All national races and political forces in country to live in peace and harmony and join hands to build a more united and more prosperous Myanmar: President

EU-Myanmar Task Force holds economic, political and inter-parliamentarian dialogues

YANGON, 15 Nov—The economic dialogue of EU-Myanmar Task Force took place at Myanmar International Convention Center (MICC) in Nay Pyi Taw this morning. Union Minister at President Office U Soe Thane and Ms. Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Vice-President of the European Commission co-chaired the dialogue. The programs for the development of national economy and investment in private sector and EU-Myanmar cooperation programme to enhance sustainable development after lifting sanctions were discussed at the dialogue.

Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw said that peace-making process was given priority while initiating reforms in political, economic and social sectors. Emphasis is being placed on eight points of poverty alleviation, he added. (See page 8)

It has given me additional hope to witness what can be achieved after decades of war—to overcome a deep-rooted climate of hostility, hate and skepticism and to find a new spirit of cooperation. A new Europe was built with all helping together—governments, businesses and civil societies as well as international partners. This is unique and inspiring.

These developments in Europe over the last 60 years can be a shining example for us, but have to be put in a local context. We have embarked on an exciting journey of unprecedented change in Myanmar: we want all national races and political forces in our country to live in peace and harmony and join hands to build a more united and more prosperous Myanmar. And you can see the changes of the last two years: today greater freedom of press is ensured, hundreds of trade unions established, political prisoners have been released, 14 ceasefire agreements have been signed and we are striving hard to sign ceasefire agreements with the remaining two armed groups. With regard to the accountability and transparency of the government, there have been discussions about the work of the government in parliament and in public, thus strengthening both accountability and transparency of the government.

In the economic front, we have reformed our monetary and banking system. We are modernizing the infrastructure, laying groundwork for foreign investments, cutting the red tape and revamping our administrative, judicial and social systems.

All these would not have been possible without the support of the international partners including the European Union. The European Union has also supported the Myanmar Peace Centre and our peace process more broadly. In addition, UE has considerably increased it development assistance to Myanmar and now has a full-fledged Deligation here. This has led to an even more intensified and result—oriented partnership (See page 8)
Foreign diplomats visit relief camps in Pauktaw Township

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Nov—Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee for Implementing Peace, Stability and Development Tasks in Rakhine State Union Minister Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win and Central Committee member Union Minister U Khin Yi, togeth-er with US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Derek Mitchell, Swiss Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Christopher Burgener and delegates from the US and Australian embassies, visited Kyem-pinya makeshift relief camps in Pauktaw Township on 11 November.

The ambassadors and delegates from the embassies held talks on interna-tional aids to the victims, accommodation and resettlements with the victims there.

Later, Union Minister U Khin Yi touched upon collecting household popula-tion and nation-wide cens-us-taking at the temporary relief camps. And then the State Chief Minister gave a supplementary report.

In the evening, the Union ministers, the Chief Minister and the ambas-sadors held separate talks with responsible persons from Rakhine Nationalities Development Party (RNDP) and Rakhine State Chambers of Commerce and Industry on stability, peace and regional develop-ment, social harmony, socio-economic development and employment op-portunity, at Sittway Hotel.

Aviation contributes to development of tourism in Kalay

KALAY, 15 Nov—Kalay, 15 Nov—Kalay of Sagaing Region is known as a door of Chin Hill and a city of Kabaw plain for its good transporta-tion and multi-develop-ment. Airways, one of the essential modes of the pub-lic transportation, manages daily flights except Sunday.

Tourists at home and abroad visit Chin State by flight. They study and go shopping in Tamu and Mora border markets. For-eigners remarked Kalay as a good place to study. Myanma Airways, Mr Bruno Maestracchi, Expert of Indonesia-based EU Emergence Response Centre, was opened by Myanma International Conven-tion Center (MICC), here, yesterday morning with an address by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun.

A total of 21 police of-ficers are attending the two-day course conducted by three trainers from EU.

Emergency response course opened at MICC

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Nov—To set up Emergence Response Centre in Myan-ma, emergency response course was organized by Euro-pean Union and Ministry of Home Affairs and led by Air Bagan and KBZ land their flights at Kalay Airport. The airplane of My-anma Airways operates lands there every Friday and Wednesday, that of Air Bagan every Saturday, Monday and Wednesday and that of KBZ every Tuesday and Thursday, ac-cording to the Department of Civil Aviation. Myanma Airways charges K 49,000 per passenger to Mandalay and K 94,000 to Yangon, Air Bagan K 60,000 to Mandalay and K 107,000 to Yangon and KBZ K 71,000 to Mandalay and K 128,000 to Yangon.

Kyemon-Linlet Kyal. Sinn

Driver dead in plunge of vehicle into drain

MAGWAY, 15 Nov—A tawdry plunged into a drain between mile posts 79 and 80 in the eastern part of Shwebo Ywathit Village of Pwintbyu Township at 9 am on 6 November, leaving the driver dead.

A vehicle driven by Ko Naing, 25 of Konzaung Village of Pwintbyu Town-ship together with two per-sons on board plunged into the drain and sank, losing control of excessive speed. The accident did not affect on the two persons on the board. But the driver got severe injuries to right thigh and left leg and died on the spot. Pwintbyu Myoma Po-lice Station opened a file of lawsuit against the reckless driver Ko Naing under the law.—Kyemon-Magway Hla Myint

MADB disburse agricultural loans for monsoon, cold season crops in Nyaungdon

NYAUNGDON, 15 Nov—With the work guideline of Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Myanmar Agri-cultural Development Bank will disburse loans to the farmers of 40 village-tracts of Nyaungdon Township of Ayeyawady Region.

The farmers are to take out K 100,000 per acre for summer paddy plots for 32207 acres and K 20,000 for cold season crops for 36214 acres, amounting to K 3944.98 million.

According to the bank manager, a total of 62 farms-ers from Thain/ Yekyaw village-tract have so far drawn K 45.5 million for 455 acres of summer from 4 to 6 November. A plan is underway to disburse loans to farmers of remaining vil-lages.

Eight-storey KBZ headquarters under construction in Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 15 Nov—A new building of Kanbawza Bank is being constructed by A.C.D Construction Co Ltd (Mandalay) near the eastern ward of the Myoma Market in Meiktila.

As Meiktila has seen economic development, private banks are mush-rooming in the district. Of the private banks in Meikt-ila, Kanbawza Bank has launched two branches and is planning to open another two. The eight-storey build-ing would be the headquar-ters of KBZ in Meiktila.

The project is expected to complete in the second week of January, 2014.

Kyemon-Chantha-Meiktila

Opening, closing and sports events of 27th SEA Games to be broadcast live/delay

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Nov—The XXVII SEA Games will be held in Nay Pyi Taw. Yangon, Mandalay and Ngwehsaung Beach of Myanmar and all sports events will be broad-cast live/delay by MRTV, Forever and Shwe Than Lwin Co., for entire people of the nation. The broadcast programs are as follow:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Sports Events</th>
<th>Transmission plans</th>
<th>News Agency</th>
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<td>Shwe Than Lwin</td>
<td>Nyagwehsaung</td>
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</tbody>
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MNA
WASHINGTON, 15 Nov — US aircraft carrier George Washington has arrived in the vicinity of the Leyte Gulf Thursday to assist the Philippine government in response to the aftermath of the Super Typhoon Haiyan, the Navy said on Friday.

The Commander Task Force 70, which is a part of the Seventh Fleet, said on its website that the carrier has rendezvoused its high-speed transit and will go to a position just off the eastern coast of Samar island with the cruisers USS Antietam and USS Cowpens, in order to begin to assess the damage and provide logistical and emergency support to include medical and water supplies.

In preparation to provide relief support, the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier and embarked Carrier Air Wing 5 flew a number of fixed winged aircraft to Naval Air Facility Atsugi Thursday morning creating more room on the carrier’s flight deck for helicopter operations.

“Of the best capabilities the Strike Group brings is our 21 helicopters. These helicopters represent a good deal of lift to move emergency supplies around,” said Mark Montgomery, commander of the George Washington Strike Group.

On Monday, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel ordered the George Washington and other US Navy ships to head for the Philippines to aid disaster relief efforts there. Super Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines at the weekend. An estimated 10,000 people in the central Philippine Province of Leyte might have been killed.

