

President describes sustainable agricultural development, food security and nutrition as main duty for ASEAN members

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Sept—Myanmar hosted the 36th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) in its capital city of Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday, with an address by President U Thein Sein.

Speaking at the meeting, President U Thein Sein said: ASEAN leaders have stated ASEAN vision of 2020 as developing ASEAN nations into stable, prosperous and successful, highly competitive community with balanced economic growth, narrow gap for poverty and socioeconomic condition.

According to the vision 2020, it was anticipated that ASEAN community will be established with 3 important pillars, namely, ASEAN Political-Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community, and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community.

In order to meet the ASEAN objectives, during its chairmanship, Myanmar has chosen the theme of “Moving Forward in Unity to a Peaceful and Prosperous Community”.

Implementing the tasks for meeting the objectives of ASEAN community, sustainable agricultural development together with food security and nutrition must be considered as essential and main national duty for all ASEAN member states.

We cannot move forward in unity to a peaceful and prosperous community without food security and nutrition. Therefore, ASEAN member states must work hand in hand to meet the objectives of the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals-MDGs with the aims of zero hunger in 2025.

However, global population is increasing annually and current population of 7 billion is projected to increase over 9 billion to 10 billion in 2050.

At present, total 850 million people are facing food security and malnutrition for that reason. Based on calculation, food production has to be double.

Moreover, as well as we aware that, ASEAN countries and global community are facing the challenges imposed by global warming in couple with environmental deterioration and climate change.

Therefore, I would like to urge our ASEAN nations to put more efforts for sustainable agricultural development and food production and work together more closely.

Moreover, I would



President U Thein Sein delivers address at the 36th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

also like to push our ASEAN member states to double the efforts to conserve natural resources including

water and forest resources and protect ecological system.

Due to rising global

food prices in ASEAN region in 2007-2008, ASEAN leaders pledged to

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Aquaculture sector needs investment to improve infrastructure



Myanmar aquaculture firms have expressed that a policy aimed at improving prawn and shrimp farming sector should be initiated.—PHOTO: MSA

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 23 Sept — The Myanmar shrimp and prawn farming sector urgently needs a strategy with systematic financial support to save the business, which is moving dramatically downward.

“We need investment and financial support to improve infrastructure of

the aquaculture sector and to operate the aquaculture sector on a commercial basis,” said Dr Kyaw Tun Myint, president of Myanmar Shrimp Association.

Lack of systematic financial support and weakness in infrastructures such as electricity, ice production, cold storage factories, transportation and, laboratories have caused hin-

drances to the aquaculture in Myanmar, according to experts from the shrimp farming sector.

Meanwhile, the shrimp and prawn farming sector has also witnessed weakness in its value procession comprising hatchery, farming and feedstuff, according to experts.

The prawn hatching sector, the beginning of

the farming sector, has suffered losses for two consecutive years due to disease, dramatically decreasing production of baby prawn from 300 million in 2012 to 30 million in 2013 and 20 million in 2014.

According to a prawn hatching businessman, a baby prawn priced at about K8 to K9 in 2012 and at more than K20 in 2014.

The number of prawn hatching firms has decreased from about 20 in 2012 to around 15 today.

“Out of 15 hatching farms today, just four to five can operate the business currently. If this situation continues, prawn and shrimp hatching sector will go down seriously,” a prawn hatching businessman said.

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Myanmar Railways holds second public consultation meeting on upgrading Yangon circular rail line

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 23 Sept — Myanmar Railways sought public consultations over the implementation of the upgrade of the Yangon circular rail line at a meeting in Yangon on Tuesday, with officials elaborating on work plans and the scope of EIA and SIA processes for the project.

It was the second meeting between Myanmar Railways and the project affected persons after informing the latter of project benefits and potential impacts on them at a similar meeting held on 7 August.

“We undertook identification of project im-

pacts and affected population during a period of one and a half month after the first meeting”, U Aye Thiha, managing director of E-Guard environmental services firm told The New Light of Myanmar.

A total of 129 persons who need to be relocated when the project begins and 89 buildings in which only 54 will be shifted permanently were identified, he added.

On the feedback from the project affected persons when a social survey tracked those residing along the 24-km Danyingone-Yangon-Mahlwagone section, which is set

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I N S I D E	President receives courtesy calls by ASEAN ministers, Japanese minister	Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets Laotian delegates	Senior General Min Aung Hlaing arrives in Japan
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President describes sustainable

(from page 1)

cooperate on food security. Accordingly, leaders from all ASEAN nations have agreed on ASEAN food security frame work and reaffirmed the strategic plan of action for food security covering from 2009 to 2013 in the state-

ment of ASEAN summit.

According to ASEAN food security frame work, agreement on establishing ASEAN Food Security Reserve Board-AFSRB, ASEAN Food Security Information System AFSIS, and ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice APTEER

(has been signed and Myanmar is also participating in these programs.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has designed 2014 as "International Year of Farming" with the theme of Family Farming; Feeding the world, caring for the earth. I would like to reiterate that we must put our en-

tire efforts on developing smallholder farmers and family farming system since they contribute to more than 80 percent of the global agricultural production.

In this regards, I would like to urge the member states to cooperate and find the solutions for smallholder farmers

to obtain proper price for their agricultural community in order for them to put more efforts to increase productivity.

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing extended greetings at the meeting, pledging Myanmar's full cooperation in food security and food safety.

He pointed out the

need to ensure sustainable agricultural development, environmental conservation and proper management of natural resources.

President U Thein Sein posed for a documentary photo together with agriculture and forestry ministers and the ASEAN deputy secretary-general.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets Laotian delegates



Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with Mr Thongsavanh Phomvihane, Deputy Head of the Committee for External Relations of the Central Committee of Lao People's Revolutionary Party.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Sept — To discuss parliamentary affairs, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann met a delegation led by Mr Thongsavanh Phomvihane, Deputy

Head of the Committee for External Relations of the Central Committee of Lao People's Revolutionary Party, on Tuesday at Zambuthiri hall of the Hluttaw

Complex here.

Also present at the call were Pyithu Hluttaw committee chairmen and Laotian Ambassador Mr Nilathath Sayarath.—MNA

Aquaculture sector

(from page 1)

To supply shrimp and prawns to meet world demand, Asia is considered the largest exporter of the food.

China produces 200,000 tons of prawns per year, Vietnam 70,000 tons and India 100,000 tons.

Myanmar produces 200 to 300 tons a year and that amount is not even enough to supply to domestic consumption, according to the MSA.

Despite blessing with more favourable resources

than in neighbouring countries, Myanmar is experiencing a lack of systematic financial support and infrastructure for the aquafarming sector.

A businessman who has worked for fish and prawn farming for over 20 years said the government should seek international assistance and upgrade the technology for the prawn breeding sector and should provide financial assistance to be able to add more facilities.

NLM



GM U Tun Aung Thinn of Myanmar Railways seeks public consultations over Yangon circular rail line upgrading project at a meeting in Yangon on Tuesday.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

36th Meeting of ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry kicks off

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Sept — The 36th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) took place at Horizon Lake View Resort in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday, attended by 267 delegates led by agriculture and forestry ministers and deputy ministers of ASEAN countries.

The delegates discussed the proposal on cooperation of the government and the private sector for establishment of proper foodstuff value chains between ASEAN and Japan, the proposal on challenge of poverty submitted by Food and Agriculture Organization, the proposal on turning out of ASEAN

rice technicians for ensuring stability of paddy production and market, and the proposal on sectorwise cooperation for food sufficiency and agricultural sector development for emergence of developed Asian region submitted by the World Business Forum.

MNA

Myanmar Railways holds

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as the priority section of the project, he said that no one held a negative view on the project, but some who are running shops which must be removed as soon as the project starts expressed concerns about whether they will be allowed to resume their

businesses there when the project is over.

According to the Myanmar Railways, the project includes rail over bridge upgrading that requires 11 ROB's along the projected railroad section to be rebuilt.

U Hla Hsan, one of 50 PAPs who were present at

the meeting, expressed his hope of creating a win-win situation from the project, saying that "I would be very delighted if the MR would provide a new place to live in for my family."

U Tun Aung Thinn, general manager of Myanmar Railways (Lower Myanmar) told the media that the two public consultation meetings were aimed at creating a better understanding of the project by the affected persons and taking their concerns into consideration before the project's implementation.

He added that Myanmar Railways in cooperation with departments concerned will take care of preparation and implementation for resettlement of the project-affected persons in line with existing rules and regulations as well as the standards of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) which is helping the MR to improve infrastructure and services in the sector of Myanmar's rail transportation.

The project that includes works to upgrade circular rail line, railway stations, rail yards and railway communication system including fencing along the tracks of the circle line is expected to start next year. The upgrade of prioritized railroad section will cost an estimated US\$700 million and the ODA loans will fund the project, the official said.

NLM

Latest treatment for kidney and prostate cancers introduced

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 23 Sept — Singaporean Dr Ho Siew Hong, Consultant Urological Surgeon, shared his experiences on the latest treatment for kidney and prostate diseases at a seminar in Yangon, saying that most diseases are curable

thanks to technology advancement.

He also talked about kidney stones, kidney cancers, benign prostate enlargement and prostate cancer as well as its symptoms and treatments. Dr Ho Siew Hong explained using ex-

tracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy (ESWL) to break a kidney stone into small pieces, surgical treatment of large kidney stones with the use of PCNL (*Percutaneous Nephrolithotomy*) and key-hole (laparoscopic) surgery for kidney cancer.

"Enlarged prostate is a problem foremost men. More than 50 percent of

men in their sixties have symptoms of enlarged prostates," said the surgeon, providing basic information about the prostate gland enlargement as well as its drugs-treatment and endoscopy surgery.

