President has telephone conversation with Obama

**NAY PYI TAW, 1 Nov—** U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, had a telephone conversation with Mr Barack Obama, President of the United States of America, in the evening of 30th October 2014.

During the telephone conversation, the two Presidents discussed about President Obama’s visit to Myanmar to attend the 2nd ASEAN-US Summit and 9th East Asia Summit. They also held discussions on the ongoing political and economic reforms in Myanmar, Myanmar Government’s efforts in nationwide ceasefire and peace making process, development works in Rakhine State, cooperation between Myanmar and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and 2015 General Elections to be held in Myanmar.

President U Thein Sein welcomed and expressed appreciations to President Obama for reaffirming the United States’ firm commitment to continue supporting in democratization and, political and economic reforms of Myanmar—MNA

Presidential Scholarship Programme attracts candidates close to 5,000

**NAY PYI TAW, 1 Nov—** The programme called Presidential Scholarship Awards has received nearly 5,000 application forms from local students applying for three levels of education, officials say.

The programme saw 658 students at the undergraduate level, 1,848 students at the postgraduate level and 2,376 students at the doctoral level.

All the candidates are required to take assessment tests from 6 to 12 December in six places. The Yangon examination centre is for candidates from Magway Division. The Monywa examination centre is for candidates from Sagaing Region and Chin State. The Taunggyi examination centre is for candidates from Shan State and Kayah State. The Mawlamyine examination centre is for candidates from Mon State and Kayin State.

Supported by the British Council, a computerized test system called Apus Test will be employed in the assessment tests.

The time allowance for the computer-based tests will be 25 minutes for grammar and vocabulary, 30 minutes for reading, 50 minutes plus 30 minutes for writing, and 12 minutes for speaking.

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Locals believe share prices of Thilawa SEZ projected to rise

**YANGON, 1 Nov—**“Share prices of the first Myanmar’s Thilawa Special Economic Zone are projected to rise,” shareholder Bo Hla Win, who owns 10 shares of Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Ltd. (MTSH), said Saturday, adding that the project is believed to produce successful outcomes.

MTSH, the largest public company in Myanmar, with about 18,000 public shareholders, was registered in May, 2013. The firm sold shares worth K21.45 billion (41 per cent of total shares) to the public, U Win Aung, chairman of the company, said at the first annual general meeting of MTSH in Yangon, adding share registration services are now available in the head office of the company.

A 60-year-old retired investor who holds K500,000 worth of shares said, “It is estimated there are a few numbers of share players at the service center as the majority of people bought shares for the long run.”

Zin Mar, who has 20 shares, urged people to buy more shares even at higher prices, expressing her view that share prices are unlikely to fall.

“MTSH BOD decided to develop the Residential and Commercial Zone in Thilawa SEZ through purchasing of 35 hectares as JV company, Myanmar Japan Thilawa Development Co., Ltd. It is situated between the main access corridor to Thilawa SEZ and Thilawa Reservoir making it a prime location for urban development,” said U Thein Han, a director of MTSH.

Concept master planning has been completed and further detailed (See page 3)

Yangon plans to establish traffic control centre with installation of computerized traffic signals

**By Ye Myint**

**YANGON, 1 Nov—** Yangon City Development Committee is planning to establish a traffic control centre with the installation of 50 computerized traffic signals in Yangon, Mayor U Hla Myint said at a workshop on public transport facilitation on Saturday.

The information was released at the workshop that included roundtable discussions (See page 3)

**Photo: Ye Myint**

Photo shows five-road Tamwe Junction where computerized traffic signals will be installed soon, YCDC said. —PHOTO: YE MYINT

**Thilawa SEZ—A being developed on 189 hectares of land is 44 % complete and expected to finish next June. PHOTO: MTSH**
**New asphalt streets put into service in Thabyegon of Zabuthiri Township**

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 Nov — A ceremony to commission 1st and 2nd Ngawhaw Streets, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Gangaw streets and 6th and 7th Gangaw streets into service was held in Thabyegon Ward of Zabuthiri Township on 29 October.

Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myo Nyunt explained development tasks in Zabuthiri Township.

Director (Engineer) U Aung Moe of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee explained the opening ceremony of the streets.

The member of Nay Pyi Taw Council, Vice Mayor of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Than Kyaw Htoo and Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Khin Maung Htay opened the streets.

Officials strolled along the streets.

Thanks to opening asphalt streets, the local people enjoy the smooth transport in undertaking education, health, social and economic sectors.

**Gems and Jewellery Shop opens in Mahaungmye Tsp**

Mandalay, 1 Nov — A ceremony to open Yatana Star Gems and Jewellery Shop was held at No 262 on 82nd street between 44th and 45th streets in Mahaungmye Township of Mandalay on 28 October.

Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs Mandalay Mayor U Aung Moung and members attended the ceremony.

The mayor and owners of the shop formally opened the sale centre.

The shop showcases various kinds of gems and jewellery and ornaments.

_Tin Maung (Mandalay)_

**Football tournaments for residents of Sagaing District**

Sagaing, 1 Nov — In honour of Thiha Htet Aung, (17) of Myanmar U-19 team who emerged from Sagaing Township, the Sagaing District Management Committee Chairman’s Cup Inter-Township U-20 Men’s Football Tournament will be held in Sagaing in the third week of November at Sagaing District Sports Ground. The football teams are to contact officials of Sagaing Township Sports and Physical Education Department and District Sports Ground, according to Assistant Director U Than Htay of Sports and Physical Education Department.

The Shwe Zeyar Cup Women’s Football Tournament, organized by Sagaing District Football Committee, will take place at the district football ground in the first week of December with the sponsorship of retired Minister for Construction Thiri Pyanchi U Khin Maung Myint.

The women’s football teams must be formed with the residents. The applications are to be sent to the Assistant Director of Sports and Physical Education Department, Tel: 072-22285, U Aung Than of District Sports Ground, Tel: 0933676907, U Chit Phyu, former selected player, Shwe Hnin Zi Literature House, Tel: 09-2021000, U Myint Than-U Kan Htay (Nyein Thiri Hotel), Tel: 09-797840124.

**Capacity of police enhanced in on-job training**

Mandalay, 1 Nov — Mandalay Region Police Force conducted the on-job training at its hall in Mandalay on 30 October afternoon, with an address by General Staff Officer (Grade-I) Police Lt-Col Myint Oo.

IP Zaw Myint gave lectures on carrying out the tasks in line with the human rights norms. Police Captain Khin Maung Tun human rights charger approved by the UN and Police Captain Thida San ethics of police officers.

A total of 54 officers and 44 other ranks of Mandalay Region Police Force attended the course.

**Mandalay Region Government offers Kathina robes and donations to members of the Sangha**

Mandalay, 1 Nov — Mandalay Region government held the communal Kathina robe offering ceremony at Maha Dhammakaya Monastery in Chanmyathazi Township on 30 October.

Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint, region level officials and responsible persons of political parties offered Kathina robes and offertories to State Obadacariya Abhidhaja Maha Ratthma Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jogathi Myatang Myaw Shinwaw win Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sasanabhivamsa and members of the Sangha.

Next, the chief minister and party donated meals to members of the Sangha.

_Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)_

**Local News**

Today’s Myanmar News Sites

**GLOBAL NEWS LIGHT OF MYANMAR**

**Local News**
Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Belaras

NAI PYI TAW, 1 Nov—Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, has paid a friendly visit to Belarus at the invitation of Mr Mikhail Myasnikovich, Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus, sources said.

A Myanmar delegation led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing left here for Belarus on Saturday morning, being seen off at the Yangon International Airport by high-ranking military officers of the Yangon Command and departmental officials.

During the visit, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is expected to meet Belarusian government and army officials to discuss bilateral cooperation between the two armies, in addition to cultural relations.

Belarus has maintained good relations with the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and started its diplomatic relations with Myanmar since September 1999.

Belarusian Prime Minister Mr Mikhail Myasnikovich visited Myanmar in December three years ago and signed agreements to cooperate in trade, economy, agriculture and education.

Industrial Bank of Korea to build four-storey building for monastic education school

YANGON, 1 Nov—Industrial Bank of Korea-IBK plans to provide better education environment to rural area of the nation with a contribution to promoting friendly relations between Myanmar and Republic of Korea.

