Efforts on democratization, genuine national reconciliation and socioeconomic development yielding tangible progress

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Oct—As Myanmar is a peace-loving country, she makes every effort on disarmament and non-proliferation in order to contribute to international peace and security. All weapons of mass destruction be it nuclear, chemical or biological weapons should not exist anymore in this world, said Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham at the ceremony to mark 68th anniversary of the United Nations Day at MICC here this morning.

It was attended by the union ministers, deputy ministers, members of international relations committee from Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, ambassadors and diplomats, resident coordinators from UN agencies, students and teachers.

The Vice-President continued that a resolution on nuclear disarmament is tabled by Myanmar and adopted by the support of many UN member States. Recently, Myanmar has conducted an Additional Protocol in relation to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Today’s development and events of the world have consequences of varying degrees on all nations in the world and are impacting also on daily life of every citizen of the world, he added.

He underscored that all national races and all political forces in Myanmar will live in peace and harmony and join their hands and work together for the development of every place and people. The legislative, executive and judiciary pillars are serving the interests of people. As greater media freedom is ensured today, constructive views and opinions by the people on the work of the Government have led to accountability and transparency, he added.

He pledged that the Committee for Scrutinizing the Remaining Prisoners continued to take necessary steps to release the remaining prisoners. The successive governments have been striving for over 60 years for a national reconciliation in the country. Efforts to reach ceasefire agreements with all ethnic armed groups are on-going.

The nation will continue to do so with dynamic participation and cooperation of the people and international partners, he said.

He expressed thanks to UN, partnership countries and organizations for assisting not only in reform process but also in providing humanitarian assistance such as food, shelter, healthcare and rehabilitation for IDPs. (See page 9)

Myanmar sees USD 136.44 million trade surplus in September


The report also states that total export volume from April to September, 2013-2014 FY was 5103.39 million USD—normal trade volume USD 3687.79 million and border trade volume USD 1415.60 million while total import volume was equal to 5546.13 million USD: normal trade volume USD 4695.06 million and border trade volume USD 851.07 million. The trade deficit was 442.74 million USD.—MNA
Nation-building Endeavours

Stake driven for construction of Phase 2 of Sedona Hotel

Yangon, 24 Oct—Construction of Sedona Hotel Phase 2 will be completed by 2015 and it will comprise 420 suites on 29 floors, said Chief Executive Officer Mr And Wee Gee of Keppel Land at the stake driving ceremony on 22 October.

The department hopes that about three million of globetrotters may visit Myanmar in 2015.

Thus, the hotel suites demand will be high. That is why the 29 floors high-rise Five Star Sedona Hotel will contribute to satisfying the hotel suites demand to a certain extent.

“We systematically carry out construction of infrastructures including transport sector so as to meet the development goal of tourism sector. Various buildings including railroads, motorways and Hanthawady International Airport,” said Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint at the stake driving ceremony.

“The phase 2 of Sedona Hotel will be an engine for implementation of the long-term plan of tourism industry,” he continued.

Pre-SEA Games Badminton Test Match kicks off

Nay Pyi Taw, 24 Oct—The Pre-SEA Games Badminton Test Match 2013 was held at Wunna Theik-dhi Gymnasium C in Nay Pyi Taw on 21 October.

A ceremony to open the Pre-SEA Games Badminton Test Match 2013 was held at Wunna Theik-dhi Gymnasium C in Nay Pyi Taw on 21 October. The Test Match comprised men’s doubles event and women’s doubles event.

A total of 24 players took part in the test match up to 23 October.

Specialist Dr Ko Ko Than and health staff gave medical checkups free of charge to the patients from Meiktila, Mahlaing, Wundwin and Thazi townships of Meiktila District from 21 October to 11 November.

Eye specialists from Meiktila, Mandalay, Kyaukse, Singaing and Myingyan will perform eye surgical operations at the patients who have received medical checkups from 12 to 15 November.

MMAL-Chan Tha (Meiktila)

Sales of traditional foods in progress.

Fertilizer bags arrive at Yangon Port

Yangon, 24 Oct—MV Mya Mya Mon running along the route from Kashiwag to Yangon with bags of fertilizer arrived at Bagaya Jetty in Kyimyindine Township of Yangon Region on 22 October.

Fertilizer bags were unloaded from the vessel to be distributed to farmers of horticultural farms.

A total of 6343 bags of fertilizer with various brands produced from Thailand are to be sold for various prices depending on the sizes of fertilizer bags.

Kyemon-Kyaw Myint Aye (IPRD)

Traditional foods of national races sold

Yangon, 24 Oct—Under the supervision of Chairman of Pabedan Township Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Aye Aye Maw, the ceremony to sell traditional foods of national races was held at Bogoke Aung Street in Ward 5 of Pabedan Township in Yangon West District on 15 October.

Those from 11 wards of the township sold 13 kinds of traditional foods.

Chairperson of District WAO Daw Hnin Zargyi Oo and party viewed round the food stalls.

Kyemon-Mie Mie (Hline)

Fire at vehicle in Thanlyin

Yangon, 24 Oct—The short circuit caused outbreak of fire at a vehicle of Oil Refinery in front of Mya Mya Mon running along the route from Kashiwag to Yangon.

The vehicle was driven by U Myint Aung, 51 of No Ma/82 on Zwe 2nd Street in Kyaukkhaw Pagoda Road in East Mya Mya Mon running along the route from Kashiwag to Yangon.

The fire was put out by three fire engines from Thanlyin Township Fire Services Department in 20 minutes.

The driver was injured in the fire and is under treatment at Thanlyin Township People’s Hospital.

Thanlyin Township Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against the driver over the outbreak of fire under the law.

Kyemon-Than Win (Taryalin)
Pakistan Prime Minister urges Obama to end drone strikes

WASHINGTON, 24 Oct— Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif urged US President Barack Obama on Wednesday to end drone strikes in Pakistan, touching on a sore subject just as relations between the two countries improve after years of suspicion over Afghan-istan and the US counterterrorism fight.

“... brought up the issue of drones in our meeting, emphasizing the need for an end to such strikes,” Sharif told reporters after meeting with Obama in the Oval Office.

But the Washington Post reported on Wednesday that while top Pakistani officials denounce the US drone programme, they have secretly endorsed it for years and are routinely given classified briefings on targets and casualties.

The Post, citing secret CIA documents and Pakistani diplomatic memos, said that markings on some documents indicated they were prepared by the CIA’s Counterterrorism Centre so they could be shown to Pakistani officials. The documents discuss strikes that killed dozens of alleged al-Qaeda operatives and in which they say no civilians were killed.

The Post said a CIA spokesman it contacted did not dispute the authenticity of the documents. US-Paki-stani relations were badly strained following the 2011 Navy SEAL raid that killed al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden deep inside Pakistan where he was in hiding. But they appear to be on the mend as the United States prepares to pull forces out of Afghanistan in 2014. The United States has quietly restarted security assistance to Pakistan after freezing aid during the period of sourled relations, when Washington fre- quently voiced complaints about the ties of the Paki-stani intelligence service to militant groups active in Afghanistan.—Reuters

French’s Hollande seen losing 2017 presidential election

PARIS, 24 Oct— Four fifths of French voters believe President Francois Hollande will not win the next presidential election in 2017, a poll showed on Thursday, a fresh blow to the leader of the euro zone’s second-big-gest economy.

Raging unemployment, anger with tax hikes and rows within his government and party have pushed the Socialist president’s popular-ity to its lowest since he was elected in May last year.

In a further blow, 76 percent of those surveyed in the Harris Interactive poll for Le Figaro daily and LCP televi-sion said they did not see Hollande as someone who keeps his promises and 66 percent did not consider him competent. In contrast, 54 percent of those surveyed on 21-22 October said they believed hardline Interior Minis-ter Manuel Valls would beat a right-wing candidate in the 2017 presidential elec-tion. Only 16 percent said Hollande could achieve that. In France, the outgoing president traditionally rep-resents his party in the next election and in past decades most, with the exception of former conservative presi-dent Nicolas Sarkozy, won a second mandate.—Reuters

US President Barack Obama shakes hands with Paki-stan’s Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington on 23 Oct, 2013. —Reuters

France’s President Francois Hollande listens to a speech during a meeting called “Reporters of Hopes, Solutions for France” at Iena Palace in Paris on 18 Oct, 2013.—Reuters

Germany US may have monitored Merkel’s phone

BERLIN, 24 Oct—The German government has obtained information that the United States may have monitored the mobile phone of Chancellor An-gela Merkel and she called President Barack Obama on Wednesday to demand an immediate clarification, her spokesman said.

In a strongly worded statement, the spokesman said Merkel had told Obama that if such surveillance had taken place it would represent a “grave breach of trust” between close allies.

“She made clear that she views such practices, if proven true, as completely unacceptable and condemns them unequivocally,” the statement read.

White House spokes-man Jay Carney, respond-ing to the news in Wash-ington, said Obama had assured Merkel that the United States “is not moni-toring and will not monitor” the communications of the chancellor.

When pressed on whether spying may have occurred in the past, a White House official de-clined to elaborate on the statement. “I’m not in a po-sition to comment publicly on every specific alleged intelligence activity,” the official said.

