Norway encourages its companies to invest in Myanmar

Norwegian companies which are famous for telecommunication, oil and gas, hydropower and fertilizer sectors are going to do investment in Myanmar

Norway continues to fully support efforts of Myanmar for ending violence in Rakhine State, peace making processes

President of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein cordially shakes hands with Norwegian Prime Minister Mr Jens Stoltenberg at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace.

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Nov—President U Thein Sein received Norwegian Prime Minister Mr Jens Stoltenberg at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here this evening.

Also present at the call were Union ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Aung Kyi, U Soe Thein, U Tin Naing Thein, U Khin Yi, Dr Mya Aye, Dr Kan Zaw, Dr Ko Ko Oo, departmental heads, Norwegian Foreign Minister Mr Espen Barth Eide, Norwegian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Kata Nordgaard and high level officials.

The President said the two countries have cooperated in various sectors plus friendship and the trip of the Norwegian PM would further strengthen the cooperation.

The visiting PM said opening of the Norwegian embassy in Myanmar is a sign of improving relations between Myanmar and Norway and the world is applauding the developments of Myanmar. He said Norway wished to increase trade and commercial relations between the two countries as there are plenty of opportunities. The Norwegian PM revealed opportunities for mutual cooperation in energy, hydropower, oil and natural gas, fishery and communications sectors.

The President said the Norwegian ambassador is leading the bid to obtain aids for land mines clearance, education, health and settlement which followed peace process. He said Myanmar’s democratic government has turned only one year and seven months. He also revealed that the government is tackling the unprecedented challenges like the communal rife in Rakhine State. The President said the government is working to ensure inclusiveness of all political organizations in political reforms. He said dissidents about 20 years ago have become colleagues.

The President said the country is addressing the issue of one of the world’s longest ethnic conflicts amidst various difficulties. Agreements have been reached with 10 out of 11 ethnic armed groups and engagements have been started with the remaining one, he said. The President hoped for the peace of the entire nation soon.

The President said the political reforms must be carried out simultaneously with the economic reforms. Suffered from 20 years of economic sanctions, Myanmar lacks capital, know-how and human resources, he said, thanking Norway for being the first country to cease the sanctions. Foreign investment law, monetary policy, trade policy and investment policy have been made internationally friendly, he said. If the natural resources of Myanmar could be exported to Norway as value-added products, it would benefit both countries, he said. He underscored the employment for Myanmar citizens as an urgent need. He hoped for emergence of the factories and workshops that could offer many job opportunities. He displayed natural gas, forestry, rubber, foodstuff and technological sectors as the areas of potential cooperation.

Norwegian Prime Minister said that his country is willing to boost the economic relations with Myanmar and has encouraged Norwegian companies to invest in Myanmar, and economic sanctions on Myanmar have already been lifted.

Norwegian companies which are famous for telecommunication, oil and gas, hydropower and fertilizer sectors are going to do investment in Myanmar, and Norway was poor about 100 years ago and it has become rich thanks to the foreign investment, he added.

He also thanked Norway for being the first country to lift economic sanctions, Norway for its humanitarian assistance and development sectors in Myanmar.

The Prime Minister also expressed his delight for Norway’s assistance for building democracy and peace in Myanmar and for achievement for peace with ten armed groups.

He welcomed the efforts of the government for ending and conflicts in Rakhine State and for forming the investigation commission for the conflicts.

He also pledged that he continues to fully support the peace making processes and human rights, child rights and equal rights for men and women.

President U Thein Sein thanked the Norwegian Prime Minister for sharing the experiences and reforms of changing the country from the poor to the rich.

He also thanked Norway for its humanitarian assistance and environmental conservation and peace sectors and expressed his hope that Norway would help the education, health and human resource development sectors in Myanmar.

—MNA

Van Persie helps Man United sink Arsenal

LONDON, 3 Nov—Robin van Persie was on target against his old club as Manchester United brushed Arsenal aside for a 2-1 victory that sent them to the top of the Premier League on Saturday.

The prolific Dutchman, who joined United from Arsenal in August having scored 37 league goals for the Gunners last season, needed less than three minutes to put the hosts ahead after a mistake by Thomas Vermaelen and Patrice Evra wrapped up a comfortable win with a 67th minute header.

Santi Cazorla netted in injury time for an otherwise disappointing Arsenal, who were reduced to 10 men after the break when recently returned midfielder Jack Wilshere was sent off for a second yellow card.

Wayne Rooney also missed a penalty for United on the stroke of halftime but it never looked like proving costly.

United have 24 points from 10 games and will remain on top if Chelsea (22 points) fail to win Swansea City later on Saturday (3 p.m. British Time).

Champions Manchester City, in third place on 21 points, conclude the day’s Premier League action with a testing trip to West Ham United (5.30 p.m. British Time).

—Reuters

Strong earthquake hits outside Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Nov—A strong earthquake of magnitude 6.1 Richter Scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar (Mindanao, the Philippines) about 2100 miles East-South East of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at 00 hrs, 47 min, 36 sec M.S.T today, the Meteorology and Hydrology Department announced.—MNA
Norwegian Prime Minister and wife arrive in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Nov—A goodwill delegation led by Prime Minister of Norway Mr Jens Stoltenberg and wife arrived here by special flight at 7.10 pm today.

They were welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and wife, Deputy Minister U Zin Yaw and wife, officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Charge d’ Affaires ai of Norwegian Embassy to Myanmar and officials.

The goodwill delegation was also welcomed by National Races girls from Fine Arts Department by presenting banquets and the Guard of Honour at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Minister of Foreign Affairs Deputy Minister U Zin Yaw and wife, Airport by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Jens Stoltenberg and wife being welcomed by officials at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.—MNA

Project for Construction of Yedwingon Rural Health Center in Bago Region


Mr Ichiro Maruyama, Charge d’ Affaires ad interim of the Embassy of Japan, and U Myint Sein, Chairman of Yedwingon Village Health Committee, signed the grant contract on 8 November.

Yedwingon Village, which is about 93 miles away from Yangon, is situated on the west bank of the Sittoung River in Nyaunglebin Township, Sub-Rural Health Center (SHC) of Yedwingon Village, which is 5 miles east of Peinzaloke Station, Hospital on Yangon-Mandalay Road was established in 2000 to improve health care services in five neighbouring villages. In 2010, the Ministry of Health upgraded this SHC as the Rural Health Center (RHC) for improving health care services in 13 villages and 23 villages in Nyaunglebin Township. Although Yedwingon SHC has been upgraded as the RHC in 2010, there is no suitable building in the village yet and local residents and the Village Health Committee are facing shortage of funds to construct a new RHC building which is in line with the guideline and standard of the Ministry of Health.

In order to help providing better health services for local residents of Yedwingon Village and its surrounding in International Living, Fashion and Cosmetic Exhibition that is being organized at Tatmadaw Convention Centre till 4 November.—MNA

Korean furniture maker Enob establishes Myanmar factory

YANGON, 3 Nov—Korean furniture maker Enob has established a factory in Myanmar under the leadership of a Korean designer and selling ready-made sofa settees and mattresses.

The special orders for hotels, houses, restaurants, offices, hospitals and clinics could be made at the factory which imported raw materials from Italy and Korea.

Enob is participating in International Living, Fashion and Cosmetic Exhibition that is being organized at Tatmadaw Convention Centre till 4 November.—MNA

Labour exchange offices, clinics in Bago Region inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Nov—Union Labour Minister U Maung Myint meeting with staff from Social Security Board of the Ministry.

In order to help exchange offices, clinics in Bago Region, the union minister urged the staff to carry out their tasks for public job opportunities, to issue labour cards with the use of changed system, to provide benefits and health care services to insurance workers.

The union minister proceeded to region head office of Bago Region Labour Department where he called for the staff to change mindset, rules and regulations in accord with changeable systems, to carry out the tasks for public job opportunities, to issue labour cards with the use of mobile labours exchange office so as to reduce transportation cost, to ensure work safety for labours and to fulfill necessary of office use machines in order to run office work in line with e-Government system.

Then, the union minister went to Indaw U Kyaw National Social Security Board clinic and urged the health staff to cure the patients with a sense of responsibility and to make field treatment at factories, workshops if necessary.—MNA

Football Tourney concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Nov—The prize presentation of the second Dansa Self-Administered Zone Leading Body Chairman’s Cup U-25 Men’s Football Tournament was held at the sports ground in Pindaya Township on 1 November. In the final match, Myindwin (Ywangan Township) beat Zaydan (Pindaya Township) 1-0.

