IMF optimistic about Myanmar economic outlook despite challenges, lots of works to be done

By Ye Myint

WASHINGTON, D.C., 12 Oct — As ongoing transformation in Myanmar is unleashing the remarkable growth potential of the country, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is quite optimistic about Myanmar’s more than 8 percent projected growth rate, said IMF economists at a regional press briefing on Friday.

“Growth will be more than 8 percent this year and certainly to grow that rapidly over the medium term”, Jerry Schiff, deputy director of IMF’s Asia and Pacific Department told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

But, the IMF economist pointed out the economic institutions that are still developing, saying that they will face a lot of challenges in dealing with new capital inflows and technical assistance of international organizations including the IMF.

“Certainly, there are a lot of works to be done in the coming years,” said the APD deputy director who is also one of the authors of the latest Asian and Pacific economic outlook update report. In its suggestion following the conclusion of IMF executive board’s 2014 Article IV Consultation with Myanmar, the IMF urged the country to maintain near-term macroeconomic stability while building modern institutions and sound policy frameworks to manage the budget and financial sector.

“Medium and long-term prospects remain strong, but require sustained policy and institutional reforms even as the authorities’ capacity is being strained”, said the IMF in its statement.

The World Economic Outlook report indicates Myanmar’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is projected to see 8.5 percent this year and next year.

“Regarding foreign bank entry in Myanmar, Changyong Rhee, director of the Asia and Pacific Department said in its suggestion following the conclusion of IMF executive board’s 2014 Article IV Consultation with Myanmar, the IMF urged the country to maintain near-term macroeconomic stability while building modern institutions and sound policy frameworks to manage the budget and financial sector.

Union Minister inspects harvesting and irrigation facility in Bago

It is time to give serious consideration to disaster risk reduction

COURAGE

By Aye Min Soe

Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry implemented a log export ban (LEB) on 1 April, 2014 instead of a logging ban, deciding to reduce teak extraction to be cut down by a third.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

More than 1,000 tonnes of teak and hard wood logs will be up for sale through open tenders on 21 October, according to the announcement of Myanmar Timber Enterprise.

Myanmar Timber Enterprise invites open tender for teak, hardwood logs

By Aye Min Soe

International Monetary Fund projects Myanmar’s gross domestic product will post an impressive rate of 8.5 percent in the region in 2014 and 2015.—PHOTO: WORLD BANK MYANMAR
Communication tower installed with devices in Natogyi Township

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Oct — Susana Rekkhita Dhammayon in Wunna Theikdi Ward of Zabuthiri Township held the successful concluding of offering meals to members of the Sangha. A ceremony to mark the ceremony of the donations was held at the Dhammayon where local well-wishers offered rice and offerings to 150 members of the Sangha from 20 monasteries.

The ward has donated dawn meals to members of the Sangha during the retreat period of monks for three years.

Than Naung (Zabuthiri)

Donations of meals to monks successfully conclude

MCF to organize examinations for IT enthusiast youths

Yangon, 12 Oct — Myanmar Computer Federation will organize the Information Technology Passport Examination (IP) Fundamental IT Engineer Examination (FE) and Applied IT Engineer Examination (AP) at the exam centres in Yangon, Mandalay, Ayeyawady, Sagaing, Magway and Bago regions and Mon State on 26 October. Exam supervisory committee in-charge Daw Thida Tun of Myanmar Computer Professionals Association said that those who passed the matriculation examination, students of University of Computer Studies and University of Technology and IT certificate, diploma and degree holders may sit for the IP, FE and AP examinations.

Myanmar joined the ITPEC Council in 2003 together with Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, Bangladesh and Mongolia. Opportunities will be given to those who passed the examinations to appoint them at the information and communication technological jobs in Myanmar and other seven ITPEC countries.

The examinations are held twice a year in Myanmar. One month before the exams, MCF gives training to the candidates to the exams.

This year, one outstanding exam winner of FE and AP will be sent to Japan to attend a training to be opened in March 2015.— Aung Thura

Digital meters installed at lamp-posts in Magway Township

Magway, 12 Oct — Electricians and engineers carried out substitution of new power lines in the placement of old ones, installed new transformers and old wooden lamp-posts for safety of electricity for the people. Moreover, the electricians emphasized installation of OMR digital meters in the placement of analogue meters so as to control loss of power and develop the electric power sector in Magway.

According to the coordination among the departmental officials of the township, skilled electricians installed over 10,000 digital meters at the concrete lamp-posts.

Zeyatu (Magway)

Caravan Jet to give sightseeing services to passengers to enjoy aerial views over Myanmar

Mandalay, 12 Oct— At present, a large number of globetrotters arrive in Myanmar due to tourism season, Mandalay Branch of Myanmar Airways manages to fly the sightseeing flights from Chaunmyathazi Airport as of 12 October.

“It is aimed at enabling the tourists to enjoy aerial panoramic views of Myanmar’s forests and mountains in addition to sunset views. Grand Caravan Jet can give 10 seats to the passengers. The chartered flights will cost K750,000 but single passenger can cost a least amount of money. The passengers can book the tickets through telephone,” said the manager of the Mandalay Branch.

The flight schedules for sightseeing are the Chaunmyathazi-Hegan-Chaunmyathazi route, and the Chaunmyathazi-Hegan-Nyaung-U-Chaunmyathazi route, and the Chaunmyathazi-Bagan-Nyaung-U-Monywa-Chaunmyathazi route. The flights will start at 7 am and 3.30 pm. The flight hours will be one hour or 1.30 hours.

Mandalay Branch operates the 15-passenger Beech Aircraft jet to NyaungU-Heho-Kalay-Bhamo-Homalin route. Tickets for the sightseeing flight are available at the branch at least three days ahead of flights, dialing 09-975116030 and 09-797225401.

Min Het Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)
PhD in Educational Leadership conferred on former principal of MMC

Yangon, 12 Oct—Akamar University of Hawaii of the U.S. conferred honorary PhD in Educational Leadership on retired principal of Myanmar Mercantile Marine College U Win Thein who is member of Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) Legal and Special Affairs Assessment Commission at Summit Parkview Hotel in Yangon on Saturday morning. Secretary of Board of the university Dr James Ferrell and Vice President for Asia Program Professor Dato Dr Ben Lee made speeches. Officials conferred PhD degree on U Win Thein who spoke words of thanks.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung and guests.—MNA

Union minister observes social protection activities in Britain

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Oct—A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin observed social security and aged care tasks on her trip to Britain from 6 to 9 October.

The Union minister held a talk about social care and aged care tasks in Britain with Chief Executive Officer Mr Toby Porter of Help Age International and Director Mr Chris of Age International at Tavistock Square in London on 6 October. She also met with Minister of International Development Rt Hon Desmond Swayne at White Hall and exchange views on cooperation tasks.

On 7 October, officials of Age UK held discussions on social care activities in cooperation with the British Government with the Union minister.

On 8 October, the Union minister attended the roundtable discussions with CEO Mr Michal Lawrence and representatives of 25 organisations at Asia House. They exchanged views on social protection, aged care activities, disaster management and humanitarian tasks.

The Union minister then visited Stones End Day Care Center for the Aged at Age UK Lewisham and Southwark.—MNA

IMF optimistic about . . .

(from page 1)

Department commented on foreign bank cooperation.

“We are recommending not to allow them (foreign banks) to start their operation before the enactment of the foreign bank operation law and before the system is built,” said Mr. Rhee who led the press conference on October 2014 Asia and Pacific Regional Economic Outlook Update.

