We talk to each other and find common solutions together to overcome challenges

Nay Pyi Taw, 5 Nov—The following is the full text of the monthly radio message delivered by President U Thein Sein.

My fellow citizens:

I would like to inform all of you about the recent changes and developments that have taken place in our country during the month of October just as I have done previously on this radio program.

The first thing I would like to talk about this month is regarding the high-level political meeting that was held just a few days ago. There may be differences in opinions and reactions with regards to the meeting. As I stated in my opening remarks, my main intention for inviting these leaders was for us to come up with solutions together that will overcome the challenges facing all political forces. As I have stated frequently, I hope that this meeting is the start of a new political culture where we talk to each other and embrace dialogue instead of resorting confrontational approaches when trying to find solutions to overcome our common challenges.

I also attended the tenth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) held in Milan, Italy. The reason why I attended the summit was to generate further international trust for our reform process as we reintegration back into the global community which in turn will allow us to garner greater investment and technical assistance needed for our development.

The current peace process is an essential component of the democratic reforms. Currently, we are trying to complete and sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) that includes all the ethnic armed groups. If we are able to achieve the NCA, we will be able to establish (See page 3)

President U Thein Sein inspects preparations for 25th ASEAN Summit in capital city

Nay Pyi Taw, 4 Nov—President U Thein Sein oversaw a dress rehearsal for the 25th ASEAN Summit here on Tuesday, sources said.

President U Thein Sein inspected preparations at the main entrance, where a warm welcome will be extended to heads of States and governmental heads from member nations of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The president looked over the Ruby Hall, which is under decoration for hosting the 25th ASEAN Summit, the 9th East Asia Summit at Myanmar International Convention Centre-I in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

 Authorities to confiscate vacant plots, garages in industrial zones if no business established on them by 1 Feb, 2015

By Aye Min Soe

Yangon, 4 Oct—The Yangon Region Industrial Zones Management Committee has given an ultimatum to owners of vacant plots and garages in industrial zones to establish businesses on them by 1 February next year or turn over them to the committee.

There are 2,339 vacant plots and 1,299 garages in 29 industrial zones, equivalent to more than 4,318 acres and they are causing hindrances to the creation of job opportunities and making land prices in industrial zones higher, the announcement said.

The committee has asked the owners of the vacant plots and garages to submit detailed business plans mentioning types of business, amount of investment and the estimated date the business can begin to the committee by 1 December.

The announcement said the owners are to implement their businesses not later than 1 January after the detailed business plans are approved by the committee.

Those who own the plots and the garages signed agreements with the Housing and Human (See page 2)

People in Myanmar to get access to health insurance next year

By Ye Myint

Yangon, 4 Nov—Myanmar Insurance plans to launch a new health insurance next year, enabling Myanmar people to get benefits from it first health insurance service in the country.

Following credit guarantee insurance that Myanmar Insurance launched last July, health insurance will be its second new product before the launch of weather index insurance as its third new product.

“I can say exactly that health insurance will go on sale on 1 April in 2015,” Managing Director U Aye Min Thein of Myanmar Insurance said.

He made the comment while giving a brief interview to some local media including The Global New Light of Myanmar during the ASEAN Financial Inclusion Conference that Myanmar recently hosted recently in Yangon.

“We are in discussion with those concerned from nine foreign insurance companies, the Health Department, private clinics and hospitals and the Social Welfare Department,” U Aye Min Thein, who is also the secretary of the Insurance Business Supervisory Board, said, adding weather index insurance will also come next year.

Discussions are underway to set premiums and compensation levels, he said. (See page 9)
We talk to each other and . . .

(from page 1)

a code of conduct that will have to be followed by both sides which in turn will help lower the number of clashes and reduce hostilities. The main benefit arising from this is the reduction of problems that have negatively impacted the lives and livelihoods of the people living in conflict affected areas. Moreover, NCA presents an unyielding foundation to begin the political dialogue process which will allow us to find broad political solutions to our political disagreements.

Continuing on from the peace process, I would like to talk about the current situation in Rakhine state. Not only in Rakhine state but throughout the country, it is important that each individual enjoys basic human rights and is treated with dignity regardless of ethnicity, religion or even citizenship status. My government is also laying down the plans to prevent future conflict. We have to handle it very delicately, owing especially to the heightened tensions and emotions between the two communities. That said, we will take full action allowed under the law against those who instigate conflict or commit crimes. I would also like to add that we are also implementing precautionary measures to prevent future conflict from occurring.

We are also carrying out the citizenship verification process—an important component in solving the current problem—with the help of local civil society groups.

The role of the media is critical for a transitioning democracy like Myanmar. Likewise, it is especially important for the media to adhere to media ethics by taking responsibility for being responsible in presenting the news, and maintaining objectivity when presenting these viewpoints. It will then be able to effectively aid in the overall democratic development. We are also working with the temporary Myanmar Press Council to raise the quality and standard of media on the one hand and protect media rights in accordance with the law on the other hand.

There were also joyous moments that lift our hearts and make us proud amidst these trying times to overcome the difficulties and challenges associated with building a democratic country. Our youth football team qualified for the Under-20 World Cup and their success brought us joy and exuberance. I would like to add also that all Myanmar citizens take pride in and honor their historic achievement.

I would like to reiterate again the challenges we face today which include: the continuation of the democratic transition and the political process; how we can make sure that these reforms lead to democracy taking root and the overall development of a free society; the development of the political dialogue process so that successes achieved in the peace process can continue to form the basis for the national reconciliation needed for our country; and successfully carrying out the 2015 elections which is critical for our democratic transition. It is very important that we talk to each other and find common solutions together to overcome these challenges. And we must all strive towards this goal of creating a culture of dialogue.

I would like to conclude by reaffirming my commitment to achieve peace, promote economic development and build a better future for the next generations.

May you all have peace of mind and good health.

Union Minister views medical treatments to the aged

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Nov—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint and Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Min Naung viewed health care services being provided by medics from No 4 Military Hospital (300-bed) of Monywa to local people at Zigon Station Hospital in Kanbaw Township of Sagaing Region on Monday.

In meeting with departmental officials, social organization members and entrepreneurs, the Union minister stressed the need to boost production of paddy, pigeon pea and maize in the township for economic development. He urged merchant associations to systematically control correct measurement of trading.

He met local people at the rice mill in Tmitein Village of YeU Township. He explained the trade volume of the nation rose to US$25 billion in 2013-14 fiscal year. Now, the nation’s trade volume reaches over US$15 billion. The ministry will provide assistance for import of farming equipment, he said.

After reviewing the discussions of the local people, the Union minister attended to the needs.—MNA

Global Entrepreneurship Week activities to take place from 15-23 Nov in three cities in Myanmar

By Khang Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 4 Nov—Project Hub Yangon (PHY), the Myanmar’s first start-up incubator, will host the third Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) activities in Yangon, Mandalay and Taunggyi from 15 to 23 November, aiming to provide support and advice to local entrepreneurs through series of business events and activities including seminars, trainings and networking programmes.

The theme of the event is “Let’s get started, Myanmar!” and it is designed to inspire and better equip current and future entrepreneurs with knowledge and resources to start a business, the organizer said, saying all events are free and open to the public. Those agencies has prepared for conducting seminars and panel discussions on developing entrepreneurial mindset and skills, social enterprise expo, HP life e-learning training for entrepreneurs and local supply chains: opportunities and responsibilities at different venues in those cities.

“Partnership for Change, one of the partner agencies, will host a Women’s Entrepreneurship Conference on 19 November that is a day for celebrating the women entrepreneurs of Myanmar,” said Erin Briel of the agency. A USAID official said that it took the agency over two months to prepare TED-style talks with Myanmar’s leading social enterprises, with USAID vowing to extend more assistance for the country’s economic growth as the country sees more economic development, which he said entice young entrepreneurs, the Union minister stressed the need to boost production of paddy, pigeon pea and maize in the country’s economic growth as the country sees more economic development, which he said entice young people to take interest in start-ups.

