President U Thein Sein meets Chairman of MeySen Academy School, Chancellor of Australian National University and former FM

President U Thein Sein to attend 10th ASEM Summit in Milan

The Ministry of Energy is planning to boost the production of electricity within two years, especially from natural-gas fired electric power sector. PHOTO: KVSPEAKS.COM

Energy Bill limits on extraction, selling natural gas, electricity

Correction

Please read 2014-2015 fiscal year instead of 2014-2015 fiscal year in the 7th line in 2nd paragraph of the story under the heading of “Myanmar Timber Enterprise invites open tender” on front page of this daily issued on 13-10-2014.—Ed

IMFC provides focus on structural reforms to create more growth, more jobs for uneven global recovery
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses legal protection for two Myanmar nationals accused of murder in Thailand and peace process

Representatives attending Monday’s session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw

Labour camps have been transformed into vocational training centres: Deputy Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Oct—The Correctional Department has transformed labour camps into agricultural and vocational training centres and there are now over 10,000 prisoners in 46 agricultural and vocational training centres, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun told the Pyithu Hluttaw on Monday.

A health staff is appointed to each training centre and prisoners are allowed to receive medical treatment at hospitals and from local and international health organizations, the deputy minister added.

Although the prisoners have to work at the centres, they offer themselves to go to the centres of their own volition as they have the opportunities to enjoy the environs, holidays and full remission, to spend three days with their families every month and to learn agriculture, livestock breeding and manufacturing methods, according to the deputy minister.

In addition, a prisoner at the centre earns K 200 per day and they can take out the money when they are released, the deputy minister added.

In conclusion, the deputy minister said that the Correctional Department has been taking measures to enable prisoners to enjoy their rights by adopting the Standard Minimum Rule of the United Nation.

Pyithu Hluttaw session today discussed the use of sub-standard pesticides and human resources development and approved the Myanmar Port Authority bill.

MNA

9th ACWC meeting emphasizes protection of rights of women and children

YANGON, 13 Oct—ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) held its ninth meeting at Sedona Hotel in Yangon on Monday morning.

Director-General U Soe Kyi of Social Welfare Department and Chairperson of ACWC Ms Datin Paduka Intan Kassin made opening addresses.

The Director-General said that Myanmar is implementing the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women 2013-2022 for development of women’s life. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement cooperates with UN agencies and NGOs in drawing the prevention of vio-

lence against women law.

He stressed the need for ACWC to accelerate tasks of ASEAN Charter and ASEAN Roadmap.

The meeting was also attended by representatives of ASEAN Secretariat, officials of UN agencies, the ministry and Myanmar Women’s Affairs Organization.

MNA

Energy Bill limits on extraction, selling natural gas, electricity

(from page 1)

Myanmar has one of the lowest electricity rates in the world, with only 33 percent of the population having an electricity connection, the World Bank said.

The World Bank Group is committed to Myanmar’s energy development. In January 2014 President Thein Sein announced a $1 billion in financial support to expand electricity generation, transmission and distribution in the country.—GNLM

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

formed the international donors’ organization with Norway, Britain, Australia, the European Union, the United Nations and the World Bank on 12 June 2012 in order to get international assistance for the peace process, he added.

In addition, the union minister said that the member countries has a policy to contribute financial assistance fully only when the nationwide ceasefire has been reached.

The office building of the MPC worth US$ 1.2 million was offered by Japan while the EU has intended to spend 5 million euros on the peace process of Myanmar. UN Peace Building Fund provided 7 vehicles, two generators and communication equipment worth US$ 40,4600 for the MPC, according to the union minister.

Nippon Foundation has provided 57,399 bags of rice and medicines for 14 ethnic groups and the local people so far and negotiations are underway to donate basic food items worth US$ 6.3 million to about 100,000 local people.

Arrangements are being made to donate a medicated mosquito net and a solar lamp each to 17,552 households.

The union minister said that challenges and difficulties in the peace process are a reality as the government has to negotiate with large armed groups and small armed groups at the same time adding that political and economic reforms being carried out simultaneously with the peace process will give strength to overcome the challenges and difficulties.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw call for rights, justice for two murder suspects in Thailand

Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Oct—The 11th session of Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) held its 15th day meeting on Monday answering five questions and approving a bill and deciding to send a message to the President of National Assembly of Thailand.

U Sai Tin Aung, representative of Constituency No 5 of Kachin state asked whether to sell the copies of State Constitution, as well as laws and bylaws of ministries at prices for common people.

Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut said that the copies of the State Constitution is available for purchase at the bookstores of Saray Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay.

The union minister also said that these publications can be read at offices of Information and Public Relations across the country, while some 314 public digital libraries have been set up at the public areas in states and regions to be able to read the digital versions of these documents.

U Nyan Lin, representative of No.3 Constituency of Ayeyawaddy region, asked he wonder the situation of preparedness measures to submit the national intangible cultural heritages to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO.

Daw Sandar Khn, deputy minister for culture, replied that her ministry has collected a total of 254 materials, including prov-erb, hearsays, legends, customs and traditional handicrafts of ethnic people, which are to be submitted to the UNESCO.

The Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw then approved the Law Translation Commission Bill with the decision of parliamentarians.

Finaly, Amyotha Hluttaw approved the Law Translation Commission Bill with the submission of ‘Message of Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw to President of National Assembly of Thailand’, which calls for rights and justice for two murder suspects who are being arrested for murder cases two tourists in Koh Tao island in Surat Thani, southern Thailand.

MNA
President U Thein Sein meets . . .
(from page 1)
The President also received Mr Gareth Evans, Chancellor of the Australian National University and former Foreign Minister at the same venue at 3 pm to discuss peace-making process, cooperation in education sector and cooperation in human resources development.—MNA

President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo together with Mr Gareth Evans, Chancellor of the Australian National University and former Foreign Minister.—MNA

International Day for Disaster Reduction 2014 observed

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Oct — Vice President U Nyan Tun attended the ceremony to mark the International Day of Disaster Reduction 2014 at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice President said: Every Year, the International Day for Disaster Reduction is to be commemorated worldwide on 13th October according to the Resolution (64/200) of the United Nations General Assembly which was held on 21st December 2009. Likewise other countries, Myanmar has been commemorating the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction since 2010. We conducted the International Day for Disaster Reduction with the theme that United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction’s each year focus group.

We commemorated the International Day for Disaster Reduction with the theme of “Children & Young People as Partners for Disaster Risk Reduction” in 2010. The theme of this year IDDR Event is “Resilience is for life”. United Nations highlighted to build resilience by using knowledge, experiences and ideas of the senior citizens when we conduct the disaster risk reduction activities, providing humanitarian assistance and implementing the long term recovery measures.

Nowadays, each and every global Nation has to face the impacts triggered by global warming and climate change. There were 296 disasters happened and killed (21250) lives and total economic losses were (192) billions US Dollars in 2013. In Myanmar, there were 360 disasters occurred and 174,358 people were affected and total damage and losses were (853.39 million Kyats) in 2013-2014 financial year.

As you all know, we, ASEAN Member States suffer from the disasters and its impacts which are the consequences of Global Climate Change in these years. In these years, We, ASEAN are suffered from (14) disaster events.

So that the ASEAN chairman, president U Thein Sein highlighted “To prevent such tragic incidents in the future, we must work together to enhance cooperation and mutual understanding” in his speech at the commemoration day for 47th ASEAN Day in 8 August 2014.

In the Nay Pyi Taw Statement that we declared at the 24th ASEAN summit, we agreed to strengthen the vulnerable group such as children, the aged, disability and women (especially for pregnant and maternal) in this law.

In fact, National Development and Disaster Risk Reduction are inter-dependent and so whatever development efforts should be undergone through the disaster risk reduction channel.

The initial responders of disaster are local community and primarily the local Government itself is to manage the overarching impacts. In that matter, to build up the coping capacity and resilience of local community and it Government will be the most effective strategy. The government has been carrying out difference kinds of disaster management training, community based awareness raising programme, youth volunteer training to strengthen the volunteer spirit in the mindset of youth.

Currently, we are establishing Disaster Management Training Centre in Hinthada Township in Ayeyawady Region.