Myanmar recently approved preliminary banking licenses for nine foreign banks — Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited (ANZ), Bangkok Bank, Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ (BTMU), Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), Malayan Banking Berhad (Maybank) Mizuho Bank, Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation (OCBC), Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) and United Overseas Bank (UOB).

The director added that Myanmar needs to take a little more time to prepare for the sound system and enhance its capacity to supervise and regulate the nine approved financial institutions and then start operation.

According to the announcement of the foreign bank licensing committee, applicants will have to fulfill commitments they made in their answer to the applications, ensure functional banking operation and comply with requirements from the Central Bank of Myanmar during the 12-month period for the award of final license. —GNLM

Union Minister inspects harvesting and irrigation facility in Bago

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Oct—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, oversaw the harvesting of a 2,000-acre paddye plantation on a highway linking Nay Pyi Taw to Yangon in Oktwin township, Bago Region, on 11 October, sources said.

Later, the union minister went to the Gaungsaykkyun canal project in Bago, where he inspected work being carried out with the use of heavy machinery and technicians, giving instructions on timely completion of the project.

U Myint Hlaing also visited the Training Centre of Irrigation Development in Bago, where he met the principal and faculty members and urged them to actively participate in community-based development tasks.

The Irrigation Department plans to dredge 21.225 feet long and eight feet deep Mazin Creek from Mazin Dam to Bago River, the 250 feet long and four feet deep Mazin creek’s rivulet, 7,400 feet long and seven feet deep Gaungsaykkyun Creek from Gaungsaykkyun Bridge to Bago River and 4,100 feet long and 18 feet deep SintObo curve at the exit of Bago River-Tarwa sluice gate.—MNA

Progress of development projects under inspection in Salin Township

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Oct—Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw viewed a 200-KVA transformer for electrification in Wetthaik and Tegon villages in Salin Township of Magway Region on 10 October after meeting with township departmental officials.

At Maha Withutayama monastery in Salin, he held a talk with Region Hluttaw MPs, township management committee members and departmental officials.

On Saturday, the Union minister donated meals and effettories to 400 members of the Sangha in Salin.

During his trip, the Union minister inspected maintenance of Minbu-Salin road, and Salin-Kanbya-Sedoktara road and bridges, cultivation of monsoon paddy along both sides of the roads and development of Salin.—MNA

Officers from Ministry of Border Affairs leave for Singapore

Yangon, 12 Oct—U Min Thant, Principal of Central Training School under the department of education and training and the twenty-two officers from Ministry of Border Affairs, who are attending the proficiency course jointly organized by the ministry and Nippon Foundation of Japan left here for Singapore to observe the development of Singapore on Sunday. —MNA

Union Ministers meet township development affairs committees

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 Oct—Union Ministers at the President Office U Soe Thane and U Tin Naing Thein attended a ceremony to clarify progress of the nation at Ayeeya Shewwah Hall in Pathein on Saturday. They held a talk about social care and aged care tasks in Britain with Chief Executive Officer Mr Chris of Age UK.

They exchanged views on social protection, aged care activities, disaster management and humanitarian tasks.

The Union minister then visited Stones End Day Care Center for the Aged at Age UK Lewisham and Southwark.—MNA

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin holds talks with British officials about social production.—MNA

Officials confer honorary PhD in Educational Leadership on U Win Thein, former principal of Myanmar Mercantile Marine College.

MNA
**India’s Modi seeks state election wins to support reform agenda**

**Mumbai, 12 Oct —** Prime Minister Narendra Modi spearheaded his party’s campaign for elections later this week in Maharashtra state, knowing that victory in the home of India’s financial hub Mumbai will make it easier to push through economic reforms.

The smaller northern state of Haryana also votes on Wednesday. But it is the western state of Maharashtra that will provide the best test of how well Modi’s appeal is holding up, five months after he stormed to power in a general election with promises to mend a country battered by corruption scandals, high inflation, and sharply slowing growth.

Modi has campaigned personally in Maharashtra, betting he can help his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) win big in a state with a population of 110 million spread across an area the size of Italy.

Local polls predict the BJP will win, but perhaps only with a narrow margin. "India’s Modi seeks state election wins to support reform agenda"

A locals poll predicts the BJP will win, but perhaps only with a narrow margin. **New Delhi, 12 Oct —** At least six people were killed Sunday when severe cyclone “Hudhud” hit the east coast of India with winds of almost 200 kmph, said officials. The strong wind pulled down electricity poles, shut road and railway transport, and forced tens of thousands to take refuge in government camps in the state of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa.

Three persons were killed in rain-related mishaps in Andhra Pradesh, two of them by falling trees. “Two died after trees fell on them and one in collapse of compound wall,” Andhra Pradesh chief secretary I.V.R. Krishna Rao told the media.

Meanwhile, two people were killed in Kendrapara and one in Puri in Orissa, said the state’s special relief commissioner P.K. Mohapatra.

The cyclone made its landfall north of Visakhapatnam, earlier Sunday, bringing wild rains and wind.

The local authorities are fighting to control the damages from the storm to the minimum.

*The India Meteorological Department said even after landfall, “Hudhud” would maintain the intensity of very severe cyclonic storm for six hours and gradually weaken into a cyclonic storm.*

The Indian navy and air force has kept warships and aircraft on standby in storm-hit areas, while relief teams have been sent to the spots to help people.

Over 400,000 have been evacuated to safe places by the government. Cyclone “Hudhud” is named after an Israeli bird. Xinhu

**Philippines to improve airport for more tourists next year**

**Manila, 12 Oct —** The Philippine government is doing significant improvements in the country’s major airport as more tourists are expected to visit the country next year, a senior government official said on Saturday. Deputy Presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte cited the ongoing rehabilitation work at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 1. “We expect significant improvement because the fact that we continue to invite more tourists, more visitors to our country, we will have really more visitors next year because we are hosting APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation),” she said over a state-run radio station. She also cited Manila’s hosting of the Madrid Fusion, an international culinary event, in April 2015. The Philippine Department of Tourism is targeting 6.8 million foreign tourist arrivals for this year and as much as 10 million in 2015.—Xinhua

**At least 6 killed by severe cyclone “Hudhud” in E India**

A man carries his wife to a safer ground after a wave hits a beach in Gopalpur in Ganjam district in the eastern Indian state of Odisha on 12 Oct, 2014.—Reuters

**Prime Minister Shinzo Abe**

**Tokyo, 12 Oct —** Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is considering holding a summit with Palau President Remengesau by next spring in Japan, ahead of the planned visit to the Pacific island country by Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, Japanese government sources said on Saturday.

Abe aims to lay the groundwork for the trip by the imperial couple, expected around next April, to the islands that Japan once governed and where a fierce battle was fought during World War II, the sources said.

The emperor and empress hope to console the souls of the war dead during their visit to Tokyo and expected to meet with the Palau president.

Abe’s visit remains uncertain, but the sources said it could be sometime between next April and early May.

“Modi will have more space to undertake bolder reforms if his party receives a strong political mandate at state level,” said Rupa Rege Nitsure, chief economist of Bank of Baroda in Mumbai.

Maharashtra will also provide the BJP a testing ground for its go-it-alone strategy for future state elections, given the need to narrow the lead held by Congress and its allies in the upper house of parliament.

