President U Thein Sein visits Payerne solar impulse project, Nestlé Plant in Switzerland

BERN, 6 Sept — President U Thein Sein and party observed a solar-powered plane at Payerne Air Base in Bern, Switzerland on Saturday morning.

On their arrival at the air base which is also the home base for solar impulse project, they were welcomed by officials concerned.

At the briefing hall, Swiss officials made a video presentation of solar airplane and gave an account of the aircraft to the President and party.

Next, the President observed the solar-powered plane.

Then, the project officials presented a book about the plane to the President who also presented them gifts and posed for documentary photos with them.

The solar-power aircraft will take off for its second test flight in 2015 and it will make a stop in Mandalay in March, 2015 during its round-the-world flight.

Then, the President and party also visited Nestlé in Konolfingen where they were welcomed by Mr. Nandu Nandkishore, executive vice president and zone director for Asia, Oceanic, Africa and Middle East, and officials from the plant.

At the luncheon hosted in honour of the President and party, Mr. Nandu Nandkishore extended greetings.

Officials concerned, then, explained NHW journey and the micronutrient impact studies and fresh milk sourcing to the President and party at the briefing hall.

Afterwards, the President signed on visitors’ book and posed for documentary photos with Nestlé officials. — MNA

President sends message to Brazil

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Sept—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Ms. Dilma Vana Rousseff, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, on the occasion of the anniversary of the Independence Day of the Federative Republic of Brazil, which falls on 7th September 2014. — MNA

Myanmar 3-2 Philippines to win the 2014 Peace Cup title

YANGON, 6 Sept—Myanmar claimed the PFF Peace Cup, beating the Philippines in a come from behind win 3-2 in extra time of final match at the Rizal Memorial Stadium of Manila, the Philippines on Saturday.

The Azkals took a 2-1 edge after goals by Daisuke Sato in the 50th minute and Phil Younghusband in the 70th but gave up three goals the rest of the way.

Myanmar, which opened up the scoring less than 10 minutes into the match, equalized in stoppage time to forge the extension where the Myanmar scored the winner courtesy of striker Soe Min Oo.

Myanmar overwhelmed Chinese Taipei, 4-1, to book a slot in the finals. This is the first time that Myanmar won against the Filipinos. The Azkals triumphed in their first two meetings, including a 2-0 victory at the AFF-Suzuki Cup in Bangkok two years ago. — NLM
Ambulance import needs to comply with rules

YANGON, 6 Sept — Donors at home or abroad can import ambulance into Myanmar in comply with the rules of import of ambulance.

According to the rules, import of ambulance is required a respective region al government’s recommendation that a hospital, a clinic or an organization to which a donor wants to donate an ambulance must be the one which has been acknowledged by the government or is registered at the government.

The vehicle must be the model manufactured between 1997 and 2013, according to the rules. Besides, the importation procedure of the ambulance is also required an invoice and a recommendation from the Ministry of Health that the vehicle will be used for a clinic or a hospital.

When apply the importation an ambulance into Myanmar, the donor or the charity group also need to provide the Directorate of Trade with their address, contact phone numbers and an official declaration that they donate the ambulance to a clinic or hospital.

The compilation of the rules is designed to prevent illegal import of vehicles with tax evasion, according to Ministry of commerce.—NLM

To win the trust of people

MANDALAY, 6 Sept — To win the trust of people, ensuring the rule of law, people focus and to protect the people are the main themes of conducting people-centered Police procedure course jointly conducted by Mandalay Region Police Force and EU International Management Team, said coach Mr David Hamilton of the team at the conclusion of the course on 5 September.

At the course concluding ceremony police officers received EU brooches and course conclusion certificates. The course was conducted for the first time in Mandalay Region from 27th August to 5th September attended by 20 police officers of the respective police stations in Mandalay Region.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Green gram price falls in Meiktila

MEIKTLA, 6 Sept — Up to the last week of August, merchants and brokerages gave K 34000 to K 34000 for a basket of green gram in Meiktila. The price falls by K 3000 in the first week of September and stood at just K 30000 for a basket. It is due to drought in May when the crop was started to grow and due to rains when the crop was ready to be harvested. In July, when the crops met good harvest, the price stood at K 38000 to K40000 for a basket. Climate change has direct effect on growing seasonal crops in central Myanmar and farmers get less income.—NLM-018

More GSM SIM cards needed for people

MEIKTLA, 6 Sept — K 1500 worth SIM cards were distributed to Meiktila dwellers as of 2 September by KMD agent of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications.

When the news of selling the SIM cards spread, about 700 people rushed to the shop and queued. But the agent got only 500 cards and within two days the cards were sold out.

As the ratio of the cards and population is too great people want more SIM cards for them.

NLM-018

Preparation made for firefighting

MYINGYAN, 6 Sept — After the rainy season, there will come a dry season in Myanmar. As a preparation for the dry season when the fire is common, Myingyan town-

ship in arid zone of central Myanmar conducted firefighting course which concluded on 5 September. The course was attended by 50 trainees. —U Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

Drugs seized in Thazi

THAZI, 6 Sept — A combined team led by Sub-inspector Chit Ko Ko of Pyinmyaung Police Station in Thazi Township in central Myanmar searched a bike with Zaw Hteik on it on Meiktila-Taunggyi highway on route from Taunggyi to Meiktila on 5 September. The team found K 7.8 million worth stimulant tablets on the bike and the suspect Zaw Hteik was taken into custody.

NLM-018
Bern, 6 Sept— President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein attended a welcome ceremony held by the President of Switzerland Mr Didier Burkhalter at the Lohn Manor in Bern, Switzerland on Friday evening.

When President U Thein Sein arrived at the welcome ceremony, the Swiss President cordially greeted him before the President inspected the Guard of Honour after receiving the salute.

Next, President U Thein Sein held talks with the Swiss President.

During a meeting between the two countries held at the Grand Salon, both sides discussed matters related to improvement in vocational training schools, development of agriculture and livestock breeding sectors, capacity building for service personnel and local authorities, peace-making process, human right promotion, constitutional amendment of Myanmar.

Then, the two Presidents held discussions on organizing an exhibition on cultural heritage of Bagan and Pyu periods in Switzerland and preservation of historic buildings in Yangon.

The meeting agreed the establishment a deputy minister-level coordination mechanism between the two foreign ministries for strengthening bilateral friendship and Switzerland’s contribution of US$164 million to Myanmar under a five-year plan from 2013 to 2017 for the development of fairs and free and fair elections, Rakhine State peace and stability and development, racial and religious conflict prevention and relations between ASEAN and regional countries.

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Malaysia, Australia to continue cooperation in handling duo air tragedies

PUTRAJAYA, 6 Sept— Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak and his visiting Australian counterpart Tony Abbot said here on Saturday in a joint Press conference that the two countries would continue their cooperation in dealing with the tragedies of MH370 and MH17.

Najib expressed his gratitude for Austral- ia’s help in the search for MH370, saying the two countries would continue to work together to locate the missing aircraft.

Abbot said a new search would start in a fortnight’s time, and all humanly possible efforts were taken to scour the zone. On the cost of the search for MH370, he said Malaysia and Aus- tralia would contribute 60 million Australian dollars (about $6.3 million US dollars) each.

Abbot said it would be the intention of the Aus- tralian government to erect a monument on its western coastline in memory of those on board of the MH17, victims of the war.

Najib added that Malaysia would have the intention to meet the threat of the international community to meet the threat of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS). Najib said Malaysia would closely work with the international commu- nity to meet the threat of ISIS, which they consider very serious to the world.

86 militants killed, 62 injured in Afghanistan

KABUL, 6 Sept — About 86 Taleban militants have been killed and 62 others got injured as the Afghan security forces carried out cleanup operations in different prov- inces within the last 24 hours, said the country’s Interior Ministry on Saturday morning.

