President U Thein Sein visits Paddy Seed Research Centre in Milan

Japan-funded rural development project aims to enhance rural livelihoods, to increase rural incomes in targeted six townships in Myanmar

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 18 Oct — The Department of Rural Development and the Asian Development Bank on Friday had a consultation with local communities from six areas in Myanmar to boost the latters’ access to the decision-making process in a rural development project worth US$12-million, a grant from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction. Series of sessions took place at the Enhancing Rural Livelihoods and Incomes Project Launch Workshop in Yangon, with officials elaborating on the project status and six areas in Myanmar.

Gem stones sales continue in capital city

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Oct — Gem stones and utility jade lots were put up for sale through the open tender system for the fifth day at the Maniyadna Jade Hall here on Saturday, with Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung encouraging highest bidders. Gem stones sales continue in capital city

Correction

Please read FIFA U-20 World Cup instead of UEFA U-20 World Cup in the news under the heading “Myanmar U-19 winning tickets UEFA U-20 World Cup”.—Ed

South Korea to help develop 100 villages in Myanmar

Infrastructural development needs effective use of revenues

Shrimp producers plan to resume their breeding in coming season with advanced tech

Bidders put their bidding forms in tender boxes on the fifth day of gems and utility jade sales in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

 President U Thein Sein visits Paddy Seed Research Centre in Castello d’Agonga (PV) of Milan in Italy on Friday.—MNA

President U Thein Sein visits Paddy Seed Research Centre in Milan

Milan, 18 Oct — President U Thein Sein visited the Paddy Seed Research Centre in Castello d’Agonga (PV) of Milan in Italy, on Friday.

The officials of the centre explained the president and party about rice cultivation, production of paddy strains and modern agricultural machines used in paddy production industry of Italy.

The President and party then observed samples of the paddy strains, research works and demonstration of paddy husking before looking around paddy research farms.

The Milan-based PSRC was founded in 1931 and its headquarters, making especially research works for seed production, land reclamation, agricultural method and high quality products.

Italy is the largest producer of rice in Europe with majority of rice fields in the valley of River Po, northern Italy, producing around 1.6 million tonnes of rice last year.

The president and party also met the staff members of families of Myanmar mission in Milan at the NH President.

In the evening, the president and Myanmar delegates joined the dinner at NH President Hotel served by Claudio Dascali, Chief Executive Officer of Eni Energy Company.

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Series of sessions took place at the Enhancing Rural Livelihoods and Incomes Project Launch Workshop in Yangon, with officials elaborating on the project status and six areas in Myanmar to boost the latters’ access to the decision-making process in a rural development project worth US$12-million, a grant from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction.
Union Finance Minister arrives back home after participating in IMF and WBG meetings

NAV PTY TAW, 18 Oct —Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein arrived back in Yangon on Wednesday after attending the annual and spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group (WBG) in Washington, D.C., discussing Myanmar’s participation in implementing the WBG’s goals and collaboration between Myanmar and IMF.

During the meeting periods, U Win Shein signed two agreements on establishing ASEAN+3 macroeconomic research office and on providing the World Bank’s US$80 million worth loans to Myanmar’s education reform and the government of Australia’s cash assistance worth US$17 million to Myanmar.

He held meetings with Mr. Axel Van Trotsenburg, the World Bank’s vice president for East Asia and Pacific, to discuss progress of the current running WBG’s assistance projects in Myanmar; with U.S. Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew and Mr Charles Rivkin, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs, to discuss promotion bilateral ties between Myanmar and the U.S and with Mr Keiichiro Nakazawa, Executive advisor of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), to discuss providing of Japan’s development loans to Myanmar.

Present at the meeting were Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, Union Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin, the president of Myanmar Women’s Affairs, and the UN, and departmental officials.—MNA

YESB to be transformed into a public company

NAV PTY TAW, 18 Oct —Yangon Electricity Supply Board is holding discussions to transform itself into a public company, according to Chairman U Aung Khang of the YESB.

The government will hold 51 percent share of the public company while 49 percent of the company’s share will be offered to the public.

“A public company will be able to work more effectively and we also hope that we can get a lot of advice from everyone,” U Aung Khang said.

However, Dr Aung Tun Thet, an economic advisor to the president said, “Before transforming into a public company, the board should stop receiving guidance from the ministry concerned and stand on its own foot. Only when does it succeed in doing so and have enough confidence, it should be transformed into a public company. Priority should also be given to our local partner rather than to foreign firms.”

Five laws are applied to transforming the board into a public company including the new Electricity Law (2004), the Special Companies Act (1950), Myanmar Companies Act (1914), the Myanmar National Investment Law and the Foreign Investment Law.

“We should find out what the public wants. If we do not know this, the transformation will not be successful,” said U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing, a participant in the discussions.

Between April and August 2014, the YESB distributed 2,033,330 units of electricity to Yangon City.—Myitmukha (Edited by MWT (GNLM))

Six Myanmar companies secure national business awards

YANGON, 18 Oct—Six Myanmar entrepreneurs won the outstanding awards at national level in six sectors of the ASEAN Business Award.

These award winners were Kanbawza Bank Ltd for Corporate Excellence sector, FAME Pharmaceuticals Industry Ltd for the Innovation sector, Myanmar Airways International for the ASEAN Centrity sector, Kelvin Chia Yang on for the Micro & Small Medium Enterprises sector, Blue Ocean Operating Management Co Ltd for the Young Entrepreneurs sector and City Mart Holding Co Ltd for the Women Leaders sector.

The award winning enterprises are to take part in the ASEAN Business Award contest together with over 120 companies of ASEAN countries.

The prizes will be presented to national award winners and ASEAN award winners on 11 November.—UMFCCI

Studying professional technique in Japan

YANGON, 18 Oct —Leading Japanese professional training colleges(SENMON GAKKO) will hold education fairs at Myanmar Japan Center (12th Floor, UMFCCI office tower, No.29, Min Ye Kyaw Swar Street, Yangon) on November 1st. Myanmar attracts many foreign industries as new investment destination. In spite of that difficulty of securing qualified human resources has been pointed out nowadays. Rather than unskilled workers in factories, especially people with the so-called vocational practical engineers, factory administrator, intermediate engineers, IT technicians, accounting clerks, and professional interpreters, etc., are in shortage. The development of human resources with technical and practical knowledge will become increasingly important.

There are government owned vocational schools in Myanmar. But they are not enough to meet business needs in various aspects due to lack of teaching materials, equipment, qualified teachers, human resource development in the private level has been actively achieved among young entrepreneurs of Myanmar and they opened vocational schools on its own around Yangon in recent years. The support of vocational training by public organizations overseas has also begun.

SENMON Gakko is one of the major players for Practical Human resources development in the history of Japanese Industrial development after World War II. There are more than 2,800 schools in the nation. The graduates of professional training college have high employment rate because of their skill. As for Myanmar, there should be enhancement of Industrial human resource development for future economic growth.

The need for talent- ed Myanmar students are growing and the job fair dedicated for Myanmar grads of Japanese school is held sometimes in Tokyo.

There is a description of the curriculum and overview of the school of the morning. It is oriented to such teachers to carry out the career guidance. Study abroad consultation for students is carried out in the afternoon. Admission is free for all. For further information please contact myanmarmayawongpag-es@gmail.com TEL:01-242758,243074.—GNLM
University of Medical Technology will award degree in Prosthetics and Orthotics next academic year

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 17 Oct—The University of Medical Technology under the Department of Medical Science is planning a new degree course in prosthetics and orthotics in the coming academic year in partnership with the Nippon Foundation and the Exceed, according to the National Rehabilitation Hospital in Yangon.

He said the Bachelor of Medical Technology (Prosthetics and Orthotics) is aimed at developing the prosthetic and orthotic sector in the country and producing at least 16 professionals annually. He went on to say that trainees will have opportunities to receive technology-related knowledge plus practical functions from foreign experts throughout the four-year course. Currently, Myanmar has only 12 local professionals with internationally recognized diplomas and performing their duties at seven prosthetics and orthotics workshops across the country.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Ministry of Health are reported to have made plans to jointly conduct two P & O workshops in Kengtung and Myitkyina, according to Alfred.

He estimated that there are about 100,000 prosthetic and orthotic device users all over the country, most of whom are between the ages of 16 to 40 years.

According to statistics by the National Rehabilitation Hospital in 2013, accidents and workplace injuries, which are considered leading causes of disability, account for 56% of artificial limbs users nationwide.

Raw feed prices may go up within next four months: Myanmar Aqua-feed Association

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 18 Oct—“This year’s animals and aquafeed ingredients prices may not be higher than previous years but it is expected that broken rice, corn, and soya bean prices are likely to go up in the coming four months,” said Dr Thet Hmu of Myanmar Aqua-feed Association.

