Myanmar encourages UN to further strengthen and expand areas of cooperation for peoples of ASEAN

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Oct—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein sent a message on the Occasion of the Sixty Ninth Anniversary of the United Nations. The full text of the message is as follows:

1. Today is the 69th Anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. Thus we join hands with other member states in commemorating this significant and special day. On this occasion, we need to renew our determination and efforts for a better, more prosperous and peaceful world. To this quest, the World Organization remains central.

2. Nowadays we are faced with urgent challenges of climate change, terrorism and development in all aspects of life. The United Nations is primary and indispensable in confronting these challenges. The mobilization against the Ebola outbreak confirms the Organization’s ability to respond to world’s needs.

3. The international community has to stand united under the auspices of the United Nations to match these and other challenges that threaten the entire world. The fundamental principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations remain as valid as the day they were signed. More than ever, people need a universal organization that brings us all together in pursuing overarching goals of peace, human rights, justice, and economic and social progress.

4. As the current Chair of ASEAN and as a nation, Myanmar welcomes the cooperation between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations through the implementation of the Joint Declaration on the Comprehensive Partnership of 19 November 2011. Myanmar also encourages the United Nations to further strengthen and expand the areas of cooperation for the peoples of ASEAN.

5. Myanmar, for her part, is determined to keep the current reforms on track. This goal will be fulfilled by securing peace and national reconciliation to ensure political stability and the socio-economic development of the country. The continued support of the United Nations plays an important role in this mission.

6. We appreciate the greater understanding and interest in Myanmar of the United Nations and its agencies. I would like to put on record, on behalf of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and its people, our sincere appreciation and gratitude for the United Nations' unshaking support for the irreversible changes in the reform process demands.

7. On this auspicious occasion, Myanmar hereby reaffirms her resolution and commitment to continue shouldering her responsibilities as a member of the United Nations and to working hand-in-hand with the international community.

UPWC delegation met with Mongla and Wa delegations

Modification of constitution discussed in President Office

Umbrella hoisted atop pagoda in Thazi Tsp

An earnest dialogue is a shot in the arm for peace talks

Japan Myanmar Pwe Taw set to kick off for first time in Yangon on 6-7 December

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 23 Oct—The first Japan style festival will be held at Shwe Htut Tin Ground in Yangon on 6-7 December, beginning at 2 p.m. each day, “the Japan Myanmar Pwe Taw” executive committee announced at a press briefing on Thursday.

In cooperation with NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation), Japan International Broadcasting Inc., (from right to left) Koji Kuroda, chairman of “Japan Myanmar Pwe Taw” executive committee, Tateshi Higuchi, Japanese ambassador to Myanmar, and Yoshitoku Shimizu, president and CEO of Japan International Broadcasting Inc., pose for photos after the press briefing on Japan Myanmar Pwe Taw to be held in Yangon on 6-7 December, 2014 which is marked as the 60th year since Myanmar and Japan established relations. (See page 9)
Myeik District (A) emerges champion in inter-district table tennis tourney

Dawei, 23 Oct — The prize presentation of the Taninthayi Region Chief Minister’s Cup Inter-District Table Tennis Tournament was held at the table tennis club in Shwewe Thiri Sports Ground in Dawei on 22 October.

Among the spectators were Chief Minister U Myat Ko, Speaker of Region Hluttaw U Htin Aung Kyaw, the chief justice of the region and ministers.

In the final match, Myeik District (A) trounced Dawei District (A) 3-0.

Speaker U Htin Aung Kyaw presented medals and cash awards to first prize winner Myeik District (A), the second prize winner Dawei District (B) and third prize winner Dawei District (B) respectively.

Chief Minister U Myat Ko awarded championship trophy to Myeik District (A).

The Chief Minister and party then enjoyed competition of the Region Chief Minister’s Trophy Inter-State/Region Badminton Championship at the gymnasium.—Taninthayi Region IPRD

Overheated regulator destroys two-storey building worth K8.7million

Mandalay, 23 Oct — A fire that started from overheated regulator installed at the air-conditioner at the Chinese school at 10.20 am on 22 October in Yemontaung ward between 55th and 56th streets in Yemontaung ward in Mandalay was put out at the Chinese school property worth K8.7 million.

While putting out the fire, FSD U Than Zaw Win supervised putting out of fire by 35 servicemen of FSD and 150 auxiliary fire brigade members with the use of three management vehicles and 40 fire trucks.

Thanks to their concerted efforts, the fire could be put out within 10 minutes, but the fire engulfed one two-storey building and property worth K8.7 million.

With regard to the outbreak of fire, Mahauzugmye Myoma police station filed in-charge of the school U Kyaw Sein under the law.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Modern sports gear installed at moats for city dwellers

Mandalay, 23 Oct — Mandalay City Development Committee places emphasis on sanitation of the city and convenience of dwellers.

The committee installed modern sports equipment around the moat of Mandalay Royal Palace in Aungmyethazan Township for public relaxation as of second week of October.

Local people old and young take exercise at the moats with the use of modern sports gear.

Parks and Playgrounds Department also installed sports equipment at the uphill road to Mandalay Hill, at the junction of 26th and 66th streets and Manawram Park.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Talks given on danger of uneatable foods and expired products

Mandalay, 23 Oct — The Health Department under the Mandalay City Development Committee checks the shops of its markets whether they sell unsuitable foodstuffs and snacks with chemicals and dyes.

Officials of the department also gave educative talks on side effects and danger of chemicals and dyes in the foods to the shop owners and vendors at Miba Market on 76th street between 9th and 10th streets in Aungmyethazan Township on Wednesday.

Dr Nwe Ei Khang and Dr Hsu Yi Myo of the Health Department of MCDP gave talks on danger of chemicals and dyes in the foodstuffs, expired products and uneatable imported foods and distributed pamphlets to the shopkeepers.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Community development planning course improves capacity of local people

Yinmabin, 23 Oct—The community development planning course, conducted by Township Rural Development and Township Planning Department, concluded at the hall of Yinmabin Township General Administration Department in Sagaing Region on 22 October.

Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) MP U Thaung Han presented completion certificates to the trainees.

District and township level officials viewed the village maps drawn by the trainees to the village manuals.

Altogether 30 trainees from wards and villages attended the course from 15 to 22 October.

Tun Ko Ko (Yinmabin)
**Union A & I Minister inspects agricultural development tasks in Nay Pyi Taw**

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 Oct — Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing visited Palethwe hybrid paddy seed production farm in Nay Pyi Taw. He then met the project manager to discuss the rice mill construction projects and private sector development that plays a key role in enhancing the country’s agriculture sector.

In 900-acre farmland in the township, U Myint Hlaing inspected the growing of perennial crops and growth of Japan’s species watercress plants, urging the officials to hand out seeds and technology to the farmers.

He also inspected the papaya, pine-apple, chili and long staple cotton farms which planted with the use of one village-one product system, calling for increasing of public awareness.

The Union Minister looked around a research farm where the officials are making preparations for research growing with the arrangement of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and provided gifts to Dr Hyun Seok Lee, a researcher of the agency.

Correction

Please read “President U Thein Sein urges EU to end submission of draft resolution on human rights situation in Myanmar at UN General Assembly” at the heading of the news and “submission of draft resolution” instead of “submission of reports” in the fourth line in the second para of the news on page 3 of this daily issued on 18-10-2014. GNLM

**Modification of constitution discussed in President Office**

**5th Europe-Asia Eye Specialist Conference held**

Yangon, 23 Oct — The 5th Europe-Asia Eye Specialist Conference held on Wednesday here to promote relations between European and Asian nations, with the address by the Union Health Minister Dr Than Aung.