In addition, in the deliberation efforts, the Government implements disaster risk reduction activities link with Hyogo framework for actions and ASEAN agreement on disaster management and emergency response (AADMER) for effective response to disaster and loosely cooperation with ASEAN Coordination Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) in Jakarta, Indonesia.

In Myanmar, the Union Government created an enabling environment in disaster response, rehabilitation, reconstruction and sustainable development through effective coordination and cooperation with the various stakeholders in the time of Nargis Cyclone on 2nd and 3rd May 2008, Giri Cyclone on 22nd October 2010, Tahly Earthquake on the 24 of March 2011, Magway Flashflood on (See page 9)

Vice President U Nyan Tun views round documentary photos on efforts for disaster risk reduction.—MNA

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Basic Buddhist culture refresher course for teachers concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Oct — The trainers course 24/2014 of All Myanmar Buddhist Culture Propagation Organization (Central Branch-1) concluded at the Dhamma School in Yankin Tawya in Lewe Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Sunday.


The basic Buddhist culture refresher course was opened for basic education teachers during the Thadingyut holidays.

Officials presented certificates to the trainees. Basic education teachers from Nay Pyi Taw Council Area attended the course from 9 to 12 October.

Ko Pauck (Okkarmay)

Farmers urged to keep light traps at farmlands

KhinU, 13 Oct—Farmers of KhinU Township in Sagaing Region obtained high yield in summer paddy because local farmers together with the township management committee made attempt to prevent the rice stem borer in time in 2013-14 cultivation season.

A meeting on prevention against rice stem borer in cultivation of monsoon paddy was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department in KhinU on 11 October.

Head of Sagaing Region Agriculture Department U Khin Maung Nyunt urged the farmers to light five lighting traps per acre for prevention against the germs.

Head of District Agriculture Department U Swe gave talks on preventive measures against all pests, Head of District Agricultural Mechanization Department U Myint Hlaing, keeping lighting traps and Head of Township Agriculture Department U Soe Aung, process of making the lighting traps.

The talk was attended by members of Township Development Affairs Committee and grassroots level authorities and local farmers, totalling over 200.

KhinU Soe Wai

More than 300 dogs vaccinated in Mohnyin Tsp

MOHNYIN, 13 Oct — In commemoration of the World Rabies Day, vaccination was given to 350 dogs in Mohnyin Township of Kachin State in the last week of September, according to Head of Mohnyin District Veterinary and Livestock Breeding Department Dr Win Oo.

Township LBVDs in the district carried out educative talks for prevention against rabies to the local people and distributed pamphlets about health knowledge to the local people of 46 village-tracts in the township, he added.

Ko Gyi Kyaw (Pyinmana)

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Oct — The invitational Chinlone demonstrations were held at the birthday, donations, umbrella hoisting atop pagoda and other religious festivals in urban and rural areas of Pyinmana Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council.

On 4 October, a Chinlone team showed off excellent skills at the ceremony to mark the birthday of Mingalayamika Monastery Presiding Nakaya Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pannasiri of Aungzabu 10 ward in Zabuthiri Township. The demonstration was participated by selected players of Pyinmana Township Chinlone teams.

At the ceremony, 18 players from Myanma Ahla, 6 Star, Nawarat gold shop and Combine team performed their skills before the audiences.

Ko Gyi Kyaw (Pyinmana)
Self-reliant power line launched in rural area of Natogyi Tsp

NATOGYI, 13 Oct — A ceremony to launch the new power line on a self-reliant basis was held in Tetsi Village of Natogyi Township in Mandalay Region on Sunday morning.

Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint pressed the button to switch on the power line.

It was also attended by region ministers U Aung Zan and U Kyaw Myint and departmental officials.

At Pahtaya Yadana Beach, the Chief Minister met local people and heard reports on construction of a new school building, appointment of teachers and water supply and attended to the needs.

The Myingyan District electrical engineer shared electrical knowledge to the people. The chief minister and party met local people at Dhammayung in Kyabinang Village of Natogyi Township and explained progress of rural development and poverty alleviation being undertaken by the region government.

Thihau Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Stake driven for construction of new building at BEMS branch

Natogyi, 13 Oct — Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Than Htay drove stake for construction of new school building at Hsannchaung Basic Education Middle School Branch in Hsannchaung Village of Myanmar Township on 11 October.

The 120 feet by 30 feet building will be constructed with the use of the fund of the Ministry of Education in 2014-15 fiscal year.

It was also attended by Ayeyawady Region MPs U Aung Win Swe and U Aung Myo Nyunt, the township administrator and local authorities.

Win Bo-Township IPRD

Ordination hall, pagodas to be built in Ottarathiri Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Oct — Plans are underway to build Mingala ordination hall and two Pagodas in No 2 Shwenatha Monastery of Myoma Shwenatha Ward of Ottarathiri Township.

The presiding abbot of the monastery allowed to build the religious edifice on the land plot of the monastery. The ordination hall will be 100 feet by 80 feet and it is designed to accommodate 40 people.

The Pagodas will be nine elbows high on the hillock near the monastery.

Ko Gyi Kyaw (Pyinmana)

Philanthropic association actively takes part in social welfare tasks

PYINMANA, 13 Oct — With the donations of local and foreign wellwishers, “Helping hands” Pyinmana Parahita Association opens a clinic to provide health care services to the people free of charge at Tagundaung Monastery in Yanaung Ward 1 in Pyinmana of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area from 1 pm to 3 pm on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.

The association formed a blood donors group for patients in emergency cases. Moreover, it manages donation of oxygen to the needy patients round the clock.

Ko Gyi Kyaw (Pyinmana)

CCA course provided to more than 600 basic education teachers in Htigyaing

HTIGYAING, 13 Oct — A multiplier course for child-centred approach was opened at the hall of Basic Education High School in Htigyaing of Katha District in Sagaing Region on 10 October.

Township Education Officer U Tin Tun explained the purpose of conducting the training course and important role of responsibility and accountability for the staff. The training course will last 12 days. A total of 640 teachers from basic education schools in the township are attending the course.

Kyaw Khe (IPRD)

International Day for Disaster Reduction 2014 marked in Mandalay

THATON, 13 Oct — A literary talk was given at the Basic Education Primary School in Chaung-wa of Naungbo Village in Thaton Township of Mon State on 12 October.

Staff Officer Daw Khin Saw Lin of District Information and Public Relations Department gave lectures on durability of libraries, Dr Min Zaw of Thaton bookworms association, reading, and writer Shwehtton Khin Thida Hlaing, let’s read to broadening horizon.

The District IPRD donated books and publications to Phungon Yadana new generation association.

They all met at the roundtable to discuss raising the reading habit and literary affairs.

Thaton District IPRD

Enthusiasts discuss raising reading habit in Thaton

MANDALAY, 13 Oct — A ceremony to mark the International Day for Disaster Reduction 2014 was observed at the hall of Mandalay Education College in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on Monday, with an address by Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint.

U Aung Lin of UNDP read the message sent by the secretary-general of the United Nations.

The chief minister and officials presented prizes to the winners in the essay, poem and painting contests.

They viewed the documentary photos on rescue and relief tasks at earthquakes, floods and storms that occurred in Mandalay Region.

Local youths are under training for taking preparedness measures against natural disasters and disaster risk reduction. A total of 212 youths from seven districts of Mandalay Region are attending the training courses.

Thihau Ko Ko (Mandalay)
**Battambang,** (Cambodia), 13 Oct — Brigadier General Sar Theth is the police chief of Battambang, a languid riverside town in western Cambodia. You could also call him the seven million dollar man.

On 19 September, Sar Theth’s officers tracked three Thai men in a pick-up truck as it passed through a remote police checkpoint from Thailand. When the truck stopped in the Cambodian district of Phnom Preak, the police pounced. Inside, said Sar Theth, they found three cardboard boxes packed with $7.16 million in counterfeit hundred-dollar bills, the largest seizure of fake US notes in Southeast Asia for about a decade and the biggest ever in Cambodia.

“If I close my eyes and touch it, I wouldn’t know it was fake,” he said, rubbing one of the fake $100 bills with his hand between thumb and forefinger at Battambang police headquarters.

