

President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of ambassadors of Estonia, Bhutan

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Oct—Mr Viljar Lubi, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Estonia to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar presented his credentials to U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw at 11 am on Friday.

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President

U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with Mr Viljar Lubi, the newly-accredited Estonian Ambassador to Myanmar.

MNA



Vice president urges officials to address land confiscation issues effectively

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Oct—Land confiscation issue must be tackled quickly and effectively, Vice President U Nyan Tun told officials at the Meeting of the Work Committee for Rural Development and Poverty Reduction held in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-

in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, union ministers, chief ministers of states/regions, deputy ministers and officials.

In his speech, the vice president said the strategic framework has been developed, with the aim of reducing poverty rate to 16 percent in 2015, for sustainable growth achieved through participation of all stakeholders in the rural

development tasks, good governance brought about by enhancing the capacity of rural people through strengthened civil society organizations, and emergence of a society that can respond to natural disasters by reducing losses in rural areas. Poverty reduction can be achieved effectively by implementing the eight rural development tasks (See page 3)

Press Release issued by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Oct—The following is the excerpts from the press release issued by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore at the United Nations General Assembly 69th Session General Debate on 29 September 2014.—Ed

Singaporean Foreign Ministry issued a press release highlighting “Small States – The Challenges of Sustainable Development”. As regards terrorism it says, “The threat of terrorism and radical ideology is not confined to the Middle East. It affects the whole world. An estimated

15,000 foreigners from at least 80 countries, including from Southeast Asia, have travelled to fight in Syria and Iraq. That ISIS can attract so many foreign fighters highlights the need for a comprehensive strategy to counter them. In addition to military and intelligence efforts, we

must also combat the radical ideology used to recruit foreign fighters, and which fuels their extremist agenda.”

As regards *Post-2015 Development Agenda* it says, “The President’s choice of: “*Delivering on and implementing a* (See page 2)

Enthusiasts, cameramen and film and video editors gather at revolutionary video technology workshop in Yangon



Enthusiasts surround a blackmagic digital film camera before the start of revolutionary video technology workshop at Sule Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon on Friday.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 3 Oct — Film and video production enthusiasts and those in the field of television broadcasting were brought to a revolutionary video technology workshop at Sule-Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon on Friday.

The workshop was jointly-organized by SS HD Solutions Co., Ltd, a local audio and video products sale and retail company, and Blackmagic Design Pty Ltd, an Australia manufacturer of electronic equipment for broadcast and video production.

It was held in conjunc-

tion with a roadshow in which the introduction of Blackmagic Design products to those present and demonstration of DaVinci Resolve 11 software and on how to use film and broadcast cameras took place.

“Our intention is clearly not only to introduce Blackmagic 4K accessories to Myanmar cameramen and editors from broadcast companies but also to share the newest information of video technology to trainees from film and broadcast schools in the country”, San Myo Aung, managing director of SS HD Solution Co., Ltd to The Global New Light of Myanmar.

He expressed his belief that today event would be of great benefit to the development of Myanmar film and broadcast industries.

In his greetings at the event, Lu Min, actor and chairman of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization (MMPO), said that use of advanced production and editing equipment in making a movie is as important as performance of artistes which is so crucial to being a successful film.

It is the first time Australia-based Blackmagic Design company organized the today event in cooperation with a local company in Myanmar.

GNLM

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Oct—The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has placed on the record a message from the President on ‘taking out loans for the monsoon agricultural season from the Myanmar Economic Bank rather than from the Central Bank of Myanmar’.

The presidential message stated that the Union Government sought a parliamentary approval to take out a loan of K500 billion from the Central Bank of Myanmar to disburse it to peasant farmers, a propos-

al which the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw had approved of in its previous session.

At that time, the Myanmar Economic Bank did not have enough savings at the Central Bank of Myanmar.

According to the financial statement of the MEB, its savings account has reached over K1,774 billion at the CBM, an adequate amount of money to loan the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank, the message said.

In the message, the Un-

Union Government changes banks to take out agricultural loans

ion Government informed the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw of getting the loan from the Myanmar Economic Bank rather than from the Central Bank of Myanmar.—MNA

Representatives focusing on taking out loans for agricultural sector at Friday's session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA



Technical assistance for improvement of legislation discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Oct—Chairman of the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) Bill

Committee U T Khun Myat received Senior Country Director Dr Richard A Nuc-

cio of National Democratic Institute and Mrs Elizabeth Weir, Consultant in Parlia-

mentary and political party strengthening at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

They focused on technical assistance for improvement of legislation in the parliamentary tasks.

MNA



Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) Bill Committee U T Khun Myat holds talks about technical assistance with foreign guests.—MNA

Press Release issued by Ministry of . . .

(from page 1)

Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda” for this year’s General Assembly, and his emphasis on a comprehensive, action-oriented post-2015 Development Agenda, are particularly timely. Singapore commends the Open-Working Group on its work on the Sustainable Development Goals, and looks forward to the UN Secretary General’s report of its recommendations.”

As to *Principles for Sustainable Development* the press release says “Corruption is a drag on development, and an intrinsic source of social instability. Fighting it needs political will, strong leadership, and unceasing vigilance from the whole society.” It also says “rule of law is integral to sustainable development. Governments need sound and effective institutions and economic and social policy must be pragmatic, not dogmatic.”

Under the heading “*Why Sustainable Cities Matter*”, it says, “Urbanisation has in fact been significant in the progress towards achievement of

the MDGs, especially in reducing poverty. Successful cities bring up their rural hinterlands. Today, cities account for over 80% of the global GDP. The Rio+20 Outcome Document itself recognises that well-planned cities promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies. They are engines for growth and more resource efficient than rural societies. The challenge is therefore really to manage urbanisation well.”

In conclusion, the press release says, “Singapore supports the universal and inclusive approach to the post-2015 Development Agenda. Each society must draw its own lessons from its own experiences, and find solutions according to its national circumstances. Naturally, there will be differences of opinion but we must not lose sight of the ultimate goal of ending extreme poverty in our lifetimes. With the MDGs, we managed to halve the number living below the poverty line and there is real hope that we can do better than that.”

GNLM

Myanmar in International Media

By Kyaw The-ein

The 28 September 2014 issue of The Times (United Kingdom) stated that the centuries-old tranquility of Inlay Lake in Myanmar is under threat after hot-air balloon companies were granted licenses to fly over it. A flight over Inlay and the nearby town of Pindaya will offer an exclusive and intimate experience, said Brett Melzer, co-founder of Balloons over Bagan.

The 30 September 2014 issue of The Wall Street Journal (United States) stated that Japan is leveraging aid and investment in Southeast Asia to counter China’s growing clout in the region. Vietnam received US\$ 1.7 billion in aid from Japan in 2012. The country is also ramping up aid to Cambodia, Myanmar and Laos—traditional allies of China—albeit from a low

base. Japanese companies are increasing eager to make inroads in Myanmar, which has been looking to reduce its dependence on China. Tokyo has provided funds for the development of an industrial zone south of Yangon, but Myanmar’s huge infrastructure hurdles limit investment plans.

The 30 September 2014 issue of The Daily Telegraph (United Kingdom) stated that a robot food taster has been designed in Thailand that

could be used to try to improve standards of the nation’s cuisine around the world. The machine called “E-delicious” will test green chicken curry or torn yam kung for their chemical composition, and compare them with an ideal chemical makeup programmed into its hard drive. There are proposals to send the machines to embassies in countries such as Myanmar, Vietnam or even Italy and France where Thai restaurants are popular, so that a grading system can be issued for establishments.

ASEAN, US vow to make greater cooperation in fight against human trafficking

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 3 Oct—ASEAN and the United States will jointly organize a workshop on report of trafficking in persons to be held on October 7 here with the aim of promoting further cooperation between the two sides, according to Police Captain Min Naing.

The one-day workshop focuses on internation-

al anti-human trafficking laws, UN convention and treaties, issuance of annual report for trafficking in person, analytical dialogue of nations and special topics for human trafficking.

During the meeting, the U.S. will introduce its Trafficking Victims Protection Act to the ASEAN delegations, the Police

Captain of Anti-Human Trafficking Squad told the Global New Light of Myanmar on Friday.

The meeting will provide more benefits including systematic ways to collect human trafficking data and methods for setting criteria on classifying human trafficking cases, he believed.

Police Captain Min Naing said Myanmar’s an-

ti-human trafficking squads put more efforts to expose human trafficking cases, with the result that this year human trafficking figures may surpass those of the previous year, adding that the numbers of human trafficking cases have reached 85 till the end of September this year. In the previous year, the squads could save 220 trafficking victims out of 256 of 102 cases.

Most victims were sold in China and Thailand as fraudulent marriage and adoption, and forced labour. The police could expose 21 human trafficking cases reported in the country. They found that the majority of women were put into prostitution, he added.

Trafficking in persons is a serious crime in developing countries. In order to

control human trafficking crimes, Myanmar enacted the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law in 2005.

Under Section 24 of the law, offenders of trafficking in persons especially women, children and youth shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend from a minimum of 10 years to a maximum of imprisonment for life.—GNLM

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of ambassadors...

(from page 1)

The President also accepted the credentials of Mr Kesang Wangdi, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bhutan to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the same venue at 11.30 am.

Also present on the occasions were Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw and Director-General U Thuraing Thant Zin of the Protocol Department.—MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein poses documentary photo with newly-accredited Ambassador of Kingdom of Bhutan Mr Kesang Wangdi.—MNA



Vice president urges officials to address land confiscation issues...

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approved by the state, the vice president added.

The vice president pointed out that rural development tasks are a continuous process and it is essential to improve existing favourable conditions without allowing them to

backslide. The aim is to establish a good governance process for sustainable development which will be implemented by accountable and responsible village-tract and township level development supporting teams.

The vice president said

transparency is essential for rural development. Development funds must be allocated to villages directly and proposed projects can be implemented effectively through high participation of the public who believe in the projects.

Rural development tasks demand huge financial resources which must be available continuously.

The capital of the poor must be increased through financial resources such as the budget allocation of the government, contribution of development organizations, cash donated by individuals and private investment, social welfare tasks that support income generation, development of infrastructure that contribute to socioeconomic life and

stability of environmental condition and the balance of ecosystem, according to the vice president.

To prevent the abuse of development funds for personal or organizational gain, it is vital to develop policies and procedures to choose priorities, guidelines and rules and regulations for purchasing and financial regulations, mechanisms to address complaints and losses for projects, to assess the progress of projects and inputs and outputs of the projects, said the vice president.

