2nd ASEAN-U.S. summit held in Nay Pyi Taw

By Kurt Stanton (GNLM)

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Nov — The 2nd ASEAN-U.S. summit was held in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday, at which the two sides stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation in maritime security, combating piracy, and countering transnational crimes such as trafficking in persons and wildlife trafficking.

They also agreed to fight the catastrophic phenomenon of climate change and combat extremists.

In his opening remarks, U.S. President Barack Obama said, “Today, I’m looking forward to continuing to build on the strong partnership between ASEAN and the United States.”

“A strong relationship between the United States and ASEAN is essential for realizing our shared dreams for the future,” added Obama, who was attending for the first time as he could not make it to the inaugural ASEAN-U.S. summit held last year.

He also mentioned that there exists a positive economic potential for the United States to work with ASEAN.

Myanmar hosts major gathering of world leaders

By Kurt Stanton (GNLM)

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Nov — Leaders of 18 Asia and Pacific countries including the United States, China and ASEAN members met here Thursday to exchange views on a broad range of issues including management of disputes in the South China Sea, climate change, and the Ebola virus.

Myanmar President U Thein Sein, who chaired the forum because Myanmar holds ASEAN’s rotating leadership this year, stressed the importance of boosting cooperation among the countries for the East Asia Summit, maintaining ASEAN’s centrality, tackling issues that pose challenges to peace and stability of the region, economic cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, enhancing regional integration, and improving people-to-people contacts.

U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, who attended as a guest, said in his statement that Asian countries should expand their coordination and explore creating a “new security architecture” for closer regional cooperation, especially in Northeast Asia.

“The region – and indeed the world – will benefit greatly from a future-oriented Asia that is ever more integrated – engaged – and assuming greater responsibilities commensurate with its clout.”

On the threat of the Ebola virus, the U.N. leader called on the 18 leaders to do even more to help speed up efforts to first get the crisis under control and then bring it to an end.

As for climate change, he urged all countries to follow the lead of China and the United States and announce “ambitious post-2020 targets” for greenhouse gas emission as soon as possible.

According to Kyo- do News, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe urged China and other countries involved in territorial disputes in the South China Sea to refrain from taking actions that could undermine stability.

“We expect (countries involved) to exercise self-restraint against action that could undermine peace and stability in the South China Sea,” Abe was quoted as saying, without naming China.

For his own part, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said, “China’s resolve to (See page 3)
President U Thein Sein urges Japan to invest in Dawei SEZ Project

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 Nov—President U Thein Sein, chair of ASEAN urged Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to invest in the Dawei Special Economic Zone project, at the 17th ASEAN-Japan Summit at Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

Japan is the third largest trade partner of the ASEAN region. Japan has a plan to cooperate with Myanmar in health, education, construction, communication, SME industries, Thilawa special economic zone, Dawei deep sea port, Yangon City transportation, electric power and Rakhine State development sectors.

At the ASEAN Business and Investment Forum held at Myanmar International Convention Centre on 11 November, the President pointed out that special economic zones play a key role in development of Myanmar as well as ASEAN.—GNLM

President U Thein Sein, president of ADB discuss private sector development in Myanmar

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 Nov—President U Thein Sein met Mr Takehiko Nakao, President of Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Thursday at Myanmar International Convention Centre (MICC) here to discuss cooperation in developing public sector in Myanmar.

Both sides also discussed opportunities for the ADB to participate in the country’s development programmes, education, rural development, supplying electricity, agriculture and private sector.—MNA

MEPE, General Electric International Inc sign MoA for improvement of gas power plants

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 Nov—Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise under the Ministry of Electric Power signed a Memorandum of Agreement on improvement of gas power plants with General Electric International Inc (GE) at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

Managing Director U Htein Lwin of MEPE and General Manager Mr Parthasarathy Chellappa of General Electric International Inc (GE) signed the MoA and exchanged notes in the presence of Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe. The ministry is operating 27 power plants—18 of GE, seven of Hitachi and two of Mitsubishi for power supply.

GE company will substitute high capacity turbines and engines in the places of turbines from Hlawga and Ahlon gas power plants so as to raise 30 megawatts at Hlawga and Ahlon Gas Power Plants and 16 megawatts at Ywama gas power plant.—MNA

ASEAN and Chinese leaders gather at 17th ASEAN-China Summit to discuss ways to seek new areas of cooperation.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Myanmar President, UN Secretary-General discuss human rights

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 Nov—President U Thein Sein met Mr Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General, at the talks.—MNA

President U Thein Sein cordially greets Mr Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General,

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

President U Thein Sein attends 17th ASEAN-China Summit

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 Nov—The 17th ASEAN-China Summit took place at Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

President U Thein Sein discussed sectoral cooperation for further strengthening ASEAN-China strategic relations, seeking new cooperation arena through the 2+7 cooperation framework proposed by China and further cooperation in peacefully solving the South China Sea issue between ASEAN and China.

Leaders of ASEAN and China focused on promotion of cooperation in political, economic and social fields between ASEAN and China and regional mechanisms led by ASEAN, coordination for improvement of ASEAN-China free trade area, and seeking agreement early conclusion to fully implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea.

MNA

Premier of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China

Mr. Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of China.

Mr. Li Keqiang was born in Dingyuan, Anhui Province in July 1955. He entered the workforce in March 1974 and joined the Communist Party of China (CPC) in May 1976. He graduated from the School of Economics at Beijing University with a major in economics.

From 1983 to 1985, he served in various capacities at the Committee of the Communist Youth League (CYL). He studied economics in an in-service postgraduate program at the School of Economics at Beijing University, and awarded the degrees of Doctor of Economics in 1995. From 1998 to 2005, he served in various capacities at the CPC Henan Provincial Committee. From 2005 to 2007, he served as a secretary of the CPC Liaoning Provincial Committee; a chairman of the Standing Committee, Liaoning Provincial People’s Congress. From 2007 to 2012, he served as a member of the Standing Committee, Political Bureau, CPC Central Committee and a Vice Premier of the State Council.

Mr. Li Keqiang was chosen as Premier of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China from 12th National Congress on 15th March, 2013. He is also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee.

President U Thein Sein greets Mr Takehiko Nakao, President of Asian Development Bank (ADB).—MNA
President U Thein Sein attends 17th ASEAN plus Three Summit

Myanmar, Russia discuss cooperation in various sectors

UNSG meets UN Global Compact (UNGC) Network members

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 Nov — President U Thein Sein and heads of state and government of the ASEAN, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Korean President Park Geun-hye, ministers and the ASEAN secretary general attended the 17th ASEAN plus Three Summit held at the International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

President U Thein Sein held discussions on strengthening of cooperation in political, economic, social and cultural sectors, maintaining cooperation in financial and monetary sectors and assistance for the ASEAN Connectivity Master Plan.

The summit focused on strengthening of ASEAN plus Three partnership in political and security sectors, maintaining the progress of economic partnership, development of SMEs, ASEAN plus One Free Trade Agreements, regional multi-sector economic cooperation, energy security, food security and establishing a database for ASEAN plus Three food security.

Myanmar hosts major . . .

(from page 1)

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They also discussed modernization of Sao San Tun Hospital in Taunggyi.

During the meeting, the Russian Federation Prime Minister invited the President to pay a visit to Russia at an opportune time.

The EAS was held back-to-back with the 25th ASEAN Summit and other related summits.

The EAS comprises the 10 members of ASEAN — Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam — plus Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Russia, South Korea and the United States.

East Asian countries “should properly address disputes through peaceful means and pursue lasting friendships and win-win cooperation,” he added.