According to the report at the end of September, feed prices remain unchanged. Corn’s prices are cold. And sesame oil-cake prices are going down, he added.

The Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF) is planning to hold a seminar on advantages of India’s plant ingredient which has a high protein percentage like soya bean and it is suitable to add in the existing livestock feeds, Dr Thet Hmu said. Currently, the federation held a meeting with the U.S. Soy Bean Export Council (USSEC) to discuss enhancing the country’s livestock industry.

Dr Thet Hmu expressed his views that the government should not collect taxes on livestock feeds for development of breeding sector. It is found that other countries have given tax exemptions for livestock feeds.

South Korea to help develop 100 villages in Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Oct—World Friends Korea organized a conference at the Inya Lake Hotel in Yangon Region on 17 October, to recount the details of South Korea-Myanmar friendship programmes conducted by volunteers from both countries.

Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing and South Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Lee Baek soon delivered addresses at the conference.

They both mentioned the importance of lasting friendship between Myanmar and South Korea and closer cooperation between the two governments and two peoples.

Lee said the Korea International Cooperation Agency has plans to simultaneously carry out infrastructural development projects in 100 villages.

The union minister pledged full cooperation for the effectiveness of the projects, known as “Sae-maul Undong”.

South Korea is helping Myanmar with its agricultural and rural development tasks. —MNA

New Light of Myanmar, adding that the project will be able to cover only 16 village-tracts in a given township while the World Bank’s project is covering the whole township.

According to officials, 16 village-tracts per township will benefit from the project that will provide $24,000 per village-tract.

During the Q&A session, locals called for ensuring greater transparency and accountability to gain public satisfaction while the project is taking place and measures to mitigate social and environmental impacts of the project.

Representatives from Bokepyin Township with 19 village-tracts made a request for adding the remaining three village-tracts to a list of 16 priority village-tract.

In their answers to the questions, officials assured them of an effective mechanism against corruption and that Bokepyin issue will be taken into account to seek ways and means for ensuring to cover the whole township.

Daw Nan Wah Nu and Daw Nan Say Owa, representatives of Pyithu Hluttaw(Lower House) arrived back from Singapore after attending the Meeting on Leadership Role of Women, Policy and Political Affairs held on 16 and 17 October. —MNA
Respects paid to retired faculty members of MU Mathematics Department

Mandalay, 18 Oct—Families and students of Mathematics Department of Mandalay University held a respect paying ceremony at the Dhammayon of the university in Mandalay on 17 October. Alumni paid homage to 65 retired faculty members and gave K250,000 and gifts. Chairman of Myanmar Academy of Arts and Sciences Sayagyi U Thein Myint, U Ba Min and U Aung Sein gave words of advices to the students. Chairman of Organizing Committee and Professor of the department Dr Thet Khaung and Secretary of the Mathematics Association Dr Nyunt Swe explained matters related to the ceremony and report of the association.

Performing arts competition 2014 concludes in Mandalay Region

Mandalay, 18 Oct—The prize presentation for winners in the Mandalay Region national races’ performing arts competition took place at the National Theatre on 16 October.

Before the prize presentation, Mandalay City Development Committee and 18 wellwishers donated cash to the fund for the competition to Chairman of the Finance Subcommittee U Han Soe.

Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint and region level officials presented prizes to the winners.

The winners in the competition performed entertainment to the audiences.

An official gave gifts to members of the panel of judges. In the competition, the winners secured 93 gold, 62 silver, 35 bronze medals.

Paddy pollination carried out successfully at 3000-acre farmland

Nay Pyi Taw, 18 Oct—Agriculture Department carried out pollination at the Palethwe hybrid plantations in 3000-acre farmland near Hotel Zone of Dekkhinathiri Township on Friday morning.

The best time to pollinate the paddy plantation at the farm fell between 10 am to 11.30 am on Friday, said Deputy Head of the section U Aung Myint Htwe.

Thanks to pollination, the department will distribute the seeds of quality paddy strain to local farmers in the future.—Ko Pauk (Okkar Myay)

Namkham Township strives for elimination of narcotic drugs

Muse, 18 Oct—A talk on elimination of poppy cultivation and danger of narcotic drugs was given at the town hall in Namkham, northern Shan State.

Chairman of the Township Committee for Drug Abuse Control Township Administrator U Zaw Min explained elimination of poppy cultivation. Vice Chairman Police Major Maung Aye urged the local authorities to prevent recruitment of workers to work at poppy plantations on the hilly regions.

Head of No 22 Anti-Drug Squad Police Major T Houn Lwam gave lectures on seizures of drug cases in Muse District. Township Law Officer U Hsan Lin Oo on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances law and Assistant Medical Superintendent Dr Myo Zaw on disadvantages of drug abuse.

Commander of No 88 Light Infantry Division Brig Gen Thet Tun Oo explained cooperation of local officials in seizing narcotic drugs and arresting drug traffickers, user and possessors in the region and the drug-addicted treatment programmes.

The talk was attended by about 450 students, teachers, ethnic people, departmental personnel and local people.

They then viewed round wall magazines on drug elimination.

Muse District IPRD
Thai king continues recovery after surgery, palace says

BANGKOK, 18 Oct — Thailand’s King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world’s longest-reigning monarch, is continuing his recovery in hospital following surgery to remove his gallbladder earlier this month, the palace said in a statement on Friday.

Bhumibol’s health is a subject of keen public concern. He is revered by many Thais and his portrait hangs in every government building and in many shops and homes.

Doctors have stopped administering medicine and nutrition intravenously, the information division of His Majesty’s Principal Private Secretary said in the first statement for a week on the king’s health.

The king’s temperature, breathing and blood pressure were all normal, the statement said.

The 86-year-old king was admitted to a Bangkok hospital late on 3 October.

The health of Bhumibol has formed the backdrop to a complex crisis being fought out between Thailand’s rival business and political elites. He is widely seen as a unify figure and moral arbiter among Thais.—Reuters

Chinese premier eyes closer ties with Singapore

MILAN, 18 Oct — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on Friday called on joint efforts with Singapore to boost ties with the south-eastern Asian country and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as a whole.

Li made the remarks while meeting with Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on the sidelines of the two-day 10th Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) summit.

China attaches great importance to its ties with Singapore, Li said, adding bilateral relations face important opportunities and broad prospects, as the two countries will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of diplomatic ties next year.

China hopes to maintain the unique ties with Singapore, enhance substantial cooperation, expand common interests, seek new pivotal projects and cultivate new cooperation highlights, he said.

Li expected a fruitful annual meeting of China-Singapore bilateral cooperation mechanism to be held later this month, saying he welcomes Singapore to participate in the development of China’s western regions.

China’s strategic partnership with ASEAN have entered the second decade, and China always attaches great importance to its ties with ASEAN, he said.

As Singapore will be the coordinator between China and ASEAN next year, Li said China hopes to keep close coordination with the country to achieve new progress of China-ASEAN ties.

Praising China’s development achievements, Lee said Singapore-China relations face new opportunities.

Singapore hopes to work closely with China to implement bilateral cooperation programme, expand cooperation with China’s central and western regions, facilitate coordination in such areas as logistics, investment and green development, so as to promote regional connectivity and sustainable development, he said.

The Chinese premier will wrap up his three-nation Europe trip later on Friday and leaves for home.—Xinhua

Death toll in India from cyclone Hudhud climbs to 41

Bhubaneswar, (India) 18 Oct — The death toll from a cyclone that hit India’s east coast last week has risen to 41, as authorities struggle to restore power, transport and communication links and shelter 150,000 people forced to abandon their homes.

Cyclone Hudhud slammed into the coast of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha states, tearing down tens of thousands of mud-and-thatch homes, and flattening rice, banana and sugarcane plantations.

“Electricity has been restored in about 60 percent of the affected area. In next three-four days we expect to restore it in all places,” AR Sukumar, chief of the disaster management department of Andhra Pradesh state, told Reuters on Saturday.

While the death toll jumped to 38 in Andhra Pradesh, officials in Odisha said the number of people who had died there was unchanged at three.

The tail end of Hudhud went on to cause sudden and severe snowstorms further north in Nepal, killing at least 30 people on the Annapurna circuit, a Himalayan trek that is popular with foreign adventure tourists.—Reuters

China’s HK police arrest 26 in Mong Kok clashes

HONG KONG, 18 Oct — China’s Hong Kong police said on Saturday morning that 26 people were arrested and at least 15 police officers injured after a night of clashes between police and thousands of protesters for control of Mong Kok.

Temporary calm was restored in the area, and the Nathan Road is now still occupied by protesters.

Hundreds of police officers removed barricades in Mong Kok on Friday morning where Occupy movement participants had blocked roads and streets since 28 September.

Police said in a statement early on Saturday morning that the protesters were attempting to reclaim those streets partly cleared by the police.

