President delivers speech at coordination meeting on holding 25th ASEAN Summit

Nay Pyi Taw, 29 Oct — President U Thein Sein delivered speech Wednesday at the coordination meeting on preparation of the 25th ASEAN Summit which will be held in mid-November at Myanmar International Convention Center-1 in Nay Pyi Taw.

The central committee on the establishment of ASEAN Community and responsible for taking over the tasks of rotating chairmanship of the bloc held it’s the mid-term meeting in 2014, discussing preparedness to host the summit.

In his opening speech at the meeting, U Thein Sein said that Myanmar has become a member of ASEAN in 1997, and this year is the first time taking the role of chairmanship and the country has successfully organized the 24th ASEAN Summit and related meetings, as well as the 47th ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting and ministerial level meetings in recent months.

The upcoming 25th ASEAN Summit, its related meetings and the East Asia Summit would be the last events for Myanmar as a chairmanship of the bloc.

Dr Sai Mauk Kham also explained the completions 17 sub-committees to prepare for the summit. Union ministers for the foreign affairs, the national planning and economic development and the culture presented the preparedness of respective ministries.

Outcome of ASEAN Financial Inclusion Conference to benefit “unbanked” Myanmar people

YANGON, 29 Oct — Through outcomes produced at ASEAN Financial Inclusion Conference, Myanmar will be able to explore appropriate ways and means of making access to financial services possible for people without access to banks in the country.

“Meeting 2014,” said the Union minister, adding it is aimed at seeking ways and means for extending financial services to the people with no access to banking services, through exchange of views, thoughts, experience and best practices that will be taking place at the conference.

In his welcoming remarks, the minister briefly highlighted the importance of financial inclusion, which is closely associated with poverty reduction in that most of 70 percent of the world’s poor living in rural areas are excluded from financial systems. He pointed out 59 percent of the world’s 2.5 billion adults with no access to financial inclusion for low-income people in the region, particularly in the CLMV countries Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.

Three new ferries donated by Japan arrive for Dala-Yangon ferry service

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 29 Oct — Three new ferries that will replace the current two ferries between Dala and Yangon across the Yangon River have arrived at Thilawa Port Terminal.

The three ferries, Cherry 1, 2 and 3, will be offloaded from the vessel Paula beginning Thursday.

Each ferry cost around US$4 million and has a seating capacity of more than 1,000 passengers.

They are expected to operate ferry services before they are officially handed over to the Myanmar government on 15 November. — PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

The three new ferries which will be unloaded off Paula Vessel as from Thursday will be ready to operate ferry services before they are officially handed over to the Myanmar government on 15 November. — PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 29 Oct — Through outcomes produced at ASEAN Financial Inclusion Conference, Myanmar will be able to explore appropriate ways and means of making access to financial services possible for people without access to banks in the country.

This conference was the outcome of the 18th ASEAN Finance Ministers Meeting 2014,” said the Union minister, adding it is aimed at seeking ways and means for extending financial services to the people with no access to banking services, through exchange of views, thoughts, experience and best practices that will be taking place at the conference.

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Representative discuss additional budget at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

**NAY PYI TAW, 29 Oct** — Representatives discussed the additional budget for 2014-15 fiscal year at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Session on Wednesday.

Aung Moe Nyo said that the Ministry of Construction is planning the road into a 4-lane asphalt road and the company will be permitted to do so if the proposal is in accord with the BOT system.

As for the castor oil plantations, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Thaing said a pilot project in Thazi is being implemented to use castor oil for production of diesel in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol to reduce carbon dioxide emission.

Then, representatives discussed the appropriate electoral system for Myanmar.

Representatives Daw Khin Thanda and Dr Aung Moe Nyo supported the current FPTP system while Representative Lt-Col Kyaw Myint proposed surveying the wishes of the public before changing the electoral system.

Representative Daw Than Ngwe proposed holding a national referendum and changing the electoral system.

**AMYOTHA HLUTTAW**

**Amyotha Hluttaw convene its 25th day session**

**NAY PYI TAW, 29 Oct** — The Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) continued for the 25th day session on Wednesday.

Deputy Minister for Energy U Aung Htoo said that no Oil Refinery (Thanlyin) will be renovated upon completion of mutual cooperation tasks with foreign companies to build a new oil refinery so as to distribute ROM 92 advanced fuel for domestic consumption. Moreover, feasibility studies are being conducted for environment and socioeconomic status of the people to be able to build an oil refinery that can distribute fuel RON 92 to central and upper Myanmar.

Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Lin Aung said that the E-Pension Card system was introduced at 298 branches out of 317 under the Central Bank in some districts and towns in 2012-2013 fiscal year, and this system has been extended to additional 16 local banks in 2014-2015 fiscal year.

**Border development task contribute to forging national unity**

**NAY PYI TAW, 29 Oct** — Border development task can uplift living standard of national races and contribute to forging national unity, Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Naing Win said at the Border Development Committee meeting on undertakings of border development in 2014-15 fiscal year and plans for regional development in 2015-16 fiscal year at the ministry on Tuesday.

The union minister stressed the need to implement the border development tasks meeting set standards and effectiveness in terms of human resources, and plans to achieve the target of border development.

**Three new ferries donated . . .**

(from page 1) to launch service before mid-November.

The three ships will be officially handed over to Inland Water Transport by Japanese officials on 15 November, said U Win Pe, managing director of Inland Water Transport under the Ministry of Transport.

Before the ceremony to hand over the new ships to the IWT, all the new ferries will be ready to run, according to the IWT.

"The main reason we are replacing with new ships is for safety. All crew members who will work on the new ferries have received training in Japan when the three ships were constructed there," U Win Pe said.

The current fee of K100 per person will not be increased.

Each of the two old ferries between Dala Jetty on Dala Bank and Pansodan Jetty on Yangon Bank run 46 times per day taking about 20 minutes for a trip between the two destinations and carrying about 15,000 passengers a day in total, mostly from areas in the Ayeyawady Delta and southern parts of Yangon.

All three new double-deckers will run between the two jetties during the rush hour, but only two will operate at other times, according to the managing director of the Inland Water Transport.

Two bridges for arrival and departure with pontoons have already constructed on the Dala Bank and the assistance of the Japanese government.

"The three new ships are faster than the existing old ferries, with better facilities and safety measures. Passengers will see more convenience and there will be no need to wait at jetties to cross the Yangon River," U Win Pe said.

IWT plans to use the old ferries between two suitable destinations across the Yangon River in the future, he added.—**GNLM**
President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win offer Kathina robes and provisions

Nay Pyi Taw, 29 Oct—President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win offered meals, fruits, flowers and water to the Buddha images at Sasana Beikman in the precinct of Nay Pyi Taw Uppatasanti Pagoda where the Kathina robe offering ceremony was held on Wednesday.

The president and wife donated offerings to Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Bhaddanta Ujjota and alms to presiding abbot of NanU Monastery and alms to the president and party offered alms to members of the Sangha.

Also present on the occasion were Vice President Dr Sai Maik Kham and wife Daw Nan Nwe Hmion, Vice President U Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Mya Thein, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, union ministers, the chief of the general staff (Army, Navy and Air), the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers and members of Nay Pyi Taw Council.

Myanmar, China to cooperate in economic development tasks

YANGON, 29 Oct — A consortium of Yongnam and Changi Airport Planners and Engineering (CAPE) from Singapore, and Japan’s JGC Corporation won the tender for the contract to build Hanthawaddy International Airport in Bago Region, the Department of Civil Aviation announced Wednesday.

Hanthawaddy Airport will be constructed on more than 9,000 acres of land where the Japanese army built an airport during World War II. The $1.4 billion project is targeting completion within three to four years for commissioning into service in 2019, according the DCA.

The consortium would seek up to $706 million, 49 per cent of the estimated project cost, from Japan’s ODA funding and acquire up to $518 million from its own equity, said Director-General of the Department of Civil Aviation U Win Swe Tun to the press in Yangon on Wednesday.

The Hanthawaddy International Airport project is the largest of three airport projects being undertaken to accommodate the growing numbers of foreigner travelers to Myanmar.

The number of tourist arrivals has also increased year by year, reaching 0.79 million in 2010, 1.06 million in 2012 and 2.04 million in 2013.

Negotiation with a consortium led by Incheon International Airport Corporation of South Korea won the original contract last year, but talks broke down in January 2014 after disagreements between the DCA and the Incheon group over certain aspects of the South Korean proposals, prompting the government to reopen the tender in February.—GNLM

Yongnam CAPE- JGC consortium wins Hanthawaddy International Airport contract

President U Thein Sein cordially greets Mr Li Ruogu, President of Exim Bank of China.—MNA

President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win offer Kathina robe to a member of the Sangha.—MNA

A conceptual design of the Hanthawaddy International Airport submitted by Yongnam CAPE-JGC Consortium.