It is important to build the trust of the public by carrying out the account management and work done in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the government as well as practicing public audits, the vice president added.

Land utilization management central committee and state/region, district and township level com-

mittees have been formed to tackle the land confiscation issue by developing policies but there are still complaints that low-level staff failed to implement policies effectively, the vice president said.

In conclusion, vice president urged the attendees to implement land confiscations issues effectively and quickly as farmland is essential for rural people who have to rely on farmland for their livelihood.

After the vice president's speech, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army), union ministers, the member of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, chief ministers of states/regions reported on progress of tasks being carried out for rural development and poverty reduction and future plans. The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the vice president.

MNA



Vice President U Nyan Tun highlights rural development and poverty alleviation at the coordination meeting.—MNA

Letpadaungtaung copper mine project critical for Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Oct—Officials should try to employ locals in job vacancies of the project and carry out major development tasks of the region immediately, U Hla Tun, Union Minister at the President Office, told a meeting at the Ministry of Mining on Friday, sources said.

He urged officials to pay out compensations to remaining land owners, adding that financial assistance in addition to compensations has been pro-

vided to project-affected people.

The Investigation Commission for Letpadaungtaung Mine Project is carrying out regional development tasks such as supplies of potable water and electricity, and transportation, according to U Hla Tun, also Chairman of the Committee for Implementation of the Report of the Investigation Commission.

Vice Chairman of the Committee Adjutant-Gen-

eral Maj-Gen Hsan Oo, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Zaw Win, Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Than Tun Aung and officials also discussed progress of their implementation Letpadaungtaung copper mine project-related tasks.

According to the Investigation Commission, the Letpadaungtaung copper mine project is of great importance to the country.—MNA



Union Minister U Hla Tun speaking at coordination for Letpadaungtaung copper mine project.—MNA

Ancient Maha Minhtin wooden monastery needs maintenance



MANDALAY, 3 Oct—Central Maha Minhtin Monastery in the precinct of Maha Minhtin Monastery in Mahaaungmye Township of Mandalay is one of the Myanmar's ancient cultural heritages.

The monastery was moved to ancient royal palaces namely Inwa, Amarapura and Yadanabon. It was built by Zanetpala Elephant Officer Minhla Minkyaw U Min Htin. First, the building was moved from Inwa to Amarapura. In 1238 Myanmar Era when King

Mindon ruled the nation, the building together with other monasteries from Amarapura was moved to Mandalay Royal Palace. Therefore, the building was re-constructed Zanetpala Elephant Maha Minhla Minkyaw Pyashat U Min Htin, son of the wellwisher. Thus, the building is the largest of wooden monasteries in Mandalay.

The monastery was rebuilt with a total of 462 wooden posts which are 28 feet long each. The monastery included the prayer hall,

tiered-roof building, Zay-tawun Hall and Bawga Hall. Ancient Buddha images, packets of palm-leave manuscripts and chambers are stored at the prayer hall. The building was decorated with handicrafts of Yadanabon era. The reconstruction of the building did not finish in the time of King Mindon and it was finished in the time of King Thibaw.

Flocks of globetrotters visited Maha Minhtin monastery to observe ancient Myanmar handicrafts. As such, it is necessary to

maintain the ancient monastery not to lose the ancient handicrafts and the monastery structures, said Abbot U Indobhasa.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)



Infection of paddy pests checked at farmland in Dekkhinathiri Township



NAY PYI TAW, 3 Oct—Local farmers have recently informed officials of falling paddy germs at 2.5 acres of Manaw Thukha monsoon paddy plantation of farmer U Tun Yin in Htantabin Village of Dekkhinathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Head of Nay Pyi Taw Agriculture Department U Tin Oo Kyaing and officials made a field trip to the paddy plantation to check the paddy germs on Thursday.

Agricultural staff demonstrated systematic prevention of pests at the paddy fields to

the farmers.

Officials and staff of the department gave talks about prevention against paddy germs and pests on over 7,000 acres of monsoon paddy and use of good agricultural patterns to the farmers.

Ko Pauk (Okkarmyay)

U-20 youths participate in Inter-Township Football Tournament in Chin State

HAKA, 3 Oct—The Chin State Chief Minister's Cup Inter-Township Football Tournament kicked off at Vanthumoung Sport Ground in Haka of Chin State on Thursday.

On behalf of the Chief Minister of Chin State, Chin State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Ba Maung greeted the players of both teams. In the first match, Haka Township thrashed

Thantlang Township 5-2, and in the second match, Kanpetlet Township routed Mindat Township 8-7.

The tournament will continue up to 13 October.—*Chin State IPRD*



LOCAL NEWS

Old students pay respects to retired teachers



MANDALAY, 3 Oct— Alumni of No 13 Basic Education High School called ABM and BBM on 82nd street in Mahaaungmye Township held the 17th respect paying ceremony to teachers at Oriental House

at the corner of 27th and 64th streets in Chanayethazan Township on 1 October. It was attended by above 60 years old retired teachers who discharged duty from 1958 to 2014 and old students.

All students sang the ABM song at the ceremony and paid respects to the teachers. The organizing committee members presented cash assistance and gifts to the teachers.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

145th birthday of Gandhiji marked in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 3 Oct—Mandalay-based Indian Consulate-General organized the 145th birthday of Mahatma Gandhi who was the architect for Independence of the Republic of India, at Sedona Hotel at the corner of 26th and 66th streets in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on Thursday.

Speaker of Mandalay Region Hluttaw U Win Maung, Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing, and Consul-General of India Dr Nandakuma lit the oil lamps for paying tribute to the Indian Independence Architect.

National literary award winner writer Nay Win Myint gave talks about Mahatma Gandhi and four post-graduate students of Mandalay University submitted research papers on peace process of Mahatma Gandhi.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*



Director of East-West Centre in Washington DC gives talks at Mandalay University



MANDALAY, 3 Oct— Director Dr Satu Limaye of East-West Centre in

Washington DC of the United States of America met Rector Dr Maung Thin

of Mandalay University at the university in Mandalay on Wednesday.

The rector explained opening of courses at the university, subject-wise research works, and co-operation of the university with international universities.

Dr Satu Limaye and party gave talks about the US Rebalance to ASEAN and Myanmar at the Inwa (9) Hall and replied to queries raised by attendees.

The talk was attended by faculty members and students of Mandalay University, Mandalay University of Foreign Languages and Yadanabon University, totalling about 300.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Children enjoy talent contest



NAY PYI TAW, 3 Oct— Sanpya Nan Htaik Yadana Pre-Primary School under Social Welfare Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement held the talent contest at its hall in Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Friday.

Children of the school

participated in chorus singing, single's singing and single's storytelling events.

Deputy Director Daw Khin Nwe, Principal of the school Daw Soe Soe Maw and responsible persons of the Parent-Teacher Association awarded the outstanding children.

Than Naing (Zabuthiri)

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Oct — A farmer delegation led by U Zaw Min Aung of Kawhmu Township in Yangon Region visited the 900-acre organic plantation supplied with irrigated water from Setsetyo Dam in Ottarathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Wednesday.

Director U Myint Shwe and officials met with farmers at the briefing hall of the farmland and then explained over 100 species of crops at the plantation.

The farmers then visited the 500-acre farmer educative farm in Koeywa Thabyegon Village in Pobbathiri Township. Deputy Head of Nay Pyi Taw Agriculture Department U Win Oo and officials explained thriving of dragon fruit plantation, production of crop seeds and cultivation methods for organic crops.

Ko Pauk (Okkarmyay)

Farmers of Kawhmu Township observe crops plantations in Nay Pyi Taw



Performing arts competition commences in Pakokku District

PAKOKKU, 3 Oct — The 21st Myanmar national races' traditional performing arts competition kicked off at Pyithaya Hall in Pakokku of Magway Region on Wednesday.

Deputy Commissioner of the district U Than Swe stressed the need to uplift Myanmar cultural heritages and prestige of the nation.

Township administrators from Pakokku, Yesagyo, Myaing, Pauk and Seikpyu townships formally opened the competition.—*Aung (Mandalay University)*



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi pays tributes to Mahatma Gandhi during a remembrance ceremony for his 145th birth anniversary at Rajghat in New Delhi, India, on 2 Oct, 2014.—XINHUA

Thai leader, Japanese gov't official discuss economic cooperation

BANGKOK, 3 Oct—Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha met with a Japanese senior government official on Thursday and discussed economic cooperation, in what marked the first such meeting since he seized power in a bloodless coup last May.

Thai government spokesman Yongyuth Maityalarb told reporters that Prayuth explained to Minoru Kiuchi, one of Japanese Foreign Ministry's two senior vice ministers, about why the coup happened and about his government's "road map" for restoring civilian

rule. The Japanese Foreign Ministry said separately that Kiuchi voiced Japan's hope that Thailand moves forward with democratization in line with the road map, echoing remarks made by Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida when he met 25 September with Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tanasak Patimapragon on the sidelines of a UN General Assembly meeting in New York.

Kiuchi was said by the Thai side to have conveyed Japan's interest in investment in infrastructure, satellite and flood control pro-

jects in Thailand, while the Japanese side said he urged the Thai government to ensure an investment environment that is transparent and fair to Japanese companies.

The Thai spokesman said preparations are under way for Japanese participation in the long-stalled Dawei Special Economic Zone in southern Myanmar, a multibillion-dollar joint project between Thailand and Myanmar. He said Kiuchi and Prayuth discussed the idea of holding a tripartite meeting in the near future to pave the way for concrete collaborations between the

three countries with regard to Dawei.

The Thai leader was said to have encouraged Japanese investment in five special economic zones in border areas of Thailand, while urging that Japanese investment in the country be accompanied by enhanced transfer of technology. Kiuchi requested that Thai restrictions on Japanese food imports imposed after the 2011 nuclear disaster in Fukushima over concerns about radioactive contamination should be lifted promptly, the Japanese side said.

Kyodo News

Indonesian president suspends law scrapping direct regional elections

JAKARTA, 3 Oct—Following a public outcry, outgoing Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono issued late Thursday an emergency decree to suspend a controversial law that scrapped direct elections for mayors, district heads and governors.

Yudhoyono told a Press conference he suspended the law approved by parliament just days earlier "to save the people's sovereignty" and democracy.

"Direct elections are the results of our struggle for reforms and I myself was directly elected by the people in 2004 and 2009," he said.