More than ten partner organizations join in the event. Among them, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the German Development Agency (GIZ) offer financial support for those GEW activities. The global entrepreneurship week is the world’s largest global celebration of innovators and entrepreneurs which has been taken place in every November since 2008 in over 130 countries.

Myanmar launches its global entrepreneurship week in 2012 in Yangon. Last year event attracted more than 600 participants, official of PHY said.

Mr. Chris Milligan of USAID clarifies his programme to celebrate the Global entrePreNeurship Week.—KHANG THANDA LWIN

Over 360 personnel get scholarship awards in October

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Nov—Scholarship awards were shared to ministries and service organizations for sending personnel abroad to be able to pursue further studies and to apply their experiences in their mother units.

In October, 30 personnel were sent to 22 foreign countries in order to learn PhD, MSc/MA, degree and diploma courses and 338 to other training courses, totalling 368. In October, most of the government service personnel were sent to Japan, India and China.—MNA

Public notice

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Nov—During the ASEAN Summit, such security measures as scrutinizing, asking and searching will be taken as a security duty for the sake of security, stability and law enforcement.

In this regard, people are requested to bring along National Scrutiny Card or the respective countries citizen cards, civil service cards or movement orders, other firm documents, and vehicles licenses with them without fail. The people are also requested to take the security measures conducted by officials willingly and make cooperation with them.

MNA

Authorities to confiscate vacant plots, garages in . . .

(From page 1)

Settlement Department under the Ministry Construction to construct facilities on the plots within three months when they were granted the certificates of land utilization by the ministry.

They have also agreed that if they fail to operate businesses on the plots in the industrial zones, the authorities are entitled to seize the plots.
President U Thein Sein inspects...

(from page 1)

Summit and the 17th ASEAN+3 Summit.

The president inspected the Sapphire Hall and the Emerald Hall, where the 6th Mekong-Japan Summit and other related meetings are scheduled to be held. He also inspected the accommodations for leaders of the ASEAN region and received briefings on progress of decorating the Jade Hall, where the opening and closing ceremonies of the 25th ASEAN Summit will take place.

The handover of ASEAN chairmanship will also take place in the hall. The 25th ASEAN Summit and related meetings are scheduled to be hosted in the capital city of Nay Pyi Taw on 12-13 November.

MNA

Myanmar, BG Group to cooperate in oil and gas sectors

Myanmar, BG Group to cooperate in oil and gas sectors

President U Thein Sein to attend Dialogue on Strengthening Connectivity Partnership, APEC CEO Summit in China

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Nov — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will pay a visit to Beijing, the People’s Republic of China, in the near future to attend the Dialogue on Strengthening Connectivity Partnership and APEC CEO Summit to be held in Beijing at the invitation of H.E. Xi Jinping, President of the People’s Republic of China.

MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing calls on Belarusian President, Prime Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Nov — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing called on Mr Mikhail Myasniko, Prime Minister of Belarus at the latter’s office on 3 November, sources said.

Belarusian Prime Minister Mr Mikhail Myasniko expressed his belief that the two countries could promote further cooperation in development plans to ensure mutual interests, especially in military technology, science and technology, economy and trade, energy and pharmacy.

According to Michail, Belarus has plans to set up a commission that will carry out economic cooperation with Myanmar.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pledged greater cooperation between the two armies and appreciated Belarus’s willingness to cooperate with Myanmar in terms of military, education, pharmacy and economy.

He stressed prompt action in economic and technological cooperation would benefit both countries, adding that trust and honesty is critical in military cooperation.

The Myanmar delegation led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing went on study tours of the Minsk Wheel Tractor Plant, the Belarusian Military Academy, the 72 Combined Training Centre and the OAO 140 Repair Plant.

At the training centre, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his entourage observed the fire power and manoeuvre of tanks.

They also visited Defence Belarusian Military Academy that has turned out over 5,000 trainees from international community.

On Tuesday morning, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing paid a courtesy call on Belarusian President Alexander Grigoryevich Lukashenko at the latter’s palace, sources said.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Belarusian President Alexander Grigoryevich Lukashenko.

MNA

Also present at the call were Lt-Gen Mya Tun Oo of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Myanmar Ambassador to Belarus U Tin Yu, Belarusian Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Yuri Zhadobin, high ranking officials.

The president of Belarus talked of possibilities of bilateral cooperation in all sectors for mutual benefits and extended greetings and an invitation to President U Thein Sein to pay a friendly visit to his country.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said it is not an easy task to transform from one system to another, recounting political systems Myanmar has practised and emphasizing immediate cooperation as a better means for open market systems.

The senior general and his entourage also visited the Victory Square in Minsk, where he was welcomed by Lt-Gen Ljubinko Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services of Belarus.

Myawady

Union Minister on inspection tour of townships in Kachin State

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Nov — U Ohn Myint, Union Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, went on an inspection tour of rural development tasks in villages in the township of Mohnyin, Kachin State, on 1 November, sources said.

In his inspection tours, the union minister met departmental officials engaged in rural development activities and fulfilled the requirements for their undertakings.

On 2 November, the union minister offered Kathina robes to the presiding Sayadaw at Pissimayon Monastery.

U Ohn Myint also met local administrative officials of Mohnyin, Mokanang and Hopin towns and urged them to strive for food security, production of wholesome food, and higher incomes for rural people.

After receiving briefings from local departmental officials, the union minister fulfilled the requirements for education, health, water and power supplies and road construction.

MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Belarusian President Alexander Grigoryevich Lukashenko.

Myawady

Vice President U Nyan Tun greets BG Group Sustainability Committee Chairman Sir David Manning.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Nov — Vice President U Nyan Tun received BG Group Sustainability Committee Chairman Sir David Manning.

They focused on cooperation in oil and natural gas matters and technical exchange.—MNA

MNA

Myawady

The senior general and his entourage also visited the Victory Square in Minsk, where he was welcomed by Lt-Gen Ljubinko Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services of Belarus.

Myawady
Myawady border town gets new asphalt road

Myawady, 4 Nov — As a gesture of hailing the 59th Anniversary Kayin State Day, a ceremony to commission Thaungyin asphalt road into service was held at the road in Myawady border town in Kayin State on Monday.

Deputy Commissioner of the district U Lwin Ko Oo, Chairman of Township Development Affairs Committee U Than Shwe and Assistant Director U Kyaw Kyaw Oo of Township DAC formally opened the 975 feet long and 22 feet wide road.

Sanitation workers clean Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Tatkon Township

Tatkon, 4 Nov — Tatkon Township Development Affairs Committee arranges collection of garbage in downtown and sub-urban areas of Tatkon Township with the use of six trash vans daily.

The vans collect 25 tons of garbage daily. The committee assigns one each of trash van at Tatkon Myoma Market and People’s Hospital (100-bed) for sanitation of these buildings.

On Monday, workers of the committee collected garbage along Yangon-Mandalay Highway where the people from all corners of the township threw garbage on their ways in enjoying the 48th Kathina robe offering ceremony.

Township DAC has appointed sanitation workers to do their works at wards of the township and collect garbage around the town with the use of trash vans daily.

3-Rs course given to inmates at Myeik Jail

Myeik, 4 Nov — A ceremony to open the 3-Rs course for inmates and prisoners was held at No 1 hall of Myeik Jail in Myeik of Taninthayi Region in the last week of October.

Deputy Commissioner of Myeik District U Aung Kyaw Tun and in-charge of the jail U Nyunt Win gave words of advice.

The in-charge of the jail presented teaching aid and stationery to the course instructor.

A total of 20 inmates are attending the course from 3 November to 3 January.

