President U Thein Sein Felicitates Federal President, Federal Chancellor of Austria

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Oct—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Dr. Heinz Fischer, Federal President of the Republic of Austria and His Excellency Mr. Werner Faymann, Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Austria, which falls on 26 October 2013.

MNA

Music fair commemorates 40th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation

Photographers are seen during the opening ceremony of the Photo Beijing 2013 at the China Millennium Monument in Beijing, capital of China, on 24 Oct, 2013. The Photo Beijing 2013 kicked off on Thursday, offering photographers, curators and artists a platform of communication and cooperation. —XINHUA
Track & Field athletes pour out efforts in Test Match 2013

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Oct—The Pre-SEA Games Track & Field Test Match continued for the second day at Wunna Theikdu Training Ground, here, as of 22 October.

Lin Zeyar Naung emerged champion in men’s 100-m race, Thei Zaw Win in 400-m race, Kyaw Swe Moe in javelin, Tun Tun Lin in pole vault, Kay Khaing Lwin in women’s 100-m race, Yin Yin Khang in 400-m race, Soe Soe Hwe in javelin, Myanmar Myint Wai in long jump and Hnin Yi Wai in pole vault event.

Hnin Yi Wai set new record with 3.27 metres in pole vault event by breaking the old record with 3.26 metres by Nay Nav in 2005. A total of 130 athletes including tentatively selected players participated in the test match covering 46 events of track and field to be included in the XXVII SEA Games.

Stimulant tablets seized in Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 25 Oct—Members of Mandalay and Meiktila District Special Anti-Drug Squads together with witnesses on 22 October raided the house of Ma Aye Aye Win in Region 5 of Kyidawgon Ward in Meiktila and seized 193 stimulant tablets weighing 19.3 grams and K 100,000 believed to be proceeds of illegal commodities.

According to the investigation, she confessed that she bought the stimulant tablets from Ko Maung Oo of Kyekhaung on 22 October.

They performed their tasks to check on exportation and importation of commodities with the licences, protection of consumers, trade promotion and minimizing illegal trading.

Train derailment at entrance to Kyakme

KYAUKME, 25 Oct—Five coaches of the train heading for Lashio from Mandalay derailed between mile posts 489/11-13 at the entrance to Kyakme Station on 23 October afternoon.

The train was steered by locomotive driver U Than Lwin and U Tun Aung Kyaw together with guard U Aye. Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Tin Htat and party, Kyakme Station superintendent U San Win Bo and local authorities carried out resumption of transport for the passengers.

Officials have reported to the superior for trans-por-tation.

Sanitation

Toyota Surf plunges into drain

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Oct—A Toyota Hilux Surf plunged into the drain in front of Ministry of Communications and Information Technology on 22 October afternoon.

The vehicle plunged off the road coming from the Yaizabati Roundabout and caused accident. In the incident, there was no injury.

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Obama calls on US Congress to move forward immigration reform this year

WASHINGTON, 25 Oct—President Barack Obama on Friday approved a bill to toughen penalties on civil servants, lawmakers and others who leak national secrets and harm national security, amid criticism that it will lead to tighter government control of information.

The legislation is designed to protect confidential information, which Abe has said is “a prerequisite” for Japan to win the trust of and share intelligence with other countries.

The government hopes to pass the bill during the current extraordinary Diet session through 6 December, in time for the planned launch of a Japanese version of the National Security Council to better respond to security threats around Japan.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said preparing a legal framework for protecting state secrets is “an urgent matter” for Japan.

“We will strive to achieve early passage of the bill” through the Diet, the government’s top spokesman said at a Press conference.

Under the new secrecy law, leakers of “special secrets”—information concerning foreign and defense policy as well as spying and terrorist activities—will face up to 10 years in prison. Individuals who abet leaks could get five-year terms.

“Special secrets,” to be designated by an administrative agency chief, would remain for up to 30 years, and the duration could be extended with Cabinet approval.

Information likely to be labeled “special secrets” includes the number and capability of weapons, ammunition and aircraft, as well as defense codes and details of negotiations with foreign governments, according to the bill.

Experts have expressed concern that the proposed law grants the government the authority to decide at its own discretion what are “special secrets,” thus strengthening its control of information since the legitimacy of those designations would not be verified by a third party.

In the run-up to Friday’s Cabinet approval, the government was forced to revise the bill to include provisions that give “utmost considerations” to citizens’ right to know and freedom of the press, at the request of the New Komeito party, the coalition partner of Abe’s Liberal Democratic Party. Still, it is “an obligation to make efforts” to take account of the freedom of the press, rather than a binding requirement, prompting some experts to argue civil servants would be discouraged from talking to journalists, thus compromising citizens’ right to know.

The main opposition Democratic Party of Japan on Friday submitted a bill to revise the freedom of information act to the Diet, with the aim of protecting the public’s right to know.

The revision would enable courts to judge whether it is legitimate for administrative bodies to withhold official documents.

Japan’s Cabinet approves bill to toughen penalties for secret leakers

WASHINGTON, 25 Oct—Months after the US military was hit with a $37 billion budget cut that threw it into turmoil and confusion, the Pentagon is headed into the new fiscal year facing a similar threat that could have even more devastating consequences, officials say.

The budget deal that ended the government shutdown this month let the Pentagon continue spending at an annualized level of $496 billion in the 2014 fiscal year that began on 1 October.

That is about $31 billion below what President Barack Obama requested for 2014, but about $21 billion above the caps set by the Budget Control Act of 2011, meaning the Pentagon faces another across-the-board cut unless Congress reaches a new spending deal that changes the law by mid-January.

And the situation could get worse. Under the 2011 budget act, defence spending is expected to begin growing again in 2015. But a top defence budget analyst said on Thursday that based on historical trends from previous military cutbacks, Pentagon spending could shrink to as low as $415 billion.

Todd Harrison, an analyst at the Centre for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments think tank, said a drop of that magnitude would force a huge cut in the size of the military, cause the cancellation of many weapons programmes and lead many defence companies to go out of business.

“This would be, you know, catastrophic, if you will, for a lot of procurement programmes.

There would be a lot of glass on the floor at the end of this. You’d break a lot of things,” he told reporters at a briefing on the 2014 defence budget.

Explosion at candy factory in north Mexico kills one, injures dozens

CRUZ Juarez, Mexico, 25 Oct.—A boiler exploded at a candy factory in northern Mexico on Thursday, killing one person, injuring dozens and badly damaging the building, officials said.

They said at least one person was killed in the blast at the factory which is located in an industrial park at Ciudad Juarez, a large city on the US border.

“We’re still searching the area to see if there are any more dead,” said Fernando Motta, head of the city’s emergency services.

He said 11 people were badly injured, four of whom were in critical condition. Thirty people were treated for minor injuries, he said.