Officials of Dansa Self-Administered Zone Leading Body presented prizes to the respective winners. Chairman of the Leading Body U Htoo Kyaw Kha awarded K 300,000 and championship trophy to Myindwin team.—MNA

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Obama, Romney make closing argument

WASHINGTON, 3 Nov — US President Barack Obama and his Republican challenger Mitt Romney on Friday made closing argument for their candidacy to become the next president of the United States, as they sprint towards the election day. In duelling speeches published on CNN.com, the two candidates made their respective case for presidency. Obama touted his record, saying the country is recovering from the “worst economic crisis since the Great Depression,” and “the war in Iraq is over, Osama bin Laden is dead, and our heroes are coming home.”

Noting the job has not been done, Obama implored voters to choose his vision of future in next Tuesday’s election, saying if he succeeds in the election, he will invest in education to enhance competitiveness, revamp the tax code to restore fairness, see through the winding down of wars to focus on nation building at home and deficit reduction, protect welfare for the poor, elderly or disabled.

Romney, on the other hand, offered a different path. Extolling American exceptionalism, Romney reiterated his pledge to create five million jobs in the first term and additional 5.7 million jobs in second term. He also accused the president for “failure in leadership,” highlighting his record of job losses, rising deficit and national debt.

But both candidates described their visions as “real change,” while blasting the other one, as they do in campaign events in recent days.

US voters are casting their ballots in the presidential election next Tuesday, and both Obama and Romney are touring battleground states in the last stretch of the campaign, trying to swing more independents while firing up their base.

Killing by Syrian rebels on video appear to be war crime

BEIJING, 3 Nov — The United Nations human rights office says a video that appears to show Syrian rebels killing soldiers who had surrendered, appears to constitute a war crime that should be prosecuted. The incident looks to be the latest atrocity committed by opposition fighters seeking to topple President Bashar al-Assad. A disturbing scene posted on-line.

Syrian rebels appear to be executing 28 government soldiers on Thursday, after attacking three army checkpoints around Sarajeq, a town on Syria’s main north-south highway.

Video footage shows some of the dead were shot after they had surrendered. Rebels berated them, before appearing to fire round after round into their bodies as they lay on the ground.

The UN’s human rights office said on Friday that the amateur video material could not be verified, if the details become verified, it is likely to be a war crime.

Experts of an investigation team of the Nuclear Regulation Authority conduct a study at Kansai Electric Power Co’s Oi nuclear power station in the town of Oi, Fukui Prefecture, on 2 Nov, 2012, during an investigation to check whether a disputed fault that should be investigated and corrected.

UN Security Council approves busy agenda for November

UNITED NATIONS, 3 Nov — November will be a busy month for the United Nations Security Council, with consultations that address almost all of the “global hotspots” of conflict, said Indian Ambassador to the UN Hardeep Puri on Friday, who holds the rotating presidency this month.

Almost every global hotspot will be covered in the work of the Security Council during the month of November, Puri said at a press conference concerning the agenda that was approved by the 15-member Council on Friday morning. The agenda includes consultations on South Sudan and Sudan, the conflict in Syria and the Middle East, Somalia, sanctions on Libya, the International Criminal Court, situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Western Sahara region, he said.

The work programme is impacted by the UN’s closure for three days earlier this week due to Hurricane Sandy. The former Security Council President Bert Rosenthal of Guatemala, who holds the presidency for October, was “not able to convene all the scheduled meetings so we’ve tried to take them on board,” said Puri.

Azerbaijan president hails ties with Russia

BAKU, 3 Nov — Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said on Friday that relations between Azerbaijan and Russia were developing successfully in all fields. Aliyev made the applause when meeting Russian delegation led by Svetlana Orlova, deputy speaker of Russia’s Federal Council of Federation Assembly and co-chair of Azerbaijan-Russia Interparliamentary Commission.

The Azerbaijani leader stressed the role of parliaments in strengthening bilateral ties and underlined the importance of exchange of experience in developing cooperation, according to an official press release. Orlova briefed the president on the activities of the Azerbaian-Russia Interparliamentary Commission and lauded Azerbaijan’s socio-economic development.

Russia and Azerbaijan cooperate in culture, education and economy has seen steady development. The two leaders agreed to expand bilateral relations in various spheres.

Spain, Italy might be first recipients of ECB aid

LONDON, 3 Nov — Spain and Italy, which are facing struggling economic prospects, are likely to be the first countries to go cap in hand to the European Central Bank (ECB), asking for help, a leading expert warned on Friday. “We think that in Italy and Spain the liquidity problems will persist and eventually they will be the first customers of the Outright Monetary Transactions (OMT) programme,” Angus Armstrong, director of macroeconomic research at the National Institute for Economic and Social Research (NIESR), said.

The NIESR said in its latest report published this week that the outlook for the Italian economy was poor, predicting that the Italian economy would contract by 2.3 percent this year, and 0.7 percent in 2013. The report, co-authored by Armstrong, said the ECB’s OMT programme had reduced the risk of insolvency but there were longer-term challenges centered around lower capital ratios which Italian banks have, compared to the European average.

Spain’s prospects were similarly poor, with the economy likely to be in recession in 2012 and 2013, and GDP falling by 1.8 percent this year and 1.3 percent next year, the NIESR forecast.

Spain’s and Italy’s prospects were highlighted Thursday by Raffaele Rendina, head of research at the Italian investment bank Mediobanca. “A Spanish government bond issued by the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance has been trading at a yield of 7.04 percent, in a market where the Spanish government bond is trading at 5.15 percent,” Rendina said.

Vehicles are covered by snow in Hohhot, capital of north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on 3 Nov, 2012. A cold wave hit northern parts of China these days, bringing snow to Inner Mongolia.

Kyodo news
FTC staff recommends Google be sued over patents: source

WASHINGTON, 3 Nov — A Federal Trade Commission staff report recommended that the government sue Google for violating US antitrust law because that company has blocked the sale of some products that infringe its essential patents, a source told Reuters on Thursday.

The commission is inclined to vote in favor of suing Google, the source said, according to a Wall Street Journal report. The FTC’s staff report, which is expected to be released on Thursday, was obtained by Reuters.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the staff report recommends that the government sue Google over several key patents that are essential to the operation of online search engines.

The report also says that Google has used its dominant position in the market for online search engines to block competitors from using those patents.

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Apple iPad mini draws New Yorkers; crowds thin elsewhere

Apple Inc’s iPad mini hit stores around the world on Friday, attracting sparser crowds than previous Apple launches, but the kickoff still drew hundreds of New Yorkers-only days after one of the biggest storms to hit the United States.

A proliferation of rival gadgets aimed at the holidays and cheaper tablets from Google Inc and Amazon.com Inc may have sapped interest in Apple’s latest gadget aimed at the holidays.

The 7.9-inch iPad mini marks Apple’s first foray into the smaller-tablet segment, and is the company’s first major new device since the death of co-founder Steve Jobs, last year.

In Manhattan, crowds braved crippling public transit and an early morning chill to line up outside Apple’s Fifth Avenue flagship store just two blocks from where a damaged crane dangled from a high-rise building— a stark example of how superstorm Sandy ravaged the city.

Some turned up on impulse, lacking power and heat at home.

Lisa Sieber, 59, from Germany, rode a bicycle to the store because she said she was going “stir crazy” at her 81-year-old mother’s home about an hour’s lower East Side. “There’s not much to do without power and lights,” she said. “I didn’t think I needed an iPad but once you get your first Mac, you slide into the iPhone and the next one and it makes it easy to get more Apple products.”

While the city was still grappling with Sandy’s unprecedented devastation, some New Yorkers were angry that Apple delayed the store’s opening until 10 am.

“Usually it’s 8am,” said Vincent Leroy, 27, a student from Long Island City, Queens who showed up at the store at 6:30 am. His friends complained loudly in unison when he told them he had found out about the delayed opening.

Apple employees share high-fives with customers who has been waiting in line to purchase the new iPad minis at Apple Store Ginza in Tokyo on 2 Nov, 2012. — Reuters

Facebook’s Sandberg sells $7.4 million in stock

The world’s No1 online social network became the only US company to debut with a market value of more than $100 billion, but has seen its value plunge more than 40 percent since then on concerns about its long-term money-making prospects.

Shares of Facebook, which were priced at $38 in the IPO, closed Friday’s regular session down 3 cents at $21.18. The flood of shares set to hit the market as insiders trading “lock-up” provisions expire in several phases have added to the pressure on Facebook’s stock.

Roughly 230 million shares of Facebook became eligible for trading this week, as trading restrictions for employees expired. Another slightly more than 149,000 shares on Wednesday and Thursday, collecting $3.13 million. Ullyot has an additional 1.27 million in vested shares.

Spillane sold 256,000 shares on Wednesday, more than half of his vested shares, for proceeds of $5.4 million.