Surgeon Ho Siew Hong said: "Prostate cancer is most common in Western men while third most

common in Singapore. There are no symptoms until advanced stage. The PSA blood test is commonly used to check for signs of prostate cancer or other prostate problems. When a PSA level comes back high, the next step is often a biopsy." The surgeon showed his previous robotic-assisted prostate surgery video to the attendees, saying that it is the best way to remove prostate and surrounding cancerous tissues.—NLM

NATIONAL

President receives courtesy calls by ASEAN ministers, Japanese minister

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Sept—President U Thein Sein received a courtesy call by agriculture and forestry ministers from the member nations of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-1 here on Tuesday morning, sources said.

The ASEAN ministers are in Myanmar to attend the 36th Meeting of the ASEAN Minis-

ters on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF), which will be hosted in the capital city on the same day.

Present at the call were Union Ministers U Myint Hlaing, U Ohn Myint, U Win Tun, U Tin Nating Thein, U Aye Myint Kyu, Dr Kan Zaw and U Ye Htut, Deputy Minister U Tin Oo Lwin the deputy secretary-general of the ASEAN, and departmental officials.

In the afternoon, President U Thein Sein also received a delegation led by Japanese Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Koya Nishikawa at the Presidential Palace, officials said.

Japan offered its technical assistance to Myanmar for the development of agriculture, livestock and forestry, investments in these sectors, and more exports of agricultural and wood products. —MNA

President U Thein Sein receives agriculture and forestry ministers from the member nations of ASEAN to attend 36th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF).—MNA

President U Thein Sein cordially greets Japanese Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Koya Nishikawa at their meeting.

MNA



Pyithu Hluttaw

Anti-corruption Commission receives 533 letters of complaint, with three solved

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Sept—U Mya Win, Chairman of the Anti-corruption Commission, in his response to a question at the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) session on Tuesday, said that the commission received 533 letters of complaint in a period from 10 March to 21 August this year, with three complaints having been dealt with.

Under the anti-corruption law, wealth and property accrued from corruption are liable to be nationalized, he said.

He also talked of arrangements to protect informers from possible

threats, with help to be sought from the Ministry of Home Affairs as necessary.

As regards the questions related to the dissemination of information about the State Constitution, Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway replied that the Myanmar Radio and Television has broadcast 42 songs, 6 TV programmes, eight talks and an educational programme on the State Constitution.

He went on to say that the Constitution was published in Myanmar and English languages for (See page 9)

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw continues its seventh day session

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Sept—The seventh day of 11th Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) was held here on Tuesday.

U Thaw Zin Oo, representative of No. 9 constituency in Magway Region asked if the Kaindayar road which is being blocked with brick wall of Pakokku General Hospital compound will be opened to the public. Union health minister Dr Than Aung said that the Pakokku General Hospital was established in 1915, that as the number of in-patients has increased and the facility needs to be expanded, and that the Kaindayar road, 50-foot wide and 472-foot

long, with a total area of 0.546 acre was demarcated for the compound of the hospital.

The Union minister also said that a three-storey building was constructed for a dormitory of nursing students in the 2013-2014 fiscal year, and a four-storey building of staff quarter is under construction, and that there is no plan to reopen the road for the need of public sector.

Dr Myat Nyana Soe, representative of No.4 constituency of Yangon region, asked if the government has plans to compensate the victims and for the loss of property due to

the danger of electricity distribution and if effective preventive measures against short circuit will be made. U Aung Than Oo, deputy minister for Electric Power answered that distribution for 1 megawatt (1,000 kilowatt) electricity will cost US\$ 1 million (K1 billion).

The deputy minister also said that the cost for one mile of power line coated with insulator will cost from K558 million to K930 million.

He pointed out the expense will be high and take times to develop power distribution facilities which have been outdated nearly 50 years.

U Aung Than Oo said that the ministry is giving out compensation to the victims and for the loss of property from the social welfare funds of ministry and budget received from selling electricity. He also confirmed that the ministry will equip its staff members with safety equipment, while actions are being taken to those who breach disciplinary rules.

He also pledged to set up more updated infrastructure when the ministry received sufficient budget both for the people and for the staff.

Dr Myat Nyana Soe also read out the 2013 bill concerned with helping injured persons with immediate medical treatment, which was amended by Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House).

MNA

Curricula being improved in conformity with present time to reduce burden of students in learning education



MANDALAY, 23 Sept—The government gives priority to providing teaching aid to the basic education schools in the coming academic year, said Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing Thein at the coordination meeting on uplifting education standard at basic education schools in Mandalay Region at the hall of No

16 Basic Education High School in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on Sunday.

At the meeting, the union minister stressed the need to cooperate uplifting of children's skills between parents and teachers with the assistance of township committees, adding that curricula are being improved in conformity with

the present time to reduce the burden of students in learning education.

Deputy Minister for Education Dr Zaw Min Aung explained prospects for changing in basic and higher education sectors after the national education law (draft) has emerged. Director-General of Department of Myanmar Education Research Bureau Dr

Myo Thein Gyi reported on uplifting of education standard and Rector of Mandalay University Dr Maung Thin matters related to the national education law (draft). The meeting was also attended by Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint and departmental officials.

*Tin Maung
(Mandalay)*



ASEAN-China Young Entrepreneurs Forum kicks off



YANGON, 23 Sept—The Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association hosted the 6th ASEAN-China Young Entrepreneurs Forum 2014 at UMFCI Office on Minye Kyawswa Road in Lanmadaw Township of Yangon on Monday.

The forum focused on

important roles in entrepreneurs' businesses, standardization of the financial matters, establishment of economic fundamentals and cooperation in implementation of a world economy between ASEAN member countries and China. The forum was opened with speeches by Deputy

Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr San Lwin, Chairman of the association U Wai Phyo and President of UMFCI U Win Myint.

Over 200 entrepreneurs from 10 ASEAN countries and China attended the forum.

Aung Thura

Development committee repairs damaged local roads

MYINMU, 23 Sept—Local roads in Myinmu of Sagaing Region—Thazin, Myinzu (2) and Thabyenyo—were damaged in bad weather and

unsystematic drive of vehicles and road users.

Township Development Affairs Committee has repaired the roads for the convenience of road

users in the 2014-15 fiscal year. "After roadside shops have been removed, Khatta road will be expanded with three feet width on both sides," said Sub-Assistant Engineer U Aung Aung Oo of the Township Development Affairs Committee.

Ko Ko Naing (Myinmu)

Fertilizer broadcast in farmlands

KYAIKDON, 23 Sept—Collective fertilizer broadcasting was held at the farmland of U Thein Aung in ward 4 of Kyaikdon in Kya-in-seikkyi Township in Kayin State on 21 Sep-

tember.

An official of Township Agriculture Department explained broadcasting of fertilizer and methods of boosting per-acre yield.

Local authorities, de-

partmental officials and ward administrators together with local farmers totalling about 40 participated in broadcasting fertilizers.

Soe Htet Aung (IPRD)



LOCAL NEWS

Requirements fulfilled for locals in TadaU Tsp



MANDALAY, 23 Sept—Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint together with Mandalay Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U

Myint Than and officials on Monday met local people in Gaungkwe and Kadohseik village-tracts in TadaU Township of Mandalay Region and explained progress

of rural development tasks.

Local people submitted requirements on electrification, water supply, maintenance of roads and construction of basic education

schools.

The Chief Minister fulfilled their requirements in coordination with departmental officials.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Locals, authorities join hands in upgrading dam

MYAING, 23 Sept—Ananda Myitta Dam located in Wetkyon Village in Myaing Township of Magway Region needs improvement of embankments and spillway to store larger volume of water.

The 600 feet long, 35 feet high and 15 feet wide dam supplies water to people of the surrounding villages.

As of 25 August, the improvement of the dam is being undertaken to have

higher embankments with the assistance of wellwishers, local authorities and U San Lwin and construction team from Yangon.

They schedule the plan to complete the construction work on 25 September.

The dam was built by U Thein Tun and U Thein Myint of Yangon eight years ago.

Aung (Mandalay University)



NAY PYI TAW, 23 Sept—The Agriculture Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation designated the 100 acres of farmland as a hybrid Paletwe paddy seed production farm near the hotel zone in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, a 50-acre farmland in Kyaku Village of Dekkhinathiri Township and a 20-acre farmland in Alyinlo Village in Pyinmana Township.

On 21 September, offi-

cials of Agriculture Department made an inspection tour at the paddy seed production farmlands to check stigmas and stamens of paddy plants.

At 13 Institutes of Agriculture under the Agriculture Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, hybrid paddy seed production is being taught to the students as of 2013-14 academic year.

NLM-022

Relief items provided to flood victims in Singu Township



SINGU, 23 Sept—There are many damages in Yaymyet Village in Singu Township of Mandalay Region due to recent heavy rains.

On 21 September, Kalyana Social Welfare Association and well-

wisher people donated 24 bags of rice, 53 viss of salt, 100 blankets, two packages of instant noodle, 20 packages of purified drinking water bottles, 100 packets of detergent powder, nine bales of

clothes, two dozens of tooth paste and 108 viss of edible oil to flood victims in the village.

They also provided K80,000 each to two households for their demise family members.

Myint Thu (Singu)

Agricultural technology shared to farmers in Yinmabin

YINMABIN, 23 Sept—The agricultural technical transfer course kicked off at the hall of Yinmabin Township Agriculture Department in Sagaing Region on 19 September.

Departmental officials urged the trainees

to apply quality strains of crops, modern agricultural methods, systematic use of inputs, and investment and technology.

Yinmabin District grows 99,072 acres of paddy, 472,096 acres of edible oil crops and 425,550 acres

of other crops on 651,956 acres of net cultivable lands.

Altogether 25 trainees from Yinmabin, Kani, Salingyi and Pale townships attended the training course.

Tun Ko Ko (Yinmabin)

Kalay-Kalewa road section to get six more feet width on either side

KALAY, 23 Sept—Kalay-Kalewa road section is being expanded at both sides from the traffic light to Naga Shwesin hall in downtown Kalay of Sagaing Region.

Heavy machinery are being used in expanding the six-foot wide road shoulder on either sides of the road section.

“The road section was 18 feet in width. Now, the existing width of the road

will be expanded with six feet each on either side to become a 30-foot wide road section. The government has allotted K9 million on the construction,” said Township Construction Engineer U Min Htut.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Tin Hlaing said, “The government allotted the fund for expanding the road section with a view to easing traffic con-

gestions due to increasing number of vehicles in the city in a decade.”