Xinhua

US aircraft carrier in Philippine waters for typhoon relief

CARACAS, 15 Nov — Venezuela’s socialist government has arrested more than 100 “bourgeois” businessmen in a crackdown on alleged price-gouging at hundreds of shops and companies since the weekend, President Nicolas Maduro said on Thursday.

“They are barbaric, these capitalist parasites!” Maduro thundered in the latest of his lengthy daily speeches. “We have more than 100 of the bourgeoisie behind bars at the moment.”

The successor to the late Hugo Chavez also said his government was preparing a law to limit Venezuelan businesses’ profits to between 15 percent and 30 percent.

Officials say unscrupulous companies have been hiking prices of electronics and other goods more than 1,000 percent. Critics say the move — Maduro’s boldest since taking office in April — is reminiscent of the dramatic governing style of Chavez, who nationalized swathes of the OPEC member’s economy during his 14-year socialist regime.

Like Chavez, Maduro says he is defending the poor.

The inspections have shaken Venezuela three weeks before local elections that his opponents are casting as a referendum on the 50-year-old former bus driver. Maduro has made preserving Chavez’s legacy the mainstay of his government and has been matching his former mentor’s anti-capitalist rhetoric.

“It’s time to deepen the offensive, to go to the bone in this economic war,” he said.

Reuters

Iran puts brakes on nuclear expansion under Rouhani

TEHERAN, 15 Nov — Since Hassan Rouhani became president, Iran has stopped expanding its uranium enrichment capacity, a UN inspection report showed on Thursday, in a potential boost for diplomacy to end Teheran’s nuclear dispute with the West.

The quarterly report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) also said that since August no further major components had been added to a potential plutonium-producing reactor that worries the United States and its allies.

The marked slowdown in the growth of activities of possible use in developing nuclear bombs may be intended to back up Rouhani’s warmer tone towards the West after years of worsening confrontation, and strengthen Teheran’s hand in talks with world powers due to resume on 20 November.

The six powers — the United States, France, Germany, Britain, Russia and China — are pressing Iran to curb its nuclear program to ease fears that it may be seeking to develop nuclear weapons, a charge Teheran denies.

Iran halted a previously rapid increase in its capacity to refine uranium — which can fuel nuclear power plants but also bombs if processed much more — “when their team changed” in August, a senior diplomat familiar with the IAEA report said, referring to Rouhani and his administration.

But Iran is still pressing ahead with its most sensitive nuclear activity, the enrichment of uranium to a fissile concentration of 20 percent, a relatively short technical step away from weapons-grade material, the report showed.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu—who strongly opposes any deal with Iran that does not dismantle its entire enrichment programme — said he was “not impressed” as the Islamic state did not need to expand its programme.

Reuters

Diet OKs bill to use SDF land vehicles in overseas rescue efforts

TOKYO, 15 Nov — Japan’s parliament enacted legislation on Friday to enable the Self-Defence Forces to use land vehicles to transport Japanese and foreign nationals in emergency situations abroad.

After the hostage crisis in Algeria in January in which dozens of people were killed, including 10 Japanese nationals, the Japanese government decided to revise the SDF law that only allowed Japanese people to be transported by sea and air.

Under the revised law, the SDF can now carry relatives and colleagues of Japanese nationals caught in trouble abroad, as well as government officials and medical staff in rescue missions.

Along with the bill, the House of Councillors passed a resolution calling for ensuring safety in land transport missions abroad due to concerns that land transport could be more easily targeted in terrorist attacks than transport by sea.

Prior to Friday’s vote, Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera indicated that Japan will expand the list of weapons that SDF personnel can carry from guns, rifles and machine guns.

Kyodo News

Japan-S Korea relations strategically important: Abe

TOKYO, 15 Nov — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Friday called for efforts to improve relations between Japan and South Korea that have been marred by tensions over several issues.

“Give the current circumstances in East Asia, close cooperation between Japan and South Korea, both allies of the United States, as well as between all three nations is strategically very important,” Abe told a meeting of lawmakers, business leaders and others from the two Asian neighbours. He was apparently referring to the need for the three nations to cooperate in addressing issues such as North Korea’s nuclear and ballistic missile development programmes and China’s increasing maritime assertiveness.

Kyodo News

Venezuela jails 100 ‘bourgeois’ businessmen in crackdown

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“It’s time to deepen the offensive, to go to the bone in this economic war,” he said.

Reuters

Iran’s President Hassan Rouhani takes questions from journalists during a news conference in New York on 27 Sept, 2013.—Reuters
Arizona sets precedent for solar systems with new monthly fee

Los Angeles, 15 Nov — Arizona on Thursday dealt a blow to the state’s largest utility by approving a monthly fee on customers with rooftop solar panels that Arizona Public Service said was not enough to offset the costs that those rooftop systems have heaped on its remaining ratepayers.

The measure, approved by the Arizona Corporation Commission in a 3-2 vote, was intended to serve as a compromise between APS and the solar industry, which had fought to stop the utility’s efforts to change a solar incentive that has stimulated the rapid growth of rooftop systems in one of the nation’s sunniest states.

The fee of 70 cents per kilowatt-hour, which would go into effect in the second quarter of this year, means the 20,000 APS customers who already have solar panels will not see changes to their bills. The debate over the little-known solar subsidy called net metering was being watched closely by utility and solar players far beyond the Grand Canyon state.

The two industries are increasingly at odds over allowing homeowners with rooftop solar systems to sell the power they don’t use back to their utilities at retail rates.

Rhone Resch, the head of the US solar trade group, the Solar Energy Industries Association, said in a statement following the vote that he was “deeply troubled by today’s precedent-setting action,” while at the same time applauding the decision to allow customers to continue selling unused solar power back to the utility.

Arizona is considered to be the biggest battleground on the net metering debate, and APS spent $3.7 million on lobbying and advertising efforts leading up to the net metering hearing.

Because of net metering, solar customers can end up with a credit on their utility bills at the end of the month. Typically, however, they still pay a penalty to their local utility. Throughout the proceedings, APS argued that net metering allows solar customers to avoid paying their fair share of the cost to maintain the electric grid — thereby passing $18 million in annual costs onto non-solar customers.

The issue has come to a head recently because of the dramatic recent growth in rooftop solar. Systems are being added to APS service territory at a rate of about 500 a month, said APS, a unit of Pinnacle West Capital Corp. Arizona was the nation’s No. 2 state for solar installations in the second quarter of this year.

Microsoft’s new Cybercrime Centre combines tactics against hacking groups

Redmond, (Washington), 15 Nov — The maker of the most popular computer operating system in the world is launching a new approach to fighting online criminals by bringing together security engineers, digital forensics experts and lawyers trained in fighting software pirates under one roof at its new Cybercrime Centre.

Microsoft Corp’s expanded Digital Crimes Unit inside the 16,800-square foot, high-security facility combines a wide array of tactics that have worked the best: massive data gathering and analysis, gumshoe detective work, high-level diplomacy and creative lawyering.

The new approach, to be launched on Thursday, is the latest attempt to close the gap created in the past decade as criminal hackers innovated in technology and business methods to stay ahead of adversaries mined in the slow-moving world of international law enforcement.

Already, many of the biggest victories against organized online criminals have come when private companies or governments have worked with the worst: the Extortion 13 hacking group.

Cybercrime is getting worse,” Digital Crimes Unit chief David Finn told Reuters during an exclusive visit to the Redmond, Washington, campus building this week. But Finn hopes that by mixing specialists from various professional arenas, Microsoft can get better. The centre features a lab for dissecting malicious software samples that is accessible only with fingerprint authorization.

According to experts, the regulation of on-demand streaming services is lagging behind the rapid evolution of online entertainment.

The law effort will offer a new path for Hollywood studios to generate revenue from films after they leave theaters. For Comcast subscribers, it provides a way to purchase movies they can watch anytime on a TV, computer or mobile device.

The new service could start by the end of the year with a range of new releases, older movies and some TV shows from several Hollywood studios, one of the people said.

Customers will be able to buy the titles through the on-demand menu accessible with a Comcast set-top box, or on the Xfinity website, the person said. Once purchased, the movies will be watchable on TV, a computer or mobile devices.

Some of the movies for sale will come from Comcast-owned Universal Pictures, including this year’s hit “Fast & Furious 6” and “Despicable Me 2,” according to one of the sources. A Comcast spokeswomen declined to comment. Now, Comcast and other cable operators offer on-demand movies for free viewing or rental to watch during a specific time period.

