Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham tours medical facilities, museums in Guangxi

NANNING, 7 Oct—A Myanmar delegation led by Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visited Guangxi Medical University in Nanning, China, on Tuesday, sources said.

After being briefed on the background history of the university, its management, pedagogical principles, intakes of international students and health care services, Dr Sai Mauk Kham and his entourage went on a guided tour around the university.

The vice president later went to the first hospital affiliated with Guangxi Medical University, where he was briefed by the superintendent of the hospital on health insurance and health care services to rural areas.

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham also went to the Myanmar Consulate in Nanning, where he met staff and scholars.

The vice president visited the Nanning Museum and the Guangxi Provincial Museum. He received a courtesy call by the secretary of Guangxi Province at the Liyuan Guest House, and they discussed and exchanged views on the promotion of bilateral relations, trade, economy, investment, agriculture, tourism, sports and culture.—MNA

Men on missing Thai rescues helicopter survive

YANGON, 7 Oct—Htoo Foundation received a good news of three men on missing Thai rescues helicopter at around 4 p.m. on Tuesday, according to Phyo Ko Ko Thet, a spokesperson of Htoo Foundation.

Those survivors—U Tay Za’s Thai Pilot Chatchai, Myanmar Pilot Aung Myat Toe and U Tay Za’s personnel assistant Shwe Yin Taw Gyi, the nephew of Namar Johnson, the first man to conquer Mount Hkakabo Razi—are in Lansa Village in Nagam Township in Putao District of Kachin State. (See page 9)

Myanmar, U.S. join hands in fight against human trafficking

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 7 Oct—Myanmar hosted an ASEAN-US seminar on trafficking in persons on Tuesday in Yangon to discuss emerging standards and norms in the fight against modern slavery, protocol on human trafficking and future collaboration in combating human trafficking between ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and the United States.

In his opening remarks, Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister for the Ministry of Home Affairs, said the regional seminar benefits the methods of report writing, ways of determining countries indexes, how to cooperate with the U.S. and the establishment of the standard guidelines and database. (See page 3)

Over 3,000 prisoners released under amnesty by President

Prisoners get off a truck in Insein Prison in Yangon after being released on Tuesday.—Photo: Aye Min Soe

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Oct—President U Thein Sein granted amnesty to 3,073 prisoners on Tuesday. Fifty eight foreign nationals were also among those pardoned by President U Thein Sein, according to the Ministry of Information.

The prisoners who have already served prison terms they deserved and had good behaviors in the prison were granted amnesty for the sake of “peace and stability,” the “rule of law” the “reconsolidation of the national people”, and on “humanitarian grounds,” by the president. (See page 3)
Myanmar, India to promote trade and relations

Mandaly, 7 Oct—A press conference on Myanmar-India trade promotion and organizing trade fairs was held at Sedona Hotel on 26th street in Chanayethazan Township on Monday.

Mandalay-based Indian Consul-General Dr Nada-kumar explained plans of promoting the Indian trade fairs in Mandalay as part of promoting relations between Myanmar and India. The First Indian Trade Fair will be held at the city hall from 9 to 12 October with the participation of over 70 Indian companies at over 80 booths to showcase automobile and parts, cosmetics, textile, kitchen utensils, agricultural and livestock breeding equipment, electronic products and foodstuffs.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Myeik Township DAC plans to upgrade roads

Myeik, 7 Oct—A total of 222 tons of tar purchased with the fund of Myeik Township Development Affairs Committee in 2014-15 fiscal year arrived in Myeik of Taninthayi Region on 29 September.

The barrels of tar will be used in tarmacking roads and streets and upgrading the roads in the open season. Taninthayi Region Minister for Development Affairs U Aung Kyaw Oo checked the quality of barrels of tar on 3 October and inspected weighing of tar barrels and systematic storage by officials of Township Development Affairs Committee.

Khiang Htoo (Myeik District IPRD)

Energy master heat pump introduced

Mandaly, 7 Oct—Peerapat Technology Public Company Ltd of Thailand introduced energy master heat pump at Hotel Mandalay in Mandalay on 30 September.

SCZ Trading Company Ltd of Myanmar imports the product that applies renewable energy to blow hot water. The machine can also produce cool air while pouring out hot water, consuming 25% of electricity. The machine can save 70% of energy cost, said Managing Director U Than Win Aung of SCZ Company.

The machines are useful for hotels that will develop in 2015. The company installs its products at the customers at very fair price.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Combine teams to check all watercrafts running in Mandalay Region

Mandaly, 7 Oct—The Union government expands organizational setup of Myanmar Police Force for ensuring security of life and property of the people.

Coastal and River Patrol Police Department has already formed to take security measures for river water courses.

The servicemen of the department are carrying out security duty in Ayeyawady River by speed boat.

Coastal and River Patrol Police Department and Directorate of Marine Administration will check all watercrafts running in Mandalay Region as of 15 October.

All the watercrafts must have necessary documents and show them to officials of the combine teams.

From 15 to 31 October, the combine teams will give educative talks to the crews and owners of the watercrafts to keep necessary documents related to the watercrafts, to run along the routes abiding by the prescribed rules and regulations and to install the necessary equipment at the boats. Action will be taken against the offenders under the laws, according to the Directorate of Marine Administration (Upper Myanmar).

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)
Italy supports reform process of Myanmar

ROME, 7 Oct — Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) Thura U Shwe Mann held a talk with Mr Pietro Grasso, President of the Italian Senate at the Senate Building in Rome of Italy on Monday.

The Italian Senate President said that Italy supports the reform process of Myanmar. They exchanged views on promotion of friendly ties between the two Hluttaws and governments between Myanmar and Italy.

After the meeting, they exchanged gifts and posed for documentary photo.

MNA

Myanmar, U.S. . . .

(continued)

 Trafficking in Persons among ASEAN countries.

“I expect that the intimacy at the present seminar will bring more achievements not only in the issue of human trafficking, but also in other collaborations between ASEAN and the U.S. such as political, economic, social and educational sectors directly or indirectly,” said the Union Minister.

Myanmar’s Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons (CBSTIP) was set up in January 2012 to combat trafficking in persons, and is working with the support of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). CBSTIP has provided necessary assistance to the prisoners to enable them to go back home.

The president pardoned the prisoners so that they can serve in the interests of their respective regions and country in cooperation with the people, understanding the goodwill of the State.

MNA

Union Election Commission promises elections in late 2015

DAEWI, 7 Oct — The Union Election Commission met its subcommittees, political parties and social organizations in Dawei, Taninthayi Region, on Tuesday, sources said.

UEC Chairman U Tin Aye promised free and fair general elections in late 2015, pledging campaigns for voter education and voter training and calling for public cooperation in the processes.

A pilot project has been carried out, aimed at collecting the correct number of eligible voters to ensure the successfully conducting of free and fair elections across the nation, according to the UEC Chairman.

Lessons have been drawn from the weaknesses of the previous general elections, which took place in 2010, he said, adding that books on election rules and regulations will get into print and be circulated.

U Tin Aye urged political parties, social society organizations and media to point out any deviation from the law.

Region IPRD

Myanmar prepares for ASEAN agricultural, forestry tasks

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Oct — The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation held a work coordination meeting here on Tuesday to discuss future tasks for agriculture and forestry to be carried out by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said sources.

Speaking at the meeting, Union Minister U Myint Hlaing stressed the importance of Myanmar’s role as a host country responsible for holding the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF). He urged officials to work in conjunction with other ASEAN members and its three partner in carrying out each sector.

The union minister was briefed on team activities, measures for timely completion of projects, and preparations for the meeting.

The meeting also discussed how to observe the World Food Day 2014, which falls on 16 October, with this year’s theme being “Family farming: Feeding the world, Caring for the Earth”, chosen by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to raise the profile of family farming and smallholder farmers.

MNA

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MNA

Over 3,000 prisoners . . .

（from page 1）

in accordance with the Sub-section (A) under the Section-204 of the Constitution.

Among the prisoners released on Tuesday from prisons across the country, 138 men, 39 women and one foreigner were from the Insein Prison in Yangon.

Authorities concerned have provided necessary assistance to the prisoners to enable them to go back home.

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Union Minister U Myint Hlaing highlights future tasks for agriculture and forestry.

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Union Minister U Myint Hlaing highlights future tasks for agriculture and forestry.

MNA
Mandalay authorities give priority to prevention against DHF

Mandalay, 7 Oct—Mandalay City Development Committee and Mandalay Region Health Department adopted a plan to carry out sanitation and take preventive measures against dengue haemorrhagic fever in respective townships of the municipal area.

On 5 October, the workers of MCDC and staff of Health Department carried out sanitation tasks on 18th street between 87th and 88th streets in Aungmyethazan Township.

