President U Thein Sein tours Thaphanseik Dam, Kanbalu Township

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Sept — President U Thein Sein visited Thaphanseik Dam in Kyunhla Township of Sagaing Region on Sunday and viewed inflow of water at the dam.

He asked about the education, health and economic status of the people residing around the dam.

After viewing round the generator, scale model of the power station and main control room, the president heard reports on storage of water at the dam and construction of Karboe and Kindat dams presented by Deputy Minister U Khin Zaw. Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe and Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye reported on generating capacity of the power station, and cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy and other crops.

The president gave instructions on maintenance of the dams for durability, dos and don’ts for preventing damages of dams, prevention of leak of water from the dam, repairing the inflow routes of water to the dam, releasing fingerlings into the dam, conservation of forests at watershed areas, arrangements for use of water poured out from the dam, and viewed inflow of water along the dam.

President U Thein Sein in Kyunhla Township of Sagaing Region to generate 117.2 million kilowatt hours yearly for supplying electricity to the people through power grid.
Telenor sells over 100,000 SIM cards to Mandalarians on Saturday

Mandalay, 28 Sept — Norway-based Telenor Company launched the communication network and sales of SIM cards at its upper Myanmar head office at the corner of 30th and 73rd streets in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on Saturday morning, attended by Union Minister for Communications and Information Technology U Myat Hein and Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint.

Telenor gives its services to 176 million people from 13 markets in Asia and Europe. Telenor Company opens nine shops and about 1,500 branches to sell SIM cards worth K1,500 each to the people.

On the first day of sales, Telenor Company could sell over 100,000 SIM cards to the people in Mandalay District.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Running of trains reduce carriages to save cost

Natogyi, 28 Sept — Number of carriages were reduced from the trains running along Myingyan-Mandalay-Bagan railroad as of August, according to an official of Natogyi Station of Myanmar Railways.

Two carriages were reduced from the seven-carriage train of Mandalay-Bagan train and one from the four-carriage train of Mandalay-Bagan railroad so as to save the cost of Myanmar Railways, he said.

The people from villages of Myingyan, Natogyi, Ngazun and TadaU townships use the rail transportation with lack of convenience. At present, an RBE is being plied on the Myingyan-Bagan section, so commodities cannot be loaded on the passenger RBE. Thus, the people rely on the local trains for transport of domestic products, said a local train passenger.

Htay Myint Maung
President U Thein Sein tours . . .

(from page 3)

spillway, plans to arrange generating hydropower in the summer and supply water to the farmlands, upgrading of canals to concrete ones, preparations for climate change and cultivation of green gram, summer sesame and maize in addition to monsoon paddy.

Thaphanek Dam, located near Thaphanek Village of Kyunhla Township, can store 2.88 million acre-feet of water at full brim. It was constructed with the aim of irrigating 500,000 acres of farmlands and generating 117.2 million kw yearly. The dam was commissioned into service on 17 April 2001.

Thaphanek Dam, the largest one of its kind across the nation, supplies water to 518,035 acres of farmlands, 518,035 acres of monsoon paddy and 294,654 acres of summer paddy and other crops totalling 812,689 acres and benefits over 800,000 people from 369 village-tracts in 10 townships of Sagaing Region.

The power station of the dam was constructed in 1998 and opened on 18 June 2012. The power station runs three 10-megawatt generators at full capacity to feed electricity to the power grid through Hngetpyawdaw sub-power station with the use of 132 KV power line, supplying electricity to villages around the dam.

The president and party paid homage to Maha Shwesidawgyi Pagoda in Kanbula Township and made donations. He met local people and gave instructions on development of the township, rule of law and stability and improvement of livelihoods of the people. The president donated K25 million to the fund for construction of the Sangha Hospital and Shwe Nagam Company K5 million for one fire truck and one incinerator.

Union ministers view round development of sports facilities in Japan

NAVP TAW, 28 Sept — Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun and Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan paid a visit to Japan at the invitation of the Japan Sport Council.

On 14 September, they held talks with Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, and Science and Technology Mr Toshiaki Endo and party at Okura Hotel about technical assistance of Japan for improvement of Myanmar sports sector.

The Union ministers and party viewed training of athletes applying sports techniques at the Japan Institute of Sports Science and the National Training Center.

On 25 September, they met with officials of Raysum Co Ltd and Mitsubishi Corporation for development of Myanmar sports standards.

The Union ministers met Chief Cabinet Secretary Mr Yoshihide Suga at the residence of the Japanese Prime Minister and cordially discussed administration matters and assistance of Japan for sports sector.

Union Ministers U Hla Tun and U Tint Hsan meet Chief Cabinet Secretary Mr Yoshihide Suga of Japan.—MNA

President U Thein Sein accepts certificate of honour for his donation to fund of Maha Shwesidawgyi Pagoda in Kanbula Township presented by an official.—MNA

Senior General visits historic Gyeongbolgung Palace of ROK

President U Thein Sein accepts certificate of honour for his donation to fund of Maha Shwesidawgyi Pagoda in Kanbula Township presented by an official.—MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents gifts to families of Myanmar Embassy in Republic of Korea.—MYAWADY

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents gifts to families of Myanmar Embassy in Republic of Korea.—MYAWADY

NAY P Y TAW, 28 Sept — A Myanmar delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla was seen off by Director of General Affairs Department Major General Junichi Araki of Japan Self-Defence Forces of Japan and wife, Myanmar Ambassador U Khin Maung Tin and wife, Military Attaché Col Hnin Kyaw Thu and wife at Nari ta International Airport in Tokyo of Japan on Sunday.

The senior general paid a visit to South Korea at the invitation of Admiral Choi Yoon-hee, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff of Republic of Korea.

On arrival at Incheon International Airport of the Republic of Korea, they were welcomed by Major General Kim Yong-woo of the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Office and wife of the Republic of Korea, Myanmar Ambassador U Soe Lwin and wife, Myanmar Military Attaché Brig-Gen Myint Hein and wife.

During the tour, the delegation visited the historic Gyeongbolgung Palace which was established in 1935 in Seoul.

After that, the commander-in-chief met with families of Myanmar embassy, providing gifts and foods to them where Ambassador U Soe Lwin hosted a dinner to the senior general and party.

Myawady
Building for monks handed over to State Pariyatti Sasana University (Mandalay)

MANDALAY, 28 Sept — A ceremony to inaugurate the hostel No 23 for monks donated by Tooth Relic Temple Abbot Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadha-ja Most Ven Shi Chang Zang of China was held at the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Mandalay) on Saturday, attended by the Chinese most venerable abbot, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Dr Maung Maung Htay and Mandalay Region Minister for Forestry and Mining U Than Soe Myint.

The region minister and the secretary of the Chinese Religious Bureau cut the ribbon to open the building. The most venerable abbot unveiled the bronze plaque and visited the building.

The ceremony to hand over to the convocation hall of the university followed. Pro-Rector U Nanalankara gave words of advice. The ceremony to hand over to the convocation hall of the university followed. Pro-Rector U Nanalankara gave words of advice. The region minister and the secretary of the Chinese Religious Bureau cut the ribbon to open the building. The most venerable abbot unveiled the bronze plaque and visited the building.

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Earthen road being upgraded to asphalt one for smooth transport of people

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Sept — The earthen road is being upgraded to the asphalt one to link Aungchantha Ward and Letpankahala Village in Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, with spending the fund of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, said Deputy Director U Myat Han Win of Engineering Department (Road and Bridge) of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee.

The road will be 12 feet wide and 2200 feet long flanked by the three feet wide pedestrian on either side. Upon completion, the facility will link Yangon-Mandalay Highway and Pyinmana-Taunggyo Road with contribution to smooth transport of the local people.—U Oo Nge (Nay Pyi Taw)

Company staff donate blood at MGH

MANDALAY, 28 Sept — Ayeyawady Bank organized the fourth blood donation at the National Blood Bank of Mandalay General Hospital in Mandalay on Saturday.

On behalf of the Chairman of Ayeyawady Bank Ltd, Deputy Executive Director U Ko Ko Oo made a speech and Medical Superintendent Dr Maung Win of the hospital spoke words of thanks.

Over 150 staff of the company donated blood at the ceremony.