Under the decree, the law is automatically suspended. But the decree can be invalidated by a vote in the House of Representatives, the lower house of parliament.

Last Friday, the lower house voted to scrap regional direct elections and enable local legislative councils

to elect regional leaders instead.

Most members of Yudhoyono's Democratic Party had refused to take part in the vote since their proposal for direct elections with some conditions was not accepted.

Yudhoyono, who was in Washington when the law was adopted, later said the decision of his party was taken without his knowledge as chairman of the party.

The law was passed with the support from backers of former presidential candidate Prabowo Subianto, who outvoted the camp of president-elect Joko Widodo, popularly known only as Jokowi.

Jokowi himself was a directly elected mayor and governor prior to winning the 9 July presidential election.

Direct regional elections were introduced in 2005 as a part of the country's reform movement, end-

ing a system of elitist democracy controlled by a handful of corrupt politicians.

The controversial law has been the first test faced by Jokowi's future government.

Hopes that Jokowi can form a strong, effective government have also been thrown into doubt after the lower house early Thursday elected a speaker and deputy speakers from parties opposing him.

A coalition of six parties supporting Prabowo reached a consensus in a plenary session to elect Setya Novanto of Golkar to be the speaker of the house.

Golkar joined the coalition of Prabowo's Great Indonesia Movement Party, or Gerindra, along with Yudhoyono's Democrat Party, the National Mandate Party (PAN), the United Development Party (PPP), and the Prosperous Justice Party (PKS.)

Setya, 59, is a business-

man allegedly involved in a series of corruption cases. The government-sanctioned but independent Corruption Eradication Commission has questioned him several times over the cases but has not declared him suspect.

The decision on the house speaker and deputy speakers was taken without the presence of the coalition of four parties supporting Jokowi, which decided to walk out of the plenary session after their request to hold a vote in a new session on Thursday was rejected.

The new parliamentary leadership has raised concerns by many about the effectiveness of Jokowi's administration as he may hit a wall when negotiating with his parliamentary opponents.

"Supports to the government in the parliament are needed because various economic policies to improve Indonesia's economic fundamental condition,

which is currently getting worse, need legal basis," economist Rangga Cipta of securities company PT Samuel Sekuritas Indonesia said.

Political analyst Syamsuddin Haris of the Indonesian Science Institute shared a similar view saying Jokowi cannot ignore the domination of Prabowo's coalition in the parliament.

"His government will face a lot of challenges by the maneuvers of Prabowo's coalition and their policies are vulnerable to get disturbed by the coalition's lawmakers," he said.

In the new parliament, the opposition coalition has also been eyeing to amend the country's 1945 Constitution in a bid to scrap direct presidential elections, which were first held in 2004.

They also plan to amend a law on the Corruption Eradication Commission to reduce its power in dealing with corrupt lawmakers.

Kyodo News

Landslides hit Indonesia killing three

JAKARTA, 3 Oct—Three people were killed after landslides struck Cianjur District of Indonesia's West Java on Thursday, officials said here.

The accident occurred at 08:40 am local time when the three workers were collecting stone in Sukamekar village, Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman of national disaster management agency told *Xinhua* via phone.

At midday one of the corpses was found and the rescuers were searching for the other two corpses, involving police, soldiers and volunteers, said Sutopo. Landslide is common in Indonesia during the Wet season due to lacking of forest-covered areas.

Xinhua

Cambodia holds fair to promote local fruits, vegetables

PHNOM PENH, 3 Oct—The fifth edition of the Cambodian fruits and vegetables show kicked off here on Friday, aiming to promoting local products and reducing imports of foreign fruits and vegetables, officials said.

The three-day event, held at the Diamond Island Exhibition Centre, brought together 50 exhibitors, displaying a variety of fruits and vegetables grown in cities and prov-

inces across the country.

"The exhibition will help promote local products to customers and to encourage farmers and producers to increase their production," Suth Dara, deputy director of the trade promotion department at the ministry of commerce, said. "It is also to encourage farmers to focus on the quality of products so as to compete with imported ones."

The annual event was

hosted by the ministry of commerce.

"The fair clearly shows the efforts of the ministry of commerce in promoting local fruits and vegetables to consumers," said Sam Sereyath, undersecretary of state at the ministry of commerce. "Products with quality will gain broader access to local markets so that it will gradually replace the imports of foreign products." —*Xinhua*



The northern gate of the Palace Museum is crammed with tourists on the second day of the Chinese National Day holidays in Beijing, capital of China, 2 Oct, 2014. Almost all scenic spots in Beijing were packed with tourists on the second day of the National Day holidays, which falls from 1 Oct to 7 Oct. The 26 mainly monitored scenic spots of Beijing received 542,000 trips on 1 Oct, up 32.8 percent over the same day of last year. —XINHUA

WORLD

Japan to extend \$22 mil to help fight Ebola virus in Africa

TOKYO, 3 Oct — Japan will extend \$22 million in emergency financial aid to help fight the outbreak of the Ebola virus in West Africa, the government said on Friday.

The aid, to be provided through six international agencies such as the World Health Organization and the UN Children's Fund, is part of \$40 million in addi-

tional assistance to combat the virus that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced at a UN General Assembly session on 25 September. "The Ebola virus poses threat to international peace and safety," Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters. "We will consider further assistance to end the epidemic."

Kyodo News

Rousseff widens Brazil election lead, challengers even



Brazil's presidential candidates Dilma Rousseff (L) of Workers Party (PT) and Marina Silva of Brazilian Socialist Party (PSB) take part in a TV debate in Rio de Janeiro on 2 Oct, 2014. Brazil will be holding its general elections on 5 Oct, 2014, to elect the country's National Congress, president, state governors and state legislatures.—REUTERS

BRASILIA, 3 Oct — Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff has extended her lead ahead of Sunday's election and would win re-election in a likely second-round runoff, while her main challengers are almost tied for second place, polls showed on Thursday.

Environmentalism Marina Silva has continued to slip and is now only 3 percentage points ahead of centrist candidate Aécio Neves, according to the Datafolha polling firm, a statistical tie because it is within the poll's margin of error.

Rousseff has advanced to within 3 percentage points of an outright victory in the first-round voting, or 47 percent, when spoilt and blank ballots are excluded, Datafolha said.

If no candidate wins a majority, the election will be decided in a runoff between the two leading candidates on 26 October. Rousseff's increased chances of winning a second term have weighed

down Brazil's markets where investors are hoping for a change of government. Some blame Rousseff's interventionist policies for the stagnation of Latin America's largest economy.

Both the Datafolha poll and another by the Ibope research firm show Rousseff winning a runoff against Silva by 7 percentage points.

Rousseff has increased her lead over Silva in the first round to 16 percentage points in both polls, with 40 percent of voter support to 24 percent for Silva.

Neves, the market favourite who has been stuck in third place since Silva's late entry into the race, increased his support by 1 percentage point to 21 percent, Datafolha said, and now has a fighting chance of making the runoff.

The polls confirmed that Silva, a popular anti-establishment figure, has continued to lose ground since peaking in late August.—*Reuters*

US commander in Afghanistan says recent Taliban gains fleeting



Afghan President Hamid Karzai (L) is applauded by US Army Maj Gen John F Campbell, commanding general, 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, on 14 May, 2010. — REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 3 Oct — Afghan military casualties have spiked in recent weeks amid an increase in Taliban attacks, but the top US commander in the country said on Thursday that rebel gains were fleeting and he was confident Afghan forces could stop them from holding ground.

"The last couple of weeks, there has been an uptick (in casualties), with the Taliban trying to make a statement as they close out the fighting season,"

US Army General John Campbell, the commander of international forces, told a Pentagon briefing.

Campbell, the head of the International Security Assistance Force, did not have an exact tally of Afghan casualties for this year, but said it was in the range of 7,000 to 9,000 killed or wounded. He said the number was slightly higher than in 2013 because of the recent spike in combat in Helmand and elsewhere.

The ISAF chief downplayed the significance of the surge in attacks. "There's nowhere that we have Afghan security forces that the Taliban can get the terrain and hold the terrain," he told reporters.

"The Taliban may take over a district centre or something, but only temporarily. Once the ANSF (Afghan National Security Force) understands that piece of it ... they get the terrain back."

Campbell's remarks

via teleconference from Afghanistan came just two days after Afghan and US officials signed a bilateral security agreement that would keep up to 9,800 US troops in the country after the end of the year to advise and support Afghan security forces and carry out counter-terror operations. Final approval of the accord came after months of delay because then-Afghan President Hamid Karzai refused to sign the deal. The agreement had to await the conclusion of contested presidential elections, which were only recently finalised.

Campbell, who took over as ISAF commander in August, said his six weeks in Afghanistan had been characterized by "one word ... transition, transition, transition."

International forces are in the process of drawing down from about 40,000 currently to 12,500 by the end of the year. Of that number, the US military has 24,050 troops in Afghanistan and is drawing down to 9,800.

"We're on a very good glide path to make that by the end of December," Campbell said.

Reuters

Australian warplanes ready to strike in Iraq

SYDNEY, 3 Oct — Australian warplanes will be used in air strikes against Islamic State (IS) extremists in northern Iraq, Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott confirmed on Friday.

Abbott said a decision to send in *Super Hornets* as part of a US-led mission was taken following a meeting of the Nation-

al Security Committee of Cabinet.

"Today cabinet has authorised Australian air strikes in Iraq at the request of the Iraqi government in support of the Iraqi government," Abbott told a Press conference in Canberra.

"Also, subject to final legal documentation, cabinet has authorised the deployment of Australian

special forces into Iraq to advise and assist Iraqi forces."

Six *Super Hornets*, a Wedgetail surveillance aircraft, a *KC-30 refueller* and a special forces contingent have been pre-deployed to the United Arab Emirates.

A Wedgetail surveillance aircraft and a refueller have flown missions over Iraq, while Australian

Super Hornets have remained on standby pending approval for bombing raids against IS targets.

"I want to assure the Australian people this will be as long as it needs to be, and as short as it possibly can be," Abbott said.

Abbott said only Iraq can defeat IS, but Iraq shouldn't and won't be alone.—*Xinhua*

Cuba-China ties marked with monthlong events

HAVANA, 3 Oct — A book fair opened on Thursday in China Town of Havana, capital of Cuba, as part of monthlong events to mark milestones in the friendly ties of the two nations. The celebrations, which began 25 September and will run through 24 October, featured important dates for both nations, including the establishment of diplomatic ties between Cuba and China on 28 Sep-

tember, 1960, the birthday of Chinese philosopher Confucius, also on 28 September, and the founding of the People's Republic of China, on 1 October.

