President U Thein Sein receives Governor of Kanagawa Prefecture and party

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Nov—President U Thein Sein held talks on bilateral cooperation with a Japanese delegation led by Mr. Yuji Kuroiwa, Governor of Kanagawa Prefecture of Japan, at Presidential Palace, here, today. They held discussions on cooperation in environmental conservation between Myanmar government and Kanagawa prefectural government, invitation extended to businessmen from Kanagawa prefecture for implementation of Dawei special economic zone and public health matters. Also present at the call were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Hla Tun, U Win Myint and U Than Htay and officials. During his Japan trip in April, 2012, President U Thein Sein visited a coal plant that cannot harm environment in Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture. MNA

First Round of Economic Dialogue between Myanmar, Switzerland held

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Nov—The First Round of Economic Dialogue between Myanmar and Switzerland held at the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, here, this morning. It was attended by Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw and respective Union Ministers and Secretary of State (See page 9)

Mandalin President and party tour

NAY PYI TAW, Bagan-NyaungU

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Nov—The visiting delegation led by President of Mongolia Mr Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj visited Upatasi Pagoda this morning and they fed the white elephants at Royal White Elephant Shed.

In the afternoon, they visited Myanmar Gems Museum. The delegation was seen off at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin and officials before their departure for Bagan.

In Bagan-NyaungU, they were welcomed by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint and responsible persons. The delegation visited Shwezigon Pagoda, Kyansittar Tunnel and Bagan Archaeological Museum.

In the evening, they went to Sulamani Temple and enjoyed spectacular Bagan sunset.

The delegation enjoyed a dinner hosted by the region chief minister at Ayeyarwady River View Resort. MNA

Low area still persists

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Nov—According to the observations at (05:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area of yesterday over Southeast and adjoining Central Bay now lies over Central Bay of Bengal, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department. MNA

President of Mongolia Mr Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj feeds the white elephants at Royal White Elephant shed.—MNA

Thura U Thet Oo Maung presents his Credentials to Turkish President

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Nov—Thura U Thet Oo Maung, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Turkey, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr Abdullah Gul, President of the Republic of Turkey, on 13 November 2013, in Ankara. MNA

Mongolian President and party tour

Nay Pyi Taw, Bagan-NyaungU

Nay Pyi Taw, 20 Nov—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein shakes hands with Mr. Yuji Kuroiwa, Governor of Kanagawa Prefecture of Japan.—MNA

INSIDE

Putin tells Iran’s leader of ‘real chance’ for nuclear deal

Palestinians cast first-ever vote in UN General Assembly

Gulf Arab carriers purchase 543 planes at Dubai airshow

Mandela remains stable but critical: South Africa government

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
Order No. 49/2013
2nd Waning of Tazaungmon 1375 ME
(19th November, 2013)
Appointment of Rakhine State High Court Judge

Under the Para (4) of Sub-section (b) of Section 308 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Sub-section (d) of Section 82 of the Union Government Law, Section 50 of the Union Judiciary Law and Sub-section (d) of Section 18 of Region/State Government Law, Kyaukpyu District Judge Daw San San Yi has been appointed as Rakhine State High Court Judge.

Sd/Thet Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Myanmar ready for 27th SEA Games

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Nov—As the 27th SEA Games is getting nearer, sportsmen have got proper training and comprehensive preparations. On the other hand, sports grounds and gymnasiums have been ready for the SEA Games. The SEA Games will be held in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay and Ngwehsaung Beach. Nay Pyi Taw has seen Wunna Theikdi and Zeyarthi Sports Complex where most of the Games would be held. Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex is complete with one football ground, one gym with halls A, B and C, centres for Put-sal, billiards, boxing and archery and one equestrian ground. Zeyarthi Sports Complex has one football ground, one gym with halls A, B and C, a Mount Pleasant cycling ground, and a petanque centre. Rowing contest will be held in Nga- like Dam.

At present, Mandalay Football ground is nearing completion to hold Women’s football match. Besides, Thuwanna Youth Training Centre and Theinbyu Tennis Court in Yangon have been upgraded.

Therefore, these sports infrastructures are showpieces for the 27th SEA Games.

Seizure of heroin, stimulant tablets in Namtham

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Nov—Anti-drug police arrested a 37-year-old man together with heroin and stimulant tablets in Namtham of Shan State on 14 November.

Police seized 12 grams of heroin worth K 0.24 million and 400 stimulant tablets worth K 0.8 million.

Purse left at Bagan-NyaungU Airport returned to owner

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Nov—A member of aviation police corps (Bagan-NyaungU) found a blue purse left on the ticket collection desk for Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Region at the Bagan-NyaungU Airport in Mandalay Region at 8:40 am on 14 November.

The contents of the purse were counted before staff of the Department for Civil Aviation. The contents include 12 US $ 100 notes, 10 US $ 50 notes, 12 $ 20 notes, one US $ 10 notes, three $ 5 notes, 10 US $ 1 notes, and 116 K 500 notes, two K 1000 notes and two K 500 notes amounting to K 2,692,825.

While seeking owner of the purse, the police found the purse owner U Maung Maung Nyein Chan, 35, who is a tourist guide residing in Myeengon of Sangyong Township in Yangon Region. On 15 November, aviation police corps (Bagan-NyaungU) returned the purse to him who claimed that a group of globe trotters and he arrived at Bagan-NyaungU Airport at 8:30 am on that day and he forgot his purse on the desk while he paid for entrance fees for his guests.—NLM

Fugitive arrested with stimulant tablets

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Nov—According to a tip-off, members of Thazi Myoma Police Station, together with witnesses searched a white van driven by Soe Zan (a) Zan Gyi, who was stationary at mile post 152/3 of Meiktila-Taunggyi Highway. They found Soe Zan (a) Zan Gyi, 34, of Kyimyinda Township of Yangon Region and 884 stimulant tablets worth K 4420,000 and a handset and K 29,600.

Soe Zan (a) Zan Gyi is charged under the Section 151/19 (a) 20 (a) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Thazi Myoma Police Station.

Further investigation disclosed that Soe Zan (a) Zan Gyi is a wanted fugitive from PyinOoLwin Myoma Police Station.—NLM-003

Collision between motorbike and railway engine leaving one dead

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Nov—Acting on a tip-off, a Monywa railway police force went to an incident where a motorbike was in collision with a railway engine on 14 November evening. The incident took place at mile post no. 461/4-5, between Monywa and Ahlon railway stations of Monywa Township in Sagaing Region. The motorbike driven by Myint Aung, 25, in Myawaddy Quarter of Monywa was in collision with Bodhitataluang-Ahlon railway engine while crossing the railroad. The motorbike driver died on the spot with multiple injuries. Monywa Police Station filed a lawsuit against him.—NLM

93rd Anniversary National Day

Objective of 93rd Anniversary National Day

1. Uplift of national prestige and integrity and dynamism of Union spirit
2. Promotion of national educational standard
3. Perpetuation of independence and sovereignty
4. Building of a new modern, developed nation

The SEA Games will be held in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay and Ngwehsaung Beach. Nay Pyi Taw has seen Wunna Theikdi and Zeyarthi Sports Complex where most of the Games would be held. Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex is complete with one football ground, one gym with halls A, B and C, centres for Put-sal, billiards, boxing and archery and one equestrian ground. Zeyarthi Sports Complex has one football ground, one gym with halls A, B and C, a Mount Pleasant cycling ground, and a petanque centre. Rowing contest will be held in Nga-like Dam.

At present, Mandalay Football ground is nearing completion to hold Women’s football match. Besides, Thuwanna Youth Training Centre and Theinbyu Tennis Court in Yangon have been upgraded.

Therefore, these sports infrastructures are showpieces for the 27th SEA Games.
Putin tells Iran’s leader of ‘real chance’ for nuclear deal

MOSCOW, 19 Nov — Russian President Vladimir Putin told Iran’s Hassan Rouhani on Monday there was a “real chance” for a nuclear deal, two days before Teheran resumes talks with world powers, hoping to end a decade-long standoff over its atomic programme.

Rouhani is one of six world powers negotiating a proposal that would ease sanctions on Teheran if it suspends some parts of a programme that many countries, particularly in the West, fear is aimed at developing nuclear weapons capability.

