President U Thein Sein, Chinese Premier Li hold talks at Presidential Palace

President U Thein Sein and Chinese Premier Mr. Li Keqiang inspect the Guard of Honour.—MNA

YANGON, 14 Nov—President of the United States Barack Obama visited the Secretariat Building in the former capital of Yangon on Friday morning during his second visit to Myanmar.

Dr Thant Myint-U, Chairman of the Yangon Heritage Trust, quoted Obama as saying that the Secretariat is the most important secular historic site in the country and the birthplace of Myanmar’s democracy and that it is where the representative government took shape in the early 20th century, where the Constituent Assembly met to write the country’s democratic constitution, where the architects of independence were assassinated in 1947, and where the very first national parliament was convened.

President Obama offered assistance with urban development and heritage protection during his tour of the Secretariat with the accompaniment of YHT Chairman Dr Thant Myint-U.

Constructed in 1905 at a cost of K2.5 million, the Secretariat is of prime historical importance to Myanmar.

In the evening, the US president met young people of the Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Programme and delivered an address at Diamond Jubilee Hall of Yangon University. In his address, Obama recounted that his younger days were spent in Southeast Asian nations, encouraging young people to follow their dreams and braving and overcoming challenges that come in the way.

He described education as the future of a nation. (See page 3)

President U Thein Sein and Chinese Premier Li hold talks at Presidential Palace

President U Thein Sein and Chinese Premier Mr. Li Keqiang inspect the Guard of Honour.—MNA

President U Thein Sein leaves for Australia to attend G-20 Summit

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Nov—President U Thein Sein together with Union Ministers—U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Tin Naing Thein, U Win Shein, Dr Kan Zaw and U Ye Htut, Majedway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Showe and Kayah State Chief Minister U Khin Maung Oo and officials—left here for the Australian city of Brisbane on Friday to attend the 9th G-20 Summit.

The president was seen off at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by vice presidents Dr Sai Maek Kham and U Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Union ministers. MNA

US President visits historic birthplace of Myanmar’s independence

YANGON, 14 Nov—Chairman of the Bonds Supervisory Commission Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Maung Maung Thein together with representatives of the Japan Exchange Group and Daiwa Institute of Research on Friday inspected the work progress of Yangon Stock Exchange.

The building is located on Sule Pagoda Road in Kyaukkla Township in Yangon and is scheduled to open in October next year, sources said.

Economic observers believe the emergence of a Yangon stock market will play a crucial role in the financial sector, and is the first step to a capital market in the country that can also create more business opportunities for both local and foreign businesspersons.

An entrepreneur said he believes businesspeople will surely benefit greatly from the Yangon Stock Exchange. MNA

Deputy Finance Minister inspects progress of Yangon Stock Exchange

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw raises objection to UNSG’s use of “Rohingya”

NAK PYI TAW, 14 Nov — The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session on Friday unanimously approved an emergency motion calling on the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to object to the use of the term “Rohingya” by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as it interfered with the sovereignty of Myanmar.

The motion was put forward by Representative U Thein Nyunt of Thinganayun Township Constituency and seconded by Representative Daw Khin Saw Wai of Yathedaung Township Constituency.

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw approves FPTP electoral system

NAK PYI TAW, 14 Nov — Although the Hluttaw commission to review the electoral system recommended 8 electoral systems, the Pyithu Hluttaw session on Friday approved the current first-past-the-post system as the seven others breach the provisions of the state constitu- tion.

Concerning the electoral system, the speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw said some representatives including ethnic national races raised objections to changing the electoral system to a proportional representation system but he formed the commission to review the electoral sys- tems.

When the commission recommended 8 electoral systems, he presented the recommendations to the constitutional tribunal which replied that only the current electoral system was in accordance with the state constitution.

Then, the speaker sought the decision of the Pyithu Hluttaw to prevent a breach of the constitution by adopting the seven other systems that are against the provisions of the constitution.

Union Government to consider impacts and consequences of pay rise

NAK PYI TAW, 14 Nov — Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein told the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Wednesday that he welcomed an emergency motion calling for a decrease in increase in pays and benefits for Hluttaw representatives, leading members and members of self-administered zones and government em- 

ployees, adoption of de- 

cent minimum wages for workers at various private sectors and protection of fundamental rights of farm- ers, saying that it is a main responsibility of the government to work in the interests of the nation and its people. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session on Wednesday unanimously approved the motion.

Fishery export revenue likely to drop below US$500 million this year: MPEA

YANGON, 14 Nov — Exports of the fishery sec- tor are down as the coun- try’s marine products have gradually decreased, with export revenue expected to keep falling below US$500 million this financial year, according to an exporter organization.

Last year, total fishery exports were valued at US$536 million.

Daw Toe Nanda Tin of the Myanmar Fishery Products Processor and Exporters Association (MPEA) said the sector needs an effective action plan to develop Myanmar’s aqua-culture system, which plays a key role in increasing the numbers of fishery products that can also help exporters meet demand in China, the EU and the US.

U Win Kyiarn, general-secretary of Myanmar Fishery Federation (MFF), advised businessmen in the fishery industry that they should place emphasis on shifting from fishing to fish farming as the industry has a poor natural resource due to illegal short wave fishing and other ma- rine-related problems.

But, local breeders need technology support which is vital to successfully start transplant fish farming, he added, saying that poor electricity and transportation are some of the challenges facing the breeders.

Currently, local fish and prawn farmers have been producing fishery products from about 4-acre farms but it is not enough to meet the needs of both local and foreign con- sumption. Therefore, they seek to assistance to acquire grandparent stock for breeding exportable fishes such as Tilapia, Daw Toe Nanda Tin said.

Sustainable development of the fisheries sector is being prepared for the Myanmar Business Forum, according to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF).
President U Thein Sein, Chinese...

(from page 1)

the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and also pledged to cooperate in these sectors.

The Chinese premier pledged to set up a US$20 billion special loan for development of infrastructure in ASEAN countries at the 9th East Asia Summit and the 17th ASEAN-China Summit held in Nay Pyi Taw this week.

President U Thein Sein and Chinese Premier Li also witnessed the signing of several MoUs and agreements.

President U Thein Sein and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang witnessed the signing of the MoUs and agreements.

The MoUs and agreements signed between the two countries included the MoU on Bilateral Economic and Technological Cooperation under the Framework of BCIM Economic Corridor between the National Development and Reform Commission of the People’s Republic of China and (relevant Ministry or Department) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the MoU between the National Development and Reform Commission of the People’s Republic of China and (relevant Ministry or Department) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the MoU between the National Development and Reform Commission of the People’s Republic of China and (relevant Ministry or Department) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar concerning Agricultural Trade Cooperation, the Preferential Buyer Credit Facility Agreement on the Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Hydraulic Steel Structure and Electromechanical Works Project for Upper Yeywa Hydropower Station between Central Bank of Myanmar as borrower and the Export-Import Bank of China as lender, the MoU on Projects Cooperation of the First Tranche Facility Agreement under the RMB 30 Billion Credit Facility between the Export-Import Bank of China and the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, the MoU on Economic Cooperation between the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, the Ministry of Commerce of the Republic of Myanmar and China.

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Nay Pyi Taw, 14 Nov—President U Thein Sein received the President of the State Council Mr Li Keqiang in the hall of Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday. They discussed further strengthening bilateral relations and promoting cooperation between the two countries.

The meeting was also attended by chairmen and members of the Pyithu Hluttaw committees and commission, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thit Linn Oyn and Chinese Ambassador Mr Yang Houlan.