Photo: Supplied by DCA

Yongnam CAPE-JGC consortium wins Hanthawaddy International Airport contract

President U Thein Sein receives Mr Li Ruogu, President of Exim Bank of China and party at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday. They discussed cooperation in further promotion of economy between Myanmar and China and participation in economic development tasks of Myanmar.

Also present were Union Ministers U Win Na Maung Lwin, U Kyaw Hsan, U Khin Maung Soe, U Zeyar Aung, U Win Myint and Dr Kan Zaw, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung and officials.—MNA
Rural health branch commissioned into service in Thaton Tsp

THATON, 29 Oct — A ceremony to commission Theinseik-2 rural health branch building into service was held at the building in Thaunggyikwin Ward of Thuwannawaty in Thaton Township of Mon State on 28 October.

Farmers in Thaton difficult to hire farming workers for harvesting paddy

THATON, 29 Oct — Now is time to harvest monsoon paddy in Mon State.

In Thaton Township of Mon State, local farmers face shortage of farming workers as most of the farmers competitively hire the workers to harvest their paddy fields.

“We cost K4000 per worker for daily harvesting works last year. This year, we are difficult to hire the workers even we pay K5000 per worker or six baskets of paddy per acre. Some farmers hire the combine harvesters on their farmlands,” farmer Ko Myint Than of Thaunggyikwin area said. The one-third of paddy plantations is early-monsoon paddy strains in the villages. Although heavy rains hit the region this year, it did not harm the production rate of early-monsoon paddy strains.

Combined team sends samples of goods to lab of FDA

MANDALAY, 29 Oct — Mandalay City Development Committee, Mandalay Region Commercial and Consumer Affairs Department, Food and Drug Administration branch, Health Department and market board of trustees have made a surprise check at the rows of shack shops, tea and pickled tea shops and chilli shops at Zaygyo Market in Mandalay.

They sent samples of 34 foods and foodstuffs to the lab of the FDA for checking food security in the market.

As of 10 October, the combined team announced that the action will be taken against those who sell the inappropriate foods and foodstuffs again. Moreover, officials of the combined team carried out consumer educative works.

Buddhist culture course conducted for basic education students

MANDALAY, 29 Oct — The Buddhist culture course was opened at Pyinunya Yadana Hall of No 16 Basic Education High School in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on Tuesday morning.

About 2,000 students from seventh, eighth, ninth standards and matriculation attended the ceremony where Secretary of Myanmar Buddhist Cultural Propagation Central Committee Chairman of Dhamma Yaungchi Dhammananda Foundation Saya U Hla Myo explained the disciplines of the course. Abbot Bhaddanta Vijayalankara of Dhammayanthi Monastery of Mandalay gave lectures on the Buddhist culture to the trainees.
Buddhist culture instructor course

**Mandalay, 29 Oct —**
The Myanmar Buddhist Culture Propagation Central Committee and the course committee jointly conducted the opening of Buddhist culture instructor course at the hall of No 16 Basic Education High School on Monday.

Deputy Director (Admin/Finance) U Soe Myint Aung of Mandalay Region Education Department made a speech and Chairman of Dhamma Yaungchi Dhammadana Foundation Saya U Hla Myo explained purpose of conducting the course and its disciplines.

A total of 220 teachers from basic education schools in five townships in Mandalay District attended the course on 26 and 27 October.

_Tin Maung (Mandalay)_

**Myai Nanda low-cost housings completed for first phase**

**Mandalay, 29 Oct —** Under the arrangement of Mandalay Region Government, Mandalay City Development Committee has implemented the first phase of Myai Nanda low-cost housings project in Chammyathazi Township of Mandalay.

On 28 October, Union Ministers U Soe Thaung, Dr Kan Zaw and U Win Shein and Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint inspected the low-cost housings.

At the briefing hall, the secretary of MCDC explained facts about the project, arrangements of power and water supply and transport for people of the housings, and plan to accept the applications for the housings.

Chief Minister U Ye Myint and Mandalay Mayor U Aung Maung reported on preparations for building the parks, sports grounds, schools, market, dispensary and administrative office in line with the town characteristics.

The Union ministers visited the construction project of the housings. A total of 27 eight-apartment four-storey buildings were constructed on 7.67 acres of land in Myai Nanda Ward and 30 four-apartment four-storey buildings on 5.40 acres of farmlands in Aungthaya Ward. The construction started in September 2013.—_Thihau Ko Ko (Mandalay)_

Fund presented to construction of library

**Nay Pyi Taw, 29 Oct —** A ceremony to present the cash assistance for construction of a library in Lewun Village was held at the hall of Ottarathiri Township General Administration Department of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Tuesday.

Staff Officer Daw Swe Swe Moe of Ottara District Information and Public Relations Department presented K 1 million to Chairman of the village-tract supportive committee U Win Thein.

The library will contribute to widening the scope of the students and local people in general knowledge of the world.

*Shwe Ye Yint*

**Yangon Region Fisheries Department contributes to uplift of living standards of local fishermen**

**Taikkyi, 29 Oct —**
Yangon Region Fisheries Department Head U Kyaw Min and staff and local fishermen released over 5,000 six-inch fish into the cage for doing research in Tawkyay Lake of Taikkyi Township in Yangon Region on 26 October.

Of them, over 1,000 fish were released again into the cage at Tawkyay Lake and 8,000 fish into the cage in Inchaung Creek.

The township fisheries department is not doing research on fish species for preservation of fishes. With the aim of increasing fish production and income of fishermen, the Head of Region Fisheries Department presented bamboo eel traps to local fishermen of Lawkaychaung village and Yin-taikwin village.

_Tun Hlaing (Myaing)_

**Departmental officials carry out public welfare on their field trips**


Moreover, Township Judge Daw Hlaing Hlaing Wai gave lectures on prevention of violence against women and Head of Township Health Department Dr Zaw Win Than disseminated health knowledge to the attendees.

After that, the township level departmental officials donated 100 books and publications to Lin Yaung Chi Library, ovulation and medicines to pregnant women and medical treatment to the aged.

_Ngwe Than (IPRD)_

**Mon State Chief Minister oversees regional development tasks**

**Mawlamyine, 29 Oct —**
Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint met on 26 October with the principal and faculty members at University of Computer Studies (Thaton) and gave instructions on cultivation of vegetables, supply of water and keeping the campus clean.

He inspected progress of the staff quarter at Thaton People’s Hospital and instructed officials to construct the building meeting set standard.

At the briefing hall of Wahpa Dam, he called for arranging the supply of water to 500 acres of summer paddy plantations and local consumption.

Mon State IPRD
Cambodia celebrates 10th anniversary of King’s coronation

PHNOM PENH, 29 Oct—Cambodia on Wednesday marked the 10th anniversary of King Norodom Sihamoni’s coronation, urging people to continue uniting for national peace and development. —Xinhua

NEW DELHI, 29 Oct—India’s top counter-terrorism agency has uncovered a suspected plot by a banned militant group to assassinate the prime minister of Bangladesh and carry out a coup, three senior Indian Home (interior) Ministry officials told Reuters on Tuesday. India will hand over a dossier to Bangladesh with details of the plan by members of the Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen, which has carried out scores of attacks in India’s eastern neighbour, the government and police officials said.

Bangladesh did not comment directly on the assertions that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had been the target of a plot, but said it had tightened security on the border with India.

Mainly-Muslim Bangladesh has suffered three major army coups and two dozen smaller rebellions since gaining independence from Pakistan in 1971 in a war that killed and displaced millions.

The alleged conspiracy was discovered after two members of the group were killed in an explosion while building homemade bombs at a house in West Bengal in eastern India earlier this month. Indian police say the militants were Bangladeshis and were using India as a safe haven to plan the attacks.

“The strategy was to hit the political leaders of the country and destabilise the democratic infrastructure of Bangladesh,” said a senior Indian Home (interior) Ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

“This was all being planned on Indian soil and we could have been blamed if there was an attack.”

Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Doval on Monday visited the house where the blasts took place and met West Bengal Chief Minister Manmohan Banerjee to discuss the situation.

The revelations come against a backdrop of political friction earlier this year between Indian nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Banerjee. On one campaign stop in West Bengal before his general election victory in May, Modi said illegal immigrants from Bangladesh should get their “bags packed” if he came to power.

Analysts said the speech sought to mobilise Modi’s Hindu support base against Banerjee, who leads a regional party in West Bengal that is backed by many of the Muslims who make up a quarter of the state’s 90 million population. Asaduzzaman Khan, Bangladesh’s junior home minister, said Dhaka had been tipped off about a possible militant plot.