“Vladimir Putin underlined that at the moment a real chance has appeared to find a solution to this long-running problem,” the Kremlin said after Putin tel-eports.

According to Rouhani, elected last week, several rounds of UN sanctions and much harsher measures from the United States and Europe. Two of the steps Western powers want Iran to take in the initial phase of any deal are to stop producing uranium enriched to a military concentration of 20 percent — a relatively short step from weapons-grade material — and to produce less than 3.5 percent enriched uranium.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov suggested Iran was prepared to do both. — Reuters

Japan ready to send three more defence personnel as inspectors in Syria

TOKYO, 19 Nov — The Japanese government said on Tuesday it is prepared to supply three additional defence force members to an international chemical weapons watchdog as inspectors, following calls for cooperation in the mission to eliminate a stockpile of chemical weapons from Syria.

In conjunction with the personnel dispatch, the government plans to help finance the dismantlement efforts, according to government officials.

Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said he was “aware of expectations for cooperation from Japan” in assisting the international mission.

“Given that international efforts are currently under way to dismantle chemical weapons in Syria, our country will do whatever it can to assist,” Kishida told reporters.

Noting that the three Ground Self-Defence Force members have previously been assigned to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons as inspectors, he said he hopes they will again be employed by the organization. — Kyodo News

Putin tells Iran’s leader of ‘real chance’ for nuclear deal

NEW YORK, 19 Nov — A routine UN General Assembly vote held special significance for the Palestinian delegation on Monday as it cast a ballot for the first time, an act the Palestinian envoy said brought his nation a step closer to full UN membership.

The chief Palestinian UN observer, Ambassador Riyad Mansour, participated in the 193-nation assembly’s election of a judge for the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

Koffi Kumelio Afande of Togo was elected to the court. It was the first time the Palestinians cast a vote since their UN status was upgraded a year ago this month to “non-member state” from “entity”, like the Vatican. The vote has been perceived as a de facto recognition of Palestinian statehood.

“This is a very, very special moment in the history of the struggle of the Palestinian people at the United Nations,” Mansour told a small group of reporters.

“It’s a symbolic (step),” he said. “But it is an important one because it reflects that the international community, particularly the General Assembly, is hungry and waiting for the state of Palestine to become a full member of the United Nations.”

The upgrade of the Palestinians’ status last year came after an attempt to secure full UN membership failed because of US resistance in the Security Council, where Washington made clear it would use its veto power to block the Palestinian bid. — Reuters

Palestinians cast first-ever vote in UN General Assembly

Thousands of Afghan elders to decide if US troops stay or go

KABUL, 19 Nov — Thousands of Afghan tribal and political leaders will gather in the Afghan capital this week to decide whether to allow US troops to stay after the 2014 drawdown of foreign forces.

The fate of a US-Afghan security deal that will determine whether US forces stay or not is in the hands of 2,500 tribal chiefs and notables who will meet in a giant tent on Thursday for five days of deliberations.

Without an accord on the Bilateral Security Agreement, the United States says it could pull out all of its troops at the end of 2014, leaving Afghanistan’s fledging security forces on their own to fight the Taliban-led insurgency. Security was tight in Kabul ahead of the Loya Jirga, a traditional Afghan grand assembly convened to debate matters of national importance, following a suicide bomb attack outside the tent over the weekend.

“The Loya Jirga is crucial for the future of our country,” said Farhad Sediiqi, a member of the Afghan elders

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Japan ready to send three more defence personnel as inspectors in Syria

BEBUT, 19 Nov — Two explosions targeting the Iranian embassy hit the Lebanese capital Beirut on Tuesday killing 18 people and damaging buildings around the embassy compound, medical sources and witnesses said. It was not immediately clear whether the ambassador or any diplomatic staff were among the victims of the explosions, which took place within minutes of each other. Embassy officials would not comment to Reuters when reached by phone.

Lebanese television stations said at least 100 people were wounded, but they quoted Iranian diplomatic sources saying none of their staff inside the embassy was hurt. “At one entrance of the Iranian embassy I counted six bodies outside. I saw body parts around and thrown in two streets away,” Reuters television cameraman Isam Abdullah said from the scene. “There is huge damage, it looks like it is a car bomb. One car is still inside the embassy. There were two Mercedes cars badly damaged,” he added. The explosions were the latest in a string of bomb attacks in Lebanon, which has fallen prey to Shi’ite-Sunnii sectarian violence linked to the two-and-half-year conflict in Syria. Sunni Muslim groups linked to al-Qaeda have repeatedly condemned the terrorist moves of Iran and its Lebanese Shi’ite paramilitary ally Hezbollah in the Syrian war, which turned the tide in favor of President Bashar al-Assad. — Reuters

Two blasts target Iranian embassy in Beirut, kill 18

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Mars orbiter aims to crack mystery of planet’s lost water

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Florida) 19 Nov — Scientists have no doubts that oceans and rivers once pooled on the surface of Mars, but what happened to all that water is a long-standing mystery. The prime suspect is the sun, which has been peeling away the planet’s atmosphere, molecule by molecule, for billions of years. Exactly how that happens is the goal of NASA’s new Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution Mission, or MAVEN, which is scheduled for launch on 1:28 pm EST/1828 GMT on Monday from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. Upon arrival in September 2014, MAVEN will put itself into orbit around Mars and begin scrutinizing the thin layer of gases that remains in its skies. “MAVEN is going to focus on trying to understand what the history of the atmosphere has been, how the climate has changed through time and how that has influenced the evolution of the surface and the potential habitability at least by microbes — of Mars,” said lead scientist Bruce Jakosky, with the University of Colorado at Boulder. Specifically, MAVEN will look at how much and what type of radiation is coming from the sun and other cosmic sources and how that impacts gases in Mars’ upper atmosphere. Scientists have glimpsed the process from data collected by Europe’s Mars Express orbiter and NASA’s Curiosity rover, but never had the opportunity to profile the atmosphere and space environment around Mars simultaneously.” We’ll get a window on what is happening now so we can try and look backward at the evidence locked in the rocks and put the whole story together about Martian history and how it came to be such a challenging environment,” said Mars scientist Pan Conrad, with NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.

Sony sells 1 million PlayStation 4 units in first 24 hours

NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO, 19 Nov — Sony Corp said on Sunday it had sold 1 million units of its new PlayStation 4 gaming console in the first 24 hours that it was available in the United States and Canada. The console, which Sony is counting on to kick-start a revival of its consumer electronics business, went on sale on 15 November. Andrew House, the head of Sony Computer Entertainment, the unit of Sony that oversees PlayStation, said in a statement that “sales remain very strong in North America.” “We expect continued enthusiasm as we launch the PlayStation 4 in Europe and Latin America on 29 November,” House said. Sony Corp had previously announced it had received more than 1 million advance orders for the console. Still, the initial sales figures are Sony’s first salvo in a battle brewing with Microsoft Corp over a console, which goes on sale Nov 22. Sony is also hoping its console can help build a platform for recovery at the Japanese company’s money-losing consumer electronics operations. Sony is aiming to sell 5 million PS4s unit by the end of its fiscal year that ends on 31 March. Robert W Baird & Co analyst Colin Sebastian said that it was available in the United States and Canada, and the Xbox One, with a price tag of $499, offer improved graphics for realistic effects, processors that allow faster game play and a slew of exclusive video games.—Reuters

Apple buys Israel’s PrimeSense for $345 million

JERUSALEM, 19 Nov — Apple has bought PrimeSense, an Israeli maker of chips that enable three-dimensional (3D) machine vision, for $345 million, the Calcalist financial newspaper reported on Sunday without citing sources. PrimeSense has raised $85 million from Israeli and US venture capital funds such as Canaan Partners Global, Gemini Israel and Genesis Partners, Calcalist said. “We are focused on building a prosperous company while bringing 3D sensing and natural interaction to the mass market in a variety of markets such as interactive living room and mobile devices,” a spokeswoman for PrimeSense said. “We do not comment on what any of our partners, customers or potential customers are doing and we do not relate to rumors or recycled rumours.” PrimeSense’s sensing technology, which gives digital devices the ability to observe a scene in three dimensions, was used to help power Microsoft’s Xbox Kinect. The acquisition of PrimeSense would be Apple’s second purchase of an Israeli company. It bought flash storage chip maker Anobit in January 2012. —Reuters