Natogyi Police get bicycles, computer, SIM cards

Natogyi, 4 Nov — Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Zaw Win on his tour of Natogyi delivered five US-made bicycles to Natogyi Township Police Station to use them on patrol duty of police, said commander of Myoma police station Police Captain Aye Myint.

Moreover, the chief of MPF delivered 30 SIM cards and one set of computer to the police station and family members. The bicycle is worth K 600,000 each. Thanks to bicycles, the police can do their works conveniently.

Khin Zaw Mon Myint
(Law)
Journalists get loans from Township
Journalists cooperative society

NATOGYI, 4 Nov — Under the arrangements of Natogyi Township Cooperative Department, Myitta Ngwesin journalising cooperative society disbursed loans to journalists and writers for welfare of their families as of 2 November.

The cooperative delivered K50,000 per journalist to the members who must pay back the loans in six months.

Writer U Win Myint, Secretary of Township Writers Association, and party disbursed loans to the members of the cooperative society for the first time.

Chairman of Township Writers Association U Htay Myint Maung (pen name Htay Myint Maung) said the township association tried hard to get the loans for two years to disburse it to the members.  

Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)

People of Yinmabin Tsp to get electricity

YINMABIN, 4 Nov — A meeting on electrification for 14 villages in western part of Yinmabin Township was held at District General Administration Department in Yinmabin of Sagaing Region on Monday.

Opportunity persons of relevant subcommittees reported on process for undertaking electrification of the villages.

Officials of the township level committee collected K36 million from Zeedaw region development fund, K72.7 million from 14 villages and K20 million loan from Zeyar Padetha foundation of Sagaing Region for installation of an 11 KV power line from Zeedaw-Yinuangtaing villages.

Tha Tun Company will take responsibility for electrification tasks in 2014-15 fiscal year.

Upon completion, the power line will illuminate 2,430 houses from western part of Yinmabin Township for their development.

Tun Ko Ko (Yinmabin)

FIFA 11 for Health Training Course

Mandalay, 4 Nov — FIFA, Myanmar Football Federation and Ministry of Education jointly conducted the FIFA 11 for Health in Myanmar, Second Pilot Study for Countrywide Implementation Course 2014 at Mandalay Football Academy in Chanmyathazi Township of Mandalay on Monday.

Altogether 24 basic education teachers from 12 schools under No 2 Basic Education Department of Mandalay are attending the course.

The teachers are to share knowledge about the training again to at least 1,200 students under 12 in 2014-15 academic year. In 2015-16 academic year, the refresher course will be given to teachers to be able to share training to students at 144 schools each in Yangon and Mandalay regions.

After 2016, 11 points health exercises will be given to 30,000 schoolchildren.

FIFA officials provided 10 footballs and training aid to the officials of the course.

The course will be delivered to 1 million students under the 10 years project.

The project was signed between FIFA, MFF, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health in 2012.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Compensation for leak of natural gas given to farmer

THATON, 4 Nov — A ceremony to present compensation for crops and paddy in repairing the leaked gas pipeline between Tawgyi Village and Bilin River was held at the Township Administrator Office in Thaton Township of Mon State on Monday.

Officials of Phugyi Base of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise presented compensation K150,000 per acre of paddy to farmers.

The 20-inch diameter Myainggale-Yangon natural gas pipeline was repaired on 11 and 23 August.

The gas leaked in the farmland of U Soe Myint in Tawgyi Village before repairing the pipeline.

Thet Oo (Thaton)

Padethabin of Kathina robe offering conveyed round downtown Tatkon

TATKON, 4 Nov — Padethabin of Kathina robes were conveyed round downtown Tatkon of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Monday.

Basic Education High School No 1 conveyed its donation worth over K9 million and No 2 BEHS over K8 million and other departments and regiments.

After going round the town, they arrived at Sasa Beikman in Tatkon. Officials of the respective subcommittees supervised the conveyance of Padethabin and traffic rules.

Moreover, the entertainments in commemoration of the Kathina robe offering ceremony are being held for public happiness.—Tin Soe Lwin
Jakarta, 4 Nov — China is willing to jointly forge a comprehensive strategic partnership with Indonesia in name and in fact, visiting Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi said here on Monday.

Wang made the remarks at the press conference held following meeting with his Indonesian counterpart Retno Marsudi.

The Chinese foreign minister said issues that have been discussed include preparations for the scheduled APEC meeting between the leaders of both sides, synchronization of the development strategy of both, forging commonalities on the practical cooperation and the synchronization on the regional and international issues.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo is scheduled to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping during his trip to Beijing attending the APEC Economic Leaders’ meeting in early November. The two countries share views on the maritime vision, as Xi’s initiative of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road proposed during his trip to Indonesia last year coincides with Joko’s vow to rejuvenate his country as a maritime power through the development of maritime economy, Wang said.

“China is willing to participate in Indonesia’s construction of maritime power, and to regard Indonesia as the most important partner in the initiative of building the 21st century Maritime Silk Road,” Wang said.

As for the practical cooperation, Wang said he proposes to enhance cooperation on sectors including the maritime economy, infrastructure, construction of industrial zone, energy and resources, agriculture, high technology, defence and security, people to people contact, as well as the international and regional issues of common concern.

The Chinese foreign minister said the bilateral relations are facing the opportunity of overall acceleration in the year of 2015, as both countries will witness the 65th anniversary of the establishment of China-Indonesia diplomatic relation and the 60th anniversary of Bandung Conference.

“China is willing to seize the chance to deepen the mutual trust and work together with Indonesia, to forge the comprehensive strategic partnership in name and in fact,” said Wang. During his visit to Indonesia, Wang also met with Indonesian President Joko Widodo.

Retno Lestari Priansari Marsudi attend a press conference after bilateral meeting at Indonesia Foreign Ministry office in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 3 Nov, 2014. Wang Yi was on a two-day visit to Indonesia from 2 to 3 November.—Xinhua

Cambodia, Morocco ink political consultation deal

Phnom Penh, 4 Nov — Cambodia and Morocco have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of a political consultation mechanism in order to strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation, officials said. The document was signed by Cambodian Foreign Secretary of State Ouch Bo-rith and visiting Moroccan Foreign Secretary-General Nasser Bourita on Monday evening. The two senior officials also held talks and discussed ways to strengthen and expand bilateral ties and cooperation.

In the meeting, Cambodia suggested to support its candidate as a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council for 2018-2020, a member of the United Nations Economic and Social Council for 2017-2019, and an observer state of the Organization for Islamic Conference. —Xinhua

India, Pakistan lower flag at Wagah border ceremony day after deadly attack

Lahore, 4 Nov — India and Pakistan solemnly lowered their national flags at a dusk military ceremony on their main land border crossing on Monday, a day after a suicide attack killed almost 60 people on the Pakistani side.

India’s home ministry had earlier said the daily flag-lowering ceremony would be suspended as a mark of respect for the dead — the first time the parade would have been called off since the two countries went to war in 1971.

But later Pakistani officials changed their mind, deciding to go ahead with the ritual to send a message to the militants.

Just before dusk, at least 2,000 women, men and children gathered at the parade ground on the border crossing, some chanting “Death to terrorists” and “Long live Pakistan”. On the Indian side, there were only a handful of spectators.

The colourful show, where border guards in elaborate uniforms goose-step, shake hands brusquely across the borderline and scowl aggressively at each other, proceeded as usual amid heightened security.

“Today’s ceremony proved that terrorists cannot lower the spirit of the nation by their cowardly activities,” Corps Commander Lahore Lt Gen Naveed Zaman said in televised remarks.

At least 57 people were killed and 110 wounded when the explosion ripped through a car park about 500 metres (yards) from Pakistan’s border gate just as hundreds of people left the daily performance.

At least two Pakistani Taliban splinter groups have claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it was revenge for the army’s military operation against insurgents in the tribal region of North Waziristan.