“as a realistic and effective way to manage differences.”

— MNA

Myanmar, Russia discuss cooperation in various sectors

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 Nov — President U Thein Sein held talks with Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev at Room 2006 of Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

President U Thein Sein greets Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev at the talks on promotion of bilateral relations. — MNA

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Delegates from New Zealand, Australia, Russia and Japan, ROK, UN Secretary-General leave for home

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Nov — New Zealand Prime Minister Mr John Key and party, Australian Prime Minister Mr Tony Abbott MP and party, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev and party, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and party and ROK President Park Geun-hye and party Thursday left here for home after attending the 9th East Asia Summit and related summits. They were seen off at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin and Union Minister for Education Dr Daw Khin San Yi and officials.

The official said that UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon also left Nay Pyi Taw this evening. MNA

2nd ASEAN-U.S. summit held in . . .

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The leaders discussed strengthening efforts for the realization of the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-U.S. Enhanced Partnership for Enduring Peace and Prosperity (2011-2015).

In addition, they reiterated their commitment to continue working together for peace, security and stability in the region, including the South China Sea, where territorial disputes between some ASEAN members and China have escalated in recent years.

In this respect, they agreed to work for the early signing of all nuclear-weapon states to the protocol of the South East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, the ASEAN treaty that declares Southeast Asia as a nuclear weapon free zone.

The leaders of the 10-member grouping and Obama also discussed the successful implementation of the Expanded Economic Engagement initiative, a new framework for economic cooperation designed to expand trade and investment ties between the United States and ASEAN, creating new business opportunities and jobs in all 11 countries.

The ASEAN-U.S. Summit was held as one of the related summits of the ASEAN Summit at the Myanmar International Convention Center.

The United States has been a Dialogue Partner of ASEAN since 1977.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker, UN Secretary-General discuss development of multiparty democracy

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Nov — Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann met UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon Thursday at the Hluttaw Building here to discuss Myanmar’s democratic reforms and development of multiparty democracy and market economy in Myanmar.

Also present at the meeting were Chairmen, secretaries and members of Pyithu Hluttaw Committees, U Kyaw Tin, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations and officials from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Offices.—MNA

Wife of Thai PM donates cash assistance to students in Pyinmana Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Nov — Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon.—MNA

Associate Processor Narapon Chan-o-cha, wife of the Thai Prime Minister, seen with school children at No 15 BEHS in Thabyehla Village of Pyinmana Township.—MYO ZEYAR (SHWE PAUKKAN)

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann hold talks with UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon.—MNA

President attends ASEAN Business Advisory Council Meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Nov — President U Thein Sein attended the ASEAN Business Advisory Council Meeting held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre here Thursday.

The participants at the event were heads of State/ Government of the bloc, member of council, ministers and secretary general of ASEAN.

The meeting discussed relations, economic development, new economic perspective, the roles of young entrepreneurs and women of ASEAN region in the social issue and the importance of small and medium enterprises. MNA
Constitutional reform issues come under discussion at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Nov — A progress report on the implementation of constitutional reform came under discussion at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Thursday, with members of parliament expressing their points of view.

Thura U Aye Myint of the Wetlet constituency suggested laws contrary to contemporary political and social settings be modified as necessary at the right time in the right way, stressing that no law can stand against the time.

Daw Khin San Hlaing of the Pale constituency voiced that greater autonomy to governments at State/Region levels will help democratic system thrive, adding that it will lay a foundation for the federal system as desired by the public.

U Sai San Min of the Shan State constituency-3 said that the 2008 Constitution has given birth to multiparty democracy and put the country on the track of market economy, but for reforms to be successful amendments should be focused on existing laws.

U Ba Shein of the Kyaukphyu constituency pointed out the importance of the participation of defence services representatives in successful constitutional change, suggesting a nationwide referendum for amendments concerning section 436(a).

Any constitutional change requires a support of over 75% of all members of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, while military appointees hold 25% of the seats in parliament.

U Zone Teint of the Chephwe constituency called for a constitution that serves national interests.

The report has drawn 146 parliamentarians to discussion, which is scheduled to finish up on 25 November.—A Mana

President of the United States Barack Obama told talks with speakers of Lower House (Pyithu Hluttaw) and Upper House (Amyotha Hluttaw) and Hluttaw representatives.—MNA

U.S. President meets Myanmar parliamentarians

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Nov — President of the United States Barak Obama met with Speakers of Lower House (Pyithu Hluttaw) and Upper House (Amyotha Hluttaw) at Nanwady Hotel here Thursday.

This informal meeting was held while Obama was in the Myanmar capital to attend the East Asia Summit and its related meetings.

The meeting was attended by 12 Myanmar parliamentarians, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee.

Obama is scheduled to discuss with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at her residence on 14 November while he is in Yangon where he will also meet with ASEAN youth leaders at the Diamond Jubilee Hall of Yangon University.

This is the second visit of the U.S. president during the term of President U Thein Sein.

Myat Thandar Maung

Wives of ASEAN leaders and UNSG visit Myanmar traditional arts exhibition

YANGON, 13 Nov — Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of President U Thein Sein, together with wives of heads of State/Government to the 25th ASEAN Summit and related meetings, visited the Myanmar traditional arts exhibition at Mani Yadana Hall in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

They viewed ancient heritages and personal goods used in Pyu, Bagan, Kanchaung and Yadanaon eras.

They also viewed round Myanmar traditional textiles, rattan wares, Kachin and Chin traditional textiles, tapestries, silversmiths, lacquerware, Pathein umbrella, mosaic painting, jade sculpture and ornaments at the jade Hall. Daw Khin Khin Win presented gifts to wives of Prime Ministers of Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore, the ASEAN Secretary-General and the UN Secretary-General.—MNA

ASEAN Summit closes with Malaysia assuming chairmanship

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Nov — The 25th ASEAN Summit concluded here Thursday with Myanmar President U Thein Sein ceremoniously handing over the chairmanship of the regional grouping to Malaysia.

“It was a great opportunity for Myanmar to take the ASEAN chairmanship since becoming a member 17 years ago,” President said in a speech delivered at the summit’s closing ceremony held at the Myanmar International Convention Center.

“The establishment of the ASEAN Community next year will be a milestone of ASEAN. The peoples of ASEAN will enjoy the benefits of the community and at the same time will have to prepare ourselves to overcome the new challenges.”

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak said after receiving the chairmanship gavel from U Thein Sein that “this has been a historical milestone for ASEAN, the first time this Golden Land has held responsibility and played a central role in steering our region forward.”

“Warmly congratulate you, President (U) Thein Sein, for your most able stewardship of the association,” he said.

“Malaysia has displayed a deep awareness of the responsibility that comes with being chairman of ASEAN, and you have discharged this responsibility admirably.”

“You have also shown a tremendous depth of generosity manifesting the best of Asia’s traditions,” he added.

Razak also said that Malaysia hopes to “steer ASEAN closer to the people of Southeast Asia to make this institution part of people’s daily lives, by creating a truly people-centered ASEAN.”

“I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, and your capable teams of ministers of ministries and senior officials, and each of their teams, for a remarkable year. Your unswerving commitment to ASEAN community building has brought us close and closer to the finishing line of establishing an ASEAN community.”

“You have raised the bar for us, Mr. President, and raised our ambition for what is possible next year,” he said.

The ASEAN chairmanship rotates annually among the regional grouping’s 10 members.

GNLM

Photo: Aye Min Soe
Myanmar, US presidents discuss democratic reform and regional issues

NAV PI TAW, 13 Nov — President U Thein Sein and President Barack Obama of the United States met at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday evening.