The cleanup operations were conducted by the Af-ghan police, army and the National Directorate of Secu- rity or intelligence agency personnel in Balkh, Helmand, Zabul, Kandahar, Paktika, Herat, Badghis and Kapisa Provinces. Some militants were also detained in the above operations. Several Taleban local leaders were among the killed,” the ministry said in a statement providing daily operational updates.

Majority of the militants were killed during a raid in Chantal district of northern Balkh Province, the state- ment noted. The security forces also recovered and defused six roadside bombs recently planted by the militants in Kandahar, Jawzjan, and Herat Provinces, according to the statement.

The statement did not disclose if there were any casual- ties on the side of security forces.

The Taleban-led violence continues in Afghanistan. Security forces have pressed on to clear the militants in restive provinces.

The Taleban, which has been waging an insurgency since its regime was toppled by a US-led invasion in late 2001, has yet to make comments.

Blackouts cast shadow over Modi’s economic recovery

It’s a headache for Modi that experts say will only get worse. His govern- ment is resisting political pressure for a bailout, just two years after a rescue by the last government that it denounces as a “facade”.

“The moment I start with financial assistance for one state, all the states will be asking me,” Power and Coal Minister Piyush Goyal told reporters on Wednes- day as he marked a rocky first 100 days in the job.

“States have to improve their own systems. I can’t fund their coal purchases,” said Goyal, who is mediat- ing in payment disputes in an attempt to mitigate the power crisis.

Pritishrav Chavan, chief minister of Mahar- ashtra, has from Mumbai pointed the finger of blame at Modi, who won elec- tion by a landslide in May with promises of economic reforms, new jobs and dy- namic growth. “The centre is responsible,” said Cha- van, a leader of the oppo- sition Congress party. He added that he urged Modi two weeks ago to call crisis talks on the power industry, but says New Delhi “has not taken serious note”.

Maharashtra is one of several states that are at odds with New Delhi on power and coal supplies, and will soon hold elec- tions. Modi’s nationalist party hopes to boost its strength in the upper house of parliament, where it lacks a majority.

Since Modi took pow- er, coal stocks at thermal power stations that gener- ate three-fifths of India’s power have nearly halved to just six days’ cover. Of 100 plants, 36 are now “crit- ical” with less than a week’s supply. The shortages have arisen not because India lacks coal — it has reserves of 61 billion tonnes. Nor does India consume much power: per capita use is one-seventeenth of the US level, and 400 million Indians have no electricity at all.—Reuters

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Indian nuclear plant runs for two years uninterruptedly

NEW DELHI, 6 Sept — A nuclear plant in the western Indian state of Ra- jasthan has made history by running continuously for two years, local media re- ported on Saturday.

Most nuclear plants need to shut down once in a year for maintenance.

Coal stocks at thermal stations have hit critical levels as payment disputes escalate, unleashing power cuts that could choke off an economic recovery be- fore it takes hold and hurt Modi’s prospects at forth- coming state elections.

Financial metropolitan Mumbai was plunged into darkness for most of Tues- day, amid a row between private generators and re- gional distributors that is symptomatic of an industry mired in debt and arrears of at least $100 billion.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks during the launch of the Jan Dhan Yojana, or the Scheme for People’s Wealth, in New Delhi on 28 Aug, 2014. —REUTERS

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The reactor generated 4,258 million units of elec- tricity during this period.

“The achievement of Rajasthan’s Unit-5 is an- other excellent example of how nuclear energy sup- plies clean, affordable and reliable electricity around the world,” Agena Rising, the head of the World Nu- clear Association in Lon- don, told an Indian news channel.

The reactors are running continuously for 739 days at a stretch, the report said.

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NEWPORT, 6 Sept—President Barack Obama said key NATO allies stood ready to join the United States in military action to defeat Islamic State militants in Iraq as he vowed to “take out” the leaders of a movement he said was a major threat to the West.

Obama said the Washington would hunt down and dismantle the organization, which has seized swathes of Iraq and Syria, in the same way it had tackled al-Qaeda since the 11 September attacks on the United States and was doing to al-Shabaab in Somalia.

“Key NATO allies stand ready to confront this terrorist threat through military, intelligence and law enforcement as well as diplomatic efforts,” Obama said after ministers of 10 nations met on the sidelines of a NATO summit in Wales to form what Washington called a “core coalition”.

Ministers from Britain, France, Germany, Canada, Turkey, Italy, Poland, Denmark and non-NATO Australia attended the talks with the US on cooperation in state and defence, John Kerry and Chuck Hagel.

“Already allies have joined us in Iraq where we have stopped ISIL’s advances, we have equipped our Iraqi partners and helped them go on offensive,” Obama told a news conference.

The United States hoped a new Iraqi government would be formed next week and was confident it would have a coalition for the sustained action required to destroy the militants.

French President Francois Hollande confirmed Paris was willing to join US air strikes if requested by a new Baghdad government as part of a comprehensive international strategy to confront IS. He also raised the possibility of hot pursuit operations in Syria or assisting other rebels fighting IS there.

British Prime Minister David Cameron, who failed to win parliamentary backing for military action in Syria last year, was more cautious about participating in armed action, saying: “We are not at that stage yet.”

The British public is deeply wary of foreign military intervention after London joined Washington in the 2003 invasion of Iraq based on false information about weapons of mass destruction. France, which opposed that operation, is more open to overseas action.

Obama drew criticism last week for saying he had not yet decided on a strategy for confronting the Islamic State in Syria, which has provoked public outrage in the West with the gruesome beheading two US journalists.

The United States stressed the need for a comprehensive approach in the talks on Friday and acknowledged that action against IS in Iraq would have implications in Syria as well. “We are going to degrade and ultimately defeat ISIL, the same way that we have gone after al-Qaeda,” Obama said in some of his toughest comments since Washington began air strikes last month to halt the Islamists’ advance in northern Iraq.

“You initially push them back, you systematically degrade their capabilities, you narrow their scope of action, you slowly shrink the space, the territory that they may control, you take out their leadership, and over time they are not able to conduct the same kinds of terrorist attacks as they once could.”

In an attempt to counter the threat of US and European militants returning from the region to attack the West, NATO announced plans for allies to share more information on westerners fighting for the militants.

A man with an English accent was filmed beheading the US journalists and Britain raised its terrorism alert last week to its second-highest level over the threat posed by IS, meaning it assessed a strike was “highly likely”. European officials said Cameron and Hollande, the leaders of Europe’s main military powers, told Obama in private meetings that Washington had to do more than simply conduct air strikes on IS targets in Iraq and needed an overall strategy.

“It can’t be just ‘let’s go and bomb a few targets and see what happens’,” said one Western defence official familiar with the talks among allied leaders.

A British official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said: “There is a growing sense that this is going to take more than we are doing... but it needs to be a measured, cautious approach.”

Though it was unclear how many nations would ultimately join Washington in supporting military operations in Iraq, Kerry and Hagel set out the limits of such action at a hastily arranged meeting in Newport — no land forces.

“Obviously I think that’s a red line for everybody here: no boots on the ground,” Kerry told the meeting. Obama said Kerry would visit the Middle East to help build a broad-based coalition to tackle the militants.—Reuters

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Plane carrying Americans downed for Dubai after being diverted to Iran

WASHINGTON, 6 Sept—A chartered airplane carrying about 100 Americans from the US airbase at Bagram, Afghanistan, has left for Dubai after it was diverted to Iran because of issues with its flight plan, a US official and the Fly Dubai airline said on Friday.

“It has taken off,” the US official said of the aircraft. The plane had left Bagram for Dubai several hours late but failed to update its flight plan, the official said.

When Iranian civil aviation officials identified the plane, they could not find it in their system because it was supposed to have flown through hours earlier, the official said.

Iranian officials first asked it to turn around and then to land at Bandar Abbas, Iran, when told it did not have enough fuel to return to Afghanistan, the official said.

Fly Dubai confirmed in a statement its charter was “now en route to Dubai.”

Washington and Tehran have had an antagonistic relationship for decades.

The United States cut diplomatic ties with Iran in April 1980, five months after Iranian students occupied the US Embassy in Teheran and took US citizens hostage. Fifty-two Americans were ultimately held for 444 days.

