SEA Games, glittering future for Myanmar youths: President

YANGON, 20 Oct—President U Thein Sein inspected preparations for hosting the XXVII SEA Games at Wunna Theikdhi Stadium, here, this morning.

At the stadium, the President viewed a scale model of the stadium and souvenirs, construction of the football ground and progress of the stage where opening and closing ceremonies will be held. Patron of the Leading Committee for Organizing the XXVII SEA Games Vice-President U Nyan Tun, Chairman of the Leading Committee U Tint Hsan and officials reported on progress of works.

At the hall, Chairman of the Leading Committee Union Minister UTintHsan submitted reports on progress of stadium, gymnasium and transit centres and holding the games.

For his part, the President said that focuses of the State, ministries, athletes and people are now on successfully hosting the SEA Games. The State on its part lays down necessary policies, strategies and tactics for the games.

He stressed the need to make coordination among ministries for achieving success. He urged the athletes to pour out vigorous efforts in respective sports competitions to grab victory. Tumultous applause from the people will help the athletes to secure achievements. To be able to organize the games properly, the Leading Organizing Committee needs to arrange the games, he said.

He pointed out that hosting the SEA Games is to create better future for the youths. (See page 8)

“Hosting SEA Games is to create better future for the youths. The XXVII SEA Games is great opportunity for Myanmar as a host in 44 years. With farsightedness to host more games, arrangements must be made for turning out excellent athletes. SEA Games will bring a glittering future to Myanmar youths.”

Gov’t encourages young Japanese to work at UN

ASEAN Neurological Association Convention held in Brunei

Newly discovered asteroid has little chance of hitting Earth

China’s pioneers to drive recovery in solar equipment

Europe’s bold vision hits trouble

Hillary Clinton hits campaign trail, endorses McAuliffe in Virginia

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**Local News**

**Commander presents aid, cash awards to militia (local) troops**

**Pyigyi曼達င်း, 20 Oc—the Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Hay presented supplies to members of the militia (local) at the hall of local battalion in Pyigyi曼達င်း Sub-Township on 17 October morning. The commander presented rice, edible oil, salt and foodstuffs for four months worth K 3,120,000 to 60 members of people’s militia troops from Chaungkaphé, Kawye and Kandaw villages of Bokpyin Township and Mandaing, Lanphonkan and Taungge villages of Pyigyi曼達င်း Sub-Township.

After that, the commander presented K 300,000 as cash awards to Mandaing Militia (Local) Troop for its excellent performance in exposing and seizing one pistol and nine rounds from Mon State Rehabilitation Group.

Kye-mon-Pyigyi曼達င်း IPRD

**National Sports Affairs**

**Myanmar U-23 team to play against Korean club Guanju on 21 Oc**

Yangon, 20 Oc—Myanmar U-23 football team taking a joint-training in the Republic of Korea will play a tune-up match with Guanju club of Korea at Mokpo National Football Centre at 3 pm local standard time tomorrow.

The Myanmar youth team plans to take a joint training at Mokpo National Football Centre in Mokpo of Republic of Korea during the 14-day period.

During the training period, Myanmar will play four tune-up matches with Korean clubs.

Guanju club had played with Myanmar U-22 team before the qualifier of the Asian U-22 Championship in 2012.

**Celebrating of 503rd birthday of Ketumati (Toungoo) discussed**

Toungoo, 20 Oc—The third coordination meeting on celebrating the 503rd Founding Anniversary of Ketumati (Toungoo) City was held at the hall of Taowin Ketumati Hotel on 17 October afternoon.

Chairman of the Organizing Leading Committee Deputy Commissioner U Kyaw Thu of the district made a speech. U Thein Zaw Win, Township Administrator, submitted the minutes of the previous meeting. Prof. (Rtd) Dr Mar Mar Wai acted as MC.

Chairmen of the respective subcommittees submitted progress of their respective tasks.

With the assistance of Patron of the Organizing Committee Chairman of CB Bank U Khin Maung Aye, the anniversary of Toungoo City has been held on a grand scale since its 500th anniversary held in 2010.

This year, the celebration will be held like that of previous years.

The responsible persons of the committee will organize the literary talks, merit sharing ceremony for completion of Sihkon encircled zedi and siairways, hoisting of umbrella at Kelazati Pagoda, 503 boys novitiation, 28-Buddha hoisting of umbrella at encircled zedi and siairways, for completion of Sikhon Mantoungge Township of Mandalay for four months.

**Myanmar worker in Thailand gets compensation for loss of fingers**

Bangkok, 20 Oc—Thanks to those who helped for labour affairs, a Myanmar worker who was injured at the paper box factory on 63rd Phetkasem Road in Bangkok of Thailand has received over 400,000 bahts for compensation on 10 October, according to the Myanmar groups in Thailand.

Ko Min Soe, 27, son of U Aung Tin-Daw Than of Magyikyun Village of Hpa-an Township in Kayin State lost a half of his left palm at 7.30 pm on 8 January unexpectedly.

With regard to the incident, “When I was discharged from the hospital, I did not know to seek help. In February, Sayadaw U Jotika gave me telephone number of the MAT group. So I got 400,000 bahts for compensation. I thanked all for their assistance and help,” said Ko Min Soe.

**Labour Affairs**

Director of MAT U Kyaw Thaung said, “We work together with lawyers for demanding the rights of workers. We demanded the compensation at the labour office. But, the owner refused to give it. We went to the court. So, we spent a long time for it.”

He continued that the worker holds passport and work permit only. He did not have parasakshin and bank account. So, he had to be content with the compensation they gave.

Kye-mon-Soe Win (MLA)

**MBOA, MRG (Mandalay) jointly open mobile repairing course for orphan children**

Mandalay, 20 Oc—A press meet was held at Min Thitha Ko Cafe on 78th street between 31st and 32nd streets in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on 17 October.

MBOA and MRG (Mandalay) made clarification on opening of mobile phone repairing course for orphans.

Myanmar Buddhist Orphans Association-MBOA opened the course as of 6 October to enable the orphans from various orphanages regardless of citizen and religion to learn mobile phone software & hardware.

The course was opened from 9 am to 12 noon as one section and from 3 pm to 6 pm as another section. Each section can hold 15 trainees.

The course lasts two and a half months. The courses will be conducted four times a year. There is no limit in educational qualification of the trainees but they must be above 12 years old. The application for the course must be completed with one copy of citizenship scrutiny card, CV form, three passport sized photos and endorsement of the head of the orphanage to be sent to Mula Ngahsoh Building at Pyigyi曼達င်း Monastery at the corner of 30th and 62nd streets.

“It is a free course for orphans. Training is being conducted to them with the use of cent per cent teaching aids. The trainers totally give techniques to them,” a trainer of the training school of MRG (Mandalay).

“Myanmar is growing day by day. The training course will give techniques to the trainees for winning job opportunities. Upon completion of the training, they will have capability to do their works for mobile phone service to the customers so as to earn incomes, said an official of MRG (Mandalay).

Kye-mon-Thitha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

**SEA Games logo with oil lamp lighting**

Mandalay, 20 Oc—The 14th Lighting Festival on Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut, organized by Seikta Thuikha Youth, was held at Maha Lawka Yanhnein Aungdawmu Pagoda on 29th street between 63rd and 28th streets in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on the Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut, yesterday.

The youths created the shapes of Oil mascots hailing the coming SEA Games together with Welcome to SEA Games.

Over 40 members of the association participated in the creation of the shapes with the use of lights as of yesterday morning. Members of the association offered oil lamps to Aungdawmu Pagoda yearly.

Kye-mon-BoOct (Mann)

**By Ko Min Soe**

Director of MAT U Kyaw Thaung said, “We work together with lawyers for demanding the rights of workers. We demanded the compensation at the labour office. But, the owner refused to give it. We went to the court. So, we spent a long time for it.”

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Kye-mon-Soe Win (MLA)

**Myanmar U-23 team will leave for Japan to take more training in Osaka up to 10 November and to play tune-up matches with Japanese teams after completion of training in the Republic of Korea up to 31 October.”**

Kye-mon-Maung Maung Zaw

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Kye-mon-Thitha Ko Ko (Mandalay)
Car bomb near Egypt army intelligence building wounds six

ISMAILIA, 20 Oct—A car bomb exploded on Saturday near an Egyptian army intelligence building in the Suez Canal city of Ismailia, wounding at least six soldiers, security sources said.

No group has claimed responsibility, but al Qaeda-linked militants in the largely lawless Sinai region have stepped up attacks on soldiers and police since the army toppled Islamist President Mohamed Mursi in July.

The militants have on occasion extended their campaign into major cities. Military spokesman Ahmed Ali said in a statement the bombing was “a continuation of the wave of cowardly terrorist attacks”, by groups he described as promoting strife.

Security personnel searching the area found another car bomb, which had not gone off, state media and security sources said.

Heavy smoke could be seen rising from a building nearby. The force of the blast caused part of the military intelligence building’s outer wall to collapse.