A second official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said around 20 people who worked at the plant were unaccounted for. It was unclear if they were in the building at the time of the blast.
New China H7N9 strain gives kick to mutant bird flu research

Astronomers discover most distant galaxy yet

Samsung Electronics apologizes to China consumers for mobile phone glitches

HP seeking buyers for mobile patents

AT&T profit beats Street on solid wireless growth

The company logo is displayed at the Samsung news conference at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas on 09 January 2013.— Reuters
Caretakers in need of counseling

BEIJING, 25 Oct — Many people working in the public welfare industry often face the threat of “occupational burnout” because of the high-intensity emotional investment, which is one of the reasons why they quit their jobs. Their work means they often face tremendous pressure and mental stress as they try to help disadvantaged groups.

“Our staff often feel mentally and physically drained,” said Zhang Wen, executive director of the Children’s Hope Foundation, which was established in 2010 to provide assistance for orphans and disabled children. Zhang said the work, often emotionally charged, can be challenging.

“We play the role of a giver at work. However, when we see children in danger and their distraught parents, we can be easily heartbroken and depressed.” Even though they try their best to provide assistance to those in need, the workers are often underappreciated by society. Moreover, the working hours are arbitrary and overtime is common, she said. The nature of the charity sector is to improve the lives of others and society in general but the balance between family and work is not easily achieved. According to a report focusing on hospice workers in the United Kingdom, 30 to 40 percent experienced burnout and planned to leave.

Wu Fei, a program officer from Maple, a women’s psychological counseling centre, said there are less than 15 people at the center, but five of them have left recently and two said they will go part-time in a few months.

“We submitted a little time with her child and needed to work on the weekends. Zhang said the low salary is another reason for the high turnover. “In our organization, about a quarter quit their jobs in a year.” Ordinarily they earn 3,000 yuan ($500) to 4,000 yuan each month. “I think people who are really willing to work in an NGO for a long time should have a selfless devotion to duty, even, possibly, a heroic determination.”

Chu Ying, a researcher with Tsinghua University’s NGO Research Centre, said occupational burnout is common. “Professional psychologists or psychiatrists are needed to give psychological counseling to the people working in the public welfare industry. Furthermore, the employers should rotate work regularly.”

Chu recognized that the salary and lack of professional prospects are also a factor. “The salary is quite low even in first-tier cities. For instance, middle managers at some large NGO in Beijing only earn about 5,000 yuan each month,” Chu said. More and more NGOs are taking note and starting to provide working guidelines.

New York State acts to protect baby boomers from Hepatitis C

NEW YORK, 25 Oct — Hospitals and health service providers in New York State will be required to offer a hepatitis C screening test or diagnostic test for baby boomers born between 1945 and 1965.

The move aims to better protect baby boomers from Hepatitis C, an infectious disease affecting the liver, according to a new law signed on Wednesday by New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo. Hepatitis C is a debilitating and potentially fatal disease that disproportionately affects the baby boomer generation in New York and nationwide, Cuomo said.

“This new law will help fight Hepatitis C and keep New Yorkers safe by providing testing to those most likely to have this virus whenever they visit a medical facility.”

US arms makers post higher profit, decry budget cloudiness

WASHINGTON, 25 Oct — Major US weapons makers posted higher third-quarter profit on Wednesday despite budget cuts, their margins remained largely solid or rose in places, and revenue fell less than expected. But executives at the top four weapons makers—Lockheed Martin Corp (LMT.N), Boeing Co (BA.N), Northrop Grumman Corp (NOC.N)—said the outlook remains hazy given lingering uncertainty over defence budgets in the United States and abroad. Raytheon Co (RTN.N) is due to report earnings on Thursday. The companies say they are weathering the initial stages of the downturn in military spending thanks to aggressive cost-cutting, workforce reductions and facility closures, and a sharper focus on executing contracts on time and on budget. All the major players expect lower revenues and mounting pressure on margins unless Congress reverses a law that would cut Pentagon spending by $500 billion on top of $487 billion in cuts already planned for the next decade. Phebe Novakovic, chief executive of General Dynamics, which builds US Navy warships, combat vehicles and Gulfstream business jets, told analysts that the political brinkmanship over the US debt ceiling and the recent government shutdown were sobering reminders that companies need to be cautious and hold on to cash.

“The government took the nation to the edge on the debt ceiling extension. We were forced to gaze into the abyss where we saw the full faith and credit of our principal customer at risk,” Novakovic, chief executive of General Dynamics, which builds US Navy warships, combat vehicles and Gulfstream business jets, told analysts that the political brinkmanship over the US debt ceiling and the recent government shutdown were sobering reminders that companies need to be cautious and hold on to cash. “It’s entirely possible that we find ourselves in an extended period of time trapped in Dante’s first circle of hell,” she said.
253 students ill from suspected food poisoning

HORSHAM, 25 Oct — A total of 253 students and two teachers fell ill from suspected food poisoning on Thursday in north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, authorities said on Friday.

The victims are being treated in hospital and are improving, said a Baotou city government spokesman.

The victims from Hui People Middle School in Baotou complained of stomach ache and vomiting around 3:30 pm after having lunch in the school dining hall.

Around 3,000 students had lunch, and pupils who got their meals from the same counter became sick. The school has six different meal counters.

Kitchen workers from the counter are in police custody.

In the city’s Donghe district, the school has more than 4,000 junior and senior middle school students, most of whom are ethnic Han.

China, Australia launch joint graduate school

NANJING, 25 Oct — China’s Southeast University and Australia’s Monash University have officially opened a joint graduate school in the eastern city of Suzhou, Jiangsu Province.

The Southeast University-Monash University Joint Graduate School is the first sino-foreign graduate facility approved by the Chinese Ministry of Education. The school is committed to providing quality graduate education with global standards and carrying out top-level joint research, said Yi Hong, president of Southeast University, at the launch ceremony on Thursday.

The school will be complemented by a joint research institute to conduct multi-disciplinary projects on nanotechnology, bio-informatics, water, energy and new materials.

A 60,000-square-metre building that houses the school with cutting-edge facilities to support education and future research activities was also officially opened on Thursday.

Japan, US eye Vice President Biden’s visit to Tokyo in early December

TOKYO, 25 Oct — US Vice President Joseph Biden is expected to visit Japan in early December for talks with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on economic and defence cooperation, a Japanese government source said on Friday.

Biden had originally planned to make a tour to Asia nations in this autumn but was forced to reconsider the plan due to the partial government shutdown in Washington over a budget impasse that ended earlier this month, the source said.

Abe and Biden are likely to share the goal of successfully concluding as early as possible the ongoing negotiations for a Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade accord.

The 12 TPP members, also involving such countries as Singapore, Australia and Mexico, have sought to reach a broad agreement within the year.

The two leaders will also exchange views on security environment in Northeast Asia, where Japan has faced tensions over a territorial row with China and threats from North Korea’s nuclear and missile development programs.