Vietnamese Prime Minister leaves for home

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 Nov—The Prime Minister and party who attended the 25th ASEAN Summit and related meetings left Nay Pyi Taw International Airport on 13 November night.

They were seen off at the airport by Union Minister for Education Dr Daw Khin San Yi and officials.—MNA
Action taken against undisciplined vehicles in Mandalay

Mandalay, 14 Nov — A traffic enforcement team comprising officials of the Mandalay City Development Committee, Traffic Police Force, Bus control committee, Directorate of Road Administration and Transport Department together with local authorities earlier this month cracked down on drivers heading the wrong way and vehicles parked at public places.

From 1 to 10 November, the combined team issued 136 citations.

Likewise, police squads from the Mandalay Development Police Force took action against 209 drivers in downtown Mandalay.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Myawady District turns out midwives for prenatal health care

Myawady, 14 Nov — The midwifery course 1/2014 concluded at the hall of Myawady District Hospital in Kayin State on Tuesday morning.

Deputy Commissioner of the district U Lwin Ko Oo stressed the need to take care of pregnant women and offer basic child health care for the local people. Midwives were trained with the aim of enabling them to provide health care services in rural areas, he said.

The deputy commissioner presented prizes to outstanding trainees, while the deputy head of the District Health Department gave certificates to the trainees.

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Dr Hla Maung Zin, assistant director of the Sports and Physical Education Department gave a supplementary report.

The Chief Minister’s Cup Football Tournaments have been held in Mudon, Kyakto and Thanyazayat townships in previous years. The football tourney will be held in Thaton from 24 November to 9 December.

Thet Oo (Thaton)

Model paddy plantation yield reaches 117 baskets per acre

Myanaung, 14 Nov — Hsinthukha paddy plot was harvested in Gonnyindan Village, Myanaung Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 9 November. The paddy plot produced 117 baskets of paddy per acre.

Local farmers participated in harvesting of paddy under supervision of township departmental officials.

Win Bo (Myanaung IPRD)

Thaton Township prepares to host Chief Minister’s Cup football tourney

Thaton, 14 Nov — A plan is underway to hold the Mon State Chief Minister’s Cup U-23 Inter-Township Football Tournament from the second week of November at Thaton Myoma Sports Ground.

A work committee and subcommittees have been formed for systematically holding the tournament, Township Administrator U Tun Tun Naing said at the coordination meeting for the tournament at the hall of the Township General Administration Department on 10 November.

Officials of the committee submitted reports on preparations for holding the football tournament on a grand scale.

Assistant Director U Khin Zaw of the Sports and Physical Education Department gave a supplementary report.

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Thet Oo (Thaton)
More people heading to see Mya Thein Tan Pagoda in Mingun

Mandaly, 14 Nov—Mya Thein Tan Pagoda in Mingun region is receiving many visitors both from home and abroad as it is decorated with ancient Myanmar architectural works and handicrafts.

The pagoda was built by Sagaing Prince in 1163 Myanmar Era and it was completed in 1169 ME. The circumference at the foot of the pagoda is 312 feet. It was repaired by Queen Hsinbyumashin, and so it can be called Hsinbyumashin Pagoda.

King Mindon also repaired it in his time with decorations of handicrafts.

Myanmar textile gets good price

Natogyi, 14 Nov—Local made textiles are marketable, fetching good price in Natogyi Township, said a shop owner of Myanmar textile.

The Myanmar textile sold at K2,000 per piece in the past are being traded ranging from K2,500 to K3,000 in the market. Best designs of textile produced from Amarapura, Thedaw and Wundwin townships attract the customers in the market. Products of textile industries in central Myanmar are transported to major cities such as Yangon, Mandalay, Taunggyi and Myitkyina.

Citizenship cards issued to students

Natogyi, 14 Nov—The issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards was held at No 1 Basic Education High School in Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on 9 November.

Staff of the Immigration and National Registration Department issued the cards to the students through a one-stop service.

Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo extended greetings to all and presented the cards to 203 students individually.

As part of implementation of the Moe Pwint Plan-7, the department delivered the citizenship scrutiny cards to 382 eligible citizens.

Sagaing Region MCWSC provides wheelchair to disabled student

Yinmabin, 14 Nov—The Sagaing Region Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee held a ceremony to provide a wheelchair to a student with disabilities at the hall of Basic Education High School in Yinmabin, Sagaing Region, on 11 November.

Chairperson of Sagaing Region MCWSC Daw Nang Cho Cho Pyone made a speech. Assistant Surgeon Dr Win Myat Nwe of the Township Health Department gave a talk on diabetes diseases, and Secretary of Sagaing Region MCWSC Dr Zargyi Win spoke about seasonal diseases.

Chairperson Daw Nang Cho Cho Pyone provided one wheelchair, K30,000 and one set of clothes to student Maung Aung Htoo Hein with disabilities.

The chairperson and party presented eggs, iodized salt, detergent powder and nutritious foods to pregnant women.

Short circuit causes fire at oil installation

Mandaly, 14 Nov—A fire broke out at the main oil installation of Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy in West Thanlyetmaw Ward in Mahangmgye Township in Mandalay on 10 November afternoon.

The fire started from a short circuit while an oil tanker truck was being filled at the station.

Director U Kyi Win of the Fire Services Department, Deputy Director Head of Mandalay Region FSD U Than Zaw Oo and over 380 firefighters put out the fire with the use of 55 fire trucks and two management vehicles.

Oil truck driver Ko Min and worker Yan Naiing Soe suffered injuries and are in critical condition together with other injured workers Zaw Tun Naung, Kyaw Win Maw, Lwin Moe Tun and Thet Ko Oo. They were sent to Mandalay General Hospital. The fire destroyed property of the station worth K3 million.
Tainted drugs suspected in Indian sterilisation surgery deaths

PANANDI, (India), 14 Nov — Tainted or sub-standard drugs probably led to the deaths of 13 Indian women after sterilisation surgery at a camp in Bilaspur District, in the eastern Indian state of Chhattisgarh, on 13 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

A view of the hospital where over 80 women underwent a sterilisation surgery at a government mass sterilisation “camp”, in Pandari in Bilaspur District, in the eastern Indian state of Chhattisgarh on 13 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

A doctor at a second camp, which Gupta said was evidence he was not to blame. The government of Chhattisgarh, one of India’s poorest states, banned medicines used at Gupta’s sterilisation camp, including Indian-made brands of ciprofloxacin and ibuprofen. “Owners of the companies responsible for the sale of drugs have been summoned,” state Chief Minister Raman Singh told reporters. “They will all be questioned and we have sealed their factories.”

India test-fires short-range nuclear-capable missile

NEW DELHI, 14 Nov — India’s military successfully test-fired a short-range, nuclear-capable surface-to-surface missile on Friday, the Press Trust of India news agency said. The test-fired, the third this year conducted by the Strategic Forces Command, was carried out from a mobile launcher at the Chandipur test range in the eastern state of Odisha, the report said.

The Prithvi-II, which has a range of 350 kilometres, was deployed in 2003.—Kyodo News

Abe calls for expanded cooperation among Japan, Australia, US

BRISBANE, (Australia), 14 Nov — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe called in an Australian paper on Friday for expanded cooperation among Japan, Australia and the United States to realize a peaceful, secure and prosperous future for the Asia-Pacific region.

In an article contributed to The Australian Financial Review, Abe said, “As the United States is the most important ally for Japan and Australia, I am determined to expand trilateral cooperation between the three countries.”