“It really needs to expand the Kalewa-Kalay road section. In the evening, the road section is always blocked with many vehicles large and small. Moreover, the highway buses and vehicles to Tamu, Monywa, Mandalay and Kalewa use this road section,” said a local.

Linlet Kyei Sin



US, Arab partners launch first strikes on IS in Syria

WASHINGTON, 23 Sept—The United States and several Gulf Arab allies launched air and missile strikes on Islamic State strongholds in Syria on Tuesday, US officials said, opening a new, far more complicated front in the battle against the militants.

“I can confirm that US military and partner

Rear Admiral John Kirby, Pentagon press secretary, said in a statement.

“Given that these operations are ongoing, we are not in a position to provide additional details at this time.”

A US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Jor-

said. Another official said at least one US ship had launched surface-to-surface Tomahawk cruise missiles. Armed US drones were also used in the attacks.

The targets included Raqqa city, the headquarters of Islamic State, an extremist Sunni Muslim force that has seized large

said the United States informed Syria’s UN representative on Monday that Islamic State targets would be hit in Raqqa, which is 400 km (250 miles) north-east of Damascus.

US officials and the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a monitoring group that tracks violence in the Syrian war, said buildings used by the militants, their weapons supplies and checkpoints were targeted in the attacks on Raqqa. Areas along the Iraq-Syria border were also hit. “There are tens of wounded and dead,” Rami Abdulrahman, head of the Observatory, which gathers information from a network of activists on the ground, told *Reuters* by phone.

The addition of Arab allies was seen as crucial for the credibility of the American-led campaign. US allies in the Middle East are skeptical of how far Washington will commit to a conflict in which nearly every country in the region has a stake, set against the backdrop of Islam’s 1,300-year-old rift between Sunnis and Shi’ites.

As part of US efforts



Rear Admiral John Kirby

to build the coalition, Secretary of State John Kerry traveled to New York at the weekend, ahead of the start of United Nations General Assembly meetings, for talks with counterparts from Arab and European allies to discuss plans to defeat Islamic State and hear their views on how they might participate.

On Monday, Kerry met Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal and British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond, and participated in a meeting of more than a dozen countries, including Arab Gulf States, on the conflict in Libya.

A senior administration official said US plans “to expand our efforts to defeat (Islamic State) were discussed without specifics” during meetings but declined to elaborate.

Several Arab states have powerful air forces, including Saudi Arabia and

the United Arab Emirates. Saudi Arabia has also already agreed to host US training of Syrian opposition fighters.

But many Gulf Arab states have been reluctant to be seen aggressively joining the US campaign, fearing in some cases reprisals by extremists or forces loyal to the Syrian government.

The strikes took place hours before Obama goes to New York for the UN General Assembly where he will try to rally more nations behind his drive to aggressively take on Islamic State.

Obama had shied away from getting involved in Syria’s civil war a year ago, seeing no positive outcome for the United States, but the rise of Islamic State and the beheading of two American captives forced him to change course.

General Lloyd Austin, commander of the US military’s Central Command, made the decision to conduct the strikes under authorization granted to him by Obama, Kirby said.

“We will provide more details later as operationally appropriate,” Kirby said.

Reuters



A man inspects the damage in a communication station where Islamist State militants say a US drone crashed into in Raqqa on 23 Sept, 2014. — REUTERS

nation forces are undertaking military action against (Islamic State) terrorists in Syria using a mix of fighter, bomber and Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles,”

dan and Bahrain were all involved, although their exact roles in the military action were unclear. Qatar played a supporting role in the air strikes, the official

expanses of territory in Iraq and Syria and proclaimed a caliphate erasing borders in the heart of the Middle East.

Syrian state television

Air strikes in Syria hit Islamic State and al-Qaeda-linked Nusra Front

BEIRUT, 23 Sept—The United States and its partners carried out at least 50 air strikes on Islamic State targets in the Syrian provinces of Raqqa and Deir al-Zor on Tuesday, while the al-Qaeda-linked Nusra Front was also hit by air strikes in northwest Syria, a group monitoring the war in Syria said.

Rami Abdulrahman, who runs the Syrian Obser-

vatory for Human Rights, said at least 20 Islamic State fighters were killed in the air strikes. He also said Nusra Front positions had been struck in the provinces of Idlib and Aleppo in northwest Syria.

The Pentagon earlier said the United States and partner nations were carrying out the first air strikes against Islamic State targets in Syria.—*Reuters*

Mt Aso caldera added to UNESCO geoparks list

KUMAMOTO, (Japan), 23 Sept — The caldera of active volcano Mt Aso in Kumamoto Prefecture in southwestern Japan was added on Tuesday to a list of global geoparks, according to the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

The Aso caldera, one of the world’s largest covering an area of about 350 square kilometres, becomes Japan’s seventh geopark, which is

defined as a nature park particularly important in terms of geological features.

The Paris-based network, which aims to promote development of geopark territories through tourism, announced its decision to designate Aso caldera as a global geopark during an international conference at the Stonehammer Global Geopark in Canada.

Kyodo News

US, Iran seek common ground against militants, but doubts persist

WASHINGTON, 23 Sept — Whether Washington likes it or not, Shi’ite Iran, a key ally of the governments of Iraq and Syria, is all but certain to be a major player in the fight against the Sunni militants of Islamic State.

Bitterly at odds over most major Middle Eastern issues, the United States and Iran now essentially find themselves on the same side in an escalating crisis over the Islamist group that has seized large swathes of

Iraq and Syria.

While hardly anyone sees this as a case of “the enemy of my enemy is my friend,” an old proverb that resonates even today through the geopolitics of the region, a common foe could give Washington and Teheran rare common ground. Any effort to bring Iran and the United States closer will not be easy.

Outright US-Iranian military cooperation against Islamic State appears to be off the table and

Iran is also being frozen out of membership in the international coalition being assembled by President Barack Obama.

Current and former US officials acknowledge that American and Iranian interests rarely coincide, so the challenge will be to make sure Iran’s role is as constructive as possible.

“They will clearly be part of this,” said Aaron David Miller, a former Middle East adviser to Republican and Democratic administrations. “They have boots on the ground in ways that we don’t But there’s good reason for us to be wary.”

Washington’s preferred dynamic, experts say, is for Teheran to work separately toward the goal of defeating Islamic State while the two countries seek to “deconflict” their activities, essentially to avoid stepping on each other’s toes.

The United States cut off diplomatic ties with Teheran during a hostage crisis after the 1979 Islamic revolution, and the Obama

administration has made curbing Iran’s disputed nuclear programme a high priority.

“Their irresponsible behaviour reminds us that the enemy of our enemy may still remain our enemy,” the former head of the US military’s Central Command, retired General James Mattis, told a congressional hearing last week. “There may be ways that we can work in parallel. But I’d be very cautious and have very modest expectations.”

Any material cooperation between the United States and Iran, for example in sharing intelligence about Islamic State movements, would have to be behind the scenes or done through intermediaries, experts say. The reason is that Washington’s Sunni Arab partners in the fight against Islamic State regard Iran with even more suspicion than US officials and see it as trying to deepen Shi’ite dominance in Iraq and extend its own influence in the region.—*Reuters*



Iran’s Foreign Minister Javad Zarif (L) holds a bilateral meeting with US Secretary of State John Kerry (R) on the second straight day of talks over Teheran’s nuclear programme in Vienna, on 14 July, 2014.

REUTERS

REGIONAL

Abe eager to hold summit with Xi in November



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Chinese President Xi Jinping

NEW YORK, 23 Sept—Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed eagerness on Monday to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of

an international forum in Beijing in November, telling an audience at New York's Columbia University he "wants to improve ties with China."

Addressing some 400 students and academics at the university, Abe referred to the bilateral relationship that has been strained by events surrounding China's territorial claim to Japan-administered uninhabited islets in the East China Sea.

"We have a very smooth exchange in the economic, cultural and human sectors. In the political front we fail to hold talks including a summit unfortunately," Abe said at the event on the fringes of the UN General Assembly.

The premier plans to attend the 10-11 November summit of the Asia-Pac-

ific Economic Cooperation forum in Beijing. "On the occasion I want to hold a summit with President Xi," he said. Abe and Xi have yet to meet bilaterally since the Japanese and Chinese leaders took office in December 2012 and March 2013, respectively, due to the territorial row and different perceptions of war-time history.

"Countries which share borders have various issues and history-related problems. Because of that, the leaders of such countries should talk," Abe said, referring to the disputes regarding sovereignty over the Senkaku Islands, called

Diaoyu in China.

Abe said it is important for Tokyo and Beijing to avoid miscalculation by enhancing communication properly in connection with maritime problems.

China has frequently sent its ships into Japanese territorial waters near the Senkakus since the Japanese government bought a key part of the islets group from a private Japanese owner in 2012.

Japan maintains that the Senkakus are an integral part of its territory and therefore no territorial dispute officially exists between Tokyo and Beijing.

Kyodo news

Two injured in S Philippines landmine blast

COTABATO, 23 Sept—Two policemen were injured in a landmine blast in south Philippine province of Sultan Kudarat on Monday, local authorities said on Tuesday.

The suspected New People's Army (NPA) detonated the landmine planted on a bridge in Bantangan village at around 11:26 am local time, injuring two policemen passing by, said Joefel Siason, chief police of Isulan town.

Siason added the two injured policemen were part of a team deployed to look into harassment perpetrated by NPA in the area.

The injured were sent to the hospital for treatment and are still in critical condition, he said.

Local authorities have launched pursuit operation against the suspects.

The 4,000-strong NPA, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, has been fighting a leftist insurgency in 60 Philippine provinces since 1969.—Xinhua

Sultan seen setting risky precedent in Malaysia opposition crisis

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 Sept—The end of a long-running political crisis for Malaysia's opposition has opened up new wounds after a royal sultan took the unprecedented step of choosing a candidate who was not proposed by the majority alliance in the nation's richest state.