The medical superintendent and officials presented certificates of honour, vitamins and nutritious foods, blood donor brooches and gifts to the blood donors.

Police clean township hospital

MEDICAL Superintendant Dr Aung Naing Won and nurses participated in the sanitation tasks together with the police.

Yadanabon FC to celebrate its victory in MNL

MANDALAY, 28 Sept —Yadanabon FC representing Mandalay Region has clinched the champion title in 2014 when the Myanmar Football Federation organized the Myanmar National League.

President of FIFA Sepp Blatter sent a message of honour to the football club through President of MFF U Zaw Zaw for its excellent performance in securing the champion awards in 2009, 2010 and 2014. This year, the club could emerge champion with the wonderful performance of the Myanmar national coach.

In commemoration of the victory of the football club, the football tournament, greasing pole contest, Sepak Takraw event and pillow beating contest will be held at the Aungmyay Mandalar Stadium on 22nd Street in Aungmyethazan Township on 28 and 29 September. Loi Hein Company and its partner companies will hold the special sales of goods. Moreover, famous vocalists will perform entertainments to the audiences to the accompaniment of the Tree Band.

Yadanabon FC will arrive at Mandalay International Airport by Air Kanbawza flight on 29 September morning. The club will go to Aungmyay Mandalar Highway, 78th Street, 35th street, 84th, 26th, 80th and 22nd streets.
Thailand calls for “strong global partnership” for its development goals

UNITED NATIONS, 28 Sept — Deputy Prime Minister Tanasak Patimapragorn of Thailand told the United on Nations General Assembly on Saturday that the southeast Asian country needs strong global partnership to achieve its development goals.

“Development must transform people’s lives and open the door to a better future for all. Development must empower the individual, communities and societies,” Patimapragorn told delegates gathered at the Assembly’s General Debate, taking place at UN Headquarters in New York.

“More than ever, we need strong global partnership, whether to realize the post-2015 development agenda or to meet common challenges.”

Pointing to the multidimensional ills facing the world, from the Ebola crisis to the crises in the Middle East, he reminded the Assembly that human security was about “human dignity, human rights, equity, equality, social justice, and the promise of a better future for all” and should thus be “at the heart of sustainable development measures enacted by the international community.”

“If we all do our part, then we can make the world better and safer,” stated Patimapragorn.

Turning to the domestic political situation in Thailand, Patimapragorn regretted “the chain of unfortunate events” that ultimately led to the political crisis of May 2014 but reassured the Assembly of his country’s commitment to democratic ideals.

“Thailand is now going through a period of transition,” he admitted. “We remain fully committed to democracy and human rights. And we know that we cannot go against the tide of democracy.”

The Thai official also reminded delegates of his country’s enduring obligation to the global community through its participation in a number of peacekeeping missions spanning from Timor-Leste to the coast of Somalia.

“Whether it is democracy, development or peace,” Patimapragorn continued, “we all must assume our responsibilities because we are, after all, a family of United Nations.”

Blast near Afghan presidential palace injures one

KABUL, 28 Sept — At least one person was wounded when a sticky bomb attached to an army vehicle went off near the country’s presidential palace in central Kabul on Sunday morning, sources said.

“A sticky bomb attached to an army jeep was detonated when the vehicle was running in Zambaq Square near the western gate of presidential palace at around 8:30 am local time, injuring one army personnel,” a security source told Xinhua.

The blast took place one day before swearing-in ceremony of the Afghan President-elect Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai, who will replace the outgoing Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

No group has claimed responsibility. The authorities blame Taleban militants for such attacks.

A surge in attacks has been witnessed in the country since mid-May when the Taleban launched a yearly rebel offensive against Afghan security forces and the NATO-led troops stationed in the country.

Afghan security forces took the full operational lead from foreign troops in mid-last year.

The war-torn country is due to take over the responsibility for its own security from NATO-led troops by the end of year.

More than 41,000 NATO-led coalition troops, down from the peak of 130,000 in 2010, are stationed in Afghanistan. Nearly 29,000 of them are Americans and the United States plans to trim its forces to less than 10,000 next year. —Xinhua

Indian president imposes direct rule on western state

NEW DELHI, 28 Sept — Indian President Pranab Mukherjee on Sunday imposed his direct rule on the western state of Maharashtra, two days after Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan resigned from his post, sources said.

The president’s rule means that Governor CV Rao will now be the administrative head of the state. “The president’s rule was imposed on the state, after the Cabinet of Ministers recommended the same to him,” the sources said.

The Chief Minister had resigned on Friday, a day after an alliance partner, the regional Nationalist Congress Party, withdrew support from the state government over seat sharing, making it a minority one, just more a fortnight before the state is going to polls. The assembly polls in the state, ruled by Congress for the last 10 years, is scheduled on 15 October and experts say that the party suffered a huge blow before the elections.—Xinhua

Vietnam says US anti-dumping tax on shrimp unfair

HANOI, 28 Sept — Vietnam on Saturday said the United States’ imposition of anti-dumping taxes on imported shrimps from Vietnam is unfair.

“The imposition goes against the spirit of free trade and free development of economic zones, and is inconsistent with the comprehensive partnership between the two countries,” Le Hai Binh, Vietnamese spokesperson of foreign ministry said on Saturday.

“We affirm that Vietnam shrimp exporters will see an average anti-dumping tax of 6.37 percent, while the rest two companies will be imposed with highest tax rates of 4.98 percent and 9.75 percent.”

“Commercial activities between the two countries should be considered objectively, fairly in order to protect legitimate interests of Vietnamese shrimp growers, processors, exporters and consumers as well as the interests of American consumers, importers and distributors,” Binh said.

According to Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers, in the first eight months of 2014, the country’s shrimp export revenue reached 2.56 billion US dollars, up 48.3 percent year-on-year.

As of mid-August, the United States remained largest market for Vietnamese shrimp with some 694.5 million US dollars worth of shrimp products imported from Vietnam, up 80.3 percent year-on-year. —Xinhua

Xinhua

Changchun destroyer of the 17th Chinese escort naval fleet arrives at Karachi port in southern Pakistani port city of Karachi on 27 Sept, 2014. The 17th Chinese escort naval fleet sent by the Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Navy arrived in Karachi on Saturday for a five-day visit.—Xinhua

Deputy Prime Minister Tanasak Patimapragom of Thailand
Germany urges further actions on multiple crises

UNITED NATIONS, 28 Sept — Multiple crises from deadly Ebola virus to growing terrorist attacks are threatening to unravel the world, Germany foreign minister warned on Saturday, urging further global actions to address them and maintain world peace.

“The United Nation provides a foundation and universal hope for peace. But this universality is under threat from the ghosts of the past and from new demons,” Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said the annual General Debate of the UN General Assembly here in New York, the largest diplomatic gathering in the world. “In 2014, our world seems to be unraveling,” said the minister, calling for more actions to take on the challenges.

All countries have the responsibility to help the people bearing the brunt of the suffering in the crises, he said, adding that Germany will host a conference in Berlin to mobilize urgently needed humanitarian assistance for Syrian refugees.

Meanwhile, as the deadly scourge of Ebola endangers “the cohesion of entire societies” in West Africa, a long-term commitment to strengthen the healthcare system of the affected countries is needed to prevent the epidemic from wrecking havoc.

“We cannot bring the dead back to life, but we may be able to prevent far more people dying of Ebola who ought not be dying — if they were treated,” he said. On the Islamic State (IS) terror, which features prominently during the general debate, Steinmeier noted that beyond providing immediate humanitarian aid, a broad political alliance against the IS is needed.

“Germany is making substantial contribution to both, including militarily. But all this must be embedded in a political alliance against the IS terror,” he said, voicing hopes that the European Union and Russia could join the alliance.

Steinmeier also pledged his country’s role in making the hope for peace and legal order a reality. — Xinhua

Dacic, Lavrov want better Russia-Serbia relations

New York, 28 Sept — Serbia’s Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic and Russia’s Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov have called for further improvement of the already good relations between the two countries, the Serbian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has stated.

During the last day of the Serbian delegation’s stay in New York for the 69th session of the UN General Assembly, Dacic met with Lavrov, who confirmed Russian President Vladimir Putin’s visit to Serbia set for October.