State elections all over the country will make it easier to forge ahead on reforms in the run-up to the annual budget next February.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Tokyo and expected to meet with the Palau president.
Putin orders defence ministry to bring back troops after drills

SOCCHI, 12 Oct — Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the Defence Ministry to bring back troops to permanent bases after military exercises in southern Russia’s Rostov-on-Don region. He gave this order at a meeting with Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu after an urgent meeting which the head of state held with permanent members of the Russian Security Council on Saturday.

“The minister reported to the Supreme Commander-in-Chief about the end to summertime training at firing ranges in the Southern Military District,” presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. “After the report Putin ordered to bring troops back to permanent bases,” he said, adding that these military force makes “a total of 17.6 thousand servicemen who passed drills at firing ranges in Rostov-on-Don region,” Peskov added.

Emperor, empress visit Nagasaki A-bomb memorial

NAGASAKI, 12 Oct — Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko visited Nagasaki on Saturday and expressed condolences for the victims of the 1945 US atomic bombing of the southwestern Japan city.

The couple visited the Nagasaki Peace Park for the first time since 1995, when they also visited Hiroshima and Okinawa to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II.

The visit was part of a trip to attend the opening ceremony of the annual National Sports Festival on Sunday in Isahaya, Nagasaki Prefecture. They will return to Tokyo on Monday.

The emperor and empress hoped to visit the park ahead of the 70th anniversary next year of the war’s end, the Imperial Household Agency said. The agency is also planning their visit to Hiroshima.

The imperial couple laid white chrysanthemum at the park’s monument and exchanged words with some survivors of the 9 August, 1945 bombing that killed more than 160,000 people including those who died later from injuries and effects of radiation.

Kyodo News

Gaza reconstruction in spotlight in Cairo conference

CAIRO, 12 Oct — US Secretary of State John Kerry arrived in Cairo early Sunday to participate in a conference aimed at raising billions of dollars to rebuild war-battered Gaza Strip, official news agency MENA reported.

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Sisi will highlight his country’s commitment to the Palestinian cause in general and particularly the safety and interests of Palestinians living in the Strip, state-run Ahram newspaper reported on its website.

Sisi’s statement will also affirm Egypt’s commitment to cement the Palestinian national unity government to promote wider Palestinian reconciliation.

Egypt has mediated indirect ceasefire talks between Palestine and Israel after the enclave endured more than 51-day Israeli war this summer. The Israeli military operation killed nearly 2,200 Palestinians, mostly civilians, while attacks by Gaza militants killed 73 on the Israeli side, mostly soldiers. The conference will be attended by Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas, Ban Ki-moon General Secretary of the United Nations, chief of Arab League Nabil Al Arabi and representatives of International Tripartite Committee.— Xinhua

Israeli relay sextet set world record open-water mark

HERZLIYA, (Israel) 12 Oct — A group of six swimmers have claimed a world record of 380 kilometres (236 miles) for open-water relay distance swimming after crossing the eastern Mediterranean from Cyprus to Israel.

The Israeli team left Paphos at the western end of Cyprus on 5 October and set the new mark on Friday when they reached the coast south of Tel Aviv but they remained on their support yacht and came ashore together on Saturday.

The six men achieved their goal at the second time of asking after aborting an attempt last year due to rough seas.

The swim was completed in 123 hours 10 minutes, the World Open Water Swimming Association said on their website.

The previous record of 367 kilometres was set by a US sextet off the coast of California last year.

The six, ranging between 66 and 44, each spent an hour in the water and had to maintain the same rotation for the record to be recognized, said Udi Erell, 66, one of the swimmers.

“It wasn’t easy but (the other five) made it easy, they were all amazing and not to forget that the goal was to bring to the attention of everybody that we need clean seas.”

Reuters

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (C) and German Chancellor Angela Merkel (L) visit a supermarket after the bilateral governmental consultations in Berlin, Germany, on 10 Oct, 2014.— Xinhua

Six Israeli swimmers emerge from the water during a media presentation, a day after their attempt to claim the Guinness world record for open-water relay distance swimming, in the Herzliya Marina, near Tel Aviv on 11 Oct, 2014. — REUTERS
US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel said on Saturday that the embattled Syrian city of Kobani was a very difficult problem but added that air strikes had made some progress in driving back Islamic State militants.

Kurdish forces defending Kobani urged a US-led coalition to escalate air strikes on Islamic State fighters who tightened their grip on the Syrian town at the border with Turkey on Saturday.

“We are doing what we can do through our air strikes to help drive back ISIL. In fact there has been some progress made in that area,” Hagel told a news conference in Santiago, the Chilean capital.

“It is a very difficult problem,” Hagel said, referring to Kobani.

Hagel is on a six-day, three-nation trip to South America.

The US-led coalition escalated air strikes on Islamic State in and around Kobani, also known as Ayn al-Abab, some four days ago.

Hagel underscored that the battle against the militants, who have seized swathes of Iraq and Syria, was a long-term fight.

“It is a long-term effort. This is difficult, it is complicated. It’s going to require many factors. And we are working now (with) coalition partners,” he said.

Asked about the situation in Iraq, Hagel said Iraqi security forces were in full control of Baghdad and continue to strengthen their positions there.

“We continue to help them with air strikes, with our assistance and advisors,” Hagel said.

**US Defence Secretary sees long-term fight against Islamic State**

**Putin, Erdogan discuss bilateral cooperation, IS threats**

**Nepal parties start decisive talks on disputed issues of new constitution**

**Kurdish leader threatens Turkish peace deal collapse**

**Putin and Erdogan discussed** bilateral cooperation issues, the Kremlin reported on Saturday.

The conversation was requested by the Turkish side, the Kremlin said.

Putin and Erdogan “spoke for further development of the Russian-Turkish trade and economic ties, including in the agricultural sphere and high-tech spheres,” the statement said.

When the sides were exchanging opinions on international issues, the emphasis was made on threats posed by the Islamic State terrorist group.—Itar-Tass

**Berlin, 12 Oct —** A senior Kurdish militant has threatened Turkey with a new Islamic revolt if it sticks with its current policy of non-intervention in the battle for the Syrian town of Kobani.

Kurdish forces allied to the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK), the People’s Defence Units (YPG), are fighting against Islamic State insurgents attacking Kobani close to the Turkish border. Turkey is reluctant to open its border to allow arms to reach the out-gunned Kurds.

Turkey passed a mandate for cross-border military operations in Syria and Iraq but has so far refused to join the military coalition against Islamic State or use force to protect Kobani and has resisted calls to allow the flow of weapons and volunteers into the besieged town.

“We have warned Turkey. If they continue on this path, then the guerrillas will re-launch our defensive war to protect our people,” Cemil Bayik, a founding member of the PKK who is also its most senior figure not in prison, told the German network ARD in Arbil in Iraq’s autonomous Kurdistan region.

“The AK party is responsible for what is happening right now in Kobani and in Turkey,” he added.

The AK party rules Turkey.

The PKK, designated a terrorist group by Turkey, the United States and the European Union, waged a 30-year revolt for autonomy in Turkey’s rugged southeast. Last year Bayik accused Turkey of waging a proxy war against Kurds in Syria by backing Islamists rebels fighting them in the north, threatening an end to the ceasefire that was called in March 2012 when the PKK’s jailed leader Abdullah Ocalan ordered his rebel fighters to retreat from Turkey to Iraqi Kurdistan.

“Because Turkey has continued to pursue its policies without any changes, we have sent back all our fighters that were pulled out of Turkey,” Bayik said.

Kurdish leaders in Syria have asked Ankara to establish a corridor through Turkey to allow aid and military supplies to reach Kobani where YPG is struggling against an Islamic State advance.