The sanitation tasks were supervised by Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs Mayor U Aung Myo, the secretary of MCDC and members, Head of Region Health Department Dr Than Win and officials.—Tin Maung (Mandalay)

7th-Mile Recreation Centre temporarily closed

PyinOoLwin, 7 Oct—Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems did not allow the opening of 7th-Mile recreation centre built near the bank of Dokhtawady River close to Yeywa Hydropower Station in Lunkaung Village of PyinOoLwin Township of Mandalay Region.

The current in the river is swift from June to October, probably causing danger to those take relaxation.

The centre located on 3.21 acres of land plot was opened in the early April of 2014. Due to picnickers and holiday-makers to the recreation centre, the farmlands along Kyaukchaw-Yeywa Road in PyinOoLwin were bought by entrepreneurs of Mandalay at high prices. They open restaurants at the land plots.—Mang Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Myanmar International Academy enjoys Thadingyut festival

MCEA (Mandalay Region) to recruit new members

Mandalay, 7 Oct—Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association (Mandalay Region) will be reorganized with new entrepreneurs.

To do so, national entrepreneurs, contractors, engineers and architects, construction materials entrepreneurs, those of construction arena and investors will hold a meeting at Hotel Mandalay on 78th street in Mahaungmye Township of Mandalay on 11 October. The association will be extended with new generations at the meeting.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Respects paid to retired teachers in Mandalay

Mandalay, 7 Oct—A ceremony to pay respects to retired teachers of above 65 years was held at Aung San Hall of Basic Education High School No 30 in Chamyathazi Township of Mandalay recently.

Students and teachers paid respects to 183 retired teachers. On behalf of the old teachers, Sayagyi U Ko Ko Aung (retired director) and retired region education officer Daw Yi Yi Myint gave words of advices to the students and teachers.

The students and teachers presented gifts to the retired teachers. Tin Maung (Mandalay)
**Nobel Prize for physics goes to inventors of low-energy LED light**

**STOCKHOLM, 7 Oct —** Japanese scientists Isamu Akasaki and Hiroshi Amano and American Shuji Nakamura won the 2014 Nobel Prize for Physics for inventing a new energy efficient and environmentally friendly light source, the LEDs, the award-giving body said on Tuesday. “With the advent of LED lamps we now have more long lasting and more efficient alternatives to old light sources,” the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said in a statement awarding the 8 million Swedish crown ($1.1 million) (685,486 pound) prize. “As about one fourth of world electricity consumption is used for lighting purposes, the LEDs contribute to saving the Earth’s resources,” it said. Akasaki works at the Meijo University in Japan and Amano is professor at the Nagoya University. Nakamura, born in Japan but a US citizen, works at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Physics was the second of this year’s crop of Nobel. The prizes were first awarded in 1901 to honour achievements in science, literature and peace in accordance with the will of dynamite inventor and businessman Alfred Nobel.

As winners of the physics award, the first field to be mentioned in Nobel’s will, the laureates join ranks with some of the biggest names in science such as Albert Einstein, Niels Bohr and the husband and wife team of Pierre and Marie Curie.

While the increasingly complex science celebrat ed by the Nobels has often been far from dinner table conversation, it has also highlighted more widely known achievements, such as last year’s award for the prediction of the Higgs boson particle.—Reuters

**China has not gone back on HK agreements with UK: former Thatcher aide**

**LONDON, 7 Oct —** China has not gone back on its agreements with Britain over the future of Hong Kong, whose autonomy is far greater than what Britain expected three decades ago, a former aide to late British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has said.

“Hong Kong has very extensive autonomy, far greater than we believed actually could be achieved when the Hong Kong joint declaration with China was negotiated,” Charles Powell, former private secretary to Thatcher during the 1980s, told British BBC Radio 4’s ‘The World This Weekend on Sunday. “They have far better conditions, including political conditions than any other city in China, but the bottom line is — they are a city in China,” said Powell, who was a key foreign policy advisor to Thatcher when Britain agreed to return Hong Kong to China.

He added that protesters in the Occupy Central movement in Hong Kong are “unrealistic.” “The position about elections has been clear since the basic law was published in 1990 and I don’t believe for one moment the Chinese are going to change that basic position,” he said.

“When Hong Kong was reintegrated into China, an agreement was made and implemented under Chinese law which made very clear that there would be restrictions,” recalled Powell, who was awarded a life peerage in 2000 and now sits in the British House of Lords.

Noting that Hong Kong has always been part of China, the veteran politician said Britain “rented it for a while” and did not introduce democracy in the territory. Powell encouraged young people in Hong Kong to “make the most of their existing autonomy and freedoms.

“If I was a young person in Hong Kong, I would focus on making the most of the very wide degree of freedom and autonomy, which I already have: making the most of the job opportunities in Hong Kong, the freedom to travel, the freedom to seek work abroad too, the prosperity of Hong Kong, the education available in Hong Kong ... all of that, and enjoy,” he said.—Xinhua

**No decision yet on possible Tokyo deployment of Osprey aircraft**

**WASHINGTON, 7 Oct —** The US Defence Department has yet to decide whether to deploy the Osprey aircraft at a US military base in Tokyo, a Pentagon official said on Monday, following reports it could happen next year.

The deployment of the aircraft at US military bases in Japan has stirred controversy due to a record of accidents since 2012 including those which resulted in the deaths of crew. “There have been no decisions made about the deployment” of the Osprey aircraft in the Asia-Pacific region, the Pentagon official said. “We are seeking a force posture in the Asia-Pacific that is geographically distributed, operationally focused and politically sustainable,” the official said.

He made the comment following reports that Japan and the United States are considering deploying 12 CV-22 aircraft at the US Air Force’s Yokota base in a Tokyo suburb possibly next July. The CV-22 is an Osprey model designed for use by the Air Force. The US and Japanese governments have attributed the accidents involving the Osprey not to mechanical flaws but human error. The US Navy said last week that one of the crewmembers of an Osprey was killed in an accident in which the aircraft temporarily lost power during takeoff from a carrier in the Persian Gulf.

Last year Gen Herbert Carlisle, commander of the US Pacific Air Forces, indicated Yokota could be a possible base for the CV-22 tilt-rotor aircraft, which can take off and land like a helicopter and cruise like an airplane. The US military has 24 units of the MV-22, the Osprey model used by the Marine Corps, at the Marines’ Futenma Air Station in Okinawa.—Kyodo News

**US, Russia need strong dialogue at political level, says former Russian minister**

**WASHINGTON, 7 Oct —** Rearing of a strong dialogue at the political level suits the interest of both the US and Russia, former Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said on Monday at a research conference organized by the Woodrow Wilson International Centre in Washington.

He called the current situation between the US and Russia one of the worst periods in the history of relationship between these two countries since its inception, not only after the end of Cold War.

US companies to quickly return to Russia if sanctions are lifted — expert

Ivanov, who heads the Russian International Affairs Council, pointed out the absence of practical channels for discussion or dialogue at the political level.

If the two sides really want international stability and we should then, they should rear a dialogue and attain mutual understanding, he said.

He also voiced the hope that civic society and nongovernmental organizations in Russia and the US could play a special role in it.

Many people say Russia cannot live without the US in the same measure that the US cannot live without Russia and this is true, Ivanov said. In fact, they can but this does not mean it would be good for them because they have common problems and threats they should fight with.

At the current stage, Russia and the US need each other as never before, Ivanov said, adding that they stand in need of earnest discussions of a range of things at the political level.

He recalled that the world would mark two crucial dates in 2015 — the seventieth anniversary since the foundations of the United Nations and the fortieth anniversary since the signing of the Helsinki Act and these might offer fair grounds for considering what could be done in the 21st century in terms of observance of international law.

Jane Harman, the President of the Woodrow Wilson Centre said on her part that relations between the US and Russia and the prospects for building a better partnership formed a key issue existing at the moment.

Ibar-Tass
Koreas exchange fire on de facto western sea border

Seoul, 7 Oct — Patrol boats of North and South Korea briefly exchanged fire Tuesday near the de facto western sea border, according to the Joint Chiefs of Staff of South Korea’s military.

The incident, which occurred around 9:50 am in waters near Yeonpyeong Island in the Yellow Sea, came just three days after the two Koreas agreed in rare talks to hold another round of high-level dialogue in the near future, raising hopes for a thaw in inter-Korean relations.

According to the JCS, the North Korean patrol boat crossed a disputed maritime demarcation line and intruded 0.5 nautical mile into the southern side, prompting the South Korean patrol boat to fire a warning shot.

But instead of retreating back across the so-called Northern Limit Line, neither boat appears to have been hit in the exchange of gunfire, which lasted some 10 minutes, Yonhap News Agency quoted a JCS officer as saying, suggesting neither side aimed their shots.

The latest incident follows Saturday’s talks in which the two Koreas agreed to hold a second round of high-level talks in late October or early November, to follow up on the first round that was held in February.