Some security sources said the bomb was planted in a car belonging to a doctor who lived in a nearby building. In September the army launched a campaign against armed militants in Sinai, a desert region whose Bedouin population has long complained of neglect by successive governments in Cairo.

Egypt’s turmoil has intensified since the army deposed Mursi and installed a new government, saying it was responding to mass protests against the freely elected president’s rule.

Mursi’s Muslim Brotherhood, once again outlawed in Egypt as it was under ousted President Mubarak’s rule, called the Islamist leader’s overthrow an “act of violence”.

Reuters

Egyptian security personnel and residents check the site of an explosion in Ismailia city, around 120 km, east of Cairo, on 19 Oct, 2013.—Reuters

Car bomb, clashes kill over 30 near Syrian capital

BEIRUT, 20 Oct—Syrian rebels blew up an army checkpoint outside Damascus on Saturday and more than 30 combatants from both sides died in the blast and ensuing clashes, a monitoring group said.

The pro-opposition Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 15 rebels and at least 16 soldiers were killed.

The British-based Observer said the check-point explosion, near the suburbs of Mleha and Jarana, was detonated by a suicide bomber from the al Qaeda-linked Nusra Front.

Nusra supporters on Twitter, however, said the bomber had intended to blow himself up in the car, but instead got out before setting off the explosives inside. They said rebel forces had captured the checkpoint hit by the car bomb and were battling to take a second one nearby.

Syrian state television reported the blast but gave no death toll, saying only that several people had been killed or wounded in a “terrorist bombing”.

The Observatory, which has a network of activists across Syria, said Syrian fighter jets retaliated by striking nearby opposition-held areas such as Mleha.

Video uploaded by activists showed a huge column of smoke billowing up from the scene, and the sound of fighter jets streaking overhead could be heard.

Rebels also fired rockets into Jarana, a suburb held by the government, according to the Observatory. It said the air force carried out four strikes on adjacent rebel-held districts.

Reuters

At least 99 injured in Buenos Aires train crash

BUENOS AIRES, 20 Oct—At least 99 people were injured in a train crash at a Buenos Aires commuter rail station on Saturday, Buenos Aires, a local official said. Security Secretary of Argentina Sergio Berni said no fatalities had been recorded so far.

Argentine Transportation Minister Florencio Randazzo said earlier at a Press conference that 80 people have been treated and that only eight remained “under observation” after a Sarmiento Line train hit containment fences at the station in the Balvanera neighborhood at 7:35 a.m. local time.

“None of them was seriously injured,” he quoted by the official news agency as saying. Randazzo ruled out technical problems that could have been the cause of the train crash, as early reports indicated the train had trouble braking when it hit the fence. He said the train known as “Chapa 5” had had an integral mechanical inspection that checks the break system, compression, and general maintenance. The driver Julio Benitez had tested negative for alcohol before his work shift and Benitez did not communicate with the control tower to warn of any failures, the minister added.

He also said the railway of the station where the accident occurred was also inspected Friday night. But he said the train “travelled at a speed of 22 km per hour (kph),” higher than the regulated 12 kph in this section.

The driver was also injured and taken into custody.

Xinhua

Empress turns 79, shows joy over crown princess’ rare overseas trip

TOKYO, 20 Oct.—Empress Michiko, on the occasion of her 79th birthday on Sunday, expressed her joy over Crown Princess Masako’s first official overseas trip in 11 years.

“I was truly happy that the Crown Princess was able to visit the Netherlands and return home safely,” the empress said in a statement referring to the princess’ visit with Crown Prince Naruhito in April to attend Dutch Prince Willem-Alexander’s coronation.

“I am glad to see that since the visit, she has continued to be well, visiting disaster-affected areas and even attending ceremonies together with the Crown Prince,” the empress said in her response to written questions from reporters.

Reuters

Suicide bomber kills 16 in Somali cafe attack aimed at foreign troops

MOGADISHU, 20 Oct.—A suicide bomber killed at least 16 people on Saturday in an attack on a cafe in a Somali town close to the Ethiopian border frequented by local and foreign soldiers fighting al Qaeda-linked rebels.

Al Shabaab said it had carried out the bombing, in the town of Baladweyne, targeting troops participating in an African Union peacekeeping force fighting the Somali Islamist group.

“A man with an explosive jacket entered unexpectedly in the tea shop where soldiers and civilians sat … and blew himself up,” said local elder Ahmed Nur, speaking from the scene of the blast.

At least 16 people were killed and 33 wounded, local politician Dahir Amin Jasow told Reuters by telephone from Baladweyne.

“The death toll may rise.”

Somali and African forces pushed Al Shabaab out of Baladweyne, about 210 miles north of Mogadishu, more than a year ago.

But while the territory that al Shabaab controls has greatly dwindled over the past two years, it continues to control large rural areas and some towns and has ratcheted up guerrilla-style attacks.

“Our main target was Ethiopian and Djibouti troops who invaded our country,” said Al Shabaab spokesman Sheikh Abdisis Musab. He put the death toll at 25. There was no independent word on whether foreign soldiers were among the casualties.

Reuters

At least 99 injured in Buenos Aires train crash

Police and firemen work after a train from the Sarmiento line crashed at the Once Station, in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina, on 19 Oct, 2013.

A spokesman of the Sarmiento line informed at least 40 people were hurt, five seriously, in the train crash registered early Saturday at the Once Station in Buenos Aires.—Xinhua

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Newly discovered asteroid has little chance of hitting Earth

WASHINGTON, 20 Oct — US experts warned on Fri- day against any panic over newly discovered asteroid 2013 TV135, saying that the chance of an impact in the year of 2032 is extremely slim and could probably be “ruled out entirely” in the future. The space rock was discovered on 8 Oct, 2013 by astronomers working at the Crimean Astrophysical Observatory in Ukraine. It made a close approach to Earth on 16 September, when it came within about 6.7 million kilometers, and could be back in Earth’s neighbourhood in 2032. At least for the moment, experts cannot eliminate the risk of an impact then.

“The odds of an impact in 2032, as calculated today after 9 days of observing 2013 TV135, are now 1-in-48,000, so a little higher than two days ago,” Jose Luis Galache, an astropho- mer with the US-based Minor Planet Centre, a branch of the International Astronomical Union, told Xinhua. “However, I would like to stress that the orbit we have computed after only 9 days of observations is very imprecise, so we can’t draw any conclusions yet from these numbers,” Galache said. Earlier, US space agency NASA deter- mined the impact probability as being at only one in 63,000.

“As observations con- tinue, the impact prob- ability will be updated and there is a 99.98 percent chance that the possibility of impact will be ruled out,” NASA spokesman David Agle said. Even if it did hit, it doesn’t mean the end for humans. “2013 TV135 is estimated to be about 400 metres in diameter.

While the impact of such an object would be destructive over a large re- gion, it would not rise to the level of a global disaster,” Agle told Xinhua. Galache, however, said the asteroid’s size is still not precisely known. He estimated that it’s between 300 and 700 metres wide. “At this size range, an impact with Earth would be destructive on subcontinental level, but disastrous for the area af- fected nonetheless.

The crater left by the impact would be 5 to 15 km wide, with trees and buildings being destroyed by the heat and shock wave up to tens of kilometres away from the impact site. If the asteroid were to hit an ocean, it would create a tsunami with a wave height of several tens of metres,” Galache said. “We will con- tinue to monitor the aster- oid until we become certain the it will not impact, which is the most likely scenario. If at any moment we deter- mine that there will be an impact, or the impact risk is very high, then astrome- nes and engineers would come together to find the best way to move this aster- oid. Many different meth- ods have been proposed to move asteroids from their orbits, and we would pick the best one for this object,” he added.

Microsoft to announce Windows RT 8.1

WASHINGTON, 20 Oct — Microsoft Corp is expected to announce Windows RT 8.1 on Thursday, a new version of Windows that runs on ARM-based processors, according to sources. The new version is designed to compete against the Google Inc’s Android and Apple Inc’s iOS.

The new version is expected to remove certain limitations of Windows RT, such as the inability to run 32-bit desktop apps and the inability to run some games. The new version will also include support for some Office apps, according to sources.

The new version is expected to be available on Thursday. It is currently available in beta form and will be released to the public in the coming months.
BRUSSELS, 20 Oct— Barely a year after Euro- pean leaders set out an am- bitious vision for the euro zone’s future, progress has all but stalled and pressure is building for what may amount to a ‘make or break’ moment for the union.

The idea of a roadmap setting out steps towards the deeper integration of the euro zone came about in early 2012, when the debt crisis was at its worst and there were legitimate fears that Greece could be forced out of the currency union, or that the whole European project could disintegrate.

With the global eco- nomic debate dominated by the United States and, increasingly, China, the European Union risks los- ing its influence unless it can speak with one voice. Herman Van Rompuy, the president of the European Council, which brings to- gether the EU’s member states, was asked by lead- ers to draft a report detail- ing what was required to strengthen the single cur- rency and overhaul the monetary union.