A plan is underway to spend US$ 120,000 for construction of a four-storey school building with 12 classrooms, four toilets, stationery, desks and chairs at Kantetkon monastic education school in Mandalay.

Volunteers of the bank will give essential services to the monastic education school on their trip from Yangon to Belarus.

YANGON, 1 Nov—A ceremony to offer Kathina robes to monks by Thai Royal Family which is held annually took place at Myanmar-Thailand Friendship monastery in Dagon Myothit (North) on Saturday.

On the occasion Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee invested the congregation with the Five Precepts on behalf of the Royal Family, Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs General Tanasak car shuttle services.

A suggestion for the transformation from private bus lines into a public company was also made at the workshop.

Before concluding the workshop, the YCDC’s Engineering Department (Road and Bridge) made a presentation of the Yangon Urban Transport Master Plan, with the department head elaborating on traffic data information and an inner-outer ring road project to be implemented.

The plan includes construction of elevated roads, a new river-crossing bridge, flyovers at intersections on the outer ring road and other road related infrastructure and establishment of toll plazas on the inner and outer ring roads—GNLM

Thai Royal Family donates Kathina robes

Kathina robe offering ceremony of Thai Royal Family in progress at Myanmar-Thailand Friendship monastery in Dagon Myothit (North).—MNA

Paitamapagorn and Myanmar Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Soe Win offered Kathina robes to the venerable monks.

In this year Kathina robe offering ceremony, Thai Royal Family donated 2.4 million baht, sources said.

Locals believe share prices of...
Journal, newspaper donated to self-reliant library

NATMAUK, 1 Nov—The donation of the Union Daily newspaper was held at the self-reliant library in Kalashin Village in Natmauk Township of Magway Region on 29 October.

Local people donated Thakithway journal and the Union Daily newspaper to village administrator U Nyan Hla and librarian U Ye Myint.

“Our donations of journal and newspaper are aimed at raising reading habit of local people,” said wellwisher U Nyunt Khin.

Hla Win
(Township IPRD)

New school building handed over in Taungtha Township

TAUNGTHA, 1 Nov—A ceremony to hand over new school building to Education Department was held at the school in Kandaw Village of Taungtha Township in Mandalay Region on 28 October.

Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint, Speaker of Mandalay Region Hluttaw U Win Maung, region minister and wellwisher U Set Cho-Daw Than Ei (Tawwin Cheroot Industry) of Myingyan and education officials.

The Speaker of the region Hluttaw and wellwishers formally opened the new school building and the region chief minister unveiled the signboard of the school.

Tipitakadhara Sayadaw Bhaddanta Gandamala of Mingun Monastery unveiled the stone inscription. Wellwisher handed over documents related to the school building and exercise books to officials.

Staff quarters to be rented to service personnel at fair rate

MANDALAY, 1 Nov—A ceremony to share merits for completion of Dhamma Myint Nau three-storey building was held at Buddha Piyaya Monastery in Natgyikan ward of Mohinny in Kachin State on 29 October.

Wellwisher U Chit Htay-Daw Than Htay family of Wast Ward in Mohinny donated the expenditure for construction of the building worth K580 million. To mark completion of the building, the members of the Sangha administered Desana to the people from 27 to 29 October.—GNLM-001

A plan is being implemented to construct over 700 apartments for the staff in Mandalay Region in 2014-15 fiscal year to rent the apartments to the government service personnel at fair rate.

The department plans to building 48 apartments each of staff quarters in district level towns and 24 apartments each in townships as of December 2014.

Township management committees, township development supportive committees and DHSHD will build the low-cost housings with the arrangements for the staff to buy them in installment through Construction and Development Bank.

Mandaly, 1 Nov—Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development under the Ministry of Construction is building the staff quarters in Mya May Nanda new satellite town in Chamayathazi Township and Seiktarama-hi Ward in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay District.

Po Shwe Than-Dawei (Mandalay)

Palethwe hybrid paddy plantation harvested on model plot

DAWEI, 1 Nov—Local people in Dawei District of Taninthayi Region cultivate Palethwe hybrid paddy strains that can produce over 200 baskets of paddy per acre so to ensure food sufficiency of the region. They grew 25 acres of Palethwe hybrid paddy, three acres of GW1 paddy strain and five acres of Belgiun hybrid paddy strain, totaling 33 acres.

At the harvesting of model plot in Zahar Village, Palethwe hybrid paddy plantation produced 113.25 baskets of paddy per acre on 28 October.

The harvesting at model plot was attended by Head of Dawei District Agriculture Department U Kyaw Hla and district officials, Head of Township Agriculture Department Daw Mar Mar Win and members of the agricultural development committee, local authorities and farmers.

Head of District Agriculture Department U Kyaw Hla explained cultivation of the hybrid paddy plantation through good agriculture patterns and fertile soil for cultivation.

Po Shwe Than-Dawei
MH370 passenger’s sons file suit against Malaysia Airlines

NEW DELHI, 1 Nov — India has voted against the provisions of draft resolutions calling for signing of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), ruling out the possibility of joining the treaty as a non-nuclear weapon state, local media reported on Saturday. A UN Assembly committee on Friday adopted a resolution in New York calling for all countries which have not signed NPT to sign it as non-nuclear weapon states. The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, India and Israel voted against it while 164 others voted in favour. In its explanation of the vote, India said it cannot accept the call to accede to NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state, said Press Trust of India. “India’s position on the NPT is well-known. There is no question of India joining the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state. Nuclear weapons are an integral part of India’s national security and will remain so, pending non-discriminatory and global nuclear disarmament,” said Indian delegation at UN in a statement. — Xinhua

India votes against UN draft resolution on nuke pact

Wellington, 1 Nov — The defence ministers of New Zealand and Australia on Friday affirmed the strength of the bilateral defence partnership by pledging to continue work together in the Pacific. Australian Defence Minister David Johnston and his New Zealand counterpart Gerry Brownlee met in Perth for the annual Australia-New Zealand Defence Ministers Meeting and issued a joint statement saying centenary commemorations of the two nations’ involvement in World War I next month demonstrated the continuing strength of the relationship. Both countries remained committed to the relationship and looked forward to further opportunities to deepen the already close cooperation between the two military forces. The two ministers shared perspectives on important regional security issues, including recent developments in Iraq, and agreed to continue to share assessments of the situation and the international response. — Xinhua

New Zealand, Australia pledge to build military capacity in Pacific

Cambodia sees 55 pct rise in landmine casualties in 8 months

China to send elite army unit to help fight Ebola in Liberia

WELLINGTON, 1 Nov — The defence ministers of New Zealand and Australia on Friday affirmed the strength of the bilateral defence partnership by pledging to continue work together in the Pacific. Australian Defence Minister David Johnston and his New Zealand counterpart Gerry Brownlee met in Perth for the annual Australia-New Zealand Defence Ministers Meeting and issued a joint statement saying centenary commemorations of the two nations’ involvement in World War I next month demonstrated the continuing strength of the relationship. Both countries remained committed to the relationship and looked forward to further opportunities to deepen the already close cooperation between the two military forces.

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China will dispatch an elite unit of the People’s Liberation Army to help Ebola-hit Liberia, the Foreign Ministry said on Friday, responding to a call for a greater global effort to fight the deadly virus in West Africa.

Washington has led the international drive to stop the spread of the disease that has killed nearly 5,000 people, sending thousands of troops and committing about $1 billion, but Beijing has faced criticism for not doing enough.

The PLA squad, which has experience from a 2002 outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), will build a 100-bed treatment centre in Liberia, the first such facility

in the three countries most impacted by Ebola to be constructed and run by a foreign country, said Lin Songtian, director general of the ministry’s Department of African Affairs.

The centre will be open for operation in a month’s time, he told a briefing in Beijing. China will also dispatch 480 PLA medical staff to help Ebola patients, he said.

The first time China has deployed a whole unit of epidemic prevention forces and military medical staff abroad, Lin said.

China is Africa’s biggest trade partner, tapping the continent’s rich vein of resources to fuel its own economic growth over the past couple of decades. Some critics have wondered if Vladimir Putin is going to commit Russian resources to this effort,” White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest told a media briefing.

“People want to know what the United States of America is doing about it.”

The fifth defendant is the Malaysian government.