At a function organized to celebrate China's National Day at Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces Ministry Wednesday, China's Ambassador to Cuba Zhang Tuo hailed Sino-Cuba ties as "a model" of cooperation between

developing countries.

The vice president of Cuba's Council of Ministers, Ricardo Cabrisas, said bilateral ties of the two countries were "at a historic peak," noting "mutual trust and confidence are on the rise, as are points of convergence."

There are other events to be held too, according to organizers. On 9 October, there will be a tribute to Chinese soldiers who died

during the 20th-century independence wars against Spanish colonialism in Latin America, followed by a cultural event for children scheduled to be held at the House of Chinese Arts and Traditions on 17 October, as well as another event aimed at marking the 20th anniversary of the creation of the China Town health commission in Havana slated for 24 October.

Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 4 October, 2014

Nobody is stupid enough to be fooled twiceBy *Kyaw Thura*

People elect a governing body not to control them but to serve the national interests on their behalf. In other words, people elect government in the belief that candidates they have chosen to take office will make and implement decisions critical for the welfare of the entire nation.

This means that any government, once it has come to power, should not neglect and ignore

the promises they have made in their electioneering. Otherwise, this will amount to abuse of public trust.

When it comes to good governance, there are some elemental obligations. They are accountability, responsiveness, transparency, and the observance and enforcement of the rule of law. Another characteristic of good governance is that government is obliged by unwritten law to explain the consequences of decisions it has made on behalf of the people and make the general public clearly see how and why those decisions have been made within the framework of existing laws.

Effective and efficient governance will never leave behind relevant interest groups, civil organizations, and community members in actual decision-making processes.

A good and clean government is of para-

mount importance for people simply because it is a single authorized body entrusted with power to steer the country towards a better and brighter future.

As long as government walks its talk, people will have no hesitation in putting all their confidence, for nobody is stupid enough to be fooled twice. The word is 'good governance, clean government' is contrary to 'no action, talk only'.

Write for us

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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.

An Outcry for the Educational Sector*Maung Phyto (WYU)*

IT is often said that Myanmar has once owned the best university in Asia along with its plethora of intellectual giants as human resource. There might have been good background for the emergence of such products. No doubt Myanmar has had recourse to making most of these advantages in the nation-building process. Unfortunately, after a series of monumental changes in history, it is very long since Myanmar had seen the outcome of the process of natural development in the educational sector. Instead, there increasingly emerges a series of product out of a loosely-knit education system that has often been prone to change. Today, an average educated man comes up with no real individuality. He or she is nobody but a holder of a degree or diploma stamped on a sheet of paper. A graduate seems more like a manufactured article bearing the stamp of a particular line of studies. If such graduates engage in the pedagogic field, it is very likely that they will stereotype their teachers. Sadly, teachers are accused of practicing the method "spoon-feeding" and students "rote-learning". Perhaps, a handful of the exceptions would try to struggle out from this whirlpool of mediocrity. Not long afterwards, it is for certain that they tend to fall back on the motto: "Old habits die hard".

There were times in history when the civilized nations were adamant on the invention of a national plan of education. Most of them had recourse to the fashion that majority of people are compelled to swallow a uniform prescription of knowledge designed by the State. It took years to realize that they had turned a blind eye to the individuality and natural growth of the children. Our country is not an exception. Therefore, it is with much sorrow to see that Myanmar has been lagging far behind in the educational race. Other nations have now managed to practise more effective and stable systems in such a way that natural and individual growth of a child can be more emphasized. They are getting ahead of us. There is so much to be done unless we wish to be beaten at the international level. We are stuffing our children with tons of facts but without practicality. Actually, we are in dire need of bringing our own educational system up to the international standard. As a saying goes, "the proof of the pudding is in the eating", the dearth of great men, teachers of profound wisdom and geniuses of technical know-how, is so remarkable that it needs no exaggeration even if we are to judge the product of the present educational system as well as of the former ones in general. We are unfortunate to witness that the age of Intellectual Giants in Myanmar has died away since very long.

When an examination is set at the Basic Education Level, nearly all that is demanded of a student is just to recall all the facts that have been pestled into him or her. At this point, rarely a few can tailor-make the facts to properly respond to the question. Therefore, it is convinced that

those passers with flying colours turn out to be the ones whose brains have been relatively and more effectually stuffed with facts and mechanical knowledge in order to score high marks.

To me, the school-age children are very pitiful. Every sensible and educated person can sympathize with them for loads of things they have to carry out every day with no time for play and entertainment. Sometimes, they fall victims to their parents whose greed and selfishness, regarding their children's education, far outweigh their rationality and consideration for their own blood. Suffice it to say, I honestly believe that it is much more important for a child to acquire the habit of reading, to be curious of his or her environment and to be in the habit of relating his or her knowledge of the world to the practical world than standing first in the school examinations.

To be simple, it is hard to deny that the teaching methods in vogue for Myanmar students are exam-oriented. Therefore, it is no wonder that the parents on their part push their children to this end. Inefficiency may lie at every level of the educational system. The extent of the result may therefore be doubled when it is plus unaccountability. We cannot sit back and see this backfire die a natural death simply because it will never disappear by itself. Instead, we should go deep down into the backdrop with which we have to deal properly. In this respect, it is thought to be a sort of quasi-reform whenever there is a re-shuffle: fresh names are substituted into the old abuses; incompetent officials are shortly trained in the capacity building program and the alteration of the medium of instruction in the classroom or in the prescribed texts. For, it is out of question that we may not expect better understanding of a particular subject from our children only when the medium of instruction is shifted from language to language. It gets worse when it comes to dealing with science subjects whose conceptual background turns out to be more difficult to translate. Credibility gap is very likely when two languages meet.

Indeed, for a real reform of permanent value, we should dig up the causes that deter the development in the educational sector. Sometimes, it is required of a reformer to take a daring step in order to deal with whatever or wherever the fault lies. Sometimes, the system proves to be at fault. Or sometimes, the performers, or the pinions of the system may wear down to the extent that their performance is fitted for nothing but mechanical and routine work.

Attitude or mindset tends to speak out loud from each of their corners towards reform. It has been hot off the press that an act of arrogance or overpowering aggressive tendency shown by a certain headmistress from Mawlamyine sparked the angry response from the public. Another incident, in which a J.A.T hit one of her young students with a China cup in the face, also triggered the negative feedback from the media. There might be many other instances untold. However, a farewell scene of a teacher recently popped up on Facebook was so appealing that it wrenched the

hearts of the spectators. He (the teacher) was surrounded by a group of young students who were all in tears and agony of losing their teacher. The teacher himself wore a melancholy look with tearful eyes. These photos were uploaded on Facebook and just a glance is enough to guess the extent of tie between the teacher and his students. He may be regarded as one of the exemplary teachers to the community.

In our community, many tend to entertain a false vision of the term "degree" whether it is a B.A, a M.A or a Ph.D. They mistake a degree for a prestige, a thing to boast off or a certificate of being an educated person. In fact, a degree, a diploma or a certificate or whatever it is, is nothing but a responsibility to shoulder. One should prove oneself to be worthy of carrying out such responsibility. In this respect, it is taken for granted that contribution should be a yardstick to measure the true value of a degree. Therefore, it is by far the most important how much one can contribute to the good of one's community with one's own specialized subject irrespective of the level of degree.

In Myanmar, we have followed or adopted the curriculums and syllabuses designed by the great brains of the country in succession. Indeed, they are believed to be of excellent quality in comparison with the context of Myanmar. After all, they turn out to be not as effective as they are thought to be especially when it comes to application. The reasons behind will be varied and many. As to human resource, we are short of efficient teachers. Teaching/learning aids are not adequate. The student-teacher ratio is very high. Therefore, there are many things that can deter even a competent and efficient teacher from conducting an effective teaching. He or she finds it hard to make ends meet with his or her salary despite occasional pay-rise at the mercy of the Government. With the drawbacks mentioned, it is very difficult for a teacher to be motivated in the pedagogic process, let alone to be able to evoke motivation in the students.

Nevertheless, perhaps as a forerunner of autonomy in the universities, it is heard that any qualified candidate can apply for the post of demonstrator and tutor at any university or college under the Department of Higher Education (Lower Myanmar) and the Department of Higher Education (Upper Myanmar). Authority for appointment is granted in the hands of Heads of the respective departments. Rumors are also in the air that bribery would be a possible way pass to the posts. These rumors may also turn out to be the acid test for the dignity, pride and righteousness of the authorized persons. In addition, it is expected that the upcoming national educational law eradicates all the drawbacks in the educational sector and paves the way to the education system by which natural development can be seen in the children, graduates can come up with different talent and individuality, practitioners and educationists who can shake off the aforesaid shortcomings can be produced. Then only can Myanmar keep abreast with the international community with regard to education.

The author of this article is a freelance translator, writer and independent researcher on Myanmar Culture and History.

NATIONAL

Armenian Archbishop meets Union Religious Affairs Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Oct—Armenian Archbishop His Holiness Karekin II and party met the Union Minister for Religious Affairs at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday to hold

talks about matters related to Armenian Christian Church at the corner of Bo Aung Kyaw and Merchant Streets in Yangon Region and religious affairs.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Oct—Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin received Chairman Professor Prof. Dr. Krasae Chanawongse and party of Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

The union minister explained formation of the central committee, management committee and subcommittees for national disaster preparedness, implementation of the disaster risk reduction plan in Myanmar, cooperation with ASEAN-Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, training courses for volunteer youths for disaster risk reduction and establishment of emer-

Union SWRR Minister holds talks with Chairman of ADPC



gency operation centre.

The chairman of the ADPC praised the ministry for its endeavours in disaster risk reduction.—MNA

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin holds talks with Chairman Professor Prof. Dr. Krasae Chanawongse of ADPC.—MNA

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (3-10-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K649,000 per tical: Selling K650,000

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K649,000 per tical: Selling K650,000

FE RATE

USD Buying K989: Selling K994

SGD Buying K775: Selling K783

Euro Buying K1,240: Selling K1,260

MPF urges gold shops to equip CCTVs



A gold shop showcases gold ornaments to attract customers but they need to raise awareness of security.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

YANGON, 3 Oct—Myanmar Police Force has urged gold shops across the country to equip closed-circuit televisions - CCTVs in attempts to prevent crimes at the shops.