“We have received this information unofficially from India about a terror threat to top politicians in Dhaka. This is the first time there has been such information,” said Khan.

“We are always serious about curbing the activities of the militants. After the news from India our (security) efforts have been raised manifold,” West Bengal Home Secretary Basudeb Banerjee declined to comment.

Modi reached out to leaders of neighbouring countries as soon as he was elected, inviting them to his inauguration as prime minister, and he sent his foreign minister to Dhaka to establish friendly relations. However, border disputes and water sharing remain unresolved issues between the two countries.—Reuters

India uncovers suspected plot to assassinate Bangladeshi PM

Balloons are released during the celebration for the 10th anniversary of Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni’s coronation in Phnom Penh on 29 Oct, 2014. Cambodia on Wednesday celebrated the 10th anniversary of King Norodom Sihamoni’s coronation, urging people to continue uniting for national peace and development.—Xinhua

Bangkok, 29 Oct—A Thai court on Wednesday dismissed on a technicality a defamation case brought against a British human rights activist by a Thai fruit company.

The case is the first of a series of criminal and civil lawsuits filed against rights activist Andy Hall, 34, by Natural Fruit Co Ltd.

The firm, a pineapple wholesaler that supplies to the European Union, accused Hall of libel over a report published in 2013 that he helped author for Finnwatch, a Finland-based watchdog group.

The report “Cheap Has a High Price” pointed to alleged ill-treatment of migrant workers at a factory owned by the firm, including low pay and the confiscation of workers’ passports.

Natural Fruit has denied the accusations.

Natural Fruit is Thailand’s biggest producer of canned pineapples and is owned by Vi- rat Piyapornpaiboon.

Hall’s trial concerned defamation charges brought by Nat- ural Fruit against him for an interview he gave to Qatar-based Al-Jazeera television, while he was in Myanmar, based on the report.

“Hall gave the interview outside of the Kingdom of Thai- land therefore the investigation into the case had to include a team of police and officials from the attorney-general’s of- fice,” a judge said in passing the verdict.

“He however, there was only one police officer at the time of his interrogation therefore we deem the investigation to be in- complete.”

A lawyer for Natural Fruit said that the firm would appeal.

“We accept the court verdict today,” Natural Fruit law- yer Somsak Torugsa told reporters. “But we will appeal and this will need to be done within 30 days.”

A second, $10 million civil defamation case brought by Natural Fruit against Hall will begin on Thursday.

Thailand is Southeast Asia’s third-biggest importer of migrant labour after Singapore and Malaysia.

Workers from neighbouring Cambodia, Laos and Myan- mar often do jobs that most Thais are unwilling to do such as farm hands, fishermen, con- struction workers and domestic helpers.

Determining the number of migrant workers in Thailand is difficult as there is no official data but most rights groups esti- mate there are between 2 and 3 million of them, most undocu- mented, which leaves them vul- nerable to abuse. —Reuters

Thai court throws out defamation case against British rights activist

Thai court throws out defamation case against British rights activist

On 2 Sept, 2014.—

Sonja Vartiala, executive director of Finnwatch, said in an emailed statement: “We are relieved and glad that justice has prevailed in this case.”

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United Nations, 29 Oct — The UN General Assembly on Tuesday voted overwhelmingly for the 23rd time to condemn the decades-long US economic embargo against Cuba, with many nations praising the island state for its response in fighting the deadly Ebola virus that is ravaging West Africa.

In the 193-nation assembly, 188 countries voted for the nonbinding resolution, titled “Necessity of Ending the Economic, Commercial and Financial Embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.”

As in previous years, the only countries that voted against the declaration were the United States and an ally, Israel. The Pacific island nations Niue, Marshall Islands and Micronesia abstained. The voting result was identical to last year’s.

In a speech on the UN podium, Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez appealed to the United Nations to change course on an embargo he said has caused great harm to the people of Cuba and caused cumulative economic damage amounting to more than $1 trillion.

“We invite the government of the United States to establish mutually respectful relations,” Rodri-guez said. “We can try to find a solution to our differences through respectful dialogue. ‘We can live and deal with each other in a civilized way despite our differences,’ he said. ‘Cuba will never relinquish our sovereignty.’”

US envoy Ronald Godard dismissed the resolution, saying Havana uses the yearly General Assembly vote as an “attempt to shift blame” for economic problems that are its own creation.

Evoking former US President Ronald Reagan’s famous “tear down this wall” speech at the Berlin Wall in 1987, Godard criticized the Cuban government’s restrictions on the Internet, saying “tear down the digital wall of censorship.”

While the General Assembly’s vote is nonbinding and symbolic, it serves to highlight US isolation regarding Havana. It is one of very few issues where all of Washington’s Western allies part ways with the United States.

A number of countries lauded Havana for sending more doctors than any other country to West Africa to combat the biggest outbreak of Ebola since the disease was identified in 1976.

Among those praising Cuba’s contribution in the battle against Ebola were Iran, on behalf of the 120-nation bloc of nonaligned countries, and Bolivia, on behalf of the Group of 77 plus China, a group of developing nations. Mexico, India and others echoed that praise.

Adoption of the resolution has become an annual ritual. When it first passed in 1992, it received 59 yes votes and three votes against. But there were 71 countries that abstained and 46 that did not participate in the vote. The gradual shift to a near-unanimous vote in favour is a clear sign of the international disapproval of the US embargo on Cuba.

Washington broke diplomatic ties and imposed a comprehensive trade embargo on the Communist-run Caribbean island more than half a century ago during the Cold War. Its policy today appears to be influenced by domestic politics in Florida, where Cuban exiles have opposed any conciliation with former President Fidel Castro or current President Raul Castro, who took over for his brother in 2008.

For 23rd time, UN nations urge end to US embargo on Cuba

In blow to PM Cameron, lawmakers criticize UK’s immigration ‘mess’

Britain’s Prime Minister David Cameron

London, 29 Oct — Britain’s border and immigration system is a “mess”, lawmakers said on Wednesday in a report which will increase pressure on Prime Minister David Cameron’s government to take a tougher line on migrants ahead of next year’s national election.

Opposition polls show immigration is a major concern for voters and it has fueled the rise of the UK Independence Party, which may scupper Cameron’s chances of staying in power after the May election by splitting the right-wing vote. UKIP backs more immigration curbs and Britain’s exit from the European Union.

In a damming report, parliament’s Public Accounts Committee said the government could not track people through the system or check whether those refused the right to stay in Britain had actually left the country.

The government has also failed to tackle a long-standing backlog of tens of thousands of asylum applications and the number of new cases awaiting a decision is increasing, it said.

“The pressure is on and the Home Office (interior ministry) must take urgent steps to sort out this immigration mess,” said opposition Labour party lawmaker Margaret Hodge, chair of the committee.

At the end of the 2013-14 financial year there were more than 175,000 people whose applications to stay in Britain had been rejected, the report said.

“It is deeply worrying that the Home Office is not tracking those people to ensure that they are removed from the UK,” said Hodge. “The department should, as a matter of urgency, take more steps to identify people who remain in the UK illegally and speed up their removal.”

The political debate in Britain around immigration has become heated as Cameron and other party leaders have hardened their stances on the issue in response to the rise in popularity of UKIP.

Defence Secretary Michael Fallon spoke on Sunday of some British towns being “swamped” by migrants. On Monday he apologized for his use of emotive language but said the thrust of his remarks about immigration was correct.

The new report said outsourcing group Capita had been hired in 2012 to check the records of more than 250,000 people who should have been removed from Britain and by the end of last year it was unable to trace more than 50,000 of them. The committee, made up of lawmakers from Labour, Cameron’s Conservatives and their junior coalition partner the Liberal Democrats, said it was “disturbing” that the government did not know where these people were.

Vucic, Hague discuss economic situation in Serbia and region

London, 29 Oct — Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic met in London with House of Commons Leader William Hague to discuss the political and economic situation in Serbia and the region and economic reforms carried out by the Serbian government.

“I want to use the economy as a nexus for regional connections,” said Vucic.

Hague welcomed Serbia’s fiscal consolidation measures, stressing that the economy was of fundamental importance.

He pointed out that Britain had a lot of experience when it came to economic measures, stressing that it could be a great help to Serbia.

Since 2010, the United Kingdom has reduced the number of public sector employees by 400,000, which has led to an increase in the number of employees in the private sector over the next four years by 2.1 million. This has led to the lowest unemployment rate in the last decade, Hague said.

The discussion also touched on regional cooperation and the need for joint projects to ensure progress for the Western Balkan countries.

