Vice-President U Nyan Tun on inspection tour of stadiums, gymnasium in Yangon

YANGON, 9 Nov—Patron of the Leading Committee for Organizing the XXVII SEA Games Vice-President U Nyan Tun accompanied by Union Minister U Tint Hsan, Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun, region ministers and departmental heads, this morning made an inspection tour of preparations at stadiums and gymnasium in Yangon where the sports events of the XXVII SEA Games will be hosted.

At Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township, the Vice-President heard reports on better electrification tasks, arrangements for transport of spectators, live broadcast of football matches on LED boards outside the stadium, sales of tickets and informative works for peaceful enjoyment of spectators presented by President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw.

The Vice-President also enjoyed skill demonstrations of athletes. At National Shooting Range in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, President of Myanmar Shooting Federation U Htet Nyi reported on preparations for competition, health, transport and accommodation.

The Vice-President viewed training of shooters and display of guns. At Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna) in Thingangyun Township, the Vice-President heard reports on better electrification tasks, arrangements for the players. During his inspection tour of Yangon, the Vice-President gave instructions to the Vice-President on training of the wrestlers and preparations for the games and President of Myanmar Kampo Federation U Kyaw Moe Naing, training of athletes under four coaches of Indonesia.

The Vice-President also enjoyed skill demonstrations of athletes. At Theinbyu Weightlifting Gymnasium, the Vice-President heard reports on preparations for the games and training for the lifters by the president of the Myanmar Weightlifting Federation.

He also viewed preparations at the Turf Hockey Pitch and cordially greeted Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan, Secretary of Yangon City Development Committee U Zaw Zaw.

The Vice-President enjoyed the skill demonstrations at the Turf Hockey Pitch and cordially greeted Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan, Secretary of Yangon City Development Committee U Zaw Zaw.

13 die in Indonesian military chopper crash on border with Malaysia

JAKARTA, 9 Nov—An Indonesian army helicopter carrying 19 people crashed in an area bordering Malaysia on Saturday morning, killing nine civilians and four soldiers, the state-run news agency Antara said. Six other people were injured.

Antara quoted Lt-Col Yamin Dano, a command post director in North Kalimantan Province, as saying the MI-17 helicopter was on the way from the town of Tarakan in the province to the border area two hours away by air when it crashed in a jungle in Malinau in North Kalimantan a few minutes before landing.

“The helicopter lost power. The crew made an attempt to land. But the helicopter crashed in a mountain,” Dano said.

Sitompul said the helicopter left the border area two hours away by air when it crashed in a jungle in Malinau on Saturday morning.

Tarak carrying logistics material was for a border post.

Military Spokesman Rear Adm. Iskandar Sitompul said the helicopter, carrying 1,800 kilograms of material, likely lost power.

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Kyodo News
**LOCAL NEWS**

**Myanmar, Taiwan to cooperate in jade production**

Mandalay, 9 Nov—A 60-member group from Taiwan of the People’s Republic of China held talks with officials from Mandalay Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry Associations, its brother associations and entrepreneurs on jade production at Yadanarbon Super Centre in Chanayethazan Township here on 6 November.

The discussion focused on mutual cooperation in small and medium enterprises (SMEs), electronics and furniture and jade production and selling. Taiwan opens its trade office in Myanmar with investment of about 200 Taiwanese entrepreneurs in IT and electronics manufacturing, export of machine equipments and jade production.—Kyemon-Thiba Ko Ko (Mandalay)

**Union Cooperatives Minister views work process of Japanese Cooperatives Societies**

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Nov—A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan made a study tour of Japan from 28 October to 2 November.

While in Japan, the Union Minister observed formation and work process of the cooperative societies flow of agricultural products of associations’ member farmers into markets and selling the products through closed tender system.

Next, the Union Minister met with banks and financial groups in support of the cooperative societies that are running microfinance.

Meeting with JICA’s officials, he asked them for conducting more training courses on subjects on cooperatives and risk management.

The Union Minister held discussions with the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and officials concerned from Japan Financial Service Agency about promotion of cooperatives activities in Myanmar, potential to accept ODA loans for setting up capital of people at grass-roots level, upgrading of the Cooperative University, College and cooperative training schools in Myanmar and aids for extension of vocational training schools.—MNA

**Myanmar Youth Golf Team leaves for Thailand**

Yangon, 9 Nov—As part of preparations to achieve success in 27th SEA Games, Selected Myanmar boys’ Golf Team and girls’ Team left here by air on 5 November to participate in the 6th Singha Thailand Junior World Golf Championships 2013 to be held at Royal Hua Hin Golf Club.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials of Myanmar Golf Federation and their families and relatives.

**Two turbines Ywama gas power plant to come into operation in December**

Yangon, 9 Nov—Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe and Mr Pongsak Ruktaponpisal, Minister of Energy of Thailand visited Ywama gas power plant here yesterday morning.

At the meeting of the plant, Managing Director U Hein Lwin of Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise and officials from EGAT Co., Ltd of Thailand reported to the Union minister on arrival of gas turbines and machine parts, technical assistance by experts from EGAT and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Co., Ltd and installation of main power grids (230 KV).

Later, the Union minister and the Thailand Energy Minister called for timely completion of the project by December.

The Union minister and party looked into installation of two turbines there.

**Myanmar hockey teams undergo training to cruise to victory in 27th SEA Games**

Myanmar Men’s and Women’s tentatively selected hockey teams are undergoing training for the 27th SEA Games.

The final selection of 18 athletes who are from women’s team is being trained by the Malaysian coach. For the time being final selection of athletes has not made yet.

Myanmar hockey teams took part in Asian Challenge Cup contest as preparations of Pre-SEA Games. Myanmar men’s hockey team stood second and Myanmar women’s hockey team came fifth. As Pre-SEA Games hockey contest match was held from 27 to 30 October at the Thibinbyu hockey Turf Pitch in Yangon, two Myanmar teams and Thailand team competed in the contest and Myanmar-A team won the contest.

Myanmar Hockey Teams are now in intensive training to win the victory.

**Illegal teak seized in Taikkyi**

Taikkyi, 9 Nov—Pieces of Illegal sawn teak timber were seized in Taikkyi Township on 4 November.

Officials of the Forest Department suspected a dark blue Mazda as it ran away without obeying checks of the officials at a check point on Yangon-Pyay Road in Taikkyi on 4 November.

A combined team comprising staff of Ministry of Forestry and police intercepted the car on a inter-district road in Taikkyi Township and discovered 329 pieces of sawn timber of teak on it.

Besides, the team also found a hat and uniforms of officers of the Tatmadaw in it.

The two suspects managed to escape from the scene when the team arrived at the car.

Action is being taken to charge those who got involved in the case.

**No order issued for GPS installation in passenger buses**

Yangon, 9 Nov—The news that Central Supervisory Committee for Vehicles and Vehicles has instructed passenger bus lines to install GPS system in cars is not true, according to the Central Committee.

Chairman U Hla Aung from the Central Committee confirmed that no order is issued so far. A daily newspaper mistakenly covered this news. And the author should take accountability for it, he added. "Higher GPS installation costs would cause a burden to the passenger bus lines," said a City Bus owner.

Car owners from some special bus lines have installed CCTV cameras in their cars, it is reported.

**Anti-Narcotic drives**

Kyemon-Htet Khang (Sangyoung)
Iran powers extend talks to clinch elusive nuclear deal

The United States and Iran were cautious and tight-lipped after a five-hour trilateral meeting between their foreign ministers and European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton, who is coordinating talks with the Islamic state for the six powers. They were searching for an agreement to ease international fears that Iran is seeking the capability to make nuclear weapons and, in exchange, offer the Middle East nation limited relief from sanctions that are hurting its economy.

They aim to take a first step towards resolving a protracted dispute that could otherwise plunge the volatile and oil-rich region into a new conflict.

“We’re working hard,” US Secretary of State John Kerry told reporters as he arrived at his hotel shortly before midnight (06 PM ET) following the meeting with Ashton and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

A senior State Department official said: “Over the course of the evening, we continued to make progress as we worked to narrow the gaps. There is more work to do.”

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said: “It was productive but still we have lots of work to do.” The negotiations, originally planned as a two-day meeting for Thursday and Friday, will continue on Saturday morning.

Unlike previous encounters between Iran and Western powers in the past decade, all sides have remained quiet about details of the negotiations, without the criticism and mutual allegations of a lack of seriousness that were typical of such meetings in the past. Diplomats involved in the talks say this is a sign of how serious all sides are.

Midway through the second round of talks since Iran elected a moderate president who opened doors to a peaceful solution to the nuclear dispute, Kerry joined the big powers in Geneva to help cement a preliminary agreement. Israel warned they were making an epic mistake.