French President Fran-cois Hollande is pressing for the US spying issue to be put on the agenda of a summit of European leaders starting on Thursday. He also called Obama ear-lier this week after French newspaper Le Monde re-ported that the National Se-curity Agency (NSA) had collected tens of thousands of French phone records in a single month between De-cember 2012 and January 2013.

The NSA appeared to be targeting people tied to French business and poli-tics as well as individuals suspected of links to terror-ism, the paper said.

Merkel is not the only foreign leader whose personal communications may have been monitored by the United States.

Last month Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff called off plans for an Oc-tober state visit to Wash-ington because of similar revelations. On a June visit to Berlin, Obama defended US anti-terrorism tactics, telling reporters at a joint news conference with Mer- kel that Washington was not spying on ordinary citi-zens.

Revelations before the trip of a covert US Internet surveillance programme, code-named Prism, caused outrage in a country where memories of the eavesdropping East German Stasi se-cret police are still fresh.—Reuters

Powerful typhoon approaching southern Japan

Tokyo, 24 Oct—The season’s 27th typhoon, named Francisco, is ap-proaching southern Ky-usu and the Okinawa islet group, the Japan Meteorological Agency said on Thursday. The Daito islet chain, east of Okinawa’s main island, has been in-volved in a storm with wind velocity of 90 kilometers per hour, the weather agency said. The agency said southern Kyushu and Okinawa might be hit by storms and tidal waves. The typhoon, with atmospheric pressure of 965 hecto-pascals at its center, was located some 150 km west-southwest of Minami-Daito Island some 400 km east of Okinawa Island, and mov-ing north-northwest as of noon Thursday, the agency said. It contains gusts of up to 180 km per hour, it said.

At the day’s news con-ference, State Minister in charge of disaster manage-ment Keiichi Furuya asked people to promptly evacu-ate areas facing danger from the approaching typhoon. The typhoon is expected to travel along the southern coast of three of Japan’s four main islands — Ky-usu, Shikoku and Honshu and may bring heavy rains to eastern and western Ja-pan over the weekend, the weather agency said.

Germany’s Chancellor Angela Merkel uses her mobile phone before a meeting at a European Union summit in Brussels on 9 Dec, 2011.—Reuters
US Cygnus spacecraft departs from space station

WASHINGTON, 24 Oct — The privately-owned cargo ship Cygnus left the International Space Station on Tuesday morning after a successful demonstration cargo resupply mission, US space agency NASA said. Operated by US space company Orbital Sciences Corp, the spacecraft, which had been attached to the space station since 29 September, was released by astronauts aboard the station using the orbiting complex’s huge robotic arm at 7:31 am EDT (1131 GMT).

On Wednesday, the Cygnus, loaded “with trash and discarded items,” will fire its engines for the last time at 1:41 pm (1741 GMT) and “re-enter the Earth’s atmosphere for a fiery destruction” over the Pacific Ocean, NASA said. NASA Administrator Charles Bolden described in a statement the demonstration mission as “an overwhelming success.” “We are delighted to have two American companies able to resupply the station,” Bolden said. “Orbital’s success today is helping make NASA’s future exploration to farther destinations possible,” he added.

Cygnus was launched to the space station on Sept. 18 on a demonstration mission of proving its capability to reliably deliver cargo, only carrying 1,300 pounds (589 kg) of food, clothing and other items. Orbital is the second US company to send a commercial cargo craft to the space station. Following a successful demonstration mission, the company is poised to begin regular resupply missions. California-based SpaceX is the first company to send its own cargo ship with two successful commercial resupply missions and two demonstration missions. —Xinhua

California high school student discovers baby dinosaur

BEIJING, 24 Oct—Finally, to a find that’s being called historic, not to mention prehistoric. It happened in a park in the US state of Utah back in 2009. Believe it or not, a high school student found what scientists are calling a huge discovery. The Western US is a really great place to find fossils. Funny he mentions age, because that’s what makes this story so significant, some would say pre-historic. No, not just the age of the rare fossils found, but also the age of the fossil finders. Here at the Raymond Alf Museum of Paleontology in Southern California there is a philosophy, no one’s too young to find something millions of years old. And they have a Paleontology programme that imprints students in the study of dinosaurs from examining fossils, to prospecting them in places like Escalante National Monument in Utah. And boy, did they ever! While prospecting in 2009, a protruding piece of something caught the curious eye of 17-year-old student Kevin Terris. And while it looked insignificant, Dr Andrew Farke knows, looks can deceive.

Not just a complete dinosaur skeleton, but a rare one that would take an entire year to put together. The Peracausal ophthalmus walked the earth about 75 million years ago. Though it’s a closer relative to the bird, it has a horn that strongly resembles that of a ram and instead of a means of defence, but it was used as a method of communica- tion - the hollow horn emitting a trombone-like noise that sounds a little something like this or this... But Scientists say this dinosaur is known as “Baby Joe”—likely couldn’t blow his undeveloped horn. Experts say Joe was just an in- fant—a young male with so much life to live. Seems the same could be said for the California teenager who’s made a scientific contribu- tion as a young, and surpassing the accomplishments of far more experi- enced paleontologists. —Xinhua

US firm to offer balloon excursions to stratosphere

An artist rendering from World View Enterprises, Inc. released on 22 Oct, 2013, shows a six-passenger, two- pilot pressurized capsule that is being designed to fly in Earth’s stratosphere, about 19 miles (30 km) above the planet’s surface.—REUTERS

An artist rendering from World View Enterprises, Inc. released on 22 Oct, 2013, shows a six-pa ssenger, two-pilot pressurized capsule that is being designed to fly in Earth’s stratosphere, about 19 miles (30 km) above the planet’s surface.—REUTERS

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Florida), 24 Oct—Hoping to cash in on a growing appetite for adventure, an Arizona startup has unveiled plans for a balloon ride to the stratosphere, offering passengers about two hours of space-like views from 19 miles above Earth. Privately owned World View, an offset of Paragon Space Development Corp, plans to start selling tickets at $75,000 per person within a few months, said Chairman and President Jane Poynter.

The company expects to begin flight tests of a demonstration vehicle this year in Arizona and could be flying passengers within three years, Poynter said. Initially, six passengers and two pilots would be aboard a pressurized capsule that is still under development. The Federal Aviation Administration has determined it must meet the same safety requirements as a manned spacecraft orbiting Earth. “At Paragon’s intended altitude, water and blood boil, and an unprotected person would rapidly experience fatal decompression,” the FAA said. World View said it took no position as to whether an altitude of 30 kilometres constitutes outer space, but that Paragon’s capsule will need to be capable of operating in space.

By comparison, rides aboard SpaceShipTwo—a suborbital six-passenger, two-pilot vehicle owned by Virgin Galactic, an offshoot of Richard Branson’s Virgin Group —is expected to reach about 68 miles. At that altitude, passengers will experience a few minutes of weightlessness in addition to seeing the curvature of the Earth set against the black sky of space. World View capsules would be propelled by a 40 million cubic-foot (1.1 million cubic-meter) helium balloon and a steerable parachute. They should take about two hours to reach peak altitude, more than twice as high as where commercial jets fly.

While the view may not be as expansive as what SpaceShipTwo can offer, it will last longer. Project developers expect the capsule to linger in the middle of the stratosphere for about two hours before returning to the ground. The descent should take 25 to 40 minutes. A World View ride would cost less than one-third of the $250,000 it will cost to fly on SpaceShipTwo. So far, about 650 people have put down deposits or paid for rides on the latter, which is undergoing testing at manufacturer Scaled Composites’ facility in Mojave, California. —Reuters

Apple unveils iPad Air, new Macs for holidays

Apple Inc CEO Tim Cook speaks about the new iPad Air and the iPad mini during display during an Apple event in San Francisco, California on 22 Oct, 2013. REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 24 Oct —Apple Inc on Tuesday offered free upgrades for life on its operating system and business software, and unveiled thinner iPads and faster Mac computers ahead of a competitive holiday shopping season. The debut of the one-pound iPad Air and MacBook Pro with sharper ‘retina’ display repeats a pattern of recent launches with improvements in existing lines rather than totally new products, and Apple shares fell 0.3 percent for the day.

Apple said upgrades to its Mac operating system and iWork software suite, which compete with Microsoft Corp’s Excel, Word and other applications, will now be offered for all MacBooks and Mac computers. That brings Apple’s model of free system software upgrades on phones and tablets to the computer market, where Apple is still the underdog to Microsoft’s Windows.

Apple may be trying to safeguard its grip on mobile software as Microsoft revs up its Windows-powered Surface Pro, which runs applications, such as Word and Excel, that are the standard for business customers, analysts said. “We are turning the industry on its ear, but this is not why we’re doing it,” Apple Chief Executive Tim Cook told media and technology executives at San Francisco’s Yerba Buena Center. “We want our customers to have our latest software.” The market is awash in inexpensive tablets running Google Inc’s Android software, but the company may be focused on fending off a threat from the high end.