After some gold shops were robbed in day time this year, MPF has raised

awareness of importance of CCTVs at gold shops across the country to prevent crimes such as robbing, burglary and fraud.

MPF have advised gold shops to equip CCTVs adequately inside and outside of the shops because CCTVs are very helpful

for exploring and arresting robbers and to prevent crimes, said Police Lt-Col Myint Lwin, Commander of Yangon West District Police Force.

However, it is found that some gold shops still do not equip CCTVs at their shops, he added.—GNLM

16th Meeting of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights commences



Delegates to 16th Meeting of ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights joining hands in documentary photo.—MNA

YANGON, 3 Oct—The 16th Meeting of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights was opened at Parkroyal Hotel in Yangon on Friday, chaired by Chairman of the

ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights Human Rights Representatives of Myanmar U Kyaw Tint Swe.

About 30 delegates of intergovernmental com-

missions on human rights of ASEAN countries discussed facts about human rights.

The meeting will continue on 5 October.

MNA

Yangon needs public donations for free health services at dog-bite centres

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 2 Oct—The Myanmar Medical Association (MMA) is planning to establish private dog-bite centres in Yangon so as to control and prevent diseases, Dr Daw Tint Tint Kyi, a Senior Consultant

Physician at Insein General Hospital, told the Global New Light of Myanmar on Thursday.

It is also aimed at getting certain information about dog bite-related injury cases, providing high

quality treatment to dog bite victims, reducing drugs waste problem and systematic storing of anti-rabies vaccines, she added.

The Senior Consultant Physician invited the contribution of international and local donors to raise MMA's funds to provide free medical services to pa-

tients with dog bite wounds as there is not enough money to give adequate services for all patients.

Those wellwishers may contact the Myanmar Medical Association which is located at No. 249 on Theinbyu Road in Mingala Taungnyunt Township in Yangon.

Dr Daw Tint Tint Kyi also gave information on modern cell culture-based-vaccine (CCV) which is used for treating dog bite cases and removal of outdated nerve tissue-based rabies vaccines.

According to the WHO, dog bites are a common problem in South East

Asia, with more than 1.4 billion people in the region at risk of rabies infection, and approximately 45% of worldwide rabies deaths occur in Asia.

Experts estimated that about 1,000 Myanmar people die every year due to rabies.

GNLM

Turkey steels for action as Islamic State advances on Syrian border town

SURUC, (Turkey), 3 Oct — Turkey's parliament authorized the government on Thursday to order military action against Islamic State as the insurgents tightened their grip on a Syrian border town, sending thousands more Kurdish refugees into Turkey.

The vote gives the government powers to order incursions into Syria and Iraq to counter the threat of attack "from all terrorist groups", although there was little sign any such action was imminent.

The mandate also allows foreign troops to launch operations from Turkey, a NATO member that hosts a US air base in its southern town of Incirlik, but which has so far resisted a frontline role in the military campaign against the insurgents.

"The rising influence of radical groups in Syria threatens Turkey's national security. ... The aim of this mandate is to minimise as much as possible the impact of the clashes on our borders," Defence Minister Ismet Yilmaz told parliament.

Islamic State fighters advanced to within a few

km (miles) of the mainly Kurdish border town of Kobani on three sides on Thursday, extending their gains after taking control of hundreds of villages around the town in recent weeks.

Smoke rose behind hills to the south of Kobani as the insurgents continued their shelling into the night. Dozens of anti-tank missiles with bright-red tracers flashed through the sky as darkness enveloped the town.

Kobani's electricity supply was cut after militants bombarded a local power grid, a Kurdish fighter told *Reuters*.

In neighbouring Iraq, which also borders Turkey, the insurgents have carried out mass executions, abducted women and girls as sex slaves, and used children as fighters in what may amount to war crimes, the United Nations said.

They took control of most of the western Iraqi town of Hit early on Thursday in Anbar Province, where they already control many surrounding towns, launching the assault with three suicide car bombs at its eastern entrance.

US-led forces, which

have been bombing Islamic State targets in Syria and Iraq, hit a village near Kobani on Wednesday. Sources in the town, which is known as Ayn al-Arab in Arabic, reported strikes farther south overnight.

The US Central Command reported that US and other forces in the coalition conducted four strikes on Wednesday and Thursday in Syria and seven in Iraq. Targets included buildings, tanks and other armed vehicles.

But such strikes seemed to have done little to stop the Islamists' advance.

"We left because we realised it was only going to get worse," said Leyla, a 37-year-old Syrian arriving at the Yumurtalik border crossing with her six children after waiting 10 days in a field, hoping the clashes would subside.

"We will go back tomorrow if Islamic State leaves. I don't want to be here," she said.

Kurdish militants in Turkey warned that peace talks with Ankara, meant to end a three-decade insurgency, would collapse if the Islamist insurgents were



Syrian Kurdish refugees sit outside their tents at a temporary refugee camp which is set up by local municipality, in the southeastern Turkish town of Suruc in Sanliurfa Province on 2 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

allowed to carry out a massacre.

The British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors Syria's war, said Islamic State militants were clashing with Kurdish fighters hundreds of metres from Kobani, raising fears they would enter the town "at any moment".

It said it confirmed the deaths of 16 Islamic State fighters and seven Kurdish

militants but that the true toll was likely to be higher.

About 20 explosions were heard in the areas of the Tishrin dam and town of Manbij 50 km (30 miles) south of Kobani overnight, resulting from missile strikes believed to be carried out by the coalition, the observatory said earlier.

Asya Abdullah, a senior official in Syria's dominant Kurdish political party the Democratic Union Par-

ty (PYD), said there were clashes to the east, west and south of Kobani and that Islamic State had advanced to within 2-3 km on all fronts.

"If they want to prevent a massacre, (the coalition) must act much more comprehensively," she told *Reuters* by phone from Kobani, adding that air strikes elsewhere in Syria had pushed Islamic State fighters towards the border town.—*Reuters*

US, allies face 'long fight' against Islamic State, Biden says

CAMBRIDGE, 3 Oct — The battle to stop Islamic State militants' advance in Syria and Iraq is going to be a "hell of a long fight" for the United States and its coalition partners, Vice President Joe Biden said on Thursday.

But Biden defended the US decision to wait until last month to begin airstrikes against Islamic State targets in Syria, which has already endured a bloody civil war that has killed 190,000 people. The United States needed to wait for nations including Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Russia to be willing to offer support, Biden said.

"Now we have a coalition, but it's still going to be a hell of a long fight, A hell of a long fight," Biden told an audience of academics at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, just outside Boston. "But it cannot be, even if we wanted to, cannot be our fight alone. This cannot be turned into a US ground war against another Arab nation in the Middle East."

Biden cited the decision

by Turkey's parliament on Thursday to authorize military action against Islamic State insurgents who have strengthened their presence at Turkey's border, as well as to allow foreign troops to launch operations from Turkey, as evidence of the coalition's success in gathering support. The United States waited before acting because of the difficulty in determining if it could support any element of the armed factions fighting in the region, Biden said.

"We Americans think that in every country in transition, there is a Thomas Jefferson hiding behind some rock, or a James Madison beyond one sand dune. But the fact of the matter is ... there was no moderate middle," Biden said. "We have been training moderate forces, but we have been very selective in making sure who they were and vetting them."

Several thousand fighters have been trained, said Biden adding that the precise number was classified. But he emphasized the Unit-

ed States had no plans to commit combat forces to a ground war against Islamic State militants.

"Degrading them does not depend on the unsustainable deployment of hundreds of thousands of boots on the ground," Biden said. "This campaign against violent extremism predates our administration and it will outlive our administration."

He also said that ultimately, the Islamic State militants posed little risk to the United States.

"Our response must be deadly serious but we should keep this in perspective. The United States today faces threats that require attention, but we face no existential threat to our way of life or to our security," Biden said.

While alluding to the 15 April, 2013, attack on the Boston Marathon that killed three people and injured more than 260, Biden said: "You are twice as likely to be struck by lightning as you are to be affected by a terrorist event in the United States."—*Reuters*



Hungarian tanks participate in a joint Hungarian-US military exercise near the Osku village, about 90 km southwest of Budapest, Hungary, on 2 Oct, 2014. A series of military exercises titled Joint Action 2014 involving 1,300 soldiers goes on from 8 Sept until 17 Oct in Hungary.—XINHUA

WB forecasts Ukrainian economy to drop 8 pct in 2014

KIEV, 3 Oct — The World Bank (WB) on Thursday revised its forecast for Ukraine's economic performance this year, expecting its gross domestic product (GDP) to decline by 8 percent.

The downward revision, from the 5 percent fall projected in June, was attributed to the impact of the conflict in eastern Ukraine, where government troops are clashing with independence-seeking insurgents.

"The conflict in the east is mainly responsible for these lower forecasts as it has disrupted economic activity, made collection of taxes difficult, adversely affected exports, and hurt investors' confidence," the bank said in a report.

Among other negative factors affecting the country's economy, the WB

listed risks in the banking sector, weak domestic consumption, rising expenditure pressure, heavy external debt and limited access to external financing.

According to the WB outlook, the nation's economy is predicted to contract 1.0 percent in 2015, compared with a previously estimated 2.5-percent growth.

The bank emphasized the need for Ukraine to solve the crisis in the eastern regions, implement economic reforms, improve governance and toughen the fight against corruption.

Ukraine's GDP went down 3 percent in the first half of this year from a year ago and is expected to shrink 6.5 percent for the whole year.

Xinhua

IMF chief says global economy at inflection point

WASHINGTON, 3 Oct — IMF chief Christine Lagarde said on Thursday that the global economy is at an inflection point with weaker than expected recovery momentum, calling for bolder policies and multilateral efforts to inject new impetus.

Speaking at the Georgetown University as an curtain raiser speech of the IMF-World Bank annual meeting, Lagarde said the global economy is weaker than envisaged and only a modest pick-up is foreseen for 2015, as the outlook for potential growth has been pared down.

Among advanced economies, the rebound is expected to be strongest in the United States and the United Kingdom; modest in Japan; and weakest in the Euro Area, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund noted.

Emerging market and developing economies led by Asia and China will

continue to drive global activity, however, to be at a slower pace than before, she said.

"Six years after the financial crisis began, we see continued weakness in the global economy," she added.