ANA replaces 787 battery charger after fault warning

TOKYO, 19 Nov — Japan’s ANA Holdings Inc (9202.T), which operates the world’s biggest fleet of Boeing Co (BA.N) 787 Dreamliners, said it had to replace a main battery charger on one of the composites jets after maintenance crews detected a possible fault. The problem was discovered during regular maintenance of the aircraft on Saturday, with a replacement charger installed the next day, a company spokesman said. ANA, which operates 23 Dreamliners, sent the faulty charger to maker Thales SA (TCFP.PA) in France. Boeing’s state-of-the-art jet, has two large lithium-ion batteries that provide backup power to aircraft systems. The meltdown of two of those batteries, one on an ANA flight in Japan and one on a Japan Airlines (9201.T) jet in Boston, prompted aviation authorities to ground the 787 fleet for more than three months. While minor faults are not uncommon with aircraft, aviation industry watchers nonetheless remain sensitive to any new glitches with the 787, particularly any related to the batteries. After the earlier battery incidents, Boeing redesigned the power pack and charger system, adding insulation and a steel box to contain any further melt-downs and a specialized vent to eject any smoke outside the aircraft. Investigators in the United States and Japan have yet to discover the root cause of the over-heating. — Reuters

IAC shines spotlight on video streaming service Vimeo

NEW YORK, 19 Nov — As one of the media properties tucked away within IAC/Interactive Corp’s vast group of online holdings, executives are putting the spotlight on Vimeo, breaking out the number of users and revenue for the first time. IAC revealed that Vimeo has an audience of more than 100 million unique users, 400,000 paying subscribers and about $40 million in revenue over the past 12 months ending October. “We have a number of assets that could live on their own,” said IAC Chief Executive Greg Blatt. “Vimeo, we believe, is an asset that will reach that status.” As a video web site, Vimeo competes with Google’s YouTube and other streaming video services though it is known for attracting a niche audience of creative professionals. Founded in 2004 by a group of filmmakers under media mogul Barry Diller’s IAC, Vimeo has been grouped with company’s other media properties such as Ben Silverman’s Electus production studio. Anyone can post content to Vimeo’s platform or watch it for free, but the company charges $60 or $200 a year for more comprehensive editing tools depending on the package. “We have begun to turn our attention to how do we build a business around the viewers,” said Kerry Trainor, Vimeo’s chief executive officer. —Reuters

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**BUSINESS & HEALTH**

**New York, 19 Nov —** Pediatrians should carefully evaluate kids with ear infections, runny noses and sore throats before giving them antibiotics, doctors said on Monday. Antibiotics will only help shorten kids’ sickness if their symptoms are caused by bacteria and not by a virus.

The study, carried out by Tel Aviv University and the Assaf Harofeh Medical Center in Tzrifin, showed that patients who sustained brain injuries from 20 years ago improved their cognitive and physical responses after the treatment.

Researchers were also positive that the study, published recently in Public Library of Science’s journal PLOS One, will help treat other diseases linked to brain injury and aging, such as dementia and Alzheimer’s.

“Maybe in the future we’ll be able to give anti-aging treatment that will strengthen the functioning of the brain and preserve it for the rest of one’s life,” said study author Daniel Ben Jacob, a professor from the Tel Aviv University’s School of Physics and Astronomy and the Sagol School for Brain Science, told the Jerusalem Post daily.—Xinhua

**Dublin, 19 Nov —** Ireland plans full return to international debt markets early next year, with the government expecting to sell Irish bonds to international investors next month, a government source said on Sunday.

The sale of Irish bonds to international investors next month would be Ireland’s clean exit from the bailout programme, a precautionary credit line agreed with the IMF partners.

“Almost the programme will be history, the bulk of Ireland’s bailout will be history, the programme will be history,” said the source.

But he said that he now believes that investors were less concerned about Ireland having this in place and were “relaxed” about it. Ireland believes that investors were “relaxed” about it.

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Japan, EU to agree on early conclusion of free trade talks

Tokyo, 19 Nov—Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will meet with his European counterpart on Tuesday in Tokyo, where they are expected to agree on boosting co-operation toward concluding free trade talks at an early date.

The annual summit between Japan and the European Union was initially slated for March but postponed due to the financial crisis in Cyprus. Japan and the 28-country bloc launched free trade negotiations in March and have held talks three times since April. Japan is eager to conclude a deal as soon as possible as the European Union already has a free trade accord with South Korea.

Japan will also need to accelerate the talks as the regional bloc has said it could terminate the negotiations if there is no progress in the area of non-tariff barriers within the first year of talks. At the summit, the two sides will also agree to enhance their co-operation in the area of natural resources, with an eye to securing supplies of liquefied natural gas, according to a Japanese Foreign Ministry official.

Among other topics on the agenda will be security issues, including the nuclear standoff with Iran, and global environmental issues, the official added.

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Police hunt gunman in Paris after newspaper, bank shootings

Paris, 19 Nov — Police were hunting a lone gunman on the loose in Paris on Monday after he opened fire with a shotgun at the offices of a left-wing newspaper and a major bank before hijacking a car to take him to the Champs-Elysees avenue.

The assailant burst into the office of the Liberation daily in central Paris, shooting and seriously wounding a dozen or so workers standing nearby on Monday afternoon.

The gunman, who had no known history, launched the attack at the newspaper, Medics said.

The 95-year-old made his last public appearance to campaign from the back of a golf cart before the Soccer World Cup final in Johannesburg in 2010. In April state broadcaster aired a clip of the thin and frail statesman being visited by President Jacob Zuma and top officials from the African National Congress.

Mandela was elected South Africa’s first black president in the country’s first elections in 1994 that ended white minority rule. His imprisonment included 18 years on the notorious Robben Island penal colony, when he and other prisoners were forced to work in a limestone quarry that first suffered the lung infections that were to dog him for years. “The health of the former President remains much the same. Which is stable but critical,” the government said in a statement. He continued to respond to treatment, it added.—Reuters

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Cuba to hold national military drill

HAVANA, 19 Nov — Cuba is preparing to hold a national military exercise from Tuesday to Friday, state media reported on Monday.

The so-called Bastion military exercise was first conducted in 1980 by then Cuban leader Fidel Castro to test the nation’s defence preparedness.

The exercise “is not to threaten anybody or to boast military might,” official daily Granma said.

Participants in the drill include Cuba’s Revolutionary Armed Forces, the Interior Ministry and Communist Party organizations, among others, the paper said.

The exercise was suspended in 1989 and resumed in 2004.

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Australia supports White Ribbon campaign to reduce violence against women

Canberra, 19 Nov — The Australian government will provide $1 million Australian dollars (about 0.94 million US dollars) to the White Ribbon campaign to help reduce violence against women, particularly in culturally and linguistically diverse communities, Prime Minister Tony Abbott announced on Tuesday.

White Ribbon is the world’s largest male-led movement to end men’s violence against women. White Ribbon Day celebrates the culmination of the annual campaign and global recognition of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. As such, men and women are encouraged to wear a symbolic white ribbon on 25 November.

According to a statement, the Abbott government is committed to doing all it can to stop any form of violence against women. The figures of the statement showed that one in three Australian women over the age of 15 has reported experiencing physical or sexual violence at some point in their lives. Abbott confirmed that the 1 million Australian dollars funding announced on Tuesday will expand the activities of the White Ribbon campaign with a particular focus on emerging culturally and linguistically diverse communities across Australia.

And he also said this commitment builds on government’s plans to ensure the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and Children 2010-2022 is implemented. “I am proud to be one of nearly 2,200 White Ribbon Ambassadors across Australia working to create a cultural shift that leads to the end of violence against women,” he said.—Xinhua
**Union Energy Minister inspects gas pipeline maintenance and control stations**

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Nov—Union Minister for Energy U Zeyar Aung visited South East Asia oil and gas pipeline maintenance station in Kyaukse on 16 November. The Union minister instructed officials to coordinate with relevant ministries and local government for the cases relating to the people along the pipeline although the company could technically carry out maintenance and security for the pipeline.