He said that the conference benefits to help exchange of health-related information and further cooperation among the nations, saying the development of current implementation eye health programmes in Myanmar with the assistance of international bodies.

According to the schedule of the conference, Vice President of Myanmar Medical Association (MMA), Eye Surgeon Prof Dr Tin Win and other eye care specialists participated in the discussion.

Union Minister Dr Than Aung looked around Yangon Eye Specialist Hospital.

**Standing table of 3rd SEA Vovinam Championship 2014 on second day**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>GOLD</th>
<th>SILVER</th>
<th>BRONZE</th>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>17</td>
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<td>57</td>
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</table>

**Myanmar stands second in Vovinam Championship**

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 Oct — The 3rd SEA Vovinam Championship 2014 continued at the Wunma Theikdi Gymnasium A in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

Athletes participated in the women’s doubles weaponless attack event, four-man attack event, women’s 57-kilo attack, men’s 54-kilo attack, women’s singles sword, women’s 51-kilo attack, men’s 57-kilo attack and four-man attack events.

Deputy Minister for Sports U Zaw Win, President of SEA Vovinam Federation Rat Sokhorn and officials presented prizes to the winners.

After the evening events, Vietnam stands first, Myanmar second and Cambodia third.—MNA
Ratio of traffic police to motorbike reaches 1:3700 in Mandalay

Mandalay, 23 Oct —

Despite growing number of vehicles and population, traffic accidents do not rise in Mandalay City, according to No 11 Traffic Police Squad.

“Occurences of traffic accidents in Mandalay scored 0.05 per cent in 2013 and 0.04 per cent in 2014. It is result of traffic rules enforcement system in Mandalay. A total of 75 per cent in traffic accidents depend on undiscipline acts of motorists from 6 pm to midnight. So, we carefully check vehicles at night,” Police Major Thein Maung Pyi Thu of No 11 Traffic Police Squad said.

Traffic knowledge shared to members of social organizations

Mandalay, 23 Oct —

No 11 Traffic Police Squad (Mandalay) disseminated knowledge about traffic rules to members of social organization of Pyigyidagun Township in Mandalay on 19 October.

Police Major Thein Ko Ko of the squad said that traffic police cooperate with social organizations in their philanthropic tasks by clearing traffic congestions. Educational talks on traffic enforcement were given to drivers and traffic users for refreshing their knowledge in traffic rules. The traffic police fine the traffic rules brokers but give helmets to the poor free of charge.”

Police Captain Kyaw Zin Myint of the No 57 traffic police platoon explained the traffic rules for road users and distributed pamphlets to the attendees.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Mandalay takes pride in floating hotel in Ayeyawady River

Mandalay, 23 Oct —

Mandalay Karaweik floating hotel, designed by Myanmar engineers, is being built with 99 percent completion at Mandalay Dockyard and its construction started on 3 March 2013.

As a test-run, the floating hotel carrying over 1,000 family members drove from Mandalay firewood compound jetty to Mingun and from Mingun to Shangalek-yun and Shwekyetyet along Ayeyawady River on 18 October.

The triple-decker floating hotel is 250 feet long and 70 feet wide, comprising 32 double rooms installed with air-conditioners, three family rooms, four special double rooms, totaling 39 and one hallroom. The floating facilities is installed with two 360 HP engines.

The facility is being built with the aim of enabling globetrotters to enjoy scenic beauty of Ayeyawady River and environs.

The hotel will be commissioned into service in November, Managing Director U Tun Tun of GC Myanmar Company said.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Capacity of police officers enhanced to take security measures

Mandalay, 23 Oct — The police officers security capacity enhancement course, organized by Mandalay Region Police Force, concluded at the hall of the commander of Mandalay Region Police Force at the corner of 66th and 30th streets in Chanayethazan Township on Wednesday.

Commander Police Col Han Tun presented certificates to the trainees.

A total of 100 police officers of security police branches under No 3 Security Police Branches Control Office, Mandalay and Sagaing Region Police Forces attended the course from 9 to 22 October.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Awareness for control of Ebola virus coordinated

Mandalay, 23 Oct —

A coordination meeting on control of Ebola virus was held at the hall of Mandalay Region Health Department on 21 October.

After Deputy Health Minister Dr Win Myint made a speech, Deputy Director-General Dr Soe Lwin Nyein of Health Department explained monitoring the disease and treatment.

The deputy minister and party inspected the medical equipment checking the flight passengers at Mandalay International Airport.

Myanmar is raising awareness of Ebola disease in the nation, said the deputy director-general.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)
China, ASEAN to discuss formulating COC

BEIJING, 23 Oct — Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin and Southeast Asian diplomats will gather in Bangkok late this month to discuss the formulation of a Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea, a spokeswoman said on Thursday.

China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will hold the 8th Senior Officials’ Meeting on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in Thailand from 28 to 29 October, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said.

The parties will discuss the comprehensive and effective implementation of the DOC, promoting practical maritime cooperation and formulation of a COC within the framework of the DOC, Hua said. Prior to the senior officials’ meeting, China and ASEAN will hold the 12th joint working group meeting on the implementation of the DOC, the spokeswoman said.—Xinhua

Philippines maintains key policy rates

MANILA, 23 Oct — Philippine monetary officials on Thursday decided to keep key rates steady as inflation is expected to go down in the next two years. Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (Philippine central bank or BSP) Governor Amado M Tetangco, Jr said in a Press briefing that overnight borrowing and overnight lending rates have been left unchanged at 4 percent and 6 percent, respectively. The interest rate on the reverse repurchase, repurchase and the special deposit account facility and the reserve requirement ratios were also maintained.

“The Monetary Board’s decision is based on its assessment of a more manageable inflation environment, based on latest baseline projections indicating within-target inflation for the policy horizon,” Tetangco said.

BSP cut its forecast average inflation to 4.4 percent from 4.5 percent for this year, and to 3.7 percent from 3.8 percent for 2015. The BSP has also projected that inflation will average 2.8 percent in 2016, down from a previous projection of 3 percent. The Monetary Board raised key policy rates in July and September to rein in inflation.—Xinhua

Cambodia deports over 500 illegal immigrants in past 6 months

PHNOM PENH, 23 Oct — Cambodia has over the last six months deported more than 500 foreigners from 21 countries for illegally entering or staying in the country, according to a report seen on Thursday. The report filed by the country’s national police said that since April 504 foreigners of 21 nationalities had been deported to their home countries. The 504 included 344 Vietnamese, 57 Taiwanese, 41 Chinese, 16 North Koreans and one Japanese, according to the report. Sok Phal, the country’s deputy police chief who is in charge of immigration affairs, could not be reached for comment on Thursday. However, he said last week that the immigration police began early this year conducting a nationwide census on foreigners living and working in Cambodia, and so far covered 16 of the country’s 25 provinces. It remains unclear when the census will be concluded.—Kyodo News

US aircraft carrier visits Philippines

MANILA, 23 Oct — A US aircraft carrier arrived here on Thursday for a routine port call, the US Embassy said in a statement.

The US Embassy said USS George Washington was one of the first American ships to respond to the request of the Philippines for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief after typhoon Haiyan (locally known as Yolanda) struck the country.

Recently, the BRP Gregorio del Pilar of the Philippine Navy joined the George Washington Carrier Strike Group off the coast of the Philippines from 22 to 23 October to conduct maneuvering, communications and gunnery exercises to further enhance their ability to work together. Commissioned on 4 July, 1992, the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier George Washington is the fourth ship to bear the name and is forward deployed to the 7th Fleet area of operations, operating from Yokosuka, Japan. The ship is commanded by Capt Greg Fenton and has a crew of 5,500 sailors.—Xinhua

Chinese Defence Minister meets Iranian Navy Commander

BEIJING, 23 Oct — Chinese Defence Minister Chang Wanquan on Thursday met with visiting Iranian Navy Commandant Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari on naval cooperation.

