President U Thein Sein arrives in Milan

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 Oct — President U Thein Sein and party arrived in Milan, Italy on Thursday morning via Suvarnabhumi International Airport, Thailand to attend the 10th Asia-Europe Meeting and related meetings. The president and party were welcomed by Myanmar Ambassador to Italy U Myint Naung and officials at Melpensa Airport. They were put up at NH President Hotel in Milan.

According to the schedule the president will attend the EU-ASEAN Leaders Retreat, the opening ceremony of the 10th ASEM, the plenary summits and the dinner hosted by the Italian President. Romans established Milan on the plains of central Italy in about 400 B.C. Milan is the second most populous city with 1.3 million of population. Italians name Milan city as Milano. Milan is the main industrial city of Italy and a major world fashion capital.

Blue Plaque installed at Yangon’s Central Fire Station

YANGON, 16 Oct — Yangon Heritage Trust installed its fourth commemorative Blue Plaque of Yangon at the Central Fire Station in Kyauktada Township on Thursday.

The Central Fire Station near Sule Pagoda in downtown Yangon is included in the heritage building list compiled by Yangon City Development Committee and is one of the oldest buildings remaining in Yangon that retains its original use. The Central Fire Station, positioned at the center of the city, is a key Yangon building as it has been executing vital work for the city on a daily basis for more than a century.

The Vice Chairman of Yangon Heritage Trust, Daw Moe Moe Lwin, said that YHT is very proud to recognize this important heritage building by installing the Blue Plaque.

“It is representative of very remarkable architecture which complements the streetscape of Sule Pagoda Road. The road leading towards the Sule Pagoda, together with the Central Fire Station on its left side, has been a showcase of a unique urban street scene for decades. The Fire Force deserves the credit for maintaining the building always in fresh and good condition despite its old age,” she said.

Yangon first established a fire brigade in 1883, which was supplemented by volunteers from school boys of St Paul and St John schools. The city was largely constructed of timber until the 1890s, and faced constant threat of wide-scale damage from fire.

In 1896, the volunteer brigade was replaced with a fulltime salaried brigade composed of professional fire-fighters. In 1911, the municipality acquired land on Sule Pagoda Road to erect a modern Central Fire Brigade.

The building, a fine example of Edwardian architecture, is endowed with a 100 feet watch tower and was completed in 1912. It was the first fire station in Myanmar to introduce petrol or steam driven machines that replaced the horse-driven engines. The commemorative Blue Plaque stands as part of Yangon Heritage Trust’s efforts to highlight historical buildings and renowned residents who contributed.
Budget procedures explained at Pyithu Hluttaw

She was responding to a question raised at the Pyithu Hluttaw on prices in the budget allocations of ministries. If prices in budget proposals are not in accord with the price list, ministries and government organizations are asked to draw the budget proposal in accordance with the list before the budget proposals are submitted to the union government, she added.

National Planning and Economic Development Ministry and government organizations are also required to follow the directives of the President Office in purchasing by inviting open tender in a transparent manner, according to the deputy minister.

Budget proposals of the ministries are examined by the three committees responsible for construction, machines and equipment and other expenditures respectively and by the Ministry of Finance before the budget proposal are enacted as law, she said.

At the Pyithu Hluttaw session today, Deputy Minister for Education Dr Zaw Min Aung responded to the question raised by a defence services representative who asked whether monitoring measures are taken to ensure that all school-aged children are learning at school.

The deputy minister said it is difficult to monitor the schooling of all school-aged children in some areas and the ministry has to place emphasis on admission of school-aged children every year.

The Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) Session approved the coastal and inland water transport bill.

MNA

Electricity consumers to be offered deserved compensation for their losses and damage

— Amyotha Hluttaw representatives discussed the motion tabled by U Sai Kyaw Zaw Than of Shan State Constituency calling for the union government to take special measures to protect the public from electrical risks.

Concerning with the motion, Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Maw Tha Hwe said that educative measures for electric safety are disseminated to the public through leaflets, posters, talks, radio and television programmes and columns in newspapers and journals to protect the public from electrical risks.

To protect the public from the electric shocks from broken wires, earth rings, earth bar system, line guards and line link connections have been installed on power lines, according to the deputy minister.

Power lines in towns are also tested for 30 kg load and priority has been given to replace old electric lines and service lines with insulated wires while multi-transformer system, which replaces large transformers with small ones to reduce the electricity load on power lines, has been introduced.

The deputy minister said.

Arrangements are also underway to conduct training courses to enhance the skills of power line and maintenance workers, the deputy minister added.

In conclusion, the deputy minister said that electricity consumers will be offered deserved compensation for their losses and damage in accordance with the law depending on social security funds and incomes from electricity distribution.

The Amyotha Hluttaw approved the motion after representatives voted for it.

MNA

Union Border Affairs Minister looks into development programmes in western Myanmar

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MNA
Governments are responsible for improving socioeconomic status of rural peasant farmers: Vice President U Nyan Tun

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Oct—Vice President U Nyan Tun addressed a ceremony that celebrated the World Food Day at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation here on Thursday, sources said.

In his speech, U Nyan Tun said that the United Nations has set its objective of ‘Zero Hunger’ in its Millennium Development Goals as food shortage will not guarantee social wellbeing, pointing out this will not guarantee social Goals as food shortage will not guarantee social wellbeing, pointing out this will not guarantee social 

EITI practice to contribute to tax reform system relating to natural resources

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Oct—The Conference on Natural Resources Governance in Myanmar took place at the Union International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

Chairman of Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) of Myanmar Committee Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane said that Myanmar is to submit the EITI report in 2016. It is necessary to lay down sound foundations for sustainable development of EITI tasks. He stressed the need to take responsibility and accountability for EITI sector. While giving priority to long-term development of economy, the country must try hard to reduce utilization of natural resources in doing businesses.

EITI Chairman Ms Hon Clare Short said that EITI tasks will be undertaken in four states of Myanmar. She expressed her opinion that natural resources are to be used for the people and it is necessary to systematically manage incomes obtained from natural resources so as to improve living standard of the people.

Chairman of Myanmar EITI Tripartite Group Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Maung Maung Thein and party discussed implementation of Myanmar EITI process, and Managing Director Daw Hla Hla Kyi of Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise and officials reviewed experiences of State-run corporations, management of future fund for natural resources.

Myanmar EITI Director Economic Adviser to the President Dr Zaw Oo and Head of the UK Department for International Development in Myanmar Mr Gavin McGillivary explained future tasks.

Government officials are urged to protect the civic organizations in implementing the EITI tasks to be free from disturbances and threats. Knowledge dissemination about EITI tasks are to be carried out for enabling the people to know information on natural resources.

Practising EITI will attract foreign investment and build the trusts among the government, companies and people. It can contribute towards acceleration of tax system reform process concerning the natural resources.—MNA

Transport Ministry to write new Merchant Shipping Act

YANGON, 16 Oct—Ministry of Transport is planning to write a new Merchant Shipping Act as there are loopholes in the existing 1923-Act, according to the ministry.

The Union Attorney-General Office has advised the ministry to write a new act instead of amending the 1923-act which was also amended in 2007, according to an official of the ministry.

The new act will be included with issues related to safety, crewing, training for crews and signing contracts.

The ministry will hire one consultant from Sri Lanka and one from Africa to write a navigation section of the Act. —GNLM

Global Hand Washing Day held in Lewe Township

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Oct—A ceremony to mark the Global Hand Washing Day was held in Basic Education High School of Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Wednesday.

Medical Superintendent Dr Su Su Tun of 100-bed hospital and health assistant Daw Thin Khang of Lewe Township Health Department, gave educational talk about Ebola epidemic and facts about global hand washing day, sources said.

A total of 120 students of No.3 BEHS of Lewe demonstrated washing hands properly. —GNLM

MIC designates Kokang Economic Zone

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Oct—The Myanmar Investment Commission released Notification No. 59/2014 on 3 October announcing that a 1,007 acres (407513.029 square meters) of land plot was designated as the economic zone in Kokang Self-Administered Zone.

The information related to the economic zone was posted at www.dica.gov.mm.—MNA

World, Caring for the Earth”, with the year of 2014 being designated as the International Year of Family Farming, he stated.