She pointed out that there is a cloud hovering around asynchronous monetary policy normalization in advanced economies and its potential spillovers to other countries around the world, urging the Federal Reserve to clearly communicate with the market over the exit from the monetary easing.

She also underlined the rising geographical tensions posing risks to the global economy, as a possible further escalation of the situation in Ukraine could provoke disruptions in commodity prices, financial markets and trade. An expansion of the Ebola outbreak in Africa could pose a significant risk to the region and indeed the world, if not urgently and



International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Christine Lagarde delivers a speech at the Georgetown University in Washington DC, capital of the United States, on 2 Oct, 2014.—XINHUA

appropriately addressed.

"That brings me to the 'structural reforms' that are so essential to raise productivity, competitiveness and employment," she noted.

The Washington-based organization is expected to lower its pro-

jection of global economic growth for 2014 in its latest edition of World Economic Outlook next week.

The IMF-World Bank annual meeting is scheduled to be held during 10-12 October in Washington.

Xinhua

Four people close to US Ebola patient quarantined in Dallas

DALLAS, 3 Oct — Four people close to the first person diagnosed with Ebola in the United States were quarantined in a Dallas apartment, where sheets and other items used by the man were sealed in plastic bags, as health officials widened their search for others who had direct or indirect contact with him.

In Liberia, an American freelance television cameraman working for NBC News in Liberia has contracted Ebola, the fifth US citizen known to be infected with the deadly virus that has killed at least 3,300 people in the current outbreak in West Africa.

The 33-year-old man, whose name was not released, will be flown back to the United States for treatment, the network said on Thursday.

Immediately after beginning to feel ill and discovering he was running a slight fever, the cameraman quarantined himself. He then went to a Doctors Without Borders treatment center and 12 hours later learned he tested positive for Ebola.

The entire NBC crew will fly back to the United States on a private charter plane and will place themselves under quarantine for 21 days, the maximum incu-



A general view of The Ivy Apartments in Dallas, on 1 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

bation period for Ebola.

US health officials said they were confident they could prevent the spread of Ebola in the United States after the first case was diagnosed this week on US soil.

Up to 100 people had direct or indirect contact with Thomas Eric Duncan, a Liberian citizen, and a handful were being monitored, said Dr Thomas Frieden, director of the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

None of those thought to have had contact with Duncan were showing symptoms of Ebola, Dallas County officials said at a

news conference.

Duncan had helped a pregnant woman who later died of Ebola in Liberia, just days before flying to Texas via Brussels and Washington two weeks ago. Duncan had been staying in an apartment in the northeastern part of the city for about a week before going to a Dallas hospital.

In Liberia, the head of the country's airport authority, Binyah Kesselly, said the government could prosecute Duncan for denying he had contact with someone who was eventually diagnosed with Ebola. The government said Duncan failed to declare

that he helped neighbour Marthalene Williams after she fell critically ill on 15 September Williams died.

Kesselly said Duncan was asked in a questionnaire whether he had come in contact with any Ebola victim or was showing any symptoms. "To all of these questions, Mr Duncan answered 'no,'" Kesselly said.

Ebola can cause fever, bleeding, vomiting and diarrhea and spreads through contact with bodily fluids such as blood or saliva. Duncan's case put US health authorities and the public on alert over concern for the potential of the virus to spread

from Liberia and two other impoverished West African countries, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

Three Americans contracted Ebola in West Africa and were flown to the United States for treatment and later released: Dr Kent Brantly, Nancy Writebol and Dr Rick Sacra. A fourth unnamed American who contracted Ebola in West Africa is being treated at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta.

President Barack Obama called Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings on Thursday and "pledged federal agencies will remain in close coordination and reiterated his confidence in America's doctors and national health infrastructure to handle this case safely and effectively," White House spokesman Eric Schultz said.

Officials have said the US healthcare system is well prepared to contain the hemorrhagic fever's spread by careful tracking of those who have had contact with Duncan, and employing appropriate care.

Dallas County officials said the problem was very localized. "When I say local, I don't mean Dallas. I mean a very specific neighbourhood in the northeast part of Dallas," Dallas Mayor Rawlings told reporters.—Reuters

5.42 pct of Vietnamese people suffer from diabetes

HANOI, 3 Oct—Some 5.42 percent of Vietnamese people suffer from diabetes, said a release by Vietnam's National Hospital of Endocrinology (NHE) at a national seminar on Friday.

The ongoing biennial seminar on endocrinology and metabolism is held by Vietnamese Association of Diabetes and Endocrinology in capital Hanoi from Thursday to Saturday, reported state-run news agency VNA on Friday. Representatives from NHE cited a survey carried out by the hospital in 2012 among 11,000 people aging from 30 to 69 as saying that that the ratio of diabetes victims in Vietnam's regions ranges from the lowest of 3.82 percent in Central Highlands to the highest of 7.18 percent in South Western Vietnam. Those who are over 45 years old, have big waist, or high blood pressure have greater risks for the disease compared to others, said the survey. Representatives from Vietnam Military Medical University and National Hospital of Pediatrics said the most serious complications of diabetes include blindness and renal failure.—Xinhua

Now hunger threat shadows Ebola in West Africa



Residents of West Point neighbourhood, which has been quarantined following an outbreak of Ebola, receive food rations from the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Monrovia on 28 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

FREETOWN/DAKAR, 3 Oct—The threat of hunger is tracking Ebola across affected West African nations as the disease kills farmers and their families, drives workers from the fields and creates food shortages.

In the worst-hit states of Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea, Ebola is ravaging their food-producing 'breadbasket' regions, preventing planting and harvesting, and disrupting

supply routes and markets.

"Hunger will kill us where Ebola failed," said Pa Sorie, a 61-year-old rice and cassava farmer in Port Loko in northern Sierra Leone. A father of six with four grandchildren, he says he has already lost three close relatives to Ebola.

The UN's World Food Programme and Food and Agriculture Organization say border and market closures, quarantines and movement restrictions, and

widespread fear of Ebola have led to food scarcity, panic buying and price increases, especially in Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Since it was first reported in the forest region of Guinea in March, the hemorrhagic fever has killed 3,338 people.

It crossed into Liberia and Sierra Leone and has triggered smaller outbreaks and cases in Nigeria, Senegal and even the United States, prompting the

World Health Organization to declare an international public health emergency on 8 August.

As governments from the United States to China and Cuba send troops and medics to the affected corner of Africa in an attempt to contain the epidemic, relief agencies are scrambling to ward off the humanitarian crisis threatening hundreds of thousands along with the health disaster. "The country will starve," warned Mary Hawa John-Sao, vice president of Sierra Leone's National Farmers' Federation and an award-winning grower. Her own fields were lying unattended and spoiling in quarantined Kailahun district, which along with neighbouring Kenema in the east and Port Loko and Bombali in the north are the country's traditional food-growing areas.

John-Sao, 55, said 75 percent of those killed by Ebola in Kailahun and Kenema were farmers and hunger was "imminent".

The World Food Programme is trying to provide food to around 1 million people in the three

worst-affected countries. As of 14 September, it had distributed 3,300 tonnes of food to more than 180,000 people in the three nations in a race against hunger.

Sierra Leone Agriculture Minister Sam Sesay said entire farming communities in some parts of his country had been wiped out by Ebola, with farms abandoned and crops left rotting. His Liberian counterpart, Florence Chenoweth, describes a similar situation in her country's rural Lofa county.

UN officials have heeded the warning, saying governments must focus not just on containing Ebola but also on the social and developmental damage the disease is inflicting on some of the world's poorest states, still recovering from civil wars.

"The fertile fields of Lofa County, once Liberia's breadbasket, are now fallow. In that county alone, nearly 170 farmers and their family members have died from Ebola," WHO Director General Margaret Chan told the UN Security Council last month.

Reuters

China services growth dips to eight-month low in Sept as orders sag

BEIJING, 3 Oct—China's services sector grew at its slowest pace in eight months in September after new orders shrank for the first time since the 2008 global financial crisis, a survey showed on Friday, exposing more weakness in the world's second-largest economy.

The official non-manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) edged down to 54.0 in September from 54.4 in August, the National Bureau of Statistics said, but still well above the 50-point mark demarcating growth on the month from a contraction.

In a sign that China's cooling property market

remained a key drag on the economy, the PMI showed the real estate sector shrank in September, alongside other industries such as logistics and aviation.

Lacklustre activity in the housing sector weighed on overall new orders, which fell to 49.5, a level not seen since December 2008 and down from 50 in August. "The 'Golden September' peak season in the property sector did not materialise. The market tracked a weak trend and activity was on the subdued side," said Wu Wei, an official at the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing, which helps to publish the PMI.

Friday's data raised questions about whether China's move this week to cut mortgage rates and down payment levels for some home buyers would be enough to revive its sagging housing market and rejuvenate its sputtering economic momentum.

Indeed, the PMI showed the property, aviation, catering and environmental protection industries all took in fewer orders last month.

Overall slack caused employment in the sector to shrink for the third consecutive month as a sub-index for jobs inched down to 49.5 from 49.6 in August.

China's slowdown



Workers look at machines moving newly made raw bricks at a factory in Huaibei, Anhui Province on 13 July, 2014.—REUTERS

risks are undermining the lift to the Asia region from a stronger US economy, Hak Bin Chua, an analyst at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, wrote in a research

note. Its cooling import demand is also disproportionately hurting Asian commodity exporters such as Indonesia and Thailand, he added.—Reuters

Xinhua

Seven killed in Pakistan passenger bus explosion

PESHAWAR, 3 Oct—Seven people were killed and at least 11 wounded when an explosive device ripped through a passenger bus travelling outside the volatile Pakistani city of Peshawar on Thursday, a hospital spokesman and police said.

The attack took place against the backdrop of a large military operation

in Pakistan's tribal North Waziristan region targeting Taliban hideouts in the lawless area on the Afghan border — a campaign militants have vowed to avenge.

"In the last 24 hours a bomb disposal squad has detonated six bombs in various localities of Peshawar," Shafqat Malik, a senior police officer, told

reporters at the site of the blast. "This is the seventh which went off and 5kg (11 lb) of explosives were used in the bomb."

The driver of the bus, Shams-ur-Rehman who survived the attack, told investigators that an old man was spotted sitting with an old bag on a rear seat and that the device exploded shortly after he got off.