Chang said the two armed forces have seen good cooperation on mutual visits, personnel training and other fields in recent years. Exchanges between the two navies have been fruitful and their warships have paid successful visits to each other.

Sayyari said Iran has attached great importance to its relation-ship with China and is ready to enhance bilateral exchanges to push forward cooperation between the two armed forces, especially in naval cooperation.—Xinhua

Three killed as Muslim rebels attack S Philippine villages

DAVAO CITY, (Philippines), 23 Oct — Three people were killed in an encounter between villagers and suspected members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in southern Philippines on Thursday morning, a military official said.

Gunmen from the BIFF attacked Bagumbayan village in President Quirino town, Sultan Kudarat province early on Thursday morning, sparking a gun battle which lasted for hours, according to Col Dickson Hermoso, spokesman of the Philippine Army’s 6th Infantry Division.

Police said a brother of the former town mayor and two gunmen were slain in the fighting in Bagumbayan village.

Another group of BIFF gunmen also assaulted a village in the nearby town of General Salipada K Pendatun in neighbouring Maguindanao Province.

Authorities believe that a land dispute between the slain villagers and the attackers’ leader may have caused the clash.

Military and police troops are currently in the area to conduct pursuit operation against the attackers.

The BIFF is the armed wing of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement (BIFM), a breakaway faction of the 11,000-strong Moro Islamic Liberation Front which has forged a peace agreement with the Philippine government.—Xinhua

Policemen examine a damaged passenger van at the attack site in southwest Pakistan’s Quetta on 23 Oct, 2014. At least eight people were killed and several others injured when some unknown gunmen opened fire on a passenger van in Pakistan’s southwest Quetta city on Thursday morning, local media reported.—Xinhua
Belgrade, 23 Oct — Serbian Defence Minister Bratislav Gasic and his Macedonian counterpart Zoran Jolevski discussed on Wednesday perspectives for improvement of the two countries' cooperation and regional cooperation.

The delegations of the Serbian Defence Ministry and the Defence Ministry of the Republic of Macedonia previously met in the Guard House at Topcider on Tuesday and after the two-hour talks, Gasic told reporters that the two sides managed to achieve an agreement on intensification of military-educational and military-to-military cooperation.

We also discussed exchange of experiences when it comes to participation in peacekeeping operations, utilization of our capacities in bases South and Krasuevac and joint unit preparations for emergency situations, the Serbian minister said.

Gasic noted that the talks with Jolevski covered a number of joint topics, including the increased security risks in the region due to the participation of certain citizens from the area in combat operations abroad.

Jolevski said that he highly appreciates the valuable exchange of experiences on participation in peacekeeping missions because the process of education and training is a very important foundation for the development of any army. He noted that this is the reason why he visited the Military Academy and the Military Medical Academy in Belgrade and inquired about the institutions' capacities which he qualified as rather impressive.

Jolevski said that the Skopje Military Academy intends to realize close and immediate cooperation with the institutions in Belgrade. Gasic and Jolevski participated in the regional conference on the participation of Western Balkan countries in UN peacekeeping operations held in Belgrade on 20 October.

The incident came roughly a month after an intruder armed with a knife scaled the White House fence and made it inside the executive mansion, raising questions about security levels at the heavily guarded complex and spurring the resignation of then-Secretary of the White House by Secret Service Uniformed Division K-9 teams and Uniformed Division Officers.

The man climbed the fence around 7:15 pm (2315 GMT) and was apprehended shortly thereafter. The lockdown was lifted shortly before 9 pm.

“The individual was immediately taken into custody on the North lawn of the White House by Secret Service Uniformed Division K-9 teams and Uniformed Division Officers,” Donovan said. K-9 refers to the team using specially trained dogs.

The man was then transported to a hospital for evaluation, the spokesman said. The latest White House security breach happened the same day a gunman attacked Canada’s parliament in Ottawa.

But arguments about helping poorer eastern states or preferring nuclear over wind or solar power may drag the negotiations through the night into Friday, diplomats said.

The plan is to build on an existing set of green policy goals to 2020, which have greatly increased the amount of renewable energy such as the sun and wind used across the European Union and cut overall energy use through measures such as better building insulation and more fuel-efficient vehicles.

At present, EU carbon emissions are nearly 20 percent below 1990 - helped by the collapse of polluting industries in its eastern member states after the communist collapse 25 years ago. After six years of economic crisis, however, many states say their national budgets will struggle to cover the cost of more ambitious targets.

And leaders fret about the reaction of voters to a range of related effects, from a loss of jobs in coalmines to the world's most ambitious yet cost effective climate and energy policy framework.

While a pan-EU agreement will commit governments for years to come, detailed legislation will only be worked out later and could take account of how far other global powers follow suit.

The European Commission, the EU executive, has laid out three 2030 targets: as well as cutting emissions by 40 percent from 1990, they propose that green investment should provide at least 27 percent of energy and improving energy efficiency by 30 percent.

The EU officials still reckon an outline deal can be reached, but only after many hours of debate on providing financial incentives for nations such as Poland without placing too big a burden on richer, less industrial countries such as Denmark.

There is no agreement yet on the most ambitious yet cost effective climate and energy policy framework.

For instance, the EU executive still wants to meet the target, wants to keep open nuclear options and fears red tape will fuel Eurosceptic demands to quit the EU. Portugal and Spain, keen to export energy, are pressing hard for stricter targets that would force France to accept more power connections being built to link Iberia across the Pyrenees.

Russia to do more to defuse the conflict in Ukraine as the Kiev government holds a general election this weekend.
**Draft aid charter OKs Japan’s use of aid for foreign militaries**

**Tokyo, 23 Oct** — The Japanese government compiled a draft foreign aid charter on Thursday that approves the use of the country’s official development assistance to back foreign military operations. The charter extends noncombat operations, including disaster relief and coast guard activities.

In the first revision since 2003, the draft ODA Charter would represent a lifting of the charter’s ban on assisting foreign military forces with such funds, a move that critics say would spark concern that the aid could be diverted for military purposes.

The draft revision calls for Japan’s “contribution to peace and prosperity through nonmilitary cooperation.” The charter will be renamed to the “development cooperation charter,” according to the draft. The review comes as the government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe aims to revise by the end of this year the charter for dispersing over $10 billion in official development assistance annually to make aid to developing nations more strategy-oriented and reflective of changing global conditions.

**Defence guidelines may not be finalized until April: US official**

**Washington, 23 Oct** — A senior US government official has suggested that the US and Japanese governments may not be finalizing new defence cooperation guidelines until next April, thus missing their year-end deadline.

The official saw the need for further consultation between Tokyo and Washington so the new guidelines can detail how the Japanese Self-Defense Forces cooperate with the US military under a controversial policy allowing the SDF to use the right of collective self-defence. The two governments plan to hold so-called “two-plus-two” security talks involving their foreign and defence ministers when they devise the final version of the Guidelines for US-Japan Defence Cooperation, the official said on condition of anonymity. In an interim report released earlier this month, Japan and the United States simply said, without elaboration, the revised guidelines will “appropriately” reflect the Cabinet decision this summer to reinterpret Japan’s pacifist Constitution as permitting the nation to engage in collective self-defence.