But, given Pakistan’s frosty relations with India, with which it has fought three wars, some commentators suggested the attack might have been plotted by elements trying to sabotage relations between the arch-rivals or hurt India. —Reuters

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi New Delhi, 4 Nov — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday urged non-government organizations to share with him their experiences on battle drug addiction.

“I invite you to share your views on the issue of mitigating the menace of drugs. If you worked in this area, please share your experiences. I call upon NGOs that are working on this to share their experiences as well,” Modi tweeted.

Addiction to drugs is a menace in India and there are a number of rehabilitation centres for addicts across the country, mostly run by NGOs.—Xinhua

Pakistan Rangers (wearing black uniforms) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) officers lower their national flags during a daily parade at the Pakistan-India joint check-post at Wagah border, near Lahore on 3 Nov, 2014. —Reuters
Donetsk, 4 Nov — All trucks with relief supplies for troubled south-eastern Ukrainian cities of Luhansk and Donetsk have crossed Russian-Ukrainian border, deputy chief of Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations national centre of management in emergency situations Oleg Voronov told TASS.

A truck convoy, carrying humanitarian aid for the self-proclaimed Donetsk and Luhansk people’s republics Russian humanitarian aid reaches Ukraine’s self-proclaimed republics

“A relief aid convoy of 20 trucks was divided in two parts and after passing customs clearance 10 trucks went to Donetsk and the same number of trucks to Lugansk,” he said.

At the request from regional authorities aid convoys are delivering 100 tonnes of medicines and fuel which the cities of Donetsk and Lugansk badly need now.

This is already the sixth relief aid convoy for residents of the self-proclaimed Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics. More than 100 trucks have delivered more than 1,000 tonnes of foodstuffs, fuel, building materials and medicines to the cities of Donetsk and Lugansk on 2 November. Around 100 trucks have supplied around 1,000 tonnes of similar cargoes to Donetsk and Lugansk on 31 October. “The Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations is sending humanitarian help on a request from the leadership of Donetsk and Lugansk. Today we will be carrying out targeted deliveries of medicine to healthcare institutions and fuel to life sustaining services in the region, including fire departments and emergency services, ambulances and housing authorities,” Oleg Voronov, deputy chief of the ministry’s national crisis management centre, told TASS.

The 20-truck convoy will carry a 100-tonne load of humanitarian cargo, which includes medicine and fuel. Earlier, on 31 October, another Russian humanitarian convoy of 100 trucks delivered about 1,000 humanitarian cargoes to Donetsk and Lugansk.

Before that, Russia’s three humanitarian convoys delivered about 6,000 tonnes of humanitarian aid to eastern Ukraine.

Venezuela’s President Nicolas Maduro said there will be a 15 percent wage hike planned for December when asked if Serbia would be able to help achieve peace in Ukraine once it takes over the OSCE chairmanship on 1 January, 2015, considering its good relations with Russia. Trichet did not answer directly, but stated that the Serbian prime minister’s view was perfectly clear.

He thinks the Serbian government wants to be as actively responsible as possible, but he would not say anything more, except that Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic’s position regarding Serbia, Tigic and the EU was perfectly clear.

Trichet underscored the importance of the Trilateral Commission’s meeting in Belgrade.

The members of the commission are honoured and grateful that the Serbian government and group within the commission have invited them to Belgrade, because they feel this is an opportunity to discuss current European topics and gain a better understanding of the Balkans’ EU integration.

Belgrade, 4 Nov — Chairman of the European branch of the Trilateral Commission Jean-Claude Trichet has said that the Serbian government policy of progressive EU integration is clear, impressive and convincing.

Serbia marches towards reforms in economy and other aspects that are required for EU accession. Trichet told Tanjug in an exclusive interview during a meeting of the Trilateral Commission, held in Belgrade.

The programme is obviously ambitious and takes time, he pointed out. When asked to comment on the recent incident during a football match between Serbia and Albania and give his opinion on what should be done to keep the region stable and prevent more incidents like that, he responded that it was the duty of the match organisers to make sure something like that did not happen again.

Trichet believes the upcoming meeting between Serbian and Albanian government officials will be a very good sign that the incident will be forgotten and that the two sides will move forward.

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Caracas, 4 Nov — Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro announced on Monday a 15 percent increase in the minimum wage starting in December to protect workers from inflation of more than 60 percent.

Maduro blames soaring consumer prices on an “economic war” launched by foes of his socialist government, frequently accusing business executives of price-gouging, hoarding and speculating.

Critics, though, say Venezuela’s endemic inflation problem is evidence of the failure of 15 years of socialist economics under Chavez and his late predecessor Hugo Chavez.

“I have decided to accept this proposal, from the workers, to decree a 15 percent rise in the minimum salary from 1 December,” Maduro said during a televised event with workers.

Maduro said the cumulative raise for 2014 — following a 30 percent hike in May and 10 percent in January — would compensate for inflation caused by the “criminal” campaign against him.

The wage hike planned for December would put Venezuela’s minimum salary at 4,889 bolivars. That is equivalent to $776 at the lowest official currency rate of 6.3 bolivars to the dollar, but just $49 at a black market rate quoted on illegal web sites.

In the last data available, Venezuela’s annualized inflation rate reached 63.4 percent in August, with consumer prices rising by 3.9 percent that month, according to the Central Bank. Oil-dependent Venezuela’s inflation malaise is a decades-old problem, also surpassing 60 percent in the 1990s before Chavez, according to IMF data.

Venezuela’s President Nicolas Maduro (L) greets supporters during a meeting outside Caracas in this handout photo provided by Miraflores Palace on 24 Oct, 2014. Reuters
The significant and noble Fullmoon Day of Tazaungmon, the Samannaphala Sutta Day

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

The significant and noble Fullmoon Day of Tazaungmon (the Samannaphala Sutta Day) falls on 6th November 2014. The Month Tazaungmon, meaning carrying the light to dispel the darkness of ignorance, comprises both worldly and spiritual features. It is associated with the Kathika Planet or its features. It is associated with the Kathika Planet or its features. It is associated with the Kathika Planet or its features.

For the Buddhist community, such kind of worship is transformed into a Buddhist type. Instead of honouring the Kathika a planet and its deity, the Myanmar Buddhists pay respect with offerings ceremony, wearing of the robes before dawn, and offering them to the Images of the Buddha, which also occur in various religious centres on this Fullmoon night of Tazaungmon. It is also remarkable that the right-hand disciple of the Buddha, the Venerable Sariputta attained Parinibbana in his native village on this Fullmoon day of Tazaungmon and the left-hand disciple of the Buddha, the Venerable Mahan Mogallana on this Full moon day of Tazaungmon.

Even in the Fullmoon light of Tazaungmon, King Ajatasattu and his royal physician, Jivaka, together with their followers, went forth to see and paid obeisance to the Buddha and 1250 bhikkhus in Jivaka’s mango grove. They had a great chance to hear the Sermon of Samannaphala, the benefits of entering the Sangha Order. Being pure and peaceful in his mind, King Ajatasattu became endowed with the Threefold Refuge of Buddhism. Because of killing his own father, Bimbisara, he could not obtain the higher Path and Fruitions. Thus, once, he can also meditate on the virtues of the Sangha Order during this sacred month.

These supernormal themes, if properly mediated upon, will give noble joy and inspiration for the attainment of Final Bliss, Nibbana. And supreme peace and genuine happiness will surely prevail all over the world as long as we perform good deeds, say good words and entertain good thoughts in this very auspicious month.

The traffic congestions in Yangon

Khin Maung Myint

The traffic congestions or traffic jams, as they are commonly known, are becoming worse by every passing day. If not tackled soon, it would get out of control. As for now I think it is still quite easily manageable, if a well planned strategy is laid down and strictly implemented. I’m sure the authorities concerned are well aware of the problems and have better ideas than me, as to how to remedy them. However, I hope, some suggestions might not disturb them and would be welcome.