Biden’s tour is set to follow a series of cancellations by President Barack Obama of regional and bilateral summits earlier this month, after he opted to stay in Washington to handle the government closure, which some analysts warned could weaken US influence in the region.

Shooting confirmed on Navy property in US state of Tennessee

WASHINGTON, 25 Oct — A shooting incident occurred on Thursday at a Navy property in Millington, the US state of Tennessee, wounding two people, the US Navy confirmed.

In a statement, the US Navy said the incident occurred on Thursday on a Navy property in Millington, the US state of Tennessee.

A Mid-South National Guard personnel responded to the incident.

The US Navy and Millington Police Department personnel worked with local law enforcement to investigate the incident.

Firefighters gain upper hand in battle against Australia’s Blue Mountains bushfires

SYDNEY, 25 Oct — Australia’s Blue Mountains bushfires were continuing to get the upper hand in battling three bushfires in the Blue Mountains, local media reported on Friday.

The NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) said it may take weeks for crews to fully extinguish the Blue Mountains fires.

Three “Watch and Act” alerts remain in place for the fires burning at Springwood, Mt. Victoria and Lithgow. The fires in the Blue Mountains have burnt through nearly 60,000 hectares of bushland so far.

As NSW bushfire crisis enters its ninth day, a total of 57 bushfires are still burning across the state, with 20 of them uncontained.

The RFS says firefighters are taking advantage of cooler temperatures to strengthen containment lines.

“The threat is continuing to ease but we’re still asking people to be vigilant because there is such a large amount of fires still active,” an RFS spokeswoman told the Australian Associated Press (AAP).

Injured people receive medical treatment at a hospital in southwest Pakistan’s Quetta on 24 Oct, 2013. At least 10 people were injured when a car crashed with a bus on the outskirts of Quetta on Thursday, local media reported. —Xinhua

A fireman works at the fire scene in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on 24 Oct, 2013. A big fire broke out at a large rubber dumpsite on Thursday and no casualties were reported. —Xinhua

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh delivers a speech at the Party School of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee in Beijing, capital of China, on 24 Oct, 2013. —Xinhua

The US Marine Corps invites journalists to take a look at MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft at the US Marine air station in Iwakuni, Yamaguchi Prefecture on 24 Oct, 2013. —Kyodo News

Injured people receive medical treatment at a hospital in southwest Pakistan’s Quetta on 24 Oct, 2013. At least 10 people were injured when a car crashed with a bus on the outskirts of Quetta on Thursday, local media reported. —Xinhua

People Middle School in Baotou complained of stomach ache and vomiting around 3:30 pm after having lunch in the school dining hall.
Taking census discussed in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Oct—A ceremony to clarify taking census in eight townships of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area was held at Zabuthiri Beikman Hall in Nay Pyi Taw Council Office on 20 October afternoon.

Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Win Myint, Secretary of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Maung Maung Than, member Col Myint Aung Than and officials, Deputy Head of Region Immigration and National Registration Department U Nay Win, departmental officials of eight townships, ward and village administrators, the chairman of census committee and members, and NGO members.

Secretary of Central Census Supervisory Commission Deputy Minister U Win Myint made a speech and explained matters related to taking census in detail.

Gold foil industry in Mandalay booming in cold season

Mandalay, 25 Oct—Gold foil production, a traditional industry in Mandalay, is booming in cold season and attracting tourists.

As cold season is a time to offer gold foils to the pagodas across the nation through tender, gold foil production is on high demand, said Daw Thein Thein Win of Shwe Lamin Gold Foil Industry.

“Tenders were invited for offering gold foils to Shwedagon, Kyakhtiyoe Pagodas and Maha Muni Buddha Image. Especially, Maha Muni Buddha Image invites tender for gold foils this year. The high demand size of the gold foil is in two square inches. Gold foils are fixed at prices depending on over K 30000 per 100 sheets of gold foil,” she said. The workers have to take at least one year for production of gold foils. The workers can earn K 400 per one packet of gold foil. Every worker can do 5-6 packets of gold foils a day and the skilled workers, 10 packets a day.

“Gold foils are made in Myetpa Ward of Mandalay in its tradition. Before starting the work, most of the entrepreneurs paid respects to the traditional gods. During working hour, five hours per one packet of gold foil can be made, the workers start their works as of 4 am daily,” said U Nyunt Hsan, gold foil maker.

Significantly, gold foil production can be undertaken in Myetpa Ward between 77th and 80th streets and 35th and 37th streets due to its tradition.

The clarification on taking census 2014 was made at the hall in Kyaukme on 22 October morning, attended by about 600 people. Deputy Head of Kyaukme District Immigration and National Registration Department U Kyaw Kyaw explains taking census.—MYANNA ALINN

Myanmar boxers to take part in muay event of SEA Games

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Oct—Myanmar boxers have much prospects to hope gold medals in the boxing event of the XXVII SEA Games to be hosted by Myanmar, said Secretary of Myanmar Boxing Federation U Tin Hlaing.

“Our boxers are under training at Nay Pyi Taw Gold Camp for securing gold medals. We have planned to take joint training abroad before the SEA Games. Now, they are taking training in Nay Pyi Taw. As Myanmar is a host nation, our federation hopes one or two gold medals in both men or women event,” he continued.

In the SEA Games, the boxing event will be classified into eight classes for men and six for women. The boxing matches will be held through point system like that of muay event. Muay event based in traditional boxing and international boxing events will be included in the SEA Games. So, Myanmar traditional boxers are in training to take part in the events. The boxing events will be staged from 8 to 15 December at Wunna Theikdhi Sports Complex.—MMAL-Maung Maung Hlaing

Talks on taking census given
PWINBYU, 25 Oct—Talks on taking census was held at the hall of General Administration Department in Pwintbyu on 22 October. After Township Administrator U Thein Myint made a speech, Staff Officer U Myint Sein of Township Immigration and National Registration Department U Myint Sein gave talks on taking census.

Medicines donated for SEA Games

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Oct—As medical assistance for the athletes who are taking training for the SEA Games, Chairman of Myanmar Badminton Federation U Maung Maung Swe (Great Wall Asia Construction Co) donated 300 pieces of Diclo-Denk 75 Injection at Wunna Theikdhi Gymnasium C Complex of Nay Pyi Taw on 22 October. Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Htaiak accepted the donations.

Next, the deputy minister enjoyed competition in the second day of the Pre-SEA Games Badminton Test Match.