They discussed and exchanged views frankly on progress and challenges of democratic reform in Myanmar, successfully holding the 2015 elections at the designated time in a free and fair manner, constitutional reform, stability and development of Rakhine State, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction including chemical weapons in Asia, cooperation with the UN, economic reform and measures taken by Myanmar to prevent the recruiting of child soldiers.

Also present together with President U Thein Sein were Union Ministers Li-Gen Ko Ko, U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thane, U Tin Naing Thein, U Khin Yi and U Ye Htut, Myanmar Ambassador to the US U Kyaw Myo Htut and departmental heads and together with the US president were National Security Advisor Susan Rice, US Ambassador to Myanmar Derek Mitchell and senior officials.

After the meeting, both president briefed the media on their discussions. At the press meet, President U Thein Sein told the media that people of Myanmar thanked the US president as he was visiting Myanmar for the second time in support of the reform process. President U Thein Sein added that the US president recognized the reform of Myanmar and gave frank advice on challenges, some of which had been carried out by the Myanmar government while the rest would be implemented at opportune times.

The US president briefed the media on his discussions and advice, saying that reform was not a linear process while Myanmar still needed to take further steps. However, he recognized the success already achieved and commitment to continue the reform and expressed his hope that bilateral relations between the two countries would strengthen.

The US president visited Myanmar on 19 November 2012 at the invitation of President U Thein Sein and met with his counterpart at the guest house of Yangon Region Government.

President U Thein Sein cordially greets US President Barack Obama.—MNA

NAV PI TAW, 13 Nov — Leaders of the ASEAN and its partners were able to discuss matters of mutual interest for people in the region and exchange views on challenges facing all the countries as well as ways and means to overcome them, President U Thein Sein said at the press conference on the 25th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits held at Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday evening.

The ASEAN leaders reviewed the progress for establishing ASEAN Economic Community and measures to accelerate the implementation of the AEC roadmap and the strengthening of the community after it has been established, the president added.

The ASEAN leaders also agreed on promotion of the role of the ASEAN and engaging more deeply with the dialogue partners through ASEAN plus One Summits, ASEAN plus Three Summits, East Asia Summits, ASEAN Regional Forum and ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meetings, according to the president.

Under the leadership of ASEAN Chair Myanmar, ASEAN Institute for Green Economy has been established in Yangon to do research on climate friendly environmental conversation technologies in cooperation with ASEAN countries as well as other countries, the president was quoted as saying at the press conference.

The achievements of the summit were the declaration of the ASEAN chair, the Nay Pyi Taw Framework and the Declaration on Strengthening of ASEAN Secretariat and review of ASEAN Organs, the president said.

During the summits that followed the ASEAN Summit, the ASEAN, its dialogue partners and East Asian leaders had opportunities to discuss future tasks and matters of strategic importance including cooperation in financial, energy, education, health and prevention of epidemics, natural disaster management, terrorist organization and economic reform and expressed his expectation that the summits would strengthen.

As for the South China Sea, participants reiterated their commitment to adopt and implement a DOC and welcomed the declaration to designate 2015 as the year of maritime cooperation between the ASEAN and China, the president continued, saying that ASEAN-China FTA and the rest would strengthen.

In conclusion, the president said that both ASEAN-US and ASEAN-India Summits were also able to promote cooperation between the regional association and the US and India before thanking the countries that helped make the summits successful and wishing the next summits success.

UNSG holds press conference for local media

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon makes clarifications at press conference.—MNA

NAV PI TAW, 13 Nov — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon met with the local media and responded to the questions on Thursday evening, saying that he hoped Myanmar officials will allow to open the UNHCR office in Myanmar and the UN is helping Myanmar in its efforts for unity, reconciliation, development and overcoming challenges.

He also said that conflicts should be resolved through dialogues without resorting to violence and the UN is ready to help Myanmar for its prosperity.

MNA
Japan PM Abe, Chinese premier Li agree to develop beneficial ties

TOKYO / NAY PYI TAW, 13 Nov — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang have agreed that the two countries should develop a “strategic relationship of mutual benefit” during a chat in Myanmar on Wednesday where the two have visited to attend regional summit meetings, Japan’s top government spokesman said on Thursday.

The exchanges follow a landmark meeting between Abe and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing on Monday, in a sign that the relationship between the two countries, which has deteriorated largely over territorial and historical issues, could improve.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a Press conference in Tokyo that he heard the two talked about developing mutually beneficial relations based on common strategic interests, in the wake of the first meeting between Abe and Xi since both came to power about two years ago. After the meeting with Xi, Abe told a Press conference in Beijing that he was able to send “a strong message to the world that Japan and China, bearing responsibility to ensure peace and stability in the region and the international community, will go back to the original point of a strategic relationship of mutual benefit and move forward our cooperative ties.”

According to a government official accompanying Abe, the Japanese prime minister had a chat with the Chinese premier when he was waiting to attend a dinner party held on the occasion of meetings involving the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Myanmar’s administrative centre.

India, US resolve impasse over WTO talks

NEW DELHI, 13 Nov — India said on Thursday it has resolved impasse with the United States over World Trade Organization (WTO) talks on easing global customs rules and New Delhi will present its proposal to the WTO soon.

Indian Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that an agreement has been reached with the United States on the issue of food stockpiling. The deal would open the way to implementing the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), which the WTO failed to sign in July due to boycotting by New Delhi, she added.

India has asked for a permanent solution to food stockholding instead of a restricted period of four years, as was originally decided during the WTO ministerial meeting in Bali last year.

“Point of difference was there that the Bali agreement was imperfect, which had to be corrected. It’s a course correction that we wanted,” Sitharaman told the media here. India has rejected demand to cut its food stockpiling and subsidies, saying it has to feed over 1 billion people, half of them poor.

S Korea hopes to realize FM meeting between China, Japan, S Korea

SEOUL, 13 Nov — South Korea will make efforts to realize a foreign ministers’ meeting between China, South Korea and Japan, saying that if the ministerial-level gathering is held, discussions will be made naturally on whether to hold the trilateral summit between the three nations, foreign ministry said on Thursday.

The trilateral meeting of foreign ministers has not been held since April 2012 as territorial and historical disputes of Japan with China and South Korea escalated tensions in the region. The trilateral summit has also been halted since May 2012.

Regarding the bilateral summit between President Park Geun-hye and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Noh Kwang-il told a Press briefing that Japan needs to make sincere efforts to repent its militaristic past such as the comfort women, or the wartime sex slaves for the Imperialistic Japanese Army during World War II.

Park has refused, since her inauguration in February 2013, to sit down face-to-face with , citing his wrong perception of history.

Abe visited the Yasukuni Shrine in December 2013, becoming the first Japanese prime minister in seven years who pays tribute to the controversial shrine. It stirred a wide range of condemnation and stern response from Japan’s neighbouring countries, especially from China and South Korea.

Malaysia, Indonesia to cooperate in tackling haze problem

KUALA LUMPUR, 13 Nov — Malaysia and Indonesia will sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to implement measures to curb bush fires that have contributed to transboundary haze, a government official said on Thursday.

Malaysia’s Deputy Natural Resources and Environment Minister James Dawos Mamit said the initiative aimed at assisting the country’s Indonesian counterparts in Riau, Sumatra Province in preventing bush fire during the annual dry season (November to May).

“The time frame under the present MoU will end this year and we will be signing a new agreement soon,” he told local reporters.

He said there are plans to assist Indonesia in tackling the haze problem under the proposed MoU.