HK police strongly condemned protesters who were illegally occupying a section of the southbound lanes of the Nathan Road in Mong Kok, saying that the protesters were attempting to occupy the northbound lanes of the Nathan Road and were also charging police cordons.

Police said up to 9,000 people gathered at the scene, and such acts were seriously undermining public order and safety. They also warned protesters to stop charging police.

After repeated advice and warnings fell on deaf ears, the police said they used pepper spray to stop the protesters from such acts.

Majority of police withdrew from the area after the protesters were dispersed after dawn.

Police reiterated that they would take resolute enforcement actions against any illegal acts endangering public order and safety.—Xinhua
Abe, Putin agree to continue talks on bilateral issues

BOSTON, 18 Oct — US Secretary of State John Kerry welcomed China’s top diplomat, State Counsellor Yang Jiechi, to his Boston home on Friday for talks aimed at warming the often strained US-China relationship ahead of a summit between their leaders next month.

Kerry said outside his imposing townhouse residence in Boston’s exclusive Louisbourg Square to welcome Yang with smiles and handshakes. After their dinner on Friday night, the two will also hold a media availability on Saturday, when Kerry also plans to show Yang some of the sights of his native city. Chinese and US officials said the talks would cover a broad range of issues, including cooperation against Islamic State militants, the fight against Ebola, and economic ties.

Shared concern about Islamic State offers a rare convergence of security interests for Beijing and Washington. “The Secretary and the State Councilor used the dinner for informal and in-depth discussions and to speak frankly about ways to strengthen the bilateral relationship, improve cooperation on global and regional issues, and better manage differences,” a senior State Department official said. China has significant energy interests in Iraq and is also troubled by what it says are domestic Islamist militants. Its state media has reported that militants from the western region of Xinjiang, which abuts Pakistan and Afghanistan, have sought training from Islamic State fighters for attacks at home.

Beijing has responded cautiously, though, to a call by US President Barack Obama for a broad coalition to root out Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria, saying the US was seeking a “false” terror target but that the sovereignty of countries must be respected.

There has been no indication of any change in this stance and Chinese officials say Beijing is already playing a role in support, including training, it is providing to Iraq’s army.

Analysts familiar with US thinking expect the Boston talks to include discussions of intelligence cooperation, including tracking militant movements and financing. China is also keen to lay out a strong agenda for a summit between its President Xi Jinping and Obama in Beijing on 12 November after a meeting of the Asia-Pacific Cooperation forum (APEC). China hopes the leaders will be able to announce the completion of a text of a Bilateral Investment Treaty, though difficult and lengthy negotiations would still have to follow over access to sensitive sectors.

Kerry seeks to warm summit mood with dinner for China’s top diplomat

MILAN, 18 Oct — Japanaese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Russian President Vladimir Putin on 17 Oct, 2014, in Milan, Italy, on the sidelines of an Asia-Europe Meeting, or ASEM.

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Cubans, US troops could work side-by-side in Ebola fight

HAVANA, 18 Oct — Cuban doctors and US military personnel could work side-by-side in West Africa as part of international efforts to contain the Ebola outbreak, possibly leading to improved bilateral relations, a top Cuban health official said on Friday.

The two long-time adversaries are among the countries aiding West Africa, where Ebola has killed some 4,546 people since the outbreak of the hemorrhagic fever began there in March. Cuba is sending the largest medical contingent to West Africa of any country in the world: 165 doctors and nurses are in Sierra Leone and another 296 are scheduled to leave for Liberia and Guinea next week. The United States is sending 3,000 military engineers, medical personnel and other troops to the region. “We are going to work side by side … with anybody who is there, and our health minister said in his speech that includes the Americans,” Jorge Perez, director of the tropical disease hospital where Cuban doctors train for their Havana mission, told reporters on Friday.

“You wouldn’t see if we are scientifics? In this instance we are friends,” Perez said. The Cuban medical personnel underwent three weeks of training at the Pedro Kouri Tropical Medicine Institute on the outskirts of Havana, where health officials set up a field hospital of tents to simulate conditions in West Africa.

Cuba’s first group of 165 doctors and nurses in Sierra Leone are still undergoing a 15-day training course before treating patients. The communist-led Caribbean island has sent medical brigades to disaster sites around the world since the 1959 revolution that brought Fidel Castro to power. Cuban and US personnel have worked together before, notably after the Haitian earthquake in 2010. US Secretary of State John Kerry praised the Cuban effort earlier on Friday.

“We are seeing nations large and small stepping up in impressive ways to make a contribution on the front lines. … Cuba, a country of just 11 million people, has sent 165 health professionals, and it plans to send nearly 300 more,” he told diplomats at the State Department.

Perez said he received a “boost” from the comment and he believed Kerry was pressing other countries to follow Cuba’s lead. Asked if the US and Cuban efforts could improve diplomatic relations, Perez said, “I think it could, and I think it’s important.”

Cuba submits any travelers coming from the affected region to at least 21 days of isolation at the Pedro Kouri Institute. So far 28 people from Sierra Leone, Guinea, Congo, Nigeria and Cuba have been isolated, including 12 being held currently.

“If you don’t want to be observed, no problem. You have the right to go back to your country, but don’t come to mine,” Perez said. Besides medical diplomacy, Cuba sends doctors overseas in exchange for money or goods, notably Venezuelan oil, making professional services a top export earner. More than 50,000 Cuban medical personnel are posted in 66 countries.

Leaders agree to promote financial, economic cooperation at ASEM summit

MILAN, 18 Oct — The 10th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) concluded here on Friday, with leaders pledging to promote financial and economic cooperation through enhanced Asia-Europe connectivity.

European Council President Herman Van Rompuy, who chaired the summit, announced at the closing ceremony that the 11th ASEM summit will be held in Mongolia in 2016, also marking the 20th anniversary of the ASEM.

The two-day summit, hosted by the Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, formally accepted Kazakhstan and Croatia as its members, making the ASEM a 53-member forum with enhanced influence.

The ASEM, founded in 1996, is a high-level inter-governmental platform nurturing dialogue and cooperation between the two continents.

Xinhua
Nigeria says reaches deal with Boko Haram to free abducted girls

ABUJA, 18 Oct — Nigeria said on Friday it had agreed a ceasefire with Islamist militants Boko Haram and reached a deal for the release of more than 200 schoolgirls kidnapped by the group six months ago. There was no immediate confirmation from the rebels, who have wreaked five years of havoc in Africa’s top oil producer and triggered an international outcry by seizing the girls from the northeast town of Chibok in April.

“I wish to inform this audience that a ceasefire agreement has been concluded,” said the head of Nigeria’s military, Air Chief Marshal Alex Badeh, adding the deal had followed three days of talks with the militant sect.

Government spokesman Mike Omeri said the deal covered the release of the captives and Boko Haram agreed a ceasefire with Islamic State militants Boko Haram. State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said, however, the United States would welcome an end to hostilities and the release of the victims had been

thousands march in Acapulco over feared Mexican student massacre

ACAPULCO, (Mexico) 18 Oct — Thousands marched in the Mexican beach resort of Acapulco on Friday to demand answers about the fate of 43 missing trainee teachers, who authorities fear were massacred by police in league with gang members.

The students went missing in the southwestern state of Guerrero on 26 September after clashing with police and masked men, with dozens of police being arrested in connection with a case that has sent shockwaves across Mexico.

Authorities say many of the missing students were abducted by police. Protesters marched in central Acapulco, a resort that in the 1960s was a magnet for Hollywood stars but is now one of Mexico’s most dangerous places, because of drug gang turf wars.

“The people are fed up with so much killing,” protesters chanted.

While the march passed peacefully, storefronts were boarded up as a precaution and many tourists cancelled their plans for a weekend visit. Aside from the marches, there were few people on the streets. In Acapulco’s beach district, however, some tourists continued to relax undisturbed.

Many protesters were calling for the resignation of Angel Aguirre, the governor of Guerrero state, where violence has mushroomed in recent weeks and months.

“Why are they killing us?” 48-year-old labourer Pedro Padilla wanted to know. “We’re not here just for the students, but also because of what is happening in many places across Guerrero, where the people are very afraid of the narco.”—Reuters

US general says Iraq retaking some ground from Islamic State

WASHINGTON, 18 Oct — The head of US troops in the Middle East said on Friday Iraqi forces are “incrementally” recapturing ground from Islamic State militants who seized much of the country’s northwest this year, but he added that major Iraq advances will take time.

“They are doing some things now to incremental recapture ground that’s been lost,” General Lloyd Austin, head of US Central Command, said in his first news conference about the conflict. He cited the Kurdish operation around Mosul Dam and their recapture of the border post of Ramadi.

Austin said US-led air strikes against Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria were having an impact on the group, hampering their ability to travel in large convoys and gather en masse to carry out attacks.