The chairman of SEAP presented facts about the pipeline, security measures, environment and conservation undertakings for the people along the pipeline. The Union minister proceeded to gas pipeline control station in Mandalay and inspected control measures along the pipeline at main control station.

He then went to the site chosen for construction of training center in the area of Yadanarbon Myothit Project in PyinUlonWin Township and called for soonest launch of the training school.

On 17 November, the Union minister arrived at the gas compressing station in Nawngkhio where he heard report on work progress of the control station presented by the officials.

**CB Bank donates cash for XXVII SEA Games**

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Nov—CB Bank held its donation ceremony of sports gear to officials for successfully holding the XXVII SEA Games at Royal Nay Pyi Taw Hotel, here, yesterday morning.

After making clarification on purpose of donations in which arrangements of Trolley for Social Zone, sports ground and Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw airports, ATM and Money Exchange for convenience of athletes who will come from other countries are also included, CB Bank Chairman U Khin Maung Aye presented K 600 million to Union Minister for Sports U Tint San. The Union Minister made a speech at the ceremony. He presented a certificate of honour to the Chairman of CB Bank.

**Anti-Narcotic Drives**

**Action taken against 603 persons in drug-related cases in October 2013**

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Nov—Defence Services, Myanmar Police Force and Customs Department seized 96.333 kilos of opium in 47 cases, 142.3608 kilos of heroin in 169 cases, 4.144 kilos of opium oil in eight cases, 0.946 kilo of low-grade opium in 17 cases, 1.9782 kilos of marijuana in five cases, 966.393 stimulant tablets in 152 cases, 0.0101 kilo of stimulant powder in one case, 1.0606 kilo of opium speciosa in three cases, 119.8145 kilos of pseudo-ephedrine tablets in four cases, 10 capsules of tramadol, 0.06 litre of opium liquid in one case, 40.0045 kilos of Ice in five cases, 8775 kilos of Caffeine in three cases, 52540 tablets of Alprazolam, other two cases and 14 cases of failure to register in October 2013.

Action was taken against 603 persons—499 men and 104 women—in 431 cases.

**Hot air balloon engulfs house**

MEIKITLA, 19 Nov—A hot air balloon fell on a house of Daw Mya Than, 68, of KanU Village in Nyaungzauk Villate-tract, six miles northeast to Meikitla on 16 November afternoon.

The house was reduced to ashes. The local people put out the fire and it did not engulf other houses.

The worth K 50,000 was destroyed in the fire. Commander of Meikitla Township Police Force Police Major Maung Shwe and members provided K 20,000 to fire victim Daw Mya Than.

**Heroin worth over K 34 million seized in Mongayi**

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Nov—Members of No 101 Anti-Drug Squad (Nay Pyi Taw) and No 23 Anti-Drug Squad (Tangyan) together with witnesses checked a van of Pan Taing bus line heading for Tangyan from Lashio at Hopa junction of Mongai Township on 15 November morning.

Thai NGO arrives at Kengtung Anti-Human Trafficking Office

KENGTUNG, 19 Nov—A 33-member Focus NGO from Thailand led by Ms Phensiri Pansiri arrived at Anti-Human Trafficking Office in Kengtung of Shan State (East) on 13 November.

Police Major Soe Tint of the office explained tasks of the squad and participation in tasks of the region and reviewed the central committee’s report.
Untimely rain

Rain should be in the raining season. Rain in the raining season is very advantageous to human beings, especially farmers as rice needs a lot of water for it to grow well. Trees, crops and seasonal and flowery plants also need rainwater to be able to thrive well and so do living beings to survive.

Untimely rain begets only adverse effects. It could not bring benefits like rain in the raining season as it used to batter paddy plantations and winter crops as well as trade activities. It very often causes great damage and loss to farming. That’s why untimely rain is a disaster with negative impacts and it will surely bite at a time when most of farmers are in their harvest.

Harvest is at worst in some regions steaming from untimely rain. Given the adverse effects of untimely rain, it should come as no surprise that the authorities concerned in cooperation with farmers took concrete steps in advance to prevent potential damage and loss, drawing lessons from the past. With the threat of global climate change, untimely rain will be one of several challenges that farmers will face.

There can be a string of lessons for us in the aftermath of untimely rains. One of the lessons is that any mission is to be completed in time. Those from developed countries usually keep a timetable for effective implementation of what they are engaged. We should admire and try to copy them so that we can be dedicated enough to stay the course.

We human beings are obliged to undertake economic, education, social and trade activities on a daily basis. And the most important thing is that whatever we do we are to complete it in time, doing away with acting out of expediency.

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann cordially those present at the meeting.—MNA

He continued that works are underway to review and revise the Constitution, without harming peace and stability and development, national unity and reconciliation, the rule of law, peace process and momentum of the country’s democratization. He invited suggestions of those who considered the Constitution should be revised, saying that the respective Hluttaws are striving for the sake of the nation and its citizens.

He called on the people to express their needs as the parliament mainly responsible for making laws is passing the laws serving the interest of the people.

Next, officials and townswelders reported on requirements for the development of the township and Magway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe and departmental officials coordinated matters.

In his concluding speech, the Speaker called for strict adherence to civil service rules and regulations and urged the staff to have a sense of accountabilty and responsibility in discharging duties. Fairness and politeness are needed in dealing with the people, he stressed.

He stressed the need of cooperation between the parliamentarians and members of the development committees for the sake of ordinary people.

In meeting with local people at BEHS No (1) in Mindat Township, the Speaker invited the voices of local people, saying that Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Union Government will implement the tasks that cannot be realized by the state government.

After hearing reports on regional development tasks, the Speaker said that pragmatic approaches are to be taken to translate the failed tasks to a success. He called for collaborative efforts of the parliamentarians, the government and the people for the development of their own states.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets Mongolian President

Nay Pyi Taw, 19 Nov—Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann held a talk with Mongolian President Mr Tsakhiaiin Elbegdorj at Zabuthiri Hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, this morning.

They focused on political reform process of Myanmar, experiences of Mongolia in political, economic and administrative reforms, promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation, and matters related to strengthening of friendly relations and cooperation between parliaments between the two countries.

Also present at the call were chairmen and officials of Pyithu Hluttaw Committee.—MNA

Prime Minister of Pakistan pays tribute to tomb of King Zafar Shah in Yangon

YANGON, 19 Nov—A delegation led by Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr Muhammad Nawaz Sharif stopped for a while at Yangon International Airport in his return trip after paying a visit to Thailand. They were welcomed by Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Tin Win and wife, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Acting Pakistani Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Adnan Majit and party at Yangon International Airport.

The delegation visited downtown Yangon in a motorcade and paid tributes to the tomb of King Zafar Shah. They left in the afternoon.—MNA

Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr Muhammad Nawaz Sharif pays tributes to the tomb of King Zafar Shah.—MNA

Public announcement for remonstration

1. The Federal Union Party (FUP) headquartered at No. 15 (6th floor) in Hlaing River Road in Kamayut Township in Yangon Region, on 19-11-2013 submitted applications to register as a political party under the Article 5 of Political Parties Registration Law. In its application, it is mentioned that the party will use its name, flag and seal described hereunder.

2. It is hereby announced in accord with Political Parties Registration Rules 14 (d) that if there is anyone who wants to remonstrate about the name, flag and seal of the party, they may remonstrate with the Union Election Commission with firm evidence within seven days from the day of the announcement.

Union Election Commission

Flag of the Federal Union Party (FUP)

Seal of the Federal Union Party (FUP)
Federal Union Party applies for registration as political party

NAV PTY TAW, 19 Nov—The Union Election Commission has been scrutinizing and passing the applications for registration as a political party. Federal Union Party applied for registration as a political party to the UEC today.—MNA

First Round of...

(from page 1)
of Economic Affairs Mrs. Marie-Gabrielle Ineichen-Fleisch, the directors-general of the ministries, officials concerned from Myanmar Investment Commission and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Swiss Ambassador to Myanmar and officials concerned.

Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw said in his opening speech that the meeting intends to set potential areas in promoting economic cooperation between Myanmar and Switzerland under the MoU on economy, investment, labour and trade sectors. In the past, Myanmar had a monopoly on economy but at present it is practicing people-centered approach. Myanmar-EU Task Force Joint Statement could be released. The today meeting produces fruitful results in promoting economic cooperation between the two countries. Next, Secretary of State of Economic Affairs Mrs. Marie-Gabrielle Ineichen-Fleisch gave a pledge of support to sustainable economic development of Myanmar. Both sides frankly discussed grant of work permit, marketing plan, smooth commodity flow, investment and trade framework, procurement, intellectual property right, infrastructures, tourism industry, banking system, labour rights, social accountability and sustainable economic development.

After that, Deputy Minister Dr Daw Khin San Yi and Secretary of State of Economic Affairs Mrs. Marie-Gabrielle Ineichen-Fleisch signed the meeting minute and exchanged the notes.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker meets Mongolian President and party

NAV PTY TAW, 19 Nov—Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received a delegation led by President of Mongolia Mr Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj at Hluttaw Complex, here, at 10 am today. They had a cordial discussion on closer cooperation in regional and international arenas. Also present at the call were Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein, chairman of the committees, secretaries, members and officials from Hluttaw Office.—MNA

Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee meets Mongolian President

NAV PTY TAW, 19 Nov—Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Minister U Myint Swe expressed words of thanks. CEO Mr. Park Chung Ho of DK World Co Ltd expressed about purpose of the donation.

Thirty sets of 3 view motor car black box (phonex 300) donated

YANGON, 19 Nov—DK World Co Ltd of Republic of Korea donated 30 sets of 3 View Motor Car Black Box (phonex 300) each of which is worth USD 320 to Yangon Region Government on 17 November.

Agreement inked...

(from page 16)

and operating hotels and tourism industries.

The project that will be implemented by the Ministry of Industry and Trade will be worth USD 320 each.

Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Min-ister Mr Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj met Mongolian President Mr Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj at Committee Hall-12 of Hluttaw Complex, here, at 11 am today.—MNA

United Nation Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in cooperation with related ministries and organizations is aimed at introducing clean technologies to goods and services industries in Myanmar.

Pyinmana dwellers eager for boxing development

PYINMANA, 18 Nov—A discussion on development of boxing was held at Honey Plain Restaur-ant in Mingala Ward of Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, yesterday afternoon. The attendee to the discussion recounted, Pyinmana has been turn-
ing out many excellent boxers for the nation for many years. At about 1957-58, U Ye Tha, selected boxer of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) established Ye Tha boxing club. In 1959-60, U Kyaw Myint Lay, the boxer champion of SEAP Games, set up Shwekyar (Golden Tiger) boxing club. In later years, U Chit Tin, U Phone Myint (a) U Ni Lon and so on had uplifted the prestige of the town. They were famous boxers not only in the nation but in Asia.”

Pyinmana Township will re-set up a boxing team so as to turn out outstanding new generation boxers on whom the State can rely, said responsible persons and members of the club.

The discussion was attended by Amyotha Hluttaw representatives U Hmat Gyi of Pyinmana Township Constituency, the head of Township Sports and Physical Education Department, town’s elders, media persons, members of former boxing clubs namely Yanuun (2), Bright Star, Hero, Taungtha, Mingala, Construction, Yaukun, Forward, Shwe Paunglaung, Si-bin and Ywagauk (2) and guests.

First round of economic dialogue between Myanmar and Switzerland in progress.—MNA

By: Ko Myo (Shwepaukkan); Photo: Zaw Tun Win (Pyinmana)

A discussion on development of boxing in progress.

Attempted bombing averted

YANGON, 19 Nov—In response to a tip-off, police and combined forces raided the SKY Guesthouse at No.3/4 in Inner Padan Vill-age in Hlinethaya Township in Yangon Region around 11.15 on 13 November and arrested Tin Maung (a) Khaing Nay Min, 34, son of U Soe San Win, with red-handed making bombs with gunpowder and related materials at room No. B-15. Further investigation led to the arrest of the accomplice Thein Nyunt, 31, son of U Thein Kyaw Aung, at noon and Bo Bo (a) Bo Bo Tun, 28, son of U Thein Maung, at 01.00 on 16 November. The investigation revealed that Tin Maung (a) Khaing Nay Min attended a course on mine planting course at border beginning 3rd July 2013. He received two ready-to-use white color hand-made mines, one packet of gunpowder and lead colour gunpowder. The three were prepared to blow off religious buildings.

Police are after the accomplices as there are hidden perpetrators and some above-the-ground associations tied to attempted bombing.—MNA
Talks on menace of narcotic drugs given in Myawady

**NAY PYI TAW, 19 Nov**—A ceremony to disseminate knowledge about menace of narcotic drugs and abuse of drug and pre-vention against trafficking in persons was held at Dhammadaya Monastery in Tadagyo Village of Thngan-nyaung Village-tract in Myawady Township on 12 November.

Police Major Aung Si of No 23 Anti-Drug Squad (Myawady) gave talks on disadvantages of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and Police Captain Tin Aung of Anti-Trafficking Squad (Myawady) prevention against trafficking in persons.

It was attended by 50 persons of villages. Later, they distributed pamphlets to them.

**MYEIK,** 19 Nov—Members of Myeik District Police Force of Taninthayi Region together with Railway Police Corps have seized 30 grams of opium speciosa.

A ceremony to donate cash to the fund for construction of the hospital was held at the residence of Daw Ma Ma Lay of Yamaung Ward 1 in Pyinmana on 12 November morning.

They seized 997 stimulant tablets and 30 grams of opium speciosa.

Myeik Myoma Police Station opened files of lawsuit against reckless drivers Thaha Aung and Pyae Phyo Kyaw under Sections 304(a)/338 of Criminal Law.

**NAY PYI TAW, 19 Nov**—Members of Myeik District Police Force of Taninthayi Region together with witnesses, acting on tip-off, raided the house of Han Lin Aung (a) Aung Lin, 33, in Tadagyo Village of Thin-gan-nyaung Village-tract in Tadagyo Village and Seized 997 stimulant tablets and 30 grams of opium speciosa.

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Nay Pyi Taw, 19 Nov—Members of Taungdwingyi Myoma police station inspected the scene to inspect traffic accident at mile post 289/1 on Taungdwingyi-Pyay Road in Taungdwingyi on 12 November.

A motorcycle driven by Thaha Aung, 21 of Nyaungbinhla Village of the township together with Pyae Phyo Kyaw on the back seat of same venue and another one by Pyae Phyo Kyaw, 19 of the same vil-

lage headed on in collision.

In the accident, Thaha Aung sustained injuries at mouth, head and hand, and Kyaw Ko Ko at forehead, head and leg and thigh.

Pyae Phyo Kyaw was injured at nose, head and leg and died on the spot.

Taungdwingyi Myoma Police Station opened files of lawsuit against reckless drivers Thaha Aung and Pyae Phyo Kyaw under Sections 304(a)/338 of Criminal Law.

**KYAIKTO,** 19 Nov—The 64th communal Kathina robe offering and rice offering ceremony was held at Megawun Monastery in Kyaikt in 17 November.

Over 700 members of the Sangha from 53 monasteries led by the chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Lethar Monas-
tery Sayadaw were invited to Megawun Monastery.

MP of Pyithu Hluttaw, Township Administrator and wellwishers donated alms and rice to members of the Sangha.

Servicemen from No 44 LID, staff of departments, social and religious associations and local people offered rice to members of the Sangha.

In the afternoon, the offered 1600 Kathina robes and alms to 700 members of the Sangha at Sasana Beikman of the township.

Mingala Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tissa delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits gained.

At the donation ceremony, 64 Padetabbin of Kathina robes worth K 20 million were shared to 53 monasteries.

Maung Maung Nyin Than

**KYAIKTO,** 19 Nov—Members of No 23 Anti-Drug Squad (Myawady) gave talks on disadvantages of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and Police Captain Tin Aung of Anti-Trafficking Squad (Myawady) prevention against trafficking in persons.