Vucic is on a visit to London, during which he will also meet with British Foreign Minister Philip Hammond and London Mayor Boris Johnson.

The Serbian Prime Minister will also take part in an economic summit.

Teruem arrests over alleged attempt to blow up HK police station

Hong Kong, 29 Oct — A teenager carrying a box of explosives and a lighter was arrested by police officers late on Tuesday in Hong Kong after visiting a police station and telling officers on duty that they would detonate it, local media group RTHK said.

The officers subdued the boy, 15, at the Aberdeen police station on Hong Kong Island and found sticks of white powder inside the box he had, assistant commander Fung Ka-ying said. Bomb squad experts identified the powder as high explosive TATP, or triacetone triperoxide, and detonated it safely.

“No one was injured in the case,” Fung said. “The arrested person said he learned from books on how to make a bomb. The motive is under investigation.”

The report said the boy was jobless and has a history of mental illness.
A brain drain is like rain
By Aung Khin

Brain drain is like rain.
As a Myanmar saying goes, rain falls more heavily on areas with an abundance of water resources. Drought areas have few water resources, and average rainfall is also very low there. However, regions with many water resources have seen regular precipitation, sometimes, floods.

This phenomenon would be a perfect example to compare with the situation of brain drain from many developing countries across the world. Skilled workers from these countries might be attracted by better rates of pay and working conditions in developed countries. As a result, the developing countries are losing a great deal of skilled labour, and it becomes harder to break the cycle of losing effective workers.

The brain drain problem has many consequences, including less tax revenue and loss of potential entrepreneurs for the development of country. Developed countries can attract intelligent, well-educated individuals with better pay or conditions.

And for many reasons, a country with low economic growth will unavoidably suffer the increasing rate of brain drain. In some cases, Asian parents send their children to more developed countries for education. Due to the efforts and intrinsic nature of determined efforts, these children and adults are gaining success in education or works of their destination countries.

It is almost sure they would not come back their own countries, though they love their homelands, after comparing incomes and living conditions between the two economies. If the original countries could not improve education or working conditions, then these economies will encounter an unstoppable loss of human resources. Although developing countries could not get back their precious work forces, a systemic plan must be adopted for “conservation of the precious generation”.

Do we really comply with words of wisdom and practice to achieve the essence?

By Tommy Pauk

Human beings have highly been civilized for thousands of years. They have been passing through numerous socio-economic events and helpful guidelines for the gain of betterment for humanity in the history. Throughout the history, up till Information Technology Age, man has learnt a great deal of sayings of philosophers as well as wise and prominent people. They learn religious teachings from their respective religions in which they believe. These wise, noble, ideal, realistic teachings have been uttered by those who are followers of their respective religions in which they believe.

We human beings desire a great achievement in human life. Moreover, we can manipulate our life safely and successfully, if we comply and practice the knowledge from proverbs, sayings and religious teachings. Otherwise, it is of no use to learn and appreciate the striking words. Consequently, we cannot enjoy peace of mind in our lives.

Good moral behavior and principles are to be practiced and bad moral behaviors are to be avoided. e.g., bad moral behaviors or unethical behaviors such as committing homicide, stealing, scamming, cheating, malpractice, bribery and corruptions are to be avoided all the time. We should control our mind for not letting us commit these sins in life and comply with the noble religious teachings as well as ethical conduct firmly.

Besides, we must not associate with those who are bad guys or hypocrites so that we can possess and enjoy clean and peaceful human life. Some unwise persons or ideal persons do not care and comply with the noble guidelines. They ignore the values of it because they are overwhelmed by sinful deeds. Actually, those who do not comply and practice cannot achieve essence of human life.

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Outcome of ASEAN Financial...

Myanmar-ERIA-Harvard Symposium kicks off

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Oct — The Myanmar-ERIA-Harvard Symposium: Maximizing AEC Development Re- source Institute-MDRI presided over the symposium. Senior policy coordinator Mr Yoshiyumi Fukunaga of ERIA discussed suggestions on fourth stage of AEC assessment, economist Dr Jayant Menon of Asia Development Bank, achievements of AEC and challenges and managing director Dr Titik Anas of Press Institute Indonesia Research, experience of Indonesia in preparation for AEC.

Dr Than Tun of Myanmar Development Re- source Institute-MDRI presided over the symposium. Senior policy coordinator Mr Yoshiyumi Fukunaga of ERIA discussed suggestions on fourth stage of AEC assessment, economist Dr Jayant Menon of Asia Development Bank, achievements of AEC and challenges and managing director Dr Titik Anas of Press Institute Indonesia Research, experience of Indonesia in preparation for AEC.

Moreover, Deputy Director-General Datuk Abdul Laurens of Malaysia Productivity Commission focused on experiences on uptrend of SME industries in Malaysia, Prof George Abonyi, adviser to the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, more participation of SMEs in AEC, and Professor Sandre Tanganu of Adelaide University of Australia, regional policy on innovation and technical transfer for SMEs.

Union Minister U Win Shein is seen surrounded by local media during a coffee break at ASEAN Financial Inclusion Conference at Sedona Hotel in Yangon on Wednesday.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

International film heritage festival launched

YANGON, 29 Oct—The first international film heritage festival was opened at Nay Pyi Taw Cinema in Yangon on Tuesday, attended by Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway.

Before the ceremony, Deputy Minister U Pike Htway and French Ambassador Mr Thierry Mathou discussed cooperation in development of film industry between the two nations.

Nine ancient films from the US, Mongolia, France, Japan and England are being presented to the movie-lovers from 28 to 2 November.

Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway attends opening ceremony of first international film heritage festival.—MNA

38 Blessings for Auspiciousness taught by the Buddha are as follows:-

1. Not to associate with the fool
2. To associate with the wise
3. To pay homage to those worthy of it
4. To reside in a suitable place
5. To have done meritorious deeds in the past life
6. To keep oneself pure
7. To acquire knowledge
8. To learn a trade
9. To learn and adopt ethical ways
10. To speak genially
11. To care and provide for one's parents
12. To cherish and provide for one's wife and children
13. To do the uncomplicated work
14. To do acts of charity
15. To observe and practice good deeds
16. To support one's kin and relatives
17. To do things free from sins and harms
18. To avoid evil thoughts and intentions
19. To avoid evil deeds and words
20. To abstain from taking liquors and intoxicants
21. To be mindful of doing good deeds
22. To pay respect to those worthy of it
23. To be humble
24. To be contented
25. To acknowledge and return one's gratitude
26. To hear Dhamma on proper occasions
27. To be tolerant
28. To heed to the guiding words and advice of elders
29. To pay respect and offerings to monks
30. To discuss the Dhamma on proper occasions
31. To practice ascetically
32. To observe and practice the Noble Virtues
33. To know the noble truths
34. To realize Nibbana
35. Not to be affected by vicissitudes of life
36. To have no worries
37. To be free from passions
38. To be free of the existence cycle

We need to emphasize our conduct for complying with the noble path in human life and whether we achieve the essence of the Buddha teachings or not. In fact, these blessings must be attained by our practice and comprehension. Only learning, appreciating and comprehending are not enough to achieve essence.

The following compilation is from The Buddha's teachings in the Dhammapada – a practical guide to right living.

"The evil-doer suffers here and hereafter; he suffers in both the worlds. The thought, "Evil have I done," torments him, and he suffers even more when gone to realms of woe.

"The doer of good here and hereafter; he delights in both the worlds. The thought, “Good have I done,” delights him, and he delights even more when gone to realm of bliss.

"The foolish and ignorant indulge in heedlessness, but the wise one keeps his heedfulness as his best treasure.

"Wisdom never becomes perfect in one whose mind is not steadfast, who knows not the Good Teaching and whose faith wavers.

"We speak proverbs. We utter maxims. We recite sayings of the wise."
Baghdad, 29 Oct — Iraqi security forces said they advanced to within 2 km (1.2 mile) of the city of Baiji on Wednesday in a new offensive to retake the country’s biggest oil refinery that has been besieged since June by Islamic State militants.

Backed by Shi’ite militias and army helicopters, government forces have swept through a desert area to the west of Baiji, aiming to recapture the city 200 km (130 miles) north of the capital.

They hope to cut off supply lines to militants encircling the refinery and gain control of a road leading to the city of Mosul, an army colonel told Reuters.

Islamic State fighters swept through northern Iraq in June, seizing the city of Baiji and surrounded the sprawling refinery.

Since then, government forces in and around Baiji have been surrounded by the Sunni insurgents who have failed to take it despite frequent attacks and suicide bombings.