The three countries will hold a summit meeting for the first time in seven years on the sidelines of a summit of the Group of 20 economies to be held this weekend in Brisbane.

Abe said Japan-Australia relations are now “stronger than ever before,” citing the bilateral Economic Partnership Agreement which Japan’s Diet approved last week.

Abe also called for “tangible steps taken in the area of security and defence cooperation” as Japan and Australia signed bilateral accords in July on the transfer of defence equipment and technology.

Referring to the achievements of his “Abeonomics” policy mix, Abe said he hopes an economic recovery “will contribute more to international society in the years ahead.”

Indonesia to create new coastguard, boost defence spending

JAKARTA, 14 Nov — Indonesia will launch a new coastguard next month to crack down on piracy and smuggling which can disrupt commerce in Southeast Asia’s biggest economy, the chief security minister told Reuters on Thursday.

The force is part of President Joko Widodo’s push to reassure investors at a time when the economy is growing at its slowest in five years and is strained by twin trade and current account deficits. “There are too many overlapping agencies that are not effective in securing the seas,” Edy Purdijatno said in his first interview to foreign media as chief security minister.

“We will bring it all under one coastguard to make sure businesses that use sea transportation are not harmed.” Indonesia relies on a loose grouping of police and navy personnel to safeguard its shipping lanes but smuggling of natural resources is rife.

The Malacca Strait in western Indonesia, a region and global trade corridor, has among the highest number of piracy attacks in the world. The coastguard, to be launched in mid-December, will also secure maritime borders and tackle illegal fishing and human trafficking. It will initially borrow personnel and vessels from the military with the aim of being fully independent in a year, Purdijatno said, declining to give details about the size of the force.

Indonesia, a sprawling archipelago, is set to beef up its defence, especially its navy and air force. The government aims to boost defence spending from 0.8 percent to 1.5 percent of gross domestic product over the next five years, putting it on par with neighbours such as Malaysia, Purdijatno said.

“The spending comes as competing territorial claims in the South China Sea between China and four Southeast Asian countries stoke tension. Purdijatno raised the possibility that Indonesia, which is not involved in the disputes and under the previous government remained neutral, could play a greater role if requested.”

“If asked, we are ready to be mediators in the with the spirit of maintaining security,” Purdijatno said.

The former navy chief said defence spending would be focussed on weapons and technical know-how, from countries like South Korea and China, to domestically manufacture and eventually export equipment like submarines and missiles.

“For example, after the first two ships or fighter jets are built outside, number three we can build in Indonesia,” he said. “But it has to be for the domestic market first and then we export.”

Indonesia's sterilisation programme has carried out the highest number of sterilisations in the world, the government of said, and has conducted more than 130,000 operations in one day and says it has sterilised over 330,000 patients in all, helping prevent, by its estimate, the births of almost one million Indians. “I am doing god’s work,” Pant told Reuters.

Gupta, who says he has conducted more than 50,000 female sterilisation surgeries, faces charges of causing death by negligence. Visibly upset, he said it was the government’s duty to control the numbers turning up at the family-planning camp.

“If they kept in that place 83 women, it is my moral responsibility to operate on all the women,” said Gupta, who was awarded a state honour 10 years ago for his sterilisation work.
US defence secretary to announce nuclear operations overhaul

WASHINGTON, 14 Nov — US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel will announce on Friday a comprehensive plan to reform US nuclear operations based on two reviews he ordered after a series of incidents involving nuclear personnel, two defence officials said.

“While our nuclear arsenal remains safe, secure and effective today, the reports tell us we must take action now in order to ensure that remains the case in the future,” the officials said on Thursday night.

Following a news conference at the Pentagon on Friday morning, Hagel will travel to Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota to discuss the plans with nuclear personnel.

Officials say that addressing the shortcomings in managing America’s nuclear arsenal will likely take billions of dollars.

In March, the head of the nuclear missile wing at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana resigned and nine officers were removed from their jobs over a test-cheating scandal that involved 91 missile launch officers.

The Montana base is home to a third of the nation’s nearly 450 intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Some 19 missile crew members at 91st Missile Wing at the Minot Air Force Base were decertified after a poor showing in a March inspection.

Last year, the general overseeing the US arsenal of intercontinental missiles was fired for personal misbehaviour, just days after the deputy commander of US Strategic Command, which oversees America’s nuclear arsenal and space operations, was relieved of his post during an investigation into gambling issues.

Israel, Palestinians agree to steps to calm Jerusalem tensions, Kerry says

Ultra-nationalists in Israel are challenging a decades-long ban on Jews praying at the Temple Mount. But Judeh said Netanyahu had showed “commitment” to maintaining the status quo at the site and respecting the Jordanian monarchy’s custodianship of holy sites. Judeh said Jordan would not return its ambassador to Tel Aviv, whom it recalled last week in protest against Israeli actions, until it saw concrete evidence of measures to defuse tensions.

“Israel has to remove all the elements of instability that we are seeing. We have to wait and see if this is done,” he said.

Earlier, Abdullah accused Israel of “repeated attacks” on holy sites in Jerusalem and said they must stop. Jordanian religious officials who administer the Muslim sites have said there has been an “unprecedented number of raids by ultra-nationalists inside the mosque this year.” Netanyah has accused Palestinians of fomenting violence.

Jordanian officials fear wider unrest in the West Bank could spill over into their own country, where a majority of the population are descendants of Palestinians who fled across the river Jordan following the creation of Israel in 1948.

Russia says 24 November deadline in doubt in Iran talks

Moscow, 14 Nov — World powers and Iran may not be able to secure a deal on curbing Tehran’s nuclear programme before their 24 November deadline, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashhevich said on Thursday.

The six powers — Russia, China, the United States, France, Britain and Germany — want to ensure Iran’s nuclear programme does not enable it to build nuclear weapons, though Iran says its nuclear work is for civil needs.

“It is not completely ruled out that more time could be needed to reach a mutually beneficial compromise,” Lukashhevich was quoted by Interfax news agency as telling reporters.

“We have emphasised that all parties are striving to meet this deadline. But what is more important, a deadline or a real agreement?”

Russia has traditionally had closer ties with Iran than other participants of the talks, after constructing the nuclear power station in Bushehr on the coast of the Persian Gulf.

Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said this week Moscow was doing all it could to help secure an agreement and he expressed optimism a deal could be secured before 24 November.

The agreement is meant to assure the West that Iran’s nuclear programme would not be used for military ends in return for a possible easing of sanctions on Iran.

Some diplomats have said a simple extension of the negotiations is possible, and a senior Iranian official said this could be done until March. The talks have already been extended — by four months in July.

Dutch fighters intercept Russian plane over Baltic Sea

AMSTERDAM, 14 Nov — Two Dutch F16 fighter jets, part of a NATO force patrolling the skies above the Baltic states, intercepted a Russian Ilyushin transport aircraft flying near Estonian and Lithuanian air space, the Netherlands said on Thursday. After the interception, which took place late on Wednesday, the Ilyushin flew off in the direction of the Russian city of Kaliningrad, the Dutch defence ministry said in a statement. The exclave of Kaliningrad is sandwiched between Poland and Lithuania, both NATO members, as are the other two Baltic states Estonia and Latvia.

The Dutch defence ministry said in a statement the Ilyushin had been flying in international air space but had been intercepted when it approached the air space of the two countries without filing a flight plan.

It said the plane did not intrude into their air space as an earlier ministry statement had said.