The transboundary haze caused by the practice of slash and burn to clear land for agricultural purposes has been a headache and a diplomatic challenge for countries in the region.

Earlier this year, fires razed some 21,000 hectares of dried peat land swamps in Indonesia’s Riau Province with 1,243 hotspots detected at the height of the fires on 2 March.

During the last dry season, smoke from Indonesian forest fires shrouded Singapore and Malaysia in a thick haze that sent air pollution measures to “hazardous levels” — the highest on record.

S sage teaches children to use fire hose during a fire safety education programme in Jakarta, on 13 Nov, 2014. — XINHUA

Indonesian Prime Minister Shinzo Abe attends the East Asia Summit in Myanmar’s capital Nay Pyi Taw on 13 Nov, 2014. — KYODO NEWS

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe attends the 9th East Asia Summit (EAS) plenary session in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 13 Nov, 2014. — XINHUA

Indian Sikh devotees attend a religious ritual at a temple in eastern Pakistan’s Lahore on 12 Nov, 2014.—XINHUA

India, US resolve impasse over WTO talks

NEW DELHI, 13 Nov — India said on Thursday it has resolved impasse with the United States over World Trade Organization (WTO) talks on easing global customs rules and New Delhi will present its proposal to the WTO soon.

Indian Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that an agreement has been reached with the United States on the issue of food stockpiling. The deal would open the way to implementing the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), which the WTO failed to sign in July due to boycotting by New Delhi, she added.

India has asked for a permanent solution to food stockholding instead of a restricted period of four years, as was originally decided during the WTO ministerial meeting in Bali last year.

“Point of difference was there that the Bali agreement was imperfect, which had to be corrected. It’s a course correction that we wanted,” Sitharaman told the media here. India has rejected demand to cut its food stockpiling and subsidies, saying it has to feed over 1 billion people, half of them poor.

S Korea hopes to realize FM meeting between China, Japan, S Korea

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Indian Sikh devotees attend a religious ritual at a temple in eastern Pakistan’s Lahore on 12 Nov, 2014.—XINHUA
To lead a life of dignity
By Myint Win Thein

There goes a Myanmar saying the empty stomach undermines one’s moral values. It means that it is difficult to follow moral principles when one cannot support one’s family decently. A lot of people in Myanmar have to struggle to meet both ends amidst ever rising cost of living. Among those who are struggling for a decent living include government employees, workers in various private sectors, company staff, peasant farmers and rural people. Some of them do not even have permanent jobs. It is also known to all that how much of their moral values have been eroded for a living.

Now with higher growth rate, the government is able to increase the salaries of government employees. It is important to increase the income of workers in various private sectors, peasant farmers and rural residents.

The decent minimum wage for private sector workers should be adopted and enforced as soon as possible while farmland and agricultural supports are essential for peasant farmers and rural residents.

Recently, a Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representative put forward a motion calling for the union government and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to raise the salaries of government employees decently and to protect the rights of workers and peasant farmers effectively by adopting rules and regulations for the minimum wage and protection of the interests of workers and farmers.

As the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw unanimously approved the motion, it is important to take necessary measures to raise salaries and incomes of all citizens of Myanmar so that they can lead a life of dignity.

A letter of Rakhine State Chief Minister to UNSG

Mr Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, talks to reporters at press conference in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday. PHOTO: MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Nov — Secretary-General of United Nations Mr Ban Ki-moon held a press conference at the MICC-1 here on 12 November.

With regard to the press conference, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Maung Maung Ohn sent a letter dated today to Secretary-General of United Nations Mr Ban Ki-moon.

In the letter, the chief minister stated that I am writing to express my deep disappointment of your use of the term “Rohingya” at a recent press conference in Nay Pyi Taw. While I can understand your intention and desire to promote the rights of the minorities, lending the stature of your office to this highly volatile debate in such a public manner can have lasting detrimental impact on our ability to do the work needed on the ground to bring the communities together.

The term “Rohingya” has fostered distrust and further led to a greater divide between the Rakhine and the Bengali populations as well as between the Myanmar people and the international community. The international community’s insistence on the use of the term “Rohingya” has alienated the Rakhine population and further fueled their distrust of all the United Nations agencies and international organizations such as MSF that are providing much needed assistance inside Rakhine state, the letter added.

We have tried to be constructive and have concentrated on promoting the rights and livelihoods of both populations living in Rakhine State instead of focusing of this divisive debate, said the letter.

Since I became the Chief Minister of Rakhine State, I have tried to bring communities together so that they can rise above their disagreements through interfaith dialogue and building of mutual trust. Not only that, I have tried to bridge the divide between the Rakhine population and the international organizations working there. I am concerned that your statement yesterday could further inflame local sentiment and undo previous gains we have achieved, which is very unfortunate given the timing and opportunities presented to us, the letter disclosed.—MNA

Peaceful and prosperous learning society and livelihoods of residents in Rakhine State

Photo taken on Thursday of students at a school in Sagartaung camp of Kyauktaw Township, 65-mile north of Sittwe, capital city of Rakhine State. A primary school is being kept open at the camp that houses about 600 victims, enabling schoolchildren to have access to education. In Kyauktaw, there are 12 camps for Muslim community.—GNLM/PHOTO: YE MYINT

A thriving green vegetable plantation at Sagartaung camp in Kyauktaw Township, 65-mile north of Sittwe, capital city of Rakhine State. The camp with the population of about 600 is one of 12 camps for Muslim victims in the township. Apart from being provided with regular health care services and farm equipment for livelihood of those at the camp, a primary school enables offspring of victims to have access to education there.—GNLM/PHOTO: YE MYINT
ASEAN and East Asia leaders hold bilateral talks

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Nov-

Leaders and government heads attending the ASE-AN Summits in Nay Pyi Taw held bilateral talks at the Myanmar International Convention Centre on Thursday, sources said.

The prime ministers of New Zealand and Singapore had bilateral talks at 8.15 am, the prime ministers of India and Russia at 8.40 am, the secretary general of the United Nations and the president of the Asian Development Bank at 9.55 am, the president of South Korea and the prime minister of Thailand at 11.5 am, the prime minister of Russia and the UN secretary general at 12.10 pm, the prime ministers of Japan and Thailand at 1.30 pm, the president of the United States and the prime minister of Vietnam at 1.50 pm, the prime ministers of India and the Philippines at 3 pm, the Indian prime minister and the Chinese premier at 4.30 pm, the prime ministers of Malaysia and Japan at 4.50 pm, and the Indonesian president at 6.30 pm.

MNA

ADB President Takehiko Nakao greets UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the talks in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

UN Secretary-General Ban Kimoon greets Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev. MNA

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi shakes hands with Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev.—MN

New Zealand Prime Minister John Key cordially shakes hands with Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.—MNA

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak meets Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.—MNA

Thailand’s Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-cha cordially greets ROK President Park Geun-hye. MNA

Thailand’s Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-cha meets Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. MNA

MNA
UK PM Cameron’s Conservatives take largest poll lead in 4 years

LONDON, 13 Nov — Prime Minister David Cameron’s Conservatives have taken their largest Ipsos-MORI poll lead over the opposition Labour party in four years, according to the company’s latest survey published on Wednesday, less than six months ahead of a national election.

Ipsos MORI found 32 percent of voters planned to back the Conservatives while 29 percent said they would vote for Labour, the first time support for Labour has fallen below 30 percent since before the last election in 2010. The three-point lead for Cameron’s party, its first in an Ipsos MORI poll since October 2010, is due in part to a collapse in support for Labour. Last month 33 percent of voters said they would back Labour, compared to 30 percent for the Conservatives.