The vice president said that family farming is considered a meritorious and praiseworthy profession in developing countries, including Myanmar, adding that governments are responsible for improving the socioeconomic status of peasant farmers, especially in rural areas.

Speaking of rural development tasks, Vice President U Nyan Tun said that Myanmar is making efforts to bring down its poverty index to 16% in 2015 by allotting land use, disbursing agricultural loans, providing scientific farming methods and technical assistance, and distributing high-yield seeds.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, the world witnesses over 800 million malnourished people on a daily basis, 100 million less than last decade.

Statistics show that one out of eight people all over the world are now undernourished on a daily basis.

The vice president pledged that Myanmar will cooperate with regional countries in the fight against hunger while implementing its sustainable development of the agricultural sector.

After the speech, Vice President U Nyan Tun declared “Myanmar National Launching of Zero Hunger Challenge” open.

Representatives from the Food and Agriculture Organization and the United Nations delivered addresses on the occasion.

Vice President U Nyan Tun presented certificates of honour to officials of the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the Korea International Cooperation Agency, the M.S Swaminathan Research Foundation of India, Great Wall Co Ltd and New Ayar Company, for their contributions to Myanmar’s agricultural development.

MNA

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Facts about human rights shared to people

YANGON, 16 Oct — Myanmar National Human Rights Commission held a talk about human rights at Thiri Yadana Hall in Nyaunglebin of Bago Region on Wednesday.

Vice Chairman of the commission U Sit Myaing gave lectures on human rights, citizens and fundamental rights in the constitution, member U Soe Phone Myint on provisions in the world human rights charter and member U Yu Lwin Aung, on formation of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and its endeavours. They replied to queries raised by those present and gave pamphlets to the attendees.—Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)

Police stations understaffed in Pathein

Police stations in Pathein are understaffed and the capacity of the police in the area dipped below 60 percent, according to U Zaw Win Kyaw, a police officer in the township.

There are only 1,135 police personnel in the township although there should be 1,929 personnel, sending the police-population ratio to 1:1,375, according to U Zaw Win Kyaw.

“Every police station in the district is understaffed. So, some policemen have to assumed duty for a long time. Fortunately, the area is peaceful for a long time. Fortunate— that although basic needs of the police are provided with the approval of the Hluttaw, only 50 percent of their needs could be fulfilled. The Ministry of Home Affairs has provided every policeman with costs for uniform and healthcare, increased salary, and miscellaneous expenses since November 2013. In addition, every policeman is allowed to receive K 1,000 for daily meal. Police-to-people ratio in Yangon Region is 1:1,375, according to U Myint Hwe, a police officer in Yangon Region, admitted that although basic needs of the police are provided with the approval of the Hluttaw, only 50 percent of their needs could be fulfilled.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has provided every policeman with costs for uniform and healthcare, increased salary, and miscellaneous expenses since November 2013. In addition, every policeman is allowed to receive K 1,000 for daily meal.

“A policeman have to work all day long but they are notorious. This may have something to do with their low salary. Most people do not trust the police and do not want the police to be involved. Fewer people are joining the police these days. However, if we are to build a better country, we need a better police force,” said Ko Aye Chan, a concerned citizen.

Myint Hwe
(Edited by MWT (GNLM))

International White Cane Day 2014 marked in Mandalay

Mandalay, 16 Oct— The International White Cane Day 2014 was launched in front of Zaygyodaw Clock Tower at the corner of 26th and 84th streets in Mandalay on Wednesday.

A total of 320 participants from 14 schools for the blind and organizations together with 136 helpers took part in the activity.

The participants started their walk from the clock tower and ended at the city hall. Local people and social organization members took care of them to be free from danger and traffic accidents along their route and donated juice, purified drinking water and snacks to them.

At the ceremony to mark the International White Cane Day 2014 held at the City Hall, the Mandalay Mayor made a speech and a participant of the activity spoke words of thanks.

The Region Minister for Planning and Economic presented commemorative trophies to 14 schools for the blind and organizations.

The music bands of schools for the blind presented songs and music to the audiences.

A total of 47 wellwishers donated K 4.01 million to the fund for the blinds.

Min Maung (Mandalay)

Mdy Sub-printing House to get four-building staff quarter

Mandalay, 16 Oct — A ceremony to drive stake for construction of the staff quarter was held at the Sub-printing House (Mandalay) of News and Periodicals Enterprise between 20th and 21st streets and 82nd and 83rd streets in Pale Ngweyaung Ward in Aungmyethazan Township of Mandalay on Thursday.

Mandalay Region Minister for Finance Dr Myint Kyu drove the stake for the staff quarter.

The staff quarter will be a four-unit four-storey building. Aung Zay Thun Company will construct the building in 2014-15 fiscal year.

Min Htet Aung
(Mandalay Sub-printing House)
Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday unveiled key labour reforms aimed at easing business and turning this country into a manufacturing hub.

“The ease of business is essential to the success of Make in India initiative. Shramaye Jayate (labour triumphs) has the same power as Satyamev Jayate (truth triumphs) does for the development of our nation,” he said in the national capital.

Modi added: “Labour problems must be seen through the eyes of the shramik (worker) not industrialists. People must change their attitude towards those who do manual labour.” Some of the labour reforms include the minimum wage being raised to 15,000 rupees (200 US dollars) from 6,500 rupees, and the minimum pension fixed at 1,000 rupees.

The reforms also intends to end the inspector raj or terror rule of inspectors that has grabbed the industry for many years.

“Inspector Raj, we heard this since our childhood and we thought it is for policemen, only but then we realized it’s a lot more,” Modi said, adding that inspectors from now on won’t be able to raid business units at their whims.

Moreover, each of 700,000 industrial units in the country will also get a unique Labour Identification Number. —Xinhua

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Moreover, each of 700,000 industrial units in the country will also get a unique Labour Identification Number. —Xinhua

New Delhi, 16 Oct — At least three people were injured in two explosions that took place in the eastern Indian state of West Bengal on Thursday, said police. The first explosion took place in a house in Hatichapar village in Malda district north of state capital Kolkata, in which two people were injured.

The other blast occurred inside a house in Samsarganj in Murshidabad district also north of Kolkata, injuring one person. The authorities are probing a blast which took place on 2 October in West Bengal’s Burdwan district. Police said “anti-social” and criminals who often store crude bombs are disposing them off resulting in such explosions.” —Xinhua

Hanoi, 16 Oct — A high-ranking Vietnamese military delegation led by Minister of Defence Phung Quang Thanh is going to pay a visit to China to boost military ties.

The visit is expected to create common awareness of regional and international security issues, contributing to healthy and sustainable development of the Vietnam-China comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership, as well as to reaffirm that defence cooperation is among the key pillars in the relations between the two parties and states.

During the visit made at the invitation of Chinese Defence Minister Chang Wanquan, the two sides are set to sign a technical memorandum on the establishment of a direct contact line between the two defence ministries, according to the Vietnamese army’s online newspaper. —Xinhua

During the visit, the two sides will discuss measures to promote bilateral defence ties for the maintenance of peace and stability between the two armies and peoples.

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Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (front) arrives in Milan on 15 Oct, 2014, to attend a two-day Asia-Europe Meeting summit that will begin the following day in the Italian city. —Kyodo News

Nepal rescue workers resume search for dozens of missing hikers

Kathmandu, 16 Oct — Mountain rescue teams in Nepal on Wednesday continued their search for dozens of missing climbers on Thursday after unseasonal blizzards and avalanches killed at least 20 people in an area that is a popular trekking route with tourists.

The death toll, which included eight foreigners and a group of yak herders, was expected to rise with so many unaccounted for after unseasonal snowstorms brought by the tail end of cyclone Hudhud that struck eastern India last weekend.

A Facebook page set up on Wednesday to help friends and relatives trace loved ones trekking in Nepal quickly filled with concerned posts from the United States, Canada, Australia and South Korea.

“Trekking season in Nepal is a popular trekking route with tourists,” said Baburam Bhandari, district governor of Mustang, the area worst hit by the disaster. “One army helicopter has already left for the site and more helicopters will be pressed into service later.”