Russia’s defence ministry also made clear the flight had remained in international air space.

“The flight was made on the neutral waters of the Baltic Sea in accordance with international rules on the use of air space,” the state-owned RIA Novosti news agency quoted the ministry as saying. Last month, NATO said it had conducted more than 100 intercepts of Russian aircraft this year, about three times as many as in 2013, amid sharply increased tensions between the West and Moscow over the Ukraine crisis.

An undated handout photo provided by the Norwegian Army shows a Russian Tupolev Tu-95 strategic bomber refuelling from an Ilyushin IL-78 air-to-air refuelling tanker aircraft over an unknown location during a military exercise.

US Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel listens during his testimony at the House Armed Services Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington on 13 Nov, 2014. — REUTERS

US Secretary of State John Kerry (L) listens as Jordan’s Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh speaks during a joint news conference at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Amman on 13 Nov, 2014. — REUTERS

AMMAN, 14 Nov — Israel and the Palestinians have pledged to take concrete steps to calm tensions around Jerusalem’s holiest site, US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Thursday after talks in the Jordanian capital.

He spoke after an unusual, nearly three-hour meeting with Jordan’s King Abdullah and Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday a day after talks in the Jordanian capital.

Violence has flared in recent weeks over the compound, revered by Muslims as Noble Sanctuary, where al-Aqsa mosque stands, and by Jews as the Temple Mount, where their biblical temples once stood.

Clashes between Israeli police and Palestinians have raised fears they could trigger a new Palestinian uprising.

All parties had agreed to “specific and practical actions that both sides can take to restore calm,” said Kerry, declining to say what those actions were.

“Today, we are working to smoother the sparks of immediate tension so that they don’t become a fire that is absolutely out of control,” Kerry added, flanked by Jordanian Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh.

Jordan has custody over the sites.

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Jordanian officials fear wider unrest in the West Bank could spill over into their own country, where a majority of the population are descendants of Palestinians who fled across the river Jordan following the creation of Israel in 1948.

Ultra-nationalists in Israel are challenging a decades-long ban on Jews praying at the Temple Mount. But Judeh said Netanyahu had showed “commitment” to maintaining the status quo at the site and respecting the Jordanian monarchy’s custodianship of holy sites. Judeh said Jordan would not return its ambassador to Tel Aviv, whom it recalled last week in protest against Israeli actions, until it saw concrete evidence of measures to defuse tensions.

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The age of “I’m right. You’re wrong” is now a thing of the past

By Kyaw Thura

History has it that Myanmar has had a long tradition of its own culture and monarchy. In other words, Myanmar did bask in its past glory. In the past two decades, newspapers have been filled with news of how rich the country is in natural resources. In fact, the past is not something to be nostalgic for but to take lessons from.

As is known to all, Myanmar, as a nascent democracy, has just crawled out of the painful days of seclusion and landed in a political reform that allows all-inclusiveness, since the transition from military to civilian rule that began in March 2011. Since then, world media has stated that President U Thein Sein, a former general, may go down in history as the man who led the irreversible change. On his visits to foreign countries as well as at the UN General Assembly in 2012, he pledged that Myanmar will never retrace its steps.

In an interview with The Irrawaddy magazine, US President Barack Obama, who was in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday for an Asian summit, noted that Myanmar is still at the beginning of a long and hard journey of renewal and reconciliation, praising the release of more political prisoners, a process of constitutional reform and ceasefire agreements with ethnic armed groups.

Undoubtedly, this marks a turning point in the political landscape of Myanmar. In our march towards a democratically prosperous and peaceful country, we cannot afford any misstep that might trigger backsliding which would in turn bring the ongoing achievements to a standstill.

Frankly speaking, Myanmar has more important steps to be taken to realize its dreams. It is understandable that disagreement arises out of politics and governance. It is imperative for stakeholders to hold in mind that the age of “I’m right. You’re wrong” should now be a thing of the past.

CHARACTER

Kyi Mun

Character means: Distinguishing quality or qualities; mental or moral strengths; reputation.

Character is what you are

The meaning of character can be analytically considered in the following way:

- C for Conscience
- H for Honour
- A for Attitude
- R for Responsibility
- A for Accountability
- C for Caring
- T for Temperament
- E for Empathy
- R for Relationships

CONSCIENCE

Conscience means moral sense of right and wrong, especially as affecting person’s behavior. A person of good, upright character will never think, or say or do against his or her conscience. He or she is very likely to uphold the principles of: “Do unto others as you would be done by,” or “As you sow, so shall you reap.”

HONOUR

Honour means good personal character; reputation (for good behavior, loyalty, truthfulness, etc.). A person of reputable character will always respect, uphold and protect his or her honour. Honour must be paid to those to whom hour is due. Respecting one’s own honour is the highest self-esteem.

ATTITUDE

Attitude is your way of feeling, thinking or behaving. People of strong character usually have positive, right attitude towards others. They are authentic, reliable and constructive in their attitude to their jobs, to their relationships and to their life. In their relation with others, they have a soft heart, a protective hand and a firm mind.

RESPONSIBILITY

Man of solid character usually takes responsibility for their jobs, relationships and lives. They take charge of their duties with due diligence. They are willing to go beyond the call of duty. With respect to their responsibility, a man of character usually has a positive mental attitude, can-do-spirit, the habit of going the extra mile and the bulldog tenacity of purpose. They are usually proactive in their attitude.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Accountability means taking responsibility for the effects of your actions and willing to explain or be criticized for them. Accountability goes in combination with responsibility and transparency. A man of character always stands up for his actions and assumes responsibility for better or for worse.

CARING

Someone who is caring thinks about what other people need or would like, and tries to help them. Caring and sharing is an integral part of a person of sterling character. A person of noble character cares for the prevalence of peace, truth, beauty and love.

Executive Daw May Nyo of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs’ Association being seen off at Yangon International Airport by family members on 10 November evening before her departure for Italy to attend Agricultural Machinery Show organized by Italian Trade Agency from 11 to 17 November. MWEA

Firefighter refresher course concludes

Mandalay, 14 Nov — The refresher course 2/2014 for auxiliary fire brigade members concluded at Township Fire Station in Mahaaungmye Township, Mandalay, on 10 November. Township Administrator U Myint Oo and Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Khin Maung Yi gave speeches and presented prizes to outstanding trainees. Fifty trainees performed a fire-fighting drill demonstration.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Myanmar, Russia sign Plan of Consultations to intensify bilateral cooperation

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Igor Morgulov exchange notes after signing plan of consultations. — MNA

Myanmar and Russia on Friday signed a Plan of Consultations to intensify bilateral cooperation.

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Igor Morgulov met and signed the Plan of Consultations.

Myanmar and Russia agreed on the Plan of Consultations to intensify bilateral cooperation.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish “Letter to the Editor” that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tan@gmail.com with your name and title.

As is known to all, Myanmar, as a nascent democracy, is working to intensify bilateral cooperation.
94th Anniversary National Day Objectives

1. To uplift national prestige and integrity and revitalization of Union Spirit
2. To uplift national education
3. To preserve independence and sovereignty of the nation
4. To build a modern, developed new nation

Korea aid agency to improve 100 villages in regions and states

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 Nov — Mr Nam Kwon-Hyoung, director of the Korea International Cooperation Agency, called on Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing at his office in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday to hold talks on the launching ceremony for the Saemual Undong Project in which 100 villages are to receive US$22 million provided by the government of the Republic of Korea.