Take Fire Preventive Measures

At the invitation of Seoul-based Honhoo Welfare Foundation of the Republic of Korea, a delegation led by U Myat Oo, Chairman of Myanmar Disabilities Association left here by air for the Republic of Korea. The delegation members seen at Yangon International Airport before their departure on 20 October.—MYANNA ALINN
NATIONAL

Myanmar, Indian entrepreneurs association marks reception on eve of Deepavali Day

Myanmar delegation visits WATEC 2013-Israel

Moderate quake hits outside Myanmar

Six-hour power cuts in some Yangon townships

PERSPECTIVES
Toward better economic performance

From Stone Age to this age of IT, human evolution has never parted from invention and innovation. Inventors and innovators have been the pioneers along the course of evolutionary path and societies with many groundbreakers tend to develop faster than the others. Lack of innovation has ever been a major hindrance to development of Myanmar which is lagging behind the rest of Asia despite sitting on abundant natural resources. Often, we are too unwilling to explore the new paths or in other words disinclined to take risk in doing business.

It has been a deep-rooted tradition in Myanmar that once a business begins to thrive, many others enter the market. But most of the time, newcomers fail to embark on innovation and expand their businesses. It is fundamentally the ideas with which a business is run and unfortunately many businessmen here fail to notice it.

Today, we need undoubtedly to work hard to be able to catch up with our neighbours. Working hard in robotic manner is not the solution; we need to work smart using our brains thinking out of box.

While Myanmar’s economy still belongs to primary industry, we have to concede the lion’s share of the output of our natural resources to foreign companies because of a lack in human, physical and financial capital required to exploit them.

Developing economies which have abundant and cheap workforce, in practicing export promotion policy, tend to start with developing labour extensive industry, for example, textile industry. However, the CMP industry here has yet to come a long way as expected. There have been industrial disputes and age-old problem of daily power cuts for the government to handle.

Meanwhile, classy banking system is a must to boost international trade. Stable inflation rate, balanced budget, foreign trade and exchange rate are requisite for the stability of the macro economy. We hope all the developments will be combined with proper management and right decisions to bring fortunes to Myanmar people.
Meeting on steady progress of capital market development toward Myanmar stock exchange discussed

YANGON, 25 Oct—Jointly organized by Ministry of Finance and Daitowa Institute of Policy Research Institute, Japan Exchange Group of Policy Research Institute, Ministry of Finance, Japan, a meeting on steady progress of capital market development toward startup of Myanmar stock exchange in 2015 was held at Park Royal Hotel, here, this morning including prominent speakers of Japan and Europe. Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Maung Maung Thien and President of Policy Research Institute, Ministry of Finance, Japan Mr Hiroshi NAKAHARA extended greetings. The deputy minister expressed his thanks to Japan government and scholars from Japan for development of monetary law in Myanmar. He also expressed his belief that the development of monetary sector is directly proportional to development of the nation and the stock exchange market would be implemented in 2015 when the conditions favour. Moreover, he said treasury bonds laws are being discussed by experts at the moment and therefore the monetary jobs will be developed soon.

The president of Policy Research Institute said he would try to create better monetary sector in Myanmar, to cooperate experts to create monetary human resources and to discuss detailed plans to come out security exchange law, security exchange market and exchange company. Only when the monetary sector blooms, will the nation develop, he added.

The prominent speakers from monetary departments of Japan participated in the discussion and those present asked questions. The draft of SE Law was published in government daily newspaper in August, 2012 in order to develop monetary works in Myanmar. In 2013, meetings on monetary sectors and signing MoU was carried out. Efforts are being made to come out stock exchange market and public companies now.—Segonaut

Ambassadors from ASEAN countries observe preparations for 27th SEA Games

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Oct—The ambassadors from ASEAN member countries led by the Burmese ambassador to Myanmar arrived at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw to observe preparations for holding 27th SEA Games where they were conducted round by Deputy Minister for Sports U Zaw Win yesterday afternoon.

The respective committee members made clarifications on the queries of the delegation

Ambassadors from ASEAN countries observing preparations for 27th SEA Games.

Air Services Consultation between Myanmar and Japan held

(Yair Talks), Civil Aviation Bureau under the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of Japan.

After the consultations, the two sides signed a Record of Discussions comprising provisions with regard to traffic rights, routes rights and code sharing arrangements for the designated air lines of both countries.

According to the Record of Discussions, a designated airline of each country may operate scheduled air services between Myanmar and Japan without limitation on frequency, capacity and aircraft type. After making necessary amendments to the Air Services Agreement between the two countries, more designated airlines will have opportunities to operate those services.

ASEAN shooting teams perform controlled practice

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Oct—Participants from ASEAN countries who are going to partake in the 23rd ASEAN Armies Shooting Contest to be hosted by Myanmar performed controlled practice at Tatmadaw Shooting Range (PyinOoLwin) on 24-25 October.

At 100-meter shooting range, Men’s pistol and Women’s pistol shooting were practiced, carbide shooting at 200-meter shooting and rifle and machine gun shootings at 600-meter shooting range.
Seikkantha Bridge substituted with temporary one in Kalay

KALAY, 25 Oct—Seikkantha Bridge linking Bogyoke Road and Pinlon Lamnada Road in Kalay was damaged by floods at the end of September. At present, the temporary bridge has been built for convenient travelling of students from Basic Education High School No 3 and local people. New wooden bridge, six feet and 116 feet long, was built by Kanbawza Ban of Kalay, spending over 3.9 million kyats.

Kyemon-Ja Nine

Older persons receive health care with traditional medicines

NYAUNG U LBIN, 25 Oct—The healthcare services were given to older persons from the Home for the Aged on Setyo Road in Ward 1 of Nyaung U Township in Bago Region.

Head of Nyaung U Township Traditional Medicine Department Daw Yi Yi Win and staff, Saya U Aye Shwe of Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Council (Central) and Saya U Htay Win of Nyaung U Township Traditional Medicine Department provided health care services to the older persons.

From 20 May 2011 to date, the traditional medicine practitioners have been providing health care to the aged twice a month, explained Head of Nyaung U Township Traditional Medicine Department Daw Yi Yi Win.

“As older persons from the home are facing health in bad condition due to older age, they need to receive health care services. Thus, officials of the Traditional Medicine Department and doctors give health care to them,” said a responsible person of the home.

A grandma said that they are pleased for health care services free of charge by health officials.

Crime

Illegal sawn timber seized in Sagaing

SAGAING, 25 Oct—Assistant Director U Thant Zin-2 of Sagaing District Forest Department, Staff Officer U Kyaw Kyaw Oo of Township Forest Department, Foresters U Win Naing and U Myo Naing, Rangers U Than Zaw, U Nyunt Win Tun and U Kyaw Min Naing together with police squad led by Police Major Tin Aung Kyaw and local authorities discharged duty of searching illegal timber in the Railways Ward of Sagaing on 22 October.

They saw pieces of illegal sawn teak timber and Tamalan timber from Nissan vehicle driven by U Saw Naung Naung and conductor U Kyaw Soe from Madaya Township near Tezawtayon Monastery of Sagaing.