Kerry said he would try to “narrow these differences but I don’t think anyone should mistake there are some important gaps that have to be closed.” Iran spelled out a major difference soon afterwards, with a member of its negotiating team, Majid Takht-Ravanchi, telling Mehr news agency that oil and banking sanctions imposed on Tehran should be eased during the first phase of any deal.

The powers have offered Iran access to up to $50 billion in Iranian funds frozen abroad for many years but ruled out any relaxation of sanctions in the early going of any agreement.

US, Germany discuss intelligence cooperation after Merkel affair

The visit to Washington by the German officials followed revelations by German media, based on documents leaked by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden, that the NSA targeted Merkel’s cellphone for eavesdropping.

US officials did not deny the report but said any such spying has now ceased.

A European official said Merkel was not particularly distressed at the revelations as she recognized her cellphone was an insecure means of communication and was careful and cryptic as to what she talked about it. Nonetheless, the public and political uproar caused by the affair and by other German media revelations based on Snowden’s material— including alleged NSA spying on the United Nations and European Union— prompted German officials to seek urgent consultations with their American counterparts to review the rules for intelligence cooperation.

Typhoon Haiyan approaches south China

Typhoon Haiyan, the 30th and strongest typhoon to hit China this year, entered the South China Sea early on Saturday morning, after having wreaked havoc in the Philippines. It will move northwestward at a speed of 35 km per hour as it remains at such force, according to the Hainan provincial meteorological station.

All fishing boats were urged to return to ports by noon on Saturday. The eastern and southern parts of Hainan as well as the Xisha, Zhongsha and Nansha islands are expecting strong winds and rainstorms, said the meteorological station.

The China National Marine Environmental Forecasting Center on Friday afternoon raised a warning for waves brought by the approaching typhoon from yellow to orange.

China has a four-tier, color-coded weather warning system, with red representing the most severe, followed by orange, yellow and blue.

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**Cyber attack “war game” to test London banks on 12 November**

LONDON, 9 Nov — Thousands of staff across dozens of London financial firms will be put through a “war games” scenario on Tuesday to test how well they can handle a major cyber attack, people familiar with the matter said. In one of the largest exercises of its kind in the world, the test dubbed “Waking Shark II” will bombard firms with a series of announcements and scenarios, such as how a major attack on computer systems might hit stock exchanges and unfold on social media.

It will be co-ordinated from a single room housing regulators, government officials and staff from banks and other financial firms, people familiar with the matter said. Hundreds more people are expected to be involved from their own offices as the “war game” plays out, they said. Simulations are likely to include how banks ensure the availability of cash from ATM machines or deal with a liquidity squeeze in the wholesale market and how well firms communicate and coordinate with authorities and each other. There will be a particular focus on investment banking operations, one of the sources said.

Regulators and firms are growing increasingly concerned about the threat of cyber crime to the banking system, including the impact of coordinated online assaults or hacking attacks on specific banks and the Bank of England’s Financial Policy Committee has already told banks to strengthen defences.

British police arrested eight people in September after a cyber attack on the computer system of a branch of Barclays, just a week after 12 men were arrested for allegedly planning to steal millions of pounds from a Santander UK branch with a similar remote device.

London is not alone in testing its preparation. New York staged “Quantum Dawn 2” a few months ago to simulate how firms would cope with a cyber attack in markets. Next week’s London event will be co-ordinated by the Bank of England, the Treasury and Financial Conduct Authority, and follows a similar exercise two years ago. The three regulators declined to comment. The 2011 event involved “a concerted cyber attack upon the financial sector” that disrupted wholesale and retail payments and online services and included more than 3,500 people, according to an evaluation published the next year.

Eighty-seven firms were involved, including US cloud computing funds, asset managers and brokers, as well as banks, insurers and exchanges.

*Reuters*

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**US spying harms cloud computing, Internet freedom**

OCTOBER 31, 2013 — The US’s alleged large-scale surveillance of global communications networks will badly harm the US cloud computing industry as people who are afraid to put data in the US, but it’s also devastating for the kind of work I do,” Wales told reporters after speaking at an IT event in Norway.

If you are BMW, a car maker in Germany,... you probably are not that comfortable putting your data into the US any more,” said the former futures trader who is still a key player at Wikipedia, one of the most popular websites in the world.

Cloud computing is an umbrella term for activities ranging from web-based email to business software that is run remotely via the Internet instead of on-site. It is being adopted by big companies and governments globally to cut costs and give flexibility to their IT departments.

Snowden’s leaks revealing the reach and methods of US surveillance have prompted angry calls for explanations from France to Brazil. Germany has been particularly annoyed by revelations that the US National Security Agency (NSA) monitored Chancellor Angela Merkel.

It’s going to have a big impact on the cloud computing industry as people are afraid to put data in the US, but it’s also devastating for the kind of work I do,” Wales told reporters after speaking at an IT event in Norway.

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**Former Thai PM hopeful about cooperation with China in hi-speed railway**

BANGKOK, 9 Nov — Thailand’s former Prime Minister and Democrat Party leader Abhisit Vejjajiva on Friday said his party is closely following the development of the country’s cooperation with China in developing high-speed railways.

During his term as prime minister, the Thai government was “in the process of negotiating with China in building high speed rail” to link Thailand to Laos, China, Malaysia and Singapore, Abhisit said.

“We still hope that the project will take place,” he said while visiting the Chinese high-speed railway exhibition held in Bangkok.

The project, once completed, will play a constructive role in connecting Southeast Asian countries with Thailand as a traffic hub, Abhisit said.

The exhibition, opened last month, is scheduled to last till late November. It is organized by the Chinese embassy in Thailand and China Railway Corporation.

The Thai government plans to build four high-speed railways in next seven years, which will then make Thailand the first country in the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to offer high-speed railway services.

Enterprises from China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and France are expected to bid for the project in 2014.

*Xinhua*

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**Pathein**

Pathein is the biggest town after Yangon in the Ayeyawady Delta and owes its prosperity to the surrounding paddy fields and a vibrant trade. Pathein is famous for its colourful, hand-painted parasols and a confectionery of Middle Eastern origin known as halawa.

**Maha Bodhi Mingalar Zedi**

This pagoda was built to resemble the Maha Bodhi Temple at Bodhgaya, India, where the Buddha attained Enlightenment.

**Pathein Settawya Pagoda**

Settawya means the Footprint of the Buddha. This pagoda surrounded by beautiful pavilions and overlooks pretty hills.

**Shwe San Daw Pagoda**

This pagoda is believed to be very old in spite of renovation work throughout its history. Old bronze Buddha images are enshrined in the pagoda.

**Telecom Italia to sell Argentina unit, towns in new strategy**

MILAN/PARIS, 9 Nov — Telecom Italia will sell its Argentina unit and other assets while issuing a convertible bond, aiming to raise around 4 billion euros ($5.3 billion) to stave off a credit rating downgrade and strengthen operations in Italy and Brazil.

Italy’s biggest telecoms operator, which is in the middle of a strategy shift under new Chief Executive Marco Patuanoto, said it had received an unsolicited offer for its 22.7 percent stake in Telecom Argentina and planned to sell.

Argentine newspapers Clarin and La Nacion said late on Thursday that the buyer would be investment fund Fintech, which already holds shares in Telecom Italia’s Argentine unit.

Fintech could not be reached for comment after office hours. Telecom Italia also plans to sell and lease back more than 17,000 mobile towers it owns in Italy and Brazil, and unload an Italian digital broadcasting unit, aiming to reap more than 2 billion euros from these deals.

The moves represent a major change for the debt-laden former Italian telecom monopoly and show the influence that its largest shareholder, Spain’s Telefonica, is having after it agreed to raise its ownership of the holding company that owns 22.4 percent of Telecom Italia.

Patuano’s new strategy, which has been backed by Telefonica, aims to chart a course out of Telecom Italia’s ‘high debts and deteriorating business in its home market by ploughing money into upgrading its quirky Italian network.

The asset sales could help stave off further credit downgrades. Moody’s already cut Telecom Italia’s rating to junk last month, while Fitch and Standard and Poor’s have it one notch above. Further downgrades will be costly because the company has to roll over large amounts of debt next year.

Moody’s credit analyst Carlos Winzer said the agency would not count the convertible bond as equity until it converts to shares in 2016, so it would not help its rating for now.

*Reuters*
China extends graft probe into shipping industry

A COSCO company flag and a Chinese national flag fly in front of the company’s headquarters in Beijing on 26 Aug, 2010.—Reuters

HONG KONG/SHANGHAI, 9 Nov — China’s campaign to root out corruption has now extended into the shipping industry, after the country’s largest bulk shipper, China COSCO Holdings Co Ltd. (1919.HK) (601919.SS), said the government was probing one of its top executives.

