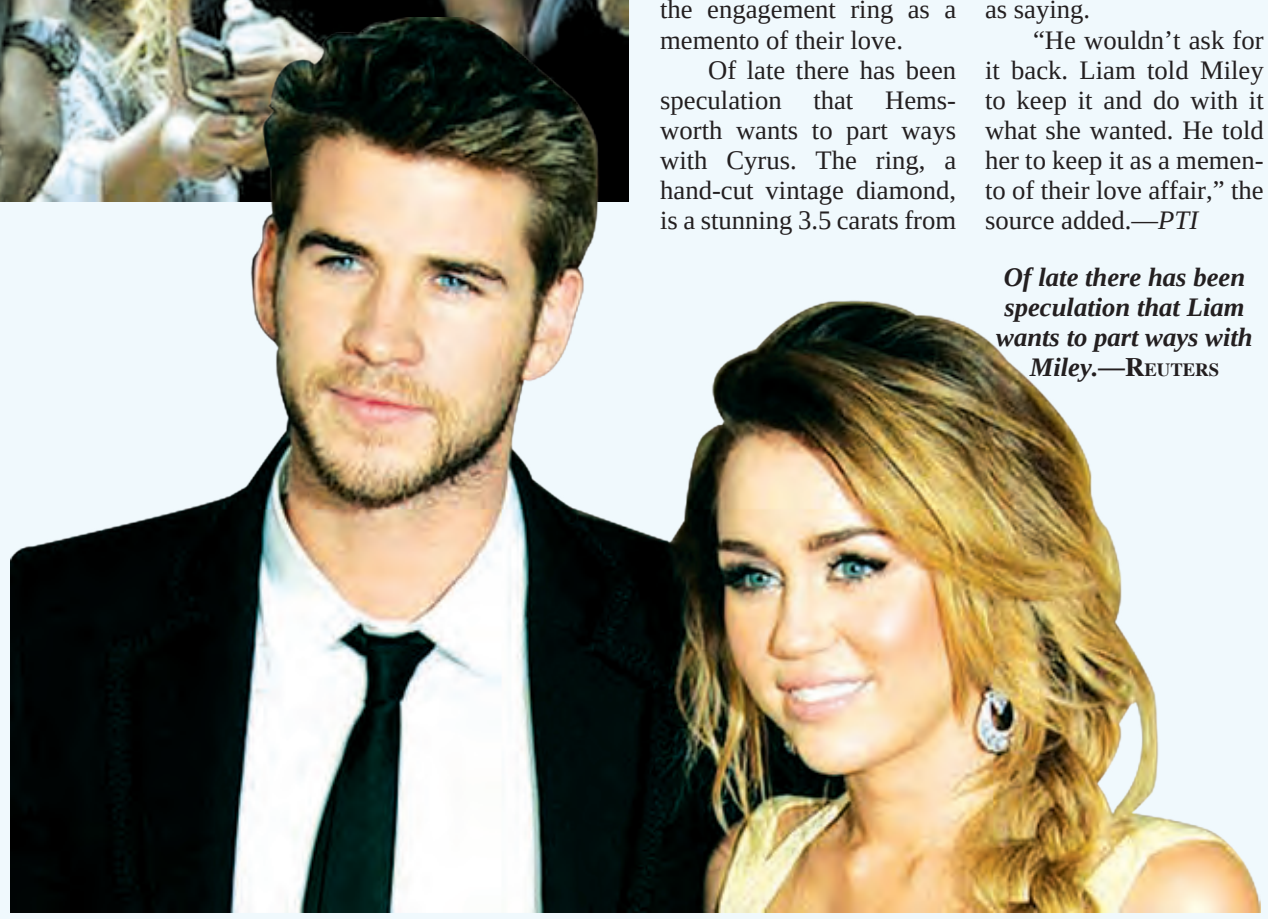
It's over with Liam, but Miley Cyrus is keeping the ring

LOS ANGELES, 21 Sept —Actor Liam Hemsworth has reportedly asked pop star Miley Cyrus to keep the engagement ring as a memento of their love.