“We have made good advances. We have taken over six villages and now we are only 2 km away from the city of Baiji, ” said the colonel, who requested anonymity.

Mastermind of failed Australia beheading plot killed in Middle East

Sydney, 29 Oct — A former Sydney bouncer said he had masterminded a failed plot by Islamic State militants to behead a random member of the public in Australia, and was believed to have died in the Middle East, Australian media reported on Wednesday.

Mohammad Ali Baryalei, who was believed to be one of the group’s most senior members and a top recruiter of foreign fighters, was thought to have died in fighting in Syria or Iraq four or five days ago, according to the Broadcasting Corporation reported.

“We are currently seeking to verify those reports, so I can’t confirm this at this stage,” Foreign Minister Julie Bishop told reporters.

A spokesman for Attorney General George Brandis declined to comment on reports of his death. Abdullah Salaaam Mahmoud, who belonged to the same street-proletarianizing group as Baryalei in Sydney, wrote on Facebook of Baryalei’s death, the Sydney Morning Herald newspaper reported.

“I’ve just received the news that our beloved brother Mohamed Ali who was recently strongly attacked by Australian media has been martyred,” Mahmoud said.

More than 800 police raided homes in Sydney and Brisbane in September as part of a sweeping counter-terrorism operation aimed at stopping what the government said was a plot to kidnap and publicly behead a random Australian citizen.

Australia is concerned over the number of its citizens believed to be fighting overseas with militant groups, including a suicide bomber who killed three people in Bangladesh on July 22, who were shown in images on social media holding the severed heads of Syrian soldiers.— Reuters

Iraqi Kurds to bring anti-tank weapons to Syria’s Kobani

Beirut, 29 Oct — Iraqi Kurdishish fighters are expected to bring anti-tank and anti-armour weapons when they enter the Syrian town of Kobani on Wednesday to aid fellow Kurds in their fight against Islamic State militants, a Syrian Kurdish official said.

Sahel Moslem, co-chair of the Syrian Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD), said the Iraqi “peshmerga” fighters were expected to enter Kobani - known as Ayn al-Arab in Arabic — later on Wednesday. “They’re supposed to bring... mainly anti-armour weapons, anti-tank,” he said. “Of course, more than that they have some weapons... to defend themselves also. But mostly it’s mainly artillery, or anti-armour, anti-tank weapons.”

He said the weapons should help the Syrian Kurdish fighters of the YPG armed group fend off Islamic State fighters who have used armoured vehicles and tanks in their assault on the town.

“The YPG, they’re just defending. They can do it. But these armoured vehicles and tanks were making problems for them... The YPG forces could not do it with the weapons they have. So now this will give support,” he said.

Kerry says Canadian parliament attack clearly ‘terrorist act’

Ottawa, 29 Oct — US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Tuesday that an attack on the Canadian parliament and the country’s National War Memorial last week in which a soldier was killed was clearly a terrorist act.

“Clearly, anybody who walks up in a premeditated way with a loaded rifle and attacks someone in uniform then purposely goes to a parliament, is committing, by common sense standards, a terrorist act,” Kerry told a news briefing after talks in Ottawa with his Canadian counterpart, Foreign Minister John Baird.

Two days before the attack in Ottawa on 22 October, a car driven by a man described by police as a homegrown radical ran down two soldiers, killing one in Quebec.

Since then Canadians have debated whether the attackers were motivated by Islamic ideology and a desire to sow terror or whether they were merely mentally unstable and marginalized individuals.

Baird echoed the Canadian government’s view that whatever the mental state of the attackers, their acts were terrorism.

Kerry came to Ottawa on his first visit to Canada since becoming secretary of state last year to show solidarity and discuss security issues following the attacks.

Kerry also said Canada and the United States would work to intensify their close security ties, including border security and intelligence sharing.

“Canada and the United States are now in discussions, not with any sense that things weren’t done or that there was some information that we didn’t somehow share or have, but rather with a view to making certain that every possible stone is turned over and every possible policy is reviewed, because our obligation obviously is to protect our citizens,” he said.

Kerry was confident that in the coming days and months the two countries would come up with “some tweaks, some changes, some additions that will promote even greater security than we have today.”

The United States and Canada share the world’s largest undefended border and for decades have also exchanged information about people deemed to be high risk. However, a Canadian official said on Saturday that Canada did not share some intelligence with the United States about the two men who carried out the attacks last week because of a 2013 court ruling limiting the transfer of personal data.— Reuters

Iraqi peshmerga arrived in southeastern Turkey early on Wednesday ahead of their planned deployment to the Syrian town of Kobani to help fellow Kurds repel an Islamic State advance which has defied US-led air strikes. — Reuters

An explosion following an air-strike is seen in the Syrian town of Kobani from near the Mursitpinar border crossing on the Turkish-Syrian border in the southeastern town of Suruc, in Sanliurfa Province on 29 Oct, 2014.— Reuters

Kerry says Canadian parliament attack clearly ‘terrorist act’
US regulators to vote on treating Internet TV like cable

WASHINGTON, 29 Oct — The US Federal Communications Commission in coming weeks will vote on whether Internet TV should have the same access to television programming as cable and satellite TV providers, which could shake up competition in the video industry.

FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler on Tuesday said he has asked his fellow commissioners to vote on a proposal that would help Internet TV services, such as ones being developed by Dish Network Corp, Sony Corp and Verizon Communications Inc, to compete with traditional pay-TV for digital rights to major network programming.

The potential regulatory change concerns online subscription video services that offer scheduled programming similar to traditional pay-TV providers, and not online video services such as Netflix Inc that stream content on demand.

Satellite provider DirecTV is another company that has indicated plans for an Internet video service and CBS Corp this month revealed a plan for an Internet streaming service that would include scheduled programming.

Time Warner Inc’s HBO will also launch a standalone online streaming product but its details are unclear.

Traditionally, the FCC has ensured that cable and satellite TV providers such as Comcast Corp could negotiate for rights to retransmit network programming. Online video services have not had the same regulatory backing because they rely on a different technology and do not have their own video distribution facilities.

Now, the FCC will vote on levelling the playing field with a technological neutrality definition of a “multichannel video programme distributor,” with the goal of encouraging new competition in the video market.

“Twenty-first century consumers shouldn’t be shackled to rules that only recognise 20th-century technology,” Wheeler said in a blog post on Tuesday.

“Consumers have long complained about how their cable service forces them to buy channels they never watch. The move of video onto the Internet can do something about that frustration, but first Internet video services need access to the programmes.”

A draft of the proposal tentatively concludes that online TV services should have the same access to cable and local TV programmes as traditional pay-TV services and seeks comments on whether the obligations imposed on the two types of video services should also be the same.

If adopted, some analysts see the proposal as potentially also creating a new opening for Aereo, a video streaming company whose business model was questioned by a Supreme Court ruling in June that said the company had infringed broadcasters’ copyrights by capturing live and recorded programs through antennas and transmitting them to subscribers. — Reuters

US cargo rocket explodes seconds after launch

WASHINGTON, 29 Oct — An unmanned rocket operated by private US firm Orbital Sciences Corp exploded Tuesday seconds after its launch, NASA TV showed.

The Antares rocket carrying the company’s Cygnus spacecraft blew up six seconds after its lift-off at 6:22 pm EDT (2222 GMT) from US space agency NASA’s Wallops Flight Facility in eastern Virginia.

TV footage showed flames rising into the sky.

There were no casualties and property damage on the ground was limited to the south end of Wallops Flight Facility, Orbital said.

The Virginia-based company has formed an anomaly investigation board, saying it will work in close coordination with all appropriate government agencies to determine the cause of the mishap.

“It is far too early to know the details of what happened,” Frank Culbertson, Orbital’s executive vice president said in a statement. “We will conduct a thorough investigation immediately to determine the cause of this failure and what steps can be taken to avoid a repeat of this incident.”

Cygnus is carrying 5,050 pounds (2,290 kg) of supplies for its third cargo resupply mission to the International Space Station. It’s also the first nighttime launch of the spacecraft.

One of the new experiments on board is the so-called Drain Brain Investigation, a study that will try to determine how blood flows from the brain down to the heart in the absence of gravity.—Xinhua

Electronic Arts raises 2015 forecast, profit beats estimates

Sан FRANCISCO, 29 Oct — Videogame publisher Electronic Arts Inc raised its 2015 forecast and reported stronger-than-expected quarterly results on Tuesday, on cost controls and strong digital sales from titles including “FIFA” and “Madden.” The Redwood City, California-based company said it expects $4.18 billion (2.59 billion pounds) in non-GAAP revenue and non-GAAP net income of $2.10 per share in fiscal 2015. It had previously forecast $4.1 billion in revenue and $1.85 per share in profit. Electronic Arts is seeing “continued growth of our PlayStation 4 console (Xbox One and PlayStation 4) and still solid results in our older console business as well,” Chief Financial Officer Blake Jorgensen said in an interview.

