**President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of ambassadors of Estonia, Bhutan**

_Nay Pyi Taw, 3 Oct—_Mr Viljar Lubi, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Estonia to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar presented his credentials to U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw at 11 am on Friday.

_Vice president urges officials to address land confiscation issues effectively_**

_Nay Pyi Taw, 3 Oct—_Land confiscation issue must be tackled quickly and effectively, Vice President U Nyan Tun told officials at the Meeting of the Work Committee for Rural Development and Poverty Reduction held in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

_The meeting was attended by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, union ministers, chief ministers of states/regions, deputy ministers and officials._

_In his speech, the vice president said the strategic framework has been developed, with the aim of reducing poverty rate to 16 percent in 2015, for sustainable growth achieved through participation of all stakeholders in the rural development tasks, good governance brought about by enhancing the capacity of rural people through strengthened civil society organizations, and emergence of a society that can respond to natural disasters by reducing losses in rural areas. Poverty reduction can be achieved effectively by implementing the eight rural development tasks._

(See page 3)

**Enthusiasts, cameramen and film and video editors gather at revolutionary video technology workshop in Yangon**

_Yangon, 3 Oct—_Film and video production enthusiasts and those in the field of television broadcasting were brought to a revolutionary video technology workshop at Sule-Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon on Friday.

_The workshop was jointly-organized by SS HD Solutions Co., Ltd, a local audio and video products sale and retail company, and Blackmagic Design Pty Ltd, an Australia manufacturer of electronic equipment for broadcast and video production._

_It was held in conjunction with a roadshow in which the introduction of Blackmagic Design products to those present and demonstration of DaVinci Resolve 11 software and on how to use film and broadcast cameras took place._

“Our intention is clearly not only to introduce Blackmagic 4K accessories to Myanmar cameramen and editors from broadcast companies but also to share the newest information of video technology to trainees from film and broadcast schools in the country “_, San Myo Aung, managing director of SS HD Solutions Co., Ltd to The Global New Light of Myanmar.

_He expressed his belief that today event would be of great benefit to the development of Myanmar film and broadcast industries._

_In his greetings at the event, Lu Min, actor and chairman of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization (MMPO), said that use of advanced production and editing equipment in making a movie is as important as performance of artistes which is so crucial to being a successful film._

_It is the first time Australia-based Blackmagic Design company organized the today event in cooperation with a local company in Myanmar._

By Ye Myint

_NAY PYI TAW, 3 Oct—_The following is the excerpts from the press release issued by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore at the United Nations General Assembly 69th Session General Debate on 29 September 2014._—Ed

_The Singaporean Foreign Ministry issued a press release highlighting “Small States – The Challenges of Sustainable Development”. As regards terrorism it says, “The threat of terrorism and radical ideology is not confined to the Middle East. It affects the whole world. An estimated 15,000 foreigners from at least 80 countries, including from Southeast Asia, have travelled to fight in Syria and Iraq. That ISIS can attract so many foreign fighters highlights the need for a comprehensive strategy to counter them. In addition to military and intelligence efforts, we must also combat the radical ideology used to recruit foreign fighters, and which fuels their extremist agenda.” As regards Post-2015 Development Agenda it says, “The President’s choice of: “Delivering on and implementing a” (See page 2)
Union Government changes banks to take out agricultural loans

**Representatives focusing on taking out loans for agricultural sector at Friday’s session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA**

The Union Government informed the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw of getting the loan from the Myanma Economic Bank rather than from the Central Bank of Myanmar.—MNA

Myanmar in International Media

**By Kyaw The-ein**

The 30 September 2014 issue of The Times (United Kingdom) stated that the centuries-old tranquillity of Inlay Lake in Myanmar is under threat after hot-air balloon companies were granted licenses to fly over it. A flight over Inlay and the nearby town of Pindaya will offer an exclusive and intimate experience, said Brett Melzer, co-founder of Balloons over Bagan.

ASEAN, US vow to make greater cooperation in fight against human trafficking

**By Khai Thanda Lwin**

YANGON, 3 Oct—ASEAN and the United States will jointly organize a workshop on report of trafficking in persons to be held on October 7 here with the aim of promoting further cooperation between the two sides, according to Police Captain Min Naing.

The one-day workshop focuses on international anti-human trafficking laws, UN convention and treaties, issuance of annual report for trafficking in persons, analytical dialogue of nations and special topics for human trafficking.

During the meeting, the U.S. will introduce its Trafficking Victims Protection Act to the ASEAN delegations, the Police Captain of Anti-Human Trafficking Squad told the Global New Light of Myanmar on Friday. The meeting will provide more benefits including systematic way to collect human trafficking data and methods for setting criteria on classifying human trafficking cases, he believed.

Police Captain Min Naing said Myanmar’s anti-human trafficking squads put more efforts to expose human trafficking cases, with the result that this year human trafficking figures may surpass those of the previous year, adding that the numbers of human trafficking cases have reached 85 till the end of September this year. In the previous year, the squads could save 220 trafficking victims out of 256 of 102 cases.

Most victims were sold in China and Thailand as fraudulent marriage and adoption, and forced labour. The police could expose 21 human trafficking cases reported in the country. They found that the majority of women were put into prostitution, he added.

Trafficking in persons is a serious crime in developing countries. In order to control human trafficking crimes, Myanmar enacted the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law in 2005. Under Section 24 of the law, offenders of trafficking in persons especially women, children and youth shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend from a minimum of 10 years to a maximum of imprisonment for life.—GNLM
President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of ambassadors...

(from page 1)
The President also accepted the credentials of Mr. Kesang Wangdi, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bhutan to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the same venue at 11.30 am.

Also present on the occasions were Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw and Director-General U Thuraun Thant Zin of the Protocol Department.

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Vice president urges officials to address land confiscation issues...

(from page 1)
approved by the state, the vice president added. The vice president pointed out that rural development tasks are a continuous process and it is essential to improve existing favourable conditions without allowing them to backslide. The aim is to establish a good governance process for sustainable development which will be implemented by accountable and responsible village-tract and township level development supporting teams.

The vice president said that the Letpadaungtaung copper mine project is of great importance to the country.

Letpadaungtaung copper mine project critical for Myanmar

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 Oct—Officials should try to employ locals in job vacancies of the project and carry out major development tasks of the region immediately, U Hla Tun, Union Minister at the President Office, told a meeting at the Ministry of Mining on Friday, sources said.

He urged officials to pay out compensations to remaining land owners, adding that financial assistance in addition to compensations has been provided to project-affected people.

The Investigation Commission for Letpadaungtaung Mine Project is carrying out regional development tasks such as supplies of potable water and electricity, and transportation, according to U Hla Tun, also Chairman of the Committee for Implementation of the Report of the Investigation Commission.