The plaintiffs did not specify the amount of damages sought. Jee Jing Hang was 41 years old when he boarded the flight. According to papers filed at the Kuala Lumpur High Court, he ran an internet-based business, earning a monthly income of $16,685 (55,086.9).

The boys’ lawyer Arunan Selvaraj told reporters someone must be accountable for what happened. “What we want to know is what happened at that time? Who should be responsible for the incident? No one has come forward taking responsibility for the missing plane,” he said.

A massive international search continues in the southern Indian Ocean as experts believed that is where the plane ended based on mathematical analysis of satellite and radar data.

Beijing, 1 Nov — China’s assistance to the continent’s rich vein of resources to fuel its own economic growth over the past couple of decades. Some critics have wondered if Vladimir Putin is going to commit Russian resources to this effort,” White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest told a media briefing.

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A massive international search continues in the southern Indian Ocean as experts believed that is where the plane ended based on mathematical analysis of satellite and radar data.

Ground crew work among Malaysia Airlines planes on the runway at Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) in Sepang on 25 July, 2014. — REUTERS

As the group responsible for air traffic control, DCA is alleged to have failed and neglected to take appropriate measures to re-establish contact and track down the flight once it was known to have disappeared from the radar.

They also allege negligence on the part of the Immigration Department for allowing two individuals with stolen passports to board the flight.

The Royal Malaysia Air Force is accused of negligence for its failure to deploy its assets immediately after they detected an unidentified plane on their radar. The air force said previously they did not know the plane was MH370 as their radar was not linked to the transponder on board the Boeing 777 and they did not scramble a plane to check it out because they knew it was a commercial airliner and was not deemed a threat.

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**World**

US's Kerry, I ran minister to meet ahead of deadline for atom deal

WASHINGTON / NEW YORK, 1 Nov — US Secretary of State John Kerry will meet Iran’s foreign minister and the European Union foreign policy chief in Oman on 9-10 November to discuss the Iranian nuclear issue ahead of a looming deadline for a final agreement, the US State Department said on Friday.

Kerry’s talks in Muscat, Oman with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and the EU’s Catherine Ashton are due to take place two weeks before a 24 November deadline for Tehran and six major powers to reach a long-term agreement on Iran’s nuclear programme.

The high-level gathering is one of series of meetings in the final weeks before the deadline. Before heading to Oman Ashton will meet senior foreign ministry officials from the six powers—Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States in Vienna on 7 November, Ashton’s spokesman Michael Mann said.

The six will then begin meeting again with the full Iranian delegation in Vienna on 18 November, he added.

**South Sudan famine temporarily averted, but risks remain**

Nairobi, 1 Nov — Aid and some small harvests have helped stave off a feared famine in South Sudan, but any more fighting there could still leave millions facing severe hunger next year, a senior World Food Programme (WFP) official said on Friday.

The United Nations had warned in May that up to four million people would be on the brink of starvation by the end of 2014, after months of clashes threatened harvests and shut down aid programmes.

Development agencies launched a huge appeal and the response, together with rainfall, meant that “what was speculated about famine... (has been) temporarily averted,” WFP’s South Sudan deputy country director, Eddie Rowe, told Reuters.

About 10,000 people have died and more than a million have been displaced since fighting broke out between President Salva Kiir’s government forces and rebels allied to his former deputy Riek Machar in December last year.

Earlier this week rebels attacked Unity State capital Bentiu, shuttering months of relative calm during the rainy season when sudden roads make fighting and movement of equipment almost impossible.

Diplomats have said the arrival of the dry season next month could trigger more fighting despite both sides committing to a ceasefire in May. A previous ceasefire was repeatedly violated in the impoverished country which gained independence in 2011 after decades of conflict.

Rowe said recent harvests in the three states worst-hit by the violence — Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile — had been limited, meaning home-grown food could soon start running low.

“The amount of food that will be available at household level would be exhausted by December or January and that means you will have a substantial number of people who would go without food as of January up to March based on the projections and indicators that we are collecting,” he from South Sudan’s capital by phone.

Any more violence would hamper efforts to get help to those areas, he added.

“If fighting escalates, particularly in the three conflict-affected states, then we would not be able to deploy staff and our partners into these locations, which would mean we would not be able to provide food assistance to large numbers of individuals,” he said. Rowe said in the last few months of this year between 2.5-2.7 million people are expected to be in crisis and emergency phases three and four on a five-point Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) scale where five is famine.

But the number of people in those two phases was projected to rise to 3.7 million in the first three months of 2015, he added. Rowe also called for the return of a WFP employee who was abducted two weeks ago in South Sudan’s Upper Nile region. He said harassment of aid workers was on the rise, a trend which could also worsen the humanitarian crisis.

A boy from South Sudan carries a container of water at a railway station refugee camp, where refugees have spent the last four years, in Khartoum on 11 May, 2014. —Reuters

**US chides Russia over military flights in Europe**

WASHINGTON, 1 Nov — Stepped-up flights by Russian fighters, long-range bomber and tanker aircraft are aggravating security concerns in Europe and the United States is watching them very closely, the Pentagon said on Friday.

Rear Admiral John Kirby, the Pentagon press secretary, said Russian military planes carried out more flights on Friday over the Baltics, North Sea and the Arctic Ocean, furtherless of what NATO has said is an unusual burst of air activity by Moscow.

NATO officials certainly don’t see these as military exercises, and note that international rules on air travel do not give Russia the right to take such steps, warn of the potential for civilian aviation to collide.

The escalation of flights follows months of tension over Ukraine and Kirby also urged Moscow to “do the right thing” and meet its international obligations to respect the territorial integrity of its neighbors.

NATO said in a statement its jets had intercepted four groups of Russian aircraft on maneuvers on Tuesday and Wednesday.

“These sizeable Russian flights represent an unusual level of air activity over European airspace,” it said.

A spokesman stressed there had been no violation of NATO airspace — as there was last week when a Russian spy plane briefly crossed Estonia’s arm forces, which were undermined by the economic troubles that followed the collapse of the Soviet Union. —Reuters

**Moscow, 1 Nov — Serbia is not attempting to balance between its EU ambitions and its close ties with Russia, Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic said in an interview to Business New Europe (bne), Moscow-based English language magazine.**

According to Vucic, Serbia implied that Serbia will not press forward with the construction of the controversial South Stream gas pipeline, until the issue is resolved between the EU and Russia.

“(South Stream) is between the EU and Russia — if they agree on this, we’ll solve between the EU and Russia,” Vucic told bne.

“We are not balancing,” he stressed. In his interview to bne, Vucic expressed hope that Serbia will be able to join the EU in 2020, or perhaps in 2021 if “we do our homework”.

“It’s not up to us, but we have to do everything (we can), not to get mercy from the EU, but to be proud people from a proud country that will enter the EU, and that’s why we are doing these reforms,” said Vucic.

**Vucic: We are not balancing EU ambitions and ties with Russia**


**US Secretary of State John Kerry is scheduled to meet with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and the EU's Catherine Ashton in Oman in late October.**

The high-level gathering is one of series of meetings in the final weeks before the deadline. Before heading to Oman, Ashton will meet senior foreign ministry officials from the six powers—Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States in Vienna on 7 November, Ashton’s spokesman Michael Mann said.

The six will then begin meeting again with the full Iranian delegation in Vienna on 18 November, he added.

**US coordinates the negotiations on behalf of the six powers. The aim of the talks is to reach a comprehensive agreement with Iran by 24 November, under which it would reassure the international community about the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear programme.”**

Mann said in a statement.

Last week the top US negotiator in the Iran talks, Under-Secretary of State Wendy Sherman, said Iran will be widely seen as responsible if a comprehensive deal to curb its nuclear programme is not reached.

Both sides already aim to meet the 24 November deadline for a deal, despite doubts among many experts that they can reach an accord that would end a decade-long dispute over Tehran’s nuclear programme with just a few weeks remaining.

Relations with the West have thawed since Hassan Rouhani was elected president last year seeking to end Iran’s international isolation, and the talks are aimed at easing concerns about Tehran’s atomic activities in exchange for lifting economic sanctions.

Kirby, the Pentagon press secretary, said Russian military flights also could pose a potential risk to civil aviation.

“Those aircraft, number and scope of the flights also could pose a potential risk to civil aviation,” he told a Pentagon press briefing.