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Ministry of A&I to cooperate with JIRCAS in doing research

YANGON, 4 Nov— The Myanmar Investment Commission gave a green light to 12 Myanmar-citizen owned companies to do investment in Myanmar.

Of Myanmar-citizen owned companies, Apex Air Ltd, have been permitted to do investment in October to do investment in Myanmar-citizen owned companies, allowed to do investment: MIC.

From the first day of fiscal 2014-2015 beginning from 1 April to 25 October 103 foreign companies, including Joint-venture firms, and 44 local companies have been granted investment permission.

More than 780 enterprises from 36 countries have been permitted as of 30 September 2014, with nearly $50 billion in total investment value, to invest in Myanmar, according to the Directorate.

Among the 783 enterprises, 73 are from China, 80 from Thailand, 134 from Singapore, 85 from Hong Kong, 75 from Britain, 100 from South Korea, 51 from Japan, 50 from Malaysia, seven from Vietnam, three from France, 10 from the Netherlands, 15 from India, 15 from the USA, 12 from Indonesia, 18 from Canada and 15 from Australia.

UAB: U Aung Thaung is not a shareholder

YANGON, Nov 4— The United Amara Bank denied Tuesday that U Aung Thaung, the member of Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) and former industry minister, is not a shareholder or a member of board of directors at the bank.

Ahead of President Barack Obama’s visit to Myanmar this month to attend the East Asia Summit, the United States Friday imposed sanctions on U Aung Thaung for undermining economic and political reform in the country.

During a press conference in Yangon, U Than Win Swe, CEO of the UAB, said: “U.S. sanctions imposed on U Aung Thaung is not related with our bank. Only his son U Nay Aung is a shareholder and member of BOD at the bank.”

U Than Win Swe confirmed that UAB is operating in line with the norms of international financial institutions.

He also said that as the UAB is never included in the list of U.S sanctions, it is now linking with 71 banks in 23 countries.

U Win Thaw, acting managing director of the Central Bank of Myanmar, also confirmed that U Aung Thaung is neither a shareholder nor a BOD member, and the Central Bank will help UAB in accordance with the rules and regulations, saying the latter is not concerned with the U.S. sanctions.

3. Provision of more public parking spaces and to insist inclusion of private parking lots when issuing building construction licenses or permits.

4. Provisions of efficient and sufficient mass rapid transit systems (MRTS), including sky trains and motor coaches with comfortable seats and air cons that work efficiently at all times, manned by polite and capable drivers and conductors, so as to attract more commuters. This will definitely ease the problem as more people leave their cars at home and utilize the MRTS.

5. Should consider exploiting the riverine systems, which almost encircle more than three fourth of the city area that stretched from somewhere above Insein encompassing the busy riverside areas of Hlaing, Kamaryut, Kyimindyine, Aholon, Lammadaw, Pabedan, Seikkan, Dala, Botataung, Pazundaung, Dawbon, Thakayta, Thwunna, Thingangyun, East, North and South Dagon townships. River ferries should be permitted to ply these areas by the private sector under strict and proper supervision, emphasizing the safety of the passengers. This means of transport is thriving in Bangkok.

People in Myanmar to get access to ... (from page 1)

“"We have not yet decided whether to set a premium of K 50,000 or 60,000, for example, and to provide health insurance holders who have to go to hospital for receiving treatment or undergoing surgery with compensation of K 10,000 or 15,000 a day,” he said.

He added the health insurance system will run in Yangon first as a pilot project and that private companies will be allowed to operate the service. So far seven types of insurance have been allowed to 12 private companies to operate in Myanmar.

Photo shows the Myanmar Insurance Building in Yangon. Plans are underway to introduce two new products, health insurance and weather index insurance, in Myanmar next year the company said.

The author is Retired Deputy General Manager, Admin, Dept, Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications.

Union Minister U Kyaw Hlaing exchanges gifts with President Dr Ma Sa Iwana of Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Science.—MNA

Solving the Traffic Congestions...

(from page 5)

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One World Trade Centre opens
First tenants move into building, tallest US building

NEW YORK, 4 Nov — Thirteen years after the 11 September attacks, the first tenants moved their belongings into the newly built One World Trade Centre with enthusiasm tinged by emotional remembrance. About 200 Condé Nast employees on Monday walked through the revolving doors of the building, America’s tallest skyscraper — the first wave of 3,400 company staffs to occupy the 104-story gleaming tower in Lower Manhattan by February 2015.

Chief among them was Condé Nast’s chief executive, Charles Townsend, whose gray Mercedes rolled into the tower’s south entrance, where he was greeted by developers and other officials. “This is a terrific day for Lower Manhattan, a wonderful day for New York City and an absolutely great day for Condé Nast,” Townsend said.

The publishing company, which owns The New Yorker, Vanity Fair and other magazines, is the first renter to set up offices in the tower, where it will occupy floors 20 to 44.

Other Condé Nast employees entering their company’s new headquarters consistently echoed their leader’s excitement while downplaying reservations about the site’s security. “I can understand the fear,” said Vijay Ramchatar, a finance analyst at Condé Nast. “But I don’t think you look at this building with fear, you look at it with inspiration.”

One World Trade Centre stands on the location where more than 2,700 people perished when hijacked planes slammed into the twin towers on 11 September, 2001. It is directly across from the 9/11 Memorial.

Some spoke of history going full circle at first. Maryanne Casey, who works for a legal affiliate of Condé Nast, said moving into her new office evoked particularly personal memories. She once worked at the World Trade Centre on its first floor. “It’s a great building,” said one worker wearing a hard hat and yellow vest.

Zambia defence minister challenges
dismissal from top post in ruling party

LUSAKA, 4 Nov — Zambia’s defence minister and presidential front-runner Edgar Lungu said on Tuesday the decision by interim president Guy Scott to dismiss him as the ruling party’s secretary-general was illegal.

State radio in the southern African nation gave no reasons for Scott’s surprise removal of Lungu from his top post in Sata’s Patriotic Front (PF) party, which came to power after elections in 2011.

Scott became Africa’s first white leader in 20 years after the death last week of President Michael Sata. Scott is constitutionally barred from running for president because his parent’s were born in Scotland. “The is illegal and highly provocative under the current environment in which we are mourning our late president,” Lungu said in a statement read out on state ZNBC Radio on Tuesday.

Lungu, who is also justice minister, had often stepped into Sata’s shoes as ‘acting president’ in the last year. Many Zambians had considered him the person most likely to win the presidential elections that are due by the end of January. Other possible contenders include former justice minister Wynter Kabimba, finance minister Alexander Chikwanda and Sata’s son Mulenga, who is currently mayor of Lusaka, a position his father occupied in the 1980s.

The decision by Scott, a Cambridge-educated economist, to dismiss Lungu from the helm of the PF is also likely to fuel speculation he may seek to run for the presidency, regardless of the constitutional restrictions. —Reuters

France says anti-IS coalition must turn attention to Aleppo

PARIS, 4 Nov — The coalition fighting Islamic State must now save Syria’s second city Aleppo as moderate rebels face destruction by attacks from forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad and jihadi militants, France’s foreign minister said.

In a column in French daily Le Figaro, the Washington Post and pan-Arab Al-Hayat, Laurent Fabius said the city, the “bastion” of the opposition, was almost encircled and abandoning it would end hopes of a political solution in Syria’s three-year civil war.

“Abandoning Aleppo would condemn 300,000 men, women and children to a terrible choice: the murderous siege of the regime’s bombs or the barbarity of the Islamic State terrorists,” Fabius wrote.

“It would condemn Syria to years of violence. It would be the death of any political perspective and would see the fragmentation of the country run by increasingly radicalised warlords. It would also export the internal chaos of Syria towards already fragile neighbours Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan.”

As US warplanes bomb Islamic State in parts of Syria, Assad’s military has intensified its own campaign against some of the rebel groups in the west and north of the country that Washington considers its allies, including in and around Aleppo.