The shipper’s vice president Xu Minjie was “under investigation by the relevant authorities”, COSCO said in a brief statement to the Shanghai stock exchange on Thursday, shorthand that is used in China to describe corruption probes. A former COSCO Group chairman, Wei Jiafu, has also been prevented from leaving China, the Beijing Times said in a report citing unidentified company sources that was repoted by the official Xinhua news agency.

The reports of Wei having been banned from leaving China were baseless, COSCO Group said in a statement on Friday, vowing to firmly implement the country’s anti-corruption procedures. It declined further comment on the matter.

COSCO shares fell by as much as 6.9 percent in Hong Kong on Friday to 9-week lows, and were set for their biggest one-day fall since early July.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has identified corruption as a threat to the ruling Communist Party’s survival and has launched a sweeping campaign against it, vowing to take on top-level “tigers” and lower-ranking “flies”. As part of that campaign, China launched a series of graft probes into the energy sector, announcing in August and September that five former senior officials of the country’s biggest oil firm, China National Petroleum Corp CNPET. UL, were under investigation for “serious discipline violations”.

Syria polio outbreak “may threaten Europe”, experts warn

LONDON, 9 Nov — Vaccinating only Syrian refugees against polio may not be enough to prevent the crippling viral disease from re-infesting Europe, where it has not been seen for decades, German scientists warned on Friday, writing in The Lancet medical journal.

They said the risk to Europe from a re-emergence of polio in Syria was partly due to the type of vaccine generally used in regions that have not had the disease for many years.

Polio, caused by a virus transmitted via contaminated food or water, was confirmed among young children in northeast Syria last month — its first appearance there in 14 years. The World Health Organization (WHO) said the virus probably spread from Pakistan — one of three countries where polio is still endemic — and warned that Syria’s outbreak posed a threat to millions of children across the Middle East. Polio passes easily from person to person and can spread rapidly among children, especially in the kind of unsanitary conditions endured by displaced people in Syria or in crowded refugee camps in neighbouring countries.

Syrian health workers administer polio vaccination to a girl at a school in Damascus, in this file photo taken by Syria’s national news agency SANA on 20 Oct, 2013. —Reuters

The disease invades the nervous system and can cause irreversible paralysis within hours — and the WHO’s repeated warning is that as long as any single child remains infected with polio, children everywhere are at risk.

In their Lancet paper, Martin Eichen of the University of Tubingen and Stefan Brockmann of Germany’s Reutlingen Regional Public Health Office noted that most European countries currently use inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) rather than oral polio vaccinaton (OPV) — a live form of immunization. And while IPV is highly effective in preventing polio disease, it gives only partial protection from infection and is therefore less reliable if the virus is actively circulating.

Since large numbers of refugees are fleeing Syria and seeking refuge in neighbouring countries and Europe, there is now a chance the virus could be reintroduced into areas which have been polio-free for decades, they said.

“Vaccinating only Syrian refugees — as has been recommended by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control — must be judged as insuficient for their biggest. More comprehensive measures should be taken into consideration.”

Among extra measures, they suggested routine screening of sewage in areas where large numbers of Syrian refugees are settling, to check for the possible presence of polio virus. Benjamir Neuman, a virologist at Britain’s University of Reading, agreed that the fresh outbreak in Syria posed a wide risk both to neighboring countries and beyond. “Each new baby who is born at risk of polio until vaccinated,” he said. “Until the virus is completely extinct, it is essential that we continue to vaccinate our children.”

Audi says October sales up 6.7 percent on compact car demand

BERLIN, 9 Nov — Germany’s Audi (VOWG.p.DE) said sales in October increased 6.7 percent compared to the same month a year earlier to 131,950.

Ten-month deliveries were up 7.5 percent to 1.31 million vehicles, the Volkswagen-owned (VOWG.p.DE) division said on Friday, citing double-digit growth in the United States and China.

By comparison, Daimler’s (DAIM.DE) Mercedes-Benz, which dropped to third place behind Audi in 2011 in global luxury-saloon charts, earlier this week reported a new record in October deliveries. Mercedes sold 126,421 cars last month, a 13.3 percent gain, thanks to demand for its new E-Class.

Luxury-market leader BMW (BMW.DE) is expected to publish monthly deliveries next week.

Geron cancer drug effective in trial, shares soar

WASHINGTON, 9 Nov — Geron Corp said 22 percent of trial patients treated with its experimental blood cancer drug were now free of the disease, a major break for the company after two big setbacks. Shares of Geron more than doubled in morning trade on Thursday to a four-year high. “This is going to save the company, because it’s the last thing that they had,” MLV & Co analyst George Zavoico told Reuters. “This truly opens the door for other opportunities in other indications.”

Geron earlier failed to develop the blood cancer drug, imetelstat, to treat breast cancer. It also stopped working on its brain cancer drug. Imetelstat is designed to treat myelofibrosis, a rare form of blood cancer. Zavoico said the data validated imetelstat’s “mechanism of action” and suggested it was superior to Incyte Corp’s Jakafi, which is approved to treat myelofibrosis. Imetelstat is designed to inhibit telomerase, an enzyme that enables rapid multiplication of cancer cells. Jakafi inhibits another family of enzymes, reducing cell multiplication. The drug had sales of $136 million in 2012.

The company released the data ahead of a presentation on 9 December at the annual meeting of the American Society of Hematology. Geron shares, which have risen about 175 percent over the past year, were up 71 percent at $6.15 after touching a high of $7.79 on the Nasdaq. Incyte shares were down nearly 1 percent at $37.27.—Reuters

Beijing lung cancer on the rise

Beijing, 9 Nov — Beijing municipal health authorities said on Friday that the number of lung cancer patients in the city has been rising over the last decade, without elaborating on what might have caused the rise.

The number of lung cancer patients per 100,000 people was 63.09 in 2011, compared with 39.56 registered in 2002, according to the Beijing Municipal Health Bureau, citing figures from the city’s tumor prevention and treatment office.

In 2011, Beijing reported a total of 7,999 new lung cancer cases, accounting for 20.8 percent of the malignant tumor cases that year.

The bureau said lung cancer is the most common disease among male malignant tumour patients. The statistics also showed that the lung cancer incidence rises as people age, and male patients outnumber female patients after the age of 35.

Health experts with the Beijing Cancer hospital said lung cancer is highly linked to lifestyle, noting that smoking is the top reason for the disease, followed by passive smoking and environmental pollution. People with respiratory diseases are more likely to contract lung cancer, the experts added.—Xinhua
Suspected car bomb near Somali hotel kills at least six

Mogadishu, 9 Nov — A suspected car bomb attack outside a popular hotel in the Somali capital on Friday evening killed at least six people and left the area covered with blood and burning vehicles, a senior police officer said. Mogadishu has often been the target of attacks by al Shabaab, an al-Qaeda-aligned Islamist group that was driven out of the capital by African troops two years ago. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for today’s blast. Friday’s attack and others in recent months that have targeted offices of the United Nations, restaurants and other sites highlight the challenge faced by the Somali government as it tries to rebuild the nation after two decades of conflict. “We understand a car laden with explosives was parked in front of the hotel,” Farah Ahmed, a senior police officer, told Reuters. “This car bomb exploded and burned the other cars which were also parked there.” At least six people, including four police men, were killed in the blast, while 15 other people were wounded, he said, adding, “The death toll may rise. There are serious injuries.” The vehicle exploded next to Hotel Maka, on a main road that runs through Mogadishu. Four cars and a Reymo’s motorbike were burnt out at the scene, a Reuters witness said. He saw three bodies of police men being carried away and described bits of human flesh scattered in the area. In the September attack, four suicide bombers d e p l o y e d a car bomb and suicide bomber, killing at least 15 people and wounding 23 others. Al Shabaab have said they will keep up their campaign against the new government, after the Islamists were driven out of the capital in 2017 by an African Union force of peacekeepers. Reuters

IAEA chief Amano to visit Iran from Sunday

Vienna, 9 Nov — The International Atomic Energy Agency said on Friday that Director General Yukiyo Amano will visit Teheran from Sunday for talks with senior Iranian officials.

The announcement came as talks take place in Geneva between Iran and six major powers, including the United States and Russia, over Iran’s nuclear program. Amano will meet the Iranian officials on Monday “with the aim of strengthening dialogue and cooperation,” the IAEA said. The international community has been urging Iran to take action to dispel international concerns about its suspected ambition to develop nuclear weapons. Iran has shown flexibility in negotiations over its nuclear activities under new President Hassan Rouhani. — Kyodo News

Maldives presidential candidate trio vote

Male, 9 Nov — All three candidates in the Maldives presidential race voted here on Saturday morning in the first round of polling that will elect the next Head of State for the Indian Ocean group of islands.