Bayik lambasted a Turkish mandate enabling the government to authorize cross-border military incursions into Iraq and Syria to battle Islamic State militants, saying it is designed to attack the PKK.

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The largest and ruling party NC on Saturday unilaterally pushed a new day for cross-party leaders.

The major parties have prepared their respective position on contentious issues of a new constitution.

The three-party started from Sunday morning and will last for a couple of days, according to cross-party leaders.

“Parties have begun a serious talks on contentious issues of a new constitution, so it would be better for the journalists not to ask anything for next three days,” senior leader of CPN-UML Madhav Kumar told reporters. He said parties can speak something only after three days.

The largest and ruling party NC on Saturday unveiled the official position on contentious issues of a new constitution.

The party said that there should not be more than seven provinces on the basis of economic viability. The Constituent Assembly (CA) on Friday provided one week’s time for parties to seek consensus on contentious issues of a new constitution.

The constitution promulgation deadline is 22 Jan, 2015.—Xinhua

**Nepal parties start decisive talks on disputed issues of new constitution**

The Nepali Congress, CPN-UML and the opposition party UCPN (Maoist) are engaged in serious talks on the form of government, federalism, electoral system and judiciary as the deadline of constitution promulgation looms large. Party leaders seem upbeat that they would explore a compromising point on disputed issues of new constitution.

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The largest and ruling party NC on Saturday unveiled the official position on contentious issues of a new constitution.

The party said that there should not be more than seven provinces on the basis of economic viability. The Constituent Assembly (CA) on Friday provided one week’s time for parties to seek consensus on contentious issues of a new constitution.

The constitution promulgation deadline is 22 Jan, 2015.—Xinhua
Kurds urge more air strikes in Kobani; monitor warns of defeat

MURSENPinar, (Turkey), 12 Oct—Kurdish forces defending Kobani urged a US-led coalition to escalate air strikes on Islamic State fighters who tightened their grip on the Syrian town at the border with Turkey on Saturday.

A group that monitors the Syrian civil war said the Kurdish forces faced inevitable defeat in Kobani if Turkey did not open its border to let through arms, something Ankara has appeared reluctant to do.

The US-led coalition escalated air strikes on Islamic State in and around Kobani, also known as Ayn al-ARab, some four days ago. That made Kurdish armed group, the YPG, said street al-Arabi, some four days ago.

A Turkish army tank manoeuvres near Turkish Kurds watching over the Syrian town of Kobani from atop a hill near Mursitpinar border crossing in the southeastern Turkish town of Suruc in Sanliurfa Province on 11 Oct, 2014.—Reuters

Senior police officers among seven dead in Iran plane crash

DUBAI, 12 Oct—An Iranian plane crashed late on Saturday killing four top-ranking officers investigating the deaths of 18 people who were found dead in a car on the border that Pakistan and Afghanistan, state news agency IRNA reported.

Three crew also died in the crash, underscor
ing concerns about Iran’s aging fleet which Teheran has been trying to modernize due to international sanctions.

Senior Iraqi police officer killed in bomb attack in Ramadi

BAGHDAD, 12 Oct—A high-ranking police officer and provincial police chief was killed on Sunday in a bomb attack in the volatile province of Anbar in western Iraq, a provincial security source said. Maj or General Ahmed Suddak al-Dulaimi was killed when a roadside bomb struck his convoy in Albu Risha area in the northern part of the pro
vincial capital city of Ramadi, some 110 km west of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, the source told Xinhua under con
dition of anonymity.

Albu Risha area is the stronghold of the tribal leader Ahmed Abu Risha, who heads the government-backed paramilitary groups of Awakening Coun
cils, or Sahwa. The area has been the scene of fierce clashes during the past few days between the Abu Ri
sha followers backed Iraqi security forces and Sunni tribal groups, including the Islamic State militant group, an al-Qaeda offshoot.

Since December last year, insurgent attacks conti
nue in the Sunni Arab heartland in west of Baghdad that stretches through Anbar Province, which has been the scene of fierce clashes that flared up after Iraqi police dashed an anti-gov
ernment protest site outside the city of Ramadi.—Xinhua
It is time to give serious consideration to disaster risk reduction

By Kyaw Thu ra

The world we live in is now experiencing challenges unheard of before. One challenge affecting the world most is disasters, both man-made and natural. In fact, disaster risk reduction is a global concern which requires strategic planning and integration in all sectors, countries and communities. It is therefore important to realize that the reduction of disaster risks and their impacts is a shared responsibility.

Bearing this in mind, the world has designated 13 October as the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR). The objective of the observance of the day is to raise awareness of how people and communities can come together to reduce their risk to disasters.

It is time for all of us to awaken to the realization that our world is ageing. As United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon put it, there is no plan B as there is no planet B. His words highlight that we have to galvanize our action in response to disasters. We cannot leave anyone behind in this process. That is why IDDR this year has pointed out the need for a more inclusive approach for older people in disaster risk reduction and recognize the critical role they can play in building resilience through their experience and knowledge.

In any outbreak of disaster, older people are vulnerable to risks. This calls on us to reverse this tragedy and optimize the contributions of older people to early warning systems, social protection mechanisms, evacuation and emergency response plans and public awareness campaigns for our collective safety and wellbeing.

Senior citizens are older people but they still possess strengths and can serve the interests of their communities. We can count on their years of experience when it comes to disaster risk management and other planning and decision-making processes.

All in all, the word is old age does not mean inability.

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.

Academic skills of teachers improved at the workshop

Dawei, 12 Oct — A workshop on free education was held at the hall of No 1 Basic Education High School in Dawei of Taninthayi Region on Saturday.

Deputy Director Daw Aye Aye Myint of Dawei District Education office made a speech. Assistant Director (Finance/Admn) U Win Maung explained the management of the workshop. The workshop was attended by 265 senior teachers from Dawei District on 11 and 12 October. It was aimed at improving academic skills of teachers.

Solo arts show displays over 80 water colour paintings

Mandaly, 12 Oct — A solo arts show of Artist Kyaw Thu Wint of Mandalay was held at No 17 Thirt Fine Arts Gallery on Mingala Housing Street in 73rd street in Chanmyathazi Township of Mandalay on Sunday.

Media persons, artists, literati and enthusiasts enjoyed over 80 water colour painting works.

The artist attended the State School of Fine Arts in Mandalay. He has held the solo arts shows in Yangon and Mandalay four times.

Po Shwe Thun-Dawei

Thitha Ko Ko (Mandalay)
Fry shrimps, fingerlings released into dam

No 1 inter-district road under maintenance

NATOGYI, 12 Oct—Township Department of Rural Development in Natogyi of Mandalay Region started repairing of the 24-mile No 1 inter-district road passing Natogyi Township, spending over K200 million in 2014-15 fiscal year. It was for the first time of maintenance after the department accepted the duty and functions for the road from Development Affairs Department. The Department of Rural Development will repair three wooden bridges, three conduits and four culverts, to repave the road with asphalt concrete and expand the pavement.

Mdy Region Chief Minister visits Enterprise India Show

Mandala, 12 Oct—The Enterprise India Show continued till Sunday at Mandalay City Hall. On Saturday, Chief Minister U Ye Myint and region ministers visited the Enterprise India Show. The Indian Consul-General and responsible persons of companies conducted the Chief Minister and party round the booths which showcase automobiles and machinery, battery and invertors, agricultural machinery, foodstuff and packaging materials, textile and handicrafts, electronics and equipment, kitchen utensils and others.

