Myanmar committed to formulating national action plan for food security, nutrition not only for the country itself but also for the world

He highlighted the green economy in order to attain sustainable food security without negative environmental consequences. The government is obliged to work out for food security of ever-increasing population of present 60 million people which is expected to be 100 million by 2050 in one hand, while it is dealing with the issues of negative impacts of climate change and disasters on agriculture sector, he added.

The government is also carrying out the actions to ensure the availability of wholesome food for all the citizens in order to be healthy and secure the longer life span as present world population of seven billion is estimated to be more than nine billion by 2050.

Myanmar, committed to formulate national action plan for food and nutrition has been high on the global agenda these days, Vice-President U Nyan Tun said in his speech at World Food Day ceremony held at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, here, this morning.

He stressed the need to provide the daily food requirement as well as the availability of wholesome food to the consumers. In order to achieve healthy, happy and long lives in our global village in compliance with the theme of this year World Food Day event “Sustainable Food System for Food Security and Nutrition.”

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Oct—Being a member of world community, Myanmar is committed to formulating the national action plan for food security and nutrition not only for the country itself but also for our region and worldwide as right to food and nutrition has been high on the global agenda these days, Vice-President U Nyan Tun said in his speech at World Food Day ceremony.—MNA

NAnggun is like that of ancient Bagan era. At present, local people who are engaged in crops cultivation on fertile soils are enjoying opportunities of good business.

Myingun region was free from the ravages of the Second World War. So, ancient buildings, pagodas, stupas, monasteries and religious edifices remain intact as national heritages.

Today’s pagodas, stupas and stone inscriptions suggest that Myingun region was located in the Bagan Empire. About 60 pagodas and religious edifices in Myingun can be seen with stone inscriptions of Bagan era. Archaeology, National Museum and Library Department is maintaining the edifices with five stone inscription chambers.

The significant pagodas and monasteries in the area are Layhsukhanya Pagoda, Laymyethna Pagoda, Kwanhtan Brothers Pagoda, Swaya Pagoda, Montpaungthe Sisypodha Pagoda, Kanyawma Pagoda, Kwanhtan Brothers Pagoda and so on.

Of them, the royal order of stone inscriptions of King Kyaswa can be observed at Layhsukhanya Pagoda. At the sun set, the visitor who enjoys the ancient buildings of pagodas, stupas and religious edifices in Myingun may think the area of Myingun is like that of ancient Bagan city. Ancient national heritage of Bagan era forge the nationalistic spirit of Myanmar.

There will soon be the XXVII SEA Games in Myanmar. The flocks of globetrotters will enter Myanmar. They may visit Myingun region of Magway Hotel Zone. The route from Magway to Myingun is 10 miles long through water course and 23 miles through motor road. The earthen road turns from Magway-Taungdwingyi road is seven miles long but it is so rough. To be able to attract tourists, the earthen road should be repaved for convenient travelling of globetrotters.

Kyemon: 13-10-2013
Tx: TTA

Resident representative and senior scientist Ms Madonna C. Casimero from Philippine-based International Rice Research Institute.—MNA

By: Magway
Hla Myint

INSIDE
London to develop further as yuan trading hub
Japan, UK to deepen cooperation at sea, in space and cyberspace
Young New Zealander wins prestigious Booker prize
Crime

Suspects arrested for drug-related cases

NAYPyiTaw, 16 Oct—A combined team comprising members of Mandalay Region Police Force together with witnesses searched Zaw Win Naing, 40 of Room 401 at Shwepyu Hotel on 64th Street in Mahaungmyo Township on 10 October morning.

They seized 12 objects including 593 stimulant tablets with WY brand from his Lexus car, nine mobile phones, one gold chain, one ring and K 12 million.

After conducting the investigation, they raided the house of Zaw Win Naing at No. 80 on 58th Street between 31st and 32nd streets in Chanmyathazi Township. They arrested Thein Tun (a) Nanda Thiri, Swe Oo, Win Bo, Kyaw Min, Yan Naing Aung and Phyo Zaw who were there to sell narcotic drugs and continued searching of the house and seized 291000 pseudoephedrine tablets, 2 grams of pseudoephedrine powder, K 250 million, one Escalade vehicle, one Mark II, three motorcycles and others, 91 pieces of colorful uncut stone and 29 bags of raw gold dusts.

According to the further investigation, the combined team arrested Nai Lin Htay of 26th Street between 58th and 59th streets in Chanayet-hazan Township and Khun Maung Swe of 3rd floor at Yadana Taungpyi Housing in Chanayet-hazan Township together with one Toyota Corolla and one mobile phone. At 9 am on 10 October, they raided the house of Myint Naing Oo, 45 at CC 3/18 on 57th street in Chanmyathazi Township. They found Maung Maung together with Maung Maung Oo at the house together with three stimulant tablets from phones, one Kluger vehicle, one Hilux Surf and others.

Moreover, police searched the house of Larry Chan Nar (a) Chan Tha on the ground and first floors at Ma/98 in Kan North Ward in Mingala Taungnyunt Township. The team did not find him and seized 25 uncut jade stones.

According to the related information, the team searched the house of Sai Yi Myint (a) Kyaw Myint in Mandalay.

Diges t

Efficient creativity based on information, knowledge

Nowadays is knowledge age or education age. Knowledge influences all functions of human beings. Knowledge cannot be taken from the school learning both of basic education and higher education. In fact, knowledge comes from experience and information. In the education era, knowledge does not depend on certificates of degree. Capability of gathering the information and effective application of the information is based on experience. Seeking the knowledge is how to apply the indispensable information for the respective corners and experiences. A media person should understand technique of application to use of information and abide by the media ethics. Rationality of media person depends on his experience and knowledge. That is why information, experience and knowledge are interrelated.

In the past, characteristics of industrial era was based on engine. Characteristic of knowledge era indicates computers. Ordinary knowledge without creativity and initiative does not adequate for all sectors in knowledge era. That is why, media person in the education era should create information with initiative to be able to serve interest of the reader people.

Kya Kyaw (Mahaungmyo)

Myanmar Airways Launches Maiden flight for Yangon-NyaungU, Yangon-Mandalay

YANGON, 16 Oct—Myanmar Airways and World Ticket Co of Denmark jointly operate the Yangon-NyaungU flight with the use of Brazil-made Embraer 190 with a seating capacity of 127.

The maiden flight with 35 local passengers and 37 foreigners was launched on 14 October morning.

The special price of flight ticket is set from 14 to 31 October. Speaking of special price, the flight ticket is K 33000 per local passenger and US$ 55 per foreigner along Yangon-NyaungU route. Likewise, NyaungU-Mandalay flight is K 19000 per local passenger and US$ 29 per foreigner. Moreover, Yangon-Mandalay flight is fixed at K 35000 per local passenger and US$ 59 per foreigner.

The ply of flight is aimed at disseminating the information of cultural regions of NyaungU, Mandalay, Heho and so on to the world, said Deputy General Manager U Khin Maung Nyein of Business Section of Myanmar Airways.

“We have purpose to uplift Myanmar tourism industry and interest of Myanmar Airways. As it is State-owned airline, the airways will uplift not only its interest of the people but also State’s one. We have plans to ply more schedules,” he said.

Myanmar Airways manages flight schedules to 25 townships of the nation. At the end of October and in November, new ATR 72-500 airplanes and Grand Caravan and Cessna airplanes will arrive in Myanmar.

It is planned to set up the centre in Chanmyathazi Airport in Mandalay for plying flights to remote areas.—MNA

Regional development inspected in Mahlaing Tsp

MAHLAING, 16 Oct—Pyithu Hluttaw representatives U Aye Mauk of Mahlaing Township Constituency and U Win Than of Thapaung Constituency held talks with departmental officials, members of Township Support Committee and town elders, at the meeting hall of Township GAD this morning.

MP U Aye Mauk discussed regional development tasks and the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Township Administrator U Aung Thein Hlaing, acting Secretary of Township Solidarity and Development Party U Soe Thein and committee members also participated in the discussion. They looked into regional development tasks in the township.

Kya Kyaw (Mahlaing)

Signboards to be put up at quality cotton plantations

MAHLAING, 16 Oct—Deputy Head of Mandalay Region Industrial Crops Development Department U Tun Win and party on 14 October stressed the officials to put up the signboards in the model plots of cotton plantation in Mahlaing Township of Mandalay Region.

In meeting with officials at the hall of Mahlaing Township ICDD, he stressed the need to draw the plan to distribute the quality strains of cotton to the farmers of the township in the quality strain zone and change the form of extending educative works.