“We don’t need to put the whole thing in the (new) guidelines, but we need to have something about the activities of the SDF,” the US official told Kyodo News on Monday.

The Japanese and US governments agreed in October last year to rewrite the guidelines, which were last updated in 1997, by the end of this year, citing the need to address many changes in the security environment in the Asia-Pacific region. The guidelines detail the roles of the US military and the SDF in the event of a contingency under the bilateral security treaty.

By changing the legal interpretation of the war-renunciation Constitution, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s government in July lifted the country’s decades-old self-imposed ban on the use of the right to help allies that come under attack even when Japan itself is not. But the government has yet to submit any bill to parliament to give legal backing to the SDF engaging in collective self-defence. The US official warned of any further delay in finalizing the revised guidelines far beyond April, the start of Japan’s fiscal year.

**Nigeria talks with Boko Haram but no sign of girls’ release**

**N'Djamena/Maiduguri, 23 Oct** — A week after Nigeria announced a ceasefire deal with Boko Haram, which it said would include the release of more than 200 schoolgirls kidnapped by the Islamist group, there is still no sign of the girls being freed.

Talks took place this week between the government and the Islamist militant group in the Chad capital, but they are shrouded in secrecy.

A series of attacks blamed on Boko Haram fighters since the announcement, meanwhile, has raised doubts over government claims of a truce.

A senior Chadian official has suggested that the revised guidelines far beyond April, the start of Japan’s fiscal year.

Nigeria’s precipitous announcement, seemingly for domestic political reasons ahead of elections next February, could jeopardize the prospects of an accord to free the girls and bring peace to the northeast.

“I sense Nigeria rushed to announce the deal with electoral-political calculations in mind,” said Mark Schroeder, vice president of Africa Analysis at the Stratfor consultancy.

“Getting a victory with the schoolgirls and a short-term truce with Boko Haram could be positive for President Goodluck Jonathan’s campaign,” he said.

The announcement of the truce came a day before a rally of the president’s supporters in Abuja, although he has yet to announce his candidacy.

Some residents of Nigeria’s northeast, which has born the brunt of the insurgency, also saw political calculations behind the announcement and doubted the talks in N’Djamena would lead to a lasting peace.

“The government just wants to (win) 2015 elections at all costs,” said Joel Peter, who runs a barber’s shop in Maiduguri, the city at the heart of the Boko Haram insurgency.

“Only the government is ready for ceasefire, not Boko Haram. Government is tired of insurgency and it hasn’t been winning the war ... but Boko Haram aren’t tired,” he said. “For the Chibok girls, let’s wait and see.”

A senior Chadian diplomatic source who requested anonymity said Jonathan made the announcement to show he had obtained a result but a deal had not yet been finalized. “Our feeling is that they acted precipitously. They should have waited until they at least had some of the girls. I don’t know anyone in the country who actually knows where they are,” the diplomat said.

The fact that the announced ceasefire has been broken does not mean that there was no deal in the works, he said, because it may take time to get the message down Boko Haram’s fragmented chain of command.

**Mexico says mayor, wife were behind student-teacher disappearances**

**Mexico City, 23 Oct** — A Mexican mayor and his wife were “probable masterminds” behind the disappearance of 43 student teachers last month in the restive southwest, the country’s attorney general said on Wednesday.

The students went missing on 26 September from Iguala in the southwestern state of Guerrero, after they clashed with police. The incident sent shockwaves across Mexico and undermined President Enrique Pena Nieto’s claims that Mexico is getting safer under his watch.

A demonstrator places pictures of some of the 43 missing students of the Ayotzinapa teachers’ training college on a police fence outside Mexico’s embassy in Buenos Aires on 22 Oct, 2014. — Reuters

**So far, federal authorities have arrested 52 people in connection with the incident, including dozens of police who have links to a gang called Guerreros Unidos, or “United Warriors.” The gang’s leader, Sidronio Casarrubias, was caught last week.**

Thousands marched in Iguala on Wednesday to protest the disappearance of the teachers in training. After the march, masked men set fire to the municipal offices with Molotov cocktails and smashed the windows. In Mexico City, Attorney General Jesus Murillo told prosecutors that Iguala Mayor Jose Luis Abarca and his wife, Maria de los Angeles Pineda, had obtained two local police forces to stop the students from disrupting a political event that day.

“We have issued warrants for the arrest of Iguala Mayor Jose Luis Abarca, his wife Mrs Pineda Vila and police chief Felipe Flores Velazquez, as probable masterminds of the events that occurred in Iguala on 26 September,” Murillo said at a Press conference. — Reuters
Maturity

Kyi Mun

* Maturity means: The quality of thinking or behaving in a sensible adult manner; the state of being fully grown or developed.

* Maturity, in the following way:
  - **M** for Motherly / Fatherly / Love
  - **A** for Altruism
  - **T** for Taking Responsibility
  - **U** for Understanding Self & Others
  - **R** for Righteousness
  - **I** for Integrity
  - **T** for Tolerance
  - **Y** for You & Preferring One Another
  - **M**OTHERLY / FATHERLY LOVE

  For a person to be mature, it would be necessary for them to think and act like an adult. It would be much better if they can manage to nurture and cultivate motherly/fatherly love in themselves. Motherly/Fatherly love is the highest manifestation of being a mature person. Nothing can compare with Motherly/Fatherly love in the matter of self-sacrifice, self-denial, fortitude, endurance, and resilience.

  * Altruism

  * Altruism means: The fact of caring about the needs and happiness of other people more than your own. (Oxford Dictionary)

  Man is by nature ego-centric, more or less. It is the sense of maturity that transcends egotism and immaturity of character. By sincerely taking care to follow as much as possible the practice of: “Love All, Serve All: Hurt Never, Help Ever,” we can cultivate our sense of maturity.

* Taking Responsibility

Being proactive is taking responsibility for one’s own life, job and relationship. Only by taking charge of one’s own life, one would be able to shape one’s own future. Immature people are not in charge of their own lives; they, in one way or another, prefer to rely on other people. They have little sense of independence and self-reliance. Without a full measure of self-reliance, one cannot be fully mature in character.

* Understanding Self & Others

  A mature person seeks to understand oneself first. First of all, he/she tries to understand one’s own strengths and weaknesses on the one hand; and opportunities and challenges in the environment, on the other. A mature person seeks first to understand other people; and then try to make oneself to be understood by other people.

* Righteousness

  Righteousness means: (1) Morally right and good; (2) That you think is morally acceptable or fair.

  (Oxford Dictionary)

  A mature person is righteous in such a way that he/she is always inclined to think and act just as St. Francis had prayed: “O Lord, Grant that, I may not so much seek to be consol’d as to console, to be understood as to understand, and to be loved as to love.”

* Integrity

  Integrity means: (1) The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; (2) The state of being whole and not divided.

  (Oxford Dictionary)

  A mature person’s way of living is always seamlessly integrated with the practice of: “Simple Living & High Thinking: Plain Living & Hard Struggle; and Dignity & Frugality.”

* Tolerance

  Tolerance means: (1) The willingness to accept or tolerate somebody/something, especially opinions or behavior that you may not agree with, or people who are not like you; (2) The ability to suffer something, especially pain, difficult conditions, etc. without being harmed: tolerance to cold; tolerance to alcohol decreases with age.

(“Oxford Dictionary”)

Tolerance has some companions such as patience, understanding, forbearance, forgiveness. The Chief companion of tolerance is Equanimity. TOLERANCE is like a FATHER if MATURITY is the OFFSPRING.