The Army general said the main US focus was to “defeat and ultimately destroy” the Islamic State militant group by providing support to the Iraqi government and military.

He said the United States had intensified air strikes around the Syrian town of Kobani because an Islamic State offensive there had provided more targets to attack.

“In my assessment, the enemy has made a decision to make Kobani his main effort,” Austin said, noting that it had continued to pour fighters into the town in recent days. “If he continues to present us with major targets, as he has done in the Kobani area, then clearly we’ll service those targets.”

He said it was “highly possible” Kobani could still fall into the hands of Islamic State militants, but Kurdish fighters had done “yeoman’s work” and were fighting to regain territory.

People take part in a march in Acapulco port, Guerrero state, Mexico, on 17 Oct, 2014. According to local press, the march was held to protest the disappearance of the 43 students of the Normal Rural School “Raul Isidro Burgos” of Ayotzinapa, that went missing since 26 Sept, in Iguala municipality, Guerrero. Around 1,200 agents of the federal police are looking for the 43 missing students in a community in the southern state of Guerrero, informed on Thursday by sources of the Security Cabinet of the Mexican Government. — XINHUA

Passenger from evacuated Madrid plane tests negative for Ebola

MADRID, 18 Oct — Spain said on Friday all four suspected Ebola cases hospitalized on Thursday, including a Nigerian passenger taken from an evacuated plane by police-escorted ambulance, have tested negative for the deadly disease.

The three other potential patients were a priest who had recently been in Liberia, a man recently in Sierra Leone who tested positive for malaria and a person who traveled in the same ambulance as Teresa Romero, Spain’s only known Ebola sufferer.

Spain is on high alert for the disease after Rome- ro, a nurse who cared for two Ebola-infected priests before they died, became the first person to contract the virus outside West Af- rica.

She is gravely ill but stable. Although all four people tested negative for the disease initially, they must have another test within 72 hours in order to be given the all clear, the government said.

Nearly 4,500 people have died in the current outbreak, practically all of them in West Africa, out of a total of 8,997 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases have been reported in seven countries.

The United States, which is deploying up to 4,000 troops to West Af- rica to help contain the disease, has asked Madrid for permission to use US military bases in Spain in operations, a Spanish Defence Ministry source said on Thursday.
Infrastructural development needs effective use of revenues

By Aung Khin

Myanmar is enjoying large volume of revenues from selling natural resources such as timber, gems and natural gas. These revenues should be mainly used for infrastructural developments of the country that is being prepared for a competitive and liberal market of Asia Economic Community in 2015.

Before doing investments in Myanmar, business firms will consider the conditions of electricity supply, transportation and the rule of law in the country. These are necessary for foreign investors who capabilities and technologies to manufacture quality-products.

Many local consumers now prefer imported items to domestic products with the changing life styles, causing the trade deficit of the country. Majority of Myanmar people are trying to use good packing designs for food and quality wears. Every imported food item cannot be guaranteed their hygiene. Therefore, Myanmar has an advantage of possessing fresh and tasty raw food items from the country’s seas and fields. These favourable situations should be applied effectively by using modern technologies and systematic management.

Myanmar is the most potential market among Asian countries, and has many opportunities for the United States, EU members and regional countries. While Myanmar is expecting a large volume of foreign direct investments, sound business policies, transparency, systematic management and rule of law are fundamentals for foreign businesspersons.

Foreign investments can provide Myanmar human resources with knowledge and skills to local people. However, international loans or revenues should be used to be able to turn out profits for both short and long term. If Myanmar must prepare well for the ASEAN Free Trade Area by attracting foreign direct investments or promoting the abilities of local entrepreneurs to enjoy trade surplus in upcoming more competitive market.

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.

CREATIVE

By: U Kyi Mun

Creative means: 1/ producing or using new and effective ideas, results etc. e.g. He came up with a really creative solution to the problem,
2/ someone who is creative is very imaginative and good at making things, painting etc. - Longman Dictionary

Now, Let’s see more analytically into the meaning of the word CREATIVE:

C for Conceiving New & Better Ways of Doing Things with Passionate Curiosity
R for Resourcefulness
E for Extensive Exposure and Exploration
A for Active Observation of the Environment
T for Thinking & Seeking Breakthrough Ideas
I for Innovation Bias
V for Value-adding Creation of Processes, Products & Services
E for Enduring Patience & Perseverance

CONCEIVING NEW & BETTER WAYS OF DOING THINGS WITH PASSIONATE CURiosity

Creative minds are always conceiving new and better ways of doing things, and they have tremendous curiosity. They are always exploring superior ways of adding more value, more beauty, and more effective usefulness. Creative people ignite their brains with very imaginative ideas which they persistently push through to emerge as practical products, services or processes.

RESOURCEFULNESS

Resourcefulness means being good at devising expedi-ents. It means being skillful at finding ways of dealing with practical problems. It also means having the abilities to find ways and means of overcoming obstacles and difficulties at the tactical levels.

EXTENSIVE EXPOSURE & EXPLORATION

Creative people find pleasure to expose themselves to the practical, outside world. They are pragmatic people making concrete analysis of concrete situations. They are good at: “To strive, to seek, to find and not to yield”, as the poet Tennyson had said. The imaginative people live again in their hearts and minds.

ACTIVE OBSERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Creative people are good at observing the entire environment with a keen mind and earnest interest. They usually know what they want and have the habit of practicing the principle of: “THESIS, ANTI-THESIS AND SYNTHESIS”. They never have the closed mind. Moreover, they believe that NOTH-ING IS PERMANENT, NOTH-ING IS FINAL, and NOTHING IS ABSOLU-RE. They are always hands-on, minds-on and hearts-on in finding creative ideas.

THINKING & SEEKING BREAKTHROUGH IDEAS

Breakthrough means an important new discovery in something you are studying, especially one made after a long time. e.g. Scientists have made a major breakthrough in the treatment of cancer. (Longman Dictionary).

INNOVATION BIAS

Innovation means: A new idea or method or invention. An innovative process, method, plan etc. is new, different, and better than those that existed before. (Longman Dictionary). Creative minds are strongly bent on innovating new and better processes, products and services based on creative ideas.

VALUE-ADDING POWER

Creative people have a strong bias, even obsession, to innovate and create added value, added beauty, added progress and prosperity. An innovation is doomed to failure if it cannot deliver added value etc.

ENDURING PATIENCE & PERSEVERANCE

Creative ideas are the products of a very curious, imaginative and observing minds. Creative people usually have a great FIRE in their guts and heart, meaning that they have FORTITUDE, IRONMIND, RESILIENCE AND ENDURANCE, besides having tremendous patience, persistence and tenacity of purpose.

CONCLUSION

Creative minds usually have a passionate purpose, a strong sense of innovation and a strategic mindset of having a leading edge or cutting edge in the forward march to progress and prosperity.

 Shirmp producers plan to resume their breeding in coming season with advanced tech

By Khaiing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 18 Oct—Local shrimp breeders who lost their millions in previous breeding season, has a plan to restart their shrimp breeding in the next breeding season (January and February) with the use of Vietnam’s new water treatment system, U Myint Soe of Myanmar Shrimp Association (MSA) said.

Shrimp breeding camps have had to face losses since two years. It is assumed that damages to almost all shrimp breeding farms may be caused by disease problems, which bring massive losses to shrimp producers, he added.

Local and foreign experts visited shrimp breeding camps and they pledged to provide technical assistance. “We want practical and effective training courses. It should not end up with the training course alone,” said U Myint Soe.

A total of 20 Prawn breeding camps across the country can produce 300 million post-larval in a good breeding season. Currently, some shrimp producers are breeding shrimps of domestic and Thailand origins.

Winners for gems and jade lots announced

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Oct—The Gems and Utility Jade Sales continued for the fourth day at the Mandalay Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

The organizing committee announced the winners in the price proposals for the gems and jade lots.

Deputy Minister for Mines U Than Tun Aung supervised the sales of jade and gems. The sales continues up to 20 October.—MNA
Thoughts on the Life-companion of Man

My house is in Hlaing Thar Yar where people started to reside in about 1989. It is just a two-storey building in a small yard. A young mango tree is in the front of the house with an areca tree on the right side. Right before the house outside the street is a big Badum (Indian almond) tree yielding a wide shade invaluable indeed in the summer. On the other side of the street grow a row of Kokko (albizia lebbeck) trees, a trace of my Grandpa’s contribu- tions. They number no more than five or six. The mango tree within the compound started to fruit this year. Untimely rainfall and frost later reduced the number of fruits from about 60 to some 20. Almost all the fruits are withered by the scorching sun. Year after year, Myanmar is experiencing the increasing intensity of heat, which is reportedly caused by climate change. It is said that people have everything to do for climate change.