He urged the staff to put up the signboards as quickly as possible.

Staff Officer U Thant Zin of the township department submitted the reports on the tasks.

Kya Kyaw (Mahlaing)
Germany’s Greens rule out further coalition talks with Merkel

BERLIN, 16 Oct — Germany’s Greens ruled out any further coalition talks with Angela Merkel’s conservatives early on Wednesday, leaving the chancellor to focus on discussions with the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) in her efforts to form a new government.

After almost six hours of detailed policy discussions the Greens concluded they simply did not have enough in common with Merkel’s conservative bloc in areas such as energy, climate targets and taxation, to make further discussions fruitful.

“All these talks the Greens do not find themselves able to enter coalition talks,” said Hermann Grohe, second-in-command of Merkel’s Christian Democrats (CDU).

“We will approach the representatives of the SPD tomorrow with a view to scheduling the exploratory talks we had already eyed for Thursday.”

Merkel needs to find a partner for her third term after she won September’s election but fell short of an absolute majority. Polls suggest the German public would like her to enter full-blown negotiations with the SPD, and aim for a repeat of the ‘grand coalition’ in which she governed from 2005-2009.

The SPD, however, are playing hard to get. Its representatives spoke to the CDU and its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU), for eight hours on Monday, and while stating their willingness to talk again, they also said they could also say no to Merkel.

The prospect of months of coalition talks worries Germany’s European partners, who fear delays to crucial decisions for fighting the euro zone crisis, such as a plan for a euro zone banking union. An eventual grand coalition is expected to boost spending on investment, helping shore up Europe’s largest economy and increasing trade with the struggling euro zone, helping address imbalances.—Reuters

Big powers, Iran seek progress at ‘nitty-gritty’ nuclear talks

GENEVA, 16 Oct — World powers will press Iran on Wednesday for details of its proposal on resolving their decade-old nuclear dispute during a second day of talks in Geneva. Western diplomats stress they want Teheran to back up its newly announced willingness to talk with enough in common with them to form a new government.

“We have had a certain amount of information from the Iranian side and we will hope to get more detail from them tomorrow,” spokesman Michael Mann said after the first day of talks on Tuesday. His statement suggested Iran had yet to persuade Western nations it was willing to curb the nuclear work and assure them this was purely for peaceful energy production and medical purposes, as Teheran says. In the Tuesday session, negotiators had started discussing the “nitty-gritty” details of Iranian suggestions, Mann said.—Reuters

Minibus blast kills 21 in southern Syria: activists

BEIRUT, 16 Oct — Twenty-one people, including four children and six women, were killed when a minibus hit a mine and exploded in the southern Syrian town of Noa on Wednesday, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said.

Opposition activists told the Observatory the minibus drove over a mine planted by forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad. There was no immediate comment from the government.

The explosion was reported in rebel-held territory in Deraa province but there are also army troops in the nearby base of Tel Al-Jumaa, which is besieged.

Assad’s forces are battling an uprising that grew out of protests against his family’s four-decade grip on the country.

The British-based Observatory, which is opposed to Assad, reported clashes in most provinces on Wednesday and said war planes had been deployed to the eastern desert city of Deir al-Zor.

The group said at least 27 government soldiers had been killed during intense clashes in Deir al-Zor over the past two days although rebels gave a figure more than double that.

Pro- and anti-government militiamen have fragmented the country into fiefdoms, with hardline Islamist rebels fighting Kurds and other opposition groups.

The Observatory reported that 29 jihadist fighters, some from the al Qaeda-linked Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, and 12 Kurdish militiamen were killed during clashes on Tuesday in the northeast province of Hasaka.—Reuters

Death toll from Philippines quake at 144, more people missing

LONDON, 16 Oct — The death toll from an earthquake in the Philippines rose to 144 on Wednesday as rescuers dug through the rubble of collapsed buildings including an old church and a hospital.

Nearly 3 million people were affected by the 7.2 magnitude quake on Tuesday, which caused landslides and widespread damage to infrastructure in the tourist destinations of Bohol island and the nearby Cebu islands.

The number of injured rose towards 300, with at least 23 people missing.

The national disaster agency said at least 134 of the dead were on Bohol island, which took the brunt of the quake. The island is located 630 km (390 miles) south of the capital, Manila.

Officials feared the toll would rise as communications with remote areas were re-established.

“I think this is a growing number,” London mayor Lloyd Lopez told Philippine radio. “Yesterday, we had partial communications block-out.”

“We have not reached all barangays, many are cut off, the roads are blocked by big boulders,” Lopez said, referring to villages.

Mobile phone links from the country’s main provider had been restored but a rival provider still had to fix some of its damaged equipment, according to Wednesday’s update. The incident happened at Qpam Primary School in Xinyi City at about 3:30 pm when the students went downstairs after class, according to the municipal government.

One girl suddenly fell as she descended the stairs and a crowd of students tumbled down the stairs as a result. Three were seriously injured due to trauma aspynia and another 8 sustained minor injuries, according to the government.

The injured students are all in stable condition and are receiving treatment in local hospitals.

Party members of the environmental Greens party (Die Gruenen) arrive for preliminary coalition talks with Germany’s conservative (CDU/CSU) parties at the Parliamentary Society in Berlin on 15 Oct, 2013. —Reuters

Delegations from Iran and other world powers sit before the start of two days of closed-door nuclear talks at the United Nations offices in Geneva on 15 Oct, 2013. —Reuters

A view of a portion of a damaged highway in Getafe, Bohol a day after an earthquake hit central Philippines October 16, 2013. —Reuters

11 students injured in school crowd crush

NANJING, 16 Oct — Eleven students were injured as children rushed down a staircase at a primary school in east China’s Jiangsu Province on Tuesday afternoon, local authorities confirmed on Wednesday.

The incident happened at Qpam Primary School in Xinyi City at about 3:30 pm when the students went downstairs after class, according to the municipal government.

11 students injured in school crowd crush

One girl suddenly fell as she descended the stairs and a crowd of students tumbled down the stairs as a result. Three were seriously injured due to traumatic asphyxia and further sustained minor injuries, according to the government.

The injured students are all in stable condition and are receiving treatment in local hospitals.
Burberry names Bailey CEO as
Ahrendts quits for Apple

LONDON, 16 Oct — Christopher Bailey, the design credit with restoring the cachet to fashion brand Burberry, is to become chief executive next year when long-standing boss Angela Ahrendts will move to Apple.

The 57-year-old British fashion house, famed for its camel, red and black check pattern, said on Tuesday Burberry would step down by mid-2014 after which Bailey would combine his role as chief creative officer with being chief executive.

News of the 42-year-old Yorkshireman would hold both positions sparked concern among some analysts that he might be taking on too much, and sent shares in the group down 6 percent in early trading, valuing the business at 6.6 billion pounds.

“There will undoubtedly be relief that Mr. Bai- ley, the driving force behind the brand for the last 12 years, is staying,” Morgan Stanley said in a note to clients. “But we anticipate some investor concern about combining the Chief Creative Officer and CEO roles, which are both time consuming and require very different skill sets.”

Ahrendts, who has been Burberry boss for eight years, during which time her share price has soared about 250 percent, will take up a newly-created position at Apple as a senior vice president with oversight of retail and online stores.

KinoPoisk, previously owned by founders Vitaly Tatsiy and Dmitry Sukhanov as well as France’s Allocine, has a monthly audience of 18.6 million users, Yandex said citing comScore Media Metrix.

It contains more than 100 million movie ratings with 3 million new ones being generated every month.

Yandex’s interest was earlier reported by Tass news agency, which said this month the deal was worth “tens of millions of dollars”.

Yandex declined to comment. — Reuters

UK’s Argos undercuts Tesco with 99.99 pound tablet

LONDON, 16 Oct — Britain’s Argos has entered the intensely competitive tablet computer market with a 99.99 pound ($160) own-brand product that is 16 percent cheaper than one launched by Tesco, the UK’s largest retailer, last month.

Argos, owned by Home Retail, said on Tuesday its MyTablet would be targeted at teenagers, taking on a market dominated by Apple, Samsung and Amazon.

Tesco sold 35,000 Hudis in two days following its 30 September launch - the fastest-selling tablet launch ever seen at the retailer. Argos is keen to tap into this growing segment as part of its reinvention from a catalogue-led to digitally-led business.