* You & Preferring One Another

  In the Bible it is said: “Thou shalt prefer one another.” I believe it is the beauty of MATURITY to PREFER ANOTHER PERSON. Without the full power of maturity, we cannot prefer another person. So also, without the tremendous power of maturity, one won’t be able to practice: “Love thy neighbor as thyself.” And without the power of maturity, one won’t be able to practice: “Turning the other cheek” policy.

* Conclusion

  The path to maturity should be:
  - From Ignorance to knowledge to wisdom to insight
  - From badness to goodness
  - From being wrong to being right
  - From apathy to interest to enthusiasm
  - From inertia to industry to initiative
  - From complacency to combativeness
  - From myopia to farsightedness
  - From greed to moderation and temperance to altruism
  - From arrogance to empathy to humility
  - From prejudice to consideration to sympathy
  - From hatred to love
Citizenship scrutiny cards issued to locals in Myaungnya

**NAVY TAW, 23 Oct—** Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi recently visited Myaungnya Township in Ayeyawady Region to inspect citizenship scrutiny cards (CSCs) distribution program which also known as Moe Pwint-6 program.

The Union Minister looked into the township's basic education high school and a Sky Net receiver for the school.—MNA

New Wunna Theikdi Tennis Court opened in Nay Pyi Taw

**U Kyaw Zwar Minn presents his Credentials to Irish President**

**NAVY TAW, 24 Oct—** U Kyaw Zwar Minn, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Ireland, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland, on 15 October in Dublin.—MNA

783 foreign enterprises permitted as of 30 Sept 2014 to do investment in Myanmar

**YANGON, 23 Oct—** More than 780 enterprises from 36 countries have been permitted as of 30 September 2014, with nearly $50 billion in total investment value, to invest in Myanmar, according to the announcement of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

Among the 783 enterprises, 73 are from China, 80 from Thailand, 134 from Singapore, 85 from Hong Kong, 75 from Britain, 71 from South Korea, 51 from Japan, 50 from Malaysia, seven from Vietnam, three from France, 10 from the Netherlands, 15 from India, 15 from USA, 12 from Indonesia, 18 from Canada and 15 from Australia, according to the announcement of the DICA.

Of them, eight enterprises will do investment in the power sector, 132 in the oil and gas sector, 392 in manufacturing, 69 in the mining sector, 27 in transport and communications, 57 in hotels and tourism, 28 in real estate, 30 in livestock and fisheries, 15 in agriculture, three in the industrial estate sector and 20 in other services.

Currently, 81 enterprises are investing in the oil and gas sector, seven in the power sector, 303 in manufacturing, 18 in transport and communications, 11 in mining, 42 in hotels and tourism, 16 in real estate, 12 in agriculture, two in the industrial estate sector, 12 in livestock and fisheries and 18 in other sectors, totaling $22 billion with total investment value of more than $39 billion as of 30 September 2014.

Existing foreign enterprises include 53 from China, 68 from Hong Kong, 98 from Singapore, 44 from Thailand, 87 from South Korea, 43 from Britain, 40 from Japan, 23 from Malaysia, 14 from India and seven from Vietnam.—GNLM

Umbrella hoisted atop pagoda in Thazi Tsp

**NAVY TAW, 23 Oct—** Union Minister at the President Office Thayay Sithu U Soe Maung and wife Daw Nang Phyu Phyu Aye attended the ceremony to hoist an umbrella atop Hsutaungpyae Pagoda and consecration ceremony on Ngammongo Hill in Thazi Township of Mandalay Region on Wednesday.

The union minister fixed tiers of umbrella, pennant-shaped vane and diamond orb atop the pagoda.

The congregation offered robes and alms to members of the Sangha.—MNA

Sewerage drained out from public toilets at Sagaing Market

**Mandalay, 23 Oct—** Markets and Slaughterhouses Department of the Mandalay City Development Committee allow public toilets at the area of Advanced Sagaing Market and Mann-Myanmar Plaza at downtown Mandalay for public convenience.

On Wednesday, workers of MCDC took out sewerage from the septic tanks of the public toilets. Tin Maung (Mandalay)

UPWC delegation met with... (from page 1)

media should be careful of their writing and speech that could harm the national unity and internal peace during the period when

Japanese-Myanmar Pwe Taw set... (from page 1)

Myanmar Tateshi Higuchi told the local media at Sky Star Hotel.

“Japanese people will be able to sparkle with cheerfulness at the two-day event,” the ambassador said in his briefing.

During the press briefing, officials concerned also gave briefings and answered the queries raised by media persons.

The Japan-style festival titled “Japan Myanamar Pwe Taw” will encompass a series of activities including a goldfish scooping game, a Japanese tradition-al game. During the festival, visitors will be able to try the taste of Japanese traditional food available at 15 yatai food stands. For those interested in singing, they will be very much welcomed at a karaoke contest.

Other delights for en-joying exciting nights will be a series of stage performances by Tao, a Japanese drumming ensemble, kawaii fashion and Myanmar singers, including Sai Sai Kham Leng and Ni Ni Khin Zaw.

Moreover, booths of Japanese companies in Myanmar and NHK and JIB will be exhibited at the festive ground, introducing their products including TV programs that will be aired on Myanmar’s MNTV in December. Admission is free for all visitors, officials said.

The Japan-Myanamar Pwe Taw that will be the first in Myanmar is considered to serve as a bridge to promote Japan-Myanmar friendship.

Japanese Embassy in Myanmar said that a Myanmar Festival took place at Zojoji Temple in Shibuya, Japan for two days recently, drawing nearly 60,000 to enjoy the festival.

GNLM

President of Myanmar Thein Zaw and U Shao Mi Lian.

On Thursday, the delegation led by U Thein Zaw, together with the two other delegations, visited Myanmar-China Border Gate in Mongla.—MNA

Umbrella hoisted atop pagoda in Thazi Township.—MNA

Union Minister Thayay Sithu U Soe Maung prepares to fix tier of umbrella atop Hsutaungpyae Pagoda in Thazi Township.—MNA

783 foreign enterprises permitted as of 30 Sept 2014 to do investment in Myanmar.—GNLM

Sewerage drained out from public toilets at Sagaing Market.—GNLM

Umbrella hoisted atop pagoda in Thazi Tsp...
Iraqi Kurds approve sending fighters to aid Syrian town

Under pressure to go beyond humanitarian assistance for those fleeing violence, Turkey said on Monday it would allow Iraqi Kurdish fighters, known as “peshmergas” or those who confront death, to cross its territory to reach Kobani.

Iraqi Kurdish lawmaker Mahmoud Haji Omer said on Wednesday: “Today in parliament, we agreed to send the peshmerga forces to Kobani as soon as possible,” he said. Iraqis said they were advancing despite coalition air strikes.

Two senior Kurdish officials said late on Tuesday that preparations were under way to send a small number of peshmerga to Kobani, known in Arabic as Ayn al-’Arab, but it would take several days until the necessary arrangements were in place.”

Ottawa, 23 Oct — A gunman attacked Canada’s parliament on Wednesday, with shots fired near where Prime Minister Stephen Harper was speaking, and a soldier was killed at a nearby war memorial, stunning the Canadian capital.

The gunman in the parliament building was shot dead, and Harper was safely removed. The killing of the Canadian soldier was the second this week with a possible link to Islamic militants. Witness accounts indicated the man who shot dead the soldier guarding the National War Memorial in central Ottawa, went on to attack the parliament building minutes later. Canadian police said, however, they could not confirm it was the same person.

The shooting followed an attack on two soldiers in Quebec on Monday carried out by a convert to Islam. US officials said they had been advised the dead gunman in Wednesday’s shootings was also a Canadian convert to Islam. Canadian police were investigating a man named Michael Zehaf-Bibeau as a possible suspect.