Fabius’ comments came just three days after Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan was in Paris to meet President Francois Hollande. During that visit Erdogan sought to get backing from Paris for his calls to tackle Assad as well as Islamic State.

Erdogan specifically criticised the US-led coalition’s action in Syria calling for the focus to shift from the Kurdish town of Kobani near the Turkish border to other areas in Syria.

Paris, which is taking part in air strikes in Iraq, has given Iraqi Peshmerga fighters and weapons and training, but has ruled out carrying out air strikes in Syria. It says it is providing military aid and training to the rambunctious Free Syrian Army in Syria, but has not given any specific details of its help.

It has also echoed Turkey’s calls for a buffer zone to be set up in Syria, although French diplomats say it is not viable without a UN Security Council resolution. Without giving concrete details how France proposed to help save Aleppo, Fabius said he could not accept that the city would be left to its fate. “That’s why, with our coalition partners, we must turn our efforts to Aleppo… to strengthen the moderate opposition and protect the civilian population against the twin crimes of the regime and Islamic State. After Kobani, we must save Aleppo,” the column read. —Reuters
Washington, DC — President Barack Obama has authorized the deployment of US military advisers to Libya, in support of the government fighting to protect the city of Benghazi against Islamic State fighters. The Pentagon said the deployment was in response to a request from the Libyan government. The US has already been providing aerial refueling support to Libyan troops in the battle against ISIS. The deployment will include about 250 military personnel, including special forces, who will provide training and advice to Libyan forces. The US military will not engage in combat operations, but will help the Libyan government to prevent the further spread of Islamic State and to protect the safety of its citizens.

Meanwhile, the Islamic State continues to advance in Syria, seizing more territory from Kurdish fighters. The group has captured several towns in northern Syria, including Kobani, which has become a symbol of the group's power and influence.

In Nigeria, a suicide bomber killed at least 11 people in Potiskum, an attack that is part of a wave of violence in the region. The attack comes just days after another suicide bomber killed 36 people in Kano. The violence has escalated as the group seeks to expand its influence in the region.

In Yemen, Shiite rebels, also known as Houthi fighters, continue to fight against government forces. The latest reports indicate that the fighting has displaced thousands of people and caused widespread destruction.

In the Middle East, the situation remains volatile. The US and its allies continue to conduct air strikes against Islamic State targets in Syria and Iraq, as part of the coalition against the group. However, the fighting has had little impact on the ground, and the group continues to expand its influence in the region.

Overall, the situation in the Middle East remains complex and challenging, with various actors vying for control and influence.
International book fair closes in Belgrade

BELGRADE, 4 Nov — Chinese Ambassador to Serbia Li Manchang presented with an open book his Russian counterpart Alexander Chepurin, whose country will be the next guest of honour, which marked the end of the 59th international book fair in Belgrade.

City Secretary for Culture Vladas Vukosavljevic opened the closing ceremony on Sunday, thanking this year’s guest of honour for taking part in the fair and underlining that the presentation of the Chinese book offer gave new momentum to relations between the two countries.

Chairman of the Book Fair Committee Zoran Avramovic said that this year’s fair was very successful, as it managed to bring together 483 direct exhibitors — 406 domestic and 77 foreign ones.

Avramovic said that the fair is not just a celebration of the book, but also a celebration of the friendship between the peoples of Serbia and China, adding that he is looking forward to Russia being the guest of honour of the 60th international book fair, as many generations in Serbia grew up reading Russian authors.

Thanking for the hospitality, Chinese Ambassador to Serbia Li Manchang said that he is glad that his country presented its book offer at the Belgrade fair.

We decided to further deepen the cooperation in the field of publishing. Despite the fact that we will not be the guest of honour next year, we will try to come to the next Belgrade fair with as many books as possible, the Chinese Ambassador said in fluent Serbian.

He underscored that for the eight days of the fair, 140 cooperation agreements were signed which illustrates the importance and influence of the Belgrade book fair in Europe and the world.

Russian Ambassador Chepurin said that the Belgrade fair is one of the most significant places for book promotions in Europe and beyond.

For that reason, our preparations for the next book fair start today, although we are aware that China set the bar very high this year, so it will be difficult to surpass that.

We will try hard to prove worthy of your trust, Chepurin said.

Peru seeks to create new tourist site

CHACHAPOYAS, (Peru), 4 Nov — The Peruvian government is seeking to create a new tourist site in the north of the country to add to the Machu Picchu ruins, a UNESCO-designated World Heritage site in the south.

The project centres on the ruins of the ancient walled city of Kuelap, which is believed to have been the capital of the people of the Chachapoyas culture.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency plans to support the project, which faces poor transport access, with constructing roads and waste disposal facilities. “We hope we can contribute to regional development there, including in environmental aspects, rather than focusing only on developing the ruins,” an official at JICA’s Peru office said.

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US conducts plutonium tests on capabilities of nuclear weapons

WASHINGTON, 4 Nov — The United States conducted a test using plutonium to examine the capabilities of nuclear weapons in September and October, an official of the National Nuclear Security Administration said on Monday.

The tests involved a device called a “Z machine” that generates strong X-rays to create a fusion reaction to assess the performance of nuclear weapons. The United States has repeatedly conducted such tests at the Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico.

Despite President Barack Obama’s much-touted 2009 call for a nuclear weapon-free world, his administration has vowed to maintain existing nuclear arms.

The Z machine is the largest X-ray generator in the world and is designed to test materials in conditions of extreme temperature and pressure.

The NNSA says such experiments are necessary to maintain the safety and capabilities of existing nuclear weapons.

Obama declares Hawaiian lava flow to be major disaster

WASHINGTON, 4 Nov — US President Barack Obama on Monday declared a slow-moving lava flow from the Pu‘u O‘o vent of the Kilauea volcano in Hawaii to be a major disaster, the White House said.

The declaration frees up federal money to help protect local communities

Fire contained on board large submarine chaser Kerch in Russia’s Sevastopol

MOSCOW, 4 Nov — The fire broke out in the aft of the Russian Black Sea Fleet’s large submarine chaser Kerch in the Russian federal city of Sevastopol on Tuesday morning, spokesman of the Russian Navy Captain First Rank Igor Dygalo told TASS.

The fire has now been contained, Dygalo said.

“Neither servicemen nor civilian personnel were injured in the accident.” he added.

Kerch is currently under service maintenance at a shipyard in the city of Sevastopol, Dygalo said.

Photo taken on 23 July, 2014, shows a site believed to be an observatory (R in the back) and remains of residential houses at the ruins of the ancient walled city of Kuelap, northern Peru.

KYODO NEWS

A fallen tree leaves behind a hole in the lava flow from the Kilauea volcano near the village of Pahoa, Hawaii in this handout picture from the US Geological Survey (USGS) taken on 31 Oct, 2014.

REUTERS

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WEATHER REPORT

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar-coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35)mph.

The Costa Concordia ship is docked at Genoa’s port, in northern Italy, where the ship will be broken up for scrap, on 27 July, 2014.—Reuters

A maintenance foreman died and twelve of the 45 people aboard the train were rushed to hospital with medium-heavy traumas.—Itar-Tass

Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, 4 Nov — A total of twelve people were rushed to hospital and one more person died on Monday night in a railroad accident on Russia’s Far-Eastern island of Sakhalin, the press service of the regional branch of the Ministry for Emergencies Situation said in a press release.