The seized timber pieces were 0.8746 tons of teak timber, 2.5372 tons of Tamalan and nine Tamalan logs weighing 0.3030 ton.

The seized timbers were kept in the compound of Podan Forest Office.
Thailand to raise airport tax

BANGKOK, 25 Oct — The Airports of Thailand (AoT) board of directors has agreed on the need to raise the airport departure tax for both domestic and international passengers by 100 baht (about 3 US dollars), AoT Chairman Sita Divarat said on Thursday.

The departure tax for domestic flights would rise from 100 baht to 200 baht, and from 700 baht to 800 baht for international flights, Sita said.

The increase still needs final approval from aviation and transport authorities.

The new fees would apply at all airports operated by AoT when approved.

The latest attack on tourists’ wallets comes on top of the government’s move to charge foreigners a 500-baht entry and land border crossings.

Tourists’ wallets comes on Thursday when approved. The AoT board of directors agreed to apply at all airports operated by AoT, Sita said.

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Aquino warns of disease outbreak in quake-hit C Philippines

MANILA, 25 Oct — Philippine President Benigno S Aquino III warned on Thursday of a possible disease outbreak in central Philippine Province of Bohol if the earthquake-displaced families there would continue to stay in evacuation centers.

Aquino, who again visited the most quake-devastated province and stayed there overnight, ordered the concerned government agencies to speed up rebuilding efforts that will enable displaced residents to return to their homes the soonest possible time.

The displaced victims of the quake would be exposed to harm with their prolonged stay in the tents, said Aquino, while admitting that he was concerned that an outbreak of disease could take place.

“When you’re inside the tent, you’re exposed to all kinds of element,” he said, adding that he did not want another problem to arise.

Aquino warned of disease outbreak in quake-hit C Philippines

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Tourists’ wallets comes on Thursday when approved. The AoT board of directors agreed to apply at all airports operated by AoT, Sita said.

Aquino warns of disease outbreak in quake-hit C Philippines

MANILA, 25 Oct — Philippine President Benigno S Aquino III warned on Thursday of a possible disease outbreak in central Philippine Province of Bohol if the earthquake-displaced families there would continue to stay in evacuation centers.

Aquino, who again visited the most quake-devastated province and stayed there overnight, ordered the concerned government agencies to speed up rebuilding efforts that will enable displaced residents to return to their homes the soonest possible time.

The displaced victims of the quake would be exposed to harm with their prolonged stay in the tents, said Aquino, while admitting that he was concerned that an outbreak of disease could take place.

“When you’re inside the tent, you’re exposed to all kinds of element,” he said, adding that he did not want another problem to arise.

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Japan to set goal for future energy mix in three years

Tokyo, 25 Oct — Industry minister Toshimitsu Motegi said on Friday the government will set a goal for Japan’s future energy mix in three years’ time, taking account the amount of renewable energy available and the number of nuclear reactors in service.

“We will set a goal for the best energy mix in three years and establish it in 10 years,” the economy, trade and industry minister told a Press conference.

He said he will consider moving up the schedule for setting the target if possible.

The government is in the process of crafting a medium-to long-term energy plan that reflects the situation after the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster in 2011, which has raised concerns over the use of atomic power.

Industry ministry officials have already indicated that specific percentages for energy composition, such as nuclear power, will not be included in the plan to be compiled by the end of the year, apparently because of the difficulty of foreseeing the country’s future dependence on nuclear energy at the moment.

All 50 commercial reactors in Japan are offline and are required to clear a set of safety requirements introduced in July to resume operating. Because of the new regulations, utilities could be forced to shut down some reactors permanently.

The government is legally required to review the so-called Basic Energy Plan at least every three years by taking into consideration changes in the energy situation.

The previous plan compiled in 2010 aimed to boost the nation’s reliance on nuclear power to some 50 percent of its energy needs in 2030 from around 30 percent before the disaster.

Sri Lanka to open second Chinese funded highway

COLOMBO, 25 Oct—Sri Lanka’s President Mahinda Rajapaksa will open the country’s second highway built with Chinese funding this weekend ahead of a crucial Commonwealth summit, the President’s Office said here on Thursday.

President’s Office confirmed to Xinhua that President Rajapaksa will declare the highway open on Sunday morning amidst much celebrating. The new expressway will cut travel time from the airport to the capital’s outer limits to less than 20 minutes.

The highway has been opened to the public since Tuesday allowing large numbers of youth and school children to stroll along the empty tarmac.

Several events have been organized in the run up to the opening including bicycle races and concerts. For the first time in Sri Lanka an elephant race was also staged near the starting point of the highway as the ruling party looks to get the most publicity out of the 292 million US dollar highway.

The highway is funded by the Chinese government through a loan from the China Export Import Bank (EXIM). It was begun in August 2009 and was expected to be opened in July 2013.

However despite delays the government was determined that it should be opened ahead of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) hosted by Sri Lanka next month.

Most of the heads of State from the 53 Commonwealth countries will now use this highway to reach Colombo for the most important summit of the bloc to be held in Sri Lanka on 10-17 November.

Since Sri Lanka ended a 30 year war in 2009, China emerged as the island’s largest loan provider with 1.2 billion US dollars in loans in 2009 and 821 million US dollars in 2010. In 2011 the amount fell to 784.7 million US dollars, but China remains involved in almost all the large scale projects taking place, according to the Finance Ministry.

Some of the biggest projects include a 1.3 billion US dollar coal power plant on the north western shore as well as a host of other investments in the south of the country that are estimated to exceed 4 billion US dollars, including a 1.2 billion dollar harbor.

China was also one of the funders for the Southern expressway, which was Sri Lanka’s first highway declared open in 2011.
Italian household wealth solid, needs more efficient management

Milan, 25 Oct—Italian households remain sound from a patrimonial point of view in spite of the economic crisis, but a more efficient management of wealth would make a vital contribution to stabilizing household incomes, a study showed on Thursday.

According to the second UniCredit-Pioneer Investments Savings Observatory Report, presented by a panel of experts in Milan, the savings rate of Italian families is expected to slightly improve in 2013 from 8.4 percent in 2012 to 8.9 percent.

The study said recession-hit households were gradually regaining their confidence and resources, after savings per household, which stood at 6,000 euros (8,280 US dollars) in 2007 or 12.6 percent of the available gross income, fell to 3,400 euros in 2012.

The strong liquid and bond components of the portfolios were combined with traditional investments in insurance and mutual funds, invested for the most part in low-risk areas.

According to the study, at the end of 2012, Italian families had a per-capita net wealth of 145,000 euros, lower than that of French households with 164,000 euros, but much higher than the German households with 119,000 euros.

The strong performance of shares, mutual funds and bonds enabled financial assets to appreciate in value by 4.1 percent last year, helping bridge the gap compared with the pre-crisis values at the end of 2007.