It was attended by 50 persons of villages. Later, they distributed pamphlets to them.
Voting begins in Nepal’s second constituent assembly election

KATHMANDU, 19 Nov — Voting began in Nepal on Tuesday morning to elect a second constituent assembly, on which hinges the future of this tiny Himalayan nation that has been in political turmoil for 17 years since the start of an armed insurgency in 1996.

Around 12 million voters are eligible to cast two votes — a first-past-the-post vote that will elect 240 legislators and a proportional vote for the party of their choice.

Under the proportional system that considers the whole country as a single constituency, 335 seats will be divided among parties based on the percentage of votes they get.

Twenty-six more legislators in the 601-member assembly will be nominated by a new government.

The assembly will have a four-year term, Election Commission spokesman Bir Bahadur Rai told Kyodo News.

The assembly that will also function as parliament will be primarily asked to finalize a new constitution left incomplete by a previous assembly, which was elected in 2008 and dissolved in May last year following a months-long deadlock over the basis of federalism and political parties — Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), Nepali Congress and Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist Leninist) — have pledged to finalize the constitution within the first year of the assembly’s life.

But many doubt the country’s fractious parties can overcome their differences. The vote is taking place amid election threats and violence by radical Maoists who broke away from the UCPN (M) last year and have called a vote boycott.

The breakaway Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist that called a now-unsuccessful transportation strike aiming at disrupting the vote has perpetrated a series of gasoline bomb attacks in the recent past on vehicles defying the strike.

One man has died from one of the attacks, while dozens of people have been burned. In view of security threats, the government has taken unprecedented security measures.

Paramedics are treating six other patients after the storm hit the Hornsby library and train station near the shopping centre.

According to local media reports, six patients were treated at the shopping centre for minor injuries, including a 50-year-old woman who was hit in the face by glass.

New Zealand steps up typhoon relief funding for Philippines

WELLINGTON, 19 Nov — The New Zealand government on Tuesday pledged another 2.975 million NZ dollars (2.47 million US dollars) in relief funding for the Philippines, bringing its total aid funding for those affected by Typhoon Haiyan to 5.12 million NZ dollars.

The package also included a further 750,000 NZ dollars in dollar-for-dollar funding for New Zealand non-government organizations working on the ground, bringing that total to 1.5 million NZ dollars.

Further funding is being provided to the International Committee of the Red Cross and World Food Programme to help purchase and distribute emergency supplies, such as food, water containers, tarpaulins, generators, kitchen sets and chainsaws.

More than 10 injured, cinema roof collapses after mini tornado hits Sydney shopping centre

SYDNEY, 19 Nov — More than 10 people have been injured after a mini tornado hit a shopping centre, library and train station in Sydney’s north, local media reported on Monday.

Emergency services were called to the Westfield shopping centre in Hornsby just before 3:00 pm local time on Monday following reports that the roof of the cinema had collapsed in rough weather.

The shopping centre has been evacuated for safety reason and Fire and Rescue New South Wales (FRNSW) crew searched the building.

The FRNSW has confirmed that no one was trapped under the collapsed ceiling following a thorough search.

The first arriving crews reported storm damage and several people with injuries from broken glass and debris, the FRNSW said.

According to local media reports, six patients were treated at the shopping centre for minor injuries, including a 50-year-old woman who was hit in the face by glass.

Paramedics are treating six other patients after the storm hit the Hornsby library and train station near the shopping centre.

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Israel’s Leviathan postpones oil drilling

JERUSALEM, 19 Nov—The oil drilling at Israel’s newly found gas and oil field Leviathan has been postponed to at least six months later, Israel’s financial newspaper Calcalist reported on Monday. The ultra deepwater drill was supposed to begin in February and to reach a depth of 7 km. According to estimates released on July by Leviathan’s major partner Noble Energy, some 210 million barrels could be found in these strata.

However, Calcalist said the drilling had to be postponed as the required equipment was to arrive later than planned. Last year, a drilling operation in the Leviathan field was halted due to the lack of proper equipment, Calcalist reported.

Noble Energy said in a statement: “We remain committed to the development of the Leviathan field and continue to work hard to advance the project.”

Leviathan, which is offshore from central Israel, is owned by Texas-based Noble Energy (39.6 percent), Israeli Delek Group (about 45 percent), and Ratio Oil Exploration (15 percent).

It contains an estimated 530 billion cubic metres of gas and is considered the biggest deepwater gas find of the century worldwide.

Xinhua

Mombasa, 19 Nov—Kenyan authorities said on Monday they are interrogating 23 foreigners arrested in an operation launched in the coastal city of Mombasa to deal with terror threats.

The head of the immigration department coastal region, James Nyatigo, said the crackdown was carried out by police officers and immigration officials in the Indian Ocean port cities of Mombasa and Malindi.

Nyatigo said the foreigners sneaked into the East African country through the Jomo Kenyatta Airport in Nairobi a few weeks ago.

“Our officers had information that the foreigners had arrived in Mombasa posing as tourists to do business when they had an ambush and arrested them without working permits,” said Nyatigoh.

The immigration officials said they will be arraigned in court and deported to their respective countries of origin.

The move came after the Kenya government revoked 104 individuals of citizenship issued in the past five years. Ministry of Interior Secretary Joseph ole Lenku said the group corruptly acquired registration documents.

Those affected included 95 Indians, five Pakistanis, a Sri Lankan, a Tanzanian, a Ugandan and a Somal.

“The government is reviewing citizenship documents issued to foreigners with the intention of flushing out foreigners with illegally acquired citizenship documents some of who have turned out to be criminals,” Lenku said last week.

He stressed that the process of digitizing all security registries will eliminate fraud and corruption.

In October, the government sacked 15 senior and mid-level immigration officers following the Westgate terror attack the previous month.

The attack left at least 67 people dead and 175 others wounded in the capital city Nairobi.—Xinhua

23 foreigners arrested in security swoop in Kenya’s port city Mombasa

Farmers help villager Peng Quigen harvest rice on the roof of Peng’s house which had been converted into a rice field at Qilin Village of Shaoxing City, east China’s Zhejiang Province, on 18 Nov, 2013. Peng several years ago transformed the roof of his house into a farmland, in which rice, watermelons and vegetables have been harvested in different seasons.—Xinhua
Lady Gaga tops British album chart with “ARTPOP”

**London, 19 Nov** — Lady Gaga scored her third British number one album on Sunday with “ARTPOP,” knocking US rapper Eminem off the top spot, the Official Charts Company said. Lady Gaga, known for her extravagant costumes and estimated to have earned $80 million in the past year, also entered the singles chart at number nine with “Do What U Want” — a collaboration with US artist R Kelly.

Eminem hung on to second place in the album chart, holding off new entries from Canadian singer Celine Dion and British pop group Little Mix which charted in third and fourth place respectively. Seventeen-year-old Dutch DJ Martin Garrix claimed the week’s best-selling single with his dance club hit Animals, making him the second-youngest artist to occupy the number one berth this year.

British singer Lily Allen returned to the music scene after a long absence, charting at number two with her version of the Keane single “Somewhere only we know,” which is featured in a department store Christmas advertising campaign. The advert, which has been viewed nearly 7 million times on YouTube since it was released on November 8, also helped propel the British band’s original 2004 version back into the charts at number 29. — Reuters


“Thor,” from Walt Disney Co’s Marvel Studios, hailed in $38.4 million in ticket sales from Friday through Sunday, according to studio estimates. “Best Man Holiday” earned $30.6 million to take the No 2 spot. Senior-citizen, buddy comedy “Last Vegas” finished third with $8.9 million.

Elsewhere, “Catching Fire,” the highly anticipated “Hunger Games” sequel starring Jennifer Lawrence, opened big in Brazil with $6.3 million. The movie is to open in the United States, Canada and dozens of other countries on Friday.”Best Man Holiday,” a sequel to 1999 film “The Best Man,” exceeded the forecasts of box office analysts, who had predicted a debut at around $24 million at US and Canadian theaters. The installment brings back nine stars from the original film, including Taye Diggs, Terrence Howard and Morris Chestnut, for a reunion that tests marriages and friendships. The movie cost $17 million to make, according to the Box Office Mojo website.