Let’s go back to my mango tree. Though young, it yields enough shade to cover the compound. At the foot of the mother has grown Jasmine bushes, Aloe Vera and Slipper Orchids. Beside them is a big plastic tank to collect rain water.

Rain water is mother’s favorite to wash my white clothes. Only in the rainy season, my white clothes become as clean as they should be. For, the water in Hlaing Thar Yar contains high percentage of sulphur and iron. The wa- ter turns dingy yellow and a thin, harsh and rusty lay- er comes to the surface not long after water is pumped. No lather comes out how- ever branded detergents or soaps are tried. No method really works in filtering and distilling this water. Such yellowish rusty color is stained on the cloth. My mango tree tries to survive it has to drink such yellowish water. It always gives shade under which mother washes clothes with a piece of cloth put on her head as the turban. Its shade keeps the whole compound away from the intense sun rays. It is really cool.

The other day, one of my long-separated friends dropped in on me. We had a long and non-stop chat that at last harbored sympathy. The whole world’s favorite Premier League and other Leagues are mostly authorized by the official broadcaster SkyNet in Myanmar. Therefore, I bought a SkyNet Satellite and installed it at home. To keep myself from being busy, I installed it near the eaves of the front roof. The satellite had to face southwest to receive the proper polarization. Still it could catch no good sig- nal as covered by one of the mango branches in the front. After a long pause, I had to chop the branch off although I did not want to.

The spot the mango branch used to cover is the same spot where mother washes my clothes. Now, it can no longer be as cool as before. The hot and sharp sun rays will hit directly at the spot. The place can be saved from the sun with the use of waterproof canvas or plastic sheet. But neither surely is as cool and bright as the branch once is. In fact, I should have installed at the centre of the roof, which would save the branch and promise better signal. Now, the shelter for mother disappears because of me. I un- intentionally destroyed it. It is not only for mother, but also for all of us and for all the beings around, natural and invaluable shade. How long do I have to wait to regain its shade? A month? A year? (or) The whole lifetime? I simply do not know. I am really sorry when I think of it in this way. It is utter- ly my recklessness.

Until recently I rode to Phyarpone in Irrawaddy Division on my motorcycle. I took the Twin-Tay-Ma U Bin road. Trees on the roadside were found to be chopped on the top including the main branch. It was really sorry when I think of it in this way. It is utter- lymy recklessness.

By Maung Phyo (WYU)

Plans underway to open rehabilitation units to provide better health care

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 16 Oct—The Society of Rehabilitation Medicine under the Myanmar Medical Association (MMA) is planning to open more rehabilitation units and intensive care units for people who have nervous system disorders, Prof Dr Khin Myo Hla, President of the MMA, told the Global New Light of My- annmar.

Local physiotherapists are now providing the general- ized rehabilitation services to those through the Yangon General Hospital and township health de- partments.

There are more than 150 physiotherapists in the country who took duties at about 100 physiotherapy departments in all regions and states. The number is quite small to provide better services to patients.

The country needs a large number of prosthetics and orthotics experts, physio- therapists, physiologists and experienced nurses, she added.

These physiotherapists expect to get training op- portunities to keep abreast of emerging technology. The Society of Rehabili- tation Medicine welcomes the invitation from organ- izations to provide public awareness trainings, Dr Khin Myo Hla added.

She expressed her opinion that modern tech- nology affects over thirty- year-old patients, causing them to suffer large- ness. Most of them are computer programmers and accountants, she said urging people to take regular exercises to avoid such cases. —GNLM

Myanmar model demonstrates how to use a popular machine to treat people affected by injuries, illness or disability.—PHOTOS: KHAING THANDA LWIN
Heavily polluted India launches national air quality index

NEW DELHI, 18 Oct — India has launched a new air quality index to help citizens understand complex pollution data and its implications for their health, the environment minister said on Friday.

A World Health Organization (WHO) study of 1,600 cities released in May found New Delhi had the world’s dirtiest air with an annual average of 153 micrograms of small particulates, known as PM2.5, per cubic metre.

Thirteen of the dirtiest 20 cities worldwide were in India, the WHO said. India rejected the report.

The new index, launched as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s “Clean India Mission”, will provide one consolidated number after tracking eight pollutants and will use colour coding to describe associated health impacts.

“In our cities air pollution is increasing ... we need to stop it,” Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said.

“This (index) will provide the common citizen, one colour, one number and one description so that he can understand what is the level of air pollution.”

Currently, India’s air quality status is reported through “voluminous data”, the government said. This makes it difficult for people to understand particle names such as PM2.5 or PM10.

“People don’t know what these pollutants are and what happens when they reach a certain level. This index will help people understand air quality better,” said Anumita Roychowdhury, head of air pollution team at the Centre for Science and Environment.

The environment minister said the government would also start action-oriented programmes in collaboration with the states to improve air quality, but he gave no details.

Roychowdhury said India needed to do more and should have emergency measures in place when pollution levels are high. In China, for example, primary schools are shut when pollution levels are at “red alert” levels, she said.

London, 18 Oct — The European Union must give Britain a “meaty” reform deal if it wants it to stay in the bloc, Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said on Friday, predicting the EU would have to change “whether it likes it or not”.

Hammond, a Eurosceptic and possible successor to Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron, made his remarks to parliament before a vote on legislation that would force any future government to hold a referendum in 2017 on whether to stay in or leave the EU.

With the anti-EU UK Independence Party (UKIP) siphoning off its voters and some of its lawmakers seven months before a national election, Cameron’s party is hardening its stance on Europe and tacking to the right to try to shore up support.

If re-elected, Cameron has promised to renegotiate Britain’s EU ties before holding a referendum in 2017. The EU would probably have to amend its founding treaties to accommodate Britain’s demands, he has said, something other EU states are reluctant to do.

“Our partners in Europe will know that they cannot do deals with politicians in smoke-filled rooms. They will have to come up with something meaty and substantial that will work for the British people,” Hammond told parliament.

“When that process is completed it will be the British people who judge whether that reform represents the substantial and irreversible change that I judge they will need to see if they are to decide that Britain’s future lies inside the European Union.”

“The European Union may get treaty change sooner than it thinks and whether it likes it or not,” said Hammond. “The penny is finally beginning to drop across Europe. Reformation will be hard to avoid.”

Hurricane Gonzalo scores bull’s eye hit on Bermuda

HAMILTON, 18 Oct — Hurricane Gonzalo slammed into Bermuda on Friday, knocking out most of the electricity as it lashed the tiny Atlantic island chain with pounding surf, torrential rain and howling wind, but there were no immediate reports of injuries.

The strongest storm to sweep the subtropical British territory in a decade made full landfall at about 8:30 pm as the 35-mile (56 km) eye of the storm crossed the south-central coast of Bermuda, the US National Hurricane Centre in Miami reported.

The Category 2 hurricane was packing sustained winds of up to 110 mph (175 kph), down from 140 mph (225 kph) earlier in the day, but it remained a dangerous storm, forecasters said. Hurricane-force winds extended up to 60 miles (95 km) from its centre as it bore down on Bermuda.

Gonzalo roared ashore just five days after Bermuda, a low-lying archipelago occupying just 21 square miles (54 sq km) and home to 65,000 people, had been struck by a tropical storm, serving a one-two punch to the islands.

While damage was believed widespread, authorities were unable to immediately get into the streets to assess the full extent, said Sergeant Russann Francis, a staff officer for the fire department in Hamilton, the capital.

“In terms of injuries, we haven’t had any calls in at this time,” she added.

Passage of the hurricane’s eye provided a lull of an hour or two during which the skies cleared, the rain and winds ceased and an utter stillness prevailed, broken only by the whistling of tree frogs.

The clammy night air, heavy with the scent of saltwater, grew steadily warmer and more humid before winds began to pick up again, signalling an end to the brief calm as the storm’s centre moved offshore and began to lash the island anew.

Seeing television pictures of curiosity seekers venturing outdoors during the interlude, police issued a notice urging residents to stay indoors avoid being caught when the storm’s fury resumed.

Flooding was reported in several areas and many banana trees had been knocked over. The islands’ only power company, Bermuda Electric Light Co. (BELCO), reported nearly 31,000 customers were without electricity, out of 36,000 metered connections.

Brazil’s electoral body bans mudslinging in presidential race

BRASILIA, 18 Oct — Brazil’s top electoral authority has banned negative campaigning for the presidential run-off on 26 October, local media reported on Friday.

Negative ads were getting so virulent that the Supreme Electoral Court decided to step in and prohibit mudslinging in free radio and TV slots granted to the candidates.

The electoral body urged the two candidates, incumbent President Dilma Rousseff and conservative opposition candidate Aecio Neves to use the broadcast time to present their proposals to the electorate.

The ban, the first of its kind in Brazil, does not apply to paid advertising in other media.