According to the US Secret Service, whose agents investigate financial crime worldwide alongside their better-known role as presidential bodyguard, the huge bust points to a well-oiled counterfeiting operation in neighboring Thailand, where identical notes had previously been seized. The alleged involvement of Thai military personnel — the three men arrested were serving or former officers of the Royal Thai Navy — could also embarrass Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha. A former general, Prayuth seized power in a 22 May military coup.

Prayuth’s former officers — the three men in the Battambang operation between the Secret Service and local police. For the amount of currency circulating, three-quarters of that $1 trillion — or about $2.5 billion — are fake, said J Kevin Traylor, a Secret Service agent based at the US Embassy in Bangkok. “For the amount of currency out there, we have very little counterfeiting,” he told Reuters. “That’s why the dollar is trusted.”

By comparison, global losses from credit, debit and prepaid card fraud in 2012 totaled about $11.3 billion, according to the Nilson Report, an industry newsletter. In South America, where narco-trafficking and counterfeiting often go hand in hand, big seizures of fake bills are not uncommon.

In June, the Secret Service helped the Peruvian police arrest a suspected forger along with $4.5 million in fake dollars. But such seizures are rare in Southeast Asia. The Cambodian bust could suggest both an upsurge in counterfeiting and better cooperation between the Secret Service and local police. For the Secret Service, seizing notes is secondary to finding the printing presses and shutting them down.

The agency was created in 1865 as a branch of the US Treasury to tackle rampant counterfeiting after the Civil War. It was another 36 years before its agents began protecting presidents, vice-presidents and other VIPs. Even today, most of its 3,200 special agents are busy investigating financial crime.

Traylor, who visited Battambang to inspect the $7.16 million haul in early October, said $1 million of the same “better-than-average” fakes had already been seized in Thailand. One person has been arrested in the Thai investigation.

“It is a note that is starting to be manufactured in larger quantities and our investigation points to Thailand as the origin,” he said. “We will continue our efforts to locate the plant.”

In 2013, with Secret Service help, Thai police made 67 arrests and seized $3.7 million in fake dollars. This year’s tally is already at 76 arrests and $5.6 million seized, not including the Cambodia bust. The special inks and paper used by the US Treasury to print dollar bills are tightly controlled. This has helped eradicate offset printing of fakes in the United States, where counterfeiters rely on methods such as inkjet printing or color photocopying.

But offset printing — in which the inked image is “offset” from a plate to a rubber blanket and then onto the paper — is still commonly used outside the United States to produce convincing fakes in greater volume. The process requires expensive inks and presses, as well as skilled artists.

“You need talented people to do this,” said Special Agent Traylor. And time: he reckoned $7.16 million could take perhaps two months to make. — Reuters

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**Indonesia, Sri Lanka joint efforts to tackle human smuggling**

**Jakarta**, 13 Oct — Indonesian and Sri Lankan foreign ministers met here on Monday, discussing ways to step up efforts in addressing human smuggling issue and boosting bilateral trade, which is targeted to reach one billion US dollars next year.

Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister Marty Natalegawa met with his Sri Lankan counterpart Gamini Lakshman Peiris at Marty’s office.

The Indonesian minister said Indonesia and Sri Lanka have similar problems related to the issue as the two nations consistently send workers to foreign countries.

Marty said both nations are actively working in international forum of Bali Process that addressing the issue.

According to Marty, it takes further cooperation and agreements with other countries which have similar problems such as Bangladesh, the Philippines, India and Australia.

Indonesia has been a stopover for illegal movement of people from South Asia, Middle East countries, which are aiming to enter Australia to seek better life there after they fled from their war-torn countries.

Besides discussing ways to address the human smuggling issue, the two ministers also discussed ways to improve further cooperation in economy, trade, investment, farming, fishing and tourism.

“We agreed to spur this effort so as to boost up this good relationship to an even better condition,” Marty said, adding that with all of those improvements, bilateral trade between the two nations is expected to reach one billion US dollars next year.

In his statement conveyed in the event, Sri Lanka Foreign Minister Gamini Lakshman Peiris said improvement of ties with Indonesia would give significant benefits to his country in terms of economy, politics and development of human resources and health services.

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**China positive about promoting parliamentary exchanges with Japan**

**Beijing**, 13 Oct — China’s top legislature on Monday showed a positive stance toward resuming parliamentary exchanges with Japan’s parliament, despite prolonged souring relations between the two countries.

The Chinese willingness was expressed during a meeting in Beijing with a Japanese delegation led by Ichiro Asawa, a senior lawmaker of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

But the Chinese side, including Zhang Ping, vice-chairman of the National People’s Congress Standing Committee, and Caio Weizhou, deputy secretary-general of the panel, did not say when it wants to restart the exchanges, according to Asawa.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Asawa, head of the lower house steering committee, said he told the Chinese officials that Japan wants to realize the resumption “by the end of this year or March next year at the latest.”

Without specifying any timeframe, the Chinese side said it also wants to resume making contacts between the congress and Japan’s House of Representatives through “mutual efforts,” and is prepared to send a delegation to Tokyo at an appropriate time, according to Asawa. The exchanges have been stalled since January 2012 as relations between Tokyo and Beijing have been seriously damaged over a territorial dispute and wartime issues.

Since 2005, Japan’s Diet and the congress had organized a meeting almost once a year to discuss bilateral and regional affairs.

The parliamentary delegation made the visit at a time when the two countries are exploring the possibility of arranging the first official meeting between Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of a regional summit next month in Beijing. — Kyodo News

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**Record bust in Cambodia signals Thai dollar counterfeiting boom**

**Police and court officials examine notes from a seized haul of $7.16 million in counterfeit hundred-dollar bills, in Battambang on 30 Sept., 2014.** — Reuters

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**Emperor, Empress attend opening ceremony for sports event**

Japan’s Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko wave as they attend an opening ceremony for the national athletic meet at an athletic stadium in the city of Isahaya, Nagasaki Prefecture on 12 Oct, 2014. — Kyodo News
Kerry pushes for Mideast peace, donors pledge $5 billion for Palestinians

CAIRO, 13 Oct — US Secretary of State John Kerry called on Sunday for a renewed commitment to achieving Middle East peace, saying a lasting deal between Israel, the Palestinians and all their neighbours was possible. But prospects for a renewed peace process appeared dim as Kerry offered no specifics on how to restart negotiations in his speech to a Gaza reconstruction conference that raised more than $5 billion (3.1 billion pounds) in aid for the Palestinians after a devastating war in the tiny coastal territory.

The small but amicable Gulf Arab state’s close ties to Hamas, an offshoot of the Brotherhood lim Brotherhood last year. Israeli President (Barack)Obama, himself and the United States to try to do that,” he said. “ Make no mistake: What was compelling about a two-state solution a year ago is even more compelling today, “ added Kerry, referring to the long-term goal of an independent, democratic Palestinian state living peacefully alongside Israel.

President Putin announced an additional $212 million in US aid to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, which was badly damaged during a conflict with Israel in July and August in which 2,100 Palestinians died, most of them civilians.

An estimated 18,000 homes and vital infrastruc- turn were destroyed in the seven-week war between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist militant group Hamas.

The Palestinians have put the cost of reconstruc- tion at about $4 billion and Norway’s Foreign Minister Borge Brende said the conference had secured $5.4 billion in aid, half of which would be used for rebuilding Gaza and the rest could go to other Palestinian areas.

A ceasefire is not peace, and we’ve got to find a way to get back to the table and help people make tough choices, real choices,” said Kerry.

The Palestinian Au- thority hopes that moves by a new unity government towards assuming control in Hamas-dominated Gaza could make wealthy donor states less wary of provid- ing reconstruction aid.

Among countries of- fering reconstruction aid for Gaza, Qatar offered $1 billion, Kuwait and United Arab Emirates promised $200 million each and Tur- key pledged $200 million.

“Qatar’s relations with Egypt have been strained since then army chief Abd al Fattah al Sisi toppled Islamist President Moh- hamed Mursi of the Mus- lim Brotherhood last year.