Of late there has been speculation that Hemsworth wants to part ways with Cyrus. The ring, a hand-cut vintage diamond, is a stunning 3.5 carats from the 1890s.

"Liam wants Miley to keep the ring," showbizspy.com quoted a source as saying.

"He wouldn't ask for it back. Liam told Miley to keep it and do with it what she wanted. He told her to keep it as a memento of their love affair," the source added.—*PTI*



***Of late there has been speculation that Liam wants to part ways with Miley.—*REUTERS**

SPORTS

Wildcard Zhang to meet qualifier King in Guangzhou final

*Zhang Shuai of China returns the ball to Angelique Kerber of Germany during the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on 27 May, 2012.—*Reuters

Guangzhou, 21 Sept—China's wildcard entrant Zhang Shuai entered her maiden WTA Tour singles final on Friday to set up a title clash with American qualifier Vania King in the Guangzhou Open.

Zhang, ranked 112th in the world, had an easy outing in the semi-final against Austria's Yvonne Meusburger and picked up her fourth straight-set win of the event with a 6-1, 6-1 victory. King, 124th in the rankings, rallied from a set down to beat the other Chinese Zheng Jie 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 in the $500,000 hard-court tournament, where none of the seeded players could make it to the last four.

Reuters

Moyes eyes goals from refreshed Valencia after shirt swap

*Manchester United's manager David Moyes reacts during their Champions League soccer match against Bayer Leverkusen at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England on 17 Sept, 2013.—*Reuters

Manchester, (England), 21 Sept—Free from the weight of expectation that Manchester United's number seven shirt brings, Antonio Valencia produced a cracking goal this week which has prompted his manager David Moyes to call for several more.

The Ecuador winger took over the shirt number worn by the likes of United greats George Best, Bryan Robson, Eric Cantona, Cristiano Ronaldo and David Beckham after he was named the club's player of the year in 2011-12.

However, after netting just once last season and putting in some indifferent performances, he asked to have his old number 25 shirt back and in Tuesday's 4-2 Champions League win over Bayer Leverkusen he looked more like his old self.

"He has done very well," Moyes told a news conference on Friday ahead of this weekend's derby at Manchester City.

"They keep telling me that he needed to change his number so we got that changed for him. Sometimes, psychologically, it can make a difference to a player.

"Overall, I've been really pleased with him. I actually said to him today: 'You should be getting yourself seven or eight goals a season regularly'.

"He looked at me and squinted a bit. Hopefully, he knows what I mean ... He's got off to a good start and hopefully he'll get close to the target I'd like him to get this season."

Valencia smashed in United's fourth against Leverkusen with one touch after being set up by Wayne Rooney, who himself is enjoying a new lease of life and has reached the milestone of 200 United goals in all competitions.

The England striker scored twice on Tuesday and netted against Crystal Palace last weekend, drawing praise from his former manager Alex Ferguson whose last words about him had been to say he wanted to leave the club.

While his recent goals, increased sharpness and the fact the club kept hold of him in the face of Chelsea's advances in the transfer window are welcome news for United fans, Rooney has still not actually said he is happy at Old Trafford.

He has two years left on his contract and the club are unlikely to want to wait until he is in the final year of it to start negotiating a new one but Moyes said it was too early to talk about it now. "I think we just go step-by-step," he said.

"If he could score another two goals at the weekend that would be the next step forward wouldn't it and just keep his form going. I think he's played really well and we want him to maintain it. If anything, I'm asking him to step up again.—*Reuters*

Mata must adapt to what Chelsea want, says Mourinho

*Chelsea's manager Jose Mourinho (R) prepares to bring on substitute Juan Mata during their Champions League match against Basel at Stamford Bridge in London on 18 Sept, 2013.—*Reuters

London, 21 Sept—Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho has hinted that fan favourite Juan Mata must improve his defensive work in order to win a regular place in the team.