Cameron loses second MP to anti-EU party

London, 28 Sept — A lawmaker from Britain’s ruling Conservative party defected to the anti-EU United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) on Saturday, dealing a blow to Prime Minister David Cameron on the eve of his party’s annual conference.

In more bad news for Cameron, an opinion poll showed voters view him slightly less favourably than UKIP leader Nigel Farage, and a junior minister resigned over a story in a Sunday newspaper that he had sent sexually explicit pictures of himself to an undercover reporter.

The defection of Mark Reckless, the member of parliament for Rochester and Strood in southern England, is the second in just over four weeks, and comes eight months before a national election in which UKIP could threaten Cameron’s re-election chances.

Reckless told UKIP’s annual conference that as a Conservative politician he felt he had not been able to keep his promises to voters, one of which was to get the country out of the European Union.

“People feel ignored, taken for granted, overtaxed, over-regulated, ripped off and lied to,” Reckless said. “I do feel that the leadership of the Conservative party is part of the problem that is holding our country back.” UKIP wants an immediate British withdrawal from the EU and an end to what it calls an “open door” immigration policy.

It has no seats in the British parliament but won May’s European elections in Britain after taking votes from the Conservatives.

Candidate for top EU post stumbles into trade minefield

Brussels, 28 Sept — The European Union’s trade commissioner-designate stumbled into a political minefield on Saturday by suggesting she wanted to exclude a controversial investor-state dispute settlement from a planned EU-US trade agreement.

A European Commission source said Saturday that the Eurozone was the result of an error in a leaked draft version of testimony by Sweden’s Cecilia Malmstrom that would be corrected in the final version.

A German member of the European Parliament for the Greens posted on his website the written responses of Malmstrom, put forward to be trade commissioner in Jean-Claude Juncker’s new European Commission, to questions posed by legislators before Malmstrom’s confirmation hearing on Monday.

In her prepared answers, Malmstrom addressed concerns over a dispute settlement provision that could form part of an ambitious EU-US free trade agreement that is under negotiation.

Consumer and environmental groups and some EU lawmakers have been particularly critical of investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS), a provision allowing foreign companies to bring claims against a country if it breaches a trade treaty.

They say including it in the EU-US trade deal, known as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), would limit a country’s right to pass laws to protect its citizens or the environment.

In the document post-ed on EU lawmaker Sven Giegold’s website, Malmstrom quotes Juncker as saying that no limitation of the jurisdiction of courts in EU member states would be accepted in the new transatlantic trade agreement.

“This clearly means that no investor-state dispute settlement mechanism will be part of that agreement,” the document quoted Juncker as saying.

“I fully support this aspect of the President-elect (Juncker) and will work in this sense in the negotiations,” Malmstrom said.

Malmstrom’s comment was pounced on by political opponents of the investor protection mechanism.

The Socialist group in the European Parliament issued a statement hailing the significant shift in EU trade policy indicated by Commission-designate Malmstrom.

“This is extremely welcome news and a major victory for the Socialists and Democrats Group which has led Europe-wide calls for this mechanism to be scrapped,” the Socialists’ trade spokesman David Martin said in the statement.

But a European Commission source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it was all a mistake and the quotation attributed to Juncker would not appear in the final version of Malmstrom’s written testimony.

The source blamed the mistake on an unidentified official who had inserted words that Juncker had not actually uttered.

Local member of Parliament Mark Reckless (L) walks with Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg (2nd L), Governor Jonathan French and Justice Minister Chris Grayling (R) at the Cookham Wood Young Offenders Institution in Rochester, southern England on 16 Jan, 2014. — Reuters

European Home Affairs Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom addresses a news conference on the European Cybercrime Centre (ECC) at the EU Commission headquarters in Brussels on 10 Feb, 2014. Reuters
British fighter jets fly over Iraq, no air strikes yet

RAF AKROTIRI, (Cyprus), 28 Sept — Two British fighter jets flew over Iraq on Saturday on their first mission since the UK parliament authorized bombing missions against Islamic State militants, but they did not carry out any air strikes, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) said.

The Tornado jets left the British Royal Air Force’s Akrotiri base in Cyprus at 8:25 am BST and returned more than seven hours later, a Reuters witness said.

“Although on this occasion no targets were identified as requiring immediate air attack by our aircraft, the intelligence gathered by the Tornado’s highly sophisticated surveillance equipment will be invaluable,” the MOD said.

The jets had been ready to be used in an attack role, had appropriate targets been identified.

The United States has been conducting air strikes over Iraq since 8 August and over Syria since Tuesday as part of a campaign to “degrade and destroy” the Islamic State insurgents who have captured swathes of both countries, beheaded Western hostages and ordered Shi’ites and non-Muslims to convert or die. With Friday’s parliamentary vote, Britain joined a US-led coalition supported by some Gulf and European nations against the militant group.

France has also conducted air strikes in Iraq, while Washington said Saudi Arabia, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates joined strikes over Syria on Saturday. The MOD said Saturday’s mission would help Britain and its partners identify future potential targets in Iraq. They were supported by an RAF Voyager refuelling tanker.

Six Tornado jets, normally based at RAF Marham in England, have been based on Cyprus since August. They have been engaged in intelligence-gathering and reconnaissance over Iraq for the past six weeks. Britain retains two military bases on Cyprus, which it ruled as a colony until independence in 1960.—Reuters

Iraqi warplane mistakenly pounded militiamen, as dozens killed and wounded in bomb attacks

BAGHDAD, 29 Sept — An Iraqi air force mistakenly pounded a military position on Saturday, while dozens of civilians and soldiers killed in clashes and bomb attacks in Iraq, security sources said.

In Salahaddin Province, an Iraqi warplane pound ed a military position by mistake near the town of Ouja, just 10 km south of the provincial capital city of Tikrit, leaving eight Shi’ite militiamen killed and 13 others wounded, a provincial security source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The militiamen are part of dozens of thousands of Shi’ite volunteers who take their arms to fight alongside the Iraqi security forces against the Islamic State (IS) militant group, an al-Qaeda offshoot.

Also in the province, the IS militants late on Friday carried out an attack on the town of Dujail, just 60 km north of Baghdad, killing and wounding up to 30 people in two directions, but was repelled by the security forces backed by Shi’ite militias in the early hours of Saturday, the source said without giving further details about casualties.

Eight people were killed and five others wounded when a car bomb parked on a roadside in the area of Mahmoudiyah, some 30 km south of Baghdad exploded on Saturday evening, a police source said.

Two soldiers killed and five others wounded when IS gunmen attacked a security checkpoint in the Tarmiyah area, 30 km north of Baghdad, he said.

The security situation began to drastically deteriorate in Iraq since June 10 when bloody clashes broke out between Iraq security forces and hundreds of IS militants, who took control of the country’s northern city of Mosul and later seized swathes of territories after the Iraqi security forces abandoned their posts in Nineveh and other predominantly Sunni provinces.—Xinhua

Al-Qaeda claims rocket attack near US embassy in Yemen

SANAA, 28 Sept — The al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) claimed responsibility for a rocket attack near the US embassy in Sanaa on Saturday evening, in which five Yemeni soldiers were wounded.

A security official told Xinhua that a rocket hit a vehicle west of the US embassy, wounding five security guards. More soldiers have been deployed to protect the mission, he added.

The attack was in revenge for US drone strikes in the northern province of al-Jawf that killed AQAP followers, including three children, the group said in a statement posted on its website.

Tribal sources in al-Jawf Province told Xinhua by phone that at least two al-Qaeda militants were killed in a US drone strike on Friday night, while three children were wounded in the explosion.

One day ago, another US drone strike killed four suspected al-Qaeda militants in the southern province of Shabwa, according to security and tribal sources.

The US embassy said in a message to media that “they have no reason to let them think that the attack was exactly targeting their embassy.” “The Yemeni government is now investigating the incident,” it said.

Security in Sanaa deteriorated due to clashes between the government and Shi’ite Houthi group last week that has left more than 400 people killed.

The Houthis overran the city after they signed a cease-fire deal with the government on 21 September. The US administration on Thursday ordered a reduced diplomatic presence in Yemen and warned its citizens against traveling to the Arab country, citing “changing” and “unpredictable” security situation there.—Xinhua
Learn thoroughly before buying shares in a company

By Myint Win Thein

As Myanmar is still trying to establish a stock exchange, there are only a few equity research firms in the country. In other countries, equity research firms help people who want to buy shares from a company by providing information about that particular company and assessing its future prospects. Myanmar people do not even know that they can learn about companies from equity research firms.