Maldives election officials are scrambling to be ready for a landmark two rounds of polling this weekend ahead of a crucial Constitutional deadline on 11 November.

Unless a candidate wins an outright majority of 50 percent or more, the two top polling candidates will go into a second round run off scheduled for Sunday.

The winner will be sworn into office on 11 November.

The first vote took place on 7 September, but was later annulled by the Supreme Court.

Mexico frees 61 kidnap victims held near US border

Mexico City, 9 Nov — Mexican authorities freed 61 kidnapping victims in the northern border city of Reynosa, the government said on Friday, liberating a mix of foreign nationals that included at least nine minors and one American. The raid, which took place on Thursday in four separate buildings in Reynosa, freed captives from Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Mexico and the United States, government spokes-

N Korea accepts S Korean offer to hold talks on Kaesong

Seoul, 9 Nov — North Korea on Friday accepted an offer by South Korea to hold working-level talks next week to improve the overall competitiveness of a joint industrial zone in the North’s border city of Kaesong, according to South Korea’s Yonhap News Agency.

South Korea’s Unification Ministry said Pyongyang notified Seoul through the zone’s joint management committee secretariat that it wants to hold three subcommittee meetings on Wednesday and Thursday, according to Yonhap.

“The North proposed talks on...investment protection, internationalization and rules...governing people staying in Kaesong,” a ministry official was quoted by Yonhap as saying.

“North Korea will contact the South on a separate date for the travel and communication sub-panel meeting,” he was quoted as saying, expressing hope that the meeting will be held in the near future. To assist the joint management committee established to ensure the smooth operation of the industrial zone, North and South Korea on 30 September opened a secretariat at Kaesong staffed by government officials from both sides. — Kyodo News

Mexican authorities freed 61 kidnapping victims in the northern border city of Reynosa, the government said on Friday, liberating a mix of foreign nationals that included at least nine minors and one American. The raid, which took place on Thursday in four separate buildings in Reynosa, freed captives from Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Mexico and the United States, government spokes-

The move, the official said by Yonhap as saying.

Welcoming the move, the official said by Yonhap as saying: “The North said it will hold joint management committee secretariat that it wants to hold three subcommittee meetings on Wednesday and Thursday, according to Yonhap.

“The North proposed talks on...investment protection, internationalization and rules...governing people staying in Kaesong,” a ministry official was quoted by Yonhap as saying.

“North Korea will contact the South on a separate date for the travel and communication sub-panel meeting,” he was quoted as saying, expressing hope that the meeting will be held in the near future. To assist the joint management committee established to ensure the smooth operation of the industrial zone, North and South Korea on 30 September opened a secretariat at Kaesong staffed by government officials from both sides — Kyodo News

South Korea’s Unification Ministry said Pyongyang notified Seoul through the zone’s joint management committee secretariat that it wants to hold three subcommittee meetings on Wednesday and Thursday, according to Yonhap.

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Mexico City, 9 Nov — Mexican authorities freed 61 kidnapping victims in the northern border city of Reynosa, the government said on Friday, liberating a mix of foreign nationals that included at least nine minors and one American. The raid, which took place on Thursday in four separate buildings in Reynosa, freed captives from Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Mexico and the United States, government spokes-

The ministry of defence and planning will share drought information with the county governments to help them with drought preparedness, response and resilience. They also agreed that governors should avail suitable storage facilities for the provision of food and fertilizer by the ministries of agriculture, livestock and fisheries. — Xinhua

1.6 mn Kenyans may require food aid

Naivasha, 9 Nov — The Kenyan government has raised an alarm that about 1.6 million may require food assistance due to a looming drought in the arid and semi-arid (ASAL) areas in the East African nation.

Deputy President William Ruto said in a statement on Friday that about 20 out of 47 counties will require drought mitigation measures to avert crisis if the short rains fail. “It was learnt that close to 20 counties required drought mitigation measures if the short rains fail, 1.6 million people could require food aid,” Ruto said in the statement issued after he chaired a government meeting on food security in Nairobi.

The meeting brought together the Council of Governors and senior government officials to discuss the impending drought and urgent intervention measures to mitigate its impact. “The National Government and Governors agreed to jointly address issues of food security, water, livelihood and health,” the statement said.

The ministry of devo
tion and planning will share drought information with the county governments to help them with drought preparedness, response and resilience. They also agreed that governors should avail suitable storage facilities for the provision of food and fertilizer by the ministries of agriculture, livestock and fisheries. — Xinhua
Myanmar, Korea sign MoU on cooperation in rural areas development

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Nov—Priority was given to people-centered development tasks in accord with people’s desire, said Union Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Ohn Myint at the signing of MoU with Korea Rural Community Corporation at the Auditorium of the ministry, here, yesterday morning. The Union minister continued that emphasis is to be put on the wishes of needy people in least developed regions in the country in implementing rural development tasks, sharing equitable socioeconomic development fruits among national brethren. It is required to effectively use manpower, finance and resources, he added. For strategic framework to be up and running, livestock breeding and veterinary tasks, poverty alleviation is being transformed for betterment of people are pleased with workers. Thanks to lighting from the lamp-posts, the local people are pleased with activities for betterment of security and transport in the town.

MMAL-Soe Soe (Nawnghkio)

Pyinmana-Taungnyo Road repaved with asphalt concrete

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Nov—Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee is carrying out construction of new roads and maintenance of existing roads in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area for ensuring smooth transport of local people and vehicles. Moreover, the committee is upgrading the roads one after another.

Khin Zaw (Mingala)

Water pumps provided to village-tracts of Ayadaw Tsp

Ayadaw, 9 Nov—Poverty alleviation is being carried out and manual farming is being transformed to mechanized farming for uplifting standard of the rural people.

In Ayadaw Township, water pumps worth K400,000 each were presented to five village-tracts free of charge.

At the office of the Township Administrator, Township Agricultural Mechanization Department demonstrated use of water pumps and maintenance works.

It was attended by Region Hluttaw representative U Saw Oo Tun, Chairman of Poverty Alleviation Committee U Nyein Maung Maung, departmental officials, township development committee members, officials and village administrators.

On the occasion, the Region Hluttaw representative and officials handed over water pumps to members of the Village Development Committee. MMAL-Township IPRD

Self-reliant electrification undertaken

Nawnghkio, 9 Nov—Chairman U Myint Hsan and party of Nawnghkio Self-reliant Electrification Committee installed malpostas along Mandalay-Lashio Road with the assistance of Township Electrician U Nyi Nyi and township administration.

MMAL-District IPRD

Myanmar, India to cooperate in weaving and clothing design technology

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Nov—Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan held talks with a delegation led by Joint Secretary Mrs Monika Grag from the Ministry of Textile of India, at the ministry, here, yesterday morning.

They had a cordial discussion on signing Letter of Intent (LoI) for sending of Myanmar trainees to India for bamboo, cane and hand-made wood products courses and conducting the courses by Indian experts, weaving, dying, printing and clothing design and technology courses, granting scholarship to Myanmar students for diploma course in textile technology, signing MoU on conducting tailoring course and providing weaving machines to Myanmar’s weaving and vocational training schools.

MMAL—MNA

National Sports

Myanmar men’s basketball team to play tune-up matches

As part of preparations for taking part in the SEA Games, Myanmar men’s basketball team makes a plan to play tune-up matches before the SEA Games.

Myanmar will meet Vision Sport team of the US in tune-up matches on 25 and 26 November at Wunna Thukdha Gymnasium in Nay Pyi Taw.

The US team played tune-up matches with Myanmar team in July 2013. At present, Myanmar men’s team formed with 15 tentatively selected players took training in Malaysia as preparations for the SEA Games.

Myanmar women’s team is also under intensive training with participation of 15 tentatively selected players.—Kyemon-Sai Nyi Lay: Photo: Shine Htet Zaw

Poverty Alleviation

Loans disbursed to vendors

Pauk, 9 Nov—Pauk Township Development Affairs Committee of Magway Region disbursed loans to vendors and trishaw drivers at its hall on 5 November.

Officials presented K513,000 to 131 vendors and trishaw drivers with 2 per cent interest.

It was the third time disbursement to them. MMAL-District IPRD
Myanmar and ASEAN’s Chair

Myanmar has mastered a difficult and delicate process in its democratization. Taking an uncompromising stance on its reforms, the country has now seen substantive democratic changes in political, economic and administrative sectors. But, it needs to take extraordinary care to ensure that it catches up with its neighbors.

Myanmar is going to assume the ASEAN’s Chair on 1 January 2014. It is the very first time for Myanmar to lead ASEAN after joining ASEAN in 1997. Taking ASEAN chairmanship is a golden opportunity for Myanmar to show its leading role and its dignity in the region and the international. But, it needs to have thorough understandings of the duties and make constant efforts for serving duties effectively.