Home Retail has posted five straight years of profit decline and hopes the change of direction for Argos will result in a 15 percent rise in sales to 4.5 billion pounds by 2018. Like Tesco’s Hudl, which is priced at 119 pounds, Argos’ MyTablet has a seven-inch screen, runs Google’s Android operating system, comes with pre-loaded apps and is enabled for internet browsing, TV, music, video streaming and social networking. However, MyTablet only has 8 gigabytes of standard memory compared to 16 on the Hudl.

It also has a lower resolution screen, an inferior battery life and is only available in two colours vs. the Hudl’s four.

Both devices will compete with Amazon’s Kindle Fire, which retails for 99 pounds, Google’s Nexus 7, which costs 199 pounds and Apple’s iPad mini, which sells for 269 pounds.

“Millions of people have bought tablets during the last year but there is still a need and 75 percent of the UK population without one,” said Argos managing director John Walden.

Market research company EMarketker estimates there are 19.7 million tablet users in the UK, up 39 percent year-on-year.

Both Argos and Tesco sell a range of branded tablets. Sebastian James, CEO of Dixons Retail, Europe’s second biggest electricals retailer, said last month that although there is a market in Britain for cheap, basic tablets, consumers were often disappointed by purchases.

“We get a lot back because people use them and they say ‘no, what I wanted was Pad and they are not,” he told Reuters.

“There’s a reason why an iPad is more expensive, it’s just better.”

Florida counts on experimental trees to fight orange plague

R Lando, (Florida), 16 Oct — Florida citrus researchers are preparing to launch a large-scale test of new disease-tolerant orange tree rootstock in what one likened to a leap of faith to save the $9 billion state industry from a deadly citrus greening arms race.

Florida, second to Brazil in global orange juice production, has lost billions of dollars in revenues from the disease that is killing orange trees faster than they can be replaced. Citrus greening, which makes the fruit unpalatable and kills trees within a few years, has helped put state orange production on a downhill trend. The bacteria threatens an industry that employs more than 76,000 full- and part-time workers and provides over 90 percent of orange juice consumed in the United States.

So desperate are growers to find a solution to the greening crisis that they are prepared to start planting the new rootstock before testing it on in even completed, researchers say. “This is a huge, risky experiment. It illustrates the desperate situation the Florida citrus industry feels that it is in,” said Fred Gmitter, a University of Florida horticulture professor who is part of the test team. Plant pathologists believe citrus greening, caused by a bacterium spread by the Asian citrus Psyllid, inflicts as much as 70 percent of Florida’s citrus trees, according to researcher Jude Grosser. — Reuters

Yandex buys Russian movie review site

MOSCOW, 16 Oct — Russian Internet group Yandex said on Tuesday it had acquired KinoPoisk, the largest Russian-language website dedicated to movies, in a move to further enhance its search.

Search services are the essence of Yandex, which in Russia leads the world’s top search engine Google with a market share of more than 60 percent and derives the bulk of its revenues from text-based advertising.

Yandex said in a statement that it would integrate the team behind KinoPoisk, while the service will remain available at its current domain, kinopoisk.ru. Financial terms were not disclosed.

It contains more than 100 million movie ratings with 3 million new ones being generated every month.

Yandex’s interest was earlier reported by Tass news agency, which said this month the deal was worth “tens of millions of dollars”. Yandex declined to comment. — Reuters

Young apes manage emotions like humans

WASHINGTON, 16 Oct — US researchers studying young bonobos in an African sanctuary have found striking similarities between the emotional development of the bonobos and children, suggesting these great apes regulate their emotions in a human-like way.

The findings, published on Monday in the US journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, show that the socio-emotional framework commonly applied to children works equally well for apes and can be used to test predictions of great ape behavior.

Researchers from Emory University employed video analysis to show bonobos at a sanctuary near Kinshasa, capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, handle their own emotions as well as how they react to the emotions of others. They found bonobos that recovered quickly and easily from their own emotional upheavals, such as after losing a fight, and showed more empathy for their fellow great apes. Those bonobos more often gave body comfort such as kissing, embracing, touching to those in distress, the researchers said.

Bonobo, one of our closest primate relatives, is as genetically similar to humans as is the chimpanzee and widely considered the most empathic great ape. “This makes the species an ideal candidate for psychological comparisons,” said co-author Frans de Waal from Emory University.

“Any fundamental similarity between humans and bonobos probably traces back to their last common ancestor, which lived around six million years ago.”If the way bonobos handle their own emotions predicts how they react to those of others, this hints at emotion regulation, such as the ability to temper strong emotions and avoid over- arousal, the researchers said. — Reuters
Revenues fell 3 percent to $12.03 billion from $12.05 billion. Coca-Cola said its long-term quarterly forecasts, but the company said its long-term goals and strategies remained unchanged and that it would continue to invest in its brands. —Reuters
Japan, UK to deepen cooperation at sea, in space and cyberspace

Tokyo, 16 Oct — Japana se Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and British Foreign Secretary William Hague agreed on Wednesday that the two countries should deepen cooperation in maritime affairs, space, cyberspace and anti-terrorism measures, the Japanese minister said.

During a meeting in Tokyo, the foreign ministers also agreed to promote policy coordination and intelligence sharing in such regions as the Middle East, North Africa and Southeast Asia, with plans to hold a bilateral working-level meeting at an early date, Kishida told a news conference after the talks.

Kishida also briefed Hague on the security environment facing Japan and the policies of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s government, including its plans to set up a US-style National Security Council and draw up a national security strategy. At the same news conference, Hague said Britain “unequivocally” welcomes a more active role for Japan in the issues of international peace and security, noting that London is looking forward to sharing its experience in establishing and running a National Security Council as Japan moves to launch its own.

During the talks, the Japanese and British foreign chiefs also confirmed plans to promote joint development of defence equipment. Japan and Britain signed an agreement in July to jointly develop defence equipment, with both sides now planning to test the performance of a per-tective suit together.

“You visited Japan on the occasion that is fitting to its conclusion,” Kishida told Hague at the beginning of the meeting.

Kishida last met with Hague on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York in late September. Wednesday’s talks were held as a bilateral strategic dialogue, following the first such talks between the foreign ministers of the two countries in October last year.—Kyodo News

Panamanian-registered cargo ship sinks off S Korea, nine died

Seoul, 16 Oct — A Panamanian-registered cargo ship carrying 19 people sank in South Korea’s southeast Pohang harbour amid a storm at around 21:30 local time on Tuesday, leaving 9 people dead and two missing, according to the Chinese Consulate General in Busan.

An official from the Chinese Consulate General confirmed that among the 19 people aboard, 18 were Chinese citizens and the remaining one was Vietnamese.

Eight people have been rescued and 9 bodies recovered by far, while two people are still missing, according to the South Korea’s coast guard who conducts the rescue operation as saying.

Officials from Chinese Consulate General in Busan have visited the eight survivors sent to a local hospital, saying all of them suffered only tiny superficial wounds and are in stable condition.

South Korea’s coast guard said the ship CHENGGLU15 set off from Pyeongtaek Port of South Korea’s west coast on 2 Oct. and arrived at Pohang two days later to unload the cargo. It was planning to leave for Japan on Tuesday after unloading all the cargo, but decided to stay considering the bad weather.

At around 15:15 local time on Tuesday, the ship crew called local police, reporting that the ship ran into the seawall as its anchor was swept away by the storm. But South Korean coast guard was only able to get close to the ship until 17:00 since strong wind and waves hampered the rescue operation. The ship sank after six hours in Yingri Harbor of Pohang.

The Panamanian-registered ship belongs to China’s Lishen International Shipping Group Corporation in Zhejiang Province.

The South Korean coast guard has established an emergency rescue headquarters, sending helicopters, ships and special rescue team to search the missing people.

Chinese Consulate General in Busan has also sent a team of four people to assist the rescue work and called on the South Korean side to make all-out efforts to rescue the crew.

NZ minister to face electoral fraud charges, resigns portfolios

Wellington, 16 Oct — The leader of a small party providing a majority for the New Zealand government resigned as a cabinet minis- ter on Wednesday after being sent to trial for alleged electoral fraud.

John Banks, leader and sole elected member of the free-market ACT party, resigned his portfolios after a court ruled he should answer charges he improperly disguised political donations from Internet tycoon Kim Dotcom and a casino company.

The alleged breaches relate to Banks’s unsuccess- ful bid to become mayor of Auckland, the country’s biggest city, in 2010.

Prime Minister John Key, whose centre-right government relies on the support of Banks and two other small parties for a majority, said he accepted Banks’s decision to stand down. “Even though the events occurred before Mr Banks entered parliament in 2011, this is totally the right call and I have accepted Mr Bank’s offer to resign as a minister,” Key said in a statement.