Media and Election Reporting

A Retired Professor

Media plays a critical role in the electoral process. For voters’ education, the media can inform the public about whom to vote, how to vote and why to vote. In terms of political parties and candidates, they use the media as a platform for interaction with the public. As of the election management bodies, media is vehicle for communicating its messages to the electorate. On the other hand, media needs a crucial watch to democratic elections, safeguarding the transparency of the process. Therefore, media has a central role in conducting free and fair election. In order to fulfill their roles, the media need to maintain accuracy, impartiality and enough knowledge of electioneering.

For the people, an election is a crucial decision about the future. The media needs to report fairly on the campaigns of the political parties so that people can differentiate between parties and choose the representative who will stand for the voters’ need. The voters must have the opportunities to get non-partisan information. Besides, information about the election rules and processes are necessary to assist people in participation. The people must know about their choices of whom to vote for, how to follow the secret voting system, why voting is important and how to follow the electoral rules. Media can fulfill all these needs.

Concerning with the parties, the strategy of a party or a candidate is to win in election. They must attract votes of the people by using political promises, especially social media. Therefore, the duty of media requires that news, interviews and information programs must not be biased in favour of or against any party or candidate, and should give equal opportunity to all the parties. To date, there are 67 parties already registered in Myanmar with rich funding as well as with limited funding and some more parties are under the process to register. On the other hand, there came out many private media groups. Therefore the private media owners should manage to give equal treatment to all the parties of big or small without any bias.

With regard to the electoral management bodies, they require the news media to cooperate with the voters’ education and disseminating the information about the political process concerning how voters can check the voters’ list, when to vote, where the polling stations exist and the rules and regulations of voting behavior so that they can exercise the vote without any interference. In the previous elections in Myanmar, there came out many invalid votes because of the poor knowledge about voting process and the electoral rules, especially in remote areas. Therefore Union Election Commission (UEC) has drafted a strategic plan with twelve pillars for the development of electoral process. Among them voters list updating and voter’s education are included. Since the media coverage plays important roles in these areas, UEC is seeking to cooperate with the media for these pillars.

Additionally, the media plays an important role in watching the electoral process to be free and fair. The media needs to watch against corruption and illegal activities in the election, and monitor the practises of the political parties and candidates as well as the commission’s activities. The media is one of the most powerful influences on how an election runs well. If the election runs well, the country can continue towards peace, if it runs badly, it can turn the country towards conflict. Therefore, media has a central role in conducting free and fair elections. In order to fulfill their roles, the journalists and media need to maintain accuracy, impartiality and standard professionalism as well as reliability and be trusted by the people.

So as to get skill in election reporting, regulatory frameworks can help to achieve it. Around the world, media has developed principles and standards to be trusted by the people. It was learnt that there were more than 150 professional journalists’ associations and media organizations in countries around the world with codes of conduct or standards for good journalism. Most of these conduct are similarly based on duty of balance, impartiality, reliability and be trusted. It is universally accepted that the right to one’s republication and privacy, to maintain public order and national security are to be kept by the professional journalists. To get the genuine information is the important task of the journalists as well.

Especially in election reporting, the journalists should have to confirm their skill. Everything that is reported must be described accurately. The political party and the candidates’ words must be reported carefully and accurately revealing their meaning and to explain context without exaggerating partial meanings. The report should not misuse their power by twisting the news and using it as a personal weapon to deliberately harm anyone. If they report false news during elections in the situation of fierce competition among the political parties, it even can provoke the riots. It is a risk in election period and the media should keep the ethics. Previous incidents in Mandalay and in other places as well in Myanmar are the good examples. Thus, media plays crucial role in providing opportunities as well as the challenges and risks especially in election.

Another point is that the journalists should take responsibility on their reports. According to the international standard of media, the media needs freedom of reporting as well as responsibility on their reports. But in Myanmar taking responsibility of the journalists are very weak. Sometimes it was found out that the journalists inform partial meaning in wrong context and some of the news even twisted so as to attract the public. Sometimes they have informed the facts that are not inline with the existing electoral laws and its nature, misleading the public towards wrong direction.

Another possible risk in the election period is disseminating the wrong data of the result before declaring the final result from the respective authority concerned. Such kind of mistakes are used to be happened even in the advanced democratic countries. Such false information can provoke unpleasant consequences. Therefore, the journalists need to make sure that the data is reliable.

In watching the electoral activities, the journalists should know about the electoral laws, rules and regulations, so that they can decide what is wrong and what is right and report the information accurately. A good journalist should be impartial in reporting. For impartiality, a journalist should seek to produce a report that is balanced. To be balanced, the report should not be one-sided. If the accusation or complaint of one individual, party or institution was informed in the report, they should seek a balanced story of the other and it must be fair. It should give opportunity to respond and should inform the feedback explanation accurately in a fair manner. In an election process, there must be free media, but it must be reliable and be trusted.

To avoid these weaknesses, regulatory framework can help strengthen the skillfulness of the journalists. As far as I concern, there existed the Code of Conduct on News and Media issued by the Interim Myanmar Press Council and the Code of Ethics for Public Service Media, Code of Conduct and Code of Practice of a Newsroom issued by the Public Service Media Governing Body. In my mind, both of these conducts are good enough for the news media, but special emphasis on election reporting has not been found. As election reporting is crucial for the progress of democratic system it will need to consider drafting the code of conduct on election reporting separately.

However, before the new code of conduct is not written true, it is needed to make sure that all the journalists can have access to the above mentioned codes of conduct and keep all these ethics. To meet this end, the trainings and workshops on election reporting should be held comprehensively with the assistance of international election assistant organizations.

With regard to capitivating the journalists on electoral laws and procedures, UEC can cooperate for it. UEC has plans to give the training on electoral laws to respective sub-committees and UEC is seeking opportunity to invite CSOs and media to partici- pate.

In sum, the cooperation of UEC, the media, political parties and civil societies might be the best solution for the media development. Hopefully, in coming election in 2015, the skillful journalists can be able to help safeguard the election to be free and fair forwarding to the prosperous future.
**NATIONAL**

**Union FM chairs Informal ASEAN FM’s Meeting, ASEAN-UN Ministerial Meeting and Informal ASEAN-U.S. Foreign Ministers’ Meeting and related meetings in New York**

New York, 28 Sept — At the sideline of the 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin chaired and co-chaired the Informal ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (IAMM), ASEAN-UN Ministerial Meeting (AUMM) and Informal ASEAN-U.S. Ministerial Meeting and related regional groups meetings held in New York from 25-27 September 2014.

Informal ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (IAMM) was held at Conference Room No. 9 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 26th September at 0930 hrs. The Meeting was chaired by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, U Wunna Maung Lwin and attended by ASEAN Foreign Ministers and ASEAN Secretary-General of ASEAN, Mr. Le Luong Minh. The meeting exchanged views on resolution on ASEAN-U.S. Cooperation to be tabled at the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly, candidate of the UNGA developments in ASEAN, review of ASEAN-U.N. Cooperation and Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the UN, and future direction of ASEAN-UN cooperation. ASEAN Foreign Ministers also unanimously adopted the “Statement on the Rise of Terrorism/Extremism”.

In the afternoon, Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin chaired the ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting with the President of the 69th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and United Nations Secretary-General (AUMM). The Meeting was attended by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers and Mr. Sam Kambamba Kutesa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uganda and President of the 69th United Nations General Assembly and Mr. Ban Ki-moon Secretary-General of the United Nations which was held at Conference Room 9 of the United Nations Headquarters.

The meeting discussed the progress of the implementation of ASEAN-U.S Cooperation, future direction and exchanged of views on Regional and International issues including meeting the UN MDG goals, formulating 2015 Development Agenda, combating against extremism and the spread of Ebola disease. Later in the evening, as current country coordinator for ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations, the Union Minister co-chaired the Informal ASEAN-U.S. Ministerial Meeting with Mr. John Kerry, Secretary of State of the United States of America and President of the Astoria Hotel in New York. At the meeting, the Union Minister expressed the appreciation on the United States’ commitment to a strong, secure and prosperous Southeast Asia and President Obama’s engagement with ASEAN.