The small but amb- itious Gulf Arab state’s close ties to Hamas, an offshoot of the Brother- hood, also angered Egypt, which is influential across the Arab world. Israel and the United States consider Hamas a terrorist organisa- tion. When journalists were allowed in briefly for the start of one-on-one talks in a Cairo suburb, Kerry was overheard asking Palestin- ian President Mahmoud Abbas: “Did you hear about Qatar?” presumably referring to the $1 billion pledge.

France said it would contribute 40 million euros (31.4 million pounds) to the Palestinians and Ger- many offered 50 million euros. Britain’s ambassadors to Egypt, John Casson, told Reuters London would provide $32 million for the reconstruction efforts. EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton said pledges from the bloc’s 28 member states would reach 450 million euros. It was not immediately clear whether the sum included the separate contributions announced by Germany, France and Britain.

“We can’t allow people in Gaza to sink into despair,” German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said in a statement.—Reuters

Jean Tiroler wins 2014 Nobel Prize for Economics

STOCKHOLM, 13 Oct — French econo- mist Jean Tirole won the 2014 econom- ics Nobel Prize for his analysis of market power and regulation, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said on Monday.

“Jean Tirole is one of the most in- fluential economists of our time,” the award-giving body said. “Most of all he has clarified how to understand and regu- late industries with a few powerful firms.”

The economist will receive an 8 million Swedish crown ($1.1 million) (683,187 pound) prize.

The economics prize, officially called the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, was established in 1968. It was not part of the original group of awards set out in dyna- mate tycoon Nobel’s 1895 will.—Reuters

Putin, government to discuss implementation of president’s state-of-nation address

Russian President Vladimir Putin

MOSCOW, 13 Oct — Russian President Vladimir Putin will hold a regular meeting with government members on Monday to discuss implementation of tasks set in his last year’s state of the nation address to the Federal Assembly, the Kremlin press service said on Monday.

In his annual state-of- the-nation address to the Federal Assembly in December 2013, Putin outlined main areas of work, instruments and techniques to achieve Russia’s future development goals.

These included general principles of local self-government organisa- tion, issues concerning development of healthcare and education systems, and large-scale construction of affordable housing.

Putin stressed the need to resume sustainable eco- nomic and labour produc- tion growth, in which factors such as high-quality education should be fully implicated.

Improving living and working conditions in rural areas, and establish- ing modern, comfortable infrastructure there were considered agenda prior- ities alongside improving the business climate in the country and controlling capital flight and repatriat- ing Russian money hoard- ed abroad.

The incomes of com- panies that are registered in offshore jurisdictions and belong to Russian owners or whose ultimate benefi- ciaries are Russian nation- als must follow Russian tax laws, and tax payments must be made to the Rus- sian budget, Putin said.

The president special- ly stressed that the develop- ment of Siberia and the Far East should be Russia’s national priority for the entire 21st century, sug- gesting that a network of special territories should be created to offer attractive conditions to non-resource industries.

“If a decision has been made, then it must be imple- mented,” Putin said. “I consider this approach to be a concise expression of shared responsibility, and would suggest making this the motto of the coming year, a motto for everyone: for the government, for so- ciety, for citizens.

The incomes...
Great babysitters are needed for twin sisters

By Aung Khin

Myanmar and Thailand have agreed on the establishment of twin provinces or sister provinces to foster a closer relationship between the key bordering provinces. Under the agreement, three provinces of Myanmar—Kenton, Myeik and Kawthaung—and Chiang Mai, Prachup Khiri Khan and Rang of Thailand will be declared sister provinces.

The nature of twin relationship is a form of legal and social agreement between towns, cities, counties, oblasts, prefectures, provinces, regions, states, and even countries in geographically and politically distinct areas to promote cultural and commercial ties.

Such movement was established by Dwight D.Eisenhower, the 34th President of the United States from 1953 until 1961 after the Second World War to set up people-to-people connections, citizen diplomacy, and thus cement the peace.

Many cities across the world have entered into relationships or partnerships with other cities called sister cities. State leaders have some idea behind forming a sister city partnership to forge cultural and commercial ties between two different areas of the globe. Sister city partnerships always involved local governments, but they can also include local businesses and citizens.

What the most important is the twin sisters will need great babysitters who can fully take care of the former. The latter are responsible for nurturing both sisters without bias. Systematic plans for short and long terms are required to overcome some challenges and to ensure peaceful coexistence at both sides.

Gaining English Language Proficiency

By Tommy Pauk

When you learn a human language you will find the different expressions both in spoken and in written forms. The main aim to use a certain language is to communicate each other. As we know, English is a Universal language and many different nations use it in the world. In USA, UK, Canada, Australia, Canada, it is their official language. The power and usefulness of English language are very significant in the Information Technology, Computer Sciences, Education, Navigation, Aviation Industry, Space communications, Satellite Communications, the globalization of world trade, Hospitality Industry and Diplomatic relations etc. In communicating with English speaking people, you may encounter some misunderstanding and confusion unless you are proficient in English language. Therefore, a person who intends to use English as a second language must be proficient in different usages and expressions. Besides, he needs a language exposure as much as he can. He must learn English language constantly and tries to master a language skill by using systematic approach. There is no short-cut method for learning any language. No matter you cross the border line, learn a traditional way or learn a modern way, it is compulsory to know the terms below:

• Grammar: The set of rules that explain how words are used in a language for speech or writing
• Parse: To divide (a sentence) into grammatical parts and identify the parts and their relations to each other
• Syntax: The way in which words are put together to form phrases, clauses or sentences
• Semantics: The study of the meanings of words and phrases in language
• Lexicon: The words used in a language or by a person or group of people

Basically, let us learn some expressions in English language which are differently used for various intentions and purposes among English speaking communities and people. Learning the following expressions will be very useful and helpful for those who want to acquire a good command of English.

• Reported speech: A way of reporting what someone said without repeating their exact words. Look at two sentences; A. Julia said, ‘I don’t want to go’. B. Julia said that she did not want to go. The clause ‘that she did not want to go’ is indirect speech and the clause ‘I don’t want to go’ is direct speech.

• Colloquial expression: It is informal way of saying or writing. E.g. “On the blink”, meaning not working. Example sentence: “The photocopier is on the blink.”

• Slang expression: It is informal way of saying or writing. It is peculiar to a particular group or class.

The nature of twin relationship is a form of legal and social agreement between towns, cities, counties, oblasts, prefectures, provinces, regions, states, and even countries in geographically and politically distinct areas to promote cultural and commercial ties.

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**NATIONAL**

**Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker receives Chancellor of the Australian National University and former FM**

**Nav Pyi Taw, 13 Oct** — Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) Thura U Shwe Mann received Mr Gareth Evans, Chancellor of the Australian National University and former Foreign Minister at the hall of Pyithu Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday. Also present at the call were Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo and officials of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Offices.—MNA

**Threats of nuclear weapons discussed**

**Nav Pyi Taw, 13 Oct** — Mr Gareth Evans, Chancellor of the Australian National University and former Foreign Minister, called on U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs at the ministry on Monday. They discussed matters relating to the threats posed by nuclear weapons and international collaboration to achieve a world where nuclear weapons are ultimately eliminated and the active participation of Myanmar in the field of nuclear disarmament. MNA

**4th gems and utility jade sales 14-20 October**

**Nav Pyi Taw, 13 Oct** — Gems emporiums are held with the aim of creating job opportunities and developing the domestic jewellery industries, said Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung at the coordination meeting of the central committee for sales of uncut gems and utility jade at the Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

Officials of the sub-committees reported on preparations for holding the emporium.

The chairman of the central committee and deputy ministers gave supplementary reports on preparation for the gems emporium.

The 4th gems and utility jade sales will be held at Mami Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw from 14 to 20 October.

On 14 and 15 October, the merchants can check the gems. On 16 October, 160 lots of gem lots will be sold through open tender. A total of 6,982 lots of utility jade sales will be sold from 17 to 20 October. MNA

**Election Sub-commissions prepare for compilation of voters list for 2015 elections**

**Nav Pyi Taw, 13 Oct** — A clarification on compilation of voters list for Union Election Commission and sub-commissions at different levels was held in conjunction with the coordination meeting on election tasks at the hall of UEC in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

UEC member U Myint Naing explained compilation of the voters list, UEC member U Win Kyi, plans for collecting the voters list across the nation and an official of Ministry of Immigration and Population, the word of citizenship in the second amendment of the Political Parties Registration Law.