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China promotes new-energy buses in Beijing

BEIJING, 23 Oct — Chinese authorities released a plan on Wednesday requiring the heavily polluted cities of Beijing, Tianjin, and Hebei Province to put more new-energy buses on the road to cut pollution. China aims to promote the use of 20,222 new-energy cars in the region’s public transport system from 2014 to 2015, according to the plan jointly released by seven departments, including the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology and National Development and Reform Commission.

By the end of 2015, new-energy vehicles should take no less than 16 percent of the total buses in those regions, the plan said. The numbers of charging posts are estimated to reach 19,657.

The announcement is the latest government effort to address the increasingly serious pollution in the area.

US tightens Ebola monitoring for West African visitors

NEW YORK, 23 Oct — The United States imposed new constraints on Wednesday entering the country from three nations at the center of West Africa’s Ebola epidemic, mandating that they report their temperature daily and stay in touch with health authorities. President Barack Obama expressed cautious optimism about the situation in the United States after meeting with his Ebola response coordinator, Ron Klain, and other top officials on Klain’s first day on the job since being named on Friday.

The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention’s new restrictions on travelers arriving from Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea marked the latest precautions put in place by the Obama administration to stop the spread of the virus. The steps stopped short of a ban on travelers from those countries demanded by some lawmakers.

Health authorities and the public have been on alert for Ebola since late September when a Liberian visiting Dallas, Texas became the first person diagnosed with the virus in the United States. Two nurses who cared for him were also infected. The CDC said that, beginning on Monday, travelers from the three countries will be told to check in with health officials every day and report their temperatures and any Ebola symptoms for 21 days, the period of incubation for the virus. The travelers will be required to provide emails, phone numbers and addresses for them- selves and for a friend or relative in the United States covering the 21 days, and the information will be shared with local health authorities.

The travelers also will be required to coordinate with local public health officials if they intend to travel within the United States. If a traveler does not report in, local health officials will take immediate steps to find the person.

CDC Director Dr Tom Frieden told reporters the active monitoring programme will remain in place until the outbreak in West Africa is over. The UN World Health Organization’s latest figures on Wednesday showed at least 4,877 people out of 9,936 confirmed, probable and suspected cases have died in the outbreak, the worst on record.

“These new measures I’m announcing today will give additional levels of safety so that people who develop symptoms of Ebola are isolated early in the course of their illness,” Frieden said. “That will reduce the chance that Ebola will spread from an ill person through close contact and to healthcare workers.”

Beginning on Wednesday, travelers from Liberia, Sierra Leone or Guinea were being funnelled through one of five major US airports conducting increased screening for the virus.

Six states account for nearly 70 percent of all travelers arriving from the affected countries: New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, New Jersey and Georgia. The new monitoring will begin in those states first and will be expanded to other states.

The CDC said the monitoring program affects anyone coming back from the region, including CDC employees and journalists. It said when affected travelers enter one of the five airports they will receive a care kit that contains a tracking log, a pictorial description of symptoms, a thermometer, instructions on how to monitor their temperature and information on what to do if they experience symptoms. — Reuters

US Fed Board Governors hold open meeting in Washington DC

An open meeting to discuss a final rulemaking requiring sponsors of securitization transactions to retain risk in those transactions is held by US Fed Board Governors at the US Federal Reserve in Washington DC, capital of the United States on 22 Oct, 2014. — Xinhua

Novartis reports positive results in spinal inflammation condition

ZURICH, 23 Oct — Swiss drugmaker Novartis said on Thursday two late-stage trials showed its drug secukinumab improved symptoms of ankylosing spondylitis, a debilitating joint condition of the spine. The trials, which involved a total of approximately 600 patients, found Novartis’ drug improved signs and symptoms of the disease as well as physical function and quality of life compared with placebo.

The results follow on from positive findings for the anti-inflammatory drug in a type of arthritis associated with the skin disease psoriasis last month.

Novartis plans to file for regulatory approval of secukinumab to treat ankylosing spondylitis and psoriatic arthritis in 2015. Earlier this week, an advisory panel to the US Food and Drug Administration unanimously recommended the use of secukinumab in patients with a type of psoriasis, paving the way for its approval. — Reuters

Korea’s trade terms improved on lower oil prices

SEOUL, 23 Oct — South Korea’s trade terms were improved for the first time in five months due to lower global oil prices, central bank data showed on Thursday. The net terms-of-trade index for goods, which gauges how many goods can be imported with a unit export, rose 0.7 percent in September from a year earlier, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK). It was the first increase in five months as import costs fell at a faster pace than export prices amid lower global oil prices. Import costs slid 2 percent last month, with export prices falling 1.3 percent.

Oil prices imported from overseas declined 4.9 percent in September, and imported iron ore prices plunged 21.5 percent last month.

The income terms-of-trade index, which measures how many goods can be imported with total export proceeds, surged 8.1 percent in September from a year earlier. The export volume index jumped 7.3 percent, and the import volume advanced 9.1 percent on demand for farm goods and products of coal and oil.—Xinhua

Lloyds Banking Group said to cut 9,000 jobs in next three years

LONDON, 23 Oct — Lloyds Banking Group, one of the largest high street banks in Britain, Wednesday is reported to cut about 9,000 jobs, or 11 percent of its workforce, in the next three years.

Lloyds will disclose plans for the cuts, which will take place over a three-year period ending December 2017, said Sky News by citing inner sources. And the online banking evolution in Britain is one of the main reasons behind the layoffs.

Britain’s mobile and Internet banking is now being used for transactions worth nearly one billion pounds (1.71 billion US dollars) a day, said the British Bankers’ Association (BBA) and accounting agency EY in a survey report released in July. Although the exact number is still being finalized ahead of next week’s announcement, the British media’s sources confirmed that 9,000 was “the most likely” jobs figure to be outline by the bank.— Xinhua
Vnukovko airport’s four employees detained over fatal crash of French jet

SYDNEY, 23 Oct — Australian authorities have asked their Indonesia counterparts be on the lookout for debris from the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, according to local reports on Thursday.

“It is possible that some materials may have drifted to the coastline of Indonesia and an alert has been issued in that country requesting that the authorities be alerted to any possible debris from the aircraft,” a spokesman for the Australian Transport Safety Bureau and the Joint Agency Coordination Centre in charge of coordinating the search efforts for the missing aircraft said.

The report also notes that drift modeling undertaken by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority suggests, “If there were any floating debris, it is far more likely to have travelled west, away from the coastline of Australia.”

It added the ATSB continues to receive and review information from members of the public who have found material washed up on the Australian coast, believed to be linked to the missing aircraft.

Flight MH370 with 239 people aboard was bound for Beijing from Kuala Lumpur when it vanished over the South China Sea on 8 March.

To date no debris from the flight has been recovered.

An extensive search has been undertaken by Australian-led authorities, with more than 1,200 square kilometres of seabed having been searched in a new round of operations that began recently following several months of comprehensive bathymetric surveying of the underwater terrain by two contract vessels.

The second of the survey vessels Fugro Equator is expected to complete its operations and return to the west Australian coast soon. It will then join two other search vessels to scour the seafloor in search for the missing aircraft in an established search zone, a search phase that is expected to take around a year.

Search operations for the missing plane began shortly after it disappeared.

According to media reports, Malaysia’s prime minister said the debris from the air crash were far more likely to have travelled west, away from the Australian coast.

They have been detained and questioned as suspects in the case,” Markkin said. “According to investigators, the detained persons failed to provide necessary information and evidences flights and on-ground works and it led to the tragedy.”