“Data of the side of the business, full-game downloads as well as digital services around those businesses like ‘FIFA Ultimate Team’ and ‘Madden Ultimate Team’ are continuing to perform well above our expectations.”

For the three months ended 30 September, the company posted non-GAAP revenue of $1.22 billion, compared with $1.04 billion a year ago. Wall Street analysts had estimated revenue of $1.16 billion, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S. — Reuters

Japan’s Rakuten Inc launches cheap smartphone service

TOKYO, 29 Oct — Japanese e-commerce giant Rakuten Inc said it will offer a cut-rate smartphone service for about a third of the monthly fees charged by the country’s three dominant operators, adding to increasing price competition in the sector.

Rakuten’s smartphone services for light users are particularly expensive compared with other developed markets, prompting Rakuten and other firms such as retail giant Aeon and Internet Initiative Japan to offer new services by pairing with or becoming mobile virtual network operators

A man walks under a logo of Rakuten Inc during a news conference in Tokyo on 14 Feb, 2014. — Reuters

Rakuten’s new MVNO service will offer a combined voice and basic data plan for an average monthly fee of 2,200 yen (12.39 pounds), excluding the cost of the phone.

That compares with about 6,500 yen a month for a basic voice and data plan at all three of Japan’s leading wireless carriers — NTT DoCoMo Inc, KDDI Corp’s au and SoftBank Corp. Unlike Rakuten’s basic plan, however, users can make as many calls as they want.

Aeon said in March its basic voice and data plan would cost 2,980 yen per month, including the cost of the phone for a two-year contract.

MVNOs, which rent access to other companies’ networks, currently account for about 5 percent of the mobile market, according to a government report. — Reuters

The video grab image from NASA TV shows the rocket carrying a spaceship explodes over the launch complex at Wallops Island, the United States, 28 Oct, 2014. An unmanned rocket operated by private US firm Orbital Sciences Corp exploded Tuesday seconds after its launch, NASA TV showed.

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Xinhua
Russian plane with European satellite departs for Baikonur after emergency landing

MOSCOW, 29 Oct — A Russian transport plane carrying a European communications satellite Astras 2G departed for Baikonur, in Kazakhstan, early on Wednesday, the head of the Volga-Dnieper company’s PR group of the foreign relations department Taisia Nikitenko said. The An-124-100 plane cut short its flight from Moscow to Baikonur on Tuesday and made an emergency landing in the city of Ulyanovsk, on the Volga River, because of an increase of temperature in the plane’s fourth engine.

The crew of the plane, owned by the Volga-Dnieper Airlines, decided to switch off the engine and made an emergency landing because of technical problems.—Itar-Tass

Serbian citizens are most optimistic in region

BELGRADE, 29 Oct — Forty percent of Serbian citizens expect the economic situation to improve, while in Croatia that percentage is 11, in Montenegro 26 and in Macedonia 37, according to a survey by Ipsos Strategic Marketing.

The survey states that 33 percent of Serbian people expect their personal financial situation to improve, the daily Politika has reported.

However, although they are the most optimistic in the region, the Serbian people are also fairly pessimistic, with 41 percent of those surveyed stating that they do not expect the economic situation in the country to improve, but to actually deteriorate.

Every third household in Western Europe has felt the effects of the economic crisis. In countries undergoing transition, every second household has been affected. Three quarters of households in Serbia have had its members lose their job or their income drop.

The phone survey was ordered by the European Commission, conducted in September and included a sample of 1,000 people.—Tanjug

Australia reaches climate policy compromise

SYDNEY, 29 Oct — Australia’s government has reached a compromise with independent senators and a key opposition party to secure support for a A$2.5 billion ($2.2 bln) fund to cut greenhouse gas emissions, media reports said on Wednesday.

The ruling Liberal party has secured backing from the Palmer United Party (PUP) and independent senators Nick Xenophon and John Madigan, with details to be released later on Wednesday, according to the Guardian and the Australian Financial Review.

A compromise would put an end to a years-long debate on how Australia can meet its target of cutting greenhouse gas emissions to 5 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.

In August, the government dismantled a broad carbon pricing scheme put in place by the previous Labor government, saying it was too expensive.

Under the policy, known as the Direct Action Plan, the government would set up a $2.5 bln Emissions Reduction Fund that would pay big polluters to cut their emissions. According to the Guardian, the government has accepted proposals by Senator Xenophon to put in place a “safeguard mechanism” to ensure emissions in the coal-dependent nation do not rise under the new scheme. Details of the safeguard mechanism will be panned out later, but is expected to include some form of penalty for companies that fail to meet government-set benchmarks.

But according to the reports, the government has rejected proposals to set aside A$500 million to buy UN-issued carbon offsets from abroad to ensure the target is met.

The Palmer United Party has backed the compromise because the government has agreed to review its plan to deregulate an emissions trading scheme that would only enter into force when other large emitters, such as China and the United States, have similar policies in place, the Guardian reported.—Reuters

Japan to require phone carriers to lift SIM locks from next May

TOKYO, 29 Oct — The Japanese communications ministry plans to require mobile phone service operators to remove carrier-specific restrictions, or SIM locks, on phone handsets from models to be launched from next May, a source close to the matter said on Wednesday.

The move is expected to spark price competition by enabling them to switch to a different carrier with lower-price services without replacing their handsets. The ministry will make a final decision by the end of the year after collecting and reviewing public comments on a proposal it plans to release this week, according to the source. Under the new rule, the government will issue a business improvement order if mobile carriers refuse to remove the locks without reasonable grounds.

In Japan, mobile phone subscribers have to buy expensive handsets when they change carriers, while many countries in Europe and the United States have already abolished SIM locks.

Apple Inc. of the United States will also be subject to the rule, likely from a new iPhone model that is expected to launch in autumn next year.—Kyodo News

Registered electors cast ballots at a polling station in Fairfax County, Virginia, the United States, on 28 Oct, 2014. Early voting of US midterm elections was held at Fairfax County Government Centre on Tuesday.—Xinhua
Thursday, 30 October, 2014

**CLAiMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV THiGYU VOY NO (09/14)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THIGYU NO (09/14) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.10.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (6) where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S KAI MARINE CO LTD.**

Phone No: 2301186

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**CLAiMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV FESCO VOYAGER NO (007)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FESCO VOYAGER NO (007) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.10.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

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**INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER**

(3) No.(1) Mining Enterprise, Ministry of Mines invites to submit the tender quotation open tender in the United States Dollars.

(a) Binder - Yangon Branch (5) Zinc, Chromium Concentrate and
(b) Monopolised Ore and other mixed - Hpa Anh
(c) Antimonial Ore and other mixed - Ban Maw
(d) Cathode Copper (99.99%) (400 M/T) - Yangon Branch
(e) Other mixed, Iron Ore and other mixed - Ban Maw

(4) Tender Closing Due and Time is 11:00 AM, 29 Oct, 2014 (15:30 hrs).

(5) Tender document are available from the Procurement Department, No. (1) Mining Enterprise, Ministry of Mines, Office building No. (15), Nay Pyi Taw and Details can be asked to +95-(0)67-409012 and 409383 within the office hours.

Tender Invitation Committee, No.(1) Mining Enterprise

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**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR**

**MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT**

**Announcement of Successful Tenderer for Hanthawaddy International Airport Project**

1. The Department of Civil Aviation had announced Incheon Airport Consortium and Yongnam-CAPE-JGC Consortium as the successful tenderer and back up tenderer respectively for the Hanthawaddy International Airport Project on 10 August 2013.

2. Subsequently, the Tender Evaluation Committee formed by the Ministry of Transport held tender negotiations with both the successful and back up tenderers from September 2013 to August 2014 including the revised proposals submitted by both tenderers for final selection. After seeking required guidance from the concerned authorities, submitted a recommendation to the Tender Selection Committee of the Ministry of Transport.

3. The Tender Selection Committee has duly considered the recommendation of the Tender Evaluation Committee and hereby announce the following consortium as the successful tenderer for the Hanthawaddy International Airport Project as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reg. No.</th>
<th>Consortium Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tr>
<td>001</td>
<td>Yongnam-CAPE-JGC</td>
<td>Japan</td>
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<td>Changi Airport Planners</td>
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**US Fed begins policy meeting, likely to end asset-buying stimulus**

**WASHINGTON, 29 Oct** — The US Federal Reserve began its two-day policy meeting Tuesday with speculation that the central bank is likely to end the asset purchase stimulus on the back of the improvement in labour market.