The meeting discussed issues on ASEAN-U.S economic engagements, Maritime Security and draft ASEAN-US Joint Statement on Climate Change as well as arrangements for 20th ASEAN-U.S. Summit and 9th East Asia Summit to be held in Nay Pyi Taw in November 2014. While in New York, the Union Minister co-chaired with the Foreign Minister of Mexico, Jose Antonio Meade, the inaugural meeting between ASEAN and Pacific Alliance on 26 September 2014. The Meeting explored areas of cooperation and possible mechanisms to be established for future cooperation. Myanmar delegation led by U Wunna Maung Lwin also attended other regional grouping meetings, such as ASEAN and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and ASEAN and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) on 25 and 27 September 2014.—NNA

**ASEAN WVO general meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw**

Nay Pyi Taw, 28 Sept — The General Meeting of War Veterans Organization of the ASEAN countries continued at the Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Sunday.

In the morning, the three committees formed on Saturday held discussions separately and the three committees submitted their decisions to the general meeting in the afternoon. The general meeting discussed the decisions and reports of the committees.

The general meeting was attended by Chairman of Myanmar War Veterans Organization Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hsan Oo and senior officers from the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, representatives of MWVO, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thaw also discussed the expanding role of women in the new government. Departmental officials, Myanmar entrepreneurs, women business founders also attended the meeting.—MNA

**ASEAN Foreign . . .**

(from page 1)

ASEAN renews its commitment to work with the international community to fight against extremism, radicalism and terrorism and addressed its root causes including through the promotion of Global Movement for Moderates (GMM), to prevent further violence and brutality in accordance with International law and the UN Charter. ASEAN deems it imperative for international community to work together in unity in the fight against terrorism, extremism and radical groups, wherever they occur.

**Rescue helicopter from . . .**

(from page 1)

continue to climb upwards to the mountain top to search for the two missing mountaineers of Thabawa Kwarlawn Foundation. By far, CMFA and BSR have organized approximately 100 persons composed by professional mountaineers and supporting staff and the rescue equipment to assist the rescue mission in coordination with the Myanmar rescue organizers.”

It also said: “China-Myanmar Friendship Association (CMFA) and BSR will work together closely with the Myanmar rescue organizer by sharing our data and instruments in an effort to reestablish contact with the lost crew.”—NLM

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**Myanmar Insurance would continue to exit at least 20 years: Deputy Finance Minister says**

By Khating Thanda Lwin

Yangon, 28 Sept — The Myanmar Insurance would continue to exit at least 20 years even though private insurance companies emerged one after another, Dr Maung Maung Thein, Deputy Finance Minister, said on Saturday.

He clarified the current undertakings processes of the ministry including preparation for stock market in 2015, formation of Security and Exchange Commission of Myanmar (SECOM), and progress of medical insurance scheme.

Under the medical insurance scheme, the Myanmar Insurance will provide K10,000 per day to an insured for his or her medical expenses when receiving treatment at the hospital. Those can enjoy medical expenses for emergency operations such as surgical removal of the vermi form appendix, Dr Maung Maung Thein said.

He added that the Myanmar Insurance will provide its medical insurance services next fiscal year, saying that the ministry is always watching the insurance market and economic growth of the country to increase numbers of insurance companies.

The deputy minister said that the Finance Ministry is also planning to show green light to three best stock trading companies at the most. She also considers giving green light to securities companies for stock market. Up to now, there is no listed securities company but many companies are interested in the securities market.

**Union FM chairs Informal ASEAN FM’s Meeting, ASEAN-UN Ministerial Meeting and Informal ASEAN-U.S. Foreign Ministers’ Meeting and related meetings in New York**

New York, 28 Sept — A meeting on women in Myanmar’s economy took place on Thursday at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, here, discussing the women’s capacity and opportunities, as well as importance of their role in society. Departmental officials, Myanmar entrepreneurs, women business founders also attended the meeting.—MNA
European steel sector set for massive job cuts

FRANKFURT, 28 Sept — European steel companies will have to cut a substantial number of jobs to bolster their earnings, reflecting a slump in demand and Asian competition, Wolfgang Eder, vice president of the World Steel Association, was quoted saying by a German newspaper.

“Massive job cuts are unavoidable,” weekly Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung quoted Eder as saying, in an excerpt of an article to be published on Sunday, adding headcount reductions were “painful but long overdue”.

Steel demand is expected to return to growth in Europe this year, though European steel industry body Eurofer, whose members include the likes of AcelorMittal, ThyssenKrupp and Voestalpine, has said cheaper steel imports from outside the European Union had put pressure on margins.

Eder, also chief executive of Austria’s Voestalpine, warned that European steel companies were falling behind their peers in China, India and Korea in terms of technology and innovation, because they could not afford to invest.

Executives of major steel companies are due to meet at the World Steel Association’s annual conference in Moscow on 5 to 8 October.

Japan’s SoftBank in talks to buy DreamWorks

TOKYO / NEW YORK, 28 Sept — Japan’s SoftBank Corp (9984.T) is in talks to acquire DreamWorks Animation SKG (DWA.O), a person with knowledge of the situation said.

An acquisition of DreamWorks by SoftBank would make the Hollywood studio that created “Shrek” a part of a Japanese communications and media company that, under founder and chief executive Masayoshi Son, has shown a willingness to take big bets on combining seemingly unrelated businesses.

Japan’s SoftBank Corp is in talks to acquire DreamWorks Animation SKG, a person with knowledge of the situation said.

The acquisition talks were first reported by the Hollywood Reporter, which quoted an unidentified source with knowledge of the deal as saying an acquisition would value DreamWorks at $3.4 billion. The entertainment trade publication said SoftBank had offered $32 per share for DreamWorks.

The stock closed at $22.36 on Friday. Last week, SoftBank booked a $4.6 billion gain in its share listing of Alibaba Group in New York (BABA.N). SoftBank retains a 32 percent stake in Alibaba’s biggest shareholder.

SoftBank has significant stakes in other large listed entities, including US mobile carrier Sprint (S), internet portal Yahoo Japan (4689.T) and online games maker GungHo Online Entertainment (3767.T).

A SoftBank spokesman said the company had no comment on the reported talks with DreamWorks. A representative of DreamWorks could not be immediately reached for comment.

DreamWorks, based in Glendale, California, has seen its share price drop 37 percent for the year after two consecutive quarterly losses, a string of weak-performing releases such as Turbo, the follow-on to DreamWorks Animation was spun off from DreamWorks Studios in 2004 as a separate listed company.

The earlier Dreamworks studio had been founded in 1994 by Steven Spielberg, David Geffen and Jeffrey Katzenberg, who moved with the spinoff and remains chief executive of the animation company.

Pfizer drug effective in patients with rare lung cancer

NEW YORK, 28 Sept — Pfizer Inc’s Xalkori, which treats lung cancer patients with a specific gene mutation, proved effective in shrinking tumours in those with an even rarer form of the disease, according to data presented at a medical meeting on Saturday.

In the study of 50 non-small cell lung cancer patients with a rearrangement of the ROS1 gene, Xalkori treatment led to significant tumor shrinkage in 36 of them, or 72 percent, and halted tumour growth in an additional 9 patients, researchers reported.

Xalkori, known chemically as crizotinib, was approved to treat patients with a mutation of the ALK gene, along with a companion diagnostic test to identify those with the mutation, which accounts for about 4 percent of non-small cell lung cancers (NSCLC). About 1 to 2 percent of NSCLC patients are believed to be ROS1 positive — the result of a fusion of two genes that are usually separate.

“This is the first definitive study to establish crizotinib’s activity in a large group of patients with ROS1-positive lung cancer and confirms that ROS1 is a bona fide therapeutic target in those patients,” Dr Alice Shaw, the study’s lead investigator from the Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Centre in Boston, said in a statement.

The average duration of response to the oral drug taken twice daily was 17 months, and half of the patients were still receiving treatment with no evidence of tumor progression, researchers said.

“The remissions induced by crizotinib in ROS1-positive patients are quite prolonged, and (treatment) resistance appears to emerge much later, on average, than what we have seen with other targeted therapies for lung cancer and melanoma,” Shaw said.