Spain midfielder Mata was voted the club's player of the year for the last two campaigns but has barely featured since Mourinho returned in the close season for a second stint in charge at Stamford Bridge.

"The reasons why, at this moment, he's not playing so much are things I can speak about with him but not publicly," the Portuguese told British newspapers as he prepared for Saturday's visit of West London neighbours Fulham.

"He played against Everton from the start (last week) and you can analyse his performance. And he came on against Basel (in midweek) when the team were winning 1-0 ... with specific tasks to do.

"It is one thing to play with Ramires and Oscar closing down opponents on each side and Mata as a number 10 behind a striker with his clever assists, clever passes and fantastic actions because he has great talent," said Mourinho.

"But it is another thing to adapt to the way we want to play."

Reuters

Imperious Stenson surges four ahead at East Lake

Atlanta, 21 Sept—In-form Swede Henrik Stenson piled up four birdies in his first nine holes, then held steady after the turn to forge four shots clear in Friday's second round of the PGA Tour's season-ending Tour Championship.

With the FedExCup playoff title and its bonus jackpot of $10 million also on the line at East Lake Golf Club this week, Stenson tightened his grip on all those honors as he fired a four-under-par 66 on a glorious, sun-splashed day.

The Swede, ranked second in the FedExCup points standings coming into this week, offset a bogey at the 10th with a birdie at the 16th to post a 10-under total of 130 in the fourth and final playoff event.

"It might seem like a large lead, but four shots during two rounds is not that much," Stenson told reporters, having played with only 13 clubs in his bag after seeing that the face of his four-wood was caved in during his warm-up.

"I'm pretty cool about that. I'm just going to go out and try to do the best I can for the next two days, and hopefully that's good enough.

"I have won a lot of tournaments from a good position like this, and, I hope I can do it again," added the Swede, who has recorded five top-threes in his last seven starts, including victory at the Deutsche Bank Championship earlier this month. Stenson's playing partner, Masters champion Adam Scott, was alone in second, after carding a 69, with PGA Tour rookie sensation Jordan Spieth a further stroke back at five under, after a 67.

*Henrik Stenson of Sweden hits from the fairway on the third hole during the second round of the Tour Championship golf tournament at East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta, Georgia on 20 Sept, 2013.—*Reuters

"I'm fairly pleased," Scott said after mixing three birdies with two bogeys. "I didn't play my best golf out there today. Not that I got in a lot of trouble but when you're out of position, it's really hard to have a good score around here.

Reuters

Atletico are the real deal despite Falcao sale

*Atletico Madrid's coach Diego Simeone gestures during their Spanish first division football match against Almeria at Vicente Calderon stadium in Madrid on 14 Sept, 2013.—*Reuters

Barcelona, 21 Sept—Having absorbed the body blow of losing striker Radamel Falcao in the close season, Atletico Madrid have emerged as genuine contenders to break the title stranglehold of Real Madrid and Barcelona.

Four straight league wins to go top of the table and a convincing 3-1 victory over Zenit St Petersburg in their Champions League opener mean Atletico are being viewed as a force at home and abroad.

The only blot in a near-perfect start to the season was their narrow away-goals defeat to Barcelona in the Spanish Super Cup after the first and second legs ended in draws.

Atletico's unbeaten record is even more impressive considering last season's top scorer, Colombian international Falcao, left for Monaco in a transfer worth more than 50 million euros (42.18 million pounds) in May. The silver lining of that deal has been to move the club away from a dependence on one player to a more collective, and ultimately effective, attacking unit.—*Reuters*

GENERAL

People watch an acrobat performing walking on the wings of an aircraft on the opening day of the AOPA-China Fly-In 2013 air show in Shenyang, capital of northeast China's Liaoning Province, on 20 Sept, 2013. The AOPA-China Fly-In 2013 air show opened on Friday, attracting over 150,000 spectators.—XINHUA

Syrian crisis boosts smuggling trade in Lebanon

BEIRUT, 21 Sept—A local resident from Ain Ata, an eastern Lebanese village on the border with Syria, said his new herd of mules has turned to be a main source of income during these hard days.

Hussein Al Nasr explained to *Xinhua* that the mule, which has horse's strength and donkey's patience but is sterile and cannot breed, help him smuggle arms and ammunition across the mountainous areas between Lebanon and Syria.

"The war in Syria helped restore the role of mules—a main tool for transporting food and medical supplies along with arms the feuding parties need, which has been lost since a quarter of a century ago," he added.

A livestock pedlar named Abdllah Al Alili said that the soaring demand on mules has flourished his business and the trade in southern Lebanon and the Bekaa region, noting that the price increased by about 70 percent in less than a year.

"The prices vary according to the age and strength of the animal and it ranges from 900 US dollars to 2,500 dollars," he said.

The mule convoys became a familiar scene in the Mount Hermon border crossing between Lebanon and Syria with an altitude of 2, 500 meters, according to local residents.

An 86-year-old resident named Daher Daher recounted that the roads in Mount Hermon are known to be the main smuggling roads between Lebanon and Syria.

During the conflict between Lebanon and Israel from 1982 to 2000, he said, "the smugglers were mainly Israeli officers and the local militiaman known as the South Lebanese Army, help them transport the imported tobacco from the illegal Naqoura port in southern Lebanon."—*Xinhua*

MYANMAR TV

(22-9-2013, Sunday)

6:00 am
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

6:25 am
2. Physical Exercise

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

6:45 am
4. Documentary

7:00 am
5. News/Weather Report

7:20 am
6. Documentary

8:00 am
7. News/ International News

8:25 am
8. Amazing World

8:45 am
9. Performance With Song

8:50 am
10. Road to 27th SEA Games (Karatedo)

9:00 am
11. News/International News

9:25 am
12. Documentary

10:00 am
13. News

10:15 am
14. TV Drama Series

11:00 am
15. Gitadagale Phwintbaohn

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

12:25 pm
17. Round Up of The Week's International News

12:35 pm
18. Myanmar Movies

2:25 pm
19. Hit Songs of Stars

2:45 pm
20. Documentary

3:00 pm
21. News

3:15 pm
22. Teleplay (Health)

3:45 pm
23. Musical Programme

3:50 pm
24. 2013 ASEN Women Chaipiomship (Third Place) (Live)

6:00 pm
25. News/Weather Report

6:20 pm
26. Cartoon Series

6:45 pm
27. TV Drama Series

7:00 pm
28. News

7:15 pm
29. TV Drama Series

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

8:25 pm
31. Documentary

9:00 pm
32. News
33. Tamyetmar Takwetsar
34. New Melody

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(22-9-13 09:30 am ~ 23-9-13 09:30 am) MST

* Local News
* Kyauk Gu Umin Gu Pha Ya
* World News
* Marketable Goods-(Straw Painting)
* Local News
* Unique Pattern of Myanma... A Trend of Chin Traditional Dress)
* World News
* Licuala Palm Leaf
* Local News
* Myanmar Invites You
* World News
* Guiding Star of Song Birds
* Local News
* Youth of the Future (Episode-13) (Young Artist Pann Kyi)
* World News
* The Beauty of Stylish Myanmar Dress
* Local News
* Pa O in the Union
* World News
* Let's taste "Sabuti"
* Local News
* Ist Solo Show of Artist Ko Thein on Movies of Golden & Silver Jubilees (Part-1)
* World News
* Product Of Myanmar-Strong And Stylish Pakokku Slippers
* Local News
* A Day Out With Sarah (Episode-3)
* World News
* Beautiful Sun Rise in Mrauk U
* Local News
* A Famous Festival & Its Fantastic Fair
* World News
* A Unforgettable Visit To The Little Town Of Hopone

Ecuadorian president visits Cuba, hailing ties

HAVANA, 21 Sept—Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa on Friday praised Cuba for its support to his country, especially in the health sector, upon his arrival for a one-day working visit to the island country.

Expressing his "happiness" for the visit, the Ecuadorian president thanked Cuba for the training of medical staff for his country, when he arrived at Cuba's eastern city of Santiago de Cuba, according to Cuba's National Information Agency (AIN).

Correa also referred to the collaboration of Ecuador for the construction of 1500 houses in three years in Santiago de Cuba, for the victims of hurricane "Sandy" in 2012.

He will hold talks with his Cuban counterpart Raul Castro in Havana later Friday and meet with health authorities on matters of health and sustainability, reduction of malnutrition and infantile mortality rates, and the attention to disabled people, AIN said.

The Ecuadorian president promotes in his country the social mission "Manuela Espejo," offering necessities to the disabled with the help of Cuban doctors. Relations between Cuba and Ecuador are described as "excellent" as the two countries have signed a series of agreements on cooperation in such fields as health, education, agriculture, sports and energy.

Xinhua

Vettel dominates Singapore practice

SINGAPORE, 21 Sept—Sebastian Vettel justified his favourite tag for the Singapore Grand Prix when he stormed clear of his rivals in Friday's second free practice, lapping more than half a second quicker than Red Bull team mate Mark Webber.

The German triple world champion is 53 points ahead of Ferrari's Fernando Alonso heading into the weekend and his dominant display around the Marina Bay Street Circuit suggests he will extend that advantage in Sunday's night race.

Vettel, who is seeking a hat-trick of victories in Singapore as well as a hat-trick of wins since he finished third in Hungary in July, clocked an unchallenged one minute 44.249 seconds to leave all but Webber more than a second adrift.

The Australian, who is retiring from Formula One at the end of the season, finished 0.604 seconds off the pace with the Mercedes duo Nico Rosberg and Lewis Hamilton enjoying a return to a high downforce track by securing the next two places.

Rosberg was 1.009 seconds down on Vettel in the second 90-minute session with Hamilton marginally slower after the Briton had been quickest in the first practice session ahead of the two Red Bulls.

When asked if he expected to be so far ahead of his rivals, Vettel offered a cautious response.

"No, it was a bit of a surprise," the 26-year-old told a scrum of reporters outside the Red Bull garage.

"I think we are quick but I think Mercedes will be very, very competitive tomorrow when we go into qualifying." Both sessions were fairly incident-free especially with the infamous 'Singapore Sling' turn 10 chicane less of a threat after track officials took heed of driver complaints.

A few drivers brushed the wall on the exit of the turn and the Williams of Pastor Maldonado was the only car to suffer any major damage when he crumpled his front wing after overshooting turn 13.

However, Vettel was virtually perfect throughout both sessions and once his Red Bull was unleashed on the super soft option tyres, there was only ever going to be one outcome on a circuit tailor made for his style and the car's strengths.—*Reuters*

Red Bull Formula One driver Sebastian Vettel of Germany shows a thumbs up as he arrives ahead of the first practice session of the Singapore F1 Grand Prix at the Marina Bay street circuit in Singapore on 20 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

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Thura U Shwe Mann observes meetings at committees at 34th AIPA

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann observes discussions of MPs from 10 ASEAN countries in Committee Meetings at 34th AIPA.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Sept—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann observed activities of MPs from 10 ASEAN countries in the Meeting on Committee on Political Matters at the 34th General Assembly of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly yesterday morning.

The Speaker viewed discussions of MPs of ASEAN countries in the Meetings of Committee on Economic Matters, the Committee on Social Matters and the Committee on Organizational Matters.

Next, the Speaker attended the meeting between AIPA member countries and observer countries Japan, China and India.