“Trekking teams are focussed on the area around the Thorang-La area and Annapurna region, where a total of 11 climbers are unaccounted for,” he said.

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Western sanctions have positive effect on Russian public opinion — Ivanov

MOSCOW, 16 Oct — Western sanctions have had a good psychological effect on Russians, especially on those liberal-minded, the head of the Kremlin administration Sergey Ivanov said in an interview with the Kommersantovsky Pravda daily on Thursday.

“The one side, the sanctions have done certain harm and I openly admit it,” Ivanov said. “And on the other, they — strangely as it may seem — have had a positive psychological effect on the public opinion.”

“Many representatives of the so-called liberal community told me, ‘Listen, at last we got it that in spite of efforts we had undertaken to become Europeans and in spite of all our actions, we have been, so to speak, rubbed out in a very unfair way’,” Ivanov said.

HK police appeal to protesters to cooperate with police as street demonstration continues

HONG KONG, 16 Oct — Hong Kong police said on Thursday that two men were arrested for disorderly conduct in public place and assaulting police as a crowd of people once again charged into Lung Wo Road in Admiralty in the early morning.

Three police officers were injured.

At around midnight of Wednesday, a number of people rushed out into Lung Wo Road, which caused severe traffic congestion. Some drivers caused the protesters of choking off traffic. Scores of police officers soon blocked the people and the demonstrators retreated to the pavements. Ten minutes later, traffic resumed.

Some protesters threw water bottles and traffic indicators boards on the road. A 38-year-old man was arrested for disorderly conduct in public place as he kicked a bottle which hit a private car traveling on the road.

During the arrest, a large crowd of protesters attempted to obstruct police and surrounded the police. The police said that their repeated advice and warnings were ignored. The protesters attempted to charge the police and therefore police fired pepper spray to disperse the protesters.

During the incident, another 24-year-old man was arrested for assaulting police officer. A total of three police officers were injured, according to the police.

Majority of the police withdrew and the protesters dispersed in Lung Wo Road after dawn.

The police appealed to the protesters not to obstruct and charge the police, and reiterated that any acts endangering public order and public safety will not be tolerated.

N Korea circulates draft UN resolution on own human rights issues

NEW YORK, 16 Oct — North Korea circulated a draft UN resolution on Wednesday that signals its willingness to engage in diplomacy and urging North Korea to the International Criminal Court for its human rights abuses.

In light of a UN commission of inquiry that earlier this year chronicled abuses of an estimated 80,000-120,000 political prisoners, as well as the abductions of Japanese and other nationals, there seems to be a new momentum to do more.

On top of circulating the resolution — that also notes the talks between North Korea and Japan on the abduction issue and hopes “positive changes” will be made on the Korean Peninsula — the Korean Peninsula will help towards reconciling the North Korean officials presented their own human rights assessment last week.

Murphy: Putin’s visit does not harm Serbia-US relations

BELGRADE, 16 Oct — US Senator Christopher Murphy talked with MPs, members of the group of friendship with the United States, at the Serbian parliament on Wednesday.

During a one-hour meeting, Murphy said that he does not see why Russian President Vladimir Putin’s visit would harm relations between the US and Serbia.

Serbia already has a clear objective of EU membership, and I do not see any reason why Russian President Vladimir Putin’s visit would damage our relations, the American senator said.

When asked about his country’s expectations concerning Serbia’s chairman of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Murphy said that the organization will have a major role in resolving the Ukraine crisis.

US Ambassador to Serbia Michael Kirby, who took part in the talks, underscored that Serbia is expected to make this chairmanship unique, and noted that this would be a chance for diplomatic solutions.

Speaking about the halt in the South Stream construction, Murphy said that this is a good chance for Serbia to think about other energy solutions, and added that the US also accepted a new energy policy, so it does not have one, but several suppliers.

This is something you should consider. In the future, Serbia could think about gas imports from the US, too, the senator said.

Asked whether the US is satisfied with the implementation of the Brussels agreement on the normalization of relations between Belgrade and Pristina, Murphy noted that further implementation of the agreement also depends on the formation of a Kosovo government.

Speaking about economic cooperation, Murphy said that the US considers investing in the steel production and placing American goods on the Serbian market.

He said that he will soon organize a conference dealing with opportunities for investing in the Balkans in the US state of Connecticut which he represents in the Senate.

US Senator Christopher Murphy

Minister spent 3.6 mil yen from political funds on kin’s businesses


Obuchi spent a total of 3.62 million yen from her political funds in connection with a design office and a clothing-sundries shop run by her relatives during five years through 2012, sources familiar with the matter said on Thursday.

Obuchi, minister for economy, trade and industry, spent money on 38 occasions for her sister’s design office and the shop operated by her sister’s husband, in Tokyo, the sources said.

An expert said it would be a problem for the minister to use her political funds for private purposes.

According to her political funds reports filed during the five years, two of the 38 outlays were made to the design office and the rest to the clothing-sundries shop.

The reports also showed nine of the outlays topped 100,000 yen, including 853,965 yen paid on 20 Dec, 2010.

While apologizing for the matter at a committee session of the House of Councillors, Obuchi said it was “within the limits of political activities” to pay her relatives from the political fund as she used neckties and handkerchiefs designed by her sister as souvenirs when she traveled abroad or as gifts.

Meanwhile, the weekly Shukan Shincho magazine on Thursday ran an article on inappropriate spending involving Obuchi’s political organization in Gunma Prefecture.

It said the political group shouldered more than 20 million yen for theatergoing or other events attended by her supporters in 2010 and 2011.

Obuchi refused the article, saying she believes supporters paid for the events themselves. The minister told the Diet session that she is aware that it would be illegal if her political organizations made supplementary payments.

As a second-time minister, Obuchi, 40, became industry minister last month in Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s reshuffled Cabinet. She was first elected as a House of Representatives member in December 2000, following the death of her father Keizo, a former prime minister.

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KYODO NEWS

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KYODO NEWS
**US sees some progress in Iran nuclear talks, still aims for November deal**

US Secretary of State John Kerry (C) walks to his car with Austria’s Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz (R) as he arrives at Vienna International Airport, in Vienna on 15 Oct, 2014.—Reuters

VIENNA, 16 Oct — A senior US official said some progress was made in high-level nuclear negotiations with Iran on Wednesday but much work remained to be done, adding the goal was still to reach a deal by a late November deadline.

The State Department official spoke after about six hours of talks between US Secretary of State John Kerry, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton in Vienna.

Iran and six world powers — the United States, France, Germany, China, Russia and Britain — aim to end a decades-long nuclear standoff by a 24 November target date, although Tehran and Moscow have both indicated that more time may be required.

With less than six weeks to go, Western officials say important differences still remain, especially over the future scope of Iran’s production of enriched uranium, which can have civilian as well as military uses.

“We’ve been chipping away at some of the issues. Everybody has put ideas on the table to see if we can move the ball forward,” said the US official, who declined to be named.

“We have and continue to make some progress but there’s a substantial amount of work to be done,” the official said.

The negotiations are centered on curbing Iran’s atomic activity, which Tehran says is peaceful and might be used for military purposes, while the West wants Iran to cut back on its activities as well as to allow inspectors into military sites.

The official added.

Senior officials from the six powers and Iran are due to meet on Thursday in the Austrian capital.

There was no immediate indication that Kerry would stay on for further talks on Thursday, which would mean deviating from his plan to head back to Washington early in the morning.—Reuters

**Australian naval base in lockdown, bomb squad called**

SYDNEY, 16 Oct — A naval base in the Australian state of Victoria is in lockdown and a resident of the base is in custody, with a police bomb squad heading to the scene to investigate unspecified “hazardous material”, security officials said on Thursday. An exclusion zone of 400 metres had been declared around a residential apartment at HMAS Cerberus, a naval training base on the Mornington Peninsula, 75 km (45 miles) southeast of Melbourne, Victorian police said.

Police took the security measures after a routine search of the apartment found a number of unspecified items on Thursday morning. A statement from the Australian Defence Force said “hazardous material” had been found, but gave no further details.