The duties of ASEAN’s Chair are to strive for ensuing peace and prosperity in the region of ASEAN and to act as mediator in dealing with the matters in time of emergency or difficulties that can harm the interest of ASEAN, to effectively and efficiently take alternative measures against the matters in time and to strengthen relations with ASEAN partnership, representing ASEAN.

The government’s commitments are a far cry from over two years ago and much progress is made midway through a series of changes but adequate follow-through is still highly required. We know this and yet, far too often, we face a multitude challenges in the taking of the ASEAN’s Chair, for the chairmanship is a task easier said than done and could make an enormous difference to the lives of our people.

The actions of some departments and organizations are at best ill-advised but it would likely linger on well into many decades. This suggests how difficult it would be to address such perennial problems in real time. To relevant bodies, the best thing to do is to be in any obtrusive as the ASEAN’s Chair to be assumed by Myanmar will surely be the high-profile and eagerly awaited.

Religious edifices in Latpadaungtaung Copper Mine in good condition

MONYWA, 9 Nov — Buddhist monks and local people were satisfied with the condition of religious buildings in the Latpadaungtaung Copper Mine area during the tour of inspection today.

During the tour of inspection, the local authorities led by Sagaing Region Religious Affairs Minister U Tin Win and Region Minister for Forest, Mining and Energy U Than Htike have urged responsible personnel to take measures for protecting the buildings from damages.

The final report of the Latpadaungtaung Copper Mine Investigation Commission has suggested to move the religious buildings in the area to a suitable area not to cause damages to them when mining was carried out near the environs of the buildings.

According to a cultural expert, there is no evidence that the first Ledi Sayadaw was living in the building for walking meditation.

Thakayta BEHS No. 2 uplift championship trophies in cricket event

YANGON, 9 Nov — A ceremony to award winners in the Inter-Basic Education School Cricket Tournament 2013 of No. 3 Department of Basic Education of Yangon Region, organized by Myanmar Cricket Federation, was held at the cricket pitch of No. 1 Basic Education High School in Laminaw Township, here, yesterday afternoon.

In the men’s final, Thakayta BEHS No. 2 emerged champion by winning over Dagon BEHS No. 2 (Myoma School). Ko Ko Lin Thu of Thakayta BEHS No. 2 won the All Rounder Award, Thet Paing Soe of Dagon BEHS No. 2 the Best Batsman Award and Phyo Kyaw Kyaw of Dagon BEHS No. 2, the best Bowler Award.

In the women’s final, Thakayta BEHS No. 2 clinched the title with a win over Kyimyindaing BEHS No. 2. Pan Ei Mon of Thakayta BEHS No. 2 secured the All Rounder Award, Win Win Khaing of Thakayta BEHS No. 2 the Best Batsman Award and Khin Htet Htet Khaing of Thakayta BEHS No. 2 the Best Bowler Award and Hnin Sandi Thant of Kyimyindaing BEHS No. 3 the Immerse Award.

President of the federation U Than Win and officials presented prizes to the respective winners.—NLM
Sagaing hills, the abodes of forest holy recluses

The banks of the mighty Ayeyawaddy River are dotted with natural and man-made cultural heritage sites. Here lie the ruins of unique group of hill ranges on the west bank, running parallel to the river flowing not too near nor too far from them. Facing Sagaing range lies five lies range of hills on the east bank – Myan Saing, Pinya, Inwa, Amarpura and Mandalay lying from south-east to north-east in the sequence of their geog- raphy, history and age. Their associations and interactions with Sagaing hills through ages have made what Sagaing hills are today. Hill range extends from 2200 feet and 1373 feet in height and Moza hill is the highest.

In monsoon, the Ayeyawaddy floods both banks and all islands, bringing in alluvial soil for cultiva-
tion of paddy, wheat, millets, corn, beans, sesamum, lettuces, cooking oil and all vegetables and tropical fruits. With hills, forests, water, rich soil and high and flat lands, Sagaing hills are most hospitable habitats for flora and fauna including hu-
man. It is certain that since long time immemorial, humans had settled there, as some fossils and archaeological remains have evidenced, though no scientific excava-
tion has yet been carried out there till today.

Though the hill ranges are in the arid zone, the Ay-
eyawaddy, the Chindwin and all their tributaries bring cool breezes and reduce the heat of the sun. Though the climate is generally hot and dry, rains are rather sparsely distributed through the year and can be totally absent at times. The summer monsoons bring heavy showers, giving the area a maximum annual rainfall of 100 inches. The winters are mild and dry. The climate and rainfall are favorable to growth of all vegetables and tropical fruits. With hills, forests, water, rich soil and high and flat lands, Sagaing hills are most hospitable habitats for flora and fauna including hu-
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tion has yet been carried out there till today.
Thabyechaung-East Shwemyo rural bridge under reconstruction

TATKON, 9 Nov.—Members of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Kan Chun and U Myint Shwe and officials inspected reconstruction of the east Thabyechaung-Shwemyo rural bridge in Tatkon Township. They supervised timely completion of the bridge meeting standard and donated the fund for the bridge.

The rural bridge was damaged in the erosion of Hsinthay Creek in heavy rains on 27 October.

Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon)

Anti-Narcotic Drives

Stimulant tablets worth over K 900 million seized in Thatton Township

THATTON, 9 Nov.—Under the close supervision of Commander of Thaton District Police Force Police Lt-Col Aung Thaung, Leader of Thaton District Police Force Special Crime Combating Squad IP Aung Thu and members, together with witnesses, acting on tip-off, raided the house of Hmaing Wai at No 965 in Naungbo Village in Thaton Township on 6 November.

They seized 40 stimulant tablets with WY brand in the packet in the kitchen and K 70000. In searching the house, they seized two packets of stimulant containing 2000 tablets each totalling 4000 tablets in bags of fertilizer at the kitchen and K 70000. They seized the stimulant tablets in 92 packets.

In the case, a total of 188,040 stimulant tablets containing 2000 stimulant tablets each were seized in the presence of witnesses.

Thensein Police Station filed lawsuit against Hmaing Wai, Kyaw Lun (a) Pha Nge under interrogation. Then the squad searched the stimulant tablets in the rubber farm and unearthed 184,000 tablets in 92 packets.

In searching the house, they seized 92 packets of stimulant tablets in the rubber farms and WY brand 2000 stimulant tablets each.

The seized commodities were worth K 64.4 million.

The officials also looked into progress of Sarpankhin Library in Ward 1. In meeting with local authorities and library committee members, the officials said the department will provide books and publications to the libraries for long-term durability.

Kyemon-Kyunsu IPRD

Construction of libraries inspected in Kyunsu Township

KYUNSU, 9 Nov.—The officials also looked into progress of Sarpankhin Library in Ward 1 and Ayethaya Library in Ward 2 of Hline Township.

The officials said the department will provide books and publications to the libraries for long-term durability.

Kyemon-Kyaws Myint Aye (IPRD)

Township Football Tourney wraps up

INLAY, 9 Nov.—The final match of Indaw Township Football Tournament took place at the sports ground in Mawtaik Village of the township, Sagaing Region, on 5 November afternoon.

Mawlu team snatched the title with 4-2 win over Mawtaik (a) team.

Officials presented championship trophy and K 200,000 to Mawlu team, K 100,000 to second prize winner Mawtaik (a) team and best player awards in respective places to the winners.

The football tournament kicked off on 26 October. A total of six village football teams were divided into two groups.

The group A comprised Mawlu, Mawtaik (a) and Indaw (b). The group B was formed with Manle, Mawtaik (b) and Indaw (a).

Kyemon-Ko Min (Indaw)

Fire Preventive Measures

FIRE fighting drill exercised

MYAWADY, 9 Nov.—A talk on fire preventive measures was held in conjunction with the fire drill at Bayintnaung Market in Myawady of Myawady District on 8 November.

Head of Township Fire Services Department U Khin Maung Oo and members demonstrated use of fire extinguishers and fire trucks.

At the Dhammayon of the market, the talks on fire preventive measures followed.

Staff Officer U Min Chit Thein of Township Development Affairs Committee, Deputy Commanding Officer U Aung Soe of Township Auxilliary Fire Brigade and Head of Township FSD U Khin Maung Oo gave educative talks.

It was attended by Deputy Commissioner of the district U Tin Wai Thon and officials, Township Administrator U Thein Zaw Kan, members of Township Police Force, in-charge of the market U Myo Zaw Oo and town’s elders, fire fighters and shopkeepers.

Tun Tun Oo (Myawady)

Illegal commodities seized

YANGON, 9 Nov.—The mobile team (Yangon Port Area) and officials of Paunglauchaung Police Station together with local authorities searched Quarto Product CoLtd at No 5 (B-D) on Bayintnaung Street in Ward 2 of Hline Township on 7 November.