The study was presented at the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) meeting in Madrid and published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Advances in diagnostic tools and the understanding of human genetics have enabled doctors to identify patients with the ROS1 mutation.

“This is a great example of success in personalized medicine,” said Dr John Iafrete, medical director of Massachusetts General’s Centre for Integrated Diagnostics and one of the study’s leaders. He called the results “incredibly important for ROS1 patients.”

While ROS1-positive NSCLC patients are rare, Iafrete said, “if you devote the diagnostic laboratory resources to find that 1 to 2 percent of patients, you will make a real difference.” Xalkori is not yet approved to treat ROS1-positive patients.

Pfizer continues to support clinical research of Xalkori in patients with ROS1 rearrangements to better understand the compound’s activity in this population,” the company said in a statement.

There are an estimated 1.5 million new cases of NSCLC worldwide each year. — Reuters

Maryland hospital to care for US doctor exposed to Ebola in West Africa

NEW YORK, 28 Sept — The US National Institutes of Health plans to admit one of its special observation wards an American physician exposed to the Ebola virus while volunteering in Sierra Leone, it said on Saturday. The patient, who has not been identified, was expected to be admitted on Sunday to the NIH Clinical Centre in Bethesda, Maryland, for observation and to enroll in a clinical study, the institute said.

“Out of an abundance of caution, the patient will be admitted to the NIH Clinical Centre’s special clinical studies unit that is specifically designed to provide high-level isolation capabilities and is staffed by infectious diseases and critical care specialists,” it said.

The death toll from an outbreak of Ebola in West Africa has risen to at least 3,091 out of 6,574 probable, suspected and confirmed cases, the World Health Organization said on Friday.

The outbreak that began in a remote corner of Guinea has taken hold of much of neighbouring Liberia and Sierra Leone, prompting warnings that tens of thousands of people may die from the worst outbreak of the disease on record. The third US patient to be treated in the United States for Ebola is now free of the virus, doctors at the Nebraska Medical Centre, where the patient was being treated, said in a news conference earlier this week.
**China launches experimental satellite**

**Jiuquan (Gansu), 28 Sept —** China successfully launched an experimental satellite into preset orbit from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in its northwestern gobi desert on Sunday.

The Shijian-11-07 was boosted by a Long March-2C carrier rocket at 1:13 pm Beijing Time.

A Satellite which was developed by China Spacete Co Ltd under the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation, will be used to conduct scientific experiments in space.

This was the 194th flight of the Long March rocket series.

**Sierra Nevada challenges NASA ‘space taxi’ contracts to Boeing, SpaceX**

**Washington, 28 Sept —** Sierra Nevada Corp (SNC) said it had filed a legal challenge to NASA’s award of contracts totaling $6.8 billion to Boeing and SpaceX to build commercially owned and operated “space taxis” to fly astronauts to the International Space Station.

NASA had considered a bid by privately owned Sierra Nevada, but US officials said on Tuesday the US space agency had opted to award long-time aerospace contractor Boeing and SpaceX with contracts to develop, certify and fly their seven-person capsules.

SNC said its bid could have saved up to $900 million and that NASA’s statements “indicate that there are serious questions and inconsistencies in the source selection process.”

“SNC, therefore, feels that there is no alternative but to institute a legal challenge,” it added in a statement on Friday.

Boeing was awarded $4.2 billion and SpaceX $2.6 billion. SpaceX is run by technology entrepreneur Elon Musk, also chief executive of electric car manufacturer Tesla Motors Inc.

“With the current awards, the US government would spend up to $900 million more at the publicly announced contracted level for a space programme equivalent to the programme that SNC proposed.” Sierra Nevada said. It said a “thorough review must be conducted of the award decision.”

The space taxis would end US dependence on Russia for rides to the space station. The contract has taken on new urgency given rising tensions over Russia’s annexation of the Crimea region of Ukraine and support for rebels in eastern Ukraine.— Reuters

**Apple says ‘Shellshock’ no risk to vast majority of Mac users**

**Boston, 28 Sept —** Apple Inc (AAPL.O) said the vast majority of Mac computer users are not at risk from the recently identified “Shellshock” computer bug, which security experts have warned could affect operating systems, including Mac’s OS X.

“The vast majority of OS X users are not at risk,” Apple spokesman Bill Evans said on late Thursday evening.

“Shellshock” is a vulnerability in Bash, a piece of software packaged with Mac OS X, which is based on the Unix operating system. The bug does not appear to affect Apple’s iOS, which is used on the iPhone and iPad, or machines running Microsoft Corp’s (MSFT.O) Windows software. Security experts disclosed the “Shellshock” vulnerability in Bash on Wednesday, saying that it could enable attackers to gain remote control of vulnerable systems.

Apple ships its computers so they are “safe by default,” Evans said, which means that they are not vulnerable to remote attacks unless users configure them for “advanced” Unix services.

“We are working to quickly provide a software update for our advanced UNIX users,” he said. The computer industry is rushing to determine which systems can be remotely compromised by hackers, but there are currently no estimates on the number of vulnerable systems.— Reuters

**Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi**

The militant Islamist group Islamic State that has taken over large swathes of Syria and Iraq, also known as ISIL and ISIS, has been using social media to disseminate videos of beheadings of Western hostages and to recruit foreign Jihadist fighters to help it establish a caliphate in the Middle East.

China, which human rights groups have criticized for restricting access to many websites, launched its own campaign to clamp down on online rumor-mongering and “clean up the Internet.”

The crackdown led to an exodus of users from Twitter-like microblog platforms after authorities detained hundreds of outspoken users.— Reuters

**Oracle warns more than 30 products vulnerable to ‘Shellshock’**

**Boston, 28 Sept —** Oracle Corp warned customers on Friday that more than 30 products are vulnerable to the “Shellshock” bug, including its high-end Exadata computer systems.

Oracle said it has only prepared fixes to address the Shellshock vulnerability in two products, the Oracle Linux and Solaris operating systems.— Reuters

**United Nations, 28 Sept —** China called on Saturday for a worldwide crackdown on the use of the Internet by religious extremists and terrorists to stamp out their ability to communicate their ideas and raise funds.

China’s Foreign Minister Wang Yi made the remarks during the annual gathering of the 193-nation UN General Assembly in New York.

“As new developments emerge in the global fight against terrorism, the international community should take new measures to address them,” Wang said.

“In particular, it should focus on combating religious extremism and cyber terrorism, resolutely eliminate the roots and crack channels of terrorism and extremism,” he said.

Wang added that countries should “crack down hard and effectively on the use of the Internet and other new means of communication by terrorists to instigate, recruits or plot terrorist attacks.”

**Apple ships its MacBook Air laptop is pictured on display at an Apple Store in Pasadena, California on 22 July, 2013.— Reuters**
Shanghai customs busts suspected iPhone smuggling

SHANGHAI, 28 Sept — Customs officials at Shanghai Pudong International Airport have seized 453 iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus, estimated to be worth over 2 million yuan (320,000 US dollars). The latest Apple smartphones were found in seven luggage carried by two passengers from Tokyo, one Japanese citizen and the other Chinese, on Thursday, according to the customs, which declined to give more details as investigation is still underway.

As of Thursday, officers in the Shanghai airport have found a total of 831 iPhones that were not declared by travellers. Among them, 691 seized phones were under probe on suspicion of smuggling, authorities said.

As iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus are not available yet on the Chinese mainland, most passengers carrying these phones were from Canada, Russia and Hong Kong, according to the customs.

An official told Xinhua that the phones for personal use will be returned to owners once duty is paid, but large quantities can be confiscated on suspicion of smuggling.

Greece calls for closer EU-UN cooperation in crisis management

UNITED NATIONS, 28 Sept — Greek Deputy Prime Minister Evangelos Venizelos on Saturday called for more cooperation between the United Nations and the European Union (EU) to maintain world peace.

“The current complex security challenges demand that we unite our efforts both at the international and regional levels,” he told the General Assembly on the fourth day of its 69th annual high-level meeting.

“Greece supports reinforcing cooperation between the United Nations and the European Union in crisis management, notably by putting into practice an action plan for UN peacekeeping operations.”