A bomb response unit and members from the arson and explosives squad were enroute, a Victorian police spokesman told Reuters. The resident was understood to be in the custody of other naval officers, the spokesman added. She declined to comment further on the items found in the apartment or the nature of the threat.—Reuters

**Malaysia’s arrest of IS suspects include country’s main recruiters**

KUALA LUMPUR, 16 Oct — Islamic State’s main recruiters in Malaysia, who funded trips to Syria for converts and used Facebook to attract young supporters, were among the 14 suspected militants arrested earlier this week, Malaysian authorities said late on Wednesday.

The three Malaysians played individual roles to promote, recruit and finance trips to Syria, the police said in a statement. The arrests on Monday and Tuesday included an assistant director from Malaysia’s ministry of energy, green technology and water, whose task was to fund trips for recruits to enter Syria, and is linked to three wanted Abu Sayyaf militants.

Another key player in the operation is a 34-year-old who fought in Syria for four months before returning in April this year. The suspect’s role was to guide, encourage and share experiences with aspiring militants, said police.

The third person, a 37-year-old, used a Facebook account to promote and upload propaganda material and recruited female university students to be sent to Syria.

Malaysia has arrested 37 suspects tied to the Islamic State since April. The authorities estimate at least 30 Malaysians have left for Syria and at least 15 have died in Syria while fighting for the terrorist organization. The arrests this week also included a 14-year-old high school student and a family of five.—Reuters

**Merkel ally leaves option open of arming PKK**

BERLIN, 16 Oct — A senior ally of German Chancellor Angela Merkel has left open the possibility of arming the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) as part of efforts to defeat Islamic State (IS) militants.

Germany is sending weapons to Kurds in northern Iraq but Merkel has previously ruled out supporting the PKK, which has spent decades fighting for autonomy for Turkey’s Kurds and is listed as a terrorist organization by the European Union and the United States.

Turkey, which has so far resisted pressure to join US-led efforts to fight IS militants in northern Iraq and Syria, would oppose such a move.

“I know the problems that Turkey has with the PKK, but to sit back and watch as IS takes important border towns and develops increasingly into a threat for global security cannot be the solution,” Volker Kauder, the leader of Merkel’s Christian Democrats (CDU) in parliament, told Spiegel Online.

“I do not rule out supporting other groups. But this would have to be done with Turkey, not against it. That also applies to support for the PKK,” Kauder added.

US-led efforts to halt the militants have focused in the last few weeks on the Kurdish Syrian town of Kobani, near the border with Turkey.—Reuters

**Women’s march in Vienna**

REUTERS

Image: Women’s march in Vienna.
A strong economy makes the world go round

By Kyaw Thura

Friday, 17 October, 2014

The Asia-Europe Meeting, known as ASEM, is a forum for dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe, which is organized with the objectives of addressing economic, cultural and political issues and cementing the relationships between the two regions while upholding mutual respect and equal partnership.

ASEM takes place every two years in Asia and Europe alternatively. Now, the 10th ASEM Summit is being hosted in Milan, Italy, with the theme “Responsible Partnership for Growth and Security”. The theme reflects a key opportunity to enlarge the scope of the relationship between Asia and the EU.

Today’s world requires European and Asian countries to work closer than ever before so that both sides can enjoy growth and prosperity and ensure security and preserve stability. Now is not the time for Europe and Asia to take dominant positions for the simple reason that Asia needs Europe and vice versa, which is why they should cooperate to advance and benefit together.

With its businesses flourishing at unprecedented rates, Asia is now seen as an engine of global economic growth. At the same time, Asia needs to depend on Europe for its technical know-how and its largest share of marketplace all over the world. In addition, the European Union has richer experience and expertise to share with Asia.

Nowadays, every country needs to commit itself to an open global economy in strengthening trade and investment links with the rest of the world.

As for emerging economies, the role of small- and medium-sized enterprises cannot be overstated. These days, every continent has come to consider SMEs an essential part of economic recovery and a constant source of employment.

All things considered, the establishment of the Asia-Europe connectivity through a network of actions and projects will bring greater opportunities for investment, growth, prosperity, stability and understanding as well.

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.

We have to outthink, out-plan, outdo and outperform our competitors. We should always be at the vanguard of the forward march. We have got to:

- Think Creatively,
- Innovate Uniquely,
- Differentiate ourselves from the competition in such a way that we are the peerless HAMSA among a flock of ducks.

Our MANTRA should be:

- Change, Transform and Constantly Pursue Self-Renewal!

KNOWLEDGE of PEOPLE, PLANET and PROFIT MUST BE DEVELOPED AND SHARED

People matter; people count. Leaders come and go; but the people remains. Only the people are invincible, just like the waves come and go; but the waters of the oceans remain. Only the waters of the oceans are indestructible.

Our Planet has been afflicted in many ways. The bad effects of greenhouse gas, pollutions in many spheres of the planet, ozone depletion, climate warming, rain forests destruction and the like are imperiling the people and the planet itself. We have to defend the people and the planet; and it should be our sustained mission to be unwaveringly dedicated to:

Profit: Profit is all right. We only have two ways:

- To live and move and have our being profitably, or
- To be undone, conned and beaten into bankruptcy.

CONCLUSION

We should always think positive, possibility thoughts. We had better think success, believe in success and move forward to success. With all our hearts and souls, we should think along the line of: “Conceive, Believe and Achieve.” In thinking about life and life journey, we had better focus on the following:

To dare nobly,
To will strongly, and
Never to falter in the path of duty.

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 17 October, 2014

THINK

By Kyi Mun

Think the most, Feel the noblest, Act the best.
- Anonymous

As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.
- The Bible

Dare to think deeply, and dare to do well.
- Sun Tzu BC 500

THINK means: Be of opinion; Consider; Exercise mind; Form connected ideas; Conceive

Motions of Doing; Form Conception of; Contemplate.
- Oxford Dictionary

THINK can be creatively understood in the following way:

HoPE & EXPECT TO WIN

We should hope to win with all our heart and soul. We should dare to hope and dare to expect big wins in our lives. We can hope in the following ways:

- To Win
- To Engineer Win-Win Outcomes
- To Get Win-Lose Results
- To Be Rewarded with Lose-Win Results
- To reap Lose-Lose Outcomes

Our strongest hope should be to create Win-Win Outcomes and to establish Win-Win Relationships.

We should nurture a tremendous hope and a great expectation to win victory in our lives.

INsIGHT

We should always develop our insight. We must see the big picture. We have got to see far into the future. We should form the habit of thinking BIG. Always think big and think nothing but:

- PEACE
- PROGRESS, and
- PROSPERITY

INsIGHT is SEEING THROUGH. Insight is defined as:
Always think with foresight, hindsight and insight. We have got to explore dynamically the opportunities and possibilities to see the CONTENT by penetrating the FORM. It means just don’t see the FORM only; try to SEE ALONGIMATE INSIDE the FORM.

NEW and BETTER WAYS of DOING Things MUST be Sought

Formerly, it was said:
Don’t fix it if it ain’t broke.
Now, it is said: Fix it, even if it ain’t broke!

Coca-Cola happiness journey returns to five cities across Myanmar

YANGON, Oct 15—Coca-Cola Myanmar is set to treat thousands of people across Myanmar with entertaining music concerts themed around the “Coca-Cola Uplifting Break” experience. The afternoon music shows will feature performances by popular artists Sai Sai Khai Leng, Eaini Chat, Mi Sandi, Bunny Phyo, Me Mi Ma Girls and Jet San Hunas part of Coca-Cola Happiness Journey stops in various cities including Monywa, Pyay, Taunggyi, Pathein, and Mandalay from 12 October to 6 December 2014.

This is first time that Coca-Cola will bring its specially-designed convoy of Coca-Cola trucks to cities outside of Yangon and Mandalay.

To be part of the Happiness Journey activities and attend the concerts in the various cities, people can redeem tickets by simply collecting six (6) Coca-Cola, Sprite or Max+ plastic bottle caps or cans and presenting them to the redemption booth staff to receive two (2) tickets to the event. Submitting a mix of bottle caps and cans is also allowed and the number of tickets a person can redeem is only limited by the amount of caps and cans they can collect.