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A spokesman stressed there had been no violation of NATO airspace — as there was last week when a Russian spy plane briefly crossed Estonia’s arm forces, which were undermined by the economic troubles that followed the collapse of the Soviet Union. —Reuters
Somali pirates free Indian sailors after four years in captivity

Mogadishu, 1 Nov — Somali pirates have freed seven Indian sailors detained for close to four years in exchange for an undisclosed ransom, Soma-

lici officials and a maritime monitoring group said on Friday.

At one time the pirates made millions of dollars in ransoms from seizing ships sailing the Horn of Afri-
can nation’s waters, but in-

creased patrols by interna-
tional navies on the Indian Ocean have reduced inci-
dences of piracy.

The sailors, held since the pirates hijacked the Panama-flagged ship MV Asphalt Venture in Sep-
tember 2010, were freed on Thursday. Eight of their col-

eagues were freed by the pirates along with the ship

in April 2011 for a ransom.

Their captors said at the time that they would only release the seven sail-

ors when their fellow So-
mali pirates held by Indian authorities were freed.

It was not clear if their demand had been met.

Kenyan-based Ecoterra International, which moni-
tors maritime activity on the Indian Ocean, confirmed

the sailors’ release.

“The remaining seven

hostages... were final-

ly freed by their captors

against a ransom and ar-

rived in Mogadishu, the
capital of Somalia, from

where they will be flown
directly to India,” Ecoterra
said in a statement.

Regional government of-

ficials were involved in

the release of the sailors

from their captivity in the
town of Haradhore in cen-
tral Somalia, officials said.

The last successful hi-

jacking was in May 2012.

when Somali pirates seized

a Greek-owned oil tanker

coming close to a million

barrels of crude oil while in

the Arabian Sea.

In January, a merchant

ship was boarded by Eri-
trean forces in the Red Sea,
an incident which was ini-

tially reported as a pirate

attack.

At the height of Somali

pirate attacks in 2011, up to

dozens or more merchant

ships were being held cap-
tive at any one time, often

for multi-million-dollar ran-

soms.—Reuters

Panama-flagged cargo ship MV Asphalt Venture arrives at the Kenyan Port of

Mombasa on 28 April, 2011.—Reuters

Dutch team recovers human remains from MH17 crash site

NEW YORK, 1 Nov — The US

ambassador to the United Nations on Friday defended federal guide-

lines for monitoring health workers returning from three Ebola-strick-
en West African countries while urging greater coordination to con-

tain the outbreak in Guinea.

There is a growing controver-
sy in the United States over some states ordering 21-day quarantines

for nurses and doctors returning after treating Ebola patients, an

idea that medical experts have crit-
icized.

The ambassador, Samantha

Power, said current federal rules balanced “the need to respond to

the fears that this has generated” with the known science on the dis-

case. She also praised the airlines that continue to fly to countries bat-
tling Ebola outbreaks.

“Let me commend Air Brus-

sels, Air France and Moroccan

Airways for keeping their flights going. Those flights are a lifeline."

Power said at a Reuters Newsmak-
er event in New York hours after returning from a four-day trip to

Eboa-hit Liberia, Guinea and Si-

era Leone.

Eboa, which has killed about

5,000 people in the three countries, is transmitted through the bodily

fluids of an infected person and is not airborne.

Some states, including New York and New Jersey have gone

beyond the US guidelines with isola-
tion periods for health workers equivalent to the maximum time it

can take for Ebola to develop.

Power said she was consid-
ered at low risk for contracting the virus because she did not have direct contact with Ebola patients.

She said she had her temperature
taken three times before boarding a plane

home from Liberia and was

checked again upon arrival at New

York’s John F Kennedy Interna-
tional Airport. Several US politi-
cians have called for an outright

ban on travellers from Liberia, Si-

era Leone and Guinea, which gov-

ernment and aid organizations said

would hurt efforts to control the

outbreak at its source by deterring medical volunteers.

Power said health officials are capable of self-monitoring with regular checks for symptoms, such as fever, diarrhea and vomiting.

She herself will be reporting her temperature twice daily to New York state’s health department for the next 20 days.

The envoy had high praise for
countries that have people on

the ground battling the epidemic, in-
cluding Cuba, with which the Unit-

ed States has had strained relations for decades, and China.

Havana has sent more than

260 medical professionals and

plans on assigning 200 more, the

biggest foreign contingent of med-

ical workers deploying to West Af-

rican countries while

continuing Ebola outbreaks.

The envoy said Cuba would contribute

600 doctors and nurses to fight the
ebola epidemic, one of the largest

aid offers to African countries.

The US stated it would be sending

250 doctors and nurses to help fight

the disease.

On Tuesday, President Barack

Obama announced plans to send

200 military medical personnel to

West Africa to help fight the dis-

bque.

The US said it would

also send 500 additional med-

ical volunteers to help.

A memorial set up for Michael Brown is seen in Ferguson, Missouri, on 10 Oct, 2014.—Reuters

US envoy Power defends Ebola guidelines, warns on Guinea

Federal charges appear unlikely in Ferguson police shooting
Reckless Spitting

I couldn’t agree more with the article by (U) Khaing Min Thant, which dealt with the reckless and random littering habits of our people. The city of Yangon could easily win a championship trophy for the title of “The Most Littered City”, if there were such a competition. In connection with this issue, I hope the original author wouldn’t mind if I add some of my views.

Littering is a nuisance to the public and a disgrace to the nation. To eradicate littering, both the authorities and the public have to work in cohesion towards that goal. The populace must ab

al. I first noticed their endeavor while on my daily workouts along the road circling the Kandawgyi Lake. Many signs were posted along the road with instructions and warnings not to litter and not to relieve oneself by the roadsides, also mentioning the amount of mone

ficially toward that public and a disgrace to the city of Yangon could

thrive along our streets. Reckless spitting habits are bound to witness this bad habit of spitting recklessly and randomly. It is done by many, irrespective of age or gender. It is not rare to see a young and good looking lass dressed fashionably, spitting while on the go, without any concern for those around her, or someone spitting out of a moving car or bus without considerations for the pedestrians on the sidewalks.

I had never done that as an adult, but must admit I had done that as a juvenile. However, as I couldn’t contain myself any longer, I hurried down the slight slope by the roadside and chose a tree with the largest trunk so that it would hide me from the view of the passersby. As I went around the tree to the side that was out of view from the road, I was so p

elated by the unbearable stench of urine and numerous heaps of human feces all over the place that I retreated as hurriedly as I had approached.

Not only the toilets were not there, but there was no other garbage b

ins to be found anywhe

here along the road circling the Lake. How could they enforce the public to obey the orders without providing necessary facilities?

So much for the issue of littering and I’ll go on to dis

The city of Yangon could thrive along our streets. Reckless spitting habits are bound to witness this bad habit of spitting recklessly and randomly. It is done by many, irrespective of age or gender. It is not rare to see a young and good looking lass dressed fashionably, spitting while on the go, without any concern for those around her, or someone spitting out of a moving car or bus without considerations for the pedestrians on the sidewalks.

self. U Khin Maung Win, retired Chief Editor U Maung Maung Aye of the New Light of Myan-

maar and not to relieve oneself by the roadsides, also mentioning the amount of money that would be levied if found. I thought that was the most constructive step taken and praised their actions openly among our group of health-enthusiasts, who met at that place every morning for exercising.

However, my praise was a bit premature. Only a few days later, I was thrust into an undesirable situation in which I encountered the call of nature while strolling around the Lake with friends. I needed to relieve my blad

dressing fashionably, spitting while on the go, without any concern for those around her, or someone spitting out of a moving car or bus without considerations for the pedestrians on the sidewalks.

At the occasion was graced by (U) Khaing Maung Win, retired Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Min Thant, which dealt with the reckless and random littering habits of our people. The city of Yangon could easily win a championship trophy for the title of “The Most Littered City”, if there were such a competition. In connection with this issue, I hope the original author wouldn’t mind if I add some of my views.

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Winners in National Literary Award announced

YANGON, 1 Nov—The National Literary Award Scrutiny Committee of the Ministry of Information announced winners of National Literary Award on Friday.