The survey of 1,011 adults was carried out 8-10 November as Labour leader Ed Miliband was dogged by media reports that members of his party were conspiring to oust him due to fears his poor personal poll ratings were hampering their election chances. “It looks like it’s had a significant effect on public opinion,” said Bobby Duffy, Managing Director at Ipsos MORI.

The poll found satisfaction with Miliband was at its lowest ever level, while 73 percent of voters did not think he was ready to be prime minister, including 53 percent of Labour supporters. Less than one in four said they thought the Labour party was ready to form the next government, the lowest score for an opposition party in more than 10 years.

Diet set to approve tougher penalties for poaching by foreign vessels

TOKYO, 13 Nov — The Diet is likely to pass bills in the current session to raise fines for poaching by foreign fishing crews in Japanese territorial waters and exclusive economic zones to up to 30 million yen following approval by ruling parties on Thursday.

The revised bills to fishery-related bills comes as many ships suspected to have come from China have been observed poaching red coral in waters around the Ogasawara and Izu islands in the Pacific south of Tokyo. The ruling coalition of the Liberal Democratic Party and Komeito plans to submit amendments to the bills to the House of Representatives in the near term, following approval at their respective meetings on Thursday.

The major opposition Democratic Party of Japan is also likely to approve the revisions at the Diet. “Emergency response is required. We are moving to form consent to (submit) bills initiated by Diet members,” Komeito leader Natsuo Yamaguchi said at his party’s executive meeting. “We are obtaining cooperation from opposition parties.”

Current fines are up to 4 million yen for poaching in Japanese territorial waters and up to 10 million yen for unauthorized fishing within Japan’s EEZ. The fines will be raised to 30 million yen for both cases, coalition sources said.

The revised bills will include lifting the amount of payments needed for the release of ship crew who are arrested due to poaching. They will also include a stipulation to impose an additional fine of roughly 6 million yen per kilogram of poached coral if found on ships, the sources said.

Convicted crew of doomed South Korean ferry file for appeal

SEOUL, 13 Nov — Eight of the 15 surviving crew members of a South Korean ferry that capsized in April have filed for appeal against their convictions on negligence charges in the country’s worst maritime disaster in more than four decades.

The eight crew members, who had been given prison sentences ranging from five to 30 years, filed appeal papers on Thursday, according to court records. Video footage of the crew escaping the sharply listing vessel after telling the passengers to stay inside has sparked nationwide grief and anger. The families of the victims, many of whom were school children, have demanded harsh penalties.

The captain was sentenced to 36 years in jail on Tuesday but acquitted of homicide for which prosecutors had sought the death penalty. He was not among the eight who filed for appeal.

While a court ruled that the captain and crew did not do enough to help direct the passengers to safety, it said they were not the only ones responsible for the tragedy, and that the captain’s negligence did not amount to an intent to kill. A prosecutor involved in the case said after the rulings that prosecutors had decided to appeal against the decision on all 15 crew members, calling the results “disappointing”.

The overloaded Sewol capsized while making a turn on a routine voyage to the holiday island of Jeju. The vessel was later found to be defective, with additions made to increase passenger capacity making it top-heavy and unstable. Only 172 of the ferry’s 476 passengers and crew were rescued. Of the 304 confirmed dead or still listed as missing, 250 were high school children from a single school.

Defence attorneys have said the crew panicked at the time of the accident and were not adequately trained to perform duties to evacuate passengers. “I will appeal for my clients unless the judges hand down a not guilty verdict,” one of the lawyers told Reuters earlier, asking not to be named. — Reuters
Bomb explodes near Egyptian embassy in Libyan capital — witnesses

**Tripoli, 13 Nov** — A car bomb exploded near the Egyptian embassy in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, on Thursday though there were no immediate reports of casualties, residents and witnesses said.

The blast followed a series of car bombs on Wednesday mainly in towns under the control of the internationally recognized government, based in the eastern city of Tobruk, which is facing a challenge from a rival government set up in Tripoli. A Reuters witness said the bomb had slightly damaged buildings and some stores, but it was not clear if the embassy had been hit.

There were no immediate details of whether the embassy was the target of the bomb or whether any staff were in the building.

Three years after the fall of Muammar Gaddafi, Libya is caught up in growing unrest as rival armed factions compete for power and control of the OPEC country’s oil resources. One faction has taken over Tripoli, setting up its own government and parliament and forcing the elected parliament and administration of Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thinni to operate out of Tobruk.

Both sides have routinely accused each other of seeking support from neighbouring regional powers, and many embassies and embassy staff have left the capital after armed clashes and the takeover of the city in the summer.

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**Kabul, 13 Nov** — Weeks after a new Afghan president was sworn in, a tussle for power means it could be weeks — if not months — before a cabinet is in place, the last thing his government needs as it gears for foreign troops to leave after 13 years of war.

President Ashraf Ghani took office in September after a bitter row with rival Abdullah Abdullah, who initially claimed victory in the presidential election but later agreed to form a unity government.

As part of a US-backed deal, the two agreed to work together, with former foreign minister Abdullah as chief executive, but several weeks on there is still no agreement on the make-up of the government.

Ghani is aiming to assemble a functioning government before a British-sponsored conference in London in early December, where he will seek to convince donors to continue bankrolling Afghanistan with billions of dollars in aid. But he appears increasingly unlikely to meet that deadline.

Aides to both teams say there is a tussle over 26 positions, with no agreement on who leads the army and police, who heads the intelligence agency and who controls the country’s finances.

“It is impossible for the whole cabinet to be set up before the London conference because of the contradicting views between both camps,” said Ahmad Sayedi, a Kabul-based analyst. “We expect the new cabinet to be in place by the spring next year.”

The deadlock is a worry for Afghanistan’s foreign backers who spent more than a decade encouraging democratic governance while US-led troops battled the Taleban.

Ghani, seeking to strike a balance in a country long divided along ethnic lines, wants to be seen as a new leader who can honour a pledge to appoint officials based on merit.

But at the same time, he cannot risk making dramatic changes that could upset a fragile balance of interests holding the government together.

The contest for positions is fueling rivalry among supporters and frustrating plans to tackle a looming fiscal crisis and a culture of corruption that is crippling institutions.

“Personalities are not being talked about right now. It’s too early to talk about names,” said Daud Sultanzoy, an adviser to Ghani.

Abdullah’s spokesman said the two sides were at odds over how to interpret the terms of their power-sharing deal.

“President Ashraf Ghani’s team has a different understanding of the deal to share power equally and that’s why forming a new cabinet hasn’t yielded results yet,” said Mujeeb Rahimi.

Hoping to accelerate the process, Abdullah’s backers have proposed dividing appointments equally between the president and the chief executive. That was flatly rejected by Ghani’s team.

“It is impossible to do that, because neither the president nor the chief executive has a monopoly over everything,” said Sultanzoy. “We cannot divide this government as a private ownership.”

Ghani has succeeded in making at least one key appointment, despite objections from some in Abdullah’s camp, nominating Hamid Amr, one of the most trusted members of his team, to the position of National Security Adviser.

The stand-off has dampened the optimism of the early weeks of Ghani’s presidency, when public shows of a crackdown on corruption and inefficiency won him praise.

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**Rome, 13 Nov** — An Italian construction engineer abducted in Libya last July has been freed, Italy’s foreign ministry said on Thursday.

Mareo Vallisa was kidnapped on 5 July along with two other workers from Macedonia and Bosnia in the town of Zuwara.

The two others were freed several days later.