“In the tablet PC market, they do micro-soft is a bigger threat than Android,” said Gartner analyst Carolina Milanesi. —Reuters
Scientists trace deadly piglet virus hitting US farms to China

Previously, investigators and veterinary researchers tracking the outbreak said that there was some indication that the PEDV strain seen in the US was 99.5 percent similar in genetic makeup to that isolated in China. But exactly where it came from and how it arrived in the United States was mysterious. According to the report published last week in the American Journal of Veterinary Research, the researchers extracted strains of PEDV virus from infected animals in Minnesota and Iowa. They then compared the genetic code of the virus in these samples to PEDV strains isolated in China’s Anhui province during an outbreak that began in late 2010. The results showed that the three strains that have emerged in the United States are most closely related to particular Chinese strains.

“Taken together, the available sequence and phylogenetic data indicate that the PEDV strains emerging in the United States originated from China,” according to the published report.

The researchers cautioned that “the exact source of the origin is difficult to identify at this point.” Veterinary researchers and US Department of Agriculture officials say that PEDV does not pose a threat to human health, nor to food safety. While, there has been no indication that PEDV could jump from one species to another, the research team said it found the US PEDV strains to have some of the same genetic features seen in the PEDV strains that have possibly having originated in bats and a potential for “cross-species transmission,” according to the report. — Reuters

ECB sets out bank health test plans before new supervisory role

FRANKFURT, 24 Oct —The European Central Bank will outline on Wednesday how it plans to scrutinize top euro zone lenders before becoming its supervisor in a new role that puts its credibility on the line. The ECB wants to unearth potential risks hidden in banks’ balance sheets before banking supervision is centralized under its roof from November 2014 as the first part of a plan for European banking union aimed at preventing financial crises.

That broader plan was drawn up in response to the euro zone debt crisis that undermined economies and financial markets around the world and was made worse by underlying banking weakness in several countries including Ireland and Spain. The ECB tests should help revive trust in Europe’s battered banking sector by aligning countries’ definitions of bad loans and the quality and risk weighting of certain assets, helping investors compare banks across borders.

The review will be tough so the ECB does not face surprises once it has taken charge and to avoid repeating mistakes of two earlier European-wide stress tests that failed to spot risks that led to the Irish and Spanish banking crises. However, if the asset quality review is too rigorous it could undermine confidence in the currency bloc and bond yields could rise again, making it harder for the central bank to fulfill its main monetary policy role of keeping prices stable.

“A poorly-managed exercise would undermine the ECB’s credibility as supervisor from day one, with potentially adverse consequences also for its credibility in the field of monetary policy,” said Unicredit seasoned chief euro zone economist Marco Valli. Some ECB policymakers feel uncomfortable taking on the extra responsibility that, in turn, suggests the virus may have possibly having originated in bats and a potential for “cross-species transmission,” according to the report. — Reuters

Obstetricians change definition of on-time delivery

NEW YORK, 24 Oct —For years, babies born after a pregnancy lasting 37 to 42 weeks have been considered to be on time, or “term.” But a group of US doctors is now separating deliveries that happen during that span in an effort to improve newborn health.

“We have increasingly recognized that newborn outcomes are not uniform between 37 and 42 weeks,” Dr. Jeffrey Ecker said.Babies delivered between 37 weeks and 39 weeks of pregnancy will now be considered “early term,” according to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Full-term” infants will be those born between 39 and 41 weeks. Babies born between 41 and 42 weeks of pregnancy will be thought of as “late term.” Finally, those born at 42 weeks or later will still be considered “postterm.”

Ecker is the chair of The College’s Committee on Obstetric Practice. He is also a high-risk obstetrician at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

Language is important in conveying that it’s not just one period of time and to recognize that outcomes do differ,” he told Reuters Health. A growing body of research has found babies born before 39 weeks are not as developed as those born later. Babies born after 39 weeks have fewer poor outcomes such as breathing, hearing and learning problems, The College says in its joint statement with the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine.

The statement was published Tuesday in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

“The brain grows by about a third between weeks 35 and week 39 of pregnancy, according to The College.” — Reuters

Cardiovascular Systems gets nod for new heart device

BANGALORE, 24 Oct —Cardiovascular Systems Inc received US Food and Drug Administration approval to start selling its heart device to treat severe calcium deposits in coronary arteries, sending its shares up as much as 23 percent.

The device, Diamondback 360 Coronary Atherectomy System, will be launched immediately after the FDA’s marketing approval, the company said on Tuesday. Plaque build up, including calcium de-

Reckitt Benckiser may sell pharmaceuticals business

LONDON, 24 Oct —Reckitt Benckiser may sell its pharmaceuticals unit, which has been suffering from declining sales of its main heroin addiction drug, to focus on growing consumer health and household cleaning products businesses. The British consumer goods group said on Tuesday it was reviewing options for the pharmaceuticals business, which analysts said could fetch over 2 billion pounds ($3.2 billion) and appeal to international drugmakers.

It also beat third-quarter sales forecasts and nudged up its full-year outlook, signaling it was navigating a slowdown in emerging markets that has hurt rival Unilever. Reckitt’s shares rose more than 5 percent as analysts cheered what they saw as strong performance as well as the possible sale of the pharmaceuticals business, which has been weighing on the stock because of uncertainty over the impact of cheap, generic competition to its addiction drug, Suboxone. “I think it’s a combination of the market seeing a way out of (the pharmaceuticals business) and liking the core business as well,” said Investec analyst Martin Deboo.

Third-quarter like-for-like sales excluding Suboxone rose 2 percent in Europe and North America, 10 percent in Latin America and Asia and 5 percent in Russia, the Middle East and Africa. — Reuters

Reckitt Benckiser CEO Rakesh Kapoor speaks during the Reuters Global Consumer and Retail Summit in London on 11 Sep, 2013. — Reuters
**WORLD**

**Much of Syria blacked out by rebel attack on gas pipeline**

BEIRUT, 24 Oct — Much of Syria, including the capital Damascus, was hit by a power cut late on Wednesday after rebels attacked a gas pipeline, state media said.

“A terrorist attack on a gas pipeline that feeds a power station in the south has led to a power outage in the provinces and work to repair it is in progress,” Electricity Minister Emad Khamis told state news agency SANA.

A resident in the centre of Damascus who asked to remain anonymous said “the whole city just went dark” and she could see the glow of a fire near the international airport and hear heavy machinegun fire.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a UK-based group that reports on abuses and battlefield developments using sources on both sides of Syria’s civil war, said the explosion was caused by rebel artillery that hit a gas pipeline near the airport.

The Observatory said the rebel shelling was aimed at the town of Gharsula, a few miles (km) from the airport. It said residents of other areas of Syria, including coastal cities in the west and parts of Aleppo province in the north, were also experiencing power cuts.

Rebels have been trying to push into the capital, a stronghold of President Bashar al-Assad, whose family has ruled Syria for four decades.

**Pakistan advised to renegotiate gas price with Iran**

ISLAMABAD, 24 Oct — Experts at a prestigious think tank in Pakistan recommended late Wednesday the government renegotiate the natural gas import price with Iran under a Pakistan-Iran gas pipeline project due for commissioning by the end of next year.

“Pakistan is imperative for Pakistan to renegotiate the import price of natural gas at earliest,” Arshad Abbasi, who headed the Energy Team at Sustainable Development Policy Institute, said at the launching of the report “Rethinking Pakistan Energy Equation: Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline.”

The timing of the report is significant as it coincided with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif meeting with US President Barack Obama in Washington. The United States has made it known more than once recently that if Pakistan goes ahead with the project it would invite sanctions under the US laws and UN resolutions.

Pakistan has, for more than a decade, been importing natural gas from either Iran or Turkmenistan because of its own dwindling reserves as experts have warned that at the current rate of consumption Pakistan could run out of gas by 2020. Under the Gas Purchase Agreement signed in June 2009, the Iran project is scheduled for commissioning in 2014.

The contract calls for Iran to lay a pipeline from its Pars gas field to the border with Pakistan and Pakistan would complete the pipeline to Nawabshah in Sindh Province. But the project is already behind schedule as Pakistan has failed to start work on its pipeline, reportedly because of financial problems. The line in Pakistan alone is estimated to cost $1.8 billion, and local reports have suggested Pakistan wants Iran to finance and build the Pakistani portion as well. The gas purchase agreement links the gas price from Iran to the “Japan crude Cock- tail,” which is determined by price of crude oil when cleared by Japan Customs.

But Abbasi said that formula does not take into consideration the global trend of delinking gas prices from oil prices. “In Asia, Japan has already asked Qatar to consider a pricing mechanism different from oil-linked contracts,” Abbasi said. “The energy landscape has transformed and gas prices have fallen during 2007 to 2011 in all gas hubs.”

**Plane fighting Australia fires crashes as cooler weather eases threat**

SYDNEY, 24 Oct — A plane dousing wildfires in bushland around the Australian’s biggest city, Sydney, crashed into a national park on Thursday, sparking a new fire to add to 55 still burning across the state of New South Wales.

The accident happened as the immediate threat from the fires eased thanks to cooler weather, but the Rural Fire Service (RFS) warned of hot and dry weather ahead as summer hits its peak. “It’s hard to definitely say that (the fires) will get bigger, it’s hard to say how long they’ll go for and whether there will be any further damage.”

More than 200 homes have been destroyed in New South Wales since last Thursday, when fires tore through Sydney’s outskirts, razing entire streets. One man died from a heart attack while trying to save his home.