The two countries are now at odds over the Iranian nuclear programme, which Washington suspects is aimed at building a bomb but which Iran says is for strictly civilian purposes.

Washington, which has offered a new deal against Teheran for its refusals to give up sensitive uranium enrichment work, is negotiating with other major powers to get Iran to curb its nuclear work in exchange for sanctions relief.

UN, EU welcome E Ukraine ceasefire

WASHINGTON, 6 Sept—Leading international bodies including the United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU) have welcomed the latest ceasefire agreement for eastern Ukraine.

Meanwhile, analysts and observers from across the international community have sounded a note of caution, stressing that the truce deal was only the first step toward peace.

The ceasefire protocol was inked on Friday in the Belarusian capital of Minsk, where envoys from Ukraine’s government and insurgent leadership as well as Russia and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) held talks for a political settlement of the Ukraine crisis.

The deal has brought a glimmer of hope that an end to the bloodshed in eastern Ukraine is within reach. Armed clashes in the region, starting in March, have claimed at least 2,600 lives.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday welcomed the truce deal, encouraging all parties to “display good will and take concrete steps toward urgent, full and effective implementation.”

The Secretary-General stressed that credible and comprehensive monitoring and verification are essential elements for successful implementation of the ceasefire and the peace plan,” said UN spokesman Stéphane Dujarric.

Ban also welcomed the recent discussions between the presidents of Ukraine and Russia, which played a part in the breakthrough, and strongly encouraged such contacts to continue.

Dujarric said the cessation of hostilities will further allow the UN and other humanitarian actors of the international community to deliver critical humanitarian assistance and other needed support to the impacted areas.

The United States welcomed the agreement. A statement released on Friday by the European External Action Service said: “We welcome the agreement... The ceasefire agreement must now be respected and fully implemented by all sides.”—Xinhua

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UN President Barack Obama (C) arrives for a meeting on the second and final day of the NATO summit, at the Celtic Manor resort, near Newport, in Wales on 5 Sept, 2014.—Reuters
Illinois hospital asks children not to visit due to unknown virus

KANSAS, 6 Sept — A hospital in Illinois has barred children under 12 from visiting the facility until further notice due to an outbreak of an unknown respiratory virus that has affected more than 70 young children in the area, hospital officials said on Friday.

More than 70 children complaining of respiratory virus symptoms visited the Blessing Hospital in Quincy, southwest Illinois, during the Labour Day weekend, they said.

Hospital spokeswoman Lisa Neisen said the hospital will not release the status of the children.

The virus, has yet to be identified, but resembles HEV68, a respiratory infection that broke out in nearby St Louis and Kansas City a week earlier, Dr Robert Merrick, an epidemiologist at the hospital, said in a statement.

Hannibal Regional Healthcare System in nearby Hannibal, Missouri, which issued a similar warning to children, lists the symptoms on its Facebook page as fever, runny nose, sneezing, cough, mouth blisters, body and muscle aches and rash.

Last week, St Louis Children’s Hospital reported that intakes related to the virus increased 50 percent and Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri, had 300 cases of children with the virus.—Reuters

Third American Ebola patient brought back to US “stable but seriously ill”

WASHINGTON, 6 Sept — A third American aid worker infected with Ebola while working in Liberia was evacuated back to the United States on Friday, and the hospital treating him said he was “stable, but seriously ill.” Rick Sacra, 51, who was treating obstetrics patients at a Liberian hospital when he tested positive for the deadly virus, arrived at the Nebraska Medical Centre in Omaha on Friday morning. “He was safely brought to our biocontainment unit and is currently being cared for by our medical staff,” the hospital said in a statement. “Right now, they plan to use aggressive supportive care, fluids and electrolytes. They’re also exploring options to see what experimental therapeutics are available.”

According to the hospital, Sacra is being treated in its 10-bed biocontainment unit, which is specifically designed to care for patients with highly infectious diseases, and “is staffed with infectious disease experts who have prepared for years for situations like this one.” Along with the hospital’s bioccontainment unit, there are only three other similar facilities in the US, including the unit at Emory University in Atlanta that successfully treated two other US aid workers with Ebola last month.—Reuters

Five Bosnian coal miners killed by earthquake

Zenica, (Bosnia), 6 Sept — Five Bosnian miners were confirmed dead on Friday, a day after an earthquake triggered a collapse at the Raspotocje mine, as emergency teams helped 29 others to the surface. The manager of the mine, Esad Civic, said a total of 34 miners had been trapped 500 metres (1,600 feet) below ground by Thursday’s rock burst.

“The mining accident in the Raspotocje pit is a huge tragedy for all of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We lost five lives, unfortunately,” Nermin Niksic, the prime minister of Bosnia’s autonomous Bosniak-Croat federation, told the Fena news agency.

Survivors had earlier reported seeing four bodies in a still-inaccessible underground passage.

Thursday’s 3.5-magnitude earthquake near the town of Zenica caused rocks in the nearby mine to fracture explosively, officials said.

Thirty-nine miners died in a rock burst in Raspotocje in 1982, and Civic said two previous rock bursts at the mine this year had injured 16.

Dozens of relatives waited anxiously inside the rundown socialist-era complex for news of their loved ones. “We are so worried,” 12-year-old Maida Isakovic said through tears before her father Fezjo was named as one of the dead.

Some relatives criticised the mine management, particularly for delaying initially that only eight people were trapped.

Several miners with faces blackened by coal dust were stretchered to emergency vehicles as soon as they came to the surface, while others were able to walk unaided.

Dzezan Hodzic, spokeswoman for the local hospital, said 26 miners had been admitted to the hospital and another two to a local emergency ward. “None of them has life-threatening injuries,” she said.

Raspotocje produces coal for Bosnia’s largest power utility, EPBiH, and employs 450 miners.

Civic said it had been one of the best equipped mines in the region before the collapse of Yugoslavia in the 1990s, but had been damaged by shelling in the Bosnian war and had not been substantially upgraded since.

In 2009, the Federation government merged seven coal mines, including Raspotocje, with EPBiH to supply its coal-fired plants, and the utility pledged to invest more than 200 million Bosnian marka ($133.5 million) over five years to improve working conditions. It has so far spent 140 million marka, but Raspotocje has seen little of that.—Reuters
Syrian troops recapture town near Damascus

DAMASCUS, 6 Sept — The Syrian troops on Friday recaptured a town in the eastern countryside of the capital Damascus, as part of the Syrian forces’ wide-scale offensive to dislodge the rebels from the eastern rim of the capital, according to the pan-Arab al-Mayadeen TV.

The Syrian troops’ recapture of Hattet Jarash town came in tandem with the troops’ advancement in Damascu’s eastern suburb of Jobar, where intense battles have been raging for over a week.

The recapture of Hattet Jarash enables the Syrian troops to cut the rebels’ supply lines between rebel-held towns of Jisrin and Zibdin in the eastern countryside of Damascus.

Meanwhile, the pro-government Sham FM radio said that the Syrian troops called for reinforcement to confront rebel groups that infiltrated the al-Kabbaas neighbourhood in eastern Damascu on Friday morning.

Pakistan govt’, opposition resume talks to discuss end to protests

ISLAMABAD, 6 Sept — An opposition party, which has staged anti-government sit-ins in Islamabad and demands resignation of Prime Minister (PM) Nawaz Sharif, held talks with a government team on Friday to defuse the political tensions.

Supporters of Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf party (PTI) started the protest on 14 August to press for the PM’s resignation as it claimed last year’s parliamentary elections were rigged, in which Nawaz Sharif’s Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaza (PML-N) party won. The government rejected calls for resignation of the PM but agreed to investigate the alleged rigging in the polls.

A government team led by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar met senior PTI leaders and discussed the opposition party’s demands. “There has been tangible progress in talks between the government and PTI negotiating teams,” Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and PTI leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi told press after the meeting. They said both sides proactively discussed the drafts exchanged by the two sides for resolution of the political crisis. Ishaq Dar said PTI had given a written proposal and the PML-N gave its response yesterday. “Today our talks were focused on these drafts and they are trying to forge consensuses,” he said.