Panthera blythea: oldest big cat fossil found in Tibet

Tibet Autonomous Region. The discovered skull fragment belonged to a recently-named species Panthera blythea dated back between 4.1 million and 5.95 million years ago. Using anatomical and DNA data, researchers found that the extinct species of a big cat was much like the modern snow leopard.

“This cat is a sister of living snow leopards — it has a broad forehead and a short face. But it’s a little smaller — the size of clouded leopards,” said lead author Dr Jack Tseng of the University of Southern California. “This ties up a lot of questions we had on how these animals evolved and spread throughout the world.”

The finding offers the most compelling support that big cats evolved in Central Asia rather than Africa. “Biologists had hypothesised that big cats originated in Asia. But there was a division between the DNA data and the fossil record,” said Tseng. Dr. Tseng and his team plan to return to the fossil site in Tibet next summer for more specimens.

Teléfonica says no plans to take control of Telecom Italia

Milan, 15 Nov — Telefónica (TTE.MC) will not exercise an option to increase to 100 percent its stake in Telécom Italia (TLIT.MI), the chairman of the Spanish telecommunications group told an Italian newspaper on Thursday.

In his first interview since Telefónica agreed on a deal to gradually take over its Italian rival by buying out co-shareholders in Telco, Cesar Alierta said he expected other Telco shareholding groups to keep some or all of their stakes until February 2015. That is when a shareholder agreement among investors in Telco expires. “The structure of the new accords is very clear,” Telefónica cannot own more than 49 percent of Telco,” he told business daily Il Sole 24 Ore. “We have no intention of exercising the call (option).”

Alierta ruled out a merger between Telefónica and Telecom Italia. “There is no need for a merger between Telefónica and Telecom, and this is not under consideration,” he said. He also said there were no plans to merge Telecom Italia’s Brazilian unit TIM Participações (TIMP3.SA), which has a local unit Vivo (VIVT3.SA). Telefónica reached a deal in September with its Italian partners in Telco - insurer Generali (GASI.MI) and banks Intesa Sanpaolo (ISP.MI) and Mediobanca (MDBL.MI) - allowing it to take over the investment vehicle starting from 2014. Telco controls Telecom Italia with a 22.4 percent stake and an agreed preference of board members at the phone group.

Comcast to sell digital movies through cable boxes, website

Los Angeles, 15 Nov — Comcast Corp plans to start selling movies for download and streaming through the cable operator’s set-top boxes and its Xfinity TV website, according to people with knowledge of the plan.

The effort will offer a new path for Hollywood studios to generate revenue from films after they leave theaters. For Comcast subscribers, it provides a way to purchase movies they can watch anytime on a TV, computer or mobile device.

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Germany challenges use of euro zone cash to repair banks

**New York, 15 Nov** — News reports often over-hype the potential benefits of novel treatments for disabling eye diseases, a new study suggests. Broadcast and Internet news reports, in particular, tended to be more enthusiastic about so-called retinal implants than the studies they were based on, researchers found. And the stories weren’t always scientifically accurate. The hope is that such implants could one day help people who lose much of their eyesight due to macular degeneration or other diseases that damage the retina.

But scientists are still far from a guaranteed fix. Some of the implants have yet to be tested in humans. “The promise is real. The availability is non-existent right now except in very limited trials, and the results are encouraging but honestly fairly limited at this point,” Dr Jack Cioffi said. He is the head of ophthalmology at Columbia University Medical Center in New York and wasn’t involved in the new research. Many people with vision loss might not get such a cautious perspective from reading news about retinal implants, Alice Chuang from Brown University’s Alpert Medical School in Providence, Rhode Island, and her colleagues found.

The researchers analyzed 93 news reports published between 1999 and 2012 that covered studies by six different groups working on retinal implants. One of the implants, Argus II, was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration earlier this year to treat a rare inherited disease that causes blindness. It was approved under a humanitarian device exemption, which means the implant has not been proven effective. The rest of the implants are still in development. The researchers judged the scientific accuracy, neutrality and realistic outlook of news on stories by a scale of 1 to 5. Higher scores meant the stories better represented study findings.

Newspaper stories averaged scores of about 4 on each measure. Reports from cable, broadcast and Internet news outlets scored between 3 and 4 in every category, Chuang’s team wrote in JAMA Ophthalmology. When Warren Buffett’s Berkshire Hathaway, leaves the first session of the annual Allen and Co conference at the Sun Valley, Idaho Resort on 10 July, 2013.— REUTERS

Buffett’s Berkshire buys sizable new Exxon Mobil stake

**New York, 15 Nov** — Warren Buffett’s Berkshire Hathaway Inc (BRKa.N) (BRKb.N) on Thursday disclosed a new $3.45 billion stake in Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM.N), after buying 40.1 million shares in the world’s largest publicly traded oil company. Although the investment represents just 0.9 percent of Houston-based Exxon’s shares, analysts said it reflects strong support by the second-richest American of one of the world’s largest and most profitable companies.

“You have a buyer of size who is highly visible and who is well recognized as a long-term and conservative investor,” said Fadel Gheit, senior oil analyst at Oppenheimer & Co, referring to Buffett. — Reuters

Sotheby’s, BoA, JC Penney attract hedge fund buyers

**New York/Boston, 15 Nov** — Top US hedge fund managers in the third quarter zoned in on the consumer sector, with investments playing ranging from Sotheby’s (BID.N), a high-end auction house that caters to millionaires, to JC Penney Co (JCP.N), the struggling department store chain. Ellington Management Group LLC, a $5.5 billion investment firm founded by Michael Vranos, took a new position in Sotheby’s, as did Eric Mindich’s Eton Park Capital Management. Ellington owned 71,500 shares at the end of the third quarter while Eton Park opened an 1.94 million stake. Daniel Loeb’s Third Point, the largest shareholder in New York City-based Sotheby’s with a 9.3 percent stake, has been pushing for a management shake-up. Farallon Capital Management, a San Francisco-based hedge fund, and activist investor Jana Partners LLC opened new positions in ailing retailer J.C. Penney with 500,000 shares and 489,600 shares, respectively. David Tepper’s Appaloosa Management also picked up a stake in JC Penney, 737,800 shares.

China sets up first gene database of birth defects

TAIYUAN, 15 Nov — China’s first gene chip database of birth defects will be launched in north China’s Shanxi Province soon. “The database, first of its kind, will be complete by the end of this year,” said Guo Xingping, director of Shanxi provincial population and family planning commission research institute. Researchers are correlating data from 1,200 plus blood samples. Shanxi has China’s highest birth defect rate at around 1.9 percent with the national average level hovering around 1.3 percent. “Setting up of the database is just the start,” said Wang Wansheng, a researcher. The database will deepen knowledge and recognition of the relationship between disease and genes. The Shanxi samples are seen as highly representative and samples from other provinces and regions will be added to the database in the next five years.

Birth defect refers to a physiological or structural abnormality that develops at or before birth. Neural tube defects, congenital heart disease, cleft lip and hydrocephalus are among the most common defects. Birth defects are a serious problem in China, particularly in rural areas, and are the second-largest cause of infant death. About 900,000 children are born with birth defects in China each year, accounting for 15 to 20 percent of affected newborns in the worldwide.
EU Task Force agrees to establish an EU-Myanmar Business Council to advise Government on ways to facilitate business links

 **EU-Myanmar Task Force:**
 **Joint Press statement by co-Chairs Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative/Vice President of the Commission and U Soe Thane, Union Minister from Ministry of President’s Office**

“We are delighted to have launched today the joint EU-Myanmar Task Force as agreed on the occasion of the visit of President H.E. U Thein Sein to Brussels in March of this year. The Task Force is the most visible expression of the strong partnership between the EU and Myanmar, and our joint commitment to taking forward reform in Myanmar. We will work together for a democratic and prosperous Myanmar in which diversity and respect for human rights contribute to a dynamic and plural society, in which democracy underpins inclusion of all political and ethnic groups on an equal footing, and in which an open and stable political community makes Myanmar a magnet for foreign investment and job creation. In this spirit we look together with confidence to the election in 2015 as an important milestone on road towards the realization of this vision.

Over the last two days we have discussed all aspects of transition with leading representatives of Government, business and civil society from the EU and Myanmar. President of Myanmar, H.E. U Thein Sein, addressed the opening plenary and a participants list is attached.