People repair damaged road in Kyunhla Township

KYUNHLA, 12 Oct—People of villages in the western part of Thaphan-seik Dam in Kyunhla Township in Sagaing Region repaired the roads damaged in the floods of creeks on a self-reliant basis.

Indian entrepreneurs hope for trade and investment opportunities in Mandalay Region

Mandalay, 12 Oct—Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint received Indian entrepreneurs led by Mr Viresh Oberos of Mjunction Services Ltd of India at the hall of Mandalay Region government on 10 October. They cordially discussed trade and investment matters in Mandalay Region. It was also attended by Mandalay Region Ministers U Kyaw Hsan, U Aung Zan and U Kyaw Myint, and Indian Consul-General Dr N Nandakumar.

TODAY’S MYANMAR NEWS SITES

Myanmar news sites

Hpa-an, 12 Oct—A ceremony to release fingerlings and fry shrimps into Yaybok Dam in Htilon Village of Haingbyo Township in Kayin State on Saturday, aimed at ensuring local food sufficiency.

Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min, Deputy Speaker of Kayin State Hluttaw U Mahn Hla Myaing and Head of Kayin State Fisheries Department Dr Nyunt Wun together with staff released 40 viss of fresh water fry shrimps, 6,000 lobsters and over 30,000 fingerlings into the dam.

The fingerling release ceremonies were held at the dam three times.

Nay Myo Lwin (IPRD)
Air France-KLM to press ahead with low cost brand in France

Air France-KLM on Sunday ended two-week pilots in France which has produced positive results against the Ebola virus, a serum made from the blood of a survivor of Ebola and an anti-virus drug.

As well as Romero, the first person to become infected with the virus outside of Africa, 16 others are now under observation at the Carlos III Hospital, which was visited by Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy on Friday. None of these 16 people show any symptoms yet of the Ebola virus, but are under observation after possible exposure to the virus. Among those 16 is the doctor who first treated Romero when she developed early signs of the illness.

But prospects for subsequent cross-border mergers have faded since Europe has yet to address national regulators’ power to stop capital moving across borders, company law requiring subsidiaries to be run independently and secrecy laws.

All have a chilling effect on cross-border investment. “There are two key obstacles,” said a senior bank executive with long experience of cross-border operations, who spoke on condition of anonymity to avoid antagonising regulators.

“One is fragmentation that takes various forms — capital, liquidity, legal and structural. The other is that it is inherently more difficult to generate synergies with cross-border mergers.”

Bank mergers prompted by the launch of the euro in 1999 have stalled since Lehman Brothers collapsed in 2008 — an event that prompted then Bank of England governor Mervyn King to observe that “global banks are global in life but national in death”. Data compiled by Reuters show cross-border banking mergers and acquisitions in the euro area peaked in 2007 — the year a consortium led by Royal Bank of Scotland bought ABN AMRO of the Netherlands in a deal that turned disastrous for all parties.

Deals have since dwindled to barely $1.5 billion in value in the first nine months of this year as bankers were put off by the cost of unwinding soured mega-deals and new rules which make major banks more expensive to run.

Nonetheless, some European banking experts are optimistic the obstacles will diminish over time, once the ECB settles into its role as single supervisor and gets to work.

French pilots launched their strike in an effort to force Air France-KLM to revise plans to expand its low-cost brand, Transavia in Europe, fearing that the project would erode their own pay and conditions.

Pilots ended the airline’s longest strike since 1998 in late September despite continued deadlock with managers over the development of the firm’s low-cost operations.

Air France-KLM has put the total cost of last month’s two-week pilots strike at up to 500 million euros (392 million pounds), enough to wipe more than a fifth off its estimated full-year core profit.

French media said the third phase of the standstill began on Saturday, although that has been postponed.

Asked why the pilots suspended the strike when the final decision was not taken, Juniac said in an interview to weekly Le Journal du Dimanche: “Sense of responsibility prevailed. Our proposals remain on the table.”

If pilots do not agree to sign the proposals, Air France may choose to set up a subsidiary of Transavia, in France in a bid to develop the low-cost business with new planes that arrive in the coming months.

“Is it more simple and logic if pilots agree,” de Juniac said.

With Frederic Gagey (CEO of Air France), we strongly hope that we will soon agree on the best conditions to develop Transavia France,” he added.

The pilots launched their strike in an effort to force Air France-KLM to revise plans to expand its low-cost brand, Transavia in Europe, fearing that the project would erode their own pay and conditions.

The airline thus dropped its proposal to expand its Transavia low-cost operations beyond France and the Netherlands to a total of 100 planes.

In a sign of continued tensions in the aftermath of the dispute, Air France said it had been forced to cancel a meeting with unions last week to present its plans for Transavia due to the absence of unions representing a minority of staff.

The Alter union, which represents a minority of pilots, said it had not been invited and urged Air France to inform all the company’s labour organisations about its plans for Transavia.

“We should move quickly to avoid the risk of leaving the room for our competitors, especially at Orly (airport), where slots may become available,” de Juniac added.

Paris, 12 Oct — Air France-KLM is pressing ahead with expansion of its low-cost brand in France and has a back-up plan if a deadlock with pilots continues, its Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Alexandre de Juniac said in an interview published on Sunday.

But prospects for subsequent cross-border mergers have faded since Europe has yet to address national regulators’ power to stop capital moving across borders, company law requiring subsidiaries to be run independently and secrecy laws.

The European Central Bank takes direct authority over the currency area’s 120 top banks on 4 November after publishing the results of its review of their balance sheets on 26 October.

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**Sears says Kmart stores hit by data breach**

New York, 12 Oct — Sears Holdings Corp SHLD.O said it was the victim of a cyber attack that likely resulted in the theft of some customer payment cards at its Kmart stores, the latest in a string of computer security breaches to hit US companies and dealing a fresh blow to the struggling US retailer.

A Sears spokesman said he could not say how many credit and debit card numbers had been taken. He added that the personal information, debit card PIN numbers, email addresses and Social Security numbers of its customers remained safe.

Security professionals said they were not surprised to learn that yet another major retailer was reporting a breach, adding they believe many big merchants do not have adequate systems for detecting cyber attacks, which means they still remain easy prey for hackers.

“This is going to continue indefinitely until people change their practices,” said Shawn Henry, a former senior cyber cop with the FBI who is now president of cyber forensics firm CrowdStrike Services. He said that hackers are able to get into networks because they are “so broad and vast” that attackers will always find a way in. Retailers need to do a better job of quickly detecting them before they begin to steal data, he said.

Sears said that the attackers used malicious software that was undetectable using anti-virus software, highlighting the challenge of keeping up with the evolving techniques of computer hackers. Company spokesman Chris Brathwaite said Sears had been upgrading its systems even before the recent spate of incidents involving retailers, which included a massive breach of the systems of Target Corp TGT.N in late 2013.

“Our IT team was able to quickly remove the malware and we are deploying further advanced software to protect our customers’ information,” Brathwaite said.

Security experts say retailers have traditionally not invested enough in security, partly because of the industry’s relatively thin profit margins.

The breach comes as Sears is struggling to revive itself under Chief Executive Eddie Lampert, who has been closing stores and slashing costs in an effort to return to profitability. Critics say Lampert has been investing too little in the Sears and Kmart stores, contributing to nine straight quarterly losses.

**Archeologists unearth ancient village in an Arizona national park**

Phoenix, 12 Oct — Archeologists have unearthed a village believed to be about 1,300 years old and containing more than 50 sandy-stone-walled homes at a US national park in northeastern Arizona, one of the researchers said on Friday.