The location of the ticket redemption booth in each city is advertised on promotional banners placed at participating consumer goods stores and provision shops across each of the cities. For the first Happiness Journey stop in Monywa, consumers can visit the redemption booth located at the entrance of the National Sports Stadium in the city from 5 to 12 October to redeem their tickets.

Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING Group Capital Co., Ltd.

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (16-10-2014)

YANGON GOLD PRICE

Buying K656,000 per tical: Selling K657,000

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K655,900 per tical: Selling K656,900

FE RATE

USD Buying K991: Selling K996.5

SGD Buying K778: Selling K786

Euro Buying K1,255: Selling K1,275

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (16-10-2014)

YANGON GOLD PRICE

Buying K656,000 per tical: Selling K657,000

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K655,900 per tical: Selling K656,900

FE RATE

USD Buying K991: Selling K996.5

SGD Buying K778: Selling K786

Euro Buying K1,255: Selling K1,275

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING Group Capital Co., Ltd.
Ancient votive tablets found in Zabuthiri Tsp

**NAY PYI TAW,** 16 Oct — Ko Zaw Lwin and party of Alyinlo Village in Zabuthiri Township found ancient votive tablets while digging pits for construction of the refectory, 12 feet east of Hsinma Yintha Pagoda on 11 October.

The votive tablets are six inches long and four inches wide in the shape of banyan plants. They found 73 votive tablets in good condition and 39 cracked tablets, totalling 112. Some alphabets can be seen on the tablets under the Buddha images.

The votive tablets are being kept at Aung Hsuhtupan Dhammayon in the precinct of the pagoda for public observance. — Ko Paau (Okkarmyay)

DAC workers dredging drains, upgrading roads and bridges in PyinOoLwin Tsp

**PYINOOLOWIN,** 16 Oct — Heavy rains in September caused damages and blockage at the drains in urban area and eroded the roads in PyinOoLwin Township of Mandalay Region.

Now, Township Development Affairs Committee is carrying out maintenance of roads and drains and sanitation.

Officials and workers of the committee dredged the drains along the circular road, traffic junction near the combine office and along the road to National Kandawgyi Gardens. They also upgraded the damaged bridge on the road and repaved the road to the garden.

They also carried out dredging the drains along both sides of Ziwaka Road so as to prevent overflow of drains around the urban areas. — Saw Ye Htuik (PyinOoLwin)

Mohnyin to get access to Indawgyi Lake

**MOHNYIN,** 16 Oct — The Amyotha Hluttaw representative of Kachin State Constituency No 6 inspected progress in construction of a 13 miles and one fur-long-long Mohnyin-Nammon hilly road on 14 October.

Kachin State government allotted K678.5 million for construction of the road in 2014-15 fiscal year for development of over 50,000 local people residing around Indawgyi Lake of Mohnyin Township.

"In the first year, a plan is underway to construct the 34 feet wide earthen road at first. One 15 feet long reinforced concrete bridge, one 10 feet long bridge and six five feet long bridges will be constructed along the road. There will not cause landslides on the new road. In coming year, the earthen road will be upgraded to the gravel one," Engineer U Aye Lwin of Mohnyin Township Public Works.

Local people had made attempts to construct the one-hour drive road from Mohnyin to Indawgyi Lake frequently, but missions failed due to lack of modern heavy machinery.
Ramped up air strikes stall Islamic State advance on Syrian town

MURSITPINAR, 16 Oct — The advance of Islamic State fighters on Kobani stalled on Thursday according to a monitoring group, after US-led coalition warplanes launched their heaviest bombardment yet on the militants, who have been assaulting the Syrian border town for nearly a month.

Last week Turkish and US officials said Islamic State were on the verge of taking Kobani from its heavily outgunned Kurdish defenders, after seizing strategic points deep inside the town.

A dramatic ramping up of coalition air strikes reached a new crescendo in recent days, with US-led coalition attacks around Kobani being hit nearly 40 times in 48 hours. The barrage has halted the militants’ advance, with Kurdish sources saying that Kurdish YPG fighters had managed to retake some territory.

“The four-week assault has increasingly been seen as a key test of US President Barack Obama’s air strike strategy, and Kurdish leaders have repeatedly said the beleaguered town cannot survive without arms and ammunition reaching the defenders, something neighbouring Turkey has so far refused to allow.”

Islamic State has been keen to consolidate its position in northern Syria after seizing large amounts of territory in that country and in Iraq.

A defeat in Kobani would be a major setback for the Islamists and a boost for Obama.

Jet planes roared over Kobani on Thursday and gunfire echoed across the Turkish border from the town, as fighting steadily intensified throughout the morning, a Reuters witness said.

There were six air strikes overnight to the east of Kobani and clashes had continued throughout the night according to the UK based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which said neither side had made significant gains.

“Islamic State are trying to drive the YPG from the south to get more road access into the town,” Rami Abdulrahman said by telephone.

“There were also clashes 6 km (4 miles) west of the city, by the radio tower,” he added.

Source within Kobani said Islamic State forces had pushed back Islamic State in southern and eastern parts of the town, which has been surrounded on three sides by the militants.

“We have seized back quite some territory yesterday,” a Kurdish commander who gave her name as Dicle told Reuters early on Thursday.

“The clashes are still ongoing. We have seen many corpses of IS fighters yesterday, some had swords with them,” she said.

A journalist in Kobani said that air strikes had allowed Kurdish forces to go on the offensive for the first time since Islamic State launched their assault four weeks ago.

“We walked past some (YPG) positions in the east yesterday that were held by IS only two days ago,” Abdulrahman Gok told Reuters by telephone.

“Officials here say the air strikes are sufficient but ground action is needed to wipe out IS. YPG is perfectly capable of doing that but more weapons are needed.”

A Defeat in Kobani would be a major setback for the Islamists and a boost for Obama. 

Yemen’s Houthis advance near al-Qaeda stronghold

SANAA, 16 Oct — Yemen’s new Shi’ite Muslim powerbrokers sent fighters towards an al-Qaeda stronghold on Wednesday, raising the possibility of clashes between the politically ascendant Houthis and the hardline Sunni Muslims of the militant network.

Witnesses said dozens of cars carrying Houthi fighters were seen arriving in the city of Ibb, bordering al-Bayda province, a bastion of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

AQAP, which views Shi’ites as heretics and Houthis as pawns of Iran’s revolutionary Shi’ite theocracy, last week claimed responsibility for a suicide bomb attack on a Houthi gathering in the capital Sanaa that killed at least 47 people.

That attack was seen as a sign of AQAP’s anger at the Houthis’ takeover of Sanaa on 21 September, a lighting assault that saw the group impose its will on the weak and fractured administration of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

Residents said some Houthi fighters had gathered at the main stadium in Ibb, 150 km (90 miles) south of Sanaa.

“The governor and his aides received the armed men outside the city and entered with them,” a provincial official said. Another convoy of several cars carrying Houthis was later seen on the outskirts of Taiz, a city 50 km south of Ibb. There was no immediate word on the intentions of the Houthi fighters in Ibb. They arrived hours after clashes between Houthis and fighters from an al-Qaeda-linked group, Ansar al-Sharia, killed at least 10 and wounded dozens in Radda in al-Bayda province, residents and medical sources said. — Reuters
Spacewalking astronauts begin preparing station for new space taxis

CAPE CANAVERAL, 16 Oct — A pair of spacewalking NASA astronauts hustled through an electrical repair job outside the International Space Station on Wednesday, then began work to prepare the outpost for new commercial space taxis.

Station flight engineers Reid Wiseman and Barry “Butch” Wilmore floated outside the station’s airlock shortly after 8:15 am EDT to begin a 6-1/2-hour spacewalk.

Their primary job was to replace a voltage regulator that failed in May, cutting out one of the station’s eight power channels. The work needed to be done during a nighttime pass around Earth when the solar arrays are not generating power. The station, a $100 billion research complex, flies about 260 miles (420 km) above Earth.

After collecting their tools and making their way to the right-side exterior truss, the astronauts had just 35 minutes to unbolt the failed unit and install the replacement. The bolts, however, were not cooperative. “The PGT (pistol grip tool) doesn’t have enough power to turn it right now,” Wiseman radioed to Mission Control in Houston. “I can feel it binding up.”