“No one ever would have expected this kind of number,” said Nikki Rocco, president for domestic distribution at Universal Pictures, noting that the studio was expecting an opening weekend total “somewhere in the high teens.” — Reuters

**London, 19 Nov** — Helen Mirren was named best actress for her portrayal of Queen Elizabeth II in “The Audience” at the Evening Standard Theatre Awards on Sunday while the best actor award was split between Rory Kinnear and Adrian Lester as the leads in “Othello.” The award for best play on the London stage went to Lucy Kirkwood for “Chimerica,” an exploration of the relationship between the United States and China as seen through the eyes of an American photojournalist trying to track down a young protester who faced down a tank in Tiananmen Square in 1989.

A revival of Stephen Sondheim’s “Merrily We Roll Along”, a flop on Broadway in 1981, was named best musical while Richard Eyre won best director for a revival of Ib- sen’s “Ghost”. “People come from around the world to see plays in London,” Mayor Boris Johnson said as he made his way into the awards banquet at the Sa- voy Hotel. “It’s the place where the theatre really got going in the 16th century.”

It was important that we got on with each other because we’re spending an awfully long time running each other’s lives,” Kinnear said. Lester said he thought the production had managed to make “We, like the rest of the world, have been dazzled by the talent on show.”

In other awards:

— American actor Seth Numrich took the Milton Shulman Award for Outstanding Newcomer for his portrayal of a small-town gigolo in Tennessee Williams’s “Sweet Bird of Youth”.

— Rachel De-la- hay won the Charles Wintour Award of a small-town gigolo in Tennessee Williams’s “Sweet Bird of Youth”.

— Rosie Craig won a new award for Best Musical Performance as the star of “The Light Princess”.

— The Evening Standard Theatre Icon Award went to Maggie Smith for her contribution to the world stage.

— David Walliams took home the new Award for Comedy for his performance as Bottom in “A Mid-summer Night’s Dream”.

— Actor and director Kevin Spacey, artistic di- rector of the Old Vic since 2003, was given the Editor’s Award for his contribution to British Theatre.

— Andrew Lloyd-Web-ber received the Lebedev Special Award for his contribution to musical theatre.

— Actress/writer Cush Jumbo won the Emerging Talent Award for her one-woman play about Josephine Baker, “Josephine and I”.

— The Beyond Theatre award was given to the BBC’s 2013 Proms season. — Reuters

**Lady Gaga arrives for the Glamour Magazine Women of the Year event in New York, on 11 Nov, 2013. Reuters**

**‘Thor’ reigns over US, Canada box office for second week**

**Los Angeles, 19 Nov** — “Thor” from Walt Disney Co’s Marvel Studios, sailed in $38.4 million in ticket sales from Friday through Sunday, according to studio estimates. “Best Man Holiday” earned $30.6 million to take the No 2 spot. Senior-citizen, buddy comedy “Last Vegas” finished third with $8.9 million.

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— The Beyond Theatre award was given to the BBC’s 2013 Proms season. — Reuters
Los Angeles Lakers Kobe Bryant dives for a loose ball during their NBA game against the Chicago Bulls in Los Angeles, on 10 March, 2013.—Reuters

Erratic Lakers eagerly await return of ace closer Bryant

LOS ANGELES, 19 Nov — While the Los Angeles Lakers have made a better start to this season than many had expected in the absence of Kobe Bryant, there is no question that their 15-time All-Star shooting guard has been sorely missed.

The Lakers have lurched between a few surprising wins, most notably against the Los Angeles Clippers and Houston Rockets, and several disappointing losses, where they suffered due to the lack of a dominating presence in the final quarter.

Bryant is widely regarded as one of the greatest closers in the game and his teammates are eagerly awaiting the return of the ‘Black Mamba,’ who has been sidelined since mid-April with a torn left Achilles tendon. “He’s so intelligent that he helps guys get in the right spots and makes the game a lot easier not only for myself but for the whole team,” backup shooting guard Jodie Meeks told reporters.

“He’s been in the league for almost 20 years, he knows it all inside and out. He’s the alpha dog. He tells everybody where to go, gets everyone in the right spots and gives everyone confidence.” Bryant was given full medical clearance to resume all basketball activities over the weekend and the 35-year-old certainly gave his team-mates a welcome boost when he joined them on Saturday for several practice drills.

However, Lakers coach Mike D’Antoni has urged caution, and does not want to see his star player rushed back into action. “Everybody’s excited and I’m sure he’s excited, but (it’s) a little bit premature right now,” D’Antoni told reporters on Sunday about Bryant’s participation in 5-on-0 drills and half-court work.

“You’re dealing with, ‘Is he sore today? Is there a setback tomorrow?’ That’s the first step and there’s a lot of steps to be taken. We need to be cautious.”

Formula One still chasing American dream

AUSTIN, (Texas), 19 Nov — A year after making a splashy return to the United States, Formula One’s American dream has yet to come true with the glamour sport unable to captivate a market it has long coveted.

While motor racing fans across the globe planned their Sunday around the US Grand Prix, for Americans it was just another event in an action-packed weekend of National Football League (NFL) games and NASCAR.

The Circuit of the Americas, carved out of the south Texas scrubland, one of the most popular stops on the calendar for paddock regulars and praised by drivers, teams and spectators alike, was supposed to provide the launching pad for a new era for F1 in the US but has so far failed to take off.

When Formula One returned to the United States in 2012 after a five-year hiatus F1 commercial supremo Bernie Ecclestone stood in the paddock and enthusiastically outlined a coast-to-coast vision for the sport in America with races in Austin, New Jersey and Los Angeles.

A year later, talk of a race in Los Angeles has disappeared while the elitist Ecclestone breezed through the Austin paddock on the weekend avoiding questions about a New Jersey race that is struggling to get off the ground. “We can always do more,” said McLaren team principal Martin Whitmarsh, noting that the US is a major market for many F1 sponsors especially car makers such as Ferrari and Mercedes. “This is such an important market that I think we have to treat it as a new market.

“I know there have been lots of races in the States before but we have never cracked the States in the way we should have done and I think the opportunity is there and all of the stakeholders, the commercial rights holders, the teams, the promoters all of us should be working together and harder to make sure we demonstrate to the great US public what a fantastic sport Formula One is,” Whitmarsh added.

Orlando to be awarded Major League Soccer expansion team

ORLANDO, (Florida), 19 Nov — Major League Soccer plans to award a new franchise to Orlando on Tuesday, a source told Reuters, setting up a potential future rivalry with Miami where David Beckham recently scouted locations for his own team.

Orlando City Soccer Club, which has been working to finalize an agreement with MLS, plans to make an announcement on Tuesday, a club official said.

“We can’t officially comment yet, but we’re obviously having a very, very, very, very, very big announcement tomorrow night,” Chris Jones, spokesman for Orlando City Soccer, told Reuters.

“It’s probably a badly kept secret.” MLS had no official comment on Monday. Last month, city and county officials approved funding for an 18,000-seat, $81 million professional stadium in Orlando’s fast-developing downtown entertainment district, which is also home to Amway Arena, the arena of the NBA’s Orlando Magic.

Since 2010, Orlando City Soccer has fielded the Orlando City Lions, which competes in the USL Professional Division. The team, two-time champions, averaged almost 9,000 spectators a game and played in the 65,000-seat Citrus Bowl stadium.

Recuperating Snedeker withdraws from Tiger’s event

LOS ANGELES, 19 Nov — American world number nine Brandt Snedeker has pulled out of next month’s Northwestern Mutual World Challenge at Sherwood Country Club in Thousand Oaks, California as he continues to recover from a leg injury.

Though Snedeker is “ahead of schedule in his rehabilitation program,” the 32-year-old did not want to push his return to competition with a busy early 2014 campaign fast approaching, the golfer’s management company said on Monday.

Snedeker, a six-times winner on the PGA Tour, plans to defend his title at the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am which will be held in California from 6-9 February.

In recent years, he has made a habit of playing in at least five events on the PGA Tour’s West Coast Swing during January and February. Snedeker bruised his left tibia and strained the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee when he fell off a Segway during a corporate outing in China earlier this month, after the WGC-HSBC Championship in Shanghai.