They seized 8924 bottles of beer not allowed by Ministry of Commerce, 72 items of illegal goods, 10 items of foodstuff and 4262 Wine bottle and two items of goods without any documents of importation.

The seized commodities were worth K 64.4 million. Aye (IPRD)
REGIONAL

Japan, S Korea affirm close communication to improve ties

SEOUL, 9 Nov — The South Korean and Japanese governments affirmed on Friday at a deputy foreign minister-level meeting their commitment to communicate closely on various levels to find solutions to such thorny issues as compensation suits over wartime forced laborers in Japan and the South’s restrictions on Japanese fishery products.

In the talks between Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Shinshuke Sugiyama and South Korean First Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kyos Hyun, in Seoul, Kim said, “I believe that even Japan is clearly aware that something is acting as a barrier to bilateral relations.” referring to issues related to Japan’s wartime history including “comfort women” who were coerced into sexual servitude. “I would like Japan to play an active role” in improving ties, he added, calling on Tokyo to meet Seoul halfway to overcome their differences. In response, Sugiyama said that, from a comprehensive perspective, Japan-South Korea relations are developing, while acknowledging it is not desirable for ties to chill over certain issues.

Both officials also agreed to continue cooperation on the issue on the North Korea nuclear issue. Prior to the talks, Sugiyama also exchanged views with South Korean Deputy Foreign Minister Lee Kyung Soo.

Both sides reaffirmed their policy of continuing to hold dialog in areas where cooperation is possible, and pledged to continue making arrangements for three-way cooperation with China aimed at stability in the East Asia region. According to diplomatic sources, Sugiyama also sought acceptance of Japan’s domestic discussions on exercising the right of collective self-defence.

Two men arrested in Indonesia for killing, eating orangutan

JAKARTA, 9 Nov — Indonesian authorities have arrested two men for killing and eating an orangutan, the state-run news agency Antara reported on Friday.

“During police questioning, the suspects admitted that the two-year-old orangutan was still alive, showing some movement, when they were cutting the animal up,” Antara quoted Siti Chaddijah Kaniawati, head of the Nature Conservation Agency in Pontianak, the capital of West Kalimantan Province on Borneo Island, as saying.

She said the suspects face up to five years in jail and up to 100 million rupees ($4,760) in fines if they are found guilty.

In April last year, a Malaysian executive of Malaysian-owned palm oil company PT Khaleda Agroprima Malindo in East Kalimantan Province, and three company employees received jail terms of eight months for killing three orangutans.

Singapore: 60th anniversary of independence from French rule

PENOM PENH, 9 Nov — Cambodia celebrated the 60th anniversary of the declaration of the Independence Day from French protectorate on Sunday to mark the beginning of full peace and development.

The celebration was held under the auspices of the nation’s King Norodom Sihamoni and was attended by National Assembly’s President Heng Samrin, Prime Minister Hun Sen, and Senate’s 1st Vice-President Say Chhum, as well as senior officials, diplomatic corps, armed forces and students, totaling around 20,000 people.

At the event at the Independence Monument, the King laid a wreath and lit the victory torch inside the Independence Monument. The victory flame will be kept burning for three days.

Then, the King, along with other leaders and dignitaries, proceeded to the nearby Royal Palace, where the main celebratory ceremony was held with a live broadcast on all local TV stations.

The Southeast Asian nation gained full independence and freedom from the French protectorate on 9 Nov, 1953 after it had ruled by France for 90 years.

“The celebration today is to express deep gratitude to the country’s king Father Norodom Sihamouk, who had conducted a royal crusade to demand independence from French protectorate,” King Sihamoni said in a speech.

“On this occasion, I would like to call on all Cambodian people to be united under the roof of the constitution and state laws in order to contribute to defending and building the nation in all domains, particularly economy, as the country has full peace and political stability.”—Xinhua

Wrecked Japanese nuclear plant to double pay after criticism

Tokyo, 9 Nov — The operator of Japan’s wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant will double the pay of contract workers as part of a revamp of operations at the station, after coming under criticism for its handling of clean-up efforts.

Hazard pay for the thousands of workers on short-term contracts will be increased from 10,000 yen ($100) to 20,000 yen a day, Tokyo Electric Power Co said in a statement on Friday.

It will also tighten supervision of contractors and improve meals and other conditions at the site where three reactors melted down in March 2011 after an earthquake and tsunami. A Reuters investigation last month found that workers’ pay was being skimmed, some had been hired under false pretences, and some contractors had links to organized crime gangs.

Tokyo Electric also faces a shortage of workers for the clean-up, that will take decades and cost more than $150 billion.

The revamp of operations comes as the company prepares to start removing spent fuel rods from one of four damaged reactors.

“It is extremely important to secure a workforce,” the president of the company, Naomi Hirao, told a news briefing. “Whether an increase from 10,000 yen to 20,000 yen is adequate is another matter.”

The company didn’t give an estimate of the cost of the improvements.

The regulator has also told the utility to focus less on trying to get one of its other nuclear plants, indefinitely shut down for safety checks, running again at the expense of clean-up efforts at Fukushima.

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New Light of Myanmar

ADVERTISING & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (352)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (352) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.11.2013 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 until 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
MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR:
MS REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 256008/37831/675797

Kenya Airways passenger traffic declines in all destinations

Nairobi, 9 Nov—Kenya’s national carrier, Kenya Airways, said Friday its passenger traffic declined in Africa, Europe, Middle East and Far East regions from July to September.

The airline said passenger traffic to Africa declined by 2.4 percent in Africa, riding on an 8.0 percent capacity reduction compared to the same period of last year.

Kenya Airways, one of the most successful airlines in Africa, also registered a decline in its passenger traffic to Middle East and Far East regions by 6.3 percent compared to last year.

“In the Middle East and Far East regions, uplifted passenger traffic at 146,091 showed a 6.3 percent decline on prior year. However, the achieved cabin factor of 73.8 percent was 0.9 percent percentage points better than last year,” the airline said in a statement issued in Nairobi.

Kenya Airways, which plans to introduce daily flights to Guangzhou, China later this month, said Africa’s achieved passenger cabin factor of 63.3 percent was 2.7 points lower than that of prior year.

“The introduction of daily operations to Guangzhou via Bangkok coupled with the commencement of services to Abu Dhabi spurred the growth of Middle East and Far East regions combined by only 1.7 percent compared to same period last year,” it said.

“This was the result of capacity rationalization in the Middle East region that saw the replacement of the larger B777 operations to Mumbai with the B767s and reduced frequencies to Delhi and Jeddah,” it said.

Passengers flown to Europe were 129,006 with a decline of 3.9 percent compared to last year, on the back of 7.8 percent capacity reduction. The achieved seat occupancy level of 85.5 percent is higher than that of the prior year at 82.7 percent, it said.—Xinhua

Yemen, France start joint military exercises in Red Sea

San'a'a, 9 Nov—Yemen’s navy and France’s marine forces started joint military exercises on Friday in Yemen’s western territorial waters in the Red Sea, the Yemeni official Saba news agency reported.

The five-day exercises are part of the two countries’ joint efforts to counter piracy, arms smuggling and illegal migration, as well as to secure the international maritime routes in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, Saba reported.

It cited Yemeni defense officials as saying that the exercises also aim to enhance the capacities of the Yemeni navy and coast guard forces.

Xinhua

Spanish gov’t to invest 1.3 bln euros to fight unemployment

Madrid, 9 Nov—Spain’s cabinet meeting on Friday agreed to invest 1.342 billion euros (1.793 billion US dollars) to combat high unemployment in the country.

The government said at the press conference following a cabinet meeting that the money will be distributed among the 17 regions that make up the Spanish state.

Statistics show that over 26 percent of the total workforce in Spain are currently without a job.

Spanish Deputy Prime Minister Soraya Saenz de Santamaría said the financial aid was aimed to integrate unemployed people into the labor market. Of the total of 1.342 billion euros, 951 million euros will be invested in vocational training, a further 361 million in measures to promote employment, while some 30 million euros will be used to modernize employment services.

The Ministry of Employment published on Tuesday that the number of people unemployed had increased by 87,028 in October to more than 4.8 million.

The National Institute of Statistics (INE), which uses a different calculation method, said in October that there were 5.9 million jobless Spaniards in the third quarter of 2013.—Xinhua

The site of an explosion is seen cordoned off at the Palais des Sports in the fifteenth arrondissement, near the Porte de Versailles in Paris, on 8 Nov, 2013. Fifteen people were injured in an explosion during the rehearsal of the musical “1789, Lovers of the Bastille” in Paris on Friday, just hours before the show, local media reported.