The five-year project from 2015 to 2019 will be implemented to improve 100 villages in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Yangon, Taninthayi, Ayeyawady, Mandalay and Sagaing regions and Shan and Mon States.

After the meeting, the union minister presented quality rice as a gift to Korean experts. — MNA

Chinese premier leaves for home

Premier of the People’s Republic of China Mr Li Keqiang on Friday left here for home after attending the 9th East Asia Summit and related summits hosted by Myanmar.

He was seen off at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo and officials. — MNA

Dawei District IPRD organizes book show

Dawei, 14 Nov — On the occasion of the 94th Anniversary of National Day, the Dawei District Information and Public Relations Department organized a book show and educative talk at its library in Dawei, Taninthayi Region on Tuesday.

Assistant Director Daw Ni Ni Cho of the department explained facts about the library and the advantages of reading and books, while Deputy Head Daw Mu Mu Aye of the department spoke about National Day.

Staff of the department distributed pamphlets to students. The students were allowed to join the library with membership cards to borrow the books. — Dawei District IPRD

School for children, housing for locals in Yathedaung Township, Rakhine State

Photo taken on Friday of a modular house and a two-roomed toilet provided for those at Anaukpyin camp of Anaukpyin village in Yathedaung Township which is accessible by a 40-mile boat trip from Sittwe of Rakhine State. A total of 155 people from 32 households of the village who lost their homes in the communal conflict in 2012 are being accommodated at four eight-roomed buildings. According to data dated 31-8-2014, the village had been provided with farm equipment, diesel fuel and bags of paddy strain and chemical fertilizer. Paddy growing and fishery is the main source of livelihood for people in the area. — GNLM/Photo: Ye Myint

Photo shows Anaukpyin village post-primary school that enables 700 schoolchildren including camp children to have access to education. GNLM/Photo: Ye Myint

Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Maung Maung Thein inspects preparations for launching Yangon Stock Exchange building on Sule Pagoda Road in Kyaukdata Township in Yangon. It is scheduled to open in October next year. (News on page 1) — MNA

Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo sees off Premier of the People’s Republic of China Mr Li Keqiang. — MNA

Photo of Dawe IPRD

Photo of Dawe IPRD
Iraq needs 80,000 good troops to retake lost territory — US general

WASHINGTON, 14 Nov — Iraq will need about 80,000 effective military troops to retake the terrain it lost to Islamic State militants and restore its border with Syria, the top US general said on Thursday.

“We’re going to need about 80,000 competent Iraqi security forces to re-capture territory lost, and eventually the city of Mosul, to restore the border,” Army General Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of staff, told a congressional hearing.

Dempsey said the request for more US forces in Iraq would create centres to help train the additional troops needed.— Reuters

Britain to introduce tough new foreign fighter laws

CANBERRA, 14 Nov — British nationals who become foreign fighters abroad could be prevented from returning home under tough new laws to deal with jihadists fighting in conflicts like Iraq and Syria, British Prime Minister David Cameron said on Friday.

A new counter-terrorism bill will also prevent airlines that do not comply with Britain’s no-fly lists or security screening measures from landing on its territory, Cameron said in an address to Australia’s parliament.

“Britain’s security threat level was raised to its second-highest level in August due to the risks posed by Islamic State fighters returning from Iraq and Syria. Security analysts say foreign fighters in Iraq and Syria now number in the thousands.

“We have to confront this threat at its source,” Cameron said in Canberra, before heading to Brisbane for the Group of 20 Leaders Summit.

Under the new powers, police will be able to seize passports to stop suspects travelling abroad and to stop British nationals returning unless they submit to screening processes. Cameron first mooted the new laws in September. On Friday he said they would be introduced “shortly”, without providing a specific date.

The rise of Islamist militants in Britain has been a growing concern since four Britons — two

US defence chief touts progress in fight against IS, warning long struggle

WASHINGTON, 14 Nov — United States and coalition forces have made good progress in recent months against the Islamic State (IS), but the campaign will be “a long and difficult struggle,” US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel said on Thursday.

“We are three months into a multi-year effort,” Hagel said in testimony before the House Armed Services Committee. In some parts of Iraq, IS’s advance has been stalled and even reversed by Iraqi, Kurdish and tribal forces supported by US and coalition air strikes. But IS still represents a “serious threat,” Hagel said.

The secretary stressed the importance of sustaining the regional and global coalition, which has 16 more countries in participation since Hagel’s last congressional testimony in September. More than 60 nations are now contributing to the fight against IS, with assistance ranging from air support, training, to humanitarian aid.

The comprehensive strategy to stop IS also focuses on supporting inclusive governance, undercutting IS’s flow of resources, countering IS’s messaging, and constricting the flow of foreign fighters.

The combined effort has yielded results in degrading and destroying elements of IS’s warfare capacity and denying safe havens to its fighters, said Hagel, who stressed IS “will not be defeated through military force alone.”

“In Iraq, much more needs to be done to achieve political reform.”

And in Syria, since there is no partner government to work with, military strategy will demand time, patience and perseverance to deliver results, according to Hagel.

At the same hearing, Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, also urged Congress and the American people to develop the strategic patience needed to see the effort through.

UN Security Council condemns bomb attacks in Tripoli

UNITED NATIONS, 14 Nov — The UN Security Council on Thursday condemned “in the strongest terms” terrorist bomb attacks against the embassies of Egypt and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in Tripoli, Libya.

“The members of the Security Council condemned all acts of violence against diplomatic premises, which endanger innocent lives and seriously impede the normal work of diplomatic representatives and officials,” said the council in a press statement.

“The members of the Security Council underlined the need to bring the perpetrators of these acts to justice,” added the statement.

Bombs exploded on Thursday near the embassies of Egypt and the UAE in Tripoli, causing material damage but no casualties.

Like many other countries, both Egypt and the UAE have pulled diplomatic staff out of the Libyan capital amid fighting between armed factions in Tripoli.

Recalling the fundamental principle of the inviolability of diplomatic and consular premises, the Security Council urged Libya to take all appropriate steps to protect those facilities against any intruder or damage.

Libya has witnessed escalating violence since the 2011 turmoil that toppled the country’s former leader, Muammar Gaddafi, while Egypt has been facing a rising wave of terrorism since the ouster of former President Mohamed Morsi by the military in July last year.

Iraqi security forces take part in an intensive security deployment against Islamic State militants in Adhaim, a village in Diyala province north of Baghdad on 13 Nov 2014.— Reuters

Kurds again become focus of Western intervention in Middle East

BAGHDAD, 14 Nov — Saddam Hussein’s use of chemical weapons against Iraqi Kurds in the 1980s was cited by Western powers as one of the justifications for the 2003 invasion that toppled him.

Once again, the perilous situation of the Kurds — this time attacked by Islamic State fighters — has spurred the United States and its allies in Europe and the Gulf to use military force in Iraq and Syria.

And once again the Kurds — who number up to 30 million people spread through Turkey, Iraq, Syria and Iran, but with no state of their own — are on the move. Usually far from the headlines, whole families have trekked away from danger. Reuters photographers have chronicled Kurdish refugee crises over the years. Pictures from 1991 show men, women and children carrying their possessions, gathering firewood and burning their dead in a refugee camp in Cukurca, Turkey, just across the border from Iraq.— Reuters

A Turkish soldier carries a Syrian Kurdish refugee baby from the Syrian border town Kobani, near the southeastern Turkish town of Suruc in Sanliurfa Province in this 2 Oct, 2014 file photo. — Reuters

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Congratulations!