The talks in South Korea’s western city of Incheon, on the sidelines of the Asian Games, marked the highest-level inter-Korean contact since South Korea President Park Geun Hye took office in February last year.

Hwang Pyong So, the newly appointed director of the North Korean military’s General Political Bureau, and two secretaries of the ruling Worker’s Party of Korea met with South Korean Unification Minister Ryoo Kihl Jae and top-ranking officials from the presidential office, including Kim Kwan Jin, chief of the National Security Office. The Yellow Sea has been the scene of several bloody clashes between the two sides in past years.

In November 2010, North Korea fired artillery shots at South Korea’s Yeonpyeong Island, killing two civilians and two marines. Pyongyang does not recognize the Northern Limit Line, which was drawn by the US-led United Nations Command at the end of the 1950-1953 Korean War, and insists the maritime border be drawn further south.

Kyodo News

Thai martial law to stay until sweeping reforms in place

BANGKOK, 7 Oct — Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha on Tuesday dismissed calls to lift martial law, saying it would continue until sweeping national reforms are in place, despite calls by tourism bodies to scrap a measure that has deterred many visitors.

Martial law was declared on 20 May, two days before the army seized power in a bloodless coup following months of sometimes violent street protests aimed at ousting then Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

Last month, the military government said it was considering lifting the law in provinces that attract tourists, so as to boost tourism, which accounts for a tenth of the economy, and was battered by the protests, martial law and the coup.

Tourist arrivals dropped 7.0 percent in September from a year earlier, following a drop of 11.9 percent in August, Prayuth, who led the coup as commander-in-chief of the Royal Thai Army, said the military seized control of government to help avert further bloodshed after months of unrest left nearly 30 dead.

“Don’t ask me about the special law now,” Prayuth told reporters. “Let reform happen first and once various situations calm down I will consider lifting it myself.” He gave no further details. Prayuth retired as army chief last month but remains leader of the junta and prime minister.

Martial law puts national security firmly in the hands of the military, and gives it sweeping powers. It also bars public gatherings of more than five people.

The murders of two British tourists on an island last month have added to worries about a swift recovery for the industry.

The coup on 22 May came days after a court found Yingluck guilty of abuse of power and ordered her to step down.

— Reuters

20 militants give up fighting in Afghanistan

FAIZABAD, (Afghani stan), 7 Oct — A 20-member group of armed militants laid down arms and gave up fighting in Wardij district of Badakhshan Province with Faizabad as its capital 315 km northeast of Kabul on Tuesday, police said.

“A total of 20 armed oppositions under Mullah Abdul Ahad laid down arms and gave up fighting in Wardij district of Badakhshan Province with Faizabad as its capital 315 km northeast of Kabul on Tuesday, police said.

With joining these people to the government-backed peace process, the security situation will further improve in Badakhshan Province, the official added.

Taleban militants who are active in parts of Badakhshan province and fighting the government to regain power, have yet to make comment.

Xinhua

Cambodian king inaugurates new neurology centre

CAMBODIA, Phnom Penh, 7 Oct — Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni on Tuesday inaugurated the kingdom’s largest neurosciences centre at Calmette Hospital in the capital.

“Taking care of the health of the Cambodians is an important duty for the Cambodian government,” the monarch said during the inauguration ceremony. “The Neurosciences Centre will help ease the difficulties of patients with neurological diseases or damage.”

Health Minister Mam Bunheng said it took two years to construct the six-story Neurosciences Center at a total cost of 10.8 million US dollars.

“The centre is fully equipped with sophisticated medical equipment and devices for neurology surgery and treatment,” he said.

The minister estimated there are more than 22,000 patients with hemiplegia, 3,000 with brain tumour, and 12,000 with disc hernia every year in the country.

In addition, some 5,000 people have suffered from serious head injuries in fatal highway accidents and about 40,000 strokes have been diagnosed.

Professor Francois Xavier Roux, Neurosciences Centre’s project leader from the Paris-based La Chaine de L’Espoir, said the centre aims to help all patients with diseases of the nervous system, regardless of their financial and social status.

“The establishment of this Neurosciences Centre promptly responds to the current public health need in Cambodia, and this is a big step to improve the health of Cambodian people,” he said.

The centre will also serve as a training facility for neurologists, neurosurgeons, anesthesiologists, and para-medics, he added.

Xinhua

India issues cyclone alert in eastern coast

NEW DELHI, 7 Oct— The Indian authorities have issued a cyclone alert in the eastern coast over the Bay of Bengal.

“Cyclone Hudhud is expected to hit the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on Wednesday. It will be accompanied by heavy rainfall. Subsequently, it may hit the eastern state of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh,” a senior weather official said on Tuesday.

Fishermen have been asked not to venture into the high seas, he said.

Disaster management officials have been asked to gear up to deal with any kind of emergency situation, the official added.

Xinhua
Japan vows to fight extremism over youth’s bid to join Islamic group

Tokyo, 7 Oct.—Japan vowed to prevent its citizens from supporting terrorist and extremist groups Tuesday following allegations a Hokkaido-based university student sought to travel to Syria to join Islamic State militants operating there.

“In line with UN Security Council Resolution 2178 and as a member of the international community, we will proactively take measures to prevent terrorism from occurring in advance,” Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a news conference.

The resolution, adopted unanimously by the Security Council on 24 September, calls on UN member states to prevent the “recruiting, organizing, transporting or equipping of individuals who travel to a state other than their states of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning of, or participation in terrorist acts.”

Referring to the allegations, the 26-year-old Hokkaido University student, currently on a leave of absence, prepared to travel to Syria to join the extremist group, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters that Japan “will steadily take measures to curb extremism.”

Citing the UN resolution, Kishida said the government is determined, in line with domestic law, to block Japanese nationals from travelling to Syria, Iraq or other countries in pursuit of terrorist acts, and from offering finance to terrorists and extremist groups.—Kyodo News

UN chief calls for “immediate action” to protect civilians in northern Syrian town

UNITED NATIONS, 7 Oct.—UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Monday called for an “immediate action to protect the beleaguered civilian population of Ayn al-Arab,” a town in north-eastern Syria, which has been partly seized by the Islamic State (IS) militants.

“The secretary-general is following with grave concern the ongoing offensive by ISIL (the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) on the north-western is following with IS militants. Seized by the Islamic State, the beleaguered civilian town and a lot of civilians are being killed. We want to see the situation stabilizing and that the civilians are coming back,” UN chief Ban said.

On Monday night in a press conference, Ban called for an “immediate action” to protect civilians in northern Syrian town of Kobani.

Ban told reporters that the UN will use its “full range of tools to prevent all forms of terrorism” and that the UN will take “all necessary action” to prevent the spread of terrorism.

Ban said the UN has called for a “political solution” to the conflict in Syria, and that the UN is working with the Syrian government and opposition groups to find a solution.

Ban also said that the UN is working to ensure that the humanitarian situation in Syria is improved.

Meanwhile, intense battle is still going on between the Kurds and the IS militants at the south-western entrance of Kobane as the IS fighters are trying to march on, said the Observatory.

Hundreds of Kurdish fighters have reported to have entered Syria through Turkey and Iraq to defend their fellow Kurds against massive IS offensives on their territory in northern Syria.

Dilma Rousseff (Black), Brazil’s President and presidential candidate of the Worker’s Party, addresses a Press conference at the Alvorada Palace in Brasilia, capital of Brazil, on 6 Oct, 2014. Brazil will hold a presidential runoff between Dilma Rousseff and Aecio Neves of the Brazilian Social Democratic Party on 26 October.—Xinhua

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, left, and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, right, attend a meeting at the United Nations headquarters in New York, Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2014. The two sides have been trading fire and counting every civilian they say has been killed, India has every right to retaliate,” Singh said in an interview published in the Hindustan Times on Tuesday.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi surprised many observers by inviting his Pakistani counterpart, Nawaz Sharif, to his inauguration in May in an effort to improve ties. But relations have soured since Modi called off talks between the two countries’ top diplomats last month.

Workers Party, addresses a Press conference at the Alvorada Palace in Brasilia, capital of Brazil, on 6 Oct, 2014. Brazil will hold a presidential runoff between Dilma Rousseff and Aecio Neves of the Brazilian Social Democratic Party on 26 October.—Xinhua

The intensity of fire against the town has been very low compared to the previous night,” Chand said. Five Indian civilians and four Pakistani civilians were killed and dozens were injured by shelling on Monday. It was the highest death toll among non-military personnel in a single day in the region since 2003, police said.

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Four Indians wounded in new Pakistan border clashes

Srinagar, 7 Oct.—Indian and Pakistani forces exchanged fire in the disputed Kashmir region on Tuesday and four Indian civilians were wounded, a day after the highest civilian death toll in a single day from their cross-border conflict in more than a decade. The mostly Muslim Himalayan region of Kashmir is claimed by both India and Pakistan and has been a major focus of tension in South Asia. The nuclear-armed neighbours have fought two wars over the territory and there have been regular clashes along their de facto border, known as the Line of Control (LoC).