UEC member U Win Kyi said that voters list will be gathered across the nation through three steps—first step from November 2014 to January 2015, the second from December to March 2015 and the last from February to May 2015.

An official of International Foundation for Electoral System (IFES) explained a plan to keep the data of voters lists across the nation at the main server of the commission office.

Chairmen of regional/sub-commissions reported preparations for 2015 elections. MNA

**94th anniversary Myanmar Motion Picture Day marked**

**Yangon, 13 Oct** — Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway attended the ceremony to mark the 94th anniversary Myanmar Motion Picture Day and the 51st ceremony to pay respects to older persons at the office of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization in Bahan Township of Yangon on Monday morning.

Chairman of the organization U Lu Min extended greetings.

The deputy minister and party visited the charity fair donated by film producers, artists, entrepreneurs and wellwishers. The deputy minister inspected production of school text books for 2015-2016 academic year at Photothiko Press of Pringing and Publishing Enterprise in Bahan Township.—MNA

_No unlicensed car imported through Hteekee border-trade station_

**Yangon, 13 Oct** — Contrary to the claims of the locals, no unlicensed car is imported through Hteekee border trade station in Taninthayi Region from southern Thailand, according to an official of the border-trade station who requested anonymity.

“We are working in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Ministry of Commerce. We just collect duties for goods imported or exported through our station. Over one thousand vehicles transport goods through our station every day with trade licenses issued with one-stop service,” the official added.

Bamboo shoot, corn, cashew nuts and pepper are exported from Myanmar and cosmetics, foodstuff and a few vehicles are imported from Thailand through the border-trade station.

The official said that vehicles are legally imported through the border-trade station but locals accused officials at the border-trade station of turning a blind eye to smuggling of unlicensed cars into the country. “There are about 3 trucks smuggling unlicensed cars into the country through the border-trade station every day and this means about 30 unlicensed cars are smuggled in the country every day,” said a local named U Zaw Htay.

The border-trade station connecting Hteekee and southern Thailand was opened in May, 2013. MNA

**AFC U-19 Championship 2014**

Iran 2 : 0 Myanmar

**International Day . . .**

(from page 3)

20th October 2011, Thabakhkyin Earthquake on 11th November 2012, social disasters occurred in Kachin and Rakshine States and also recent seasonal floods occurred Nationwide.

What more I would like to urge is that the active engagement of whole public in the disaster awareness programmes, preparedness and prevention, emergency response, rehabilitation and resettlement is very critical and shall disaster reduction be include as the agenda of all stakeholders. “Let’s build the disaster resilience lifestyle” through active participation on risk reduction actions individually and globally.

Resident Representative of the UN Agencies Ms Renata Dessallien read the message sent by the UN Secretary-General.

Union Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, union ministers and Resident Representative of the UN Agencies Ms Renata Dessallien presented prizes to the winners in the painting, essay, article and poem contests in commemoration of the International Day of Disaster Reduction.

Later, the vice president viewed documentary photos of disaster risk reduction.—MNA
Few Serbian citizens are fighting on battlefields abroad

BELGRADE, 13 Oct — Zoran Babic, caucust whip of the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) as the central party in the government coalition, stated Sunday that the information of security services shows that only a dozen Serbian citizens or several dozens at most are fighting on battlefields abroad. The Serbian parliament adopted on Friday the amendments to the Criminal Code increasing the penalties for individuals wishing to take part in wars abroad so that the state could prevent citizens from departing for battlefields worldwide regardless of their geographic position, be it Syria, Iraq or Ukraine, Babic said and added that the location makes no difference.

Serbia does not want to close its eyes and ignore the participation of our citizens in clashes on battlefields abroad for various reasons, be they financial or ideological, Babic told the Belgrade-based Television Pink.

This is why the amendments to the Criminal Code increased the penalties for those wishing to take part in clashes abroad, Babic said and added that citizens already participating in armed conflicts abroad can return to Serbia but they will be held accountable for their actions. He recalled that the sentence for the criminal act of participation in clashes abroad adds up to six months to five years of imprisonment, while organizers can be sentenced to one to eight years of prison.

Serbia wants to export its expertise, goods and service and to be famous for sports and other results, not for the trail of its citizens on battlefields worldwide, he said. We are struggling to improve the country’s image abroad and to act as a stability factor in the region, and we are members of the coalition in the fight against terrorism, Babic underlined.

He said that the government wants its citizens to stay in Serbia and be functional members of the community instead of armed bombs.

Babic said that the amendments to the law send a clear signal to everyone — who was on the wrong line of thought.

NZ raises terror-threat level from very low to low

SYDNEY, 13 Oct — The New Zealand government has raised its terror-threat level from very low to low, Prime Minister John Key said in a statement on Monday, with the elevation meaning a terror attack is now being assessed as “possible but not expected.”

“Our national threat level has been increased by official threat assessments from very low to low, which means that where previously the threat of a terrorist attack was assessed as unlikely, it is now assessed as possible but not expected,” Key said in a statement.

He noted that the authorities were aware of “a small amount” of New Zealanders who had travelled overseas to fight for the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS) and others who had the desire to do so.

“Although the number of New Zealanders in these situations is modest compared with the actual numbers of our partners, they are significant relative to New Zealand’s size. And they do represent a change in the New Zealand context,” he said.

Key also announced a four-week review of legislation in relation to foreign fighters.

“Without preempting the outcome of the review, it is likely to recommend that some urgent changes be made to legislation,” he said.

New Zealand’s decision to elevate the country’s terror-threat level is in line with recent developments in Australia and Britain.

Kyodo News

Policewoman killed in China’s Xinjiang

BEIJING, 13 Oct — Two “thugs” stabbed to death a policewoman in the Chinese region of Xinjiang where the government says Islamists are using violence to push for a separate state, media reported on Monday.

The motorcycle-mounted attackers used sharp weapons to “creului attack and kill” the policewoman, China Central Television (CCTV) said on its official microblog on Monday.

Media did not specify the ethnicity of the policewoman but just Eng by her name, she was Uighur, a Muslim minority that calls Xinjiang home. CCTV cited a colleague of the woman as saying she was two months pregnant.

The attack occurred on Friday near a market in Pishan county, in Hotan prefecture.

Heavy restrictions on journalists in Xinjiang, where China has attributed recent violence to Islamist separatists it says seek to establish an independent state, make verifying details about incidents difficult.

Hundreds of people have been killed in the region in the past two years, most in violence between Uighurs and ethnic majority Han Chinese.

The government has also blamed attacks in other parts of China, including Beijing, on militants from Xinjiang.

The attack on the policewoman follows the killing of a state-backed Uighur imam in July, incidents that suggest growing antagonism toward Uighurs aligned with the government.

Exiled Uighur groups and human rights activists say the government’s own repressive policies in the region, on the borders of Central Asia, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, have provoked unrest, an accusation the government denies.

In September, state media said police shot dead 40 rioters, some of whom were seeking to blow themselves up, after explosions went off in Lantai county.

Almost 100 people died in unrest in south Xinjiang’s Shache county in July, which the government blamed on “terrorists” with links to the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM).

China says the ETIM has ties to al-Qaeda, but there is disagreement among security experts over the extent of its capabilities, or even that it exists as a cohesive group.

Critics of the Chinese government say it uses the ETIM as an excuse to impose repressive policies on Uighurs, including restriction on religious practices and dress.

Many Uighurs cite employment discrimination and an influx of migrant Han workers as adding to ethnic tension.

Reuters

US general sees bigger role ‘advising and assisting’ Iraqi forces

WASHINGTON, 13 Oct — US troops will probably need to play a bigger role “advising and assisting” Iraqi forces on the ground in the future, the highest ranking US military officer said in an interview broadcast on Sunday.

US forces have been bombing Islamic State fighters in Iraq since August and expanded the air campaign to Syria last month. The White House has repeatedly said it will not send ground troops back to Iraq, where President Barack Obama withdrew US forces in 2011.