Facebook Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg laughs at the Iab Mixx Conference and Expo in New York on 2 Oct, 2012. — Reuters

Urgent response needed to fight-resistant malaria

Sydney, 3 Nov—A critical regional health conference in Sydney has heard that growing resistance to an anti-malarial drug based on traditional Chinese herbal medicine could expose up to 2 billion people to malaria in the Asia Pacific region alone.

The Artemisinin, also known as Qing haosu in Chinese, has been vital in global efforts to stop the spread of malaria, which still affects 216 million people globally, causing around 650,000 death each year.

Delivering a keynote address at the Malaria 2012: Saving Lives in the Asia Pacific conference in Sydney, Australia’s Federal Minister for Health and Aging Bob Carr announced Friday that Australia will spend more than 100 million US dollars over the next four years to combat malaria in the region.

“One person is dying every minute from malaria. Many more will die if we do not urgently address drug-resistant malaria. If we accelerate our efforts we could save 70,000 lives and prevent around 50 million malaria cases by 2015.”

“We will establish a working group with regional leaders to drive action and support new initiatives that follow the upcoming East Asia Summit,” Carr said. But as the conference draws to a close, experts and political leaders have warned that failure to deal with drug-resistant malaria will have dire consequences.

A report by the Roll Back Malaria Partnership showed nearly 1.5 million cases of Malaria outside Africa in 2010, with the malaria cases were in the Asia Pacific, which includes 20 malaria endemic countries.
President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win host dinner to Norwegian Prime Minister and wife

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 Nov—President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win hosted a dinner to a goodwill delegation led by Prime Minister of Norway Mr Jens Stoltenberg and wife, at the Credenial’s Hall of Presidential Palace, here, at 8.45 pm today.

It was also attended by Union Ministers, deputy ministers, Norwegian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Katja Nordgaard and high-ranking officials.

At the dinner, artists from Fine Arts Department preformed the guests with Myanma traditional songs and dances.

MNA

President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win host a dinner in honour of goodwill delegation led by Prime Minister of Norway Mr Jens Stoltenberg and wife at Credentials Hall all of Presidential Palace.

MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Myanmar to play friendly match against Okayama of J-League Division-2

Yangon, 3 Nov—Myanmar selected football team is set to play friendly match against Okayama Club of J-League Division-2 before taking part in Aisan Suzuki Cup.

Myanmar selected football team poses for documentary photo at the stadium.

With the aim of achieving success in Aisan Suzuki Cup, 25 Myanmar selected football players are under training starting from 1 November.

It is set to organize two friendly matches between Myanmar selected football team and Okayama club in the third week of this month. The plan to hold a match between Myanmar selected football team and Cameron selected football team on 24 November in Yangon has met with failure. Myanmar selected football team played against Okayama Club during its visit to Japan where the latter beat M yanmar 6-0 in the tune-up match.

Okayama Club stood tenth place at the table of J-League Division-2 for 2011-12 football season.

The Japanese club is consisted of one Malaysian, one Korean and two Brazilian professional footballers, apart from Japanese players.

Kyemon

Locals contribute their voluntary services to Mu bridge construction

Dabayin, 3 Nov—Mu river crossing bridge (M ukamyi-Y akyi) is under construction on a self-reliant basis in Dabayin Township of Sagaing Region. Under the leadership of a presiding Sayadaw, local people contributed their voluntary services into the construction works. So far, 75 per cent of the whole project has been completed.

The self-reliant bridge is 840 feet long and 18 feet wide, and it can withstand 60 tons load. The construction work started in July 2010.

“It can be put into service if the government lends a hand in building the bridge”, a local said. U Hla Paw, chairman of Mu bridge construction committee, said that the bridge would be a fourth facility on Mu river; that it would be a fourth facility on Mu river; that the other two facilities on Shwebo-Y eU road and Thamayo bridge on Ayadaw-Wetlet road were built by the government. Upon completion, local people in Dabayin, Wetlet, Budalin, Taze, Ayadaw, KhinU, K anbalu, Kyunhla, Sagaing and ChaungU will be able to transport their agricultural produce to Mandalay market, thereby contributing towards betterment of social, economic, health and education of local farmers.

Although it is estimated to cost about K 1200 million, a huge amount of money can be saved thanks to collective contributions of local people in construction works. Any one may visit there to study construction works.

Kyemon

Lashio sees regional development

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 Nov—Regional development works are being geared up in Lashio. Construction of bus terminal, road works for building Lashio detour on Lashio-Namtu road and drilling of tubewell at the site chosen for Lashio Education College are under construction.—MNA
Rural people to get railway station

THAZI, 3 Nov—Myanmar Railways will designate a station near Chantaygyi Monastery of Kokkokan Village on Pyay-Lokaw railroad. That is why rural people from Kokkokan, Htanauyng, Shanywa and Taungusa villages are very pleased with good news.

—Myanna Alinn

Prices of onion, potato cool in market

YANGON, 3 Nov—According to the information of the market, as onion and potato flow into the market with lesser volume at Bayinnaung brokerage, the price of goods is high. However, trading of groceries is cold down.

The price of onion rose to K 150 per viss in the waning days of Thadingyut. Depending on sizes and quality, onion is traded at K 700 to K 1000 per viss, according to an agent of the brokerage.

Likewise, prices of potato inquality and different sizes are fixed at K 700, K 880, K 900 and K 950 per viss.—Myanna Alinn

Development tasks supervised

YANGON, 3 Nov—Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee U Myo Aung, Township Administrator U Wai Lin Win and residents U Win Myint formally opened the bridge. The aged bridge was damaged due to water erosion. Thus, the new bridge with 20 feet in length and 16 feet in width was built at a cost of K 37.5 million. Thanks to the new bridge, local people of M edi, Aungthukha, Chaing and Htantabin villages are now enjoying better transport.

—MNA

Motorcycle thief arrested

KANDAKAREE, 3 Nov—A squad led by IP Aung Aung Oo of Kandakaree Myoma police station arrested Rakhee (a) Tint Zaw Tun of Bogoke Street in Ward 2 of Kawkareek together with Honda Dream motorcycle he stole at the bungalow on Myawady-Kawkarrek Road at 6.30 pm on 19 October. Kawkaree Myoma Police Station filed a lawsuit of theft case.

—Myanna Alinn

Korea Trade Fair

YANGON, 3 Nov—The Korea Trade Fair will be held at Myamar Convention Centre, here, from 8 to 13 November. Altogether 55 companies of Republic of Korea will showcase their products at booths of the trade fair.

K-POP Cover Dance Final and Face of Myanma Contest Semifinal, organized by KUIRA (Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency) will be held at the same venue at 6 pm on 10 November. —Myanna Alinn

Traffic lights installed at Yonshae Bus-stop in Hlinethaya

SHWELINPAN Industrial Zone), Kansitha Street (Pagoda Road from Kansitha Housing Estate), the road from Insein (Pauktawwa) and the road from Hlinethaya-Nyaungdon. In fact, Yonshae bus-stop needs control of traffic police and traffic lights. Sometimes, a volunteer controls the traffic ways.

At present, the traffic lights are being installed at the bus-stop under the supervision of township authorities.—Myanna Alinn

Tents sent to locals of Rakhine State

YANGON, 3 Nov—Department of Relief and Resettlement has dispatched 350 tents to local people of Rakhine State.

Each tent can accommodate five persons. On 2 November, the tents were transported to No 1 Naval Jetty in Shukhintha of Thakayta Township.

Narcotic drugs, cut jade stone seized in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 3 Nov—Members of Special Anti-Drug Squad of northern Mandalay and No 3 police station together with witnesses, acting on a tip-off, searched the house of Zaw Win Naing in Mann Mandalay Housing in Yanmyfalon Ward of Chanyetahazan Township at 9 am on 12 October.

They seized 200,000 cold tablets with the content of 0.15 gram pseudoephedrine, 180,000 tablets with the content of 0.15 gram, 6000 catra tablets, 40,000 Braku tablets, 40,000A1 tiles tablets, 280,000 Himeof tablets, 120,000 Sicutet tablets, totaling 3,414,000 tablets weighing 564 kilograms worth about K 40,968,000, 101 cut jade stones weighing 40 kilograms.

No 3 police station opened a file of lawsuit against Zaw Win Naing and house helper Aung Naing under sections 15/16 (b)/16(c), 20 (a), 21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law and section 42 (a) of Gems Law.

—Myanna Alinn

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Stop mob violence in Yangon nights

A recent news report in a journal said that some people in Yangon expressed concern over their safety due to road accidents triggered by midnight motor racing on the main roads and frequent occurrence of lawless acts committed by reckless groups of young people. We are astonished to hear the voices of Yangonites who always feel that they are in safe hands. Yangon, our commercial city, is a gateway to the rest of country with full potentials for foreign investors.