The plan involved working with three other top crisis-fighting figures — European Central Bank President Mario Draghi, European Commission President Jose Manuel Bar- neski and then president of euro zone finance ministers, Jean-Claude Juncker — on a document to be presented to leaders in June 2012. The focus was on four ‘building blocks’ that would complete monetary union: a “banking union” to strengthen the banking sector, a “fiscal union” to improve coordination of budget-related policy, an “economic union” to fur- ther integration and finally a “political union” to make the project stick.

Europe’s bold vision hits trouble

Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, addresses the 66th United Nations General As- sembly at UN headquarters in New York, on 25 Sept, 2013.—Reuters

NEW YORK, 20 Oct — Boeing Co (BA.N) said on Friday it was notching down the production rate of its biggest plane, the iconic bubble-top 747, due to slack demand. The slow- down won’t affect financial forecasts for Boeing, ana- lysts said, because produc- tion of the type is so limited. Only about 50 planes, with a list price of $357 mil- lion, are currently on order. Analysts expect Boeing to report solid third-quarter results on Wednesday, and many predict its stock, cur- rently at record levels, will continue climbing.

The rate reduction re- reflects declining use of the 747 and to a lesser extent its newer rival, the Airbus (EAD.PA) A380 superjumbo. Rather than flying those large four-engine jets, many airlines prefer to fly slightly smaller twin-engine planes that are easier to fill and burn less fuel. The deci- sion also reflects Boeing’s prudence in deciding to build the 787 a decade ago. While Airbus developed the double-decker A380, which carries 525 people in some configurations, Boeing cor- rectly predicted that airlines would want long-range, twin-engine planes that can fly direct, point to point routes, rather than carrying passengers through hubs where they would have to change planes.

“The A380 has more life since it is much newer,” said Ken Herbert, an ana- list at Canaccord Genuity Inc. But with the twin-en- gine Airbus A350-1000 and Boeing 777X jets coming out, “the days of the quad engine are numbered, in my view.” Boeing focused on building the 250-seat 787, and extending its best-sell- ing 777 to fly farther and carry about 368 passengers. So deliver the first of its A350 family, which will eventually carry up to 350 passengers, start- ing next year. The 747-8 carries 467 passengers in a typical configuration, and the company said it continues to invest in the plane, which has been a ‘cash cow’ technol- ogy derived from the 787. But sales have been slow. Only 107 of the 747- 8 model have been sold, and 56 have been delivered. So far this year, Boeing has re- ceived just five orders for the 747-8. Five older orders were canceled, however, leaving no new orders.

Reuters

Pakistan polio outbreak puts global eradication at risk

LONDON, 20 Oct— A Taleban ban on vaccination is exacerbating a serious polio outbreak in Pakistan, threatening to derail dra- matic progress made this year towards wiping out the disease worldwide, health officials say. Health teams in Pakistan have been at- tacked repeatedly since the Talibans denounced vaccines as a Western plot to sterilize Muslims and imposed bans on inoculation in June 2012.

In North Waziristan, a region near the Afghan bor- der that has been cordon- off by the Taleban, dozens of children, many under the age of two, have been crip- pled by the viral disease in the past six months. And there is evidence in tests conducted on sewage sam- ples in some of the country’s major cities that the polio vi- rus is starting to spread be- yond these isolated pockets and could soon spark fresh polio outbreaks in more densely populated areas.

“We have entered a phase that we were all worried about and were afraid might happen,” Elias Durr, head of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) in Pakistan, told Reuters in a telephone inter- view.

Reuters

A policeman stands guard as female polio workers wait to give polio vaccine drops to children in Lahore on 20 Dec, 2012.—Reuters

Health habits tied to heart disease, arthritis risk

NEW YORK, 20 Oct— Older women who exercise regularly— or may have a substantially lower risk of late-life dis- ability than their peers with less-healthy habits, say UK researchers. They found that among women in their 60s and 70s, behaviours like smoking, drinking and ex- ercise could account for up to 17 percent of a woman’s risk for disabling conditions like heart disease, arthri- tis and difficulty walking.

“We set out to quantify the influence of current life- style on subsequent disabil- ity,” Lois Kim, lead author of the study and lecturer in medical statistics at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, told Reuters Health.

More than 2,500 Brit- ish women between the ages of 60 and 79 filled out surveys as part of the British Women’s Heart and Health Study. The questionnaires asked about the women’s smoking, exercise, alcohol consumption and eating habits. Seven years later, the women reported on whether they had developed any of several disabling health problems. The study found that women who never ex- ercised were about twice as likely to get arthritis and had about double the risk of developing problems walk- ing; they were also more likely to develop heart dis- ease. Women who smoked currently or in the past also developed heart disease at more than twice the rate of those who had never smoked.

Reuters

S&P breaks record, Google’s stock tops $1,000 on earnings

NEW YORK, 20 Oct— The S&P 500 closed at a record high for the second straight day on Friday to cap its biggest weekly gain in three months as strong- er-than-expected earnings from Google, Morgan Stan- ley and others overshad- owed worry that earnings growth was faltering.

The reassuring signals on profitability augmented investors’ relief over the resolution earlier in the week of the budget impasse in Washington that had threatened to trigger a potentially catastrophic de- fault on the US debt. The S&P 500 closed up 0.7 per- cent, while the Nasdaq rose 1.3 percent to finish at its highest since 2007.

New Light of Myanmar

Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, on 17 October, 2013.—Reuters

It was the largest daily gain for the Nas- daq in a week. Google Inc (GOOG.O) grabbed most of the spotlight, with its shares gaining 13.8 percent to clear the $1,000 mark for the first time, ending the session at $1011.41. Its rise came a day after the search engine company posted re- sults that beat forecasts and helped lead the S&P tech- nology sector to outperform all other sectors with a 1.8 percent rise. Washington and eve- rything that happened with the budget talks has cleared out, and we are refocusing on earnings.

We have companies coming in next week that you think would beat num- bers, she did pretty well. That should allow this kind of momentum to continue into next week,” said Daniel Morgan, senior portfolio manager at Synovus Trust Company in Georgia.

Morgan said he ex- pects Netflix and Apple, whose earnings reports are due next week, to perform like Google because they are new tech, unlike Inter- national Business Machines (IBM), which reported low revenue from earnings growth on Thursday.

Thursday, 21 October, 2013

Reuters
6.5-magnitude quake hits off Mexico coast

MEXICO CITY, 20 Oct—An earthquake measuring 6.5 on the Richter scale jolted off the coast of Echternop in the Mexican state of Sonora on Saturday, the US Geological Survey (USGS) said.

The USGS initially determined the tremor at a magnitude of 6.8, but later downgraded it to 6.5. Meanwhile, Mexico’s National Seismological Service said the quake was 6.3 degrees on the Richter scale, with the epicenter located 17 km from the northwestern city of Loreto, Baja California Sur state.

Emergency services in Mexico’s Sonora and Sinaloa states said there were no immediate reports of casualties and that it was not yet clear how the quake affected Baja California Sur.

Iranian president criticizes unilateral sanctions against Teheran

TEHERAN, 20 Oct—President Hassan Rouhani criticized on Saturday the unilateral Western sanctions against the Islamic republic over the country’s controversial nuclear programme.

Making the remarks in a meeting with Giulio Haas, the new Swiss Ambassador to Teheran, Rouhani expressed his country’s political will to pursue a win-win game following the latest round of talks between Iran and six major world powers over Teheran’s nuclear work, according to Press TV.

Expressing hope that “effective” measures would lead to the ease of sanctions and the resolution of relevant issues, he said that “The Islamic Republic of Iran will make every effort to declare to the international community that all of the country’s activities are in line with (international) regulations.”

Also, a senior Iranian lawmaker said that the West should take major steps to ease “completely illegal” sanctions against Iran, Press TV reported on Saturday.

“If new steps are to be taken (by Iran) while it is still under sanction pressures, it will definitely be unacceptable because confidence-building is a two-way street,” Chairman of the Majlis (parliament) National Security and Foreign Policy Commission Aaledin Boroujerdi was quoted by Press TV as saying.

As a confidence-building measure, Iran has never had any problems with the inspection to its nuclear facilities and the country’s nuclear sites have always been under the supervision of the United Nations nuclear watchdog (IAEA), said Boroujerdi.

Iran has offered further transparency over its nuclear issue and, in line with this, the Islamic republic is considering to implement additional protocol to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) which would oblige the country to open its nuclear sites for snap visits by UN inspectors.

In return, Teheran anticipates the ease of international and Western sanctions which have hit the economy of the country. On Saturday, the vice chairman of national security and foreign policy commission of Iran’s Majlis also emphasized that the Iranian parliament will consider reviewing the additional protocol provided that all of the sanctions against Iran would be lifted.—Xinhua

Evacuation advisory still in effect on disaster-hit Izu Oshima

TOKYO, 20 Oct—The evacuation advisory issued to some 2,300 residents on Izu Oshima Island was retained on Sunday morning as expected heavy rain could worsen the situation on the island where a powerful typhoon left 27 dead and 21 missing earlier in the week.