**Political aspects of transition**

The Task Force welcomed the significant progress that has been made in restoring peace and promoting reconciliation among Myanmar’s different ethnic groups and stressed the importance of launching an inclusive political dialogue aimed at achieving a lasting peace for the first time in sixty years.

The Task Force underlined its condemnation of all inter-communal violence and expressed its strong support for all efforts aimed at addressing its root causes and at promoting peace and reconciliation. In a more open society, all political leaders and the media have the responsibility to promote greater tolerance. The Task Force underlined the importance of defending human rights and the rule of law for all people living in Myanmar, in the spirit of mutual respect of diversity.

The Task Force supports on-going efforts to transform Myanmar into a modern democracy a key part of which is the constitutional review under way, as well as credible, transparent and inclusive elections in 2015. In line with the President’s commitment, the release of all prisoners of conscience by the end of this year will be an important landmark.

Both sides agreed that strong and representative Parliaments are essential for modern democracies and welcomed the open and substantial political dialogue that took place earlier today between representatives of the Hluttaws and the European Parliament. Members of both chambers discussed the role of Parliaments in supporting the transition, promoting reconciliation, and ensuring effective representation and accountability. They also agreed to develop an institutional partnership covering political, policy and administrative issues. Future cooperation will include technical and institutional assistance to enhance the capacity of the Hluttaws to effectively perform their oversight, representation and lawmaking functions.

The Task Force welcomed the contribution made by Civil Society representatives to its discussions, including at the forum in Yangon, and will continue to ensure their voice is heard in the future. The Task Force agreed to launch a Myanmar-EU Human Rights Dialogue early next year, allowing for constructive and open discussions and for the exchange of best practices and expertise on issues of mutual interest and concern, in the spirit of cooperation.

As a further demonstration of the EU’s commitment to accompany the transition and reforms in Myanmar, the Task Force welcomed the recent upgrading of EU’s presence to a full-fledged Delegation. The appointment of a resident Ambassador to Myanmar for the first time, with a substantial increase in Delegation staffing, will greatly strengthen our exchanges and cooperation on the ground.

The Task Force stressed the importance of building-up the country’s emergency response and early warning capability and welcomed the joint work on the establishment of the Myanmar Crisis Response Centre with properly-trained personnel.

The Task Force will support Myanmar as it takes over the rotating presidency of ASEAN in 2014 in addition to its full integration in the ASEAN political, economic and socio-cultural communities by 2015.

**Economic aspects of transition**

The Task Force recalled the recent lifting of sanctions and the reinstatement of GSP trade preferences for exporters as the most visible signals of EU’s support for the continuing reform under way in Myanmar. Looking ahead, both sides committed to deepening their economic partnership for mutual benefit.

The Task Force welcomed the progress towards EU joint programming of development aid for Myanmar, with a particular focus on health, education, rural development and food security, trade and private sector development, governance and the peace process. Joint programming by the EU and Member States responds to the commitments undertaken with Myanmar authorities to support the National Development Strategy and endorsed in the Nay Pyi Taw Accord for Effective Development Cooperation of last January.

The fruitful debate held with the donor community, civil society and the private sector as part of the Development Forum confirmed the willingness of the international community and Myanmar stakeholders to join forces and coordinate activities to promote sustainable and comprehensive development in Myanmar over the coming years.

For the coming seven years (2014-2020) Myanmar is expected to be one of the leading beneficiaries of EU development co-operation in Asia. Subject to final programming decisions and EU budgetary approval, this should be around 90 million per annum— a 20% increase from current levels.

The Task Force welcomed the agreement in principle to extend the lending operations of the European Investment Bank to Myanmar as of 2014 and looked forward to the conclusion of the Framework Agreement within the next weeks. EIB will focus its activities on infrastructure projects including transport and energy, on environmental projects perhaps including forestry, as well as credit lines to selected local banks for on-lending to SMEs. Subject to final legislative approval, lending volumes could fluctuate between Euro 30-100 million per year.

The Task Force welcomed the success of the Business Forum and the high turnout of European companies. More than 100 EU business leaders have come to Myanmar to explore investment opportunities and build economic partnerships. Dedicated technical groups in Yangon discussed many specific opportunities for increased trade and co-operation between EU and Myanmar businesses.

The Task Force noted that the Myanmar government’s intentions to boost investment in key sectors of the economy, and particularly in infrastructure, will bring new opportunities for Myanmar and new opportunities for investment from—and joint ventures with—European industry. The Task Force noted the recommendations of the sustainable groups perhaps including forestry, as well as credit lines to selected local banks for on-lending to SMEs. Subject to final legislative approval, lending volumes could fluctuate between Euro 30-100 million per year.

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Flowery plants thriving in Kalay, earning income

Some people residing in wards adjacent to outskirt of Kalay grow flowery plants on vacant and virgin lands. Very thriving flowery plants earn income for them. The plants on the great number of acres are pleasant scene for viewers.

Myotha Ward in Kalay.

Tun Tun, flower grower of K 5 million per year, said U Myint, flower grower of Myotha Ward in Kalay.

Flower growers can earn K 5 million per year, said U Tun Tun, flower grower of Myotha Ward in Kalay. Especially, colourful chrysanthemum is grown in early June. The plants bear flowers at the end of September. From then on, flowers cover all acres.

Flowery plants thriving in Kalay, earning income

Preparedness for flood-ravaged region disseminated

Lewe, 15 Nov—Mehaw Creek and Sittoung River flooded Lewe Township in heavy rains on 27 October.

To be able to present floods next years, a talk on preventative measures was disseminated at the monastery in Bawdigon Village on 13 November.

The talks emphasized plans of the Union government for prevention of floods and assistance for cultivation of crops on flood-ravaged areas. The talk was attended by Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myint Swe, in-charge of Agriculture Sector member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Myint Swe and officials, local people totalling 250.

Myanmar badminton players to show off brilliant efforts in SEA Games

Nay Pyi Taw, 15 Nov—Myanmar badminton team will pour its vigorous efforts for securing achievement to some extent in the coming SEA Games, said U Robin Tin, Secretary of Myanmar Badminton Federation recently.

“We have made preparations based on experiences in competitions at home and abroad. The team made a trip to Malaysia to take joint training from 28 October to 11 November. As Myanmar is host, Myanmar badminton team hopes to take part in the games with its best efforts,” he said.

In the SEA Games, five classes will be included in the badminton event. Five gold medals will be awarded to the winners in the men’s and women’s singles events, men’s and women’s doubles events and mixed doubles event.

At present, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia are standing at the world class positions. Myanmar should place emphasis on playing against these teams carefully.

Workshop on H1N1 Flu Preparedness held

Nay Pyi Taw, 15 Nov—A workshop on H1N1 Flu Preparedness was held at Myat Taw Wun Hotel, here, yesterday morning, with an address by Union Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Ohn Myint.

FAO and the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department under the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development jointly organized the workshop with the support of USAID.

The Union minister said that H1N1 flu is a rapidly spreading viral disease. Its outbreak is common and widespread among animals such as swine, chickens and birds, he added.

He said that the flu hits profits of breeding of chickens. Besides, the fatal virus can directly transmit from birds to humans, he noted.

He continued that therefore, it needs to cooperate with outside organizations in taking measures for prevention and control of animal diseases.

He called for distributing educative pamphlets to the public and for taking further steeps towards the preparedness tasks through suggestions of those present.

Next, Director Ms. Elenora De Guzman of PREVENT Project pledged to provide cash and technical assistance for the disease control.

FAO’s Representative Dr Myat Kyaw reported on undertakings for not occurring HPAI, H5N1 and H7N9 among the public.

It was attended by representatives of FAO, Prevent Project, WHO, Myanmar Veterinary Association, Myanmar Livestock Federation and departmental officials.
Women’s rights

Glass ceiling for women seems to exist in every society; otherwise the phrase “women’s rights” should not have been born after her brother “human rights.” So, there is a glass ceiling in Myanmar for women.

In Myanmar, women enjoy a greater degree of equality with men compared to their counterparts from many Asian countries. But, a quick look into the parliament and government ministries will make it clear that Myanmar women just have a small presence in leadership and decision-making positions.

With unprecedented reforms taking shape in Myanmar, women are now able to stand up for their rights in unison. A lady lawmaker has once proposed reserving 30% of seats for women in the parliament just to receive the amusing answer of the house speaker that women would be able to make up the entire parliament if lady politicians contested and won in all constituencies.