The sultan's rejection of the wife of opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim as chief minister of Selangor state sets an undemocratic precedent at a time when authorities are carrying out the biggest crackdown on dissent in years, analysts said.

The months-long crisis in Selangor, the opposition's biggest prize in recent election gains against the long-ruling national coalition, has exposed deep rifts in Anwar's three-party alliance, raising doubts over whether it can stay intact.

It began when the Islamist PAS party that is part of the opposition refused to support Anwar's party's move to sack the former chief minister over accusations of incompetence and graft.

The top state official, Khalid Ibrahim, refused to accept the sacking and clung to power, backed by the ruling coalition and PAS. The sultan, one of nine hereditary state rulers in Malaysia, played an interventionist role in the crisis, with the palace publicly rebuking Anwar at one point. On Tuesday, the sultan appointed Azmin Ali, the deputy president of

Anwar's party, as the new chief minister.

The palace denied the sultan had interfered in the process and said Azmin was the only candidate with support across opposition ranks.

But Anwar's party said in a statement the sultan's decision had breached the Selangor constitution and the "principle of parliamentary democracy".

Modelled on the constitutional monarchy of former colonial master Britain, the sultans have a formal role of appointing candidates chosen by the majority in the state assembly. Anwar's politician wife, Wan Azizah, had the backing of the majority of state legislative members.

"This will create a very dangerous precedent about the concept of constitutional monarchy in the country," said Wan Saiful Wan Jan, chief executive of the Institute for Democratic and Economic Affairs.

The sultan's heavy hand in the Selangor crisis comes as police and prosecutors clamp down on dissent in the Southeast Asian nation with a flurry of arrests and charges under a colonial-era anti-sedition law.

Of more than a dozen cases in recent months, five have involved comments critical of sultans.

"The Sultan owes the public an explanation on reasons why he deviated from the constitution," said Maria Chin Abdullah, the head of electoral reform group Bersih.—Reuters



Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha (C) receives Vegetarian Festival symbol flags at the Government House in Bangkok, Thailand, on 23 Sept, 2014. The Vegetarian Festival in Thailand will be held from 24 Sept to 2 Oct. The yellow flag is the symbol of the Vegetarian Festival in Thailand.—XINHUA

One leftist rebel leader nabbed in C Philippines

MANILA, 23 Sept—A ranking leader of the leftist rebel group New People's Army (NPA) was arrested in a raid in the central Philippine province of Iloilo on Tuesday morning, a military official said.

Major Ray Tionson, spokesman of the Philippine Army's 3rd Infantry Division, identified the suspect as Norberto Castor, alias Marlon and Greg. Castor was arrested

by military and police operatives in Leganes town at 5:30 am local time on Tuesday. Tionson said Castor is the No 2 in the NPA in Central Panay island. He is the deputy secretary of the Central Front Committee, one of the two rebel committees under the control of the Regional Committee-Panay.

The ranking leftist rebel leader was arrested by virtue of a warrant issued

by the Iloilo City regional trial court for a pending case of multiple murder with the use of explosive and multiple frustrated murder.

Lieutenant Colonel Eric Uchida, commander of the Philippine Army's 301st Brigade, said Castor's arrest is a "big blow against the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA hierarchy."

Xinhua



Soldiers of Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) attend the send-off ceremony for the 18th AFP contingent to the United Nations Peace Keeping Force at the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City, the Philippines, on 22 Sept, 2014. 157 soldiers will be assigned to Haiti for less than a year. XINHUA

Landslides and floods kill 22 in India's northeast

GUWAHATI, (India), 23 Sept—At least 22 people have died in flooding and landslides triggered by heavy rains in remote northeastern India, officials said on Tuesday, in the second flood tragedy to hit the subcontinent this month. Rescue workers said 17 people died in the mountainous state of Meghalaya and five in Guwahati, the biggest city in the region. Authorities have deployed hundreds of rescue workers to the area.

Pramod Kumart Tiwari, the head of Assam's Disaster Management Authority, said more than 50 villages were hit by flash floods in the Garo Hills district of Meghalaya.

Earlier this month at least 460 people died in flooding in Indian-controlled Kashmir and Pakistan. The tea and oil rich state of Assam on Monday reported around 108 mm rainfall. The local metrological office warned of further "heavy to very heavy rainfall" across the region.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 24 September, 2014

No 'Plan B' for action as there is no 'Planet B'

By Aung Khin

Climate Summit 2014 was held at the UN Headquarters in New York City of the United States on 23 September. The event paved a way of unique opportunity for leaders to reveal their concrete initiatives, and anchored in action that will enable meaningful global agreements in 2015 which is expected to

be reached in Paris, France.

Actually, experts have remarked challenges of climate change are not a far-off problem. However, it has very real consequences on people's lives, disrupting national economies, costing us dearly today and even more tomorrow. Environmental degradation is one of the root causes of wars, civil conflicts and disasters.

Bold resilience and political will of world leaders are very important to fight off challenges of climate changes.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also asked for measures to halt the advance of global climate change, saying that there is no 'Plan B' for action as there is no 'Planet B'.

We are in dire need of international action to stop the deleterious effects of climate change

which is a defining issue of our time. There is no time to lose. If we do not take serious action now, we will have pay much more in the future.

Therefore, global countries should choose more new technologies for sustainable energy while cutting carbon dioxide emissions.

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.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

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.

Nascent progress of F.O.C health care service, but much needed yet to be done

Kin Mg Oo

On 25th August 2014 an expected and terrible happening brought me to a place, the one of four places which should not be in an overcrowded condition as per Myanmar beliefs—cemetery, hospital, police station and courts of justice. The reason was that my youngest son had to be hospitalized urgently to the Yangon General Hospital, diagnosed as blood cancer, to be exact, acute myeloid leukemia. Generally speaking, nearly all people are frightened to hear that they are suffering from the disease. The moment we heard about our baby's illness, we almost abandoned ourselves to despair. We had ever known since our immature days that all kinds of cancer patients were like the ones in condemned cells. In dictionaries, it is also defined that cancer is a serious disease that is caused when cells in the body grow in a way that is uncontrolled and not normal, killing normal cells and often causing death. But we tried ourselves to prevent our child from seeing our worries. The later has sharp eyes and ears. He, however, pretended to give every appearance of suffering not any pain and worry.

The ward our son is now staying is the department of clinical hematology. I found that cancer patients were more than I expected. They came from

upper and lower reaches of the country, in their hundreds thinking and hope that sophisticated doctors of the hospital would save them in extremis. And I came to know that there are many types of blood cancers. They belong to various kinds of social status: high, middle and low. But all new comers wore depressed looks on their faces. While running errands for my ailing son, I had a chance to go about the hospital campus. Looking at people there going to and fro, I thought that the medical institution, in outward appearance, seemed to be a marketplace full of journal vendors, drug shops and food stalls. I am not saying this pessimistically. In my opinion, it is convenient for all, especially for patients' attendants to have these nearby. Because most of the visitors are locals, who rely upon the food stalls for their meals at reasonable prices. If possible, it would be better for authorities concerned to grant licenses to food-sellers under the condition that the sellers must provide customers with hygienic health foods. As known, most of the road-side Myanmar food sellers rarely use gloves in preparing for buyers' eating. And it is very disgusting to use unclean water to clean dishes and plates up. These bad practices should be strictly prohibited. And our people used to and love chemical-contaminated

foods and drinks. So long as cases of such unhygienic sellers go unsolved, more and more health problems will increase at an alarming rate. Provided that severe actions will be taken against undisciplined street vendors, it sure will help public health improve.

These days, much had been being heard about FOC health-care service program by the government. It was really heartening and welcome news. During my stay, I came to know a lot about the Haematology Department. It was learnt that the department had been founded in 1994 and the premises was opened in 25th March, 2010. Professional doctors and all staff are hard-working and kind-hearted. As it is, however, nurses are not proportional to patients. There is something extraordinary, which is too praiseworthy enough to be neglected. It is none other than the specially arranged program for giving aids to the poor, made under the aegis of the head of the department. Many of the blood cancer patients were found to be the ones from the middle and low classes. Under the above-said special program, the hospital is taking responsibilities for the treatment of very poor people, including medicinal costs. Much as the treatment will not be a sure-fire success, a blood cancer patient without FOC health-care service needs a considerable amount of money to have the disease cured. Plus another stress is

that the patient must avoid hard labor after receiving the treatment. Especially any youths never want to live doing nothing for the rest of their lives. If so, they will feel as if they lose their future. Generally, it will cost a cancer patient a lot more than other ones to purchase cancer medicines ranging from 5 lakhs to 15 lakhs. Taking time for treatment, needing too much cost for drugs, uncertainty of successful cure and a life full of pain and suffering depress the patients. For these reasons, patients under a lot of stress need treatment, care and kindness. I read a foreign news item in the New Light of Myanmar of 7 September, 2014 issue, titled "Depression more common for cancer patients, but rarely treated". Three new studies by researchers at the Universities of Oxford and Edinburgh in the UK reveal that three quarters of depressed cancer patients are not receiving treatment for depression. The researchers also found that serious depression is more common for cancer patients than for the general population, varies by type of cancer. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in the US between 2007 and 2010, eight percent of people aged twelve and older had experienced depression symptoms in any two-week period and a depression diagnosis was more likely for patients who were younger. It was also written that today's medi-

cal workers were paying attention to treatment only and they should focus on curing patients and their kindred of depression as well.

In a layman's opinion, any doctors should not make a bad prognosis in the presence of their patient, especially a depressed one, excluding the latter's parents or relatives. It is a real relief for a patient to receive a warm and kind word from their doctors. There seems to be an element of hyperbole in such a claim that a patient regards their doctor's encouragement and sweet smile to be a panacea. Here, there is something important left to say as to lessening the costs of medical treatment. FOC and Cost-sharing programs are good, but some kinds of expensive medicines and charges are not entitled to the most. We all know and accept that the country's budget cannot allow the Health Department to do so. Despite the fact that our country abounds with

skilled, experienced and world-class overseas-educated physicians and surgeons, we still lack state-of-the-art medical equipments. For example, if we can have a bone-marrow transplant done here in Myanmar through the help of these doctors and modern techniques, we need not go abroad to receive a successful treatment like well-to-do people. It was learnt that it would cost somewhere around 6-700 lakhs and above for bone-marrow transplant in India, cheaper than in Bangkok and Singapore. It is an astronomical amount for us. For this, we presently have no alternative but to see our poor child suffering the terminal disease, relying upon the favor of the fate. Would that my baby had lived to find such kinds of hospitals in Myanmar, thanks to the miraculous power of our government and enthusiastic people.