The detained are chief engineer of the airport’s service Vladimir Ledenev, who was in charge of snow-clearing works at the time of the incident, flights director Roman Dunayev, intern air traffic controller Svetlana Krivsun and air port’s chief air traffic controller Alexander Kruglov, who was in charge of the air traffic at the time of the tragic crash.

Vladimir Martynenko, the operator of the snowplow that caused the crash, was also earlier detained for the period of 48 hours.

A criminal case has been opened in Russia into the violation of traffic safety and operation of the plane. Russian Prosecutor General Yury Chaika personally oversees the investigation. Itar-Tass

Australia asks Indonesia to be on the lookout for debris from MH370

Vuvacic: Serbia wants agreement with IMF as soon as possible

BELGRADE, 23 Oct — Serbia wants to sign an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as soon as possible, Finance Minister Dusan Vuvacic said on Wednesday.

He voiced the expectation that the production that the production would revive, and that will be possible on condition that the production in the power industry is restored to the June level, the Smедерева-based steel mill is privatized and achieves an output of two million tons, the problem with the Petrochemical complex is resolved and agricultural exports increased. It is realistic to expect a GDP growth in 2015, Vuvacic told a news conference after the Serbian government adopted a budget review.

That is possible, providing fiscal consolidation measures, a significant increase in foreign direct investments and production for exports, he explained.

With the IMF, Serbia reached an agreement in principle on all thorny issues, and agreed on the core structure of the economic programme, he noted.

This implies a major reduction in subsidies and introduction of certain fees such as transit taxes for gas whose price is currently below the market one, he explained. He noted that the agricultural producers renting land will not be eligible for receiving state subsidies, and that the subsidies for Serbian Railways will be reconsidered, and they will certainly not be permanent.

The Fund agreed that the second part of adjustment should be public enterprises because of their importance, and we must take into consideration the structure of their workforce, efficiency, and pay grades, Vuvacic said, adding that enterprisers will get the professional management. All these measures will be taken so as to chart a path of sustainable development for Serbia and position the country as the leader in the region, Vuvacic said, adding that US Vice President Joe Biden, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French Prime Minister Manuel Valls backed Serbia’s course.

Tanjug
**Korean foreign minister urges Japan to end ‘comfort women’ issue**

SEOUL, 23 Oct — South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung Se on Thursday urged Japan to resolve the issue of “comfort women” forced into the wartime brothels for the Japanese military, according to Yonhap News Agency.

In a report from Washington, Yonhap said Yun, on a visit to the US capital, made the remarks when asked whether South Korea and Japan could hold a summit.

“It’s important for Japan to show sincere measures for the issue of former comfort women.” Yun was quoted as telling reporters. “It’s meaningless to have a summit during which (the leaders) meet just for hand-shaking and the situation may worsen if a summit is held when conditions have not yet been created,” Yun said.

As for Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s attitude toward wartime history, Yun said he “has not seen a positive progress and changes made with sincerity.”

**Drought threatens more than 500,000 in Honduras — Red Cross**

Farmers wait during a distribution of food aid to families affected by the drought, donated by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) food reserves, in the village of Orocuina, on 28 Aug. 2014.—Reuters

**Forecast valid until evening of the 24th October, 2014:** Weather will be partly cloudy in Sagaing Region and Kachin State, rain or thunder-showers will be isolated in Mandalay and Magway Regions, Chin and Rakhine States, scattered in Shan and Kayah States and fairly widespread in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Quentin Tarantino cried while watching ‘Godzilla’

“Well, Quentin Tarantino said to me, ‘That was the first time I’ve ever cried during a 3D blockbuster. I had to take off my glasses to wipe away my tears’,” the actress said. “I took it as a compliment,” Binoche added that she had quite a different reaction to her brief appearance in ‘Godzilla’.

“I don’t know how much fun you can have when you have to die in two seconds, and you’re the one real woman character and you’re dead in three minutes and 45 seconds,” she joked.

Director Gareth Edwards will return for a 2018 ‘Godzilla’ sequel, which will feature iconic monsters Rodan, King Ghidorah and Mothra. It has also been confirmed that writer Max Borenstein will be back for ‘Godzilla 2’. —PTI

China-France co-production “The Nightingale” to debut

BEIJING, 23 Oct — “The Nightingale,” a China-France co-production set to compete for the mainland in the Oscars, will hit Chinese screens on 31 October, its producers have announced.

Director Philippe Muyl told a press briefing on Monday that in order to shoot the film, he spent a year in China to observe the Chinese people’s way of life.

Similar to his 2002 film “The Butterfly,” “The Nightingale” tells of an elderly man’s unexpected travel with his eight-year-old granddaughter in mountainous southwest China.

Muyl said the focus on family, a big part of Chinese culture, can resonate with people in other countries too. Producer Paul Delbecq said he was attracted to the film because it shows a real China that is fast developing.

“There are problems and reconciliations between different generations in China because they understand society in different ways,” Delbecq said, adding that the characters in the movie find a way to harmony through dialogue.

Selena Gomez, Orlando Bloom fuel dating rumours

LOS ANGELES, 23 Oct — Singer-actress Selena Gomez has fuelled dating rumours with Orlando Bloom after they were spotted at LAX.

The rumours came after Selena reportedly split from her on-and-off boyfriend, Justin Bieber. Selena and Orlando, 37, were believed to be heading to the We Day event in Canada, reported Ace Showbiz.

In some pictures, 22-year-old Selena was seen walking arm-in-arm with Justin’s friend Alfredo Flores. She looked down and hid her face while Orlando trailed a few feet behind her.

The ‘Behaving Badly’ actress wore all black outfit and carried a black bag. The star of ‘The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug’, meanwhile, sported a black tee, grey jeans and a large fedora.

This is not the first time Selena and Orlando have been rumoured to be dating. They previously fuelled dating rumours when they were spotted hanging out together at Chelsea Handler’s stand-up comedy show in Los Angeles back in April. —PTI

“Guardians of the Galaxy” leads China’s box office

BEIJING, 23 Oct — American blockbuster “Guardians of the Galaxy” ruled China’s box office for the week ending 19 October, earning 237 million yuan (about 38.7 million US dollars).

Domestic rom-com “Breakup Buddies” was a respectable No. 2 which pulled in 124 million yuan, according to China Film News on Tuesday.

Another domestic production “Dearest,” which stars actress Zhao Wei, came in third with 30.1 million yuan. It tells of the story of two families, of which one stole the only child of the other.

American blockbuster sequel “Ice Age: The Meltdown” took the fourth place with 27.5 million yuan. Rounding out the top five list was “Black & White: The Dawn of Justice,” a domestic action sequel by Taiwanese director Yueh-Hsun Tsai, with 9.5 million yuan.

Katy Perry’s birthday wish fulfilled

LOS ANGELES, 23 Oct — Singer Katy Perry’s wish to have her name on the signboard of a Pizza outlet has come true, four days ahead of her 30th birthday. Shakey’s Pizza in LA obliged her wish and is planning to throw a bash on her special day, reported TMZ.

“All I want for my birthday is my name on the Shakey’s Pizza marquee on Santa Monica Blvd. Please,” she had tweeted yesterday.

A representative for the company said they plan on posting a birthday message for her on the marquee of all their California locations. The pizza spot apparently wants to name a pie after Perry.
Federer opens Basel campaign in style, Nadal progresses

BASSEL, 23 Oct — Roger Federer began his pursuit for a sixth Swiss Indoors Basel title with an explosive 47-minute 6-2, 6-1 victory over Gilles Muller on Wednesday after Rafael Nadal reached the quarter-final with a 6-1, 6-1 win against Pierre-Hugues Herbert.