The island south of Tokyo had heavy rainfall on Sunday morning. The Japan Meteorological Agency forecast precipitation of about 40 millimetres per hour in the afternoon and warned of mudslides.

The municipal government of Oshima issued the advisory on Saturday.

Nepal’s largest party proposes 11-state federal model in election manifesto

KATHMANDU, 20 Oct—The country’s largest party UCPN (Maoist) has proposed a 11-state federal model in the new constitutional draft prepared for the 19 November Constituent Assembly (CA) elections.

It proposed eight federal states in the hilly region and three in the Southern belt known as Terai/Madhes, and said it made the proposal with consideration given to certain ethnic communities’ nationalities.

However, other parties have raised objection to the Maoist proposal, saying that naming the states by certain ethnic groups or nationalities will incur a confrontation in the country. The party has proposed just three states in the southern belt where 51 percent of the country’s population reside.

At a public programme organized to unveil the party’s election manifesto, party senior leader Baburam Bhattarai said his party put forward such proposal in order to empower certain nationalities of the country that are facing suppression by some upper groups.

The issue of federalism was one of the contentious issues among the political parties during the constitution drafting process since 2008. Other major parties such as Nepal Congress (NC) and CPN-UML, however, have proposed only seven states, insisting that it is not economically viable to go for more states in the federalism.

In its manifesto, the UCPN (Maoist) has also proposed a directly elected president as head of state, arguing that for the management of federalism a powerful president is required.
Japan-Myanmar International Forum on Fire and Disaster Management held

YANGON, 20 Oct—The Japan-Myanmar International Forum on Fire and Disaster Management was held on the first floor of the Fire Research and Dissemination Unit at No 275/B on Pyay Road in Myingon Township, Yangon Region, on 17 October morning. It was attended by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, Director-General Mr Myint U Tin Moe of Fire and Disaster Management Department of Fire and Disaster Management Agency of Japan, officials under the Ministry of Home Affairs and guests.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint made a speech, and Director-General Mr Murota Tetsuo of Urban Prevention and Disaster Management Department of Fire and Disaster Management Agency of Japan and officials, Director-General U Tin Moe of Fire Services Department and officials, officials under the Ministry of Home Affairs and guests.

Mr Murota Tetsuo of Japan, Director U Kyaw Thu of Fire Services Department, Vice-President of FDMA College Mr Kadokura Tonu of Japan, Deputy Directors U Kyi Win and U Thein Tun Oo of FSD discussed fire preventive measures and preparedness of disasters, rescue works and public welfare tasks.

Disaster

Rural bridge on Gyopin-Ywathitgyi road collapses in Singu Tsp

SINGU, 20 Oct—No 1 bridge on Gyopin-Ywathitgyi rural gravel bridge in Singu Township collapsed due to erosion of the torrent water. The collapse of the bridge caused blockage of vehicles and bullock carts. Therefore, transport of commodity delayed. The bridge was eroded by Pauk Creek and Chaungson Creek from Gyopin Village. Local people hope to repair the bridge for regular transportation in the region.—MMAL-433

Inter-club cricket tournament in third week of November

YANGON, 20 Oct—Under the supervision of the Myanmar Cricket Federation, the Inter-club Cricket Tournament will be held at Shwe Pin Lone Cricket Oval here in the third week of November.

The clubs from embassies, individual cricket players and players from all departments may register at the Myanmar Cricket Federation at Aung San Stadium, not later than 5 November.

For further information, anyone may contact President of MCF U Kyaw Kyaw (Tel: 09 5414289), Vice-President U Maung Maung (Tel: 09 73242811), Secretary U Kyaw Min (Tel: 0973112768) and MCF (Tel: 01 393247).
Volunteers

Normally, a volunteer is a person who of his or her own free determination undertakes or expresses a willingness to undertake a community or social service. The work of volunteers or volunteering is any activity that involves spending time, unpaid, doing something that aims to benefit the environment or someone (individuals or groups) other than, or in addition to, close relatives. Central to this definition is the fact that volunteering must be a choice freely made by each individual. This can include formal activity undertaken through public, private and voluntary organizations as well as informal community participation.

It is also considered an altruistic activity and is intended to promote good or improve human quality of life. In return, this activity can produce a feeling of self-worth and respect. There is no financial gain involved.

Mother Teresa, who is still admired and respected by many for her humanitarian services, once said: “Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.” Yes, every one should keep such a kind of love in his or her heart. Because “love” she mentioned in her quote is the willingness to serve the interest of mankind at any cost.

Almost all the global countries have volunteers or volunteer services. For example, university students were the volunteers doing the sanitation work, even cleaning the toilets during the SEA Games in Indonesia.

We are also going to host the SEA Games in December, and a large number of volunteers will take part for the success of the Games. What’s more, 5th of December is the International Volunteer Day. Here, not only the volunteers but also every one of us should have the volunteer spirit for the success of the Games and raising our nation’s image internationally.

SEA Games, glittering...

The XXVII SEA Games is great opportunity for Myanmar as a host in 44 years. With farsightedness to host more games, arrangements must be made for turning out excellent athletes. He expressed his belief that the SEA Games will bring a glittering future to Myanmar youths.

Chairmen of the work committee Union minister reported on progress of works in their respective sectors, and the President gave necessary instructions.

Next, the President and party viewed round booths at the social zone at the stadium.

Workshop on promotion of literature and development of publishing industry kicks off

The ministry will give a helping hand in the realization of the ways and means brought about by the workshop, Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi said in his address at the opening of a workshop on promotion of literature and development of publishing industry and a book fair at UMFCCI building, here, this morning.

He called on printers and publishers to increase the publications not only for national races in regions and states but also for foreign countries. He emphasized avoidance of expressions that could undermine national unity and strength, saying that expressions intervening the freedom of an individual or an organization can be viewed as a sign of freedom of expression in literature and greater transparency, but such expressions could weaken the unity and strength of the country. He stressed the need to develop the sense of responsibility and accountability not only for own interest but for the sake of others and the whole people.

Chairman of Myanmar Publishers and Printers Association Dr Tha Tun Oo extended greetings at the opening ceremony.

Next, U Kyi Min, organizing committee chairman, explained points to be discussed at the workshop and U Myint Tun, MPPA secretary, gave an account of the workshop.

After the opening ceremony, the Union minister and party viewed round books and publications on display at the book shops. Also present at the ceremony were Deputy Minister U Ye Htut, departmental heads, guests and readers.

The workshop runs till 22 October and participants take part in discussions on Myanmar literature and publishing sector.

Various kinds of books will be available at the book fair in which more than 50 book shops will be kept open from 9 am to 5 pm daily.

Immigration inspection counters opened at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Oct—Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Kyaw Kyaw Win inspected arrangement of immigration counters for convenience of entry and exit for the athletes who will participate in 27th SEA Games and installation of machines at foreign arrival and departure immigration counters at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport yesterday noon.

He called for carrying out immigration tasks in line with the norms and standards of International Civil Aviation Organization, showing hospitality towards passengers and timely completion for installation of machines ahead of SEA Games.
**Culture**

**Traditional activity of setting alms bowl adrift river**

Dawei, 20 Oct—A ceremony to set alms bowl adrift Dawei River was held at the ceremony in traditions of the local people in Dawei of Taninthayi Region yesterday morning.

The ceremony was held at the jety of Dawei River in Daungngu Tanga ward of Dawei, Taninthayi Region, in the early morning.

Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Myat Ko and officials formally opened the ceremony.

After that, the Chief Minister, the deputy speaker of Region Hlutaw, region ministers and officials enjoyed the ceremony to set alms bowl adrift the river.

Such ceremony is held on the fullmoon day of Thadingyut annually.

The local people also participated in the ceremony with the use of small and large bowls the whole night on a grand scale.—Kyemon-Kyaw Kyaw Latt

Local people participate in preparation for setting alms bowl adrift Dawei River at the ceremony in Dawei.

Dawei traditional cultural troupes released five hot-air balloons created an elephant, banana and triangle shapes. At night, the pagodas and monasteries, government offices, residences and shops were illuminated with colourful lights.

The local people in groups and individuals participated in the Thadingyut lighting festival in Dawei.—Kyemon-Kyaw Kyaw Latt

**Poem-Cartoon Festival marks Thadingyut lighting festival**

 Mandalay, 20 Oct—The First-ever Cartoon Plus Cartoon lighting festival commenced on Strand Road (Lower) in West Daewun Ward of Chanayetthazan Township in Mandalay on 18 and 19 October.

It was organized by the Dhammikadana meal offering association and Sunday Refreshment Donors Group.

They displayed 120 cartoon hot-air lanterns of 29 cartoonists and 100 poem hot-air lanterns of 58 poets of Mandalay.