Naung Zaw won the national literary award in novel genre, Wai (University of Economics) in the short stories genre, Maung Lwin Naing (Sabeingon) in the collected poem genre, Maung Yint Mar (Kyauk Kyaw) in belle-lettre genre, and Myat Wai Toe (University of Education) in Myanmar culture and arts literature genre, Than Aung (Anyamay) in the child literature genre, Maung Khin Min (Dansuyu) in the youth literature genre, Tun Tint Aung (Myanmar translator) in the translation knowledge genre, U San Win (History Research) in the general knowledge (arts) genre, Dr Kyaw Than Tun (Guangdong Medical University) in the general knowledge (ordinary science) genre, Dr Ye Win Tun in the general knowledge (applied science) genre, Tein Oo in the political literature genre and Ye Dway in the English language (knowledge) genre.

In 2013, winners will be awarded K1.5 million as cash award. They are to contact 01-376569 of Literary Award Management committee of Sarpy Beikman at 529/531 on Merchant Street in Yangon and 01-381449 of Admin Department with two 5 inches by 7 inches colour photos and two passport photos attached to the CV form within one week.

The prize presentation will be held at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyauk Street on 22 November.

MNA

Implementation of South Korea-funded Myanmar Development Institute project to begin before year’s end

YANGON, 1 Nov—Work to implement the Myanmar Development Institute project funded by South Korea will begin before the end of this year under the signing of an agreement on Thursday.

The signing of the record of discussion between KOICA Myanmar Chief NAM, Kwon Hyoung and Professor Dr Aung Tun Thet, chairman of PTF-MDI inking the pact.

With the signing of the record, a $20-million MDI project scheduled to be completed in 2019 will start before the end of this year following a MDI project-launch forum in November, KOICA Myanmar said in a press release.

All stakeholders from both sides and other development partners will be present at the forum in which KOICA and a preparatory taskforce will introduce the project and seek ideas and feedback from the participants, the release added.

The MDI Project is to establish a “Whole of Government” National Institute that will improve the country’s policy-making and capacity-building processes and facilitate economic development, the agency said.

The Myanmar Development Institute will be established in Nay Pyi Taw.

South Korea pledged the $20 million through an MoU signing between the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development of Myanmar and South Korea’s Foreign Affairs Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw last month.

KOICA Myanmar

By Ye Myint

KOICA Myanmar Chief NAM, Kwon Hyoung and Professor Dr Aung Tun Thet, chairman of PTF-MDI, conclude with a handshake, the signing a record of discussion on establishment of the Myanmar Development Institute in Nay Pyi Taw.—PHOTO SUPPLIED

Free audio guide services available in National Museum (Yangon) as of 30 Oct

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

Yangon, 1 Nov—Miyashita Ltd, a Japanese company, on Thursday donated 42 audio guides and accessories worth more than US$3,000 to the Myanmar’s National Museum (Yangon) with the aim of attracting more foreign visitors as well as promoting people-to-people relations between the two countries.

The mobile audio interpretation guide is available in four languages—Myanmar, English, Japanese and Chinese—translated by the company with the assistance of language experts.

The guide is extremely easy to use for the museum’s visitors who may receive free audio guide services as from 30 October for 30 main objects that have been displayed in the museum, according to Daw Nu Mra Zan, an advisor from the Museum.

Art Historian Natsuo Miyashita, president of Miyashita Ltd, explaining how to use the guides and the purpose of the donation, said she believes the audio guides offer high-quality interpretation services for both visitors and historians.

“ ”

“The main objective of the donation is to extensively introduce the country’s history, the civilization of Myanmar people, and traditional arts and culture to people across the world,” she added.

U Ngwe Tun Myint, director of the National Museum, said he welcomes the donation to the museum, which requires keeping up with modern developments.

Renovation work in four major halls, with the use of K200 million from by the government, is estimated to be completed at the end of the 2014-2015 budget year, he added.

The National Museum, the key museum in Myanmar, is on Pyay Road in Daung Township in Yangon. It has been open to public since 1996 and has more than 2,000 ancient relics beginning from pre-historic times.

Miyashita Ltd, with officials from the National Museum (Yangon) explains how to use an Audio Guide to media at the museum.—PHOTO KHAING THANDA LWIN
Kurdish peshmerga forces enter Syria’s Kobani after further air strikes

SULU, (Turkey) / BAGHDAD, 1 Nov — A convoy of Iraqi Kurdish forces in Turkey rolled late on Friday across the border into Syria to help Syrian Kurds defend the besieged town of Kobani that has become the focus of a Western-backed war against Islamic State insurgents.

US-led air strikes hit Islamic State positions around Kobani earlier in the day in an apparent effort to pave the way for the heavily-armed Kurdish contingent to enter.

The Iraqi Kurdish fighters, known as peshmerga or “those who defy death”, had set off cheering and making victory signs in more than a dozen trucks and jeeps, accompanied by armoured vehicles and artillery. They headed from a holding point around 8 km (5 miles) from the frontier towards Kobani.

“Have we crossed over,” one of the peshmerga fighters in the group subsequently told Reuters by telephone. The force numbers only around 150 but brings weapons and ammunition. Their arrival would mark the first time Turkey has allowed ground troops from outside Syria to reinforce Syrian Kurds, who have been defending Kobani for more than 40 days. As the peshmerga headed towards the border, a loud blast was heard in the Kobani area, the latest in a rapid series of explosions, in an apparent intensification of the fighting.

Despite having limited strategic significance, Kobani has become a powerful international symbol in the battle against the hardline Sunni Muslim insurgents who have captured large expanses of Iraq and Syria and declared an Islamic “caliphate”.

The Kobani battle has raged in full view of the Turkish frontier, testing whether a US-led coalition can halt Islamic State’s advance. The failure of Turkey to help defend the town sparked riots among Turkish Kurds in which 40 people died.

Islamic State militants have used displaced Shi’ite Muslims, Christians and other communities deemed enemies of their ultra-radical brand of Sunni Islam. They executed at least 220 Iraqi Sunnis in retaliation for opposition to their takeover of territory west of Baghdad this week.

Earlier on Friday, machinegun fire could be heard from the Turkish side of the border as Islamic State fighters pounded the area near where the peshmerga were expected to cross. —Reuters

Britain warns travelling nationals of heightened security risk from IS

LONDON, 1 Nov — Britain, Canada and US warned its citizens travelling overseas of a heightened risk of attacks against them from militants linked to Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, upgrading its official travel advice to reflect an increase in the general threat level.

The alert is considered to be a heightened threat of terrorist attack globally against UK interests and Britain’s nationals from groups or individuals motivated by the conflict in Iraq and Syria,” a statement from the Foreign Office said. “You should be vigilant at this time.”

The warning will be included on all government travel advice web pages, and comes in response to an increase in the globalized threat level, rather than a specific credible threat, the statement said.

In August Britain raised its national threat level to its second-highest rating, citing the risks posed by Islamic State fighters returning from Iraq and Syria. Prime Minister David Cameron has said those militants posed the country’s greatest-ever security risk.

Canada security services struggle with extremist threat, resources gap

OTTAWA, 1 Nov — Canada’s spy agency and national police force are so constrained by a lack of resources that they can’t keep close track of all the Islamic extremist who may be a potential threat at home and they have also had to abandon some counter-espionage work and criminal investigations according to current and former intelligence and police officials.

Ray Boisvert, former assistant director of intelligence at the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), said the spy agency and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police would need extra operatives if they were to be able to monitor more of the people they see as a possible threat.

“Police say they have investigations into 90 high-risk suspects who have either returned from helping foreign militant groups or who are planning to go abroad,” Boisvert said.

Canada was stunned by two deadly attacks last week that police said were the work of homegrown radicals, and the government has promised to increase the powers of the nation’s security services. A gunman killed a soldier at Ottawa’s national war memorial before launching an attack on the Canadian Parliament on 22 October, and two days earlier a man ran down two soldiers in Quebec, killing one.

Boisvert, who left CSIS in 2012 and is now a security consultant to private firms, said the agency and the RCMP have already had to switch resources away from a number of key areas to counter the threat. He estimates that by the time he departed, 85 percent of the agency’s work was focused on counter-terrorism. It can take a dozen people to properly track one suspect, he told Reuters in an interview.

“Do we have any way to surveil all of them,” Boisvert said. “If we doubled the resources at the RCMP and CSIS, we’re never going to surveil them all.”