But General Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, said the role of US forces could be expanded in future if Iraqi troops try to recapture Mosul, the main city in northern Iraq, which Islamic State fighters seized in June.

“Mosul will likely be the decisive battle in the ground campaign at some point in the future,” Dempsey said in an interview aired on ABC’s “This Week.” “My instinct at this point is that will require a different kind of advising and assisting, because of the complexity of that fight,” he said.

The United States used army Apache attack helicopters for the first time this past week to provide close air support to Iraqi forces. Use of the low-flying helicopters is far riskier than bombing from jets but allows closer cooperation with troops engaged in combat on the ground.

Dempsey said the decision to use the Apaches was taken to halt fighters who might otherwise have been able to attack Baghdad’s airport.

“They overrun the Iraqis — it was a straight shot to the airport. So, we’re not going to allow that to happen. We need that airport,” said Dempsey.

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Reuters
**WORLD**

**Kurds hold off Islamic State in Kobani; fighters strike in Iraq**

*Murisipinar, (Turkey) / Baghdad, 13 Oct —* Kurdish defenders held off Islamic State militants in Syria’s border town of Kobani on Sunday, but the fighters struck with deadly bombings in Iraq, killing dozens of Kurds in the north and assassinating a provincial police commander in the west.

The top US military officer suggested that Washington, which has ruled out joining ground combat in either Iraq or Syria, could nevertheless increase its role “advising and assisting” Iraqi troops on the ground in the future.

US National Security Adviser Susan Rice said on Sunday evening, killing 15 wounded. The Observatory said 36 Islamic State fighters, all foreigners, were killed the previous day, while eight Kurdish fighters had died. The figures could not be independently verified.

Gun battles were taking place on Sunday near administrative buildings the jihadists had seized two days before, it said. The fighting in Kobani has taken place within view of Turkish tanks at the frontier, but Turkey has refused to intervene to help defend the city.

“We want them to open the corridor so that our people can come and help us. We need many things,” Esma Al-Sheikh, head of the Kobani defence authority, told Reuters by telephone.

“We are in need of fighters, in need of everything.”

**Car bomber hits NATO convoy in Afghanistan, one civilian dead**

*Kabul, 13 Oct —* A suicide car bomber rammed a NATO military convoy along a major road out of Afghanistan’s capital Kabul early on Monday, killing one Afghan civilian, authorities said.

It was the second car bomb attack on international forces in Kabul in a month as Taliban insurgents and their allies stepped up attacks ahead of the withdrawal of most foreign troops at the end of the year.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack on the Jalalabad Road, a main thoroughfare with a US military base and a housing compound for UN and other international contractors and aid workers.

At least three foreigners were wounded in the blast targeting their armoured vehicles, but their identities were not known, police said.

A spokesman for the US-led NATO mission in Afghanistan said a patrol was attacked but there were no fatalities among the international force. The force does not confirm injuries.

The bomber in a Toyota Corolla drove into the convoy just before 7 am (0330 BST), said Farid Azizi, head of Kabul’s police investigation department.

“As a result of the blast, one of our countrymen was killed and three foreigners slightly wounded,” Azizi said.

Reuters television footage showed the remains of one of the white armoured vehicles, its engine blackened and mangled and side door damaged.

**Islamist rebels blamed for car bomb in Somalia, at least seven dead**

**Mogadishu, 13 Oct —** Suspected Islamist rebels detonated a car bomb in front of a popular cafe in the center of the Somali capital on Sunday evening, killing at least seven people, police and the emergency services said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but the Islamist militant group Al-Shabaab, which frequently sets off bombs or launched gun attacks in Mogadishu. It promised more attacks after it lost control of a major coastal stronghold a week ago.

“We believe al Shabaab is behind the blast,” police officer Major Nuur Farah told Reuters, saying the venue had been busy.

Mogadishu ambulance coordinators said losing Barawe, which also provided the group valuable income from illegal charcoal exports, as well as last month’s killing by US military strike of its chief, Ahmed Godane, were big blows, but not enough to crush the group, which has proved skilled at guerrilla warfare.

The group had last week it would prove it was still a potent force to those who said it had been weakened, describing abandoning Barawe as a tactical withdrawal.

**US troops remove a damaged vehicle, which was hit by a suicide attack, in Kabul on 13 Oct, 2014.**

**Reuters**

The wreckage of a vehicle after an explosion took place outside the Oromo restaurant in Mogadishu on 12 Oct, 2014.—Reuters

The figures could not be independently verified.

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**US troops remove a damaged vehicle, which was hit by a suicide attack, in Kabul on 13 Oct, 2014.**

**Reuters**
India’s opposition Congress party sacks spokesman

NEW DELHI, 13 Oct — India’s main opposition Congress party on Monday sacked flambouyant former minister Shashi Tharoor as one of its party spokespersons, highly placed sources said.

Tharoor has been removed as Congress spokes- person after he recently accepted Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s invitation to be a part of ‘Clean India’ campaign, the sources said.

In fact, the decision came after Congress par- ty’s disciplinary panel recommended the action against him, based on a report from the party’s Kerala unit, they added, adding that Congress chief Sonia Gandhi gave the go-ahead.

Tharoor, a former diplomat of the United Nations, has consistently rejected suggestions that he is moving closer to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party by asserting he is a “proud Congressman”, a source said.

Tropical Storm Fay brushes Bermuda with high winds and rain

MIAMI, 13 Oct — Tropi- cal Storm Fay swept past Bermuda drenching the British territory in the At- lantic with winds gusting to hurricane force, the US Na- tional Hurricane Centre said on Sunday.

The storm, just be- low Category 1 hurricane strength with maximum sustained winds of 70 miles per hour (110 kph), was located 85 miles (140 km) north-north-east of Bermu- da on Sunday morning, the Miami-based centre said.

A hurricane watch was still in effect for Bermuda, it warned, noting that tropical storm force winds extended 175 miles (280 km) from the centre of Fay. Bermuda reported sustained winds of 61 mph (98 kph) and a wind gust of 82 mph (132 kph) as the centre of Fay moved by the island, the hurricane centre reported.

There were no im- mediate reports of major damage on the island which has strict building codes and is well prepared for storms that sweep across the Atlantic during the June-through-November hurricane season.

An affliction island and global reinsurance centre located 640 miles (1,030 km) off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, Bermuda is home to some 65,000 people.

So far the 2014 Atlantic Hurricane season has been relatively inactive and Fay was only the sixth named storm of the year. In August forecasting offices downgraded their outlook for the season, predicting below-normal activity with seven to 12 named storms, and no more than two reaching major hurricane status.

A major hurricane is considered to be Category 3 or above with winds hitting at least 111 mph (178 kph). Below-normal temper- atures in the tropical At- lantic Oce an are making it difficult for larger storms to develop, the forecasters say.

A below-normal season just over a month later than the typical date for the sea- son’s sixth named storm, according to Jeff Masters, a hurricane expert with pri- vate forecaster Weather Under- ground.

Around 70 percent of FIC members come from the EU and this is the reason why we deeply believe that opening the formal acces- sion talks would provide an additional momentum and a signal for investors that Serbia is an attractive des- tination for foreign invest- ment, Lazovic said.

Another good sign would be an arrangement with the International Mon- etary Fund (IMF) because it would testify of the gov- ernment’s commitment to introduc- ing order in public finance, he stated.

A similar signal could come from the EU itself in case of opening Chapter 32 on financial and budget control, Lazovic noted.

He added that the cent- ral visit of FIC officials to Brussels is an indicator that Serbia is on the right track when it comes to EU accession, regardless of the fact that chapters in the ac- cession talks have not officially been opened and that the Union’s foreign policy priorities at this point rest on the EU eastern border and not in the Balkans.

Belgrade move to hold symbolic vote on Palestinian status

BRITISH parliamentarians are expected to vote in favour of a symbolic motion to recognize the state of Palestine on 17 Nov, 2011. — REUTERS

UK lawmakers will hold a symbolic parliamentary vote on Monday on whether the government should recog- nize Palestine as a state, according to new reports. The move is being considered in reaction to the rape of a Palestinian woman in the West Bank, and is the latest in a series of actions that have led to a number of debates in the British parliament.