“We offered cartoon hot-air lanterns and poem hot-air lanterns to dedicate to the Lord Buddha on the fullmoon day of Thadingyut in Mandalay. At Wakhington Pagoda Pajana, a similar ceremony was held on the fullmoon day of Tazaungmone last year. This year, the cartoonists and poets will pay homage to the Pagoda with the creation of cartoon and poem hot-air lanterns,” said ceremony organizer Cartoonist Lay Shu.

The ceremony was enjoyed not only by the local people but also by people from Mandalay at all corners.

“I think everybody like cartoons. Although we can read the poems and cartoons at newspapers and journals regularly, the opportunity to enjoy the works of poems and cartoons at the hot-air lanterns is for the first time for me,” said Ko Aung Aung of West Aungnan Ward.

On the fullmoon day of Thadingyut, cartoon lovers donated cash to the fund of cartoonist health and funeral service association.

**Fire**

**Fire breaks out at downtown Yangon**

Yangon, 20 Oct—A fire broke out at Samsung Showroom on middle block of Pansodan Street in Kyauktada Township on 18 October evening.

The fire broke out at Samsung Showroom on middle block of Pansodan Street on 18 October evening.

One from Tamway Township, one from Dawbon Township, one from Thakayta Branch, one from Thingangyun Township, two from Hline Township, one from Mayangon Township and two from the headquarters, one search lighting vehicle, four ambulances of Yangon Region Red Cross Society, one BA Tender and four control vehicles.

The fire could be totally put out at 9.18 pm.

In the incident, as smoke bloomed from the signboard near air-conditioners, the firemen difficultly put it out till 10 pm. However, Fire Pvt Naing Aung Lwin of Tamway fire station branch suffered injury at the right ring finger and Fire Pvt Zaw Min Oo also suffered dislocation of the joint from the left shoulder.

A local gave remarks that the firemen tried hard withall-out efforts in putting out fire. However, he said that the firemen did not have adequate equipment such as wind to connect with one another of firemen in the works. Thus, it is necessary to provide the firemen with necessary equipment, he said.

In the outbreak of fire, the showroom lost refrigerators, TVs, DVD players, washing machine, air-conditioners, fans, rice cookers, irons, speakers worth K 2.2 million, the building K 1 million and furniture K 900,000.

Kyauktada Myoma Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against U Tin Maung Latt, owner of the showroom under the law.

Kyemon-Soe Win (MLA)
Western Canada train hauling fuel derails, burns; no injuries

CALGARY, 20 Oct— A train carrying crude oil and liquefied petroleum gas derailed and caught fire in Western Canada on Saturday, in an accident that brought back memories of a deadly crash in Quebec this summer.

But Saturday’s accident, in open country just outside the tiny settlement of Gainford, Alberta, caused no injuries, and emergency services said they were opting to let the fire burn itself out rather than approach the blaze.

The 134-car mixed freight train was operated by Canadian National Railway, Canada’s largest railroad, and was heading from Alberta’s capital, Edmonton, to Vancouver, on the Pacific Coast.

CN Chief Operating Officer Jim Vena said 13 cars had derailed, and three, all carrying flammable liquid petroleum gas, caught fire. The derailed cars that carried crude oil had not leaked or caught fire, he said.

“CN will clean this up, remediate any damage,” Vena told an evening news conference, noting that both the track and the train had been inspected in the last few days. It was too early to say what caused the accident, he said.

Rail safety has become a central issue in Canada since the July disaster in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, when a runaway train carrying crude oil exploded in giant fireballs in the center of the lakeside town, killing 47 people. A key focus in the rail safety debate is the booming volumes of crude oil shipments by rail as pipelines fill to capacity and producers seek other ways to get their oil to refineries.

New cold front to hit N China on Monday

BEIJING, 20 Oct—China’s top meteorological authority said on Sunday that a new cold front will sweep China’s northern regions Monday, bringing high winds and temperature drops.

Most parts of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and areas in the northeast of the country will see temperature decline by as much as 10 degrees Celsius, according to the forecast by the National Meteorological Centre (NMC).

The cold front is also expected to bring small to medium snow to Inner Mongolia starting on Tuesday.

The cold fronts and high winds in recent periods have lessened smoggy air conditions in the north of the country. The weekends at Beijing’s capital Beijing are clear due to influence of such windy weather—Xinhua

Luxembourg to hold early general elections

LUXEMBOURG, 20 Oct— Much is at stake as early general elections are to be held on Sunday in Luxembourg, the world’s last remaining Grand Duchy and second largest international investment hub after the US.

The center-right Christian Social People’s Party (CSV) is projected to top the poll, even though its frontrunner Jean-Claude Juncker, the country’s prime minister for the past 18 years, resigned over a spying scandal in July which resulted in the snap election.

Juncker, who denied any wrongdoing, was found of failing to inform the parliament of irregularities and illegalities conducted by the country’s secretive services.

He has always had the largest share of seats to form a coalition government, and Juncker is very likely to continue serving as the prime minister, unless other major parties form an alliance against the CSV.

Joseph Daul, chairman of the European Parliament’s largest party group EPP, strongly supported Juncker in a statement on Friday, calling him “a steady hand for Luxembourg” and “the architect of the country’s economic success.”

The prime minister, to be appointed by the Grand Duke after the elections, is usually the leader of the party or the coalition of parties gaining the most seats in the parliament.—Xinhua

Maldives police halt presidential vote, supporters stage sit-in

MALDIVES, 20 Oct— Maldivian police forced a halt to a presidential election on Saturday, in what the leading candidate’s supporters said was a new coup as he called on them to block the streets in protest.

The Indian Ocean archipelago which has been in turmoil since February 2012, when then-president Mohamed Nasheed was ousted by mutinying police, military forces and armed demonstrators.

The election was due to be held on Saturday, after a vote in September was annulled over allegations of fraud.

However, there had been confusion over whether it could go ahead as some candidates had still not signed a new voter register in accordance with a Supreme Court ruling early on Saturday to allow the election.

Just hours before polls were due to open for the presidential vote, police surrounded the secretariat of the Elections Commission, forcing a delay condemned by the international community.

Police said they could not support an election held “in contravention of the Supreme Court verdict and guidelines”, Police Chief Superintendent Abdulla Nawaz said he had acted due to concerns about “any unrest that may occur in the country as a result of letting the election proceed”.

Nasheed’s supporters have staged violent protests since he was ousted, and masked men this month fire-bombed a television station in Malé, which he said came to international prominence in 2009 after holding a cabinet meeting underwater in scuba gear to highlight the threat of climate change.

“There has been a coup in the Maldives, and the coup backers, in order to maintain that coup, are committing bigger and bigger atrocities day after day,” he told supporters staging a sit-in at two road junctions that brought Male to a halt.

“I call on you to block these streets. Let us shut down Male. Male can’t function, we must succed,” Security forces cordoned off the protest that included the president’s office and the Supreme Court, while Nasheed’s supporters blocked other streets with ropes, human chains, roadblocks and trucks, a Reuters reporter said.

Ahmed Khalid, 33, an artist at the protest, Male, said: “The police are in control of this country. This is a coup.”—Reuters

New storm off Mexico’s Pacific coast threatens battered Acapulco

MEXICO CITY, 20 Oct— Mexico issued storm warnings on its Pacific coast for Saturday evening as a new tropical depression formed around 200 miles south of Acapulco, a city still recovering from devastating floods that hit the country last month.

The Miami-based National Hurricane Centre said tropical depression 17-E was expected to strengthen to a tropical storm by Sunday and could be blowing in hurricane-force winds late Monday, threatening the coastline with heavy rainfall.

Mexico suffered its worst flooding on record when tropical storms Manuel and Ingrid converged from the Pacific and the Gulf of Mexico in mid-September, killing more than 150 people and causing estimated damages of around $6 billion.—Xinhua

American contestant, Joey Chestnut, poses after winning the 4th Annual World Poutine Eating Championship at Yonge-Dundas Square in Toronto, Canada, 19 Oct, 2013. American contestant, Joey Chestnut, won the champion after eating 24 lbs, 48 boxes of poutine. —Xinhua

A supporter of presidential candidate Mohamed Nasheed, who was ousted as president in 2012, holds up a placard during a protest against the Maldives police, in Male on 19 Oct, 2013. —Reuters

A train derailment in at the Chinook, Alberta is seen in this aerial photo courtesy of the RCMP and Parkland County, on 19 Oct, 2013. —Reuters

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PLA in army civilian personnel drive

BEIJING, 20 October—The Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) is to run its first unified recruitment of army civilian personnel from the public, a move to attract talents and improve employment transparency, announced a circular on Saturday. The circular was posted on the website of the centre for professional and technical personnel which is administered by the PLA General Political Department.

The army civilian posts will cover professional and technical stations, including teaching, scientific research, engineering, health, culture, sports and libraries, as well as non-professional posts such as management and logistics services, it said.

ASEAN Neurological Association Convention held in Brunei

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 20 October—Some 300 delegates from the ASEAN member states took part in the 10th Biennial ASEAN Neurological Association (ASNA) Convention held at the Rizqun International Hotel here Saturday.