The RFS said it held “grave concerns” for the pilot of a water bomber fixed-wing aircraft that crashed in the Budawang National Park, 270 km (170 miles) southwest of Sydney, a wilderness area of steep mountain sides and forests popular with hikers and campers.

Sanders said 20 of the 55 fires still burning on Thursday had yet to be contained by firefighters, and residents may see three major fires in the Blue Mountains commuter district west of Sydney join up in coming days, creating one massive wildfire.

The fires have so far burned through more than 120,000 hectares (300,000 acres) using an perimeter of some 1,600 km (990 miles).—Reuters

**Brazil high court ruling on large Indian reserve a setback for farmers**

BRASILIA, 24 Oct — Brazil’s Supreme Court ruled on Wednesday that the terms for the creation of one of the country’s largest Indian reservations did not apply elsewhere, in a setback for agricultural interests hoping to limit the expansion of reserves onto lucrative farmland.

In its decision, the court ratified the existence of the Serra do Sol reserve on the northern border with Venezuela and Guyana.

But it ruled unanimously that 19 conditions set in 2009 for the formation of the 6,730-square-mile (17,430-square-km) reserve did not apply automatically in other disputes over Indian lands, although they could serve as precedents in future cases.

Brazil’s powerful farm lobby had hoped the extension to other areas of one of those conditions - banning an expansion of the land set aside - would restrict the government’s ability to enlarge reservations onto land already occupied by farmers.

Hundreds of conflicts have erupted in rural Brazil as the government tries to follow a constitutional mandate and create Indian reserves on land already claimed by farmers or cattle ranchers. The conflicts have become worse as Brazil’s agricultural frontier moves north toward the Amazon basin. Indian rights activists welcomed the ruling.

“It consolidated the Serra do Sol reservation and reduced chances of these conditions being used in a negative way in other cases,” said Marcio Santilli, head of a non-profit conservation group dedicated to the defense of indigenous cultures and habitats.

“Farmers were very interested in the ban on expanding Indian lands, but the court said that does not apply in general,” Santilli said.—Reuters

**Smoke rises after what activist said was a fire near Damascus International Airport on 23 Oct, 2013.**

REUTERS

More than 100,000 people have been killed since government forces moved to crush a pro-democracy uprising in March 2011. Millions have been displaced in the ensuing civil war.—Reuters

**An Indian from Xavantes nation looks into an abandoned farm at Mariwatesede land in Mato Grosso, about 375 miles (600 km) northwest of Brasilia, on 3 Feb, 2013.**

REUTERS

An elderly woman (L) arrives at Tokyo's Takamatsu pier on 23 Oct, 2013, after being evacuated from Izu Oshima Island south of Tokyo on a chartered flight, according to the municipal government of Oshima, around 120 residents were evacuated from the storm-battered island the same day following predictions that another powerful typhoon may arrive later in the week.

**Hiroshima gubernatorial election campaign begins**

HIROSHIMA, 24 Oct — Official campaigning for the Hiroshima gubernatorial election, to be held on November 10, began Thursday, with the incumbent and an independent challenger filing candidacy.

Hidehiko Yuzaki, 48, is seeking a second term with backing of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and its coalition partner the New Komeito party, as well as the opposition Demo-}
Myanmar takes joint training in ROK to hope wins

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Oct—Myanmar Taekwondo team is taking training in hope of securing medals in the coming SEA Games, said Secretary of Myanmar Taekwondo Federation U Zaw Win.

“We are taking training with vigorous efforts so as to secure medals in the coming SEA Games. At present, 24 male and female Taekwondo players are taking joint training in the Republic of Korea together with renowned Korean Taekwondo players. A total of 18 attack and six dancing players of the Taekwondo event are under the training. In the coming SEA Games, Myanmar hopes to win medals in the three attacks and three dancing events,” he continued.

Myanmar players will participate in the six attack events and three dancing events in men’s and women’s events in the SEA Games. Taekwondo event will be held at Gymnasium A of Wunna Theikdhi Sports Complex from 18 to 21 December. The Gymnasium A is next to Wunna Theikdhi Stadium where the opening and closing ceremonies of the SEA Games will be held. The Gymnasium has been equipped with air-conditioners for convenience of the spectators.

MMAL-Maung Shwe Yoe

Traditional long boat contest held in Mudon

MUDON, 24 Oct—The 139th Myanmar traditional long boat race in commemoration of Kangyi Pagoda was held in Myoma Ward of Mudon. Altogether 14 boats took part in the contest. After paying homage to Kangyi Pagoda, each boat took part in the contest to be free from danger and to secure achievement. The boats had to compete in the race three times. In the final, Winkapo Aungnaingthu boat emerged champion in the race. Myittakari boat stood second and Beyan Village third. Officials and members of the organizing committee awarded the winners.

MMAL-108

Myanmar women’s Futsal team prepares to win medal

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Oct—Nowadays, Thai Futsal team is on the leading role at ASEAN level.

Thailand is now hosting World level Futsal tournaments. In the women’s event, Vietnam is shoulder to shoulder with Thailand at the top role. That is why Myanmar Futsal teams need to prepare their positions so as to win any medals in the tournaments, not to hope gold medals.

Myanmar women’s team formed with selected players improves in its play under training of Japanese Coach Komishi. The team won the third prize in the Pre-SEA Games Futsal Test Match held in Nay Pyi Taw from 29 September to 3 October. It was the first match of Myanmar women’s team before the SEA Games.

To be able to win victory in the SEA Games, Myanmar women’s team made a trip to Tokyo of Japan from 7 to 17 October and played tune-up matches. Myanmar women played a 1-1 draw with Japanese Women’s Futsal League combined team. But, Myanmar women lost to Japanese women’s Futsal champion Yurahatsu 0-5, second prize winner Kapuringa 0-2 and third prize winner Annet 0-3.

After the trip to Japan, Myanmar women’s team resumed its training session as of 28 October.

MMAL-Nyi Myat Thawda: Photo: Soe Nyunt

Carabao band to perform entertainment at XXVII SEA Games

YANGON, 24 Oct—Carabao Band, the famous one in Thailand, will perform entertainment at the XXVII SEA Games, said an official of Carabao Foundation in meeting with media of Thailand and Myanmar at the press conference held at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon on 21 October.

“Our band is presenting entertainment across the world. We have recently entertained in western countries. We have aimed at performing entertainment at the SEA Games. We will donate cash to the fund for the games. The entertainment is aimed at enabling Thai media to have easy access to coverage of the information about the SEA Games,” he added.

The band was established 16 years ago. It is an organization that steadfastly carries out social development tasks.

The band donated 1 million baht to the Ministry of Sports for successfully hosting the SEA Games. MMAL-Maung Sein Lwin (Myanma Alinn)

Meeting on Muay event held

YANGON, 24 Oct—The second coordination meeting on holding the Muay event in the XXVII SEA Games was held at the National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thuwunna of Yangon on 18 October.

Muay will be one of 33 sports events in the XXVII SEA Games.

Chairman of Myanmar Sports Achievement Committee in the XXVII SEA Games Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Htaik delivered an address.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of Asian Olympic Council Maj.-Gen.Charouck of Thailand and officials, representatives from Brunei, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Laos, the Philippines and Cambodia except Timor Leste, officials of the MOC and Ministry of Sports.

According to the decision, Muay event will be held under SEA Muay Sports Federation. Myanma Alinn

Rural Development

Wickerwork course opened for rural development

TOUNGOO, 24 Oct—The Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry and Ministry of Cooperatives jointly organized the wickerwork course for contributing to rural development at the hall of Medical Association on Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Toungoo on 21 October.

Bago Region Minister for Mining and Forestry U Kyaw Htay made a speech.

It was attended by 31 trainees and departmental personnel and the training course will last two weeks.

The trainees will have the opportunities for making ten types of bamboo products with modern designs in the training.

The training course is aimed at creating job opportunities for the local people, ensuring enhancement of socio-economic life, obtaining production technique of bamboo products and conserving the forests.

MMAL-Thura (Toungoo)

Township Administrator U Ye Myat Tint and party check motorcycle taxies and drivers in Ottarathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 21 October.—MYANMA ALINN
**Plastic pollution**

Plastic is used very commonly in the world because they are cheap, easy to make and they last long as well. Plastic goods can benefit our human beings to a certain extent. Use of plastics can have negative and positive impacts. These useful qualities make plastic a real menace to the environment.

Plastic is one of the toxic non-biodegradable pollutants, which pollutes land, air and water. Littering of plastic bags, bottles and wastes can pose serious environmental problems. Tones of plastic waste are dumped everyday into the earth all over the world. Plastic pollution is destroying the world’s ocean ecosystems as a lot of waste is flushed into the ocean.

These materials when thrown out after use remains in the soil in the same form as it is non-biodegradable. The smoke of burning plastic contains toxic particles that can cause cancer when inhaled. Urban areas are usually more polluted than the countryside. We also see plastic pollution of farmlands.

We are in urgent need of protecting our mother earth from environmental pollution. Everybody needs to protect plastic pollution by means of reducing plastic consumption, promoting plastic recycling and ensuring systematic disposals of plastics.

Let’s do our part to protect our environment from pollution and thus build a green world for tomorrow.