The discovery was made by a team that surveyed part of the Petrified Forest National Park during the summer and broadly dated the remains of some 50 to 75 structures and features to between 200 AD and 700 AD.

“The ceramics at the site tell us that what we found falls within that time,” said Amy Schott, an archeologist who works for the park. “Other similar sites have been carbon dated and roughly fall within that period.”

Surveyors found the first traces of the village in June, 2013, and it was then buried “pit houses” in sand dunes at the park in June, and they estimate the village could have had as many as 125 inhabitants.

Schott said the homes are believed to have been inhabited during the so-called Basketmaker era, when Native Americans in the area were beginning to grow crops for food and establish settlements.

“Most of these sites you find are small,” said Schott, who took part in the project. “This one is so large and interesting because it had so many structures and features all in one spot.”

Along with ancient pottery, the researchers also found rudimentary tools made of stone and petrified wood as well as pendants crafted from shells. No human remains were found, Schott said.

This is the second such large-scale find by archeologists within two years as surveys are carried out as part of an effort to more than double the size of the park. Plans call for the park to grow to 218,500 acres (88,000 hectares) under the Petrified Forest Expansion Act passed by Congress in 2004.

The park, which straddles Arizona’s Apache and Navajo counties, is a popular tourist attraction, visited by an average of 600,000 people a year. — Reuters

**Snapchat blames third-party apps for any leaked photos**

San Francisco, 12 Oct — Mobile messaging company Snapchat blamed third-party software apps for possible security lapses that may have led to its users’ private photos being at risk of online publication by hackers.

A file containing at least 100,000 Snapchat photos has been collected by hackers who were preparing to publish them online, according to a report on the Business Insider blog. Snapchat lets users send photos and videos that disappear in seconds.

“We can confirm that Snapchat servers were never breached and were not the source of these leaks,” the company said in an emailed statement.

Users were “allegedly victimized by their use of third-party apps to send and receive Snaps, a practise that we expressly prohibit in our terms of use precisely because they compromise our users’ security,” a Snapchat representative noted.

A Snapchat representative noted the company’s statement was based on reports of leaked photos, and that it could not verify whether hackers had breached third-party software containing stolen Snapchat photos.

Snapchat, one of a crop of “disappearing” apps that competes with Twitter Inc and Facebook Inc, is popular among teenagers. Some media reports raised concerns that the hackers’ file could contain nude “selfies” pictures of teens who expected the photos to be deleted.

Leaked photos could also become problematic for Snapchat, which has faced criticism over privacy practices. It is now raising money in a funding round that would give it a $1 billion valuation, according to reports.

Snapchat was unable to verify whether any Snapchat photos had been posted online.

According to Business Insider, hackers may have obtained the photos by breaching third-party services that allow consumers to save the Snapchat photos they receive. Users of the online forum 4Chan downloaded the files and are creating a searchable database of the stolen photos, the report said.

Tal Klein, a vice president at cloud security firm Adallom, said he could not rule out the possibility that the entire incident was a hoax.

He noted that some of the purported Snapchat photos posted on 4Chan had digital signatures that matched his firm’s database of stolen images previously circulated online.

That suggests the episode could be fictitious, or that the supposed cache of new photos was a collection of previously stolen Snapchat images aggregated by hackers, said Klein.

The potential publishing of private Snapchat photos comes shortly after nude pictures of actress Jennifer Lawrence and images purporting to be of dozens of other actresses were posted on 4Chan. Media reports said Apple Inc’s iCloud accounts had apparently been hacked to obtain the photos.

In May, Snapchat settled charges with US regulators for stoking it with deceiving customers by promising that photos on its service disappeared forever. According to the Federal Trade Commission, photos sent on Snapchat could be saved using several methods.

Reuters

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**Customers walk into a Sears store at Fair Oaks Mall in Fairfax, Virginia, on 7 January, 2010. Sears Holdings Corp forecast fourth-quarter earnings well above Wall Street expectations, sending its shares up 15 percent in pre-market trade.**

**Reuter**

**A portrait of the Snapchat logo in Ventura, California on 21 Dec, 2013.— Reuters**
India celebrates Satyarthi’s Nobel win

NEW DELHI, 12 Oct—The whole of India on Saturday celebrated the co-winning of the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize by Indian activist Kailash Satyarthi for his work for more than three decades to abolish child labour and other issues related to child rights. The prize was on Friday jointly awarded to Satyarthi and Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani schoolgirl who has become an icon for her devotion to women’s education. Satyarthi has so far rescued nearly 80,000 child laborers from servitude and rehabilitated them into mainstream society. “Having won this award, my team and I are once more inspired to continue our fight with renewed energy and vigour,” he said in a statement. He added that much more needs to be done because there are more than 165 million child labourers in the world, of which 65 million are in India alone. He said the idea of child labour hit him for the first time when he was barely 5 years old.

“It was first day to school. And, on the way I noticed a child working as a cobbler. I asked him why he doesn’t go to school. He replied that he is born to work and not be educated. I asked this question to my teachers, but didn’t get any convincing answers. And, perhaps it was the first incident I can recall today which forced me to work for this cause in the latter part of my life,” he said.

According to Satyarthi’s resume made available on Friday, he successfully spearheaded a countrywide movement to make education a constitutional provision which subsequently paved the way for the fundamental right to free and compulsory education for children in 2009 in India.—Kyodo News

Joksimovic: EU to grant EUR 60.2 million worth of aid

BELGRADE, 12 Oct—Serbia should be granted EUR 60.2 million worth of donations from the EU Solidarity Fund for the reconstruction of infrastructure in parts of the country hit by recent floods, Serbian Minister without portfolio in charge of European integration Jadranka Joksimovic stated. We got a piece of great news from Brussels on Friday, since the European Commission issued a recommendation to the European Parliament and the European Council to allocate EUR 60.2 million worth of aid for Serbia from the EU Solidarity Fund, Joksimovic told Tanjug.

She underscored that this is the best indicator of the importance of Serbia’s EU path because citizens can see the real-life benefits the country would have from the candidate member status. She said that back in May when the flashing floods hit Serbia, she had a chance to have talks with the then commissioner for regional policy concerning the application procedure for the allocations from the Solidarity Fund which was completed in late July.

Now the European Parliament and the European Council should decide on this matter, Joksimovic said and added that she expects the contract to be signed by the end of the year.

The funds should be placed at our disposal by the end of the year, she said.

The Solidarity Fund is available to EU members and candidate countries which can apply for funds in case of natural disasters on the same terms as full EU members.

The funds can be used for reconstruction of infrastructure and repair of the vulnerable areas, but the money cannot be allocated for the construction of private houses, Joksimovic said.

A good aspect of the allocations granted from the Solidarity Fund is the fact that they can be used retroactively, for already launched projects of repair and reconstruction, Joksimovic said.

She recalled that the EU has so far granted Serbia around EUR 150 million of aid, of which EUR 30 million were delivered by IPA funds, EUR 50 million came from 2014 IPA programming and EUR 60 million were delivered from the Solidarity Fund.

Speaking about the destination of the allocations from the Solidarity Fund, Joksimovic said that project prioritisation would be completed in cooperation with the Office for Reconstruction and Flood Relief.