Vice Chairman of the Committee Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hsan Oo, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Zaw Win, Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Than Tun Aung and officials also discussed progress of their implementation Letpadaungtaung copper mine project-related tasks.

According to the Investigation Commission, the Letpadaungtaung copper mine project is of great importance to the country.
Ancient Maha Minhtin wooden monastery needs maintenance

Mandalay, 3 Oct—Central Maha Minhtin Monastery in the precinct of Maha Minhtin Monastery in Mahaaungmye Township of Mandalay is one of the Myanmar’s ancient cultural heritages. The monastery was moved to ancient royal palaces namely Inwa, Amarapura and Yadanabon. It was built by Zanetpala Elephant Officer Minhtin Min Htin. First, the building was moved from Inwa to Amarapura. In 1238 Myanmar Era when King Mindon ruled the nation, the building together with other monasteries from Amarapura was moved to Mandalay Royal Palace. Therefore, the building was re-constructed Zanetpala Elephant Maha Minhtin Minkyaw Min Htin, son of the well-wisher. Thus, the building is the largest of wooden monasteries in Mandalay. The monastery was rebuilt with a total of 462 wooden posts which are 28 feet long each. The monastery included the prayer hall, tiered-roof building, Zaytawun Hall and Bawga Hall. Ancient Buddha images, packets of palm-leaf manuscripts and chambers are stored at the prayer hall. The building was decorated with handicrafts of Yadanabon era. The reconstruction of the building did not finish in the time of King Mindon and it was finished in the time of King Thibaw.

Flocks of globetrotters visited Maha Minhtin monastery to observe ancient Myanmar handicrafts. As such, it is necessary to maintain the ancient monastery not to lose the ancient handicrafts and the monastery structures, said Abbot U Indobhasa.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Infection of paddy pests checked at farmland in Dekkhinathiri Township

HAKA, 3 Oct—The Chin State Chief Minister’s Cup Inter-Township Football Tournament kicked off at Vamthumoung Sports Ground in Haka of Chin State on Thursday. On behalf of the Chief Minister of Chin State, Chin State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Ba Maung greeted the players of both teams. In the first match, Haka Township threshed Thantlang Township 5-2, and in the second match, Kanpetlet Township routed Mindat Township 8-7. The tournament will continue up to 13 October.—Chin State IPRD

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Oct—Local farmers have recently informed officials of falling paddy germs at 2.5 acres of Manaw Thukha monsoon paddy plantation of farmer U Tun Yin in Htatakan Village of Dekkhinathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. Head of Nay Pyi Taw Agriculture Department U Tin Oo Kyaying and officials made a field trip to the paddy plantation to check the paddy germs on Thursday. Agricultural staff demonstrated systematic prevention of pests at the paddy fields to the farmers. Officials and staff of the department gave talks about prevention against paddy germs and pests on over 7,000 acres of monsoon paddy and use of good agricultural patterns to the farmers.

Ko Pauk (Okkarmyay)
Old students pay respects to retired teachers

Mandalay, 3 Oct—Alumni of No 13 Basic Education High School called ABM and BBM on 82nd street in Mahasaungmye Township held the 75th respect paying ceremony to teachers at Oriental House at the corner of 27th and 64th streets in Chanayethazan Township on 1 October. It was attended by above 60 years old retired teachers who discharged duty from 1958 to 2014 and old students.

Director of East-West Centre in Washington DC gives talks at Mandalay University

Mandalay, 3 Oct—Director Dr Satu Limaye of East-West Centre in Washington DC of the United States of America met Rector Dr Maung Thin of Mandalay University at the university in Mandalay on Wednesday.

The rector explained opening of courses at the university, subject-wise research works, and cooperation of the university with international universities.

Dr Satu Limaye and party gave talks about the US Rebalance to ASEAN and Myanmar at the Inwa (9) Hall and replied to queries raised by attendees.

The talk was attended by faculty members and students of Mandalay University, Mandalay University of Foreign Languages and Yadanabon University, totalling about 300.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

145th birthday of Gandhiji marked in Mandalay

Mandalay, 3 Oct—Mandalay-based Indian Consulate-General organized the 145th birthday of Mahatma Gandhi who was the architect for Independence of the Republic of India, at Sedona Hotel at the corner of 26th and 66th streets in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on Thursday.

Speaker of Mandalay Region Hluttaw U Win Maung, Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing, and Consul-General of India Dr Nandakuma lit the oil lamps for paying tribute to the Indian Independence Architect.

National literary award winner writer Nay Win Myint gave talks about Mahatma Gandhi and four post-graduate students of Mandalay University submitted research papers on peace process of Mahatma Gandhi.

—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Children enjoy talent contest

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 Oct—Sanpya Nan Htaik Yadana Pre-Primary School under Social Welfare Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement held the talent contest at its hall in Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Friday.

All students sang the ABM song at the ceremony and paid respects to the teachers. The organizing committee members presented cash assistance and gifts to the teachers.

Deputy Director Daw Khin Nwe, Principal of the school Daw Soe Soe Maw and responsible persons of the Parent-Teacher Association awarded the outstanding children.

—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Performing arts competition commences in Pakokku District

Pakokku, 3 Oct—The 21st Myanmar national races’ traditional performing arts competition kicked off at Pyithaya Hall in Pakokku of Magway Region on Wednesday.

Deputy Commissioner of the district U Than Swe stressed the need to uplift Myanmar cultural heritages and prestige of the nation.

Township administrators from Pakokku, Yesagyo, Myaing, Pauk and Seikpyu townships formally opened the competition.

—Aung (Mandalay University)

Farmers of Kawhmu Township observe crops plantations in Nay Pyi Taw

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 Oct—Sanpya Nan Htaik Yadana Pre-Primary School of Foreign Languages and Yadanabon University, totalling about 300.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 Oct—A farmer delegation led by U Zaw Min Aung of Kawhmu Township in Yangon Region visited the 900-acre organic plantation supplied with irrigated water from Setsetyo Dam in Ottarathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Wednesday.

Director U Myint Shwe and officials met with farmers at the briefing hall of the farmland and then explained over 100 species of crops at the plantation.

The farmers then visited the 500-acre farmer educative farm in Koeywa Thabyegon Village in Pobbathiri Township. Deputy Head of Nay Pyi Taw Agriculture Department U Win Oo and officials explained thriving of dragon fruit plantation, production of crop seeds and cultivation methods for organic crops.