He said the two sides would meet again on Saturday and expressed the hope to conclude the dialogue process at the earliest opportunity.

He said the country has suffered huge economic and diplomatic losses. Important visits by foreign dignitaries could not materialize due to protests. He said Moody’s, a rating agency, has said that Pakistan’s rating could go down as political instability persists. Both sides have already held several rounds of talks, but the process could not make any progress due to the demand for the PM’s resignation. PTI had later suggested Nawaz Sharif should transfer power to other leaders of his party for 30 days until investigations into the elections are completed.

A religious leader, Dr Tahir ul Qadri, is also leading a protest sit-in in Islamabad against the government and wants to bring out a “revolution.” He had also suspended talks with the government this week and has not yet decided to end the deadlock. The protests have disrupted life in Islamabad and affected the economic situation in the country. The rupee has depreciated against the dollar since the protest started.

UN to set up Ebola crisis centre, aims to stop spread in six to nine months

The United Nations, 6 Sept — The UN headquarters in New York, the United States, on 5 Sept, 2014, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Friday that the world organization is going to establish an Ebola crisis center to stop the spread of the virus in six to nine months. — Xinhua

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (R) speaks as Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr Margaret Chan looks on during a press briefing at the UN headquarters in New York, the United States, on 5 Sept, 2014. — UN

Ban called on the international community to provide $600 million needed for supplies in West Africa, where more than 3,500 confirmed or probable cases of the hemorrhagic fever have been reported and more than 1,900 people have died since March.

“The number of cases is rising exponentially. The disease is spreading far faster than the response. People are increasingly frustrated that it is not being controlled,” Ban told reporters.

“The goal is to stop Ebola transmission in affected countries within six to nine months, and to prevent the international spread of the virus,” he said. “This can be done only if the urgent and necessary mobilization is done both in the affected countries and by the international community.”

Countries affected by the epidemic include Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone. An outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo is unrelated to and independent of the West African epidemic, the World Health Organization has said.

It is the worst outbreak since the virus was discovered in 1976 near the Ebola River in what is now Democratic Republic of Congo. The WHO has said casualty figures may be up to four times higher than reported, and that up to 20,000 people may be affected before the outbreak ends.

“We need contributions — people, material and funding — from governments, the private sector, financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and other groups at the grass roots,” said Ban after meeting with heads of UN agencies on the issue.

Morocco seizes 226 kg of cocaine worth 27 mn USD

RABAT, 6 Sept — The Moroccan authorities seized 226 kg of cocaine worth 27 million US dollars and arrested six drug traffickers in the central city of Marrakesh, the official news agency MAP reported on Friday.

The drugs were found in cases of fish inside a refrigerated truck coming from the south of the country, MAP said, quoting Marrakesh police. The driver and his aide as well as two other accomplices were arrested in Marrakesh, while two others were arrested in Rabat, MAP added, but did not detail on the origin of the drugs that was destined for sale abroad.

Given its geographical position, Morocco has become a transit point for cocaine heading to Europe from Latin America via western African countries.

Telenor wins approval to fully own India phone unit

New Delhi, 6 Sept — India has approved Norwegian telecoms group Telenor ASA’s proposal to fully own its local unit, the government said in statement on Friday.

Telenor, which is investing 7.8 billion rupees ($129.16 million) to raise its stake in the unit from 74 percent currently, will be the second mobile phone carrier after Vodafone Group Plc to fully own its Indian unit after the government relaxed rules last year.

India’s Foreign Investment Promotion Board had approved 22 foreign direct investment proposals worth a total 39.52 billion rupees, the statement said.
The youth of today are partners of today and leaders of tomorrow

By Kyaw Thura

It is no exaggeration to assume that young people are an indispensable element of society as well as a driving force for the future development of a nation.

Unfortunately, young people are still pressed to stay away from other things rather than education in many a community.

The world is full of excellent examples of young people who have made a lot of contributions to the betterment of the entire mankind. In the past decades, we have witnessed young people with exceptional passions, skills and commitment to doing incredible things through great innovations and inventions.

Nowadays, youths have come to the sense that leadership is not synonymous with a position of authority. They now see leadership as a position of responsibility. The emergence of youth groups worldwide is an end in itself.

It is encouraging to see that more and more young people are getting involved in philanthropic services and humanitarian activities, with no discrimination. There is every reason to believe that when given the opportunity, they will astonish us with brand new ideas.

The time has come for us not to be eluded by the clichéd saying that goes ‘The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow’. Unless young people are given an opportunity to demonstrate their potentials today, they will no way become leaders of tomorrow in the same way that there cannot be a tomorrow unless today exists.

It is therefore undeniable that the youth of today can be not only partners of today but also leaders of tomorrow. Poetically speaking, young people form the backbone of a country and as a result need to be encouraged to better themselves, simply because the future of a nation will fall in their hands.

All in all, young people should be allowed to help decide the future of a nation in the world of today and that of tomorrow.

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Grow Strong, Stand Tall and Add Value

Kyï Mun

TO GROW STRONG

Day by day in the Physical Way, Grow Strong in Health & Fitness.

Day by day in the Mental Way, Grow Strong in Vision & Strategy.

Day by day in the Emotional Way, Grow Strong in Passion & Values.

Day by day in the Spiritual Way, Grow Strong in Selflessness & Service.

In order for the Health & Fitness to grow strong, you must be disciplined in diet, and you must be diligent in exercise which are appropriate for you. You have got to be strong in body as well as in mind.

- In order for the Vision & Strategy to grow strong, you must have a very definite and vivid vision.
- And you must have a very realistic Plan of Action which will translate the vision into reality.
- You must see the Golden City and choose the Road Map to it. And then, you have to drive yourself to take a long march to the City of Gold.

- In order for the Passion & Values to grow strong, You must have a very consuming desire, and You must have very compelling beliefs and convictions. You should very steadfastly stand for something, some cause, some dream for which you won’t hesitate even to give your life and limb.

- In order for the Selflessness & Service to grow strong, You must have a tremendous sense of Altruism and Passionately driven to serve the people and the planet.
- You must be short on thinking of ‘striving for your gain only and long on thinking of struggling for the benefits of the people and the afflicted planet.

- In order for the Character & Competence to grow strong, You must have a very verile character and great talents in Technological, Conceptual and Human Skills.
- You must be passionately bent on learning and self-development.

TO STAND TALL

A person who is growing in strengths should stand tall by being strong inside, permitting no defeat and fighting all they can. To be able to stand tall, a person growing in strength must think the most, feel the noblest and act the best. They must have the guts and the heart to possess the FIRE of a tremendous Fortitude, an iron mind, a rare resilience and a rock-like equanimity. A person who is standing tall must be resolute, fear no sacrifice and surmount all difficulties to win victory.

TO ADD VALUE

You should be able to:

- Make the present situations effective;
- Find and realize the potential for further progress, and
- Focus on building the future.

You should also be strongly committed to:

- Getting direct results,
- Building a great culture of beliefs & values,
- And investing in technology and cutting-edge capabilities
- Setting up a magnificent tradition of thinking creatively for new ideas and concepts, and establishing a culture of innovation for leadership in new products, processes and service.

CONCLUSION

To grow strong, to stand tall, and to add value to your life, you should treat it as a MANTRA and ceaselessly think about growing strong, standing tall and adding value to whatever you do, wherever you are. And you have got to WALK THE TALK.

U Kyï Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING Group Capital Co.,Ltd.

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE

(6-9-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K662,200 per tical: Selling K663,000

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K661,900 per tical: Selling K662,700

FE RATE

USD Buying K970 - Selling K974

SGD Buying K771 - Selling K780

Euro Buying K1250 - Selling K1275

Local organization presents insecticide-treated mosquito nets, cash assistance to hospital patients in Dala Township

YANGON, 6 Sept — Dala Township education and health foundation presented insecticide-treated mosquito nets and cash assistance to patients at Pyawbweegyi and Rakhinechaung station hospitals on Saturday.