Banks, helped by Na- tional to secure a seat in the 2011 general election, was given junior ministerial responsibilities. He said he would stick by his deal to support the government on financial and confidence votes, ensuring the government’s one-vote majority in the 121-seat parliament.

The charges followed Banks’s signing elec- toral documents listing the donors of NZ$65,000 ($34,600) to his campaign as anonymous, when he allegedly knew their identity.

The court ruled there was sufficient evidence for the case to go to a criminal trial. The offence carries a maximum sentence of two years in jail.—Reuters

Young New Zealander wins prestigious Booker prize

Wellington, 16 Oct — New Zealand author Eleanor Catton’s novel The Luminaries has won the Booker prize for English language literature. Catton, 28, is only the second New Zealander, and the youngest author ever, to win the prestigious literary award.

She is also the young- est short-listed writer in the competition’s 45-year his- tory. The prize, announced at a ceremony in London, carries a cheque for 95,000 NZ dollars (78,000 US dol- lars). Accepting the award, Catton said the prize is all the more incredible because her book has been a pub- lishe’s nightmare from the very beginning.

“The shape and form of the book made certain kinds of editorial suggestions not only mathematically im- possible, but even more egregiously, astrologically impossible,” she said.

The judges said her book, which beat five other contenders, is an exuber- ant and dazzling homage to Victorian sensation novels.

The novel is a murder mystery set on the West Coast during the 1860s gold rush that relays on an astrological narrative. It follows in the foot- steps of Mr Pip by Ployd Jones, which was short-list- ed in 2007, and The Bone People by Andrea Levy, which won in 1985. New Zealand Prime Minister John Key said on Wednesday that winning the Booker Prize is a significant achieve- ment on the world stage for a New Zealander. —Xinhua

Putin foe Navalny faces prison if appeal is rejected

Moscow, 16 Oct — Convicted at a trial he de- scribes as Vladimir Putin’s revenge for his political challenge, Russian opposi- tion leader Alexei Navalny faces five years in prison if his appeal against a theft conviction is rejected on Wednesday. The court hear- ing in the remote city of Ki rov also poses a conundrum for President Putin. Jailing Navalny would keep Putin’s most prominent political rival in jail for a second time, which could stoke protests in Russia since jailed former oil tycoon Mikhail Khodorko- vsky’s second conviction in 2010.—Reuters

Putin foe Navalny faces prison if appeal is rejected

Russian op- position leader Alexei Nav- alny speaks to journalists outside a court in Moscow on 14 Oct, 2013.—Reuters

Putin foe Navalny faces prison if appeal is rejected

Photo taken on 15 Oct, 2013 shows a Panamanian-registered cargo ship rolling in the waves in Pohang, South Korea.—Xinhua

Putin foe Navalny faces prison if appeal is rejected

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Putin foe Navalny faces prison if appeal is rejected
Charity & Voluntary Affairs

Parahita Youth Network donates cash and kind to landslide victims

**Yezyagyo, 16 Oct—** Yangon-based Parahita Youth Network donated cash and medicines to Shiteindan Village that suffered landslides at Chindwin River Village which is home to 781 people. Old students group and people of Laungkaung Village in Mawlaik Township were donated cash and kind to landslide victims. —MMAL-Soe Win (SP)

Commerce Ministry emerge champion in para sports games

**Yangon, 16 Oct—** The 25th Myanmar National Para Sports Games was held in Yangon from 12 to 14 October. A ceremony to complete the games was held at Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna on 14 October, attended by President of Myanmar Para Sports Federation Maj-Gen Nay Lin and Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe presented championship trophy to Ministry of Commerce team. Ministry of Commerce team secured 37 gold, 21 silver and 16 bronze medals, totaling 74. The ministry has so far secured 13 straight champions. Significantly, Zaw Nyein Aung won three gold in track and field, N Aung Khun three gold in shot put and discuss, Htoo Htoo Aung three gold in shot put and discuss, Naing Sit Aung three gold in swimming and Aung Phone three gold in swimming event.

**Bago, 16 Oct—** A ceremony to provide assistance to members of war veterans was held at Bago Township War Veterans Organization in Bago Region on 13 October. It was attended by Bago Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Thet Tun, Deputy Director of Region Bureau of Special Investigation U Sein Tin, Deputy Commissioner of the district Major Thein Aung (Rtd), Chairman of Township WVO Captain Min Thawda (Rtd), Mawgun award winners and offspring of the war veterans, totaling about 100.

Aids presented to war veterans in Bago

**Bago, 16 Oct—** The 7th ASEAN Para Sports Games was held in conjunction with the Kayin don dance contest at Koethein Gymnasium in Pathein of Ayeyawady Region on 13 October. It was attended by Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung and wife, Daw Khin Hty Myint, region ministers and their wives, departmental officials, members of the panel of judges and officials of six districts. The competition kicked off by beating the Kayin traditional drum by Chief Minister U Thein Aung. Seventy don dance troupes took part in the contest. The Chief Minister and wife and family, region ministers and departmental officials presented cash awards to the contestants. After the competition, the Chief Minister and officials cordially greeted the contestants. —MMAL-District IPRD

Kayin don dance contest in Pathein

**Pathein, 16 Oct—** The 25th games was held in Pathein of Ayeyawady Region on 13 October. It was attended by Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung and wife Daw Khin Hty Myint, region ministers and their wives, departmental officials, members of the panel of judges and officials of six districts. The competition kicked off by beating the Kayin traditional drum by Chief Minister U Thein Aung. Seventy don dance troupes took part in the contest. The Chief Minister and wife and family, region ministers and departmental officials presented cash awards to the contestants. After the competition, the Chief Minister and officials cordially greeted the contestants. —MMAL-District IPRD

Social Service Association formed in Mahlaing

**Mahlaing, 16 Oct—** Kababu Village-tract in Mahlaing Township of Mandalay Region is formed with five villages. The village-tract constituted the Dhamma Rekkhita Social Service Association with 50 members on 22 July. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Rajinda of Thaphankan Village remarked, “In this region, most of the snake-bite victims succumbed due to lack of health knowledge. In the new government era, local people have wider scope of knowledge. Social organizations of the township provide assistance to the patients. But, Thaphankan and Taiknei villages need vehicles to rush patients to the hospital in time.”

Wellwisher may dial 09-49232240 for donation. —Kyaw Kyaw (Mahlaing)
No terrorist act tolerated

Myanmar’s tourism industry has returned to full life after the idle low season. The high season coming ahead has already shown signs of a boom this year. All the hotel rooms have been booked. The airports have been busy with tourists flooding into the country which has just woke up from a nightmare to see a beautiful morning.

A series of bomb blasts and threats emerged here and there. The bomb blasts that resurfaced have killed two people and injured four including one foreigner. The recent blasts suggested that the bombers targeted the tourist spots, including hotels and a pagoda parking lot in Sagaing, a town with abundant temples, pagodas and tourist spots near Mandalay.

The country is in its critical juncture, about to seal the groundbreaking nationwide ceasefire deal with all ethnic armed groups. Almost everyone in the country is working for a forum for finding a political solution to bring peace to the country and end gun fires. These coward acts are to be assumed as mere terrorist act.

Finally, the police could track down and even arrested some suspects involved in the terrorist acts. Whoever they may be, the country should not tolerate any acts endangering the national security and harming its image.

Efforts of the police force and the bomb disposal squads should be recognized.

People requested to inform MPF of information about suspects

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 Oct—Saw Myint Lwin (a) Maw Hta.—MNA

10 gold medals donated to sports museum

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 Oct.—To uplift the morale of sportsmen, Daw Khin Khin Htwe, a former selected Myanmar sprinter, donated 10 gold medals she had won in Asian Games and SEA Games through Director of the Sports and Physical Education Department U Htay Aung to the sports museum of the sports zone, Wunna Theikdi Sports Zone, here, this morning.

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Oct—The Myanmar military delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing heard the clarification on production of airplane and helicopter by Chairman Mr Ma Zhiping and officials of CATIC Co in Beijing yesterday morning.
Pa-O Youth Forum held in Thaton

Township level health planning workshop held

Falam, 16 Oct—The township level health planning workshop was held at Falam Township People’s Hospital in Falam of Falam District in Chin State on 14 October.