Top seed Federer hit 12 winners in a 24-minute first set and the Swiss 17-time grand slam champion continued his domination in the second set without losing a single point on his serve.

Such has been his form since falling as low as world number eight in March that the 33-year-old could end the season top of the rankings. “It was a very easy match. He couldn’t do anything on my serve. He was struggling with the return,” Federer told reporters. “I’m happy I had a quick match, because I have a lot of matches in the coming weeks. Gilles’ game completely fell apart and his level dropped. It was a great first round for me.”

Nadal, playing through appendicitis, was equally impressive, needing just 56 minutes to dispatch France’s Herbert.

The former world number one, who could miss the season-ending ATP World Tour Finals next month depending on surgery, broke his opponent’s serve five times in a second seamless victory in three days.

“I’m still very tired during the matches,” Nadal told a Press conference. “But physically I’m improving. I feel much better than a few days ago.

“I was down a lot of matches in the coming weeks. Gilles’ game completely fell apart and his level dropped. It was a great first round for me.”

Roger Federer of Switzerland throws a ball after winning against Gilles Muller of Luxembourg at the Swiss Indoors ATP tennis tournament in Basel on 22 Oct, 2014.— REUTERS

Wozniacki powers past Radwanska at WTA Finals

CAROLINE Wozniacki of Denmark prepares to hit balls to the audience after defeating Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland during their WTA Finals singles tennis match at the Singapore Indoor Stadium on 23 Oct, 2014.— REUTERS

SINGAPORE, 23 Oct — Denmark’s Caroline Wozniacki all but booked her place in the semi-finals of the WTA Finals with an impressive 7-5, 6-3 win over Maria Sharapova two days earlier.

Wozniacki rebounded from a slow start to overrun Radwanska with an ominous display.

Wozniacki was down an early service break in the opening set but quickly got back on terms and proved too strong for Radwanska, running the Pole ragged on Singapore’s purple hard-courts.

With one group match still to go against Wimbleddon champion Petra Kvitova, Wozniacki is almost certain to reach the semi-finals for just the second time in the elite season-ending championship.

Wozniacki went all the way to the final in 2010 when she was ranked number one in the world but failed to qualify in each of the next three years as her game started to unravel.

The 26-year-old has seen fortunes turn around in recent months, however, splitting with her fiancé, Northern Irish golfer Rory McIlroy.

Seemingly rejuvenated, she reached the final of the US Open in New York for the second time to qualify for the lucrative WTA Finals. Sharapova and Kvitova were due to square off later on Thursday with both certain to reach the semi-finals.

World number one Serena Williams was scheduled to meet Eugenie Bouchard in the feature night match, just 24 hours after she suffered her heaviest in 16 years against pint-sized Romanian Simona Halep.

Reuters

Big utilities pushing into booming home solar market

NEW YORK, 23 Oct — For years, the utilities responsible for providing electricity to the nation have treated residential solar systems as a threat. Now, they want a piece of the action, and they are having to fight for the chance. If utilities embrace home solar, their deep pockets and access to customers could transform what has been a fast-growing, but niche industry. Solar powers only half a million US homes and businesses, according to solar market research firm GTM Research. But utility-owned rooftop systems represent a niche industry. Solar powers only half a million US homes and businesses, according to GTM Research. That growth has been underpinned by government subsidies and falling equipment costs that have allowed startups to underprice utilities.— Reuters

A home with solar panels on its roof is shown in a residential neighborhood in San Marcos, California on 19 Sept, 2013.— REUTERS
Ronaldo leads rout as Real outclass Liverpool

LIVERPOOL, (England) 23 Oct — Real Madrid earned their first-ever win over Liverpool with a wondrous Cristiano Ronaldo goal spearheading a 3-0 Champions League victory at Anfield on Wednesday which appeared as classy as it was dominant.

Ronaldo’s glorious 23rd minute strike and a double from Karim Benzema sealed the deal for Los Blancos before halfway, leaving Real’s Portuguese icon insisting his side were in the mood to become the first team in the Champions League era to successfully defend the title.

“We know it’ll be very tough but we know it’s possible if we play like that,” said Ronaldo, after scoring his 70th Champions League goal, which puts him within one of equalling Raúl’s all-time record.

He had a chance to share the mark but was thwarted by a point blank second half save from Simon Mignolet.

“I’m not worried about that (Raul’s record) I know I’m going to beat his record today or another game. Me and Messi (69 goals) are very close,” said Ronaldo.

The roar of one of Europe’s most vociferous crowds, which contributed to a bright alarm as Real as they hoped to see Liverpool improve on their three-game, 100 percent record over Real in European company,

Ronaldo scored the most brilliant of openers.

There looked to be little cause for alarm as Ronaldo flitted around in midfield and passed to James Rodríguez, who was surrounded by red shirts. Yet a delightfully dinked pass somehow picked out Ronaldo again and his first-time finish, taken early almost on the half-volley, was exquisite.

It proved the signal for Real to take over and Liverpool’s suspect defence to lose concentration under pressure.

Liverpool should have cleared their lines long before Benzema’s precise, looping header from Toni Kroos’s cross effectively put the game beyond their reach.

The third was a scrappy, messy affair, with Liverpool again guilty of missing a couple of opportunities to clear a corner before the ball fell obligingly for Benzema to nod home his second.

After Philippe Coutinho almost pulled one back with a searing shot which hit the post, Liverpool were resigned to having to claw back a three-goal deficit in a Champions League match for the first time since they did just that against AC Milan in the 2005 Istanbul final.

Ronaldo managed 15 minutes to take the stage off Ronaldo 15 minutes to take the stage off Ronaldo.

Southampton on 16 points are in top spot, Argentina sec-

Chelsea facing striker crisis before Manchester United match

LONDON, 23 Oct — Chelsea face the prospect of having veteran Didier Drogba as their only fit striker for their visit to Manchester United on Sunday in what is usually one of the standout matches of the Premier League season.

Jose Mourinho’s league leaders will definitely be without their nine-goal top scorer Diego Costa, who has a hamstring problem.

Frenchman Loïc Remy is also a doubt after injuring himself while scoring Chelsea’s opening goal in their club record 6-0 Champions League victory over Maribor on Tuesday.

Drogba, 36, came off the bench after 16 minutes to replace Remy and scored from the penalty spot for his first goal since returning to the club following a two-year spell away.

He is Chelsea’s only fully fit regular first team striker, but Mourinho could include 17-year-old Domi-

Ancelotti, who felt it

Yamanaka defends WBC bantamweight crown for 7th time

Photo shows Japan’s Shinsuke Yamanaka defended his WBC bantamweight crown for the seventh time on Wednesday, when he defeated top-ranked challenger Siruyan Sor Rungvisai of Thailand by unanimous decision.

The champion knocked Siruyan down three times in their 12-round bout at Tokyo’s Yoyogi No 2 gymnasium, but was unable to extend his streak of consecutive knockouts in world title bouts beyond five.

The Japan record is six, held by Yoko Gushiken, Japan’s record is six, held by Yoko Gushiken.

“I think some of the fans were not satisfied, but I still don’t feel I can lose,” said Yamanaka, who withstood a surprisingly strong start by Siruyan.

The 32-year-old Yamanaka improved his career record to 22-1 with two draws and 16 knockouts.

Siruyan, a former super flyweight champ, saw his record fall to 37-6 with one draw and 16 knockouts.

Tony Yamanaka defended his WBC bantamweight crown for the seventh time.

World Cup seeds Switzerland slide out of FIFA top 10

LONDON, 23 Oct — Switzerland...