He also pressed for full support for UN efforts to battle the Ebola epidemic in West Africa, stressed the need for a coherent global strategy to confront the multiple crises in the Middle East and North Africa and reaffirmed Greece’s backing for Ukraine’s territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty.

Since Wednesday, speakers have taken to the podium in the UN’s renovated General Assembly Hall to address the 193 member states on the theme of “Delivering on and Implementing a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda” as well as on urgent crises including the ongoing conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Ukraine and South Sudan.—Xinhua

Rescue operations resume on Mt Ontake after major eruption

Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter shows climbers who evacuated to a parking lot on Mt Ontake, after the volcano straddling Nagano and Gifu prefectures in central Japan erupted on 27 Sept, 2014. The car is covered in ash.—KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 28 Sept — Rescue operations resumed on Sunday on Mt Ontake, central Japan, after it erupted the previous day, with several climbers found unconscious near the mountain peak, according to police.

The 3,067-metre volcano, which straddles Nagano and Gifu prefectures, erupted before noon Saturday. With smoke plumes extending up to 10 kilometres high, the volcano continued to erupt into the night, preventing rescue operations on Saturday amid fears of fresh eruptions and toxic gas.

On Sunday morning, three climbers were picked up by a Self-Defense Forces helicopter before several unconscious climbers were discovered by noon, according to the Nagano prefectural government and police.

The prefectural government said that a total of 45 people remained unaccounted for as of 11:30 am Sunday.

More than 40 climbers were forced to shelter in lodges overnight due to poor visibility. A total of 26 climbers who had stayed in a lodge on the Gifu side began to descend on their own Sunday morning and reached the foot of the mountain before noon, with two of them seriously injured and six suffering minor injuries.

The other climbers who sheltered in lodges on the Nagano side were still on the mountain.

The mountain, popular with tourists particularly in the fall, last experienced a major eruption in 1979 when it expelled over 200,000 tons of ash. It also underwent a minor eruption in 1991 and caused multiple volcanic earthquakes in 2007.

While data had shown evidence of volcanic earthquakes in the area in mid-September, there were few other indications that an eruption might be in the offing, making it difficult to predict, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency.

Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter shows columns of smoke rising from Mt Ontake, a volcano straddling Nagano and Gifu prefectures in central Japan, at 4:27 pm on 27 Sept, 2014. The volcano erupted shortly before noon the same day.—KYODO NEWS

Tenis interested in launching production in Serbia

BELGRADE, 28 Sept — Serbia’s Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic visited on Saturday the production facilities of the largest European meat company, Tenis from Germany, whose officials said they were interested in launching production in Serbia.

It would increase the company’s production, number of livestock in Serbia and push the entire Serbian agriculture forward, owner of the company Clemence Tenis said, according to a statement from the Serbian government office for media relations.

We need to develop a family farm structure and introduce new technologies and we have government support for that, he said.

Tenis is welcome in Serbia and will be supported locally and by the central government, Vucic stated.

A large part of the deal has been agreed already, and everything that has been lost in livestock in the past 10-15 years can be regained in two years, Vucic noted.

“The investment they are planning for Serbia will create a large number of job and move the country’s agriculture forward by a lot,” the prime minister stressed.

Tenis was founded near Gelsenkirchen in 1971 and is currently the largest meat producer and exporter in Europe.—TANJUG
**Bank Holiday**

All Banks will be closed on 1st October (Wednesday) 2014. Bank Holiday, being public holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

**Japanese climber’s body recovered from Nepal mountain**

**KATHMANDU, 28 Sept—**The body of a veteran Japanese climber who slipped and fell to his death on Friday while climbing Mt Manaslu in Nepal has been recovered, a trek organizer said on Sunday.

Yoshimasa Sasaki, 59, from Kanagawa Prefecture, slipped on blue ice and fell about 25 metres after having reached an altitude of 7,300 metres on the 8,163-metre mountain, the world’s eighth highest.

His death marked the first fatality of Nepal’s autumn climbing season.

Sasaki’s recovered body has been taken to Camp IV of the mountain, said Pasang Nurbu Sherpa, director of Himalayan Trailblazer Trekking and Expedition Pvt Ltd, which helped organize the expedition, while his Japanese climbing partner, 64, is said to be safe and descending the mountain after calling off the attempt following the death.

“Efforts will be made today to carry the body to Camp III from which, weather permitting, a helicopter will be used to bring the body to Kathmandu,” he told Kyodo News on Sunday.

Sasaki was part of the 10-member HTB Mountain Professionals Manaslu Expedition 2014 comprising two Japanese, three Norwegians, three Chinese, an American and an Irish climber.

Mt Manaslu, located in the Gorkha District of west-central Nepal, was first conquered in 1956 by Toshio Imanishi from Japan and Gyaltsen Norbu Sherpa from Nepal, and it has remained popular among Japanese climbers.

“Climbing this mountain is risky because of very unpredictable weather pattern and frequent avalanches,” Pasang Nurbu Sherpa said.

Sasaki’s Facebook account shows he worked as a climbing guide of the Tokyo-based Alpine Guides Society since 1993.

It shows he had extensive experience, having climbed Africa’s Mt Kilimanjaro for the 55th time this year, in addition to recent climbs in the Himalayas, the Andes, the Alps and the Pyrenees.

**Kyodo News**

**China pledges “harshest penalties” for food-safety violations**

**SHANGHAI, 28 Sept—**China has vowed to hand out the “harshest penalties” to food safety violators and to further reform the food and drug safety administration, Xinhua news agency said on Saturday.

Vice-Premier Wang Yang made the comment during an inspection tour of Beijing’s food safety monitoring centre on Friday, the news agency said.

Food safety is a highly emotive issue in China where there have been numerous scandals from photos of food oil being scooped from drains to tales of phoney eggs and melanine-tainted milk powder.

More recent scandals have emboldened the likes of McDonald’s and KFC-parent Yum Brands Inc.

“The strictest supervision should be carried out to create a fair market environment, the harshest penalties should be used to deter violations, and the most serious accountability system should be established to punish those who fail to perform their duties,” Xinhua quoted Wang as saying.

**Reuters**

**One killed, one injured in small plane crash in US state of Texas**

**HOUSTON, 28 Sept —**One person was killed and another seriously injured on Saturday afternoon after a small plane crashed in San Jacinto county, which is located in the eastern part of US state of Texas.

The accident, which happened about 4:30 pm local time at a private airfield, killed the 44-year-old pilot and injured the 35-year-old passenger after the self-built, two-seater plane hit some trees and broke, local TV station ABC13 reported. The pilot was pronounced dead at the scene and the passenger with two broken legs and multiple fractures was sent to a hospital for treatment.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has confirmed the accident while the National Transportation Safety Board will investigate the case on Sunday morning. No further information was immediately available.

**Xinhua**
15th Ososphere Festival launches with performance by Gesaffelstein

Strasbourg, 28 Sept — The 15th edition of the Ososphere contemporary music and arts festival begins on Friday, with French techno artist Gesaffelstein at the Coop in Strasbourg.

Gesaffelstein, born Mike Levy, has reached an international audience through collaborations with French techno pioneers Daft Punk, and the American hip-hop star, Kanye West. He will perform a DJ to open the two-night event.

Ososphere is an annual festival of arts and music created in 1997 by Artefact, a cultural association formed in 1994 to promote contemporary and digital arts in Strasbourg. This year’s edition expects to welcome 10,000 spectators from across Europe, according to Artefact director Therry Danet.

“The original idea was to create a situation that allows the spectators to view public spaces differently and create their own experiences,” Danet explained on Friday to Xinhua. “Ososphere is not just a concert hall — we create a site where we can reinvent what it means to inhabit the city.” The festival will be held for the third year at the Coop industrial site, a former food-processing plant, now owned by the city of Strasbourg. Digital projections, light installations, and two stages allow guests a variety of experiences. This year’s festival theme is “tracing perspectives,” and will continue with a yearlong extended programme of events, including a series of conversation cafes to be held in association with cultural organizations around Strasbourg. The set list includes live sets from German DJ Fritz Kalkbrenner and Danish producer Trentemøller on Friday, as well as live performances from Slovenian producer Gramatik and American rapper Freddie Gibbs on Saturday.
Derby spoils shared as Chelsea march on

London, 28 Sept — Spoons were shared in two huge Premier League derbies. Chelsea's cracking start continued with a 3-0 win over Aston Villa and Wayne Rooney produced a Jekyll and Hyde display in a nervy Manchester United victory on Saturday.