Recently, a journal reported that there was a mob violence in which one of three cleaners of Hninzigon Home for the Aged was attacked by a group of young people standing around a racing car which is supposed to have a breakdown in its machine. The cleaner was killed in the tragic incident started from being questioned about his singing by the group. There arise questions why they have a growing level of hostility towards others and what the factors that encourage them to be a group of brawls committing wrongdoings and violations. It is difficult to know whether they were under the influence of alcohol or drugs that could channel a verbal quarrel into a murder case or they dared to make a brutal killing on a whim. But it is sure that this is a criminal case painting bad images and posing threats to community peace and tranquility. Punitive actions must be taken against such incidents of mob violence disturbing the Rule of Law and tarnishing the national integrity and civic dignities. It is time for better law enforcement.

Those involved in series of violence occurred recently in Yangon should be encouraged to do their bit in nation-building endeavours instead of indulging in brawls, midnight motor racing and mob violence. The youth of today are the best hope for the nation which is in good shape to welcome foreign guests who are going to come in flocks with the hope of making investments in Myanmar. But it is sure that this is a criminal case painting bad images and posing threats to community peace and tranquility. Punitive actions must be taken against such incidents of mob violence disturbing the Rule of Law and tarnishing the national integrity and civic dignities. It is time for better law enforcement.

MNA

National-level workshop on science and technology development held

“Development of science and technology sector and high education standard plays an important role in individual development of every citizen and socio-economic development. The world countries including developed and developing countries are placing emphasis on the development of these two sectors,” said Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo, at a national-level workshop on science and technology development held here yesterday.

“Efforts are to be made for development of science and technology sector in combination with natural resources, qualified human resources and modern technologies, which are the basic ingredients for promoting competitiveness in international economy,” Union Minister for Industry U Aye Myint.

At that, resource persons read out the papers on reform processes of industrial education system and computer science, and political and economic reforms. Both sides cordially discussed facts about successful implementation of political and economic reforms in Myanmar.— MNA

Myanma Shipyards to be run under JV to build, repair more ships

Until last month, Mynam Shipyards has already built 11 ships and 19 ships are under construction while 9 ships are under repair.

Sofar in this 2012-2013 fiscal year, the Mynam Shipyards would be run as a joint-venture with private sector, without decreasing the number of staff of the dockyard, he said. The Union Minister visited the worksite where new ships are being constructed.

MNA

Training courses concludes

On 29 October, Tokyo Stock Exchange and Tokyo Metropolitan Government on 30 October, Japan Productivity Center on 31 October and Konosuke Mutsushita Museum on 3 November, 3 Nov—A Myanma delegation led by member of Union Civil Services Board U Khin Kyaw Hla Myint arrived back here after paying a visit to the HRD activities and economic management projects of Public and Private Organizations in Japan from 28 October to 2 November, 2012.

The Myanma delegation paid a visit to the National Personal Authority on 29 October, Tokyo Stock Exchange and Tokyo Metropolitan Government on 30 October, Japan Productivity Center on 31 October and Konosuke Mutsushita Museum on 1 November 2012.

The Myanma delegation consisted of 16 officers from the President Office of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Union Government Office, the Hluttaw Office, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Immigration and Population, the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union and the Union Civil Services Board.— MNA

We need to ensure traffic rules are strictly adhered.

Only surprise check will enforce surprise adherence.

Maung Maung San Lwin
All are to establish a peaceful, tolerant human society, setting aside hatred among the society

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 Nov—Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay and his wife, State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin, accompanied by U.S., British and Australian ambassadors to Myanmar and members and departmental heads, made field trip to Pauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk U, Kyauktaw and Yathedaung Townships yesterday morning.

After that, the Union Minister said that at present the livelihood of the displaced persons is crucial. Relief and aid programmes are being undertaken.

They will be provided with tents. Farmers are to reap their paddy because of harvest season. They themselves are to participate in an attempt to become better social life. It needs to make collaborative efforts for it in peace and unity. The Union Minister urged the officials to fulfill water and sanitation requirements of the displaced persons.

On arrival at Samyin village in Mrauk U Township, the Union Minister said that they came to the region to fulfill the requirements for rehabilitation tasks in cooperation with the Union Government, State Government and International agencies.

Ways will be sought for job opportunities of the displaced persons. All are urged to make strenuous efforts for development of their community.

Swiss FM and Federal Councilor and wife arrive in Yangon

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 Nov—A delegation led by Swiss Foreign Affairs Minister and Federal Councilor Mr. Christoph Burgener and wife arrived in Yangon from Nay Pyi Taw by special flight at 6:20 pm yesterday.

In the evening, a ceremony to mark opening of the Embassy of Switzerland to Myanmar was held at Sedona Hotel in Yangon.

Also present on the occasion were Union Minister at President Office U Aung Min, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein and wife, the Swiss Foreign Affairs Minister and Federal Councilor and wife, Yangon Region ministers, Swiss ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Christoph Burgener, ambassadors and their wives of foreign embassies in Yangon and officials.

At the ceremony, the Swiss Foreign Affairs Minister and Federal Councilor extended greetings and Union Minister U Win Shein delivered an address. Later, the orchestra played the national anthems of Myanmar and Switzerland.

Workshop on national-level development of urban project, housing and transport goes on

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 Nov—For ensuring people-centered development and promoting living standards of people, the Ministry needs to keep track of disadvantages of the department in implementing sustainable development of rural and urban areas, availability of affordable housing and better transport,” said Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin, at 2nd day workshop on national-level development of urban project, housing and transport of the Ministry of Construction held at the ministry here yesterday morning. Later, the resource persons submitted proposals at the workshop.—MNA

Swiss embassy opens in Yangon

Yangon, 3 Nov—“Myanmar is now on right track to the democratic country. Switzerland will support Myanmar at a time when Myanmar is taking a long and difficult steps towards democracy. Switzerland will provide humanitarian aids worth about US$ 8 million to Myanmar. It has planned to raise the amount from about US$11 million to US$20 million in the coming year. In late 2013-2016, the aids will be raised to about US$35 million,” said Foreign Minister and Federal Councilor of Switzerland Mr. Didier Burkhalter, at the opening ceremony of Swiss Embassy to Myanmar at No.11, Khaibaung road, Hline Township, here, this morning.

Swiss Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Christoph Burgener made a speech on the occasion. After that, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein, the Swiss Foreign Minister opened the ceremony and unveiled the signboard of the Embassy. The Swiss ambassador hailed the Swiss flag. It was attended by Union Minister at President Office U Aung Min, Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint, wives of the Swiss Foreign Minister and Swiss ambassador to Myanmar, officials from foreign embassies in Yangon and guests. In the evening, the delegation visited to Shwedagon Pagoda.—MNA

European Commission President and party arrive in Nay Pyi Taw

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 Nov—A delegation led by President of the European Commission Mr. Jose’ Manuel Barroso arrived at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by special flight this morning.

Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Hset Aung, European Union Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. David Liptman and officials welcomed the European Commission president and party at the airport.—MNA
Colombian leader urges intensified battle against rebels

BOGOTA, 3 Nov—Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos called for intensified strikes against two rebel forces until peace deals were reached.

Marking the 121st anniversary of Colombia’s National Police, Santos said his administration had offered the Armed Revolutionary Forces of Colombia (FARC) and National Liberation Army (ELN) “sincere and open dialogues” to bring an end to some 50 years of armed conflict.

“Meanwhile, the power of our military forces will not only continue, but intensify,” he said at a police academy in southern Bogota, accompanied by his counterparts — Laura Chinchilla from Costa Rica, and Portofín Lobo from Honduras.

We say to the FARC and the ELN, that the instructions of our forces are clear and conclusive. There is no room for thought here,” The FARC has some 10,000 members, while the ELN has about 3,000.

Costa Rican and Honduran presidents attended the event in appreciation of Colombia’s training of security forces in their countries.

Colombia’s President Juan Manuel Santos (C) delivers a speech during the 121st anniversary of the Colombian National Police, in Bogota, capital of Colombia, on 2 Nov. 2012. —Xinhua

US investigators to get access to Benghazi suspect

WASHINGTON, 3 Nov — Authorities in Tunisia have agreed to allow FBI investigators access to a detained Islamic militant suspected of playing a role in the 11 September attacks on US diplomatic facilities in Benghazi, Libya, US officials said on Friday.

Under an arrangement worked out between Tunisian and US officials, American investigators will be allowed to interview Ali Ani al Harzi under the supervision of Tunisian officials.

The arrangement was first made public in a written statement issued on Friday by two Republican US senators, Saxby Chambliss, vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, and Lindsay Graham, a senior member of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The senators said that while it was “unfortunate” that it had taken some time for the agreement to be reached, “allowing American investigators in person access will make the interview more meaningful and is a welcome breakthrough in our efforts to find the perpetrators to the Benghazi ... attacks.”