Pakistan forces fired at Indian army posts early on Tuesday, said Uttam Chand, a police official. Indian forces retaliated with gunfire and mortar bombs, he said.

“The intensity of firing has been very low compared to the previous night,” Chand said. Five Indian civilians and four Pakistani civilians were killed and dozens were injured by shelling on Monday. It was the highest death toll among non-military personnel in a single day in the region since 2003, police said.

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Japan vows to fight extremism over youth’s bid to join Islamic group

Tokyo, 7 Oct.—Japan vowed to prevent its citizens from supporting terrorist and extremist groups Tuesday following allegations a Hokkaido-based university student sought to travel to Syria to join Islamic State militants operating there.

“In line with UN Security Council Resolution 2178 and as a member of the international community, we will proactively take measures to prevent terrorism from occurring in advance,” Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a news conference.

The resolution, adopted unanimously by the Security Council on 24 September, calls on UN member states to prevent the “recruiting, organizing, transporting or equipping of individuals who travel to a state other than their states of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning of, or participation in terrorist acts.”

Referring to the allegations, the 26-year-old Hokkaido University student, currently on a leave of absence, prepared to travel to Syria to join the extremist group, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters that Japan “will steadily take measures to curb extremism.”

Citing the UN resolution, Kishida said the government is determined, in line with domestic law, to block Japanese nationals from travelling to Syria, Iraq or other countries in pursuit of terrorist acts, and from offering finance to terrorists and extremist groups.—Kyodo News

UN chief calls for “immediate action” to protect civilians in northern Syrian town

UNITED NATIONS, 7 Oct.—UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Monday called for an “immediate action to protect the beleaguered civilian population of Ayn al-Arab,” a town in north-eastern Syria, which has been partly seized by the Islamic State (IS) militants.

“The secretary-general is following with grave concern the ongoing offensive by ISIL (the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) on the north-western is following with IS militants. Seized by the Islamic State, the beleaguered civilian town and a lot of civilians are being killed. We want to see the situation stabilizing and that the civilians are coming back,” UN chief Ban said.

On Monday night in a press conference, Ban called for an “immediate action” to protect civilians in northern Syrian town of Kobani.

Ban said the UN has called for a “political solution” to the conflict in Syria, and that the UN is working with the Syrian government and opposition groups to find a solution.

Ban also said that the UN is working to ensure that the humanitarian situation in Syria is improved.

Meanwhile, intense battle is still going on between the Kurds and the IS militants at the south-western entrance of Kobane as the IS fighters are trying to march on, said the Observatory.

Hundreds of Kurdish fighters have reportedly entered Syria through Turkey and Iraq to defend their fellow Kurds against massive IS offensives on their territory in northern Syria.

Dilma Rousseff (Black), Brazil’s President and presidential candidate of the Worker’s Party, addresses a Press conference at the Alvorada Palace in Brasilia, capital of Brazil, on 6 Oct, 2014. Brazil will hold a presidential runoff between Dilma Rousseff and Aecio Neves of the Brazilian Social Democratic Party on 26 October.—Xinhua

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, left, and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, right, attend a meeting at the United Nations headquarters in New York, Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2014. The two sides have been trading fire and counting every civilian they say has been killed, India has every right to retaliate,” Singh said in an interview published in the Hindustan Times on Tuesday.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi surprised many observers by inviting his Pakistani counterpart, Nawaz Sharif, to his inauguration in May in an effort to improve ties. But relations have soured since Modi called off talks between the two countries’ top diplomats last month.
Grit to overcome challenges

By Aung Khin

Grit is essentially the sum of stamina, creativity, stubbornness and diligence. Stamina is important to get up when someone gets knocked down, while creativity is vital for overcoming challenges since the same failed method repeatedly won’t get someone anywhere. Stubbornness in the trait of grit involves a deep, unwavering commitment toward the goal with strong belief in one’s abilities, while diligence is the motivation force that keeps gritty people moving.

Any person or organization needs a set of grit to overcome challenges and to avoid failure. Anybody should maintain steadfastness in his determination to reach the goal.

Challenges are sometimes in the forms of threats or enticements. Unwavering exertion could lead someone to the goal. However, it is very difficult for common people to sustain grit for a long time to achieve the fruitful result. Many of them cannot resist various forms of challenges such as threats, enticements and negligence.

The Significant and Noble Day of Abhidhamma

(The Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut, Mahapavaranaya Day)

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

The Significant and Noble Day of Abhidhamma (the Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut, Mahapavaranaya Day) falls on 8th October in the year 2014.

In the fourth week, after attaining the enlightenment, the Omniscient Buddha descended to the human abode. For a full three months, the Omniscient Buddha, out of compassion for the Devas and Brahmas, went to the Tavatimsa Devaloka (Celestial abode) where He preached the Abhidhamma Pitaka (Basket of Ultimate things) for a full three months to His deceased mother who was born as Santusita Deva, and also to the other Devas and Brahmas assembled there, hoping to make them realize the four ultimate things, which is the Knowledge of Abhidhamma, which is absolutely necessary because it deals with the highest and ultimate sense of things springing into being as facts as distinct from mere names.

After preaching the Abhidhamma (Ultimate Truth) to His deceased mother, Santusita Deva, and also to the other Devas and Brahmas who had followed the said rules in the Omniscient Buddha’s descent from Tavatimsa (Celestial abode), the Devas and Brahmas accompanied Him putting up white sacred umbrellas and fanning Him. At that time, because of unlimited miraculous powers, supernoormal powers and glory of the Buddha, the whole earthlings could see the magnificent celestial abode, and also the Devas and Brahmas could see hundreds of millions of people greeting and paying deep homage to the Omniscient Buddha who returned to the human abode. The Omniscient Buddha took the middle stairway accompanied by Devas and Brahmas from the Tavatimsa Devaloka (Celestial abode) paid deep homage to the Omniscient Buddha for a full three months from 1st Wasing to Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut. According to the Vinaya rules of the Omniscient Buddha, the period of a full three months from Wasing of Wao to Fullmoon of Thadingyut (roundabout from mid-July to mid-October) is a treat-period of Buddhists. During the treat-period, all Buddhist monks must not have to go away from their residence (monasteries, temples) not more than seven days, especially, they have to fulfil their religious duties (Ganthadura and Vipassanadhura) during the treat-period more than before. All Buddhist monks have followed and practised the said one to the next step.

The Pali term Abhidhamma is composed of Abhi which means subtle or ultimate, and Dhamma which means truth or doctrine. The Abhidhamma, therefore, means subtle or ultimate truth or doctrine. The Abhidhamma Pitaka consists of the four ultimate things, Mind (Citta), Psychicfactor (Cetasikas), Matter (Rupa) and Nibbana. It is the most important and most interesting to a deep thinker. It is subdivided into seven books.

The Omniscient Buddha had preached Abhidhamma for a full three months to His deceased mother who was born as Santusita Deva and to other Devas and Brahmas, and the celestial abode, He said to the king of the celestial beings that He would return to the human abode. Therefore, the king of the celestial created and arranged three stairways of silver, gold and ruby beginning from the top of the great Mount Meru to the gate of Sankassa Town of the human abode.

People could see the whole celestial abode, Devas and Brahmas, and all celestial beings in turn viewed more than hundreds of thousands of millions of people who were welcoming and paying deep homage to the Omniscient Buddha. There was no one that did not wish and pray to become a Buddha, the most noble wish after witnessing the most surpassing splendour.

Up to this day, we can visualize the most surpassing splendour and significant event of the Omniscient Buddha descending to the earth from the great Mount Meru accompanied by Devas and Brahmas to the gate of Sankassa, town of the human abode.

On the Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut, we all Buddhists generously offer lights, water, flowers, scents, fruits, food and other various kinds of offerings to pagodas and monasteries and also pay respect to teachers, parents and elders. These merititious deeds dedicate to the attainment of the noble stage of Nibbana through the most surpassing splendour and significant event of the Omniscient Buddha descending to the human abode from the celestial abode on the Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut.

Those who know well about the trait of ordinary people use these means to fade away the hopes and expectations.

Strength or might has lower power than trick or intelligence. Grit and intelligence are key to success in many circumstances not only for individual but also for every society.

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.

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (7-10-2014)

Yangon Gold Price
Buying K650,900 perctical: Selling K651,900

Mandalay Gold Price
Buying K650,400 perctical: Selling K651,400

FE RATE
US$ Buying K990: Selling K994.5
SGD Buying K775: Selling K782
Euro Buying K1,240: Selling K1,260
Agreement signed to do hotel business

YANGON, 7 Oct — Yangon Region government and Prime Residence Co Ltd signed an agreement to hire Yangon Region combine office as international level hotel at the hall of the region government on Tuesday.