Lava flow seen at Mayon volcano in Philippines

MANILA, 12 Oct —Lava flow was observed from the Mayon volcano in eastern Philippines province of Albay on Sunday morning, the state seismology agency said. The latest update of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) said that visual and aerial observations found a “short and stubby lava flow” approximately 350 meters in length, slowly and quietly flowing down the eastern side of Bonga Gully along the southeast slope of Mayon volcano.

“The small number of volcanic earthquakes and rockfall events for the past few days suggest a sluggish movement of the lava flow, and slow extrusion of lava from the crater,” the state agency added.

With the impending eruption of Mayon volcano, Philippine President Benigno S Aquino III has ordered his Cabinet officials to assess the situation in 48 evacuation centers where nearly 13,000 families or more than 55,000 individuals were being served.

PHIVOLCS reiterated that Alert Level 3 remains hoisted over Mayon volcano, meaning that magma is at the crater and a hazardous eruption is possible within weeks.

Pedestrians battle strong winds while walking on a street in Naha, Okinawa Prefecture on 11 Oct, 2014, as Vongfong, a powerful typhoon, approaches Japan’s southernmost prefecture.

TOKYO, 12 Oct—A powerful typhoon is on track to sweep through the Japanese archipelago after moving over the southern islands of Okinawa and injuring dozens, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

Typhoon Vongfong is expected to head toward the southwestern island of Kyushu next mainland island in its path, and may make landfall Monday morning, it said. At 10 am, the slow-moving typhoon with an atmospheric pressure of 960 hectopascals at its center and packing winds of up to 180 kilometers per hour was heading north-northeast some 220 km west of Amami-Oshima Island. Strong winds whipped the Okinawa and adjacent Amami regions on Saturday, injuring more than 20 people, according to local governments. Cameras at the same time as they were no longer being made. Last month the operator said it will extend the period of intensive re-form of the Monju management system by six months through March. The JAEA seeks a lift- ing of the effective ban by the NRA on operating the reactor within fiscal 2014, which ends next 31 March. But the latest finding could lead to a prolonged ban, the source said.

Since achieving criticality in 1994, Monju has remained largely offline due to a series of safety problems. The reactor was developed to play a key role in Japan’s long-standing nuclear fuel recycling policy, potentially pointing the way to energy inde- pendence for the world’s third-largest economy.

Kyodo News

Powerful typhoon threatens to sweep through Japan’s main islands

Kyodo News
Search for lost helicopter resumes in southern Siberia

Thousands march in St Louis to protest police violence

Two people killed in plane crash

Forecast valid until evening of the 13th October, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kayah State, scattered in Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Shan, Kayin and Mon States, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing Region, Rakhine State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing Region and Chin State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Kirgisia, 12 Oct—The search for a lost helicopter Mil Mi-8 of Tyva-Avia Airline has resumed with dawn in southern Siberia’s republic of Tuva, the website of the Tuva regional emergencies department said on Sunday. Two bodies were recovered to still unknown reasons.

Additional rescuers join searches for missing Mi-8 helicopter in Tuva “Ten aircraft, including four aircraft from the Siberian regional emergencies centre are planned to involve on the third day of the search operation. Eight ground search teams are also engaged in the operation,” Tuva rescuers said.

The search-and-rescue grouping numbers 331 and 43 units of machinery, including 95 emergency workers and 14 units of machinery.

The helicopter Mi-8 which went missing in Tuva on 10 October carried 12. The helicopter was en route from the town of Sorog in Todi’s district of the republic to the republican capital city of Kyzyl. Specialists on board the machine were making snow measurements in the area where snow-measuring equipment should be mounted for the Sayano-Shushenskaya hydropower plant where a man-made disaster broke out on 17 Aug, 2009.

Bar-Tass

Ferguson, 12 Oct — Thousands of protesters marched through St Louis on Saturday as part of a weekend of demonstrations against police violence that emerged after the fatal shooting of an unarmed black teenager by a white officer last summer.

After a peaceful, 1/2-mile march through downtown, protesters rallied at Keiner Plaza. Organizers included Hands Up United, an activist group that emerged after the 9 August shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown in suburban Ferguson, Missouri.

Civil rights organizations and protest groups have invited people from around the country to join vigils and marches in the St Louis area from Friday to Monday.

Tory Russell, one of the founders of Hands Up United, vowed to keep up the pressure on police to change how they deal with young black men. He said he expected the grass-roots movement that sprang from the Ferguson shooting to pick up momentum.

“This isn’t going to stop until there is change with police and black youth,” said Russell on the sidelines of the rally.

The weekend got off to a tense but peaceful start on Friday night, a break from the clashes with police that have erupted in the area in recent days. Police said there had been no arrests, injuries or damage from the night’s protests.

Under partly cloudy autumn sky, the Saturday afternoon rally was joined by union members, gay rights activists and people from the Occupy movement.

There were even supporters of the Palestine cause carrying placards reading “#Palestine2Ferguson.” There was no visible police presence in the square.

On Friday afternoon, hundreds marched through the rain to the St Louis County courthouse in Clayton, adjacent to St Louis. Protesters have called for the arrest and prosecution of Darren Wilson, the Ferguson police officer who shot Brown. A grand jury is considering evidence in the case.

Some 300 people later assembled outside the nearby Ferguson Police Department, chanting phrases like “Who are we? Mike Brown!” and “Indict. Convict. Send those killer cops to jail.” Just a few feet away stood dozens of officers clad in riot gear.

Early Saturday morning, many protesters moved to the St Louis neighbourhood of Shaw, where 18-year-old Vonderrit Myers Jr was shot dead on Wednesday by an off-duty white officer working for a private security firm.

Reuters

Nintendo’s new 3DS console hits shelves in Japan Photo shows the New Nintendo 3DS portable game consoles (front) at an electronics store in Osaka, and people lining up to purchase them on 11 Oct, 2014. Nintendo Co launched the product, which comes in two sizes, the same day in time for the year-end shopping season.—Kyodo News

People take part in an action art activity for environment protection in the “Yangrenjie” scenery spot in Chongqing Municipality, southwest China, on 11 Oct, 2014. The participants promote more green plants and less smoking and driving cars.

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Invitation for Expression of Interest for the Position of
“Advisor for establishment of Myanmar Communications Commission”

Ministry of Communications and Information Technology ("MCIT") now invites eligible international individual consultants ("Consultants") to indicate their interests to provide hands on provision of Consulting Services to MCIT and its Posts and Telecommunication Department ("PTD") to conduct and assessment of Regulations in the Sector and to provide Ongoing Technical Support towards the establishment of the Myanmar Communication Commission.

All submissions of the EOI are requested to deliver the documents (including CV/resume ) to the address below by October 30, 2014.

Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

Post and Telecommunications Department

Attn: Mr. Than Htun Aung, Project Director, Telecom Sector Reform Project

Building Number 2, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Tel:+95 67 407435
Fax: +95 67 40 7539
E-mail: thanhtunaung@mptngw.net.mm, tspproject2014@gmail.com

The Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) and Terms of References (TOR) are available at http://www.mcit.gov.mm/news

Japanese research stations in the area where snow measurements are to be mounted for the Sayano-Shushenskaya hydropower plant where a man-made disaster broke out on 17 Aug, 2009.

Bar-Tass

Belgrade, 12 Oct—Two individuals were killed in the accident when a light sport aircraft Skyleader 600 crashed in northern Serbia at Saturday some time around noon, Tanjug learnt in the Serbian Ministry of Interior Affairs (MUP).

The plane crashed in a corn field near the Backi Jafars (MUP).