The Federal Open Market Committee, the Fed’s policy-setting panel including Fed chief Janet Yellen, already said last month it will terminate the quantitative easing program this month if economic data permits.

The Fed introduced the programme in September 2012 that provided a massive amount of money by buying financial assets in the market to help prop up the sagging US economy, saying it would continue with it until the job market improves “substantially.”

The jobless rate last month sank to a six-year low of 5.9 percent, compared with 7.8 percent which was logged when the Fed launched the stimulus.

Even if it ends the liquidity injection program, the Fed is expected to keep the ultralow short-term interest rate through the policy-setting meeting that will end on Wednesday.

The Fed kept the market guessing about when it will raise the interest rate, which is currently set at zero to 0.25%, in FOMC meetings earlier this year, simply saying, it will maintain the level “for a considerable time” after the asset purchase programme ends.

The Fed introduced the asset purchasing program in September 2012 as a third round of quantitative easing, dubbed QE3.

It first purchased $40 billion of federal agency mortgage-backed securities each month and ratcheted up the size of the accommodative easing program three months later, deciding to additionally buy $45 billion of US government bonds.

The Fed has scaled back the program in steps since January and the amount of asset purchase fell to $15 billion this month.—Kyodo News

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**WEATHER REPORT**

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 30th Oc- tober, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Tamutkuri Region, scattered in Lower Sagam, Manda- layand Magway Regions, Chin and Shan States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in the Upper Myanmar areas.
Marvel expands with Dr Strange, female Captain Marvel films

LOS ANGELES, 29 Oct — The Marvel cinematic universe is expanding with new characters Doctor Strange, Black Panther and Captain Marvel, who will be the first female superhero to anchor her own Marvel film, the Walt Disney Co-owned studio said on Tuesday.

Marvel’s new slate of eight superhero films announced at a fan event includes both sequels to its streaming hits and new franchises, with "Doctor Strange" kicking off the newcomers in 2016. Doctor Strange is a former neurosurgeon who loses the ability to perform surgery and turns to magic. Despite widespread reports that he would be played by British actor Benedict Cumberbatch, Marvel did not confirm casting.

“We are excited to tap into what excites us the most, which is the supernatural,” Marvel studio president Kevin Feige said.

“If (casting) were confirmed, we would have introduced him today. Every single actor of a certain age has been rumoured to be Doctor Strange,” he added.

Feige also said there is plenty of time to find an actress to play Captain Marvel, the alter-ego of a character named Carol Danvers, for the film that will be released in July 2018.

While Marvel has female superheroes like Black Widow played by Scarlett Johansson, this is the first time a woman will anchor a film in what is widely seen as an effort to bring more women and girls to the fanboy heavy Marvel universe.

Feige said there are no plans for a stand-alone Black Widow film, but that Johansson’s character will continue to be featured prominently in the other Marvel films. Black Panther, the superhero alter-ego of T’Challa, will premiere in 2017 and will be played by “42” actor Chadwick Boseman, who will also appear in "Captain America: Civil War," the third instalment of the "Captain America" franchise starring Chris Evans.

Boorman and Evans were joined by "Iron Man" Robert Downey Jr at the event held where fans erupted in screams and cheers while the actors bantered on stage for a few minutes.

Disney has had a succession of blockbusting hits from its recently acquired Marvel Studios, from Downey Jr’s “Iron Man.” Evans’ “Captain America” and Chris Hemsworth’s “Thor.”

Hemsworth and Tom Hiddleston, who plays popular supervillain Loki, will return in "Thor: Ragnarok" in July 2017, and Feige said the film will set a new timeline of events that will be followed in future Marvel films, which are often interconnected.

"Avengers: Infinity War," the third instalment of the ensemble superhero franchise, will be split into two parts, with part one released in May 2018 and part two in May 2019.

Megan Fox misses ‘Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles’ Beijing premiere

LOS ANGELES, 29 Oct — Hollywood beauty Megan Fox skipped ‘Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles’ Beijing premiere after developing skin allergy. Fans hoping to spot Fox on the red carpet were left disappointed after the 28-year-old actress’s skin allergy forced her to stay at home, reported Us magazine.

Chinese actress Fan Bingbing attended the special event in her place. Chinese media outlets speculated that Fox’s allergy could have been caused by the polluted air. Fox’s people, however, insisted that that was not the case.

“She had an allergic reaction but not because of the pollution,” a spokesperson said.

The adventure comedy, which was released in the United States this past August, is based on the popular franchise that features a fictional team of four teenage turtles.—PTI

Shakira to release own range of toys

LONDON, 29 Oct — Pregnant singer Shakira is set to release her own collection of baby products, including a bounce- er which plays music, alphabet blocks and a musical soccer ball.

Shakira, 37, who has 21-month-old son Milan with boyfriend Gerard Pique, has teamed up with Fisher-Price on the First Steps collection of baby products, and has co-developed six items, reported Contactmusic.

“I saw how important developmental milestones are and how toys can help babies reach them, including with my own son. I wanted to design a line of toys that stimulated developmental in the crucial early stages of life, the stages in which learning can be achieved through supervised play, fostering the development of psychological, social and motor skills,” she said.

The items will go on sale next month and all proceeds will go towards Shakira’s Barefoot Foundation, which helps provide education and nutrition to disadvantaged children in her native Colombia.

As part of the venture, Shakira will also star in a 12-part web series for the company, and some of the three to five minute-long episodes will feature her son.—PTI

I joined ‘Hunger Games’ for kids: Julianne Moore

LOS ANGELES, 29 Oct — Actress Julianne Moore has revealed that she opted for ‘The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1’ because her kids are obsessed with the sci-fi film series. Moore, 53, is mother to son Caleb, 16, and daughter Liv, 12, with husband Bart Freundlich, reported People magazine.

“Most of the films I make are not for kids. My son was in line for the midnight show when The Hunger Games first came out. They both loved the books. For them, my being in Mockingjay was fairly meaningful,” she said. Although many actresses fear aging and slow down, the ‘Curtle’ star says she is energized by the clarity the years have given her.—PTI

Hollywood beauty Megan Fox
CSKA Moscow have UEFA suspension modified on appeal

Moscow, 29 Oct — UEFA have modified CSKA Moscow’s punishment for trouble by their fans at their Champions League match away to AS Roma on appeal. European soccer’s governing body said on Tuesday.

CSKA were originally ordered to play their next three European home games behind closed doors after incidents involving their supporters, including racist behaviour, crowd trouble and setting off flares at the 17 September. Group E match.

That ban now applies to two matches, UEFA said on its official website.

“The latest (of the three matches) is suspended for a probationary period of five years,” it added, referring to the modification.

The Russian Premier League champions have already played the first of the two matches of the original suspension, a 2-2 draw against Manchester City in Moscow last week. Their next visitors will be Roma.

The Army Men also had their fine reduced from 200,000 euros ($254,920) to 100,000. Their prohibition from selling tickets for their next two Champions League away games stands.

CSKA would not comment with their press officer Sergey Aksenov saying: “We are not ready to make any comments until we receive the official reasoning for their decision. We expect to receive it within a week.”

The team’s draw with City gave them their first points after CSKA Moscow’s coach Leonid Slutski (L) reacts during their Champions Group E soccer match against Manchester City at the Arena Khimki outside Moscow, on 21 Oct, 2014.

The team’s draw with City gave them their first points after

CSKA’s punishment for trouble by their fans at their Champions League away games stands.

CSKA would not comment with their press

CBC wins Canada broadcast rights for 2018 and 2020 Olympics

Toronto, 29 Oct — Canada’s public broadcaster has won the rights to cover the 2018 and 2020 Olympics with the help of the two rival private broadcasters that have wrestled its most popular professional sports assets away from it.

The Canadian Broadcasting Corp (CBC) said on Tuesday it will broadcast action from the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, and the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, in partnership with telecom and media companies Rogers Communications Inc and BCE Inc.

The CBC has been forced to walk away from much of its sports coverage in the face of federal government budget cuts and fierce bidding for content by Rogers and BCE.

Rogers owns the Sportsnet network and recently won a long-term deal for National Hockey League (NHL) games. BCE owns the TSN network. They jointly own a majority stake in the company that owns the Toronto Maple Leafs NHL team and the Toronto Raptors of the National Basketball Association.

Financial terms for the Olympics deal were not disclosed, but executives from the three broadcasters later told reporters that production resources would be shared and that the most popular events would have the broadcast possible reach.

“It is a CBC-led games, production resources would be shared and that the most popular events would have the broadcast possible reach.