Israel on a two-state solution, said shadow foreign minister Alan Shatter. "We are a democracy," he added, "and we must always consider the views of our constituents." The motion is expected to be tabled on Tuesday.

The House of Commons will vote on the motion, which has been tabled by San- dy Verma and has the backing of the Labour Party.

The government has not yet announced whether it will vote on the motion, but has previously stated that it will not recognize Palestinian statehood.

The motion is expected to be debated in the Commons later today, and is likely to be supported by the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats, while the Conservatives and the SNP have said they will vote against it.

The motion is a symbolic one, and does not constitute official recognition of the state of Palestine. However, it has been widely interpreted as a signal of support for the Palestinian cause.

Light trail of Hurricane Fay brushes Bermuda

MIAMI, 13 Oct — Tropical Storm Fay brushed past Bermuda on Sunday, drenching the British territory in the Atlantic with winds gusting to hurricane force, the US National Hurricane Centre reported.

The centre reported that the island was hit by winds gusting to 82 mph (132 kph) as the centre of Fay moved east of Bermuda.

The US Marine was tagged as possible suspect in Filipino’s killing

MANILA, 13 Oct — A US Marine was identified by Philippine authorities as a possible suspect in the killing of a Filipino in Olongapo City in northern Phili- ppines.

In a statement issued on Monday, the US embass- sy here also said Washing- ton will continue to fully cooperate with Philippine authorities in the ongoing investigation into the death of Jeffrey Laude, 26.

In an incident issued by the Philippine National Police, the vic- tim checked into a hotel in Olongapo City with an unidenti- fied white male foreigner.

A hotel staff found the lifeless body of Laude around 7:30 am on Sunday, a report said. The victim had been beaten and had a stab wound on his neck.

According to the local police, the victim was last seen with a US Marine on Saturday night in a restaurant.

The US Marine was identified by Philippine authorities as a possible suspect in the killing of the Filipino in Olongapo City in northern Phili- ppines.

The website www.na- vytimes.com reported that a US Marine is in custody and is being held on board the amphibious assault ship Peleliu. The ship is on a port call in Subic Bay and will be in the country until Tuesday.

Citing an internal Navy memorandum ob- tained by the Marine Corps Times, the website indicat- ed that the Naval Criminal Investigative Service is looking into the matter.

The US Marine was one of the troops deployed to the Philippines to take part in the recently con- cluded Philippine Amphibious Land Exercise.

The website said US Marine Corps officials de- nied to comment on the matter.

Faster, stronger and more efficient reforms needed

BELGRADE, 13 Oct — The reform-oriented Serbi- an government and the new convocation of the European Parliament and the Euro- pean Commission (EC) should get Serbia to the front step of EU accession, if not to full membership, before the end of their mandates, Vice President of the Foreign Investors Council of Serbia (FIC) Srdjan Lazovic said.

Commenting on the lat- est EC annual report on Ser- bia’s progress towards EU accession, Lazovic said that the report states that chapters in the ac- cession talks have not officially been opened and that the Union’s foreign policy priorities at this point rest on the EU eastern border and not in the Balkans.

Belgrade have come to the point when a new chapter in the Serbia-EU relations is about to open and during their mandates, both sides can get Serbia to the door of the EU, if they get full membership, Lazovic noted.

He added that the cent- ral visit of FIC officials to Brussels is an indicator that Serbia is on the right track when it comes to EU accession, regardless of the fact that chapters in the ac- cession talks have not officially been opened and that the Union’s foreign policy priorities at this point rest on the EU eastern border and not in the Balkans.

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Typhoon Vongfong hits Shikoku, proceeding to main island of Honshu

TOKYO, 13 Oct — A large typhoon made landfall on the western main island of Shikoku Monday afternoon after crossing the southern part of the southwestern main island of Kyushu earlier in the day, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

Typhoon Vongfong is likely to sweep through the Japanese archipelago through the next day, including areas surrounding Osaka before heading out to the Pacific off Japan’s northern coast on Tuesday morning, where it is expected to weaken to a depression.

The weather agency warns that the typhoon may bring strong winds and rain to eastern and northern Japan through Tuesday, with an hourly precipitation of 80 millimeters or more forecast mainly for the Pacific-coast side.

The strong winds and rain brought on by the typhoon since Sunday have so far injured about 40 people, including two who broke their legs after being knocked down by gusts, according to a Kyodo News tally.

A man who was fishing in Shizuoka Prefecture was found missing in high waves on Sunday evening.

Evacuation advisories were issued to about 100,000 residents in parts of Kochi Prefecture on Shikoku on Monday to prepare for possible landslides and other disasters.

Over 400 flights were cancelled the same day, many of them in and out of Kyushu and Shikoku, with service on the high-speed Shinkansen Line temporarily halted in Hiroshima Prefecture due to strong winds in the morning.

Services on part of the Kyushu Railway network were also suspended from the morning. West Japan Railway is set to cancel all conventional services in Osaka and its surrounding areas as the typhoon is expected to approach in the afternoon. The typhoon made landfall near Makarazaki, Kagoshima Prefecture, around 8:30 a.m. After coursing through the southern part of Kyushu, the typhoon made landfall again near the city of Sukumo, Kochi Prefecture, around 2:30 p.m. At 3 p.m, the typhoon, with an atmospheric pressure of 975 hectopascals at its center and packing winds of up to 162 kilometers per hour, was heading northeast around Shimanto, Kochi, at a speed of about 40 km per hour.

Total rainfall brought by the typhoon exceeded 500 mm in the town of Misato, and 400 mm in Nobeoka, both in Miyazaki Prefecture, in southeastern Kyushu. Gusts of 142 km per hour were recorded in Nishinoomote, Kagoshima.

At least 30 killed in road accident in southern Egypt

CAIRO, 13 Oct — At least 30 people were killed and 15 others injured in a road accident early Monday in Egypt’s southern province of Aswan, official news agency MENA reported. Most of the victims were local fishermen, MENA said, quoting Aswan Governor Mostafa Yusu.

The accident, involving three minibuses, happened on the Aswan-Edfo road, about 700 km south of Cairo.

Authorities are looking into the accident, but initial investigation blamed speeding as the main reason.

Road accidents in Egypt kill at least 12,000 people a year, according to official statistics. Poor road maintenance and negligence of traffic rules are thought to be major reasons behind the high incidence of accidents.—Xinhua

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 14th October, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Bago, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Regions, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, scattered in Magway and Yangon Regions, Shan State and fairly widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Lower Sagain and Mandalay Regions. Degree of certainty is (80%).


**Monica Dogra turns warrior princess on ramp**

**Lena Dunham adapting ‘Catherine, Called Birdy’ into movie**

**Wish I had enjoyed freedom more as child**

**Motherhood makes me feel at peace: Shakira**

**Mariah Carey holds solo concert in Chengdu**

**Britain musicians perform during 17th Beijing Music Festival**

American singer Mariah Carey sings at her solo concert in Chengdu, capital of southwest China’s Sichuan Province, on 12 Oct, 2014.—**XINHUA**

Donning a midnight blue-orange embellished gown, hair styled in a long braid teamed with an ornate headgear, the 31-year-old ‘Dhobi Ghat’ actress looked every bit like a warrior princess as she glided down the runway amidst loud cheers.—**PTI**

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**‘Catherine, Called Birdy’ is written by Karen Cushman and is a coming-of-age story that follows a 12-year-old girl trying to scare off potential suitors.**

**Lena Dunham announced the news at the New York Film Festival.**

**LOS ANGELES, 13 Oct—** ‘Girls’ creator and star Lena Dunham has revealed plans to adapt young adult novel ‘Catherine, Called Birdy’ into a movie. She announced the news at the New York Film Festival, reported Deadline.

Dunham, 28, said about the project, “This is actually my first time talking about it publicly. I’m very excited about it. I’m not sure when it’ll happen, but I’m in the process of working on it.”

She also expressed hopes of directing the film and detailed that she’d been interested in the book from a young age. “I’m going to adapt it and hopefully direct it. It’s hyper realistic and really pretty and it’s full of incest and beatings, but it’s a child’s story. I’ve been obsessed with it since I was a kid,” she said.