On the occasion, Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe said that international level hotel in Yangon can create job opportunities for the local people and contribute to enhancement of tourism sector.

Officials of the region government and Prime Residence Co Ltd signed the agreement.—MNA

Deepavali Day for public holiday on 23 Oct

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Oct — As Deepavali Day which falls on 23 October 2014 (Thursday) is announced as a public holiday in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar according to Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act.—MNA

No 2 View Deck inaugurated at Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden Part 3

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Oct — No 2 View Deck was commissioned into service in the Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden Part 3 in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

Vice Mayor U Than Kyaw Htoo pressed the button to open the view deck and enjoyed the scenic beauty and buildings in the water fountain garden from the desk.

No 2 view deck is 50 feet long, 35 feet wide and 67 feet high. It is the three-storey structure decorated with LED lightings.

The view deck was built with the aim of enabling the people to take relaxation at Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden and undertaking environmental conservation.

Sign Lane Ceremony of Yangon Region Government & Prime Residence Co Ltd to hire Yangon Region Combine Office in progress.—MNA

Workshop on drafting on Assessment Report for Myanmar graduation from LDC status held

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Oct — The workshop on drafting on Assessment Report for Myanmar graduation from Least Developed Countries status was held in Aung San Palace Hotel at 10 am on Tuesday. At the meeting, Mr Pierre Encontre, Chief, Small Island Developing States and Status Issues Section, Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes from United Nations Conference on Trade and Development made a discussion on drafting on Assessment Report with the technical Export Team from subcommittees and other ministries.

Present at the meeting were Mr Pierre Encontre from United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Daw Yin Yin Oo, Deputy Director-General of Strategic and Policy Studies Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the technical Expert Team on drafting Assessment Report from other ministries. The meeting will be held from 7 to 10 October.

ECF Ministry to cooperate with Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Oct — Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Aye Myint Maung held a talk with Dr Christian Heinrich Roth, Team Leader and Catchment Management Specialist of Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

They discussed increasing population and land utilization in Inlay region, deforestation in watershed area due to climate change, formation of Inlay Lake Durability and Environmental Conservation Committee and cooperation with UNDP, International Institute of Development, UN-Habitat and ICIMOD.

They also focused on cooperation of the ministry with ACIAR in development of social economy, agriculture, fisheries, forest and tourism industries, implementation of multi-purpose watershed region management project and jointly conducting research on technology and social economy development.

Phyo Ko Ko Thet told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

Men on missing Thai . . .

(from page 1)

Patron of the Foundation U Tay Za has arranged to make arrangement for their instant medical treatment at there as the two pilots have small injuries.

The Eurocopter EC-130-B4 went missing while helping with rescue efforts on its way to the base camp on 27 September.

Despite the foundation’s announcement to stop its search for two missing mountaineers on Mount Hkakaborazi, search will go on by China’s Blue Sky Rescue Team, Japanese mountain-eering team and residents in northern Kachin State.
MURSHIDAN, (Turkey) 7 Oct — Islamic State fighters advanced into the southeast of the Syrian Kurdish town of Kobani overnight, a monitoring group said on Tuesday, taking several buildings to gain attacking positions from two sides of the city.

From across the nearby Turkish border two Islamic State flags could be seen flying over the eastern side of Kobani. Two air strikes hit the area and sporadic gunfire could be heard.

Islamic State fighters were using heavy weapons and shells to hit Kobani, senior Kurdish official Asya Abdullah told Reuters from inside the town, which has been under siege for three weeks.

"Yesterday there was a violent clash. We have fought hard to keep them out of the town," she said by telephone.

"The clashes are not in the whole of Kobani, but in specific areas, on the outskirts and towards the center."

The al-Qaeda offshoot has ramped up its offensive in recent days against the mainly Kurdish border town, despite being targeted by US-led coalition air strikes aimed at halting its progress.

The group wants to take Kobani to consolidate a dramatic sweep across northern Iraq and Syria, in the name of an absolutist version of Sunni Islam, which has been gaining ground in the region.

"There were clashes overnight. Not heavy but ISIS is going forward from the southwest. They have crossed into Kobani and control some buildings in the city there," said Rami Abdulrahman, head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a group that monitors the conflict with a network on the ground.

ISIS is a former name for Islamic State.

"They are about 50 metres inside the southwest of the city," Abdulrahman added.

An estimated 180,000 people have fled into Turkey from the Kobani region following the Islamic State advance. More than 2,000 Syrian Kurds including women and children were evacuated from the town after the latest fighting, a member of the Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD) said on Monday.

Before the offensive, Kobani, known as Ayn al-Arab in Arabic, was home to refugees from the civil war which pits rebels against President Bashar al-Assad and has deteriorated into hundreds of localised battles between different factions.

The most powerful of the myriad militias fighting against Assad, Islamic State has boosted its forces with foreign fighters and defectors from other rebel groups. It gained additional heavy weaponry after its fighters swept through northern Iraq in June, seizing arms from the fleeing Iraqi army.

The group released a video showing dozens of men said to be from Ahrar al-Sham, a rival Islamist group which has clashed with it in the past, pledging allegiance to its leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, SITE monitoring service said on Monday.

Smoke rises from the Syrian town of Kobani after a war plane carried out an air strike, seen from near the Mursitpinar border crossing on the Turkish-Syrian border in the southeastern town of Suruc in Sanliurfa Province on 7 Oct, 2014.— Reuters

Israel shells South Lebanon after border blast wounds soldiers

JERUSALEM, 7 Oct — A blast on Lebanon’s border with Israel wounded two Israeli soldiers on Tuesday and the Israeli army responded with shelling across the frontier, a military spokeswoman and a security source said.

The security source earlier said three troops were hurt in the incident, which took place near the southern Lebanese village of Kafir Shuea. Lebanon’s Al-Manar television, which is aligned with the Shi’ite militia group Hezbollah, said an explosion had been heard in the area.

Officials in Beirut had no immediate comment. Israel and Lebanon are technically at war but their 80 km (49 mile) border has been largely quiet since a month-long war between Israeli forces and Hezbollah in 2006. Israel remains on alert for any spillover from the civil war in neighbouring Syria, where Hezbollah forces are fighting in support of President Bashar al-Assad.

On Sunday, the Israeli military said it fired on two people who tried to cross into Lebanon from the country. Both turned back, the military said. — Reuters

At least 400 people killed in battle for Syria’s Kobani

BEIRUT, 7 Oct.—At least 400 people have been killed during three weeks of fighting between Islamic State and Kurdish fighters in and around the Syrian border town of Kobani, a monitoring group said on Tuesday. Fighters from both sides and civilians had died, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

The organisation said it had documented 412 deaths from sources on the ground, but the real figure was likely double that. — Reuters

US uses helicopters for first time to hit Islamic State rebels

WASHINGTON, 7 Oct — The US military is flying Apache helicopters against Islamic State rebels in Iraq for the first time, exposing US troops to greater risk from ground fire as they help Iraqi forces battle the insurgent group that has overrun parts of the country.

US troops flew helicopters against Islamic State fighters, it’s been largely quiet since a month-long war between Israeli forces and Hezbollah in 2006. Israel remains on alert for any spillover from the civil war in neighbouring Syria, where Hezbollah forces are fighting in support of President Bashar al-Assad.

On Sunday, the Israeli military said it fired on two people who tried to cross into Lebanon from the country. Both turned back, the military said. — Reuters

This was the first time rotary wing aircraft were used in coordination with and in support of ISF (Iraqi Security Force) operations,” Army Major Curtis Kellogg said in an email. “The Iraqi government asked for support with this capability near Fallujah to push back Islamic State.”

But Fontaine disagreed, saying “the mission has been creeping along from the very beginning.”

He rejected any notion that using helicopters amounted to mission creep. “The mission is still the same. This is using the correct tool for the job,” Warren said.

But Fontaine disagreed, saying “the mission has been creeping along from the very beginning.”

He rejected any notion that using helicopters amounted to mission creep. “The mission is still the same. This is using the correct tool for the job,” Warren said.
### Finnish researchers find way of creating propane through biosynthesis

**HeLSINN, 7 Oct**—Scientists in Finland have been able to create propane gas through biosynthesis, the University of Turku said on Monday.

The researchers at the Molecular Plant Biology laboratories at the University of Turku have genetically engineered microbes to produce renewable propane for the first time.

They will now continue the project with a view to produce propane fuel for automobiles. The system is based on using coliform bacteria.

The leader of the Finnish project, Professor Pauli Kallio from Turku University, told media that the team hopes to be able to develop the newly found process so that it is economical in large scale production.

The researchers manipulated the E. coli and used the organism’s own machinery to produce propane on demand.