**Goal programme to provide financial education and life skills training to girls**

**Yangon, 24 October—**

Standard Chartered Bank today announced the launch of its goal programme in Myanmar which aims to help the country strengthen its capacity for social development and employment through the delivery of targeted initiatives focusing on education and health.

“Standard Chartered is deeply committed to supporting Myanmar’s efforts to develop a sustainable economy. We have thus far focused our efforts on facilitating investment and the development of the financial sector of the nation through the sharing of insights and expertise. Long term success of our business depends on the health and prosperity of the communities in which we operate,” said Tina SinghSacha, Chief Representative of the bank Myanmar.

Goal programme will equip girls with the tools and knowledge to make more informed economic choices as they move into adulthood, thereby empowering them to become more active economic participants in the communities. It also addresses health issues like HIV/AIDS awareness.

Standard Chartered is partnering with Women Win, the bank’s global partner for the Goal programme and local NGO De-termined to run the programme in Myanmar.

The programme in Myanmar kicked off with a workshop with Girl Defined, another local NGO to discuss the goals of the programme.

The New Light of Myan-

**PAPER READING SESSIONS ON TRANSLATION**

Maung Hlaing

Myanmar into English but we can count them on our fingers.

Another important duty we should urgently carry out is to nurture or produce more and more promising prospective translators and the birth of a new generation who will shoulder the responsibility.

On the one hand, we are to fulfill the requirements for translation of official speeches or other documents required by government departments, the non-governmental organizations and the private sector. So also we are to nurture the young talents who aspire to be good translators or interpreters on the other. At the 24th paper-reading sessions, one paper-reader urged to open a school of translators or interpreters conducted by the Ministry of Education in cooperation with the Ministry of Information.

Today is knowledge age. With the information superhighway widening and stretching out with each passing day, we are to do our best to make our younger generation who will be well-versed in this field. If we really want to keep abreast of the world, we must make a fresh start with translation classes or schools organized by the government in order that the new generation of translators and interpreters must pick up where the departed left. The translators in the past did their best in their time. Likewise, the present veteran translators are still doing their best to serve the reading public with a Myanmar version of the original in English or a few other languages. These veteran translators are now at sunset of their lives.

The new generation of translators must catch up in order to leave no yawning gap when the aged breathe their last.

**Fingerlings released into Ayeyawady River**

**SINCUP, 23 October—** The PyinOoLwin District Fisheries Department set free 1,120,000 fingerlings into Ayeyawady River on 17 October.

The ceremony to release fingerlings was held on the river bank near Seik-kantha Yadanashwe Ku Pagoda. MMAL-433
Efforts on democratization, genuine national ...

He concluded that in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals, Myanmar is trying to reduce poverty rate from 26 to 16 percent in 2015. Afterwards, Union Minister U Khin Yi read the message on commemorating of 68th anniversary of United Nations Day sent by President U Thein Sein. Then, UN Resident Coordinator Mr. Ashok Nigam read the message by the UN Secretary-General. Next, Union Ministers U Khin Yi, Dr Ko Ko Oo and the UN resident coordinator awarded prizes to winners of essay contest. Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and party viewed relations and activity photos between Myanmar and UN and essays of the students displayed at the ceremony. Myanmar has practised independent and active foreign policy since gaining her independence and abiding by the UN Charter and international norms in accord with that policy. Myanmar became 58th member of UN on 19 April 1948 and was cooperating with UN on internal and international issues actively.—MNA

Smugglers arrested, small firearm and ammunition, vehicles and timber logs confiscated in combing operations

According to the Ministry of Defence, smugglers were arrested together with small firearms and ammunition, a herd of cattle, trucks and timber logs while conducting the combing operations against illegal logging and timber smuggling by a local military column in the area of Mansi Township in Kachin State. During the period from 2 to 5 October when a combing operation was launched in Mansi, Moemeik and Mabein in the township, 12 smugglers together with nine heads of buffalo and 22 heads of cow were caught and seven vehicles, 334 logs of timber and 12 empty barrels confiscated. On 17 and 18 October, 19 smugglers together with 56 heads of cattle and a suspect believed to have got involved in timber smuggling were arrested and five crane cars and 200 tons of various kinds of timber seized. During the period from 30 September to 20 October, the military column confiscated one dead body, one small firearm, 200 rounds of ammunition, three magazines, six grenades, four bulletproof vests, four bulletproof helmets, two walkie-talkies, nine heads of buffalo, 78 heads of cow, 12 vehicles and 226.8 tons of timber logs and arrested 31 smugglers and one person on suspicion of timber smuggling.

Those who love their own country, want to adopt...

5. So, an announcement is released to emphatically and firmly request those who love their own country, who want to adopt the federal system and who adore democracy to refrain from performing actions or using expressions that can disrupt the ongoing peace process which is paving the way for moving towards national unity and reconciliation, the rule of law and the development of the Union.

Maltese military rescues 13,399 at sea in decade

Malta’s Home Affairs Minister Manuel Mallia told that the year of 2008 was rank the highest numbers in the world. The island, at 1,313 persons per square kilometer, continues a serious concern for the illegal migration in recent years.

Malta was rank the highest number of rescued people, in which the AFM patrol boats rescued some 2,108 illegal migrants. Located in the south of the Europe continent and the heart of Mediterranean, and close to the North Africa such as Tunisia and Libya, Malta represents one of the highest population densities in the world.

Photo shows smugglers and piles of logs seized by military column in the area of Mansi Township in Kachin State. MNA

Visitors observe fifth day session of the eighth regular meeting of the first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw today. MNA

Visit shows smugglers and piles of logs seized by military column in the area of Mansi Township in Kachin State. MNA

Maltese military rescues 13,399 at sea in decade.

Valletta, 24 Oct — A total of 13,399 people were rescued by the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) at sea since 2003, according to local report on Wednesday.

In reply to a parliamentary question on Tuesday evening, Malta’s Home Affairs Minister Manuel Mallia said that the year of 2008 was rank the highest number of rescued people, in which the AFM patrol boats rescued some 2,108 illegal migrants.

Low pressure still persists

Nay Pyi Taw, 24 Oct—According to the observations at 17:30 hrs MST today, the low pressure area over West Central Bay of Bengal still persists, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department. MNA

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Located in the south of the Europe continent and the heart of Mediterranean, and close to the North Africa such as Tunisia and Libya, Malta represents one of the highest population densities in the world. The island, at 1,313 persons per square kilometer, continues a serious concern for the illegal migration in recent years.
ANIMAL HEALTH

Foot-and-mouth disease vaccination given

MEIKITLA, 24 Oct—With the aim of animal infectious disease control in Meiktila Township of Mandalay Region, Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department of Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development injected foot-and-mouth disease to cows from the cow breeding farm of No 2 Education Unit on 22 October.

“Foot-and-mouth disease may infect cow and buffalo this season. So, the vaccination is given to the cattle as protection. Prevention is better than cure. At present, most of the breeders understand it and willingly accept vaccination. We vaccinate 17 cows from the farm of No 2 Education Unit,” said Deputy Head of Township LBVD Dr Zaw Naing.

Light of Life Library put into service

NATOGYI, 24 Oct—A ceremony to open Light of Life Library was held in front of the library building in Pechet East Village in Natogyi Township of Mandalay District on 23 October.

Administrator U Kyaw Naing made a speech, and wellwisher Daw Kyi Lay Tint explained matters related to the library. Officials also accepted books from wellwishers.

HRD

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Next, U Tin Than Win, Director of IPRD donated books to village administrator. Officials also accepted books from wellwishers.

Wellwishers U Aung Tin Daw Thein Nyunt, daughters Daw Kyi Kyi Aye, Daw Kyi Lay Tint and Daw Myat Mon Tin of 40th Street between 80th and 81st streets in Mandalay donated K 1.5 million for the land plot, K 7.5 million for one-storey building and K 500,000 for books and publications, totally amounting to K 9.5 million.

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Opening of Light of Life Library in progress.

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HRD

Illegal drugs incinerated

The Parajat Queen betel drug were destroyed by the committee comprising officials of Hpa-an Township Customs Department, State General Administration Department, Township Police Force, Bureau of Special Investigation and Kawkareik Township Customs Department together with local people and social organizations.

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ASEAN “highly unlikely” to meet 2015 targets to build community

MANILA, 24 Oct—Southeast Asian countries will not fully meet their self-imposed goal to build an ASEAN Economic Community by 2015, according to a report released Thursday, with the ADB adding global financial turmoil will fund slow regional integration.

“Merely two years away, and given all the remaining obstacles and challenges — fully achieving the ASEAN Economic Community by the end of 2015 seems highly improbable,” according to the ASEAN Economic Integration Monitor, a semiannual review of Asia’s regional economic cooperation and integration.

“In light of the many obstacles and challenges that remain — compounded by recent events that increase financial risk and uncertainty — creating a fully functional AEC by the end of 2015 seems impossible,” the report says.

The ADB also states, “Progress in the reforms needed for regional integration are usually hampered during periods of heightened risk and uncertainty, as preserving employment and short-term growth can override longer term objectives.”

“As apart from slowing the pace of reforms, market uncertainties can wind back the process if countries opt for increasing restrictions in the short term. This was played out to varying degrees across ASEAN in the immediate aftermath of the 2008/09 global financial crisis,” the report says.