The ASNA Convention which held every two years aims to stimulate medical professionals to continue their academic pursuits and present it in both regional and international meetings in the future and further on to publish their studies in international journals.

The 300 delegates include neurologists, trainee neurologists, physicians, Allied Health Professionals, specialty nurses and non-neurologists who are interested in the field.

The organization would hold meetings, workshops, joint research, exchange fellowship and also form subspecialty chapters such as "Stroke" and "Child Neurology Society (CNS)."

The convention is organized by the Department of Internal Medicine of Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital under the Ministry of Health. Present at the opening ceremony was Minister of Health Pehin Dato Haji Adanan Haji Mohd Yusof.

Storm Nari kills at least 19 in Vietnam

HANOI, 20 October—At least 19 people were killed by storm Nari which hit Vietnam’s central region earlier this week, said a report by Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control on Saturday.

According to the committee, as of Saturday morning, the disaster has left three other people missing and 116 others injured. As many as 800 houses were collapsed while over 98,000 houses were inundated. The agricultural sector has recorded over 16,000 hectares of rice fields and other crops were destroyed, while 5,000 hectares of forests were affected.

The storm and its aftermath have caused a total loss of 1.068 trillion Vietnamese dong (50.6 million US dollars), said the committee. Local authorities have mobilized armed forces to help local people overcome the consequences of the storm, the 11th to hit Vietnam so far this year.

Malaysian PM keeps leadership lineup in party elections

KUALA LUMPUR, 20 October—Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak reasserted his leadership after his current leadership lineup has been retained in the party elections of the United Malays National Organization (UMNO).

Officials polling results announced early Sunday saw the three incumbents—Home Minister Haji Zahid Hamidi, Rural and Regional Development Minister Shafie Apdal and Defence Minister Hishammuddin Hussein—retained their posts as vice presidents, the most senior position open for contest in the party elections on Saturday. Mukhriz Mahathir, son of Malaysia’s former and longest serving Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, embarked on a close race with Hishammuddin but fell just short to unseat the veteran minister, who is also a son of a former prime minister and a cousin of Najib.

Meanwhile, several current cabinet ministers are leading in the race of the 25-member Supreme Council, the power pinnacle of Malaysia’s most influential political organization.

The polling results mean most UMNO members chose to keep the current leadership, as Najib has retained his party presidency unopposed earlier together with his deputy Mahyuddin Yassin.

Najib has refrained from spelling out his favors in the vice president election.

Last month, the prime minister announced new initiatives to boost the privileges for the country’s ethnic Malays majority, who make up the major supporting base of UMNO.

Oh Ei Sun, a political analyst and former political secretary to Najib, said in an interview with Kyodo News that Najib would be able to focus on his reform agenda with a more solid backing from the party to ensure his future leadership.

M4.4 quake hits Ibaraki, neighbouring prefectures

TOKYO, 20 October—A earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 4.4 shook Ibaraki and its neighbouring prefectures on Sunday morning.

No tsunami warning was issued after the 10:07 am quake. Its focus was around 50 kilometers under the coast of Ibaraki in the Pacific Ocean, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency.

Intensity 4 on the Japanese seismic scale of 7 was registered in Hitachinaka and Tokai, Ibaraki Prefecture.

Gov’t encourages more young Japanese to work at UN

TOKYO, 20 October—The Foreign Ministry hopes a new guidance programme will encourage more Japanese youth to apply to and successfully join the United Nations, in which Japan remains underrepresented relative to its financial contributions.

The ministry, together with the UN Information Centre in Tokyo, will hold sessions with recruitment managers from the Secretariat and several UN agencies, giving advice on the recruiting procedures and exams and holding mock interviews, starting on Tuesday.

According to the ministry, Japanese personnel at or above professional level made up only 1.168 percent of the United Nations numbered just 764, accounting for 2.4 percent of the total as of January despite Japan being the second-largest contributor to the United Nations’ regular budget for 2013.

Japan’s contribution of $276 million, or about 27 billion yen, comprises 10.8 percent of the budget, putting it behind only the United States with 22 percent.

As of December, US personnel made up 9.5 percent of the UN personnel in the United Nations, while France and Britain, although contributing less financially than Japan, outnumbered it in the headcount with over 5 percent each. Although UN staff take an oath to work without interference from the policies of their home countries, in practical terms members are likely to bring their countries’ ways of thinking to the job.

Boosting their representation in the Secretariat, regional headquarters and field offices would allow Japanese personnel to take on liaison and coordination roles and act as information points on issues of international significance faced by Japan, such as human security. If, however, Japan remains underrepresented, “One international contribution cannot be properly understood with our faces unseen,” a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said.

The UN Young Professionals Program examinations, held annually since 2010, are designed to recruit staff from underrepresented member states. They consist of a written and oral test.
Freed Lebanese, Turkish hostages fly home after deal

One of the nine newly released Lebanese hostages, who were held by rebels in northern Syria, gestures as he is welcomed by his relatives upon his arrival at Beirut International Airport, 19 October, 2013.—REUTERS

Beirut, 20 Oct.—Two kidnapped Turkish pilots arrived in Istanbul after leaving Lebanon on Saturday and nine Lebanese hostages freed from Syria landed in Beirut, completing a hostage exchange after months of uncertainty.

Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan greeted the Turkish Airlines pilots on the tarmac as they disembarked from a Qatar Airways jet and were met with cheers from family members.

The Lebanese, seized by Syrian rebels in May 2012, were freed and left northern Syria for Turkey a day earlier as part of the deal negotiated by Qatari mediators.

At Beirut International Airport, friends and relatives ululated and cheered as the men walked onto the tarmac.

“The situation is worse than you can imagine, we paid a heavy price,” said one of the hostages, who was walking with a cane, apparently from an injury sustained in captivity.

The hostages’ release may in fact be a three-way deal, Lebanese security sources said. They said the release of the Lebanese was originally contingent on the Syrian government’s freeing of prisoners in state detention centers.

An opposition monitoring group, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said the government had released dozens of prisoners over the past few days as part of that agreement.

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said the release underscored Turkey’s diplomatic clout. “The success of this process, which has been conducted under the instructions of our prime minister, proves once again the regional importance of Turkey,” Davutoglu said in a Twitter post before the pilots landed in Istanbul.

The kidnappings highlighted how complex and regionalized Syria’s 2-1/2-year conflict has become. The civil war has acquired sectarian dimensions that have pulled in its neighbors.

Sunni Muslim countries such as Turkey largely back the Sunni-led uprising against President Bashar al-Assad’s rule. Shi’ite Iran backs Assad, as does the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, which is Shi’ite and supported by President Bashar al-Assad.

The kidnappings are from the Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shi’mite Islam.

Beijing, 20 Oct.—The Chinese Foreign Ministry’s spokeswoman on Wednesday denied that China’s increasing crude oil imports from the Middle East were against any third-party interests.

Speaking at the ministry’s daily briefing, in response to a question on the matter, Hua Chunying said the energy cooperation between China and the Middle East is transparent and mutually beneficial, which is in the interests of both sides and isn’t against any third-party interests.

As a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, China has always played a positive and constructive role in promoting peace and development in the Middle East, Hua said. According to the spokeswoman, it is clear to all that China has made tremendous efforts in supporting countries in the region to explore development paths in line with their own national conditions and improving their people’s livelihood.

China FM defends Middle East oil imports

China offers opportunity for Ecuador, other Latin American countries

Quito, 20 Oct.—China’s strength and vigor have contributed to offering opportunities for the development of Ecuador and other Latin American countries, Ecuador’s Minister of Security Homero Arellano said Saturday.

“The rise of China gives my country and the region a new opportunity of mutual benefit,” Arellano told Xinhua in an exclusive interview, adding that the region should seize the momentum.

“Our bilateral relations are close and profound in various fields, and I think it is clearly a historic moment for our two countries. There has not been a better time than this throughout the history of Ecuador,” said the minister.

In recent years, China has become a strategic partner of Ecuador, a country in which over 70 Chinese companies have business.

Hydroelectricity and security projects have highlighted the participation of these Chinese companies in helping develop the key sectors in the South American country.

On security, Arellano spoke highly of the role of Chinese state-owned enterprises, especially the China National Electronics Import and Export Corporation (CEIEC), which is building the integrated security service system “ECU-911” in Ecuador.

The ECU-911 system, a flagship project of the Ecuadorian government in which a technology platform brings together all security agencies to respond to emergencies with a single telephone number, is expected to be finished in 2014.

It includes two national command and control centers, five regional centers and eight provincial centers, and is likely to be extended to other Latin American countries.

“The Chinese companies have been successful in Ecuador. They have shown great professional capabilities,” said the minister.

Arellano said that the National Plan for Good Living implemented by the Ecuadorian government is to lay down a solid foundation for a new Ecuadorian society, which is more equitable and more caring, and where violence is eradicated and family values are treasured.