In Myanmar society, women traditionally have taken the back seat until 2000s when the increasing living expenses forced many women from their homes to the workplace to become earners themselves. Before this, male sex superiority was deeply entrenched in our society and both men and women thought it was normal. The time-honoured maxim for housewives “Treat son as the master, treat husband as the Lord” highlights the traditional role of women.

Now, Myanmar women are trying to shatter this age-old glass ceiling by themselves. Women’s forum and dialogue that are never before in Myanmar are coming up from the very fast. Advices of EU.

“Women’s rights for a modernized and good women’s representation in any capacity are inseparable, it is necessary to realize the two tasks harmoniously, she added.

The political dialogue and decision making in the country were discussed.

The political dialogue of the task force chaired by Union Minister U Aung Min and Ms. Catherine Ashton followed. It was attended by the union ministers, Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Transiglity Committee Daw Aung San San Suu Kyi, high ranking officials from EU and guests.

At the dialogue, rule of law, constitutional amendment, human rights, holding of free and fair election in 2015, national reconciliation development programme, socioeconomic enhancement programmes and efforts to ensure transparency in financial sectors were discussed.

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At the dialogue, rule of law, constitutional amendment, human rights, holding of free and fair election in 2015, national reconciliation all national races and political...

People’s voice is the establishment of federal union based on genuine democracy and institutions

Nav Pyi Taw, 15 Nov—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw and peace-making process in the country were discussed.

The parliamentary dialogue was chaired by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Aung Myint Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Mya Minnis and Vice-President of European Parliament Ms. Isabelle Durant.

Union Minister U Soe Thane and Ms. Catherine Ashton held a press conference on the launch of Myanmar-EU Task Force in the evening.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives Ms. Catherine Ashton, High Representative of EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.—MNA

People’s voice is the establishment of federal union based on genuine democracy and institutions

The participants from EU side discussed matters on development of Myanmar’s tourism industry, mining sectors, environmental conservation, more arrival of tourists from EU countries to Myanmar, educational development programmes, rule of law and judicial sector development in the country, health sector, farmland ownership, rural development programme, socioeconomic enhancement programmes and efforts to ensure transparency in financial sectors.

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At the dialogue, rule of law, constitutional amendment, human rights, holding of free and fair election in 2015, national reconciliation...
President U Thein Sein visits Shwetaung research and propagation farm

Nay Pyi Taw, 15 Nov—Accompanied by Union ministers, chief ministers, deputy minister and departmental heads, President U Thein Sein visited Shwetaung research and propagation farm near Shwetaung village in Wundwin Township this evening.

Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing and officials conducted the President and party round the farm.

At the briefing hall, Union Minister U Myint Hlaing gave an account of the farm and explained works running under Public-Private Partnership (P.P.P.).

In his address, the President called for food sufficiency to be able to feed the population of 100 million in 2050, saying that export of surplus food will be able to contribute towards food sufficiency in other countries. He called on international organization and agriculture experts to scale up support for the development of Myanmar agriculture sector by rendering technical assistance and making investments in the sector.

Shwetaung research and propagation farm is located on an area of 1054.27 acres. With the aim of producing hybrid paddy strains and quality cotton and sunflower strains and conducting research on agriculture methods, research and seed production are being carried out at the farm.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker meets with Chairman of ABLA

Nay Pyi Taw, 15 Nov—Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint received a delegation led by Mr Sawada Hideo, Chairman of Asian Business Leader Association at the hall of Amyotha Hluttaw building, here, this morning.

The visiting delegation will cooperate in Myanmar’s development tasks under the arrangement of Myanmar-Japan Friendship Association.

Present at the call together with the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker were Chairman Dr Khin Shwe, Secretary U Win Naing Sein and members of Japan-Myanmar Parliamentarian Friendship Association and officials of the Hluttaw office.

OIC Secretary-General and party visits relief camps in Rakhine State

Nay Pyi Taw, 15 Nov—Together with Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee for Implementation of Peace and Stability and Development of Rakhine State Union Minister Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win, Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin and U Khin Yi, a delegation led by Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Mr Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu left here for Sittway of Rakhine State by air this morning.

On their arrival at Sittway, State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin explained resettlement and rehabilitation works to the Union ministers, the OIC Secretary-General and party at the airport lounge.

Then, they flew to Maungtaw where they met townsmen of the two communities at teh office of the Maungtaw district deputy commissioner.

The OIC Secretary-General gave an account of OIC, saying that the two communities will be provided with assistance in accord with the policy of Myanmar government and assistance will be given to the 2014 census taking process. OIC’s humanitarian aids will be presented through the government, neither other organizations nor OIC directly, he added.

Next, the Turkish Foreign Affairs Minister stressed the need not to base on religious differences.

Then, the OIC Secretary-General and party presented supplies to responsible persons. After visiting Thetkelpin relief camp, they held separate talks with townsmen of the two communities at Sittway airport lounge.

They arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw in the evening.

In an interview with Abul Harsat, a local from Yawhat Village in Maungtaw Township, he expressed his view on OIC’s visit to Rakhine State, saying that the two communities have been living together peacefully for many years ago.

Co-existence is not a problem for the majority of local people, but for a small number of them. We are willing to continue to live together peacefully. I would like OIC to give a helping hand in regional development tasks. He also stressed the importance of peace and stability in the region. —MNA

 Malaysian Armed Forces team wins Myanmar U-19 in football friendly

Nay Pyi Taw, 15 Nov—A friendly football match between the Myanmar Selected U-19 Football Team and Malaysian Armed Forces Football Team took place at Zeyathiri Tatmadaw Sports Ground, here, this afternoon.

Among the spectators were Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu and Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win and wife Daw Mar Mar Wai, senior military officers of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services’ Office and their wives, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, Maj-Gen Dato’ Hi Khilt bin Hj Mohd Nor and senior military officers of Malaysian Armed Forces, war veterans, servicemen and families of six stations under Nay Pyi Taw Command.

Malaysian Armed Forces Football Team beat the Myanmar Selected U-19 Football Team 3-1.

Nine police members injured in villagers’ attack with stones and catapults at Latpadaungtaung region

Nay Pyi Taw, 15 Nov—Nine police members were injured and windscreen of two police vehicles destroyed as villagers catapulted the members of Myanmar Police Force who were on security duty and threw the stones at them at Ingyiungtaung protest camp in Salingyi Township of Sagaing Region at yesterday night.

Police personnel led by Police Major Zaw Win Aung came under attack in the line of duty at mile post No (440/4) on Pathein-Monywa road heading to Ingyiungtaung protest camp at Moegyin Village at about 7.30 pm yesterday. About 150 villagers from the village who catapulted and threw the stones at the police left the scene as the police fired warning shots.

As villagers catapulted and threw the stones at the police vehicles while two police platoons arrived at the scene to carry out necessary arrangements, the police fired warning shots.

Due to the attack of villagers, nine police members were wounded and windscreen and rear-view mirrors damaged. The injured police were taken to the People’s Hospital in Monywa and are being given treatment there.
Skill demonstration on Myanmar traditional cane-ball sport presented in Myeik

MYEIK, 15 Nov.—The skill demonstration on Myanmar traditional cane-ball sports (playing circular cane-ball sport) was presented at Mingala Zeyon Monastic Education School in Kyaukpyutaung Village of Sandawuk Village-tract of Myeik Township in Taninthayi Region on 12 November evening.

The demonstration is aimed at preserving the fading out of Myanmar traditional cane-ball sports and handing down its skills to new generation youths.

In commemoration of the ceremony of communal Kathina robe offering ceremony of the village, the traditional cane-ball sport was demonstrated yearly.

This year, a committee was formed with village elders for organizing the traditional cane-ball sport contest under the aegis of the abbot of Mingala Zeyon Monastic Education School in commemoration of the communal Kathina robe offering ceremony of the village.

At the traditional cane-ball demonstration, the cane-ball teams from Kyewku Youth Team, Ingyinkhaing Team, Pyokhin Team, Triangle Team and New Leave Team participated in the skill demonstration.

Kyeemon-Moe Hein (Myeik)

Myeik Township DAC repaves asphalt roads

Myeik, 15 Nov.—Myeik Township Development Affairs Committee funded repaving of asphalt roads as of 1 November for ensuring smooth transport of the local people.