A jam-packed Premier League programme began with Phil Jagielka's stoppage-time humding –er earning Everton a 1-1 draw at Liverpool and ended with Arsenal's Alex Ox- lade-Chamberlain denying Tottenham Hotspur a surprise win at their arch-fi- vals as the game ended 1-1 in north London. Rooney scored in the fifth minute of United's home game with West Ham United but was later sent off for a wild challenge as his side hung on for a 2-1 victory.

Gripping as those skirmishes were, however, it was table-topping Chelsea who continued to look a cut above the rest.

Diego Costa scored his eighth league goal of the campaign and Brazilian duo Oscar and Willian were also on target at Stamford Bridge as Chelsea made it five wins from six. Chelsea lead the table with 16 points, three from six. Chelsea's cracking huge Premier League derbies, Chelsea's cracking huge Premier League derbies, Chelsea's cracking huge Premier League derbies, Chelsea's cracking huge Premier League derbies, Chelsea's cracking huge Premier League derbies, Chelsea's cracking huge Premier League derbies, Chelsea's cracking huge Premier League derbies, Chelsea's cracking huge Premier League derbies, Chelsea's cracking huge Premier League derbies, Chelsea's cracking huge Premier League derbies, Chelsea's cracking huge Premier League derbies, Chelsea's cracking huge Premier League derbies, Chelsea's cracking huge Premier League derbies, Chelsea's cracking huge Premier League derbies, Chelsea's cracking huge Premier League derbies, Chelsea's cracking huge Premier League derbies, Chelsea's cracking huge Premier League derbies, Chelsea's cracking huge Premier League derbies, Chelsea's cracking huge Premier League derbies, Chelsea's cracking huge Premier League derbies, Chelsea's cracking huge Premier League derbies, Chelsea's cracking huge Premier League derbies, Chelsea's cracking huge Premier League derbies, Chelsea's cracking huge Premier League derbies, Chelsea's cracking huge Premier League derbies, Chelsea's cracking huge Premier League derbies.

Barcelona, 28 Sept — Lionel Messi netted the 400th goal of his storied career on Saturday as Barcelona trounced Granada 6-0 to maintain the pace at the top of La Liga.

Messi scored twice and Neymar went one better with a hat-trick in Barca's rout but champions Atletico Madrid are on their tail after a late Raul Jimenez header completed a 4-0 victory over Sevilla that left them two points behind in second.

Real Madrid are also in hot pursuit, four points behind in fifth, after Cristiano Ronaldo kept up his rich scoring form with the second in a 2-0 win at Villarreal where Luis Suarez had put them ahead.

Messi's extraordinary achievement of reaching the 400 goal mark was the highlight of Barca's victory, leading to effusive praise for the great Argentine from manager Luis Enrique. “He (Messi) is someone who has been given a real magic and who enjoys playing football. I was thinking about taking him off but I enjoy watching him so much that I left him on for the 90 minutes,” Enrique told a news conference. Messi's second goal, thieving the ball off Jese and slotting past the keeper, was the landmark 400th — his 358th for Barcelona to accompany the 42 he has scored for Argen-

Barcelona's Neymar celebrates scoring a goal against Granada FC goalkeeper Roberto during their Spanish first division soccer match at Nou Camp stadium in Barcelona on 27 Sept, 2014. — Reuters

Remarkable Destro goal upstages Totti, Juve win again

Milan, 28 Sept — AS Roma's Mattia Destro scored a remarkable goal from near the halfway line to complete a 2-0 Serie A win over Verona and upstage talismanic team mate Francesco Totti on his 38th birthday on Saturday.

A goal kick from Roma's Morgan De Sanctis landed just inside the Verona half before Destro controlled the ball, saw Verona goalkeeper Pierluigi Gollini off his line and scored with a high, dipping shot from 45 metres.

Roma maintained their 100 per cent record after five Serie A games as did Juventus who won 3-0 at Atalanta, helped by two Carlos Tevez goals and a penalty save from Gianluigi Buffon which meant that the champions have still to concede a goal this season.

Roma visit Juve on 5 October. Totti, in his 23rd season at his only professional club, twice came close to scoring, and substitute Alessandro Florenzi, who replaced the Roma captain just after the hour, broke the deadlock for the hosts at the Stadio Olimpico for a 1-0 win.

As usual, Totti, playing just behind the front two, was involved in nearly all Roma’s attacking moves.
Champions Japan concede late penalty, KO’d by S Korea

Incheon, 28 Sept—Defending champions Japan were eliminated 1-0 by South Korea in the Asian Games quarterfinals on Sunday.

Captain Ryota Oshima gave away a late penalty which his Korean counterpart Jong Hyun Soo converted to send Lee Kwang Jong’s side into Tuesday’s semifinal against Thailand, who beat Jordan 2-0 earlier. Before the biggest crowd of these Games in all competitions with an attendance of 43,221, the traditional rivals put on an intense display right from the start.

Hard-pressing South Korea allowed Japan very little time on the ball, taking full advantage of being older and stronger than their under-21 opponents. Yet while the hosts produced the better moments, they struggled to keep their shots down in the face of a resilient Japanese defence and actually had fewer attempts on goal than Japan.

Until Jong’s penalty. Lee Yong Jie’s angled shot in the 28th minute cleared by defender Takuya Iwanami was South Korea’s only shot on target.

With the clock ticking away, the match appeared destined for extra time but in the 86th minute, Oshima jumped on the back of Lee Jong Ho while challenging for a high ball inside the box, forcing the referee to point to the spot. Jong struck with authority as the crowd went delirious, knocking Makoto Teguramori’s side out of the competition.

Kyodo News

Medals table of the Asian Games
28 September, 2014

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Incheon, 28 Sept—Chinese men’s basketball team squandered a 15-point lead to lose to Japan 79-72 in quarter-final round of 2014 Incheon Asian Games, their first defeat to Japan in Asiad history.

With 1:30 to go in the game, Japan built up a comfortable 71-64 lead to ensure the victory.

“We are not well prepared for this game, especially for difficulties,” said Chinese head coach Gong Luming. Zhou Peng and Dingyan Yuhang shared team-high 14 points. Zhao Taiyang added 9 and 8 points respectively. China led by 27-13 into the halftime, but their Japanese counterparts responded with a 14-2 run early in the third quarter.

“As a young squad, we should not look down upon any opponent. It’s a lesson for us,” added Gong. China will face Iran, the toughest opponent in this round. Iran crushed over Mongolia 107-69 in an earlier match on Saturday. In Group H, hosts South Korea edged past the Philippines 97-95, thanks to 38-year-old point guard Moon Taejong’s game-high 38 points.

After winning two games in a row, South Korea secured a top four position, while the Philippines are on the verge of early exit.—Xinhua

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Chinese athletes Yong Zhiwei (L), Qi Kaiyao (C) and Gu Xuesong pose on the podium during the awarding ceremony of the recurve men’s team match of archery at the 17th Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea, on 28 Sept, 2014.——Xinhua

Lv Xiuzhi of China competes during the women’s team preliminary round match against Ayagurwal Noha of India at the 17th Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea, on 28 Sept, 2014. China won 3-0.—Xinhua

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Zhu Yuling of China returns the ball during the women’s team preliminary round match against Ayagurwal Noha of India at the 17th Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea, on 28 Sept, 2014. China won 3-0.—Xinhua

Shi Xiufeng (front) of China breaks through during the women’s quarterfinal match of basketball against Kazakhstan at the 17th Asian Games Incheon, South Korea, on 28 Sept, 2014. China won 71-57.—Xinhua

South Korean defender Jang Hyun Soo (20) celebrates after scoring from the penalty spot during the second half of a men’s soccer quarterfinal match against Aggarwal Neha of India at the 17th Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea, on 28 Sept, 2014.—Kyodo News

South Korean defender Jang Hyun Soo (20) celebrates after scoring from the penalty spot during the second half of a men’s soccer quarterfinal match against Aggarwal Neha of India at the 17th Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea, on 28 Sept, 2014. South Korea won 1-0.—Kyodo News

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