The ASEAN Economic Community, a market with a gross domestic product of more than $2.2 trillion and a population of 620 million, hopes to promote the flow of goods, services, investments and skilled labor among its 10 members countries.

At the 13th ASEAN summit in Singapore in November 2007, the ASEAN leaders adopted the blueprint for an AEC which defines four pillars — single market and production base, competitive economic region, equitable economic development and integration into the global economy — and contains 17 “core elements,” as well as 176 priority actions to serve as a guide.

India resumes military aid to Nepal

KATHMANDU, 24 Oct—After nine years of suspension, India has resumed military assistance to the Nepal government, Nepal Army (NA) said on Thursday.

A team of NA has already left for India to make necessary technical preparations and receive the military assistance, the NA said, adding the first consignment of military assistance will arrive within a couple of days.

India, which used to be a major supplier of aid to the NA, had stopped providing military assistance after King Gyanendra staged a political coup in Nepal in 2004.

Nepal’s Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) 2006 barred the national army to receive military assistance from India. But the hurdle was removed after the integration of Maoist combatants last year.

According to the NA, India is providing weapons, 214 light vehicles, 154 big army vehicles and four ambulances, among others.

“The delivery of such assistance will facilitate regular activities of the NA,” the Army said in a press statement. “It will also help modernize the NA and increase its operational capacity.”

ASEAN members join field disaster response drill in Vietnam

HANOI, 24 Oct—Forces from ten ASEAN member countries and observers from China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand, the United States and United Nations bodies took part in a field disaster response simulation exercise in Ba Vi mountain area in Vietnam’s capital Hanoi on Wednesday.

ASEAN Secretary-General Le Luong Minh, Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Hoang Trung Hai, Vietnamese Defence Minister Phung Quang Thanh and Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Cao Duc Phat attended the event, which was part of the ongoing 2013 ASEAN Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX-13).

The drill, co-organized by the Government of Vietnam and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Center), aims to assess standard procedures in operating disaster emergency response activities, and enhance collective response in the observer, reported Vietnam News Agency on Wednesday.

The exercise uses the scenario of Super Typhoon “Neptune”, which makes a landfall in the northern delta provinces of Vietnam and causes a large scale of inundation impacting dike systems and takes thousands of lives. The typhoon also affects ten thousand people whose homes are collapsed and flooded, putting them in need of emergency assistance.

To deal with situation, the Vietnamese government instructs relevant forces to take urgent rescue measures and launches state of emergency, and then asks for regional and international assistance via AHA Centre.

Vietnam, together with AHA Center and ASEAN countries’ forces, sets up a multi-national monitoring centre which operates disaster rescue, humanitarian assistance and health care activities for areas in the west of Hanoi. Later on Thursday, all participants will evaluate the implementation of procedures and mechanisms during the exercise.

The lessons in organization, direction, and coordination during ARDEX-13 will be compiled to further improve the ASEAN Standby Arrangements and Standard Operating Procedures (SA-SOP) and actual joint response to disasters.

Four killed, four injured in rebel group fighting in S Philippines

MANILA, 24 Oct—Four members of the Philippine rebel group Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) were killed and four others were injured when two MILF groups fought each other in the southern province of Maguindanao on Wednesday, the military said. The fighting, triggered by clan war, was conducted between the group of Commanders Buto and Bigkong and the MILF’s 108th Base Command on the one hand, and the MILF National Guard led by Mukamad Andoy on the other hand, said Antonio Bulao, civilian military operations officer of the Army’s 602nd Brigade. The group of Commanders Buto and Bigkong incurred four fatalities in the 35-minute firefight.

“Around 9 am local time, commandos Buto and Bigkong again attacked the group of Andoy, primarily to recover the bodies of their four men who died in the earlier clash. Four of Andoy’s men were reportedly wounded in the second fighting, Bulao said.

Clan wars are common in gun-awash tribal communities in southern Philippine, where leftist and insurgencies are also active.
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (083)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (083) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.10.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ORINET OVERSEAS CONTAI-NEER LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (819)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (819) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.10.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV HAI PHONG-45 VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HAI PHONG-45 VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.10.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S-W-3 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S G LINK EXPRESS
Phone No: 256904/256914

CONGRATULATIONS

We have a great honor and deeply congratulate to U TIN LIN PYI (Chairman, Alliance Stars Group of Companies) who received honorable awards of Equipment for Farming Development and Rice Production Development at the ceremony of World Food Day (October 16, 2013) which was conferred by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Nay Pyi Taw.

Wishing you to accelerate your efforts for people of the country.

Alliance Stars Engineering Co., Ltd.

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER
(MIXED LPG)

1. Open Tender is invited for the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of Mixed LPG (1,800 MT ± 5%).
2. Tender Closing Date : 7-11-2013 at (12:00) noon.
3. Tender Opening Date : 7-11-2013 at (13:00) hrs.
4. Delivery Time : 2nd Week of December 2013
5. Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing 24-10-2013 on payment of the Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000) per set.
6. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director
Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise

Iran eyes mining cooperation with Ghana

TEHRAN, 24 Oct— Iranian Minister of Trade, Industry and Mine Muhammad-Reza Nematzadeh voiced the readiness of the Islamic republic to cooperate in mine explorations in Ghana, Press TV reported on Wednesday.

“Ghana is rich in bauxite and iron ore,” he noted. “Iran is ready to dispatch experts to that country to determine methods of cooperation in the mining sector,” the Iranian minister was quoted as saying. For his part, Adjaho said necessary measures would be taken for the establishment of a joint business council between Iran and Ghana.—Xinhua

California police who shot teen dead thought replica gun was real

SANTA ROSA, 24 Oct—

A 13-year-old California boy carrying a replica of an assault rifle to a friend’s house was shot and killed by a sheriff’s deputy who believed the gun was real, authorities said.

The incident took place in Santa Rosa, Northern California, on Tuesday, a day after a 12-year-old boy killed a teacher at a Nevada middle school with a gun he also used to take his own life. The Santa Rosa boy’s father said his son, Andy Lopez Cruz, a middle schooler who played the saxophone and liked basketball and boxing, was shot while on his way to a friend’s house with a pellet gun left at the family home over the weekend.

“It’s not right what they did to my son,” said the father, Rodrig Lopez, as he sat with friends and family on Wednesday outside Santa Rosa City Hall in a quiet protest.

Lieutenant Paul Henry, who is investigating the incident for the Santa Rosa Police Department, said two Sonoma County Sheriff’s deputies had been patrolling a street near the boy’s home on Tuesday when they saw him walking with what appeared to be an assault weapon in his left hand. One of the deputies, who did not immediately realize that the person he was seeing behind was a child, shouted twice: “Put down the gun,” according to Henry and a police statement.

“The subject turned toward the deputies, and as he was doing that the barrel of the weapon was rising to ward the deputies,” Henry said.

The deputy then fired rounds, killing the boy.

The incident took place against a backdrop of growing concern about officer-involved shootings in California, where a spate of such incidents in the city of Anaheim, southeast of Los Angeles, prompted protests in 2012. Concern over seven fatal officer-involved shootings in three years in Sonoma County prompted calls in 2000 for a civilian review board, but none was established.

Displaying a real AK-47 next to the plastic one recovered from the scene, Henry pointed out the similarities in their appearances. The pellet gun was shorter, and lacked a bright orange piece meant to mark it as a toy.

Pellet guns, which use compressed air or other gases to fire pellets or spheri- cal balls, are sometimes made to resemble assault weapons. Police also found a plastic handgrip tucked into the boy’s pants.—Reuters

Photo taken on 23 Oct, 2013 shows the Independence Street in Antananarivo, capital of Madagascar. Antananarivo is the capital and largest city in Madagascar. The name roughly translates to ‘City of 1000 Warriors’.—Xinhua

Performers dance during the opening ceremony of the 2013 Germany China Tibetan Culture Week in Berlin, Germany on 23 Oct, 2013. The 2013 Germany China Tibetan Culture Week opened here on Wednesday, aiming to give the German people a glimpse of Tibet and its traditional culture. —Xinhua
Natalie Portman says
American actors are like gypsies

LONDON, 24 Oct—Actress Natalie Portman says she is jealous of her British co-stars who get to shoot at the same place where they live.

The 32-year-old said that American actors like her end up moving from one place to the other to shoot for their movies, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

“I love working here in London and I’m envious of British actors and British crews because American actors, we end up like gypsies — movie to movie, moving cities every time,” Portman said. “But you can have such a fulfilling, wonderful, rich career here between the theatre, the TV, and the film all in one place. It’s pretty cool to get to live and work in the same place,” she added.—PTI

Sandra Bullock wins Hollywood Actress Award

LOS ANGELES, 24 Oct — Sandra Bullock and Matthew McConaughey were among the big winners at the Hollywood Film Awards.

The 49-year-old actress picked up the Hollywood Actress prize for her thrilling performance in 3D space movie Gravity.

She, earlier, wow ed on the red carpet in a tight black dress as she enjoyed a few jokes with her ex-boyfriend McConaughey and his wife Camila Alves, the Hollywood Reporter said.

McConaughey was also a big winner at the ceremony at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles, California, as he took home the Hollywood Actor accolade for his portrayal of a former stripper in comedy drama film Magic Mike last year.