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The committee spent K 1,510,000 on repaving 800 feet long and 20 feet wide U Myat Lay Road. Likewise, K 9.8 million fund of the committee was spent on 1200 feet long and 12 feet wide Aung San Street on 7 November and K 4.59 million on 1100 feet long and 13 feet wide Phayakaing Road.

Kyemon-Myeik District IPRD

Livestock and Fisheries youth course opened in Myeik

MYEIK, 15 Nov.—The Myeik District livestock and fisheries youth training course was conducted at the hall of Myeik District Rural Development Department in Myeik of Taninthayi Region on 13 November.

Deputy Commissioner U Kwin Ko Oo of District GAD made a speech. A total of 40 trainees from villages of Myeik District attended the training course that ran from 13 to 15 November.

Officials gave lectures on instruction of the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development for meat sector, animal health, development law, model village development matters, facts about Fisheries Department, control of infectious diseases for cattle and poultry, matters related to Rural Development Department, collection of data and fish resources.

Kyemon-Myeik District IPRD

Festival

Taunggyi’s Tazaungdine hot air balloon festival

TAUNGYI, 15 Nov.—The releasing of hot air balloon was held as festivities in Taunggyi as of 10 November.

In the moon light, hot air balloons were released one after another with various shapes.

Announcer of the festival declared the title of hot air balloons and creators and themes of the works, saying sizes and weights at night diamond shape and lighting event of Taunggyi Tazaungdine hot air balloon releasing ceremony.

The announcement of the ceremony attracted the guests to enjoy the festival joyfully as of 10 November.

Kyemon-Hsaung Hnin Latt (Langkho)

Ambulances donors honoured in Taikkyi Tsp

TAIKKYI, 15 Nov.—A ceremony to open the ambulance service office was held in conjunction with the ceremony to present certificates to ambulance donors in Bawdwin ward of Taikkyi in Yangon Region yesterday.

Chairman of Brick Entrepreneurs Association U Tun Yi explained emergence of ambulance service office. Secretary U Chit Oo explained cash donation lists and cost of ambulance. Officials presented certificates of honour to ambulance donors, and Vice-Chairman U Hla Tin spoke words of thanks.

Under the leadership of Brick Entrepreneurs Association, a total of 115 wellwishers from Taikkyi donated K 51.9 million for purchase of two ambulances.

Also present on the occasion were Yangon Region MPs U Soe Win Maung and U Myint Aung, Township Administrator U Zaw Soe and departmental officials.

The ambulances are facilitated with patient bed, oxygen cylinder, such machine, emergency medicines.

The service will transport patients from Taikkyi to Yangon General Hospital and specialist hospitals charging K 20000 for fuel, but not charge cost for fuel for emergency patients of traffic accidents on the road and needy persons.

Driver service is free.

Seven volunteers will be assigned for ambulances daily.

For seeking help, may dial 055-20700, 095394176 (Sunday), 095079135 (Saturday), 095394696 (Tuesday), 095394396 (Monday), 095349592 (Wednesday), 095394176 (Friday) and 095394498 (Saturday).

Kyemon-Tun Hsang (Myeik)

Athletes concentrate playing traditional cane-ball demonstra- tion to show off excellent performance to audience at the festival.

Voluntary Activities

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Kyemon-Hsaung Hnin Latt (Langkho)
Commonwealth leaders’ summit begins in Colombo amidst controversy

COLOMBO, 15 Nov — Sri Lanka formally assumed the Chair of the 53-member Commonwealth as the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) kicked off here on Friday in an unprecedented move for the post-war nation.

The opening ceremony of CHOGM, the most important meeting of the Commonwealth, got underway at the China donated Nelum Pokuna Theatre.

Sri Lankan president Mahinda Rajapaksa will remain the Chair of the Commonwealth till the end of 2014 when it will be handed over to Mauritius.

World leaders and heads of delegations of 53 Commonwealth countries gathered at the lotus-shaped auditorium for a colorful opening ceremony.

The event was presided over by Britain’s Prince Charles who represents his mother Queen Elizabeth as Head of the Commonwealth at the CHOGM for the first time.

The Prince of Wales and his wife Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall, arrived in Colombo on Thursday.

Soon after the hour-long ceremony, heads of government and delegation heads posed for pictures with the Prince of Wales also at the Nelum Pokuna Theatre.

The heads of government will then attend executive sessions throughout the day. A dinner reception will also be hosted for heads of government by the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall.

On Saturday the heads of government will be on a retreat.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa will host a state banquet for heads of government on Saturday evening before CHOGM wraps up on Sunday.

The run up to the iconic event has been marred by controversy over Sri Lanka’s mediocre human rights record with prime ministers from Canada, India and Mauritius absenteeing themselves from the event.

British Prime Minister David Cameron will visit the country’s former war zone in the north to see the devastation and several leaders have pledged to have discussions with Rajapaksa on the slow pace of reconciliation in the island.

Sri Lanka’s government ended a three-decade war against Tamil Tiger rebels in 2009 but has faced severe criticism from the international community over its failure to have credible investigations into human rights abuses that include allegations of killing thousands of civilians during the last phase of the conflict.

Southeast Asian countries share anti-corruption experiences at meeting

VIENTiane, 15 Nov — The ninth annual South East Asia Parties Against Corruption (SEA-PAC) meeting is going on here Friday with parties sharing experience in fighting corruption in the region.

Around 200 participants including delegates from member countries and representatives from international organizations convened on Thursday for the two-day meeting.

The first day of the meeting saw Myanmar sign a memorandum of understanding to enter SEA-PAC, bringing the number of its member nations to 10.

Lao Deputy Prime Minister Asaong Laosay said that the meeting was an important platform that gave participating nations the opportunity to share experiences learned and the best practices for use in combating corruption.

Participants are expected to discuss and explore stricter measures to prevent and fight corruption, state-run daily Vientiane Times reported on Friday.

Laos said corruption was a threat to the security of a nation that hinders development. The Lao government has attached great importance to combating corruption and had introduced a number of laws and regulations in order to stem corruption in the country, he said.

Thai military to send aid to typhoon-hit Philippines

BANGKOK, 15 Nov — Thailand’s armed forces will airlift medical assistance and supplies to Typhoon Haiyan-stricken Philippines, local media reported on Thursday.

Currently, people in the Philippines are in urgent need of medical aid, Supreme Commander Gen Thanasak Prathamwong was quoted by the Nation newspaper as saying. Financial assistance is also being offered, he said. According to the latest update from the government of the Philippines, the typhoon has claimed 2,357 lives across the country.

Other countries including China and Australia are also offering assistance to the Philippines.—Xinhua

Indonesia, Thailand agree to strengthen ties at various levels

JAKARTA, 15 Nov — Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister Marty Natalegawa said on Thursday that Indonesia and Thailand have agreed to increase their cooperation at various levels and identify further opportunities aimed at nurturing bilateral ties between the two countries. Speaking on the sidelines of the 8th Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) between Indonesia and Thailand in Bangkok, Marty said that the meeting has stepped up efforts to further increase cooperation between the two countries.

“The 8th Indonesia-Thailand Joint Commission Meeting has identified the opportunities so as to improve the ties between the two countries in bilateral, regional and multilateral levels,” Marty said in a statement released by the Foreign Affairs Ministry here. Marty said during the meeting attended by the Thai counterpart Surapong Tovichakcaikul, both of them agreed to turn the JCM into an annual event.

Besides, the two ministers also agreed to increase economic, trade, tourism and investment cooperation by identifying opportunities that can be further explored and facilitates business relations of both countries, said the statement. A reflection of stronger ties between Indonesia and Thailand, the two countries have signed several important cooperation agreements in the last three years, including Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) on education, legal, anti-corruption and trade cooperation, Marty said. During his official visit to Bangkok, Marty also paid an official visit to Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra. During their meeting, they discussed not only bilateral and global issues of common interest. Indonesia officially established bilateral ties with Thailand in 1950, and commenced the JCM in 1992. Indonesia is now the second largest trade partner of Thailand in the ASEAN region. —Xinhua

About 1 in 5 people in Japan avoid produce from radiation-exposed areas

TSUKUBA, 15 Nov — About 20 percent of adults avoid buying farm produce grown in places they think likely to be contaminated with radiation, a nationwide survey by the National Institute for Environmental Studies has found.