In this regard, the minister said: “I find great similarities between the pursuits of our two countries.”

China offers opportunity for Ecuador, other Latin American countries

Beijing, 20 Oct.—The Chinese Foreign Ministry’s spokeswoman on Wednesday denied that China’s increasing crude oil imports from the Middle East were against any third-party interests.

Speaking at the ministry’s daily briefing, in response to a question on the matter, Hua Chunying said the energy cooperation between China and the Middle East is transparent and mutually beneficial, which is in the interests of both sides and isn’t against any third-party interests.

As a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, China has always played a positive and constructive role in the peace, security, development and prosperity of the Middle East, Hua said. According to the spokeswoman, it is clear to all that China has made tremendous efforts in supporting countries in the region to explore development paths in line with their own national conditions and improving their people’s livelihood.

China FM defends Middle East oil imports

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MUMBAI, 20 Oct—Hollywood actor Tom Hanks has never slipped into a superhero cloak, but he does want to don one such role. The 57-year-old rues nobody has asked him to play such a role so far, reports huffingtonpost.com.

During an interview with new website Showbiz 411, when a fan asked why he’d never starred in a big superhero movie, Hanks said: “They don’t ask me, man. I keep trying. Come on, I can do it. I can do it. Even let me play a bad guy, let me play the bad guy against Batman. I’ll do anything, call me. They’ve never asked. What do I gotta do? God, I want to throw a shield at somebody.”

“I want that. And I don’t want to play the guy in the suit who tells the superheroes what’s going on, I don’t want to be that guy. ‘Well, you know ‘Batman’, ‘Captain America’, ‘Iron Man’, here’s what we’ve discovered,’ I don’t want to be that guy. I want to get in there, I want to play ‘The Flash’ or something like that. They’ll never give me a chance,” he added.

PTI

As body ages, Jackie Chan longs for Hollywood’s full embrace

Beverly Hills, 20 Oct—Jackie Chan wasn’t in the mood for proclama-
tions.

The Hong Kong mar-
tial arts film star, who de-
clared last year at France’s Cannes film festival that he was retiring from ac-
tion films, now says that after more than a decade of contemplating quitting, he is going to let his body decide.

“When I was 40-some-
thing the media would ask me and then I said another five years, and then five years and five years until now,” the Kung Fu actor said in an interview pro-
moting his 2012 Chinese action film “Chinese Zodi-
ac,” which will be released in US cinemas on Friday.

“Six more months and I’m going to be 60,” Chan said. “And I (will) see how far I can go until my body tells me, ‘Stop.’”

Chan, famous for per-
forming all of his high-
flying and physically pun-
ishing stunts, has appeared in more than 100 films and now writes, produces and directs his own films in Asia.

“I get hurt,” the actor said after 50 years of flips, kicks and punches. “It gets really tiring, not like it used to be.

The only real outward

sign of aging in Chan are some crow’s feet around the eyes. He is obviously in great shape still, but won’t reveal his secrets for stay-
ing that way.

But as Chan starts to enter his twilight years he laments how Hollywood typecasting may force him to begin using a stunt dou-
ble for his acrobatic scenes as he believes Hollywood studios would never cast him in dramatic roles.

“I hope the audience, after they say, ‘Jackie, that’s a double!’ they for-
give me,” Chan said in his trademark broad-grinned and animated style.

“Then I can continue (my career) because poor me, nobody in Holly-
wood hires me to make a Kramer vs Kramer (or) like ‘Sound of Music’—
actually I’m a pretty good singer—and nobody hires me to do this kind of film,” Chan said, referring to the 1979 family drama and 1965 musical, both Oscar winners.

“All we think about Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker, ‘Rush Hour’ one, two, and three ... always action-comedy, action-comedy,” he said about the “Rush Hour” buddy-cop film se-
ries with comedian Chris Tucker that helped Chan cement his place in Holly-
wood 15 years ago.

Chan has already added “dramatic actor” to his resume with the 2011 Chinese historical drama “1911” about the revolu-
tion that overthrew China’s final imperial dynasty.

“I really hope some-
day in Hollywood, some producer or director will hire me only to do drama,” Chan said. “(I would) re-
ally appreciate it.”

But that is never going to happen, Chan believes.

“Why?” he asks rhe-
torically with a sigh. “Be-
cause the audience is just not used to seeing Jackie Chan doing drama.”

Chan’s ideal roles would be in films such as 1988 Oscar winner “Rain Man,” which starred Dus-
tin Hoffman as a savant and Tom Cruise as his yupp-

pie brother together on a road trip, or 1982’s “Toot-
sie,” also starring Hoffman as an actor who dresses as a
woman to land acting roles.

Reuters

Freida Pinto stars as a stripper in racy music video

NEW DELHI, 20 Oct—After Miley Cyrus dismantled the ghost of her Disney princess image in spectacu-
lar bump-and-grind fashion at the MTV Video Music Awards, Freida Pinto is the latest good girl gone bad, making a provocative ap-
pearance in the video for the Bruno Mars single Go-
illa.

Set in a seedy strip club, the video stars Freida as the ‘new girl in town’ and the object of the other strippers’ envy.

In the course of the video, Freida strips from her black leather dress to her underwear and then proceeds to writhe around a pole as Mars croons nearby. She later makes out with him in the back of a car, and then sets a guitar on fire.

All in the most suggest-

ive manner possible.

It seems that Freida, best known for starring in hard-hitting films like Slumdog Millionaire and Mira, was looking for a change of image. It’s safe to say she’s found it.—PTI

Michael Fassbender won’t campaign for Oscar

LOS ANGELES, 20 Oct—Michael Fassbender has decided not to campaign for the Oscar this year de-
spite having a strong role of an evil plantation owner in McQueen’s 12 Years A Slave.

The actor, who had previously campaigned for his role as a sex addict in Shame without much suc-
cess, told GQ that he would be busy working instead and promoting the movie, which has a strong Oscar buzz.

“You know, I get it. Everybody’s got to do their job. So you try and help and facilitate as best you can. But I won’t put myself through that kind of situa-
tion. It’s just a grind.

PTI

Hong Kong actor Jackie Chan poses during a promotional event for his film “Chinese Zodiac” in Beverly Hills, California on 16 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS

Natalie Portman gives son piggyback ride

LOS ANGELES, 20 Oct—Actress Natalie Portman was spotted giving a piggy-
back ride to her two-year-
old son Aleph.

The Black Swan ac-
tress showed a simple style, wearing jeans, oxford and a quilted avy coat, reports onlincm.com.

Her son, who appears to have grown up a lot since he was last spotted mid-Aug,
gust, flashed a smile while he was perched atop his mother’s shoulders.—PTI

Michael Fassbender.

And I’m not a politician, I’m an actor,” Fassbender said.

The actor would be busy filming his produc-
tion company’s first feature

in New Zealand and then shooting Macheth with Marion Cotillard.

“T’m going to be busy working. I just don’t really have time.”—PTI
Arsenal cruise, Chelsea win amid controversy

Soccer

Arsenal’s manager Arsene Wenger reacts during their Champions League soccer match against Napoli at the Emirates stadium in London on 1 Oct, 2013. —Reuters

LONDON, 20 Oct—Arsenal played with the style, pace and confidence of their glory days of nearly a decade ago to crush Norwich City 4-1 and underline their Premier League title credentials at the Emirates Stadium on Saturday.
The Gunners, without a trophy since 2005, gave their fans renewed hope that

LONDON, 20 Oct—Arsenal withstood a late surge by David Silva’s 10-man Manchester United to move into second place but the win was marred by their controversial equaliser which came after Samuel Eto’o kicked the ball away from keeper David Marshall who was bouncing it before clearing.
The ball ran to Belgian forward Eden Hazard who scored to cancel out Carr-diff’s 10th minute opener.
In the second half referee Anthony Taylor sent Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho from the dug-out. The Portuguese formally lambasted the officials complaining Carr-diff were time-wasting.