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—Aung (Mandalay University)
Thai leader, Japanese gov’t official discuss economic cooperation

BANGKOK, 3 Oct.—Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha met with a Japanese senior government official on Thursday and discussed economic cooperation, in which the first such meeting, since he seized power in a bloodless coup last May. Thai government spokesman Yongyuth Maiyarat told reporters that Prayuth explained to Minoro Kiuchi, one of Japanese Foreign Ministry’s two senior vice ministers, about why the coup happened and about his government’s “road map” for restoring civilian rule. The Japanese Foreign Ministry said separately that Kiuchi voiced Japan’s hope that Thailand moves forward with democratization in line with the road map, echoing remarks made by Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida when he met 25 September with Thai Depu- ty Prime Minister and For- eign Minister Tanasak Pa- timaprasong on the sidelines of a UN General Assembly meeting in New York.

Kiuchi was said by the Thai side to have conveyed Japan’s interest in invest- ment in infrastructure, sat- ellite and flood control pro- jects in Thailand, while the Japanese side said he urged the Thai government to en- sure an investment environ- ment that is transparent and fair to Japanese companies.

The Thai spokesman said preparations are under way for Japanese participa- tion in the long-stalled Da- wei Special Economic Zone in southern Myanmar, a project between Thailand and Myanmar. He said Kiuchi and Prayuth discussed the idea of holding a trilateral meeting in the near future to pave the way for concrete collaborations between the three countries with regard to Dawei.

The Thai leader was said to have encouraged Japanese investment in five special economic zones in border areas of Thailand, while urging that Japanese investment in the country be accompanied by enhanced transfer of technology. Kiuchi requested that Thai re- strictions on Japanese food imports be lifted promptly, the Japanese side said.

Kalaya, 10 Oct.—The three people who were killed after landslides struck Chiang Rai Division of Thailand’s West on Thursday, officials said here.

The accident occurred at 08:40 am local time when the three workers were collecting stone in Sukamak village, Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman of national disaster man- agement agency told Xinhua via phone.

At midday one of the corpses was found and the rescuers were searching for the other two corpses, involv- ing police, soldiers and volunteers, Sutopo said.

Landslides in three countries with regard to Dawei.

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Japan to extend $22 mil to help fight Ebola virus in Africa

**Tokyo, 3 Oct** — Japan will extend $22 million in emergency financial aid to help fight the outbreak of the Ebola virus in West Africa, the government said on Friday.

The aid, to be provided through six international agencies such as the World Health Organization and the UN Children’s Fund, is part of $40 million in additional assistance to combat the virus that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced at a UN General Assembly session on 25 September. “The Ebola virus poses threat to international peace and safety,” Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters. “We will consider further assistance to end the epidemic.”

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Rousseff widens Brazil election lead, challengers even

**Brasilia, 3 Oct** — Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff has extended her lead ahead of Sunday’s election and would win re-election in a likely second-round runoff, while her main challengers are almost tied for second place, polls showed on Thursday.

Environmentalist Marina Silva has continued to slip and is now only 3 percentage points ahead of centrist candidate Aecio Neves, according to the Datafolha polling firm, a statistical tie because it is within the poll’s margin of error.

Rousseff has advanced to within 3 percentage points of an outright victory in the first-round voting, or 47 percent, when spoilt and blank ballots are excluded, Datafolha said.

If no candidate wins a majority, the election will be decided in a runoff between the two leading candidates on 26 October. Rousseff’s increased chances of winning a second term have weighed down Brazil’s markets where investors are hoping for a change of government. Some blame Rousseff’s interventionist policies for the stagnation of Latin America’s largest economy.

Both the Datafolha poll and another by the Ibope research firm show Rousseff winning a runoff against Silva by 7 percentage points.

Rousseff has increased her lead over Silva in the first round to 16 percentage points in both polls, with 40 percent of voter support up to 24 percent for Silva.

Neves, the market favourite who has been stuck in third place since Silva’s late entry into the race, increased his support by 1 percentage point to 21 percent, Datafolha said, and now has a fighting chance of making the runoff.

The polls confirmed that Silva, a popular anti-establishment figure, has continued to lose ground since peaking in late August. —Reuters

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Australian warplanes ready to strike in Iraq

**Sydney, 3 Oct** — Australian warplanes will be used in air strikes against Islamic State (IS) extremists in northern Iraq. Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott confirmed on Friday.

Abbott said a decision to send in Super Hornets as part of a US-led mission was taken following a meeting of the National Security Committee of Cabinet.

“The Cabinet has authorised Australian air strikes in Iraq at the request of the Iraqi government in support of the Iraqi government,” Abbott told a Press Conference in Canberra.

“Also, subject to final legal documentation, cabinet has authorised the deployment of Australian special forces into Iraq to advise and assist Iraqi forces.”

Six Super Hornets, a Wedgetail surveillance aircraft, a KC-30 refueller and a special forces contingent have been pre-deployed to the United Arab Emirates.

A Wedgetail surveillance aircraft and a refueller have flown missions over Iraq, while Australian Super Hornets have remained on standby pending approval for bombing raids against IS targets.

“I want to assure the Australian people this will be as long as it needs to be, and as short as it possibly can be,” Abbott said.

Abbott said only Iraq can defeat IS, but Iraq shouldn’t and won’t be alone.—Xinhua

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US commander in Afghanistan says recent Taleban gains fleeting

**Washington, 3 Oct** — Afghan military casualties have spiked in recent weeks amid an increase in Taleban attacks, but the top US commander in the country said on Thursday that rebel gains were fleeting and he was confident Afghan forces could stop them from holding ground.

“The last couple of weeks, there has been an uptick (in casualties), with the Talibans trying to make a statement as they close out the fighting season,” US Army General John Campbell, the commander of international forces, told a Pentagon briefing.

Campbell, the head of the International Security Assistance Force, did not have an exact tally of Afghan casualties for this year, but said it was in the range of 7,000 to 9,000 killed or wounded. He said the number was slightly higher than in 2013 because of the recent spike in combat in Helmand and elsewhere.

The ISAF chief downplayed the significance of the surge in attacks.

“There’s nowhere that we have Afghan security forces that the Talibans can get the terrain and hold the terrain,” he told reporters.

“The Talibans may take over a district centre or something, but only temporarily. Once the ANSF (Afghan National Security Force) understands that piece of it they get the terrain back.”

Campbell’s remarks came just two days after US officials signed a bilateral security agreement that would keep up to 9,800 US troops in the country after the end of the year to advise and support Afghan security forces and carry out counter-terror operations. Final approval of the accord came after months of delay because then-Afghan President Hamid Karzai refused to sign the deal. The agreement had to await the conclusion of contested presidential elections, which were only recently finalised.

Campbell, who took over as ISAF commander in August, said his six weeks in Afghanistan had been characterized by “one word ... transition, transition, transition.”

International forces are in the process of drawing down from about 40,000 currently to 12,500 by the end of the year. Of that number, the US military has 24,050 troops in Afghanistan and is drawing down to 9,800.

“We’re on a very good glide path to make that by the end of December,” Campbell said.