Furthermore, the effects of an upturn in economic activity is expected to lead to a significant improvement in households’ confidence and budgetary constraints in 2014.

“The study shows that consolidate savings have withstood the economic crisis thanks to the attention of investors and financial stabilization,” said Roberto Nicastro, General Manager of UniCredit, one of Europe’s leading commercial banks.

Political stability and consequent implementation of major structural reforms, however, remain fundamental to stimulate household confidence and revive domestic consumption, Nicastro highlighted.

Sandro Pierri, CEO of the global investment management group Pioneer Investments, added that if on the one hand conservative investments made it possible to limit volatility, on the other hand, with the gradual normalisation of markets, it would be also advisable to increase the exposure to higher-risk investments.

Twelve people held hostage in southwestern German city Freiburg

Berlin, 25 Oct—A 36-year-old man is holding 12 people hostage in the southwestern German city of Freiburg on Thursday evening, local police said.

According to local media reports, the repeatedly convicted man barricaded a police spokesman said.

Police officers have made contact with the man by phone to get him to surrender. The surrounding area has been sealed off and a special police unit is in operation on the scene.

Dutch police arrests suspect burglary on Russian building in The Hague

The Hague, 25 Oct—The Dutch police has arrested a 43-year repeat offender on suspicion of a burglary at a house managed by the Russian embassy in The Hague last week, the police said on Thursday.

Last Thursday, the property near the Russian embassy was broken into and some personal belongings went lost. The building was used as a house for embassy staff.

The police are investigating whether the suspect was responsible for other burglaries in the area. He has been arrested for similar offenses in the past.

Fees between the Netherlands and Russia have been tense over the seizure of Greenpeace ship Arctic Sunrise that was sailing under the Dutch flag by Russia. It now holds 30 crews of the ship, including two Dutch nationals.

Three weeks ago, Russian diplomat Dmitry Borodin was taken from his home by police after complaints from neighbors about him abusing his children. A Dutch diplomat in Moscow was assaulted at his home later on.

UN seeks help to relocate residents of Iraqi exile camp in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 25 Oct—The United Nations launched a trust fund initiative to help relocate residents of an Iraqi exile camp near Iraq’s capital Baghdad temporarily until the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) gets the refugees resettled in a third country.

Over the past years, Camp Ashraf has been attacked several times. On 1 Sept, a raid to the camp killed 32 residents. PMOI claimed that the attack was launched by the Iraqi government.

Photo taken on 23 Oct, 2013 shows a vehicle sliding out of the road in Hexigten Banner, north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. A heavy snowstorm hit Hexigten on Wednesday, affecting local traffic and local people’s life.

Xinhua

UN agencies, partners taking stock of humanitarian crisis in eastern DRC

UNITED NATIONS, 25 Oct—Emergency directors of eight UN agencies and non-governmental organizations are in Goma, a city in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), to take stock of the humanitarian crisis that has displaced more than one million people in North Kivu, UN spokesman Martin Nesirky said here on Wednesday.

The emergency directors visited on Tuesday Bungendo, a site hosting more than 55,000 internally displaced people. Nesirky said at a daily news briefing, adding “The delegation also met with North Kivu authorities.”

They went to the town of Kibideri, western Rutshuru, on Wednesday, where they saw the distribution of relief items for more than 2,000 displaced people, he added. On behalf of the de-le-gation, John Ging, director of operations of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), said the visit was a sign of solidarity with the people of North Kivu and a testament to the commitment to deliver humanitarian assistance to those most in need, the spokesman said.

When asked about a World Food Programme (WFP) announcement that it would scale back activities in the DRC because of a lack of funds, Nesirky said that the purpose of the trip by the United Nations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) is to raise the spotlight on humanitarian needs and the funding shortfall.

Xinhua

Ten people killed in hit-and-run accident in southwestern China

Photo taken on 23 Oct, 2013 shows a vehicle sliding out of the road in Hexigten Banner, north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. A heavy snowstorm hit Hexigten on Wednesday, affecting local traffic and local people’s life.

Xinhua

A clown child acts in a street during the 18th International Clown Convention, in Mexico City, capital of Mexico, on 23 Oct, 2013. The International Clown Convention takes place from 21 to 24 October.

Xinhua
Prince William and Kate hold private christening for new prince

LONDON, 25 Oct — Britain’s Prince George was christened on Wednesday without the presence of his parents to mark his first birthday, despite worldwide media interest.

Prince William, whose mother Diana was killed in a Paris car crash in 1997, and his wife Kate invited only very close family and godparents to the ceremony — since his parents carried him out of the London Hospital where he was born on 22 July.

In the arms of his mother as she left the palace’s Chapel Royal, George was dressed in a long cream satin robe that was a replica of an 1841 gown made for the christening of Queen Victoria’s eldest daughter.

Kate, a style icon whose outfits often increase sales of similar garments, wore an off-white, ruffled skirt-suit, made by British fashion house Alexander McQueen, and pillbox hat by British milliner Jane Taylor.

Queen Elizabeth, her husband Prince Philip, heir apparent Prince Charles, his wife Camilla, and William’s brother Harry attended the service in which Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby baptised the prince with water from the River Jordan.

“George is being brought up in a world very different from Prince William’s childhood but the royal couple really is obsessed by privacy and I hope that does not impinge too much on their lives,” said Ingrid Seward, editor-in-chief of Majesty magazine.

Pearl Jam beats Paul McCartney to top of Billboard 200 chart

LOS ANGELES, 25 Oct— In a battle of veteran rockers, Pearl Jam beat former Beatle Paul McCartney to the top of the US Billboard 200 album chart on Wednesday.

“Lightning Bolt,” the 10th studio album by Seattle band Pearl Jam, who rose to prominence in the early 1990s grunge-rock movement, sold 166,000 copies in its first week, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

British musician McCartney, 71, came in at No. 3 on the album chart with his latest record “New,” which sold 67,000 copies. That was behind Miley Cyrus “Bangerz,” which dropped one spot to No. 2 this week.

The Billboard 200 chart measures both physical and digital album sales in the United States on a weekly basis. Other new entries in the chart’s top 10 this week include folk-rock group Avett Brothers at No. 5 with “Magnify & The Dandelion,” while “American Idol” winner and country singer Scotty McCreery landed at No. 6 with his latest set, “See You Tonight.”

Country music singer Willie Nelson came in at No. 9 with his latest record “To All the Girls,” featuring duets with some of country music’s longtime female stars including Dolly Parton and Loretta Lynn.

Indie folk rockers The Head and the Heart rounded out the top 10 with its sophomore effort, “Let’s Be Still.”

On the digital songs chart, which measures single-track downloads and rappers Eminem shot to the top with his new single “Rap God,” knocking New Zealand singer Lorde’s “Royals” to No. 2 and Katy Perry’s “Roar” to No. 3.