On their tour of two hospitals in Dala Township located in South District of Yangon, the chairman and members explained the foundation’s works and ways to medical staffers and patients made cash and insecticide-treated mosquito nets donations.

Pyawbweegyi station hospital situated sixmiles from Dala, is a 16-bed facility that has been providing health care services to local people since 1992. Rakhinechaung station hospital formerly called Daw Ma Ma Lay hospital before it was upgraded to a 16-bed hospital by the government is seven miles from Dala. Daw Ma Ma Lay funded for construction of the hospital in 1939.

Dala Township education and health foundation is a local organization which is also attending to the needs of students at basic education schools in the township.

Khin Zaw (Mingalar)
**Myanmar, Vietnam vow to promote cooperation in economy and infrastructure**

**NATIONAL**

**Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) and Vietnam’s National Assembly Chairman Nguyen Sinh Hung hold talks on enhancement of friendly relations between the two countries.**—MNA

**Nay Pyi Taw, 6 Sept —** Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) left Yangon on Friday for Vietnam on an official visit at the invitation of Vietnam’s National Assembly Chairman Nguyen Sinh Hung, sources said. After the welcome ceremony on Saturday, Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and Chairman Nguyen Sinh Hung met in Hanoi to seek ways to further strengthen the bilateral cooperation in education, human resources, electricity and transportation. They held talks on enhancement of friendly relations and cooperation between the two governments, parliamentary bodies and peoples. They also agreed to accelerate cooperation in infrastructure development, trade, agriculture, livestock, energy, oil and gas, and banking services.

**Yangon East University honours outstanding faculty members, students**

**Yangon, 6 Sept —** A ceremony to honour outstanding faculty members and students of Yangon East University took place at the university on Thursday.

Head of History Department Dr Huy Myint who is also the chairman of Yangon East University sports and physical education committee extended greetings at the ceremony.

During the ceremony, officials presented awards to three outstanding teachers, 118 students who made excellent performances in studies, sports and social activities and nine outstanding students who are offspring of staff.

**Widespread erosion happen to Hsinthay creek bank in Pobbathiri Township**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 6 Sept —** Widespread erosion happened to the bank of Hsinthay creek following torrential rains in Pobbathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council recently.

The erosion of the creek bank forced evacuation of nine houses and widespread erosion has occurred in Zeegon and Kalar village-tracts.

On his inspection tour of Kalar village affected by erosion, member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Phone Zaw Han outlined a long term plan for erosion control and called for effective measures against erosion.—MNA

**Kyaing Thanda Lwin**

**Seminar on reform in Myanmar highlights importance of public participation**

**Yangon, 6 Sept —** In order to increase public awareness, a seminar on reform in Myanmar, organized by U Kyaw Lin Oo, Executive Director of the Myanmar People Forum Working Group, took place on Saturday in Yangon.

The seminar focused on raising the public understanding of the government’s implementation of its first, second and third democratization waves.

U Kyaw Lin Oo noted that the country has seen civil society organizations more developed thanks to the reform of the private sector, thereby helping the economic sector become stable by means of unified exchange rates.

As part of political reforms, the government is now carrying out the Union peace-making process, seeking foreign direct investments for three special economic zones, improving the capacity of civil services and continuing rural development tasks to reduce poverty, he added.

The speaker also clarified the country’s reform models of executive, legislative and judiciary arenas.

He gave a message to all attendees to join hands with the government to carry out the country’s development tasks.—NLM

**Union FM felicitates Brazilian counterpart**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 7 Sept —** U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Luiz Alberto Figueiredo, Minister of External Relations of the Federative Republic of Brazil, on the occasion of the anniversary of the Independence Day of the Federative Republic of Brazil, which falls on 7th September 2014.—MNA

**Union minister inspects construction works**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 6 Sept —** Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin on Saturday inspected the construction works of roads and bridge in the capital council area here.

U Kyaw Lwin looked into the works of rock layer and asphalt pavement at Montegwin-Kyitaung-Khayawa-Nay Pyi Taw road, as well as construction of Paunglaung bridge.

Union minister suggested the staff members of construction project to prioritize the standards and to finalize the projects in time.

**Progress in construction of Paunglaung bridge.**—MNA

**Federative Republic of Brazil, on the occasion of the anniversary of the Independence Day of the Brazilian counterpart.**

Union FM felicitates Brazilian counterpart
**Weak miners dent Britain’s FTSE but BP recovers some poise**

LONDON, 6 Sept — Britain’s top shares fell back on Friday from recent 14-1/2 year highs as under-pressure metals prices took their toll on mining stocks, though shares in oil major BP managed a recovery.

Shares with exposure to Russia got a lift when Ukraine and pro-Russian rebels agreed a ceasefire, with BP, which owns 20 percent of Russia’s largest oil producer Rosneft, the top blue-chip riser.

But a 1 percent drop from miners dragged on the UK benchmark as gold and iron ore prices came under pressure.

Precious metal miners Fresnillo and Randgold Resources were the worst off, down 6.6 percent and 4.1 percent respectively.

**Depression more common for cancer patients, but rarely treated**

NEW YORK, 6 Sept — Three new studies by researchers at the Universities of Oxford and Edinburgh in the UK reveal that three-quarters of depressed cancer patients are not receiving treatment for depression. The researchers also found that serious depression is more common for cancer patients than for the general population, and varies by type of cancer.

They also tested a new treatment programme called ‘Depression Care for patients who were younger, and among those with lung or colorectal cancer, women.

Nearly three quarters of depressed cancer patients were not receiving treatment for depression, according to results in The Lancet Psychiatry.

Twenty-four percent were taking antidepressants and five percent were seeing a mental health professional, with a few doing both.

The researchers tested a new treatment programme called ‘Depression Care for People with Cancer’ (DCPC) on 500 adults with clinical depression and a cancer with a good prognosis. The program requires a team of specially trained cancer nurses and psychiatrists. Working in collaboration with the patient’s cancer team and general practitioner, they screen for depression and try different treatments, including antidepressants and therapy.

After six months, the severity of depression was reduced by at least half in 62 percent of patients who had mental health care integrated into cancer treatment, compared with 17 percent of patients who received their usual care, according to results in The Lancet Psychiatry.

“For the ones that were randomized to usual care, we made sure the patient understood that they had major depression, wrote to (the) primary care doctor to tell them that they had major depression, but the outcome was terrible,” Sharpe told Reuters Health by phone.

The researchers estimated DCPC would cost about $1,000 per patient.

“We made sure they did actually get and use antidepressants and psychological treatment,” Sharpe said.

**Amazon signs disaster relief delivery agreement with Japan prefecture**

TOKUSHIMA, Japan, 6 Sept — Amazon Japan KK signed an agreement on Friday with Tokushima Prefecture for consumers to buy and donate relief supplies on the retailer’s website in the event of a major earthquake or other natural disaster hitting the area.

Items in need at shelters will be registered in a “wish list” put up by Amazon so shoppers can donate them for delivery within days.

Amazon.com’s Japan unit offered a similar service after the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. Many relief organizations took advantage of it, valuing its convenience for getting them what they really needed.

It took around one month for preparations at that time, however, including ensuring that goods would not be delivered to places chosen by people who were not disaster victims.

Under the latest agreement, the Tokushima prefectural government will provide a list of designated shelters to Amazon beforehand.

The Tokushima prefectural government says it is the first such agreement Amazon Japan has signed in the country to make ready for a disaster.

**Oil major BP recovers some of its poise after suffering its biggest one-day percentage drop in four years on Thursday, when a US judge decided it was “grossly negligent” and “reckless” in the Gulf of Mexico oil spill four years ago.**

The ruling could leave BP on the hook for an additional fine of up to $18 billion (11.04 billion British pound).