The survey with replies from 1,121 people aged 20-79 was conducted in February, about two years after the multiple nuclear meltdowns at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant following the 11 March, 2011 quake and tsunami.

“While (produce) is strictly inspected in the shipping and distribution phases, there is much mis-understanding,” said Midori Aoyagi, head of the environmental planning section at the institute in Tsukuba, Ibaraki Prefecture.

Asked if they avoid localities with the likelihood of radioactive contamination when buying farm produce, 20.7 percent said they “always” do so and 15.4 percent said they “often” do so, while those who said they “do not do so at all” came to 34.9 percent.

 Asked to what extent the spread of radioactive materials through the air and water affected the health of children and grandchildren, 49.9 percent said it will have a “big impact” and 39.5 percent said there will be “somewhat of an impact,” together accounting for nearly 90 percent of the total.—Kyodo News

A stamp collector visits the 2013 Stamp Week in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 14 Nov, 2013. The 2013 Stamp Week held by Malaysia Post Bureau started from on 13 November.—Xinhua

A 36-meter-high Christmas tree is illuminated at Universal Studios Japan in Osaka’s konohana Ward on the night of on 14 Nov, 2013. Kyodo News

A passenger appreciates plants at Changi International Airport in Singapore, on 12 Nov, 2013. Changi International Airport has been decorated with lots of flowers and plants.—Xinhua

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Four US Marines die in accident at Camp Pendleton in California

WASHINGTON, 15 Nov — Four US Marines were killed on Wednesday in an accident while clearing a training area used as an artillery and aerial bombing range at Camp Pendleton in Southern California, a military spokesman said.

NBC News reported the Marines were killed when unexploded ordnance unexpectedly detonated, but the spokesman could not immediately confirm that, saying only the Marines had been clearing the area.

Marines spokesman Lieutenant Ryan Finnegan said the clearance operation would have involved anything necessary to keep the range free of obstructions, which could include disposal of ordnance.

But he could not say they were handling ordnance when the accident occurred.

The cause of the accident, which happened on Wednesday morning at the Zulu Impact Area in the interior part of the base, was under investigation.

No live-fire exercise was under way at Zulu at the time, and while such an exercise was occurring at neighbouring Whiskey Impact Area, it played no role in the deaths, Finnegan said.

“We offer our heartfelt prayers and condolences to the families of the Marines lost today in this tragic accident,” Brigadier General John Bullard, commanding general of the base, said in a statement. “Our first priority is to provide the families with the support they need during this difficult time.”

Finnegan said the Marines killed were not new recruits and were based at Camp Pendleton, but the military did not release their ages or other details about them.

Training at Camp Pendleton, including the live fire at Whiskey Impact Area, continued after the fatalities, he said.

The Zulu Impact Area is a restricted zone because of the danger of unexploded ordnance, according to Camp Pendleton’s website. As a result, efforts to contain wildfires and study biology there are limited, the website description stated.

Seven Marines were killed in an accidental munitions depot blast in Nevada in March. In May, a US Navy SEAL was killed in a vehicle accident during a training exercise at Fort Knox in Kentucky.
Trip Tips: Nashville, the music lover’s paradise

NASHVILLE, (Tennessee) 15 Nov — From legendary concert halls and recording studios to raucous honky-tonks and other clubs that resonate with country, blues, rock and jazz, Nashville lives and breathes its reputation as Music City USA.

Your waiters are probably musicians and even bankers have at least one pair of cowboy boots to wear with their power suits. Don’t be surprised that the bellhop at your hotel is a guitar-slinging songwriter... and living life they wood enjoy: time to let his moment to boxoffice.com.

Monday night appearances with country traditionalist... The recreation of the Fort Nash-"The Best Man Holiday” probes marriage, friendship in sequel

LOS ANGELES, 15 Nov — Waiting 14 years to deliver the sequel to wedding film “The Best Man” gave director Malcolm D Lee an advantage few sequels in franchise-happy Holly-

‘The Best Man Holiday’ probes marriage, friendship in sequel

Fans pay tribute to rocker Lou Reed at NY memoria

New York, 15 Nov—Hundreds of fans gathered at a public memorial in New York on Thursday for rocker Lou Reed, the frontman of the 1960s band The Velvet Underground who died last month of liver disease at the age of 71.

As music blared from speakers at the outdoor memorial on the terrace at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, fans danced, sat and listened to Reed’s music and strolled through the crowd while his wife, performance artist Laurie Anderson, greeted friends and well-wishers. “I love Lou Reed. I always felt like he was a genius and he always will be,” said Janet Bako, 65, a fan of 40 years who traveled from Weehawken, New Jersey with a friend for the memorial. “He had such a beautiful aura about him.”

Reed, who died on October 27, months after a liver transplant, wrote songs that were a form of provocative dark poetry. They invoked his native New York and touched on drug addiction, illicit sex and drug abuse, and he delivered them in a trademark monotone singing voice. Thursday’s memorial was announced on Reed’s Facebook page as a simple celebration. “No speeches. No live performances, just Lou’s voice, guitar music and songs — playing the recordings selected by his family and friends,” it said.

For Alan Bako, 65, of New York, the memorial was an opportunity to listen to Reed’s music, whose solo hits included “Walk on the Wild Side” and “Perfect Day,” and to remember the legendary rocker. “I like his music and I like the idea that he’s a real New Yorker,” Bako said.

“I remember when I saw him at the Fillmore East with the Underground in the late ‘60s,” he said, referring to the landmark New York club.—Reuters

Rome Film Festival market opening marks halfway point for rejuvenated event

ROME, 15 Nov — At the halfway point of the Rome Film Festival, the event is starting to get down to business. The eight-year-old event is off to a strong start so far, with sold out shows and events, ticket sales higher than a year ago, and much more of a buzz in the local media. Multiple films in the festival’s lineup have earned praise from Italian critics.

Add to that The Business Street’s festival’s market event — which got underway Wednesday.

The Business Street’s name comes from Via Veneto, one of the best known and most beautiful avenues in the Italian capital. The initiative is housed in that part of town rather than the Auditorium Parco della Musica venue on the northern edge of town that’s the festival’s home base. The Business Street provides a context for buyers and sellers to meet and discuss future film deals. It runs through 17 November, when the festival concludes.

The first initiative from The Business Street is aimed at promoting the reach of Italian film. “We won’t survive if we aren’t open to new ways of spreading a passion for Italian films,” said Silvio Masiello, the newly appointed head of the Italian audio-visual association ANICA.

The Business Street gets underway riding the momentum of a resurgent festival, where several films have garnered more than their share of attention, including “Her,” an in-competition selection from Spike Jonze, which tells the story of a man who falls in love with a computer operating system, and “Hard to be a God,” the magnum opus from the late Russian maestro Aleksy German. On Wednesday, German became the first cinema figure ever posthumously honoured with a career achievement award by an international film festival.

On Wednesday, directors Wes Anderson and Roman Coppola (son of multi-ple Oscar winning director Francis Ford Coppola) participated in a Master Class discussion that was the latest in a series of sold out events.—Xinhua

Patrons visit Ernest Tubb Record Shop in downtown Nashville, Tennessee on 19 June, 2013.—Reuters

Chinese actress Ni Hongjie poses during a photo call for the film “Blue Sky Bones” at the 8th Rome International Film Festival in Rome, Italy, on 13 Nov, 2013.—Xinhua

Mourners attend a public memorial for singer Lou Reed at Lincoln Centre in New York, on 14 Nov, 2013.—Reuters

New York, 15 Nov — From legendary concert halls and recording studios to raucous honky-tonks and other clubs that resonate with country, blues, rock and jazz, Nashville lives and breathes its reputation as Music City USA.

Your waiters are probably musicians and even bankers have at least one pair of cowboy boots to wear with their power suits. Don’t be surprised that the bellhop at your hotel is a guitar-slinging songwriter waiting for his big break.

Here are tips about getting the most out of a trip to Nashville from Reuters, whose 2,600 journalists whose 2,600 journalists

The New York Times

entertainment

Saturday, 16 November, 2013

New Light of Myanmar
Golden Lampard leads experimental England against Chile

LONDON, 15 Nov — Frank Lampard will receive a special golden cap to mark 100 appearances for England on Friday when he captains what is expected to be a largely experimental team against Chile in a friendly at Wembley.

Coach Roy Hodgson, speaking to the media at England’s base at Watford, north of London, would only reveal on Thursday that Lampard would definitely start, but did strongly hint the team would look rather different than usual as he continues to plan for next year’s World Cup finals.