We are proud to congratulate the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the successful completion of the 25th ASEAN Summit in Nay Pyi Taw.
Two Turkish nationalists released after attack on US sailors

ISTANBUL, 14 Nov — Twelve Turkish nationalists detained after an attack on US sailors in Istanbul were released on Thursday but could still face charges for causing insult and injury, local media reports said.

The group assaulted the three sailors on a crowded street in Istanbul on Wednesday, shouting “Yankee go home”, throwing paint and trying to pull hoods over their heads, in an assault condemned by the United States.

The group, members of the nationalist Turkish Youth Union (TGB), were told they faced possible charges of insult, injury and breaching laws on public order.

5.7-magnitude quake hits China, Kyrgyzstan border areas

BEIJING, 14 Nov — A 5.7-magnitude earthquake jolted border areas of China’s Xinjiang Autonomous Region and neighboring Kyrgyzstan at 9:24 am on Friday (Beijing Time), according to the China Earthquake Networks Center (CENC).

The epicenter was monitored at 42.2 degrees north latitude and 77.3 degrees east longitude. The quake hit at a depth of 10 kilometers, the centre said in a statement.

The quake magnitude was revised from 5.2 to 5.7 on Richter scale. — Xinhua

Indonesia considers building nuclear power plant

JAKARTA, 14 Nov — To cope with the fast-growing demand for power supply in the country, Indonesia is considering building nuclear power plants with an initial capacity of 5,000 MW by 2025 despite massive opposition at home.

A senior official of Indonesia’s Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry said that to pursue 7 percent economy growth by 2018 targeted by the government, it needs 9 percent growth in power supply.

“By 2017, national power supply is targeted at 85,000 Mega Watt. At present we only have 50,000 MW. So we still have 35,000 MW short of power supply,” director general for electricity of the ministry Jarman said on Thursday.

He said that nuclear power plant remains a viable option to cover power short-age across the country. The present government has set the target of building power plants with a total capacity of 35,000 MW within five years of its effective governing period.

The government is still considering the technology used to build the nuclear power plant, with technology offered by Russia expected to take the first place, he said. Jarman said that the government would give priority to the safety concern in building nuclear power plant in Indonesia during their meeting with Indonesian Vice President Jusuf Kalla on Wednesday.

In September this year, Russian energy firm Rosatom offered assistance to the Indonesian government to build a nuclear power plant in Indonesia’s Batam island with a capacity of 1.200 MW, which will cost 9 billion US dollars.

Indonesia initially planned to build a nuclear power plant in 1997 but cancelled the plan a year later due to economic and political problems.

China, Russia ink energy agreements

BEIJING, 14 Nov — Gas import from Russia via the western route will hit 30 billion cubic meters per year and last for three decades, according to the China National Petroleum Corp (CNPC) on Thursday.

The CNPC signed a framework agreement with Gazprom on 9 November detailing the natural gas import arrangement. The deal is another step forward in gas cooperation, preceded by the two oil giants inking a purchase and sales contract on gas import via the eastern route in May this year.

China, Russia ink energy agreements
Congratulations
on a Successful 25th ASEAN Summit

The KBZ Group of Companies together with local entrepreneurs and the people of Myanmar would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to our country for the achievement of raising the image of Myanmar within the international community by successfully hosting the 25th Association of South East Asian Nations – ASEAN Summit in Nay Pyi Taw 12 November 2014.

KBZ Group of Companies
**French film ‘Beauty and the Beast’ to get wide release in India**

**New Delhi, 14 Nov —** ‘Beauty and The Beast’, a retelling of the classic fairytale, will get a release on more than 60 screens in India, becoming the most widely exposed French film in the country in recent times. Distributor Kamal Jain, who has acquired the rights of the film, says the movie has been promoted on a wide scale and is hopeful about its success in India because of the popularity of the story ‘Beauty and The Beast’.

‘Beauty and The Beast’ is the most widely publicised and getting the biggest release among the French films released in India in recent times. It is being released on more than 60 screens and will be shown in all major cities. We have promoted it really well. "Everyone from kids to elders are familiar with the story of the film. There have been many films made on the popular story so when I watched this particular movie, I thought it should be shown here. The canvas of the film is brilliant. It is a huge costume drama, made on a budget of Rs 300 crore and is so lavish," Kamal told PTI at the screening of the film here.

Kamal said that the release of ‘Beauty and The Beast’ can also pave the way for exposure of Indian audience to French cinema. “I have brought French films to India earlier too and I am really optimistic that this cinema will receive a positive response here. In fact Indian films are loved there for their colours and vibrancy,” he said.

The distributor does not have immediate plans of any Indo-French production but is keen for such collaborations. “We would like to explore the possibility of Indo-French collaborations, it would be really nice. There is nothing at the moment but if I get an opportunity I would love to be involved in such a project,” he said. ‘Beauty and The Beast’, directed by Christophe Gans and starring Vincent Cassel and Lea Seydoux, is releasing here tomorrow.—PTI

**English rock band Smokie to perform in Shillong next month**

**Shillong, 14 Nov —** Famous English rock band Smokie will perform live here early next month to help raise scholarship money for children whose parents died battling militants in the jungles of Garo Hills and for the 24 September flash flood victims.

The band, which will perform at the Hornbill Festival in Nagaland, will take the stage here on 5 December to help raise funds for the two causes, a spokesperson of the organizer Police Officers Wives association for Care (POWAC) told PTI.

The Art and Culture department would collaborate to help raise money for Chief Minister’s Relief Fund for the 24 September flash floods victims in Garo Hills region which claimed over 64 lives.

Meghalaya’s Garo Hills region is one of the conflict zones in the north east with militant outfits mushrooming and engaging themselves in gun fire with security forces almost on a daily basis.

Last year nine Meghalaya police personnel had died while on duty and their school going children need support, the official said.

Smokies’ performance in this north eastern state will be held six months after international metal band Dying Fetus performed at the Shillong Open Air Festival.—PTI

**Bono involved in mid-air drama on flight**

**London, 14 Nov —** U2 star Bono was involved in a mid-air drama on a flight from Dublin, Ireland to Berlin, Germany, when the rear door of a private jet he was a passenger on fell off. The 54-year-old rocker and four friends were on board the Learjet flight across Europe, en route to a meeting with Gerd Mueller, Germany’s economic minister.—PTI

The 54-year-old rocker and four friends were on board the Learjet flight across Europe, en route to a meeting with Gerd Mueller, Germany’s economic minister. The jet was crossing into Germany when the tailgate became detached, reported Contactmusic.

"He was extremely lucky, the plane could have gone down. About an hour into the journey they heard a big thud coming from the rear of the plane. They were startled for a bit but they continued on and made the descent into Berlin airport. When they landed they were horrified to learn that the compartment at the rear of the plane had completely detached," a source said. German authorities have confirmed the private jet landed with damage to its tailgate and police are investigating the incident. The drama is sure to have left Bono, who lost his luggage when the tailgate became detached, more than a little wary as he prepares to fly to America later this week. Representatives for U2 have yet to comment on the incident.

Reports suggest Bono was the only member of the group on board the flight to Berlin — his bandmates were scheduled to take a later flight to join their frontman at the Bambi International Music Awards.—PTI

**Lady Gaga, Tony Bennett to perform at New York Christmas Tree event**

**New York, 14 Nov —** Pop star Lady Gaga and veteran crooner Tony Bennett are set to kick off the holiday season here as headliners for the 82nd annual Christmas in Rockefeller Centre celebration concert. The duo, which released jazz standards album Cheek to Cheek in September, will duet at the iconic Big Apple event on 3 December, reported New York Daily News.

Also taking to the stage is ‘Family Guy’ creator Seth MacFarlane, who will sing a track from his Holiday for Wives association for Care (POWAC), telling PTI.

**The Wolfman’ franchise to be re-launched**

**Los Angeles, 14 Nov —** Universal Studios is hoping to re-launch ‘The Wolfman’ franchise after the 2010 film starring Benicio Del Toro failed to make a splash in the domestic box office. Besides that, the studio has hired heavy-weights writers to reboot its story of the monster universe.

The original ‘Wolf Man’, dated 1941, was one of the most popular horror stories ever told.—PTI

**Famous English rock band Smokie,**...
Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South African President Jacob Zuma also confirmed the two nations will cooperate in reform of the UN Security Council, as they are eager to play a key role on the global institution’s top decision-making body, the officials said.

On the economic front, Zuma told Abe that South Africa hopes for Japan’s support in the infrastructure and energy fields, while Abe expressed willingness to contribute in development of the emerging economy, a member of the BRICS group of countries along with Brazil, Russia, India and China, the officials said.

Abe and Zuma held talks for the first time since June last year, when the South African president visited Japan to attend the 5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development.

The two political leaders are visiting Brisbane in Australia to participate in the Group of 20 summit scheduled to be held for two days from Saturday.

**Russian official admits problems with two World Cup stadiums**

MOSCOW, 14 Nov — Russia is experiencing problems with the construction of two World Cup 2018 stadiums, First Deputy Prime Minister Igor Shuvalov said on Thursday.

“The stadiums that are causing the most concern are in Rostov-on-Don and Kaliningrad.,” Shuvalov, who is also chairman of the coordinating council for the 2018 World Cup, told reporters in Moscow.

He did not specify the problems facing the stadium in Rostov-on-Don, where construction is yet to begin, but listed numerous issues facing the Baltika Arena in Kaliningrad.

“In Kaliningrad, the problems don’t just revolve around financing, but also questions about whether the investment is justified,” he said.

“The soil there is causing a lot of problems and the most important thing for us is people’s safety,” Vitaly Mutko (Russia’s Sports Minister) is planning to visit the site soon to decide whether to support the site where the stadium is planned to be built as requested by the region’s governor, or we will have to think of something else,” added Shuvalov, who was visiting another World Cup venue, the Otkrytie Arena.

The Baltika Arena, which is set to hold 35,000 spectators, is due to be built on the Oktabyryskiy Island. It is located in the central part of the city of Kaliningrad, between two rivers, which often flood.

Mutko told journalists at the end of October that the start of construction in Kaliningrad would be pushed back to April 2015. The project is due to be completed in May 2017.

Construction of the stadium in Rostov is set to hold 45,000 spectators, should have started in November.

The Arena, which is due to be built on the left bank of the Don river, is being delayed because the state inspection committee has yet to send the necessary documents.

**Two Warhols fetch $153 million to lead Christie’s record-setting art auction**

NEW YORK, 14 Nov — Christie’s held the biggest art auction in history on Wednesday, selling $853 million worth of contemporary and post-war art, led by a pair of Andy Warhol works featuring multiple images of Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe.

The impressive haul beat Christie’s high pre-sale estimate of $836 million. It was the fourth successive time since May 2013 that the auction house’s post-war and contemporary sale broke the record for the highest-ever total of a single sale.

A bidding war drove Warhol’s “Triple Elvis (Ferus Type)” to $81.9 million, while “Four Marlons” fetched $69.6 million to lead the sale of 80 works in a packed saleroom where only five works failed to find buyers.

Christie’s had estimated the silkscreen-on-linen Warhols would together sell for more than $130 million, which turned out to be conservative in the intensely competitive market.

“This is a market driven by global collectors who are looking for the best of the best,” said Brett Gorvy, international head of post-war and contemporary art.

“More than about records, it’s about five, six or seven buyers competing to spend 50 or 60 million dollars on an object.”

A new record was set for Cy Twombly, when an untitled 1970 work soared far beyond the $35 million to $55 million estimate to $69.6 million, more than tripling the old record.

Records were also set for Ed Ruscha, Martin Kippenberger and Cindy Sherman at the blockbuster sale, which capped two weeks of key fall auctions for powerhouses Christie’s and Sotheby’s.

Other highlights included Francis Bacon’s “Seated Figure,” which fetched $45 million or just above the low estimate, and Ruscha’s “Smash,” which sold for $30.4 million, more than twice the low estimate. Estimates do not include commission of just over 12 percent.

In all 11 works sold for more than $20 million each and records were set for 15 artists among 42 represented.

**Japanese, South Africa agree to work together to combat Ebola epidemic**

BRISBANE, (Australia), 14 Nov — Japan and South Africa agreed on Friday to work together to grapple with the Ebola virus epidemic in West Africa, seen as a serious downside risk to global economic growth, Japanese officials said.

During a 40-minute talk in Australia, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South African President Jacob Zuma also confirmed the two nations will cooperate in reform of the UN Security Council, as they are eager to play a key role on the global institution’s top decision-making body, the officials said.

On the economic front, Zuma told Abe that South Africa hopes for Japan’s support in the infrastructure and energy fields, while Abe expressed willingness to contribute in development of the emerging economy, a member of the BRICS group of countries along with Brazil, Russia, India and China, the officials said.

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The two political leaders are visiting Brisbane in Australia to participate in the Group of 20 summit scheduled to be held for two days from Saturday.
Federer crushes Murray, Nishikori reaches semis

Kei Nishikori of Japan returns a shot during a Group B match at the ATP World Tour Finals in London against David Ferrer of Spain on 13 Nov, 2014. World No 5 Nishikori beat 10th-ranked Ferrer, who came in as a substitute for injured Milos Raonic, 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 to advance to the semifinals.—Kyodo News

LONDON, 14 Nov — Hidden behind the artistic beauty of Roger Federer’s tennis lurks the primal instinct of a cold-hearted killer and on Thursday Andy Murray was the unwitting victim as he was hammered 6-0, 6-1 in his own backyard.

Already assured of a place in the semi-finals of the ATP World Tour Finals after Kei Nishikori’s three-set win in Group B earlier in the day, Federer only required a set against Murray to top the standings.

He managed that objective in 24 spellbinding minutes, allowing former Wimbledon champion Murray only eight points in the opening set, then went in pursuit of a rare ‘double bagel’ — the nickname for a tennis whitewash.

At 6-0, 5-0 and 30-0 ahead on Murray’s serve the 02 crowd, many of whom were in the Federer camp, held its breath. Swiss maestro Federer then missed a relatively easy volley and Murray somehow clawed his way to a game — avoiding the fate that befell Argentina’s Gaston Gaudio in 2005 when Federer recorded the only 6-0, 6-0, 6-0 win in Tour Finals history.

Federer ended Murray’s torment a game later and will now go in search of a seventh season-ending title to cap a remarkable come-back year for the 33-year-old after a disappointing 2013 when his powers appeared nullified on the wane.

Tournament debutant Nishikori deservedly joined Federer in the last four as Group B runner-up after beating alternate David Ferrer 6-4, 6-4, 6-1 in the day’s first singles.

Ferrer was a late replacement for Milos Raonic after the Canadian withdrew on Thursday morning with a leg injury and almost immediately being replaced. Federer ensured the first three-set match of a round-robin phase littered with easy wins.