Reuters

Five die in Swiss helicopter crash in France

GENEVA, 3 Oct—A Swiss helicopter crashed on Thursday morning in an eastern France town, near the Swiss border, leaving five people on-board dead and two others injured, Swiss media reported. The EC130 Eurocopter took off from Lausanne en route to Montbeliard of France. It made a distress call before it crashed in the yard of a home in the town of Bart, a few hundred metres away from the Montbeliard airfield. The accident occurred around 9:40 am, local time. The seven on-board, all Swiss, were six men and one woman between 45 and 63 years of age. One injured person was taken to nearby hospital while the other who was seriously injured, was transported to Switzerland by the Swiss air rescue service.

The cause of the crash is still not known.—Xinhua

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Weather report

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy in the North Bay and monsoon is weak in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 4th October, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region and Mon State, scattered in Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Shan, Chin and Kayin States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar weater.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of thundery activities in the Lower Myanmar areas.

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People feed fishes with fish food in nursing bottles at a farm in Qinhuangdao, north China's Hebei Province, on 2 Oct, 2014.—XINHUA

Polish food
exports expected
to drop 2 pct
in 2014

WARSAW, 3 Oct — Polish food exports are expected to drop by 2 percent in 2014 from a year ago, said a report by the Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics (IERiGZ) released on Thursday. The report showed that Poland's food trade surplus is expected to contract to 6.0 billion euros (7.6 billion US dollars) from 6.1 billion in 2013.

Food export sales should reach 19.9 billion euros, and imports 13.9 billion euros in 2014, which leaves a food trade surplus of 6.0 billion euros, the report said. The institute forecast that the total value of exports of food and agricultural products will reach 9.6 billion euros in the first half of 2015, down 6 percent from the first half of 2014, while imports are likely to decline by 7 percent to 6.7 billion euros. That will leave a trade surplus of some 2.9 billion euros. The situation with Poland's main trade partners, the European Union and the Commonwealth of Independent States, will continue to strongly influence Polish food exports, according to the institute.

Additional factors include exchange rates of the Polish zloty against the euro and US dollar and the relatively low prices of agricultural raw materials.

Xinhua

16 people still feared missing
on Mt Ontake

NAGANO, (Japan), 3 Oct — At least 16 people are still feared missing following the eruption of Mt Ontake in central Japan last weekend that has claimed the lives of 47 people, Nagano prefectural government officials said on Friday.

The officials said that having combed through information from local police, firefighters, town officials, victims' companions and families they think the death toll following Saturday's unexpected eruption could increase.

Rain on Friday again prompted the prefectural government to halt search and rescue operations in-

volving the Nagano prefectural police, firefighters and Ground Self-Defence Force troops.

The police said earlier that 46 of the 47 confirmed deaths from the eruption were caused by blows from flying rocks, while the remaining victim died from burns.

In what is Japan's worst postwar volcanic disaster, Mt Ontake erupted near its 3,067-metre peak shortly before noon when many hikers were having lunch at the summit or making their way up or down climbing trails during the busiest time of the year. The searchers are scheduled to continue their

operations by helicopter but bad weather is likely to complicate the task of finding survivors and retrieving bodies.

With a powerful typhoon approaching early next week, the searchers also face the risk of mudslides involving a mix of volcanic ash and soil in the event of heavy rainfall.

The Japan Meteorological Agency said rain is expected through on Friday evening, while there will likely be rainfall of 30 millimetres over the 24-hour period until 6 am Saturday in Nagano Prefecture and 40 mm of rain in parts of Gifu Prefecture.

Kyodo News



The installation art "World's largest breast" is seen in Toulouse, southwestern France on 2 Oct, 2014. It is displayed to appeal to people's awareness of breast cancer prevention.—XINHUA

'Pirates of the Caribbean 5'

will film in Australia



LOS ANGELES, 3 Oct — 'Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales', the fifth film in the Johnny Depp starrer franchise, will shoot in Queensland, Australia. The production on the Disney film is set to get under way in February 2015, the studio confirmed.

Depp is expected to reprise his role as Captain Jack Sparrow in the film. The Australian government has approved USD

18.9 million in location-based incentives to the secure the shoot in the country which is separate from the incentives that it will receive from Queensland, said the *Hollywood Reporter*.

The film is being produced by Jerry Bruckheimer and directed by Kon-Tiki directors Joachim Ronning and Espen Sandberg. 'Pirates 5' is slated to release on 7 July, 2017.—PTI

Demonic 'Annabelle' draws on classic horror films for nostalgic scares

LOS ANGELES, 3 Oct — There's a new demon in town, and she's hiding among the toys.

"Annabelle," out in US theatres on Friday, kicks off October's Halloween offerings at the box office with the origin story of a porcelain doll that masks a sinister secret, a spin-off from last year's Warner Bros. Horror hit "The Conjuring."

Set in 1970s California, young newlywed couple Mia and John, played by Annabelle Wallis and Ward Horton, settle into a small house in Santa Monica.

Soon after pregnant Mia receives Annabelle, a gift from her husband for her growing doll collection, the couple endure a terrifying break-in, and then strange things start happening.

The couple move to a new home, but something dark follows them and haunts their baby daughter.

"It was set in the '70s at a time where movies of the genre were very well respected," said Wallis. "I think the element of truth to it,

that it stems from real events and whether or not you believe in occult, there are documented things that happened."

Dolls are usually associated with innocence and playfulness, but have been distorted into dark creatures in numerous horror movies, such as 1987's "Dolls" and Chucky the serial killer in 1988's "Child's Play," which spawned numerous sequels.

In "The Conjuring," directed by James Wan, Annabelle is possessed by a twisted supernatural force, and the doll's porcelain face becomes warped into an evil grin. "For an inanimate object, (Annabelle) really stood out and when 'The Conjuring' came out, it was validated to us how much people loved her character," said Wan, a producer on "Annabelle."

Reuters



Cast member Annabelle Wallis poses at the premiere of "Annabelle" at the TCL Chinese theatre in Hollywood, California on 29 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

Comedy actor Adam Sandler signs four-film deal with Netflix

NEW YORK, 3 Oct — Netflix Inc said on Thursday that comedian and actor Adam Sandler has signed a deal to star in and produce four films that will be shown exclusively on the video-streaming service. The deal moves Netflix, which produces the Emmy-winning political thriller "House of Cards" and the comedy-drama "Orange Is the New Black," further into original programming.

"His appeal spans across viewers of all ages — everybody had a favourite movie, everyone has a favourite line — not just in the US but all over the world," Ted Sarandos, Netflix's chief content officer, said in a statement. The four feature films from Sandler's company, Happy Madison Productions, will be shown in the nearly 50 countries where Netflix is available. Brooklyn-born Sandler, 48, started his career as a stand-up comedian before joining the NBC comedy sketch show "Saturday Night Live." His films include "Big Daddy," "The Wedding Singer," "Grown Ups" and this year's "Men, Women & Children," which premiered at the Toronto Film Festival.—Reuters



Lohan comes out smiles in London "Speed-the-Plow" revival

LONDON, 3 Oct — Lindsay Lohan kept an opening night audience hanging on her every word, in part to see if she'd forget any, as she made her stage debut on Thursday night in a West End revival of "Speed-the-Plow", David Mamet's scathing satire of Hollywood.

By the closing curtain, Lohan had proved she could hold her own with two top-notch male actors. Richard Schiff, best known as Toby Ziegler from "The West Wing", played producer Bobby Gould. His buddy Charlie Fox was played by Nigel Lindsay, who had the title role in the West End staging of "Shrek the Musical".

The trio, under director Lindsay Posner at the Playhouse Theatre, managed to give a new edge to the cutting humour in Mamet's 1988 play.

The story centres on two self-professed movie business "whores," who are agreed on a big deal they know is going to make them rich. But then temporary secretary Karen, played by Lohan, turns their lives upside down.

A few of Lohan's lines brought knowing laughs from the audience, including: "I know what it is to be bad, I've been bad."

Lohan, 28, was once one of Hollywood's most sought-after young actresses, with starring roles in movies such as 1998's "The Parent Trap" and 2004's "Mean Girls." Of late, she has become better known for going in and out of rehab and court

after arrests for offences such as reckless driving and drug possession.

During previews of "Speed-the-Plow", critics who normally wait for opening night to review a performance reported Lohan flubbed some of her lines and needed prompting from offstage.

For the opening, she appeared better rehearsed. After an offstage voice prompted her with a line near the start of the second act of the 85-minute show, she overcame a breathless delivery and by the end seemed at ease.

At the curtain call, she smiled broadly and popped a bottle of fake champagne, showering the audience in the front row seats with glittering coloured paper.

"I thought Lindsay portrayed her character well, though she forgot a couple of lines... but she's a star, she's still a star," said Chloe Emirali, 25, a New Zealander who lives in Milton Keynes, England and is a self-professed Lohan fan.

Other stage works by Mamet, the Pulitzer Prize-winning American playwright and screenwriter, include "Glengarry Glen Ross" and "American Buffalo." He was nominated for Oscars for his screenplays for "Wag the Dog" and "The Verdict".

Lohan's part was played by Madonna in the original 1988 production, and by fellow Hollywood actress Alicia Silverstone in a 2007 revival in Los Angeles.

But despite the leading ladies who've inhabited the role, the evening belongs to Charlie Fox and Bob Gould, two Hollywood types whose business dealings, and suggested mutual backstabbing, go way back.—Reuters

GENERAL

Djokovic despatches Dimitrov in Beijing, Williams withdraws

BEIJING, 3 Oct — World number one Novak Djokovic continued his march to a fifth China Open title by dismantling a flat Grigor Dimitrov in a one-sided quarter-final on Friday while women's top seed Serena Williams was forced to pull out through injury.

American world number one Williams, who had reached the last eight on the Beijing hard courts after a 6-1, 1-6, 6-2 win over Czech Lucie Safarova late on Thursday, cited a problem in her left knee for handing a walkover to Australian Sam Stosur.

It was the second tournament in a row the 33-year-old, who won her 18th grand slam singles title at the US Open last month, had been forced to withdraw after she quit her opening match at the Wuhan Open last week because of illness.



Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns the ball during his men's quarter-final match against Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria at the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing, on 3 Oct, 2014. — REUTERS

Bulgarian Dimitrov looked off colour in his display against the Beijing expert Djokovic, who extended his record on the blue hard courts to 22-0 with a 6-2, 6-4 win.

The Serb targeted the faltering backhand of the fifth seed in the opening set,

which he took with breaks in the fourth and eighth games in an improved display after showing rust in his opening matches.