On Thursday night, the court struck down an advertisement by Rousseff’s camp, which suggested that Neves of the Social Democracy Party would curb freedom of expression if elected.

The advertisement aired on Wednesday accused Neves of persecuting journalists and publications critical of his administration when he served as governor of Minas Gerais state between 2003 and 2010.

Neves’ party had complained about it, demanding the advertisement be pulled off the air.
**US Air Force lands robotic X-37B space plane in California**

**Los Angeles, 18 Oct** — The US military landed its X-37B robotic space plane at Vandenberg Air Force Base in central California on Friday, ending a classified 22-month mission to date for the secretive programme, the Air Force said.

The X-37B, a 29-foot-long (9-metre) winged craft that resembles a miniature NASA space shuttle, touched down at 9:24 am local time at the coastal air base 160 miles (258 km) north-west of Los Angeles.

Also known as the Orbital Test Vehicle, the X-37B was carried into orbit for its latest mission aboard an unmanned Atlas 5 rocket from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida on 11 Dec, 2012.

The spacecraft conducted unspecified experiments for 674 days while in orbit, marking the lengthiest mission to date for the secretive programme, which is managed by the Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office, the Air Force said.

The space plane first flew in April 2010 and returned after eight months. A second vehicle blasted off in March 2011 and stayed in orbit for 15 months. Those first two missions ended at Vandenberg.

The Air Force says the orbiters, built by Boeing, “perform risk reduction, experimentation and concept-of-operations development for reusable space vehicle technologies,” although details of the missions are secret. Total programme costs and budget line are likewise classified.

Last week, the Air Force and NASA finalized a lease agreement to relocate the space plane program from Florida to Boeing’s Kennedy Space Centre, where the runway once used for shuttle landings may be used for future X-37B touchdowns.

The Secure World Foundation, a nonprofit group promoting the peaceful exploration of space, says secrecy surrounding the orbital activities and payloads of the X-37B are almost certainly due to the presence of national intelligence-related hardware being tested or evaluated.

“The landing of OTV-3 marks a hallmark event for the programme,” an unnamed programme manager said in a statement released by the Air Force’s 30th Space Wing at Vandenberg. The Air Force is preparing to launch the fourth X-37B mission from Cape Canaveral in 2015.

**Reuters**

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**South Korea tries to ease cyber surveillance fears**

**Seoul, 18 Oct** — South Korea is trying to ease worries about online privacy after a domestic chat app lost customers to a foreign rival because of fears prosecutors in one of the world’s most wired countries might get access to online conversations.

Prosecutors last month launched a cyber investigation team after President Park Geun-hye spoke out against online rumours that she said “crossed the line” and were deepening divisions in society.

But that has sown confusion and fear of snooping among users and providers of online services.

On Thursday, Prime Minister Chung Hong-won tried to reassure the public about online privacy, saying the government would only seek monitoring rights in special cases — such as an investigation of murder, human trafficking or insurrection.

“He emphasized that the government has been steadfast in ensuring freedom of expression and other basic privacy rights and will continue to do so,” Chung’s office said in a statement.

Authorities insist they have no intention or ability to conduct large-scale surveillance of the public but South Korean messaging app KakaoTalk said it had lost users because of the fears about surveillance.

A rival German app, Telegram, which does not have servers in South Korea, added more than two million users in the two weeks through to 11 October, according to market researcher Rankey.com.

Telegram rushed out a Korean-language version in response to the surge in business. “The defection to a foreign app reflects hostility towards the government,” said Sohn Dong-young, a media professor at Hanyang University. Daum Communications Corp, KakaoTalk’s parent, said on Monday it had stopped complying with monitoring warrants since 7 October to protect KakaoTalk user privacy.

It also shortened the time it keeps data on servers and would introduce privacy modes, making it nearly impossible for third parties to see user conversations, it said.

“We will introduce real-time monitoring devices if that becomes a legal responsibility of operators,” Daum chief executive Sigran Lee said at a parliamentary hearing on Thursday.

“But today this decision is holding the scientists to capture on film the impact of humans on Earth.”

“You can no longer distinguish what is man-made from what is natural.”

A group of geologists, climate scientists, ecologists and an expert in international law that have been conducting research since 2009, all met face-to-face for the first time in Berlin on Thursday and Friday to discuss the issue.

They appeared to agree it is time for a change of epoch.

In a year that, though we have differences about when it starts, it seems as a group that we were quite happy to say we are in the Anthropocene,” said Colin Waters, secretary for the working group and a geologist for the British Geological Society.

The geological timescale of the Earth, as defined by the International Geological Congress, is divided into epochs, of which there is a longest of which are periods, then epochs and ages. Scientists measure them by studying such things as fossils and rock layers.

The working group, being in no overdue hurry to make such a resounding decision, will report its conclusions in August 2016 to the International Geological Congress.

**Reuters**

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**US FCC to look into new-generation wireless networks**

**Washington, 18 Oct** — In the words of Buzz Lightyear, and US Federal Communications Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel on Friday, US regulators will “look to infinity and beyond” to harness new technology that can help build a new generation of mobile wireless connections. The FCC on Friday voted unanimously to open a so-called “notice of inquiry” into what it and the industry can do to turn a new swath of very-high-frequency airwaves, previously deemed unusable for mobile networks, into mobile-friendly frequencies.

The FCC’s examination would serve as a regulatory backdrop for research into the next generation of wireless technology, sometimes referred to as 5G and which may allow wireless connections to carry a thousand times more traffic.

“We have rapidly transitioned from being a tightly controlled society, and react more sensitively about ensuring the protection of privacy,” Sung said.

**Reuters**
Trade minister intends to resign over funds scandal

Tokyo, 18 Oct — Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Yuko Obuchi intends to resign over irregularities in the financial reports of political groups supporting the recent Cabinet appointee’s activities, a government source said on Saturday. Resignation by Obuchi, a rising star in the ruling Liberal Democrat-Chi, a rising star in the first Cabinet minister to step down due to a scandal for a public inquiry into the government’s spending for theater outings. The source said Obuchi intends to take responsibility for the scandal and finalize her course of action after conveying her intention to Abe sometime soon, possibly by the end of Saturday.

Calls for her resignation were growing within the Abe government and among members of his party due to a series of allegations, chief among them being that her political groups partially shoul- dered her supporters’ ex- penses for theater outings.

“The momentum for her resignation is un- changed,” a senior LDP official said earlier on Sat- urday. A source within the Abe government said that while any move would come after Obuchi ex- plained her findings as promised, she faces a “se- vere situation.”

The source had been scheduled to attend a cere- mony in Aichi Prefecture on Saturday afternoon for the unveiling of the first Japanese-built small pas- senger jet, but her ministry said in the morning that she cancelled her trip to the central Japan prefecture. Abe is due to return to Tokyo in the afternoon from Milan, where he joined other leaders from Asia and Europe for a two- day biennial summit meet- ing.

Obuchi, a lawmaker from Gunma Prefecture, is embroiled in controver- sry over reports of wide discrepancies in the rev- enue and spending in the funds reports of her po- litical groups for theater outings organized for her constituents, in a possible violation of a law banning politicians from provid- ing benefits to voters. She also faces questions over alleged misuse of her polit- ical funds.—Kyodo News

Philippine prosecutors issue summons for US Marine in murder case

MANILA, 18 Oct — The Philippines on Friday issued a summons for an American serviceman, named as a suspect in the murder of a transgender Filipino he met in a bar outside the former US navy base of Subic Bay, to ap- pear at a hearing next week. Prosecutors will de- termine if there is enough evidence to put US Marine Joseph Scott Pemberton on trial at a court in Olongapo City for the murder of Jef- frey Laude, 26, who was found last Saturday in a ho- tel room.

Foreign ministry spokesman Charles Jose said foreign ministry offi- cials and prosecutors went to the United States embas- sy to serve the summons on Pemberton and four other soldiers required as wit- nesses in the case.

The embassy will hand the subpoenas to the US Marines stationed on the USS Peleliu, an amphibious assault ship docked in port at Subic Bay. They will order the men to be at the prosecutor’s office on Monday.

“The Department of Foreign Affairs, together with the office of the city prosecutor of Olongapo City, today served the subpoena and complaint against Private First Class Joseph Scott Pemberton for the murder of Jeffrey Laude, also known as ‘Jen- nifer’,” Jose said in a state- ment.

In Washington, Rear Admiral John Kirby, the Pentagon press secretary, said the US military had “a great sense of gravity over what happened” and was cooperating closely with local law enforcement on the case.

The Philippine foreign ministry has asked US em- bassy officials to hand the Marine to local authori- ties because the southeast Asian nation is worried about growing adverse do- mestic opinion over ties be- tween the two oldest allies in the region. The foreign ministry said the handling of the murder case could fuel opposition to a new 10-year military coopera- tion pact the two countries signed in April, which has been challenged in the Philippine Supreme Court.