Earlier this week, Graham wrote to the Tunisian government advising them how important it was to him and other US legislators for al Harzi to be made available to US investigators.

Meanwhile, Chambliss urged the FBI to seek access to Harzi and any other individuals who might be detained in connection with the attacks.

A US government source said it was possible that the senators’ pressure may have helped convince the Tunisians to allow FBI investigators to interview al Harzi, who was initially arrested in Turkey in October but later sent back by Turkish authorities to his native Tunisia.

US sources have said that al-Harzi is suspected of participating in the Benghazi attacks in which Christopher Stevens, the US ambassador to Libya, and three other US officials were killed. His precise role in the attacks was unclear, the officials said, and there was no proof he was a leader in the attacks.

The Daily Beast news website reported on 23 October that shortly after the Benghazi attacks began, al Harzi posted an update about the fighting on an unspecificated social media site. The Daily Beast said this was one of the first clues for US intelligence agencies seeking to find out who was behind the violence.

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WASHINGTON, Nov—Former US President George W. Bush said here Friday that the upcoming US presidential election is “about the economy.”

Bush made the remark at a conference held in the Dominican Republic’s capital of Santo Domingo by the Entrepreneurs’ Organization (EO), which gathers more than 8,000 business owners from 35 countries and regions.

“Those elections are about the economy,” said Bush when asked about the upcoming elections next Tuesday, adding that the election debate should focus on the basic concerns of private sector growth and job creation.

He told reporters that most Americans already know who they’re going to vote for. “I can tell you that I’m not going to vote for that guy on Tuesday,” said Bush, referring to Republican challenger Mitt Romney.

Latest polls showed Obama and Republican challenger Mitt Romney are locked in dead heat.

Colombia leader urges intensified battle against rebels.

Colombia’s President Juan Manuel Santos (C) delivers a speech during the 121st anniversary of the Colombian National Police, in Bogota, capital of Colombia, on 2 Nov. 2012. —Xinhua

US Justice Department to send election monitors to 23 states

WASHINGTON, 3 Nov — The US Justice Department on Friday announced that it is sending more than 780 federal observers and monitors to 23 states across the country to watch for potential voting rights violations in the 6 Nov presidential election.

The department said that the observers will go to 51 jurisdictions in those states to help enforce federal voting rights laws, which protect ballot access.

The observers will also be watching over voting procedures. Media reports said that one reason for the dispatchment was to prevent discrimination based on languages and ethnicity.

The officials will also ensure that voters with disabilities are accommodated, and that no procedures are used to subject voters to different procedures on the basis of race, color or national origin.

Many of the locations being targeted for the 2012 general election have also appeared on similar lists for past elections. Justice officials say the federal monitors will maintain a low profile, and will not be involved in the voting process unless problems arise.

Xinhua

Ebola virus found in Borneo, Indonesia

Jakarta, 3 Nov—Indonesian researchers have found evidence of presence of Ebola virus in several Orangutan in Kalimantan island known as Borneo, paper said here Saturday.

The researchers were from a Indonesia University’s Avian Influenza- zoonosis Research Center in Surabaya, East Java, in Indonesia.

Researcher Chairil Anwar said that 65 serum samples collected from 353 healthy orangutans between December 2005 and December 2006 tested positive for Ebola virus.

“The result should be an early warning for us,” he was quoted by the Jakarta Post as saying.

“In 2006, we collected the samples and froze them because we didn’t have an appropriate laboratory to examine them. We examined them last year,” he added.

Chairil also said that six of 353 samples tested positive for Marburg virus, the similar virus to Ebola that causes M. arburg Hemorrhagic Fever.

Further examination, Chairil said, showed that 60 of 65 Ebola- tested samples were similar to the virus found in Africa. “There were only five samples that had the similarity with Ebola virus found in Asia. The other 60 were similar to the Ebola virus found in Zaire, Sudan, Ivory Coast, and Bundibugyo District in Uganda,” he said.

A according to Chairil, Ebola virus might still live in some of orangutans’ bodies. “All I can say is that Ebola could be a threat to humans living in Indonesia,” he said.

The orangutan is only found in Kalimantan and Sumatra. The other great apes: gorilla, chimpanzee and bonobo live in Africa.

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Upcoming US elections about economy: Bush

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Xinhua
Thailand to launch Andaman Sea tour campaign

BANGKOK, 3 Nov—Thailand's Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra is launching a major tour promotion campaign next week, especially for Thailand's southern tourist spots on the shores of the Andaman Sea.

The lady prime minister is scheduled to preside over the tour campaign entitled "The Andaman the World Living Legacy" in Phuket on 10 Nov.

Featured will be carnival-like processions of local Thai costumes and around tourist spots throughout the southern coastal region which includes the Provinces of Ranong, Phang-nga, Krabi, Trang, Satun and Phuket.

Each of the processions from the six Andaman seapine provinces will carry a title of its own to make one distinguish from another.

For instance, Phuket's procession will have a title literally reading "400-Year-Old Andaman Phuket Miracles," Krabi's procession will be entitled "4,000-Year-Old Andaman Krabi Adventures" and Phang-nga's banners will read "2,000-Year-Old Andaman Phang-nga Beauty."

The campaign was primarily designed to exhibit indigenous custom, folklore and cultures of the Thai southern region which may be still considered exotic and attractive to foreign tourists in addition to its world-renowned tropical beach resorts.

The Thai government will see to it that those tourist spots will be made available for the tourists all year round and that they will eventually spend a longer period of time while in this country than ever, according to Yingluck.

The Thai prime minister earlier pledged to develop and promote the Andaman Sea's tourist sites as the government has planned to provide funding for the construction and improvement of infrastructures such as roads, railways, airports and piers throughout the region.

Five particular areas of the region will be given top priorities under the government's infrastructure development plans, including Krabi Province's PP islands and Ao Nang beach and Phuket's Old Town area, Haad Pating beach and Laem Promthep, jutland area.

"We'll build up varied infrastructures as part of an ASEA community connectivity scheme. That is to link our tourist spots with their surrounding neighbourhoods and areas inside the political ASEAN member countries."

"We're looking for ways and means to keep foreign tourists going places and staying in Thailand longer than they may have planned.

"Yes, they are to be given quality accommodations and services while in our country," said Yingluck during a seminar on the government's southern tourism development projects in Krabi last September. In particular, accommodations at airports, hotels, services at health spas, Thai food and "OTOP" (one-tambon-one-product) indigenous products for sales to the tourists will be provided in environment-friendly, quality fashion, according to the lady prime minister.—Xinhua

Ornate barges parade past the Grand Palace on the Chao Phraya River during rehearsal of Royal Barge Procession in Bangkok, Thailand, on 2 Nov, 2012. The dress rehearsal of Royal Barge Procession for the Royal Kabinthorn Ceremony kicked off here on Friday, with the participation of 2,311 oarsmen from the Royal Thai Navy and 52 vessels, including four exquisitely crafted royal barges.

Xinhua

Asia, Europe leaders discuss eurozone crisis in Lao

LAOS—A seminar on the eurozone crisis, given that official Chinese ships have repeatedly entered waters near a group of islands administered by Japan but claimed by China.

On the sidelines, Noda is scheduled to meet bilaterally with the leaders of the European Union, Poland, Japan, European prime ministers have attended all previous ASEM summits, the first one of which was held in Bangkok in 1996. The biennial leaders' meeting was last held in Brussels in October 2010. ASEM members include all 10 member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, all 27 EU members, and other countries, including India, Russia and Australia.

ASEM sas is currently working on 6 experts in nuclear safety panel got grants from utilities

JAPAN—Four out of the six members of a government team drafting new safety standards for nuclear reactors have resigned between around 3 million yen and 27 million yen each in grants, donations and compensation from utilities in the past three to four years, according to data disclosed by the Nuclear Regulation Authority on Friday.

The regulatory body's secretariat said the members "have been selected in line with rules, and there should be no problem." Critics, however, say the members' judgments might be swayed by the wishes of donors, exposing safety regulations to the risk of being watered down.

The NRA requires experts involved in drafting safety standards for nuclear reactors to disclose remuneration and donations, but has no provision for disqualifying them in light of such information.

Kyodo News

EU Council president arrives in Cambodia for official visit

PHNOM PENH, 3 Nov—Herman Van Rompuy, president of the European Council, and his wife Geertruit Wiindels-Van Rompuy arrived here on Friday afternoon for a 3-day visit to promote ties and pay their tribute to recently deceased former King Norodom Sihanouk.