A passenger train crossing between the port towns of Khomsk and Chekhov slid off the track at 18:35 local time (11.35 MSK). A rail maintenance foreman died and twelve of the 45 people aboard the train were rushed to hospital with medium-heavy traumas.—Itar-Tass

Corpses found in Costa Concordia wreck thought to be final victim

Tokyo, 4 Nov — The Finance Ministry and Japan Mint said on Tuesday they have received an order from the Central Bank of Myanmar to make silver coins to commemorate the 60th anniversary this year since the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations. Myanmar is the seventh country for which Japan manufactures coins after World War II. The commemorative coin depicts the city of Bagam, one of the world’s three major Buddha shrines, and has a face value of 5,000 kyat or about 550 yen. Japan is also planning to mint up to 10,000 coins for domestic sale at a price of 6,171 yen, with online orders accepted from Wednesday through 25 November. The number of coins for Myanmar is yet to be decided.—Kyodo News

Japan to make Myanmar silver coins for 60th anniversary of diplomatic ties

Train derails in Russia’s Far East

Sakhalin, one dead, 12 injured

India resists pressure to sign border treaty with China

Tony Joseph

China and India are facing increasing pressure from the US and Asia-Pacific countries to resolve a bitter dispute over a Himalayan border area that has simmered for decades and led to at least 20 deaths this year.

The tension has also made India more open to China’s requests for a commercial treaty to boost trade and investment, which China hopes will help stimulate its economy after a recent slowdown.
Police asks Selena Gomez to lock doors

LONDON, 4 Nov — Singer-actress Selena Gomez has reportedly been urged to lock her house’s doors by police. Gomez, 22, allegedly called the cops about an intruder in her house last week, which turned out to be a false alarm, reported Contactmusic.

Law enforcement sources revealed that she raised the alarm after she returned home to find a door unlocked. The police arrived quickly but found nobody inside.

This is reportedly the third time Gomez has contacted the police over fears that her house had been broken into and for it to be a false alarm.

Meanwhile, despite the false intruder alarms, Gomez loves living alone because she can have her own space: “I can, you know, walk around naked and stuff. I think that the best thing is being able to go into my own space, and have it just be mine,” she had said. — PTI

With big album on sale, Taylor Swift pulls music from Spotify

LOS ANGELES, 4 Nov — Singer Taylor Swift, whose new album is likely to have the biggest opening week of sales in a dozen years, on Monday pulled her entire catalogue from online music streaming service Spotify. Singers and bands, including Beyoncé and Coldplay, in the past have delayed releasing albums to Spotify to give retailers an exclusive window to sell their albums, but Swift has taken the unusual action of pulling all of her music from the service.

The move may discourage Swift’s fans who use the service and overshadow the singer’s announcement on Monday of a world tour that is set to begin in May in Louisiana.

Swift and her record label, Big Machine, requested last week that the singer’s music be taken down, Spotify spokesman Graham James said.

Swift wrote in an op-ed piece for the Wall Street Journal in July, “ Piracy, file sharing and streaming have shrunk the numbers of paid album sales drastically. … Music is art, and art is important and rare. Important, rare things are valuable. Valuable things should be paid for. It’s my opinion that music should not be free.”

The Swedish-British company made a public plea to Swift, saying in a blog post, “We hope she’ll change her mind and join us in building a new music economy that works for everyone.”

The company said Swift’s music was on top 1 million in US sales over 19 million playlists. The Swedish-British company made a public plea to Swift, saying in a blog post, “We hope she’ll change her mind and join us in building a new music economy that works for everyone.”

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Actor Tom Hanks to publish collection of stories

NEW YORK, 4 Nov — Actor Tom Hanks will publish a book of stories linked to his collection of typewriters, publisher Alfred A. Knopf said on Monday. The book, which will include photographs, is still untitled and no publication date has been set.

“I’ve been collecting typewriters for no particular reason since 1978 — both manual and portable machines dating from the 30s to the 90s,” the 58-year-old Oscar winner said in a statement.

“The stories are not about the typewriters themselves, but rather, the stories are something that might have been written on one of them,” Hanks, who recently published his first work of fiction in the New Yorker magazine titled “Alan Bean Plus Four,” won best actor Academy Awards in 1994 for “Philadelphia” and the following year for “Forrest Gump.” — Reuters

Nolan roots ‘Interstellar’ epic in family drama with McConaughey

LOS ANGELES, 4 Nov — For his first journey into a galaxy far, far away, director Christopher Nolan wanted to tether himself to something close to home.

In his daughter, he found inspiration for a lead role in the science fiction space adventure “Interstellar,” Nolan’s big-budget epic space adventure rooted in intimate family drama.

“I took the decision to change Murphy into a girl, and I think I may well want to do that because my oldest child is a daughter,” Nolan said of the teen who will play the character played by Matthew McConaughey, leaves for a long, potentially fatal space journey.

“I wanted to have as close a relationship as possible to the emotional journey of the character.” “Interstellar,” out in US theaters on Friday, is expected to be one of the year’s biggest films at the box office. And Nolan, who has carved out a prestigious movie career with the “Dark Knight” Batman trilogy and “Inception,” believes it takes the audience to the furthest realm of space exploration in film.

After Alfonso Cuarón’s space thriller “Gravity” drew some criticism from scientists for its implausibility, Nolan pre-empts controversy by saying anyone who demands scientific rigor from the fantastical film is “going to produce their own level of frustration.” The film presents theoretical notions of wormholes and bending the rules of time and space.

“We’ve certainly crossed over into some interesting territory in terms of the science, but we’ve always done it at the service of the emotional story at the heart of the film.”

“Interstellar” is set in a vague distant future where Earth’s inhabitants face an agricultural crisis as dust storms threaten mankind’s food and ability to breathe.

Actor Tom Hanks to publish collection of stories

NEW YORK, 4 Nov — Actor Tom Hanks will publish a book of stories linked to his collection of typewriters, publisher Alfred A. Knopf said on Monday. The book, which will include photographs, is still untitled and no publication date has been set.

“I’ve been collecting typewriters for no particular reason since 1978 — both manual and portable machines dating from the 30s to the 90s,” the 58-year-old Oscar winner said in a statement.

“The stories are not about the typewriters themselves, but rather, the stories are something that might have been written on one of them,” Hanks, who recently published his first work of fiction in the New Yorker magazine titled “Alan Bean Plus Four,” won best actor Academy Awards in 1994 for “Philadelphia” and the following year for “Forrest Gump.” — Reuters
**Original Apple computer could fetch $600,000 at December auction**

New York, 4 Nov — A fully operational Apple computer that company co-founder Steve Jobs sold out of his parents’ garage in 1976 for $600 will hit the auction block in December, where it is expected to fetch more than half a million dollars, Christie’s said on Monday.

The so-called Ricketts Apple-1 Personal Computer, named after its original owner Charles Ricketts and being sold on 11 December, is the only known surviving Apple-1 documented as having been sold directly by Jobs, then just 21, to an individual from the Los Altos, California family home, Christie’s said. “It all started with the Apple-1 and with this particular machine,” said Andrew McVINISH, Christie’s director of decorative arts. “When you see a child playing with an iPod or iPhone, not too many people know that it all started with the Apple-1,” he added. “So, to be able to own a machine that started the digital revolution is a very powerful attraction.”

The computer is being sold by Robert LUTHER, a Virginia collector who bought it in 2004 at a police auction of storage locker goods without knowing all of the details of its history. “I knew it had been sold from the garage of Steve Jobs in July of 1976, because I had the buyer’s canceled check,” Luther wrote on a Kickstarter page soliciting funding for a book on the machine’s history.

“My computer had been purchased directly from Jobs, and based on the buyers address on the check, he lived four miles from Jobs.”