The explosion took place around 6 pm local time at the Palais des Sports in the fifteenth arrondissement, near the Porte de Versailles.

According to preliminary investigations, the accident occurred when a worker used a grinder near a box containing pyrotechnics.

The report said technicians and artists were injured during the explosion. “The walls shook,” said an employee of the theater.

Xinhua

2 killed in truck-train collision in west India

New Delhi, 9 Nov—The driver and cleaner of a truck were killed Friday when their vehicle rammed into a passenger train after jumping a level crossing near Bhiwara in India’s western state of Rajasthan, around 600 km from the national capital of New Delhi.

The accident occurred around 1.50 pm when the truck jumped a manned crossing between Hameergarh and Sonaiyan stations near Takhputra in Rajasthan and rammed into the train, police said.—Xinhua

Turkey’s exports, aviation exports exceed 1.1 bln USD in Jan.-Oct

Ankara, 9 Nov—The exports of Turkey’s defense and aviation industry increased year-on-year by 11.5 percent to 1.117 billion US dollars in the first 10 months of 2013, Turkey’s Exporters Assembly figures showed on Thursday.

The United States tops the list of buyers with 405 million US dollars’ purchase, and Italy (64 million dollars) and Ukraine (56 million dollars) come second and third.—Xinhua
**New Light of Myanmar**

**ENTERTAINMENT**

**Robert Pattinson parties with Dylan Penn**

*Los Angeles, 9 Nov* — Hollywood star Robert Pattinson attended a private party with rumoured girlfriend Dylan Penn, who is the daughter of movie star Sean Penn and Robin Wright. The two attended the launch of Angie Banicki’s new book 30 Before 30 and according to reports they were seen hanging out in the same group, reported E! News.

According to a source, Pattinson and Penn left around the same time but separately. Rumours of a romance between Pattinson and Penn first surfaced in late September. Pattinson was recently spotted reuniting with former girlfriend Kristen Stewart. The two were seen driving in separate cars after secretly meeting up for a few hours.

Stewart and Pattinson’s relationship failed to recover from her fling with director Rupert Sanders though the couple tried to patch things up briefly before finally drifting apart this year.—PTI

**Lady Gaga pressed to drop song on Princess Diana**

*Los Angeles, 9 Nov* — Pop star Lady Gaga has been pressured by her record company to drop a controversial song about the late Princess Diana from her new album ‘ARTPOP’. The 27-year-old star had wanted ‘Princess Die’ included on her third studio LP ‘ARTPOP’, which will release on Monday. But record company bosses of her label Streamline and parent firm Interscope urged her to axe the song fearing it may upset fans of late Diana, reported Daily Mirror.

“Lady Gaga was passionate about Princess Di and though she admitted it wasn’t her best work, she still wanted it on the album. But after the adverse reaction it got from fans in the UK when she sang it at her gigs last year, the record company bosses stepped in. They persuaded her to remove it from the album to keep the peace. There is still a lot of emotion over Princess Diana. Her death remains a very sensitive subject,” a source said.—PTI

**Ridley Scott may direct movie on psychological effect of football concussions**

*Los Angeles, 9 Nov* — Director Ridley Scott is reportedly set to direct an untitled film that will centre on the physical and psychological effects of concussions on football players.

The Exodus director has allegedly been meeting with A-list writers in his effort to create the sports drama about life-changing injuries in the game, reported Variety online. Scott, 75, is said to be moved after reading articles about injured athletes including former NFL stars Junior Seau and Dave Duerson. Both had committed suicide after suffering chronic traumatic encephalopathy and left messages requesting that their brains be studied in the hope the results would help fellow injured athletes. Scott will produce the film along with Giannina Facio.—PTI

**Russell Brand rekindles romance with Jemima Khan?**

*London, 9 Nov* — Funnyman Russell Brand has reportedly rekindled his romance with Jemima Khan.

The 38-year-old comedian, who announced he was “in a relationship” recently, was spotted with on-and-off partner Jemima at a film screening, reported Femalefirst.

The Arthur actor looked happy as Jemima put her arm round him at the screening of new documentary Unmanned: America’s Drone Wars, which she co-produced.

Jemima, 39, who was earlier married to cricketer Imran Khan, also posted a photograph on micro-blogging site Twitter of the comedian posing in front of a wall with graffiti art of his face.

In the photograph her white dog, Brian, can also be seen. “Brandalism! Brian’s the first convert,” she wrote.

The Get Him To The Greek star has remained tight-lipped about her love life since splitting from Katy Perry in December 2011 after 14 months of marriage.—PTI

**Jennifer Lawrence had a crush on Justin Timberlake**

*London, 9 Nov* — Actress Jennifer Lawrence says she had a huge crush on Justin Timberlake and would spend hours staring at his photos.

The Hunger Games: Catching Fire star said she used to spend hours gazing at Timberlake’s pictures when she was a teenager and sometimes felt sick because she liked him so much, reported Contactmusic.

“My teen crush was Justin Timberlake. Early 90s Justin Timberlake. I remember buying the ‘N Sync CD. Remember how CDs had the pull-out picture things? I got so overwhelmed with hormones I almost threw up,” she said.

The 23-year-old star also shared some funny memories from filming the Hunger Games sequel.

Lawrence believed she had a supernatural experience on set when she felt ancient spirits slap her butt, but realised after watching the playback that it was actually newcomer Sam Claflin’s teasing pokes her in the rear.—PTI

**Kareena Kapoor: Saif and I are in touch with reality**

*Mumbai, 9 Nov* — It’s easy to be carried away by the glamour of the film industry but Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor says she and her husband, actor Saif Ali Khan, are very much in touch with reality.

"Saif is still in touch with his professors and teachers. These days people party with the same industry people and want to be with them but we don’t attend many parties. It’s important that we should meet normal people too,” Kareena said at an interaction here.

“We don’t like to only be in touch with the industry people. We work, but we are in touch with our college friends too. So we are in touch with reality, or else in this industry and in this glamour world, one can easily get carried away,” she said. The actress, who comes from Bollywood’s famous Kapoor family, says she has never chased success in her life.

“I am very dedicated to my work but at the same time I have also lived my life. Each actor gets so lost in the competition and the glamour of this industry that they are always chasing success. I don’t think I have ever chased success. I don’t think I have..."—PTI
No worries Wawrinka, it’s Rafa to the rescue

LONDON, 9 Nov — If Stanislas Wawrinka’s life depended on the outcome of one tennis match he would surely want Rafa Nadal fighting his corner, and while the stakes were not as high as life or death on Friday the Swiss player’s fate was in safe hands.

Having beaten David Ferrer 6-7 (3), 6-4, 6-1 to claim his second Group A. World Tour Fi

Steady Scott extends lead at Australian PGA

SYDNEY, 9 Nov — Adam Scott struggled with his putter but will still go into the final round of the Australian PGA Championship with a three-shot lead after notching a third round even-par 71 in difficult conditions on the Gold Coast on Saturday.

Scott, playing on home soil for the first time since becoming the first Australian to win the US Masters in April, will go head-to-head with American Rickie Fowler in the final pairing in Sunday’s fourth round.

After two days of free-scoring at Royal Pines, the Queensland wind whipped up on Saturday and both the world number two and Fowler, who shared second with Australian David McKenzie, were happy to finish the day with rounds of 71. “I think it was a grind for everyone, I didn’t see too many good scores out there,” Scott told Channel 10 TV.

“Real Madrid’s injured Marcelo out of Brazil friendlies

SAO PAULO, 9 Nov — Real Madrid’s Brazil left back Marcelo will miss this month’s international friendlies against Honduras and Chile with a knee injury, the Brazilian Football Confederation said on Friday.

Marcelo was injured in training with his club earlier on Friday and Spanish media said he would be sidelined for two weeks. He will miss Saturday’s La Liga match at home to Real Sociedad and possibly the visit to Almeria on 23 November.

“Following examinations and scans carried out today (Friday) on our player Marcelo at Santas

Brazil have not called up a replacement and Paris Saint Germain’s Maxwell is set to fill in at left back.

Ronaldinho recovering fast, on course for Club World Cup

SAO PAULO, 9 Nov — Ronaldinho’s thigh injury has improved quicker than expected and his club Atletico Mineiro now say he is likely to play in the Club World Cup in Morocco.”

The former Barcelona midfielder trained on Friday and coach Cuca told reporters he could return to action against Fluminense in Brazil’s Serie A on 1 December.

“We hope to use him before the league season ends, maybe in the last or second from last match,” Cuca said at news conference at the team’s Belo Horizonte base.

“We don’t have an exact date but his recuperation is going very well.”

Ronaldinho tore a muscle in his left thigh in September and it was feared he would miss the tournament in North Africa.