Liverpool’s Steven Gerrard (L) shoots to score a penalty during their English Premier League soccer match against Newcastle United at St James’ Park in Newcastle, northern England, on 19 Oct, 2013.—Reuters

Liverpool slipped one place to third after drawing 2-2 at 10-man Newcastle United, while Manchester City climbed to fourth after winning 3-1 at West Ham United with two goals from Sergio Aguero and a late strike by David Silva.
Champions Manchester United finished the day in eighth place after South-

McIlroy’s search for an elu-

terworld number one

10 strokes off the pace after the penultimate round of the 2013-14 season, with 26-year-old rookie Ches-ter Hadley alone in second place after eagling the par-

par 75 to sit tied 13th at one-

20 Oct—Rory McIlroy attended a news conference ahead of the 10th off the tee and failing to reach the green in two on the way to a bogey for his lead to be cut to two.
Once again, though, he quickly rebounded with consecutive birdies, sinking a 12-footer at the par-four 12th and a 25-footer at the par-five 13th to regain a four-stroke cushion.
Simpson said that a chat with his experienced caddie Paul Tesori helped him regain consistency after

Putting problems leave McIlroy off the pace in Korea

South Korea’s Kim Hyung-choo took a healthy four-stroke advantage into the final round after an error-

slipped to sixth in the world rankings after a disappoint-

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five 194 in the second event of the PGA Tour’s 2013-14 season, with 26-year-old rookie Ches-ter Hadley alone in second place after eagling the par-

There was barely a breath of wind.
“The greens were a little more firm, a little burned out and a little faster, and I think I was a little too ten-

tative. “Simpson told Golf Channel when asked to ex-
plain his slow start to the third round.
“The speed of my long putts kind of hurt us on the front (nine). I would run them four or five feet by, or leave them short. I couldn’t really get a feel for it but fi-
nally on the back nine I got some birdies going.”
Four ahead overnight, the 2012 US Open cham-

66 under. Simpson made another misstep at the par-

four 11th, finding the left rough off the tee and failing to reach the green in two on the way to a bogey for his lead to be cut to two.
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SEUL, 20 Oct—Rory McIlroy’s world ranking after a disappoint-
sain event, hit three bogeys during the second half at the TPC Summerlin, the American finished strongly with four birdies in the last seven holes to card a four-under-
par 67.
That left Simpson at 19-under 194 in the second event of the PGA Tour’s 2013-14 season, with 26-year-old rookie Ches-ter Hadley alone in second place after eagling the par-

Putting problems leave McIlroy off the pace in Korea

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Putting problems leave McIlroy off the pace in Korea
Hillary Clinton hits campaign trail, endorses McAuliffe in Virginia

Barca, Atletico stumble and miss out on record

AC Milan without injured Balotelli for Udinese clash

Barcelona’s Neymar (L) backpasses to teammate Lionel Messi (R) during their Spanish first division soccer match against Osasuna at Reyno de Navarra stadium in Pamplona on 19 Oct, 2013.—Reuters

**GENERAL**

**AC Milan without injured Balotelli for Udinese clash**

Rome, 20 Oct—Mario Balotelli will miss AC Milan’s match against Udinese in Serie A on Saturday (1845 GMT) because of a thigh injury which could also keep him out of the Champions League clash with Barcelona on Tuesday.

“Mario Balotelli is suffering an injury to the vastus intermedius muscle of the right thigh,” Milan said on their website (www.milan.it). “The player will be monitored in the coming days in order to better define the extent of the problem and determine the prognosis.”

It will be the fourth match in a row that Balotelli will miss for Milan after he was suspended for three games following an aggressive outburst in the aftermath of their 2-1 defeat against Napoli.

Brazilian Kaka, who has been out of action since last month with a thigh injury, has been included in the 21-man squad for Saturday’s game at the San Siro.

**Barca, Atletico stumble and miss out on record**

Madrid, 20 Oct.—Barcelona and Atletico Madrid dropped their first points of the season on Saturday, missing the chance to equal the record for the best-ever La Liga start.

Champions Barca, who visit AC Milan in the Champions League on Tuesday, were held 0-0 at the Nou Camp in a theater in Falls Church, a Washington suburb, during an appearance certain to heighten speculation about a possible 2016 presidential bid.

Clinton focused on praising McAuliffe, the former national Democratic party chairman and a longtime friend, as a strong leader who could rise above the divisive politics of the federal shutdown and debt ceiling fight.

While she never mentioned McAuliffe’s Republican opponent, Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, a staunch anti-abortion and social conservative, Clinton said the Republican agenda was being driven by its most conservative members.

“When politicians choose scorched earth over common ground, when they operate in what I call the evidence-free zone with ideology trumping everything else, we see that families in Virginia and across the country have felt the consequences,” Clinton said.

“The whole country is watching this election, watching to see whether the voters of Virginia lead the way of turning from divisive politics and getting back to common sense and common ground,” she said.

McAuliffe, a close ally of Clinton’s husband, former President Bill Clinton, and co-chairman of Hillary Clinton’s failed 2008 presidential campaign, holds a solid lead over Cuccinelli in recent polls before the November 5 election.

That lead has been fuelled by a commanding double-digit advantage among women — an edge that Clinton’s appearance at a “Women for McAuliffe” rally in the politically moderate northern Virginia suburbs was designed to exploit.

The free tickets to the rally were snapped up quickly and the crowd of more than 700, many wearing Hillary buttons, began lining up hours before the event.

“It’s been my dream to see Hillary,” said Kerry Toussignant, a recent college graduate and a volunteer coordinator at a domestic violence non-profit in Alexandria, Virginia.

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Union I&P Minister’s inspection tour of border checkpoints in Laukkai

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Oct—Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi made an inspection tour of Laukkai Township where he observed entry-exit measures being carried out by the staff of the Immigration and National Registration Department at Yanlonkyaing Myanmar-China border checkpoint on 13 October.

In meeting with Kokang Self-Administered Zone Leading Body Chairman U Pei Sauk Chein, he coordinated matters related to managing immigration at the checkpoint and fulfilled the requirements.

On 14 October morning, the Union minister also inspected activities of immigration officers who are dealing with the entry and exit of the people of Myanmar and China at Chinshwehaw border checkpoint and left necessary instructions.

Next, he visited Namtong creek crossing bridge linking Chinshwehaw of Kokang region to Namtit of “Wá” region.—MNA

Weather Forecast for 3rd Dekad (10 days) of October 2013

Bay of Bengal condition

A low pressure area may form over the South Bay of Bengal and further intensify into a depression. Weather will be partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Rain conditions and rainy days

Low pressure still persists

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Oct—According to the observation at 17:30 hrs MST today, the low pressure area over the Southwest Bay of Bengal still persists, the Meteorology and Hydrology Department announced.—MNA

People offer rice, alms to members of Sangha in Homein

HOMEIN, 20 Oct—Rice offering ceremony took place in Homein Sub-Township of Langkhi District yesterday morning.

The local people of wards donated rice and alms to 94 members of the Sangha. Local people participated in offering of rice and alms to members of the Sangha in Homein Sub-Township yearly.—MMAL-Te Naing (IPRD)

Union Myanmar, Thailand discuss rural and human resource development

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Oct—Union Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Ohn Myint met officials and experts from the Institute of Management Consultants Thailand (IMCT) at the meeting hall of Yangon Region Fisheries Department this evening.

Speaking with them, the Union minister said that the ministry has been undertaking rural development tasks by drawing strategy framework, adding the ministry adopted eight-point scheme of rural development to implement food security, production of safe food, rural electrification and supply of clean drinking water and development of education, health and socioeconomic status of people.

Weather will be partly cloudy to cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

Rainy days are expected about 5 to 7 days in Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and about 3 to 4 days in the remaining Regions and States.

KNU holds press meets on recent bombings in some regions

YANGON, 20 Oct—“There are no fights between the government and KNU in the territory of KNU and no more intentionally-caused conflicts after an agreement was signed. Both sides had already said the incident cannot paralyzed the peace process and peace will be achieved without fail. The incidents are nothing to do with KNU (Central).”

Saw Myint Lwin is just a member of paramilitary, I met him as an in-charge of KNU this morning and he confessed simply that he got involved in the incidents as he was asked to do so by some businessmen in a regional economic organization. Such incidents are due to an individual motive, have nothing to do with KNU (Central),”

KNU CEC member Pado Mahn Nyein Maung at press conference at Myanmar Peace Center.—MNA

S’pore-based companies begin making to investment in construction, finished-wood industries

Singapore-based companies have started making investment in the wood-based industry and construction sector of Myanmar, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

Singapore-based Wood Craft International Pte Company and Uni Global Power Pte Company will cooperate with Myanmar-based Global Star Company and Nature Link Company on a joint-venture basis, an official of the DICA said.

“Both companies are committed to produce finished-wood products and to invest in infrastructure development including hotels, apartments, office, city marts etc through the BOT system,” he added.

KNU holds press meets on recent bombings in some regions

We tried hard to establish peace through successive periods, but in vain. At the time of President U Thein Sein, KNU trusted the President and the more than 60-year-old civil war could be put to an end.

We believed that ongoing process is moving steadily towards peace. We met with the President and the Commander-in-Chief for three times each, we built more trust one after another. We had made resolutions for peace.

We met the Union ministers and senior military officers in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. We were convinced that peace process will continue and we, in turn, iterated that KNU (Central) will strive for peace without fail. As our desires are similar, peace process will continue with dignity.

Saw Nay Toe and Saw Myint Lwin attempted to blast more bombs, but their attempts failed. The incidents are intended to disrupt the ongoing peace process between the government and KNU just like attempts to create racial and religious conflicts. We will cooperate with the government to arrest Saw Nay Toe,” he added.

Next, Pado Mahn Nyein Maung answered the queries raised by local and foreign correspondents.

It was also attended by CSC Du Palaya and District Chairman Pado Saw Shwe Moung, members of MPC and diplomats.—MNA

By: Khin Lay Myint Aung

A worker seen at finished-wood industries.