Who they play on Saturday will be decided on Friday when world number one Novak Djokovic looks to wrap up top spot in Group A against Tomas Berdych and Marin Cilic faces Stanislas Wawrinka. Victory for Djokovic would also guarantee he finishes the year on top of the rankings.

For Murray, his year ended in crushing fashion.

“Everything he tried tonight came off,” Murray, still sweating, said minutes after coming off court.

“It’s not a nice way to finish the year.” Strangely, Murray was 0-30 ahead on Federer’s opening service game and was then involved in a sensational baseline rally that ended when he netted a forehand.

From that moment on, Federer took control as only he can. Striking nonchalant winners from the baseline, teasing his quarry with drop shots and lobbing away volleys, the points raced by in a blur with Murray’s head spinning. The only sympathy seven-times Wimbledon champion Federer appeared to show Murray was afterwards, as he spoke on court.

“Clearly I’m very happy to play a good match today,” he said. “I knew I was qualified so maybe I went in more relaxed.

“It’s not the way I thought it was going to go but there’s always next year for Andy, hopefully he’ll have a good season.”

While Federer continues to defy the passing years, Nishikori showed again that he will be part of the next generation challenging for grand slam silverware.

The 24-year-old only found out that he was playing Ferrer rather than the big-serving Raonic shortly before the match, but after re-adjusting to the very different challenge the Spaniard presents, the US Open runner-up played beautifully.

“The final set (was) almost perfect,” said Nishikori, who leads the ATP Tour in winning decisive sets with 21-2 record.

Ferrer, beaten in nearly three hours by Nishikori in the quarter-finals of the Paris Masters, a result that scuppered his hopes of qualifying for the year-ender by right, hit back from a break down to snatch a high-quality opening set.

From then on, however, Nishikori showed why he has become a trailblazer for Asian tennis, unleashing his full repertoire to run Ferrer into the ground.

After converting his first set point in the second set with a backhand winner, Nishikori raced ahead in the deciding against a tireless opponent, who returns home around $85,000 richer for his brief appearance in London.—Reuters

Federer will soon get back to his best, says Colombia coach

Pele recovering from kidney stone removal

LONDON, 14 Nov — Colombian striker Radamel Falcao is a world class player who will soon re-discover his best form for Manchester United and his country, his international coach Jose Pekerman said on Thursday. Falcao, on loan from Monaco, has seen only limited action so far in England with United under new manager Louis van Gaal, who has rebuilt the team with several new signings.

He is missing from Colombia’s squad, who are in London to play a friendly against the United States on Friday, due to injury. Pekerman said the early season was often hard for players who may be adjusting to a new team when coming back from a long injury absence as in Falcao’s case or having had a short pre-season due to playing at the World Cup finals.

“This is a new stage for him and for the (Unit-ed) team, needing time to adapt to numerous signnings, playing in a new competition (like the Premier League),” Pekerman told a news conference at the team’s Heathrow hotel.

“Falcao is a top player, I’m optimistic he will over-come this stage and soon be at his level,” he added before an evening practice at Fulham’s Craven Cottage ground where Colombia will meet the Americans on Friday (1945 GMT).

Pekerman, preparing his team for the Copa America in Chile next year where Colombia will be looking to win their first title since 1980 for the second time, said such FIFA dates when national teams can come together for training and friendlies were essential.

“The high point of these meetings is the work on the field but there is also the chance for tactical talks, video analysis, going over objectives...We live these days intensely as part of our preparation searching for a better future,” he said. Pekerman, who steered Colombia to the World Cup quarter-final in Brazil in July, praised the present generation of players for their commitment to their national team and their efforts to lift their standing on the international stage.

“Thanks to these players, people in Colombia can see their team at the big events, compete as equals with other teams, show off the genes and quality of the Colombian player,” said Pekerman.

Colombia had missed the previous three World Cup tournaments after a former golden generation had reached three in succession in the 1990s.

Referring to Friday’s opponents, Pekerman added: “They had a very good World Cup. They are a team with an aggressive and intense game, this is a very good test for us...an experience for our new players.”

Reuters

Falcao will soon get back to his best, says Colombia coach

Roger Federer of Switzerland waves to the audience during the ATP World Tour Finals round robin match against Andy Murray of Britain in London, Britain on 13 Nov, 2014. Federer defeated Murray 2-0.—Xinhua

Manchester United’s Radamel Falcao (L) kicks the ball next to West Ham United’s Diego Poyet during their English Premier League soccer match at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England on 27 Sept. 2014.—Reuters

LONDON, 14 Nov — Spanish striker David Villa of Atletico Madrid will return to action for the upcoming World Cup qualifiers against Croatia and the Czech Republic after he has undergone knee surgery.

Villa, who had previously undergone surgery on the left knee earlier this year, had been expected to miss the next two qualifiers for Atletico and Spain.

“After a visit to a specialist today we learned that although there was some progress, Villa had not been able to recover as well as hoped,” said Atletico in a statement.

The 37-year-old was operated upon on Thursday and will now begin a phase of rehabilitation.

The 2008 and 2012 European Championship winner, Villa has been out since having surgery on his left knee on January 24 and returned to training in mid-May.

Villa scored 40 goals in his first two seasons for Atletico and had been set for another big campaign.

He joined Atletico from Chelsea in 2010 and won the Europa League and the Spanish Cup in his first year at the club.

The 37-year-old did not play for Spain at the 2014 World Cup because of injury and was in contention for a place in coach Vicente del Bosque’s squad for the upcoming qualifiers.

Villa had also been in the running for an at-large World Cup spot after being left out of the 2014 World Cup squad.

The 24-time La Liga champion is looking to qualify for next year’s World Cup finals in Russia after missing out in Brazil.”

Reuters

LONDON, 14 Nov — Former Brazil striker Zico underwent a procedure on Thursday to remove kidney stones that were obstructing his urinary tract, his doctors at a Sao Paulo hospital said.

The 74-year-old was admitted to the Albert Einstein Hospital on Wednesday with abdominal pains that forced him to cancel a book signing event in Santos, where he lives. Tests showed he was suffering from kidney and ureteral stones that were removed on Thursday morning, the doctors said in a statement.

“He is clinically stable and in recovery,” they added. Known as “the king of soccer” in Brazil, Zico is widely regarded as the finest player to grace the sport.

He played in four World Cups and helped Brazil win the global tournament three times, the last in Mexico in 1970.—Reuters

LONDON, 14 Nov — Football manager and former Brazil goalkeeper Valdir Peres, 73, died in a car accident on Thursday.

Peres was the goalkeeper for Brazil in their 1970 World Cup win in Mexico.

He had been traveling from a soccer tournament in Sussex and was on his way back to London when the accident occurred.

“Valdir was among the finest goalkeepers the game has ever seen,” Lisbon-based English Premier League club West Ham said in a statement.

“With a combination of speed, reflexes and positioning he was rewarded with a real reputation and was the first choice keeper for Brazil for over a decade,” it added.

His death was confirmed by the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF).

Peres had been capped 99 times for Brazil between 1964 and 1981, including in the 1970 World Cup final where he kept goal for Brazil’s 4-1 victory over Italy.

Peres was also a key member of Brazil’s 1978 World Cup-winning squad but was laid low by a heart attack in 1981. He was never able to recover and retired from football in 1983.

“Valdir Peres was a great example of professionalism and dedication, a model for us all,” said the president of the Brazilian Soccer Confederation (CBF) Carlos Arthur Nuzman.

“His death is a tragic blow for Brazilian football.”

Reuters