Wiseman then switched to a ratchet wrench to unbolts the failed device, known as a sequential shunt unit, or SSU. “Now it’s time for Wiseman to apply a little muscle,” NASA commentator Rob Navias said during a live broadcast on NASA TV.

That did the trick, clearing the spot for the new SSU. Wiseman again ran into problems installing the replacement, but as the minutes ticked down toward daylight, he was able to use the power tool and then the ratchet wrench to tighten the single bolt holding the SSU in place.

With less than two minutes before the station passed back into daylight, flight controllers tested the new unit and reported it was working properly. “Whoa-hoo,” the spacewalkers radioed to Mission Control.—Reuters

Stop the hop: for huge ancient kangaroos, hopping was dicey

WASHINGTON, 16 Oct — Kangaroos hop, right? Well, not all of them.

Scientists said on Wednesday that a biomechanical and statistical analysis of fossil bones of a group of huge extinct kangaroos shows that the largest of the bunch in all likelihood could not hop as their modern-day relatives do with aplomb.

The study focused on a group of big-bodied, short-faced kangaroos called sthenurines that lived in Australia from about 13 million years ago until about 30,000 years ago, disappearing after the first humans arrived on the continent. These kangaroos were more heavily built than modern ones and had faces reminiscent of a rabbit.

In terms of locomotion, they were unlike today’s kangaroos, with an anatomy ill-suited for hopping. They likely walked in an upright bipedal stance — putting one foot in front of the other, just like people — in a way modern kangaroos cannot, the study found.

This was facilitated by larger hips and knee joints as well as stabilized ankle joints unlike today’s kangaroos but like animals that walk or run. They also had a relatively inflexible spine not conducive for hopping.

“Today’s kangaroos mostly use hopping as their fast gait — although tree kangaroos rarely hop. But for slow speeds they use a type of ‘pentapedal’ walk, using all four legs and the tail,” said Brown University paleontologist Christine Janis, who led the study published in the scientific journal PLOS ONE. —Reuters

Google tests waters for potential ultra-fast wireless service

SAN FRANCISCO, 16 Oct — Google Inc is preparing to test new technology that may provide the foundation for a wireless version of its high-speed “Fiber” Internet service, according to communications experts who scrutinised the company’s regulatory filings.

In a public but little-noticed application with the US Federal Communications Commission on Monday, Google asked the agency for permission to conduct tests in California across different wireless spectrums, including a rarely-used millimetre frequency capable of transmitting large amounts of data.

It is unclear from the heavily redacted filing what exactly Google intends to do, but it does signal the Internet giant’s broader ambition of controlling Internet connectivity. The technology it seeks to test could form the basis of a wireless connection that can be broadcast to homes, obviating the need for an actual ground cable or fibre connection, experts say. By beaming Internet services directly into homes, Google would open a new path now thoroughly dominated by Verizon, AT&T, Comcast and other entrenched cable and broadband providers. It could potentially offer a quicker and cheaper way to deliver high-speed Internet service, a potential threat to the cable-telecoms oligopoly, experts said.

“If you’re virtualising everything you’re going to the next level,” said Stephen Crowley, a wireless engineer and consultant who monitors FCC filings, noting that millimetre frequencies can transmit data over short distances at speeds of several gigabits per second.

“You could look at it as a possible wireless extension of the Google Fiber wireless network, as a way to more economically serve homes. Put up a pole in a neighbourhood, instead of having to run fibre to each home,” said Crowley.—Reuters

Australian scientists reveal “unprecedented” sea level rise over past 150 years

CANBERRA, 16 Oct—Australian scientists have made the alarming discovery that sea levels have risen more in the past century than at any other comparable period in the past 6,000 years. Researchers from the Australian National University (ANU), based in Canberra, found that the 0.20-centimetre rise in sea levels since the start of the 20th century, caused largely by global warming and the melting of polar ice, was unprecedented.

The ANU study, a lengthy analysis of historical sea level trends, showed levels have remained steady for thousands of years before rapid rises over the past 150 years, since global industrialization. The study looked at the fluctuation of ocean levels over the past 35,000 years, based on ice volume changes around the world.

A two-decade-long collection of about 1,000 ancient sediment samples off Britain, north America, Greenland and the Seychelles formed the basis of the research, which was recently published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS).

Researchers could pick submerged sediments that may include tree roots, suggesting a previously lower sea level, or molluscs, which can be measured against the fossil record to determine the previous sea level. The study has been described as the most comprehensive paper of its kind looking at the period.

Professor Kurt Lambeck, from the ANU, said sea levels have been oscillating by no more than 20 centimeters over several millennia.

“In the last 6,000 years before the modern onset of sea level rise, the sea level has been quite stable,” he said.

“We see no evidence for oscillations in sea level greater than say plus or minus 25 or 30 centimetres, on timescales of 100 years or longer, there’s just no evidence for that.”

—Xinhua

A technician gets cabling out of his truck to install Google Fiber in a residential home in Provo, Utah on 2 Jan, 2014.—Reuters
**Nikolic: Incident was intended to destabilise whole region**

BELGRADE, 16 Oct — Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic has condemned the incident at the Serbia-Albania football match on Tuesday and demanded that the security services, the police and customs services treat the event as the final warning, because the next such case could result in human casualties.

The obvious intention of those who organized and put in action the plan involving a drone with a flag of Greater Albania was to cause riots in Serbia and try to destabilise the entire region, he believes.

“Sporting events are not the place for provocative political messages,” he stressed, adding that the incident was a promotion of an unscrupulous and impossible idea of Greater Albania, which was to cause a strong reaction at the stadium and throughout Serbia. According to the president’s press service, Serbia has done everything to put the past behind it and develop friendly relations, and the upcoming visit by Albania’s Prime Minister Edi Rama is expected to be a signal for establishing excellent relations.

“After the assassination of the efforts to establish a friendship between Serbia and Albania, it is obvious that Albania will need decades, if not centuries, to become a normal country, without hatred against the Serbia, said Nikolic, who expects Albania’s top officials and public to condemn the Tuesday incident.

The drone lacked only an explosive device to give the impression of being linked to terrorist number one in the world, and it is particularly disturbing that extremists have sprayed graffiti on the monastery Visoki Decani and that hundreds of Kosovo Albanians are participating in terrorist activities in Iraq and Syria, he noted.—Tanjug

**Fukushima students awarded for film about US-aimed balloon bombs**

NEWARK, 16 Oct — A group of junior high school students from Fukushima Prefecture, Japan, receive an award for their five-minute documentary, “There Once Was War Here,” at ceremony for the Kid Witness News global video contest near New York on 15 Oct, 2014. — KYODO NEWS

In their video titled “There Once Was War Here,” the Fukushima students researched a desperate practice from the end of the war in which balloons were attached to large balloons and released from Japan’s Pacific coast in hopes they would reach the United States.

The film describes how the 10-metre wide balloons were made from Japanese paper and featured interviews with residents who remember when the balloons were launched from an area near the school.

The film claims over 9,000 of the balloon bombs were released, and around 300 made landfall in the United States.

“It made me realize how senseless war is and how wonderful it is to live in a peaceful country,” said Miku Komatsu, 15, one of three students who worked on the video last year and traveled to Panasonic North America headquarters in New Jersey for the award ceremony.

The group won the Best Witness Award and was one of seven finalists chosen from over 500 participating schools from around the world.

Panasonic launched the program in the US in 1989 and started the global contest in 2008.

A group of middle school students from Germany won the Grand Prize for a film remembering the Holocaust.

**Cuba, Vietnam agree to enhance bilateral cooperation**

HAVANA, 16 Oct — Cuba and Vietnam on Wednesday signed an agreement to boost cooperation in various areas, local media reported.

Cuban Minister of Foreign Trade and Investment Rodrigo Malmierca and Vietnamese Construction Minister Trinh Dinh Dung signed the document, which covers cooperation in such areas as agriculture and fishing, biotechnology, health, tourism and sports.

The two ministers agreed that Cuba’s new foreign investment law, which offers investors better tax breaks and more legal protections, provides a favourable environment for Vietnamese business.

“The Asian country was represented by a large government and business delegation, the largest one that has ever attended in a bilateral intergovernmental meeting,” the official news agency Prensa Latina reported.