The team was able to identify and add essential biochemical components in order to boost the biosynthesis reaction. They enabled a specific E. coli strain to synthesize propane in large volumes.

Current industrial biological fuel gas sold commercially in Finland is being produced from human waste using mold bacteria.

Professor Kallio said that there is simply not enough human waste available for that kind of process. Neighbouring Sweden actually purchased human excrement from abroad to produce biogas.

The propane-generating pathway discovered in Finland is able to operate in the presence of oxygen. That opens up avenues for the application of this system in cyanobacteria, a type of bacteria that are powered by solar energy and have minimal nutritional requirements.

Propane can more easily be separated and stored as a liquid than some other fuel alternatives such as hydrogen, methane or butanol, the University of Turku said in a statement.

Xinhua

### JPMorgan Chase hackers tried infiltrating other institutions

**NEW YORK, 7 Oct**—Hackers who breached JPMorgan Chase & Co’s computer network earlier this year also tried to infiltrate other financial institutions, the Wall Street Journal reported, citing people familiar with the investigation.

Federal officials had asked financial institutions last month to check whether they had seen indications of cyberattack, the Journal said, citing the unnamed sources.

An undisclosed number of financial institutions responded that they had seen traffic from the suspect computer addresses linked to the hackers, but that they did not believe their systems had been breached, the newspaper said, quoting the sources.

Even among the many agencies investigating and responding, disagreements and unanswered questions remain about the extent of the hackers access at the US financial institutions, the newspaper said, quoting federal officials.

It is unclear which financial institutions were targeted by the hackers.

Reuters

### Facebook’s WhatsApp acquisition now has price tag of $22 billion

**SAN FRANCISCO, 7 Oct**—Facebook Inc (FB.O) closed its acquisition of mobile messaging service WhatsApp on Monday, with the final price tag rising to roughly $22 billion because of the increased value of Facebook’s stock in recent months.

WhatsApp founder Jan Koum will receive nearly $2 billion in stock, vesting over a four-year period, as an inducement for him to stay with the company, according to a regulatory filing on Monday.

The acquisition, which Facebook announced in February and recently received regulatory approval in Europe, underscores the sky-rocketing values of fast-growing Internet startups, and will add to the ranks of established players such as Facebook and Google Inc (GOOGL.O;GOOG.O) to pay out for them.

WhatsApp, which has more than 600 million monthly users, is among a new crop of mobile messaging and social media apps that have become increasingly popular among younger users.

Snapchat, a privately owned mobile app that allows users to swap photos that can disappear after a few seconds, is raising money at a $10 billion valuation, according to media reports. Facebook paid $4.59 billion in cash and 178 million shares of its stock for WhatsApp, as well 46 million in grants in restricted stock units for WhatsApp employees that will vest over a four-year period.

At Monday’s opening Facebook share price of $77.17, the deal translates to roughly $21.8 billion. Koum, who will serve as WhatsApp Chief Executive and become a Facebook board director, will earn a $1 annual salary, similar to Facebook Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg. Koum will receive 24.9 million Facebook restricted stock units, worth roughly $1.9 billion at Monday’s share price. WhatsApp, which has more than 70 employees, will continue to be based at its Mountain View, California, location.

Reuters

### Japan launches next-generation weather satellite Himawari-8

**TOKYO, 7 Oct**—The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd announced on Tuesday the successful launch of next-generation geostationary meteorological satellite Himawari-8.

Twenty-eight minutes after the launch of Himawari-8 aboard the H-IIB Launch Vehicle No 25 (H-IIB F25) at 2:16 pm (GMT 5:16 am) on Tuesday at Yoshinobu Launch Complex at the Tanegashima Space Center in Japan’s southwestern Kagoshima prefecture, the rocket and the satellite separated as planned.

It also lists events missed during the break period.

“People are starting to notice they check their mobile devices all the time, not because they need to, but more out of habit. We want to help people become more aware of that,” Dettbarn said.

Another app called Checky, created by San Francisco-based Calm.com, tells users how often they check their smartphones each day.

The app is free and available worldwide for iOS and Android.

In addition to tracking usage, Moment, an app for iOS devices, enables iPhone users to set daily time limits and to receive reminders if they go over.

The app, from the Pittsburgh-based Moment, costs $4.99 and is also available worldwide.

Although technology is a good thing, Offtime’s Dettbarn said people need to learn how to manage it.

“Every time a new or revolutionary technology comes out, there is fear about what it will do to society,” Dettbarn said. “The next generation of apps solves the problems and see the benefits,” he noted.

“Soon we will have screens all around us, not just on our mobile devices, but also on the wall or on our wrists. It’s not going to help people be distracted all the time, so we need to come up with solutions,” Dettbarn added.

Reuters

### Taking a break: unplugging from smartphones with new apps

**TORONTO, 7 Oct**—Smartphone users feeling overwhelmed by the onslaught of communications and devices vying for their time can turn to new apps to help them take a break and concentrate on other things.

More than 70 percent of consumers in the United States own a smartphone and the typical adult spends about 90 minutes a day on their device, an increase of 30 percent since last year, according to global information and measurements company Nielsen.

But new apps aim to make users aware of how much time they spend on their smartphones and to help them limit it.

Offtime, a new app for Android-compatible phones, lets users unplug from their devices without missing anything important.

“We all love our digital devices. But every once in a while we want to take time off, which can be hard when everyone is so connected and you feel as though you’re snubbing people or missing out,” said Michael Dettbarn, co-founder of the Berlin, Germany-based Offtime.

The app tracks how much people use their device and which apps are most time consuming. It also lets users decide how long they would like to stay unplugged, which contacts and apps they want to remain active while all others are temporarily blocked.

The app has an in-app purchase for $4.99 and is also available for iOS devices.

The app was created by Germany-based Offtime.

“Although technology is a good thing, Offtime’s Dettbarn said people need to learn how to manage it.

“Every time a new or revolutionary technology comes out, there is fear about what it will do to society, but the next generation of apps solves the problems and see the benefits,” he noted.

“Soon we will have screens all around us, not just on our mobile devices, but also on the wall or on our wrists. It’s not going to help people be distracted all the time, so we need to come up with solutions,” Dettbarn added.”

Reuters
BOJ keeps policy steady, says Japan economy recovering

Bank of Japan Policy Board members attend a policy meeting at the BOJ headquarters in Tokyo on 7 Oct, 2014. The two-day meeting began the previous day amid expectations the central bank will maintain its aggressive monetary easing to boost the economy.

Kyodo News

Israel to launch a plan to fight nation’s high poverty rate

Jerusalem, 7 Oct—Israel’s Minister of Welfare Meir Cohen announced on Monday that the government is set to allocate 1.7 billion shekels ($550 million US dollars) for an anti-poverty plan, aiming at halving the nation’s high poverty rates within a decade.

“Dealing with poverty is the government’s responsibility,” Cohen told a Press conference in his office in Jerusalem. “It’s an historic moment now.”

The new plan will focus on the elders and children, the two groups in which poverty rates are the highest.

The plan includes grants and payments will be provided to boost the income of 190,000 elders’ supplement pensions and the income of single-parent families who, despite being employed, are still below the poverty line.

Additional 430 million shekels will be allocated for the construction of day care centres for toddlers and the aged, vocational training for poor workers, increasing the budget for public housing apartments, and drugs funding for poor elderly Holocaust survivors.

The move follows recent recommendations by the Committee to Fight Poverty, which was established by the government a year ago to draft a plan to cut the nation’s poverty rates.

According to the 2013 report by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Israel holds the highest poverty rates among developed countries. About 20.9 percent of the population are living in poverty, the report showed.

Eli Elaluf, chairman of the committee, said the goal of the plan is to bring down poverty rate to the OECD average of 11 percent within ten years.

The move comes less than a week after the Ministry of Finance presented the government with the 2015 austerity budget, which includes some seven billion shekels (1.9 billion dollars) cuts and austerity measures, mainly in fields of education, health and welfare.

Xinhua

Russia EMERCOM drafting new doctrine of population’s defence from manmade disasters

Moscow, 7 Oct—Russia’s Ministry for Emergency Situations and Civil Defence (EMERCOM) is expected to submit a new doctrine of civil defence in case of manmade disasters and military threats, Izvestia daily said in a report published on Tuesday.

The new doctrine matches today’s reality and presupposes comprehensive upgraded protection of the country’s population.

“Unlike the doctrine that is in effect now the new one won’t presuppose the so-called general evacuation, under which the entire civilian population should walk out of a city on foot in case of approach of enemy forces,” Sergey Akatyev, the chief of EMERCOM’s department for civil defence and protection of the population told the newspaper.

Analysis of the military conflict occurring nowadays shows combat operations mostly employ high-precision weaponry that does not envision the so-called ‘area saturation’ with gunfire, bombarding, and so on and that is why the new strategy will make emphasis on shelters and other civil defence installations.