A foreign ministry statement said Vallisa was on his way back to Italy but gave no details of how he was freed.

Libya has seen a rise in kidnappings of diplomats, foreigners and Libyans, with a frusticated government and parliament unable to control militias that helped oust Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.

Vallisa worked for the northern Italian construction company Piacentini Costruzioni.

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**Washington, 13 Nov** — US-led forces conducted 16 air strikes in Syria, most of them around Kobani near the Turkish border, and seven in the oil-producing northern region of Iraq since Monday, the US Central Command said.

Ten air strikes conducted by the United States and its allies near Kobani, hit eight small Islamic State units, damaged three fighting positions and destroyed a logistics facility, Pentagon officials said Wednesday in a statement.

The town has become a test of the US-led coalition’s ability to halt the advance of the hardline insurgents. It is one of the few areas in Syria where it can co-ordinate air strikes with operations by an effective ground force.

Iraqi Kurdish peshmerga have helped take some villages around Kobani but the lines of control in the town remain the same.

In Iraq, five air strikes near Ba’ji, home to an oil refinery, struck two large Islamic State unit, three small ones and destroyed two buildings, two vehicles and a snipers position used by the militants, it said. The other two strikes hit near the oil city of Kirkuk in Iraq’s Kurdish dominated north.

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**An explosion following an air strike is seen in central Kobani on 10 Nov, 2014.**

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Russian shipbuilders may join alliances with world manufacturers

VLADIVOSTOK, 13 Nov — Russian shipbuilders may enter alliances with global manufacturers in case of necessity, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday.

“We should adopt foreign experience where this is needed,” Putin said, adding that Russian shipbuilders may “join technological alliances with the world’s leading manufacturers.

Putin reminded that one of Russia’s most advanced shipyards is currently being built “from scratch” in Bolshoi Kamenn Bay, in the country’s Far East. The first stage of the construction is expected to complete in 2016.

“That’s why there is a need in new production competence and skilled personnel,” the president stressed. The issue is acute both the Far East and the whole sector, Putin said, adding that Russia lacks specialists of all levels and modern systems of corporate and project management.

“We need a systematic approach,” Putin said, adding that Russia’s shipbuilders should offer a good quality product, Putin said, adding that this product should not only be competitive in price but also reliable. 

“This competitive advantage needs to be used into real and economically viable projects,” Putin stressed. Plans to develop Russian shipbuilding should be synchronized with investment programs to ensure that foreign companies also work on the Russian fuel-and-energy industry, in the transport sector,” Putin said. “And our plans to put into operation new shipbuilding capacities must be synchronized with investment programs of major foreign companies,” he added. — Itar-Tass

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**Russian shipbuilders may join alliances with world manufacturers**

**US Navy strategy for long warship deployment starts in Asia**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR**

**THE MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION**

**MYANMA RAILWAYS**

**NOTIFICATION**

1. Ministry of Rail Transportation, Tender Invitation and Evaluation Committee has invited the proposals of EOI from the developers for the dry dock project which will be implemented at Ywathaddy in Yangon Region and Myitnge in Mandalay Region on the last date of 19th Oct 2014. The invitation of EOI was announced by the state owned daily newspapers and, the proposals of eleven companies were submitted.

2. In the first step, the Committee has selected the following (7) potential companies in line with the rules and regulations:-

   (a) SSL Trading Co., Ltd.
   (b) Malikha Automobile Co., Ltd.
   (c) KMA Shipping Co., Ltd.
   (d) Resources Group Logistics Co., Ltd.
   (e) UMG Logistics Co., Ltd.
   (f) China National Complete Plant Imp & Exp, Yunan Co., Ltd.
   (g) KERRY Logistics Network

For the second step, the selected companies have to submit the proposals which include the preliminary survey report for the dry ports which they intend to construct.

3. The proposals form (English/Myanmar) will be available by the respective company’s official letter at Deputy General Manager, Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinphyu Street and Merchant Street, Botataung Township, Yangon, Myanmar, Phone 95-1-291985, 291994. The companies must submit the proposal in original, a duplicate copy and electronic copy of a CD ROM not later than 14:00 pm, 9th January 2015. No submission by E-mail shall be entertained.

4. Myanma Railways will select the potential developers who meet the qualification for the third step. Enquiries can be made by calling telephone 95-67-77005, 77085, 77068.

Managing Director
Myanma Railways
Ministry of Rail Transportation

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U Than Maung, Advocate
For M. Tech Products Myanmar Ltd.,
No: Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,
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**Russian shipbuilders may join alliances with world manufacturers**

**US Navy strategy for long warship deployment starts in Asia**

**Global New Light of Myanmar**

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**Russian shipbuilders may join alliances with world manufacturers**

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**US Navy strategy for long warship deployment starts in Asia**

**San Diego, (Calif), 13 Nov — An upcoming 16-month deployment of the USS Fort Worth, a new coastal warship built by Lockheed Martin Corp, kicks off a new strategy by the US Navy that it says will save money and help maintain a presence overseas despite tighter budgets.**

Captain Randy Garner, Commodore of Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) Squadron One, said the Navy plans to have three crews for every two Littoral Combat Ships (LCS), rotating them onto the ships every four months, a big reduction from current staffing levels that allow crews to remain with their ships.

“It’s all about giving flexibility to the forward commander, based on how much money we have,” Garner told Reuters at his office after a tour of the ships, which is due to leave on Monday for Singapore and the Pacific region.

“It’s an amazing return on the shipbuilding dollar for us, versus what we’ve done in the past,” he said.

The Pentagon is reviewing Navy recommendations on whether to upgrade the ships, modify them or switch to a different design. The decisions will be part of the fiscal 2016 budget request.

Garner said the Navy learned important lessons from Freedom’s deployment but said every other new ship programme had similar experiences, Reuters.

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Friday, 14 November, 2014

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- Iron
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- Magnesium
- Manganese
- Nickel
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**Window washers rescued after dangling at NYC’s World Trade Center**

**New York, 13 Nov** — Two window washers trapped on a broken platform outside the 69th floor of New York’s One World Trade Center scrambled to safety through a hole cut in the glass on Wednesday after dangling for two hours alongside the city’s tallest skyscraper.

Rescuers pulled the men from an oblong, open-topped platform used to clean windows as one end of it hung on a sharp, almost vertical angle from the newly opened tower, high above the National 11 September Memorial.

Tenants started occupying the 104-story structure only last week, a milestone in the long, fraught process of rebuilding the site of the Twin Towers that were destroyed in the 11 Sept, 2001, attacks on New York City.

The rescued men were identified as Juan Lopez, who has been a window washer for five years, and Juan Lizama, who has been on the job for 14 years, said Gerard McEneaney, a labor union official.

It appeared that one of the cables from which the platform was suspended had snapped after an unspecified mechanical failure, McEneaney told the NY1 news channel.

Firefighters decided to cut through three layers of glass on the 68th floor instead of bringing the washers up outside the building, Joseph Jardin, a battalion chief in the city’s fire department, said at a news conference. “This was a fairly simple operation,” Jardin said. “If we had to take them from the roof that would have been challenging.”

Workers in nearby offices clustered around their windows to watch the rescue, which was also shown live on television, while police closed off streets around the building in lower Manhattan.

“Things like this happen all the time in the city,” Ray Elmadolar, a construction manager who works at a neighbouring office building, said as he watched the unfolding operation, “but you don’t want it to happen so high up.”