Citi, which estimated that BP would be liable for less than half that amount at $8.2 billion, upgraded its rating on the stock to “buy” from “neutral” while increasing its price target to 510 pence from 480 pence.

The shares, up 2.6 percent on Friday, trade at 466.8 pence.—Reuter
**California blue whales, once nearly extinct, back at historical levels**

Los Angeles, 6 Sept — California blue whales, the largest animals on Earth once driven to near extinction by whaling, have made a remarkable comeback to near historic, 19th-century levels, according to a University of Washington study released on Friday. The recovery makes California blue whales—which study authors say now number about 2,200, or 97 percent of historical levels—the only population of blue whales known to have recovered from whaling.

“The recovery of California blue whales from whaling demonstrates the ability of blue whale populations to rebuild under careful management and conservation measures,” said Cole Monnahan, a University of Washington doctoral student and lead author of the study. Despite the comeback, the whales—which as adults can reach nearly 100 feet (30 metres) in length and weigh 190 tonnes, twice as much as the largest known dinosaur—are still being struck by ships off the California coast at numbers above allowable US levels, according to the study’s authors.

Conservation groups say at least 11 blue whales are struck each year along the US West Coast, nearly four times the “potential biological removal” level of 3.1 permitted under the US Marine Mammal Protection Act. The study’s authors say that the population of California blue whales is now growing more slowly, partly due to ship strikes and also because numbers are reaching the habitat limit.

“Our findings aren’t meant to deprive California blue whales of protections that they need going forward,” Monnahan said. “California blue whales are recovering because we took actions to stop catches and start monitoring. If we hadn’t, the population might have been pushed to near extinction—an unfortunate fate suffered by other blue whale populations,” he said. “It’s a conservation success story.”

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**Alibaba IPO legal fees dwarf Facebook’s**

New York, 6 Sept — Alibaba Group Holding Ltd disclosed on Friday that it would pay $15.8 million in legal fees to law firm Simpson Thacher and other attorneys who advised the Chinese e-commerce giant on its upcoming IPO, six times what Facebook paid its counsel two years ago. Alibaba, which is seeking to raise as much as $21 billion in an IPO expected later this month, made the disclosure in a prospectus on Friday filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

The Chinese company, whose sales are larger than Amazon.com and eBay combined, has a complex structure and has frequently revised its prospectus. That has left $162.69 billion at the top end of the range and raised as much as $21.1 billion. Simpson, a leading Wall Street law firm with strong corporate, mergers and acquisitions and capital markets practices, has advised on 76 IPOs over the past ten years, and its record fee before Alibaba was $15 million, for the 2007 IPO of private equity firm Blackstone, according to IPO Vital Signs. Lawyers had expected Alibaba fees would be high even before Friday’s disclosure.

Thomas Rice, a capital markets partner with law firm Baker & McKenzie in New York, said recently that Alibaba’s prospects is more than triple the length of an ordinary filing for a company that has a single line of business and limited geographies.— Reuters

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**Time Warner Cable employees to share $416 million under retention plan**

New York, 6 Sept — Employees of Time Warner Cable will be $416 million richer even if the cable operator’s merger with Comcast does not close, a move designed to keep staff from bolting while federal regulators contemplate their deal.

A proxy statement prepared for the shareholders meetings of both companies in October to vote on the merger, also lays out the nearly $81.8 million golden parachute that Time Warner Cable’s chairman and chief executive, Robert D Marcus, would receive.

His payment includes cash, restricted stock, options and $300,000 to pay for financial planning services. In all, the company will hand out golden parachutes of more than $136 million to five of its top executives if the deal closes.

Comcast Corp last Friday filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission in a prospectus on Friday filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission, according to IPO Vital Signs. Lawyers had expected Alibaba fees would be high even before Friday’s disclosure.

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**House-sized asteroid to buzz Earth on Sunday**

Cape Canaveral (FLa), 6 Sept — A recently discovered asteroid about the size of a house will make a relatively close pass by Earth on Sunday, flying just past the communication satellites that circle the planet, scientists said.

NASA said the asteroid, known as 2014 RC, poses no threat, though at its closest approach it will only be about one-tenth the distance to the moon, or roughly 25,000 miles (40,000 km) from Earth. Communications and weather satellites are generally located in orbits about 22,000 miles (36,000 km) above the planet. While this celestial object does not appear to pose any threat to Earth or satellites, its close approach creates a unique opportunity for researchers to observe and learn more about asteroids.

NASA said in a statement released on Tuesday.

With a diameter of about 60 feet (18 metres), Asteroid 2014 RC will be too dim to see with the naked eye, but amateur astronomers with small telescopes might be able to catch a glimpse as it zips by, NASA said.

Asteroid 2014 RC is slightly smaller than the 65-foot (20-metre) diameter asteroid that exploded over Chelyabinsk, Russia, last year. The shock wave from the explosion, estimated to have had 30 times more energy than the Hiroshima atomic bomb, blasted out windows and damaged buildings. More than 1,000 people were injured by flying glass and debris.— Reuters
One in 10 girls raped or sexually abused worldwide — UN

London, 6 Sept — One in 10 girls around the world — or about 120 million in total — have been forced to have intercourse or take part in other sexual acts, with rates higher in sub-Saharan Africa than other regions, according to the United Nations.

Drawing on data from 190 countries, a report by the UN children’s agency UNICEF said the most common perpetrators of sexual violence against girls under 18 are current or former husbands, boyfriends and partners.

The study, which sifted through the biggest ever compilation of data on violence against children, also found that one in five murder victims were children or adolescents under 20.

Homicide was the leading cause of death among males aged 10 to 19 in Panama, Venezuela, El Salvador, Trinidad and Tobago, Brazil, Guatemala and Colombia.

“Violence against children occurs every day, everywhere: the slaps of an upset parent to control an ‘unruly’ child, the sexual victimisation of a teenager by a peer or a neighbour, the bullying of one child by another in the schoolyard, the emotional degradation of a child bride by her spouse,” the report said.

“Too many children worldwide are affected by such violence, yet it is rarely acknowledged, in part because it is so common-place. The repercussions are not inconsequential, with ripple effects throughout society as well as future generations,” it added.

A higher proportion of girls, compared to the global average, reported being forced to have sex in 13 of the 18 sub-Saharan African countries surveyed: Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Zimba-bwe, Malawi, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Zambia, Gabon, Tanzania, Liberia, Rwanda and Kenya.

UNICEF said boys experience sexual violence too, but to a far lesser extent than girls.

In Africa and the Middle East more than half the adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 believe a husband is justified in hitting his wife under certain circumstances. This rises to 80 percent or more in Afghanistan, Guinea, Jordan, Mali and East Timor.

The report also covered physical punishment, finding that almost 1 billion children aged between two and 14 are subjected to violent discipline by their parents or guardians on a regular basis.

It also showed that more than one in three students aged 13 to 15 experience routine bullying, while almost a third of students aged 11 to 15 in Europe and North America admitted bullying others.

Violence against children was occurring in places where children should be safe — in their communities, schools and homes, UNICEF said.

“Increasingly, it happens over the internet, and it’s perpetrated by family members and teachers, neighbours and strangers and other children,” the BBC quoted UNICEF’s executive director Anthony Lake as saying.

Afghanistan completes election audit in step towards new president

Chaos in Afghanistan as Western forces pull out most of their troops would be a political blow for those countries which have spent billions of dollars and lost about 3,500 soldiers in a bid to bring peace and stability since the Taliban were ousted in 2001.

The auditing and recount process of all votes were concluded late on Thursday,” Independent Election Commission (IEC) spokesman Noor Mohammad Noor told reporters in Kabul. “It was a very important mission by the IEC and other major institutions which is finished now,” Noor said.

The IEC has already begun invalidating votes deemed fraudulent, but it was unclear when the final results of the audit — and the next president of Afghanistan — would be announced. Preliminary results from the run-off put candidate Ashraf Ghani, a former finance minister and World Bank official, well ahead of his rival Abdullah Abdullah, a former foreign minister. But Abdullah rejected the result, claiming widespread fraud and calling the outcome a “coup” against the Afghan people.