Both Friday’s opponents Chile, and Germany, who play England at Wembley next Tuesday, have also already qualified for next year’s finals.

Although England have lost only once in open play in 22 matches under Hodgson — and not been beaten for 10 games since they lost a friendly to Sweden a year ago this week — Hodgson said he was prepared to sacrifice that unbeaten run for the greater good.

“I think I have got to put the performances ahead of the good run,” he said. “I think in these two games I need to have a look at one or two players who are knocking heavily on the door and deserve a chance to show what they can do. There are only these two matches to do that and one in March, so I can’t dismiss the need to give some playing time to people to know more about them.

“I am not trying to play down the importance of winning games and to keep the unbeaten run going, but I am not going to do it and have an unbeaten record to boast of if it is going to be at the detriment of looking at other players.”

England’s Frank Lampard (L) and Tom Cleverley attend a training session at London Colney, north of London on 13 Nov, 2013. — Reuters

Swede Stenson steady in Race to Dubai climax

DUBAI, 15 Nov — Henrik Stenson was the best of those vying to win the European money list with a four-under 68 in Thursday’s first round of the $8 million DP World Tour Championship, two shots behind surprise leader Alejandro Canizares.

Stenson, formerly the European Order of Merit, with victory in the season finale.

“Rossi definitely won’t be there, even though he took part in the first training session today,” said Prandelli. “Rossi told me this week that the Swede’s injury is not a big issue so at no point had I been worried about his availability.”

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“I mishit a lot of shots today — they weren’t really getting me into trouble, but I wasn’t firing on all cylinders,” said Rose. “Patience is a big part of it so at no point today was I worried about where Henrik was.”

McDowell has never made the top-10 in Dubai and he started poorly to be three-over with five holes to play.

“It’s a massive risk to be put in the deep end, if you like, with a team that should be fighting for a title,” Button said. “But if a driver is willing to take that risk, he has a lot of confidence in himself and his ability.”

“It could go one way or another and I hope it goes the positive way,” said the 2009 world champion, who made his debut as a 20-year-old with Williams in 2000.

The 21-year-old Dane is the son of former McLAREN and Stewart racer Jan Magnussen and will be the first rookie to make his F1 debut with McLaren since Britain’s Lewis Hamilton in 2007.

He steps into the seat vacated by Mexican Perez amid high praise and even higher expectations.

If Magnussen has any doubts about what is expected of him then he need only consider the fate of Perez, a once highly touted prospect who has been jettisoned by the former champions after one disappointing season. — Reuters

Michael Phelps has rejoined the US Anti-Doping Agency’s drug testing programme

NEW YORK, 15 Nov — Michael Phelps has rejoined the US Anti-Doping Agency’s drug testing programme in a signal the most decorated Olympic could be considering a return to the swimming pool in time for the Rio de Janeiro Games in 2016.

Phelps retired after winning four gold and two silver medals at the 2012 London Olympics to take his career total to 22, 18 of which were gold. The 28-year-old was tested twice in the quarter-finals before competing in sanctioned events.

Phelps had repeatededly said before the London Games he would not contemplate a comeback after he retired and his coach Bob Bowman downplayed any suggestions he was considering a return to compete at what would be his fifth Olympics in 2016. “It’s premature to say that,” Bowman told USA TODAY Sports on Thursday. “What we’re doing is kind of letting him have his options.”

US Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps

Magnussen will sink or swim, says Button

New York, 15 Nov — Kevin Magnussen will be thrown into the Formula One deep end when he replaces Sergio Perez at McLaren next season and it will be up to the young Dane whether he sinks or swims, future team mate Jenson Button said on Thursday.

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Syria accuses rebels of attacks on Damascus

DAMASCUS, 15 Nov — Syria’s Foreign Ministry on Thursday complained to the UN about the rebels’ escalating mortar attacks against Syrian cities, urging it to hold accountable the countries that support the armed rebels.

The ministry made the complaint in a letter addressing the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and dressing the UN Secretary-General’s complaint in a letter addressed to the Security Council.

The random mortars launched at the Syrian cities have become one of the countries that support the armed rebels.

Syria accuses rebels of attacking cities with mortars.

The ministry said. “Children and their schools are bearing the brunt of the indiscriminate acts of terrorism,” it added.

It said “the Ministry of Education had to suspend teaching for three days, starting from 13 November, in a number of targeted schools to protect children from the terrorist shells, which has a negative impact on the educational process.”

Meanwhile, the ministry urged the international community to help “issuing a clear condemnation of terrorist groups and the countries backing them, especially Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and take the necessary measures to dry out the sources of terrorism.”

SANA said five people were killed Thursday by multiple mortar attacks on Damascus and the central city of Homs.

Xinhua

Manchester United to benefit from rising value of TV deals

LONDON, 15 Nov — English football champions Manchester United highlighted the soaring value of television rights for live games on Thursday after broadcast and sponsorship deals pushed quarterly revenues to a record high.

English Premier League clubs are benefitting from a battle between pay TV company BSkyB and former state telecoms company BT for supremacy in the sports market.

BT, expanding aggressively into a market long dominated by BSkyB, last weekend agreed to pay 900 million pounds ($1.44 billion) for rights to Europe’s Champions League and Europa League competitions for three years from 2015. That is more than double what BSkyB and ITV currently pay.

“The value of content is rising. Sport is the must-have content and football is the world’s No 1 sport,” said Ed Woodward, United’s executive vice-chairman.

Woodward said the new BT deal would be worth upwards of 10 million pounds a season to English clubs playing in the Champions League, the most prestigious European competition.

United generated revenue of £85.5 million pounds in the three months to September 30, the first quarter of its financial year and a period that included the start of the football season.

The figure was boosted by new sponsorship deals with Russian airline Aeroflot and US soft drinks company PepsiCo, businesses keen to associate with one of the world’s best-known sports teams.

United, controlled by the American Glazer family, reported core profit (EBITDA) of 22 million pounds in the quarter, up 36 percent year on year and ahead of forecasts.

The club is forecasting full-year revenue of 420-430 million pounds, closing the gap on European rivals Real Madrid and Barcelona, who benefit from negotiating their own TV deals rather than the pooled deals agreed by the Premier League.

United stand fifth in the Premier League but their form under new manager David Moyes has improved in recent weeks and they beat leaders Arsenal on Sunday.

The club’s shares, listed on the New York Stock Exchange since August 2012, closed at $15.75 on Wednesday, valuing United at $2.6 billion. The stock has risen from its market debut price of $14 and has defied critics who argue that football clubs are a risky investment best left to fans.

Staff costs rose 31 percent to 53 million pounds, reflecting a paying staff that includes international stars such as Dutch striker Robin van Persie and England forward Wayne Rooney.

Shoppers walk past a Manchester United merchandise store at a mall in Singapore on 14 June, 2012.—Reuters

Xinhua

Red-crowned cranes fly the state nature reserve of rare birds in Yanenchang, east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 12 Nov, 2013. A great many rare birds have migrated to the nature to overwinter, including red-crowned cranes, oriental storks, and hooded cranes.—Xinhua
Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham on inspection tour of development tasks in Shan State

Taking foreign loans to help develop the nation in long run

Amnesty granted

Weather forecast

Southwest of Cocogyun (Myanmar). It is moving Southwest wards and forecast to recurve West-Northwest wards and then likely to cross North Tamil Nadu coast near Nagapattinam during next 24 hrs.

Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 40 m.p.h.

The present stage of the depression is coded yellow stage and it is not moving towards Myanmar coasts.—NLM

Russian musical evenings in progress.—MNA

Russian diplomatic relations marks

65th anniversary of establishment of Russia-Myanmar diplomatic relations marks

YANGON, 15 Nov.—In commemoration of 65th anniversary of establishment of Russia-Myanmar diplomatic relations, Russian musical evenings was held at National Theatre in Dagon Township, here, yesterday evening with an opening remarks by Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Vasily Borisovich Pospelov.

Russian artists and performers from ASW Ship-Admiral Vinogradov presented the songs.

After that Region Chief Minister of Rakhine state took over the torch and observed the third drill of state flag hoisting, torch relay for opening and closing ceremony of the 27th SEA Games and presenting the souvenirs to sport teams from 11 countries at Youth Training Centre (Thawmuk).

MNA