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**WEATHER REPORT**

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 14th November, 2014:** Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Tanyintha Region and Mon State, weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin and Rakhine States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.
Gugu Mbatha-Raw on women in music, facade of fame

LOS ANGELES, 13 Nov — After playing a mixed-race slave in this year’s period film “Belle,” British actress Gugu Mbatha-Raw found herself stepping outside of her comfort zone entering the glitz and glamour of the contemporary pop music industry.

Mbatha-Raw plays Noni Jean in the film “Beyond the Lights,” a glammed-up R&B rising star who bears close resemblance to many real-life ladies in the pop industry in terms of how women are groomed into these packaged pop princesses. We’ve seen numerous, very public meltdowns in the media of how that sometimes backfires, and especially when parents become their business collaborators.

I was just fascinated about that mother-daughter dynamic, myself (from) a single parent, only child (background), not at all from that toxic dynamic, but what if? And what’s the cost of fame?

Q: Mental health has been in the spotlight due to some high-profile breakdowns and deaths. Does the movie warn people to pay more attention to what’s behind the facade of fame?

A: There was definitely an underlying element of a cautionary tale, be careful what you wish for in terms of fame and glamour, and the vacuity of it all.

What was so refreshing was the fact (the director) shows the underbelly of the music industry. So often we see these glamorous divas in movies, but you don’t often always get to see the human being beneath it all. For me as an actress, it was great to have all of those layers in one role — to be able to do the makeup, the glamour, but then to be able to strip it all down.

Q: How did you feel having to wear some of those provocative outfits and performing raunchy dance moves?

A: It felt supported by the choreography. We built the character. We built her physicality as well as her dance moves, and the music. It was all a process of layering all of those elements together to build Noni.

It was definitely out of my comfort zone. I’m not going to lie to you, but I definitely felt like that was the commitment needed for this character. Those dance moves, those videos are nothing that you wouldn’t see if you just went on to YouTube.

It’s about point of view, and we’ve become numb to the sexualization of women in hip hop.

Q: You played a mixed-race slave in the period drama “Belle” earlier this year, and there are racial tensions in this film between Noni and her mother, who is white, in this film. As a mixed-race actress, what do you find yourself being able to explore when you play out those racial tensions?

A: “Beyond the Lights” really is not about race. I think people endow their own cultural experience, but to me it’s not a story about race, it’s a love story and it’s universal.

What is more interesting, what I do think those projects share, is the issue of identity. I think that in many ways is a broader term not just for a racial identity, but also your relationship with yourself and your acceptance of yourself.

I think both Dido, Belle in “Belle” and Noni Jean in “Beyond the Lights” both struggle with who they really are in the society they’re really in.

Marilyn Monroe’s lost love letters up for auction

The auction for 300 letters belonging to the iconic actress would take place on 5-6 December in Beverly Hills.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 13 Nov — Some of Hollywood sirens Marilyn Monroe’s lost love letters are going to be auctioned off. The auction for 300 letters belonging to the iconic actress would take place on 5-6 December in Beverly Hills, reported Ace Showbiz.

An auction for the memorabilia in ‘Marilyn Monroe’s Lost Archives,’ held by Julian’s Auctions, comprises of some heartfelt letters from the actress’ former husband Joe DiMaggio. The letters were sent amid their separation in 1954.

“I love you and want to be with you. There is nothing I would like better than to restore your confidence in me,” he told her in one letter.

The baseball player also expressed his feelings when Monroe announced their split on TV. My heart split even wider seeing you cry in front of all these people,” he said.

Monroe talked about her insecurities in a letter addressed to her husband, playwright Arthur Miller. Letters from Clark Gable, Cary Grant and Jane Russell are also included in the collection. In her will, Monroe gave the collection to her acting mentor Lee Strasberg.

She then passed the collection to a friend whom he believed would take care a great care for the letters. Many of the letters in the collection are now still in pristine condition.

“It really gives you the chills when you read some of the stuff and see the immaturity and the personal nature of it,” said auction curator Martin Nolan.

The auction house predicts that many fans will be interested in the bid. The collection is expected to fetch as much as USD 1 million.

Gwyneth Paltrow to open store for Christmas gifts

Gwyneth’s store will open on 17 November, next Monday.—PTI

LONDON, 13 Nov — “Iron Man 3” actress Gwyneth Paltrow will be opening a temporary store in Dallas, Texas, where people will be able to buy Christmas gifts inspired on her lifestyle website.

The store will open on 17 November, next Monday. The 42-year-old actress posted a black-and-white photograph on Instagram of a glass door, reported Contactmusic. “Goop, coming soon, 17 November - 14 December,” are the words printed on the glass door in the picture.

Paltrow, who split from Chris Martin in March after 10 years of marriage, focused on her lifestyle website.

The fate of Spider-Man was left uncertain after the lukewarm performance of “The Amazing Spider-Man 2” earlier this year.

The only project expected to go as planned is ‘The Sinister Six,’ which revolves around the supervillains in Spider-Man’s universe who seek redemption for their past sins.—PTI

Taylor Swift shakes off competition to hold Billboard top spot

Taylor Swift reigned atop the US Billboard 200 album chart for a second consecutive week on Wednesday after scoring the biggest debut in a dozen years. “1989” sold 402,000 copies in its second week according to sales figures compiled by Nielsen SoundScan, outpacing the cumulative sales of the rest of the nine albums in the top ten of Billboard’s weekly album chart by nearly 100,000 copies.

The “Now 52” compilation held steady at No 2 with sales of 59,000, and only three new entries made the top ten of the Billboard 200 chart this week.

Veteran singer Bette Midler’s “It’s the Girls” clocked in at No 3. British electronic music DJ Calvin Harris’ “Motion” entered at No 5 and country singer Sam Hunt’s “Montevallo” ranked out the list at No 10.

“1989” opened with 1.3 million copies last week and became Swift’s third album to open with more than 1 million copies, making her the only artist to achieve the milestone.—Reuters

Sony will not make film on Aunt May from ‘Spider-Man’ world

LOS ANGELES, 13 Nov — Sony will not be making any movie focusing on Aunt May’s character from ‘Spider-Man’ films.

It was previously reported that the studio was developing a prequel that would focus on the guardian of Peter Parker, but has told Comic Book Resources that it was a ‘silly rumour’ with ‘no validity whatsoever’, reported Aceshowbiz.

The previous report suggested Sony was trying to take a crack at a story that would follow Aunt May during her younger days before Peter Parker, with the responsibility of raising Peter. The fate of Spider-Man was left uncertain after the lukewarm performance of “The Amazing Spider-Man 2” earlier this year.

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Unstoppable Djokovic eyeing golden finale

**Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns the ball to Stan Wawrinka of Switzerland during their tennis match at the ATP World Tour Finals at the O2 Arena in London on 12 Nov, 2014.** — REUTERS

**London, 13 Nov—** For 15 minutes Novak Djokovic appeared to have a fight on his hands at the ATP World Tour Finals on Wednesday, then the Serb dialled up his A game and tore Stanislas Wawrinka to pieces.

Such was the perfection of his tennis for most of a 6-3, 6-0 thrashing that it is hard to argue against him crowning his year as world number one and with a hat-trick of titles at the ATP’s year-ending showpiece.

The 27-year-old has conceded only five games so far at the cavernous O2 Arena yet the arithmetic of round-robin tennis means the seven-times grand slam champion is still not definitively assured of a semi-final spot.

Even more bizarre, US Open champion Marin Cilic, crushed 6-3, 6-1 by Czech Tomas Berdych in the day’s earlier Group A match could conceivably scrape through despite two heavy losses.

Just like his tennis Djokovic, who faces Berdych on Friday, cut straight through a question about whether or not he gets bogged down with the various scenarios.