The broadcast partnership model is “fiscally responsible,” CBC Chief Executive Hubert Lacroix said in a statement.

The CBC has said it must “reimagine itself” in a drastically changing media landscape in which viewers increasingly turn to streaming and other online alternatives and in which competitors pay more for premium live sports rights than the CBC can afford.

When the CBC said in April it would no longer bid for professional sporting rights as it tightens its belt, it made an exception for the Olympics and other events deemed of national importance.

Rogers signed a C$5.2 billion ($4.65 billion) deal last year for 12 years of NHL broadcasts, elbowing aside BCE’s TSN sports channel and the CBC whose most popular programme for decades has been its Saturday night “Hockey Night in Canada” broadcasts.

As part of that deal, Rogers agreed to sub-license some hockey games, including the NHL playoffs and the Stanley Cup championship series, to the CBC for four years.

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Rocky mountains are home to a large number of different species of alpine vegetation. These include a variety of wildflowers, which are some of the most colorful and fragrant plants in the world. They are typically found in high altitudes and thrive in the extreme conditions of these regions. Wildflowers are not only beautiful but also essential for the health of our planet, providing food and shelter for many other species that share the same environment. They help to create a balanced ecosystem and play a vital role in maintaining the biodiversity of our natural landscapes. Wildflowers are also an important source of nectar for bees and other pollinators, contributing to the health of our ecosystems and the production of food for human consumption.

In addition to their ecological significance, wildflowers are cherished by humans for their aesthetic value. They are often used in floral arrangements, gardens, and landscaping projects, adding color and beauty to our surroundings. Wildflowers can also be used for medicinal purposes, as many species have important medicinal properties and have been used for centuries in traditional medicine.

Spectacular displays of wildflowers can be seen throughout the summer months in many mountainous regions around the world. For example, in the Western United States, springtime is a time of stunning beauty as the forests come alive with a riot of color. Similarly, in the Alps of Europe, wildflowers create a vibrant carpet of color that contrasts beautifully with the winter landscape.

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Balotelli inspires Liverpool, Chelsea tame Shrews

LONDON, 29 Oct — Mario Balotelli enjoyed a rare moment of ecstasy in a Liverpool shirt by inspir- ing a 2-1 win over Swansea City in the Premier League on Tuesday while Chelsea had to call for reinforcements to see off Shrewsbury Town.

On a night when Premier League West Brom- wich Albion were dumped out by second tier Bournem- mouth, both Liverpool and Chelsea flirted with danger before reaching the quar- ter-finals.

Liverpool fans have seen precious little in Balotelli’s performances this season to convince them he could ride to the rescue when the chips were down but he came off the bench to turn the clash with Swansea on its head.

Entering the fray on 79 minutes after a second yellow card, he scored seven minutes to level the scores as he stole in front of his marker to prod home a cross from component Fabio Borini after Marvin Emnes had put Swansea ahead midway through the second half with a superb volley.

A sustained roar erupt- ed around Anfield as Balotelli’s effort found the net, as much in celebration of the goal as it was grounded in relief that the missing striker had finally found his range at a crucial time.

It was the start of a dramatic finale that saw Swansea’s Federico Fernan- dez sent off for a late tackle and Dejan Lovren head home the winner after four minutes of stoppage time, to leave eight-times winners Liverpool well- placed to launch another assault on a trophy they last won in 2012.

Premier League lead- ers Chelsea will also fan- cy their chances of getting their hands on a cup they have won four times but they needed a wake-up call before outing fourth tier Shrewsbury 2-1.

“I wasn’t expecting anything but a difficult match. I was ready for ex- tra-time,” Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho told Sky Sports television, and he was not wrong.

Drogba gave them the lead, with his third goal in three games, but the match seemed headed for extra-time because Shrews- bury’s Andy Mangan sniv- elled to fire past keeper Petr Cech with 13 minutes to play.

Nemanja Matic and Willian were promptly summoned from the bench to help quell the uprising, the latter’s superb cross causing panic in the de- fensive ranks and Jermaine Grandison turning the ball into his own net.

“I don’t say relieved with the result. I am happy with my players’ approach. You’re playing a World Cup final hereafter that is what it is for Shrewsbury,” Mourinho added.

West Brom proba- bly were uppity enough to force extra-time when a Tommy Elphick own goal with five minutes to go at Bournemouth level- led the scores at 1-1.

But it was the hosts who progressed thanks to Callum Wilson’s late strike, capping a superb few days for the south coast club after they thrashed Birmingham City 8-0 in their Championship showdown at the weekend.

Bournemouth almost went bust in 2008 and only avoided relegation from the Football League on the last day of the following season having been docked 17 points for going into ad- ministration.

Elsewhere on Tues- day, Derby County came from 2-0 down to beat Championship rivals Ful- ham 5-2 and Sheffield United downed Milton Keynes Dons 2-1 in an All-League One encounter.

On Wednesday, hold- ers Manchester City face Newcastle United while Tottenham Hotspur take on Brighton and Hove Albion and Stoke City host South- ampton.

Relief for Dortmund as they cruise through in German Cup

BERLIN, 29 Oct — Borussia Dortmund bounced back after slumping to their fourth straight Bundesliga defeat against Hanover 96 at the week- end, cruising past second tier St Pauli 3-0 on Tuesday to reach the German Cup third round. Cro Immob- ile, under-fire for his lack of goals this season, tapped thevisitinggoals infrontasFabio Reus rifled in the second goal af- ter a cut-back by the Italian a minute before the break.

Apart from two early chances for the hosts, the second half was a subdued affair with Dortmund fo- cused on holding on to their lead rather than adding to their goal tally. They made

Putin says needs effective, yet subtle World Cup security

MOSCOW, 29 Oct — Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday security at the 2018 World Cup would be “effective but not intrusive”, underlining to his security chiefs the need for subtle measures that will not scare off fans.

At a meeting of Russian and FIFA officials, Putin won support from FIFA president Sepp Blatter for Rus- sia’s staging of the football championship despite calls by some Western officials to move it elsewhere because of Moscow’s role in Ukraine.

Putin urged the security services to work together to make sure the tournament, to be staged in 12 stadiums in 11 Russian cities at a cost of 664 billion roubles (9.6 billion pounds), passes off without problems.

“There here should be complete cooperation, coordination of work of all services and departments. It should be marked for personal responsibility,” Putin told a meet- ing of Russian, regional and FIFA officials.

“Security measures should be effective, but not intru- sive, not excessive,” he said. “Do not create problems, or discomfort for athletes and fans.”

Although winning the right to host the World Cup stirred national pride, Moscow has faced calls for the finals to be played elsewhere because of its role in the Ukraine crisis and some Western officials have suggested a boycott.

Blatter said it was impossible to boycott football.

“FIFA firmly supports holding this championship in Russia,” he told the same meeting. For Putin, the World Cup, like the Winter Olympics Russia staged in February, are projects aimed at showing how Russia has developed since Soviet days into a modern state worthy of a seat at the table of top nations.

Champion Djokovic breezes through at Paris Masters

PARIS, 29 Oct — World number one Novak Djokovic began his Par- is Masters title defence with a routine 6-3, 6-4 win over German Philipp Kohlschreiber in the sec- ond round on Tuesday.

The top seed, who had a first-round bye, next fac- ing 10th-seeded American John Isner or Frenchman Gael Monfils for a place in the quarter-finals.

Djokovic, who is in a race with Roger Federer to end the season on top of the rankings, quickly opened a 3-0 lead playing some ag- gressive tennis at the Bercy arena.

Kohlschreiber pulled a break back but his oppo- nent held firm to bag the opening set with a service winner. Djokovic then broke in the first game of the second set as the Ger- man struggled to focus.

Kohlschreiber produced a series of beauti- ful backhand winners but could still not manage to unsettle the Serb.

Djokovic, who be- came a father for the first time last week, wrapped up victory on his first match point. “It was a very good match considering the fact that I didn’t play indoors for a year (since last year’s

ATP World Tour Finals). I struggled a little bit physi- cally. It was a pretty tough couple of weeks,” Djok- ovcitoldreporters.

The Paris Masters will decide who travels to London next month for the Tour Finals with Djokovic, Federer, Stanislas Wawrinka and Marin Cilic already qualified.

Czech Tomas Berd- ych, the fifth seed who currently sits eighth in the Race to London, reached the third round with a 6-4, 6-7(3), 6-2 defeat of French wild card Adrian Mannari- no.

A Berdych defeat would have ensured Brit- ish Andy Murray qualified for the Tour finals, but the Czech regained his com- position after losing a sec- ond set tiebreak, and never looked back after a deci- sive break in the third game of the decider. —Reuters