“EMERCOM is introducing a new category of installations the protective harvests that will be built in city districts,” Akatyev said. “Unlike the old Soviet-era bomb shelters, they won’t be aimed at protecting against nuclear strikes but will provide protection against shell fragments and the debris of collapsing buildings.”

He indicated that a major change in the civil defence doctrine has been prompted, among other things, by the ongoing developments in eastern Ukraine and particularly in two largest cities in that area, Donetsk and Lugansk.

Itar-Tass
**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV KULNATEE VOY NO (11/14)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KULNATEE VOY NO (11/14) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.10.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(2) where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: MS KULNATEE CO**

Phone No: 2301186

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV BANGSAOTONG VOY NO (166)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSAOTONG VOY NO (166) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.10.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T(2) where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: MS WONGSAMUT OCEAN**

Phone No: 2301186

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV BUIK ECUADOR VOY NO (28B)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BUIK ECUADOR VOY NO (28B) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.10.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: MS BRIGHT SAIL**

Phone No: 2301186

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV SCI KAMAL VOY NO ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SCI KAMAL VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.10.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: MS THE SHIPPING CORP OF INDIA LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (114N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (114N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.10.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.L.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: MS MOL (S’PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV MOROTAI VOY NO (247)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (247) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.10.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: MS CMA CGM LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV PHUONG NOM-68 VOY NO ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHUONG NOM-68 VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.10.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-3 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: MS G LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301191, 2301178

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**BAY INFERENCE:** According to the observations at 14:30hrs MST today, the low pressure area over the Andaman Sea has further intensified into a depression. It is centered at about (185) miles Southeast of Cocom-Iral (Myanmar) and (135) miles East of Port Blair (India). It is forecast to move West-Northwest and further intensify into a Cyclonic Storm. Monsoon is weak in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weather is partly cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

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**Afghan forces destroy five heroin labs**

KABUL, 7 Oct—Units of Afghan Special Force in crackdown against poppy cultivation and drug traffickers have destroyed five heroin labs and confiscated tons of illicit drugs, said a statement of the Interior Ministry released here on Tuesday.

“The operations were conducted in Khogyani District couple of days ago during which five heroin labs were located in Tarwa village and destroyed by the troops there,” the statement said.

Around 10 tons of illicit drug including 4.8 tons opium poppy were also discovered during the operations from the village and confiscated by the troops, the statement asserted. —Xinhua
BB King cancels remaining tour dates due to illness

NEW YORK, 7 Oct.—Legendary blues guitarist BB King has cancelled the remaining performances of his current tour after falling ill on stage during a performance in Chicago, according to his website.

King, 89, was playing on Friday night at the House of Blues when he felt sick.

“He was immediately evaluated by a doctor and diagnosed with dehydration and suffering from exhaustion, whereby causing the eight remaining shows of his current tour to be cancelled,” his website said.

No other information on his condition was immediately available. King, who was born in Mississippi and has been called the “King of the Blues,” is considered one of the greatest guitarists of all time. He was ranked No. 3 by Rolling Stone magazine in 2003, behind only Jimi Hendrix and Duane Allman. He has influenced many other guitarists, including Eric Clapton, and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987. The documentary film, “BB King: The Life of Riley,” recounts his life from working in the cotton fields of America’s South to international stardom.—Reuters

Mariah Carey fans complain about singing at Tokyo show

LOS ANGELES, 7 Oct.—Pop star Mariah Carey has been hit with criticisms following a video being posted online of her struggling to sing ‘Vision of Love’ in Tokyo, Japan.—PTI

Mariah Carey has been hit with criticisms following a video being posted online of her struggling to sing ‘Vision of Love’ in Tokyo, Japan. — PTI

Britain’s hard-working, soulful MacKay keeps films coming

LONDON, 7 Oct.—At 22, George MacKay may not turn heads when he walks into a coffee shop in his native London, but give him a few more years — and the release of a movie in which he co-stars with Viggo Mortensen — and that is bound to change.

MacKay, whose first film role came at age 10 as one of the Lost Boys in a 2003 version of “Peter Pan”, is building a reputation as a versatile, up-and-coming character actor who can play just about anything — as long as the part suits someone whose entire demeanor, from his large eyes to the elongated oval shape of his face, says “soulful”.

“I want as much as I can to try and explore different roles and different characters, that’s important to me to get involved in as many different parts as I can,” MacKay said over coffee in a hotel where, at least for now, no one approached him for an autograph.

Next year, he will appear in the Mortensen vehicle “Captain Fantastic” about an idealistic family played by the former Aragorn of “The Lord of the Rings” trilogy, who brings his children back to the society after a decade of living “off the grid” in the Pacific Northwest.

Working with the polyglot Danish-American was “amazing”, MacKay said, not least for the experience of filming in New Mexico. Unlike Britain, the distances between cities are so vast, and it is so dark at night, that MacKay said at times he felt like he was in “a sea of blackness”.

In the meantime, MacKay couldn’t ask for a better demonstration of his versatility than his two current films in Britain — “Pride”, on general release, and “Bypass”, showing this month at the London Film Festival.

Actor George MacKay arrives for the London Critics’ Circle Film Awards in London on 2 Feb, 2014. — Reuters

Famous Japanese manga “Naruto” series to conclude in November

TOKYO, 7 Oct.—“Naruto,” one of the most famous Japanese “manga” comics enjoyed by fans worldwide, will conclude in the Weekly Shonen Jump magazine to be published 10 November, its publisher Shueisha Inc said on Monday.

The manga that debuted in 1999 in the pages of the popular boys’ comic magazine tells the story of Naruto Uzumaki, an adolescent ninja who fights with rivals and constantly searches for recognition and dreams of becoming the leader and the strongest ninja. Illustrated by Masashi Kishimoto, the blockbuster manga has sold more than 130 million copies in Japan alone, and over 200 million copies worldwide. The Naruto series has also been made into movies many times and has been broadcast on television since 2002.

Supplied photo shows the cover of volume 1 of “Naruto,” a Japanese “manga” comic series by Masashi Kishimoto. Naruto, one of the most famous Japanese manga comics, will conclude in the Weekly Shonen Jump magazine edition to be published 10 Nov, 2014, its publisher Shueisha Inc said on 6 Oct. — Kyodo News

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A visual representation of a comic book character in the Naruto series, including the text “Naruto,” is published in a Japanese “manga” comic series. — Kyodo News

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Australian Open lifts prize money 10 percent

MELBOURNE, 7 Oct — The Australian Open will hike total prize money 10 percent in 2014 to $356 million (19.64 million pounds), organizers said on Tuesday.

The Australian dollar has retreated by over six percent against the US dollar over the past month, but the 2015 prize pool is still competitive against last year’s $333 million, which was worth about $29 million when Stan Wawrinka and Li Na clinched the men’s and women’s singles titles.

Organizers also launched the newly renovated Margaret Court Arena, which will provide a third covered show court after Rod Laver Arena’s centre court and the Hisense Arena. Australian Open, which holds the women’s record of 24 grand slam singles titles, had a hit with local men’s talent Nick Kyrgios in the refreshed 5,500 seat stadium as part of the launch.

“I think it’s absolutely beautiful,” the 72-year-old told reporters. “Wouldn’t have minded something to play on like this in my day.”

Organizers have also snapped up former world number one and the 2009 champion Rafa Nadal as an ambassador. The Spaniard will work with Tennis Australia to hold a charity event on 14 January at Margaret Court Arena in the leadup to the tournament. “I like to think I’ve always been friendly with the Australian Open, but I’m excited it is now official,” Nadal said in a Tennis Australia media release.—Reuters

Willie Nelson’s braids sold for $37,000 at weekend auction

NASHVILLE, 7 Oct — Some of the most distinctive hair in American music, Wil- lie Nelson’s trademark braids, sold for $37,000 (£23,015) on Sunday, auction organizers said on Monday.

The braids were cut in the 1980s when Nelson’s hair was still red and were the most talked about item in the Arizona auction of items owned by the late Waylon Jennings, Nelson’s cohort in the “outlaw country” music movement of the 1970s.

Jennings was given Nel- son’s braids at a 1983 party thrown by Johnny Cash and June Carter Cash in Jennings’ honour to celebrate his sobriety. The identity of the buyer was not disclosed.

Also sold was Buddy Holly’s Ariel Cyclone motorcycle, for $450,000. The motorcycle, bought by the rock ‘n roll great in 1958, was given to Jennings by members of Holly’s band years after Holly was killed in 1959.

“It represented to him great love for a friend and possibly part of his healing,” said Jennings’ widow, Jessi Colter, last month when announcing auction details.

Jennings had been playing bass for Holly’s band and was going to ride with him on the plane instead of taking the tour bus on 3 February, 1959. But he gave his seat up to JP. “The Big Bopper” Richard, who had been ill. The plane crashed, killing Holly, Richardson and Ritchie Valens and Roger Peterson, the pilot.