Since then, US State Secretary John Kerry has flown to Afghanistan twice to mediate a deal in which both candidates agreed to a full audit of the vote, and, based on the result, to form a national unity government, a pledge the contenders reiterated in a joint statement on Thursday to a NATO summit.

The crisis over the outcome of the vote has raised the spectre of instability, turmoil and potential conflict in a country already battling a potent Taleban insurgency. The seven-week audit, a painstaking exercise involving more than 8 million votes was slow-going at times, punctuated by heated arguments between the two candidates’ observers present during the process.

In late August, Abdullah’s team boycotted the audit, calling it “worthless” in the face of what they have alleged to be widespread fraud in the June vote.

The United Nations subsequently asked Ghan’s team to withdraw its observers too, in the interest of fairness. The audit proceeded in its final week with Afghan and international observers present.

China to coordinate with Malaysia to continue searching MH370

BEIJING, 6 Sept — Chi-na on Friday urged Malaysia to strengthen communication, and pledged to provide assistance and coordination in searching the missing Malaysia Airlines plane. — Xinhua

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (R) meets with Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak (L) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China on 5 Sept, 2014. — Xinhua

BEIJING, 6 Sept — Chi-na thanked Malaysia for assistance in search-ing the flight and vowed to keep in close communica-tion with the Chinese side.

With regard to the China-Malaysia relations and the ties between Chi-na and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Li said China and Malaysia are sincere friends and reciprocal partners. China was ready to consolidate their tradi-tional friendship and expand bilateral cooperation.

He said China will steadily pursue the good-neighbourly relation-ship with ASEAN and strengthen their reciprocal cooperation.

Li said China will join with Malaysia, the first ASEAN nations to establish diplomatic ties with China, in the interest of ASEAN nations. China and ASEAN will strengthen their reciprocal cooperation, the Premier added.

Hailing the close ties between Malaysia and China, Halim said strengthening bilateral co-opera-tion is beneficial for both countries.

Halim is paying a state visit to China at the invitation of Chinese Presiden-t Xi Jinping from 3 to 8 September. Xi held talks with Halim on Thursday afternoon.

Three confirmed dead in Denmark helicopter crash

COPENHAGEN, 6 Sept — At least three people have been confirmed dead after a helicopter crashed into the Kattegat Bay in Northern Denmark on Friday.

The civilian helicopter crashed into the water between Denmark’s Samso island and Rosne in Kalundborg. Admiral Danish Fleet was quoted by Danish News Agency Ritzau as saying.

So far, three people have been found dead in the area, but their identities and the number of people on board are not yet known, said spokesman Martin Bjerringgard on Friday.

West Zealand Police.

According to Martin Bjerringgard, it was a sail-or who sounded the alarm at midday and told that a helicopter had crashed into the sea. Police said the cause of the crash is still unknown, and they are now searching the area for any additional passengers.

On Thursday, two people were killed when a small sport aircraft crashed on Denmark’s third largest island Funen.
Japan, US remain apart in TPP-related auto trade talks

WASHINGTON, 6 Sept — Japan and the United States remained apart on Friday over the issue of whether Japan can allow US automakers more access to the domestic market under an envisioned Pacific free trade deal, a Japanese official said.

“We made some progress but reached no new agreement,” Takeo Mori, Japanese ambassador in charge of economic diplomacy, told reporters in Washington after three days of negotiations with Wendy Cutler, acting deputy US trade representative.

The gap over auto trade is a contentious bilateral issue related to the Trans-Pacific Partnership deal along with differences over Japan’s exceptional tariffs on some agricultural produce.

Mori said the issue of settlement of international disputes was among topics in the latest round of talks with Cutler, but declined to go into further details.

Mori said he and Cutler are likely to discuss the schedule for future negotiations over the auto issue in Tokyo next week as she will be heading for the Japanese capital for talks on farm products with Hiroshi Oe, deputy chief TPP negotiator, on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The TPP involves Japan, the United States and 10 other countries but solving problems between the two biggest economies in the TPP framework is seen as vital to advance the broad negotiations. The 12 countries, which also include Australia, Canada and Mexico, have been working on signing a deal at the earliest opportunity after they missed the primary deadline at the end of last year.—Kyodo News

Visitors watch Yajiang woodcarving during the Jiangxi Tourism Product Fair in Nanchang, capital of east China’s Jiangxi Province on 5 Sept, 2014. The three-day fair, which kicked off on Friday, presented more than 3,000 items of Chinese tourism commodities, including 38 intangible cultural heritage items in Jiangxi.—Xinhua

Mexico unveils environmentally-friendly design for new airport

MEXICO CITY, 6 Sept — Mexico City’s new international airport will help to protect the environment, a Mexican official said on Friday in a press conference.

Mexican Presidency Secretary Eduardo Sanchez said the new airport would be the first one outside Europe to include “neutral carbon footprint,” a system to generate renewable energy and remove the carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Sanchez said the new airport, with a 2,700-hectare forest, will benefit people living nearby.

“More green areas, clean water and better roads will have an impact on the quality of life. This will help transform the ecological damage into opportunities for sustainable development,” Sanchez said.

The new airport will also boost green business since 70 percent of the water used will come from their own water treatment plants.

Sanchez added the new airport will use clean energy such as sunlight and biogas and will be the first airport to obtain “LEED platinum” certification, the highest award granted to a green building. Environment Minister Juan Jose Guerra Abud explained the use of clean energy for lighting and ventilation by phototcells, adding that energy saving will be of 47 percent (from 447 kilowatt-hours to 267 kilowatt-hours).—Xinhua

Shanghai appoints aides for judges, procurators

SHANGHAI, 6 Sept — Shanghai appointed 289 assistants to judges and procurators on Friday for the first time on the Chinese mainland as part of a pilot programme for judicial reform.

Assistants with legal qualifications were selected from public servants in the city’s courts and procuratorates. They will work in eight pilot courts and procuratorates, including Shanghai No 2 Intermediate People’s Court and Shanghai People’s Procuratorate Second Branch.

After a five-year term, the assistants can be promoted to judges or procurators if they perform well.

The pilot programme will be promoted in the whole city next year.

The appointment of assistants is of great importance for improving the expertise and efficiency of judicial staff, said Jiang Ping, a senior official of Shanghai. —Xinhua

Weather report

BAY INference:
According to the observation at 14:30 hrs MST today, the low pressure area over North Bay of Bengal has moved to the Northwest Bay of Bengal still persists. Monsoon is generally strong in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 7TH September, 2014:
Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing Region, scattered in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Shan State, fairly widespread in Kachin, Chin and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Bago and Taninthayi Regions, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).
Franco draws crowds in Venice, his Faulkner film gets barbs

**LONDON, 6 Sept** — Actor and director James Franco’s latest foray into American gothic in an adaptation of William Faulkner’s “The Sound and the Fury” met with a mixed critical reception at the Venice Film Festival on Friday, but fans were delighted to see him.

Franco, whose movie was shown out of competition at the world’s oldest film festival, attracted big crowds for a presentation of a “Glory to the Filmmaker” award and a screening of his film at the Palace of Cinema on the Venice Lido.

Festival director Alberto Barbera, asked if the event was short on stars this year after having made a big splash when George Clooney and Sandra Bullock attended the world premiere of “Gravity” last year, cited the crowds who came out to see Franco, and Al Pacino last weekend, as evidence to the contrary.

“At Al Pacino was as popular as Clooney, and James Franco today,” Barbera said.

The screen adaptation of the novel by the Nobel literature prize-winning US author is the second by Franco, who in 2013 directed, wrote the screenplay and starred in an adaptation of “As I Lay Dying”.

Both novels, but particularly “As I Lay Dying”, much of which takes place inside a dying woman’s head, have been considered extremely challenging as film projects, though “The Sound and the Fury” was made into a 1959 film starring Joanne Woodward and Yul Brynner.