The second set seemed to be going the same way as Djokovic pushed Dimitrov back with some deep groundstrokes, while pro-

ducing his trademark extensive court coverage to negate the threat of his opponent as he broke to lead 3-1. Dimitrov finally showed some fight, breaking back with a thumping forehand cross court winner only to lose serve again in the next game to trail 4-2.

Djokovic looked set to serve out the match at 5-3 and 30-0 up but Dimitrov rallied again, breaking the Serb with the point of the match after a stunning backhand winner down the line at full stretch.

But rather than capitalise on the heroics, the world number 10 crumbled, giving up the match on a third double fault to leave his bid to qualify for the ATP Tour World Finals in London next month in trouble.

Djokovic will face either US Open champion Marin Cilic or Briton Andy



Serena Williams of the US answers a question at a news conference at the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing, on 3 Oct, 2014. — REUTERS

Murray, who, like Dimitrov, is chasing a place in the season ending event for the top eight, in the last four.

In the women's tournament, Stosur will take on Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova in the semis after the Czech beat Italian Roberta Vinci 7-6 (7), 6-4.

Reuters

Van Gaal given food for thought by red-hot Welbeck

LONDON, 3 Oct — Manchester United manager Louis Van Gaal may have watched on somewhat uncomfortably as Danny Welbeck grabbed a superb Champions League hat-trick for Arsenal on Wednesday.

Deemed surplus to requirements at Old Trafford after the arrival of Colombian Radamel Falcao on loan from Monaco, Welbeck has hit the ground running in north London after Van Gaal off-loaded him for 16 million pounds.

Falcao, Robin Van Persie and Wayne Rooney have made little impact in United's worst start to a Premier League season since its inception in 1992.

Record signing Angel Di Maria has made a



Arsenal's Danny Welbeck (top) scores past Galatasaray's goalkeeper Fernando Muslera during their Champions League match at the Emirates in London on 1 Oct, 2014. — REUTERS

bright start in a United shirt his flashes of individual brilliance can paper over the defensive cracks and a blunt-looking attack.

United have scored 11 goals in six games and Van Persie netted two in the last two, a 5-3 defeat at

Leicester City followed by a scrappy 2-1 home win over West Ham.

However, Van Gaal's Dutch compatriot and Falcao, yet to score for United and still rusty after a serious knee injury had forced him to miss the World Cup, both

looked short of pace and fitness. With a porous and injury-hit defence looking uncomfortable every time their rivals come forward, Welbeck's electrifying speed and selfless tackling back have been missed.

Former United right back Gary Neville, now a television pundit, believes Arsenal will benefit from signing the England striker.

"If (Arsenal manager) Arsene Wenger can work with Danny Welbeck in the same way as he did with Thierry Henry he will get an absolute bagful of goals if he is consistently playing," Neville told Sky Sports after the 23-year old striker's impressive performance.

"The biggest thing is that his centre-forward play

outside the box is sensational, his work rate and his touch, but it's about his consistency of finishing. I think that will come from confidence and belief."

Often deployed out wide at United, Welbeck's poor tally of 29 goals in 142 appearances in all competitions belied his outstanding work rate including defensive duties untypical for thoroughbred attackers.

Tinkering with his formation from three defenders to an orthodox 4-4-2, Van Gaal has failed to find the right mix.

Lack of mortar between the expensively assembled bricks was particularly obvious as Leicester trampled United when they overturned a 3-1 second half deficit. — Reuters

Hamsik haunts former club as Napoli shine in Europa League

LONDON, 3 Oct — Napoli's Marek Hamsik enjoyed a memorable return to his former club Slovan Bratislava, scoring one and creating another, in a 2-0 victory on Thursday as the Italians joined five others who made it two wins from two in the Europa League group stage.

With the incentive of Champions League qualification for the competition winners, Fiorentina, Legia Warsaw, Dynamo Kiev, Inter Milan and Dynamo Moscow also took a stranglehold on their respective groups

and edged a step closer to the knockout stages.

Holders Sevilla needed a 90th-minute equaliser from Stephane Mbia to rescue a 2-2 draw at Croatian side Rijeka, while it was a disappointing night for former European champions PSV Eindhoven and Steaua Bucharest, who both suffered defeats. Two other former European Cup winners fared better, however, as Celtic beat Dinamo Zagreb 1-0 and Feyenoord won 2-1 at home to Standard Liege, which could prove a good omen as the last time they beat

the Belgian side they went on to lift the continent's second-tier trophy in 1974. After the opening round of matches provided a shower of goals and entertainment, Thursday's action showcased the more measured and tactical side of European football.

Napoli have endured a difficult start in Serie A with only two wins from their opening five games, heaping pressure on manager Rafa Benitez, who had already failed to steer his team through a Champions League playoff.—Reuters



Marek Hamsik (L) of Napoli celebrates after goal with teammate Faouzi Ghoulam during their Europa League group I soccer match at the Arena Pasienky in Bratislava on 2 Oct, 2014. — REUTERS

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

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Players of China and Japan react after the women's rugby final match at the 17th Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea, on 2 Oct, 2014. China defeated Japan 14-12 and claimed the title.—XINHUA

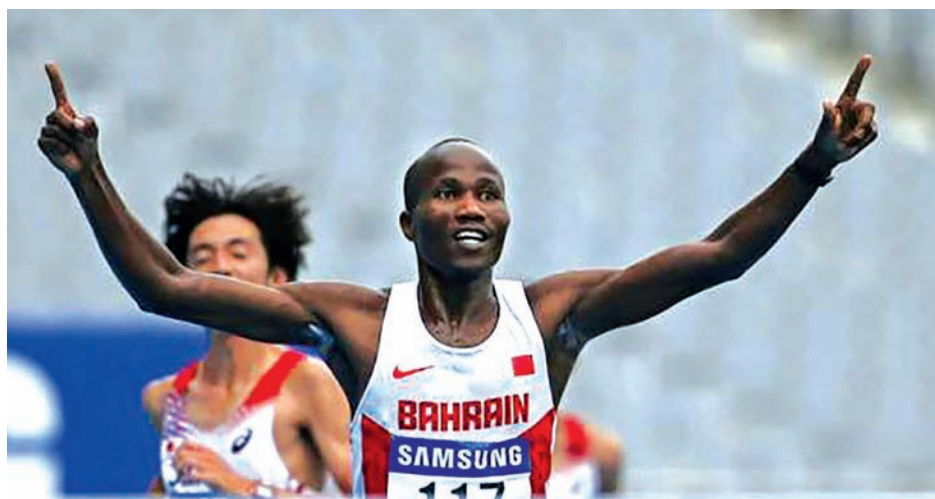
Yin Xiaoyan (lower) of China fights against Jefry Krisnan Syakilla Salni Binti of Malaysia during the women's -61kg semifinal contest of karate at the 17th Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea, on 3 Oct, 2014. Yin Xiaoyan lost 0-2.—XINHUA



Fujii Shinya (L) of Japan competes during the men's individual fencing match of modern pentathlon at the 17th Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea, on 3 Oct, 2014.—XINHUA

Suleimenov Ilyas (L) of Kazakhstan fights during the men's fly 52kg final match of boxing against Zoirov Shakhobidin of Uzbekistan at the 17th Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea, on 3 Oct, 2014. Suleimenov Ilyas defeated Zoirov Shakhobidin 2-1 and claimed the title. XINHUA

Bahrain's Mahboob wins Asiad men's marathon



Bahrain's Ali Hasan Mahboob reacts as he prepares to cross the finish line to win the men's marathon at the Incheon Asiad Main Stadium during the 17th Asian Games on 3 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

INCHEON, 3 Oct—Kenyan-born Ali Hasan Mahboob won Asian Games gold for Bahrain in the men's marathon on Friday after seeing off a spirited challenge from Japan's Kohei Matsumura.

Mahboob, who was born 'Silas Kirui' in Kipsabet and made the switch to the Gulf state

in 2005, crossed the line in two hours, 12 minutes and 38 seconds, one second ahead of Mastumara and four ahead of another Japanese runner, Yuki Kawauchi, in third.

Mahboob is one of a string of African-born runners who have dominated athletics at the Asian Games, provoking strong

debate as to whether their success is good for the sport or whether it could lead to a reluctance to invest in home-grown talent.

Mahboob has previously run mainly in distance track events and said the marathon had taken a lot out of him.

"This was my first race in the marathon. I used to

run in 5,000m and 10,000m before," he told a news conference.

"I am very exhausted at the moment since it is just right after the race. But I am very happy."

Entering the Asiad Main Stadium on the final leg of the 42km race, Mahboob stretched his legs and quickly dropped Kawauchi from contention, but Mastumara hung on and looked poised to mount a challenge with 200m to go.

But when Mahboob kicked again 150m from home Mastumara had no response, the Bahraini runner lifting his arms to the sky and kissing his vest as he crossed the line.

"The answer is training," Mahboob said of his win. "I have been training with strong athletes so far. I had to adapt to hard training. As I tried to follow them and to train with them, I got a good result today."

Another Kenyan-born runner, Eunice Jepkirui Kirwa, also won gold for Bahrain in the women's marathon on Thursday.

Reuters

Medals table of the Asian Games 3 October, 2014

	G	S	B	Total
China	149	107	81	337
S Korea	77	71	80	228
Japan	46	72	76	194
Kazakhstan	28	22	32	82
Iran	21	18	17	56
Thailand	12	7	28	47
DPR Korea	11	11	14	36
India	11	9	37	57
Qatar	10	-	4	14
Chinese Taipei	9	18	20	47
Uzbekistan	9	14	20	43
Bahrain	9	6	4	19
Hong Kong	6	12	24	42
Malaysia	5	14	14	33
Singapore	5	6	12	23
Mongolia	5	4	12	21
Indonesia	4	5	11	20
Saudi Arabia	3	3	1	7
Kuwait	2	4	4	10
Myanmar	2	1	1	4
Vietnam	1	10	25	36
Philippines	1	3	11	15
Pakistan	1	1	3	5
Tajikistan	1	1	3	5
Iraq	1	-	3	4
UAE	1	-	3	4
Sri Lanka	1	-	1	2
Cambodia	1	-	-	1
Macau	-	3	4	7
Kyrgyzstan	-	2	4	6
Jordan	-	2	2	4
Turkmenistan	-	1	5	6
Bangladesh	-	1	2	3
Afghanistan	-	1	1	2
Laos	-	1	1	2
Lebanon	-	1	1	2
Nepal	-	-	1	1