Kanye West, Kim Kardashian engaged on her birthday

SAN FRANCISCO, 24 Oct — Rapper Kanye West popped the question to his reality star girlfriend Kim Kardashian at San Francisco’s Major League Baseball stadium he rented for her 33rd birthday.

C h r y s t e l l w i n n i n g West, 36, proposed to the star of the TV reality show “Keeping Up with the Kardashians” at AT&T Park, home of baseball’s San Francisco Giants, and presented her with a diamond ring on Monday evening.

Kardashian posted a photograph on the Instagram photo-sharing website of her hand with a large ring on her finger as the words “Pleeease Marry Meee!!!” flashed on the ballpark’s video board in the background.

“Yes!!!” she said in a message on the website.

The reality star’s publicist, Ina Treciokas, confirmed that the couple is engaged.

West and Kardashian started dating in April 2012 and have a daughter, North West, who was born in June.

It will be the third marriage for Kardashian and the first for West.

Kardashian wed her second husband, NBA basketball player Kris Humphries, in an elaborate ceremony filmed for the reality TV show, but the union lasted only 72 days.

Her first marriage to music producer Damon Thomas also ended in divorce. — Reuters

Superman vs Batman movie to feature Wonder Woman?


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President of creative development Greg Silverman has said that the studio is taking the character’s movie future “very seriously”, reported Variety.

“We have been doing a lot of thinking for years about how to best use all those characters and we love them. Wonder Woman is an amazing character. I think it’s a great opportunity both for box office success, but also to have an amazingly powerful female superhero.

“We are taking it all very seriously and are trying to do a plan that’s respectful to those characters and maximises the stories as best they can. So everything that has been speculated are things that we’ve thought about,” Silverman said.

Warner CEO Kevin Tsujihara has previously said that the company “needs to get Wonder Woman on the big screen or TV”.

Lynda Carter, who portrayed Wonder Woman on screen between 1975 and 1979, recently called for Warner to appoint a female screenwriter to tackle the character.

PTI

Cheryl Cole says she is envious of British actors as they get to shoot at the same place where they live.

London, 24 Oct—Actress Natalie Portman says she is jealous of her British co-stars who get to shoot at the same place where they live.

The 32-year-old said that American actors like her end up moving from one place to the other to shoot for their movies, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

“I love working here in London and I’m envious of British actors and British crews because American actors, we end up like gypsies — movie to movie, moving cities every time,” Portman said. “But you can have such a fulfilling, wonderful, rich career here between the theatre, the TV, and the film all in one place. It’s pretty cool to get to live and work in the same place,” she added.—PTI

Sandra Bullock wins Hollywood Actress Award

Los Angeles, 24 Oct — Sandra Bullock and Matthew McConaughey were among the big winners at the Hollywood Film Awards.

The 49-year-old actress picked up the Hollywood Actress prize for her thrilling performance in 3D space movie Gravity.

She, earlier, wowed on the red carpet in a tight black dress as she enjoyed a few jokes with her ex-boyfriend McConaughey and his wife Camila Alves, the Hollywood Reporter said.

McConaughey was also a big winner at the ceremony at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles, California, as he took home the Hollywood Actor accolade for his portrayal of a former stripper in comedy drama film Magic Mike last year.

Kanye West, Kim Kardashian engaged on her birthday

San Francisco, 24 Oct — Rapper Kanye West popped the question to his reality star girlfriend Kim Kardashian at San Francisco’s Major League Baseball stadium he rented for her 33rd birthday.

C h r y s t e l l w i n n i n g West, 36, proposed to the star of the TV reality show “Keeping Up with the Kardashians” at AT&T Park, home of baseball’s San Francisco Giants, and presented her with a diamond ring on Monday evening.

Kardashian posted a photograph on the Instagram photo-sharing website of her hand with a large ring on her finger as the words “Pleeease Marry Meee!!!” flashed on the ballpark’s video board in the background.

“Yes!!!” she said in a message on the website.

The reality star’s publicist, Ina Treciokas, confirmed that the couple is engaged.

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PTI
Ribery shines as holders
Bayern ease to victory

MUNICH, 24 Oct —
Bayern Munich’s Franck Ribery dazzled on his return from injury, scoring twice as the holders demolished Viktoria Plzen 5-0 in the Champions League on Wednesday to edge closer to the knockout stage with three wins from three Group D games.

Bayern, whose last encounter with Plzen was in 1971 with a 7-1 aggregate win, set a frantic early pace and European footballer of the year Ribery gave them a deserved 25th-minute lead with a spot kick.

David Alaba doubled it 12 minutes later with a low drive and Ribery got another with a superb chip in the second half. Bastian Schweinsteiger added a goal three minutes later and Mario Gotze completed the scoring in stoppage time.

The result gave leaders Bayern nine points, three ahead of Manchester City, who beat CSKA Moscow 2-1. Plzen are bottom of the table having lost their three games.

“We played a good game and it felt good coming back,” Ribery told reporters, after missing last week’s 4-1 Bundesliga win against Mainz with an ankle injury.

“We enjoyed ourselves out there but there are tough games ahead so we need to win at Plzen in our next match.”

It was always going to be a one-sided affair, with the entire Plzen team worth about as much as Bayern midfielder Xherdan Shaqiri, and the hosts made their intentions clear early on.

“We played well from the start and I have realised how special this competition is for the team and the whole club,” coach Pep Guardiola told reporters.

“It was a good performance and I am satisfied but we can always, always, always play better,” said the Spaniard, whose team is still unbeaten in the league, Champions League and German Cup.—Reuters

Aguero double fires
Man City to victory over CSKA

MOSCOW, 24 Oct —
Sergio Aguero’s well-taken double fired Manchester City to a 2-1 victory away at CSKA Moscow on Wednesday which left the Premier League side in a good position to reach the knockout stages for the first time.

Aguero struck twice late in the first half after Zoran Tosic had put CSKA ahead in the 32nd minute. The Argentine quickly levelled with a low strike from David Silva with team mates Alvaro Negredo (R) and David Silva.

Man City wasted several chances to add to their lead after the break and almost paid the price in stoppage time when only a brilliant save from Joe Hart denied Keisuke Honda an equaliser.

The English side’s victory, however, was marred by racist abuse from the stands aimed at City’s Ivorian midfielder Yaya Toure.

“I told the ref. I think it was unbelievable and very sad,” Toure told Sky Sports.

“I think UEFA have to do a memory to reach the knockout stage of the other teams and we are there.”

Real Sociedad’s Inigo Martinez (R) scores past his own goalkeeper Claudio Bravo during their Champions League soccer match against Manchester United at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England on 23 Oct, 2013.—Reuters

Own goal gives wasteful United
win to go top

MANCHESTER, (Eng), 24 Oct —
Manchester United went top of Champions League Group A on Wednesday thanks to an early own goal by Real Sociedad’s Inigo Martinez that gave them a 1-0 win to mask a host of missed opportunities.

Wayne Rooney did all the hard work to create the second-minute opener and watched as his shot crashed off the far post and into the path of Martinez who inexplicably directed the ball into his own net.

United, driven by the rejuvenated Rooney on the eve of his 28th birthday, then proceeded to spurn chance after chance to kill the game off and Sociedad hit the woodwork twice to keep Old Trafford nervy on edge until the final whistle. “A good job done, a good performance, we could’ve scored more goals and should have but I’m pleased with the victory,” United manager David Moyes told Sky Sports with memories of conceding an

89th-minute equaliser at the weekend still fresh.

“We had it on Saturday in a Premier League game (against West Ham) when we were 1-0 up and lost a goal in the last minute so today we had that feeling around us but if we’d scored five or six it wouldn’t have been out of place.

“We really did have an awful lot of opportunities and didn’t finish it off.”

With Shakhtar Donetsk suffering a 4-0 thumping at Bayer Leverkusen, United’s victory was enough to send them a point clear of the Ukrainian side with seven points from three games. Leverkusen are third with four, while Sociedad have none.

Once the dust settles on the joy of picking up three valuable points, United will have questions to answer about the manner of this victory against a La Liga side who have, rather like them, made a lacklustre start to their domestic campaign.—Reuters

Ex-Real coaches
Mourinho and Pellegrini meet again

LONDON, 24 Oct— If their rivalry as coaches in Spain is anything to go by, Jose Mourinho will emerge victorious, and possibly by a big margin, when his Chelsea side play Manuel Pellegrini’s Manchester City at Stamford Bridge on Sunday.

Portuguese Mourinho succeeded Argentine Pellegrini as Real Madrid coach in May 2010 and after Pellegrini re-surfaced as Malaga’s manager five months later, they faced each other seven times in La Liga and the Kings Cup in two and a half seasons.

Mourinho emerged on top in five of their seven encounters, including 7-0 and 6-2 La Liga drubbings, before they both left Spain for England at the end of last season. The Premier League is a far more unpredictable competition than La Liga and they will meet on Sunday with little to choose between them on current form.

Chelsea are second on 17 points, City are fourth on 16, both have won their last two league matches by convincing scores and both won away in the Champions League this week with Chelsea beating Schalke 04 and City winning at CSKA Moscow.