Franco said his “The Sound and the Fury”, in which he also casts himself as the idiot son Benjy, one of three brothers in the former slave-owning Compton family which is sinking into ruin, differed significantly from the earlier version.

“It’s a fine movie, I guess, but I would say the big difference is that when they adapted ‘Sound and the Fury’ it looks like their aim was to adapt simply the narrative, the story, and they did not make any attempt to take on the style or the structure of the book,” Franco told a news conference. “In my mind when I think of ‘The Sound and the Fury’ I don’t think, ‘Oh, yeah, it’s a story about a Southern family’s demise, like that is only half of it, and the other half is the way it’s written, how it’s told, not just what is told.

“So as a filmmaker who’s adapting that, I think I took it on as my responsibility to find film equivalents for the way that Faulkner was giving his effects in prose.” — Reuters

‘Gossip Girl’ rejection was end of the world: Lily Collins

**LOS ANGELES, 6 Sept** — “Mirror Mirror” star Lily Collins has spoken about trying out for the TV series ‘Gossip Girl’, saying she was initially devastated not to win a role.

The 25-year-old actress had auditioned for the American teen drama television series, reported Marie Claire magazine. “I tested for ‘Gossip Girl’. I wanted to be in it so badly. I thought at the time it was the end of the world,” Collins said.

Reflecting on the positives that came from it, she said, “Well I would have got pigeon-holed, have had to move to New York, leave high school and be signed away for six years.

“I wouldn’t have done the films I’ve done, and everything would have been so different.” — PTI

Guy Pearce to star in ‘Holding the Man’ film adaptation

**LOS ANGELES, 6 Sept** — Actors Guy Pearce, Anthony LaPaglia and Kerry Fox are to star in an Australian movie adaptation of ‘Holding the Man’.

The film, directed by Neil Armfield, is based on Tim Conigrave’s memoir, which was adapted for a stage play in 2006, reported Variety.

Ellie Goulding and Iggy Azalea collaborate on new song

**LOS ANGELES, 6 Sept** — Singer Ellie Goulding has recorded a new track with Australian rapper Iggy Azalea. Azalea, 24, is currently shooting the artwork for a repackaged version of her debut album The New Classic, which was originally released back in April, reported Ace Showbiz.

“Shooting the album re-pack cover art this week. Can’t wait for you guys to hear some new stuff. Six new tracks,” Azalea tweeted. She later added: “Me and Ellie Goulding have a nice little number together on there too. FYI,” The New Classic features Azalea’s US chart-topper ‘Fancy’, as well as her current Top 10 hit ‘Black Widow’ with Rita Ora. The album peaked at number five in the UK and three on the US Billboard 200 upon its release earlier this year. Meanwhile, Azalea will feature on the single version of Jennifer Lopez’s upcoming release ‘Booty’. — PTI

Paris Hilton settles court battle with footwear company

**LOS ANGELES, 6 Sept** — Socialite Paris Hilton has settled court battle with a Manhattan footwear company named Antebi Footwear.

The 33-year-old hotel heiress has dropped her USD 1 million lawsuit against Antebi, and the shoe company has dropped their USD 2 million counter-claim against her, reported Ace Showbiz. Paris previously accused Antebi, which launched her Paris Hilton Footwear line in 2007, of stifling her on royalties.

The footwear company then filed a counter-claim against the star of ‘The Simple Life’, saying she violated her contract by working with a rival company.

The case was originally expected to go to trial next year, but attorneys for both sides jointly filed papers in Manhattan Federal Court, stating the case should be “voluntarily dismissed in its entirety.”

Paris’ attorney, Michael Weinstein, said that the terms of the deal were kept secret, but “the action was amicably resolved.”

Paris Hilton

New Light of Myanmar Sunday, 7 September, 2014

Entertainment

Iggy Azalea, 6 Sept

Paris Hilton settles court battle with footwear company

Guy Pearce to star in ‘Holding the Man’ film adaptation

Ellie Goulding and Iggy Azalea collaborate on new song

Paris Hilton

PTI

PTI
Panda couple in Singapore celebrates second anniversary

SINGAPORE, 6 Sept - Giant pandas Kai Kai and Jia Jia celebrated their birthdays and second anniversary in Singapore on Friday, according to media reports.

Over 150 guests joined their birthday bash at River Safari and participated in a Panda Lantern Parade to light the way for the future of the endangered species.

Male panda Kai Kai turns seven on 14 September, while his female partner, Jia Jia turned six on 3 September. The pair of pandas arrived in Singapore on 6 September two years ago. The birthday duo was treated to birthday “cakes” specially designed by students of ITE College West in Singapore.

More than 500 conservation pledges were collected from birthday party guests and members of the public in August, which aims to protect pandas through various ways, from conserving fuel by taking public transport to refraining from using products that may endanger animals.

“In the past two years Kai Kai and Jia Jia have brought much joy to visitors at River Safari and as we celebrate their birthdays, we hope to leverage their popularity to initiate education programmes to highlight the threats that pandas face and encourage individuals to take actions to ensure a brighter future for this iconic animal,” said Claire Chiang, chairman of Wildlife Reserves Singapore.

A nursery rhyme book for pre-school children that tells the adventures of the two pandas in Singapore was launched during the birthday bash.

Written by five teachers, the book is in the Chinese language to help children learn their mother tongue in a fun and engaging manner.

The birthday bash also kick-starts festivities during Panda Party week from 6-14 September, during which visitors can expect a line-up of activities at the Giant Panda Forest.

Xinhua

BERNE, 6 Sept — FIFA ethics committee investigator Michael Garcia has completed his probe into the controversial bidding process for the 2018 and 2022 World Cups, awarded to Russia and Qatar respectively, and handed in a 350-page report.

The report, which has not been made public, will be submitted to the ethics committee’s adjudicatory chamber, headed by German judge Hans-Joachim Eckert, to decide on whether any wrongdoing was committed, football’s governing body said on Friday.

FIFA said they could not comment on when Eckert might reach his decision.

During the course of the year-long investigation, Garcia and his deputy Cornel Borbely interviewed “more than 75 witnesses and compiled a record that, in addition to audio recordings from interviews, includes more than 200,000 pages of relevant material,” FIFA said.

“The report sets forth detailed factual findings; reaches conclusions concerning further action with respect to certain individuals; identifies issues to be referred to other FIFA committees; and makes recommendations for future bidding processes,” FIFA said.

The hosting rights for the two tournaments were awarded simultaneously by FIFA’s executive committee in Zurich in 2010 after a turbulent campaign.

Spain / Portugal, Belgium / Netherlands and England had also been bidding for 2018 while United States, Australia, South Korea and Japan had bid for 2022.

The executive committee which took the decision was reduced to 22 members instead of the usual 24 after two of them were suspended by the ethics committee one month before the vote.

Nigerian Amos Adamu was banned for breaches of five articles of FIFA’s ethics code including one on bribery and Reinald Tebani of Tahiti for breaching articles on general conduct and loyalty.

The case followed allegations by The Sunday Times that the bid offered to sell their votes to under-cover reporters posing as lobbyists for an American consortium.

FIFA said that all bidding nations were interviewed during the investigation. Borbely took responsibility obtaining information from the US and Russia as Garcia is a national of the former and was barred from visiting the latter.

Shortly before this year’s World Cup in Brazil, the Sunday Times reported that some of the “millions of documents” it had seen linked payments by former FIFA executive committee member Mohamed Bin Hammam to officials to win backing for Qatar’s World Cup bid.

Bin Hammam has not commented on his involvement since he was banned for life from football in 2012 and Qatar has denied all allegations of corruption.

Qatar has also been criticised for its alleged treatment of migrant workers in the construction industry.

Reuters

Russia’s bidding team and FIFA president Sepp Blatter (R) pose for the picture after the announcement that Russia is going to be host nation for the FIFA World Cup 2018, in Zurich on 2 Dec, 2010. Reuters
Serena and friend Wozniacki reach US Open final

Perez plays down Ronaldo spat amid revenue surge