Neither CSIS or the RCMP responded to requests for comment sent on Thursday. —Reuters

Army officer takes charge in Burkina Faso, ousting general

OUAGADOUGOU, 1 Nov — An officer in Burkina Faso’s presidential guard seized power on Saturday promising to lead the West African country to elections after the resignation of longtime President Blaise Compaore, in an apparent putsch against the military chief of staff.

Compaore stepped down Friday after two days of mass protests against his attempts to change the constitution to extend his 27-year rule. At least three people were killed after protesters stormed the parliament building and set it on fire.

Army chief of staff General Honoré Traoré, a Compaore loyalist, quickly announced on Friday he would take over the presidency on a transitional basis, but this was rejected by the opposition and dozens of government supporters.

After reports of heavy gunfire near the presidential palace early on Saturday, Lieutenant Colonel Issaca Zida, the operational commander of the elite presidential guard, announced on radio that he was taking power.

“I assume from today the responsibilities of head of state,” Zida said, dressed in military fatigues, in the studio of BF1 television. “I salute the memory of the martyrs of this uprising and bow to the sacrificers made by our people.”

The unfolding crisis was being closely watched by the United States and former colonial power France, which were close military allies of Compaore. France, an former colonial power in Africa.

Burkina Faso became a key ally in Western operations against al-Qaeda-linked groups in West Africa. The events will also be carefully followed by other governments in West and Central Africa, where long-serving leaders are reaching the end of their constitutional terms in several countries, including Benin, Congo Republic and Democratic Republic of Congo.

Zida said the army had stepped in to avoid anarchy and ensure a swift democratic transition. He said a roadmap to elections would be drafted by a body drawn from different elements of the government, including political parties and civil society.

Reuters
Oi, America Movil, Telefonica to bid for Brazil’s TIM, sources say

SÃO PAULO / MILAN, 1 Nov — Brazil’s Grupo Oi SA, Mexico’s America Movil SAB and Spain’s Telefonica SA agreed to place a joint bid worth around 32 billion reais (8.12 billion pounds) for TIM Participações SA, two sources with direct knowledge of the matter said on Friday.

The companies agreed to present a single offer to minority shareholders and Telecom Italia SpA, which owns about 67 percent of TIM Participações, Brazil’s No 2 wireless carrier, said the first source, who requested anonymity as the deal is still being worked on. A bid could be presented within two weeks, both sources noted. The first source said Oi, America Movil and Telefonica are confident their offer won’t meet too much resistance from antitrust and industry watchdogs in Brazil. The bid implies a 5 percent premium for controlling and minority shareholders of TIM, the first source noted.

Telecom Italia, whose board meets on 6 November to examine its quarterly results, had yet to receive any offer for TIM, Chairman Giuseppe Recchi said on Friday. The Rome-based company has repeatedly said Brazil remains a strategic market, but it would consider selling TIM if a highly priced offer is made.

The bid follows a year of speculation that intense competition, stagnant sales and the rising cost of new technology would hasten consolidation efforts in Brazil’s telecommunications market.

Shares of Oi posted their biggest intraday jump in six years on the news, which was first reported by Brazilian newspaper Folha de Sao Paulo. TIM Participações jumped as much as 18 percent.

If the bid is successful, the three companies would then proceed to split TIM, the first source noted. Breaking up TIM would give the joint bidders more breathing room in Brazil’s crowded four-way mobile market as they struggle to add customers, invest in high-speed networks and protect profits in a stagnant economy.

Under the deal, America Movil would keep 40 percent of TIM’s business, Oi would take 28 percent and Telefonica about 32 percent, the first source said. America Movil, controlled by Mexican billionaire Carlos Slim, confirmed in September it planned to join talks with Oi to make a joint bid for TIM. —Reuters

Branson to meet Virgin Galactic space team after crash

MORGAN (Calif.), 1 Nov — Richard Branson is set to meet his Virgin Galactic space team in California’s Mojave Desert on Saturday following the crash of a passenger spacecraft being developed by his company that killed one pilot and seriously injured the other.

The entrepreneur has pledged to keep up the drive for space travel, saying on the company’s website: “Space is hard — but worth it.

“We will persevere and move forward together.”

Friday’s crash of the suborbital vehicle, undergoing its first powered test flight since January over the Mojave, 95 miles (150 km) north of Los Angeles, was the second disaster suffered by a private space company in less than a week, dealing a blow to the fledgling commercial space launch industry.

On Tuesday, an Antarctica rocket built and launched by Orbital Sciences Corp exploded after liftoff from Wallops Island, Virginia, destroying a cargo ship bound for the International Space Station.

In the Virgin crash, one pilot body was found in the wreckage, while the second pilot, who ejected and parachuted to the ground, survived with severe injuries, according to Kern County Sheriff Donny Youngblood.

The survivor was found more than a mile from the main wreckage of SpaceShipTwo near the Mojave Air and Space Port, he said.

Television footage of the crash site showed wreckage of the spacecraft lying in two large pieces on the ground, and the company said the spacecraft was destroyed. Youngblood said a debris field was spread over more than a mile.

Both crew members were test pilots for Scaled Composites, the Northrop Grumman Corp subsidiary that designed and built the spacecraft for Virgin and lost three other employees in a July 2007 ground test accident.

“When not a NASA mission, the pain of this (new) tragedy will be felt by all the men and women who have devoted their lives to exploration,” NASA, the US space agency, said in a statement.

The crash occurred shortly after the craft separated from the jet airplane that carried it aloft for its high-altitude launch.

Scaled Composites President Kevin Mickey told a news conference on Friday the ill-fated flight was the first using a new rocket fuel formula the company switched to in May. He said the formula “had been proven and tested on the ground” before Friday’s test launch.

The US National Transportation Safety Board said it was sending one of its teams to investigate. More than 800 people have paid or put down deposits to eventually fly aboard the spaceship, which is hauled to an altitude of about 45,000 feet (13.7 km) and released by Virgin’s White Knight Two carrier jet airplane.

Cost of a ride on the ship now goes for $250,000 (156,431 pounds) and among those who have signed up are celebrities including singer Lady Gaga and actors Angelina Jolie and Ashton Kutcher.

The Virgin and Antares back-to-back accidents are set backs for the US commercial space launch industry, which has been taking on more work traditionally done by the governments while also expanding for-profit space markets, including tourism. —Reuters
**Wichita, (Kan.), 1 Nov — The bodies of four people killed when a twin-engine turboprop airplane crashed into a building at Wichita’s airport remained in the smoldering ruins on Friday as federal officials investigated the crash, officials said.**

A demolition contractor has been called in to make sure the Flight Safety International building is stable enough for crews to remove the dead, Wichita city spokesman Dale Goter said.

Pilots from around the world go to Wichita for initial and continuing training for Cessna aircraft in the flight simulators in the building that was struck Thursday morning by a Beechcraft King Air airplane, which had lost power in one engine after takeoff.

“They’ll come out as soon as we can get them out safely,” Goter said.

The airplane rapped into the roof of the building and set off an explosion and fire killing three people who were in a flight simulator in the building and the pilot, who was alone in the airplane. Safety concerns forced firefighters from the building on Thursday, where some walls and ceilings collapsed.

“There is still some smoldering on the roof,” Goter said on Friday, adding that parts of the building must be removed before crews can enter.

Five people were injured in the building. One person was listed in serious condition at a local hospital on Friday and four people were treated on Thursday for injuries and released.

The pilot reported losing power in the left engine shortly after taking off from the airport and the plane crashed as he tried to return, federal investigators have said.

Three witnesses have said the airplane started to drift to the left side of the runway after takeoff and then made a steep left bank into the building, Josh Lindberg, a National Transportation Safety Board investigator, said on Friday.

The airplane had undergone two maintenance test flights and showed no issues before the Thursday flight, Lindberg said.

The NTSB hopes to interview more witnesses and gain access to the crash site on Saturday, he said. They hope to recover a cockpit voice recorder and a digital flight data recorder for analysis, he said.

Authorities said more than 100 people were believed to have been in the building, which was operated by FlightSafety International, a Berkshire Hathaway Inc company.

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**New Delhi, 1 Nov — A seven-floor residential building collapsed early on Friday in Pune in India’s southwestern state Maharashtra.**

The building occupied by eight families was evacuated just before it collapsed at 3 am, but one man was trapped in the debris, Sr Police Insp MB Chavhan told Kyodo News.