The pact allows the US military to store supplies at Philippine bases for oper- ations related to maritime security, humanitarian as- sistance and disaster re- sponse. Under the Philippine’s status of forces agreement with the US military, it can demand custody of an errant serviceman, to be held in a detention facility agreed by both sides, a for- eign ministry official has said.

Some lawmakers in the Philippines have called for a public inquiry into the murder case and the coun- try’s existing military pacts with the United States.—Reuters

EU, Russia, Ukraine to hold trilateral gas meeting next Tuesday

BRUSSELS, 18 Oct — The European Union (EU) said on Friday a trilateral gas meeting between the EU, Russia and Ukraine was scheduled for next Tuesday in Brussels.

The three sides will be represented by EU Energy Commissioner Guenther Oettinger, Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak and Ukrainian Energy Min- ister Yuriy Prodan respect- ively. During the previous ministerial gas talks held in September in Berlin, Rus- sia, Ukraine and the EU pre- pared a new package deal on settling the gas dispute and needed to be approved by the governments in Mos- cow and Kiev.

According to the “winter package” mediated by the EU, Kiev would pay 2 billion US dollars to Russia by the end of October and a further 1.1 billion dollars by the end of this year to pay off gas debts.

In return, Russia would deliver at least 5 billion cu- bic metres of gas to Ukraine after it has received the first 2 billion dollars. The price discussed for the gas deliveries was 385 dollars per 1,000 cubic metres. Euro- pean Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said at the same day in Milan all remaining issues could be resolved during the next tri- lateral talks.—Xinhua

EU envoy stresses political solution to Syrian crisis

BRUSSELS, 18 Oct — Vis- iting UN Special envoy to Syria Staffan De Mistura stressed on Friday that the political path to solving the Syrian crisis is the best tool to confront the threat of Daesh (the Islamic State or the IS) that is rapidly pro- gressing in the region.

De Mistura told report- ers following his talks with Speaker NabihBerri that "the solution to the Syrian crisis can only be political, not military.” He also said that amidst the quick outset of Daesh, there was a dire necessity to move hastily in a political course through visiting Teheran and Mos- cow so as to confront the growing danger of terror- ism.

The UN envoy is in Lebanon since Thursday. During his visit, the second in a month, he met with Prime Minister Tammam Salam, Foreign Minister JebranBassil, Progressive Socialist Party leader MP WalidJumblat, as well as other senior officials of the country.—Kyodo

Islamic militants reportedly free two German hostages in Philippines

MANILA, 18 Oct — Isl- lamic militants freed two Germans who were taken hostage in April in the seas off Palawan Province, according to a radio report.

Members of the Abu Sayyaf group seized Ste- fan Okonek, 72, a doctor, and his partner HenrieDi- elen, 55, when their yacht lost power in the seas off Palawan, an island facing the South China Sea, while

they were sailing toward Sabah in eastern Malaysia. The militants demand- ed a $5.6 million ransom in exchange for release of the hostages.

A man who claims to be a spokesman for the militant group told a local radio station they handed over both hostages to “an emissary” in Patikul town in Sulu Province.

The man also said that the ransom was paid. But a military spokesman said the military has yet to con- firm the Germans were re- leased.

Kyodo News

Soldiers ride in a truck as they patrol a road in Jolo, Sulu, in southern Philippines on 25 Sept, 2014. —Reuters

Protesters shout “Justice for Jennifer” during a rally against the killing of 26-year-old Filipino transgender Jennifer Laude, outside the US embassy in Manila on 17 Oct, 2014.—Reuters

Japanese Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Yuko Obuchi
Nile dam talks inch forward but Egypt gets no water guarantee

Cairo, 18 Oct — The three main countries that share the Nile River’s waters moved toward an agreement to study whether a planned $4 billion Ethiopian dam would disrupt flows to downstream countries, water ministers of Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt said after talks on Friday.

But while the countries continue talks, construction will proceed on the Renaissance Dam, which will be Africa’s biggest dam and aims to provide cheap power for countries as far away as South Africa and Morocco.

“The committee agreed to short-list seven consultancy firms to undertake the hydrological and socio-environmental studies,” the water ministers said in a statement. The consultancies

were not identified, though British construction law firm Corbett has been chosen to oversee the administrative aspects of the studies, the statement said.

The project, being built by Italy’s Salini Impregilo SpA (SALLMI), aims to produce 6,000 megawatts of electricity for a power-hungry region.

But it has upset Egypt, which relies almost exclusively on the Nile River for farming, industry and drinking water for a rapidly growing population.

Cairo is concerned that years of filling the new dam’s 74 billion cubic metre reservoir will temporarily cut the river’s flow, and that surface water evaporation from the huge new lake will then reduce it permanently.

In a sign of the limits that talks will have on Ethiopia’s plans to become a regional power hub, the country’s water minister declined on Friday to offer any hard guarantees that the dam would not adversely affect Egypt.

“Ethiopia designs all the dams in the country in a way that does not harm significantly the downstream countries,” Alemayehu Tegenu said in response to a reporter’s question.

“This is a principle. This principle by itself is very important. There is no need to give a guarantee.”

The tripartite committee of water ministers are slated to resume talks in Khartoum in November, where they will decide on the firm to conduct the socio-environmental study.

Five killed in road accident in E India

New Delhi, 18 Oct — Five people were killed and four others injured on Saturday in a road accident in the eastern Indian state of Bihar, said police.

The incidents took place in the state’s Sitamarhi district, where five people on board a car died on the spot and one injured when the speeding vehicle hit a stationary truck. Road accidents take place frequently in India due to reckless driving, bad road conditions and lack of safety surveillance.—Xinhua
**I was a streaker in college time: Jennifer Garner**

**New York, 18 Oct** — Actress Jennifer Garner has revealed she enjoyed stripping in her college days.

The 42-year-old actress said she was never a party animal but liked to streak, reported the Huffington Post.

“I didn’t drink. I was never a big party girl, but I streaked. I was just in a naked frame of mind. I don’t think I was the only streaker, but I might have been the leader of the streakers! And we just all streaked, all summer,” Garner recalled.

She is now married to actor-director Ben Affleck and has three kids with him. Embarrassed at the revelation, Garner said, “It doesn’t (seem like me at all). I mean, it must have been six or seven years ago, so…” — PTI

**Will Smith, Tom Hardy to star in ‘Suicide Squad’?**

The two stars are close to signing on the film, which is expected to release in 2016, reported Deadline.

It will be directed by David Ayer.

The Wolf Of Wall Street actress Margot Robbie is also looking likely for Suicide Squad, which revolves around a group of supervillains, who are brought together to tackle high-risk black ops missions for the government. — PTI

**JK Rowling to build own ‘Hagrid Hut’**

**New York, 18 Oct** — Harry Potter author JK Rowling is set to build her own ‘Hagrid Hut’ in the grounds of her home.

Rowling’s application to install the stone summerhouse on the edge of Killiechassie Estate, near Aberfeldy in Perthshire, was approved last week by Perth and Kinross Council, reported the Daily Express.

The plans show her new summerhouse look strikingly similar to the house of Rubeus Hagrid. — PTI

**Halle Berry wants child support amount reduced?**

**Los Angeles, 18 Oct** — Actress Halle Berry has reportedly filed documents asking judge to cut her monthly child support obligation out of suspicion her ex-beau Gabriel Aubry is using the money. Berry and Aubry, who dated for five years before splitting in 2010, have joint custody of their daughter Nahla. Each has the kid around 50 per cent of the time.

Berry, 48, has asked the judge to reduce her monthly child support obligation from USD 16,000 a month to just over USD 3,000 a month, reported TMZ.

The actress has apparently claimed in her legal documents that Aubry, 39, has stopped working and is content to live off of the child support, and that’s an abuse of the system. She has reportedly added that Aubry is perfectly capable of getting a job and by reducing the support it will allow 6-year-old Nahla to live a comfortable life, supplemented by his income. — PTI

**Actress Misty Upham’s body identified by Seattle coroner**

**Seattle/Los Angeles, 18 Oct** — “August: Osage County” actress Misty Upham’s body, found at the bottom of a deep river embankment near Seattle, was officially identified on Friday by a Washington state coroner, more than a week after her family reported her missing.

The King County Medical Examiner said the 32-year-old Native American actress died on 5 October, but the cause and manner of death were still under investigation.

The actress’ family accused police in Auburn, Washington, about 20 miles south of Seattle, of making little effort to find Upham.

A search party organised by the family found a body believed to be Upham on Thursday at the bottom of a 150-foot (46-metre) embankment in Auburn near the Muckleshoot Indian Reservation.

A purse with Upham’s identification was at the scene and foul play was not suspected, Auburn police said.