World Cup holders Brazil face Honduras in Miami on November 16 and play Chile in Toronto, Canada three days later, with both opponents having qualified for next year’s finals.
China’s inflation grows 3.2 pct in October

BEIJING, 9 Nov — China’s consumer price index (CPI), a main gauge of inflation, grew 3.2 percent year on year in October, up from 3.1 percent in September, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said on Saturday. In the first ten months, CPI growth stood at 2.6 percent on average, well below the government’s full-year target of 3.5 percent.

Yu Qiunei, a senior statistician with the NBS, said the country’s inflation remains generally stable. Yu attributed the rise in October mainly to a rebound in prices of non-food products, including clothing, home appliances and daily necessities. Last month, food prices dropped 0.4 percent month on month, while prices of non-food products rose 0.3 percent, according to the NBS.

The NBS data also showed China’s producer price index, which measures inflation at the wholesale level, fell 1.5 percent in October from a year ago.

Sugar prices surge, sending FAO food price index higher for 1st time since April

ROME, 9 Nov — World food prices rose in October after falling in each of the previous five months, pushed by higher sugar prices, the United Nations Food and Agriculture organization said, also predicting that prices would remain stable going forward, local media said on Friday. Overall, FAO’s World Food Price Index rose to 206 points, a 1.3 percent rise compared to the previous month. It was the first monthly rise in the index since April.

Prices were flat or higher in all of the five key commodity groups the index uses, but it was sugar prices, which rose 7.4 percent compared to September. It was the third consecutive monthly rise for sugar, which was scarce due to unfavorable weather conditions in Brazil, the world’s leading sugar producer.

Among other areas, small rises in rice, wheat, and corn prices pushed the grains and cereals index up 1 percent, while oils rose 2 percent, and dairy prices increased 0.4 percent.

GENERAL

Wenger feels serene before strange United trip

Arsenal head to Manchester United this weekend with manager Arsene Wenger talking of strange times and serenity but he is not referring to the fact his Premier League leaders are the frontrunners for the first time in many years.

It will be the first time in his 17 years at the London club that the Frenchman travels to Old Trafford without great rival Alex Ferguson in the home dugout and it is this rather than his team’s five-point lead in the table creating an aura of calm.

“It will be a bit strange,” Wenger told a news conference on Friday. “I will see him (Ferguson), certainly yes … Now we meet each other only at the big managers’ meeting to speak about how we can improve football and not how can Manchester United beat Arsenal or how Arsenal can beat Man United.”

“For Arsenal, though, there are many more reasons to feel composed ahead of Sunday’s encounter at a ground where they have failed to win in the league in their last six attempts, including a humiliating 8-2 thumping two seasons ago.

Holding a five-point advantage at the summit for the first time since February 2008, Arsenal have the rare luxury of a guarantee they will stay top even if they lose while victory would put them a huge 11 points clear of champions United.

Arsenal have lost just one of their 10 league games this season to collect 25 points, while David Moyes’ United have already suffered three defeats to sit eighth with 17 points — a full quarter of the way into the season.

Victories at last season’s Champions League runners-up Borussia Dortmund and over fellow Premier League pacemakers Liverpool in their last two matches have also helped put Arsenal in a good frame of mind before Sunday’s game (1610 GMT).

“We have confidence, but each at stake in consistancy at the top level for us and to be capable of repeating the performances in our last two games, that will certainly be very important for the future of our team,” Wenger said.

They are boosted by the likely return from injury of Mathieu Flamini who has been out with a groin injury, while fellow midfielder Jack Wilshere faces a late fitness test after being sidelined with an ankle injury.—Reuters

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R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.
Lifting the majority of poor out of poverty could bring about multi-sector development

MANDALAY, 9 Nov—Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann met local people at the meeting hall of Mandalay Region Government here this afternoon.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker said, plans are under way to enact the National Races Rights Protection Law and the National Parishes Rights Protection Law and review and amend the 2008 Constitution. Farmers make up 70% of the country’s total population. And lifting the majority of poor out of poverty could contribute to multi-sector development. A law to provide sufficient loans with the farmers who suffer losses due to natural disasters is being drafted, he added.

Later, local people presented their needs and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker, Chief Minister U Ye Myint and departmental officials coordinated essentials.

The meeting came to an end with a concluding remark by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker. After the meeting, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann cordially greeted those present. It was also attended by the Hluttaw Committee Chairman U Maung Maung Thein and U Zaw Myint Pe, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Win Maung, Deputy Ministers U Ohn Than and Dr Win Myint, officials from Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, Region ministers, responsible persons from political party, MPs, town elders, Township Supportive Committee members and media men.—MNA

INDONESIAN ZEI-2013 opened

YANGON, 9 Nov—The opening of INDONESIAN ZEI-2013 took place at Junction Square Shopping Centre in Kamayut Township this morning. It has been held since 2002 with the aim of seeking opportunities to invest in Myanmar’s market by Indonesian entrepreneurs and promoting friendship with preservation of joint cultural show between Indonesia and Myanmar.

At the ceremony, Chairman of Committee for organizing INDONESIAN ZEI-2013 Mr. Mark Gerald and Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Sebastianus SUMARSONO made speeches.

The officials formally opened the market festival and those present were entertained with Indonesian traditional dance and music.

Over 30 booths from Indonesia and Myanmar will showcase traditional handicrafts produced by Indonesia, foodstuff, agricultural products, clothes, cosmetics and electronics till 10 November. —MNA

Myanmar, Russia to promote long-standing friendship

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Nov—A program of exchanges to commemorate the 65th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Russian Federation and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will continue in November.

On November 11-17, 2013, a delegation of the Russia-Myanmar Friendship Society led by its Chairman Mr. Mikhail A. Dmitriev will pay a visit to Myanmar. The program of the visit includes a range of meetings with high-ranking officials of the Government of Myanmar, the National Parliament, the Armed Forces and the civil society to promote long-standing friendship between the peoples of the two countries. The delegation will be accompanied by the Musical Trio “Silver Strings” (Moscow) who will perform a concert in the MICC, Nay Pyi Taw, on November 11.

On November 13-18, 2013, a detachment of the Russian Pacific Fleet led by the large anti-submarine warship Admiral Vinogradov under the command of Captain (Navy) Andrey Kuznetsov is scheduled to pay a friendly to the Thilawa Sea Port (MTT).

Russian sailors will visit the Ayeyawady Regional Naval Command as well as receive their Myanmar counterparts on board of the warship. During its anchorage in Thilawa Port the ASW Admiral Vinogradov will be open for general public on Saturday, November 16 (14:00-17:00) and Sunday, November 17 (10:00-13:00).

On Thursday, November 14, at 18:30 the Russian Pacific Fleet Ensemble and the Musical Trio “Silver Strings” will present a joint cultural program on stage of the National Theatre in Yangon. The program will include a variety of Russian songs. Entrance is free.

The upcoming events will contribute to enhancing bilateral relations between the peoples of the Russian Federation and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar traditionally based on goodwill, mutual trust and respect. —NLM

23rd ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet (23rd AARM) concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Nov—The prize-distributing and closing of 23rd ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet (23rd AARM) took place at Tarmadaw shooting range in Pyin Oo Lwin this afternoon.

Before the ceremony, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and the army chiefs from ASEAN countries planted star-flower saplings inside the shooting range in commemoration of 23rd AARM.

The Vice-Senior General and the ASEAN army chiefs viewed the finals of rifle match No 5 (between Malaysian and Thai army shooting teams). The cadets from Pyin Oo Lwin Station demonstrated skills of martial arts, fitness and Taekwondo skills. The Vice-Senior General Soe Win handed over 2014 AARM host to Lieutenant-General Nguyen Quoc Khanh, Deputy Chief of General Staff of Vietnam People’s Army.

A dinner in honour of the army chiefs from ASEAN countries took place at Sedona Hotel in Mandalay yesterday evening. It was attended by Vice-Senior General Soe Win (See page 8)

Low pressure still persists

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Nov—According to the observations at 5:30 hrs MST today, yesterday’s the low pressure area over Andaman Sea still persists, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department. —NLM

Winners awarded in Pre-SEA Game Test Match 2013

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Nov—Athletes are pouring out vigorous efforts in intensive training so as to secure gold medals in the billiards and snooker events in the XXVII SEA Games.

Prize awarding ceremony of Pre-SEA Game Test Match 2013 took place at VIP room of Billiards and Snooker Indoor Stadium, here, on 7 November evening.

At the ceremony, Deputy Minister for Sports Chairman of Sports Victory Committee U Thaung Hike, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin and President of Myanmar Billiards and Snooker Federation U Tin Maung Win presented K 4.05 million to the winners of the match.

NLM