During this session of the Intergovernmental Commission, which began on 7 October, Vietnamese business leaders toured Cuba’s new mega-port of Mariel, located 50 km west of Havana, and the beachside resort of Varadero.

In September, Malmierca visited Vietnam and met with Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, to promote business opportunities offered by Cuba’s new port development.

**N Korea sought talks with top presidential aide**

SEOUL, 16 Oct— North Korea’s top military official Hwang Pyong So sought talks with South Korea’s national security adviser after the two navies briefly exchanged gunfire near the western sea border last week, Yonhap News Agency reported on Wednesday.

Hwang, newly appointed director of the North Korean military’s General Political Bureau, sent a letter to Kim Kwan Jin on 7 October requesting an “emergency one-on-one” meeting with him, a Unification Ministry official told reporters. Kim, however, turned down the offer, the official said. Kim is chief of the National Security Office at the presidential office, the top presidential aide for President Park Geun Hye on national security issues.

On Wednesday, the two Koreas instead held rare high-level military talks at the truce village of Panmunjom.

At Wednesday’s talks, South Korea rebuffed Pyongyang’s demands that South Korean naval boats stop sailing to the western sea border area, that South Korean activists halt the flying of balloons carrying anti-Pyongyang leaflets and that the South Korean media stop slandering North Korea.

A South Korean Defence Ministry spokesman said, “We maintained the North should respect the western Northern Limit Line, and that a government ruled by free and democratic rule can’t control the activities of civic organizations and mass media,” Kim Min Seok said.

The talks were headed by a general-level officer from each side.

Tensions on the Korean Peninsula spiked after the skirmish near the maritime border on 7 October and North Korea’s firing at balloons carrying anti-Pyongyang leaflets on Friday, prompting the South to return fire. South Korean activists flew balloons carrying a large quantity of anti-North Korean leaflets from a border area north of Seoul on Friday morning.

North Korea has demanded that the South Korean government restrict the launches of such balloons and, while threatening to fire at them, had never previously done so. The South Korean government maintains that it cannot ban freedom of gathering and expression by civic groups under the country’s democratic system.

**Kyodo News**

**Kyodo News**
Weather report

Forecast valid until evening of the 17th October, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Kachin State, scattered in Sagaing Region, Shan and Chin States, isolated in Mandalay, Magway, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Tanninbays Regions. Rakhine State and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

MYANAMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and chullan offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 23rd OCTOBER 2014 (Dewali DAY), Loading, Unloading and delivery of Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday fees.

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Book marks Empress Michiko’s 25th anniversary with Red Cross

TOKYO, 16 Oct — A book marking the 25th anniversary of Empress Michiko becoming honorary president of the Japanese Red Cross Society has been published to show her activities with the organization. She was appointed honorary deputy president of the organization in 1959, the year in which she married Crown Prince Akhito — the current emperor — and became the crown princess. She was made honorary president in 1989, the year in which the couple assumed the titles of emperor and empress. The empress has attended the annual Red Cross Conference in Japan every year. She has also bestowed Florence Nightingale Medals, which are given by the International Committee of the Red Cross to honour nurses and other people with distinguished achievements, at ceremonies.

The book titled “Kogo Heika Itsukushima” (Her Imperial Majesty: compassion), published by Sekai Bunka Publishing Inc, marking the 25th anniversary of Empress Michiko becoming honorary president of the Japanese Red Cross Society, was released.

Mt Fuji gets season’s 1st snowcap, 16 days later than average year

KORU, (Japan), 16 Oct — Mt Fuji got its first snowcap of the season on Thursday, 16 days later than average but three days earlier than last year, the Kofu Local Meteorological Observatory said.

The Kofu observatory confirmed that the 3,776-metre mountain was covered with a thin layer of snow from its peak to the eighth station, and people in the Tokyo metropolitan area could also see the snowcap on Japan’s tallest mountain.

According to the observatory, the mercury on Mt Fuji, dropped on Wednesday and the snowfall is believed to have started the same day. At 7 am on Thursday, the temperature at the mountain’s peak stood at minus 12.3 C. The Japan Meteorological Agency said.

Kyodo News
Michael Jackson tops Forbes list of highest-earning dead celebrities

NEW YORK, 16 Oct — Five years after his death, singer Michael Jackson is generating a fortune and is the top-earning dead celebrity, raking in an estimated $40 million in the past year for his estate, Forbes said on Wednesday.

He earned more than twice as much as singer Elvis Presley, who died in 1977 and came in second with $55 million, and three times more than cartoonist and Peanuts comic strip creator Charles Schulz, who took third place with $40 million.

“Few celebrities prove the point that there is (financial) life after death better than Michael Jackson,” according to Forbes. It is Jackson’s second straight year atop the list. He regained the title in 2013, a year after being pushed into second place by actress Elizabeth Taylor.

Jackson’s second album released after his death, “Xscape” debuted at No. 2 on the pop charts in the past year and the singer also appeared as a hologram at the Billboard Music Awards. Two Cirque du Soleil shows, “Immortal” and “One,” account for much of Jackson’s earnings along with his music catalogue and publishing empire.

Taylor, who died in 2011, came in at No. 4 with $25 million and reggae singer Bob Marley completed the top five with $20 million in earnings in the year to October 2014. Marley died of cancer at the age of 36 in 1981.

Joan Fontaine’s Oscar trophy to be auctioned

Apart from the Oscar trophy, other memorabilia such as Fontaine’s paintings, furniture and jewellery will also get auctioned by Christie’s.

Among the items, Russian artist Marc Chagall’s painting ‘Vase of Flowers in the Window’ will be sold in an auction in New York on 6 November. It is expected to bring USD 400,000-USD 600,000. Proceeds from the auctions will go to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for Monterey County in Northern California.—PTI

Kendall, Kylie Jenner named among influential teens of 2014

NEW YORK, 16 Oct — Reality TV sisters Kendall and Kylie Jenner have made it onto Time magazine’s most influential teens of 2014. The sisters have been named on the annual list alongside the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize recipient Malala Yousafzai, 17, and transgender activist Jazz Jennings, 14.

The young stars were recognized for their business ventures, hosting red carpet events and even publishing their own novel.

“Together, the ‘Keeping Up With the Kardashians’ co-stars hosted red-carpet events, released clothing and nail polish lines and even published a dystopian young-adult novel this past summer (though yes, they had some help).

“But they’ve had solo success too — Kendall with modelling (she’s walked the runway for designers like Marc Jacobs) and Kylie with pseudo-entrepreneurship (she’s launching a line of hair extensions and hopes to get into acting). Next up: a multimillion-dollar mobile game?,’” the magazine states.—PTI

Beijing Dance Theater previews “Wild Grass” in New York

Dancers of Beijing Dance Theater preview the Wild Grass for media in New York, the United States on 15 Oct, 2014. The Wild Grass, inspired by the poems of Lu Xun, one of the most famous modern Chinese writer and poet, is presented to celebrate individual’s will to persevere in a hostile environment.—XINHUA
MADRID, 16 Oct — Barcelona and Argentina forward Lionel Messi has nothing to do with his own tax affairs and should not be included in an alleged fraud, his father Jorge has insisted.

Mesz and his father, who have denied wrongdoing, have been accused of defrauding the Spanish state of more than 4 million euros (£21.2 million) by filing content to create a more competitive fiscal environment for the years 2007 to 2009.

Income from Messi’s image rights was alleged- ly hidden using a web of shell companies in Uruguay, Belize, Switzerland and Britain. “In actual fact I want to be quite cautious over this topic,” Jorge Messi said in an interview with Spanish radio. “I have always said it, he (Lionel) has absolutely nothing to do with it, so there is no need to talk about it”. “My lawyers are dealing with this issue so it’s something with me and has nothing to do with him.” Lionel Messi has been resident in Barcelona since 2004 and gained Spanish citizenship in 2005.

He is one of the world’s highest-paid athletes and is paid, over $4 million ($25.07 million) a season in wages and bonuses, according to Forbes magazine.

He also pulls in some $2 million in endorsements from partners including Adidas, Samsung, PepsiCo and Turkish Airlines and is fourth on Forbes’ latest list of top-earning athletes.