The visit was made at the invitation of Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, according to a media statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the visit, Van Rompuy will hold official talks with Hun Sen and also meet with the second Vice-President of the National Assembly Khuon Sodary. Power plants bilaterally, he will talk on bilateral, domestic and regional issues, "said a press release from the European Union to Cambodia."—Xinhua

Residents ride in rain in Zhengzhou, capital of central China’s Henan Province, on 3 Nov, 2012. Temperature in Zhengzhou dropped some 10 degrees Celsius as a cold wind hit the city and brought heavy rain on Saturday.—Xinhua

S Korea’s Lee sends message of sympathy to Obama over killer storm

SEOUL, 3 Nov—South Korean President Lee Myung-bak on Friday sent a message of sympathy to US President Barack Obama over the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy.

Lee expressed "deep condolences" over the loss of life and property caused by the superstorm, which swept across the US East Coast and claimed over 90 lives so far, according to his office Cheong Wa Dae.

The president also voiced confidence that the American people will come together under Obama's "outstanding leadership" and overcome the time of difficulty, Cheong Wa Dae said in a statement.—Xinhua

4 out of 6 experts in nuclear safety panel got grants from utilities
**Terror plotter gets 17 years in US**

Washington, 3 Nov — Rezwan Ferdaus, a man confessed to planning to crash explosive-laden model airplanes into federal buildings has been sentenced to 17 years in prison in Boston, Massachusetts, local media reported on Thursday.

The Boston Globe said the 26-year-old planned to use sophisticated flying skills to detonate the improvised devices to bomb the Pentagon and the US Capitol. His plea bargain with prosecutors helped him to avoid a much longer sentence.

**Afghan skirmishes, increasing militancy claims 38 lives in Taleban former stronghold**

Kabul, 3 Nov — Increasing Taleban-linked militancy and conflicts have claimed the lives of 38 people including 14 civilians and two dozen anti-government militants over the past two weeks in the southern Kandahar and Helmand provinces, the former stronghold of Taleban, officials said.

On Wednesday, only 14 people, all non-combatants, lost their lives in the militiamen’s linked activities in the form of deadly roadside bombings in Kandahar and the neighbouring Helmand province, officials said.

In the latest violent incident, a roadside bomb presumably planted by Taleban militants, struck a civilian car in Marof district of Kandahar Province on Wednesday evening killing six innocent civilians, a local official confirmed.

The tragic and deadly incident happened on Wednesday evening in Sang village of Marof District, resulting in the death of six people including two women, three children and one man, a spokesman for Kandahar’s provincial administration Jawed Faisal told Xinhua.

He also blamed the attack on the enemies of peace, a term used for Taleban militants by government officials.

However, the outfit fighting the government has yet to make a comment.

A similar incident also on Wednesday in Dezro village of Musa Qala District in Helmand Province 55 km south of capital city Kabul, eight civilians including seven women were killed and two others injured.

Interior Ministry confirmed in a statement released on Wednesday.

“A civilian car ran onto a roadside bomb planted by the Taleban terrorists in Dezro area of Musa Qala District at about 9 am local time, sparking a powerful blast and leaving eight civilians dead on the spot,” the ministry said in a statement.

Two more civilians were wounded in the blast, the statement of the Interior Ministry said.

Meantime, police in Kandahar, the birthplace of Taleban origin, announced the elimination of two dozen Taleban fighters elsewhere in Kandahar Province over the past two weeks.

“Twenty four Taleban rebels have been killed during series of operations over the past two weeks elsewhere in Kandahar province,” Rahmanullah Atalai, deputy representing well at Santa Isabel, known as Oso Pardo, in central Colombia’s Valle del Medio del Magdalena region, Gamba added.

Gamba noted that they were also awaiting the results of soil composition studies from exploration work done at the deepest part of the well Canacol Energy is a global Canadian-Colombian oil exploration and exploitation company with affiliates in Canada, Colombia, and Ecuador.

Currently, the company explores 18 blocks, including seven in production and 11 in the exploration phase.

In 2008, the Colombian government opened up the country for foreign companies by offering 150 exploration contracts to oil companies in a bid to revive its oil industry.

**Jordan condemns Israeli plan to build military academy in East Jerusalem**

Amman, 3 Nov — Jordan on Thursday voiced condemnation and rejection of Israel’s plan to establish a military academy on MOUNT of Olives in East Jerusalem, Jordanian state-run Petra news agency reported.

Mount of Olives “is part of the Palestinian lands occupied in 1967,” Jordanian Information Minister and government spokesman Samih Maayatah said, noting that these lands have been designated as occupied territory by the United Nations and the international law.

“The unacceptable and rejected Israeli settlement activities might undermine the already-faltering peace efforts as well as efforts to arrive at the two-state solution,” he said, adding that the Israeli government is sending negative signals towards peace through resuming settlement activities and imposing a de facto status quo on the ground.

Maayatah urged the international community to intervene and end all forms of Israeli settlement activities and unilateral measures. He also stressed the need for concerted efforts to revive peace negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis.

**Six Russian sailors, one Estonian freed in Nigeria**

Lagos, 3 Nov — Six Russian sailors and an Estonian national working with a French oil and gas company and abducted by gunfire off coast of Nigeria’s oil Delta have regained their freedom, a diplomatic source told Xinhua on Thursday.

They have been released unharmed,” the source said in a brief response to Xinhua. The source declined further comments, saying this is a very delicate and confidential matter.

The Russian Embassy in Nigeria also confirmed the release in a tweet message that the crew of Bourbon Liberty 249, hijacked by Nigerian pirates on 15 October, have been released and will return home soon.

“Russia appreciates the contribution of Nigeria, France, Luxembourg and Estonia to releasing the crew of Bourbon Liberty 249,” it added. On 15 October, pirates kidnapped six Russian sailors and an Estonian national, leaving the other nine crew members onboard a ship which was servicing hydrocarbon extraction platform in the shelf off the southern coast of Nigeria. The Bourbon Liberty 249, belonging to a French company, was used to tow anchors for oil rigs or mobile drilling rigs. The vessel’s crew worked on maintenance of oil platforms off Nigeria’s shores.

Piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea, running from Guinea on Africa’s northwestern tip to Angola in the south, has been increasing in recent years, with Nigeria, Africa’s largest oil producer, recording 293 cases of sea robbery and pirate attacks between 2003 and 2008. In February, Nigeria and 10 other countries including the United States, Belgium and Spain launched a naval exercise against piracy, oil theft, smuggling and other maritime security challenges plaguing the West and Central African waters, especially the Gulf of Guinea. — Xinhua

**Secret Service agent found dead, apparent suicide**

Washington, 3 Nov — A Secret Service agent assigned to President Barack Obama’s protective detail was found dead on Saturday in an apparent suicide, a law enforcement source said on Thursday. Special agent Rafael Prieto was under investigation for having an unreported romantic relationship with a foreign national, the source said.

The agent’s death is being investigated by the Department of Columbia and Metropolitan Police, said Max Milien, a spokesman for the Secret Service.

“Rafael Prieto has a distinguished 20-year career with the Secret Service that was marked by accomplishment, dedication, friendships and the Secret Service is mourning a valued colleague,” said Milien.

**A train carries crude oil on the Trans-Siberian Railway near to establish in the Russian Far East on 18 Oct. 2012.** — Kyodo News

People take photos at an exhibition in Beijing on 31 Oct, 2012, on the achievements of Chinese leaders in the past 10 years. — Kyodo News

**Oil discovered in central Colombia**

Bogota, 3 Nov — Canadian oil company Canacol Energy confirmed on Thursday that it has found oil at a well in central Colombia. Canacol President and CEO Charlie Gamba said in a statement that he was “very pleased” with the initial results of the exploration well, “which confirms the existence of petroleum” in the upper layers.

“The result is very positive for our contract,” he said. Based on recent 3D seismic surveys, he said.

During the first quarter of 2013, the company expects to begin drilling at the two-state solution," the source said in a statement.

There were no casualties on the security forces, he said. Taleban militants have yet to comment Taleban militants, who have been waging an insurgency of more than one decade, have often attacked Afghan security forces and about 100,000 NATO-led forces with the roadside bombs or Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and suicide attacks. However, the lethal homemade weapons often inflict casualties on civilians.

**Israel strikes Hamas in Gaza border area after mortars fired at civilians**

There were no casualties or injuries on the Israeli side.

**Oil discovered**

The new discovery is the first to be made in central Colombia following a string of recent investments by international oil companies. Canacol Energy says the new find is “the result of a successful drilling program” and that it is the company’s first major oil discovery in Colombia. The company has been active in Colombia since 2006 and has been exploring for oil and gas in the country for several years. The new discovery is expected to boost the company’s production and revenue in the coming years. The company plans to drill more wells in the area and to expand its operations in Colombia. The discovery has also been welcomed by the Colombian government and the country’s oil regulator, the National Hydrocarbons Agency. The government has been working to attract investment to the country’s oil sector and to promote the development of the hydrocarbons industry. The new discovery is expected to bring additional revenue to the country’s budget and to support the government’s efforts to diversify the economy. The discovery has also been welcomed by the international community, which has been supportive of the government’s efforts to promote the development of the hydrocarbons industry in Colombia.
Daniel Craig is the best Bond: Sean Bean

Los Angeles, 3 Nov—Actor Sean Bean feels Daniel Craig is one of the best James Bond stars ever.

Bean, 53, who played Bond villain in the James Bond film Quantum of Solace, says Craig has always been a stand-out actor, reported ShowbizSpy. “He’s always been an actor that stands out, and I remember when he first got Bond and people were lambasting him before he’d even started, and he’s managed to turn that around and stick it back up’em! And he’s probably one of the best Bond’s that’s ever been.”

“I like Daniel Craig. I worked with him on Sharpe, one of the very early ones, maybe the second one we did — Sharpe’s Revenge? A long, long time ago and he was good in that then. He had a lot of pressure on him, but he coped very well with it and turned out to be a great Bond,” he said. Craig has played the British spy in three films so far — Casino Royale, Quantum of Solace and Skyfall. — Reuters

Anushka Sharma’s role in Jab Tak Hai Jaan

New Delhi, 3 Nov—Details about Anushka Sharma’s role in Yash Chopra’s upcoming film Jab Tak Hai Jaan have now been revealed. Anushka, who co-stars for the second time with Shah Rukh Khan, plays a journalist with the Discovery Channel producing documentary on the character played by SRK.

A nushka’s character in the film is called Akira, not Muskaan as previously thought. Jab tak hai jaan will tell the story of the central character Samar — an army officer played by Shah Rukh Khan — through the eyes of Akira and the documentary-within-a-film which is called The Man Who Cannot Die.

“I am Akira, I work for the Discovery Channel. And I am on a quest to discover the truth behind the compelling story of The Man Who Cannot Die,” said Anushka Sharma on the release of her character in the movie.

Anushka first co-starred with Shah Rukh Khan in Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi, her debut film. The movie was produced by Yash Raj Films as was her next few movies Badmaash Company, Band Baaja Baaraat and Ladies vs Ricky Bahl. Anushka will be next seen in Vishal Bhardwaj’s M Atrui K Bijkee K A M andola. — PTI

Johnny Depp is dating Amber Heard again

Los Angeles, 3 Nov—Johnny Depp is dating Amber Heard again — after wooing her back with handwritten poems and flowers.

The 48-year-old actor — who confirmed his split from Vanessa Paradis after 14 years together in June — enjoyed a brief romance with the 26-year-old actress in the summer after meeting her on the set of their film ‘The Rum Diary’.

However, Amber ended their dating arrangement after deciding she wanted to be single.

But Johnny decided not to give up on the blonde beauty and sent her a personally penned poem and a bouquet of roses every day throughout September to convince her to give him another chance, and his plan eventually worked and she flew out to his private island, Little Hall’s Pond Cay in the Bahamas, for a mini vacation.

A source told The Sun newspaper: “Athough Amber and Johnny have electric chemistry, she felt that as they are both out of long-term relationships, they needed to be single for a while.” — PTI

Jodie Foster to get lifetime achievement award at Golden Globes

Los Angeles, 3 Nov—Double-Oscar winner Jodie Foster will receive a lifetime achievement award at the Golden Globes ceremony in January, recognizing her 40-year career as an actress, director and movie producer, organizers said on Thursday.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA), which organizes the annual Golden Globe awards, said Foster will join the lists of past winners Lucille Ball, Barbra Streisand, Al Pacino, Morgan Freeman and Jody Garland, and become the 2013 recipient of the Cecil B. DeMille award.

“Jodie is a multifaceted woman that has achieved immeasurable amounts of success and will continue to do so in her career,” HFPA president Aida Takla-O’Reilly said in a statement.

“Her ambition, exuberance and grace have helped pave the way for budding artists in this business. She’s truly one of a kind.” she added. Foster, 49, began her career filming commercials at the age of three and won international fame with her role as a streetwise teen in the 1976 film “Taxi Driver.”

She has since appeared in more than 40 movies, winning best actress Oscars for her role as a rape victim in “The Accused” and as the FBI agent in 1991 thriller “The Silence of the Lambs.” Foster also branched out into directing (“Little Man Tate”) and producing for both film and television through her production company Egg Pictures.

Foster will be presented with her award at the Golden Globes ceremony in Beverly Hills on 13 January, where the HFPA will also announce its picks for the best films and performances in film and television of 2012. — Reuters

Rolls-Royce used by Princess Diana to fetch 1.2 million pounds

London, 3 Nov—A bulletproof Rolls-Royce used by Princess Diana on her first trip to the US is expected to fetch more than 1.2 million pounds at an auction.

The Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow was bought new in 1979 by the British Embassy. But it didn’t come into service until 1982 after engineers fitted it with a 272 kg windscreen and equally hefty rear window. The side windows, which are also bulletproof, were sealed to repel bullets, grenades and even small bombs, the Daily Mail reported.

The silver limousine was purchased by the British Embassy in Washington and was the car to repel bullets, grenades and even small bombs, the Daily Mail reported.

The Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow was bought new in 1979 by the British Embassy. — PTI
Zagora too strong in Filly and Mare Turf

ARCADIA, (California), 3 Nov — French-bred mare Zagora has stormed home to win the Breeders Cup Filly & Mare Turf in what will likely be the last start of her career at Santa Anita Park on Friday.

Due to be sold at auction later this month, Martin Schwartz’s five-year-old stormed down the home straight with jockey Javier Castellano aboard to overtake the fancied Marketing Mix and hold off the highly favoured The Fugue. Zagora, at 9-1 odds, claimed her eighth win of her career, and a sixth graded stakes triumph. Having come to America in the fall of 2010, Zagora was not among the pre-race favourites and was expected to struggle at the mile-and-a-quarter distance.

But she was all business down the stretch coming from third at the final turn to win in 1:59.70. Zagora prevailed by three-quarters of a length, giving trainer Chad C Brown his just second Breeders Cup win. “She had everything go her way today,” Brown said. “She got the turf she likes, she got a great trip and she’s been training great. Everything came together for her today and it couldn’t happen to a horse that deserved it more.”

Knicks win rousing season opener over champion Heat

NEW YORK, 3 Nov — Carmelo Anthony helped lead the New York Knicks to a rousing 104-84 win over the NBA champions Miami Heat on Friday in New York City’s first sporting event since the devastating impact of the powerful superstorm Sandy.

Anthony topped all scorers with 30 points and hauled in a team-high 10 rebounds, while long-range shooter Steve Novak had 17 points in New York’s season opener.

LeBron James scored 23 points to pace Miami, who dropped to 1-1 after an opening win against the Boston Celtics.

It was the Knicks’ first home game since last season’s opening-round playoff series against the Heat, which they lost in five games. The Heat also beat New York three times during the regular season, so the Knicks had something to prove.

“You always want to have good game, no matter what,” said Knicks point guard Raymond, who scored 14 points and had a game-high nine assists. “But it’s always good to beat the defending champs.”

Miami Heat centre Chris Bosh (1) leaps to block New York Knicks guard Ronnie Brewer (11) as he looks to shoot in the first quarter of their NBA basketball game at Madison Square Garden in New York, on 2 Nov, 2012.— Reuters

Miami cut the lead down to 1 at 55-44 by halftime but New York came out with renewed fire in the third quarter, extending the lead to 23 points, boosted by two three-pointers from crowd favourite Novak and the Knicks were never seriously challenged.

New York shot a blistering 19-for-36 from three-point range as the penetration of their point guards created wide open opportunities from long range.

Reuter
Chinese Ye wins 200m medley while Liu Zige dim

Olympic champion Ye Shiwenn of China competes during the women’s 200m medley final at the short course swimming World Cup 2012 in Beijing, capital of China, on 2 Nov, 2012.— Xinhua

Ye, 20-year-old in the women’s 200m medley world record holder at the London Games, touched the wall first in two minutes and 6.10 seconds. Zsuzsanna Jakabos of Hungary was second at 2:08.22, while her compatriot, Katinka Hosszus was the third in 2:08.35.

“I feel good,” said Ye. “Although it was not my best result, which was in 2:05, I was still good.” “I am about 85 percent of my peak form,” Ye said, who finished third in the heateaarlier Friday. “I didn’t feel good in the morning, but the final was OK.” “I hope I can be on my top level at the World Championships in Turkey this December,” she added. The bronze medalist Hosszu brought her country a gold medal in the 800m freestyle in 8:22.49. She also took part in the 200m and 800m backstroke, but failed to stand on the podium.

“I feel rather tired,” she said. “But I wanted to do something different, so I decided to do my best in every event.” It seemed that Beijing Olympic 200m butterfly champion Liu Zige was still struggling with her form as the 23-year-old only took a fifth place in the women’s 100m fly at 58.87. Inge Dekker of the Netherlands won the gold in 57.62.— Xinhua

Pests destroy rice in Mudon, Chaungsone Townships

WASHINGTON, 3 Nov—US utilities restored power on Friday to about a million East Coast homes and businesses plunged into darkness by Hurricane Sandy, as downpoured from the past two days, as crews began to work on the hardest-hit areas that may take days to fix.

About 3.5 million customers remained without power as of Friday afternoon, according to US Department of Energy figures based on utility reports. The 3 million customers restored on Friday was down from the 2.1 million who had power restored on Wednesday and the 1.6 million on Thursday, the data showed.

Utilities say they typically look to restore power to the biggest blocks of customers first, then small, isolated problems. They have warned it could yet be another week before all the lights are back on. More than 1.2 million homes and businesses in New York and 1.4 million in New Jersey remained without power on Friday, including many of the dozens of oil terminals along the harbor that are crucial link in the fuel supply chain. Some operators had brought in generators to resume flows.

FirstEnergy Corp., the holding company hardest hit by the storm, has restored power to 82 percent of the outages in Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia and Maryland, where wind and rain was the primary cause of outages in New Jersey, where a direct hit from the massive storm inflicted catastrophic damage across the state. FirstEnergy said flood waters and substantial debris were still impeding restoration efforts in many areas.

IMF deputy chief to visit Senegal in November

WASHINGTON, 3 Nov—The International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced on Friday that its deputy managing director Zhu Min would visit Senegal on 5-6 Nov for discussion on economic issues.

The Washington-based global lender said in a statement that Zhu will lead an IMF delegation to a symposium on monetary integration and changes in the international financial system, on the occasion of the West African Central Bank (BCAEO)’s 50th anniversary.

Zhu will hold discussions with the Senegalese authorities focusing on the macroeconomic outlook for the country and the challenges ahead, the IMF noted.

“I am very much looking forward to my visit to Senegal as deputy managing director of the IMF. Senegal has made significant progress over the last few years,” Zhu said ahead of his visit. “Looking at the medium term, the challenge will be the pursuit of policies to achieve strong, sustainable, and inclusive growth, and to reduce poverty in an uncertain global environment.”

During his visit, Zhu will also meet with senior officials of Senegal and take part in a round-table discussion with participants from the private sector, academia, and civil society organizations, the IMF said.

“IMF in Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information. Sunday, 4 November, 2012 15

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NAY PYI TAW, 3 Nov—President U Thein Sein received a delegation led by President of European Commission Mr José Manuel Barroso and party at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here this morning.

Also present at the call together with President U Thein Sein were Union Ministers U Winna Maung Lwin, U Aung Kyi, U Soe Thein and Dr Kan Zaw, Deputy Ministers U Set Aung and departmental heads.

The visiting EC president was accompanied by Ambassador of the European Union (EU) to Myanmar Mr David Lipman and high-ranking officials.

They frankly exchanged views on establishing closer ties between Myanmar and EU, support for peace process and assistance for rehabilitation tasks, granting Generalized System of Preference for enabling Myanmar people enjoy the fruits of economic development in the short period, capacity building of education and health staff, aids of EU in disaster risk reduction and improvement of living standards, providing technical assistances and trainings, bringing an end to Rakhine State crisis that can tarnish the image of the country, appointment of ambassador at European Union Office in Yangon, and EU’s full support for Myanmar’s reform process. —MNA

Establishing closer ties between Myanmar and EC discussed

Myanmar peace building and reforms discussed

The Government of the Union of Myanmar and the European Union acknowledge the currently offered historic chances for securing lasting peace in Myanmar.

The prospect of creating trust, building peace, enhancing the respect for human rights and helping economic prosperity in regions emerging from violent conflict must not be missed.

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the European Union are determined to cooperate closely in this joint endeavour.

The Myanmar Peace Centre, as established by Presidential Decree, shall serve as a platform for inclusive and non-partisan dialogue. It shall reach out to all groups and communities connected to the peace process, including international and national, governmental and non-governmental, individuals and organizations at both the regional and central levels.

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the European Union expect and believe that the Myanmar Peace Centre will be a key element for achieving a just and lasting peace in Myanmar. The European Union is keen to support the Myanmar Peace Centre in the carrying out of its important mandate.

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Done at Yangon, 3 November 2012

For the European Union
José Manuel Barroso President of the European Commission

For the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
U Aung Min Union Minister at the President’s Office

Tokyo, 3 Nov—Hisayoshi Chono homered, captain Shinnosuke Abe drove in the tying run in the seventh inning and the Yomiuri Giants edged the Nippon Ham Fighters 4-3 in Game 6 to claim their 22nd Japan Series title on Saturday night.

The Central League champs won their first Series title in three years against the same opponent they beat in 2009, again winning the best-of-seven four games to two. For Giants manager Tatsunori Hara, it was his third title at the Yomiuri helm.

“We played some nail-bitters, but we fought through them together,” Hara said. “I’m extremely satisfied.”

“The Fighters under manager (Hideki) Kuriyama are an outstanding team and a worthy opponent.”

Giants ace Tetsuya Utsumi, who won Games 1 and 5, was named the Series MVP.

“The last time we won, I didn’t contribute much,” he said. “This time I am overjoyed.”

After coming back from a 2-0 deficit to tie the Series 2-all, the Pacific League pennant winners lost the next two and failed in their bid for a third Series title and first since winning it all under American manager Trey Hillman in 2006. Kenji Yano had a two-run single to get the ball rolling in the opening frame and Chono’s two-out solo homer made it 3-0 in the second inning at Tokyo Dome.

But just when it looked like Giants starter Hirokazu Sawamura would be putting on another one-man show after his eight-inning, 1-0 decision in Game 2, Sho Nakata struck with a three-run drive off the right-hander with two outs to tie the game 3-all in the sixth.

Sawamura, the 2011 Rookie of the Year, yielded three runs and six hits in six innings. —Kyodo

President U Thein Sein and European Commission President Mr José Manuel Barroso and party pose for documentary photo.

MNA

Joint declaration on EU support to peace-building in Myanmar

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The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the European Union expect and believe that the Myanmar Peace Centre will be a key element for achieving a just and lasting peace in Myanmar. The European Union is keen to support the Myanmar Peace Centre in the carrying out of its important mandate.

Done at Yangon, 3 November 2012

For the European Union
José Manuel Barroso President of the European Commission

For the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
U Aung Min Union Minister at the President’s Office

Tokyo, 3 Nov—Hisayoshi Chono homered, captain Shinnosuke Abe drove in the tying run in the seventh inning and the Yomiuri Giants edged the Nippon Ham Fighters 4-3 in Game 6 to claim their 22nd Japan Series title on Saturday night.

The Central League champs won their first Series title in three years against the same opponent they beat in 2009, again winning the best-of-seven four games to two. For Giants manager Tatsunori Hara, it was his third title at the Yomiuri helm.

“We played some nail-bitters, but we fought through them together,” Hara said. “I’m extremely satisfied.”

“The Fighters under manager (Hideki) Kuriyama are an outstanding team and a worthy opponent.”

Giants ace Tetsuya Utsumi, who won Games 1 and 5, was named the Series MVP.

“The last time we won, I didn’t contribute much,” he said. “This time I am overjoyed.”

After coming back from a 2-0 deficit to tie the Series 2-all, the Pacific League pennant winners lost the next two and failed in their bid for a third Series title and first since winning it all under American manager Trey Hillman in 2006. Kenji Yano had a two-run single to get the ball rolling in the opening frame and Chono’s two-out solo homer made it 3-0 in the second inning at Tokyo Dome.

But just when it looked like Giants starter Hirokazu Sawamura would be putting on another one-man show after his eight-inning, 1-0 decision in Game 2, Sho Nakata struck with a three-run drive off the right-hander with two outs to tie the game 3-all in the sixth.

Sawamura, the 2011 Rookie of the Year, yielded three runs and six hits in six innings. —Kyodo

Establishing closer ties between Myanmar and EC discussed

Myanmar peace building and reforms discussed

The Government of the Union of Myanmar and the European Union acknowledge the currently offered historic chances for securing lasting peace in Myanmar.

The prospect of creating trust, building peace, enhancing the respect for human rights and helping economic prosperity in regions emerging from violent conflict must not be missed.

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