May all living beings live long, happy and healthy!

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (23-9-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K653,500 per tical: Selling K654,500

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K653,500 per tical: Selling K654,500

FE RATE

USD Buying K990 - Selling K996

SGD Buying K778 - Selling K788

Euro Buying K1265- Selling K1285

NATIONAL

Anti-corruption
Commission receives . . .

(from page 3)

public observation and that the Myanmar Alinn and the Kyemon, two state-run dailies, have carried articles on the constitution.

Regarding the names referring to the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw in the English newspaper of the New Light of Myanmar, the deputy minister said that foreign readers complained of confusion in literal transcription of the two Hluttaws and that English equivalent were written in the said newspaper as of 15 May. Now, the NLM uses both literal transcription and English equivalent of the two Hluttaws.

The Pyithu Hluttaw has agreed to discuss a bill calling for an amendment to the law of protection of peasants' rights and promotion of their interests. — MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw
in progress for the sixth day

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Sept — The 11th session of first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continued for the sixth day here on Tuesday with the discussion of representatives on results of measures taken by the investigation commission for the decision of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to tackle the problems of land losers.

U Kyi Thar, representative from Gwa township constituency, said land disputes occurred due to protests of residents against land grabbing cases. He said that township administration offices and land record departments did not keep land documents well.

He also suggested the need of a fundamental land law and the enactment

of law on systematic land use by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Daw Mi Myint Than, representative from Ye township constituency, said that residents unavoidably turned to migrants after their lands were seized. She also called for the contribution of persons concerned in solving land-grabbing cases, which would cause more complications for the next government.

U Oo Rei, representative of Pruhsa township constituency, asked the respective administrative bodies for solving land seizures by giving out compensation or returning the land for the interest of public.

U Naing Ngan Lin, representative

of Dekkhinathiri township constituency, suggested to hand over the seized lands which were not used for projects to the owners.

U Win Myint, representative of Patheingyi township constituency, discussed the state and region governments did not transfer the complaints which have been scrutinized by investigation commission on land seizures to the township land use management committee.

U Kyaw Min, representative of Letpadan township constituency, said compensations should be given out for those lands which cannot be returned and the farm lands and garden lands seized for the welfare funds of military should be returned to the owners, suggesting the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to approve land policies after reviewing the loss of farmers.

MNA

Senior General
Min Aung Hlaing
arrives in Japan

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Sept — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

and party arrived at Haneda International Airport in Tokyo of Japan at 6.45 pm local time on Tuesday.

*Commander-in-Chief
of Defence Services
Senior General Min
Aung Hlaing on
arrival at Haneda
International Airport
in Tokyo of Japan.*

MYAWADY

They were welcomed by Director Major General Junichi Araki of General Affairs Department of Japan Self-Defence Forces and wife, Myanmar Ambassador U Khin Maung Tin and wife, Military Attaché Col Htin Kyaw Thu and wife.

Myawady

Capacity enhancement of
Hluttaw representatives
discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Sept — Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein received Parliamentary Capacity Development Officer Ms Femke Brouwer and party of New York-based National Resource Governance Institute

(NRGI) at the hall of the Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

They discussed drafting the mining law and assistance for capacity enhancement of Hluttaw representatives and staff.

MNA

Myanmar athletes continue
participation in 17th Asian
Games

INCHEON, 23 Sept — The Myanmar women's team trounced India's team in the regu event of Sepak Takraw Tournament in the 17th Asian Games on Tuesday.

In the archery event, Shein Htet Aung stood 43rd in the qualifier standing in the recurved event. Sandi Oo stood sixth and Myat Thet Su Wai Phyto, first in the Taolu event and Nyein Chan Ko Ko, ninth in the Taijijuan and Taijilian events of the

Wushu contest. Myanmar shooters will take part in the 50-m rifle event, Nay Myo Aung and Zargyi Win in the recurved event of archery contest and Win Naing Tun in the 85-kilo weightlifting event tomorrow.

Myanmar women's Sepak Takraw team will play against host ROK team in regu event and Myanmar will meet with the Thai team in volleyball event tomorrow. — MNA

Deputy C-in-C, ISDP Director discuss progress of
Myanmar's reforms

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Sept — Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win met Dr Niklas Swanstrom, Director at the Sweden-based Institute for Security and Development Policy (ISDP) on Tuesday at his office here. Both sides also discussed peace-making process and Tatmadaw's role in development tasks of the country.

Present were Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win and officials.

Myawady



Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets Dr Niklas Swanstrom, Director at the Sweden-based Institute for Security and Development Policy (ISDP).

MYAWADY

Myanmar, Korea see monetary and technical
assistance for SMEs

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Sept — Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint received Commercial Attache Mr Ahn Jaeyong

and party of the Republic of Korea at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday to hold talks about monetary and technical assistance for

development of SMEs in Myanmar.

The Korean guests invited the Union minister to attend the Second Annual

Asian small- and medium-scale enterprises Conference to be held in the Republic of Korea.

MNA



People ride bicycles in the city of Sao Paulo, capital of Brazil, on 22 Sept, 2014, the World Car Free Day.

XINHUA

Meetings, diplomatic activities of Serbian delegation to UN

BELGRADE, 23 Sept — Serbian Minister of Foreign Affairs Ivica Dacic is scheduled to participate in a special conference that will bring together foreign affairs ministers of the Western Balkan countries and the European enlargement commissioner in New York next week.

Announcing the activities of the Serbian delegation at the 69th session of the UN General Assembly, Dacic said that he will take part in the meeting of the OSCE three consecutive chairmanships including officials from Serbia (2015), Ukraine (2013) and Switzerland (2014).

The Serbian minister and his Western Balkan colleagues will attend the meeting on peacekeeping operations, which will

be chaired by US Deputy President Joe Biden, tabling the fight against Islamic terrorism and terror group Islamic State as the key topic.

This issue will be discussed at a special session of the UN Security Council, which will be attended by US President Barack Obama, and Dacic underlined at a press conference that Serbia will offer strong support to the war on terror.

Dacic said that the UN Security Council session, where Serbia will be presented by President Tomislav Nikolic, and many other diplomatic activities will be very important for strengthening of Serbia's position in the international arena.

Tanjug

Japanese-American admiral named next Pacific Command chief

WASHINGTON, 23 Sept — US President Barack Obama has nominated a Japanese-American admiral as the next head of the Pacific Command, the Defence Department said on Monday.

If confirmed by Congress, Adm Harry Harris, currently commander of the Navy's Pacific Fleet, will succeed Adm Samuel Locklear as chief of the

whole operations of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps from the US West Coast to the Indian Ocean.

Harris was born in Yokosuka, south of Tokyo, to a Japanese mother and her American husband and raised in Tennessee and Florida. The US Navy has its Japan headquarters in the port city in Kanagawa Prefecture.

Harris took over the post of commander of the fleet last October.

After graduating from the Naval Academy in 1978, Harris studied at institutions such as Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, according to the Navy.

Kyodo News

India's Modi to get rock star reception in New York



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi

NEW YORK, 23 Sept — It is a rock 'n' roller's dream to "sell out The Garden," but for a foreign politician to pack New York City's most famous sports and entertainment arena is another thing entirely.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on his first trip to New York as leader of the world's most populous democracy, will draw perhaps the largest crowd ever by a foreign leader on US soil when he takes the stage on Sunday in Madison Square Garden before a crowd forecast to total more than 18,000 people.

Thousands more are expected to pack New York's Times Square to watch his address in Hindi on big screens as well as smaller viewing parties around the country and on TV in India.

The Indian diaspora hopes this visit by a leader who was until recently barred from the United States will signify India's importance not only on these shores but in wider

the world too.

The event is being emceed by prominent members of the Indian American community, Nina Davuluri, who has just relinquished her crown as Miss America 2014, and TV journalist Hari Sreenivasan.

"Indian citizens and diaspora over the world are hopeful that this (Modi) administration will cut bureaucracy and focus on people," said Dr Dinesh Patel, chief of arthroscopic surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, who arrived in the United States more than 50 years ago.

Patel, who says he was given an award for work in education by Modi, a fellow Gujarati, added: "People are passionate to see the new leader. Another Narendra is coming to this country to let the USA know what India is about."

The first Narendra was Swami Vivekananda, a 19th-century philosopher and monk who propagated

the Hindu faith in the United States. Modi often cites a speech by Vivekananda, born Narendra Nath Datta, to the Parliament of Religions in Chicago in 1893, as a source of inspiration.

"Let us remember the words of Swami Vivekananda and dedicate ourselves to furthering the cause of unity, brotherhood and world peace," Modi wrote Sept. 11 to his 6.5 million followers on Twitter.

India's economy, the third largest in Asia, has struggled to recover from sub-par growth, shackled by layers of bureaucracy anathema to the diaspora. Modi's general election triumph in May was driven in large part by his entrepreneurial mantra.

On the eve of his US visit, tensions remain between the Washington and New Delhi over trade and spying.

The 64-year-old former chief minister of Gujarat was denied a US visa in 2005 over sectarian rioting that killed more than 1,000 people, mainly Muslims, three years before. Modi, who denies wrongdoing, has been exonerated by a Supreme Court probe.

Washington was late to warm to Modi. Its ambassador to India only met him in February, when opinion polls already put his nationalists on course for a big election win.

Reuters

15 killed in US-led air strikes in Syria

DAMASCUS, 23 Sept — At least seven fighters of the al-Qaeda-linked Nusra Front and eight civilians were killed on Tuesday in the US-led air strikes against the positions of the extremist groups in the countryside of the northwestern province of Idlib, according to the oppositional Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Three positions of the Nusra Front between the Idlib and the northwestern

province of Aleppo were hit by the US-led air strikes, said the Observatory, adding that the Islamic State (IS) militants had evacuated their positions in the city of Manbej in the countryside of Aleppo ahead of the strikes.

In the city of al-Bab in Aleppo, the IS fighters imposed a curfew on Monday evening that lasted till Tuesday morning, according to the Observatory.

The United States and its partners have begun striking IS targets in Syria with a mix of fighters, bombers and Tomahawk missiles before daybreak Tuesday.

Saudi Arabia, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates have reportedly participated in the airstrikes. The Syrian government said it was informed about the strike ahead of its occurrence.—Xinhua

White tiger kills student in India

NEW DELHI, 23 Sept — A white tiger on Tuesday killed a school student inside the Delhi zoo, a senior official said.

"The student fell down into the white tiger's enclosure while trying to take a photo of the

animal. He was immediately mauled to death by the white tiger. The student was rushed to a local hospital where he was declared dead," he said, on condition of anonymity.

Local TV channels reported that the incident

took place around 2 p.m. (local time) when the school boy along with his fellow students were inside the zoo on a day trip.

A probe has been ordered into the incident, the official said.

Xinhua

WORLD

Arab Bank liable over Hamas attacks



Shand Stephens (2nd R), a lawyer for Arab Bank Plc, exits the Brooklyn Federal Court in Brooklyn, New York on 14 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 23 Sept—A US jury on Monday found Arab Bank Plc liable for providing material support to Hamas and said it must compensate victims of two dozen attacks attributed to the Islamic militant group in Israel and the Palestinian territories.

Jurors needed less than two days of deliberations to reach their verdict after a six-week trial in Brooklyn federal court, which lawyers described as the first

terrorism financing civil case to reach trial in the United States.

A trial on damages will be held later. Similar lawsuits are pending in New York against Bank of China Ltd, which is accused of providing services to Palestine Islamic Jihad, and Credit Lyonnais SA, which is accused of aiding Hamas. Those banks have denied the respective allegations. Nearly 300 Americans who were either vic-

tims or related to victims of attacks linked to Hamas had sued Arab Bank in 2004.

They accused the Jordanian bank of violating the Anti-Terrorism Act, a law that lets victims of US-designated foreign terrorist organizations such as Hamas seek damages.

"It has been a long haul," said plaintiff Maida Averbach, 76, who said her son was paralyzed from the neck down in a 2003 suicide bombing and died in 2010

from complications. "Unfortunately my Steve isn't here," Averbach spoke to reporters by phone.

Arab Bank said it would appeal. In a statement, the bank said the verdict "comes as no surprise" after a series of what it considered legally incorrect court rulings that kept it from mounting a proper defense, and effectively "put Hamas on trial."

The bank also said the verdict exposes banks such as itself to "enormous liability" for providing routine banking services.

Shand Stephens, a lawyer for Arab Bank, predicted that the 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals "is going to reverse this."

Mark Werbner, a lawyer for some of the plaintiffs, said the verdict sends a message that "when a bank opens its doors to terrorists, they're going to be held accountable." In a separate case, the 2nd Circuit ruled on Monday that Royal Bank of Scotland Group Plc's National Westminster Bank unit must face claims by terrorism victims over banking services it gave a charity linked to Hamas.

Reuters

Japan, Italy agree to cooperate against Islamic State

NEW YORK, 23 Sept—Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and his Italian counterpart Federica Mogherini agreed on Monday to work together in dealing with the Islamic State militant group.

Kishida told reporters after his meeting with Mogherini that they also broadly agreed on working out an informed protection pact that enables Japan and Italy to exchange confidential information, including military intelligence. The top Japanese and Italian diplomats, who are in New York to attend UN General Assembly meetings this week, also shared a view that the Islamic State is a major threat to the international community, according to Kishida. "Countries need to make contributions," Kishida said, referring to humanitarian assistance for those fleeing the group's violence.

The world is facing the terrorist group, Kishida quoted Mogherini as saying. Italy plans to join an international coalition planned to be formed under the US initiative against the Islamic State.

Kishida said the ministers also confirmed that Japan and Italy will strengthen cooperation to stabilize the situation in Ukraine.—Kyodo News

Israel army kills murderers of Jewish teenagers in crossfire

JERUSALEM, 23 Sept—Two Palestinians suspected of having kidnapped and murdered three Jewish teenagers in June have been killed in an exchange of fire with Israeli security forces in the West Bank early on Tuesday, the Israeli military confirmed.

Acting on intelligence information, soldiers and police officers surrounded a building in Hebron where Marwan Kawasme and Amer Abu Aysha, both affiliated with Islamist group Hamas, were hiding.

The army said the suspects were armed with assault rifles and opened fire on security forces who called on them to turn themselves in.

Israeli media quoted Hamas as confirming that two of its members had been killed in Hebron. —Xinhua

Israel says shot down Syrian aircraft over Israeli-controlled airspace

JERUSALEM, 23 Sept—An Israeli Patriot missile shot down a Syrian aircraft that flew into Israeli-controlled airspace on Tuesday, the military said, without disclosing the type of plane it intercepted. "Moments ago a Syrian aircraft infiltrated Israeli airspace. The IDF (Israel Defense Forces) intercepted the aircraft in mid-flight, using the Patriot air defence system. The circumstances of the incident are being reviewed," a military statement said.

Israel Radio said the aircraft was a drone and was shot down over the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, where fighting from Syria's civil war has occasionally spilled over. Israeli Army Radio said it may have been a Syrian warplane. —Reuters



Xu Qiliang (R), vice chairman of China's Central Military Commission, meets with Gotabaya Rajapaksa, secretary of Sri Lanka's Defence and Urban Development Ministry, in Beijing, capital of China on 23 Sept, 2014.—XINHUA

Iran says no deal agreed yet on new nuke proposal

TEHRAN, 23 Sept—The parties present in the ongoing nuclear talks between Iran and the six world powers have not reached any agreement on the new proposal of the West as a step to resolve the nuclear issue of the Islamic republic, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Marzieh Afkham was quoted as saying by local media on Tuesday.

"During the expert-level and technical talks, various proposals and initiatives are put forward

by the negotiators and they are discussed by the sides, but no proposal has been agreed upon by all parties so far," Afkham said in New York on Monday in a response to the question regarding a western proposal of disconnecting Iran's centrifuges from the feeding sources.

Western Media reported recently that Iran and the world powers are working on a new proposal by the West based on which Iran will be allowed to have more uranium enrichment

centrifuges but will be disconnected from the feeds of uranium.

Iranian officials or nuclear negotiators have not made any public comments on the reported proposal so far.

Fresh round of talks between Iran and the P5+1 group (including Britain, China, France, Russia, the United States and Germany) started on Friday in New York. The talks are expected to last until 26 September.

In July, Iran and the

six countries agreed to extend negotiations over Iran's controversial nuclear program for another four months till 24 November as they could not narrow down the significant gaps on core issues during the past six months.

An interim deal, which took effect on 20 January, was designed to buy time for negotiations. Under the deal, Iran would suspend some sensitive nuclear activities in exchange for a limited sanction relief.

Xinhua

China, Sri Lanka pledge military cooperation

BEIJING, 23 Sept—Xu Qiliang, vice chairman of China's Central Military Commission met with Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Sri Lanka's secretary of defence and urban development on Tuesday.

Hailing the friendship between China and Sri Lanka, Xu Qiliang said

leaders of two countries attach great importance to military-to-military ties and the Chinese military is willing to strengthen pragmatic cooperation in various fields with the Sri Lankan military.

Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Sri Lankan counterpart Mahinda Ra-

ajapaksa agreed to strengthen the two countries' strategic cooperative partnership during Xi's state visit to Sri Lanka last week.

Gotabaya Rajapaksa said that Sri Lanka will continue to enhance cooperation with China to advance military-to-military ties.—Xinhua

Dacic, Parrilla:
Serbian-
Cuban
cooperation is
excellent

NEW YORK, 23 Sept — Serbian First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ivica Dacic met with Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla on Monday, on the sidelines of the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

In the meeting, the first in a series of activities on Dacic's agenda this week, the bilateral cooperation between Serbia and Cuba was described as excellent, Serbian Foreign Ministry said in a release.

The Serbian foreign minister thanked Cuba for the support regarding Kosovo-Metohija and invited his Cuban counterpart to visit Serbia.

Minister Rodriguez Parrilla said that Cuba is interested in strengthening the cooperation in the fields of technology, medicine and pharmaceutical industry.

The Cuban foreign minister supported the initiative to promote Serbia's relations with the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the release states.

Tanjug

About 100 climate protesters arrested in march on Wall Street



New York City police officers stand guard in front of the Charging Bull sculpture as hundreds of protesters take part in the Flood Wall Street demonstration in Lower Manhattan, New York on 22 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 23 Sept — About 100 protesters were arrested on Monday in New York City during a demonstration that at one point blocked streets near the stock exchange to denounce what organizers say is Wall Street's contribution to climate change.

The demonstration, called Flood Wall Street, drew hundreds of protesters, and came a day

after a bigger action that brought 310,000 people to the streets of New York in what activists described as the largest protest ever against climate change.

Sunday's turnout was about triple that of the previous biggest demonstration on climate change, a Copenhagen demonstration five years ago.

For several hours on Monday, protesters stopped

traffic on Broadway south of the New York Stock Exchange.

Shortly after the close of trading on the New York Stock Exchange on Monday, demonstrators tried to push back metal barricades that police had used to keep them away, an effort that ended when police turned pepper spray on the crowd.

Police later broke up the gathering, ordering re-

maining protesters to disband. A core group of a few dozen activists staged a sit-in steps away from Wall Street, and police officers handcuffed and walked them away one-by-one.

In all, about 100 people were arrested on Monday, including three protesters taken into custody earlier in the day, a police representative said. Protest organizers gave the same

estimate for the number of arrests.

The protest group behind Monday's action has roots in the Occupy Wall Street movement that started in a downtown Manhattan park in 2011 to protest against what it called unfair banking practices that serve the wealthiest 1 percent, leaving behind 99 percent of Americans.

Kai Sanburn, a 60-year-old nurse and mother of two from Los Angeles, said she had travelled to New York for Sunday's march and wanted to do more.

"The action here against Wall Street is really expressive of the feeling that corporations and capitalism no longer serve people," Sanburn said.

Flood Wall Street organizers said they hope Monday's action will draw a link between economic policies and the environment, accusing top financial institutions of "exploiting front-line communities, workers and natural resources" for financial gain.

The event is part of Climate Week, which seeks to draw attention to carbon emissions and their link to global warming, and it comes ahead of a Tuesday UN Climate Summit.

Reuters

Russian government approves signing of Caspian resource use deal



Caspian Sea

Moscow, 23 Sept — Russian government has approved signing of an international agreement on conservation and rational use of water biological resources in the Caspian Sea. The specific resolution

signed by Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev was made public at the government's website on Tuesday.

Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan are signatory nations to the

treaty along with Russia.

The accord "will permit creating international legal basis in regulating fishing of salmons and other water biological resources in the Caspian Sea region," an explanatory

noted to the document said.

"To attain goals of the agreement the signatories set up a committee for conservation and reasonable use of water biological resources and management of their joint reserves," the Cabinet's website said. In particular, this committee will set permissible fish catching volumes in the Caspian Sea, will distribute them in national quotas and will set export quotas on salmons and products made of them.

The 4th Caspian summit will discuss cooperation of littoral Caspian states in Russia's southern Volga River city of Astrakhan on 29 September, the Russian presidential press service said on Monday. Multipartite documents are expected to be signed at the summit.—Itar-Tass

Downgrading Typhoon Fung-Wong lands in Shanghai

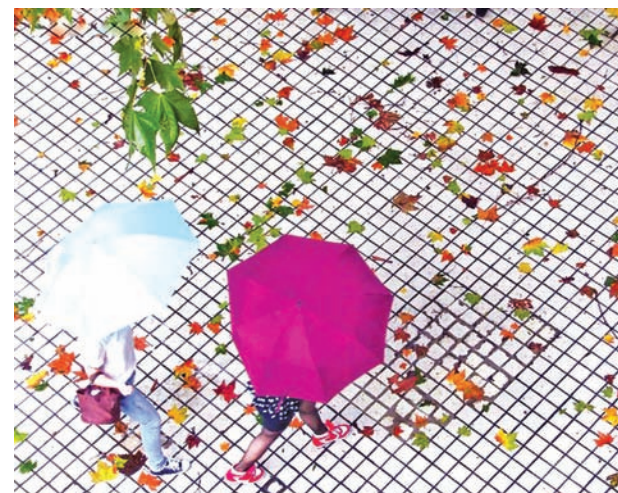
SHANGHAI, 23 Sept — Typhoon Fung-Wong made a landfall again in east China's Shanghai on Tuesday morning, after attacking neighbouring Zhejiang Province on Monday evening.

The typhoon has reduced its power to tropical

storm when it hit Fengxian District of Shanghai at 10:45 am on Tuesday, packing up winds up to 75 km per hour.

It has been 25 years since the last typhoon made a landfall in Shanghai.

Xinhua



Citizens holding umbrellas walk on a road amid rain after a landfall of typhoon Fung-Wong in Shanghai, east China, on 23 Sept, 2014. —XINHUA

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Dated 24 September 2014 utm@kcyangon.com

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No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM LINE**

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utm@kcyangon.com
Dated 24 September 2014

Eight charged over suspected murders of Japanese, Filipino in Manila

MANILA, 23 Sept—Philippine investigators have filed formal charges against eight people for the suspected murders of a Japanese national and his Filipino girlfriend in late June in the capital Manila, an official said on Tuesday.

According to Joel Tovera of the National Bureau of Investigation, the country's top law enforcement agency, the charges were filed on Monday at the prosecutor's office of the Manila suburb Paranaque City against the eight, who are suspected of being behind the disappearance and presumed slayings of Yuji Okada and Honeylyn Cirunay.

Okada, a company executive, was last seen alive on 27 June, while Cirunay was last contacted on 28 June. Their bodies, which remain missing, were allegedly dumped in waters of Quezon province south of Manila after they were killed.

Tovera said parricide and murder charges were filed against Okada's adopted daughter, while her boyfriend and an unidentified companion were charged with double murder. Tovera earlier said the crime was allegedly committed after the victims had a heated argument with the primary suspects over property issues.

Five other people who allegedly assisted in disposal of the victims' bodies were charged as accessories to the crime. But three of them who allegedly admitted their participation in the crime have been recommended to become state witnesses.

"Even without the bodies of Okada and Cirunay, we believe our evidence is strong against the suspects. We have evaluated the case and found sufficient circumstantial evidence," Tovera told *Kyodo News*.

Except for the three who volunteered information about the case to investigators, the other suspects are at large.

Okada has been in the Philippines since 1998.

Kyodo News

Weather report

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 24th September, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Rakhine States, scattered in Lower Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Regions, Shan, Chin, Kayin and Mon States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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Lady Gaga sheds quirky image for jazz album with Tony Bennett

BRUSSELS,

23 Sept — Lady Gaga and Tony Bennett, bridging a 60-year age gap to form one of music's unlikeliest pairs, launched a jazz album on Monday that

lets the pop diva put aside her wacky image to sing sweet harmonies with the elder statesman of cool.

"Cheek to Cheek," on sale on Tuesday after a launch concert in the ornate Renaissance setting of the Grand-Place in Brussels, features jazz standards by Cole Porter, Duke Ellington and others a distant world away from Lady Gaga's 21st century.

"When I began writing music for the music indus-



try, I became known as the quirky girl from downtown New York," she told a news conference at the 15th-century city hall.

"So I tailored my music to be that way, to get noticed, to be able to travel more and play more shows," said the 28-year-old artist known to many as much for startling costumes — like a robe made of meat — as for her innovative music and stage shows. —Reuters



LONDON, 23 Sept —Reality TV star Kim Kardashian will reportedly make a cameo in the sequel of the 2012 Mark Wahlberg-starrer comedy 'Ted'.

Kardashian, 33, is approached by the makers of the film as they feel she has got a good sense of humour, reported MTV Online.

"Ted loves his women and there are scenes in 'Ted 2' which ask for a curvaceous woman to flirt and twerk with Ted, eventually leading to the bedroom. Producers are confident they can get Kim in for the part as she not only has the figure for it, she has a great

sense of humour," a source said.

The source added that Kardashian's husband, Kanye West, is a big fan of Seth MacFarlane, the creator of 'Ted', as well as 'American Dad!' and 'Family Guy'.

"Kanye thinks Seth MacFarlane is a genius and his favourite TV show is 'American Dad'. Kim actually features as a pink, furry, sex-hungry alien in the latest series," the source said.

'Ted 2' will feature Wahlberg, 43, MacFarlane, 40, who will reprise the role of Ted, and Amanda Seyfried, 28. —PTI

Far from Hollywood din, New York Film Festival puts focus on quality

NEW YORK, 23 Sept — Cannes has its coveted prizes and Sundance its lucrative deals, but the New York Film Festival, unencumbered by awards or marketing, says its mission is simple: to present the year's best in world cinema.

The 52nd annual event, which opens on Friday, is for "film lovers of all stripes and levels of knowledge," said its director, Kent Jones. Its 17-day itinerary includes a main slate of 30 feature films and a retrospective of the works of Academy Award-winning director Joseph L. Mankiewicz.

In the past, the festival has been criticized for being snobby and appealing to cinephiles, but more recently the festival has included more commercial, as well as art-house, films.

Jones said the selection process is about finding and presenting the best films.

"I am not striving for any kind of mix because the selection process is more a question of just following our instincts," said Jones, who also chairs the selection

committee.

Among the world premieres is "Citizenfour," by documentary filmmaker Laura Poitras, about Edward Snowden, who leaked classified information from the National Security Agency.

Poitras was making a film about abuses of national security when encrypted emails from Snowden, who identified himself as "citizen four," began to arrive in her inbox.

"One the one hand, you are watching all this stuff play out in real time," Jones said. "And on the other hand, you are seeing this character portrayal together in the process. On another level, it is like watching a spy story happening in real life, playing out in real time."

"Gone Girl," director David Fincher's adaptation of Gillian Flynn's best-selling novel about a broken marriage, will also get its first viewing when it opens the festival.

Reuters



Violinist Benedetti — Populism to promote music is okay

endorsements, and she knows that with her career progressing by leaps and bounds she could have plenty of them, but she thinks they can get in the way of the music.

"It's difficult and I don't really know how I feel about that," she said, talking about endorsements after performing Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" with the Manchester Camerata chamber orchestra in this English Midlands city on Friday.

"But you always have to ask yourself, 'Is your main goal to be as good a musician as possible, and for as many people as possible?' Then you'll enter into the means that get you to more people, and that seems to be a fairly natural progression." —Reuters

STAFFORD, 23 Sept — Violinist Nicola Benedetti has a best-selling album in the British pop charts so it comes as no surprise that she approves of a bit of populism to get the message across that classical music can be fun.

She does, though, draw the line at marketing herself as the "classical babe" that the British tabloids thought was a good niche for her, when she first exploded onto the British music scene as BBC Young Musician of the Year a decade ago.

It is not that the Scottish-born violinist of Italian heritage opposes product

GENERAL

Seeds tumble at Wuhan Open but Sharapova survives

WUHAN, 23 Sept — Organizers of the WTA's inaugural Wuhan Open, still reeling from last week's retirement of the city's tennis trailblazer Li Na, suffered the loss of further headline acts on Monday with the early exit of seeded players.

Fifth seed Agnieszka Radwanska was ousted in three sets by Caroline Garcia of France, while ninth seed Ana Ivanovic and Dominika Cibulkova, seeded 12th, also exited after retiring from their opening matches at the \$2.4 million hard court event.

Germany's Sabine Lisicki celebrated her birthday by ending the title hopes of 14th seed Lucie Safarova 7-5, 2-6, 6-3 while Australia's Jarmila Gajdosova dumped out 15th seed Flavia Pennetta of Italy 6-1, 6-4.

Compounding the losses was the exit of home favourite Shuai Peng, who bowed out in straight sets to Germany's Mona Barthel 6-2, 7-6(1) in the Chinese right hander's first match since being forced to retire in the semi-final of last month's US Open.

French Open champion and world number four Maria Sharapova made a slow start but was one of the few seeds to make it through the Monday massacre after she beat compatriot Svetlana Kuznetsova 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 in



Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland hits a return to Peng Shuai of China during their match at the 2014 US Open tennis tournament in New York, 27 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS



Maria Sharapova of Russia reacts during the Women's singles match against her compatriot Svetlana Kuznetsova at the WTA Wuhan Open tennis tournament in Wuhan capital of central China's Hubei Province, on 22 Sept, 2014. Maria won 2-1.—XINHUA

the final action on the centre court.

Sharapova has already qualified for the season ending WTA Finals in Singapore next month and Pole Radwanska could have joined her by reaching the final in Wuhan but she ran into one of the sport's rising stars in Garcia on Monday.

The 20-year-old Frenchwoman, who survived a match point to beat Venus Williams in a third set tiebreak on Sunday, needed another decider

to settle the contest with a 3-6, 7-6(4), 7-6(7) marathon against Radwanska.

"It was a tough match from beginning to end. I was just worse today in those two points in the end," Radwanska said.

"Of course I had my chances before that, but game by game and point by point we had a lot of good rallies, and I could have done better and stepped forward in certain moments.

"But she was hitting the ball very hard and serving

very well the whole match, especially in the important moments. She kept a really high level. She was just playing really, really well today."

Former world number one Ivanovic needed to win in Wuhan to book a place at the WTA's season ending championships, for the first time since 2008, but the demands of last week's tournament victory in Tokyo seemed to have taken a toll on her body.

The 26-year-old was

trailing Russian Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 7-5, 6-5 in the first round before calling it a day because of a thigh injury, while a left ankle injury ended Slovakian Cibulkova's tournament when she was level at one set all with American Madison Keys.

World number one Serena Williams will kick off her campaign on Tuesday with a second-round clash against Frenchwoman Alize Cornet.

Reuters

Qatar adamant it will host 2022 World Cup despite doubts

LONDON, 23 Sept—Qatar remained adamant it would host the 2022 football World Cup despite a FIFA Executive Committee member suggesting on Monday that the tournament would have to move because of scorching temperatures.

"The only question now is when, not if," Qatar 2022 communications director

Nasser Al Khater said in a statement. "Summer or winter, we will be ready."

Theo Zwanziger, the former German football association (DFB) chief who now sits on the executive committee of world football's governing body, had said earlier that he felt the tournament would have to be held elsewhere. "I per-

sonally think that in the end the 2022 World Cup will not take place in Qatar," he told Sport Bild. "Medics say that they cannot accept responsibility with a World Cup taking place under these conditions." FIFA awarded the tournament to the tiny Middle Eastern country in a controversial decision in 2010, with the understanding

that it would be held in the summer despite the searing heat. Although oil and gas-rich Qatar has insisted that timetable is viable thanks to cooling technologies being developed for stadiums, training areas and fan zones, there is still widespread concern over the health of players and visiting fans.

Reuters



FIFA President Sepp Blatter announces Qatar as the host nation for the FIFA World Cup 2022, in Zurich on 2 Dec, 2010.—REUTERS

Kreuziger cleared of doping violation by Czech committee

PARIS, 23 Sept—The Czech Olympic Committee has cleared Tinkoff-Saxo rider Roman Kreuziger of any violation of anti-doping regulations, the cycling team said on Monday.

In a statement, the team said he was free to continue racing after having been suspended provisionally because of possible irregularities in his biological passport.

"He was found not guilty for the alleged abnormalities in his Biological

Passport Profile," said the statement.

"The team is very happy that Kreuziger has been cleared by the judicial system of the Czech Olympic Committee and that he is now eligible to resume racing."

Kreuziger was pulled from his team, although not technically suspended, in June, before the Tour de France.

The International Cycling Union (UCI) decided to ban him provisionally in

August pending the Czech Committee's ruling.

The UCI said in a separate statement it would consider an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

"At this stage, with the relevant appeal windows opened, the UCI will not make any further comment on the case," added the body, which has one month to appeal. The data in question is from a period when Kreuziger, fifth in last year's Tour, was riding for the Astana team.—Reuters



Team Saxo-Tinkoff rider Roman Kreuziger of the Czech Republic cycles during the 32km individual time-trial seventeenth stage of the centenary Tour de France cycling race from Embrun to Chorges on 17 July, 2013.—REUTERS

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

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Yang Haoran (R) and Cao Yifei of China compete during the 10m air rifle men's finals of shooting at the 17th Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea, on 23 Sept, 2014. Yang Haoran won the gold medal with 209.6 points and Cao Yifei won the silver medal.—XINHUA

INCHEON, 23 Sept — Women's world champions Japan secured their place in the quarterfinals of the Asian Games on Monday with a 3-0 win over Taiwan in their final Group B match.

Mizuho Sakaguchi fired the defending champions in front after three minutes and Chinatsu Kira headed in a cross from Nahomi Kawasumi at the far post in the 32nd to send Norio Sasaki's team 2-0 up at the break.

Kawasumi added a late third with a lob that went in off the inside of the post in the 84th minute.

Japan went through as group winners on goal difference ahead of China, who beat Jordan 5-0 to also reach the last eight.

"We weren't on top

of our game today but hopefully we can raise our condition and I can shape

us into a team than can win the final," said Sasaki.—Kyodo News



Nahomi Kawasumi (C) of Japan scores her team's third goal in the second half of a Group B match against Taiwan at the Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea, on 22 Sept, 2014. Japan won 3-0, securing their place in the quarterfinals.

KYODO NEWS

Taiwan lifter sets two world records to win gold

INCHEON, 23 Sept — Taiwan's Lin Tzu Chi set world records in the clean and jerk and overall lift on her way to winning weightlifting gold in the -63kg category at the Asian Games on Tuesday.

Lin hoisted 145 kilograms with her final lift, adding 2kg to Kazakh Maiza's record set in 2010 in Turkey. Added to her 116kg in the snatch component, that gave her an overall total of 261kg and another world record.

The new overall mark was 4kg more than the 257kg China's Liu Haixia lifted in Thailand in 2007.

China's Deng Wei took the silver after pushing Lin all the way. She finished with a combined 259kg, while Jo Pok Hyang of North Korea took bronze on 247kg.

Lin said the competition from Deng had pushed her hard.

"Thank you, China, for being a good enemy that

helped me try harder," she said at a media conference.

Deng denied there had been coaching miscues that had caused Chinese athletes to miss out on weightlifting gold in Incheon.

"No mistakes. We tried our best, but our opponents were stronger," she added.

North Korean lifter Jo

suffered an injury in the snatch component that limited her in the clean and jerk. "Although I got hurt during the snatch I absolutely wanted to compensate by holding in the pain and go as far as to challenge the world record in the clean and jerk," said a tearful Jo.

Reuters



Taiwan's Lin Tzu Chi reacts after setting a new Asian Games record of 116kg in the women's 63kg snatch weightlifting competition at the Moonlight Festival Garden during the 17th Asian Games in Incheon on 23 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

Hagino wins 2 more golds in dominant fashion

INCHEON, 23 Sept — Kosuke Hagino took his gold-medal tally to three at the Asian Games after smashing wins in the men's 200-meter individual medley and the 4x200 freestyle relay on Monday.

A night after his stunning victory in the 200 free over Olympic champions Sun Yang and Park Tae Hwan, Hagino dominated the IM, winning in an Asian record of 1 minute, 55.34 seconds — more than three seconds ahead of compatriot Hiromasa Fujimori.

In the day's finale, Hagino helped Japan blow away the field in the relay in a Games record 7:06.74. China came in a distant second, touching the wall 9.77 behind.

And Hagino made it clear he's not done yet.

"I've got three races left and I'm going for gold in all of them," the 20-year-old said. "But the competi-

tion will be tough and I will need to be at my best to cut it at this Asian level."

"In the 200 IM, I messed up my first turn and that affected my time, which wasn't bad because it was near my personal best. But I feel good physically, and I want to keep this up tomorrow."

According to his competitors, Hagino is already way beyond Asian level.

"So much you can say about the kid," said Singa-

pore's Joseph Schooling, who was fourth to Hagino in the 200 IM. "He's insane, crazy, absurd. I can see by the way he talks to his coaches that he's got a lot of respect."

"He's up there fighting with (Ryan) Lochte and (Michael) Phelps in the 200 IM, and Lochte and Phelps are way ahead of everyone else in the world. They better be ready for him; I hope he takes them both down."

Kyodo News



Japan's Kosuke Hagino reacts after winning the men's 200m individual medley final at the swimming competition at the Munhak Park Tae-hwan Aquatics Center during the 17th Asian Games in Incheon on 22 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

Medals table of the Asian Games after Monday's events

	G	S	B	Total
China	26	14	18	58
South Korea	14	15	16	45
Japan	13	13	16	42
Mongolia	3	3	6	12
North Korea	3	3	4	10
Kazakhstan	2	2	5	9
Myanmar	2	0	0	2
Vietnam	1	2	4	7
Iran	1	2	0	3
Taiwan	1	1	5	7
Malaysia	1	1	2	4
Hong Kong	1	0	6	7
India	1	0	5	6
Indonesia	0	3	1	4
Macao	0	3	0	3
Kuwait	0	2	0	2
Uzbekistan	0	1	4	5
Singapore	0	1	3	4
Laos	0	1	0	1
Lebanon	0	1	0	1
Turkmenistan	0	1	0	1
Thailand	0	0	2	2
Iraq	0	0	1	1