“The rescue operation is on and we are trying to fish out the man trapped inside the rubble. There are no other casualties or injuries among the 25 people living in building,” Chavhan told Kyodo News by telephone from Pune.

“The building was one year old and the reason for the collapse is still unclear. We have detained the builder for further investigation,” the inspector added.

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**Benghazi, 1 Nov — Libya’s army special forces have seized back four barracks from armed Islamist groups in the eastern city of Benghazi, a commander said on Friday, after two weeks of heavy fighting which has killed at least 210 people.**

The troops shot down 20 militants, while in the exchange of firing, six soldiers also lost their lives.

The clash also left three soldiers injured who have been shifted to a nearby hospital.

Military did not officially confirm the clash yet.

Identities of the killed militiamen have also not been revealed by the security forces. — Xinhua

Special forces commander Wamis Bukhama said his forces controlled the eastern exit road from Benghazi and four camps, including the former army headquarters which it had lost with three others to the Islamists in August.

The army had already said it had expelled Islamists from the airport area and the 17 February camp, one of their strongholds in the port city.

“The army is controlling 80 percent of the city and is cleansing several areas ofists’ positions,” Bukhama said, referring to a group blamed by Washington for a 2012 attack on the US consulate that killed the American ambassador.

The army told a Reuters reporter on a tour to showcase what officers said was territory it now controlled. Residents said more army reinforcements had arrived in the past few days. Colonel Mahdi al-Barghathi, commander of a tank battalion, said fighters from Ansar al-Sharia had fled to the area of the seaport. Clashes continued in the west of the city, he added.

At least 18 people died in the past two days, bringing the death toll from two weeks of fighting to 210, medics said.

The struggle is part of a wider conflict in the North African state where former rebels who helped oust Gaddafi are fighting for power and a share of the country’s oil revenues.

Libya is divided between rival tribes and political factions with two governments vying for legitimacy since an armed group from the western city of Misrata seized Tripoli in August, forcing the internationally recognized Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thinni to move east.

The situation in Benghazi and other parts of Libya has been fluid as governments are unable to control militias. Forces of former general Khalifa Haftar, who support the army in Benghazi, have planes from Libya’s outdated air force though his opponents say he also gets support from Egypt, which is worried about the spread of militias. Haftar denies this.

Most foreign embassies withdrew their staff in the summer when the Misrata-led forces expelled a rival group from Tripoli.
Indian navy ship scraped by merchant vessel

NEW DELHI, 1 Nov — An Indian navy corvette was scraped by a merchant vessel on Friday in the Bay of Bengal off the eastern coast of India, resulting in minor damages, said officials.

“A minor incident involving INS Kora and merchant vessel Madeleine Rickmers has been reported approximately 300 NM (Nautical Miles) at sea from Visakhapatnam, wherein INS Kora was scraped by the merchant vessel in the early hours, 31 Oct 2014,” said the Indian Ministry of Defence.

“INS Kora and INS Gag were on passage from Visakhapatnam to Port Blair. INS Kora has reported minor damages to her ship’s side. There has been no damage to the water-tight integrity of the ship or any injuries/loss of life,” it said.

An inquiry is being launched to investigate into the circumstances leading to the incident, it said.

The Indian navy has suffered a series of incidents over the past few years, including the explosion and sinking of a submarine last August in Mumbai, in which 18 sailors were killed. —Xinhua

Fire at French public radio complex, staff evacuated

PARIS, 1 Nov — A fire broke out at France’s public radio headquarters in Paris on Friday, forcing live programmes off the air as staff evacuated the vast complex where major building work has been underway.

“The fire is not put out but it is under control,” said Paris fire brigade spokesman Gabriel Plus, adding that there were no victims and that there was no longer any risk of the fire spreading to other parts of the building.

Photographs circulating on Twitter shortly after the fire broke out showed thick black smoke billowing from upper floors of the building on the banks of the Seine river in the western part of the French capital.

“Staff ... had to be evacuated because of a fire,” said a Twitter message from France Info, one of several public radio channels housed at the building, the Maison de la Radio.

France Info highlighted that building work had been underway recently at the building, where thousands of journalists and other staff work.

Fire brigade spokesman Plus said that the fire broke out in a part of the complex where no staff were present because of renovation work that in part concerned eradication of asbestos. —Reuters

Brazil says car taxes in line with WTO rules

BRASILIA, 1 Nov — Brazil’s taxes on imported cars comply with World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, Foreign Minister Luiz Alberto Figueiredo said on Friday.

The comment came after the European Union (EU) announced earlier in the day that it had asked the WTO to establish a panel to look into possible unfair taxes imposed by Brazil on foreign-made cars.

“Our tax regimen is perfectly compatible and we are going to prove this at the panel,” said the minister. Asked whether the EU’s complaint amid negotiations between the EU and the Southern Common Market, a sub-regional trade bloc, could have negative impact on the Brazilian government, he indicated that it would not, saying “they are different issues.”

The EU’s complaint was sparked by Brazil’s “Inovar Auto” programme, which was launched in 2013 and stays effective until 2017. The programme offers the Brazilian automotive industry tax breaks for meeting modernization goals and improving fuel efficiency.

“Products manufactured in the European Union and sold in Brazil face higher taxes than Brazilian products,” the European Commission (EC) said in a press release.

“In addition, Brazil restricts trade by demand- ing Brazilian manufacturers use domestically-made components as a condition to receive tax breaks,” the EC said. —Xinhua

Weather report

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 24 November, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Mandalay Region and Shan State, scattered in Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady Regions, Kayin and Mon States, fairly widespread in Tanintharyi Region, and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States, Degree of certainty is (80%).
FIFF to pay special tribute to Richard Attenborough

LOS ANGELES, 1 Nov — Slumdgon Millionaire star Dev Patel and Nicole Kidman are set to star in ‘Lion’, a new drama produced by The Weinstein Co.

Jane Campion, is attached to helm ‘Lion’. Luke Davies, the screenwriter on Anton Corbijn’s upcoming ‘Life’, adapted the book for the screen. In addition to ‘Lion’, Patel plays self-taught Indian math genius Srini-vasa Ramanujan in Matt Brown’s period drama ‘The Man Who Knew Infinity’, which Mister Smith Entertainment is pitching to buyers; and co-stars in Lionsgate’s Soviet-era thriller ‘Child 44’ and Summit’s ‘The Road Within’, a remake of the hit German dramedy ‘Vincent Wants to Sea’.

‘Lion’ will also appears in John Madden’s upcoming ‘The Second Best Mari-gold Hotel’, the sequel to the 2011 hit, which Fox Searchlight is releasing in the US next year.

‘Ben Hur’ role

LOS ANGELES, 1 Nov — Actress Gal Gadot has reportedly passed on the role of female lead in ‘Ben Hur’ remake due to scheduling conflict. Gadot’s shooting ‘Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice’ forced her abandon the role, which she had been circling to star in for Paramount and MGM, according to the Hollywood Reporter.

Gadot plays Wonder Woman in Zack Snyder’s ‘Batman v Superman’, and is signed on to appear as the DC superhero in a number of Warner Bros’ films, including solo adventures and a series of Justice League movies. ‘Ben Hur’, a reboot of the 1959 Charlton Heston classic, will have Jack Huston as the Jewish prince who is betrayed by his best friend. Gadot was to play Ben Hur’s love interest, a slave named Esther.—PTI

‘Batman v Superman’ forces Gal Gadot to pass on ‘Ben Hur’ role

PTI

Eva Longoria, Lily Collins to star in ‘Low Riders’ film?

LOS ANGELES, 1 Nov — Hollywood stars Eva Longoria and Lily Collins are in negotiations to star opposite Demian Bichir in the un-titled Low Riders movie.

Bichir was already tapped to lead the movie, which takes place in the East LA world of lowrider cars and Ricardo de Montreuil will direct the script, written by Josh Bierne-Gordon and Justin Tippins.

Previous drafts were written by Cheo Hodari Coker and Elgin James.—PTI

PTI

Eva Longoria, Lily Collins to star in ‘Low Riders’ film?