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Cuba-China ties marked with monthlong events

**Havana, 3 Oct** — A book fair opened on Thursday in China Town of Havana, capital of Cuba, as part of monthlong events to mark milestones in the friendly ties of the two nations, the celebrations, which began 25 September and will run through 24 October, featured important dates for both nations, including the establishment of diplomatic ties between Cuba and China on 28 September, 1960, the birthday of Chinese philosopher Confucius, also on 28 September, and the founding of the People’s Republic of China on 1 October.

At a function organised to celebrate China’s National Day at Cuba’s Revolutionary Armed Forces Ministry Wednesday, China’s Ambassador to Cuba Zhang Tao hailed Sino-Cuba ties as “a model of cooperation between developing countries.”

The vice president of Cuba’s Council of Ministers, Ricardo Cabrisas, said bilateral ties of the two countries were “at a historic peak,” noting “mutual trust and confidence are on the rise, as are points of convergence.”

There are other events to be held too, according to organizers. On 9 October, there will be a tribute to Chinese soldiers who died during the 20th-century independence wars against Spanish colonialism in Latin America, followed by a cultural event for children scheduled to be held at the House of Chinese Arts and Traditions on 17 October, as well as another event aimed at marking the 20th anniversary of the creation of the China Town health commission in Havana slated for 24 October.

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African President Hamid Karzai (L) is applauded by US Army Maj Gen John F Campbell, commanding general, 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, on 14 May, 2010. — Reuters

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Brazilians presidential candidates Dilma Rousseff (L) of Workers Party (PT) and Marina Silva of Brazilian Socialist Party (PSB) take part in a TV debate in Rio de Janeiro on 2 Oct, 2014. Brazil will be holding its presidential election and would win re-election in a likely second-round runoff, while her main challengers are almost tied for second place, polls showed on Thursday.

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The polls confirmed that Silva, a popular anti-establishment figure, has continued to lose ground since peaking in late August. —Reuters

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Cuba-Chinese ties are marked with monthlong events in Havana with a book fair on Thursday in Cuba’s China Town.
An Outcry for the Educational Sector

Maung Phyo (WYU)

It is often said that Myanmar has once owned the best university in Asia along with its plethora of intellectual giants as human resource. There might have been good background for the emergence of such products. No doubt Myanmar has had recourse to making most of these advantages in the nation-building process. Unfortunately, after a series of monumental changes in history, it is very long since Myanmar had seen the outcome of the process of natural development in the educational sector. Instead, there increasingly emerges a series of product out of a loose-knit education system that has often been prone to change. Today, an average educated man comes up with no real individuality. He or she is nobody but a holder of a degree or diploma stamped on a sheet of paper. A graduate seems more like a manufactured article bearing the stamp of a particular line of studies. If such graduates engage in the pedagogic field, it is very likely that they will stereotype their teachers. Sadly, teachers are accused of practicing the method “spoon-feeding” and students “rote-learning”. Per their teachers. Sadly, teachers are accused of practicing the pedagogic field, it is very likely that they will stereotype.

This means that any government, once it has come to power, should not neglect and ignore the promises they have made in their electioneering. Otherwise, this will amount to abuse of public trust.

When it comes to good governance, there are some elemental obligations. They are accountability, responsiveness, transparency, and the observance and enforcement of the rule of law. Another characteristic of good governance is that government is obliged by unwritten law to explain the consequences of decisions it has made to the benefit of the people and make the general public clearly see how and why those decisions have been made within the framework of existing laws.

Effective and efficient governance will never leave behind relevant interest groups, civil organizations, and community members in actual decision-making processes. A good and clean government is of paramount importance for people simply because it is a single authorized body entrusted with power to steer the country towards a better and brighter future.

As long as government walks its talk, people will have no hesitation in putting all their confidence, for nobody is stupid enough to be fooled twice. The word is ‘good governance, clean government’ is contrary to ‘no action, talk only’.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space, we are only able to publish “Letter to the Editor” that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.
Armenian Archbishop meets Union Religious Affairs Minister

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 Oct—Armenian Archbishop His Holiness Karekin II and party met the Union Minister for Religious Affairs at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday to hold talks about matters related to Armenian Christian Church at the corner of Bo Aung Kyaw and Merchant Streets in Yangon Region and religious affairs. MNA

Union SWRR Minister holds talks with Chairman of ADPC

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 Oct—Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin received Chairman Professor Prof. Dr. Krasae Chanawongse and party of Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

The union minister explained formation of the central committee, management committee and subcommittees for national disaster preparedness, implementation of the disaster risk reduction plan in Myanmar, cooperation with ASEAN-Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, training courses for volunteer youths for disaster risk reduction and establishment of emergency operation centre.

The chairman of the ADPC praised the ministry for its endeavours in disaster risk reduction.—MNA

MPF urges gold shops to equip CCTVs

Yangon, 3 Oct—Myanmar Police Force has urged gold shops across the country to equip closed-circuit televisions - CCTVs in attempts to prevent crimes at the shops.

After some gold shops were robbed in day time this year, MPF has raised awareness of importance of CCTVs at gold shops across the country to prevent crimes such as robbing, burglary and fraud. MPF have advised gold shops to equip CCTVs adequately inside and outside of the shops because CCTVs are very helpful for exploring and arresting robbers and to prevent crimes, said Police Lt-Col Myint Lwin, Commander of Yangon West District Police Force.

However, it is found that some gold shops still do not equip CCTVs at their shops, he added.—GNLM

Yangon needs public donations for free health services at dog-bite centres

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

Yangon, 2 Oct—The Myanmar Medical Association (MMA) is planning to establish private dog-bite centres in Yangon so as to control and prevent diseases. Dr Daw Tint Tint Kyi, a Senior Consultant Physician at Insein General Hospital, told the Global New Light of Myanmar on Thursday.

It is also aimed at getting certain information about dog bite-related injury cases, providing high quality treatment to dog bite victims, reducing drugs waste problem and systematic storing of anti-rabies vaccines, she added.

The Senior Consultant Physician invited the contribution of international and local donors to raise MMA’s funds to provide free medical services to patients with dog bite wounds as there is not enough money to give adequate services for all patients.

Those wellwishers may contact the Myanmar Medical Association which is located at No. 249 on Theinbyu Road in Mingala Taungnyunt Township in Yangon.

Dr Daw Tint Tint Kyi also gave information on modern cell culture-based vaccine (CCV) which is used for treating dog bite cases and removal of outdated nerve tissue-based rabies vaccines.

According to the WHO, dog bites are a common problem in South East Asia, with more than 1.4 billion people in the region at risk of rabies infection, and approximately 45% of worldwide rabies deaths occur in Asia.

Experts estimated that about 1,000 Myanmar people die every year due to rabies.