Both teams have also been tipped as potential champions and both at the very least are targeting a top four finish but City have the better recent record having won four and drawn one of their last five matches against Chelsea including last season’s Community Shield and FA Cup semi-final victories at Wembley.—Reuters

Serena powers to second win in Istanbul, Jankovic shines

ISTANBUL, 24 Oct —
World number one Serena Williams beat Agnieszka Radwanska for the eighth time in eight matches to move ominously towards the semi-finals of the WTA Championships on Wednesday.

The American was again too strong for the Pole in a 6-2, 6-4 victory to stay in charge of Red Group with one more round-robin match to come against Petra Kvitova, another player to whom she has never suffered defeat.

“Radwanska definitely played well today. Am I happy? I guess. I’m happy to still be alive in the tournament. But, you know, I can always look on some things,” Williams told reporters after her 75th match win of a dominant year. “My serve wasn’t as good today as it was yesterday, but, you know, you can’t expect it to be great every day.”

“It wasn’t easy,” she added. “It’s the end of the year and I’m a little tired, so I really had to fight in that second set to stay up mentally.”

Radwanska, whose only set against the 32-year-old Williams came in the 2012 Wimbledon final of, is seen as unlikely to survive the group after two defeats so far at the season-end.

Earlier in White Group Serena’s Jelena Jankovic beat second seed Victoria Azarenka 6-4, 6-3, aided by 40 unforced errors from her erratic opponent.—Reuters

Mourinho's Old Trafford return: Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho re-passes the baton to his former Real Madrid counterpart, Manuel Pellegrini. Pellegrini's Manchester City face Chelsea at Stamford Bridge on Sunday.
UN chemical weapons mission visited 18 sites in Syria

UNITED NATIONS, 24 Oct —A joint international mission in charge of Syria’s chemical weapons program said that it had visited 18 of the sites disclosed by Syria, a UN spokesman said here on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Syria had begun its work to “render critical equipment inoperable” at nearly all those sites, UN spokesman Martin Nesirky quoted the mission as saying at a news briefing.

The UN Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution on 27 September to rid Syria of its chemical weapons program under its line ever for the mandate.

In response to a question on a UN trust fund that is being set up to help finance the joint mission in Syria, Nesirky said that there are discussions with a number of donors, but no contributions have been received so far.

“At this stage, planning is in full swing for the joint mission,” the spokesman said.—Xinhua

Rampant Ronaldo shoots down 10-man Juve

MADRID, 24 Oct —Cristiano Ronaldo continued his blistering start to Real Madrid’s Champions League campaign when he struck twice in a 2-1 win at home to 10-man Juventus on Tuesday that put Real firmly in charge of Group B.

The Portuguese forward’s double took his goal tally in Europe’s elite club competition to seven in three appearances this season, only the second player to achieve the feat after AC Milan’s Filippo Inzaghi.

Ronaldo, who has also been on prolific form in La Liga, put Real ahead on 18 minutes in the 22nd minute before the referee ruled Giorgio Chiellini had impeded Sergio Ramos in the penalty area and Ronaldo put away the 29th-minute spot kick. Italy centre back Chiellini had a night to forget as he was shown a straight red card three minutes into the second half when he checked Ronaldo’s running right with a flailing arm and Juve hardly threatened Real’s goal for the rest of the game.

Real, seeking the 10th European crown that has eluded them since 2001, hit the group with a perfect nine points with three games to play, from first to last in four points after they thumped bottom-placed FC Copenhagen 3-1 in Istanbul.

Juve are three points on top and the Italian champions are in real danger of failing to make the last 16 with their next game at home to Real looming on 5 November.

“We have taken a very important step towards securing qualification,” Real captain Iker Casillas said on UEFA.com. “It wasn’t easy but we have taken the first step, getting nine points from three matches,” added the Spain keeper. “We have to turn now and at least avoid defeat.”

Ronaldo’s brace lifted him above former Real and Manchester United striker Ruud van Nistelrooy into third on the all-time list of Champions League top scorers with 57 goals.

Unsurprisingly, only the second player to achieve the feat after AC Milan’s Filippo Inzaghi.

Real Madrid’s Cristiano Ronaldo (L) scores a penalty past Juventus’ goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon during their Champions League soccer match at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on 23 Oct, 2013.—Reuters

Only Barcelona forward Lionel Messi with 63 and Raul, another ex-Real forward, with 71 are ahead of the 28-year-old.

There was no place in the Real starting lineup for Gareth Bale, who succeeded Ronaldo as the world’s most expensive player in the close season.

Coach Carlo Ancelotti deployed in-form Angel Di Maria on the right despite Bale’s return to action after injury as a second-half substitute against Malaga at the weekend. The 100 million-euro Wales winger replaced Karim Benzema with just over 20 minutes left but failed to make much of an impact and did not manage to complete a single pass.—Reuters
Meeting on road-map for Rakhine State rehabilitation held

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Oct—The Central Committee for Rakhine State Peace, Stability and Development Implementation held a meeting at the Presidential Palace here this afternoon, attended by Chairman of the Central Committee for Rakhine State Peace, Stability and Development Implementation Vice-President Dr Sai Maik Khamb.

In his speech, the Vice-President said that there are two purposes of holding the meeting. The first one is that a meeting between Rakhine nationals and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker was held in Yangon on 29 September, 2013. Then, the Speaker sent a message on Rakhine nationals’ suggestions to the President. The Central Committee needs to hold the meeting on the road-map for Rakhine State rehabilitation so as to provide necessary assistance.

Six work committees were formed under the Central Committee. Members from the work committees went to Sittway on the basis of 10 days per group. The Rakhine State sees more progress. He urged those present to give advice on the road-map.

Later, Work Committee Chairmen Union Ministers and Region Ministers reported on security, peace, stability and the rule of law, cooperation with UN and international organizations, resettlement and rehabilitation and socio-economic development.

After that, Central Committee Secretary and those present also discussed the roadmap for Rakhine State rehabilitation and regional peace and stability. The meeting came to an end. In his concluding remark, the Vice-President expressed his belief that more work progress would be seen due to all participation in the discussion.

Since June, 2012 when the conflict erupted, 19 organizations—six UN agencies, 12 INGOs and one local NGO—have been providing necessary assistance to the victims there. Rakhine Response Plan needs 109.3 million USD, and 79.49 million USD received for the plan has been spent on 109 projects.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw puts temporary halt on change of plan of building natural gas turbine from Mawlamyine to Kyaukpyu

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Oct—With the aim of creating a win-win situation in electrification, benefiting both Mon and Rakhine States, a message sent by the President to change the already-approved plan of building a 50-megawatt natural gas turbine from Mawlamyine to Kyaukpyu in Rakhine State was temporarily suspended at the fifth-day Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session today. The power plant will be built with the use of USD 57.1 million from the loan of EXIM Bank of China.

Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe explained the message that more than 500,000 households in Rakhine State are far beyond the reach of national power grid and only have access to electricity through other power sources. As plans are already arranged to generate more electricity for Mawlamyine and nearby regions and 20 million cubic feet of natural gas are available from Shwe offshore gas field for Kyaukpyu region, the plan of building a power plant should be moved to Rakhine State.

Regarding the message, Dr Bunyaung Aung Mo of Mon State Constituency No (7) pointed out that the reputation of Mon State government and representatives would be affected due to the change of plan.

U Kyi Tha of Gwa Constituency expressed his view that no impact will be come out of the change of plan. It is appropriate to see it from the point of view nationally.

Next, the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw sought the approval of Hluttaw for ensuring genuine peace in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Then, the Joint Bill Committee submitted a report on the additional budget allocation bill of the Union for 2013-2014 to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The sixth-day session continues tomorrow.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s announcement on ensuring genuine peace in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

YANGON, 24 Oct—Pyidaungsu Hluttaw released an Announcement No. (2/2013) today. The announcement is as follow:-

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw
Announcement No. (2/2013)
5th Waning of Thadingyut, 1375 ME
(24 October, 2013)

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s announcement on ensuring genuine peace in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

1. Announcement No. (1/2013) of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on ensuring peace, the rule of law and amity and friendship among citizens had already been released on 31 July 2013.

2. Presently, not only the entire people but also the world nations and international organizations including the United Nations are encouraging the peace process paving the way for moving towards genuine peace and stability and the rule of law in the Union which is imperative for the success of the reform process of the government.

3. Hluttaw formed the committee for national races affairs and peace-making since its inception and the committee is taking part in the peace process. Likewise, the committee for fundamental rights of the citizens, democracy and human rights was also formed and its functions are in progress. Moreover, works are underway to enact a law for protection of the rights of national races to be able to assist the peace process and a joint committee for reviewing the Constitution is seriously taking into account national unity and reconciliation.

4. Peace and stability and the rule of law are essential prerequisites for democratization and development of the country.

(See page 9)

Upgrade of Yangon-Mandalay railroad can halve travel time

Yangon-Mandalay railroad is going to be upgraded with the assistance of Japan. In doing so, it needs to hear the voices of local people along the railway at a time when the country is pursuing people-centered approach. In that regard, officials from Myanmar Railways, Transport Department, Environmental Conservation Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Royal Tree Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Royal Tree Cooperation Agency showed their willingness to engage in the rehabilitation of the railway system.

Byline: Maung Maung Myint Swe
Photo: Tin Soe (MMAL)