District Deputy Commissioner U Soe Tint, departmental officials and social organization members attended the workshop. Acting Medical Superintendent Dr Ko Ko Aung explained the purpose of the workshop. After that, Dr Ye Aung of Merlin and Dr Than Naing Oo of Management Science for Health discussed purpose of the workshop and Chin State health development project. They replied to queries raised by those present.

Paulethwe hybrid plantation harvested on model plot

Hopin, 16 Oct—The 2-acre model plot of Paulethwe paddy strain was harvested at field No 244 of farmer U Hla San in Arlanbo Village in Myothit Village-tract in Hopin Sub-Township of Kachin State on 13 October.

The harvest was attended by Sub-Township Administrator U Toe Kyaw Thu, Head of Sub-Township Agriculture Department U Sein Lwin, Head of Sub-Township Settlement and Land Records Department U Zaw Win Tun, Staff Officer of Agricultural Mechanization Department U Thwe Maung Maung Tun, the in-charge of the Mochnyin District Seeds Farm, the in-charge of district land utilization, departmental officials and local farmers totalling 120.

The model plot of Paulethwe paddy produced 120 baskets of paddy in wet status and 117.39 baskets in dry status.

Myanmar youth wins over Hong Kong cricket team at 2nd match

Yangon, 16 Oct—Second match of Myanmar-Hong Kong Men’s Friendly Cricket Tourney took place at Shwe Pin Lone Cricket Oval in Dagon Myothit (North) Township here on 14 October evening.

Myanmar youth won over Hong Kong team at the match. Among the spectators were President of Myanmar Cricket Federation U Than Win, Vice-President U Kyaw Kyaw, General Secretary U Kyi Min, executives and Hong Kong cricket team leader Mr Rodney Miles.

Aye Min Than from Myanmar secured Man of the Match. Hong Kong won over Myanmar at the first match and Myanmar, Hong Kong at the second match.

In the evening, Hong Kong cricket team left Yangon in the evening.
Li raises four-point proposal on upgrading China-Vietnam business cooperation

HANOI, 16 Oct — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on Tuesday laid out a four-point proposal on further deepening business cooperation between his country and Vietnam.

The rapidly growing economic and trade cooperation between China and Vietnam boasts great potential, and their common interests far outweigh their differences, Li said at a luncheon attended by Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung and representatives of the two countries’ business communities.

He urged the two countries to integrate their development strategies and accelerate the expansion of their economic and trade cooperation with a market-oriented, enterprise-centered approach.

First, the two sides need to advance their overall cooperation, Li said, adding that he and his Vietnamese counterpart have agreed on forming three work groups to simultaneously advance maritime, onshore and financial cooperation.

Li said the consensus on the three-track approach heralds a better business environment for the enterprises of both countries, and will boost investor confidence and infuse new vigor into China-Vietnam cooperation.

Second, the two countries should promote trade facilitation, set in motion a related joint work group within the year, and strive to raise bilateral trade to 100 billion US dollars by 2017, proposed the premier.

Noting that trade growth requires robust financial support, he said China stands ready to work with Vietnam to expand the scale of bilateral currency swap and local currency settlement so as to help advance the liberalization and facilitation of bilateral trade and investment.

Third, Li called on the two countries to boost mutual investment, saying that his country assigns priority to transportation, communications, energy and other infrastructure-building projects, encourages Chinese enterprises to invest in Vietnam, and welcomes investment by Vietnamese businesses.

Fourth, China and Vietnam need to deepen cooperation under the framework of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said the premier.

Nearly 500,000 deaths in Iraq linked to war-related causes

WASHINGTON, 16 Oct — For every three people killed by violence during the US-led invasion and occupation of Iraq from 2003 to 2011, two died as a result of the country’s collapsed health care system, water and food supply as well as transportation, an international team of researchers said on Tuesday.

In all, nearly a million people died from causes that could be associated with the war, the researchers reported in the open access journal PLoS Medicine.

The study, done by researchers from Johns Hopkins University and University of Washington in the US, Simon Fraser University, Canada, as well as Mustangi University in Iraq, is the first population-based survey research since 2006 to estimate war-related deaths in Iraq.

The researchers concluded with 95 percent certainty that there were approximately 461,000 excess deaths during the Iraqi war, but the actual number could be as low as 48,000 or as high as 751,000.

“Policy makers, governments and the public need better data on the health effects of armed conflict,” said Amy Hagopian, associate professor of Global Health at the University of Washington and the lead author of this study, in a statement. “Without this information, it’s impossible to assess the true human costs of war.”

To conduct this study, the researchers went to 2,000 randomly selected households in Iraq in 100 clusters throughout the country to ensure the sample of households was nationally representative. They asked every household head about births and deaths since 2001, and all household adults about mortality among their siblings. They found more than 60 percent of those deaths were directly attributable to violence while the rest were associated with the war, but war-related, causes.

Based on household survey responses, gunshots were reported to cause 62 percent of violent deaths, car bombs, 12 percent; and other explosions, 9 percent. Cardiovascular conditions were the main cause of nonviolent death, accounting for 47 percent of nonviolent deaths over the entire study period.

They also found that deaths increased to twice as much as the expected levels at the onset of the war, plateaued briefly at the end of 2003, then rose again to a new peak in 2006.

Mexico not doing enough to tackle problems of aboriginal people

OTTAWA, 16 Oct — Canada is not doing enough to tackle the social and economic ills facing its large aboriginal population, which is beset by poverty, poor housing and high unemployment, a United Nations official said on Tuesday.

In a rare international rebuke to Canada, James Anaya, the UN special rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, said Ottawa was taking some measures to address problems that have bedeviled the native population for many decades.

“It is equally clear that these steps are insufficient, and have yet to fully respond to aboriginal peoples’ urgent needs,” he told a news conference in Ottawa at the end of a nine-day visit.

“Canada consistently ranks near the top among countries with respect to human development standards, and yet... aboriginal people live in conditions akin to those in countries that rank much lower and in which poverty abounds.”

Anaya said indigenous people suffered from high levels of violence, crime, unemployment, suicide and “woefully inadequate” housing which has led to a range of health problems.

A 2011 census showed Canada has 1.4 million aboriginals, or about 4.3 percent of the overall population. “As acknowledged by the rapporteur, positive steps have been taken and challenges remain.”—Reuters

Africa emerges as hub of new global drug trafficking routes

HARARE, 16 Oct — Parts of West and East Africa have emerged as new convenient transit points for syndicates using container ships or small boats to smuggle narcotics from Latin America or Central Asia to consumer markets, an official of the African Union Commission (AUC) said on Tuesday.

Opening a regional workshop on drug control in Harare, Olawale Maiyegun, Director of social affairs department of the AUC, said Africa is dealing with vast porous borders and coastlines, fragile and post conflict states, weak criminal justice systems, corruption, among other social challenges that make the continent vulnerable to drug trafficking.

According to United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), seizures of heroin in the past few years were particularly high in Botswana on the southern African coast and Tanzania on the eastern coast.

The UN office said in East Africa the seizures increased almost 10-fold since 2009.

Maiyegun said coping with the threats of drug trafficking is difficult even for the most developed and stable countries and Africa now needs robust responses to counter the sophisticated crime.

Maiyegun said the continental body did not know the exact quantities of drugs passing through Africa as information of drug seizures across the continent remains fragmented. “We are trying to estimate the extent of the problem but what we know is that without an exaggeration,” Maiyegun said.—Xinhua

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Thai Cabinet approves foreign tourist division in courts

BANGKOK, 16 Oct — The Thai Cabinet on Tuesday allocated 550,000 US dollars for the Court of Justice to set up a special tourist division to speed up cases related to foreign tourists.

Deputy Government Spokeswoman Sunisa Lertpakwat said the new tourist division will be opened in a pilot project for seven courts in tourist destination areas.

The seven courts are Pattaya Provincial Court, Chiang Mai District Court, Phuket Provincial Court, Koh Samui Provincial Court, Krabi Provincial Court, Dusit District Court and Pathumvan District Court.

The spokesperson said the Cabinet saw the need to speed up cases in which foreign tourists, who often stay long time in the country, were victims. The new court division will also get Thailand prepared for the integration into the Asian Economic Community in 2015. —Xinhua

Philippine gov’t, rebels achieve “substantial progress”

MANILA, 16 Oct — The Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) have made “substantial progress” in their peace process since the signing of the framework agreement on the Bangsamoro (FAB) a year ago, a senior government official said on Tuesday.

Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte in a news briefing said that it has been a year since the FAB was signed on 15 Oct, 2012.

“If you look at the progress, it’s pretty much substantial,” she said, adding, “we remain optimistic that this will go according to our plan.”