Overall album sales for the week ending Oct. 20 totalled 4.22 million, down 11 percent from the comparable week in 2012.

“Pearl Jam Twenty” poses during the 36th Toronto International Film Festival

Members of the band Pearl Jam (L-R), Stone Gossard, Mike McCready, Matt Cameron, Eddie Vedder, and Jeff Ament of the film “Pearl Jam Twenty” pose during the 36th Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) in Toronto, on 10 Sep, 2011.

Reuters

Amanda Bynes allowed supervised outings twice a week

LOS ANGELES, 25 Oct — Troubled star Amanda Bynes will be allowed out of rehab twice a week for supervised outings.

The 27-year-old actress was placed under an involuntary psychiatric hold in July after her wild behaviour led to her allegedly being diagnosed with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, but she appears to be on the road to recovery, reported Fox News online.

“Amanda is being given two passes a week to go to the beach, or out to eat and do things like that, accompanied by a professional handler. She is making great progress,” a source said.

The Easy A star was moved to The Canyon treatment facility in Malibu at the end of September after spending two months at UCLA Medical Centre and has reportedly been told she will ‘lead a long, normal life’ as long as she continues to take her medication.

Amanda’s mother Lynn was granted a temporary conservatorship over her daughter in August, shortly after she was taken to a psychiatric unit by police officers, who arrested her after she struck up a conversation with police officers, who arrested her after she struck up a conversation with

“As a result of her progress in the last two months, Amanda was granted two weekly supervised outings after she was released from the Treatment Facility in Malibu,” said an attorney for a family member.

Bynes will be allowed out for 4 hours at a time on a weekly basis.

Amanda Bynes will reportedly be allowed to go to the beach or eat outside every other day, reported Fox News online.

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“Pearl Jam Twenty” poses during the 36th Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) in Toronto, on 10 Sep, 2011.

Reuters
**Five stay perfect as Defoe leaves Spurs on brink**

**Brussels**, 25 Oct — Former Manchester United striker Mark Hughes believes his old club are “a little bit vulnerable” as he prepares his Stoke City side for Saturday’s Premier League clash at Old Trafford.

**LONDON**, 25 Oct — Former Manchester United striker David Moyes has endured a rocky start since replacing Premyl Kovar dismissed on 78 minutes and Machin rounded his replacement Lucas Rosso to level late on. Valencia, UEFA Cup winners in 2004, ran riot in the first half against St Gallen, giving the French champions three goals before the break and they have yet to score in their Group H matches.

**Paris**, 25 Oct — Paris St Germain striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic escaped a ban for mimicking Ibrahimovic escapes ban for gun gesture

Ibrahimovic, who has been in terrific form lately, netting three goals in his last three appearances, scored five league goals for PSG as they have continued their perfect start to the season and his side have already dropped 13 points in eight matches.

**London**.

Hughes has also found things difficult since taking over as manager of Stoke but believes it might not be a bad time to be playing the champions.

“There are only a certain amount of games you can lose,” Hughes told a news conference. “They’ve lost three and maybe they are a little bit vulnerable at the moment.”

“Five or six defeats enable you to still be in the title race. Lose any more than six then you make it very difficult, nigh on impossible, for yourself.”

**Man United are vulnerable, says Stoke manager Hughes**

**Istanbul**, 25 Oct — Round-robin formats at tennis tournaments can cause confusion but Serena Williams has an easy solution, just keep winning.

The American crushed Petra Kvitova 6-2, 6-3 to complete her stroll through the Red Group at the season-ending WTA Championships, looking unbeatable in the process.

World number one Williams, looking to retain her title, has won all three matches at the Sinan Erdem Dome without a dropped set, leaving her rivals to scrap over the runners-up spot in the section.

China’s Li Na is also unbeaten in the White Group after a 6-3, 2-6, 6-3 victory over Serbia’s Jelena Jankovic on Thursday.

The world number five was forced to fight hard by Jankovic in the only match in the tournament to go the distance so far.

Williams will need Victoria Azarenka playing her final match on Friday, Li is still not guaranteed to reach the last four as Jankovic trails the German by 90 points ahead of Sunday’s Indian Grand Prix, admitted it was merely a formality.

Asked if he found it difficult to accept that he was racing in the ‘Vettel era’, the Spaniard contested: “No. Obviously I’d like to win. I’m still 32, so it’s not the last year of my career.”

“Will I ensure I will have more opportunities. I’d like to win more championships. In the last four years, I fought for three world championships. I finished three times second, which is obviously sad but... I’m extremely proud. “I think I’m doing the best races of my life this year. So when I go to bed, I’m extremely proud.”

Alonso saw no point in trying to delay what appears inevitable and would rather focus on getting more podiums than try and prolong Vettel’s crowning moment.

**Alonso goes to bed ‘proud’ even in ‘Vettel era’**

**No-nonsense Serena keeps it simple with third win**

**Paris Saint-Germain’s Zlatan Ibrahimovic controls the ball during their Champions League soccer match against Anderlecht at Constant Vanden Stock stadium in Brussels on 23 Oct, 2013.—Reuters**

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**“I will ensure I will have more opportunities. I’d like to win more championships. In the last four years, I fought for three world championships. I finished three times second, which is obviously sad...”**
Israel says to announce more settlement building

Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gestures during a joint news conference with his Italian counterpart Enrico Letta during a meeting at Chigi Palace in Rome on 22 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS

JERUSALEM, 25 Oct — Israel said on Thursday it would press ahead with plans to build in existing Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem, in an apparent bid to appease hardliners opposed to peace talks with the Palestinians.

Local media said new building tenders could be announced next week, as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in particular seeks to douse opposition from right-wingers in his government to a planned release of Palestinian prisoners.

“In accordance with understandings reached on the eve of the restart of peace talks with the Palestinians, in the coming months Israel will continue to announce it will build in settlement blocks and in Jerusalem,” part of the statement by the unnamed official said.

“Both the Americans and the Palestinians have been aware of these understandings,” the statement added.

There was no immediate comment from either of those parties.

The announcement came a day after Netanyahu and US Secretary of State John Kerry met in Rome where the Israelis–Palestinians talks were on the agenda.

The pro-settler Jewish Home party, one of Netanyahu’s main coalition partners, said on Thursday it would propose a bill to bar the release of Palestinian prisoners, which has been linked to the talks.

The US-brokered discussions were revived in July after a three-year hiatus but have shown few signs of progress.

Israel’s chief negotiator, Tzipi Livni, said in Tel Aviv on Thursday she could not divulge any details but a senior Palestinian official in the West Bank town of Ramallah described the talks as very difficult.

Jerusalem is one of the most divisive issues in the talks on creating a Palestinian state in territories Israel captured in a 1967 war.

The sides are also divided over the future of Israeli settlements, where borders should run and Palestinian demands for a “right of return” for refugees and their descendants.