“Nobody needs to tell me I need to win,” he said. “That’s what I try to do. That’s why I’m here. I try to win every match I play on. That’s the kind of approach I will have on Friday.”

In actual fact Djokovic would go through to the semi-finals with a three-set defeat against Berdych who at least gave himself some hope by trouncing Cilic.

“I’m going to try to maybe win three, four games. That would be better than the last time,” a smiling Berdych, beaten 6-2 6-0 by Djokovic in the recent Beijing final, told reporters.

Djokovic has played some epic matches against Swiss enigmatic, notably at the previous two Australian Opens, beating him in five in 2013 and then losing a fifth-set decider 9-7 this year in the quarter-finals.

World number four Wawrinka has been up and down since winning his first grand slam title in Melbourne, but he was flying at the start on Wednesdays.

Striking the ball with ferocious power he broke Djokovic’s opening service game and then held for a 2-0 lead.

The backlash was lethal, however.

Djokovic began exploring the corners with his surgical groundstrokes and Wawrinka was overwhelmed as he lost 20 out of 23 points in a five-game swing that snatched the match away.

Wawrinka held serve at love but Djokovic took the opening set in the next game and romped through the second set in 24 minutes, ending it when he drove a forehand down the line.

“I thought he played very well the first two games but I wasn’t frustrated. I kept my calm. After that, it was a really amazing performance,” Djokovic said of his 29th consecutive indoor win that leaves him one victory away from sealing the year-end world number one ranking.

With eight matches down and seven remaining, the sell-out 02 crowds are yet to see a singles match go the distance.

“It’s the tournament of the best eight players in the world. People, fans, the crowd expect to see a little bit more excitement and longer matches,” Djokovic said.

After that, it was a really amazing performance,” Djokovic said of his 29th consecutive indoor win that leaves him one victory away from sealing the year-end world number one ranking.

Two-time Olympian Suguri announces retirement

**Tokyo, 13 Nov—** Two-time Japanese Olympic figure Suguri announced on Tuesday that she will retire after failing to qualify for the national championships.

The 33-year-old competed in the women’s figure skating competition at the 2002 Salt Lake City Games and four years later in Turin, Suguri was eighth in this month in the Eastern Japan Championships, ruling out of making a fourth straight appearance at the national championships.

“I was unable to advance to the nationals, and I’ll be 37 when the next Olympics come around, so I thought this was my time (to leave),” Suguri, a five-time Japan champion and a three-time world championships medalist, told a Press conference.

Suguri finished fifth in Salt Lake City and fourth in Turin. In 2003, she became Japan’s first ISU Grand Prix Final champion. — Kyodo News

Singapore defender Beknazarov gets two-year doping ban

**SINGAPORE, 13 Nov—** Singaporean defender Khursheed Beknazarov has been banned for two years for a doping offence during the Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said on Thursday.

Beknazarov, 20, was thrown out of the Games and provisionally suspend-
ed after testing positive for the banned stimulant Methylhexanamine following a match against Singapore on 14 September.

The AFC Disciplinary Committee released a statement on Thursday announcing it had imposed a two-year ban on Beknazarov, who has the right to appeal.

The AFC Disciplinary Committee also announced it had extended the suspension of six Vietnamese players under suspicion for throwing a domestic league game in Japan.

The six Dong Nai players were temporary suspended from domestic competition following an investigation into match-fixing and the AFC said the ban had now been extended to continental matches as well.

Match-fixing has long plagued Vietnamese soccer, with arrests of coaches, bookmakers and players commonplace.

Soccer is the most popular sport and gambling is rampant, despite being strictly illegal. — Reuters

Keane calls police after incident at Ireland hotel

**Dublin, 13 Nov—** Former Manchester United midfielder Roy Keane called police to the Ireland team hotel on Wednesday after an incident involving a member of the public, the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) said.

British media reports said Keane, who is assistant to Ireland manager Martin O’Neill, was involved in an altercation at the Portmarnock Hotel north of Dublin with a fan who wanted him to sign a copy of his book. **Follow ing inaccurate media reports which refer to an incident involving a member of the public this evening at the Republic of Ireland team hotel, we wish to clarify that Roy Keane called the Garda (police) following an incident,” read the FAI statement.**

“He was unable to advance to the nationals, and I’ll be 37 when the next Olympics come around, so I thought this was my time (to leave),” Suguri, a five-time Japan champion and a three-time world championships medalist, told a Press conference.

Suguri finished fifth in Salt Lake City and fourth in Turin. In 2003, she became Japan’s first ISU Grand Prix Final champion. — Kyodo News

Two-time Olympian Suguri announces retirement

**Japanese figure skater Yumie Suguri, 33, tells a Press conference in Tokyo’s Shibuya Ward on 13 Nov, 2014.** — Kyodo News
London, 13 Nov — Having avoided the pitfalls suffered in early Euro 2016 qualifying matches by several other seeded countries, England will be confident of a fourth successive Group E victory at home to Slovenia on Saturday.

While teams like Germany, holders Spain, the Netherlands and Portugal have all suffered unexpected defeats, Roy Hodgson’s team have a 100 percent record after games away to Switzerland (2-0) and Estonia (1-0) and at home to San Marino (5-0).

They soak up a 1-0 friendly success against Norway, underwhelming as it was, and they have yet to concede a goal this season after finishing bottom of their group at the World Cup in Brazil.

Switzerland, supposed to be their strongest rivals this time, have already lost two games out of three and Slovenia lost their opening match against Estonia.

They recovered to defeat Switzerland and Lithuania, who meet on Saturday.

Hodgson is too old a hand to take anything for granted, however, and he is pleased not to have suffered serious disruption to his squad of 26, which includes the uncapped West Bromwich Albion striker Saido Berahino.

With Manchester United’s Wayne Rooney and Arsenal’s Danny Welbeck available, Berahino may have to wait until the friendly match away to neighbours Scotland on Tuesday for a first appearance.

Rooney, in contrast, is due on Saturday to become the ninth England player to earn 100 caps.

“I’ll be proud to join that club and it is something that myself and my family would be honoured by,” he says in an interview for Saturday’s match programme.

After scoring in England’s last two matches, two more goals would take Rooney ahead of Jimmy Greaves as his country’s third highest scorer with 45.

Slovenia also have a striker in good form in 35-year-old Mihoyo Novakovic. Now playing for the Japanese club Shimizu S-Pulse, he scored all three goals in the wins over Switzerland and Lithuania and is a veteran of the two previous meetings with England in 2009 and at the 2010 World Cup, both lost by a single goal.

Disciplined defending and quick counter attacks were decisive in the recent victories and have given captain Bostjan Cesar renewed belief.

New Zealand teen Ko becomes youngest LPGA rookie of year

Wellington, 13 Nov — New Zealand teenager Lydia Ko has become the youngest winner of the LPGA’s rookie of the year award in a season in which she has won twice, secured two runner-up finishes and nine other top-10s.

The 17-year-old already owns records as the youngest LPGA title winner and the youngest player to win $1 million in prize money.

“It’s really been a dream rookie season for me,” Ko said on the LPGA website.

“I learned so much and am glad to have achieved some of my goals along the way. It’s an honour to have won the money and to have my name etched alongside such amazing players and legends of the game on the list of Rookie of the Year winners.”

Currently ranked third in the world, Ko enters this week’s Lorena Ochoa Invitational fourth on the LPGA money list with $1.564.962 and riding a streak of 40 straight cuts — the best on tour.

Ko is yet to miss a cut in an LPGA Tour event.