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Two people were recovered from the plane wreck. Fire-fighters and ambulance are currently at the scene of the crash and the police are conducting preliminary investigation.

The bodies of the victims have not been identified yet and the reasons for the crash will soon be established, the Interior Ministry reps said.

Two people were killed in a flight in the ultra-light sport aircraft.

They took off and crashed above the runway at minimum speed, and the plane dropped at one point, most likely due to insufficient power, its wing hitting the field behind the runway. The aircraft immediately exploded, killing the pilot and co-pilot on the spot.

Tanjug

Forecast valid until evening of the 13th October, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kayah State, scattered in Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Shan, Kayin and Mon States, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing Region, Rakhine State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing Region and Chin State. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Cameron Diaz sparks engagement rumours

LOS ANGELES, 12 Oct—Actress Cameron Diaz has been spotted wearing a gold ring, fuelling rumours that she is engaged to guitarist boyfriend Benji Madden.

Diaz, 42, spotted the ring with a thin band and sparkling stone set in a swirly setting on her ring finger at an event, reported E! Online. The couple, who has been dating for some time now, has not commented yet.—PTI

Honesty is the key to good relationship: Lily Collins

LONDON, 12 Oct—‘Abduction’ star Lily Collins says honesty is the recipe for a successful relationship.

The 25-year-old actress does not think there is an ultimate secret to falling in love and staying in love but believes being truthful with your partner builds the best foundation for long-term happiness, reported Contactmusic.

“It doesn’t matter how long it takes to get there, to be in love, as long as in the end people are honest. When you’re honest it pays off. Everyone has their own speed at which they’re honest, so if I would say it’s beautiful but it depends on person to person,” she said.—PTI

I have been told I am not sexy: Anne Hathaway

LOS ANGELES, 12 Oct—Anne Hathaway says she has been told many times that she is not sexy enough for movie roles.

Hathaway, who faced a lot of criticism during the run up to the Oscars 2013 where she won the best supporting actress gong for her portrayal of a prostitute in ‘Les Miserables’, says her successes have not come easy.

“Even though I’ve had great success, touch wood, it hasn’t been easy. A lot of people have told me, ‘You’re not thin and so can’t play that’ and I can’t tell you the amount of times I’ve been told I’m not sexy.

“I just go: ‘I’m a lot of things. Just because I don’t wear my sexiness overtly doesn’t mean that I can’t become that girl for a role. That’s what I do; I become things. Use your imagination, buddy’,” Hathaway told Harper’s Bazaar in an interview. “So in terms of not listening to what other people told me about who I was as an actress and then really pursuing it, I think I’ve been daring in that way,” Anne, 31, said. The actress also addressed criticism of not being genuine and fumbling during her Oscar speech. “One of the things I’ve been accused of is being inauthentic. And they were right – but not for the reason they thought. ‘I couldn’t tie this moment to what I really wanted to say. And that’s on me, because Lupita did it,’” she said while referring to Lupita Nyong’o’s moving speech after winning Best Supporting Actress for “12 Years a Slave” earlier this year.—PTI

Hugh Grant opts out of ‘Bridget Jones 3’

LONDON, 12 Oct — Actor Hugh Grant has revealed he will not return for the third instalment of ‘Bridget Jones’. The romantic comedy series is based on Helen Fielding’s novel of the same name, which is a reinterpretation of Austen’s ‘Pride and Prejudice’. The 54-year-old actor, who starred in the first two films as Daniel Cleaver, said his absence will not affect the prospects of the film, reported Free Radio.

“I decided not to do it. But I think they’re going to go ahead and do it without Daniel. The book’s excellent, by the way, but the script is completely different, well, the script as I last saw it a few years ago.” The third film is to be based on Fielding’s third book, ‘Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy’, which received excellent reviews last year.—REUTERS
Forfeiter halts Djokovic run to reach Shanghai final

SHANGHAI, 12 Oct — Roger Federer brought world number one Novak Djokovic’s juggernaut to a halt when a 6-4 6-4 victory in the Shanghai Masters on Saturday set up a final against unseeded Frenchman Gilles Simon.

The 33-year-old Swiss was in aggressive mood against his younger opponent, who was born 11 years ago, to book a place in the semi-finals after a 6-4 6-4 victory in the opening game of the second set and went on to exact sweet revenge for his defeat in their last meeting, 17-times grand slam champion Federer said.

“I think it was a great match, I played very well. There was nothing in the game today that wasn’t working. “I think it was a high-level match. I’m unbelievably happy with the way it went.”

Earlier, Simon moved into his first Masters Series final in six years after outclassing Spaniard Feliciano Lopez. The world number 29 faced little pressure on his serve and dominated the match from the baseline with some sumptuous groundstrokes to take the 33-year-old Lopez 6-2, 7-6 (1). Lopez, who knocked out Rafa Nadal in the second round, netted a backhand volley to hand Simon the first break of the match in the third game and the tall Spaniard only had himself to blame as a double fault gifted a second break.

Stosur downs Diyas to take another Osaka title

TOKYO, 12 Oct — Australia’s Samantha Stosur continued her love affair with the Osaka hardcourts by claiming a third Japan Open title after edging Zarina Diyas of Kazakhstan in Sunday’s final.

The top seed prevailed 7-6(7), 6-3 over her 20-year-old opponent, who was competing in her first WTA final. Stosur, whose only previous Masters Series final appearance came in 2008 in Madrid, and sounded a warning for Sunday’s opponent. “I’m not going to come into the match and play terrible,” he said.

Heads to head record against Simon, whose only previous Masters Series final appearance came in 2008 in Madrid, and sounded a warning for Sunday’s opponent. “I’m not going to come into the match and play terrible,” he said.

“It just won’t happen — not in the finals, not against Simon. That’s the confidence I have right now.”

Forget Keane or Pietersen, Hodgson is a Dave Sexton fan

LONDON, 12 Oct — Autobiographies by former footballer Roy Keane and ex-England cricketer Kevin Pietersen have dominated the headlines this week, but the best book England manager Roy Hodgson has read was by former Manchester United manager Dave Sexton.

Sexton, who also managed Chelsea, Queens Park Rangers and the England Under-21s during a long coaching career, died in 2012, but Hodgson recalled his book at the end of a week when Keane attacked his old Manchester United team-mate Alex Ferguson and Pietersen weighed in against many of those he played with for England. “I’m not a great reader of autobiographies but that doesn’t mean I wouldn’t or don’t want to,” said Hodgson in the build-up to England’s Euro 2016 Group E qualifying match against Estonia in Tallinn on Sunday. “I’ve read one or two from American football and basketball which made a big impression on me but that is on the leadership front, more than the nuances of their sport or explaining their past,” said Hodgson.

“Most books I ever read was Tackle Football by Dave Sexton.”

“Tactile Football by Dave Sexton”

England’s soccer team coach Roy Hodgson

His current preoccupation is coaching England towards the European Championships in France and, after a disappointing World Cup in Brazil, England have started the qualifying campaign brightly with wins over Switzerland and San Marino.

They should make it three out of three with a victory in Tallinn on Sunday, Hodgson said.

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Bryn's achieve another record with Masters slam

POLAND stunned world champions Germany with first win

Fabregas pleads for patience as Spain criticism mounts

Klinsmann recalls World Cup starters for Honduras friendly

Poland's Arkadiusz Milik scores past Germany's goalkeeper Manuel Neuer and Jerome Boateng (R-L) during their Euro 2016 group D qualifying soccer match at the National stadium in Warsaw, Poland, 12 Oct. — Reuters

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