16th Meeting of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights commences

Delegates to 16th Meeting of ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights joining hands in documentary photo.—MNA

Yangon, 16 Oct—The 16th Meeting of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights was opened at Parkroyal Hotel in Yangon on Friday, chaired by Chairman of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights Human Rights Representatives of Myanmar U Kyaw Tint Swe.

About 30 delegates of intergovernmental commissions on human rights of ASEAN countries discussed facts about human rights.

The meeting will continue on 5 October.

MNA

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (3-10-2014)

Yangon Gold Price
Buying K649,000 per tical: Selling K650,000
Mandalay Gold Price
Buying K649,000 per tical: Selling K650,000
FE RATE
USD Buying K989: Selling K994
SGD Buying K775: Selling K783
Euro Buying K1,240: Selling K1,260

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 4 October, 2014 | 9
Turkey steels for action as Islamic State advances on Syrian border town

Turkey steels for action as Islamic State advances on Syrian border town

Turkey, (Turkey), 3 Oct — Turkey’s parliament authorized the government on Thursday to order military action against Islamic State as the insurgents tightened their grip on a Syrian border town, sending thousands more Kurdish refugees into Turkey.

The vote gives the government powers to order incursions into Syria and Iraq to counter the threat of attack “from all terrorist groups”, although there was little sign any such action was imminent.

The mandate also allows foreign troops to launch operations from Turkey, a NATO member that hosts a US air base in its southern town of Incirlik, but which has so far resisted a frontline role in the military campaign against the insurgents.

“The rising influence of radical groups in Syria threatens Turkey’s national security. ... The aim of this mandate is to minimise as much as possible the impact of the clashes on our borders,” Defence Minister Ismet Yilmaz told parliament.

Islamic State fighters advanced to within a few km (miles) of the mainly Kurdish border town of Kobani on three sides on Thursday, extending their gains after taking control of hundreds of villages around the town in recent weeks.

Smoke rose behind hills to the south of Kobani as the insurgents continued their shelling into the night. Dozens of anti-tank missiles with bright-red tracers flashed through the sky as darkness enveloped the town.

Kobani’s electricity supply was cut after militiamen bombarded a local power grid, a Kurdish fighter told Reuters.

In neighbouring Iraq, which also borders Turkey, the insurgents have carried out mass executions, abducted women and girls as sex slaves, and used children as fighters in what may amount to war crimes, the United Nations said.

They took control of most of the western Iraqi town of Hit early on Thursday in Anbar Province, where they already control many surrounding towns, launching the assault with three suicide car bombs at its eastern entrance.

US-led forces, which have been bombing Islam-ic State targets in Syria and Iraq, hit a village near Kobani on Wednesday. Sources in the town, which is known as Ayn al-Arab in Arabic, reported strikes farther south overnight.

The US Central Command reported that US and other forces in the coalition conducted four strikes on Wednesday and Thursday in Syria and seven in Iraq. Targets included buildings, tanks and other armed vehicles.

But such strikes seemed to have done little to stop the Islamists’ advance.

“We left because we realised it was only going to get worse,” said Leyla, a 37-year-old Syrian arriving at the Yumurtalik border crossing with her six children after waiting 10 days in a field, hoping the clashes would subside.

“We will go back tomorrow if Islamic State leaves. I don’t want to be here,” she said.

Kurdish militias in Turkey warned that peace talks with Ankara, meant to end a three-decade insurgency, would collapse if the Islamist insurgents were allowed to carry out a massacre.

The British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the war, said Islamic State militants were clashing with Kurdish fighters hundreds of metres from Kobani, raising fears they would enter the town “at any moment”.

It said it confirmed the deaths of 16 Islamic State fighters and seven Kurdish militiamen but that the true toll was likely to be higher.

About 20 explosions were reported in the area around Kobani, 40 km (25 miles) northwest of the town of Manbij, 50 km (30 miles) south of Kobani overnight, resulting from missile strikes believed to be carried out by the coalition, the observatory said earlier.

Asya Abdullah, a senior official in Syria’s domi-nant Kurdish political party the Democratic Union Par-ty (PYD), said there were clashes to the east, west and south of Kobani and that Is-lamic State that had advanced to within 2-3 km on all fronts.

“If they want to pre-vent a massacre, (the coa-lition) must act much more comprehensively,” she told Reuters by phone from Kobani, adding that air strikes elsewhere in Syria had been training moderate forces in the region against Islamic State fighters towards the border town.—Reuters

US, allies face ‘long fight’ against Islamic State, Biden says

CAMBRIDGE, 3 Oct — The battle to stop Islamic State militants’ advance in Syria and Iraq is going to be a “hell of a long fight” for the United States and its coalition partners, Vice President Joe Biden said on Thursday.

But Biden defended the US decision to wait until last month to begin airstrikes against Islamic State targets in Syria, which has already endured a bloody civil war that has killed 190,000 people. The United States needed to wait before acting because of the difficulty in determin-ing if it could support any element of the armed factions fighting in the region, Biden said.

“We Americans think that in every country in tran-sition, there is a Thomas Jef-ferson hiding behind some rock, or a James Madison beyond one sand dune. But the fact of the matter is ... there was no moderate mid-dle,” Biden said. “We have been training moderate force, but we have been very selective in making sure who they were and vetting them.”

Several thousand fight-ers have been trained, said Biden adding that the pre-cise number was classified. But he emphasized the Unit-ed States had no plans to commit combat forces to a ground war against Islamic State militants.

“Degrading them does not depend on the unsustain-able deployment of hundred-s of thousands of boots on the ground,” Biden said.

“This campaign against vio-lent extremism predates our administration and it will outlive our administration.”

He also said that ulti-mately, the Islamic State militants posed little risk to the United States.

“Our response must be deadly serious but we should keep this in perspective. The United States today faces threats that require our attention, but we face no existential threat to our way of life or to our security,” Biden said.

While alluding to the 15 April, 2013, attack on the Boston Marathon that killed three people and injured more than 260, Biden said: “You are twice as like-ly to be struck by lighting as you are to be affected by a terrorist event in the United States.” —Reuters
WB forecasts
Ukrainian economy to drop 8 pct in 2014

Kiev, 3 Oct — The World Bank (WB) on Thursday revised its forecast for Ukraine’s economic performance this year, expecting its gross domestic product (GDP) to decline by 8 percent.

The downward revision, from the 5 percent fall projected in June, was attributed to the impact of the conflict in eastern Ukraine, where government troops are clashing with independence-seeking insurgents.

“The conflict in the east is mainly responsible for these lower forecasts as it has disrupted economic activity, made collection of taxes difficult, adversely affected exports, and hurt investor confidence,” the bank said in a report.