In 1999 the Ricketts Apple-1 was acquired by Bruce WAlDACK, an entrepreneur who had just sold his company, DigitalNation. Waldack eventually lost his fortune, left the country and died in 2007. The Ricketts Apple-1 was auctioned at a self-storage facility in Virginia, where Luther purchased it. An Apple-1 expert serviced and started the computer, running the standard original software program, Microsoft BASIC, and an original Apple-1 Star Trek game to test it out, Christie’s said. The computer will be sold with the cancelled check from the original garage purchase on 27 July, 1976 made out to Apple Computer by Charles Ricketts for $600, which Ricketts later labeled as “Purchased July 1976 in his parents’ garage in Los Altos”. — Reuters

A fully operational Apple computer that company co-founder Steve Jobs sold out of his parents’ garage in 1976 for $600 is seen in this undated handout picture courtesy of Christie’s. — Reuters

**FC Tokyo targeting Barcelona’s Xavi**

Tokyo, 4 Nov — FC Tokyo are reportedly making a huge ambitious move for Barcelona’s World Cup and Euro-winning Spanish midfielder Xavi Hernandez.

According to the Nikkan Sports daily on Tuesday, Tokyo, who are seventh in the J-League with three games left this year, are targeting the 35-year-old Xavi for the upcoming close season.

Tokyo, the report said, have yet to make a formal offer for Xavi — who has spent his entire career at Barcelona and who retired from internationals after the World Cup this summer — but have been in touch with his connections.

Xavi is hugely popular in Japan, after having won the Champions League three times and La Liga seven times, and led Spain to their first World Cup title in 2010 as well as back-to-back European championships in 2008 and 2012.

Xavi was linked with a move to Qatar before the season started and is said to be on an annual salary of around 1 billion yen.

Tokyo have set their sights on a first J-League title in 2015, and are also trying to lure Japan’s two-time World Cup striker YOShito OKubo away from Kawasaki Frontale this winter.

**Air pollution slashes India’s potential grain yields by half — study**

Rome, 4 Nov — Air pollution seems to have a direct, negative impact on grain production in India, a study warned on Monday, with recent increases in smog decreasing projected yields by half.

Analysing 30 years of data, scientists developed a statistical model suggesting that air pollution caused wheat yields in densely populated states to be 50 percent lower than what they could have been in 2010.

Up to 90 percent of the decrease in potential food production seems linked to smog, made up of black carbon and other pollutants, the study said.

Changes linked to global warming and precipitation levels accounted for the other 10 percent.

“The numbers are staggering,” Jennifer Burney, an author of the study and scientist at the University of California told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

“We hope our study puts the potential benefits of cleaning up the air on the table,” she said, noting that agriculture is often not considered when governments debate the economic costs of air pollution and new legislation aimed at combating it.

The research paper “Recent climate and air pollution impacts on Indian agriculture”, published in the Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences, analysed what wheat production could have been if there was less pollution.

Food production in India continues to increase because of new technologies and management techniques.

Scientists examined historical data on crop yields, emissions, and precipitation to draw their conclusions.

The historical research generally confirms what chemists and other scientists have said in past studies about the impact of air pollution on food production.

While tackling global warming requires international action, reducing smog is often a simpler process that can take place at the national level.

“The technologies to fix this problem exist,” Burney said. “Trucks need better particulate filters for diesel, and the Indian government should help rural residents use cleaner fuels in their cooking stoves, rather than biomass, she said.

“None of these (mitigation techniques) are very high tech,” she said, adding that better public policies on clean air could help India meet its goal of reducing hunger to zero. — Reuters

A labourer burns paddy waste stubble at a field on the outskirts of Chandigarh on 5 Nov, 2009. — Reuters
Djokovic to face Cilic at ATP finale, Murray to meet Federer

London, 4 Nov — Three-times champion and world number one Novak Djokovic has been drawn in a group with US Open champion Marin Cilic in next week’s season-ending ATP World Tour Finals in London.

Djokovic, who retained his Paris Masters title on Sunday after beating Milos Raonic, will also face Australian Open champion Stanislas Wawrinka and hard-hitting Czech Tomas Berdych in Group A of the elite event staged at London’s O2 Arena. Djokovic takes a 27-match indoor winning streak into the tournament and Cilic, who is making his debut at the eight-man event, has not beaten the Serb in 10 previous encounters.

“It is going to be very difficult but very exciting,” Cilic told the BBC. “I hope it is going to be an absolutely amazing experience, to play there for the first time. I have watched it on TV for so many years. “Any of the matches could be a grand slam final so it is satisfying to play in it.”

Second seed Roger Federer, who has won the year-ending tournament six times and who still has hopes of replacing Djokovic on top of the rankings before the end of the year, faces a clash in Group B with home favourite Andy Murray.

Murray, a three-times semi-finalist in London, and Federer have contested some titanic battles during their careers and there is very little to separate the two as they can both boast 11 wins apiece.

Former Wimbledon champion Murray, who won three titles in the past six weeks to secure a place at the tournament after slipping down the rankings, missed last year’s tournament because of back surgery. Debutant Raonic, the first Canadian singles player to qualify for the showpiece event, and Japan’s Kei Nishikori, the first Asian-born man to qualify, complete the group.

World number three Rafael Nadal of Spain is missing because of surgery for appendicitis.

The lucrative tournament gets underway on 9 November.

Draw: Group A: Novak Djokovic (Serbia), Stanislas Wawrinka (Switzerland), Tomas Berdych (Czech Rep), Marin Cilic (Croa); Group B: Roger Federer (Switzerland), Kei Nishikori (Japan), Andy Murray (Britain), Milos Raonic (Canada).—Reuters

Manchester City have no margin for errors against CSKA

London, 4 Nov — Everyone at Manchester City is flying high after the 1-0 derby win over Manchester United at the weekend but they could all come crashing back to earth after Wednesday’s meeting with CSKA Moscow in the Champions League.

The English top-flight champions, with striker Sergio Aguero in outstanding form, should in theory be too strong for their Russian counterparts at the Etihad Stadium, a year to the day since City won the corresponding fixture 5-2.

The omens are on the side of the home team too. CSKA have never won in England in five appearances while Aguero has scored seven goals against Russian clubs in four outings for City and previous club Atletico Madrid.

However, City’s performances in Europe this season have produced two draws and a defeat from three Group E matches and they are now battling to stay in the competition.

The second of those draws came in Moscow two weeks ago when they let a 2-0 lead slip in the closing stages, allowing CSKA to recover for a 2-2 draw, but they have no margin for errors now.

Bayern Munich lead the way with nine points from five matches, followed by AS Roma on four, City on two and CSKA on one. Anything less than a home win will put a huge dent in the home team’s hopes of advancing to the last 16.

A CSKA victory would put the Russians back in the hunt if Bayern, who handed City a lifeline when they thrashed Roma 7-1 two weeks ago, beat the Italian outfit again on Wednesday.

Despite a surprise recent defeat by West Ham United, City are third in the Premier League, six points behind leaders Chelsea, and their form domestically is far superior to their results in Europe.—Reuters

‘Queen Yuna’ named honorary ambassador for 2018 Games

Seoul, 4 Nov — Former Olympic figure skating champion Kim Yuna will play the role of honorary ambassador for the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea’s Pyeongchang. The 24-year-old, who became South Korea’s first Olympic figure skating gold medalist at the Vancouver Games, retired from the sport earlier this year after winning silver in Sochi. Kim was one of the key figures in Pyeongchang’s successful bid for the 2018 Winter Games, making an impressive presentation to the International Olympic Committee session in South Africa in 2011. “The memories that I made with the bid committee are still fresh in my mind,” she said in a statement on Tuesday.

“With these memories in tow I am excited to bring the same passion and commitment with me to this new role with the organizing committee.”

The figure skater was South Korea’s most popular sporting figure until her retirement and single-handedly made the sport popular back home.

Cho Yang-ho, who took over as president of Pyeongchang’s organizing committee (POCOG) in July, said Kim would make a valuable contribution to ensuring South Korea’s first Winter Olympics was a success.

“As a Games ambassador for the 2018 Olympic Winter Games, we expect her to take the lead in promoting the Games to the world,” he said in a statement. Cho, who led Pyeongchang’s successful bid for the Olympics, replaced Kim Jin-sun after he abruptly resigned in the middle of a review by the Board of Audit and Inspection.—Reuters