She said that there could be observations that the process of completing the two remaining annexes on power-sharing and normalization of the FAB might be slow.

The government and the MILF have been eyeing to forge a comprehensive peace agreement within the year.

Mainland endorses self-organized cross-Strait meetings

BEIJING, 16 Oct.—A mainland spokeswoman said on Wednesday that the two sides of the Taiwan Strait can arrange meetings between their leaders independently, rather than piggy-backing on international occasions.

“A cross-Strait leaders’ meeting is an affair between Chinese people on both sides of the Strait. It will not necessarily be on the sidelines of an international meeting,” said Fan Liqing, spokeswoman with the State Council Taipei Affairs Office, at a Press conference.

Fan was responding to a question about whether Taiwan leader Ma Ying-jeou should attend the informal economic leaders’ meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) next year in Beijing so as to realize a meeting between leaders across the Strait. Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, met Vincent Siew, honorary chairman of the Taiwan-based Cross-Straits Commercial Market Foundation, in the Indonesian resort island of Bali on 6 October right ahead of the APEC meeting.

“Have we long endorsed meetings between leaders across the Strait and will remain positive and open to any move that benefits peace and relations across the Strait,” Fan said.

Emperor, empress meet with Japan art award winners

TOYKO, 16 Oct — Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko on Wednesday met with the winners of this year’s Praemium Imperiale art award at a reception in Tokyo.

The seven courts are Pattaya Provincial Court, Chiang Mai District Court, Phuket Provincial Court, Koh Samui Provincial Court, Krabi Provincial Court, Dusit District Court and Pathumvan District Court.

The spokesperson said the Cabinet was responding to reports that the seven courts are the provincial courts in tourist destination areas.

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Zhang Zhijun, head of the State Council Taipei Affairs Office, also met with Wang Yu-chi, Taiwan’s mainland affairs chief, ahead of the APEC meeting, and they agreed to have mutual visits.

When asked to comment about future meetings between Zhang and Wang, Fan said the two sides need further discussion. Zhang and Wang discussed cross-Strait relations at the APEC meeting, which improved mutual understanding and their efficiency in handling cross-Strait affairs and will benefit cross-Strait relations, according to the spokeswoman. “I would not suggest interpretations other than that,” she added.

She also insisted that the communication between them will not change the current consultations between the mainland-based Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits and its Taipehese counterpart, the Straits Exchange Foundation. —Xinhua

China’s first trans-provincial subway opens

Photo taken on 16 Oct, 2013 shows a train of a newly-opened subway line in Shanghai, east China. The six-kilometer extension of Shanghai Metro Line 11, which is China’s first trans-provincial subway line and links the country’s commercial hub of Shanghai with Kunshan City in neighboring Jiangsu Province, opened on Wednesday.

NANJING, 16 Oct—China’s first trans-provincial subway line, linking the country’s commercial hub of Shanghai with Kunshan City in neighboring Jiangsu Province, opened on Wednesday. The six-kilometer extension of Shanghai Metro Line 11 was built with a cost of 1.85 billion yuan (301 million US dollars).

The extension linking the two cities features three elevated stations: Zhaofeng Road Station, Guangming Road Station and Huaqiao Station in Kunshan. With the extension, the length of Metro Line 11 grew to 72 km, making it the longest subway line in Shanghai. The trip from Huaiqiao Station in Kunshan to downtown Shanghai now takes about an hour and costs 7 yuan.

“It saves me more than 20 yuan every day,” said Ma Xiaoya, a resident of Kunshan who works in Shanghai.

Before the extension, Ma had to take a train from Kunshan to Shanghai and then take the subway to arrive at her workplace.

The cities of Suzhou and Wuxi, both in Jiangsu Province, are also planning to construct light rail lines linking the cities to Shanghai’s subway system. —Xinhua

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Fukushima Gov Yuhei Sato (R) inspects equipment to remove spent nuclear fuel pool at the building housing the 4th reactor of the crippled Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station in Fukushima Prefecture on 15 Oct, 2013. KYODO NEWS

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (L) speaks with a member of the media next to a display illustrating a model of the Fukushima No. 11 nuclear reactor at the JR East Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant in Japan on 15 Oct, 2013. KYODO NEWS

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The cities of Suzhou and Wuxi, both in Jiangsu Province, are also planning to construct light rail lines linking the cities to Shanghai’s subway system. —Xinhua
4.7-magnitude quake jolts eastern Romania

BUCHAREST, 16 Oct.—An earthquake measuring over 4.7 magnitude on the Richter scale jolted Vrancea County in eastern Romania on Tuesday evening, according to the National Institute for Earth Physics Research and Development. The quake occurred at a depth of 136 km, with the epicenter near commune of Jitia, some 140 km north-west of the capital city of Bucharest, where the tremor was also felt. There is no report of casuality for now. Vrancea is one of the most active seismic areas in Europe. It is known for its intermediate-depth (70-200 km) earthquakes, which can reach a magnitude of 7.0-7.8. In March 1977, a 7.6-magnitude earthquake killed 1,600 people in Romania and damaged 8,500 buildings. 2013 is a year rich in seismic events in Romania. An earthquake measuring 5.5 magnitude on the Richter scale jolted Vrancea region on 6 Oct and at least another six quakes measuring over 4 and under 5 degrees on the Richter scale hit the same county.—Xinhua

Ministry of Energy
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise
Invitation for Open Tender (2/2013)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United State Dollar (CIF Yangon) and Myanmar Kyats.

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<th>Sr.No</th>
<th>Tender No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Qty</th>
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<tr>
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<td>MPPE/MCY/T1</td>
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<td>MPPE/LP/MCY/CAP/T2</td>
<td>Toyota Towing Tractor (Brand New) for Aviation Fuel Dispenser</td>
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<td>Tyre with Tube and Flap</td>
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</table>

- Tender Closing Date & Time - 14-11-2013, 12:00 Hrs.

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 15-10-2013 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Phone: 067-411487.

Planning Department
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise
Ministry of Energy, No (6) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw

Few candidates gather massive crowds in Madagascar election campaigns

ANTANANARIVO, 16 Oct.—Ten days before the presidential election, only a few among 33 candidates in Madagascar could gather massive crowds in their campaigns. Only eight candidates gathered crowds every time when they went on campaigning for support. They are considered by others as rich because they spent too much money attracting many people.

The eight candidates, mostly high-ranking officials in the transition government, have an exclusive contract with many artists, use helicopters during the 30-day propaganda to reach remote villages, distribute thousands of T-shirts to people and publish thousands of posters to popularize their influence.

They spent money also renting cars and paying staffs in their propaganda.

According to the law on election in Madagascar, the 33 candidates have 30 days since 24 September to persuade the Malagasy people to vote for their names.

According to the law, 10 of them obtains 50 percent of the votes. The two leading candidates gathered crowds every time when they went on campaigning for support.

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The two leading candidates will fight a duel during the second round of polls set for 25 October. If none of them obtains 50 percent of the votes, the two leading candidates will fight a duel during the second round on 20 December.

Gas plant explosion leaves four killed, three injured in central Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 16 Oct.—At least four people were killed and three others injured on Tuesday after an explosion at a gas plant in the Industrial Park of Chachapa, a town in central Mexico’s Puebla state, local authorities said.

At least four people were killed and three others injured on Tuesday after an explosion at a gas plant in the Industrial Park of Chachapa, a town in central Mexico’s Puebla state, local authorities said.

The Puebla state’s Public Security reported through its twitter account that the authorities are working in the area and the incident has been controlled. “Preliminary report in Chachapa: 4 deaths and 3 injured, authorities remain in place,” it said.

A member of the Bayi Parachute Team of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Air Force gives a performance in Qinghai City, southwest China’s Sichuan Province, on 14 Oct, 2013.—Reuters

EDITORS' NOTE: Xinhua, a member of the Bayi Parachute Team of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Air Force, gives a performance in Qinghai City, southwest China’s Sichuan Province, on 14 Oct, 2013. Xinhua
Jon Bon Jovi walks fan down aisle in Vegas wedding

LONDON, 16 Oct—Singer Jon Bon Jovi walked a fan down the aisle at her wedding in Las Vegas on Saturday.

The 51-year-old singer surprised Branka Delic at her wedding to Gonzalo Cadera at the Graceland Wedding Chapel in Las Vegas, reported Contactmusic.