Police have said they did not consider Upham, who is from the Blackfeet tribal nation, to be in danger, and they could do little because she was an adult who left her residence on her own.

Family friend Tracy Rector, a filmmaker who was part of family-organized groups that searched for Upham and has been a spokeswoman for the family, said the actress suffered from anxiety and bi-polar disorder and was without medication when her father reported her missing on 6 October.

“They chose not to act when the family pleaded with them to help,” Rector said of Auburn police. “It was not in Misty’s character to disappear ... They went to the police repeatedly.”

Rector said Upham’s case strikes at the long-standing tension between the Native American community on the Muckleshoot Reservation and Auburn police, which she said has often been unresponsive and antagonistic. “There were a number of people who came up to me that said, ‘We’ve been dealing with this ever since we can remember. For many, many years our people are not safe with Auburn police’,” Rector said. The Auburn Police Department did not respond to a message seeking comment on its relations with the local Native American community. — Reuters
Britain’s battered coal industry sees glimmer of hope in carbon capture

KNOTTINGLEY, (England) 18 Oct — A short drive across Britain’s gritty former industrial heartland of south Yorkshire separates the past and the possible future of its once mighty coal industry. Kellingley colliery’s winding towers loom over modest streets of row houses, lined with “For Sale” signs. The mine is likely to shut soon because it is losing money — one of the last three working underground pits in the country.

Down the road a new coal-fed power station is planned, using cutting edge technology to pipe its harmful carbon emissions underground out to under the seabed.

“We’ve got coal plants around us but they’re closing Kellingley because they can get it cheaper from God Kellingley because they worked in Yorkshire and the possible future of its industrial heartland of south land) 18 Oct — A short drive along the road to Drax, Alstom and BOC, named after the emblem of deeply proud Yorkshire.

Supporters of the industry are counting on the British government’s drive to support Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technology, which traps and buries underground polluting carbon.

One of these planned CCS projects is the 2-billion pound White Rose plant proposed by Drax, Alstom and BOC, named after the White Rose power plant in Yorkshire. The White Rose project could “in principle” burn domestic British coal, but the developers have not yet decided on the project’s fuel procurement, a spokesman for Drax said.

“The future for British coal is if we get on with carbon capture and storage with coal,” said Tony Lodge, research fellow at the London-based Centre for Policy Studies, founded in 1974 by Margaret Thatcher.

*Reuters*

WTA bans Russia tennis chief for ‘Williams brothers’ jibe

NEW YORK, 18 Oct — The president of the Russian Tennis Federation Shamil Tarpischev has been fined $25,000 and banned from any involvement with the women’s tour for a year after referring to Serena and Venus Williams as the “Williams brothers” on a television chat show last week.

Women’s Tennis Association (WTA) chief executive Stacy Allaster said the comments were “insulting, demeaning and have absolutely no place on our sport.”

Allaster added: “Mr Tarpischev’s statements questioning their genders tarnish our great game and two of our champions. His derogatory remarks deserve to be condemned and he will be sanctioned.

“As a result of his comments I have ordered Mr Tarpischev to be fined $25,000, the maximum allowed under WTA rules,” she added. She said he would be suspended from any involvement with the WTA for a year.

World number one Serena Williams has won 18 grand slam singles titles while her sister Venus has won seven majors.

Dave Haggerty, president of the United States Tennis Association, called on Tarpischev to issue an apology.

*Reuters*

Malaysian launches bid to join FIFA exco

KUALA LUMPUR, 18 Oct — Malaysian Football President Tengku Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah is targeting more places for Asian sides at future World Cups after launching a bid to join the all-powerful FIFA executive committee.

The Asian Football Confederation will vote for three members to join FIFA’s decision-making board with Tengku Abdullah the first of many expected to throw their hat into the ring for the election expected to take place in April or May.

The Malaysian launched his ‘Asia IVoice’ campaign on Friday by repeating the old, somewhat tired, adage: “I believe that we should be given more places in the World Cup rather than the four seats allocated to us at the moment.”

Asia’s four representatives at this year’s World Cup all finished bottom of their groups. It was the first time since the 1990 tournament in Italy that Asia did not win a game at the finals.

*Reuters*
Injury-hit PSG beat Lens as temps flare

Paris, 18 Oct Injurious Paris St Germain beat struggling RC Lens 3-1 in a heated Ligue 1 game featuring three red cards at the Stade de France on Friday.

Two Lens players and one from PSG were sent off in the second half as the Parisians moved up to second in the standings with 18 points from 10 games, four adrift of Olympique de Marseille who have a match in hand.

Lens, who were hosting the match at the Stade de France as their Bollaert stadium is closed for renovation ahead of Euro 2016, were reduced to 10 men when Adama Coulibaly was dismissed after picking up a second yellow card on 59 minutes.

The result left Lens in 18th place with eight points, four points behind leaders Paris St Germain who have a match in hand.

PSG, without injured striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic and centre backs Thiago Silva, David Luiz and Marquinhos, hit back in the 28th minute when Yo-han Cabaye fired home from the edge of the box.

Paris Saint Germain's Maxwell celebrates with team-mate Yohan Cabaye (top) after scoring their team's second goal during their French Ligue 1 soccer match against RC Lens at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis near Paris on 17 Oct, 2014.— Reuters

United chasing the right balance, says Van Gaal

LONDON, 18 Oct — Playing spectacular football is all well and good but Manchester United must find the right balance in both areas of the pitch if they want to be successful this season, manager Louis van Gaal said on Friday.

After winning their last two Premier League matches against West Ham and Everton, United have risen to fourth in the table with 11 points from seven matches.

But despite showing plenty of attacking flair in their recent resurgence, United’s defensive frailties have been all too evident this season, and Dutchman Van Gaal wants to see a more rounded performance against West Bromwich Albion on Monday.

“We need more balance, I said that after the Everton match. I’m looking for balance in the team, not just spectacular attacking football,” Van Gaal told a news conference.

“When you lose the ball, you have to have a shape and a control and you can defend more easily. You can kill the game better.

“I don’t think that we are in balance now. I am sorry to say that, but it is the truth. We are moving forward in training sessions, though, and evaluating those sessions I hope that we shall improve.”

Captain Wayne Rooney is still suspended after being sent off against West Ham, but the injury crisis which Van Gaal labelled as the worst of his managerial career appears to be easing.

England defenders Chris Smalling and Phil Jones have both returned to full training during the international break, while midfielder Michael Carrick is also nearing a return after an ankle injury.

“This morning (Fri-day), we didn’t need any players from the second team and that is a plus,” Van Gaal said. “I am very happy because there are no injuries from the interna-tional games.”

Van Gaal will be des-perate to settle his side, having used 30 different players in the league already this season — more than any other club.

Rooney will be a big absence: the striker has scored in his last six Premier League starts against the Baggies.

Fourteenth-placed West Bromwich Albion made a steady start under new manager Alan Irvine and Van Gaal is expecting a tough examination at The Hawthorns.

“West Brom are very difficult to beat, especially there, in their home,” he said. “They play not only long balls but they also play a positional game.

“We have to start with a victory after the interna-tional break.”

While the omens are not fantastic for United — they have won only one of their last five Premier League matches played on a Monday — they are dire for West Brom. The Baggies have won only two of their previous 18 Premier League matches played on a Monday.

Reuters

Cilic overpowers Robredo to reach Kremlin Cup semis

Moscow, 18 Oct — US Open champion Marin Cilic moved into the last four of the Kremlin Cup with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Spain’s Tommy Robredo on Friday.

The 26-year-old Croa-tian proved too strong for the experienced Spaniard, ranked 21st in the world, who was making his second appearance at the Kremlin Cup after a 12-year hiatus.

World number eight Cilic hit 10 aces and converted four break points on his way to a victory that kept him on course for his fifth final of the year.

“Today’s performance was at a higher level than yesterday — my movement was better, as were my ground shots and especially my serve,” Cilic told reporters.

“I was hoping to play better because Robredo is very difficult opponent, dangerous from the back of the court. He had to play many more games than I have. In matches much longer than I expected. I’m really happy I could win in two sets.”

The tournament favourite will now face 26-year-old Kazakhstan Mikhail Kukushkin in the semi-finals.

“I saw his match with Mikhail Youzhny and Kukushkin showed high quality,” Cilic said.

“His movement was better, especially my serve,” said Cilic.

A second concert featuring Grammy award winning artist Mariah Carey will go ahead on Friday but with a re-ar ranged stage and set up to better protect the sandy pitch, made of natural grass reinforced with artificial fibres inserts.

The pitch only had two weeks to bed in May as appose to the normal six month period leaving it struggling to cope with the number of events and constant covering for concerts and amateur runs. Many are unhappy with the poor spectacle which threatens to hinder Singapore’s bid to become a sport ing hub in Asia.

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