Among other negative factors affecting the country’s economy, the WB listed risks in the banking sector, weak domestic consumption, rising expenditure pressure, heavy external debt and limited access to external financing.

(W_SC)

Among the WB’s outlook, the nation’s economy is predicted to contract 1.0 percent in 2015, compared with a previously estimated 2.5 percent growth.

The bank emphasized the need for Ukraine to solve the crisis in the eastern regions, implement economic reforms, improve governance and toughen the fight against corruption.

Ukraine’s GDP went down 3 percent in the first half of this year from a year ago and is expected to shrink 6.5 percent for the whole year. 

IMF chief says global economy at inflection point

WASHINGTON, 3 Oct — IMF chief Christine Lagarde said on Thursday that the global economy is at an inflection point with weaker than expected recovery momentum, calling for bolder policies and multilateral efforts to inject new impetus.

Speaking at the Georgetown University as an curtain raiser speech of the IMF-World Bank annual meeting, Lagarde said the global economy is weaker than envisaged and only a modest pickup is foreseen for 2015, as the outlook for potential growth has been pared down.

Among advanced economies, the rebound is expected to be strongest in the United States and the United Kingdom; modest in Japan; and weakest in the Euro Area, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund noted.

Emerging market and developing economies led by Asia and China will continue to drive global activity, however, to be at a slower pace than before, she said.

“Six years after the financial crisis began, we see continued weakness in the global economy,” she added.

She pointed out that there is a cloud hovering around asynchronous monetary policy normalization in advanced economies and its potential spillovers to other countries around the world, urging the Federal Reserve to clearly communicate with the market over the exit from the monetary easing.

She also underlined the rising geographical tensions posing risks to the global economy, as a possible further escalation of the situation in Ukraine could provoke disruptions in commodity prices, financial markets and trade.

An expansion of the Ebola outbreak in Africa could pose a significant risk to the region and indeed the world, if not urgently and appropriately addressed.

“That brings me to the ‘structural reforms’ that are so essential to raise productivity, competitiveness and employment,” she noted.

The Washington-based organization is expected to lower its projection of global economic growth for 2014 in its latest edition of World Economic Outlook next week.

The IMF-World Bank annual meeting is scheduled to be held during 10-12 October in Washington.

Four people close to US Ebola patient quarantined in Dallas

DALLAS, 3 Oct — Four people close to the first person diagnosed with Ebola in the United States were quarantined in a Dallas apartment, where sheets and other items used by the man were sealed in plastic bags, as health officials widened their search for others who had direct or indirect contact with him.

In Liberia, an American freelance television camera man working for NBC News in Liberia has contracted Ebola, the fifth US citizen in Liberia has contracted Ebola, who have had contact with someone who had been staying in an apartment.

Eric Schultz said.

White House spokesman

Mr Duncan answered ‘no,’ answered when asked in a questionnaire by Marthalene Williams after being stayed in an apartment.

Ebola in West Africa is believed to have had contact with someone who had been staying in an apartment.

Duncan’s case put US health officials and doctors and national health infrastructure to handle this disease.

Doctors and national health infrastructure to handle this disease are clashing with independent insurgents.

Killed at least 3,300 people in West Africa is believed to have had contact with someone who had been staying in an apartment.

Three Americans contracted Ebola in West Africa and were flown to the United States for treatment and later released: Dr Kent Brantly, Nancy Writebol and Dr Rick Sacra. A fourth unnamed American who contracted Ebola in West Africa is being treated at Emory University Hospital on Atlanta.

President Barack Obama called Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings on Thursday and “pledged federal agencies will remain in close coordination,” he said.

Ebola can cause fever, bleeding, vomiting and diarrhea and spreads through contact with bodily fluids such as blood or saliva. Duncan’s case put US health authorities and the public on alert over concerns for the potential of the virus to spread from Liberia and two other impoverished West African countries, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

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International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Christine Lagarde delivers a speech at the Georgetown University in Washington DC, capital of the United States, on 2 Oct, 2014.—Xinhua

5.42 pct of Vietnamese people suffer from diabetes

HANOI, 3 Oct—Some 5.42 percent of Vietnamese people suffer from diabetes, said a release by Vietnam’s National Hospital of Endocrinology (NHE) at a national seminar on Friday.

The ongoing biennial seminar on endocrinology and metabolism is held by Vietnamese Association of Diabetes and Endocrinology in capital Hanoi on Thursday to Saturday, reported state-run news agen- cy VNA on Friday. Representatives from NHE cited a survey carried out by the hospital in 2012 among 11,000 people aging from 30 to 69 as saying that that the ratio of diabetes victims in Vietnam’s regions ranges from the lowest of 3.82 percent in Central Highlands to the highest of 7.18 percent in South Western Vietnam. Those who are over 45 years old, have big waist, or high blood pressure have greater risks for the disease compared to others, said the survey. Representatives from Vietnam Military Medical University and National Hospital of Pediatrics said the most serious complications of diabetes include blindness and renal failure.—Xinhua

A general view of The Ivy Apartments in Dallas, on 1 Oct, 2014.— Reuters

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Residents of West Point neighbourhood, which has been quarantined following an outbreak of Ebola, receive food rations from the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Monrovia on 28 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

BEIJING, 3 Oct—China’s services sector grew at its slowest pace in eight months in September after new orders shrank for the first time since the 2008 global financial crisis, a survey showed on Friday, exposing more weakness in the world’s second-largest economy, the PMI showed the property, aviation and other industries such as logistics and aviation. Lacklustre activity in the property sector weighed on overall new orders, which fell to 49.5, a level not seen since December 2008 and down from 50 in August. “The Golden September” peak season in the property sector did not materialise. The market tracked a weak trend and activity was on the subdued side,“ said Wu Wei, an official at the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing, which helps to publish the PMI.

Friday’s data raised questions about whether China’s move this week to cut mortgage rates and down payment levels for some home buyers would be enough to revive its sagging housing market and rejuvenate its sputtering economy. The official non-manufacturing Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI) edged down to 54.0 in September from 54.4 in August, the National Bureau of Statistics said, but still well above the 50-point mark demarcating growth on the month from a contraction. In a sign that China’s cooling property market remained a key drag on the economy, the PMI showed the real estate sector shrank in September, alongside other industries such as logistics and aviation. Lacklustre activity in the housing sector weighed on overall new orders, which fell to 49.5, a level not seen since December 2008 and down from 50 in August. “The Golden September” peak season in the property sector did not materialise. The market tracked a weak trend and activity was on the subdued side, “ said Wu Wei, an official at the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing, which helps to publish the PMI.

China services growth dips to eight-month low in Sept as orders sag

Seven killed in Pakistan passenger bus explosion

PEHSAWAR, 3 Oct—Seven people were killed and at least 11 wounded when an explosive device ripped through a passenger bus travelling outside the volatile Pakistani city of Peshawar on Thursday, a hospital spokesman and police said.