“I have memories for life which I’ll never forget. Such an amazing man to take time from his schedule to come walk this crazy Aussie down the aisle... Jon... I salute,” the bride said. Two months ago Delic had started an online petition, BonJovi-WalkMeDownTheAisle.com, to have him at her nuptials, which took place at the same chapel where he married his high school sweetheart, Dorothea Hurley, in April 1989.

Later, the musician took to his Twitter page to congratulate the happy couple, writing, “Branka & Gonzalo! May you have a lifetime of happiness, love & memories together always (sic)!”. The Always singer also posted an image of him with Branka at the chapel on the social networking website. Jon was dressed casually in a white shirt and a pair of jeans. —always (sic)

Photographer says Angelina Jolie a modern Marilyn Monroe

LOS ANGELES, 16 Oct—Actress Angelina Jolie is the only modern beauty who could compete with silver screen legends Marilyn Monroe and Ava Gardner, says celebrity photographer Terry O’Neill.

During his career, O’Neill has captured the world’s most iconic beauties during his prolific career and he insists the days of the movie sirens are numbered because there are just few current stars who possess the look, the elegance and the class of the greats.

But he feels that there is one actress who rises above the rest, reports contactmusic.com.

“Ava Gardner, Lana Turner, Marilyn Monroe, all of them were stunning. Now, they all seem the same. The only one who really stands out is Angelina Jolie, a different class of girl altogether. She’s a stunning, beautiful woman—a rarity,” he said.

PTI

Shraddha Kapoor keen to move beyond romance in films

MUMBAI, 16 Oct—Actress Shraddha Kapoor, recently seen in successful love saga Aashiqui 2, says she wants to go beyond the genre of romance on screen, and try her luck at the genre of romance as well.

“I would like to explore different roles, especially on the screen, and try her luck at the genre of romance as well,” Shraddha told reporters here at an event.

“Tales of friendship, love & memories together always,” she added.

The actress also posted an image of him with Branka at the chapel on the social networking website. Jon was dressed casually in a white shirt and a pair of jeans. —always (sic)

Beckhams to give their home US makeover for children’s sake

LONDON, 16 Oct—David and Victoria Beckham are planning to make their new London house more American to stop their children from feeling homesick.

The superstar couple, together have sons Brooklyn, 14, Romeo, 11, and Cruz, eight, and two-year-old daughter Harper.

They are hoping to buy a 45 million pounds townhouse after their return to the UK and interior designer Kelly Hoppen is set to give it a US makeover to help the family adjust to life away from Los Angeles, reported Daily Star.

“David and Victoria have been extremely conscious of how homesick the kids have been since leaving LA and they’ve had a hard time setting in to their new school and making friends,” a source said.

“Brooklyn in particular has found the move difficult. Kelly designed the Beckhams’ LA houses and decorated each of the boys’ rooms according to their own tastes,” it added.

Los Angeles, 16 Oct—Actress Angelina Jolie is the only modern beauty who could compete with silver screen legends Marilyn Monroe and Ava Gardner, says celebrity photographer Terry O’Neill.

During his career, O’Neill has captured the world’s most iconic beauties during his prolific career and he insists the days of the movie sirens are numbered because there are just few current stars who possess the look, the elegance and the class of the greats.

But he feels that there is one actress who rises above the rest, reports contactmusic.com.

“Ava Gardner, Lana Turner, Marilyn Monroe, all of them were stunning. Now, they all seem the same. The only one who really stands out is Angelina Jolie, a different class of girl altogether. She’s a stunning, beautiful woman—a rarity,” he said.

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LOS ANGELES, 16 Oct—Actor Sylvester Stallone was planning to give his old Hollywood home a US makeover to help the family adjust to life away from Los Angeles, reported the Los Angeles Times.

The duo used to compete in the action and muscle genre on the big screen.

Talking about his camaraderie with Stallone, Schwarzenegger said: “Sylv and I were very competitive in the early days. It was always about who had the most cuts, the best muscle separation, the least amount of body fat, as well as who had the biggest guns and the biggest on screen body count.

This kind of competition was continuous. But we always appreciated each other’s talent and this competition gave way to mutual respect.”

Escape Plan, directed by Mikael Hafstrom, is distributed by PVR Pictures in India.

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Sports

Spanish golfer Rafael Cabrera Bello (16th) on way to a six-under-par 66 at the Port Royal Golf Club, St. George's, Bermuda, before making a two-stroke lead over Jason Dufner after Dufner stumbled to take a two-stroke lead over Cabrera Bello after Cabrera Bello recovered from a back-nine bogey on Tuesday but they must still win their final two matches against Sweden to qualify for the last four of a World Cup. Dufner, who is a two-shot lead over Cabrera Bello going into the final round on Wednesday, is the defending champion from 2012. Dufner's Auschka said at a news conference on Tuesday. "We almost, almost ... we were throttling the ball into the box just in front of the offside trap for Finland and he missed a fairly good short from in the 61st. "It was a day of very strong emotions, my family here, all the people," added the 28-year-old. "Playing here on my home patch they treat me with a special affection. It was a nice day and a nice match to get to Brazil and I am just really happy." Reuters

Spain beat Georgia 2-0 to secure World Cup berth

Spain forward Alvaro Negredo (R) celebrates his goal with his teammate Andres Iniesta during their 2014 World Cup qualifying soccer match against Georgia at Carlos Belmonte stadium in Albacete on 15 October, 2013. Reuters

Spain's Alvaro Negredo (R) celebrates his goal with his teammate Andres Iniesta during their 2014 World Cup qualifying soccer match against Georgia at Carlos Belmonte stadium in Albacete on 15 October, 2013. Reuters

Albacete, 16 Oct— Holders Spain booked their place at next year's World Cup finals in Brazil with a minimum of fuss when Alvaro Negredo and substitute Juan Mata struck in a comfortable 2-0 home win over minnows Georgia on Tuesday. The victory in Albacete meant the world and European champions finished top of qualification Group I on 20 points from eight matches, three ahead of France, who beat Finland 3-0 in Paris and go into the playoffs. Negredo, who scored Spain's second in Friday's 2-1 win over Belarus and is looking a strong candidate for a regular place up front, clipped a volleyed Andres Iniesta centre into the net to put Spain ahead in the 26th minute. The Manchester City forward scuffed a shot against the post five minutes before halftime before Mata, who had replaced Pedro moments earlier, pounced on a loose ball and cracked home from close range in the 61st. "(classification) is a routine thing but you have to give it its worth," Del Bosque said at a news conference. "We had a few problems against the lesser teams but we also showed our strength against a powerful French side," he added in reference to France's 1-0 win in Paris in March. "We almost, almost found ourselves losing out to them in the group but we came through with flying colours." It was a memorable night for Iniesta, who hails from a small town around 40 kilometres from Albacete, and he was given a rapturous reception by the home fans. A hero to Spaniards after he scored the goal that secured their first World Cup in South Africa in 2010, his assist for Negredo's goal was a typically effortless piece of skill after his Barcelona colleague mate Pedro had sent him clear with a deft scooped pass. "It was a very special moment, a shot at qualification here, what better place could there be," Iniesta said in a pitchside interview with Spanish television broadcaster Telecinco. "It was a day of very strong emotions, my family here, all the people," added the 28-year-old. "Playing here on my home patch they treat me with a special affection. It was a nice day and a nice match to get to Brazil and I am just really happy," Reuters

Ribery shines but France braced for playoffs

France's Franck Ribery controls the ball during the 2014 World Cup qualifying soccer match against Finland at the Stade de France stadium in Saint-Denis, near Paris, on 15 October, 2013.—Reuters

PARIS, 16 Oct— Franck Ribery inspired France to a 3-0 win over Finland on Tuesday but they must now plan for next month's World Cup play-offs after missing out on automatic qualification with Spain sealing top spot in Group 1. Ribery, an own goal and Karim Benzema put France on 17 points but victory proved academic with Spain, who finished three points clear, overcoming Georgia 2-0. France, 25th in the latest FIFA standings which will be updated on Thursday, are unlikely to be seeded in the playoff draw which takes place in Zurich on Monday. The hosts went ahead after eight minutes when Ribery, a hot candidate for the FIFA Balon d’Or award after another impressive showing, unleashed a missile from the edge of the area that flew into the top corner. Les Bleus, however, were shaky at the back at times with left back Patrice Evra put under pressure. In the 19th minute, Kasper Hamalainen beat the offside trap for Finland but his weak shot from inside the box went just wide. France missed several clear chances but put the result beyond doubt in the 76th minute when Joona Toivio deflected Olivier Giroud's header into his own net. "It was a memorable night for Iniesta, who hails from a small town around 40 kilometres from Albacete, and he was given a rapturous reception by the home fans. A hero to Spaniards after he scored the goal that secured their first World Cup in South Africa in 2010, his assist for Negredo's goal was a typically effortless piece of skill after his Barcelona colleague mate Pedro had sent him clear with a deft scooped pass. "It was a very special moment, a shot at qualification here, what better place could there be," Iniesta said in a pitchside interview with Spanish television broadcaster Telecinco. "It was a day of very strong emotions, my family here, all the people," added the 28-year-old. "Playing here on my home patch they treat me with a special affection. It was a nice day and a nice match to get to Brazil and I am just really happy," Reuters