‘Catherine, Called Birdy’ is written by Karen Cushman and is a coming-of-age story that follows a 12-year-old girl trying to scare off potential suitors.

**London, 13 Oct—** Singer Shakira, who is expecting her second child with football player Gerard Pique, says motherhood makes her feel at peace and she cannot wait for the baby to arrive in the world.

The 37-year-old ‘Hips Don’t Lie’ singer, who gave birth to son Milan in January 2013, said she is well supported by Pique in handling the baby, reported Hello magazine.

“He is very involved with his son. He is always there for him, and that’s a big advantage for me as I cannot imagine it any other way,” she said.

“When you have a baby, when you feel his love, you feel so at peace with the world. You just want to share the good news and share how happy you feel,” she added.

Shakira said she is in a good space with Pique, whom she first met in 2010. “We already have what’s essential, you know? We have a union, a love for each other, and a baby,” she said.—**PTI**

**LOS ANGELES, 13 Oct—** Angelina Jolie wishes she had enjoyed her freedom more when she was younger.

The ‘Maleficent’ actress, who has children Maddox, 13, Pax, 10, Zahara, nine, Shiloh, eight, and six-year-old twins Knox and Vivienne with husband Brad Pitt, said she is glad that she had the opportunity to make mistakes away from the spotlight, reported People magazine.

Asked what advice she would give her younger self, the 39-year-old Oscar-winning actress said, “Not to change a thing. I would probably say enjoy the freedom as much as you can before it goes away. Enjoy the walks in the park and the backpacking and travelling and living.

Which I didn’t, but I would have liked to have done more before it became a little less easy to do so.”

“You can never prepare for the future, because it’s all those things that build up to who you are. You have to let your younger self be scared of things and attack things head on. Make bold choices and make mistakes, and it’s all those things that add up to the person you later become.”—**PTI**

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Diego Costa ends drought as Spain ease past Luxembourg

LUXEMBOURG, 13 Oct — Diego Costa ended his long international scoring drought with the third goal in an uninspiring 4-0 win for Spain away to minnows Luxembourg in Euro 2016 qualifying Group C on Sunday.

Brazil-born Costa had failed to find the net for his adopted country in six previous appearances but broke a duck lasting more than 500 minutes when he netted from close range in the 69th minute in a rain-lashed Luxembourg City.

David Silva opened the scoring in the 27th minute with a fine long-range strike and set up Paco Alcacer to make it 2-0 three minutes before halftime. Substitute Juan Bernat added the fourth two minutes from the end.

The European champions hardly dispelled doubts about their form following Thursday’s surprise 2-1 loss in Slovakia but the win put them back on track to qualify from a pool that also includes Ukraine, Belarus and Macedonia.

Hodgson denies plan to substitute Rooney before goal

TALLINN, 13 Oct — England manager Roy Hodgson denied he had decided to substitute Wayne Rooney just before his captain scored what proved to be the decisive goal in England’s 1-0 victory in Estonia on Sunday.

Substitute striker Rickie Lambert was warming up while Rooney was preparing to take the 74-minute free kick that produced the only goal of the Euro 2016 qualifier and gave England their third successive win in Group E.

But he went to sit back down on the bench with a smile on his face after watching Rooney’s curling set-piece cross the line as goalkeeper Sergei Pareiko fumbled the save.

ITV Sport, who televised the match, said they had seen a form prepared by the England coaching staff to hand to the fourth official indicating that Rooney was the player coming off, but Hodgson was not aware of that.

“As far as I know, no form went in,” Hodgson said. “I was in discussions with other members of my staff, I don’t know about any forms going in.”

“No doubt you’re going to produce some evidence that a form had gone in, in a minute, but that certainly wasn’t my intention, put it that way.”

Moments earlier he was asked if he had planned to take Rooney off.

“No, no,” he said.

“We were going to put Rickie Lambert on and we were discussing which of the two front players to take off.”

“I hadn’t made up my mind it was going to be Wayne Rooney, it was probably more likely to be Danny Welbeck and it had to be Danny in the end because he turned his ankle slightly.”

That substitution took place after 80 minutes when Lambert did replace Welbeck.

Rooney, who was appointed England captain in August, has now scored 43 goals in 99 appearances for his country and has moved to within one goal of Jimmy Greaves, third on the all-time list.

Bobby Charlton has topped the England scorers list since 1970 when he scored his 40th and last goal for his country in a friendly against Colombia just before the World Cup finals in Mexico.

Federer downs injured Simon to win Shanghai Masters

SHANGHAI, 13 Oct — Roger Federer claimed one of the few titles to have previously eluded him after he overcame a sluggish start to beat injured Frenchman Gilles Simon in the Shanghai Masters final on Sunday.

The Swiss 17-times grand slam singles champion triumphed 7-6(6), 7-6(2) to register his 23rd Masters Series title and first in China, where strong winds caused the roof on the Stadium Court to be closed.

The 33-year-old Federer let off a huge roar and threw both fists into the air after a battling Simon netted a return to hand the Swiss his fourth title of the year and the 81st of his career.

“Well, it just makes me very happy winning here because this tournament means a lot to me,” Federer told reporters.

“I’ve always enjoyed coming here. I’ve come close a couple of times, but I’ve always wanted to win it as a Masters 1000.

“I feel unbelievable prestige to win this event. Especially putting my hands on the trophy for the first time is a good feeling, especially putting my hands on the trophy for the first time is a good feeling.”

Federer came up with an unexpectedly high 14 unforced errors only for Simon to hand the Swiss the title.

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I must say, I’m very happy with the way I am playing. I have had all begun so well for the unseeded Simon, who broke a sloppy, error-strewn Federer in the opening game and comfortably held firm until he felt the pressure of serving for the set at 5-4 and began to crumble.

With his first serve and accurate groundstrokes deserting him, Federer had two break points but wasted the first with an alarmingly high 14 unforced errors.

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South Korean Bae wins PGA Tour season opener

AUGUSTA (Georgia), 13 Oct — South Korean Bae Sang-moon built a big lead but had to survive a mid-round slump to earn a two-shot victory at the $6 million Frys.com Open in Napa, California on Sunday.

Bae carded a final round of 73 to finish on 15-under-par 273 at Silverado Country Club in the opening event of the 2014-15 season on the PGA Tour.

Australian Steven Bowditch (67), boosted by an eagle at the par-five 16th, finished second on 13-under.

Bae posted four bogeys in a seven-hole stretch mid-round but the 28-year-old held on to take the win and pocket $1.08 million for his second victory on the PGA Tour. He also has 12 international wins.

Bae built a six-shot lead early in the final round but made the mistake of looking at the leaderboard as a mixture of nerves and excitement got the better of him as he flattered away most of his advantage.

However, none of his closest rivals could launch a serious challenge and Bae had the luxury of missing a series of short putts without ever letting his lead dip below two strokes in demanding, breezy conditions.

“Sometimes I felt exci-
ted too much and some-
times nerves and thought-
times lost focus a little,” he told reporters.

“I didn’t want to look at the
scores, but I did. I looked a lot. That’s why I made a lot of bogeys on the back nine.”

It was his first top-10 finish since he won the Byron Nelson Championship in May of last year, but he expressed confidence that this latest success would be the first of many.

“The first win, I didn’t play well last year,” he added. “I was very frustrated, very anxious and nervous, but now I’ve got the second one. I think third and fourth will come easy since I have the confidence.”

Bae said he hoped to earn a spot on the Interna-
tional team for the Presi-
dents Cup to be played in his homeland next year and also wanted to repre-
sent South Korea when golf returns to the Olympic program in 2016.

The England skipper, playing his 99th international, has now scored 43 times for his country, one behind Jimmy Grgevich who is third on the all-time list.

Estonia were reduced to 10 men for the second suc-
cessful qualifier when their captain Ragnar Klavan was sent off for a second yellow card after 49 minutes for fouling Fabian Delph, leaving them with an even tougher task.

However, they managed to frustrate England for a long period before the visi-
tors scored to maintain their perfect start to the campaign with a third successive win.

Rooney could easily have moved past Greaves’s record and gone closer to Gary Lineker’s 48-goal haul, as well as Charlton’s record tally of 49.

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