The attack took place against the backdrop of a large military operation in Pakistan’s tribal North Waziristan region targeting Taliban hideouts in the lawless area on the Afghan border — a campaign militants have vowed to avenge.

“The last 24 hours a bomb disposal squad has detonated six bombs in various localities of Peshawar,” Shafqat Malik, a senior police officer, told reporters at the site of the blast. “This is the seventh which went off and 5kg (11 lb) of explosives were used in the bomb.”

 Jamal and others injured, Swiss media reported. The EC130 Eurocopter took off from Lausanne en route to Montbeliard but made a distress call before it crashed in the yard of a home in the town of Bart, a few hundred meters away from the Montbeliard airfield. The accident occurred around 9:40 am, local time. The seven on-board, all Swiss, were six men and one woman between 45 and 63 years of age. One injured person was taken to nearby

Residents of West Point neighbourhood, which has been quarantined following an outbreak of Ebola, receive food rations from the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Monrovia on 28 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

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The driver of the bus, Shams-ul-Rehman who survived the attack, told investigators that an old man was spotted sitting with an old bag on a rear seat and that the device exploded shortly after he got off. A police investigator, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it might have been a secessionist attack as most passengers in the bus were Shi’ite Muslims. Radical Sunni Muslim militants frequently attack Shi’ites whom they see as infidels. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

A handout picture shows the body of a passenger, who was killed in a bomb attack on a passenger bus in Pakistan’s volatile Pakistani city of Peshawar on Thursday, in a hospital morgue in Peshawar on August 28, 2014.—PPI

Residents of West Point neighbourhood, which has been quarantined following an outbreak of Ebola, receive food rations from the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Monrovia on 28 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS
Weather report

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy in the North Bay and monsoon is weak in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 4TH October, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region and Mon State, scattered in Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Shan, Chin and Kayin States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar weater.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of thundery activities in the Lower Myanmar areas.

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16 people still feared missing
on Mt Ontake

NAGANO, (Japan), 3 Oct — At least 16 people are still feared missing following the eruption of Mt Ontake in central Japan last weekend that has claimed the lives of 47 people, Nagano prefectural government officials said on Friday.

The officials said that having combed through information from local police, firefighters, town officials, victims’ companions and families they think the death toll following Saturday’s unexpected eruption could increase.

Rain on Friday again prompted the prefectural government to halt search and rescue operations involving the Nagano prefectural police, firefighters and Ground Self-Defense Force troops.

The police said earlier that 46 of the 47 confirmed deaths from the eruption were caused by blows from flying rocks, while the remaining victim died from burns.

In what is Japan’s worst postwar volcanic disaster, Mt Ontake erupted near its 3,067-metre peak shortly before noon when many hikers were having lunch at the summit or making their way up or down climbing trails during the busiest time of the year. The searchers are scheduled to continue their operations by helicopter but bad weather is likely to complicate the task of finding survivors and retrieving bodies.

With a powerful typhoon approaching early next week, the searchers also face the risk of mudslides involving a mix of volcanic ash and soil in the event of heavy rainfall.

The Japan Meteorological Agency said rain is expected through on Friday evening, while there will likely be rainfall of 30 millimetres over the 24-hour period until 6 am Saturday in Nagano Prefecture and 40 mm of rain in parts of Gifu Prefecture.

Kyodo News

Polish food exports expected to drop 2 pct in 2014

WARSAW, 3 Oct — Polish food exports are expected to drop by 2 percent in 2014 from a year ago, said a report by the Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics (IERiGZ) released on Thursday. The report showed that Poland’s food trade surplus is expected to contract to 6.0 billion euros (7.6 billion US dollars) from 6.1 billion in 2013.

Food export sales should reach 19.9 billion euros, and imports 13.9 billion euros in 2014, which leaves a food trade surplus of 6.0 billion euros, the report said. The institute forecast that the total value of exports of food and agricultural products will reach 9.6 billion euros in the first half of 2015, down 6 percent from the first half of 2014, while imports are likely to decline by 7 percent to 6.7 billion euros.

That will leave a trade surplus of some 2.9 billion euros. The situation with Poland’s main trade partners, the European Union and the Commonwealth of Independent States, will continue to strongly influence Polish food exports, according to the institute.

Additional factors include exchange rates of the Polish zloty against the euro and US dollar and the relatively low prices of agricultural raw materials.

Xinhua

People feed fishes with fish food in nursing bottles at a farm in Qinhuangdao, north China’s Hebei Province, on 2 Oct, 2014.—XINHUA

The installation art “World’s largest breast” is seen in Toulouse, southwestern France on 2 Oct, 2014. It is displayed to appeal to people’s awareness of breast cancer prevention.—XINHUA

Bad weather is likely to complicate the task of finding survivors and retrieving bodies.

Additional factors include exchange rates of the Polish zloty against the euro and US dollar and the relatively low prices of agricultural raw materials.
‘Pirates of the Caribbean 5’ will film in Australia

LOS ANGELES, 3 Oct — ‘Pirates of Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales’, the fifth film in the Johnny Depp star- chise, will shoot in Queensland, Australia. The production on the Disney film is set to get under way in February 2015, the studio confirmed.

Depp is expected to reprise his role as Captain Jack Sparrow in the film. The Australian government has approved USD 18.9 million in location-based incentives to secure the shoot in the country which is separate from the incentives that it will receive from Queensland, said the Hollywood Reporter.

The film is being produced by Jerry Bruckheimer and directed by Joe Chin Ronning and Espen Sandberg. ‘Pirates 5’ is slated to release on 7 July, 2017.—PTI

Comedy actor Adam Sandler signs four film deal with Netflix

NEW YORK, 3 Oct — Netflix Inc said on Thursday that comedian and actor Adam Sandler has signed a deal to star in and produce four films that will be shown exclusively on the video-streaming service. The deal moves Netflix, which produces the Emmy-winning political thriller “House of Cards” and the comedy-drama “Orange Is the New Black,” further into original programming.

“His appeal spans across viewers of all ages — everybody had a favourite movie, everyone has a favourite line — not just in the US but all over the world,” Ted Sarandos, Netflix’s chief content officer, said in a statement. The four feature films from Sandler’s company, Happy Madison Productions, will be shown in the nearly 50 countries where Netflix is available. Brooklyn-born Sandler, 48, started his career as a stand-up comedian before joining the NBC comedy sketch show “Saturday Night Live.” His films include ‘Big Daddy,’’ “The Wedding Singer,” “Grown Ups” and this year’s “Men, Women & Children,” which premiered at the Toronto Film Festival.—Reuters

Demonic ‘Annabelle’ draws on classic horror films for nostalgic scares

LOS ANGELES, 3 Oct — There’s a new demon in town, and she’s hiding among the toys. “Annabelle,” out in US theaters on Friday, kicks off October with a Halloween offering at the box office with the origin story of a porcelain doll that masks a sinister secret, a spin-off from last year’s Warner Bros. Horror hit “The Conjuring.”