South Korea on the right track with Hong, says Hiddink

Seoul, 16 Oct— Guus Hiddink, who led South Korea to the 2002 World Cup semi-finals, threw his support behind his former skipper Hong Myung-bo on Wednesday and said the new coach had put the Asian side on the right track after a horrid 2014 qualifying campaign. Hiddink, who resigned as coach of Russian club Anzhi Makhachkala in July and has been touted as a candidate for the vacant Aus- tralia job, is still worshipped in South Korea, where statues were built and a stadium named after him. "It was a memorable night for Iniesta, who hails from a small town around 40 kilometres from Albacete, and he was given a rapturous reception by the home fans. A hero to Spaniards after he scored the goal that secured their first World Cup in South Africa in 2010, his assist for Negredo's goal was a typically effortless piece of skill after his Barcelona colleague mate Pedro had sent him clear with a deft scooped pass. "It was a very special moment, a shot at qualification here, what better place could there be," Iniesta said in a pitchside interview with Spanish television broadcaster Telecinco. "It was a day of very strong emotions, my family here, all the people," added the 28-year-old. "Playing here on my home patch they treat me with a special affection. It was a nice day and a nice match to get to Brazil and I am just really happy," Reuters

British driver Edwards dies in Porsche crash

British driver David Edwards, who was leading the drivers’ championship in the 2013 Porsche Mobil 1 Super-cup season with one race to go, was taking part in a pri-

Rose grabs two-shot lead at Grand Slam event

Port Royal, (Bermuda), 16 Oct— Bermuda- US Open champion Justin Rose recovered from a back-nine stumble to take a two-stroke lead over Jason Dufner after Thursday's 14th and 16th holes as the breeze freshened on route to a two-under 69, while Masters champion Adam Scott, who had a bogey and double-bogey on the same two holes, was a further shot back. Harrington mixed three birdies with four bogeys and a double-bogey for a three-over 74.

British racing driver Sean Edwards. Reuters

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Turkey to shorten compulsory military service from next month

ANKARA, 16 Oct — Legislation that will shorten Turkey’s compulsory military service from 15 to 12 months is expected to become law next month, Deputy Prime Minister Bülent Arınç announced on Tuesday.

“The preliminary studies have been conducted for a while,” said Arınç, adding that privates who served for at least 12 months will be immediately released and new conscripts will serve for 12 months accordingly.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on 4 October that researchers were studying how to shorten military service during an interview on private broadcaster ATV channel.

Days after Erdogan’s statement, the General Staff of the Turkish armed forces announced the government agreed to shorten the compulsory military service of male citizens from 15 to 12 months.

The statement added that the duration of the short-term military service, for which university students can apply, will remain six months.

Roooney and Gerrard send England to World Cup

LONDON, 16 Oct — Wayne Rooney and Steven Gerrard scored to send England to the World Cup finals with a 2-0 victory over Poland on Tuesday that gave them top spot in qualifying Group H on a thrilling and nervy night at Wembley.

Rooney’s 41st-minute breakthrough was brilliantly created and executed after a patient England build-up gathered pace when Leighton Baines for the Manchester United striker, who nodded the ball down and wide of keeper Wojciech Szczęsny.

The match was played on a knife-edge from the start, with both teams still without power and snowdrifts and recent rains have made many remote pastures inaccessible.

Roooney sparked English celebrations when he put the outcome beyond doubt in the 88th minute, cutting inside, bursting into the area and poking the ball past Szczęsny.

England, unbeaten in the qualifying campaign, finish top of the section with 22 points, with Ukraine, who go into the playoffs, second on 21.

Manager Roy Hodgson, widely criticised after England’s 0-0 draw in Ukraine in September, said he had a feeling of great satisfaction — and joked that Gerrard’s late goal had taken “about 10 years” off his life. “It was a tough group. Poland, Montenegro and Ukraine have shown themselves to be very good opponents,” Hodgson told ITV.

“I thought the players played some sensational football in the first half, and in the second, when Poland attacked more, they dug in very well and controlled the game. ‘We’ve been getting better all the time. We always said if we could get to the last two games we’d be stronger.’

Asked how the current team compared with the side beaten on penalties by Italy in the quarter-finals of the European Champi

Pregnant cows to help South Dakota ranchers recover from storm

NEW YORK, 16 Oct — Ranchers in South Dakota were pumped up to 4 feet of snow after freezing rain and wind gusts up to 70 miles per hour (112 km per hour). Cows and calves grazing in vast, open grasslands succumbed to hypothermia, suffocated in massive snowdrifts or died from exhaustion trying to outrun the weather, Oedekoven said. The storm delivered crippling blows to ranchers who have spent decades building bloodlines and selecting for certain behavioral traits in cow-calf pairs, said Silvia Christen, executive director of the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association.

“Families are traumatized. These animals depend on them and they couldn’t help,” Christen said. White said his group is seeking pregnant cows or heifers from Montana, Idaho and Wyoming to jumpstart South Dakota production. The group is seeking 10,000 head to start shipping in December.

“We’re not trying to replace the herds. We’re trying to rebuild them,” White said.

It will take weeks to determine the livestock death toll from the storm. Some ranchers are still without power and snowdrifts and recent rains have made many remote pastures inaccessible.

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Shift from centralized planning system to market-based one

Typhoon kills 17 people in eastern Japan, disrupts Tokyo transportation

Tokyo, 16 Oct—A powerful typhoon brought heavy rains and strong winds to eastern Japan on Wednesday, killing 17 people, including 16 on an island south of Tokyo, and paralyzing the public transportation system in the Toky o metropolitan area during morning rush hours.

Typhoon Wipha, which stayed offshore in the Pacific before scaling back into an extratropical cyclone at 3 pm, caused mudslides on Izu Oshima Island, leaving 16 people dead and 42 others missing, according to local authorities and the Japan Meteorological Agency.

A woman in her 40s died after being swept away by a swollen river in Machida, western Tokyo.

In the town of Oshima on the island, about 120 kilometers south of Tokyo, mudslides destroyed about 30 homes and caused record rainfall of 122.5 millimeters per hour was registered.

As of 3 pm, the cyclone was moving north-northeast at a speed of around 95 km per hour off Sanniku, northeastern Japan. It had an atmospheric pressure at its center of 968 hectaropascals and was packing winds of up to 126 kph near its center. As of 4 pm, four people on the main Japanese island of Honshu were missing and a total of 31 people in the Tohoku, Chubu and Hokuriku regions had sustained serious or minor injuries, the National Police Agency said.

Earlier in the day, Tokyo Gov. Naoki Inose asked the Ground Self-Defense Force to send personnel to the island on a disaster relief mission.

Similarly, the Metropolitan Police Department dispatched a special rescue unit to the island, while the Tokyo Fire Department's hyper rescue team was mobilized.

Lao Airlines plane crashes into Mekong river, 39 reported dead

BANGKOK, 16 Oct—A Lao Airlines plane crashed into the Mekong river in southern Laos on Wednesday, according to an airline official, in an accident that left seven television channels said killed 39 people.

A Lao Airlines official said the plane had crashed at about 4 p.m. (0900) near Pakse, Champasak province, which is on the borders of both Thailand and Cambodia.

Thai television showed a photograph of the ATR 72 turboprop plane partly submerged in shallow water on a stretch of the Mekong, the tail severed. Another television channel showed what appeared to be several bodies on the bank of the river.

“We do not yet know the number of casualties, our executives are currently in a meeting and will provide more details in the morning,” the airline official said by telephone.

Thai media said 39 people were killed, among them two Thai nationals. It did not give the source of the information.

Lao Airlines is the national carrier of the communist state and has operated since 1976. Its aircraft carried 658,000 passengers last year and it has a fleet of just 14 planes, mostly propeller-driven.

It operates on seven domestic routes and has international flights to China, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam and Singapore.

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