Those injuries initially forced him to withdraw from the 7-10 November Australian PGA Championship, and then the 5-8 December Northwestern Mutual World Challenge which is hosted by world number one Tiger Woods.

No replacement has yet been announced for Snedeker in the 18-man field at Sherwood Country Club where Northern Ireland’s Graeme McDowell will defend the title he won by three shots last year.
Uruguay’s Edinson Cavani (2nd R) and team mates celebrate after defeating Jordan in their World Cup qualifying playoff first leg soccer match at Amman International stadium on 13 Nov, 2013.—REUTERS

Maracanazo 1950 repeat is the spur for Uruguay

MONTEVIDEO, 19 Nov — Uruguay are 5-0 up going into the second leg of their World Cup playoff against Jordan on the Centenario on Wednesday and already dreaming of achieving another ‘Maracanazo’ at the finals in Brazil next year. Before kickoff the hosts will honou old Alcides Ghiggia who scored the winning goal and is the sole survivor of the 2-1 upset victory over Bra- zil that gave Uruguay their second world title in the 1950 final at the Maracana. “What happened in that World Cup left a big mark on the Brazilian people,” Paris St German striker Edinson Cavani told a news conference on Monday. “Uruguay have earned their respect,” said Cavani who scored a brilliant fifth goal with a venomous free kick in last week’s first leg in Amman. The Uruguayans suffered a form slump in 2012 that jeopardised their qualification chances but were desperate to make it to Brazil, given the rivalry with their northern neigh- bours and the memory of the ‘Maracanazo’. Cavani’s side, semi-finalists at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, do not want to show any lack of re- spect to their playoff oppo- nents despite the one-sided nature of last week’s match. The Interior Ministry have urged the sellout crowd of 45,000 at the Centenario, the stadium where Uruguay won their first World Cup in 1930, not to whistle or boo the Jordanian national anthem before kickoff. “Uruguay took a sub- stantial step towards qualifying for Brazil 2014 and they did so without humili- ating their rivals even if the loaded scoreboard appears to suggest the opposite,” the ministry said in a statement at the weekend. “The thousands of Jordanians who watched the match enjoyed the light blues’ game. A packed sta- dium dreaming of another result ended up applauding our team, showing that respect is... as valuable as the dream of playing at a World Cup.” —Reuters

Ukraine, Russia reach compromise over gas payment

KIEV, 19 Nov — Ukraine and Russia have reached a compromise over the payment for natural gas imports, Ukrainian Energy Minis- ter Eduard Stavytsky said here on Monday. “We have settled the gas pay- ment issue,” Stavytsky told report- ers, without giving details. Ukrainian plans to pay off the debt before the end of this year, added Stavytsky, whose country owes Russia nearly 1 billion US dollars for gas deliveries. Ukraine imports 45 million to 90 million cubic meters of fuel from Russia per day, according to the minister. A consensus was reached on Friday between Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov and his Russian counterpart, Dmitry Medvedev, on insuring gas supplies from Russia to Europe via Ukraine. The Ukrainian government confirmed Friday on its website that it would do everything needed to make sure supplies to Europe were not disrupted. Late last month, Russian state natural gas company Gazprom expressed its concern over Ukraine’s failure to pay the overdue gas bill for August and threatened to intro- duce advance payment for its future supplies. Then Ukraine warned on Tuesday that it could stop im- porting natural gas from Russia be- fore the end of this year. —Xinhua

Slovenia’s population to shrink constantly after 2020

LJUBLJANA, 19 Nov — Slovenia’s population will drop to some 1.82 mil- lion by 2060 after the total number of in- habitants in the country reaches its peak in 2021, according to projections by the Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development (IMAD). By January 2012, Slovenia had a population of 2,055,496, which is 0.3 percent more than that of the previous year. However, it will face a period of constant population decline after 2020. The government’s population should decrease by 240,000 people. The government think-tank IMAD attributed the constant decrease to the growth of natural death, sub-replace- ment fertility and limited immigration. Despite the population drop, life expec- tancy is expected to rise to 79 for men and 85 for women by 2025. —Xinhua

Media reports work on the site of a train collision in Dahshur near Cairo, Egypt, on 18 Nov, 2013. At least 27 people were killed and 32 others injured when a freight train crashed into a mini-bus and a truck near the Egyptian capital of Cairo in the early hours of Monday, the head of the Ambulance Authority said. —Xinhua
Vice-President U Nyan Tun receives Swiss State Secretary for Economic Affairs

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Nov—Vice-President U Nyan Tun received a Swiss delegation led by Swiss State Secretary for Economic Affairs Marie-Gabrielle Ineichen-Fleisch at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 4 pm today.

Also present at the call together with the Vice-President were Deputy Ministers U Thant Kyaw and Dr Daw Khin San Yi. They focused on exchange of information about economic development, investment, labour and trade sectors and recognizing potential areas for promotion of bilateral economic cooperation between the two countries.—MNA

Myanmar, Russia to promote cooperation in military technology

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Nov—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Russia-Myanmar Military Technological Cooperation Joint Chairman Mr Alexander Vasiliievich Fomin at Zeyathiri Hall, here, this morning.

They discussed cementing friendly relations between two armed forces of Russia and Myanmar, promotion of cooperation in military technology between the two countries, and further strengthening relations between the two armed forces.

Also present at the call were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Soe Win, senior military officers of the Commander-in-Chief Office, the Russian Ambassador and officials.—MNA

Agreement inked for Pilot Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) Project

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Nov—A ceremony to sign an agreement for Pilot Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) Project took place in conjunction with a workshop at the Ministry of Industry, here, this afternoon.

First, Deputy Minister for Industry U Thein Aung, Mr. Chin-Pen Chua of UNIDO and Marie-Gabrielle Ineichen-Fleisch of State Secretariat for Economic Affairs of Switzerland (SECO) made opening remarks.

The SECO-funded project will provide assistance to SMEs manufacturing confectionaries and textile (See page 9)

Minister for Industry U Thein Aung, Mr. Chin-Pen Chua of UNIDO and Marie-Gabrielle Ineichen-Fleisch of State Secretariat for Economic Affairs of Switzerland (SECO) made opening remarks.

MNA

Rain or thundershowers be scattered around Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Nov—According to the observations at (12:30) hrs MST today, the depression over the central Bay of Bengal, rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated to scattered in Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Shan, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States within next (48) hrs commencing today, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

MNA

Depression not moving towards Myanmar coasts

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Nov—According to the observations at (17:30) hrs MST today, the depression over West Central Bay of Bengal is centered at about (346) miles Northwest of Chennai (India), (250) miles Southeast of Visakhapatnam (India) and (430) miles West-Northwest of Cocogyun (Myanmar). It is forecast to move West-Northwestwards.

Under the influence of the depression, occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar 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.

Trawlers, vessels and ships are advised to advert possible danger by cyclone.—MNA

Myanmar golf team back home

YANGON, 19 Nov—Myanmar national golf team arrived back here yesterday after taking part in Asia-Pacific Amateur Golf Team Championship 2013 (Nomura Cup) held at Santiburi Golf Club in Thailand from 14 to 17 November.

A total of 100 amateur golfers from 26 counties participated in the golf tournament. The 13th ranked Myanmar team led by General Secretary U Aung Hla Han of Myanmar Golf Federation got 879 strokes in four rounds team event.

Australian team stood first with 828 strokes, followed by Korean and Thailand teams.

MNA

Thai government donates sports equipment worth over 44 million bath to SPED

MYAWADDY, 19 Nov—Under the arrangement of government to government programme, Thai government donated sports equipment for XXVII SEA Games to Myanmar government near the Friendship Bridge in Mae Sot of Thailand today.

The Tak Province Administrator Mr Sauria Prasata, bantiya of Thailand handed sports gear worth 44,495,540 baht to Deputy Director-General U Myat Thwin of Sports and Physical Education Department of Myanmar.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Director U Aye Lwin of Kayin State Sports and Physical Education Department, Deputy Commissioner of Myawaddy District U Tint Wai Thon, Deputy Director of Myawaddy District Immigration and National Registration Department U Aung Win Thien, the Head of Township Customs Department and officials.

Tun Tun Oo (Myawaddy Border Town)