Dolls are usually associated with innocence and playfulness, but have been distorted into dark creatures in numerous horror movies, such as 1987’s “Dolls” and Chucky the serial killer in 1988’s “Child’s Play,” which spawned numerous sequels.

In “The Conjuring,” directed by James Wan, Annabelle is possessed by a twisted supernatural force, and the doll’s porcelain face becomes warped into an evil grin. “For an inanimate object, (Annabelle) really stood out and when ‘The Conjuring’ came out, it was validated to us how much people loved her character,” said Wan, a producer on “Annabelle.”—Reuters

Lohan comes out smiles in London “Speed-the-Plow” revival

LONDON, 3 Oct — Lindsay Lohan kept an opening night audience hanging on her every word, in part to see if she’d forget any, as she made her stage debut on Thursday night in a West End revival of “Speed-the-Plow.”

David Mamet’s scathing satire of Hollywood by the closing curtain, Lohan had proved she could hold her own with two top-notch male actors. Richard Schiff, best known as Toby Ziegler from “The West Wing,” played producer Bobby Gould. His buddy Charlie Fox was played by Nigel Lindsay, who had the title role in the West End staging of “Shrek the Musical.”

The trio, under director Lindsay Posner at the Playhouse Theatre, managed to give a new edge to the cutting humour in Mamet’s 1988 play.

The story centres on two self-professed movie business “whores,” who are agreed on a big deal they know is going to make them rich. But then temporary secretary Karen, played by Lohan, turns their lives upside down.

A few of Lohan’s lines brought knowing laughs from the audience, including: “I know what it is to be bad, I’ve been bad.”

Lohan, 28, was once one of Hollywood’s most sought-after young actresses, with starring roles in movies such as 1998’s “The Parent Trap” and 2004’s “Mean Girls.” Of late, she has become better known for going in and out of rehab and court after arrests for offences such as reckless driving and drug possession.

During previews of “Speed-the-Plow,” critics who normally wait for opening night to review a performance reported Lohan flubbed some of her lines and needed prompting from offstage.

For the opening, she appeared better rehearsed. After an onstage voice prompt ended her with a line near the start of the second act of the 85-minute show, she overcame a breathless delivery and by the end seemed at ease.

At the curtain call, she smiled broadly and popped a bottle of fake champagne, showering the audience in front row seats with glittering coloured paper.

“I thought Lindsay portrayed her character well, though she forgot a couple of lines… but she’s a star, she’s still a star,” said Chloe Emirali, 25, a New Zealander who lives in Milton Keynes, England and is a self professed Lohan fan.

Other stage works by Mamet, the Pulitzer Prize-winning American playwright and screenwriter, include “Glengarry Glen Ross” and “American Buffalo.” He was nominated for Oscars for his screenplays for “Wag the Dog” and “The Verdict.”

Lohan’s part was played by Madonna in the original 1988 production, and by fellow Hollywood actress Alicia Silverstone in a 2007 revival in Los Angeles.

But despite the leading ladies who’ve inhabited the role, the evening belongs to Charlie Fox and Bob Gould, two Hollywood types whose business dealings, and suggested mutual backstabblings, go way back.—Reuters
Djokovic despatches Dimitrov in Beijing, Williams withdraws

BEIJING, 3 Oct — World number one Novak Djokovic has endured a difficult run of matches due to injuries, but his trademark serve and volley style once again proved too much for the Bulgarian. Djokovic won 6-2, 6-4, 6-3, securing his second title at the China Open and edging ever closer to a 7th Australian Open title. Meanwhile, Serena Williams pulled out of the tournament due to injury, handing the title to Czech Karolina Pliskova.

Van Gaal given food for thought by red-hot Welbeck

LONDON, 3 Oct — Manchester United manager Louis van Gaal has been forced to look for attacking options, with Antoine Griezmann and Zlatan Ibrahimovic both out injured. However, the Dutchman’s team showed a resolve in the second half against West Ham, with Mkhitaryan scoring two late goals to snatch a 2-2 draw. Van Gaal has been impressed by the hard work and determination of the squad, despite their lack of goals.

Hamsik haunts former club as Napoli shine in Europa League

LONDON, 3 Oct — Napoli’s Marek Hamsik enjoyed a memorable return to former club Slovan Bratislava, scoring one and creating another, in a 2-0 victory on Thursday. Hamsik has been a key figure for Napoli in recent years, and his return was celebrated by the fans. Napoli now face the tough task of progressing to the knockout stages.

Serena Williams of the US answers a question at a news conference at the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing, on 3 Oct, 2014. — Reuters
Bahrain’s Mahboob wins Asiad men’s marathon

Bahrain’s Ali Hasan Mahboob reacts as he prepares to cross the finish line to win the men’s marathon at the Incheon Asiad Main Stadium during the 17th Asian Games on 3 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

INCHEON, 3 Oct—Kenyan-born Ali Hasan Mahboob won Asian Games gold for Bahrain in the men’s marathon on Friday after seeing off a spirited challenge from Japan’s Kohei Matsumara.

Mahboob, who was born ‘Silas Kirui’ in Kipsabet and made the switch to the Gulf state in 2005, crossed the line in two hours, 12 minutes and 38 seconds, one second ahead of Matsumara and four ahead of another Japanese runner, Yuki Kawauchi, in third.

Mahboob is one of a string of African-born runners who have dominated athletics at the Asian Games, provoking strong debate as to whether their success is good for the sport or whether it could lead to a reluctance to invest in home-grown talent.

Mahboob has previously run mainly in distance track events and said the marathon had taken a lot out of him.

“This was my first race in the marathon. I used to run in 5,000m and 10,000m before,” he told a news conference. “I am very exhausted at the moment since it is just right after the race. But I am very happy.”

Entering the Asiad Main Stadium on the final leg of the 42.195km race, Mahboob stretched his legs and quickly dropped Kawauchi from contention, but Matsumara hung on and looked poised to mount a challenge with 200m to go.

But when Mahboob kicked again 130m from home Matsumara had no response, the Bahraini runner lifting his arms to the sky and kissing his vest as he crossed the line.

“The answer is training,” Mahboob said of his win. “I have been training with strong athletes so far. I had to adapt to hard training. As I tried to follow them and to train with them, I got a good result today.”

Another Kenyan-born runner, Eunice Jepkirui Kirwa, also won gold for Bahrain in the women’s marathon on Thursday.

Medals table of the Asian Games

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