Jennings, who had a cocaine addiction for several years, died in 2002 at age 64 of complications of dia betes. His hit songs included “Ladies Love Outlaws,” “Are You Ready for the Country,” “Bob Wills Is Still the King,” “Luckenbach, Texas” and duets with Nel- son “Good Hearted Woman” and “Mammas Don’t Let Your Babies Grow Up to Be Cowboys.”

The auction was staged by the New York-based Guernsey’s auction house at the Museum of Musical Instruments in Phoenix, Ari zona.—Reuters

Keane wishes he had not apologized to Ferguson

LONDON, 7 Oct — For- mer Manchester United capt- tain Roy Keane regrets having apologized to Alex Ferguson after the falling-out which led to him leaving the club in 2005, leaked extracts from his new autobiography have revealed.

The book, “The Second Half”, is not due out until Thursday but parts of it ap- peared online on Monday and a Manchester supermarket mistakenly put some copies on sale before hastily with- drawing them.

Ferguson criticised Keane in a book of his own last year, and said he had “a savage tongue.” The final straw in their relationship had come when Keane did an interview for the club’s in-house television station MUTV, criticising a number of his team mates for a poor performance.

United declined to trans- mit it and Ferguson insisted on the whole squad watch- ing a video before deciding whether Keane would have to leave. There had been widespread anticipation over the volatile Irishman’s response. But amid a welter of ex- pectatives the strongest criticism Keane came up with is that United could have told him: “Keep your head down, play a few games and come the end of the season we’ll say it was best for you to go.”

Instead, he writes, Fer- guson and chief executive David Gill already had a statement prepared about his departure when he was summoned to the manager’s office.

Soon after leaving for Celtic, where he played only a handful of games before retiring, Keane apologized to Ferguson.

“Now I kind of wish I hadn’t,” Keane writes. “I was apologising for what had happened — that it had happened. But I wasn’t apologis- ing for my behaviour or stance. There’s a difference — I had nothing to apologize for.”

The former Republic of Ireland international says tensions had been evident in a pre-season training camp that season, when he came close to hitting the first-team coach Carlos Queiroz, who accused him of lacking loyalty.

One person he did hit, he admits, was goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel, in a hotel fight that woke up United director Bobby Charlton and left his team mates for a poor performance.

After leaving United, the volatile Irishman would have to leave. There had been widespread anticipation over the volatile Irishman’s response. But amid a welter of ex- pectatives the strongest criticism Keane came up with is that United could have told him:

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One person he did hit, he admits, was goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel, in a hotel fight that woke up United director Bobby Charlton and left his team mates with a black eye.

He also says he has no regrets over inflicting the injury on Manchester City’s Alf IngeHaaland in 2001 that effectively ended the Norwe- gian’s career.—Reuters
Chelsea banking on Fabregas link to help end Spain drought

REUTERS

Chelsea's Diego Costa celebrates scoring a goal against Arsenal during their English Premier League soccer match at Stamford Bridge in London on 5 Oct, 2014. — Reuters

Costa banking on Fabregas link to help end Spain drought

Madrid, 7 Oct — Diego Costa has yet to open his account for Spain in five appearances, a perplexing state of affairs given his prolific form for Atletico Madrid last season and his blistering start at Chelsea.

The Brazil-born forward, who turned his back on the country of his birth to play for La Roja, netted 36 goals for Atletico in 2013–14 and has nine in nine appearances this term for the London club.

The 25-year-old has another chance to break his international duck when Spain play away to Slovakia and Luxembourg in Euro 2016 qualification this week and there is one very good reason why he should be optimistic: he will end his goal drought: Chelsea and Spain team-mate Cesc Fabregas.

Of Costa’s nine Chelsea goals this season, four have been assisted by Fabregas, who is likely to be handed the playmaker’s role by Spain coach Vicente del Bosque for the two qualifiers.

The former Arsenal and Barcelona man has seven assists overall, while the fact that of Costa’s 19 shots this season 16 of them have been on target underlines the striker’s excellent form.

Spain and Luxembourg, neither of whom are expected to qualify for Euro 2016, may be the perfect opponents for Costa to get his Spain career up and running.

There are still some doubts over his fitness but he said on Monday he was feeling fine after scoring a superb goal in Chelsea’s 2–0 Premier League win against Arsenal on Sunday — assisted by Fabregas of course.

It's the start of a new championship, while the capital's main newspaper Il Messaggero ran a banner headline on its website on Monday saying “A rigged championship”, while the capital’s main newspaper Il Messaggero took aim at referee Gianluca Rocchi with the headline “Rocchi 3–Roma 2.”

Marco Miccoli, a deputy from Prime Minister Matteo Renzi’s Democratic Party, said on Monday he had asked bourse watchdog Consob to investigate whether the “incredible refereeing errors” could constitute an infringement of its rules.

Both Juventus and Roma are listed on the stock market. At 1415 GMT on Monday, Juve’s shares were up 0.8 percent, while Roma’s were down 2.7 percent.

Miccoli said Rocchi’s refereeing had “distorted the championship and undermined the credibility of the country” and was “abolutely unimaginable in any other part of the civilized world.”

Post-match analysis in Italian media tends to focus obsessively on refereeing decisions which are pored over with countless slow motion replays.

Freeze-frame television images showed Juve’s two penalty episodes may have been a couple of centimetres outside the area. Roma also lamented that Arturo Vidal was offside when defender Leonardo Bonucci fired home a spectacular late winner. On the other side of the political divide, Fabio Rampelli of the far-right Brothers of Italy party, tabled a parliamentary question to Economy Minister Pier Carlo Padoan, over the “two non-existent penalties and an offside goal.”

Belgium’s goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois reacts during the 2014 World Cup quarter-finals between Argentina and Belgium at the Brasilia national stadium in Brasilia on 5 July, 2014. — Reuters

Belgium’s goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois has been cleared of a serious head injury after being substituted during the 2–0 Premier League victory over Arsenal on Sunday.

The 22-year-old Belgian was hauled off the pitch following an early clash with Arsenal forward Alexis Sanchez and he was replaced by Petr Cech.

Belgium Football Club can confirm Thibaut Courtois went to hospital during our Premier League game against Arsenal yesterday for precautionary tests on a head injury. Those tests came back all clear,” Chelsea said in a statement on their website on Monday.

“Thibaut was treated for a minor cut to his ear and was released from hospital last night. He is expected to report for international duty later this week.” The Premier League introduced new regulations to deal with head injuries following an incident last season in which Tottenham goalkeeper Hugo Lloris remained on the pitch after losing consciousness during a game against Everton. — Reuters

Roma, 7 Oct — Mario Balotelli has not been excluded from the Italy squad, coach Antonio Conte said on Monday, despite overlooking the maverick striker for this month’s Euro 2016 qualifiers.

Conte said that Balotelli, heavily criticised for his performance at the World Cup and left out of Conte’s first two matches in charge last month, needed more time to adapt after his move from AC Milan to Liverpool.

“I make selections, not exclusions,” Conte told reporters at Italy’s training camp outside Florence.

“Balotelli has started on a new path and it’s not easy, he will be given time to integrate himself into a new championship.”

“I certainly follow him just as I follow all the players who are abroad.” Conte also lavished praise on Southampton striker Graziano Pelle who has been given his first call-up at the age of 29.

Pelle has deserved his chance from every point of view,” said Conte.

“He has scored 50 goals in the last two seasons (with Feyenoord) and he is also showing this season that he is a leading figure in a league that is more difficult than the Dutch one.”

Liverpool’s Mario Balotelli jumps for the ball during a training session ahead of their Champions League Group B match against FC Basel in Basel on 30 Sept, 2014. — Reuters

Chelseas Courtois cleared of serious head injury

London, 7 Oct— Chelsea goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois has been cleared of a serious head injury after being substituted during the 2–0 Premier League victory over Arsenal on Sunday.

The 22-year-old Belgian was hauled off the pitch following an early clash with Arsenal forward Alexis Sanchez and he was replaced by Petr Cech.

Italy’s politicians join the fray after bitter Juve-Roma clash

Rome, 7 Oct — Italian politicians from right and left fuelled controversy following Sunday’s fiery Serie A encounter between Juve and AS Roma, with lower house deputies tabling questions in parliament and even complaining to the stock market regulator.

Hosts Juventus won the top-of-the-table clash 3–2 but all three goals by the reigning champions, including two penalties for infringements on the edge of the box, were fiercely contested by the visitors.

Rome-based sports daily Corriere dello Sport ran a banner headline on Monday saying “A rigged championship,” while the capital’s main newspaper Il Messaggero took aim at referee Gianluca Rocchi with the headline “Rocchi 3–Roma 2.”

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