On 19 September, the Speaker attended a dinner hosted by Chairman of Brunei Legislative Council Mr Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja together with speakers of Parliaments from AIPA member countries.—*MNA*

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker meets local people in Myitkyina State

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Sept—"In-fighting in Kachin State should be stopped, and it is the time armed group should exchange armed struggle for democratic one," said Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint at a meeting with local people at City Hall in Myitkyina of Kachin State this afternoon.

Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint donated relief aids worth K 127.4 million for IDP through State Social Affairs Minister Daw Bauk Ja. After that, Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsai helped on Speaker U Khin Aung Myint with traditional Kachin attire.

Dr Khin Shwe donated K 60 million through State Social Affairs Minister Daw Bauk Ja.

The Speaker made a concluding remark, saying that the 15-member Amyotha Hluttaw Relief and Victims Care Committee comprises national races such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, etc. So, it is evidence that all the national people wish prevailing peace in Kachin State.

Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint accepts Kachin traditional attire presented by Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsai.—MNA

Zaygaba Co donated bags of rice, medicine, clothes and other relief aids worth over K 127.4 million and cash assistance of K 60 million at today's ceremony.

It was also attended by Deputy Ministers Dr Aung Myat Oo and U Phone Swe, members of Amyotha Hluttaw Relief and Victims Care Committee, officials of State government and State Hluttaw, representatives from political parties and social organiztions and townselders.

MNA

Union SWRR Minister visits training school for the girls

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Sept—Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin looked into preparation for opening Day Care Center for the Aged at the corner of Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and Parami Street in Mayangon Township, Yangon today.

The Union minister then visited the training school for the girls on Malikha Street where she viewed learning of tailoring, knitting, computer science and inspected Basic Education Primary School.

At the training school, 142 girls between 6 and 18 years old sent by Child Care Center are attending at respective schools and university. Vocational training courses, health care service, competition in the sports events, arrangements for excursion, registration and handing over to their parents are being carried out for them.—*MNA*

Mitsubishi Electric contributes teaching aids to Myanmar Maritime University

YANGON, 21 Sept—Myanmar Maritime University under the Ministry of Transport has been constantly turning out marine technicians who are beneficial to local and international marine sector, said Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein at ceremony to donate 15 sets of Control and Automation Systems Components to Department of Marine Electrical Systems and Electronics of the university by Peace Myanmar Electric Co Ltd, subdivision of Mitsubishi Electric Co at Sedona Hotel, here, this morning.

Marketing Director U Khin Maung Myat handed over the teaching aids to Rector Dr Myat Lwin of the university.

Afterwards, Rector Dr Myat Lwin and General Manager Mr. Kazuhiko Moriguchi from Setcuo Co Ltd of Mitsubishi Electric exchanged gifts.—*MNA*

Myanmar-Thai Health Meeting focuses on trans-border health issue

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Sept—"Health sector lies at the core of socio-economic development of the country," said Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin at Myanmar-Thai Health Collaborative Ministerial Meeting held at Mandalay Hill Resort Hotel in Mandalay yesterday.

Trans-border health issue has become crucial not only for Myanmar but also for Thailand due to increasing border trade and migrant population. Myanmar-Thai Health Collaborative Ministerial Meeting has been alternately held in both countries since the 1990s. It is the time to draw finalized plans for cooperation in AIDS, TB, malaria and other infectious diseases control and women and child health care promotion.

Thai Public Health Minister Dr Pradit Sintavanarong extended greetings. After that, health ministers from both countries signed a MoU on cooperation in health sector.

The meeting covers cooperation in disease control, public health and health promotion, standardization and consumer safety in importing and manufacturing of food and medicines and cosmetics and cooperation in traditional medicine sector.

After the meeting, the health ministers met the press.—*MNA*

Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin and Thai Public Health Minister Dr Pradit Sintavanarong sign MoU on cooperation in health sector.—MNA

Slight earthquake hits inside Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Sept—A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.3 Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar, (about 6 miles northwest of Thabeikkyin), about 68 miles north of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 12 hrs 52 min 46 sec M.S.T today, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—*MNA*