Israel regards all of Jerusalem as its “eternal” capital. In a move not recognized internationally, it has annexed the city’s eastern sector.

The settlements that Israel has built in the West Bank and East Jerusalem are considered illegal by most countries. Israel cites historical and biblical links to the areas, where about 500,000 Israelis now live alongside 2.5 million Palestinians. They want those two territories and the Gaza Strip for a future country but fear that more settlement building will deny them a viable state.

Reuters

Seve Trophy should be worth Ryder points - Olazabal

La Baraganza, 25 Oct — Jose Maria Olazabal has called for Ryder Cup qualifying points to be made available at the Seve Trophy in order to entice the top golfers to play in the biennial match between Britain & Ireland and Continental Europe.

Olazabal led Europe to a 15-13 win over Sam Torrance’s Britain & Ireland side at St Nom La Breteche on the outskirts of Paris earlier this month but the competition was something of a damp squib.

Rory McIlroy, Justin Rose, Lee Westwood, Ian Poulter and Luke Donald were among several leading players to shun the event and the match attracted small crowds and generated little media attention. “We all owe something to Seve (Balles- teros),” said Olazabal of the late Spaniard who won five majors in a swashbuckling career that lit up the European Tour. “And it would be really good to see the top players competing.

“I think to make it fit as a legacy to Seve we need to have the really top players playing in it. That would make it a fantastic tournament. Maybe they could get points that would count towards Ryder Cup qualification. That would make it more appealing and more interesting.

“It is a team event after all,” Olazabal told Reuters in an interview.

The 47-year-old Spaniard, who also led Europe to a remarkable Ryder Cup comeback victory over the United States in Illinois last year, had mixed feelings about the absence of the tour’s leading lights at St Nom La Breteche.

“I was a little sad some of the top players didn’t play but on the other hand I understand most of them have a tight schedule,” said Olazabal.

“They were committed to the FedExCup in America and they knew they also had four very important Cup events in the European Tour’s Future Series at the end of the year that are going to be crucial for them so I guess they have to have time off here and there.

“But I’ve always believed the Seve Trophy can be a very important tournament,” said Olazabal while attending the Nespresso Trophy final for amateur golfers in San Sebastian, Spain where the company was announced as the official coffee supplier for the 2014 Ryder Cup.

“The format is beautiful because we don’t play much match play any more and the atmosphere is great.”—Reuters

UN nuclear agency chief to meet top Iran negotiator

VIENNA, 25 Oct — The UN atomic agency chief and a senior Iranian nuclear negotiator will meet on Monday before a new round of talks over the Islamic state’s disputed atomic activities, the agency said on Thursday.

Yukiya Amano, director general of the Interna- tional Atomic Energy Agen- cy, will meet with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi for about an hour at the IAEA’s Vienna headquarters, it said.

“The meeting will provide an opportunity to ex- change views on the way forward,” the IAEA said in a statement. It gave no details.

The fact the Amano-Araghchi meeting appeared to be scheduled at short notice may be seen as a further sign of the new Iranian government’s desire to try to end international deadlock over the country’s nuclear program. It will be followed by a new round of negotia- tions on 7 and 8 November in Geneva between senior officials from both sides over a stalled IAEA investigation into suspected atomic bomb research by Iran, which de- nies the charge.

Neither Amano nor Araghchi is due to take part in those previously sched- uled talks, which will be the 12th such meeting since early 2012. The IAEA-Iran talks have so far failed to yield a breakthrough deal that would allow the agency to resume its inquiry. But the election of relatively moderate Hassan Rouhani as Iranian president in June has raised hopes of a possi- ble resolution to the nuclear dispute.

Araghchi played a key role in separate negotiations that resumed in Geneva last week between Iran and six world powers – the United States, Russia, China, France, Germany and Britain – aimed at freezing a diplomatic settlement.

Reuters

Spanish golfer Jose Maria Olazabal instructs a child during a golf clinic in La Baraganza, near Oriedo, northern Spain on 23 Oct, 2013.—Reuters
Encouragement given to production of exportable traditional medicine

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Oct—At today’s 14th-day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, U Nyan Swe Win of Kyaukkyi Constituency raised a question whether there is a plan to encourage production of Myanmar traditional medicines to be able to penetrate into the local and foreign markets.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Than Aung replied that the Traditional Medicine Department supervises production of traditional medicines in line with prescribed rules and Traditional Medicine Law. In addition, the department encourages systematic production for domestic use and to penetrate into the foreign market.

Questioner U Nyan Swe Win remarked, “Traditional medicine can be produced with least side effects through modern technology. It can penetrate into the foreign market, spending least cost.”

With regard to the question raised by U Aye of Homalin Constituency on extension of exam centre at Maungkhom Model Village Basic Education High School in Homalin Township in 2013-14 academic year and construction of school building at Myoma BEHS Branch in Yathedaung by Daw Khin Saw Wai of Yathedaung Constituency, Deputy Minister for Education Dr San Lwin replied that matters related to the exam centre will be submitted to the management committee of Ministry of Education and the fund will be allotted for the new school building at Myoma BEHS branch in 2014-15 fiscal year after seeking approval of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Today’s session came to an end in the afternoon. The 15th day session will be held on 28 October.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses Additional Union Budget Allocation Bill

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Oct—Additional Union Budget Allocation Bill’s fundamental principles was discussed by U Myo Myint of Mandalay Region Constituency No.6 at today’s session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

He continued that stern actions should be taken against those who fail to follow the Budget Law. He pointed out that the budget requests for the projects by some economic ministries show unbalanced figures. These budgets should get the go-ahead from the Union government after being scrutinized by the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development. Staffers who are in charge of public finance need to avoid malpractices. Spend- ing of a large sum of money in the name of project is not in conformity with financial and accounting rules, he added.

It is reported that MPs will continue discussing that bill at 7th day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Thein Hse declared that budget demand is 8.4 %, and it should be less than 10% of the original budget. Last year’s budget demands saw 12 %–13 %.

Since September 2012, Japan has been providing Myanmar with financial aids.

At the signing ceremony, the Japanese Ambas- sador said that Japan provides its continuous support to Myanmar’s reform process and extends a helping hand to implementation of infrastructure for socio-economic development of Myanmar people.

It was attended by Deputy Ministers U Ye Htut, U Zin Ya and Vice-Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Set Aung and officials from the Japanese Embassy.

At 3 pm, Vice-Governor U Set Aung of CBM and Chief Representative Mr. Tanaka Masahiko signed the grant agreement for development of ICT system for central banking at CBM meeting room.

Manhlay to get cargo port soon

Nowadays, larger volumes of commodities flows into regions across the nation. Efforts are being made for ensuring smooth transportation of commod-

Muam Muang Muayt Scoe (Myanmar Allinn)

Photo shows the site proposed for construction of cargo port in Mandalay.