PTI

IFI to pay special tribute to Richard Attenborough

PTI

‘Heaven Knows What’ takes top prize at Tokyo film festival

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Kenya’s Mutai goes for New York hat-trick

NEW YORK, 1 Nov — A doping scandal threatened to overshadow Geoffrey Mutai’s run at a New York City Marathon hat-trick and Wilson Kipsang’s bid for an eye-popping bonus after their compatriot Rita Jeptoo failed a drugs test.

The two Kenyans are among the headline runners for Sunday’s race but were suddenly sharing the spotlight with Jeptoo on Friday after Athletics Kenya said she was returned a positive drug test sample.

Mutai and Kipsang were both set to compete in the 42.2-km race through New York’s five boroughs.

Mutai arrives in New York looking to become just the third man, and first since Alberto Salazar in 1980-82, to win three consecutive times in New York.

The 33-year-old Kenyan set the standard in 2011 with a course record of two hours, five minutes and six seconds. The 2012 race was cancelled due to Superstorm Sandy but Mutai returned in 2013 to win in a more modest 2:08.24.

Mutai will hold a big edge in experience over his training partner Kipsang as the former world record holder makes his New York debut. Certainly much of the pressure will be on the Kipsgan, who needs a win on Sunday to avoid losing the World Marathon Majors title and the $500,000 bonus to compatriot Dennis Kimetto.

The overall championship includes a runner’s best results from six major marathons (Tokyo, Boston, London, Berlin, Chicago and New York) over two years. Mutai and Kipsang, the 2012 Olympic bronze medalists, plan to attack the course record, however, a weather forecast of gusting winds are likely to keep the mark from falling.

The two Kenyans are the only entries with marathon personal bests under two hours and four minutes but a quality field could see another winner emerge from a large pack of contenders.

Europe to build permanent laboratory in Sierra Leone

FREETOWN, 1 Nov — China agreed to build a permanent laboratory in Sierra Leone, one of the three Ebola ravaged countries in West Africa, as the fight against the dreaded Ebola disease intensifies.

The two countries signed an agreement on Friday in Freetown. Finance Minister Kaifalla Marah signed on behalf of Sierra Leone, whilst Chinese Ambassador Zhao Yanzhao on behalf of the Chinese government.

The Chinese Ambassador noted that China realises the challenges Sierra Leone is facing in its health care delivery service especially with the outbreak of the Ebola disease.

Cognisant of these challenges is why since the outbreak of the Ebola virus, China has made emergency medical aid to support the government and people of Sierra Leone to fight against the disease, Zhao said, adding that China was the first foreign country to come to the assistance of the three countries in May this year.

He mentioned the other humanitarian assistance his government has made available to the three nations in their fight to contain and eradicate the disease in the sub-region.

Zhou said apart from the assistance to fight the Ebola virus, the reason for the laboratory to be built is to help the country in the fight against any further outbreak of any other tropical disease. He disclosed that the construction of the laboratory will commence this month.

European Games opens ticketing sign-up page

BAKU, 1 Nov — Baku 2015 European Games opened its website Friday to allow fans to register in purchasing tickets for next summer’s event on Friday.

The website will allow international and Azerbaijani customers to request ticketing updates on the sport programme as well as receive all the latest news from Baku 2015.

Ticket sales to the general public will open next year, but customers will still be able to sign up for the countdown continues.

“Of course, all customers are able to sign up, but their interest now will be to be first to be sent frequent E-mail updates on all the latest developments in the countdown continues.

Museum needed for relics unearthed before China’s water diversion

ZHENGZHOU, 1 Nov — A museum is needed to preserve rare relics unearthed as the provincial water resource project will see a massive 9.5 billion cubic meters of water per year pumped through canals and pipes from the Danjiangkou reservoir in central China’s Hubei Province to the northern provinces of Henan and Hebei and to Beijing.

The province boasts a rich history, with the most unearthed artifacts in the country. Some of the artifacts found helped solve some of the historic mysteries surrounding Henan, Zhang said.

The two parties have 60 days to respond and the members must enter consultations within a maximum of 30 days after the request has been officially made.

The parties have 60 days from the time Russia receives the request to come to an amenable conclusion.

If the countries fail to find a satisfactory solution, the complainant may request an expert panel look into the dispute.

EU files dispute against Russia over agricultural, manufactured goods

GENEVA, 1 Nov — The European Union (EU) requested a consultation with Russia over the tariffs the latter imposed on certain agricultural and manufactured goods, said the World Trade Organization (WTO) on Friday.

According to the WTO, the EU claimed that Russia applies duties in excess of bound rates in several ways, particularly duty rates applied to its paper and paperboard, and palm oil; and its fractions, refrigerators and combined refrigerators-freezers.

The EU insisted the measures taken by Russia “adversely affect exports of these goods from the European Union to Russia.”

This is the fifth case filed against Russia since it acceded to the WTO in August 2012. The first two cases, related to the recycling fee on motor vehicles, were filed by both the EU and Japan in July 2013.

The third was filed in April 2014 by the EU over Russia’s measures on the imports of EU live pigs and their genetic materials and products.

The fourth case brought forward by the EU to the WTO in May this year, disputed Russia’s anti-dumping duties on light commercial vehicles from Germany and Italy.

Request for consultations is the first step of a dispute in the WTO’s dispute settlement system.

Russia has up to 10 days to respond and the members must enter consultations within a maximum of 30 days after the request has been officially made.

A health worker gives Vitamin A to a child during the national polio vaccination campaign in Yamoussoukro, on 31 Oct. 2014. Cameroon launched a three-day nationwide polio vaccination campaign supported with partners like World Health Organization and United Nations Children’s Fund. The campaign coverage about 5.6 million children in Cameroon would last from Friday to Sunday. —Xinhua
Defiant Pellegrini won’t change ahead of derby

By BERNICE ALBERT

Manchester, 5 Nov — Manchester City manager Manuel Pellegrini insists he will not change the way his team play despite suffering two defeats in a week and losing playmaker David Silva ahead of Manchester United’s visit on Sunday.

The Premier League champions have endured an indifferent start to the season and Pellegrini has come under increasing pressure after expressing concern over his side’s form earlier this week. A 2-1 loss at-in-form West Ham United on Saturday left them third in the table on 17 points, six adrift from leaders Chelsea, missing the defence of their League Cup title ended prematurely with a surprise 2-0 home defeat to Newcastle United on Wednesday. The beleaguered Chilean remained defiant, however, in the face of United’s trip to the Etihad Stadium, insisting his out-of-sorts team do not need to change much even if they will be without Silva, who will be missing for up to a month after injuring his knee. “David is a very important player but I always say the same thing. We have a squad and we have to re-place him with another play-er,” Pellegrini told a news conference.

“I think that we can play faster than we are doing. But still, I remember the games against the Newcastle and West Ham, the best player was our goalkeeper.”

“If I think back to a year ago, I was answering the same questions. When we didn’t win away for the first six games — it was the same questions I just answered now.”

“I will continue to play the same way.”

Pellegrini got his first taste of a Manchester derby at the Etihad last season and an excellent performance from his side ended in a re-sounding 4-1 victory.

The City boss indicated that a similar performance in the fixture on Sunday could galvanise his team, as it did last year.

“The game we played here, the first one at the Etihad (last year) was in a mo-ment where I was new here, where maybe there were a lot of doubts about the re-sult but I never changed my mind in the way we have to play against any other team,” he said. — Reuters

Frenchman Levy shoots 63 to go four clear at BMW Masters

BYEONG-HUN YEO

Shanghai, 1 Nov — American-born Frenchman Alexander Levy continued his brilliant run with a second consecutive round of 63 on Sunday, improving his position to second place behind world number three, England’s Matthew Fitzpatrick, who carded a 64 to go 12 under par at the BMW Masters.

Levy, son of two pharmacists, conjured up a special formula of his own to rattle off nine birdies for a 22-under-par 194 total with one round left on the rain-soaked Lake Malaren course. Welshman Jamie Donaldson (62), boosted by a late eagle, vaulted into second place on 18-under, with German Marcel Siem (65), another stroke behind in third place.

Halfway leader Nicolas Colsaerts of Belgium shot 73 to plunge nine strokes off the top.

Levy, 24, seeking his third victory of the season on the European Tour, im-proved his card of 10-under on Saturday to 11-under with another stroke back in third place.

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