Reuters

Frankfurt, 16 Oct — China, the world’s second-biggest book market after the United States, has long been a consumer of works from other countries, now it is making a push to export its own literary creations, helped by the e-book revolution.

Industry players at the Frankfurt Book Fair said they had observed a change in Chinese exhibitors’ focus from acquiring foreign rights to selling the products of China’s developing publishing sector.

With sales volumes of nearly $18 billion, China is the largest buyer of rights and licenses for books published overseas.

Now Chinese publishers, most state controlled, are jumping aboard their government’s “Go Out” policy instituted in 1999 to promote Chinese investment abroad.

Beijing is encouraging publishers to develop digital content to tap into foreign markets and is wooing foreign companies and companies to prepare them for stock market listing. It has urged banks to provide loans and pushed for agreements with global operators like China Mobile to propel the digitization of publishing.

“While there has long been demand from international publishers to license works to China, there is also a huge drive under way to license titles in the opposite direction,” said Tom Chalmers, Managing Director at IPR License, a digital market place for book rights.

“China is full of available titles with international appeal, and many Chinese publishers have cited selling to international publishers as their key priority.”

Thanks to a rapidly growing middle class spending heavy on their children’s education, publishers in China have developed a broad range of learning materials they now feel ready to sell to the world.

In Frankfurt, the book trade’s biggest annual gathering, about 40 publishers displayed their wares on the stand of the China Publishing Group (CPG), including bilingual picture books re-telling classic Chinese tales with colourful illustration and designed for children learning either Mandarin or English.

A woman sorts books at a booth during preparations for the upcoming book fair in Frankfurt, on 7 Oct, 2014. — Reuters

The rapidly growing e-book market, the advance of digital audio books and digital libraries are helping China’s publishers to become less dependent on their rather loose network of foreign branches and agents. These new technologies reduce their need to build a traditional distribution chain to deliver books around the world and allow them to concentrate on electronic platforms instead.


“Most Chinese exhibitors are carrying out their mission of ‘Going Out’, and Frankfurt Book Fair provides the best platform to get access to international publishers,” said Liu Zhong, CPG’s Director of International Cooperation. The group has teamed with China Mobile to develop digital content such as comics, magazines and educational material for mobile internet devices.

The CIPG, which also publishes art collections, met German art and design publishing house Taschen, Britain’s Phaidon and Italian and US publishers, Liu Zhong said. — Reuters

Japan plans to arrest Red Army member after US release in January

Japan has long been placed by Japan on an international wanted list.

According to the sources, Shirosaki is suspected of attempting to set fire to a hotel room in Indonesia’s capital Jakarta in May 1986. Investigators believe the attempted arson was aimed at destroying evidence of his alleged firing of a mortar shell at the Japanese Embassy in Jakarta. — Kyodo News

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Uchiyama to make 9th title defence in New Year’s Eve world tripleheader

Tokyo, 16 Oct — Takehi Uchiyama will aim to defend his super featherweight crown at the eighth title defence in January 2015.

The 31-year-old is set to face challenger Daiji Kanie in his eighth successful title defence a year ago. Uchiyama will fight ninth-ranked Israel Perez of Argentina at Ota Ward Gymnasium.

Kohei Kono will make his first defence of the super flyweight title he won in March when he takes on fifth-ranked Norberto Hernandez of the Dominican Republic.

Ninth-ranked Ryotetsu Taguchi will challenge light flyweight champion Alberto Rossel of Peru.
Kaymer wins Grand Slam title in playoff over Watson

LOUISVILLE, (Kentucky), 16 Oct — US Open champion Martin Kaymer sank an eight-foot birdie putt at the first extra hole to beat Bubba Watson in the four-man PGA Grand Slam of Golf in Bermuda on Wednesday.

Ten days after a blow-out singles win over Watson on the final day of the Ryder Cup, German Kaymer had to work much harder to overcome his American rival for a second time.

He erased a two-stroke deficit in the final two holes of regulation before triumphing in breezy conditions at Port Royal Golf Course in the elite 36-hole event which brings together the winners of the year’s four majors.

In the sudden-death playoff at the par-four 18th, both players hit nice approach shots, but Kaymer’s finished further from the hole, so he putted first and made no mistake, before Masters champion Watson missed from inside five feet.

“It was quite an advantage that I had the similar putt earlier (in regulation), just a little bit longer, but pretty much the same line and I knew it didn’t break as much as I thought, so that helped me a lot,” Kaymer told reporters. Watson was incredulous his short birdie putt in the playoff missed, speculating that wind had blown it off course.

“I thought I hit a great putt, stroked it well,” he told reporters. “I’m guessing wind bounce, whatever you want to call it. There’s no way that ball should go that way, unless it’s wind forced. So, it was Martin’s time and not my time.”

Earlier, Kaymer (71) and Masters champion Watson (69) finished on six-under 136, eight strokes in front of Northern Irishman Rory McIlroy and nine clear of American Jim Furyk. — Reuters

Martin Kaymer of Germany hits a chip shot on the 14th hole during the second round of the 2014 PGA Championship at Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville, Kentucky, on 8 Aug, 2014.— Reuters

World champion Biles wins Sportswoman of Year award

NEW YORK, 16 Oct — American Simone Biles, who won four golds at last week’s world gymnastics championships in China, including the all-around title, was named Sportswoman of the Year by the Women’s Sports Foundation on Wednesday.

Newcastle handed Krul injury boost

LONDON, 16 Oct — Newcastle United goalkeeper Tim Krul could play against Leicester City this weekend after his club said on Wednesday that his elbow injury was not as serious as initially feared.

The 26-year-old returned from international duty with the Netherlands this week after suffering the injury in training.

The club initially said Krul was likely to miss Saturday’s Premier League fixture against Leicester after scans showed he had damaged elbow ligaments.

Yet they published an update on their website (www.nufc.co.uk), saying the injury was not as severe as first feared.

“Tim Krul has been further assessed today by the club’s medical staff, and the club can confirm that he has nothing more than a very minor elbow injury,” the statement said.

“The club will continue to monitor the situation but are confident that he will be available for the game against Leicester City on Saturday,” it added.

Krul has started all seven of Newcastle’s Premier League games this season, none of which has resulted in a win. The club are currently 18th.

UEFA open disciplinary proceedings against Serbia and Albania

NYON, 16 Oct — UEFA have opened disciplinary proceedings against the Serbian and Albanian football associations following the violence that caused their Euro 2016 qualifier to be abandoned on Tuesday.

“Disciplinary proceedings have been opened against the Football Association of Serbia for the setting off/throwing of fireworks and missiles, crowd disturbance, field invasion, use of a laser pointer,” UEFA said in a statement on Wednesday.

“Proceedings have also been opened against the Football Association of Albania.”

“The case will be heard by the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body on 23 October.” — Reuters

Abuja, 16 Oct — Ahmed Musa scored twice to help holders Nigeria to their first win in African Nations Cup qualifying as they beat Sudan 3-1 in Abuja on Wednesday to resurrect their chances of reaching next year’s finals in Morocco.

Nigeria had picked up just one point from their opening three games in Group A but the home win ensured they are now back in the race for a place at the finals in Morocco in January — although they will probably have to win their last two qualifiers next month to make sure.

“Africa No.1 Musa is the man; we need him,” Nigerian midfielder John Mikel Obi told reporters before handing the award to the 26-year-old winner.

Nigeria’s Ahmed Musa celebrates after scoring his team’s second goal against Argentina during their 2014 World Cup Group F soccer match at the Beira Rio stadium in Porto Alegre on 25 June, 2014.— Reuters

Musa double keeps Nigeria’s Nations Cup hopes alive

Reuters

World champion Biles wins Sportswoman of Year award

Simone Biles of the US competes on the balance beam during the women’s team final event at the 2014 World Artistic Gymnastics Championships in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 8 Oct, 2014.— Reuters

Newcastle’s Aly Cissoko during their English Premier League soccer match at Villa Park in Birmingham, central England on 23 Aug, 2014.— Reuters

UEFA open disciplinary proceedings against Serbia and Albania

Nyontha Kyi Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily.