

## Vice President U Nyan Tun and wife attend reception to mark 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary National Day of PRC

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Sept — Vice President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint attended a reception to mark the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary National Day of the People's Republic of China at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Yangon on Monday evening.

Vice President U Nyan Tun and Chinese Ambassador Mr Yang Houlan delivered addresses.

Vice President U Nyan Tun and wife, Chinese Ambassador Mr Yang Houlan and wife enjoyed the reception by cutting the cake.

The Chinese Ambassador and wife served the Vice President and wife and dignitaries.

MNA



Vice President U Nyan Tun and wife, Chinese Ambassador Mr Yang Houlan and wife cutting the reception cake to mark 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary National Day of China.—MNA

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## Senior General meets South Korean President

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Sept — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met with President Ms Park Geun-hye at the Blue House in Seoul on Monday.

At the meeting, the senior general said he was

proud of being the first Myanmar commander in chief who has visited South Korea during the diplomatic relations of over 40 years between the two countries and the purpose of his visit was to promote the military ties between the two

armed forces.

The South Korean President said she was glad to see the political and economic reform being carried out by the government led by President U Thein Sein and highlighted the importance of military ties be-

tween the two countries.

Also present at the meeting were Myanmar Ambassador to South Korea U Soe Lwin and Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Choi Yoon-hee of South Korea.

(See page 3)

## Oil & Gas Myanmar Exhibition to be held from 15 to 17 Oct

YANGON, 29 Sept — Oil & Gas Myanmar Exhibition will be held at Myanmar Convention Centre-MCC in Yangon from 15 to 17 October, kick-starting the entry of international support services into the local oil and gas sector.

The first edition of Oil & Gas Myanmar will play host to 130 exhibitors from 22 countries/regions.

“Providing international businesses with a gateway to enter Myanmar’s oil and gas industry, we will begin to see an influx of foreign companies; building and growing a more robust value chain of support services, Having released its oil and gas resources to the international

market, many international firms are looking for local agents and partners, as well as setting up operations in Myanmar,” says Ms. Carol New, Senior Project Manager for Engineering Events, of organizer Singapore Exhibition Services.

Representing local oil and gas companies, the Myanmar Oil and Gas Services Society (MOGSS) has welcomed the staging of Oil & Gas Myanmar -2014.

U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing, Chairman of MOGSS says, “The event not only creates access for international firms to enter Myanmar, but also for existing energy companies to engage and easily source for suppliers.

(See page 3)

## YCDC to conduct 2<sup>nd</sup> inspection of water treatment system of factories

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 29 Sept — Yangon City Development Committee will inspect the waste water treatment system of factories at the end of this year for the second time as part of making assessment if the waste water dumped by the factories meets the standards.

YCDC has already announced that it will carry out the inspection work for twice a year, launching the inspection work in 2012-2013 Fiscal Year.

After the first inspection in June, the Environmental Conservation Division under the YCDC found 25 factories which need to upgrade the waste water treatment systems as the waste water they dumped into waterways

did not meet the required standards. Most of the factories which failed to meet the set standards are food stuff factories in industrial zones in Yangon, according to YCDC. YCDC sent

final warning to 14 factories to upgrade their waste water treatment facility by 31 August. Still, water released by four factories has not yet met the required standards and they have

been ordered to improve their waste water treatment system within two months, said an official of the Environmental Conservation Division under the YCDC.

(See page 2)



YCDC has warned the factories in the city that it will revoke business licenses for all factories that fail to have proper water treatment facility in place.—PHOTO: WATERTechnology.NET

## Name Change

YANGON, 29 Sept — The banner of the New Light of Myanmar will be changed into The Global New Light of Myanmar as of 1 October.

Born in 1993, the New Light of Myanmar has served the interests of the nation and its people to the

best of its ability.

Now, the paper will be operated under the joint venture according to the agreement between the News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information and the Global Direct Link Company owned by a Myanmar citizen.—MNA



## Cooperative societies to stand on their own feet in the future



Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Maung Maung Thein.—MNA



Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Myint Thein.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Sept — Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan explained arrangements to issue loans to cooperative members from US\$ 100 million loans from the Exim Bank of China and repayments by the members at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session on Monday.

The agreement for loans from the China Exim Bank was signed between

the Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank and the China Exim Bank on 18, November 2013 and the loans will have to be repaid within 10 years, according to the union minister.

The Central Cooperative Society gave out over K 51 billion loans to members until 24 January 2014 and the loans were fully repaid by cooperative members before 10 July

### Pyidaungsu Hluttaw



Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan.—MNA

2014. The Central Cooperative Society gave out over K 52 billion loans to members between May and July 2014, according to the union minister. The union minister is confident that cooperatives society will be able to stand on their own feet in the future.

Then, deputy ministers explained the arrangements for privatization of state-owned factories which are losing at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Session.—MNA

### Pyithu Hluttaw

## Pyithu Hluttaw enters its 11<sup>th</sup> day with issues of government procurement, unlicensed motorbikes

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Sept—The 11<sup>th</sup> session of first Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) was held here on Monday, making its 11<sup>th</sup> day of discussions.

U Tin Maung Oo, representative of Shwepyitha township constituency, asked if the possible enactment of law on procurement to develop a clean government in Myanmar.

Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo said that the government is concerned with the purchase of materials by the governments not for business purpose, just for the use of nation.

The term Government Procurement is defined in

the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)-1947.

U Tun Tun Oo said that the government agencies are purchasing items through tender system in line with GATT to ensure the supply of materials through transparency and to avoid inflation and corruption which are fundamentals for market-oriented economy.

Regarding licensing system for motorcycles, U Myint Soe, representative of Pyawbwe township constituency, asked if authorities would adopt plan on easy registration of motorcycles and elimination of unlicensed motorbikes.

Deputy minister of Rail Transportation U Myint Thein said that the One Stop Service of licensing programme for imported motorcycles was made from February to July, and actions will be taken against the owners of unlicensed motorbikes as One Stop Service has timed out.

He also confirmed that fines will be the owners of the unregistered motorbikes will face fines up to 50 percent and above on the market prices.

The deputy minister also informed that license for motorbikes imported through border crosses can be applied at the border checkpoints.—MNA

## Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meets Canadian MP delegation



NAY PYI TAW, 29 Sept—Deputy Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) U Nanda Kyaw Swa

held a talk with Mr Kirsty Duncan and party of the Canadian MP delegation at the Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday morn-

ing. They discussed bilateral cooperation in parliament affairs between Myanmar and Canada and the role of women MPs.—MNA

### Amyotha Hluttaw

## Private organizations and companies permitted to establish plantations



Representatives attending Monday's session of Amyotha Hluttaw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Sept — The Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry is allowing private organizations and companies to establish teak, hard wood, palm oil and rubber plantations, Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Aye Myint Maung told the Amyotha Hluttaw on Monday.

The deputy minister said that his ministry is allowing private organizations and companies to establish timber plantations after examining their investment, experience and location. It takes applicants two to three months for teak plantations and one to two months for hard wood, oil palm and rubber plantations to get permissions, according to the deputy minister.

Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Daw Lei Lei Thein told the Amyotha Hluttaw that the ministry has been conducting courses to disseminate knowledge about company registration and investing at home and abroad since 2012,

The deputy minister was responding to a question whether there are plans to conduct courses on company registration process and investment for the public.

Short-term courses on basic knowledge about company registration and investing in Myanmar as well as in other countries were conducted in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Dawei, Patheingyi, Magway, Mawlaikine, Bago, Taunggyi, Myittha, Monywa, Hpa-

an, Myawady and Loikaw since 2012, according to the deputy minister.

The deputy minister said that ministry is also planning to organize similar courses in Haka and Sittway in November and December and the public can ask for information at the Investment and Companies Registration Department offices in regions and states.

Afterwards, Representative U Myo Myint submitted the motion calling for the union government to stabilize development project implementation schedules and project estimates according to the recommendations of the organization responsible for monitoring the projects with the approval of the union government and the session approved the motion.

MNA

## YCDC to conduct 2<sup>nd</sup> . . .

(from page 1)

Waste water from factories is tested under five criterions, and if the waste water dumped by a factory does not meet the required standard, a license of the factory shall be revoked or the

factory shall be shut down temporarily as punishment, according to YCDC.

Out of 29 industrial zones in Yangon Region, 24 industrial zones comprising about 40,000 factories are under the supervision of the

YCDC. The committee has been providing free services for water treatment technology and drawing water treatment plan to the factories.

Only after making the Environmental Impact Assessment-EIA, YCDC will consider the establishment of new factories.—NLM



## NATIONAL

## Senior General meets South Korean President. . .

(from page 1)

Before meeting with the president of the Republic of Korea, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party went to the National Cemetery and laid a wreath.

In the afternoon, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited Naval 2<sup>nd</sup> Fleet Command and Commander of the command Rear Admiral Park Sung Bae greeted the senior general and party.

Then, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party viewed round the military ships at the command.

In the evening, Major General Kim Yong-woo of Joint Chiefs of Staff Office

hosted a dinner in honour of the Myanmar military delegation at the Korea House Restaurant.

Myawady

**Commander-in-Chief  
of Defence Services  
Senior General  
Min Aung Hlaing  
hears naval affairs  
presented by officials  
on board ROKS  
Incheon FFG 881.**

MYAWADY



## Myanmar to cooperate with China on prevention against natural disasters

## Union minister emphasizes progress of reform processes at PGM Meeting



**Vice-Senior General Soe Win holds talks with political commissar Lt-Gen Zhu Fuxi of the Chengdu Military Region of the People's Liberation Army.—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Sept — Deputy Command-

er-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief

(Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win received po-

litical commissar Lt-Gen Zhu Fuxi of the Chengdu Military Region of the People's Liberation Army at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday morning to hold talks about promotion of bilateral relations between the two armed forces.

They also discussed drug elimination in border regions, combating human trafficking, prevention against violence and stability of border region, cooperation in prevention against natural disasters and exchange of trainees between the two countries.

MNA

## Oil & Gas Myanmar Exhibition . . .

(from page 1)

The industry is certainly headed down a path of rapid growth and will need

a healthy pool of support services and suppliers to thrive and prosper."

The Myanmar Invest-

ment Commission-MIC has approved more than 15 new oil and gas companies to invest in onshore blocks in Myanmar since July, 2014. All have signed production-sharing contracts with the government.

Myanmar's energy minister has announced in March, 2014 winners for 20 of the 30 offshore blocks that have been available since its auction launch in April 2013.

NLM

## Myanmar accepts accreditation of chairmanship for 2015-2016

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Sept — The closing ceremony of the 15<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of ASEAN War Veterans was held here on Monday, with the transfer of chairmanship of the organization to Myanmar.

At the ceremony, the current chairman of the organization Admiral (Ret.) Tan Sri Dato' Sri Mohd Anwar bin Haji Mohd Nor

handed the accreditation and duties of chairmanship for the term of 2015-2016 to Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hsan Oo of Myanmar.

The meeting was held in the capital from 27 to 29 September, with senior officials attending from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Sept — Union Minister U Soe Thane and party attended a meeting of the Partnership Group for Peace, Development and Democracy in Myanmar-PGM together with Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Myanmar, ministers, deputy ministers and delegates from 15 PGM member countries at the headquarters of the UN in New York on 26 September.

After UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon had delivered an address, Union Minister U Soe Thane explained progress of the reform process in brief.

Delegates from 15 countries praised Myanmar for successfully taking responsibility of ASEAN chairmanship and politi-

cal, economic and social reform processes including nationwide ceasefire and focused on significant issue of the 2015 elections in Myanmar.

The Union Minister met Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Adviser for Strategic Communications Mr Benjamin J Rhodes, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Mr Daniel R Russel at Waldorf Astoria Hotel on 23 September, Congressmen Joe Crowley at Grand Hyatt Hotel on 24 September and Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labour Assistant Secretary Mr Tom Malinowski on 25 September. They exchanged views on progress of Myanmar, attended by US Ambassador Mr Derek J Mitchell.—MNA



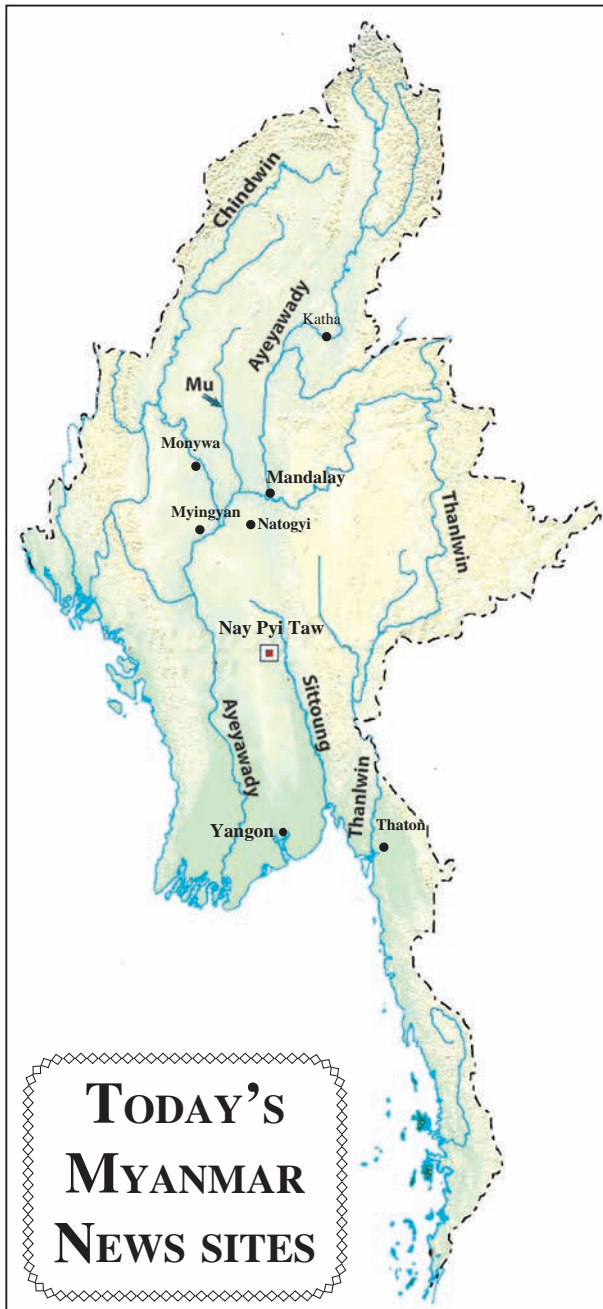
**With huge estimated reserves and many international oil companies (IOCs) awarded onshore and offshore blocks in the recent bidding round, Myanmar is emerging as an exciting growth country with its thriving oil and gas sector.**

PHOTO:

SEVENDAYSINMYANMAR.COM



*Thet Oo (Thaton)*



“Releasing fingerlings into the water is to prevent depletion of fish

*Young players taking part in Sepak Takraw event.*





LOCAL NEWS

## Organizing committee meets for holding performing arts competitions

MONYWA, 29 Sept— Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye attended the coordination meeting on holding the 21<sup>st</sup> Myanmar national races' performing arts competition, at the hall of the region government office on 26 September.

Secretary of the organizing committee Head of Sagaing Region Information and Public Relations Department U Khaing Min Kyaw submitted a report on preparations for holding the competition.

The chief minister fulfilled the requirements reported by artists and district representatives.

Region IPRD



## Natogyi Township to get wooden bridges, culverts

NATOGYI, 29 Sept— Mandalay Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Myint Than and officials on Sunday viewed round maintenance of the district to district road No 1 with spending the Union fund in Natogyi of Mandalay Region.

The engineers reported on construction of a 40-foot long bridge near Kanna Village.

Four culverts, six wooden bridges and three conduits are under construction in Natogyi Township. The region minister gave instructions on construction of the bridges and culverts meeting standards.

Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)

## Citizenship cards issued to families of military service personnel



MONYWA, 29 Sept— The issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards to families of the camp commandant office of the North-West Command Headquarters

was held at the hall of the headquarters in Monywa recently.

Head of Sagaing Region Immigration and National Registration Department U Soe Paing Myint explained issuance of the cards to the eligible citizens under the law.

The region director of INRD and officials presented citizenship scrutiny cards for the family members through General Staff Officer Grade-I Lt-Col Yan Naing Zaw and commander of the camp commandant office Major Thet Naung Oo.

Region IPRD

## MMA (Mandalay) marks World Rabies Day

MANDALAY, 29 Sept— The Myanmar Medical Association (Mandalay) organized the talks in commemoration of the World Rabies Day which falls on 28 September at its hall on 30th street in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on Sunday.

Director Dr Kyaw Naing Oo of Health Department and Neurosurgical specialist Dr Myo Khaing of Mandalay General Hospital shared knowledge about outbreak of rabies and injection for prevention against the disease in time. They urged the people to vaccinate pet animals under the prescription of veterinarian.

It was attended by members of the association, students of Universities of Medicine and guests.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



## Bailey Bridge to be upgraded to RC facility

KATHA, 29 Sept — A plan is underway to upgrade Lankhwachaung Bridge in Lankhwa Village-tract of Katha Township in Sagaing Region.

The bailey bridge made of iron frames collapsed in the heavy rains on 18 September, causing interrupting the transport of local people.

Under the instruction of Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha

Aye, the Bridge Special Group (11) of Public Works is making preparations for construction of the reinforced concrete bridge in the place of the bailey bridge.

The bridge is located on Katha-Indaw-Mansi Road, which is one of the main arteries of Katha.

Sagaing Region Government will spend K325.8 million on construction of the 120 feet long bridge.

At present, officials of Public Works are conducting the preliminary engineering works and stockpiling of construction materials.

District IPRD



A bailey bridge being upgraded to concrete bridge across Lankhwa Creek in Katha Township.



## Japan PM Abe vows to keep cautious watch on tax hike's impact



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R middle) delivers his policy speech at the lower house of parliament in Tokyo on 29 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

TOKYO, 29 Sept — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Monday that he will carefully watch the impact of April's sales tax hike and rising fuel prices on the economy, as he must decide by year-end whether Japan can cope with a second tax increase next year.

Speaking at the opening of a parliament session, Abe reiterated his pledge to

put top priority on economic policy aimed at beating nearly two decades of deflation, saying that he is still at the halfway point in carrying out regulatory reforms.

"We are aiming to revive the economy and proceed with fiscal consolidation at the same time, and ensure a virtuous cycle in the economy," Abe said.

"A major mission of

the Abe cabinet is to make people in every corner of the country feel the economy's recovery."

A sales tax rise to 8 percent from 5 percent in April pushed the economy into its deepest slump in the second quarter since the 2009 global financial crisis, raising some worries that a second hike to 10 percent could hit the economy harder.

Abe said this month that he was neutral on whether to implement the second tax hike and that he would make a decision by examining economic data in the current quarter.

Turning to diplomacy, Abe renewed his calls for a summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping, and vowed to improve ties with China and South Korea, countries angered by territorial disputes with Japan and Abe's approach to Japan's wartime past.

Abe, who came to office in December 2012, has not met bilaterally with the leaders of China and South Korea since taking office. Abe is keen to meet Xi on the sidelines of a November Asia-Pacific summit in Beijing.

"In order for Japan and China to build a stable friendship, I'd like to achieve a summit at an early stage and further promote a mutually beneficial relationship based on common strategic interests through dialogue," Abe said.—Reuters



Supporters of opposition leader Imran Khan gathered at an anti-government protest in eastern Pakistan's Lahore on 28 Sept, 2014. Supporters of Pakistan's two opposition leaders, Imran Khan of Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf and Tahir ul Qadri of Pakistan Wami Tehrik attended the sit-in protest in Islamabad, demanding resignation of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and fresh polls.

XINHUA

## More troops deployed to S Philippines amid terror threats

MANILA, 29 Sept — The Philippine military has sent some 500 troops to Mindanao to augment the forces there amid threats posed by terrorists, an official said on Sunday.

The government forces came from the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (5ID), composed of a brigade with two battalions, said Major General Benito Antonio de Leon, commander of the 5ID of the Philippine Army.

The soldiers who were deployed to Mindanao came from northern part

of the Philippines. They were equipped with force protection equipment such as vests and helmets and Remington R4 assault rifles, the military said.

This was the second time that the 5ID sent troops to Mindanao. The first time was in January 2010.

While there was no presence of any member of Islamic State in the country, the government, however, admitted that there were sympathizers of the group in the country.

Xinhua

## Cambodia will take in Australia's refugees on voluntary basis

PHNOM PENH, 29 Sept — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said on Monday that the country will take in refugees from Australia on a voluntary basis, stressing that accepting asylum seekers is part of an international obligation for Cambodia.

"We accept some refugees from Australia based on a voluntary principle, no one can force them to come to Cambodia," he said dur-

ing a graduation ceremony of more than 4,200 students at the Build Bright University. "We have a clear roadmap in accepting those refugees and nobody volunteers to come to Cambodia if he/she does not know what Cambodia is."

The prime minister's remarks came three days after the country signed a refugee settlement agreement with Australia. Under the deal, Australia will

send refugees, who intend to seek asylum in Australia and are held in an offshore detention camp in the tiny Pacific nation of Nauru, to resettle in Cambodia.

The deal has drawn strong criticism from human rights groups and opposition parties in both countries. They claimed Cambodia is too poor to take in Australia's refugees and accused Australia of shirking its human rights

responsibilities to other poorer and under-resourced nations.

Hun Sen said a Cambodian working group will interview those refugees and accept them if they want to live in Cambodia; instead, if they don't want to come, it's their rights.

"The Australian side thinks that Cambodia has enough possibility to take in some refugees," he said.

Xinhua

## Parade marks Thai PM's transition to civilian, army keeps grip on power

BANGKOK, 29 Sept — Thailand's army chief prime minister, General Prayuth Chan-ocha, hands over command of the army this week to a trusted ally and steps into civilian politics as head of a government likely to soon face pressure to turn around a sputtering economy.

Prayuth, 60, who led a coup in May, presided over a lavish military parade on Monday marking his retirement as commander in chief of the Royal Thai Army.

Prime Minister Prayuth will remain leader of the junta, the National Council for Peace and Order, and the military's grip

on power will remain rigid.

Prayuth's replacement as army chief, General Udomdej Sitabutr, is a close confidante and his appointment signals the dominance of an army faction that both he and Prayuth belong to known as the "Eastern Tigers" — a clique of arch-royalists known for their animosity toward former premier Thaksin Shinawatra.

Nevertheless, Prayuth's mandatory retirement raises the possibility that his influence could begin to ebb, especially if he ever fails to see eye-to-eye with his successor.

"The military clearly retains control but, as a



Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha gestures in a traditional greeting before reading out his government's policy at the Parliament in Bangkok on 12 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

retiree, Prayuth won't have the same chain of command so this changes the

dynamics within the junta," said Gotham Arya, a lecturer in peace and human

rights studies at Mahidol University.

"As of now there is some semblance of unity within the military but in the past there have been divisions and we may see a loosening of uniformity on some matters that could affect the stability of this government."

Prayuth stood on a podium in uniform to observe a military march past that included tanks, motorcycles and a fly by at a military academy in Nakhon Nayok Province, 106 km (66 miles) north of Bangkok.

The straight-talking general, known for his gruff exchanges with reporters,

has already taken steps that democracy activists say are aimed at cementing the rule of the Bangkok-based royalist establishment in the face of an unprecedented challenge from the populist Thaksin.

Thailand has been bedeviled by turmoil for much of the last decade as the establishment struggles to retain its supremacy despite repeated election victories by the brash former telecommunications tycoon.

The May coup unseated a government led by Thaksin's sister, Thailand first women prime minister, Yingluck Shinawatra.

Reuters



## WORLD

## All houses will be repaired



TEKJA, 29 Sept—All houses will be repaired or rebuilt and the government and Armed Forces will always be with their people, Serbia's Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic has said in Tekija, adding that he came there to encourage the locals after the recent floods that hit the area and to tell them that the government will do everything it can to bring life there back to normal.

Fifty houses were damaged in the recent

floods in Kladovo, he stated, adding that home appliances would be provided for each home.

"An additional RSD 10 million will be paid on Monday," he noted, pointing out that donations would be used whenever possible to provide everything needed.

There are 460 troops, 16 machines, mechanisation from the mining company RTB Bor and people from the national road company Putevi Srbi-

je and the municipality of Kladovo working to repair the damaged area, he remarked.

"The situation is still difficult, but people are not hungry because food and water have been provided," he stated.

Minister for Emergencies Velimir Ilic will stay in Kladovo until Tuesday, Vucic said, adding that the work on repairs was being paid by Serbia's taxpayers.

He first talked to the locals after arriving in Tekija early on Sunday and told them all houses would be rebuilt or repaired.

The Armed Forces are helping in the cleanup in Tekija with their own equipment.

Vucic met with the troops, members of the Interior Ministry Crisis Sector and employees of the national water management company Srbija vode and Putevi Srbije who are

working non-stop to repair the damage as soon as possible. Defence Minister Bratislav Gasic, Chief of the General Staff Ljubisa Dikovic and head of the Crisis Sector Predrag Maric accompanied the prime minister.—*Tanjug*



**Brazil's President and Presidential candidate of Workers Party (PT), Dilma Rousseff (L), talks with campaign advisor during a television debate, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 28 Sept, 2014. The presidential elections of Brazil are scheduled for 5 Oct, 2014.—XINHUA**

## Iran nuclear talks to resume in less than two weeks: Iran negotiator

NEW YORK, 29 Sept—Iran and six world powers will resume their nuclear talks in a European city in less than two weeks, with "differences on major issues" still remaining, Iran's chief negotiator said on Sunday.

"We have been able to have a much better understanding in a constructive atmosphere but there are differences on major issues," Deputy Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said in an interview with *Kyodo News*.

Iran and the six powers — Russia, France, China, Britain, the United States and Germany — had 11 days of nuclear talks on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meeting in New York, which produced "little progress."

"Some of the ideas which (were) proposed in the New York meeting are still hopeful but none of them can provide us with a common understanding on key issues and we could not to make substantive progress in negotiations," he added.

After missing a "golden opportunity" to clinch a deal on 20 July, the initial deadline set, Iran and the six powers agreed to extend their talks to 24 November, a second deadline which the deputy foreign minister believes the two sides would not find it useful to extend.

"If it would be a deal, let's do it now, an exten-

sion would be useless and difficult," Araghchi said.

He indicated that the nuclear talks will resume in Vienna or Geneva in less than two weeks.

President Hassan Rouhani was elected last year with campaign pledges that included moving the nuclear talks to a higher level from deputy ministers, and the two sides agreed in Geneva in November last year that Iran would curb some of its nuclear activities in return for sanctions relief.

Accepting that Iran will continue to run centrifuges and a comprehensive lifting of all sanctions are the "two main key differences between Iran and the 5+1," Iran's chief negotiator said.

Thirty-five years after Iran and the United States broke diplomatic relations following the Iranian Revolution in 1978, US President Barak Obama and the newly elected Rouhani spoke on the phone at the time of last year's General Assembly meeting. The contact was followed by bilateral talks between the two countries' foreign ministers.

There remain no signs of progress and trust in mutual ties, however, according to Araghchi.

"The point is we are not in a position yet to say trust has been improved between two sides. No, I don't believe that," he said.

*Kyodo News*

## UK's Osborne launches Conservative election pitch with pension tax cut

BIRMINGHAM, (England), 29 Sept — British finance minister George Osborne will announce on Monday that he will scrap a tax on inherited pension savings as he lays out the Conservative Party's pitch to win the next election on the back of its economic policies.

Ahead of what is expected to be a close-run ballot next May, Osborne will use a key speech to try to persuade voters that only the Conservatives can be trusted to keep Britain's economic recovery on track.

The Conservatives are rated by voters much more highly than the opposition Labour party on the economy. But they lag narrowly behind Labour in opinion polls less than eight months before the election.

In a move aimed at the party's aging supporter base, Osborne will commit to abolishing before the election a 55 percent tax levied on pension pots of savers when they die.

"People who have worked and saved all their lives will be able to pass on their hard-earned pensions to their families tax free," he will tell the Conservatives' last conference before the election, according to advance extracts of



**Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne sits with delegates in the conference hall during the first day of the Conservative Party Conference in Birmingham central England on 28 Sept, 2014.**

REUTERS

his speech. Osborne has focused on bringing down Britain's massive budget deficit since he took over the finance ministry in 2010. With the public accounts still deep in the red, he has little room to offer major tax cuts ahead of the election.

The new pledge to be announced on Monday is expected to cost around 150 million pounds (244 million US dollar) a year, according to a Conservative briefing note.

Nonetheless, his offer to scrap the pension pot tax strikes a contrast with the latest ideas from Labour.

Last week, Labour promised to levy new taxes

on homes worth more than 2 million pounds (\$3.3 million) and on tobacco firms in order to pump cash into healthcare if it wins the election.

Britain's economy has staged a much stronger-than-expected recovery since mid-2013 and Osborne, in his speech on Monday, will seek to remind voters that keeping the economy growing will be vital to create jobs, build more houses, fund healthcare and raise living standards.

"That's why it's the economy that settles elections," he is expected to say, "The Conservatives are the only people in Brit-

ish politics with a plan to fix the economy."

Osborne has long sought to remind voters that Labour was in power during the 2007-08 financial crisis that plunged Britain into its deepest post-war recession. He says the increasingly left-wing ideas of its leader Ed Miliband threaten the push to eliminate the budget deficit before the end of the decade.

"The idea that you can raise living standards, or fund the brilliant NHS (National Health Service) we want, or provide for our national security without a plan to fix the economy is nonsense," Osborne will say.

Last week, Miliband gave a conference speech in which he forgot to mention the budget deficit. Labour's would-be finance minister Ed Balls has said the party will tackle the deficit with a plan that is less aggressive than Osborne's.

Labour dismissed Osborne's planned speech as failing to tackle the issues they say matter to ordinary Britons. "George Osborne claims he has fixed the economy, but he's only fixed it for a privileged few at the top," said Chris Leslie, Labour's finance spokesman.

*Reuters*



## PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 30 September, 2014

## When elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers

By Aung Khin

**W**hen elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers. This ancient proverb is an East African proverb, cited in English since at least 1910s. It is as true today as when the words were first spoken, perhaps thousands of years ago.

Its essence is simplicity—when the large fight, it is the small who suffer most, giving the

message that when it comes to war, the smallest, the most vulnerable, are ordinary people.

Might cannot solve every dispute or disagreement. Fear with agony will always seek revenge when an opportunity comes out. Therefore, military power is not a sound reason to wipe out hatred.

After the conflicts broke out, ordinary people suffered great loss of their property, lives and relatives. Children could not go to schools in conflict areas, turning into the lack of formal education. Moreover, the war victims suffer physical and mental pains, and most of them could not recover from the trauma.

Fights normally resulted from the threats to interests of parties concerned. Human life is more valuable than property. Power struggle is the consequence of seriousness on self-interest. A certain group which poses threats on society is

the offender.

Uncivilized people hold weapons and choose their might to solve a problem. They cannot be patient and wait the right time through proper discussion. Leadership is very crucial to address the conflict, while their subordinates and unarmed people are not pawns for fights. These innocent people are not grass in a pasture.

## 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.*

## Homage to my Alma Mater, Yangon University of Education

By Myo Myint

**F**ormer and current faculty and administrative staff, alumni, and current students of Yangon University of Education (formerly called Yangon Institute of Education), will gather at the university to celebrate its golden jubilee and pay homage to their alma mater on 1<sup>st</sup> October this year. On this day, the university can look back, with enormous satisfaction, at the numerous achievements it has made, just as its graduates can look back with pride, the knowledge and skills they have gained from their alma mater, and what they have been able to pass on to their students. Just as its graduates have faced many changes in their lives and careers, so also the university has experienced many transformations.

Although it is celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment as a university level institution this year, its roots go much deeper. A year after Rangoon University was established in 1920, the Diploma in Education course was introduced at the university. In 1922, the Department of Education was established at Rangoon University. Changes were made to the organizational structure of the university in 1930, and the University Teachers' Training College was founded as one of its affiliated colleges. The college began offering the two-year Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) course for high school teachers, the two-year University Trained Teachers' Certificate (UTTC) course for middle school teachers and the one-year Diploma in Teaching (DT) course in the 1931-32 academic year, until 1941, before the beginning of the Second

World War. In addition, the college initiated physical education instructor course and kindergarten teacher course in 1933. At the end of the Second World War, the interim university was opened during the period 1946 to 1949 and in accordance with the unitary system followed by the university, the Education Faculty was established under Rangoon University in 1946. In the same year, the one-year diploma and the two-year B.Ed pre-service and in-service courses were initiated as there was a huge demand for teachers after the war. However, as the number of graduates produced by these courses was not adequate, a new BA (Ed) course was introduced in 1950. In 1964, in accordance with the new education system, two types of universities emerged, the first was arts and science universities and the second was professional institutes, and the education faculty became an independent professional institute under the name of Institute of Education. The B.Ed old system course continued for some time and in the 1964-65 academic year, a new five-year B.Ed course was inaugurated. The M.Ed course was launched in 1970-71 academic year to nurture teachers with advanced degrees who could become teacher educators. In the same year, the new system Diploma in Education Correspondence Course was opened, followed by the B.Ed Correspondence in 1981-82 academic year to enable middle school teachers to earn B.Ed degrees and become certified senior assistant teachers. The BA (English) course was opened in 1970-71 to cater to the country's need for specialists in the English language. (The course was later transferred to Yangon University)

ty.) The Post-Graduate Diploma in Teaching (PGDT) and the Post-Graduate Diploma in Multimedia Arts Education (PGDMA) courses were opened in 1999-2000 academic year. The former course was initiated to increase the pool of certified middle school teachers, while the latter was opened to cater to the need for teachers who can manage the multimedia classrooms that were being established in schools during that period, under the scheme to promote the use of technology in schools. The Certificate in Education Technology (CET) was also opened to impart pre-service teacher education to master degree holders to provide them with the qualifications needed to serve as Senior Assistant Teachers. PhD courses were opened in 2000-2001 in order to produce education specialists within the country.

There is no doubt that graduates of Yangon University of Education have been most fortunate to have had many illustrious teachers instructing them in the science and art of teaching. The wide knowledge and the variety of skills imparted by their teachers have enabled graduates of the institute not only to serve as competent and resourceful high school teachers but also many of them to go on to serve in more responsible positions of middle school and high school heads, education college principals, professors, university rectors, regional, state, district and township education officers, senior education administrative officers, hlutaw members, well-known figures in other professions and even artists after serving as teachers.

The 93<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the birth of teacher education at Yangon University, and the 50<sup>th</sup> anni-

versary of the birth of the Yangon University of Education (formerly called Yangon Institute of Education), coincide with the efforts being made by the education sector to assist in the political, social and economic developments taking place in the country. At this important juncture, retired graduates of the institution will need to continue to provide moral support to, share experience with, and give advice to their younger colleagues. Those graduates of Yangon University of Education who are still serving as teachers, school heads, and education officers must contribute to the further growth of the education sector, practise what they have been taught by their alma mater and also practise what they preach. Those who are serving as teacher educators will need to serve as good models for their trainees, keep enhancing their own knowledge and skills, build unity among the various departments in the university, nurture teachers as competent as themselves and endow them with the abilities to raise all-round developed students with high intellectual ability, social skills, and social responsibilities needed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Those involved in administering teacher education institutions will need to note that they have bigger responsibilities as administrators of teacher education institutions than their col-

leagues in other institutions, and need to use all their creative and intellectual abilities and endeavour to advance teacher education in Myanmar. Teacher trainees must do their best to become qualified high school teachers who are not only able to promote the knowledge, thinking abilities and skills in commensurate with the level they teach, but also serve as good models so that they will become responsible members of the society. Education stakeholders, such as, parents and community leaders, will need to provide greater support to the university in its effort to become a centre of excellence for teacher education in the country.

On its part, Yangon University of Education, which has its roots as the Department of Education of Rangoon University, has, throughout its existence under different forms and names, done its level best to train as many high school teachers as needed by the country and has introduced teacher education courses that are in line with new developments in the education sector. As an alumnus of the university, I am confident that the university will continue to nurture graduates of the highest quality and keep abreast with new developments taking place in the education sector in Myanmar as well as the world in accordance with its motto All for All.

## GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (29-9-2014)

## Yangon Gold Price

Buying K651,200 per tical: Selling K652,200

## Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K651,000 per tical: Selling K652,000

## FE RATE

USD Buying K991 - Selling K996.5

SGD Buying K778 - Selling K788

Euro Buying K1250- Selling K1270



## MINISTRY

## U Thit Linn Ohn concurrently accredited as Myanmar Ambassador to DPRK

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Sept—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Thit Linn Ohn, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the People's Republic of China, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.—MNA

## Deputy Minister views round development of Padagyi Village in Thanlyin Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Sept—Deputy Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Tin Ngwe inspected progress of placing concrete on a 1.1 miles long entrance road to Padagyi Village in Thanlyin Township on 26 September.

The deputy minister viewed the site for construction of the 160-foot long Padagyi creek bridge.

On his inspection tour, the deputy minister met local people at the village library and heard reports on requirements of the people.

The deputy minister fulfilled the requirements of education, health and livestock breeding tasks of the village.—MNA



Deputy Minister U Tin Ngwe views upgrading of road in Padagyi Village of Thanlyin Township.—MNA

## Myanmar to meet with Thai, Singaporean teams in men's Sepak Takraw



Myanmar men's team competing with Chinese team in men's regu event. (Myanmar beat China 2-1). —SPED

INCHEON, 29 Sept—Myanmar won over China 2-1 in the men's regu Sepak Takraw event in the 17<sup>th</sup>

Asian Games in Incheon of the Republic of Korea.

Zaw Min Tun of Myanmar lost to Turkmenistan

## Implementing Joint Strategy for Elimination of Forced Labour discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Sept—The meeting of the Work Committee for Implementing the Joint Strategy for Elimination of Forced Labour by 2015 was held at the hall of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday, attended by Union Minister U Aye Myint.

The meeting emphasized the report on Myanmar to be submitted by the ILO liaison officer to the 322<sup>nd</sup> International Labour Organization Governing Body Meeting, implementation of the Joint Strategy for the Elimination of Forced Labour by 2015 signed by the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the ILO on 16 March 2012 and future plans. The meeting



Union Minister U Aye Myint speaking at coordination meeting on Implementing the Joint Strategy for Elimination of Forced Labour by 2015.—MNA

was also attended by members of the work committee

deputy ministers, departmental heads and the liaison officer of ILO (Yangon).—MNA

## 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN SOM for ASCC Council held in Bagan

BAGAN, 29 Sept—The 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials Committee for ASCC Council (17<sup>th</sup> SOCA) took place at the Aureum Palace Hotel in Bagan of Myanmar on Monday morning.

The meeting discussed natural disaster risk reduction, management in all sectors, cooperation

in prevention against climate change, protection of rights of migrant workers under the directives of ASEAN, ASEAN framework for social protection, ASEAN observation centre, progress of roadmap (2009-2015) for ASEAN Social-Cultural Community, main tasks in post-2015, acceptance of Timor-Leste

tural Fair 2014 at the National Theatre in Yangon on 1 October.

On Sunday morning, the meeting adopted the Action Plan and Work Plan for cooperation in ASCC Blueprint MTR 2015 and held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Working Group Meeting for implementing the tasks under the work schedule.



Participants join hands as depicting integration of ASEAN countries after 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials Committee for ASCC Council (17<sup>th</sup> SOCA).—MNA

Myanmar will play against Thai team in the men's regu event of Sepak Takraw Contest at 9 am local time and Singaporean team at 2 pm local time.

Eindra Aung will take part in the 49-kilo Taekwondo women's event and Wunna Tun in the men's 59-kilo wrestling event.—SPED

as new member of ASEAN, scrutiny of advisor list for observation over impacts of the ASEAN Social-Cultural Community, cooperation of ASEAN in climate change in 2014, raising ASEAN awareness during the ASEAN chairmanship of Myanmar and holding the ASEAN Cul-

The participants focused on review on biannual implementation of the ASCC Roadmap, resource mobilization and salient points for the ASCC in post-2015, matters related to SOCA, ASCC Vision Statement and Central Elements for the post-2015.

MNA



# Once-banned Indian leader woos diaspora at giant New York rally

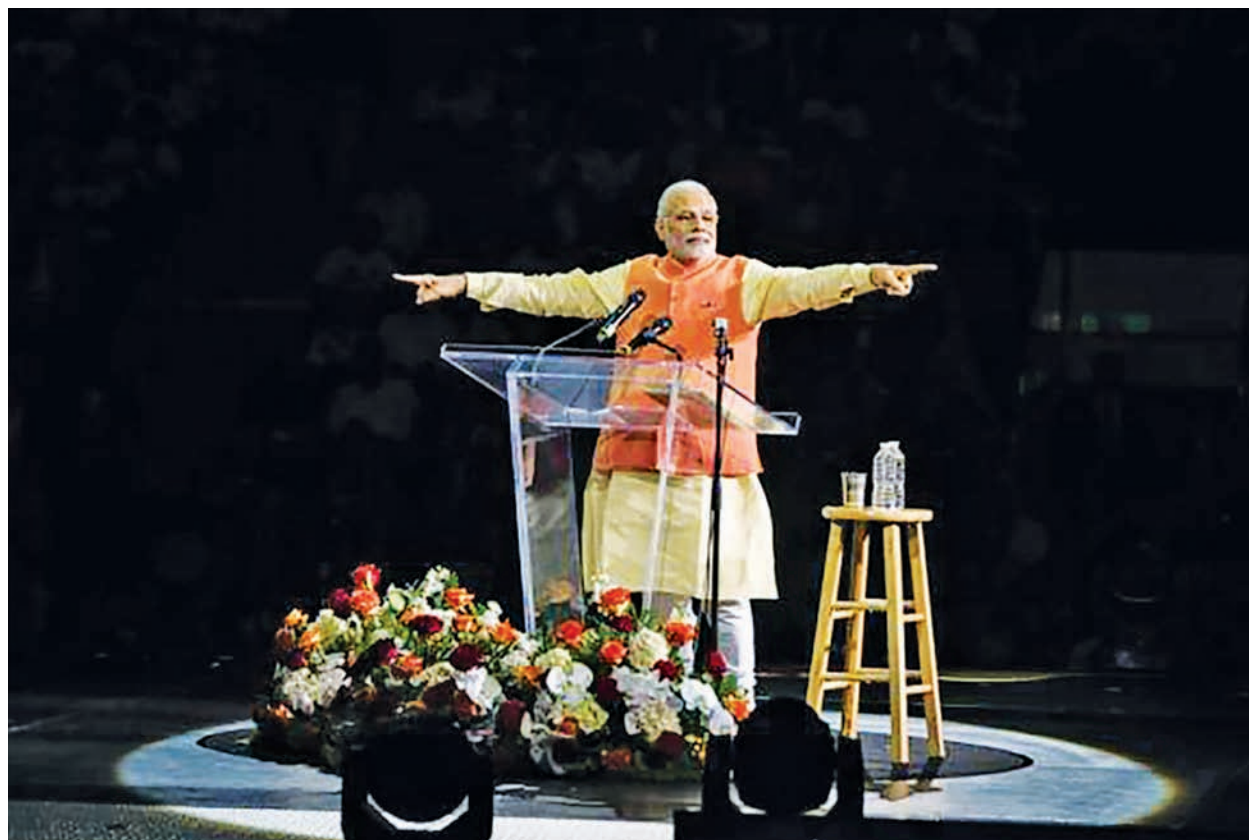
NEW YORK, 29 Sept — In a glitzy show of lights, lasers and slogans, populist Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered a triumphal address to tens of thousands of Indian-Americans and US dignitaries in New York on Sunday, less than a decade after he was barred from the United States over bloody sectarian riots.

Speaking at Madison Square Garden, a venue more used to hosting big sports events and the greatest names in rock music, the Hindu nationalist leader urged the Indian diaspora to join his movement for the development of India.

"The Indian-American community has played a big role in changing the way the world views India — from a nation of snake-charmers, to people who are adept at working the electronic mouse," he said, referring to India's modern-day reputation as an IT powerhouse.

"A government alone cannot achieve development for the whole country, but it can be done if the public were to participate in the development work," Modi said.

His speech came ahead of a two-day visit to Washington and a first meeting with US President



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi gestures while speaking at Madison Square Garden in New York, during a visit to the United States, on 28 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

Barack Obama, where the two leaders will aim to reinvigorate a relationship that has failed so far to live up to billing by the latter as "one of the defining partnerships of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century."

Members of fast growing 3.2 million-strong Indian diaspora, cheered and chanted "Modi, Modi!" during his 70-minute ad-

dress in Hindi at Madison Square Garden, where they made up one of the largest crowds seen in the United States for a foreign leader.

On Saturday, Modi appeared before some 60,000 people at the Global Citizen Festival in New York's Central Park, where performers including Jay Z and Sting backed a campaign to end global

poverty and bring essentials such as sanitation to all — an effort the Indian leader is pushing at home.

On Sunday, Modi drew an especially loud cheer when he made a long-awaited announcement that those holding cards showing they were of Indian origin would be granted lifetime visas to India.

"No government has done anything like this for us so far," said Jayashree Iyer, a New Jersey resident who had come with her family to hear Modi speak.

Her two daughters would not now have to keep renewing their visas, said Iyer, who has been in the United States for four years.

Reuters

## Abbott tells business leaders strong economy crucial to national security

CANBERRA, 29 Sept — Australia's Prime Minister Tony Abbott has told business leaders that building a stronger economy was inextricably linked to improving national security.

"There has been a lot of talk lately of national security and national security is vital but in the end without a strong economy it's very difficult to provide for national security and the whole point of these gatherings is to build a stronger economy," Abbott said on Monday in his address to the Business Advisory Council. "If we don't have the strong economy nothing else really works and the only way to have a strong economy is to have strong and profitable private businesses."

Abbott said his conservative coalition government had achieved a good deal over the last 12 months, repealing the carbon and

mining taxes and making good progress on the budget and infrastructure but had "a lot more to do."

"We have a competitiveness agenda which we are working on and that's I guess the big issue for discussion today; how do we change the rules to make it easier for private businesses such as the ones that you lead and represent to be more effective in our economy — more competitive in the world. "That is our task; to make it easier for businesses to compete, to employ, to grow, to prosper."

Meanwhile, his predecessor, the former Labor Party prime minister, Julia Gillard, said setting a target for economic growth should only be a small part of Australia's G20 summit agenda.

She was responding to Abbott's earlier call to G20 leaders, who will meet in Brisbane next month, to

lay out plans to meet a target of 2 percent economic growth beyond that already forecast over five years. G20 finance ministers who recently met in Cairns in northern Queensland were told proposals put forward to date could boost the global economy by 1.8 percent. But Gillard said setting a target missed the point. "If I was still there as prime minister this opportunity would be one to really deal with the strengthening of the global economy, not just the setting of aspirations but knuckling down to structural reforms within economies that are needed to boost global growth."

She said the G20 had managed the emergency response to the global financial crisis well but risked being perceived as not having the "grunt to push the world through the necessary rebuilding."—Xinhua



A bullet train runs across the Gobi Desert on its trial trip in Hami, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on 15 Sept, 2014. The 1,776-km Lanxin Railway, which links Lanzhou City in northwestern Gansu Province and Urumqi City in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, will be Xinjiang's first high-speed railway when it begins operation by the end of this year. The Xinjiang section of the railway will be firstly put into service in October.—XINHUA

## 89 Bangladesh opposition men charged with killing cop

DHAKA, 29 Sept — The Detective Branch of Bangladesh Police on Monday pressed charges against 89 leaders and activists of ex-Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and its key ally in two cases filed in connection with killing a po-

lice constable last year. Nur Hossain, a Detective Branch (DB) inspector, submitted the charge sheets against the accused in the cases before the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate in Rajshahi city, some 256 km west of capital Dhaka. BNP Joint Secretary General Mizanur

Rahman Minu and Rajshahi city Mayor Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul and Md Jahangir, assistant secretary General of BNP's ally Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami party, among others, were charged in the cases, said a DB official who preferred to be unnamed.—Xinhua

## Philippines, US begin military exercises

MANILA, 29 Sept — Thousands of Philippine and American soldiers began annual war games on Monday near disputed waters in the South China Sea, testing the readiness of the two oldest security allies in the southeast Asian region to respond to any emergency.

Nearly 5,000 US and Filipino troops will participate in the 11-day annual exercise, to be held in the Philippines' western island of Palawan, near the Spratlys, and in the northwest province of Zambales on the main island of Luzon, just 100 miles (160 km) off Scarborough Shoal.

The joint air and marine exercises "Philippine Bilateral Exercises," or Phiblex, will focus more closely on maritime security and territorial defence operations.

"We're hoping to gain new techniques from the US marine corps," Captain Reyson Talingdan, head of the public affairs of the Philippines' 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Brigade in Palawan, told reporters.

"If they have new doctrines, we'll be able to learn from them."

Two US amphibious ships, USS Peleliu and USS Germantown, are participating in the exercises. Besides simulating boat raids and beach assaults, they will feature aerial live fire, mechanized armor maneuvers and parachute drops.

"The field training exercises will provide the Philippines and US marine units multiple opportunities to continue to improve their skills while sharing best practices and enhancing an already high level of cohesion," the US embassy said in a statement.

Reuters



## WORLD

## US-led raids hit grain silos in Syria, kill workers — monitor



A gas mask is seen at a damaged base of the al-Qaeda-linked Nusra Front, that was targeted by what activists said were US-led air strikes in Reef al-Mohandeseen al-Thani in Aleppo on 27 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

BEIRUT, 29 Sept—US-led air strikes hit grain silos and other targets in Islamic State-controlled territory in northern and eastern Syria overnight, killing civilians and wounding militants, a group monitoring the war said on Monday.

The aircraft may have mistaken the mills and grain storage areas in the northern Syrian town of Manbij for an Islamic State base, said the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. There was no immediate comment from Washington.

The United States has targeted Islamic State and other fighters in Syria since last week with the help of Arab allies, and in Iraq since last month. It aims to damage and destroy the

bases, forces and supply lines of the al-Qaeda offshoot which has captured large areas of both countries.

The strikes in Manbij appeared to have killed only civilians, not fighters, said Rami Abdulrahman, who runs the Observatory which gathers information from sources in Syria.

“These were the workers at the silos. They provide food for the people,” he said. He could not give a number of casualties and it was not immediately possible to verify the information. Manbij sits between Aleppo city in the west and the town of Kobani on the northern border with Turkey, which Islamic State has been trying to capture from Kurdish forces, forcing

ing tens of thousands of Syrian Kurds to flee over the frontier.

Syria’s army also carried out air raids in Aleppo Province overnight, targeting areas east of Aleppo city with barrel bombs and other projectiles, the Observatory said. The army also carried out air strikes in Hama in western Syria.

Forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad have been battling Islamist fighters around Aleppo, which is held by a number of groups in Syria’s war.

In eastern Syria, US-led forces bombed a gas plant controlled by the Islamic State outside Deir al-Zor city, wounding several of the militant group’s fighters, the Observatory said.

The United States has said it wants strikes to target oil facilities held by Islamic State to try to stem a source of revenues for the group. The raid hit Kuniko gas plant, which feeds a power station in Homs that provides several provinces with electricity and powers oil fields generators, the Observatory said.

US-led warplanes also hit areas of Hasaka city in the north east and the outskirts of Raqqa city in the north, which is Islamic State’s stronghold.

Reuters

## Obama: US intelligence underestimated militants in Syria



US President Barack Obama delivers remarks at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation dinner in Washington on 27 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 29 Sept—US intelligence agencies underestimated Islamic State activity inside Syria, which has become “ground zero” for jihadists worldwide, President Barack Obama said in a CBS television interview broadcast on Sunday.

Conversely, the United States overestimated the ability of the Iraqi army to fight the militant groups, Obama said in a “60 Minutes” interview taped on Friday, days after the US president made his case at the United Nations for action.

Citing earlier comments by James Clapper, director of national intelligence, Obama acknowledged that US intelligence underestimated what had been taking place in Syria.

Islamic militants went underground when US Marines quashed al-Qaeda in Iraq with help from Iraq’s tribes, he said.

“But over the past couple of years, during the chaos of the Syrian civil war, where essentially you have huge swaths of the country that are completely ungoverned, they were able to reconstitute themselves

and take advantage of that chaos,” Obama said.

“And so this became ground zero for jihadists around the world.”

Obama last week expanded US-led airstrikes, which began in Iraq in August, to Syria and he has been seeking to build a wider coalition effort to weaken Islamic State. The group has killed thousands and beheaded at least three Westerners while seizing parts of Syria and north-western Iraq.

Clapper told a Washington Post columnist this month that US intelligence had underestimated Islamic State and overestimated Iraq’s army. “I didn’t see the collapse of the Iraqi security force in the north coming,” Clapper was quoted as saying.

“I didn’t see that. It boils down to predicting the will to fight, which is an imponderable.”

Obama outlined the military goal against Islamic State: “We just have to push them back, and shrink their space, and go after their command and control, and their capacity, and their weapons, and their fueling, and cut off their financing, and work to eliminate the flow of foreign fighters.”

Reuters

## Historic, anxious handover as Afghanistan swears in new leader



Afghan president-elect Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai speaks during an event in Kabul on 22 Sept, 2014.

REUTERS

KABUL, 29 Sept—Afghanistan inaugurated its first new president in a decade on Monday, swearing in technocrat Ashraf Ghani to head a power-sharing government just as the withdrawal of most foreign troops presents a crucial test.

The first democratic handover of power in Afghanistan’s history has been far from smooth: the deal for a unity government was cobbled together after

months of deadlock over a vote in which both Ghani and opponent Abdullah Abdullah claimed victory.

Illustrating the problems facing the new president, a blast on a road near Kabul airport just before Ghani was sworn in caused some casualties, a Reuters witness said. A member of the security forces said a suicide bomber attacked a checkpoint. Already, there have been signs of tension

in the fragile coalition that will run the country. A dispute over office space and whether Abdullah would speak at the inauguration led to threats his camp would boycott Monday’s ceremony, an Abdullah aide said.

Ghani’s first act after being sworn in was to sign a decree creating the post of chief executive. Abdullah was sworn in to that job moments later, and he made a speech before Ghani — a departure from the original programme. The inauguration marks the end of an era with the departure of President Hamid Karzai, the only leader Afghans have known since a US-led invasion in 2001 overthrew the Islamist Taliban that had given sanctuary to al-Qaeda.

Already-tight security was stepped up around the capital, Kabul, ahead of the inauguration for fear Tale-

ban insurgents might try to disrupt the ceremony or attack international dignitaries who flew in to attend.

Both foreign backers and Afghans hope that Ghani and Abdullah can put aside their acrimonious election rivalry and work to improve life in a country that has suffered war and poverty for decades.

“We expect both to fulfill the promises they made to the people,” said unemployed Kabul resident Mohammad Sharif. “We, the people of Afghanistan, are monitoring their performance to see whether they can serve the people or not.”

The dispute over Abdullah’s speech and the office space was resolved after late-night meetings with the US ambassador, the Abdullah aide said.

Even if its top figures can work together, the new



Pakistani policemen inspect the blast site in northwest Pakistan’s Hangu on 28 Sept, 2014. At least six people were killed and several others injured when a bomb went off inside a camp of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Pakistan’s northwest town of Hangu on Sunday afternoon, local media reported.—XINHUA

government inherits massive problems, including fighting an emboldened Taliban who in recent months has been launching ever more aggressive attacks as foreign troops draw down.

Ghani must also reset relations with the United States, which have soured in recent years under Karzai. One of Ghani’s first acts as

president is expected to be signing a bilateral security agreement to allow a small contingent of US forces to remain to train and assist the new Afghan army and police.

Karzai has refused to sign it, but both Ghani and Abdullah are in favour of signing it promptly.

Reuters



# Eight climbers presumed dead taken to foot of Mt Ontake after eruption



*An injured person is lifted by a rescue helicopter of Japan Self-Defence Force (JSDF) at Mt Ontake, which straddles Nagano and Gifu prefectures in this on 28 Sept, 2014 photo taken and released by Kyodo.—KYODO NEWS*

TOKYO, 29 Sept—Eight climbers presumed dead following the weekend eruption of Mt Ontake in central Japan were transported by rescuers to the foot of the mountain on Monday.

As roughly 550 police, firefighters and Self-Defence Forces personnel resumed their rescue operations, halted the previous day due to toxic gas near the peak, rescuers took the bodies of five men and three women down the 3,067-metre volcano.

The latest development came a day after rescuers took down the bodies of four other men to a facility at the mountain's base, where they were pronounced dead.

The 12 were among 31 climbers mostly found near the volcano's peak.

The volcano, which straddles Nagano and Gifu prefectures, erupted before noon Saturday as many hikers were taking to the mountain during climbing season.

Rescue work contin-

ued amid ongoing volcanic activity and fears of a subsequent eruption, with the Japan Meteorological Agency saying smoke plumes were seen in the morning.

Also Monday, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe instructed Eriko Yamatani, minister on disaster management, to make utmost efforts to rescue the climbers and keep monitoring the volcanic activity.

The National Police Agency said at least 63 others were injured.

A number of people remained unaccounted for, with some not having given notification that they were climbing, according to the Nagano prefectural government.

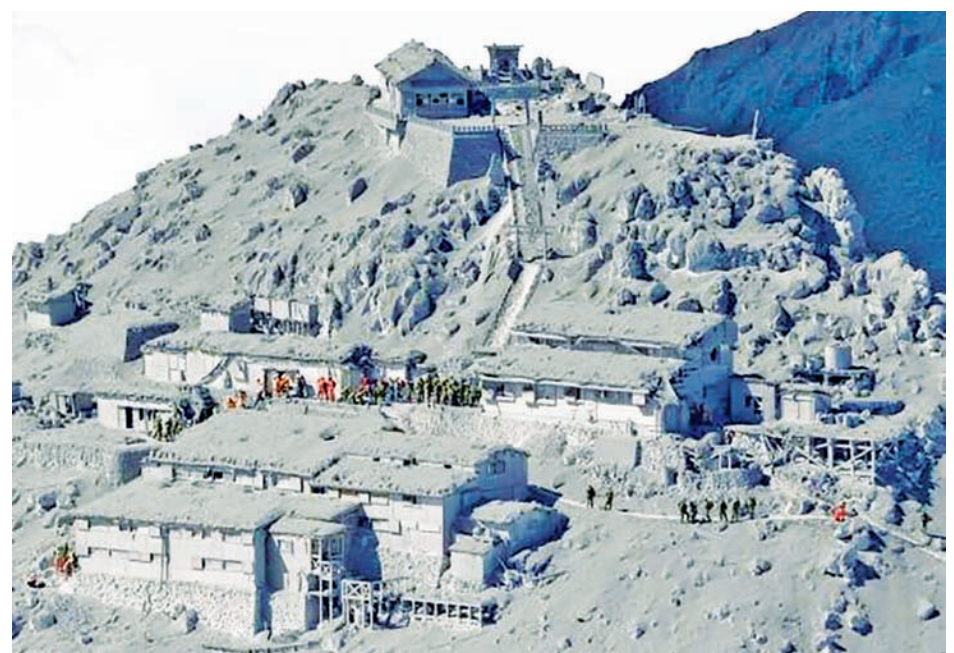
More than 230 climbers who were forced to shelter in local lodges over-

was triggered by a "hydrovolcanic explosion," in which high-pressure water vapour spouts after ground-water is heated by magma. The panel said another eruption could occur.

The agency also warned the volcano could throw big rocks from the

Mt Ontake to three out of a five-level alert system, which restricts entry to the mountain and those around it.

Mt Ontake, popular with tourists particularly in the fall, last experienced a major eruption in 1979 when it expelled over



*Japan Self-Defence Force (JSDF) soldiers and firefighters make rescue works among mountain lodges, covered with volcanic ash near the peak of Mt Ontake, which straddles Nagano and Gifu prefectures in this 28 Sept, 2014 photo taken and released by Kyodo.—KYODO NEWS*

night due to poor visibility descended on their own by Sunday night.

The agency's advisory panel on volcanic eruption prediction said the eruption

crater within a roughly 4-kilometre range and that pyroclastic flows could occur.

The weather agency raised its eruption alert for

200,000 tons of ash. It also underwent a minor eruption in 1991 and caused multiple volcanic earthquakes in 2007.

*Kyodo News*

## Pride Parade held without major incident

BELGRADE, 29 Sept—The Belgrade Pride Parade was held on Sunday, joined by a large number of politicians and ambassadors and with heavy police presence, and there was no major incident.

The police were involved only in minor clashes along the edges of the city centre.

The Parade took about 30 minutes, with the participants carrying rainbow-coloured flags and banners saying: "Justice for all victims of violence in Serbia."

Officials from the Serbian government and foreign embassies joined the Parade. These included Minister without Portfolio Jadranka Joksimovic, State Administration Minister Kori Udovicki, head of the Serbian team for the accession talks with the EU Tanja Miscevic, head of the EU Delegation to Serbia Michael Davenport, US Ambassador Michael Kirby, Commissioner for Protection of Equality Nevena Petrusic, Belgrade Mayor Sinisa Mali, Liberal Democratic Party leader Cedimir Jovanovic, officials of the Democratic Party and various public and cultural figures, like writer Biljana Srbljanovic and film director Srdjan Dragojevic.

The Ascension Church bells rang as the Parade passed by, at a time when bells are not normally heard. The Serbian Orthodox Church was among those who opposed the Pride Parade in the runup to the event.

The centre of Belgrade was closed for traffic since early morning on Sunday.

The incident that drew the most attention hap-



pened at the Slavija square, where members of the Gendarmerie used force against Andrej Vucic, brother of Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic, and three members of his security, which was confirmed to *Tanjug* from two separate sources.

According to unofficial sources, Vucic tried to go through the police cordon at Slavija together with his security, but the gendarmes assaulted him and his security and beat them.

Around 50 young men bearing nationalist insignia tried to break through to Slavija at the intersection of the streets Beogradska and Njegosova. They threw rocks at the police, but were driven back.

The police arrested two men in the street Svetozara Markovica after negotiations that lasted about 10 minutes, since one of them threatened the officers with an assault rifle.—*Tanjug*

## Britain to convene all-party talks to resolve N Ireland deadlock

BIRMINGHAM, 29 Sept—Britain announced on Sunday that it would convene all-party talks to try and resolve a political deadlock in Northern Ireland caused by a row over welfare reforms that has threatened to bring down the devolved government.

Northern Ireland's First Minister Peter Robinson called earlier this month for all-party talks to reform Belfast's Stormont Assembly, saying that a row between power-sharing partners on budget cuts had shown the devolved government to be unfit for purpose in its current form.

On Sunday, Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary Theresa Villiers said the talks should go ahead.

"The time is now right for a new round of cross-party talks to be convened," Villiers said in a speech to the Conservative Party's annual conference in Birmingham, England, on Sunday.

"Working together we can do all we can to lift the blockages which are now preventing the devolved Executive from delivering the efficient and effective government that the people of Northern Ireland want and which they deserve," Villiers said.

Three decades of sectarian violence between mainly Catholic nationalists seeking Irish union and pro-British Protestants wishing to stay in the United Kingdom was mostly ended by a 1998 peace deal and subsequent power-sharing agreement.

But Belfast, which relies on a 10 billion pound (\$16 billion) annual grant from London to run its public services, is deadlocked over welfare cuts. Irish foreign minister Charlie Flanagan and Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams both welcomed the idea of talks. Villiers said she would be engaging with political parties and the Irish government to discuss the format of the talks and the precise agenda.—*Reuters*



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**Two dead, 18 injured in Dutch stunt truck accident**

*Paramedics attend to the wounded at a monster truck festival in Haaksbergen on 28 Sept, 2014.*  
REUTERS

AMSTERDAM, 29 Sept— Two people were killed and 18 injured, six seriously, when a giant pick-up truck went out of control during a stunt show in the Dutch town of Haaksbergen on Sunday, local authorities said. Earlier, local media had quoted the town's

mayor as saying that three people had died, including two children. The authorities gave no details of who had died.

The accident happened when the driver of a giant, 1,500 horsepower truck with tractor-sized wheels failed to brake after driving across a row of parked cars during a stunt and instead ploughed into a group of onlookers.

"A so-called monster truck drove into a crowd of spectators. A terrible accident with two dead victims, 18 wounded (including) six severely wounded," town authorities said on their website haaksbergen.nl.

The driver was arrested,

local police said in a tweet. An amateur video of the accident posted on Facebook showed the truck revving hard and then riding over six cars, before suddenly heading towards spectators lining the square, who were separated from the show by only flimsy metal barriers. Screaming, some managed to scurry away, but others had no time to escape. The injured were taken to hospitals in three nearby towns, while air ambulance helicopters from the entire region flew to the scene of the accident, including one from neighbouring Germany, emergency services said.—Reuters

that the blast was followed by gun fires. The blast in Zarmat district occurred while Afghanistan is experiencing its first-ever peaceful power transition amid tight security in Kabul where outgoing president Hamid Karzai transfers power to the president-elect Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai in a grand ceremony attended by national and international dignitaries.—Xinhua

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**Suicide car bomb rocks Afghan eastern town of Zarmat, inflicts casualties**

GARDEZ, (Afghanistan), 29 Sept — A suicide car bomb rocked Zarmat town in the eastern Paktia Province on Monday, leaving casualties, a local official said. "A terrorist exploded his explosive-laden

car next to the police department in Zarmat district today morning, killing and injuring some people," the official told Xinhua but declined to be named, saying authorized officials would brief the media after investigation. He also added

**Weather  
report**

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2014:** Rain or thunder-showers will be fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon States, scattered in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Shan and Kayah States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).



LOS ANGELES, 29 Sept — Singer Carrie Underwood has revealed that she still feels weird about her pregnancy with husband Mike Fisher.

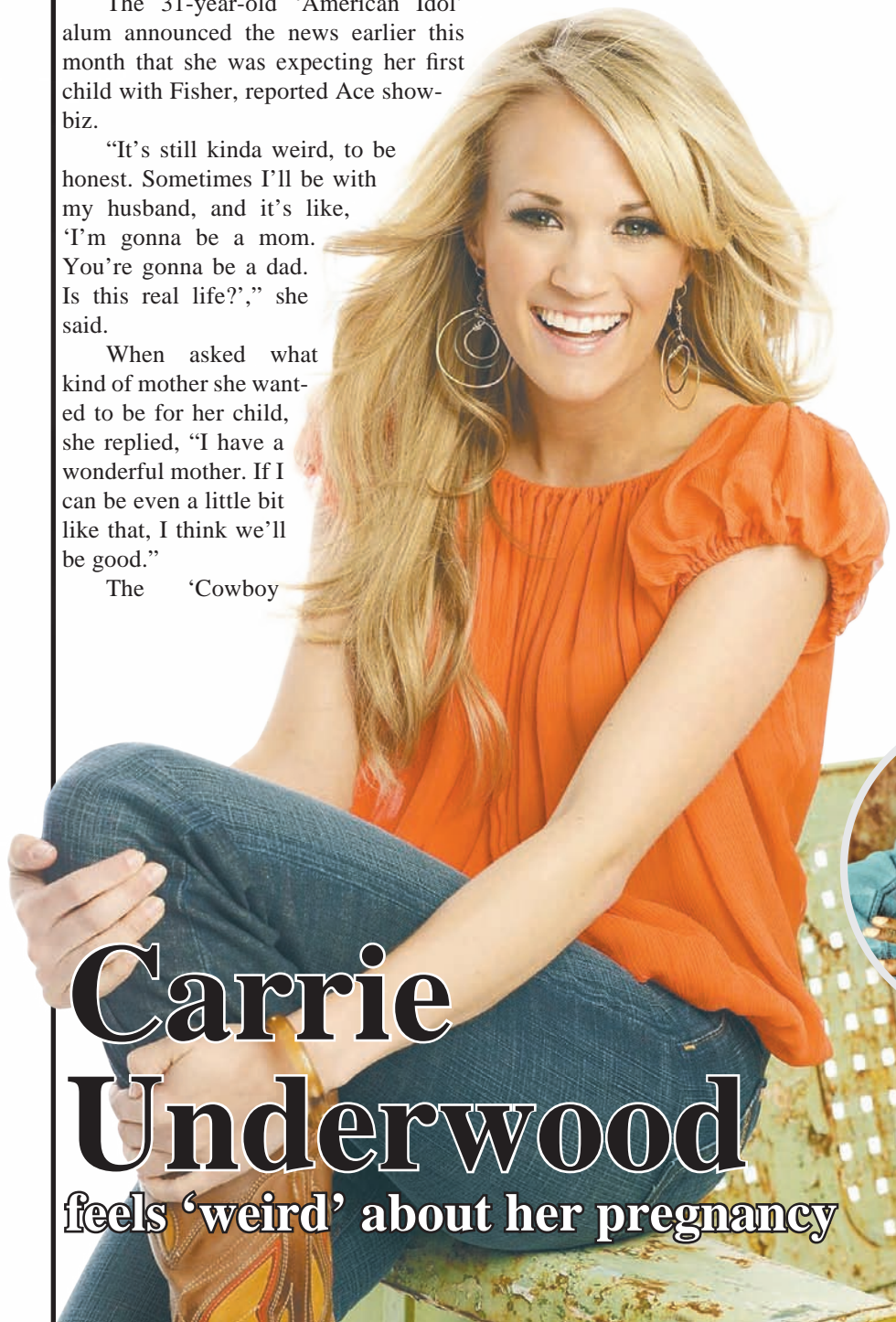
The 31-year-old 'American Idol' alum announced the news earlier this month that she was expecting her first child with Fisher, reported Ace showbiz.

"It's still kinda weird, to be honest. Sometimes I'll be with my husband, and it's like, 'I'm gonna be a mom. You're gonna be a dad. Is this real life?'," she said.

When asked what kind of mother she wanted to be for her child, she replied, "I have a wonderful mother. If I can be even a little bit like that, I think we'll be good."

The 'Cowboy

Casanova' hitmaker also shared big news that she would release a new single titled 'Something in the Water' this week.—PTI



## Carrie Underwood feels 'weird' about her pregnancy

## Taylor Swift to headline 'Rock in Rio' festival

LOS ANGELES, 29 Sept — Artists like Taylor Swift, Metallica, Linkin Park among others are set to perform at the Rock in Rio festival in US. The festival is scheduled for next year in Las Vegas on 8-9 and 15-16 May, reported Aceshowbiz.

A group including casino company MGM Resorts plans to build a 33-acre, open-air music venue on the Las Vegas



Strip. The layout is expected to include five stages. The Deftones and John Legend will also perform on a different stage. Rock in Rio was first launched in 1985 and has previously

been held in Rio de Janeiro, Lisbon and Madrid. The fest will return to Rio de Janeiro in September 2015 with Katy Perry and Legend among its performers.—PTI



## Denzel Washington's 'Equalizer' tops box office

LOS ANGELES, 29 Sept — "The Equalizer", a thriller starring Denzel Washington as a man who helps rescue a teenage girl under the control of Russian gangsters, debuted in the top spot on US and Canadian movie charts over the weekend with \$35 million (21.54 million pounds) in ticket sales.

Young adult drama "The Maze Runner" dropped to second place after winning the box office race last weekend. "Maze Runner" earned \$17.5 mil-

lion at domestic theatres from Friday through Sunday, according to tracking firm Rentrak.

Quirky animated movie "The Boxtrolls" starring green monsters that wear cardboard finished third in its opening weekend, grossing \$17.3 million.

In "The Equalizer" two-time Oscar winner Washington plays McCall, a trained killer who comes to the defence of the helpless, in this case a young Russian prostitute (Chloë Grace Moretz) in the grips of a human trafficking ring.—Reuters

## George Clooney, wife Amal Alamuddin step out together after wedding

LOS ANGELES, 29 Sept — Newly married couple George Clooney and Amal Alamuddin stepped out together as husband and wife.

The pair, who exchanged vows in Venice, Italy last weekend, were seen exiting their luxury hotel and making their way to a water taxi to attend a brunch with friends and family, reported Ace Showbiz. The 'Gravity' star looked dapper in a light gray suit and a pair of sunglasses, while his wife was pretty in a floral dress and sunglasses. The happy couple was seen wearing their wedding bands during the outing and waved at fans who gathered to catch a glimpse of the newly-married star and his wife.

Clooney and the London-based lawyer got married at Aman Canal Grande hotel in front of friends and family which included Matt Damon, his wife Luciana Barroso, Anna Wintour, Rande Gerber, Cindy Crawford, Bill Murray, Bono, Emily Blunt and John Krasinski.—PTI



## Prada says owners being investigated by Italian authorities over tax

SHANGHAI, 29 Sept — Italian luxury fashion house Prada SpA said on Monday its chairwoman Miuccia Prada and her husband, chief executive officer and fellow shareholder Patrizio Bertelli, are being investigated by Italian authorities over past taxes.

The Hong Kong-listed company said in a statement it had been informed by the Italian Judicial Authority of the probe. It said neither it nor any of its subsidiaries was or is involved in this matter.

Reuters reported in January that Miuccia Prada and Bertelli were under investigation as part of a tax avoidance probe by Milan prosecutors. At the time, the company said it was not



aware of investigations taking place.

On Monday, the company said that Miuccia Prada and her husband had made a voluntary disclosure to Italy's tax authority in December last year, prompting an examination into certain past tax filings by the couple with respect to foreign owned companies.—Reuters



## GENERAL

## Rooney apologizes for red card incident

LONDON, 29 Sept — Manchester United captain Wayne Rooney has apologized to his team mates after being sent off against West Ham United during Saturday's Premier League match following a rash challenge on Stewart Downing.

"It was probably the right decision," Rooney was quoted as saying on the BBC website. "Of course I did (apologize)."

Rooney, who said he would not appeal the decision, will be unavailable for his club until the derby against Manchester City on 2 November as he received an automatic three-match ban for the dismissal.

Rooney's challenge was described as "crazy and irresponsible" by West Ham manager Sam Allardyce while Manchester United's Louis van Gaal backed referee Lee Mason's decision.

"I saw the West Ham



**Manchester United's Wayne Rooney reacts as he walks off the pitch after being sent off by match referee Lee Mason (not pictured) during their English Premier League soccer match against West Ham United at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England on 27 Sept, 2014.— REUTERS**

player making a counter-attack and I tried to break-up the play, but I just misjudged it," Rooney said.

"I am just grateful that the lads were able to hold on."

Rooney's team sealed

a 2-1 win despite playing the last 30 minutes with 10 men.

Reuters

## Berahino double fires West Brom to easy win over Burnley



**West Bromwich Albion's Graham Dorrans (C) celebrates with Saido Berahino after scoring his team's fourth goal during their English Premier League soccer match against Burnley at The Hawthorns in West Bromwich, central England, on 28 Sept, 2014. REUTERS**

LONDON, 29 Sept — Things are looking up for West Bromwich Albion as two goals from Saido Berahino helped them re-

cord back-to-back Premier League wins for the first time in 12 months with a 4-0 victory over promoted Burnley on Sunday.

Berahino's goals came either side of halftime after Craig Dawson had handed the hosts the lead after 30 minutes, while Graham Dorrans added a final flourish at the death.

West Brom are now 10<sup>th</sup> in the table with eight points after consecutive victories that will give them a much-needed fillip ahead of games against Liverpool and Manchester United.

The result, after last weekend's win over Tottenham Hotspur and the mid-week League Cup victory over Hull City, continues to lift the pressure on West Brom boss Alan Irvine.

Having taken over in the close-season and overseen a radical squad overhaul, the knives were out

early for the Irvine who had never managed a top flight club before signing a one-year deal at West Brom in June.

Against Burnley, his cause was helped by the visitors' inability to deal with corners as Dawson headed home Chris Brunt's centre before Berahino nodded in James Morrison's set piece in first-half stoppage time.

Berahino made it 3-0 with an angled shot across keeper Tom Heaton and Dorrans gave the scoreline a more emphatic gloss with a drilled low finish.

Things are now looking increasingly bleak for Burnley, who are winless and bottom of the table with three points after six games back in the top flight.—Reuters

## Mourinho faces striking choice back in Lisbon

LONDON, 29 Sept — As Jose Mourinho returns to his Portuguese footballing roots, the Chelsea manager may have to decide which back-up marksman he trusts most to shoot down his old employers at Sporting Lisbon in the Champions League on Tuesday.

In his perfect world, Mourinho would turn to his most ruthless hit man Diego Costa to down the club which two decades ago gave his fledgling coaching career a boost by letting him act as manager Bobby Robson's interpreter.

Instead, Costa's continuing hamstring fragility means that, while Mourinho insists he still hopes to start him, he is more likely to have to choose instead between Didier Drogba and Loic Remy to revitalise Chelsea's campaign after their disappointing opening Group G draw with Schalke.

Costa only appeared for the last quarter of an hour in that game when Chelsea's attack proved unconvincing. Drogba, who has yet to hit the target in his return to Chelsea, was one of the culprits in missing chances. Remy has so far scored once since his move from QPR.

Winning at his old stamping ground will be no easy task for Mourinho, given that Sporting will be protecting a four-year, 16-match unbeaten record, including 13 wins, in European competition at the Alvalade Stadium.

The presence of Costa, whose sensational start to his English career saw him net his eighth goal in six Premier League games in the 3-0 win over Aston Villa on Saturday, could prove the key.

Reuters

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## Rodgers errs on side of caution for Sterling

LONDON, 29 Sept — Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers has urged Roy Hodgson to be cautious with Raheem Sterling during the Euro 2016 qualifiers against San Marino and Estonia so that the dynamic young forward does not suffer any burn out.

The gifted 19-year-old's stock has risen so rapidly in the past 12 months that he is now an influential player for both club and country and is widely considered a certain starter.

Last season he announced himself as one of the brightest prospects in the

game, as Liverpool fell agonisingly short of their 19<sup>th</sup> top flight league title, with a string of scintillating performances and now shoulders an increased burden for the club and England.

However, Rodgers believes they need to be careful it does not have an adverse effect on the nine-cap England international's development.

"We certainly have to be aware of it," he said. "It's easy just to turn around and say 'he is 19 and can play every day of the week'. But it doesn't work like that.

"There will be periods

when they need to rest. Of course, when you give them the rest because you are planning ahead, you get accused of picking the wrong team.

"He is a big talent. The key is to try and nurture it, while also understanding the best players want to play in the games. And he will certainly have enough games this season."

His Liverpool team mate Daniel Sturridge was injured during an England training session ahead of their game against Switzerland this month and Rodgers, who was critical of Hodgson's handling of the situ-

ation, believes the England manager should consider resting Sterling, unless absolutely necessary, to avoid a repeat occurrence.

"I think Roy and his staff would have to look at that. He'll want to ensure the games are won but I'm sure resting players will be the objective, especially when you're winning the game comfortably," he said.

"We lost Emre Can when they (Germany under-21s) were 6-0 up on a pitch which was awful. But I'm not here to tell the England staff how to do their job."—Reuters



**Liverpool's manager Brendan Rodgers smiles during a training session at the club's Melwood training complex in Liverpool, northern England on 15 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS**



## ‘African’ athletes in Asia a double-edged sword

INCHEON, 29 Sept—The growing number of African-born athletes competing under Asian flags could discourage the development of home-grown talent, the Olympic Council of Asia said on Monday, but also suggested their success may help raise regional standards.

Several oil-rich Gulf states including Bahrain, Qatar and United Arab Emirates have achieved overnight athletics success by recruiting fleet-footed young Africans, who are free to compete at international level after meeting eligibility and residency requirements.

Excluding two race walking events, five of the seven track gold medals won in the first two days of the athletics competition at the Asian Games have been won by runners born in Africa who have switched allegiance. Wei Jizhong, an honorary life vice president of the OCA, warned of the dangers of buying success.

“We have to work to avoid any country or region,

instead of training the athletes, they buy the athletes,” he said at a news conference on Monday.

“If they buy the athletes, they stop training their own athletes. That is not beneficial to a country’s sport.”

In Incheon, the blue riband men’s 100 metres sprint was won by Nigerian-born Femi Ogunode, who moved to Qatar in 2009 and was allowed to compete at the Guangzhou Asiad a year later, where he won the 200/400 double.

He became the first man to run under 10 seconds at the Asian Games on Sunday. Ogunode’s former compatriot, Oluwakemi Mujidat Adekoya, only switched allegiance to Bahrain earlier this year and won the women’s 400m, while athletes born in Kenya, Morocco and Ethiopia have also struck gold at the ongoing Asian Games. At the Guangzhou Games four years ago, all six medallists from the men’s 5,000 and 10,000m were born in Africa.—Reuters

### Medals table of the Asian Games 29 September, 2014

	G	S	B	Total
China	110	68	52	230
Korea	44	50	48	142
Japan	35	47	48	130
Kazakhstan	15	14	22	51
DPR Korea	8	8	10	26
Iran	7	10	8	25
Chinese Taipei	7	5	12	24
Thailand	5	2	13	20
Qatar	5	0	1	6
India	5	7	29	41
Hong Kong	4	5	20	29
Mongolia	4	4	10	18
Malaysia	3	9	9	21
Uzbekistan	3	5	11	19
Indonesia	2	3	7	12
Bahrain	2	2	1	5
Myanmar	2	1	0	3
Vietnam	1	8	20	29
Singapore	1	4	7	12
Kuwait	1	3	2	6
Saudi Arabia	1	1	0	2
Tajikistan	1	1	0	2
Pakistan	1	0	1	2
UAE	1	0	1	2
Macau	0	3	0	3
Kyrgyzstan	0	2	2	4
Philippines	0	2	2	4
Turkmenistan	0	1	2	3
Laos	0	1	1	2
Bangladesh	0	1	0	1
Lebanon	0	1	0	1
Iraq	0	0	1	1
Sri Lanka	0	0	1	1

## Matsushita, Fujishima earn gold in doubles kayak sprint

INCHEON, 29 Sept—London Olympian Momotaro Matsushita teamed with Hiroki Fujishima to capture the Asian Games gold medal in men’s kayak double 200 metres, one of the four canoe medals won by Japan on Monday.

The pair finished at Hanam Misari Canoe/Kayak Centre in 32.348 seconds, a half second faster than Kazakhstan’s Yevgeniy Alexeyev and Alexey Dergunov. China’s Zong Meng and Chu Youyong were third in 33.201. Japan’s Naoya Sakamoto won silver in the men’s canoe single 200, while Seiji Komatsu took bronze in the men’s kayak single 200. Among the women, Asumi Omura and Shiho Kakizaki also took bronze in kayak double 500.—Kyodo News



*Li Qiang of China poses on the podium during the awarding ceremony of the men’s 200m canoe single match of canoe sprint event at the 17<sup>th</sup> Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea, 29 Sept, 2014. Li Qiang won the gold medal with 39.270 seconds.—XINHUA*



*Zhu Yuling (R) and Chen Meng of China compete during the women’s doubles 1/32 elimination match of table tennis against Laos at the 17<sup>th</sup> Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea, on 29 Sept, 2014. China won 3-0.—XINHUA*



*Zhong Weijun (upper) of China spikes during the men’s play-off group F of volleyball against Japan at the 17<sup>th</sup> Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea, on 29 Sept, 2014. Japan won 3-0.—XINHUA*



*Ahsan Mohammad (L) and Setiawan Hendra of Indonesia pose during the awarding ceremony of the men’s doubles contest of badminton at the 17<sup>th</sup> Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea, on 28 Sept, 2014. Ahsan Mohammad and Setiawan Hendra won 2-1 and claimed the title.—XINHUA*



*Saori Yoshida of Japan overpowers Byambatseren Sundev of Mongolia in the women’s 55-kilogram freestyle wrestling final at the Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea, on 28 Sept, 2014. Yoshida won the gold for the 4<sup>th</sup> straight Asian Games.—KYODO NEWS*

## Iraqi archers ignore dangers in pursuit of gold

INCHEON, 29 Sept—Speeding cars tear past just metres away, kicking up dust and sand and noise, while the sun beats down remorselessly on the archers standing by the side of the road. Iraqi archery team captain Mohammed Ali Fayyadh describes the training ‘facilities’ back home then takes a long, wistful look at the carefully manicured lawns of the brand new Gyeongyang Asiad Archery venue here in

Incheon.

“We do not have a single archery field in our country,” he tells Reuters.

“One time we were training outdoors and the militants began to fight 100 metres away. So we had to stop the training and hide in a bomb shelter to protect ourselves.” Iraq brought six archers to Incheon for the Asian Games, and while winning a medal was always just a distant dream, the fact that they were able

to compete at all must be considered something of a victory.

“Sometimes we train right beside the road ... right next to fast cars driving past. It’s very dangerous but we have no choice,” he told Reuters in an interview.

“Our normal lives in Iraq are very dangerous.”

Sectarian violence continues to rage in Iraq, with the United Nations reporting at least 1,420 peo-

ple were killed in August alone.

Establishing security and rebuilding the war-torn country had to be the government’s priority but it recognized the need to help sport flourish, said Fayyadh. “The government wants to support the sport but the situation we have is bad,” he said. “But I think the future of Iraqi archery is bright. We are fighting to continue our training.”

Reuters